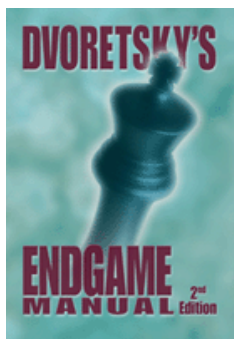




COLUMNISTS

The Instructor

Mark Dvoretsky



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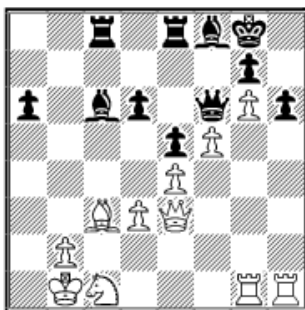
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Critical Moments
Part Two

The critical positions we have been examining up to now have been resolved mainly on positional considerations. But, of course, far more frequently the solution to the position turns out to be purely tactical, or to be partly tactical and partly strategic, in varying proportions. The character of our annotations to all of the examples that follow must change accordingly, becoming more detailed and concrete.

Yet is it worthwhile to tack on a detailed, variant-filled analysis to the games under examination, when it will exhaust many of our readers? Would it not be better to settle for a general explanation of the important ideas? Here, of course, it's important to decide whom these notes are for. I generally write for higher-rated players, for whom the reading, and even more so, the attempts to solve the exercises presented, lead inescapably to the appearance of their own thoughts, ideas and suggestions. I try to inspire them, and prepare to answer at least some of their questions.

Polgar – Polugaevsky
Aruba 1991
1st Match Game



W?

Black is going to free himself by means of the central advance 29...d5. If White does not want to hand over the initiative to her opponent, she must create counter-threats.

29 Bc3-e1!?

White intends to open lines on the kingside by 30 Bh4 and 31 f6. In *Chess Informant*, Judit Polgar assessed this position as winning for White – evidently influenced by the actual course of the game.

29...d5?

Lev Polugaevsky follows his intended plan, but allows his king to fall under a deadly attack.

30 Bh4 Qd6 31 f6 Re6 (31...gf 32 g7!) 32 f7+ Kh8 33 Qg3!



White's bishop has engineered a breach in the opponent's defenses; now it becomes a "desperado," or kamikaze piece, prepared to go crashing off somewhere, to open the far-right file for the rook sacrifice on h6. For example, 33...Rb8 34 Be7! (but not 34 Bd8?, in view of 34...Rxb2+! 35 Kxb2 Qb4+, with perpetual check), as indicated by Tibor Karolyi.

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33...Ba4 34 Bf6!

34 Be7! would be equally strong.

34...Rxc1+ 35 Rxc1 Rxf6

If 35...g7, then 36 g7+ Bxg7 37 Rxh6+!

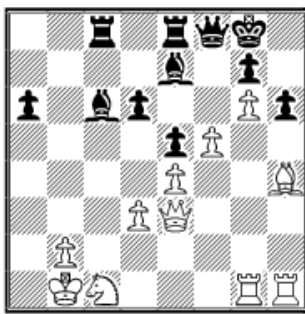
36 Rcg1!

Once again threatening the rook sacrifice on h6. Black is defenseless.

36...Rf1+ 37 Rxf1 dxe4 38 Rfg1 Qxd3+ 39 Qxd3 ed 40 Re1 Bc2+ 41 Kc1 1-0

As in the preceding example, Black lost only because he failed to take timely action against the strategic danger threatening him. He had to forestall White's f5-f6.

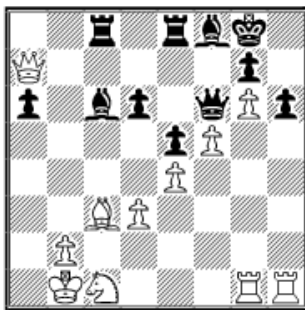
29...Bf8-e7! 30 Be1-h4 Qf6-f8



Now the pawn sacrifice 31 f6?! Bxf6 32 Rf1 Re6 gives White nothing. And after 31 Bxe7 Rxe7 32 Rf1 Qf6! (stopping 33 f6) 33 Ne2 d5 34 Ng3, a double-edged position arises, in which both sides have roughly equal chances.

And so, the obvious bishop transfer to h4 gives no advantage – it only sets the opponent a problem (not a very complex one), which he failed to solve.

White could also have tried to prevent the planned advance d6-d5 by another means. The sortie 29 Qa7!? deserved serious consideration, in order to threaten 30...Rxh6!



B?

For example, 29...d5? 30 Rxh6! Bc5 (30...gh 31 Qh7#) 31 Rh5(h7)! Bxa7 32 Rgh1 Kf8 33 Bb4+, and mates.

There are several ways to parry this threat, not all of them equivalent: in many variations, White does succeed in getting to the black king. Some of the attacking ideas are so subtle that they

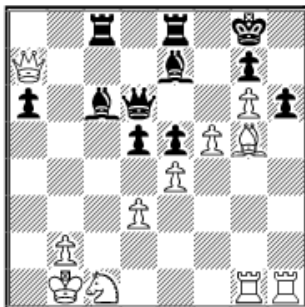
cannot be properly evaluated over the board – making such a judgment without a computer would be very difficult, making it difficult to decide on such play (transferring the bishop to h4 was more natural and understandable). But if White succeeds, then his opponent would have a much harder task to solve than he did in the game.

29...Re7?! 30 Qxa6 is dubious. Black has lost a pawn, and his pieces do not coordinate well.

29...Qe7?! would be met, not by 30 Qxa6 d5, with counterplay, but by 30 Qf2! On 30...Qf6, White wins with 31 Bd2! (with the deadly threat of 32 Bg5!), when 31...Be7 no longer works, in view of 32 Bxh6! And after 30...d5, the same maneuver, 31 Bd2! is very strong; but there is also another, more spectacular solution: 31 Rxh6! gh 32 f6 Qe6 33 f7+ Kh8 (33...Kg7 would be no better) 34 Bd2!+–, followed by 35 Qh2.

29...Be7?! looks enticing, considering the variation 30 Qxa6?! d5 31 ed Bxd5 32 Qxf6 Bxf6, with excellent compensation for the sacrificed pawn.

White continues her attack with the technique we have already seen: 30 Bd2! d5 (30...Ba4 31 Bg5! Qf8 32 Bxh6! gh 33 Qe3! Bg5 34 Rxc5! hg 35 Qxc5 is a pretty line: despite the extra rook, Black is defenseless) 31 Bg5! Qd6



W?

The 32 f6 break is good here only for a draw: 32...gf! 33 Qf2 (33 Rxc5 fg 34 Qf2 Qf6 35 Rh8+! Kg7! 36 Rh7+ Kg8! =) 33...Ba4!? 34 Rxc5 Rc2 35 Rh8+! Kg7! =.

The bishop sacrifice 32 Bxh6! gh 33 Qe3! (but not 33 Rxc5 Rc7!, preparing 34...Bf6) would be much stronger: 33...

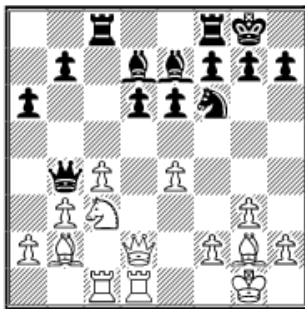
Rb8 (33...Qf6 34 Rxc5+-) 34 Rh2!? (White could also try the straightforward 34 Rxc5 Rxb2+ 35 Kxb2 Qb4+ 36 Nb3 Qa3+ 37 Kc2 Qa2+ 38 Kd1 Qxb3+ 39 Ke2, and the king escapes the checks) 34...Bf6 35 g7! Bg5 36 Rxc5+-. Note that the apparently equivalent 34 Rg2?! would leave the b2-square unguarded at the end of this variation, allowing Black to seize the initiative by 36...Rxb2+! 37 Kxb2 Rb8+.

These variations give some idea of the dangers facing Black. It seems that the only safe way out of his problems lay in the move **29...Ra8!** If Black plays this, he needs to be sure that 30 Rxc5?! Rxa7 31 Rh7 will not work, in view of 31...Re6! 32 Rgh1 Qxc5 33 fg Rxc5. And **30 Qb6 Rec8** leads to a complex position, where both sides have chances.

Bilek – Alster

Prague 1955

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 e6 3 d4 cd 4 Nxd4 a6 5 g3 Nf6 6 Bg2 Qc7 7 0-0 Be7 8 b3 Nc6 9 Bb2 Nxd4 10 Qxd4 0-0 11 c4 d6 12 Nc3 Bd7 13 Rac1 Rac8 14 Rfd1 Qa5 15 Qd2 Qb4



W?

The first thing that strikes one is that White could get a favorable endgame by 16 Nd5 Nxd5 17 ed Qxd2 18 Rxd2; however, after 18...e5, White's advantage is not great.

Istvan Bilek found another, tactical way, which looks more promising.

16 c4-c5!! Rc8xc5

Black cannot avoid the main line of the combination:

16...Qxc5? 17 Nd5+-.

16...dc? 17 e5 Nd5 17 Bxd5!+-.

16...Ne8? 17 Nd5+-.

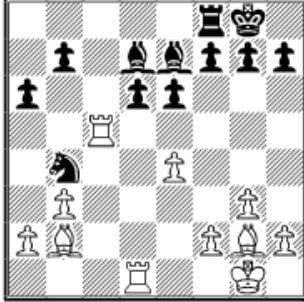
16...Rc6? 17 e5 (17 Na4 Qxd2 18 Rxd2 is not bad either) 17...de 18 Nd5 Nxd5 19 Qxb4 Nxb4 20 Rxd7+-.

From here, up to a certain point, the game proceeded almost by force.

17 Nc3-d5! Nf6xd5 18 Qd2xb4 Nd5xb4 19 Rc1xc5



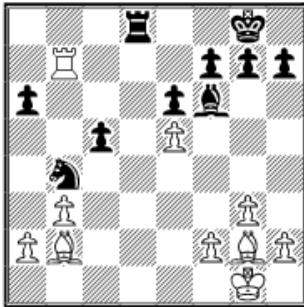
Taking the rook obviously leads to an inferior endgame for Black. **Sometimes,**



it makes sense to jump out of the game track laid down by one's opponent, even if it costs some material. Just so here: Black could have tried the exchange sacrifice 19...Bc6 20 Rc4 d5, when he would have knight and pawn for the rook, with his pieces decently placed.

But in any case, would this have been the lesser or the greater evil? I think, greater: after 21 Rcd4! de 22 Ba3 Nd5 23 Bxe7 Nxe7 24 Bxe4, White retains good winning chances. It is not yet time for such desperate measures.

19...d6xc5 20 Rd1xd7 Be7-f6 21 e4-e5 Rf8-d8! 22 Rd7xb7



Sensing the onset of a critical moment sometimes comes down merely to seeing that one has a choice. In this game, Black comes up more than once against a subtle choice – this is why his defense proved so difficult.

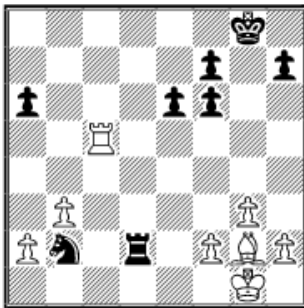
22...Rd8-d1+ 23 Bg2-f1 Bf6-d8

Besides the obvious check, followed by 23...Bd8, Black also had to examine

22...Nd3?! 23 ef (not only the bishop, but also the e5-pawn was under attack) 23...Nxb2.

Black has equality after 24 fg Rd1+ 25 Bf1 Ra1. It is harder to assess the consequences of 24 Bf1 gf 25 Bxa6 Rd1+ 26 Kg2 Rd2 and 24 Ra7 gf 25 Rxa6 Rd1+ 26 Bf1, but it is clear that Black would have to fight for the draw.

24 Rc7!?! gf 25 Rxc5 Rd2



After something like 26 Ra5 Nd3 27 Rxa6 Nxf2, Black retains counterplay. The question is only how realistic it is – whether his kingside threats will prove enough to distract his opponent from the advance of his passed pawns. In any case, taking on these variations would have meant that Black would have been playing *va banque*. Sometimes, that decision has to be taken – though apparently, not here.

22...Rd8-d1+ 23 Bg2-f1 Bf6-d8 24 a2-a3

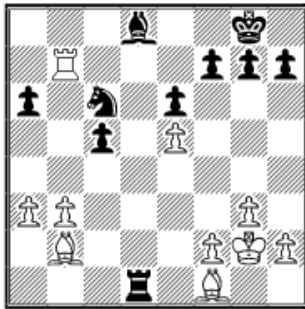
24 Ba3 a5 is evidently weaker.

24...Nb4-c6!

Still another far from obvious move. 24...Nc2?! 25 Rb8! Kf8 26 Rc8 is hardly better, but he should have considered 24...Na2?!, taking away a square from the dark-squared bishop before attacking it with the rook – although it would seem that Black could not solve his problems that way, either. White would retain the advantage even after the simple 25 a4 g6 26 Ba3 Nb4 27 Kg2 a5 28 Bc4; still more accurate would be 25 Kg2 Rd2 26 Rb8 g6 (26...Kf8 27 a4 Rxb2 28 Rxd8+ Ke7 29 Rc8+/-) 27 a4 Kg7 28 Ba3+/-.

25 Kg1-g2

White would get nothing special out of 25 Bc3!? Kf8 26 Kg2 Rc1 27 Bd2 Rc2 28 Bf4 (28 Be3 Nxe5) 28...g5 29 Be3 Be7 (29...Nxe5? 30 Rb8) 30 Bxa6 Nxe5 31 h3 c4 32 a4 cb 33 Rxb3 Ra2 34 Rb8+ Kg7 35 Bb5 g4!/?+/=.



B?

Here was the critical moment for Black, in my opinion. Up to this point, he had played the best moves, but here Ladislav Alster finally broke under the strain.

25...Rd1-d2?

A natural, but mistaken move, allowing White to make a significant

improvement in the position of his dark-squared bishop by getting it to e3.

Not much would have been changed by 25...Rb1? 26 Bc3 Rc1 (26...a5 27 Bd3 Rc1 28 Bb2 Rd1 29 Be4+→) 27 Bd2 and 28 Be3+→.

He had to play **25...Ba5!!**, without fearing 26 b4 cb 27 ab Bxb4 28 Rb6, in view of 28...Rd2! 29 Rxb4 Nxb4 30 Bc3 Ra2! (30...Rd5 does not lose, either: 31 Bxb4 Rxe5 32 Bxa6+/=) 31 Bxb4 a5, with counterplay. You will see this same opposition of forces – rook and distant passed pawn vs. two minor pieces – in the next example as well.

White would probably have selected **26 Bxa6 Rb1 27 Rb5! Rxb2 28 Rxc5 Rxb3 29 Rxc6**. But the opposite-color bishops ending a pawn down is most likely drawn. After **29...g5 30 a4**, Black could play either 30...Rb4 31 Bb5 Re4+/=, or 30...Rc3 31 Bc4 Ra3 32 Bb5 Ra2+/=.

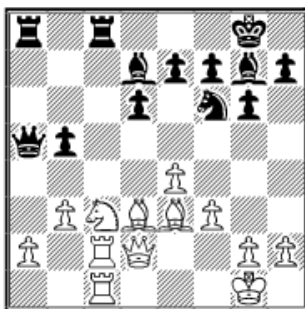
26 Bb2-c1 Rc1-c2 27 Bc1-e3

Two powerful bishops, plus his opponent's pawn weaknesses, assure White an easy victory.

27...Kf8 28 Bd3 Rc3 29 Bc4 Na5 30 Bxc5+ Ke8 31 Bb4 Nxb7 32 Bxc3 Nc5 33 b4 Na4 34 Bd4 Kd7 35 Bxa6 Kc6 36 Bd3 Kd5 37 Ba1 1-0

Portisch – Gheorghiu
Siegen Olympiad 1970

1 c4 c5 2 Nf3 g6 3 d4 cd 4 Nxd4 Nc6 5 e4 Nf6 6 Nc3 Nxd4 7 Qxd4 d6 8 Be3 Bg7 9 f3 0-0 10 Qd2 Qa5 11 Rc1 a6 (11...Be6) 12 b3 Bd7 13 Bd3 Rfc8 14 0-0 b5 15 Rc2! Be6 16 cb ab 17 Rfc1 Bd7

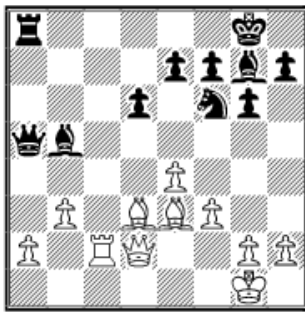


W?

Florin Gheorghiu probably rejected 17...b4 because of 18 Nb5 Rxc2 19 Rxc2 Bd7 20 Nd4+/=.

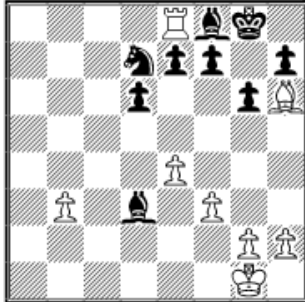
Now, however, he is ready to advance the pawn to b4. Quiet continuations could hardly allow White to try for any advantage. The question is how to assess the consequences of the tactical transformation of the position undertaken by Lajos Portisch.

18 Nc3xb5!! Rc8xc2 19 Rc1xc2 Bd7xb5



20 Rc2-c8+!?

Portisch awards the text move two exclamation marks, while assessing the position after **20 Qxa5! Rxa5 21 Bd2 Rxa2!** as won for Black – but he’s wrong! Let’s extend the variations: **22 Rxa2 Bxd3 23 Ra8+ Bf8 24 Bh6 Nd7 25 Re8!**



On 25...e5 or 25...e6, White plays 26 Rd8. If 25...f5, then 26 Bxf8 (26 ef? Kf7) 26...Nxf8 27 Rxe7 fe 28 fe, and Black has to struggle to draw – **rook and distant passed pawn in such situations usually outweigh the two minor pieces.**

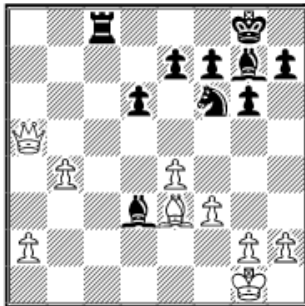
White could try gaining a tempo in the above variation by playing 21 b4?! (instead of 21 Bd2), the idea being 21...

Rxa2 22 Rxa2 Bxd3 23 Ra8+ etc. But after the reply 21...Ra3! 22 Bxb5 Rxe3 23 Rc8+ Bf8 24 Bc6 Re1+! 25 Kf2 Rb1 26 b5 Kg7 27 a4 e6 28 a5 d5, Black is at least not worse.

20...Ra8xc8

Black must give up the queen. He gets into a hopeless position after 20... Bf8 21 Rxa8 Qxd2 22 Bxd2 Bxd3 23 Bh6 Nd7 24 a4! (compared to the variations examined previously, White keeps not one, but two queenside pawns). 20...Be8 is also joyless: 21 Qxa5 Rxa5 22 a4! threatens both 23 Bb5 Kf8 24 b4 and 24 Bb6 Rg5 25 a5.

21 Qd2xa5 Bb5xd3 22 b3-b4!



B?

In Portisch’s opinion, White has a great advantage. The game’s further course confirms his assessment: **22...Nd7 23 b5 d5!?** (23...Bc3 24 Qa6 and 25 a4) **24 b6** (24 ed Be5 is weaker, allowing the bishop to join the defense) **24...d4 25 b7 Rb8 26 Bf4 e5 27 Qc7 ef** (27...Bb5 28 Qc8+ Bf8 29 Bxe5! Rxc8 30 bcQ Nxe5 31 Qb8+—) **28 Qxd7 Be5 29 Qd5 Re8?**

1-0 Black resigned, in view of 30 Qxe5 (I have made use of Portisch’s notes from *Informant*).

“Things aren’t so dark, up close!,” as Vladimir Vysotsky assured us in his song, “The Honor of the Chess Crown – The Game.” Black had at his disposal an effective plan of defense, indicated by Vadim Zvjaginsev. According to the old rule, **the rook should be placed behind the furthest-advanced passed pawn.** But in order to free the rook, Black first has to make “luft” for the king.

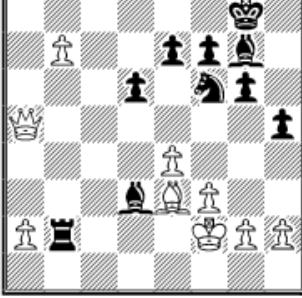
22...h7-h5! 23 b4-b5 Rc8-c2 24 b5-b6 Rc2-b2 25 b6-b7 Rb2-b1+

25...Kh7!? 26 Qc7 Rb1+ was good, too.

26 Kg1-f2 Rb1-b2+



Now 27 Kg1 Rb1+ is a repetition of moves, but does White have anything

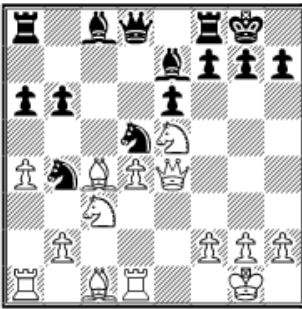


better? After 27 Ke1 Nd7 28 Qc7 Kh7 unclear, the knight is taboo: 29 Qxd7?? Bc3+. And on 27 Kg3 Bf1 (just not 27... Kh7?, because of the double attack with 28 Qa3+), White's king is not comfortable. On 28 Bf2, the simplest reply would be 28...Kh7 unclear.

Vukic – Sibarevic

Banja Luka 1979

1 d4 d5 2 c4 dc 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 e3 e6 5 Bxc4 c5 6 0-0 a6 7 a4 Nc6 8 Qe2 cd 9 Rd1 Be7 10 ed 0-0 11 Nc3 Nd5 (11...Nb4 12 Ne5 Bd7 was preferable) 12 Qe4 Ncb4 13 Ne5 b6



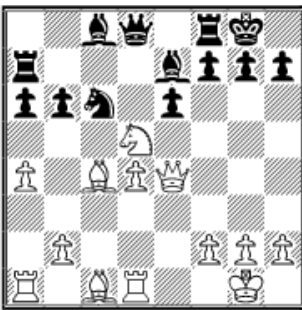
W?

In a game Rashkovsky – Kupreichik (Minsk 1985), White tried the primitive 14 Nxd5 ed 15 Qf3 Be6 16 Bb3 Rc8, and obtained almost nothing.

The following tactical shot promises White more.

14 Ne5-c6!! Nb4xc6 15 Nc3xd5 Bc8-b7

White would have an obvious advantage after 15...ed 16 Bxd5. Matters are more complicated after **15...Ra7**.



W?

Still another critical position for White – one that has been seen frequently in practice.

A) 16 Nf4 Nb4 (Milov – Spangenberg, Buenos Aires 1996) promises little. Black's pieces all come to good squares, his position is solid, and White's intended attack, even after Vadim

Milov's recommendation of 17 Ra3!?! doesn't look very threatening.

B) In the game Susan Polgar – Magem Badals, Pamplona 1991/92, White continued: 16 Nxe7+ Nxe7 17 Bg5 Qd7 18 Bxe7 Qxe7 19 d5 ed 20 Bxd5 Qf6 21 b4 Re7, with approximate equality. White should not have traded so much off: 18 Qg4!?! Rc7 19 Bd3 was stronger, retaining some initiative.

I think it makes sense to induce a weakening of Black's pawn structure by 16 Bd3! f5, and then to play 17 Nxe7+ Nxe7 18 Qe3!, intending 19 Bc4 (18 Qe2 is inferior, because of 18...Nc6, with a counterattack against the pawn at d4). If 18...Rc7, then 19 Bd2, with advantage to White.

Black has yet another continuation at his disposal, a suggestion of grandmaster Alexander Motylev: **15...Bd6!?!.**



It might seem that White could refute this move by 16 Nf6+!? gf 17 Bh6 f5 18 Qxc6. However, Black would take on f6 with the queen: 16...Qxf6! 17 Qxc6 Qe7. For example, 18 Qxa8 Bb7 19 Qa7



B?

The obvious 19...Qc7 allows White to gain the upper hand by 20 d5! Ra8 (or 20...Bxh2+ 21 Kh1 Ra8 22 Qxb7 Qxb7 23 de+/-) 21 Qxb7! Qxb7 22 de Qe7 23 ef+ Kf8 24 g3 Bc5 25 b3!+/- (the f2-square can now be protected from a2 by the rook).

What saves Black is the standard two-bishop sacrifice: 19...Bxh2+!! 20 Kxh2 Qh4+ 21 Kg1 Bxg2! 22 f3! (the only way to play for a win) 22...Bxf3! 23 Rd2 Qe1+ 24 Bf1 Qg3+ 25 Rg2 Bxg2 26 Bxg2 Qe1+ 27 Bf1 Qg3+ 28 Kh1 Qh4+ 29 Kg2 Qg4+ (29...Rc8) 30 Kf2 Qxd4+, with a likely draw.

White still maintains somewhat better prospects by declining the rook offer in favor of 18 Bg5! Qc7 (18...Qxg5 19 Qxa8) 19 Qxc7 Bxc7 20 d5 +/- . Additionally, it would be good for him to induce the weakening of the opposing pawn chain by 16 Bd3!? f5 first, and only then play 17 Nf6 +!. In the line 17...Qxf6 (17...gf!? 18 Qxc6+/-) 18 Qxc6 Qe7 19 Bg5! Qc7 20 Qxc7 Bxc7 21 Rac1, White's position is to be preferred; the question is – by how much?

Black could have played this, and the outcome of the game would have remained unclear. But the game continuation was also acceptable for him.

16 Nd5xe7+

16 Bd3!? g6 17 Nxe7+ Qxe7 18 d5 was also worth considering.



B?

After 18...ed 19 Qxe7 Nxe7 20 Be3, Black has a difficult endgame.

He should have steeled himself to play 18...Nb4!, not fearing either 19 Bh6 Rfd8, or 19 d6!? Qxd6 20 Qxb7 Nxd3 21 Ra3 Rad8!? (21...Nc5 22 Rxd6 Nxb7 23 Rxb6 Rfd8 24 g3+/-) 22 Raxd3 Qxd3 23 Rxd3 Rxd3 24 g3 Rd1+ 25

Kg2 Rxc1 =.

16...Qd8xe7 17 d4-d5!



B?

This is obviously the position Milan Vukic had in mind when he began his tactical operation. Black is in difficulties; however, just as in the preceding examples, I do not believe they were insurmountable. On the other



hand (again, just as in the preceding examples), Black did not, in fact, manage to cope with the task before

him, and lost without a fight.

This is probably no accident. **By finding an idea our opponent did not expect at a critical moment, we exert pressure on him, both in the purely chess sense and in a psychological sense, which he sometimes will be unable to overcome, either because he lacks coolness, or because he lacks the necessary mastery.**

Black would have stood much worse after 17...Nb4 18 Qe2 Rfd8 (18... Nxd5?? 19 Bxd5 Bxd5 20 Rxd5+–) 19 de Rxd1+ 20 Qxd1 fe 21 Bd2+/-.

He had to play for exchanges:

17...e6xd5! 18 Bc4xd5 Qe7xe4 19 Bd5xe4 Rf8-e8 20 Be4-f3 Nc6-a5

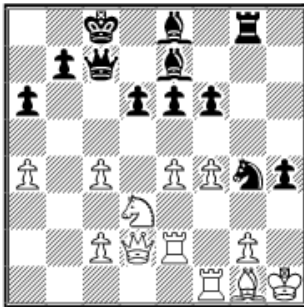
As long as White has not played Be3, it is important to trade off one of his powerful bishops.

21 Bf3xb7 Na5xb7 22 Bc1-e3 b6-b5+/-

Compare the end-position of this variation with what actually happened in the game.

17...Na5? 18 Bd3 g6 19 Bh6 Rfe8 20 Qd4 e5 21 Qxb6+– Qd8 22 Be3!?
 (22 Qb4) **22...Qxb6 23 Bxb6 Nb3 24 Ra3 Bxd5 25 Bxg6 (25 f4!) 25... hg 26 Rxd5 Nd4 27 g3 Rab8 28 a5 Re6 29 Re3! Nc6 30 Rd7 e4 31 f4! ef 32 Rxe6 fe 33 Rd6 Ne7 34 Rxe6 Kf7 35 Re3 1-0**

Gulko – Ljubojevic
 Niksic 1978



B?

White is the exchange ahead, for which his opponent can immediately pick up a pawn as compensation. Yes, he can – but he should not. **With opposite-sided castling, the chance to attack the enemy king is usually worth more than material – in such situations the first thing to look for is a way to develop our initiative.**

33...f6-f5!

This central break is aimed at opening the h1-a8 diagonal. Had Ljubomir Ljubojevic played thus, it would have been Boris Gulko who would have been forced to worry about maintaining the balance. For starters, he would have had to guess what his opponent's idea was, and to figure out that the natural 34 ef? allows Black to develop a killing attack by 34... h3!!, and if 35 Nb4, then 35...a5!. The only way to safeguard the king would have been to return the exchange.

34 Rf1-f3!

Some possible variations:

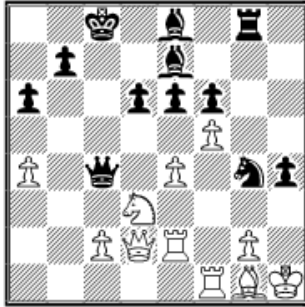
34...fe 35 Rxe4 Bc6 36 Rxe6 Bxf3 37 gf Nf6 38 Nf2!? unclear, or 38 c5!? unclear.

34...Bc6 35 ef Bxf3 36 gf Qc6 37 Rg2! (more active than 37 Ne1 Nh6 38 Rxe6 Nxf5 39 Qd5=+) 37...Qxf3 (37...ef 38 Qe2) 38 Qe2 Qh3+ 39 Bh2 unclear.

And now, let us see what happened in the game.

33...Qxc4? 34 f5!?

The point behind this move is to gain the central square d5 for White's knight. It would have been more accurate, however, to play 34 Rf3!, completely liquidating the threat of h4-h3 and getting the rook onto the third rank for an attack on the enemy king. White would threaten 35 Ne5, followed by 36 Rc3. On 34...Qxa4, there follows 35 Nb2, and the knight occupies the important square c4, with decisive effect. After 34...Kb8, 35 f5! would have become more powerful, as may be seen from the variations 35...ef? 36 ef Ne5 37 Qe3+/-, and 35...Ne5 36 Nxe5 de 37 Qe3 +/-, when the queen gets to a7 with tempo. And White's attack would probably have been simpler still after 35 Nb2! (instead of 35 f5).



B?

34...e5?

Positional capitulation – once again, the strong Yugoslav grandmaster falters at the task set before him. 34...Bc6 would not be much better, in view of 35 Qb4! Qxb4 36 Nxb4, with a clear advantage. But after 34...ef! 35 Rxf5 (35 ef? h3!) 35...Bc6 36 Qb4 (36 Rf4!?!+/-) 36...

Qxb4 37 Nxb4 Bxa4 38 Nd5 Bd8+/-, the outcome would still be unclear.

35 Nb4 Bf7?!

Black follows the path of least resistance. Of course, his position would be bad after 35...Bxa4 36 Rf3 Kb8 too, but there would have been at least some hope. **In difficult situations, one should take the extra material – it might come in handy, if your opponent finds some second-best moves.**

36 Rf3 Kb8 37 Rc3! Qxb4 38 Rc8+ Rxc8 39 Qxb4, and White later won.