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Best State Magazine 2006 CJA / Fred Cramer Awards

**The Lost Mule
Flat Chess Club**

**Vigorito
on Chess**

**U.S. Amateur
Team East**

April - June 2007 \$3.95



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Vigorito on Chess

IM David Vigorito

A New England native, I spent the last ten years living in Nevada. After a while, I grew tired of the perfect weather, clearly marked streets, and fine Mexican food. It was time to move back east and play some chess. I spent the last several months playing small local events while finishing up my first book, *Challenging the Nimzo-Indian*, published by Quality Chess Books.

In the late 1980s I remember receiving *Chess Horizons* in the mail with a great deal of excitement. Columns by Curdo and Wolff examined games from the point of view of the player. I thought today's readers may enjoy a similar experience, so each issue I will present my games for public scrutiny. I will start by presenting some losses. Often times games we lose are not exactly pleasurable to look at, but they can teach us more than our victories. When we win a game, we like to think we did everything right, but when we lose we are forced to see our shortcomings. Perhaps this confessional will cleanse my chess soul a bit. At the very least, readers can enjoy mocking my play.

First, I will take a look at a couple of games from major tournaments, and then I will take a peek at the local scene.

D. Vigorito – A. Heimann

National Chess Congress Philadelphia (1), 24.11.2006

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2

Having just written a book on this variation, I was happy to have a Nimzo. Chess is more fun when you have some idea what you are doing. This is a rare pleasure for me.

4...0-0

This is the most solid move, but Black must know many variations because both sides have a lot of flexibility

5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.Qxc3 b6 7.Bg5 Bb7 8.e3

I actually took quite a bit of time here - seven minutes. My opponent was pretty young and I considered playing 8.f3, heading for an endgame, or 8.Nf3, which

leads to murky strategic positions. In hindsight, I really could have used those seven minutes later on.

8...d6 9.Ne2 Nbd7 10.Qd3

Bareev's line. After this game, I am 0-3 in this variation! The other two losses were to Akobian.

10...Rc8?!

This move does not make much sense. Better are 10...c5 and 10...Ba6. Black can also throw in ...h6 if he wants.

11.Nc3 a6

Instead, 11...c5 was possible. I could play 12.Nb5 (Black was clearly afraid of this) or the simple space-gaining 12.d5+/-.

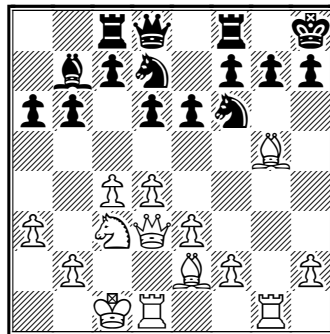
12.Be2!

Shirov played this sacrifice against Volokitin. In that game, Black had played the useful moves 10...Qe7 and 11...c5, instead of 10...Rc8 and 11...a6. I did not hesitate to offer the pawn.

12...Bxg2 13.Rg1 Bb7 14.0-0-0

If 14.Bh6 Ne8.

14...Kh8



White has many tempting moves.

15.f4?!

I played this to avoid 15...c5 16.d5 Ne5, with the idea ...Ng6, but it is not really necessary. Instead, 15.Rg3 is very natural, while 15.e4 may be best, intending 15...e5 (15...c5 16.e5 dxe5 17.dxe5 Nxe5 18.Qg3+-) 16.Bg4±. I think one of my biggest problems in over-the-board chess is that when I have more than one good continuation, I often vacillate and throw away my advantage. Here, the white position is so good that one inaccuracy is not enough to lose the initiative.

15...d5

This was a surprise, but it isn't too bad.

16.cxd5 exd5 17.Bg4

My opponent had clearly overlooked this, but his reply was quite sensible.

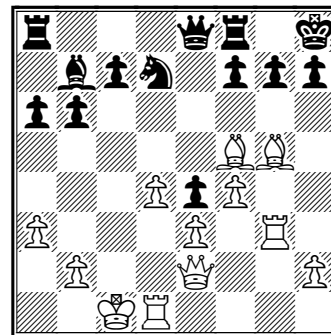
17...Ra8

I expected him to give up the exchange with 17...Qe8 18.Bxf6 Nxf6 19.Bxc8 Qxc8, but this is insufficient.

18.Rg3

I played this after some thought. 18.Bxd7 is not so great. 18...Qxd7 19.Bxf6 gxf6 and despite Black's bad structure, White does not have much.

18...Qe8 19.Bf5 Ne4 20.Nxe4 dxe4 21.Qe2



With everyone near the black king, I thought that I was close to winning here. Black's next move surprised me.

21...Nf6

During the game I had calculated 21...f6 22.Rh3 g6 23.Rxh7+! Kxh7 24.Qh5+ Kg8 25.Bxg6 Qe7 26.Rg1. This indeed wins for White.

22.Kb1

22.Bxf6 Qc6+ is Black's point. I saw that I could win back the pawn after 23.Qc2 Qxf6 24.Bxe4, but thought the position was worth more. I also considered 22.d5, but I did not see anything clear after 22...Qe7 and I still did not want to take on f6 and e4, so I was wary about losing a second pawn. 23.Qg2 is also an idea.

22...Qc6

I did not expect this move either. 22...Nd5 23.Bxh7! was my intention, as 23...Kxh7 24.Qh5+ Kg8 25.Bf6! Nxf6 26.Rxg7+! leads to mate.

23.Rdg1?!

I spent 20 minutes here and was down to 13 now. This was stubborn. I saw that 23.Rc1 Qd6 24.Rxc7! Bc8 (24...Bd5 25.Bxf6 Qxf6 26.Bxh7 Kxh7 27.Qh5+ Kg8 28.Qxd5+-) 25.Bxf6 Qxf6 26.Bxe4 Bf5 27.Bxf5 Qxf5+ 28.Qc2 left me a

pawn to the good, but I thought it was “cashing in” too early. I look at this position now and wonder how I could have dismissed this continuation. Again, faced with more than one promising continuation, I go astray.

23...g6 24.Rc1

This is the best move, although it is not as strong as it was last move. I realized this and burned too much time. I was now down to 2 minutes for 16 moves. Sometimes you have to forget the past.

24...Qd6 25.Rxc7 Bc6?

If 25...Bc8 26.Bxf6+ Qxf6 27.Bxe4 Bf5 28.Bxf5 Qxf5+ 29.Qc2±, so 25...Bd5 was best. After 26.Bxf6+ Qxf6 27.Bh3 is about equal.

26.Qc2

Only a minute left now.

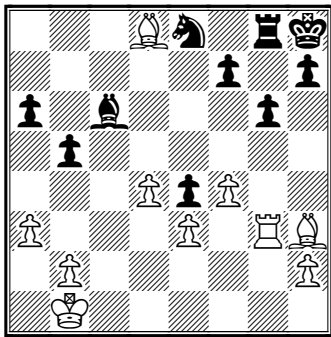
26...Bd5 27.Bh3?!

I am still better after this move, but why not take material? 27.Bxf6+ Qxf6 28.Bxe4 leaves me a pawn up. Why did I keep avoiding the win of a material?

27...Ne8 28.Rd7 Qc6 29.Be7

Kind of a pointless move. 29.Qxc6 Bxc6 30.Re7±.

29...Rg8 30.Qxc6 Bxc6 31.Rd8 Rxd8 32.Bxd8 b5



33.Bc8??

With seconds on my clock, I lose my mind. I did not want to pass up winning a pawn (only now I realize this). I even looked around - I realized that my bishops were vulnerable on the 8th rank, but thought that if his e8-knight moved, I would always have Bf6+. I should just play 33.Rg1, which still leaves me with a nice advantage in the endgame with two bishops and soon the c-file.

33...Ng7

Ugh. 34.Bf6 certainly is not check now.

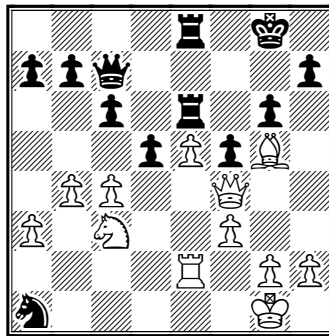
34.Bxa6 Rxd8 0-1

This is one of the worst kinds of game to lose. I dictated the play the whole game. One blunder and it is all down the tubes. I lost this game for a few reasons. I repeatedly disdained promising continuations. A pawn down, I could win two pawns to be a pawn ahead, and I refused. Twice! My scattered decision-making led to time pressure. Despite my mistakes, I still had the advantage until I blundered with my flag hanging. There is no excuse for this – I am responsible for my own clock.

We will see that I have not quite cured myself of this problem. After this game, I started playing a little more sensibly. In the last round I ran into another youngster named Ray Robson. Remember this name – you will here it again.

R. Robson – D. Vigorito

National Chess Congress Philadelphia (6), 26.11.2006



My opponent had played the opening quite well, playing a novelty that I had actually been aware of. My preparation was poor and after his novelty I burned a ton of time for my next few moves. I had looked at the position at home, but had not come to a clear conclusion, so I was trying to figure it all out at the board. Clearly this could and should have been done at home. I have quite a to-do list.

This position is very complicated. I am up an exchange, but my knight is marooned on a1 and my kingside is a bit shaky.

24.Kf1!

A very strong move. Unbelievable that a 12-year-old could find it. By moving to f1, White overprotects his rook and he avoids any defences based on ...Qb6+. If White plays 24.cxd5 Rxe5 25.Bf6? Qb6+ wins for Black, but now he is threatening to take on d5.

24...Qd7

I took 37 minutes here. I could not find a satisfactory move. I now had 3 minutes left. I wanted to play 24...h6, but it just loses. 25.Bxh6 Rxe5 (25...dxc4 26.Qxc4 Qh7 27.Bg5 Qxh2 28.Kf2±) 26.Qg3! threatens the g-pawn as well as Bf4. Perhaps 24...Qb8 could be tried.

25.cxd5 cxd5 26.Qd4 Nb3

This move was made in a panic. I saw 31.Rc2 coming, but couldn't see anything else, and my flag was hanging.

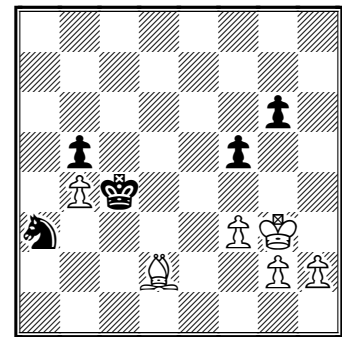
27.Qxd5 Qxd5 28.Nxd5

There are forks everywhere. I had no time and rushed into losing simplifications.

28...Rxe5

28...Rf8 is the last chance, but White still has a big edge.

29.Nf6+ Kf7 30.Nxe8 Rxe8 31.Rc2!+- b5 32.Rc7+ Ke6 33.Rxa7 Kd5 34.Rxh7 Nd4 35.Rg7 Re6 36.Rd7+ Kc4 37.Kf2 Re2+ 38.Kg3 Nc2 39.Rd2 Rxd2 40.Bxd2 Nxa3



Having made the time control, I was walking around hoping that my inexperienced opponent would move quickly in the ending and screw up. Instead, he took plenty of time and played excellently.

41.Kh4!

Instead, 41.Kf4 Kd3 gives me a small shred of hope.

41...Nc2 42.Kg5 Kd3 43.Bf4 Nxb4 44.Kxg6 Nd5 45.Bd6 b4 46.Bxb4! Nf4+ 46...Nxb4 47.Kxf5 is easy.

47.Kg5!

Amazing accuracy in the endgame. And the kid is 12!

47...Nxc2 48.h4 1-0

Very impressive play.

Unlike the previous game, where my opponent did nothing at all to win, this kid just played like a grandmaster, no doubt. When you lose a game like this,



all you can do is tip your cap. A month later, Robson defeated GM Khachiyan with the black pieces in impressive fashion, so keep your eyes open for this one.

D. Vigorito – J. Kleiman

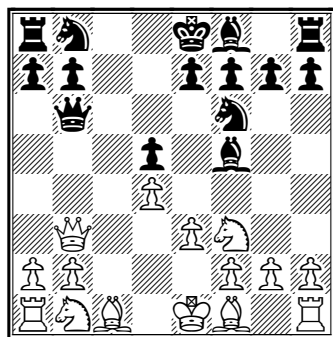
Foxwoods (7), 15.04.2006

This was a strange game to lose. A student of mine had destroyed Kleiman in the 2006 US Championship and I had beaten him before, so I could have reason to be confident. Unfortunately for me, despite the fact that I had had a reasonable tournament so far, I was quite sick this game. The next day I went to the hospital for the first time since I was four years old and discovered that Dr. Bournival was right, and I in fact did have pneumonia. Such fun!

1.c4 c6 2.Nf3 d5 3.e3 Nf6 4.d4 Bf5 5.cxd5 cxd5 6.Qb3

A rather strange opening choice for me, dictated by my exhaustion. This is a stupid “positional” line for White that gives no hope for an advantage. It was recommended in Richard Palliser’s nice book *Play 1.d4!* I was not familiar with the theory of the line, although I knew the basic ideas.

6...Qb6!?



I did not really expect this. Usually Black plays 6...Qc7 7.Bd2. White hopes to exchange dark-squared bishops with Bd2-b4, sometimes with the help of Bf1-b5. I can assure you that this idea leads to nothing for White. The move played by Kleiman is not considered best, but to me it looks like a pretty simple solution to Black’s imaginary problems.

7.Qxb6 axb6 8.Nc3 Bd7 9.Ne5 Nc6 10.Nxd7 Kxd7 11.Bd2 e6 12.Bb5 Bb4 13.Ke2 Bxc3! 14.Bxc3 Ne4 15.Rhc1

I had unwittingly followed Palliser’s recommendation. Here he gives

15...Nxc3 16.Rxc3 and says that White is still slightly better. This is probably true theoretically and optically, but White’s winning chances are slim. Kleiman find a more interesting idea.

15...Nd6!?

The black knights control a lot of squares and are in no way inferior to the white bishops. In my daze, I thought I would “grind” him with the two bishops. But watch what happened.

16.Bd3 g5

Perhaps 16...f5 is more accurate.

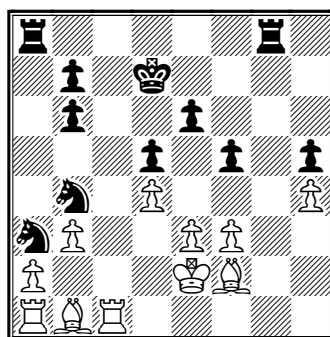
17.f3 f5 18.h3 h5 19.h4

I thought I was so clever with my pawn play.

19...g4 20.Be1?! Rhg8 21.Bf2?

I had dreams of contesting the g-file, but I was not paying attention and gave him a square.

21...Nb4! 22.Bb1 gxf3+ 23.gxf3 Nc4 24.b3? Na3



Get these knights out of my face!

25.Bd3 Rg2 26.Rc3 Rag8 27.Rac1 Nxa2 28.Rc7+ Kd6 29.Ra1

Hoping for some weird tricks because his knights look trapped.

29...Kxc7 30.Rxa2 Rh2

Unfortunately, Black can play too.

31.Ke1 Rh1+ 32.Ke2 Rg2 33.f4 Rxf2+ 0-1

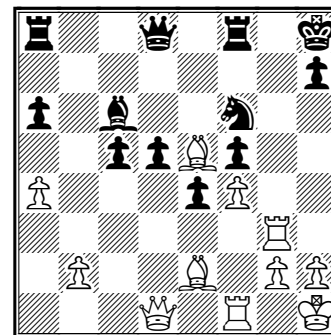
What a disaster. I lost this game because I played a dumb opening. My opponent played a rare and solid line, after which I played aimless moves, while he played with purpose.

On the local scene, I have lost two games to 2300+ players since moving back east, including the game to Denys at the end of this column. The other loss was to Chris Chase, who happily took all of my pieces. This is nothing unusual. These guys are strong players and it will happen.

I have also lost two games to players quite a bit lower rated than myself. These losses need some explaining. Each player took a very different approach to taking me down a notch.

D. Vigorito – L. Times

BCC Swiss 20.01.2007



I have compensation for the pawn because of my powerful bishop, but against correct play it is probably no more than that.

28...Rg8?

This wastes too much time. Black can protect the f6-knight, so it was better to aim for counterplay with 28...d4.

29.Rg5! Rg6 30.Rxf5?

30.b4! is interesting, but I could win right away with 30.Bh5. I saw this move, but the point eluded me and the clock was ticking. 30...Rh6 31.Rxf5 (31.Bf7 Qf8 32.Rg8+ Qxg8 33.Bxg8 Kxg8) 31...Kf8 (31...Qe7 32.g4+-) 32.Rxf6 Rxf6 33.Qg4+ Kf8 34.Qg5+-.

30...Kg8

Now I made a psychological blunder. I saw the win mentioned above and I tried to head back to the position. Again, sometimes you have to forget the past.

31.Bh5 Nxb5

Of course, Black does not have to oblige.

32.Qxb5?

Instead, 32.Rxb5± was still promising for White. I played this move because of a specific threat.

32...Qe7+

32...d4 33.Rf7!+- was the point. My opponent missed this, but his intuition told him that he had to shore up the defenses around his king before marching his pawns. Now my pieces lack coordination and I go down without a fight.

33.h4 d4 34.Rg5 Rxg5 35.hxg5 Qe6 36.b4? e3 37.bxc5 d3 38.Re1 d2 39.Rd1

39.Rxe3 Qd5; 39.Rg1 e2 40.Qxe2 Qh3#.
39...Qd5 40.Qg4 Qxg2+ 41.Qxg2 Bxg2+ 42.Kxg2 e2 0-1

I was actually not too unhappy about this game. Of course, I was not thrilled, but in a G/60 this kind of thing was going to happen. Previously I had been 6-0 against this Lawyer, and he is a master, so he had to score off of me eventually. I should also say that the 6-0 score does not indicate the nature of the games, which were all hard-fought. Lawyer is a really nice guy and he is always a class act, so I could take some comfort in the fact that my friend got a good win!

My second loss was much more disturbing to me. My opponent took a different route to victory. While in the above games, my opponent's "strategy" was to fight hard over the board, this opponent used more of what I would call a "gamesmanship" approach. In our first game, at the BCC Herb Healy Memorial, my opponent found a way to offer a draw and breach etiquette in four different ways:

- 1: he had a clearly worse position
- 2: he was outrated by over 400 points in this worse position
- 3: he had less than half the remaining time as I did in sudden death
- 4: he made the offer on my time, after I had been thinking for several minutes.

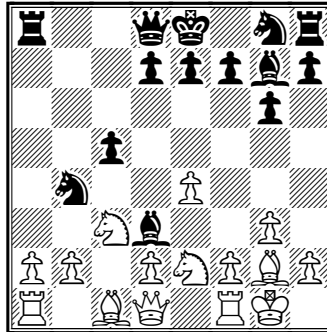
My opponent was also the type that would move before I had hit the clock and he preferred to crunch pieces instead of simply capturing them. Despite these annoyances, I was able to ignore his behavior and win the game. This time.

In our second game at the BCC Winter Open, my opponent fell into a trap and lost a piece in ten moves. His response was to slam the pieces and lose another piece. This fifteen move victory was pleasing because I was giving a "simul" – I was playing in a 1-day event and a 2-day event at the Boylston Club at the same time. My other opponent was the strong FM Chris Chase. Winning this miniature allowed me to focus on that game, which was drawn after the usual exchanges of blunders between Chris and I.

My opponent's "possum" strategy was about to reach its fruition. In our next game, my opponent was White and suggested he try to make it past move fifteen this time. He should not have made it.

NN – D. Vigorito
 BCC Swiss 24.02.2007

1.e4 c5 2.c4!? g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.g3 Nc6 5.Bg2 a6!? 6.Nge2 b5 7.cxb5 axb5 8.Nxb5 Ba6 9.Nbc3 Nb4 10.0-0 Bd3



White is already just about busted. I threaten 11...Bc2 12.Qe1 Nd3 winning the queen. The only chance is to give up the exchange with 11.Nf4. Instead, my opponent played...

11.Qb3?

Now I can win very simply with 11...Nc2 12.Rb1 Nd4, attacking almost all of White's pieces. In fact, White cannot avoid losing a piece. For some reason, I did not even really look at this. I could also play 11...Qb8, threatening 12...c4 with a large advantage. White would not have much better than losing an exchange again with 11.Nf4, as 12.a3 c4 13.Qxb4 Qxb4 14.axb4 Rxa1 should be a pretty easy win for Black. I saw this idea, but played the wrong move, and I gave my opponent an out.

11...Qb6? 12.Nd5!

Black's advantage disappears.

12...Qb8 13.Nxb4 Bxe2 14.Re1

Not surprisingly, this move was accompanied with a draw offer. Well, I should not say "accompanied," because he offered on my time while I was thinking.

14...Bg4 15.Nc2

The computer shows the clever resource 15.Na6!

15...Qxb3 16.axb3 Qxa1 17.Nxa1 Be6

Black has compensation for the pawn. Eventually an equal ending was reached, with the obligatory piece crunching and multiple draw offers. I laughed at hearing "I offer a draw *again*." He also added leaning over the board to his repertoire, covering most of the first rank with his arms. I turned down a repetition and soon after made the second move of an in-

tended sequence first, which lost instantly. What a proud victory for my clever opponent. This may seem like sour grapes, but I never felt so pestered during a game.

Losing is one thing, but losing by means other than straight over-the-board play is another matter. During the game, I tried to take the approach to just not say anything and not let all of this bother me. But it did bother me, and I let it affect my play. I did have one other opponent offer me multiple draws at the BCC one time, but the opponent was young and after the game he apologized and said he was just nervous.

I have seen this thing with players offering draws to stronger opponents in bad position a few times at the clubs. Young players may make this mistake because of inexperience, but if you are an experienced adult tournament player, you should know better. It is rude. Let us review draw offering etiquette basics:

1. do not offer a draw from a clearly worse position if you are much lower rated than your opponent. The only time it is borderline acceptable to offer a draw from a bad position is if you know that a draw really suits your opponent's needs in the tournament.
2. do not offer draws multiple times. Once you offer a draw, your opponent understands that you want a draw. Offering again is pestering.
3. do not offer a draw on your opponents time. This is against the rules and it is rude to disturb your opponent while they are thinking. Also, never adjust pieces on your opponent's time for the same reason.

D. Vigorito – D. Shmelov
 Metrowest Chess Club, Natick (2),
 13.02.2007 [E32]

This was my first game against Denys. I had only seen him play a few games and did not know too much about him. From what I had seen, his openings were a bit shaky, but I knew he was a tenacious player, as he had defeated Foygel a couple of times.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 0-0 5.e4!?

This variation probably is not very good, but it is sharp and Black must know

some complicated lines to really challenge White's idea. The main lines start with 5.a3.

5...d6

This is a solid line. A sharp (but dubious) alternative is 5...c5. The real challenge is 5...d5!. If you want the details, you will have to buy my book.

6.e5

White forces the pace in the center. This is a risky idea, as White is behind in development. More common is 6.a3 Bxc3+ 7.bxc3 with a position similar to a Saemisch variation (4.a3). White has achieved e2-e4 easily, but the queen may not be so well-placed on c2.

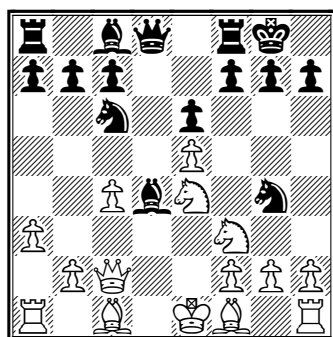
6...dxe5

Denys thought for a long time here, so I felt I made the right opening choice. He made the right decision, as 6...Nfd7 7.exd6 is nice for White. The d7-knight will have to move back to f6 and White has a useful space advantage.

7.dxe5 Ng4 8.Nf3 Nc6 9.a3

Another line is 9.Bf4, but Black is doing well after 9...Nd4!.

9...Bc5 10.Ne4 Bd4!?



An interesting novelty. During the game I thought this was a big mistake, but now I am not so sure. The fact that Black can play this move and be okay in the resulting position just shows the harmlessness of White's hyper-aggressive play. The main continuation is 10...Nd4 11.Nxd4 Bxd4 12.Bg5 Bxf2! 13.Qxf2 Nxf2 14.Bxd8 Nxe4 15.Bxc7 b6! with equality, as in Bocharov-Nispeanu, Warsaw 2005. This game is covered in its entirety in my book.

11.Bg5 f6

The only move. 11...Qe8 12.0-0-0 (or 12.Nxd4 Nxd4 13.Qc3±) 12...Bxe5 13.h3 is a disaster for Black.

12.exf6 gxf6 13.Bh4

With his kingside weakened, this looks difficult for Black, but it is not so bad. Black has a slight lead in development and good control of the central dark squares.

13...Nge5 14.Nxe5

I spent way too much time here. This should not lead to much. 14.Nxd4 Nxd4 15.Qc3 Ng6 16.0-0-0 e5 17.Bg3 Bf5 looks okay for Black. 14.0-0-0!? could be tried.

14...Bxe5

Also unclear is 14...Nxe5 15.0-0-0 Ng6 16.Bg3 f5 17.Nd2 f4 18.Nf3 e5 19.Bd3.

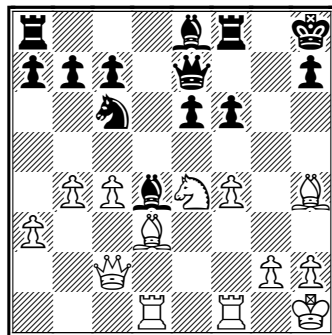
15.Rd1 Qe7 16.Bd3

Here I again burned my clock looking at nonsense. I spent all of this time looking at 16.Qd2 Qg7 17.f4 Rd8 18.Qxd8+ Nxd8 19.Rxd8+ Kf7 20.fxe5 Qg4 21.Bxf6 Qxe4+ 22.Be2, which is good for White, because 22...Qb1+ 23.Kf2 Qxh1 allows 24.Bh5#. Then it occurred to me that simply 17...Bd4 is good for Black.

16...Bd7?!

This is too passive. Better is the active 16...Qg7 17.f3 (not 17.0-0?? Nd4, with a fork looming on f3) 17...Qh6, although I still prefer White after 18.Bf2 or 18.Bg3 because of my sounder structure.

17.0-0 Be8 18.f4 Bd4+ 19.Kh1 Kh8 20.b4



White's advantage is very clear now. Black's central control has come to nothing and I have pressure across the board.

20...Qg7 21.Be2!

This threatens b4-b5 and also keeps Black's queen out of g4. Black's reply is forced.

21...Rd8 22.f5

It was also possible to play 22.b5 or 22.Bf3. The real problem here was my handling of the clock. We each had about

half an hour here, and I used 20 minutes on this move, leaving myself with 10 minutes to get to move forty. Ridiculous.

22...e5?

Black is afraid to open the position because of the pressure on f6, but it was better to fight with 22...exf5, when White has a choice. I used a ton of time deciding between these moves when I played 22.f5, and it ended up being irrelevant because of Black's mistaken reply. 23.Ng3 (23.Rxf5 is also possible) 23...Bg6 24.Nxf5 Qf7 and Black is still kicking. His structure is bad, but his pieces all have found good squares.

23.b5 Ne7 24.Nc5!

White threatens both Nxb7 and Ne6. Black cannot take the knight because the d8-rook is now hanging.

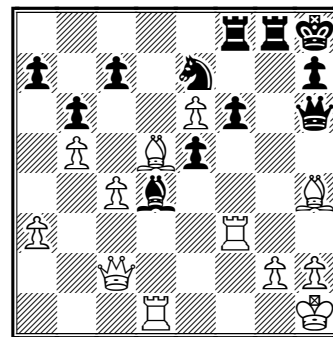
24...Rg8 25.Bf3

I now only had 5 minutes. 25.g3 is also good.

25...Bd7 26.Ne6

It was probably simpler to play 26.Nxd7 Rxd7 27.Bxb7+-.

26...Bxe6 27.fxe6 Ng6 28.Bg3 b6 29.Bd5 Ne7 30.Bh4 Rdf8 31.Rf3 Qh6



32.g3

This is fine, but 32.Rh3 Qg7 33.Be4 is pretty crushing.

32...Rg4

Black's only chance is to sacrifice the exchange. I anticipated this, but was not concerned because I can use the g-file.

33.Rdf1 Rxh4 34.gxh4 f5 35.Rg3 f4 36.Rg4 Nf5

Black seemingly threatens a fork on e3, but the White e-pawn is unleashed and Black has problems hovering around the g8-square. I only had a minute left here and I had a hallucination.

37.Qxf5

Vigorito continued on page 44



Directions: Boylston Chess Club, 240B Elm Street, Suite B9, Somerville, MA 02144 USCF membership required.

Wed May 16, 23, 30, June 6, 13, 20, 27 Wachusett CC Championship: 7-RR ("A" Division) and 7-SS ("B" Division), 40/80, SD/30, Fitchburg State College, McKay Campus School, Room C179. EF: \$2 per game or \$20 annual club dues ("B" Division only). Reg. 5/16, 7-7:10 p.m., Rds. 7:15 p.m. Info: George Mirijanian, 978-345-5011, miriling@aol.com, wachusettchess.org

Sat May 19 BCF \$10 Open: 4-SS; G/60 Boylston Chess Club Somerville, MA EF All: \$10 if received by 5/17, otherwise \$24, \$17 to BCF members. Reg All: 9:00 to 9:45 AM Rounds: 10:00, 12:45, 3:00, 5:15 Prize Fund: Prizes based on entries. Payable to: Boylston CF Mail to: 240B Elm Street, Suite B9 Somerville, MA 02144 Questions: (617) 629-3933 EMail: boylston@world.std.com No smoking, no computers, wheelchair accessible. Bring chess clocks. Directions: Boylston Chess Club, 240B Elm Street, Suite B9, Somerville, MA 02144 USCF mem. required.

Sat-Sun May 26-28 76th Massachusetts Open (State Championship): See inside front cover for details.

Sun May 27 Mass Open One Day: See inside front cover for details.

June/July

Sat June 2 BCC Quads 7-6: 3-RR, G/60 Boylston Chess Club Somerville, MA EF All: \$24, \$17 BCC members Reg All: 9:00 to 9:45 Rounds: 10:00, 12:45, 3:00 Prize Fund: G\$50 first place each quad Questions: (617) 629-3933 EMail: boylston@world.std.com No smoking, no computers, wheelchair accessible. Bring chess clocks. Directions: Boylston Chess Club, 240B Elm Street, Suite B9, Somerville, MA 02144 USCF mem. required.

Sat June 9 BCF Fiesta Open: 6SS; G/30 Boylston Chess Club Somerville, MA EF All: \$24, \$17 BCF members. Reg All: 9:00 to 9:55 Rounds: 10:00, 11:15, 12:45, 2:00, 3:15, 4:30 Prize Fund: Prizes based on entries Questions: (617) 629-3933 EMail: boylston@world.std.com No smoking, no computers, wheelchair accessible. Bring chess clocks. Directions: Boylston Chess Club, 240B Elm Street, Suite B9, Somerville, MA 02144

Fri-Sun June 15, 16, 17 Bradley Open: Windsor, CT

Sat June 16 BCC Elm St. Octads: 3RR; G/65 Boylston Chess Club Somerville, MA EF All: \$24, \$17 BCF members. Reg All: 9:00 to 9:45 Rounds: 10:00, 1:00, 3:15 Prize Fund: Based on entries. Questions: (617) 629-3933 EMail: boylston@world.std.com No smoking, no computers, wheelchair accessible. Bring chess clocks. Directions: Boylston Chess

Club, 240B Elm Street, Suite B9, Somerville, MA 02144

Sat June 23 BCF Somerville Open: 4SS; G/60 Boylston Chess Club Somerville, MA EF All: \$24, \$17 BCF members. Reg All: 9:00 to 9:45 Rounds: 10:00 - 12:45 - 3:00 - 5:15 Prize Fund: Based on entries. Questions: (617) 629-3933 EMail: boylston@world.std.com No smoking, no computers, wheelchair accessible. Bring chess clocks. Directions: Boylston Chess Club, 240B Elm Street, Suite B9, Somerville, MA 02144

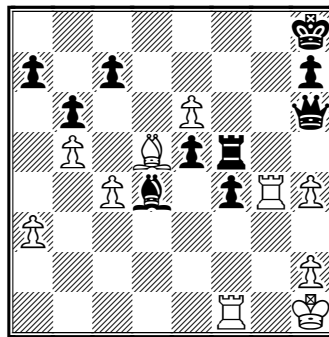
Sat June 30 BCF Swiss #10: 4SS; G/65 Boylston Chess Club Somerville, MA EF All: \$24, \$17 to BCF members Reg All: 9:00 to 9:50 Rounds: 10:00, 12:45, 3:15, 5:30 Prize Fund: Prizes based on entries Questions: (617) 629-3933 EMail: boylston@world.std.com No smoking, no computers, wheelchair accessible. Bring chess clocks. Directions: Boylston Chess Club, 240B Elm Street, Suite B9, Somerville, MA 02144 USCF membership required.

Sat-Wed June 30 July 1, 2, 3, 4 35th Annual World Open: Valley Forge Radisson & Convention Plaza - King of Prussia, PA

Wed July 11, 18, 25, Aug 1, 8 John W. Loyte Memorial: 5-SS, 40/80, SD/30, Wachusett CC, Fitchburg State College, McKay Campus School, Room C179. EF: \$2 per game or \$20 annual club dues. Reg. 7/11, 7-7:10 p.m., Rds. 7:15 p.m. Info: George Mirijanian, 978-345-5011, miriling@aol.com, wachusettchess.org

Vigorito continued

This flashy move is good enough to win, but not the way I played it. Denys thought for a long time here, because he was not under the same spell as I was. While he thought, I was still unable to come to my senses, else I surely would have realized what was happening. Incidentally, computers prefer 37.Rg5 Ne3 38.Qd3 with the idea 38...Nxf1 39.e7+-.
37...Rxf5

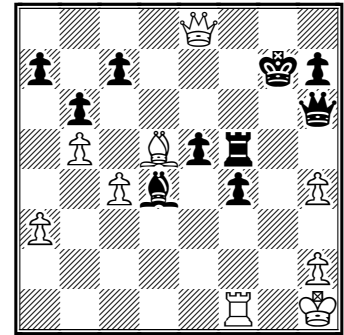


38.Rg8+??

Terrible. I thought this was mating. Instead, 38.e7! Rf8 (the only move) 39.exf8Q+ Qxf8 40.Rg8+ (or 40.Kg2 first) 40...Kxg8 41.Bxg8 Kxg8 42.Kg2

should win handily. White puts his king on e4 and then the rook can maneuver to g2 or I can aim for a4-a5.

38...Kxg8 39.e7+ Kg7 40.e8Q



When I played my 37th, I thought I was queening with check, so I thought it was my move here and I could mate with 41.Qg8+ Kf6 42.Qf7#. But it is not my move. A rather important detail.

40...Qg6!

After this move, the black king can find a very safe haven on h6. Instead of being the exchange up, I am a pawn down and now it is my king that is in trouble. What a disaster.

41.Qc8

In sudden death I took 20 of my remaining 30 minutes. If 41.Qd7+ Kh6 42.Be4 Rf7.

41...Kh6 42.Bf3 Rf7 43.h5 Qf6 44.Qh3 Rg7 45.a4 Rg5 46.Qd7 Rg7 47. Qh3 Re7 48. Bd5?

This loses quickly, but it is lost anyway, especially with no time on the clock.
48...e4 49. Qg4 Rg7 50. Qh3 Qe5 51. Rd1 f3 52. Re6 f2 53. Bg4 e3 54. Be2 Qe4 55. Qf3 Qxf3 56. Bxf3 Rg1 0-1

This loss followed a familiar course. I had a good opening and nurtured it to a large advantage. Yet I used too much time deciding between promising continuations, which led to time pressure, a blunder and a painful loss. Perhaps the best way to beat me is to get a bad position! Denys defended tenaciously and took the course that gave him the best practical chances. This is a strong sign of maturity in a young player.

So that is it for this issue. Maybe some day I will have a win worth presenting...

N.E. Junior Chess Tournament
Saturday, April 21, 2007
Gus Gosselin: (781) 397-0919

The NECA clearinghouse can be found at <http://ourworld.cs.com/jo chess145/myhomepage/profile.html>