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The Birth of a Novelty

Ivan Markovic

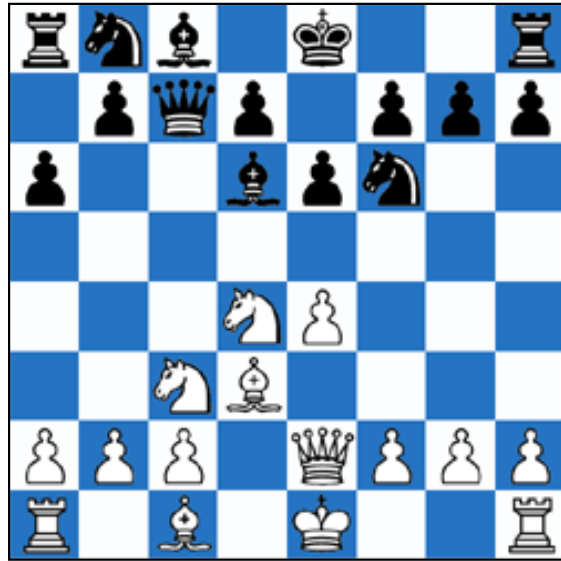
As a longtime friend and mentor of Bosnian GM Borki Predojevic, I have enjoyed the privilege of accompanying him on several occasions as his second during 2005. Upon Borki's second appearance at the prestigious GM tournament in Sarajevo (the capital of Bosnia & Herzegovina) it was necessary to prepare for his game versus Viorel Bologan. This was by no means an easy task because of the Moldavian grandmaster's broad arsenal with black, therefore we divided our duties. My young protégé mainly dealt with 1...e5, while I had to cover Bologan's favorite Sicilian responses and I focused my work on the following line: 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cd4 4.Nd4 a6 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.Bd3 Nf6 7.Qe2 Bd6.

Borki's initial intention was to employ this line as a part of his black repertoire, following in the footsteps of Svidler, Ivanchuk and Rublevsky. White's previous attempts included 8.g4, 8.Nf3 and 8.Bd2, yet none of these proved particularly dangerous. Observing the position with fresh eyes, the impulse to try 8.Ndb5 kept tickling my fancy. Stunning sacrifices such as this need some justification and I was rather skeptical about the idea because several top grandmaster games had already been played in this line. So I tested it with a little help from Junior 9, but the midnight hour had already arrived when I became convinced that it might be worth Borki's attention. Fortunately, my pupil's undying passion for analysis kept him wide awake and he enthusiastically embraced the idea. His brain was working at warp speed, and his tactical prowess and attacking skills were as sharp as ever. As the night wore on I was becoming increasingly useless, but somewhere around 3 AM he had it all worked out, so that we could finally get some sleep.

Unfortunately, his game against Bologan took an entirely different course and the novelty had to lay dormant until round 12 of the World Junior Championship held in Istanbul. In hindsight, I can't help but feel that an innocent bystander became the victim of our deadly preparation; for young Evgeny Romanov had to face the crushing novelty at the worst of times – he was fighting for a GM norm. The game should be appreciated for its pure quality and hopefully **ChessCafe** readers will enjoy it as much as I did. Borki's extensive accompanying analysis is as honest as it can be and leaves nothing to be desired.

Predoevic 2558 - E.Romanov 2479
Istanbul 2005

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.Nc3 a6 4.d4 cd4 5.Nd4 Qc7 6.Bd3 Nf6 7.Qe2 Bd6

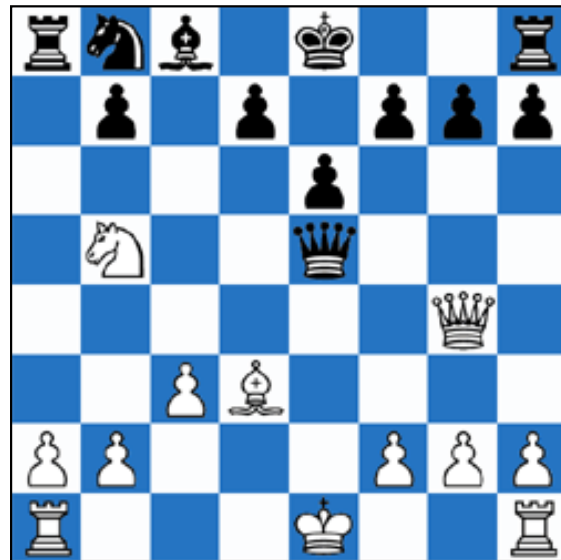


8.Ndb5! [a novelty; 8.Nf3 see 94/117; 8.g4 see 94/118] **ab5 9.Nb5 Qa5**
 [9...Bb4?? 10.c3 and White is winning; 9...Qb6 10.Nd6 Qd6 11.e5 Qe7
 12.ef6 Qf6 13.0-0 0-0 14.c3 and White is slightly better, with the idea a4, b4
 with initiative] **10.Bd2 Bb4** [10...Qb6 11.e5 Be7 12.ef6 Bf6 13.0-0 0-0
 14.Bb4 and White is superior] **11.Bb4 Qb4 12.c3 Qc5** [12...Qa4 13.e5 Nd5
 14.Nd6 Ke7 15.Bb5 Qh4 (15...Qf4 16.g3 Qh6 17.Qc4 and White is superior)
 16.g3 Qh3 17.Qc4 Nc6 (17...Qg2 18.0-0-0 Na6 19.Qh4 f6 20.c4 and White is
 winning) 18.Qc5 Ne5 19.Nc4 Kf6 20.Qd4 d6 21.f4 and White is superior;
 12...Qa5 13.e5 Ng8 14.Nd6 Kf8 15.Nc8 Nc6 16.Nd6 Qe5 17.Qe5 Ne5
 18.Be4 and White is slightly better] **13.e5**



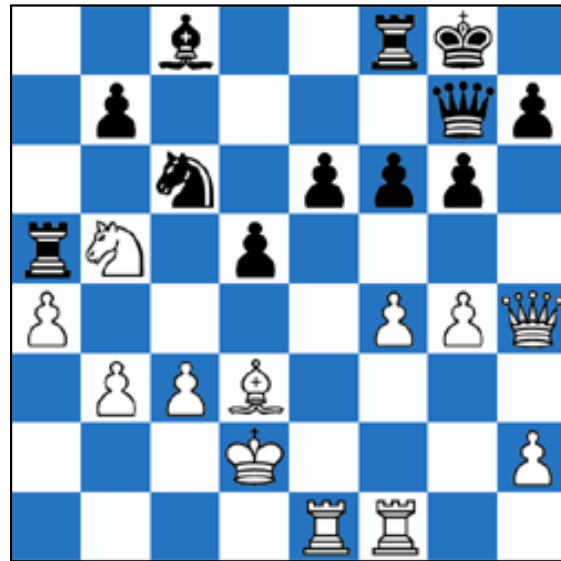
13...Ng4! [13...Nd5 14.Nd6 a) 14...Kf8 15.Qf3 a1) 15...f6 16.Qh5 Ke7
 17.Qf7 Kd8 18.Qg7 Re8 19.Ne8 Ke8 20.ef6 and White is winning; a2)
 15...f5 16.Bf5! ef5 17.0-0-0! Ne7 (17...g6 18.Rd5 Qc6 19.g4 Ra2 20.gf5 and
 White is winning; 17...Kg8 18.Qf5 Nf6 19.Qf4 h6 20.ef6 and White is
 winning) 18.Qh5 a21) 18...g6 19.Qh6 Kg8 20.Ne8 Kf7 (20...Qe5 21.Rhe1
 and White is winning) 21.Qg7 Ke8 22.Qh8 Kf7 23.Rd6 Ra6 24.Rf6 and

White is winning; a22) 18...Ng6 19.Qf5 Ke7 20.Qg5 Ke6 21.g3!! Ra2 (21...Qf2 22.Rhf1 and White is winning; 21...Rf8 22.f4 Rf4 23.gf4 Qe3 24.Kb1 Qf4 25.Qg2 and White is winning; 21...Ne5 22.Rhe1 Qd6 23.Rd6 Kd6 24.Qe5 Kc6 25.b4 d5 26.Qg7 Rd8 27.Qe7 Rd6 28.b5 Kc5 29.Qc7 and White is winning) 22.Qf5 Ke7 23.Qf7 Kd8 24.Qa2 Rf8 25.f4 and White is winning; a3) 15...Nf6 16.Qf4 Nc6 17.ef6 Ne5 18.fg7 Kg7 19.Qg3 and White is superior; b) 14...Ke7 15.Qh5! g6 (15...f6 16.Qf7 Kd8 17.Qg7 Re8 18.Ne8 Ke8 19.Bh7 and White is winning) 16.Bg6!! fg6 17.Qh4 Kf8 18.Rd1! (with the idea Rd5) Ra4 19.Qa4 Kg7 20.0-0 and White is superior] **14.Qg4?!** [14.Nd6?! Kf8! (14...Ke7 15.Qg4 Qe5 16.Ne4 and White is superior) 15.Qg4 Qe5 16.Ne4 f5 17.Qg5 Nc6 18.f4 Qd5 19.Nf2 Ra2 and Black is slightly better; 14.f4! a) 14...Nh6 15.b4 Qc6 16.Be4 Qb6 17.Nd6 Kd8 (17...Ke7 18.a4 and White is superior; 17...Kf8 18.Nc8 Qc7 19.Nd6 Qc3 20.Kf2 Qd4 21.Kg3 Ra3 22.Bf3 and White is superior) 18.a4 with the idea a5 and White is superior; b) 14...f5 b1) 15.Nd6 Kf8 16.h3 Nh6 17.g4 Nf7 18.Nc8 Qc8 19.gf5 ef5 20.Bf5 with compensation; b2) 15.h3 Nh6 16.b4 Qb6 (16...Qc6 17.Qh5 Kf8 18.Nd6 Qc3 19.Ke2 g6 20.Qh6 Kg8 21.Ne8 and White is winning) 17.Nd6 (17.Qh5 Ke7 18.Nd6 Qe3 19.Be2 Qg3) Ke7 18.Nc4 Qc7 19.0-0 (with the idea Qh5) b5 20.Nd6 Qc3 21.Rac1 Qd4 22.Kh1 and White is superior; 19...Nf7 unclear; b3) 15.b4! Qc6 (15...Qb6 16.Nd6 Ke7 17.Bf5!) 16.h3 Nf6 (16...Nh6 17.Qh5 Kf8 18.Nd6 Qc3 19.Ke2 g6 20.Qh6 and White is winning) 17.ef6 gf6 18.Qh5 Kf8 19.0-0 and White is superior; c) 14...h5! c1) 15.h3 Ne3 16.Nd6 Ke7 17.Qf2 c11) 17...Na6 18.Ba6 Ra6 19.Ke2 Rb6 20.b3 and White is winning; c12) 17...Qb6 18.Qh4 f6 19.Qg3 g5 20.Nc8 (20.Ne4 Qb2 21.ef6 Kd8) Rc8 21.ef6 Kf7 22.Bg6!; c13) 17...Ra5! 18.b4 Qc3 19.Ke2 Nc2 20.ba5 Na1 21.Qe1 Qe1 22.Re1 Nc6 23.Ra1 Na5 24.Ke3 Nc6 25.h4 with compensation; c2) 15.b4 Qb6 16.Nd6 Ke7 17.Nc4 Qc6 18.h3 Nh6 19.0-0 with attack] **Qe5**



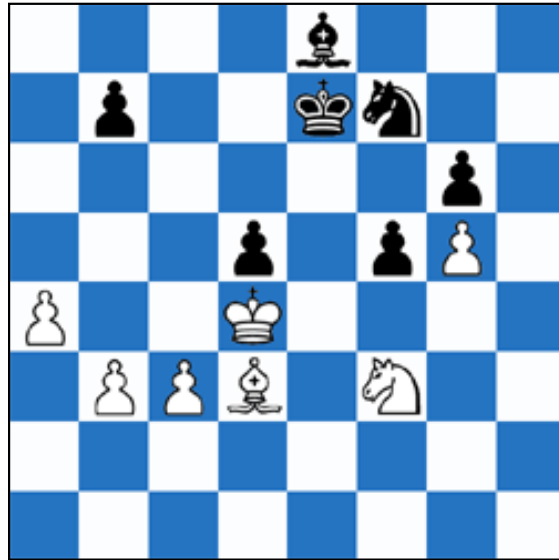
15.Kd2! [15.Kf1 0-0 16.h4 (16.Re1 Qc5 17.h4 Ra2 18.Rh3 f5!) f5 17.Qd4 Nc6 18.Qe5 Ne5 19.Be2 and White is slightly better; 15.Qe2 Qe2 16.Ke2 Ke7 17.a4 (with the idea a5, b4) Nc6 18.b4 b6! 19.f4 Ba6 20.Kd2 and White is slightly better] **0-0 16.Qh4** [16.f4 Qf6! and White is slightly better] **g6** [16...h6 17.Rhe1 Qg5 18.Qg5 hg5 19.Nd6 and White is superior; 16...f5 17.Rhe1 Qc5 18.Qd4 Qd4 19.cd4 and White is superior] **17.f4** [better is 17.Rhe1 Qg7 18.Nd6 Nc6 19.f4 with initiative] **Qg7** [17...Qd5! 18.Qg5

(18.c4? Qg2 19.Kc3 Ra2! and Black is superior; 18.g4 Ra2 19.Ra2 Qa2 and Black is superior) Qc6 (18...Qg5 19.fg5 d5 20.Rhf1 Nc6 21.a3 Bd7 22.Rf6 and White is slightly better) 19.Nd4 Qb6 20.Kc2 Nc6 21.Qf6 d6 22.Rhe1 and White is slightly better] **18.g4** (with attack) **Ra4** [18...d5?! 19.f5! g5 20.Qh5 Nd7 (20...e5 21.f6 and White is winning) 21.h4 ef5 22.hg5 and White is superior] **19.Rhf1 Nc6** [19...Rf4? 20.Rf4 g5 21.Qh7 and White is winning] **20.b3** [time; better is 20.Nd6 e5 21.f5 g5 22.f6 gh4 23.fg7 Kg7 24.Be4 Ne7 25.c4 and White is superior] **Ra5 21.a4** [21.b4 Ra4 22.Nd6 Ra3! with counterplay, weak point c3; 21.Nd6 Rd5!] **f6!** [21...d5 22.f5 g5 (22...ef5 23.gf5 g5 24.f6 gh4 25.fg7 Kg7 26.b4 Ra8 27.Nc7 Rb8 28.Nd5 and White is superior) 23.Qg3 e5 (23...f6 24.fe6 Be6 25.Rae1 Ne5 26.h3 with the idea Nd4) 24.f6 Qh6 25.b4 Ra8 26.Nc7 Be6 27.Na8 and White is superior] **22.Rae1 d5**

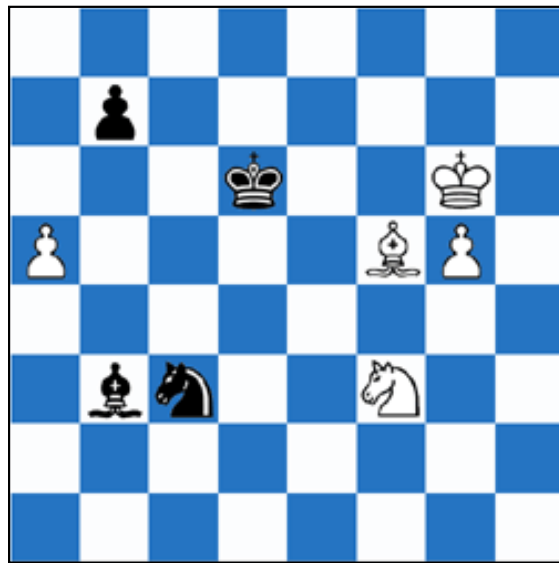


23.g5! [23.Qg3? (with the idea g5) e5!; 23.f5 g5 24.Qg3 e5 and Black is slightly better] **Bd7** [23...fg5 24.fg5 e5 25.Qh6! (25.Rf8 Qf8 26.Rf1 Qe7) Qh6 26.gh6 Be6 27.Nd6 Ra7 28.Bb5 Rf1 29.Rf1 and White is slightly better] **24.Qg3 Nd8?!** [24...fg5 a) 25.Qg5 (with the idea h4-h5) d4 26.c4 Nb4; b) 25.fg5 e5 26.Nd6!? with initiative, with the idea 26...Raa8 27.Nb7 Be6 28.Nc5 Qe7 29.b4, with the idea 26...Qe7 27.Rf8 Qf8 28.Re5! Ne5 29.Qe5 Bc6 (29...Qf3 30.Qe7 Qf4 31.Kc2 Qh2 32.Kb1 Qg1 33.Kb2 Qf2 34.Bc2 Bh3 35.Qd8 Qf8 36.Qa5 Qd6 37.Qa8 and White is winning) 30.Ne4! and White is superior; RR 30.Bf5! and White is winning] **25.Nd4 Ra8 26.h4** (and White is superior, greater board room) **Rc8 27.h5 f5** [27...gh5 28.Rh1 Be8 (28...fg5 29.Rh5 h6 30.fg5 Nf7 31.g6 Ng5 32.Reh1 e5 33.Rh6 ed4 34.Qg5 dc3 35.Kc1 and White is winning) 29.Ne6 Ne6 30.Re6 fg5 31.Qg5 Qg5 (31...Rf4 32.Qf4 Qg2 33.Re2 Qh1 34.Qg5 and White is winning; 31...Bg6 32.Bg6 and White is winning) 32.fg5 Rf2 33.Re2 Rf4 34.Ke3 and White is superior] **28.Qe3 Re8 29.Qe5 Qe5 30.Re5 Nf7** [30...Nc6 31.Re3 gh5 32.Rh1 and White is superior] **31.Re3 e5** [31...Nd6 32.hg6 hg6 33.Rh1 Kg7 34.Reh3 Rh8 35.Rh8 Rh8 36.Rh8 Kh8 37.Nf3 and White is superior; 31...gh5 32.Rh3 e5 33.fe5 and White is superior] **32.hg6 hg6 33.fe5 Re5** [33...Ne5 34.Rfe1 Nf7 35.Re8 Re8 36.Re8 Be8 37.Nf3 Bc6 38.Ke3 and White is superior, with the idea 38...d4 39.Nd4 Ng5 40.Nc6 bc6 41.a5 Ne6 42.a6 Nc7 43.a7 Kf7 44.Ba6 Ke6 45.Bb7 Kd6 46.a8Q Na8 47.Ba8 Kc7 48.Kf4 and White is winning; 33...Ng5 34.Rg3 and White is winning] **34.Re5 Ne5 35.Nf3! Nf7** [35...Nd3 36.Kd3 and White

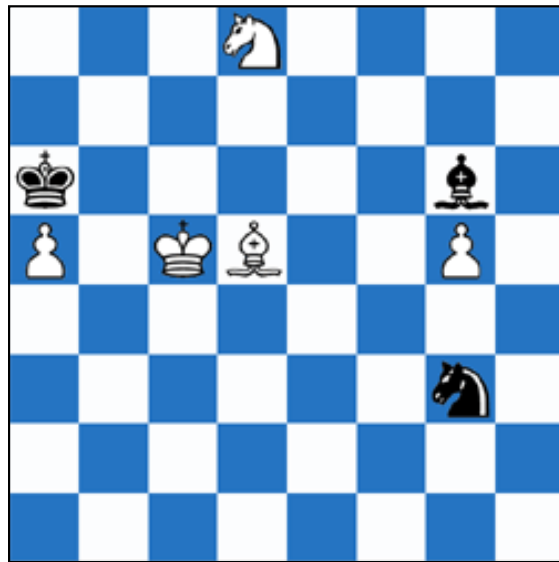
is superior; 35...Nf3 36.Rf3 Kf7 37.Rh3 Kg7 38.Rh4 and White is superior]
36.Re1 Re8 [36...Bc6 37.Re6 Kg7 38.Nh4 Nh8 39.Re7 and White is winning] **37.Re8 Be8** [NB 9/c] **38.Ke3 Kf8 39.Kd4 Ke7**



40.Kc5! Nd6 41.a5 Kd7 [41...Ne4 42.Kb6 Kd6 (42...Kd7 43.Bb5 and White is winning; 42...Kd8 43.Kb7 Nc5 44.Kb6! Nd3 45.a6 and White is winning) 43.b4 (43.Be4 de4 44.Nd4 f4 45.Kb7 f3 46.a6 f2 47.a7 f1Q 48.a8Q Bc6! 49.Nc6 Qb5 50.Ka7 Qc5 equal) Bc6 44.Nd4 and White is winning] **42.Kd5** [42.Bb5! Nb5 43.Kb5 Kc7 (43...Kd6 44.Kb6 Bc6 45.Nd4 with the idea b4-b5 and White is winning) 44.Kc5 f4 45.Ne5 and White is winning] **Bf7 43.Ke5 Bb3 44.Kf6 Ne4 45.Kg6** [45.Be4? fe4 46.Nd4 Bd1! (46...e3?? 47.Nb3 and White is winning; 46...Bc4 47.Nc2 and White is winning) 47.Kg6 e3 a) 48.Kh7 e2 49.Nf3 Kc6 50.g6 Kb5 51.g7 Bb3 a1) 52.Nd4 Ka4 53.Nb3?? e1Q 54.g8Q Qh1 55.Kg7 Qg2 56.Kf8 Qg8 57.Kg8 Kb3 58.Kf7 Kc3 59.Ke6 Kb4 60.Kd5 Ka5 and Black is winning; 53.Ne2 equal; a2) 52.g8Q Bg8 53.Kg8 Ka5 54.Kf7 Kb5 55.Ke6 Kc4 56.Ke5 Kc3 57.Ke4 Kc2 58.Ke3 Kd1 59.Kd3 equal; b) 48.Kf5 e2 49.Nf3 Kc6 50.g6 b1) 50...Kb5 51.g7 Bb3 52.Nd4 Ka4 53.Ne2 (53.Nb3? e1Q 54.g8Q Qc3 equal) Ka5 54.Ke4 b5 55.Kd4 Bg8 56.Nf4 Ka4 (56...b4 57.c4 b3 58.Nd3 with the idea Kc3 and White is winning) 57.Nd5 Kb3 58.Nf6 Bf7 59.g8Q Bg8 60.Ng8 b4 61.c4 Kc2 62.Nf6 b3 63.Ne4 b2 64.Nc3 and White is winning; b2) 50...Bc2! 51.Kf6 Bg6 52.Kg6 Kc5 53.Kf5 Kc4 54.Ke5 Kc3 55.Kd6 Kb4 equal; c) 48.Kf6 e2 49.Nf3 Kd6 50.g6 Kc5 51.g7 (51.Ke5 Bb3 52.Kf4 Kc4 equal) Bb3 52.Ke5 Bg8 53.Ke4 Kc4 equal] **Nc3 46.Bf5 Kd6**



47.Nd2! (and White is winning) **Bd5 48.Kf6 Ne2 49.Ne4 Kc6 50.Ke5 Nc1 51.Nc3** [51.Bd7 Kd7 52.Kd5 Ne2 53.Kc5 Kc7 54.Nf6 and White is winning] **Bf7 52.Be4 Kc7 53.Nb5 Kb8 54.Nd6 Bh5 55.Nb7 Nb3 56.Bd5 Nd2 57.Nd8** [57.Nc5 and White is winning] **Ka7 58.Kf4 Bg6 59.Ke3 Nf1 60.Kd4 Ng3 61.Kc5 Ka6**



62.Nc6?? [62.Kb4 and White is winning; 62.Nb7 and White is winning] **Ne4 63.Be4 Be4** [equal; NB 3/g2] **64.Kd6 Kb5 65.Kc7 Ka6** [65...Bc6?? 66.a6 and White is winning] **66.Kd6 Kb5 67.Ne7 Ka5** [NB 3/e] **68.Ke5 Bh7 69.Kf6 Kb6 70.Ng6 Bg8 71.Nf8 Kc7?** [71...Kc6! 72.Ke7 Kd5 73.g6 Ke5 74.Nd7 Kf5 75.g7 Be6 76.Kf8 Kg6 77.Ne5 Kf6 equal] **72.Ke7** (and White is winning) **Kc6 73.g6 Kd5 74.Nd7! Kd4** [74...Ke4 75.Kf6 Kf4 (75...Bb3 76.Nc5; 75...Ba2 76.Ne5 Kf4 77.Nf7 Bb1 78.g7 Bh7 79.Nd6 Bg8 80.Ke7 Kg5 81.Kf8 Bh7 82.Kf7 Bg6 83.Kg8) 76.Ne5 Bb3 77.Nf7 Bc2 78.g7 Bh7 79.Nd6 Bg8 80.Ke7 Kg5 81.Kf8 Bh7 82.Kf7 Bg6 (82...Bb1 83.g8Q) 83.Kg8 Bd3 84.Nf7 Kf6 85.Kh8] **75.Kf6! Bb3** [75...Kd5 76.Ne5 with the idea Nf7, Kg7] **76.Ne5 Bc2 77.g7 Bh7 78.Nf3 Ke3 79.Ng5 Bg8 80.Ke7** [80...Kf4 81.Kf8 Bb3 82.Nf7] **1-0** [Predojevic, Iv.Markovic]



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