

Nail It Like Nepo!

**Ian Nepomniachtchi's
30 Best Wins**

Zenon Franco

Nail It Like Nepo!: Ian Nepomniachtchi's 30 Best Wins
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Introduction

I am delighted to introduce my book of Ian Nepomniachtchi's best wins.

As soon as I embarked on the gratifying task of writing it, I naturally studied Nepomniachtchi's career more deeply than I had done in the past; I was impressed by the originality of his play and his ambitious attitude. Nepomniachtchi's career is already quite long and successful, but until the last few years he was overshadowed by other great players of his generation.

His often excellent results were sometimes followed by poor performances. However, things began to change in recent years: his results are now much more stable and winning the 2020-2021 Candidates Tournament is obviously a big jump forward.

When writing this book I included, as I always do when available, comments by the players themselves, as they are an important source of information. I have to say that for this book I found fewer direct commentaries from the protagonist than in some of my previous works, but the ones I did manage to find are particularly enlightening. Nepomniachtchi is an excellent annotator: he provides clear explanations of his thoughts, both from the point of view of the chess situation on the board and other factors as well. We will see how important the practical side of the game is for him.

His opening preparation for games is remarkable. He has several ways to handle openings, as we will see. For example, he usually makes choices unexpected by his opponent. Some of his "surprises" are new ideas, while some others are just moves that sometimes make his opponent react suboptimally. On other occasions he prefers to play side-lines, or even goes for continuations that are not that familiar for him (and sometimes not in his repertoire at all), agreeing to discuss the opening on his rival's theoretical terrain.

This book contains 30 complete games and a number of fragments that give more context on the commented game. It is written in "move by move" format: readers are challenged to solve exercises in relevant and instructive parts of the game, and the author will also answer questions asked by a hypothetical student.

I believe that this is a good way to study chess, and also to teach.

It has been a pleasure to write about Nepo's creative style and I hope the reader will appreciate the games of the 2021 World Championship challenger just as much as I do.

GM Zenon Franco Ocampos
Ponteareas, July 2021

Dedicated to Yudania

Nepo's Style

Both Garry Kasparov and Magnus Carlsen believe that Nepomniachtchi's style is more aggressive than that of the other top players. Nonetheless, in recent years he has also got more solid, and now he is stronger. Asked how he had reached his best level in the last few years, Nepo replied that it was greatly due to his much more effective work.

It is difficult to find just one great player from the past that reminds me of his style. Even though all the top players have gained something from all the great masters of the past, in Nepomniachtchi we could particularly highlight a few, beginning with Emanuel Lasker, David Bronstein, Bent Larsen and Viktor Korchnoi: he has the fighting spirit of all of them, as well as a mixture of some of their abilities.

From his commentary we clearly see the importance he attaches to the practical side of the game; and, as I said, the other factor I noted was his top-class opening preparation.

Carlsen's opinion

In an interview given at the end of the Candidates Tournament, Magnus Carlsen said that Nepomniachtchi was one of the most talented players of their generation. Carlsen pointed out how quickly Nepo plays his moves, exerting strong pressure on his opponent. This is complemented by his tactical strength even in simple positions. Nonetheless, this could be a drawback too, when he plays too quickly and loses focus.

Carlsen said that Nepo was very influenced by his mood, "When he is inspired he can play extremely well," but the opposite can happen, too: he may play at a lower level when he is emotionally not in a good shape.

"It has been proved in chess, again and again, that being consistent and raising your floor is just as important as raising your ceiling," said Carlsen, adding that Nepo's floor was too low for several years. "That's the only reason why Ian was not at the highest level in each tournament he played." In another interview, Carlsen said that in the last few years Nepomniachtchi has succeeded in raising both his floor and his ceiling.

Mikhail Tal, his first idol

When he was 14 years old Nepomniachtchi said his idol was Mikhail Tal. Well, we cannot say that his style is that close, not to the Tal of the 1950s and

1960s anyway, but he has of course played many attacking games, and we will see some of them in this book. Let's briefly look at a recent example from a rapid game that could remind us of the young Misha Tal.

Ian Nepomniachtchi

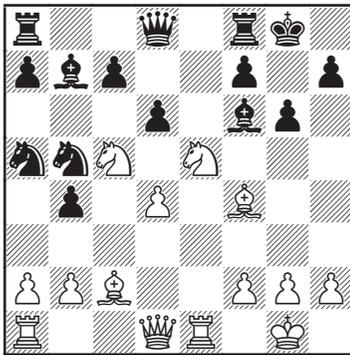
Teimour Radjabov

Ruy Lopez, Berlin Variation [C67]

Paris Rapid & Blitz chess24.com,

20.06.2021

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 ♘f6
4.0-0 ♗xe4 5.d4 ♗d6 6.♙a4 exd4
7.c3 ♙e7 8.cxd4 b5 9.♙b3 0-0
10.♘c3 ♙b7 11.♖e1 ♙f6 12.♙f4
♘a5 13.♙c2 b4 14.♘a4 g6 15.♘e5
♗b5 16.♘c5 d6



White to play

After a relatively new path in the Berlin, 6.♙a4, sacrificing pawns, the game arrives at one of the critical positions.

17.♘xb7! ♘xb7 18.♘c6 ♖d7
19.♘xb4!

That was the idea, to exchange his central pawn for this less important one, allowing him to centralize the knight with tempo.

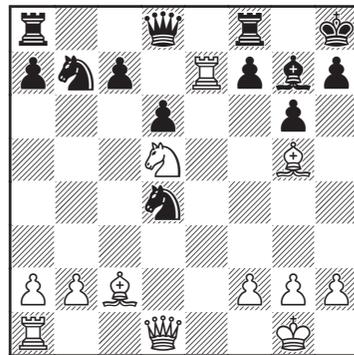
19...♗xd4 20.♘d5 ♙g7

Abandoning e7, but in case of 20... ♖d8 then 21.♙h6 wins the exchange, although the computer wants even more by playing 21.♙e3.

21.♖e7 ♖d8 22.♙g5 ♔h8

Avoiding ♗f6 with check.

After 22...♗xc2 23.♖xc2 White threatens 24.♘f6+ ♔h8 25.♖e4, going to h4, and if 23...♗c5 then 24.♖d2 or 24.♙f6 are equally strong.



What would Mikhail Tal play here?

23.♙xg6!!

A beautiful combination; 23.h4 was also adequate, but this continuation is prettier.

23...fxg6

After 23...hxg6 the invasion through the h-file is decisive after 24.♖g4 ♔g8 (24...♗f5 25.♖h3+) 25.♘f6+ ♙xf6 26.♙xf6 ♗f5 27.♖h3, and mate soon.

2.) Chess is played by humans, with limited time to think, not by computers, so, again, the practical side is very relevant. (3.♘f3! 7.g4! 23.♙d1!)

3.) “Which piece should I exchange? Which one should I keep?” If you can find the right answers, you’ll probably discover the correct plan. (22...♘f6! 23.♙d1!)

4.) After a move you missed, don’t panic! Even though it’s easier said than done – as we saw, even top players can react poorly to an unexpected turn of events. (27.♘f4! 30...♙g7? 30...♙g1+!)

5.) “Chess is a state of mind.” (16.♙c4?! 30...♙g7? 30...♙g1+!)

* Italics refer to variations, as opposed to moves actually played.

Game 16

In the spirit of Lasker and Korchnoi

This game in some way evokes Tarrasch – Lasker, Dusseldorf 1908, the second game of the World Championship match (15.♙xg7!). Here too, Black embarked on a more than dubious continuation, and was on the verge of losing. We could think of Korchnoi playing with the Black pieces as well.

The world champion failed to find the best way to punish Black’s daring maneuver and began to commit mistakes, which led him to defeat. In this case there were not just chess factors behind the collapse. Carlsen,

as many participants and journalists pointed out, was suffering a bad cold during the tournament, which was quite visible at the press conference after the game.

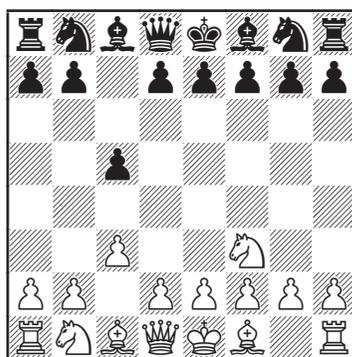
Magnus Carlsen

Ian Nepomniachtchi

Slav Defense [D13]

London (8), 10.12.2017

1.♘f3 c5 2.c3



Question: Not very common, right?

Answer: You are right. This move order, or even starting with the move 1.c3, the Saragossa Opening, which has been played a few times by Vlastimil Hort, in most cases transposes to normal variations.

Magnus Carlsen likes to play unusual openings, mostly in blitz and rapid tournaments. In this case, it is an invitation to play a Slav, trying to lead Nepomniachtchi to unfamiliar territory.

2...d5

Black accepts the challenge and goes for a Slav. He had several options of course, such as 2...♘f6 3.d4 e6, when after 4.♙g5 we arrive at a set-up that Carlsen played twice in 2017, against Xiong in the Isle of Man and Korobov in Riyadh (blitz). Carlsen won both games.

3.d4 cxd4 4.cxd4 ♘c6 5.♘c3 ♘f6 6.♙f4 ♘h5

Black chooses a secondary line, probably wanting to avoid a theoretical battle after 6...♙f5 or 6...a6, moves that Carlsen himself had experience in with both colours.

7.♙d2

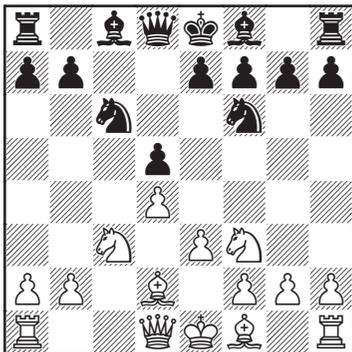
Carlsen chooses a modest line instead of trying to punish Black by playing 7.♙e5.

7...♘f6

This is an invitation to repeat moves, something very unlikely to happen, of course. The alternative is 7...g6.

8.e3

White finishes with the bishop inside his pawn structure, but he has got in ♙c1–d2 for free, which also frees up the c1–square for the rook.



8...e6

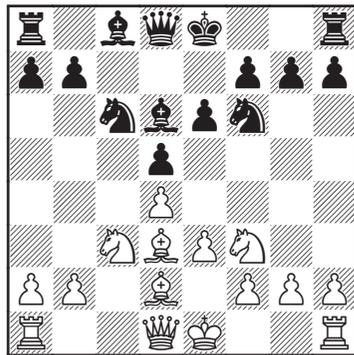
Question: This is a kind of “betrayal” of the Slav, why not 8...♙f5?

Answer: That would be ideal, but after 8...♙f5 White has the unpleasant threat 9.♘e5!, and Black has to deal with some annoying ideas too, like ♗b3, g4 and ♙b5, etc., so Black must be more restrained.

9.♙d3 ♙d6

Black wants to control e5. The alternative is 9...♙e7.

We are in a symmetrical position but with White having gained the move ♙d2 for free and it is his turn.



Exercise: What would you play with the White pieces?

Answer:

10.e4!

His better development can only be demonstrated in an open position, so now we arrive at a typical isolated d-pawn structure.

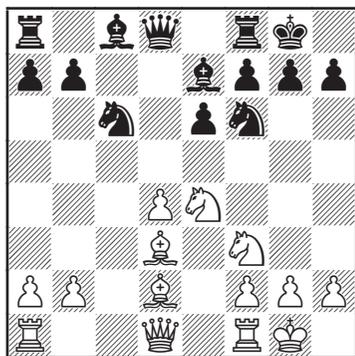
White has to play this move immediately, because after normal moves 10.0-0 0-0 if now 11.e4 then Black has 11...♘b4!, forcing 12.♙b1, and after 12...dxe4 the ♘b4 is on his way to d5.

After 10.e4 the jump 10...♘b4? is weak due to 11.♙b5+, forcing 11...♙d7.

10...dxe4 11.♘xe4 ♙e7

We have arrived at a standard set-up. It seems that White has gained a tempo in the process, which is a good sign for him, although the move won, ♙d2, is not particularly threatening.

12.0-0 0-0



13.♙c2

Question: An unusual place for the queen too, right?

Answer: Yes, the World Champion doesn't play the standard move 13.♙e2, but wants to force Black to make some concession on the kingside immediately.

It's probably no better than 13.♙e2, but no worse either. It

gives this typical position a new or a different type of treatment.

The normal move 13.♙e2 was also played here, arrived at by a different move order, in Nakamura – Wojtaszek, Khanty-Mansiysk 2010. That game continued 13...♙d7 14.♖ac1 ♗c8 15.a3 ♙b6 16.♙e3 ♘d5 17.b4 a6 18.♘c5 ♗cd8 19.♙e4 ♙e8 20.♗fd1, and White got some advantage, although Black finally won.

13...h6

The alternative was 13...g6. Although it is playable, it seems logical not to weaken voluntarily the dark squares on the kingside. There could follow 14.♖ad1 ♙d7 15.♙h6 ♗e8 (15...♘b4? 16.♙b3 loses material), and now White must decide where to put his queen, on d2 or e2, or maybe play 16.a3 first and ♗fe1 later.

14.♖ad1 ♙d7

Accepting the pawn with 14...♘xd4 15.♘xd4 ♙xd4 is really hardcore. After 16.♙c3 ♙b6 17.♘xf6+ ♙xf6 18.♙xf6 gxf6 19.♙d2 ♗g7 20.♙c2 (more dangerous than 20.♙b1, because the bishop can move to b3 or a4 later), White has a nasty initiative on the diagonal, and of course taking the second pawn is too dangerous, e.g., 20...♙xb2 21.♖b1 ♙e5 22.♗fe1 ♙c7 23.♖b3.

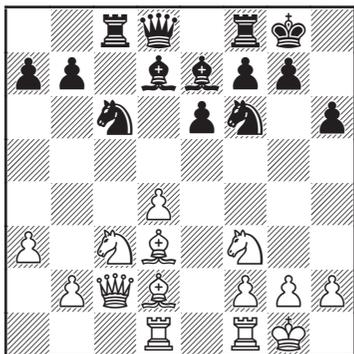
15.a3

Black was not threatening 15...♘b4 yet, as 16.♘xf6+ would force 16...gxf6, but the World Champion

didn't find a more useful move. After for example 15.♖fe1, Black could play 15...♗d5 (renewing the threat ...♗b4), followed by 16...♖c8 with a nice position.

So, instead of a standard solution, he went for a different idea again.

15...♖c8 16.♗c3



White has avoided premature simplifications and, thanks to that, his main weakness, the d-pawn, is not in danger. He is preparing a slow but dangerous advance if Black remains passive.

Exercise: How do you think Nepo reacted?

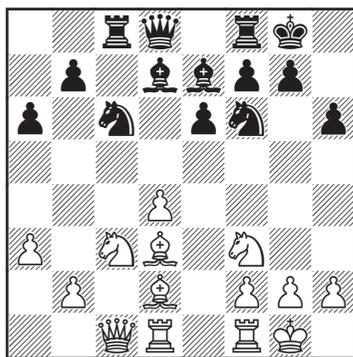
Answer:

16...a6

Black chose an ambitious plan, involving the expansion ...b5–b4.

Another standard possibility was 16...♗d6, intending ...♗e7 and ...♗c6.

17.♙c1



Magnus has found a way to show the positive aspect of his queen's position, adding meaning to his surprising move 13.♙c2.

Exercise: What would you play?

Answer:

17...♖e8

Showing respect for White's idea. 17...b5? 18.♗xh6! gxh6 19.♙xh6 followed by ♗g5 would of course give White a winning attack.

18.♖fe1

Now 18.♗xh6? gxh6 19.♙xh6 would be obviously bad due to 19...♗f8.

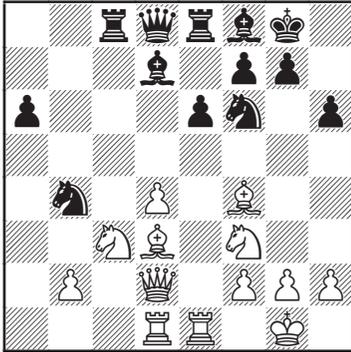
18...♗f8 19.♗f4

The bishop gives up his place for the queen. The standard plan 19.♗b1 followed by ♙c2 didn't attract White, as Black would play 19...♗e7 and after 20.♙c2 ♗f5 there is no clear way to continue. It doesn't seem promising for White.

19...b5

Black is consistent with his idea. The alternative was 19...♗e7, going to d5, and enabling ...♗c6.

20. ♖d2 b4 21. axb4 ♞xb4



22. ♞e5

Question: Really? White doesn't want to keep this bishop?

Answer: You and I would like to play 22. ♞b1, and surely Carlsen too, but he probably saw that after 22... ♞bd5 23. ♞e5 ♞b5 White's attacking chances are almost nil.

He assessed that it was more important to retain his dark-squared bishop for the initiative.

22... ♞xd3 23. ♖xd3

Exercise: What would you play here?

Answer:
23... a5?

Black had a good position, but not a better one, and not completely without danger. Nepo was too optimistic, and after the game he commented: "Of course, this was a mistake. It just gives away a tempo."

He should have given up the pawn. After 23... ♞c6 24. ♖xa6 ♞a8 Black has some positional compensation for the pawn.

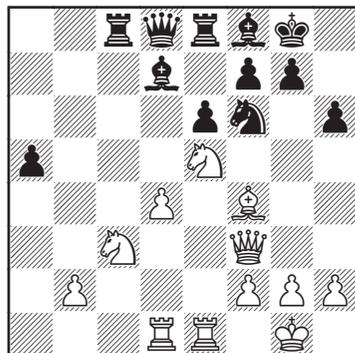
Another option, also sacrificing the pawn, was 23... ♞b5 24. ♞xb5 axb5 25. ♖xb5 ♞d5, followed by ... ♖b8, and there is also enough compensation. The knight on d5 is strong and White's extra pawn is easily neutralized.

24. ♖f3!

Suddenly Black is confronted with a series of unpleasant ideas. The f7-pawn is a tactical weakness, White could try g4 followed by g5 or even h4 first, and the maneuver ♞g3-h4 is available.

Question: It seems convincing, did Nepo overlook this move?

Answer: After the game he said: "Of course I saw ♖f3, but I couldn't have expected it to be so devastating."



Exercise: How would you defend?

Answer:

24...♔b4?

Nepo remains very confident and is playing with fire. He wants to create counterplay, but that's not what the position demands at this point. Now his king is losing a key defender.

The right move was 24...♖e7!, overprotecting f7. After 25.♘xd7 ♘xd7 (25...♖xd7 26.♔xh6 a4 followed by ...♘d5 is to be played when hitting the panic button: it leads to a tenable position, one that is difficult to crack, but this is not necessary yet) 26.d5 ♘c5 27.d6 ♖d7 it looks enough for Black to equalize. Normally the queen is not a good blockader, but here the queen is safe, as White has no clear way to attack her.

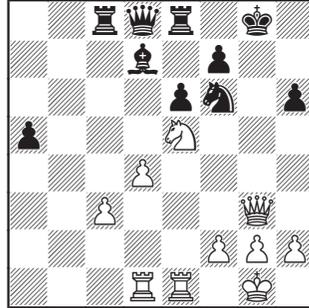
25.♖e3?!

Nepomniachtchi thought 25.♔g3, with the ♔h4 idea we mentioned, would be “very unpleasant for me... and here I might be ready to play ...g5 at some point.” It was a strong move and Black needs to get rid of the c3 knight immediately, because after the threatened 26.♔h4 he cannot defend with 26...g5 due to 27.♘e4! winning instantly.

Anyway, after for example 25...♔xc3 26.bxc3 ♔a4 27.♖c1 ♖d5 28.♖f4, the threat ♔h4 remains frightening.

Carlsen's move maintains a slight advantage, but he misses a great opportunity. In fact, the engines immediately show the strongest

move, 25.♔xh6!, when play could continue 25...♔xc3 26.bxc3 gxf6 27.♖g3+



Black cannot play 27...♔f8? due to 28.♖d3! ♔c6 (or 28...♔e7 29.♖g7 ♖f8 30.d5!) 29.♖f4 ♔e7 30.c4, and there is no good defense against the coming d5.

Ian also has a difficult position after 27...♔h7 28.♘xf7 ♖e7 29.♖d3+ ♔g7 (or 29...♔g8 30.♖g6+ ♔f8 31.♘d6! ♖g7 32.♖d3 ♔c6 33.f3 followed by c4, when the Black king is weak and White is clearly better) 30.♘e5 and Black must return material; after for instance 30...♖f8 31.♖g6+ ♔h8 32.♖xh6+ ♖h7 (32...♔g8? 33.♖d3) White has 33.♘g6+ ♔g8 34.♖g5 ♖h5 35.♖xh5 ♘xh5 36.♘xf8 ♔xf8, and now Magnus would play 37.d5! with a material advantage and a better position, as the a-pawn will not create enough counterplay.

Let's go back to our game, after 25.♖e3.

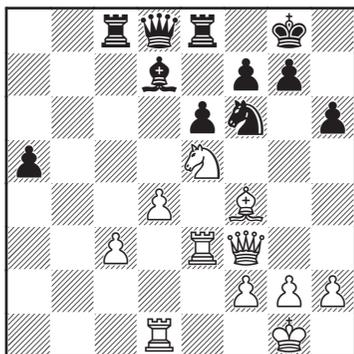
Exercise (simple): How did Black justify his previous moves?

Answer:

25...♙xc3

This is the first part. Of course, it creates the additional idea c4 and d5 for White, but Black must do something to try to stop White's attack.

26.bxc3



Exercise: How did Nepo continue?

Answer:

26...♙a4!

This turns out to be an excellent move from the practical point of view. Carlsen explained his feelings about the game, saying: "I failed to predict a single one of his moves."

Some of them were bad, that's true, but not this one.

27.♖a1?!

Not the best answer.

Exercise: Why was it a poor reply?

Answer:

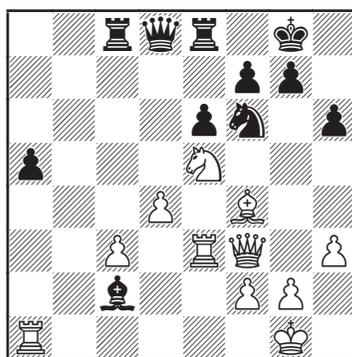
27...♙c2!

The bishop is allowed to rejoin the defense.

Going back, it was better to avoid this redeployment by playing 27.♖c1!. Black should answer 27...♖f8!, and he puts up a fight, but not 27...♗xd4? because it loses material after 28.♖a1! ♗d2 29.♖e4, or leads to a White attack after 28...♗b6 29.♙xh6!

28.h3!

A good practical decision. The king needs some air and now Magnus is freer to use the rook on a1, as he has no more back rank problems.



28...♙f5?

The bishop hurries to retreat. It is a logical idea but a tactical mistake, and here it is too provocative.

28...♖f8 would have been a safer move, overprotecting f7, or the more ambitious 28...a4, but this needs more calculation because if the c2-bishop wants to go the kingside the pawn may end up lost.

Even more calculation would be needed for the computer suggestion 28...♘d5, which is good, but leads to serious complications. It allows 29.♙xh6, and after 29...♙g6 30.c4 ♘xe3 31.♙xe3 ♙f5 32.c5 ♗d5

33. ♖h5 ♜e7 34. ♖xa5 the position is about equal, but easier to play for White.

Carlsen accords importance to this detail. If the position is easy to play, this is more important at the board than the objective evaluation.

It seems that, instead of 29... ♗g6, 29... ♖e7! is stronger, as after 30. ♖g3 f6 31. ♜e2 ♜xc3 32. ♘f3 ♖c7 33. ♗d2 ♖xg3 34. fxg3 ♜c6 35. ♖xa5 or 35. ♗xa5 White's extra pawn doesn't count for much.

There is also the dangerous 30. ♗xg7, although Black seems to get a defensible position after 30... ♔xg7 31. ♖g4+. Here Black can choose between 31... ♗h6 32. ♜f3 ♗g6! 33. c4 ♗h5 34. ♘xf7+ ♖xf7 35. ♜xf7 ♗xg4 36. cxd5 ♗h5 37. ♜a7 exd5 38. ♜1xa5, reaching an equal ending, or the riskier 31... ♗g6 32. ♜f3 ♘f6 33. ♖g3, which gives White two pawns and compensation for the piece, but still Black seems able to defend.

29.g4!

Now White is better again. Nepomniachtchi admitted in the interview that he “got into trouble” around here.

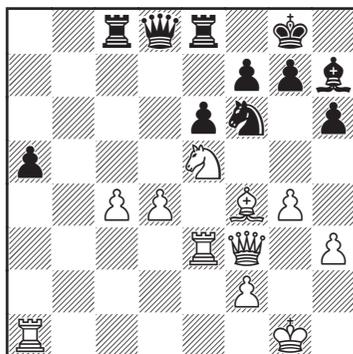
29... ♗h7?!

The ugly 29... ♗g6 was preferable.

30.c4?!

This move maintains a slight advantage, but it misses a good opportunity. Carlsen could have played 30.g5, and after 30... ♘d5 White gains a huge attack with 31. ♘xf7! (this is why 29... ♗g6 was better).

In case of 30... hxg5 31. ♗xg5 the pin is very awkward, and if 31... ♗f5 White would play 32. ♖g3, planning ♖h4 and ♜g3, with a better position.



Exercise: White has a small advantage. How should Black proceed?

Answer:

30... ♘d7!

He needs to mount a defense. First, Black wants to eliminate the strong knight.

31. ♘c6?

The capture of the a-pawn will give White no advantage.

Nepomniachtchi knew that after 31.c5! the exchange 31... ♘xe5 32. ♗xe5 would leave Black under pressure, so he intended to play 31... ♘f6 with the idea of ... ♘d5, but he admitted it might be “double-edged.”

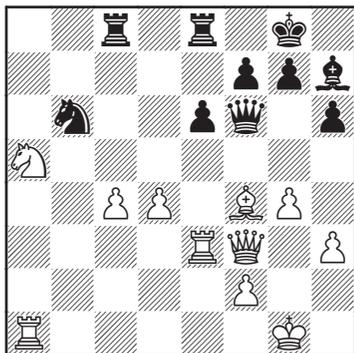
31... ♖f6!

The queen is extremely effective here, as we will see.

32. ♘xa5

Not 32. ♜xa5? g5, winning.

32... ♘b6



Now White's pieces are in dubious places. He wants to play c5 and Nc4-d6 , and of course if he can do this he will get a great position.

33.c5?

He had to give up the c-pawn, with an equal position, but why then play $31.\text{Nc6}$?

Exercise: Why is 33.c5 wrong?

Answer:

33... Rxc5 !

Simply because of this: the a1-rook is hanging.

"I just put the pawn en prise. I couldn't see that he could take it until after I played it," said Carlsen.

34.dxc5?

Here Carlsen collapsed: one mistake follows another.

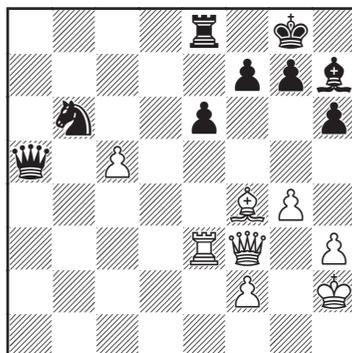
Nepomniachtchi didn't think of 33.c5 as a blunder during the game, he was more focused on try to survive.

He thought that White could still play here $34.\text{Wb7}$ Rc2 $35.\text{Ke5}$ g3 but $35...\text{Wxd4}$ is better for Black.

Recapturing on c5 is surely worse. Maybe White should have played

$34.\text{Ke5}$. After $34...\text{Wxf3}$ $35.\text{Rxf3}$ Rc2 the position is unpleasant for White, but not at all lost.

34... Wxa1 + 35. Kh2 Wxa5



36. Wc6 ?

This was the faulty idea White had in mind. He should have gone for $36.\text{cxb6}$ Wxb6 , which is clearly worse but not quite lost yet.

Exercise (simple): Why was $36.\text{Wc6}$ the last mistake of the game?

Answer:

36... Wa4 !

Winning a piece.

37. Wxa4 Nxa4 38.c6 Nb6 39.c7 f6 40. Rb3 Nc8

0-1

Question: Too many mistakes, right?

Answer: Ian explained some of the reasons: "Clearly, Magnus is a little bit sick and this surely disturbs his play. It's hard when you have this sore throat and so on. I mean, I know from

my experience that you cannot show your best level when you're fighting some illness instead of fighting your opponent."

Anyway, at the end, Magnus was still the winner. He clinched first prize in the overall Grand Chess Tour 2017.

Some lessons from this game: *

1.) Don't neglect to ask: "what is my opponent threatening, or planning?" (24...♔e7! 27.♖c1!)

2.) "Which piece can I improve?" is a question that you should keep asking yourself. (19.♗f4! 26...♗a4! 27...♗c2!)

3.) "Which piece should I exchange? Which one should I keep?" If you can find the right answers, you'll probably discover the correct plan. (22.♘e5!)

4.) As always, it's necessary to be alert for tactical weaknesses, both your own and your opponent's. (25. ♗xh6! 33.c5?)

5.) "Chess is a state of mind." (27. ♖c1! 33.c5? 34.dxc5?)

* Italics refer to variations, as opposed to moves actually played.

Game 17

More superb preparation

Nepomniachtchi produced another great novelty in this game. In this case it was not an amazing tactical shot or deadly attacking idea. It was actually a modest move, attacking a

pawn, but with the same lethal effect as his other novelties.

The move was unexpected – pawn grabbing that is not prudent to carry out at the chess board without preparation, because Nepo was behind in development at the time.

Nepomniachtchi, with 6 points out of 9 and a 2806 rating performance, shared second place in the tournament, with his opponent in this game. They finished half a point behind the winner, Dmitry Jakovenko.

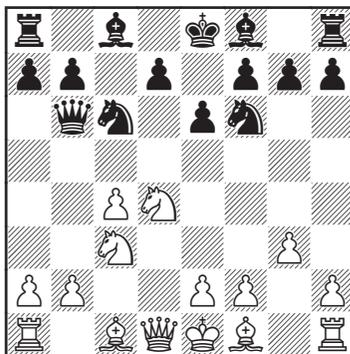
Boris Gelfand

Ian Nepomniachtchi

English Opening [A33]

Karpov, Poikovsky (1), 27.05.2018

1. ♘f3 c5 2.c4 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4
4. ♘xd4 ♘f6 5. ♘c3 e6 6.g3 ♖b6



7. ♘f3

Question: I remember examples with 7. ♘db5, which looks more energetic, and also retreats to b3 and

Index of Openings

Bold type indicates that Nepomniachtchi had the Black pieces

English Opening

[A13] 20, [A17] 15, [A29] 8, [A33] **17**, [A37] 7

Pirc Defense

[B07] **21**

Caro-Kann Defense

[B12] 3, 14

Sicilian Defense

[B60] 1, [B90] **9, 29**, [B92] **6**, 12, [B94] 13

French Defense

[C10] 19

Petroff Defense

[C42] 22, 26, [C43] 23

Scotch Opening

[C45] 5, 10

Italian Opening

[C54] 11

Two Knights Defense

[C55] **25**

Ruy Lopez

[C78] 18, [C84] 2, [C88] 24

Slav Defense

[D13] **16**

Queen's Gambit

[D35] 28

Grunfeld Defense

[D76] **4**, [D97] 27

Nimzo-Indian Defense

[E20] 30

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