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## Lenier Dominguez & Andrey Volokitin Annotate

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When I began working on this article, I caught myself in the cliché of referring to Lenier Dominguez and Andrey Volokitin as “aspiring young guns.” But then Kasparov’s words from a recent interview made me rethink my perspective: “First of all, what do you call young players? In my time a 20-year-old was a young player, today this is already a veteran. Bacrot is not young at 21.”

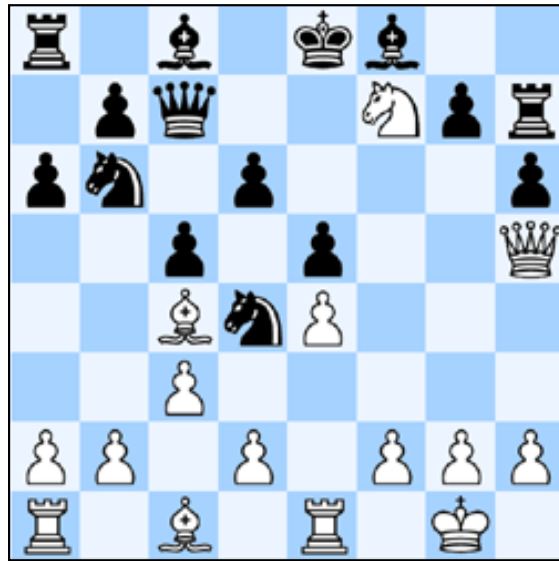
I felt obliged to consider the implications of a new-world-order in chess where Dominguez, at the tender age of 21, would be a seasoned veteran; and Volokitin, at 18-years of age would be middle-aged at best; as would Radjabov at 17-years-old. I shudder to think if Rublevsky, now that he is 30, should start considering a new professional career outside of chess. Was his impressive win at the Aeroflot Open simply a swan song, soon to be followed by a rapid decline of his superb skills? Of course, I am being facetious, yet the ease with which Volokitin demolished Rublevsky’s pet variation in the featured game was simply overwhelming. The reigning Ukrainian champion has definitely matured into a formidable presence and we have yet to see the best of him.

Conversely, from an objective viewpoint the Dominguez - Radjabov, (m/4) Tripoli 2004 game represents an uneven mixture of White’s series of tactical attempts to fuel an all-out attack and the numerous missteps made by both players along the way. Almighty computer engines undoubtedly could have punished the ambitious Cuban’s onslaught many times over, but then humankind would be robbed of a great delight. The accompanying analyses produced “with a little help from our friends” only add to the beauty of the game. I recall the air of excitement lingering in the Chess Informant Editorial Board offices during the live transmission of this extraordinary game. We were riveted to our seats in expectation as the game unfolded and I can only hope that replaying the game recreates the same marvel.

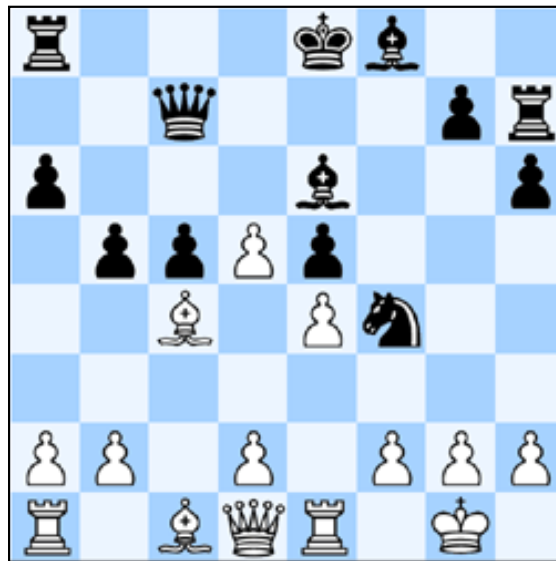
### **L. Dominguez 2612 – T. Radjabov 2670 Tripoli (m/1) 2004**

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. Bb5 Qc7 5. 0-0 Nd4 6. Re1 a6 7. Bf1 e5 8. Bc4 [RR8. d3 Be7 9. Bg5 Nf3! (*a novelty*; 9...d6 10. Nd4 cd4 11. Bf6 Bf6 12. Nd5 Qd8 13. c3 and White is slightly better; 10. Bf6) 10. Qf3 d6 11. Bf6 Bf6

12. Nd5 Qd8 13. Rab1!? (13. c3 Be6 14. Nf6 Qf6 15. Qf6 gf6 16. d4 cd4 17. cd4 Ke7 18. d5 Bd7 19. Bd3 Rac8 20. Rac1 a5! with the idea Rc5) Be6 14. b4 Bd5 15. ed5 cb4 16. Rb4 Qa5!? (16...b5 17. a4 Qa5 18. Qe4! 0-0 equal; Yermolinsky 2546 – Atalik 2570, Los Angeles (open) 2003) 17. Reb1 Qa2 a) 18. Rb7 Qc2 19. Rb8 (19. R1b6 Qc8!) Rb8 20. Rb8 Bd8 21. d4! ed4 22. Qa3 0-0 23. Qd6 Qc7 24. Qc7 Bc7 25. Rf8 Kf8 26. Ba6 equal; b) 18. c4!? 0-0 19. Rb7 a5 b1) 20. Qf5? Qd2 21. R1b6 (21. Qd7? e4 22. Qd6 Bd4 23. Qg3 a4 and Black is winning) Rfd8 22. Rd7 Qf4 23. Qh3 e4!?!; b2) 20. d4! b21) 20...ed4 21. c5 d3 (21...dc5?? 22. R7b2 Qa4 23. Bb5 and White is winning) 22. Bd3 and White is superior; b22) 20...Qd2! 21. Rd1 Qf4 22. Qf4 ef4 23. c5 a4 24. Bc4 a3 25. c6 Rfe8 26. Kf1 Kf8 27. Ba2 Re7 28. Rb3! (28. c7 Rc8 29. Rc1 Bd4 30. Rb8 Ree8) g5 29. Rdd3 Rea7 equal; Atalik] **d6 9. Ng5?** [9. h3 see 84/96] **h6!** [a novelty; 9...Ne6] **10. Nf7?!** [10. Bf7 Ke7; better is 10. Nf3 Bg4 and Black is slightly better] **Rh7 11. Nd5** [11. d3 Be6 and Black is superior] **Nd5 12. c3** [12. Bd5 g6 13. d3 Ne6 and Black is superior] **Nf4?!** [12...Nb6! 13. Qh5



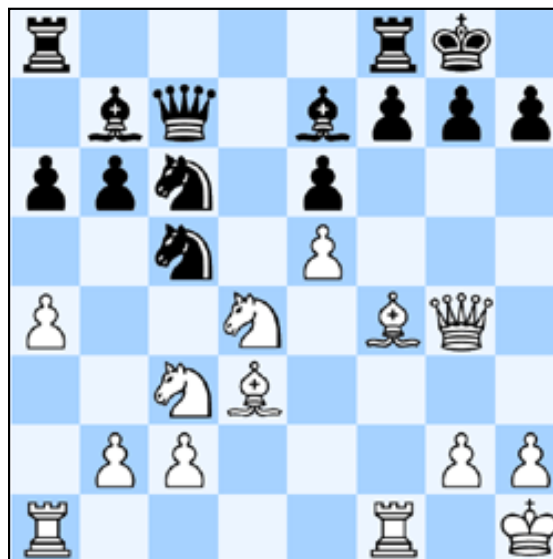
a) 13...Nc4 14. Nd6 Ke7 15. Nc8 Rc8 16. cd4 cd4 (16...ed4 17. Qd5! Nb6 18. Qg8) 17. d3 with compensation; b) 13...Nf3!! b1) 14. Kh1 Ne1 (14...Nc4 15. Ne5 g6 16. Qg6 Kd8 17. Nf3 Qf7 and Black is superior) 15. Ng5 (15. Nd6 Kd7) Kd8 16. Nh7 Nc4 17. Nf8 Qe7 and Black is winning; b2) 14. gf3 g6! 15. Qg6 (15. Qh4 Nc4) Rg7 16. Nd6 Kd8 17. Nf7 Ke7 and Black is winning] **13. cd4 Be6?** [13...cd4! 14. d3 Ne6 15. Ne5 de5 16. Qh5 g6 17. Qg6 Qf7 and Black is winning] **14. Ne5! de5 15. d5 b5?!** [15...Bf7 16. d4 Ng6 and Black is superior]



**16. d4!!** (with compensation) **bc4** [16...ed4 17. de6 bc4 18. Bf4 Qf4 19. Qa4 Ke7 20. Qd7 Kf6 21. g3 Qb8 22. Qf7 Ke5 23. f4 Kd6 24. Qd7#; 16...Bf7 17. Bf4 ef4 18. d6! Qd6 19. e5 Qc7 20. Bd3 g6 21. e6 and White is superior] **17. Bf4 ef4 18. de6 0-0-0** [18...cd4 19. Qh5 g6 (19...Ke7 20. Qf7 Kd6 21. e7! and White is winning) 20. Qg6 Kd8 21. Qf5 Ke8 22. Red1 d3 23. Rac1 and White is superior] **19. d5** (and White is slightly better) **Qe5 20. Rc1 g5 21. Rc4 Rb7 22. b3 Kb8 23. Ra4** [better is 23. Qa1!? Bg7 (23...Qa1 24. Ra1 Kc7 25. Rac1 a5 26. g3 unclear) 24. Qe5 Be5 25. Rc5 Rc8 26. Rc4 and White is slightly better] **Ka7 24. Qe2 Rb6 25. Rc4** (time) **Bd6 26. Qh5 Rb7 27. Qd1 f3 28. Qf3 Qh2 29. Kf1 Qe5** [29...Rf8 30. Qh3 Qe5 31. Qc3 and White is slightly better] **30. Qc3!** (and White is superior) **Rb5** [30...Qh2 31. e5 Be7 32. Rd1 Rf8 33. Qe3 and White is winning] **31. Qe5 Be5 32. Rec1 Bd6 33. Ke2 h5 34. g3 Rb7 35. Rh1 Rh7 36. Ke3 Rf8 37. b4! cb4** [37...Kb6 38. Rhc1 Rc8 39. e5 Be5 40. bc5 and White is winning] **38. Rc6 Bb8 39. d6 Kb7 40. Rhc1 Rfh8** [40...Ba7 41. Ke2 Rf2 42. Ke1 and White is winning] **41. e5!** and White is winning [41. e7?! Bd6 42. Rd6 Re7 and White is superior] **h4 42. e7 h3 43. Rc8! Rc8 44. Rc8 h2 45. Rc1 1 : 0** [L. Dominguez]

## And. Volokitin 2638 – Rublevsky 2686 Serbia & Montenegro 2004

**1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. d4 cd4 4. Nd4 a6 5. Be2 Nf6 6. Nc3 d6 7. 0-0 Be7 8. f4 0-0 9. a4 Qc7 10. Kh1 b6 11. e5 de5 12. fe5 Nfd7 13. Bf4 Bb7 14. Bd3!** and White is slightly better [14. Qe1 see 51/231] **Nc5** only move [14...Nc6?? 15. Qh5 g6 16. Ne6! fe6 (16...Qc8 17. Qh6 fe6 18. Bg6 hg6 19. Qg6 Kh8 20. Rf3 and White is winning) 17. Bg6 hg6 18. Qg6 Kh8 19. Rf3 and White is winning] **15. Qg4 Nc6?** [15...Nbd7; RR15...Nd3 (a novelty) 16. cd3 Rd8 17. Bg3 Bc5 18. Nf3 Be7 19. Rac1 Qd7 20. d4 Ra7 21. Bf4 Bf3 22. Qf3 Nc6 23. Be3 Rf8 24. Qg4 Kh8 25. Qh5 and White is superior; Zelic 2521 – Fercec 2474, Ljubljana 2004; 15...Re8; 15...Rd8]



**16. Nd5!!** [16. Bh6? Qe5 17. Nc6 Bc6 18. Rae1 f5] **ed5 17. e6** [17. Bh7? Kh7 18. Nf5 (18. Ra3 Bc8 19. e6 fe6 and Black is winning) Ne6! (18...g6 19. Qh3 Kg8 20. Qh6 gf5 21. Ra3 and White is winning) 19. Rf3 Rh8 20. Ng7 Ng7 21. Bh6 Qe5 and Black is winning] **Qc8** [17...Qd8 18. Bh6! (18. Bc7?? Qc7 19. Bh7 Kh8 20. Qh5 Bg5) Bf6 (18...g6 19. Nc6 Bc6 20. ef7 Rf7 21. Bg6 Rf1 22. Rf1 and White is winning) 19. Bg7! Bg7 20. Bh7 Kh7 21. Qf5 Kh6 (21...Kg8 22. ef7 Rf7 23. Qf7 Kh8 24. Rf5 Qf8 25. Rh5 Bh6 26. Qg6 and White is winning) 22. Ra3 Bf6 23. Rh3 Bh4 24. Rf4 and White is winning] **18. Bh6 g6 19. Bf8 Bf8** [19...Qf8 20. Rf7 Qh6 21. Nf5 and White is winning; 19...f5 20. Bf5 Qf8 21. Bg6 Qg7 22. Bh7 and White is winning] **20. ef7!** [20. Nc6 Qe6! 21. Qe6 fe6 with counterplay] **Kh8** [20...Kg7 21. Qf4 Qd8 22. b4 Nd3 23. Ne6 Kh8 24. cd3 and White is winning] **21. Bf5 Qc7** [21...Qd8 22. Nc6 Bc6 23. Bg6 and White is winning] **22. Bg6 Ne5 23. Qg3!** (and White is winning) **Bg7** [23...Bd6 24. Qh4; 23...hg6 24. Rae1 (24. b4) Bc8 25. Re5 Kg7 26. Qg5 Qd6 27. Re6! Be6 28. Rf6 Bf7 29. Nf5 Kg8 30. Nd6] **24. Bh7 Kh7 25. Qh3 Bh6** [25...Kg6 26. Ra3 Ned3 27. Rd3 Nd3 28. Qd3] **26. Rf6** [26. f8Q] **Nf7 27. Raf1 Rf8 28. Qh5 Kg8 29. Qg6 Bg7 30. Nf5 Ne6 31. Re6 1 : 0** [And. Volokitin]

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