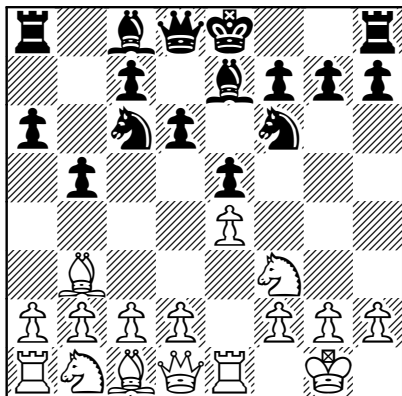


Game 14
D.Navara-B.Socko
 Polish Team Championship 2006
Ruy Lopez C95

1 e4 e5 2 ♘f3 ♘c6 3 ♖b5 a6 4 ♗a4 ♗f6
 5 0-0 ♗e7 6 ♜e1 b5 7 ♗b3 d6
 bind.
 9 h3



Black is not interested in the Marshall Gambit with 7...0-0 8 c3 d5, see Game 16, Shirov-Aronian, and also the anti-Marshall system with 8 a4, as in Game 10, Ivanchuk-Aronian.

8 c3

The main line.

8 a4 is possible, but perhaps slightly less effective for White than in the Anti-Marshall proper. 8...♗g4 is a reasonable reply.

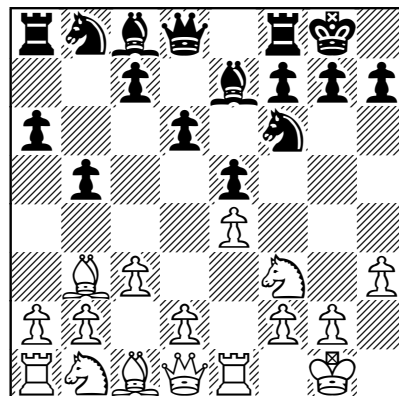
8...0-0

8...♗g4 is just about playable, but after 9 h3 ♗h5 10 d3! Black's bishop loses cover on the light squares on the queenside. White's basic development plan is to swing the knight from b1 to f1, then maybe gain space with the pawn with g4 and/or play the knight to e3 or g3, setting up a light-squared

Whereas here White decides to prevent ...♗g4.

The difference is that after 9 d4 ♗g4, White's central pawns are less solid than in the rock-hard d3 formation, and Black can set up counterplay after 10 d5 ♗a5 11 ♗c2 c6 or 11...♜c8.

9...♗b8!?



Which was the most sensational new system of the Ruy Lopez in the early 20th century? The Marshall Gambit or this, the Breyer Variation?

If we can demonstrate that the Marshall Gambit is fully and completely equal, then it may be given the top slot. The Breyer Gambit is tough and extremely difficult to beat, but White still has chances of playing for a slight, maybe very slight, edge. There have been times, though, when players with

White, such as Stein have quite simply given up on 1 e4, because of the Breyer. White has found a few ways since then to improve his play.

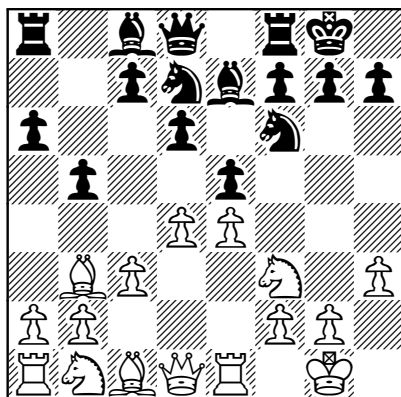
Breyer's knight retreat intends to re-deploy the knight to d7, keeping the e5-pawn safe, and allowing Black the chance to advance his queenside pawns effectively, with ...c5, so that the pawns become strengths rather than weaknesses.

For 9...♖a5, see Game 33, Karjakin-Ignatyev. There are many other alternatives for Black, not surprisingly when White's last move was a quiet h3. One curiosity is 9...♖e8!? 10 ♘g5!? (10 d4 ♙b7 leads to sharp play) 10...♖f8 11 ♘f3, offering a repetition. If Black wants to play on, he has to try something else, with 11...♖b8, 11...♖a5, 11...♙b7, 11...h6, or a few others.

10 d4

10 a4 ♙b7 gives Black no great problems.

10...♖bd7



The continuation of the Breyer manoeuvre.

11 ♘bd2

11 ♘h4 used to be popular up to the early 1970s, with the idea that Black's

knight blocks the bishop's defence of the f5-square. It soon became appreciated that 11...♖b6 and 11...exd4 12 cxd4 ♖b6 gave Black full equality.

11 d5 ♙b7, followed by ...c6, does not give White much either.

11 c4 c6 sets up Black's barricades well. Black has good chances of equality.

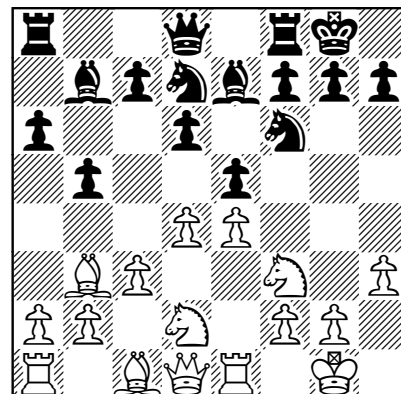
11 ♙g5 ♙b7 12 ♘bd2 h6 13 ♙h4 ♖e8 also seems comfortable for Black.

All of these lines were tried many times in the early 70s, and proved to be extremely solid for Black. Almost by a process of elimination, 11 ♘bd2 survived as the only promising plan.

11...♙b7

Black has to develop.

11...♖e8?? would be careless, as White traps the queen after 12 ♙xf7+ ♙xf7 13 ♘g5+ followed by ♘e6.



12 ♙c2

White needs to provide extra cover to the e4-pawn, before manoeuvring his knight to the king's file.

If one is getting worried about Black spending three tempi to manoeuvre the knight from b8 to d7, remember that White has spent four tempi manoeuvring the bishop from f1 to c2.

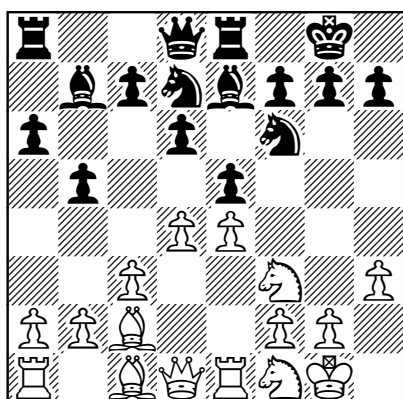
These offset each other.

12...♖e8

Now that White's bishop is off the a2-g8 diagonal, the rook move is much better.

13 ♖f1

A standard Ruy Lopez development plan. White puts pressure with the pawns on the queenside, and sets up possible attacks on the kingside, while keeping his pawns intact in the centre. It is up to Black to set up some counter-play.



13...♗f8

In 1983 when Spassky was content at being just a highly respected former World Champion, he made some quick draws with 13...d5!?. Tal too was happy with a quick draw against both Spassky and Psakhis. The various pawn exchanges, and also 14 ♖g3, all seemed equal.

Then Kindermann showed, against Spassky in the 1984 Bundesliga, that 14 ♖xe5! ♖xe5 15 dxe5 ♖xe4 16 f3! can still create problems. Spassky tried 16...♖c5 17 b4 ♖d7, but after 18 f4!, White created pressure, and later won. Spassky then tried improving with 16...♖g5 17 ♖g3 f6, but Chandler dem-

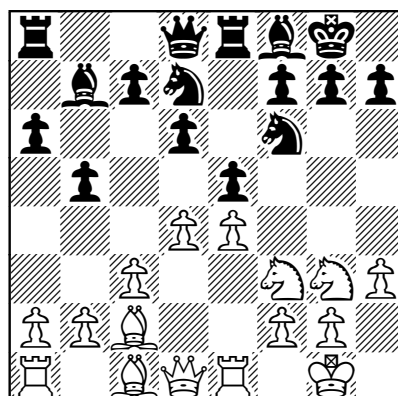
onstrated an edge with 18 ♗xg5 fxg5 19 ♖b1, M.Chandler-B.Spassky, German League 1985.

This line soon dropped out of fashion, but maybe Black can improve? Black quietly continues to develop his pieces before setting up the central explosion with ...d5.

14 ♖g3

Carrying on with his main plan.

14 d5 c6 is probably not too dangerous.



14...g6

This looks like a simple re-fianchetto move, although in fact the bishop does not make it to g7. Black's other idea is more to prevent White from moving his knight to f5.

14...c6 is an alternative. Then 15 ♖f5 ♖c7 (15...g6?! 16 ♖h6+ ♖g7? 17 ♖g5 is unplayable for Black) 16 dxe5 dxe5 17 ♖h2 c4 18 ♖f3 c4 19 ♗g5 has been played a couple of times:

a) Black's play soon collapsed after 19...♖c6?! 20 ♖ad1 h6 21 ♗c1 ♖c5? 22 ♗xh6! in A.Volokitin-E.Bacrot, German League 2007. The point is that if 22...gxf6 23 ♖d6! ♗xd6 24 ♖g3+, checkmate follows, so Bacrot struggled on with 22...♖fxe6 23 ♖g4, but White's

minor pieces were swarming alarmingly, and helped to win quickly.

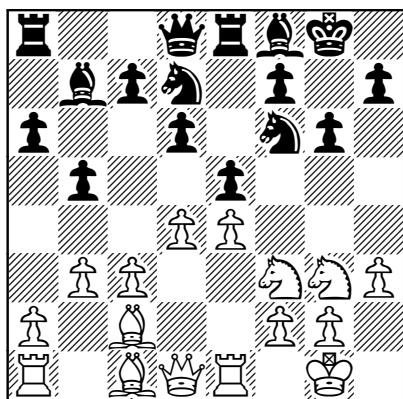
b) Black avoided the immediate danger in Anand-Morozevich, Morelia/Linares 2007, playing instead 19...♖e6! 20 ♖ad1 ♗c5:

b1) Maybe White is slightly better after, for example, 21 ♗g4 ♗xg4 22 hxg4.

b2) Anand tried instead the tempting 21 ♖xf6?! ♖xf6 22 ♗g4 ♖e6, but for much of the time he would have liked to have kept his dark-squared bishop. After 23 ♗ge3 (Marin suggests 23 b4!? as an improvement) 23...♗a5 24 a3 g6 25 ♗d5?! ♖d8!? (ignoring the sacrifice) 26 ♗g3 ♖d7 27 ♗fe3 ♗d8 Morozevich looked to have a good position, but Anand found the better moves, and later won.

14...d5!? is relatively unexplored, although Black usually delays it for the next move. There is no obvious refutation. White could perhaps try 15 ♖g5!? h6 16 ♖h4 g5 17 ♗xg5, the same sacrifice as in the main line, except that White has not played the extra b3 move. Is this relevant for either side? I leave it to the reader.

15 b3



White too aims at a fianchetto, ex-

cept that again neither player completes the development of the long diagonal. Events intervene.

15 a4 is not quite as fashionable at higher levels, but has achieved good results for White, after either 15...c5 16 d5 c4 17 ♖g5 h6 18 ♖e3 or 15...♖g7 16 ♖d3 c6 17 ♖g5 ♗f8 18 ♗d2 ♗e6 19 ♖e3.

In either case, the pawn structure is mainly blocked, quite a contrast with the current main line.

15...d5!?

A central pawn explosion!

Quite often in such positions, and also in such lines with white pawns on c4 and d4, and black pawns on c5 and d5, play can lead to extremely complicated positional calculations, as each player on the new move has to calculate two 'pawn takes pawn' captures, work out whether either of them is good, bad, level or premature, and then has to foresee whether the opponent has the chance of making a good response in reply. Sometimes there is no immediate pawn capture by either side, and the tension increases, no doubt leading to severe time pressure. Play through the next few moves in the game, and there is no central pawn exchange on either side, until Black's 19th, four extra moves on either side. During this time, play has not been quiet, but White has made a violent piece sacrifice.

The aggressive central pawn thrust has only been a relatively recent try, with 15...♖g7 having a much longer history, Tal and more especially Spassky having scored with good wins in this. Also, more recently, Socko has reverted to the more traditional lines, in re-

sponse to his loss against Navara. For example, M.Carlsen-B.Socko, German League 2006, three months after the loss to Navara, continued 16 d5 ♖e7 17 c4 ♗f8 18 ♙e3 ♙h6 (Black is desperate to exchange the bad bishop) 19 ♙xa6 ♗xa6 20 cxg5 axb5 21 b4, but Black was under pressure, and later lost. There have been many tries for Black after 16 d5, and indeed many defensive attempts by Socko. Black is slightly worse, hence the reason to try 15...d5.

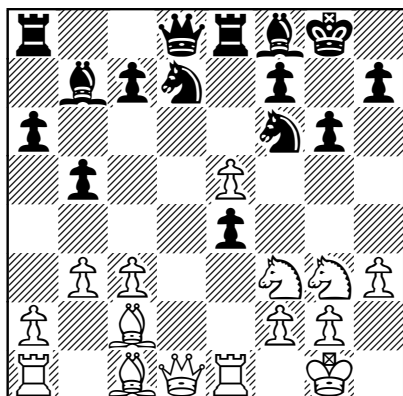
16 ♙g5

He doesn't take anything, but adds to the tension instead. Quite often an extra pin can make all the difference.

Are there any good 'pawn takes pawn' options immediately?

16 exd5 ♗xd5 does not make much pressure against Black, as White's c3-pawn is under threat. Play is level after 17 dxe5 ♗xc3 18 ♗d3 ♗d5. This of course helps explain why Black did not try 14...d5 a move earlier, when White's pawn was still on b2.

16 dxe5 dxe4 gives White nothing, and indeed forces him to play carefully:



a) If, for example, 17 ♗xe4 ♗xe4 18 ♙xe4 ♙xe4 19 ♗xe4 ♗xe5 20 ♙f4 ♗xd1+ 21 ♗xd1 ♗xf3+ 22 gxh3 c5, and

Black has the better endgame pawn structure.

b) Or 17 exf6 exf3 18 ♙e4 ♙xe4 19 ♗xe4 fxg2 22 ♗xg2 ♗c5 with good play for Black.

c) 17 ♗g5! appears to be the safest option, with a few small tactics ending up in a drawn opposite-coloured bishop endgame after 17...♗xe5 18 ♗5xe4 ♗xe4 19 ♗xe4 ♙xe4 20 ♙xe4 ♗d3 21 ♗e2 ♗xc1 22 ♗d2 ♗e2+ 23 ♗xe2 ♗xd1+ 24 ♗xd1 ♗ad8.

The final central exchange capture looks equal after 16 ♗xe5 ♗xe5 17 dxe5 ♗xe5 18 ♙f4 ♗e8.

16...h6

Now it is Black's turn. Again, he must consider initiating pawn exchanges in the centre. The problem is that the pin on the knight on f6 is so painful for Black that he has to try to break it.

16...exd4?! 17 e5 dxc3 18 exf6 ♗xe1+ 19 ♗xe1 h6 is too wild. Black is sacrificing his minor piece for a few pawns, but his opponent is now attacking, and Black's pawns attack little. A return piece sacrifice with 20 ♙h4! ♗xf6 21 ♗xc3 g5 22 ♗xg5 hxg5 23 ♙xg5 d4! 24 ♗d2! ♗d5 25 f3 keeps the initiative. Black suffers serious gaps in his king-side pawn structure.

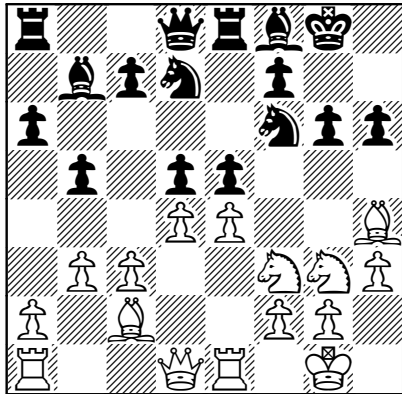
16...dxe4?! 17 ♗xe5 puts intense pressure on both black knights. If 17...♗xe5 18 dxe5 ♗xd1 19 ♗axd1 ♗d5 20 ♗xe4, White wins a pawn.

17 ♙h4

Of course, Navara will have prepared this piece sacrifice. Indeed, it has already been tried before, but here he adds a couple of extra details.

In any case, 17 dxe5 Nex5 18 ♗xe5 ♗xe5 19 ♙f4 ♗e6 is only equal, as is 17

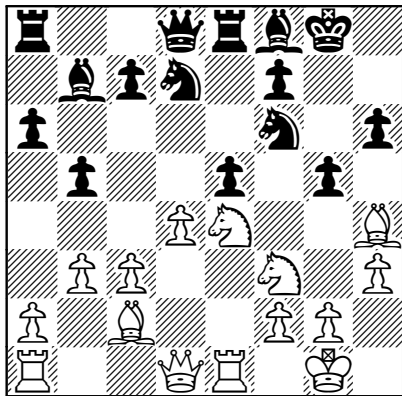
♙xf6 ♖xf6 18 exd5 exd4 19 ♖xd4 ♖xd4
20 ♘xd4 ♙xd5.



17...g5

Socko takes up the challenge.

Former World Champion, Boris Spassky, played more cautiously with 17...dxe4 18 ♘xe4 (18 ♙xe4 ♙xe4 19 ♘xe4 g5 20 ♙g3 transposes into a later line) 18...g5 in J.Polgar-B.Spassky, 8th matchgame, Budapest 1993:



a) Polgar might well have considered 19 ♙g3, and if 19...exd4 20 ♘xf6+ ♖xf6 21 ♖d3 ♙g7 22 ♘xd4 with a positional advantage to White, because of Black's light-squared weaknesses on the kingside. Black improves though with 19...♘xe4 20 ♙xe4 ♙xe4 21 ♖xe4 f5,

with unclear play.

b) Polgar, then only a teenager, showed great flair for setting up a sacrificial attack with 19 dxe5! ♘xe4 20 ♙xe4 ♙xe4 21 ♖xe4 gxh4 22 ♖d4 ♖e7 23 e6! fxe6 24 ♘e5. She had recovered her material, and Spassky's pawn structure proved to be seriously damaged, resulting later in a loss.

On the other central pawn capture, White stands positionally better after 17...exd4 18 e5 g5 19 ♙xg5 hxg5 20 exf6 ♖xf6 21 ♖d3.

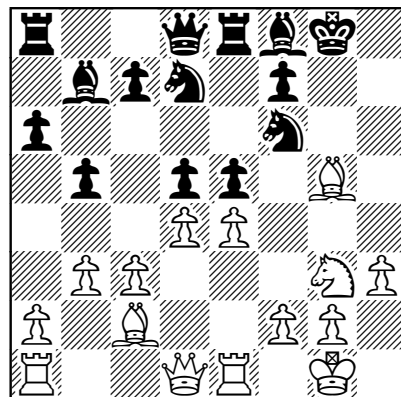
18 ♘xg5

He has to sacrifice, and he needs to keep the bishop.

18...hxg5

18...exd4? 19 ♘f3 does not give any material compensation in return for the kingside pawn gash.

19 ♙xg5



Two pawns for the knight, and good attacking chances against an exposed king. This seems like promising compensation.

19...exd4

19...dxe4 is an attempt at simplification, but White still kept strong kingside pressure after 20 ♙xe4 ♙xe4 21 ♖xe4 ♖c8 22 ♖h4 exd4 23 cxd4 ♙g7 24

♞f5 in A.Sherzer-A.Lesiege, Biel 1993. After 24...♞f8 25 ♖f3 ♜e6 26 d5 ♜e5 27 ♞h6+ ♟xh6 28 ♟xf6 ♟g7 29 ♟xe5 ♟xe5 30 ♜e1 ♞g6 31 ♜g4 White was winning.

20 e5

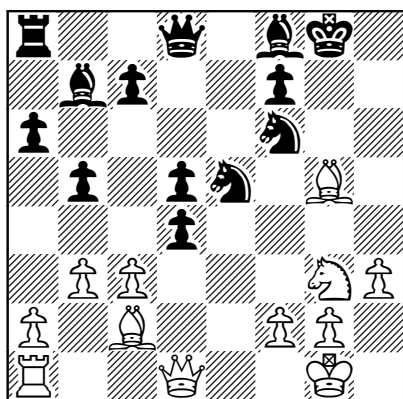
So that both bishops are on good attacking diagonals, and his other pieces are also in the attack.

20 cxd4? dxe4 21 ♞xe4 ♟e7 is ineffective.

20...♜xe5

Black also faces problems after 20...♞xe5 21 ♞h5 ♟g7 22 exd4 ♞ed7 23 ♖f3. The basic plan of attack is ♞xg7 followed by ♖g3.

21 ♜xe5 ♞xe5



22 cxd4!

A year earlier, Navara had got caught off-guard against the same opponent with 22 ♖xd4?. He soon found out that he had no real compensation for his sacrificed pawn after 22...♖d6 23 ♜e1 ♞e4 24 ♟f4 ♜e8, and a later win for Black in D.Navara-B.Socko, Greek Team Championship 2005.

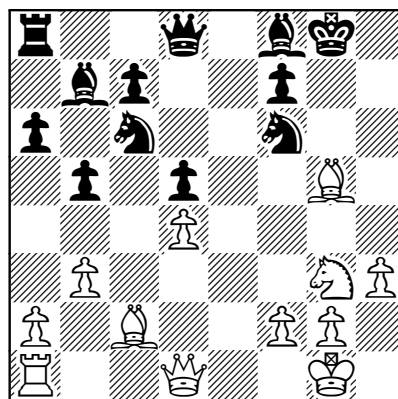
One can be sure that Navara had prepared this position in detail. White's pawn capture on d4 adds an important centralized pawn, and kicks Black's

knight from another central square, e5. There is no deep tactic, rather just a natural positional attack, taking over some dark squares, and adding pressure on the light squares leading up to h7.

22...♞ed7

A position which has interested the analysts. Where should the knight move? Socko's retreat, helping defend the other knight on f6, seems just about to hold, but requires great accuracy. In other games, Black chose 22...♞c6 instead. This was played by Inarkiev in April 2005, with a later win for Black, given below. This predates the earlier Navara-Socko encounter, which dates from July 2005. Therefore, neither Navara nor Socko covered entirely new ground, and a diligent player could be expected, especially in the days of the Internet, to have had chances of preparing in detail.

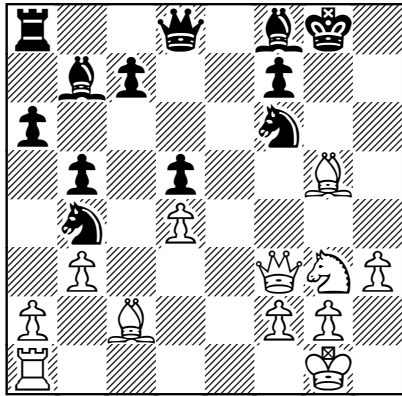
22...♞c6 is a more tactical line, putting pressure on the pawn on d4, rather than pure defence:



a) White suffered a quick collapse a month after the second Navara-Socko game in J.Polgar-S.Mamedyarov, Essent 2006. After 23 ♞f5?! ('an unfortunate

novelty', according to Marin), Black fought back with 23...♙c8! 24 ♖c1 ♙xf5 25 ♙xf5 ♗d6 26 ♙h4 ♘e7 27 ♙g3 ♗b4, Black later consolidating and winning.

b) 23 ♗d3!? ♘b4 24 ♗f3 has also been tried.



White lures the knight from the centre, but he will soon have to give a tempo with his bishop:

b1) If then 24...♘xc2? 25 ♙xf6 ♗xf6 26 ♗xf6 ♘xa1 27 ♗g5+ ♙h8 28 ♘h5, and White's queen and knight are much more effective than Black's scattered pieces.

b2) 24...♙e7 is far safer, and it could end up as another draw by repetition in a few moves time:

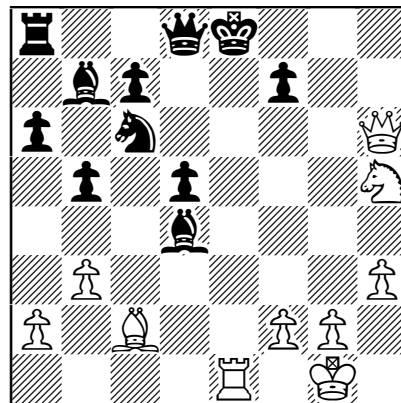
b21) Lukacs and Hazai give 25 ♘f5 ♘xc2 26 ♘xe7+ ♗xe7 27 ♙xf6 ♗e4 28 ♗g5+ ♗g8 28 ♗h4 ♗h7 29 ♗g5+ as a draw.

b22) Instead, A.Grischuk-S.Mamedyarov, Moscow 2006, continued with 25 ♙b1 ♙c8 26 ♗f4 ♘e4 27 ♙xe7 ♗xe7 ♘c6 29 ♙xe4 dxe4 30 ♘h5 ♗d6 31 ♘f6+ ♙f8 32 ♗h6+ ♙e7 33 ♘g8+ ♙e8 34 ♘f6+ ♙e7, draw. Analysis for Chess-Base, by Ftacnik and by Lukacs/Hazai, suggests possible improvements for both sides, with 26 ♙f5! looking prom-

ising for White. Black could instead try 25...♘e4! a move earlier: 26 ♙xe7 ♗xe7 27 a3 ♘c6 28 ♘xe4 ♘xd4 29 ♗g4+ ♙f8 30 ♗h5 ♙g7. Clearly there is now an obvious draw. The computer suggests that the unexpected 31 ♘d6! might well be an improvement for White, though. If 31...♘e2+ 32 ♙h1 ♗xd6 33 ♗xe2 ♗f4 34 ♙d3 ♖h8 35 ♙g1 d4 36 ♖e1, White, maybe contrary to initial appearances, is doing well. Black has the passed pawn in the centre, but White controls the other central file with queen and rook, and Black's king is exposed.

There is clearly plenty of play to be analysed in this whole variation, but maybe the quiet positional grind, after the tactics and sacrifices, might be the most effective way of handling things.

c) There is another sharp line, though: 23 ♘h5 ♙e7 24 ♙xf6 ♙xf6 25 ♗d3 ♙xd4 26 ♗h7+ ♙f8 27 ♗h6+ ♙e8 28 ♖e1+.



After some natural and logical play, some recent games diverged. Naturally Black must block the diagonal, with either 28...♘e7 or 28...♘e5; 28...♙d7?? 29 ♙f5 mate is not bright:

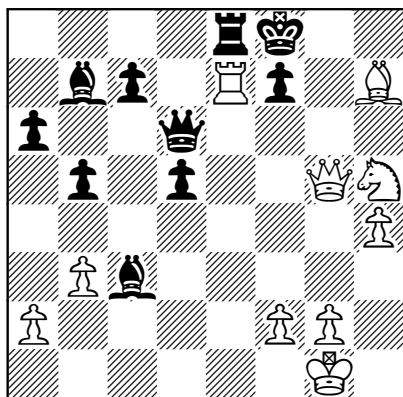
c1) The earlier game was A.Fedorov-

E.Inarkiev, Sochi 2005, where Black chose 28...♖e7:

c11) Play continued with 29 ♖g7+ ♘d7 (29...♙xg7 30 ♖xg7 ♘d7 31 ♖xf7 ♗e8 32 ♙f5+ ♘d8 33 ♚xe7 ♖xe7 34 ♖g8+ ♗e8 35 ♖g5+ ♗e7 is a perpetual, but Black will want to do more than that) 30 ♖f5 ♖c6 31 ♖xd4 ♖xd4 32 ♖f4 ♖xc2 33 ♖f7+ ♘c6 34 ♖g6+ ♘c5 35 ♖xc2+ ♘b6, and the king was safe, and Black kept an extra bishop.

c12) If White wanted to force a draw, 29 ♙f5!? would sort this out quickly. Black cannot allow the bishop to stay there, so 29...♙c8 and a perpetual after 30 ♖c6+ ♘f8 31 ♖h6+ ♘e8. Therefore there is no realistic prospect of Black refuting White's play in this line.

c13) The most startling line is 29 ♖g5 ♘f8 30 ♙h7 (avoiding the repetition with 30 ♖h6+) 30...♙c3 31 h4 ♖d6 32 ♚xe7 ♚e8! (not 32...♖xe7?? 33 ♖g8+), and a draw was agreed some moves later in K.Landa-V.Kosyrev, Internet 2005.

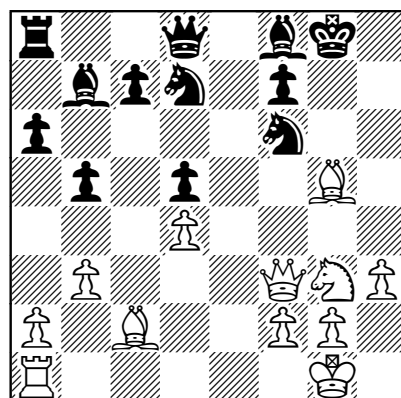


This is a wonderfully strange position. Black is not in fact threatening the rook on e7, since 33...♙xe7 would be illegal, and 33...♖xe7?? and 33...♚xe7?? would allow checkmate with 34 ♖g8.

Black cannot even push the queen away with 33...f6?? in view of 34 ♖g7 mate. So far, this all looks promising for White, except that he cannot make any further advance, with either rook or queen. There are many chances on either side to break through, but if the opponent is alert, the likely result is deadlock.

c2) In a game Mamedyarov-Shirov, Moscow 2006, play continued 28...♖e5 29 ♙f5 ♖d6 30 ♖g5 c5 31 ♖f6+ ♘d8 32 ♖xd5+ ♘e8 34 ♖d5+, and a draw by repetition. There are other possibilities here too: for example, 31 ♙g4 (opening up the f5-square for the knight after ♖g7+) 32...♗e7 32 ♖g8+ ♖f8 33 ♖g5 ♗e7, with another repetition. Instead Lukacs and Hazai suggest 31 ♘f1!? as a possibility, with the idea of f4. Play is complicated, but there are many draws by repetition if White wants. There is a suspicion, though, that with best play, White could try for more. For example, after 31...♘f8 32 ♖f6 ♙c6 33 f4 b4 34 ♙d3, White will capture the knight (as if 34...♖xd3?? 35 ♖h6 mate), with chances of an edge.

We now return to 22...♖ed7:
23 ♖f3



Back to 'normal' chess. We are at the end of the combinational phase, and now it is a case of positional pressure against the black pieces. All White's pieces, apart for the king, are already attacking, or just a move to attacking, while some Black's pieces are quiet defenders. Much depends on whether Black can uncover his pieces.

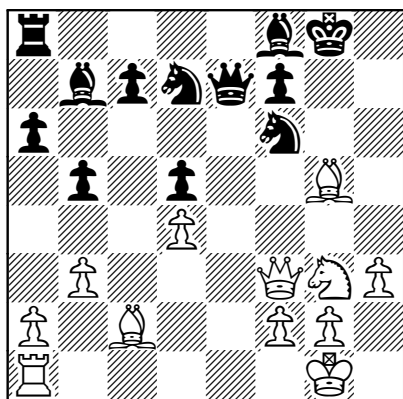
23...♖e7

Probably the best defensive option.

An initial computer suggestion is 23...♗g7 24 ♖h5 ♗h8, keeping firm control of the pinned knight, but unfortunately Black has little support for the king. 25 ♗h6 ♖e4 26 ♖g4+ ♖h7 27 ♗g7 ♖e7! (27...♖g8?? 28 ♖f5 mate) 28 ♗xh8 f5 29 ♖g7+ ♖xg7 30 ♗xg7 ♖g6 31 g4 keeps Black's alive, although a pawn down. White should eventually win.

If 23...♗e7 24 ♖f5, and Black's position creaks. Playing through the computer options for Black would give 24...♖h8 25 ♖e1 ♗b4 26 ♖h6 ♖g7 27 ♖e3 ♗d2 28 ♖f5+ ♖h8 29 ♖e7 ♖g7 30 ♖g3 ♗xe3 21 ♗h6+ ♖xh6 32 ♖f5+ ♖h5 33 ♗d1+ and mate next move.

If the bishop cannot help, the queen has to take on the burden.



24 ♗f5

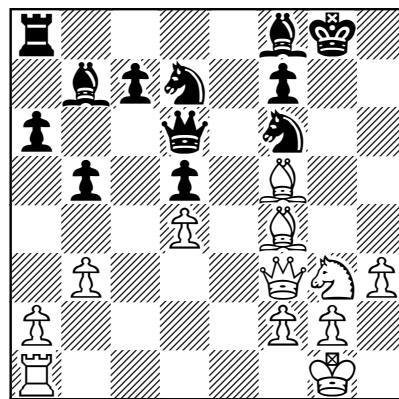
White threatens ♗xe7.

The alternative is 24 ♖h5 ♗g7 25 ♖xg7 (25 ♗f5 ♖f8! holds) 25...♖xg7 26 ♖g3 ♖e6!? 27 ♗xf6+ ♖xf6 28 ♖f4+ ♖e7 29 ♗f5 ♖d6 30 ♖e1+ ♖d8 31 ♖h4+ ♖f6 31 ♖h4+ ♖f6 32 ♖g4 ♖f8 33 ♖g8 ♖d6 34 ♖xf7 ♗c6 35 ♖e5, and Black is still under pressure, but not as much as in the game.

24...♖d6

Socko accepts that the best he can do is to allow a repetition. Navara's piece sacrifice has at least held the balance in this game, but can he try for more? One would expect so.

25 ♗f4



The bishop is able to use another diagonal. Indeed, both white bishops are very strong.

25...♖e7?

Both players would have had the opportunity of analysing their previous encounter some months ago, but it is Socko whose game faltered. He tries to keep the extra minor piece, but his defence crumbles.

A more active way is to make a return sacrifice, with the view of active counterplay. The choice is between 25...♖b6 and 25...♖b4. Either way,

White recovers the knight with 26 ♖xd7 ♜xd7 27 ♜g4+, and then 27...♗h8 28 ♜xd7 (White can, of course, accept a draw with 28 ♜h4+) 28...♜xd4 forks the rook and bishop.

The obvious continuation is 29 ♜c1, giving up bishop rather than rook. After 29...♜xf4 30 ♜xc7 ♜a7 31 ♜f5 it looks at first as though White has a winning attack. But then there is a wonderful tactical resource with 31...♜c6!!, threatening the queen, threatening the rook, and blocking the defence of the queen check on c1. White can just hold out for a draw with 32 ♜d8! ♜c1+ 33 ♗h2 ♜f4+. Some superb tactics, but with the help of computer Navara could well have analysed this line in advance. If I can find it, so could he! Try to imagine how difficult it would be for the over-the-board player finding the draw from move 25. Difficult.

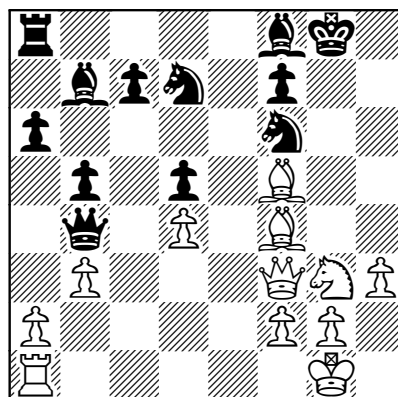
Here White also has a relatively quiet line, with 31 ♜xb7 (instead of 31 ♜f5). After 31...♜c5, there is a perpetual check on 32 ♜h1 ♜xf2+ 33 ♜xf2 ♜c1+ 34 ♗g1 ♜f1+. Play is still equal after 35 ♜d1 ♜xd1+ 36 ♗h2 ♜xb7 37 ♜xb7 ♜h5!. Alternatively here, White has 32 ♜c8+ ♗h7 33 ♜xc5 ♜xb7 34 ♜xd5 ♜c7. After all the wild complications, we reach a relatively stable early endgame with queens, and for White, knight and two pawns versus rook. White is better, and certainly should not lose this, but it would be a long endgame grind to play for a win.

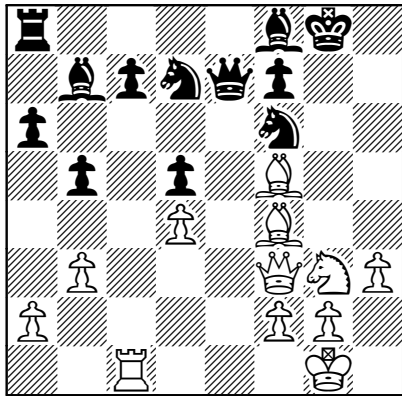
These are the critical main lines, but it remains to be seen whether White can find good alternatives, after either 25...♜b6 or 25...♜b4.

The weaker 25...♜b6?! 26 ♜c1! ♜c6 27 ♜h5 ♜xh5 28 ♜xh5 ♜f6 29 ♜h4

♜g7 30 ♜e5 puts Black under pressure. Therefore he needs to consider the other queen move.

25...♜b4! places the queen on a livelier square.





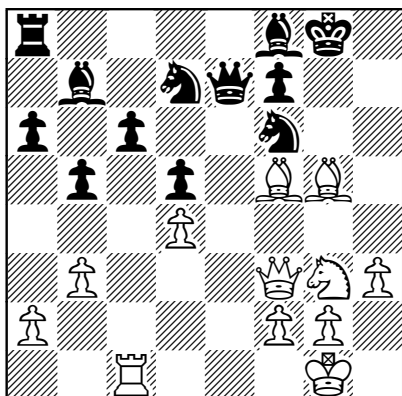
26...c6

Marin gives 26...c5 27 ♖g5 ♗d6 as an improvement, but Black's position is unconvincing. After 28 dxc5 ♗c6 29 ♘h5 ♘xh5 30 ♗xh5 ♖g7 31 ♗h7+ ♔f8 32 ♖xd7 ♗xd7 33 ♖h6 White has a winning attack. Alternatively, 29...♗e8 30 ♖e3 ♘e5 (30...♗xe3 is better, but unsatisfactory) 31 ♗g3+ ♔h8 32 ♗h4 ♘xh5 33 ♗xh5+ ♔g7 34 ♗h7+ ♔f6 35 h4! ♘g6 36 ♖xg6 fxg6 37 ♖d4+ leads to a win for White.

Black's mistake was on move 25, not on move 26.

27 ♖g5

Returning to the pin, and threatening the ♖xd7 capture.



27...♗d6

And so the queen returns.

28 ♘h5

He is not interested in a repetition with 28 ♖f4.

White has only three minor pieces, but they have much greater impact than Black's four.

28...♖g7

The queen breaks through after 28...♘xh5 29 ♗xh5 ♖g7 30 ♗h7+ ♔f8 31 ♖xd7 ♗xd7 32 ♖h6, and if 30...f6 31 ♗h8+.

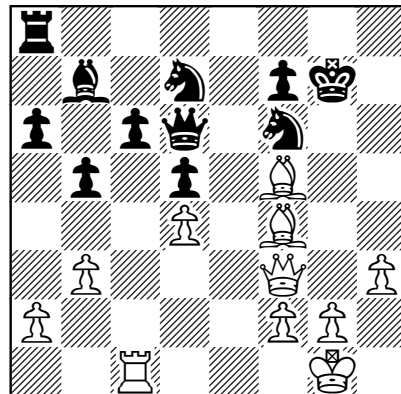
White also has a fairly standard attacking win after 28...♗e8 29 ♖f4 ♗e7 30 ♗g3+ ♔h8 31 ♗h4 ♔g8 32 ♗g5+ ♔h8 33 ♘xf6 ♘xf6 34 ♖e5 ♖g7 35 ♗c3.

So many attacking pieces for White, so few defenders for Black.

29 ♘xg7

Forcing the king into the open.

29...♔xg7 30 ♖f4



The bishop hits the queen yet again.

30...♗e7

Black's queen is stuck on the a3-f8 diagonal, and from White's point of view, it does not really matter where the queen should go. By now, White is winning.

31 ♗g3+

A strong check.

32...♔h8

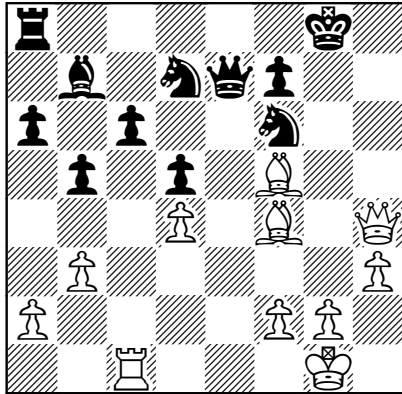
If 32...♔f8 33 ♕d6, pins the queen.

32 ♖h4+

Zigzagging through.

32...♔g8

32...♔g7 33 ♕h6+ wins more quickly.



33 ♕xd7

The simplest, even though he is not giving immediate checkmate, or winning the queen.

There is always the possibility of a blunder, even from a winning position, and 33 ♖c3? throws a rook after

33...♖e1+ 34 ♔h2 ♖xc3. White's idea would probably have been 35 ♕h6! ♖e8 36 ♕h7+ ♔h8 37 ♕f5 ♔g8, but it is only a perpetual. Unnecessary sacrifices are not good chess.

33 ♔h2? is over-sophisticated, aiming to play ♖c3 without allowing a queen fork, but allowing a different checking idea. After 33...♖f8 34 ♕g5 ♖d6+! 35 ♕f4 ♖e7 it is time now for a perpetual.

Navara plays it simply, and correctly.

33...♖xd7

Obviously not 33...♖xd7?? 34 ♖xe7.

34 ♖xf6

Now White has recovered his piece, is a pawn ahead, and keeps the more active pieces.

34...♖e6

His one hope is to head for an endgame.

35 ♖g5+ 1-0

Here Black gave up on his position, or possibly lost on time. If 35...♖g6, White does not bother with exchanging the queens, but instead continues the attack with 36 ♖d7.