



ChessCafe.com



COLUMNISTS



**Chess Informant**  
Subscription Service

## Michael Adams Annotates:

### Adams Ponomarev Linares 2002

*Chess Informant* 83 has recently been released; as usual, it offers attitude aplenty as top players never fail to make statements even within the constraints of the Informant's trademark code system; the disbelievers are referred to Adams' laconic "+--" verdict after his pawn capture on the 25<sup>th</sup> move (25. Re5+--) in this month's featured game.

Our first contribution is a preview from the forthcoming Informant 84, which will cover the events held between February 1 and May 31, 2002. It features Michael Adams' annotations of his game from Linares where he handed Ruslan Ponomarev his first loss since his FIDE World Championship triumph that lifted him to sixth place on the official FIDE Rating List for April 2002 (Adams is fifth, just a point ahead). The young Ukrainian's first outing into the world of the elite nevertheless has proved to be a success, as he confidently managed to snatch the silver from the Linares' mines. The wealth of the eastern Andalucían area has attracted the great powers throughout the history. Two roads leading from Baeza and Úbeda come together in



Linares, and they had been bringing the Phoenician traders, or Carthaginian and Roman conquerors to the quiet city of less than 100,000 inhabitants, otherwise famous for its bullfights. Nowadays they annually bring the chess giants to the “chess capital of world”, where Garry Kasparov still remains the undisputed king of the crown group, often winning it by colossal margins. This year Kramnik was the only one missing, as Ponomariov’s last minute decision to play brought additional weight to the event.

As far as the game itself is concerned, it was a superb display of Michael Adams’ machine-like technique at his best. The opening featured routine manoeuvres in one of the popular lines of the Ruy Lopez, when suddenly Ponomariov became too anxious to launch d5 hoping to get rid of the weak pawn. Had he chosen 21... Rc8 instead, he could have probably created enough counterpressure on White’s c-pawn to compensate for his weaknesses. The idea backfired, as he never got an opportunity to coordinate his pieces, which soon made the reigning FIDE champion part with his e-pawn, and that brings us back to the previously mentioned 25. Re5+-. It is indeed a treat to watch Adams realize his advantage in a manner that surely made Ponomariov bitterly regret pushing his pawn prematurely; in hindsight, one might even venture to suggest that the entire idea that he employed was unworkable from the theoretical point of view. However, aesthetically speaking, Ponomariov’s unfortunate choice gave Adams an opportunity to regale all chess connoisseurs and addicts with his truly artistic performance. For that matter a true chess fan should never underappreciate young champion’s role in the creating of the masterpiece.

We hope readers around the world enjoy this first Informant column at ChessCafe.com.

**Zdenko Krnic, Editor-in-Chief, Chess Informant**

---

*M. Adams 2742 - R. Ponomarev 2727*

**C 92 - Ruy Lopez**

**Linares 2002**

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0  
Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.h3 Re8 10.d4  
Bb7 11.Nbd2 Bf8 12.d5 Nb8 13.Nf1 Nbd7  
14.N3h2 Nc5 15.Bc2 c6 16.b4 Ncd7 17.dc6 Bc6  
18.Bg5 h6 19.Bf6**

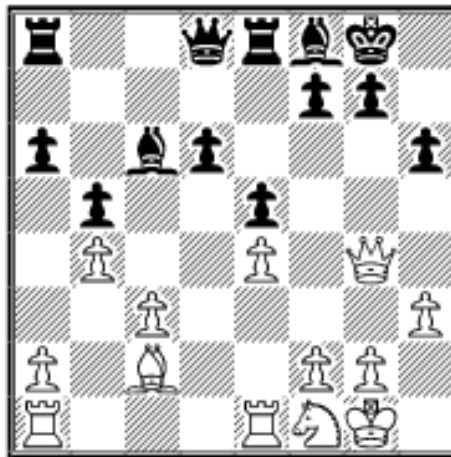
19.Bh4 Qc7 20.Bf6 Nf6 21.Ng4 Ng4 22.hg4 Be7 23.Bb3 Bg5  
24.Qf3 Rf8 25.Rad1 Bd7 26.Rd3 Be6 27.Red1 Rfd8 28.Ne3  
Be3 29.Re3 1/2 : 1/2 Z. Almasi 2630 - A. Beliavsky 2668,  
Austria 2001 - 83/(343)

**19...Nf6 20.Ng4 Ng4**

20...Bd7!?

**21.Qg4**

21.hg4 d5



**21...d5 N**

21...a5!?!; better is  
21...Rc8 22.Bb3 Bd7  
23.Qf3 Be6 unclear  
Topalov 2718 -  
Ivanchuk 2717,  
Monaco (blindfold)  
2001

**22.ed5 Qd5**

22...Bd5? 23.Rad1 and White is winning

**23.Bb3 Qd8**

23...Qd3 24.Re3 and White is superior; 23...Qd7 24.Qh5 with the initiative; better is 23...Qd6 24.Ne3 Qf6 25.Qh5 g6 26.Ng4 and White is winning; 24...Rad8 and White is slightly better

### **24.Qh5 Ra7?**

24...Qc7 25.Ne3 e4 (25...Rad8 26.Ng4) 26.Qg6 (26.Nf5 Ra7 27.Rad1 Kh7 and White is slightly better; 26.Rad1!?) 26...Re7 27.Rad1 Kh8 28.Qf5 and White is superior

### **25.Re5**

White is winning.

**25...Re5 26.Qe5 Qg5 27.Qg5 hg5 28.Ne3 g6**

28...Be7!?

**29.Rd1 Rc7 30.Kf1**

30.Rd8 Kg7

**30...Kg7 31.Ke2 Be7 32.Bd5 Bd7 33.Rd3 Bf6**

33...Bf5 34.Nf5 gf5 35.Kd2 Bf6 36.Kc2

**34.c4**

34.Kd2!? Be5 35.Kc2

**34...bc4 35.Bc4 Bc8**

35...Bb5 36.Bb5 ab5 37.Ra3!

**36.a3**

36.Kd2

**36...Bb2**

36...Be5 37.Rd5 Bf4 38.Rc5 and White is winning

**37.Kd2 f5 38.Kc2!**

38.Bd5 Bd7 (38...f4 39.Nc4 Ba1 40.Nd6 Bd7 41.Bc4 and White is winning) 39.Nc4 Bf6 and White is superior

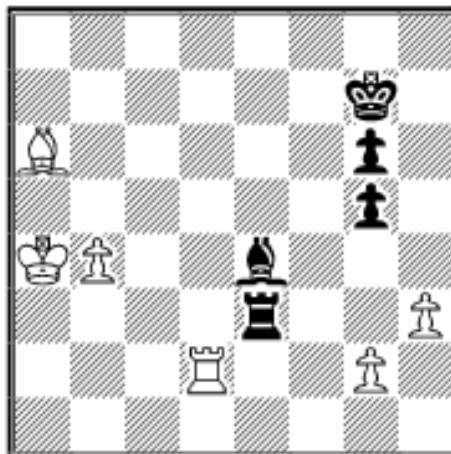
**38...Ba3**

38...Bf6 39.Kb3

**39.Ra3 f4 40.Kb3 fe3 41.fe3 Re7 42.Ka4 Re5 43.Rd3 Bf5**

43...Kh6 44.g4! (44.Rd6 Re3 45.Ba6 Ba6 46.Ra6 Rg3 47.b5 Rg2 48.b6 Rb2) 44...Bb7 45.Rd6 Re3 46.Ba6; 43...g4 44.hg4 Re4 45.Rc3 Rg4 46.Bd5 Bd7 47.Ka5 Rg5 48.Rc5

**44.Rd2 Re3 45.Ba6 Be4**



**46.Rf2**

46.Re2?! Re2 47.Be2 Bg2 48.Bg4 Kf6 49.Kb5 (49.b5 Ke7 50.Ka5 Kd6 51.b6 Bb7 white is superior) 49...Ke7 50.Kb6 Kd6 and White is superior; 46.b5! (G.

Kasparov) 46...Rg3 47.b6 Bg2 (47...Rg2 48.Rg2 Bg2 49.b7 Bb7 50.Bb7) 48.Rg2 Rg2 49.b7 Ra2 50.Kb5 Rb2 (50...Kf6? 51.Kb6 Rb2 52.Bb5) 51.Kc6 Rb7 52.Bb7 and White is winning.

### **46...Kh6**

46...Rg3 47.Bf1 g4 48.hg4 Rg4 49.Ka5 g5 (49...Rg3 50.b5) 50.b5 Rf4 51.Rf4 gf4 52.Ka6 f3 (52...Kf6 53.b6 Kg5 54.b7 Bb7 55.Kb7 with the idea Be2-f3) 53.gf3 Bf3 54.Ka7 Kf6 55.b6 Ke7 56.Ba6

### **47.Bf1 g4 48.hg4 Re1**

Better is 48...Rg3 49.Ka5 Rg4 50.b5 and White is winning.

### **49.Be2 Ra1 50.Kb3 Rb1 51.Kc3 Rc1**

Better is 51...Bd5 52.b5 Kg5

### **52.Kd4 Bb7 53.Bf3**

53.b5 Rc2 54.Ke3 Rc3

### **53...Ba6 54.Rb2 Bb5 55.Be2 Bc6 56.Bf3 Bb5 57.Be2 Bc6 58.Ba6**

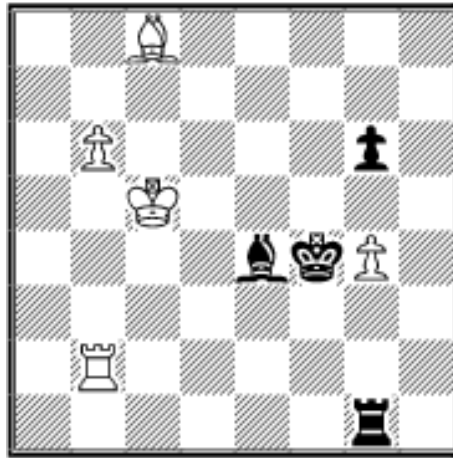
58.g3!? Rg1 59.b5 Bb7 60.Rb3 Kg5 61.b6

### **58...Rg1 59.b5 Bg2 60.b6 Kg5 61.Bc8 Kf4 62.Kc5**

62.b7?? Bb7 63.Bb7 (63.Rb7? Rd1 64.Kc5 Rc1) 63...Rg4

### **62...Be4**

62...Rc1 63.Kd6 Rc8 64.Rg2; better is 62...Bf3  
63.Rb4 Kg3 64.Kd6 and White is winning.



**63.Rb4! Ke5**

63...Rc1 64.Rc4 Rc4  
(64...Rf1 65.Bb7)  
65.Kc4 g5 66.Kc5  
Ke5 67.b7

**64.b7 Rc1 65.Kb5  
Bb7**

65...Bc6 66.Kb6 Bb7 67.Bb7

**66.Bb7 Kf6 67.Rc4 Rb1 68.Kc6 Kg5 69.Bc8  
Rd1 70.Bd7 Kh4 71.Kc7 Rd2 72.Kd8 Re2  
73.Rc6 g5 74.Bf5**

74.Be6?? Re6 75.Re6 Kg4 76.Ke7 Kf3 77.Rf6  
Ke3 78.Rg6 Kf4

**74...Re3 75.Re6 Rg3?**

75...Ra3 76.Ke7

**76.Rh6# 1 : 0 [M. Adams]**

---



[TOP OF PAGE](#)



[HOME](#)



[COLUMNS](#)



[LINKS](#)



[ARCHIVES](#)



[ABOUT THE  
CHESS CAFE](#)

[\[ChessCafe.com Home Page\]](#) [\[Book Reviews\]](#) [\[Bulletin Board\]](#) [\[Columnists\]](#)

[\[Endgame Study\]](#) [\[The Skittles Room\]](#) [\[Archives\]](#)

[\[Links\]](#) [\[Online Bookstore\]](#) [\[About The Chess Cafe\]](#) [\[Contact Us\]](#)

Copyright 2002 Russell Enterprises, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

"**The Chess Cafe®**" is a registered trademark of Russell Enterprises, Inc.