

CHESS HORIZONS

Best State Magazine 2006 CJA / Fred Cramer Awards

Annotations by
Ivanov, Friedel
and Dembo

The Strange
Language of Chess

The New England Open
and Continental Open

October - December 2006 ■ \$3.95

About MACA

The Massachusetts Chess Association is an educational non-profit organization whose purpose is to promote chess in Massachusetts and represent the interest of chess players within the state to the governing body of chess in the United States, **The United States Chess Federation (USCF)**.

As part of its role as a state organization, MACA has programs in place to support the existing chess community as well as promote chess among schools and the general public. Highlights of these programs are:



Providing at least four major tournaments each year:

Massachusetts Open (State Championship)
Massachusetts Game/60 Championship
Greater Boston Open
Harry Nelson Pillsbury Memorial



Running a scholastic program, which consists of a series of tournaments to determine the state's scholastic champions as well as "warm up" tournaments throughout the year. Free boards and sets are provided to schools and clubs through MACA's **Living Memorial Chess Fund (LMCF)**.

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Ivanov Annotates

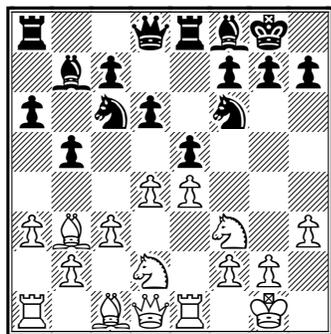
Alexander Ivanov

White: Perelshteyn, Eugene (2614)

Black: Ivanov, Alexander (2657)

US ch San Diego (3), 05.03.2006 [C92]

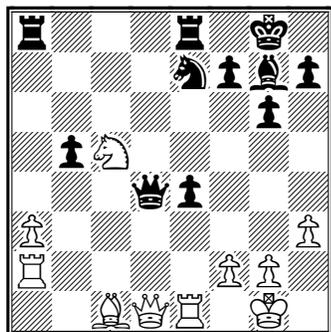
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6
5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.c3 0-0
9.h3 Bb7 10.d4 Re8 11.Nbd2 Bf8 12.a3



This modest looking move has been tried in hundreds of games. Other attempts are 12.a4, 12.d5 and 12.Bc2.

12...Qd7

Black's most common reply to White's 12th move is 12...h6, when White usually plays 13.Bc2, since after 13.Ba2 Nb8 the e4-pawn is threatened, because White doesn't have the move Ng5 to protect it. Chiburdanidze – Ivanov, URS–ch U26 Riga, 1980 went 12...g6 13.Ba2 Bg7 14.b4 a5!? 15.d5 Ne7 16.Nb3 (16.c4; 16.Bb2) 16...axb4 17.cxb4 Nxe4! 18.Rxe4 Bxd5 19.Re1 e4 20.Nfd4 c5 21.bxc5 dxc5 22.Nxc5 Bxa2 23.Rxa2 Qxd4=.



And it is still considered to be the main line by ECO (4th edition, p.512, 523). The game finished 24.Qxd4 Bxd4 25.Nxe4 Nf5 26.Rae2 Re6 27.Ng5 Rxe2

28.Rxe2 Be5 29.Ra2 b4 30.Rc2 Bd6 31.a4 b3 32.Rc4 Be5 33.Rb4 Rd8 34.f4 Rd1+ 35.Kh2 Bd6 0-1

13.Bc2 g6 14.d5

Other moves like 14.Nf1, 14.Nb3 or 14.b4 deserve attention.

14...Ne7 15.c4 (15.Nb3!?) 15...c6 16.b3

Here I was happy with my position since it is similar to Hjartarson–Ivanov, National op Kissimmee (5), 1997, published in Chess Informant #70, only White didn't spend a tempo on a2–a3. 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.h3 Bb7 10.d4 Re8 11.Nbd2 Bf8 12.Bc2 g6 13.d5 Ne7 14.b3 c6 15.c4 Bg7 16.Bb2 cxd5 17.cxd5 Nh5 18.b4 Qd7 19.Nb3 Nc8 20.a4 Nb6 21.axb5 axb5 22.Na5 Rec8 23.Nd2 Bh6 24.Ndb3 Na4 25.Bc1 Nc3 26.Qf3 Bxc1 27.Rexc1 Nf4 28.Bd1 Nxd1 29.Qxd1 f5 30.f3 Rxc1 31.Nxc1 fxe4 32.fxe4 Bc8 33.Ne2 Nxe4 34.Ra3 Nf4 35.Nxf4 exf4 36.Kh2 Qg7 37.Qd2 Bd7 38.Rf3 g5 39.Rc3 Re8 40.Rc7 Rxe4 41.Nc6 f3 0-1

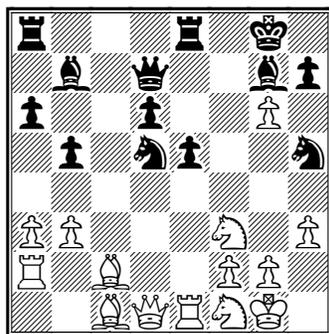
16...cxd5

Played to avoid 16...Bg7 17.dxc6!?=.

17.cxd5 Bg7 18.Ra2?!

This is a poor way to stop Nxd5. 18.Nf1 Nh5∞ (18...Nfxd5? 19.exd5 e4 20.Nd4+-).

18...Nh5 19.Nf1 f5 20.exf5 Nxd5 21.fxg6?

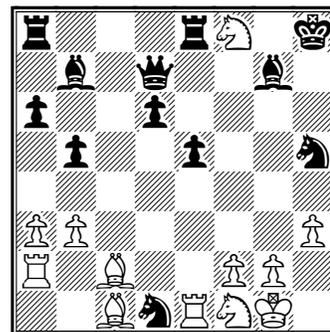


White starts a combination that looks tempting, but it doesn't quite work. Better was 21.Bb2 gxf5 (21...Ndf4 22.fxg6 Nxe2 Perelshteyn 23.gxh7+ Kh8 24.Nxe5!+-) 22.Nxe5 Bxe5 23.Qxh5 Qg7 (23...Bh2+ 24.Kxh2 Rxe1∞) 24.Ng3 Nf6 25.Rxe5 dxe5 26.Qxf5∞; 21.Bd2 gxf5 22.Nxe5 dxe5 23.Qxh5 e4 24.Ng3 Re5.

21...Nc3 22.gxh7+ Kh8 23.Nh4

23...Qd2 Nxa2 24.Nh4 Nf4+ (24...e4).

23...Nxd1 24.Ng6+ Kxh7 25.Nf8+ Kh8!



In case of the inferior 25...Kg8, White could win an important tempo in some lines; for example, 26.Nxd7 Nc3 27.Ra1 Nf4 28.Bxf4 exf4 29.Kh2 Bc6?! (29...Red8!?) 30.Bf5 Red8 31.Re7 Nd5 32.Be6+!.

26.Nxd7 Nc3 27.Ra1

27.Bg6!?! Nxa2 28.Bd2 Perelshteyn 28...Red8 (28...Rec8 29.Bxh5 Rc2+; 28...Nf6 29.Nb6 Rab8 30.Ra1) 29.Nb6 (29.Bxh5 Rxd7 30.Ra1 Bd5+-) 29...Nf4!+-; 27.Rb2 Nf4 28.Nc3 Nce2+ 29.Kf1 Nxc1 30.Rxc1 e4 31.Rbb1 Rad8 32.g3 Nxh3 33.Bd1 Nxf2+.

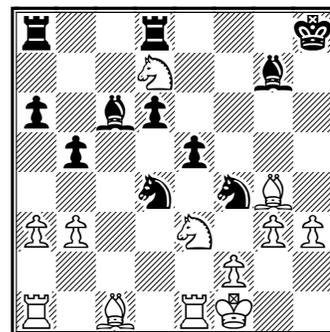
27...Nf4+

Now the two black knights are cooperating perfectly, whereas White's Nd7 is cut-off from his army.

28.Ne3

28.Bxf4 exf4 29.Kh2 Bc6 30.Bf5 Red8 31.Re7 Nd5 32.Rxg7 Kxg7+-.

28...Bc6 29.Bf5 Nce2+ 30.Kf1 Nd4 31.Bg4 (31.g3 Ng2!+-) 31...Red8 32.g3



Also hopeless is 32.Nb6 Rab8 33.Nc8 Rdx8 34.Bxc8 Rxc8+-.

32...Nd3 33.Nb6 Rab8 34.Nbd5 Nxe1 35.Kxe1 Bxd5 36.Nxd5 Nc2+ 37.Kd1 Nxa1 38.b4 Rf8 39.Be3 Rb7 40.Be6 Nb3 41.Kc2 Re8 0-1

The Strange Language of Chess

Joshua Haunstrup

I played in my first USCF tournament in 1993, when I was ten years old. My father, Moe Van Dereck, was the tournament director and he was very supportive of my interest in the game. He was an active class C player back then, and ran a scholastic chess club on Cape Cod, organizing ladder games and giving instruction to the kids every week.

Though I was consistently eager and excited about the game, I was not a very gifted scholastic player, and I was rather intimidated by my father's playing strength when we met over the board, so mostly I played with the other kids and watched my father compete. Later, I would make clumsy attempts to imitate his strategies. I vividly recall explaining to the scholastic players that the reason why my father's hyper-modern kingside fianchetto was advantageous was that it ruled out the possibility of back-rank mate.

I continued to compete in tournaments through Middle School without seeing much improvement in my game. I played at the Nauset Chess Club and used to meet the same player over the board at the beginning of every cycle. Finally, after something like my eighth consecutive thrashing, I remember that he leaned across the board and inquired: "when you play, do you have a plan?" and I thought ... a plan?

Eventually, I became demoralized with the game and I dropped it altogether in High School. My father still played in tournaments though, and always encouraged me to come along, but I repeatedly declined, and we seldom crossed swords. I played other board games and became an avid video gamer, but when I would try to engage my father in these pursuits, he would always remind me that the beauty of chess is that there are no dice. The game is an unadulterated contest of skill and knowledge where you are completely on your own. It took a long time for these words to resonate.

Then, one day in June after my High School graduation, when I was rummaging through my books trying to decide what to take to college, I stumbled on a moth-eaten copy of Romanovsky's *Chess Middlegame Planning*. It was a book that my father had recommended to me years ago that I had



Moe van Dereck

never cracked. The language was tedious and confusing, and even now I can't really explain why I persisted, but I read the book from cover to cover, playing through every game and variation on the board, and I was soon hooked. Romanovsky's writing helped me to understand concepts of structure, weakness, and piece coordination that had been altogether arcane before, and I felt that my playing strength was growing steadily as I read. I finished the book in less than a month and I knew I was ready to return to the game. It was time for a match with my father.

He was surprised and delighted when I broached the subject, and we settled on 10 games at G60, to be contested over the course of several months as time allowed. Given the chaos of summer life on Cape Cod, we had to work carefully to schedule games and pick a site where we would not be disturbed. The first round was held at a picnic table on an old wooden porch on the beach at the house of a family friend. We played by candlelight and struggled against the waves of gnats that the dusk brought. It was the first time that my father and I ever met over the board in a serious contest and it was fascinating to explore each other's minds anew, communicating in the strange language of chess.

Thirty-one tense moves later I had scored a stunning upset win. I felt a little guilty afterwards, as I hadn't really expected to put up much of a challenge, but I think my father was pleased with my effort. He shrugged off the loss in the following games, and we ground out a pair of draws. Then I struck again in the fourth round. Though the game looks comical and error-riddled in hindsight, it was a titanic struggle at the time, as we groped our way through the complications and tried to understand tactics and strategy that were over our heads.



Joshua Haunstrup



White: Joshua Haunstrup (1116)

Black: Moe Van Dereck (1483)

July 2000 [E76]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.f4 0-0 6.h3?!

After happily (and recklessly) filling the center with my bloated wall of pawns, this cowardly move was pure impulse, as I was worried about the annoyance factor of a Bg4.

6...c5 7.d5 Nh5 8.Qf3 Bxc3+ 9.bxc3 Ng7

9...e5 was stronger, as 10.f5 falls foul of 10...Qh4+ 11.Kd1 Ng3 with a mess for White. Instead, I could have tried 10.Ne2 exf4 11.Nxf4 Qh4+ 12.Qf2 Qxf2+ 13.Kxf2 Nf6 with a very awkward position based on the weakness of the e4-square.

10.Bd3 e6 11.Ne2 f5 12.e5

After missing his chance on move 9, my father arrived at a somewhat squashed but defensible position. These sorts of games typified our match, as I explored aggressive lines and flexed my blood thirstiness and my father waited, poised to counterstrike, if I overstepped.

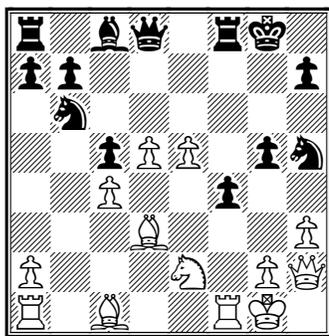
12...dxe5 13.fxe5 Nd7 14.Qg3 Nh5 15.Qh2 exd5

Instead, 15...Qh4+ was relatively best, as after 16.g3 Qe7 or 16.Kd1 f4, the e5-pawn would have become untenable.

16.cxd5 Nb6? 17.c4? g5?

The missed chances continued as my father neglected to play 16...Qh4+ and I failed to appreciate the power of 17.d6. Then, much to his detriment, my father missed the simple tactic 17...Nxc4, based on Qh4+, after which I would still have been in the game, but with a very unstable position.

18.0-0 f4



Somewhere around here one of the candles collapsed and overflowed the cat food can that we were using as a holder, spewing wax across the board. I never did get all of the wax off of the felt bases of the pieces, but we played on through the deluge, trying not to be distracted.

19.e6? Qf6?

The tactical blunders continued, as both of us missed the fact that 19.e6 simply loses a pawn to 19...Bxe6, wrecking my center.

20.Ba3 Ng3 21.Nxg3 Qd4+ 22.Kh1 Qxd3 23.Bxc5

Now 23...Bxe6 would have given Black a little hope by adding defense to the f8-rook. Instead, my father's continuation led to a quick defeat.

23...fxg3?? 24.Rxf8+ Kg7 25.Qg1 Qxc4 26.e7?

I'm afraid I lacked the technique back then to note that both 26.Rf7+ and 26.Qe3 lead to relatively quick mates.

26...Bd7 27.Bd4+ Kh6 28.Rf6+ Kh5 29.Qd1+ Kh4 30.Rh6# 1-0

My father struck back in game 5 and ultimately leveled the scores in game 7, but I finished off with back-to-back wins in the 9th and 10th games to secure a narrow victory. I felt a little sheepish about the win, as I had expected to lose the match. I wasn't sure that I deserved to upset my father, and I was rather sorry to discover his mortality at the board. He insisted that he wasn't at all sorry about the loss, and we were soon engaged in scheduling a rematch. The games had given us a new common language.

In the summers that followed, my father and I played many matches, ultimately wracking up hundreds of head-to-head games, all the while teaching each other theory and strategy through praxis. In the years since then, my father has had less time to devote to the game, while I have been working hard to improve, but he remains my full-time analysis partner and the first person I turn to for thoughts on a game.

34th Annual World Open

The 34th Annual World Open took place in Philadelphia June 28-July 4, 2006. Gata Kamsky won a blitz playoff over Vadim Milov to win the event after both scored 7/9. There were 9 IM Norms awarded: Igor Schneider, Salvijus Bercys, Emory Tate, Bryan Smith, James Critelli, Jake Kleiman, Nicholas Yap, Moulthun Ly (AUS) and Yoshiharu Habu (JPN). And Batchimeg Tuvshintugs earned a WGM norm.

However, the biggest prize money winner was Expert Michael Clark from Rhode Island who won \$17,917 in the Under 2200 section for his 8/9 score, not to mention a gain of 110 rating points.

There were also a allegations of cheating. Eugene Varshavsky scored some impressive wins, all while wearing a blue hat pulled down over his ears, but once confronted by the directors, he visited the bathroom and flushed something, then lost two games in a row sans hat.

In the Under 2000 section, Steve Rosenberg had his results stricken (with a score of 7½ from 8 rounds) after it was discovered that a hearing aid he was wearing beneath his headphones was actually an audio reception device. Interestingly, it was discovered that Rosenberg had gone undefeated in his last 19 games (in tournaments that he directed!), raising his rating 200 points.