



COLUMNISTS

Checkpoint

Carsten Hansen

**Reviewed this month:**

Starting Out: King's Indian Attack
by John Emms

Easy Way to Learn The King's Indian Attack
(DVD) by Roman Dzindzichashvili

Easy Way to Beat The Pirc Modern Defense
(DVD) by Roman Dzindzichashvili

New in Chess Yearbook - Vol. 77
by Genna Sosonko (editor)

Chess Informant - Vol. 94
by Zdenko Krnic & Aleksandar Matanovic (editors)

The King's Indian Attack

The King's Indian Attack is an opening that has had its spurts of popularity, but it has never been a mainstay with the world's best players. Fischer used it on occasion with good results, and when Dvoretsky featured it prominently in his book *Opening Preparation* it instantly found a following amongst stronger players, although its popularity has since faded. Still, it has a steady following among average players. Moreover, very few books have been devoted to it, so it's about time this was rectified.

Starting Out: King's Indian Attack by John Emms, Everyman Chess 2005, Figurine Algebraic Notation, Softcover, 224 pp., \$21.95

The King's Indian Attack, or KIA as Emms has abbreviated it, has always been considered most dangerous against the French Defense. In fact, in *Attacking with 1 e4* Emms recommended the KIA against the French, but not against anything else. Here, however, even the most innocuous lines get their day in the sun.



The material is divided as follows:

- Bibliography (1 page)
- Introduction (4 pages)
- 1 KIA versus the French (67 pages)
- 2 KIA versus the Sicilian (51 pages)
- 3 KIA versus the Caro-Kann (20 pages)
- 4 The Reversed King's Indian (16 pages)
- 5 KIA versus the ...Bf5 System (17 pages)
- 6 KIA versus the ...Bg4 System (31 pages)
- 7 The Queen's Indian and the Dutch (9 pages)
- Index of Variations (3 pages)
- Index of Complete Games (2 pages)

Emms strictly sticks to lines where White plays e2-e4 at some point, which is an integral part of the King's Indian Attack, while providing plenty of examples of how to handle the opening with either side, both when it comes to tactical or positional games. Let's look at a couple of quick games from the book (where the annotations are far more extensive).

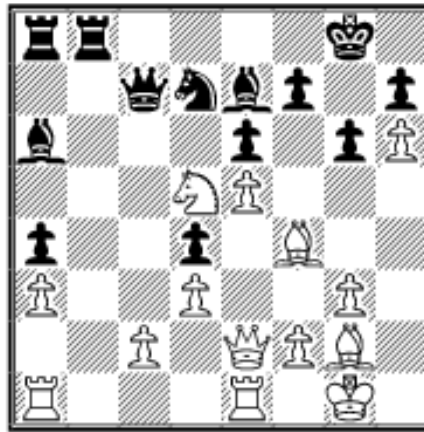
Yuferov-Zakharov

Moscow 1995

1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 c5 3.Bg2 Nc6 4.0-0 Nf6 5.d3 e6 6.Nbd2 Be7 7.e4 0-0 8.Re1 Qc7 9.e5 Nd7 10.Qe2 b5 11.Nf1 a5 12.Bf4 a4 13.a3! b4 14.h4 bxa3 15.bxa3 Ba6 16.h5 Rfb8 17.h6 g6 18.Ne3 Nd4?

[18...Nb6! 19.Ng4 Nd4]

19.Nxd4 cxd4 20.Nxd5!!



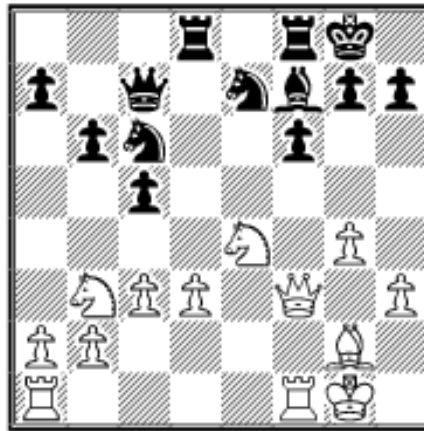
20...Qc5

[20...exd5 21.e6 Bd6 (21...Qd8 22.exf7+ Kf8 23.Bc7) 22.exf7+ Kh8 23.Qe8+ Nf8 24.Bg5] 21.Nxe7+ Qxe7 22.Bxa8 Rxa8 23.Qe4 Rd8 24.Qxd4 1-0

Fedorov-Suetin

Moscow 1992

1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 c5 3.Bg2 Nc6 4.0-0 e5 5.d3 Nf6 6.Nbd2 Be7 7.e4 0-0 8.exd5 Nxd5 9.Re1 f6! 10.c3 Nc7 11.Nb3 Bg4 12.h3 Bh5 13.g4 Bf7 14.Be3 b6 15.Nfd2 Qd7 16.f4? exf4 17.Bxf4 Nd5 18.Bg3 Bd6! 19.Bxd6 Qxd6 20.Ne4 Qc7 21.Qf3 Rad8 22.Rf1 Nde7!



23.Rad1 Bd5 24.Qf2 f5! 25.gxf5 Nxf5 26.Nc1 h6 27.Qe1 Ne5 28.Rd2 Ng6! 29.Rdf2 Ngh4 30.Ne2 Nxe2 31.Rxe2 Bxe4! 32.dxe4 Ne3 33.Rxf8+ Rxf8 34.Rg3

[34.Rf2 Rd8!]

34...Rf1+! 35.Qxf1 Nxf1 36.Kxf1 Qf7+ 37.Ke1 Qxa2 38.e5 Qb1+ 39.Kf2 Qf5+ 40.Rf3 Qxe5 0-1

Emms avoids one trap that many authors in the *Starting Out* series have fallen into – which is to go too deeply into theory. The goal of the series is to give the reader the tools to take up an opening by providing illustrative games to convey an understanding of the opening along with a small amount of theory to get started. Emms handles both tasks perfectly. In fact, studying this book not only teaches about the opening, but about chess in general, which is exactly how good chess books should be written.

Emms' also maintains an objective balance in the presentation and discusses the opening as a whole with plenty of ideas and suggestions for both sides. This makes it an interesting read whether you want to take the opening up as White or want to find out how to face it as Black. This is an excellent book and I'm delighted to give it my highest recommendation.

My assessment of this book:

Order *Starting Out: King's Indian Attack*

by John Emms

Easy Way to Learn The King's Indian Attack (DVD) by Roman Dzindzichashvili, ChessDVDs.com 2005, Figurine Algebraic Notation, Playing time: 97 minutes, \$24.95

In contrast to earlier digital works by Dzindzi, this DVD does not feature him on half of the screen as shown on the cover, here we only have the digital chessboard with Dzindzi's audio. Dzindzichashvili's DVDs are generally aimed at less experienced players (rated below USCF 1700) because a presentation based on general ideas without discussing critical lines and positions, and the limitations regarding actual theory, will rarely appeal to more experienced players.



The King's Indian Attack is a set-up for White that includes the moves Nf3, g3, Bg2, 0-0, d3, Nbd2, and e4. The exact move order can vary, but for each Black set-up there are some considerations that need to be made. White's first move is often either 1 Nf3 or 1 e4, but the vast majority of the material on this DVD pertains to variations arising from 1 Nf3. The variations then often transpose to other openings such as the English and Reti whereupon Dzindzi abruptly halts his coverage.

For instance, after 1 Nf3 Nf6 2 g3 g6 3 Bg2 Bg7 4 0-0 0-0 5 d3 d6 6 c4 e5, which offers chances for both sides, Dzindzi says that White has excellent chances and that he has covered this on another DVD, without telling us which one and without giving us a hint of what the typical plans are for each side. Another example is 1 Nf3 f5, after which he offers two choices for White. The first is 2 e4, and then the coverage continues 2...fxe4 3 Ng5 Nf6 4 d3 exd3 5 Bxd3 with a position where White threatens to play Nxh7, with Bg6+ to follow. Yet this line is so bad for Black that ECO practically ignores it, only discussing moves such as 4...e3 and 4...e5, as well earlier deviations like 3...e5 and 3...Nc6. The second variation for White is the standard 2 g3; however, here Dzindzi only discusses a set-up with ...e6 and ...Be7 for Black, while ECO's main line lets Black choose a Leningrad set-up with ...Nf6, ...g6 and ...Bg7.

The material is divided as follows:


- Introduction

- Black plays d5
- Slow maneuvering game
- French and Sicilian defense positions
- Choosing the right plan
- Exception when White should play c4
- Black plays b6 and g6
- King's Indian Defense with reversed colors
- Black play c5, e6, d5
- Active plan for Black
- Black copies White's moves
- Black plays the Dutch Defense
- Subtle positional play for White
- Black plays Bg4
- Game 1: Fischer-Uzi Geller
- Game 2: Bronstein-Uhlmann
- Game 3: Kaidanov-Nijboer
- Game 4: Morozevich-Mitenkov
- Game 5: Nikolaidis-Muir

The presentation flows quite smoothly, without the many breaks that have marred previous DVDs by Dzindzi. However, this makes it one rather long session with Dzindzichashvili whose language is far from grammatically correct, but at least it's understandable.

Unfortunately, this DVD hardly prepares you to play the opening in question. Once a critical position is reached Dzindzi has a tendency to give some general considerations, usually accompanied by a plan for White, but with no consideration regarding what Black is likely to play. Knowing standard plans and ideas in typical positions in the openings you are playing is critical for your success, but so is having actual knowledge of how to handle the double-edged positions that are likely to arise in the majority of your games.

Overall, I found this DVD wanting in too many departments. It lacks theoretical coverage, has insufficient discussions of transpositions, and omits many lines for Black. It will teach you the very basics of playing the King's Indian Attack, but no more than that.

My assessment of this DVD: 

Order *Easy Way to Learn The King's Indian Attack*
(DVD) by Roman Dzindzichashvili

Easy Way to Beat The Pirc Modern Defense (DVD) by Roman

Dzindzichashvili, ChessDVDs.com 2005, Figurine Algebraic Notation, Playing Time: 92 minutes, \$24.95

This DVD assumes that you're already familiar with the nuances of opening play and attempts to teach you how to beat the Pirc and Modern Defenses. However, Dzindzi too often fails to consider Black's best moves, giving the impression that White is doing very well, when in fact Black can equalize with correct play. He also has a tendency to spend too much time on inadequate lines for Black, and not enough time on critical lines.



The material is divided into two main sections:

- Pirc Defense (52 Minutes)
- Modern Defense (40 Minutes)

In the line 1 e4 d6 2 d4 Nf6 3 Nc3 c6 and 3...e5, Dzindzi's recommendations are far from threatening for Black, for instance:

A) 1 e4 d6 2 d4 Nf6 3 Nc3 c6 4 a4 (to prevent Black from playing ...b7-b5 and to avoid the line 4 Nf3 Bg4) 4...Nbd7 5 Be2 e5 6 Be2 Be7 7 0-0 0-0, and Dzindzi claims that Black is passive and has no counterplay. Yet this is essentially a position from Philidor's Defense, where White has chosen to develop his light-squared bishop more passively to e2, rather than to the more active c4-square.

B) 1 e4 d6 2 d4 Nf6 3 Nc3 e5 4 dxe5 dxe5 5 Qxd8+ Kxd8 6 Bc4, and now he only mentions 6...Be6, which is considered slightly better for White. However, Dzindzi's continuation allows Black to equalize without too much difficulty and he doesn't even mention Black's other move 6...Ke8, which has been played with good results by several grandmasters.

Dzindzi's main recommendation against the Pirc is 1 e4 d6 2 d4 Nf6 3 Nc3 g6 4 Nf3 Bg7 5 h3 0-0 6 Be3, which was very popular a decade or so ago, but has somewhat disappeared from top-flight chess. Now after 6...Nc6, he recommends 7 Bb5, which I have not seen mentioned elsewhere. Indeed I could only find a couple of games with it in my database. The idea is to prevent Black from playing ...e7-e5 by threatening to exchange on c6. However, after 7...e5 Dzindzi gives the wrong move order, which allows Black to equalize. He gives 8 Bxc6 bxc6, but Black has 8...exd4! and after 9 Nxd4 (9 Bxb7 Bxb7 is better for Black) 9...bxc6, and now 10 Nxc6 Qe8 is fine for Black. The correct move order is 8 dxe5 dxe5 (or 8...Nxe5? 9 Nxe5 dxe5 10 Bc5 is even worse) 9 Bxc6 bxc6 10 Qe2.

In the next segment he spends a considerable amount of time on 6...b6, even though it's somewhat rarely played. He then recommends 7 e5 and invests an inordinate amount of time on the bad 7...dxe5?, which gives White a big advantage. The correct move is 7...Nfd7. After 7...dxe5 Dzindi continues 8 e6! fxe6 9 Bc4 Nf6 10 Ng5, but he makes no mention of the critical move 10...c6!, when 11 dxe6 d5 12 Bb3 Bxe6 leaves Black up a pawn with two central pawns, and 11 dxc6 Nxc6 12 Qe2 Nh5!? is also just better for Black.

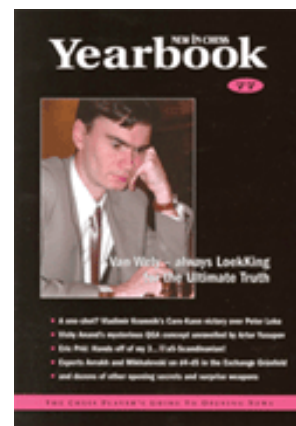
The rest of the coverage is hardly overwhelming and, in my humble opinion, Black shouldn't have too many worries.

My assessment of this DVD: 

Order *Easy Way to Beat The Pirc Modern Defense* (DVD) by Roman Dzindzichashvili

New in Chess Yearbook - Vol. 77 by Genna Sosonko (editor), Interchess BV 2005, Figurine Algebraic Notation, Softcover, 244 pp., \$26.95

The New in Chess Yearbook is simply becoming too good to find anything to fault. It continues to offer well-written surveys by strong grandmasters, international masters and renowned opening theoreticians. Among the contributors this time around are Greenfeld, Sveshnikov, Prié, Yusupov, Dautov, Avrukh, Kotronias, Timoshenko and Fogarasi as well as many other familiar names.



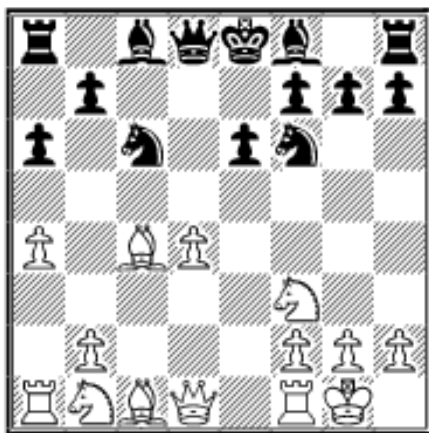
The material is divided follows:

- **Forum and Sosonko's Corner**
- Forum (14 letters - 14 pages)
- Sosonko's Corner (5 pages)
- **Surveys** (32 surveys - 207 pages)
- **Service**
- Book Reviews (7 pages)
- New In Chess Code System (1 page)
- Your Variations (2 pages)

Both the Forum and Sosonko's Corner should be required reading for any ambitious chess player. Forum discusses new ideas and improvements over previously surveyed variations or from games played by the readers, while Sosonko puts players and contemporary theory in a

different perspective.

The main content of the yearbook is the opening surveys and my favorite one in this volume is “The Anand Move Order” by Yusupov. It reveals how world class players think about their openings. After the initial moves **1 d4 d5 2 c4 dxc4 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 e3 e6 5 Bxc4 c5 6 0-0 a6 7 a4 cxd4 8 exd4 Nc6**



Yusupov writes:

“While looking at the games of Anand, recently, I found out that against Kramnik’s 7 Bb3 or Botvinnik’s 7 a4 he usually simply takes on d4 on his 7th move. That was a slight surprise. Aren’t you supposed to play 7...Nc6 first, to provoke 8 Qe2 and only then take on d4? This forces your opponent to put his king’s rook on d1. And this white

set-up looks less aggressive than, for example, the one with Qe2 and Rad1. And why does Anand allow his opponent to develop his dark-squared bishop so early? Is he trying to avoid the innocent-looking possibility 8 dxc5? Or was he afraid of Zviagintsev’s 8 Ne5 (after 7...Nc6)? Not likely...

I was puzzled until I suddenly understood that we could simply turn this train of thoughts around. Black immediately takes on d4 and then plays Nc6, because he wants to prevent Qe2 and Rfd1! After all, this set-up allows White to protect his isolated pawn and often prepare d4-d5. And the great master himself, Botvinnik, often arranged his major pieces like this, putting his queen’s rook on c1 and creating nice pressure on all open or half-open files! This means that on his 7th move Black can choose between white set-ups, either forcing Qe2 and Tfd1 or preventing it! Of course, there is the option of not taking on d4 at all, but this often leads to a different type of position. This logic should actually promote the move order with 7...cxd4 from a footnote to a main line in the Botvinnik and Kramnik Variations!”

The above survey is just one of many really good ones. There are several that will mostly appeal to stronger players, but there are others that will excite adventure seekers, one such survey is by Pliester on the Elephant Gambit (1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 d5?!). I don’t know much about this opening, but I found an odd mistake which wasn’t caught by the editorial team. Pliester writes:


“However, I can imagine that white players who are surprised by the rare move 2...d5!? and aren’t very well prepared, hope to keep

life simple and prefer the endgame with **3 Nxe5 Bd6 4 d4 dxe4 5 Nc3 Bxe5 6 dxe5 Qxd1**. This cannot be the refutation of this opening, of course, but White is hoping to get a small endgame advantage that, with good technique, may be converted into a win. But chess is not an easy game. Even a player like Michael Adams lost this ‘simple’ position as White against a lower-rated player, Jonathan Rogers, who happens to be an Elephant expert.”

I was a bit surprised by this statement because I was once a teammate of Jonathan’s and he never mentioned beating Michael Adams. However, turning to the illustrative games, I found that the game in question was played by Mark Adams, not Michael Adams.

In this volume, there is no survey that matches French grandmaster Eric Prié’s thoroughness with regards to analysis and annotations. He writes about the Scandinavian with 3...Qa5 in response to a survey by Tiviakov from volume 74. Tiviakov’s survey was provocatively named “A Simple Series of Moves Suffices,” while Prié’s article is called “Can a Series of Simple Moves Suffice?” The answer is no, but it shows that one occasionally needs to walk a tightrope in order to achieve an equal position. High quality work.

For the ambitious player, there isn’t a single source of contemporary opening theory which reaches as widely and as deeply as the New In Chess Yearbooks. If you want to go places in the world of chess, this is the place to look.

My assessment of this book: 

[Order](#) *New in Chess Yearbook - Vol. 77*
by Genna Sosonko (editor)

Chess Informant - Vol. 94 by Zdenko Krnic & Aleksandar Matanovic (editors), Sahovski Informator 2005, Figurine Algebraic Notation, Softcover, 365 pp., \$36.00

The Chess Informant series is rapidly approaching its centennial mark. I have documented the problems they face with regards to the decreasing amount of top players serving as annotators, but there is no reason to abandon this series yet. The sheer amount of quality material in each volume is simply too great to ignore.



As usual it is divided into the following sections:

- Contributors (2 pages)
- The best ten games of the preceding volume (2 pages)
- The ten most important theoretical novelties of the preceding Volume (4 pages)
- System of Signs (3 pages)
- Classification of openings (6 pages)
- A (26 pages)
- B (86 pages)
- C (57 pages)
- D (61 pages)
- E (51 pages)
- Index (11 pages)
- Commentators (2 pages)
- Combinations (7 pages)
- Endings (6 pages)
- Studies (3 pages)
- Tournaments (3 pages)
- Chess Informant Information (1 page)
- The Best of Chess Informant (20 pages)

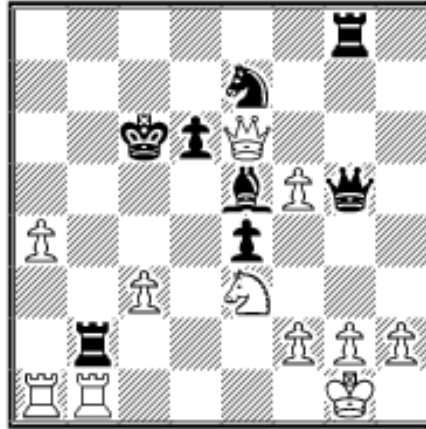
The size of each section inevitably varies from volume to volume. In this one there are 452 main games with more than 100 grandmaster contributors. The most prominent are Adams, Anand, Leko, Gelfand, Ivanchuk, Korchnoi, Kasimdzhanov, J. Polgar, and Svidler to name just a few. Conspicuous by his absence is Veselin Topalov. It's rather surprising that the Chess Informant staff couldn't convince him to contribute just one game. After all, he is the winner of the best game of the previous volume and he is featured in "The Best of Chess Informant" at the end of this volume as a tribute upon winning the world championship.

Let's have a look at some games, which you likely have not seen elsewhere, but are indicative of the excellent amount of material that can be found in Chess Informant. I have left out most of annotations with the exception of the punctuation:

L.Góngora (2243)-M.Góngora (2466)

Las Tunas 2005

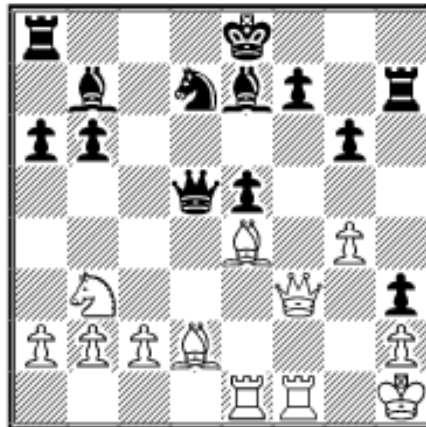
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6
 8.Na3 b5 9.Bxf6 gxf6 10.Nd5 f5 11.c3 Bg7 12.Bd3 Be6 13.Nxb5 axb5
 14.Bxb5 Bd7 15.exf5 Rb8! 16.a4 Rg8! 17.Qd3 Bh8 18.Qh3! Qg5
 19.Ne3 e4 20.Qxh7! Ne7 21.Bxd7+! Kxd7 22.Qxf7 Rxb2 23.0-0
 [23.Qe6+ Ke8 (23...Kc6 24.0-0-0!!) 24.0-0] 23...Be5 24.Qe6+ Kc6
 25.Rfb1



25...Qxe3!! 26.Rxb2 Rxb2+!
 27.Kxg2 Qf3+ 28.Kg1 Qg4+ 29.Kf1
 Qh3+ 1/2-1/2

Smirnov, P (2624) - Milov, V (2653)
 Warsaw 2005

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
 a6 5.Bd3 Bc5 6.Nb3 Be7 7.Qg4 g6
 8.Qe2 d6 9.0-0 Nd7 10.Na3 h5 11.f4
 Qc7 12.Bd2 Ngf6 13.Kh1?! h4
 14.Rae1 e5 15.Nc4 h3?! 16.g3 b6
 17.Qf3 Bb7 18.fxe5 dxe5 19.g4 Rh7
 20.Ne3? Qc6 21.Nd5 Nxd5 22.exd5 Qxd5 23.Be4



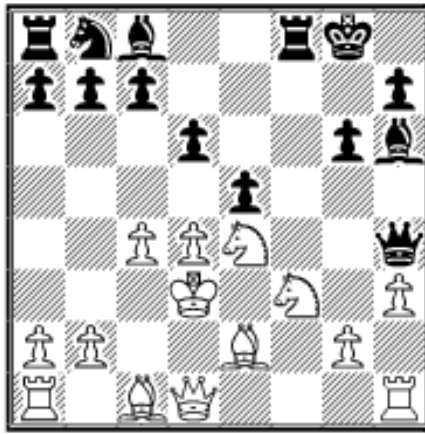
23...Qxe4!! 24.Rxe4 Nf6 25.Rfe1
 Nxe4 26.Rxe4 f5! 27.gxf5 Rh4
 28.Kg1 Bxe4 29.Qg3 Bxf5 30.Qxe5
 Rd8 31.Kf1 Re4 32.Qg7 Bh4
 33.Qh8+ Kf7 34.Qh7+ Ke6 35.Qh6
 Rd7 36.c3 Rf7 37.Be3 Kd7 38.Nd2
 Rg4 39.Ke2 Re7? 40.Kf3 Bf6
 41.Qf8 Be5 42.Qa8 Bxh2 43.Qd5+
 Bd6 44.c4 Rg3+ 45.Kf2 Rgxe3
 46.Qb7+ Kd8 47.Qd5 Kc7 0-1

Ivanchuk, V (2752) - Bologan, V

(2700)

Edmonton 2005

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.d4 0-0 5.e4 d6 6.Be2 e5 7.Be3 Ng4
 8.Bg5 f6 9.Bc1 f5 10.h3 Nxf2! 11.Kxf2 fxe4 12.Nxe4 Qh4+ 13.Kg1
 [13.Ke3 Bh6+ 14.Kd3




Rxd5 1/2-1/2

14...Qxe4+!! 15.Kxe4 Bf5+ 16.Kd5 c6+ 17.Kxd6 Rf6+ 18.Kc7 (18.Kxe5 Nd7#) 18...Rf7+ 19.Kd6 Bg7 20.Ng5 Rd7+ 21.Kc5 Na6#] 13...Qxe4 14.d5 Bf5 15.Kh2 Na6 16.Rf1 Qc2 17.Qxc2 Bxc2 18.Be3 Nb4 19.a3 Nd3 20.Ng5 Rxf1 21.Rxf1 Nxb2?! 22.c5! Bh6 23.cxd6 cxd6 24.Rf6 Bf5 25.g4 Rc8 26.gxf5 Rc2 27.fxg6 Rxe2+ 28.Kh1! Bxg5 29.Bxg5 Nc4 30.h4! Nd2= 31.gxh7+ Kxh7 32.Bxd2 Rxd2 33.Rxd6 b5 34.Ra6

I have three suggestions to improve Chess Informant:

- More diagrams - many pages have only one or two diagrams, while covering as many as four or five games. I understand this will take up more space, but this can be remedied by reducing the size of the regular diagrams.
- Theoretical overviews for each main section written in English by a leading grandmaster who has some expertise in the openings covered in that section.
- More games annotated by leading grandmasters, and a stable of grandmasters willing to annotate the games of others.

Chess Informant is still a high-quality product, but innovation is needed in order for it to maintain its reputation. While it's mainly for ambitious players, average players can still find plenty of interesting games and study material in each volume.

My assessment of this book: 

[Order](#) Chess Informant - Vol. 94

by Zdenko Krnic & Aleksandar Matanovic (editors)



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