



COLUMNISTS

The Instructor

Mark Dvoretsky

You may have some of books. Titles such as *Secrets of Chess Training*, *Secrets of Chess Tactics* or *Training for the Tournament Player*, to name just three. Books recognized throughout the chess world for their excellence and depth. You may have heard his name mentioned as chess trainer *extraordinaire*. Among his students are included Yusupov, Dolmatov and Dreev. It is almost superfluous to mention that he won the Moscow Championship in 1973, finished fifth in the USSR Championship in 1974 and was awarded the title of International Master in 1975. The second issue of the *American Chess Journal* (1992) featured an in-depth look at this modest Moscow master. It was entitled *The World's Best Chess Trainer*. There is not much to say after that.

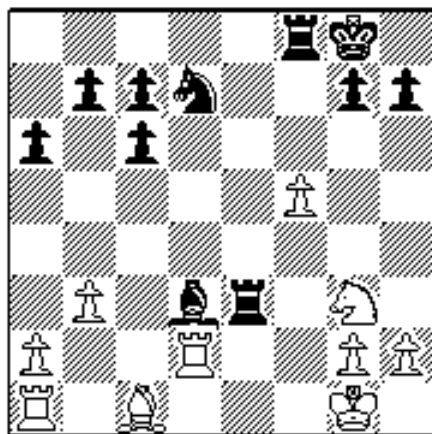
We sincerely hope you enjoy his new column at **The Chess Cafe**. Mark Dvoretsky is... **The Instructor**

Candidate Moves

In the November 1999 issue of *Europe Echecs*, a fragment of a game Adams - Shirov appears, which I used as a classroom exercise during my visit to France last autumn. Later, back home in Moscow, I went over my analyses again. The position turned out to be a lot deeper, more complex, than I had at first realized - although the overall conclusion remained unchanged: White did not choose the strongest continuation. Allow me to offer you a new and considerably expanded version of my commentaries.

First, let me explain why I think this analysis might interest my readers. It seems to me that we are all occasionally guilty of underestimating the richness of ideas which lie beneath the surface of even the simplest, quietest-looking positions. And it is not just the lowly amateur who is guilty; sometimes it can even be a very strong grandmaster. The result is that our game becomes the poorer for it, we examine only a fraction of the possibilities at our disposal and/or at our opponent's, and miss hidden resources, both for attack and for defense.

One of the most important means of conducting analysis - and one which is tailor-made for the elimination of the aforementioned shortcoming - is the principle of "candidate moves". I will not go into detail here on this; those who wish to may read more in my books, as well as those of Kotov, Nunn, Tisdall and others. I shall only say that the following analysis is, in my view, a pretty decent illustration of this principle. (*See Diagram*)



Adams-Shirov Linares 1997

Black's minor pieces on the d-file are vulnerable, and the rook at e3 is tied to the defense of the bishop. So all forcing moves which carry a direct threat must be examined. These are: 20. Kf2, 20. Rd1, 20. Bb2 (threatening 21. Rad1), 20. Ba3, and 20. Nf1.

1) 20. Kf2. Adams, in *Informant* #69, gives the following variation: 20... Rfe8 21. Rd1 Re2+ 22. Nxe2 Rxe2+ 23. Kg1 Bxf5 24. Bf4+/. His final position is, in fact, about

equal: 24... Nf6 25. Rd2 (25. Bxc7? Be4) Rxd2 26. Bxd2 Nd5. But Black has an alternative right at the start (candidate moves must also be found for the opponent!) 20...Rxc3?! 21. Kxc3 Nc5 (threatening 22...Ne4+) After 22. Ba3! Ne4+ 23. Kf4 (23. Kh4?! g5+! 24. Kh5 Nxd2 25. Bxf8 Kxf8) 23... Rxf5+! 24. Kxf5 Nxd2+ 25. Ke6 Nb1! gives rise to a most unusual situation, difficult to evaluate.

2) 20. Rd1 Rxc3 21. hg Bxf5+/- (Adams). After 22. Bf4 Rc8!, White cannot prevent the maneuver Nf6(b6)-d5, which will equalize completely.

3) 20. Bb2 Rxc3 (20...Nb6 21. f6!? gf 22. Bd4 Rxc3 23. hg Bg6 24. Bxb6 cb 25. Re1 is worse) 21. hg Bxf5 22. Re1. Now 22...h6? is bad, in view of 23. Rf2! Rf7 24. Re8+ Kh7 25. g4+-; but 22...h5! appears to maintain rough equality.

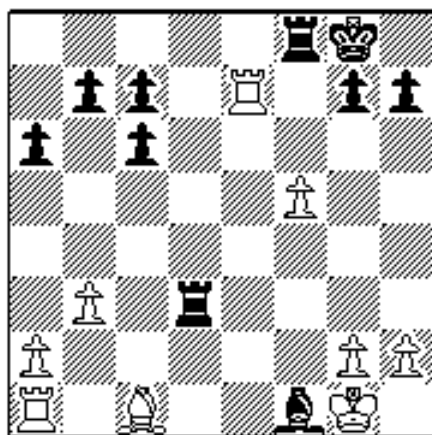
4) 20. Ba3!? Rf7. This was the game continuation. After 21. Rad1?! Rxc3 22. hg Bxf5 (almost the same position as in the 20. Rd1 variation, except that the bishop stands worse on a3 than it did on f4) 23. Rf2?! (Adams thinks 23. Re1+/- is stronger - although it's hard to understand why he considers White's position preferable.) 23... Bg4 24. Re1 Rxf2 25. Kxf2 Nf6! 26. Re7 Nd5 27. Re8+ Kf7=/. Now it was Black who was trying to win, although at the end he blundered and lost.

Instead of 21 Rad1, **21 Kf2!** was much stronger (White avoids the doubled pawns). **21.. Rxc3 22 Kxc3 Bxf5 23 Rf1(+/- or +/-)** (White threatens 24 Rxf5) **23.. g6** is forced, and now Black's game looks suspect

5) 20. Nf1!? Adams evidently did not consider either this move or 20. Bb2, since neither move was mentioned in the *Informant*. **20... Bxf1.** 20...Re1 21. Rxd3 Rxf5 22. Rf3 gives White excellent winning chances; for instance, 22...Rxf3 23. gf Ne5 24. Bb2 Nxf3+ 25. Kf2 Rxa1 26. Bxa1, when the extra piece outweighs the three pawns.

21. Rxd7 Rd3! Black will lose the rook endgame after 21...Re1 22. Bb2 (22. Rxc7+ Kxc7 23. Bb2+ Kf7 24. Rxe1 Bd3 is weaker) 22... Rfe8 (22...Rxa1? 23. Rxc7+ 23. Rxc7+ Kf8 24. Rxe1 Rxe1 25. Kf2 Re2+ 26. Kxf1 Rxb2 27. Rxh7 Rxa2 28. Rxc7.

22. Re7! It's important to control the e2 square. The game is a draw after 22. Rxc7 Be2 23. Bb2 Rf7 24. Rc8+ Rf8. (See Diagram)



Black's situation is desperate: the bishop is attacked and has no retreat; in addition, White threatens 23. Bb2. But the resources of the defense are not yet exhausted.

5A) 22... Be2? 23. Bb2!+- (but not 23. Rxe2? Rd1+ 24. Kf2 Rxf5+ 25. Kg3 Rff1, when the rook must go to c2, and White will never get out. One important point is that 26. Rf2 Rfe1 27. Ba3? fails to 27...Rd3+!, and the pawn check gets Black's king out of the mating net.)

5B) 22... Rxf5!? 23. Ba3 (23. Bb2? Rd2)

Bxg2; and now, White has two possibilities, both based on the same tactical resource:

5Ba) 24. Re8+ Kf7 25. Rf8+ Kg6 26. Kxg2! (26. Rxf5 Kxf5 27. Kxg2 Rd2+ = is inferior) 26...Rd2+ 27. Kh1. Clearly, 27...Rh5? does not work now, in view of 28. Rg1+ Kh6 29. Rf6+! gf 30. Bf8#. Nor is Black's position particularly pleasant after 27...Rxf8 28. Bxf8. Best is 27...Rg5!, for instance: 28. Bb4 Rc2, or 28. Rff1 (intending 29. Bc1) 28...Rgg2 29. Rg1 Rxg1+ 30. Rxg1+ Kf7+/-.

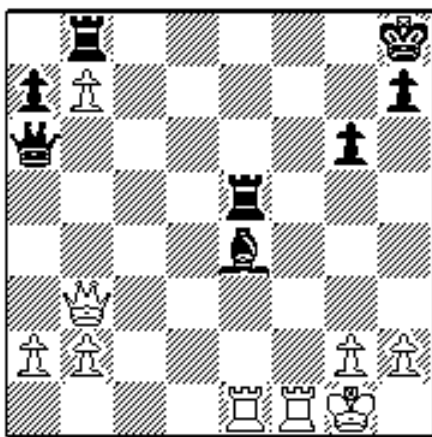
5Bb) 24. Kxg2!? Rd2+ 25. Kh1! (not 25. Kg3 h5! -unclear) Again, not 25...Rh5? 26. Re8+ Kf7 27. Rf8+ Kg6 (27...Ke6 28. Re1+) 28. Rg1+ Kh6 29. Rf6+!. Nor are Black's problems solved by 25...h6 26. Bb4! Rc2 27. Rxc7 Rff2 28. Bd6. But 25...c5! 26. Rg1 Rxa2! is possible, and if 27. Rxxg7+ Kf8 28. Bc1, then 28... Rxh2+! 29. Kxh2 Rh5+.

5C) 22... Rd1!? 23. Rxxg7+!? Here 23. Bb2 is not convincing: 23...Rfd8 24. Rxxg7+ Kf8 25. Rxd1 Rxd1 26. Kf2 Bd3!? - unclear.

23... Kxxg7 24. Bb2+ Kg8! 25. Rxd1 Be2 26. Re1. 26. Rd7 is useless, in view of 26... Rxf5 threatening 27...Rf1# or 27...Rf7. And 26. Rd2 runs into 26...Bg4 27. Rd7 Rf7! 28. Rd8+ Rf8=, or 27. f6 Kf7+/-.

26... Bg4 (26...Bd3? 27. g4+/-) **27. f6** (27. Re7 Rf7) **27...Rd8+/-.**

For those readers interested in this kind of training in calculation, I offer another, somewhat simpler, example on the same theme. (*See Diagram*)



Tseshkovsky-Gufeld Vilnius Zonal, 1975

What's the best way to exploit White's great advantage?

In the game, Vitaly Tseshkovsky incautiously played **35. Rf8+?? Rxf8 36. b8Q**, either overlooking or underestimating the powerful reply **36...Qf6!**, after which the evaluation of the position changed a hundred and eighty degrees. After **37. Qxa7** (37. Qxf8+ Qxf8 38. Qc3 Qf5!, followed by 39...Kg8 doesn't help White) **37... Bd3! 38. Qd1 Rxe1+**, White resigned.

Also mistaken is 35. Qg3? Qb6+ 36. Kh1 - Black can force the draw with 36...Bxg2+ 37. Qxg2 (37. Kxg2 Qxb7+) Rxe1; or he can try for the win by 36...Qd4!? 37. Rd1 Qxb2 38. Rf2 Qb5.

Eduard Gufeld suggested 35. Qc3!? Qb6+ (on 35...Qa5, 36. Qd4! is strong) 36. Rf2 Qc5 37. Qxc5 Rxc5 38. Rxe4. White does have an extra pawn; although after 38...Rxb7, it is unclear whether he will be able to convert it into a point. So before putting the queen at c3, it should be established that White has no other hopeful tries.

35. Qb4! Qb6+ 35...Bxb7 (hoping against hope for 36. Rxe5? Qxf1+! 37. Kxf1 Bxg2+ 38. Kxg2 Rxb4=) loses flatly to 36. Qc3, 36. Qd4 or 36. Rf8+ Kg7 37. Rxb8.

On 35...Kg8 36. Rxe4 Rxe4 37. Qxe4 Qxb7 38. Qe6+ Kh8 39. Qe5+ Kg8 40. b3, we have almost the same situation as in the 35. Qc3 variation, with an extra pawn for White - but with queens still on the board. The presence of queens is obviously in White's favor, since his king still has pawn cover, while Black's doesn't.

36. Qxb6 ab 37. Rf4 Rxb7 38. Rxe4

In comparison with the 35. Qc3 variation, here the Black pawn has gone from a7 to b6, which must favor White. Here, his position is almost certainly won.

Translated by Jim Marfia

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