

(8) Castaneda,N (FM) (2340) – Dembo,Y (WIM) (2390)
 "First Saturday", Budapest 2001
 Informator 82/(184)
[Variations by Dembo,Y]

As is ordinary, I am playing in a men's event (I am only sixteen) but, in contrast to previous tournaments of mine, this one is much more complicated. Mostly Grandmasters and International Masters are participating.

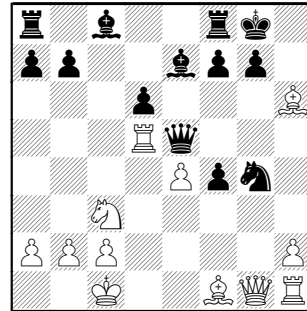
The first round starts. I am ready for an uncompromised struggle! Maybe that's why the game was so complicated, tense and interesting.
(D)

17...♘xh6!!

A very interesting move, for the sake of which I decided to aim for this position earlier. In the years since this game was played I have encountered several grandmasters and masters (male of course!) who insisted that my queen sacrifice was not correct. I didn't argue, but asked them to refute my idea with concrete variations. As it turned out, after 2–3 hours of sometimes very intense analysis they had to concede that Black had plenty of compensation in all lines and that the position was unclear. Black enjoyed an enduring initiative and plenty of tactical possibilities. What else can one wish for Black? These factors greatly appealed to me during the game! Moreover, this unexpected turn of events drove my opponent to serious time-trouble.

17...♚f6? 18 ♙g5

a) 18...♚e6 19 ♙xf4 ±
 b) 18...♚xg5 19 ♜xg5 ♙xg5 20 h3 f3+ 21 ♖b1 ♙e3 22 ♘d5!! +-



18 ♜xe5 dxе5 ♞

How to evaluate this position? The material is about equal. Everything will depend on the potential of each side's pieces and the coordination between them.

For the moment the only active White piece is the knight, but it can immediately occupy the best square on the board (d5) and control a lot of territory from there! This piece will probably turn out to be Black's "enemy number one"! The white queen is presently passive, but at the same time Black must not forget about his pawn on a7. White's rook and bishop have for the moment no clear perspectives.

What can we say about Black?

1) Black has 12 "battle units" against 10 of White. This can prove important at some moment!

2) Black's bishop-pair helps to control squares of both colours.

3) At some point the advance of the frontal f-pawn may become possible, with the aim of queening it.

4) Black may also use the c-file

for attacking purposes.

5) Unfortunately, for the time being both rooks are inactive and the future of the ♖h6 is unclear. In any case, as a whole there is nothing bad in Black's position!

19 ♖d5

Yes, the knight has occupied its best square!

19...♗d8

The only move.

19...♗d6 20 ♖g5 xg7; 19...♗h4 20 ♖c7 ♖b8 21 ♖xa7 ±

20 ♖c5

The queen has reached a very active position.

20...♗e6

Black wants to exchange the white knight. Of course it is a pity to give up the advantage of the bishop-pair but the white knight, controlling many important squares from its centralized position, is very strong.

21 ♗e2

A logical move in accordance with another "Dembo-rule": **"don't allow your opponent to make a good move!"** From here the bishop underlines the unsuccessful position of the knight on h6 and prevents its emergence.

21...b6

Black solves the problem of his a-pawn and asks the white queen to clarify its intentions...

21...♗b6!? 22 ♖xb6 axb6 23 ♖xe5 ♖xa2 ∞

22 ♖d6... which turn out to be very aggressive!

22...♗xd5

This exchange was planned several moves back.

23 ♖xd5

Of course White doesn't want to recapture with the pawn as then he would lose control of f5 and allow Black a couple of protected passed pawns.

23...♗c8!

Again a very interesting move or, to be exact, a move with a very interesting idea! Have you already spotted it? The rook is ready to come to the fifth rank and attack the white king from there.

24 ♖g1

Now ♖xe5 is a real threat.

24 ♖xe5?! ♖c5

a) 25 ♖d4 ♗f6↑

b) 25 ♖xf4?? ♗g5 —;

c) 25 ♖d6 ♗f6∞ (25...♗g5 26 h4±)

24...♗f6

24...♗c5 25 ♖b7

a) 25...♗h4 26 ♖xa7 (26 ♖f1 ♖fc8 27 c3 ♖5c7 ∞) ♖fc8 27 c3 ♗f2 28 ♖d1 ♖a5 ∞;

b) 25...♗c7!? Δ...♗h4

25 ♖b7

And again about the rook on c8: it now commences its glorious career. It will make 11 out of Black's next 17 moves and, in the end of this sequence, Black will be winning! But all this is still a long way off and for now the position remains very complicated. I spent several minutes trying to decide what to play here. How to defend the queenside pawns? Maybe... not to defend them? Of course!

25...♗c5!

Once more "Kasparov's rook" comes to my aid! The rook proves very dangerous on the fifth rank!

25...♟fd8 26 ♖xa7 (26 ♔b1!?)
♞a8 27 ♖xb6 ♞xa2 ∞

26 ♖xa7 ♞a5

It is too late to care for pawns!

27 ♖xb6 ♞xa2↑

Intending 28...♙d8 29 ♖c5 ♙e7!
30 ♖f2 ♙h4! and if 31 ♖xh4 then
♞a1 =

28 ♙d2 Threatening ♖xf6.

28 ♖xf6 ♞a1+ 29 ♙d2 ♞xg1

28...♙h7

Once and for all evading the
afore-mentioned threat.

29 ♙c4 ♞aa8

The naive 29...♞d8+?? would lead
to a drastic conclusion: 30 ♖xd8
♙xd8 31 ♙xa2 +-
30 b3?!

My opponent was in time pressure
and it was difficult for him to find the
best moves. This one had the idea of
pushing the passed pawns.

30...♞ad8+ 31 ♙e2

31 ♙d5 ♙f5!?! xd4,e3

31...♞d4!?

The restless rook once again
charges forward!

32 ♙d5

1) 32 ♙d3 ♟fd8

A) 33 ♞a1 ♙g4;

B) 33 h3 ♙f5 34 exf5 e4

B1) 35 ♙xe4? ♞xc4+ 36 ♙f3
♞dd4! ♠;

B2) 35 ♙c4? ♞d2+ 36 ♙f1 ♞d1+
37 ♙g2 ♞8d2+ 38 ♙h1 ♙d4 +-
B3) 35 ♞d1 f3+

a) 36 ♙e3 ♙g5+ 37 ♙f2 ♙h4+ 38
♙f1 e3 (38...exd3!?) 39 ♙g1 e2 +-
(39...♞xd3 +-)

b) 36 ♙f1□ exd3 37 ♞xd3 ♞xd3
38 cxd3 ♞xd3 ∞;

C) 33 ♖a5! g6 34 ♙f3 ♙h8

(34...♙g7);

2) 32 ♙f3!? ♟fd8 (32...♞d2 33
♙g2 ♞d1 ∞)

The move 32 ♙d5 looks like it will
bring a happy end to the game in
view of the threat 33 c3, but...

32...♙f5! ...it suddenly turns out
that Black still has a knight, which
joyfully announces its presence!

33 ♖c5

Why not 33 c3? It would be met as
in the game, one move later...

33...♞d8

The other rook joins the play.

34 c3

It is very dangerous to take the
pawn on f7 as then all of Black's
pieces would attack the white king
with great vigour.

34...f3+!

Again "blow back"! It is pleasant
to make moves like this when the
opponent has just about one minute
left until the 40th move.

35 ♙xf3 ♞d2! x♙f3

Of course not 35...♞d3+ 36 ♙e2
and White wins easily.

36 h3 ♙h4+ 37 ♙e3

37 ♙g4!?

37...♞h2 38 ♞g3⊕ ♙g2+

Just some time ago this knight was
on h6!

39 ♞xg2

39 ♙d3 ♙h4↑

39...♞xg2

In time-pressure White decided to
get rid of the bothersome knight and
Black's attack against his king.

40 ♙f3

40 ♙xf7 ♙g5+ 41 ♙f3 ♞dd2 +-
40...♞c2

40...♞c2

Evidently my opponent was tired

because of the furious time–pressure he had just been through and the unusual course of the game. He immediately made his next move...

41 ♖c7??

Here I had seen a very interesting idea! The square c3 is a "point of intersection". The rook on c2 and the bishop look at it. If there were no white pawn on e4, I would be able to strike a blow on c3. So the pawn on e4 is my "enemy". How to force it to evacuate the e4–square? Of course,

41...♞xd5!!

And again the R is on the fifth rank! The black rooks act like "hooligans" in this game!

42 exd5 ♞xc3+!

The first blow on the point of intersection.

43 ♖xc3 e4+

And the additional blow.

44 ♔xe4 ♙xc3+ 45 d6 ♔g6! 46 d7 f5+ 47 ♔d5 ♙a5 48 b4 ♙d8 49 b5 f4 50 ♔c6

50 ♔c4 ♔g5 –+

50...f3 51 b6 f2 52 b7 f1♙ 53 b8♙ ♙c4+ 54 ♔b7 ♙b5+ 55 ♔c8 ♙xb8+ 56 ♔xb8 ♔g5 57 ♔c8 ♙f6 58 ♔c7 ♔h4 59 ♔d6 ♔xh3 60 ♔e6 ♙d8! 60...♔g4?? 61 ♔f7! =

0-1

Admittedly, Black played this game in a style resembling piracy. I am sure this is beneficiary in a younger age.

Here is some homework for you: please count how many pieces and pawns were sacrificed by Black in this game and in the accompanying variations!

In this game Black sacrificed the

queen, two rooks, the knight and six pawns...