



## COLUMNISTS



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## Who will Win?

## Zdenko Krnic

*Informant 97* is almost ready for publication. We are just waiting for the vote of one jury member for “the ten most important theoretical novelties of the preceding volume.” His verdict will be the tie-breaker in a race between Anand and Topalov.

In the tenth round at Wijk aan Zee, Topalov played a modern variation of the Queen’s Indian Defence [E15] and uncorked some startling home preparation in the form of the exchange sacrifice 18.Re4!!, instead of 18.Ne4, as played in the game Kramnik – Leko, Dortmund 2004. His victim, Aronian, could only congratulate him on an effective victory.

In the penultimate round of Wijk aan Zee, Anand repeated the same variation against Topalov that Ivan Sokolov had used in the seventh round. In the earlier game, Topalov played a new continuation, 12.Na3, in a popular variation of the Ruy Lopez [C78] and won without much difficulty. The visitors in the tournament hall were curious as to what Anand had prepared for Black, and they did not have to wait long. Instead of 12...Qe8?!, as played by Sokolov, Anand found the brilliant piece sacrifice 12...Nce5! 13.h3 d6!! Topalov dared not accept it and the game soon ended in a draw.

Who will win? Anand’s 12...Nce5 or Topalov’s 18.Re4, the answer can be found in *Informant 97*.

**V.Topalov 2801 – V.Anand 2792**  
**Wijk aan Zee 2006 — 96/242**

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 b5 6.Bb3 Bc5 7.a4 Rb8 8.c3 0-0 9.d4 Bb6 10.ab5 ab5 11.de5 Ng4 12.Na3 (a novelty)



**12...Nce5!** [RR 12...Qe8?! 13.Nd4 Nge5 14.Nab5 d6 15.Ba4 Bd7 16.b3 Ne7 17.Kh1 and White is superior, V.Topalov 2801 – Iv.Sokolov 2689, Wijk aan Zee 2006] **13.h3**



**13...d6!!** [Ganguly; 13...Nf3 14.Qf3 Ne5 15.Qg3 d6 16.Nb5 Bf2 17.Rf2 Rb5 18.Bg5 Nf3 19.Qf3 Rg5 20.Ra8 (20.Bf7 Kh8 21.Qe3 and White is superior) Re5 21.Bf7 Kh8 22.Qg3! Re4 23.Bh5 and White is winning, with the idea Bg4] **14.Qe2** [14.hg4 Bg4 a) 15.Bg5? Bf3 16.Bd8 Bd1; b) 15.Be3?! Qf6 16.Bg5 Bf3 17.Bf6 Bd1 and Black is slightly better; c) 15.Bf4 Bf3 16.gf3 Qh4 equal, with the idea 17.Be5 de5 18.Qd7 Qg3; d) 15.Bd5 Nf3 16.gf3 Qh4 17.fg4 (17.Bf4? Bh3 18.Qd2 Qh5 and Black is superior) Qg3 equal; e) 15.Nc2 Bf3 16.gf3 Qf6! (16...Qh4 17.Kg2) e1) 17.Nd4 Qg6 18.Kh2 Qh5 19.Kg3 Qg6 equal, with the idea 20.Kh4? Qg2 and Black is winning; e2) 17.Ne1 Qg6 18.Kh2 (18.Ng2 Qg3) Qh5 19.Kg3 Kh8 (19...Qg6 equal, with the idea 20.Kh4?! Rbe8 21.Bf4 Kh8 with attack) 20.f4 (20.Qd2 g5; 20.Be3 f5) Qg6 21.Kh4 Qh6 (21...Qf6 equal) 22.Qh5 g5 23.fg5 Ng6 24.Kg4 Ne5 equal; e3) 17.f4 Qg6 18.Kh1 Qh6 19.Kg2 Qg6 20.Kh3 Qh6 21.Kg3 Qg6 22.Kh4 Qh6 equal, with the idea 23.Qh5? Nf3 24.Kg4 Nh2 25.Kh4 Qh5 26.Kh5 Nf1 and Black is winning; e4) 17.Kh1 Rbe8 (17...Nf3 18.Kg2 Nh4 19.Kg3 and White is superior) 18.Ne1 Re6! e41) 19.Ng2 Qg6 20.f4 (20.Nf4 Qh6 21.Kg2

*Qg5 22.Kh2 Rf6! 23.Nh3 Qh5! 24.f4 Ng4 25.Kg3 Rg6 and Black is winning)*  
*Ng4 and Black is superior; e42) 19.Be6 fe6 20.Ng2 Qg6! equal; e5) 17.Ne3*  
*Qg6 18.Kh2 Qh5 19.Kg3 Qg6 20.Ng4 h5; e6) 17.Kg2 Qg6 equal; e7) 17.Kh2*  
*Rbe8 (17...Nf3? 18.Kg3! with the idea 18...Bf2? 19.Kf2) 18.Ne1 (18.Nd4 Bd4*  
*19.cd4 Nf3 equal, with the idea 20.Kg3? Re4! and Black is superior)*

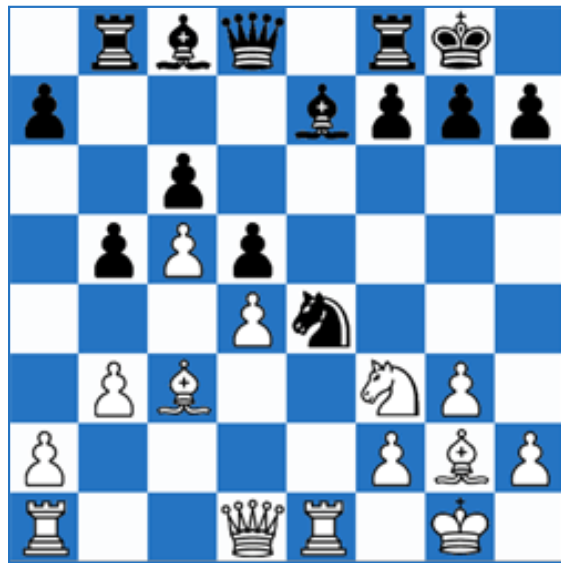


18...Re6! e71) 19.Be6 fe6 e711) 20.Be3? Qh4 21.Kg2 (21.Kg1 Rf6) Rf6  
 22.Rg1 Be3 23.fe3 (23.Ra8 Kf7 24.fe3 Ng4!) Ng4! 24.Qe2 Nh2! and Black is  
 winning; e712) 20.Kh3 Qg6 equal see 19.Kh3; e72) 19.Kh3 Qg6 20.Be6  
 (20.Ng2 Qh5 21.Nh4 Ng6 and Black is winning) fe6 21.f4 Qh6 22.Kg2 Qg6  
 23.Kh1 Qh6 (23...Qe4?! 24.Kh2 Rf6 25.Ra8 only move Qa8 26.fe5) 24.Kg1  
 Qh3 25.fe5 Qf1! 26.Kf1 Rf2 27.Kg1 Rd2 28.Kf1 Rf2 equal; 14.Nc2 Nf3  
 15.Qf3 Ne5 16.Qg3 Qf6?! 17.Nb4; 16...Be6 equal] Nf3 15.Qf3 Ne5 16.Qg3  
**Be6** (equal) **17.Be6 fe6 18.Nb5 Rf2 19.Rf2 Bf2 20.Qf2 Rb5 21.Qe2 Rb8**  
**22.Bf4 Qf6 23.Rf1 1/2-1/2 [V.Anand]**

## **V.Topalov 2801 – Aronian 2752**

### **Wijk aan Zee 2006 — 96/384**

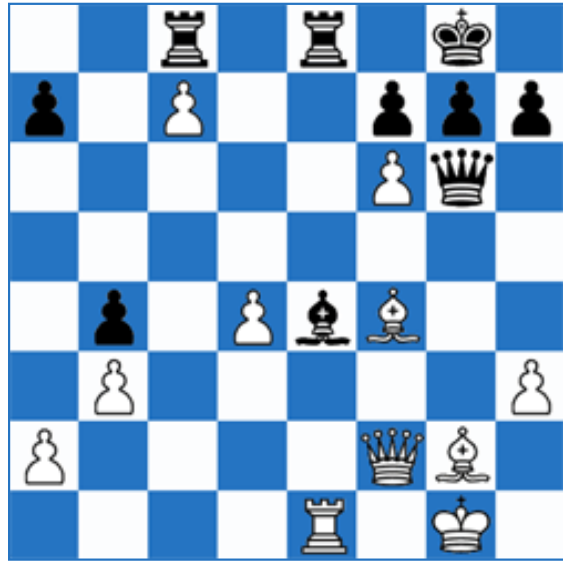
**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.g3 Ba6 5.b3 Bb4 6.Bd2 Be7 7.Bg2 c6 8.Bc3 d5**  
**9.Ne5 Nfd7 10.Nd7 Nd7 11.Nd2 0-0 12.0-0 Nf6 13.e4 b5 14.ed5 ed5**  
**15.Re1 Rb8 16.c5 Bc8 17.Nf3 Ne4**



**18.Re4!!** [a novelty; 18.Ne5 see 91/(446)] **de4 19.Ne5 Qd5 20.Qe1!** [20.Qe2 Bf5 21.g4 Bg6 with the idea 22.f3? Bc5] **Bf5 21.g4! Bg6 22.f3 b4** [22...Bc5!? 23.dc5 Qc5 24.Kh1 ef3 25.Bf3 Rfe8] **23.fe4 Qe6 24.Bb2** [24.Bb4? Bf6! 25.Bc3 Be5 26.de5 Qg4 and Black is superior] **Bf6**



**25.Nc6!** [25.d5 Qe7! 26.d6 Qe6 27.Ng6 Bb2 28.Nf8 Kf8 unclear] **Qc6 26.e5 Qa6 27.ef6 Rfe8 28.Qf1 Qe2 29.Qf2!** [29.Qe2 Re2 30.Bc1 gf6] **Qg4 30.h3! Qg5** [30...Qh5 31.Re1] **31.Bc1 Qh5 32.Bf4 Rbd8?** [32...Rbc8] **33.c6 Be4 34.c7 Rc8 35.Re1** (and White is winning) **Qg6** [35...Bg2 36.Re8 Re8 37.Qg2 Qd1 (37...g6 38.Qg4 Qg4 39.hg4 Rc8 40.Bd6) 38.Kh2 g6 39.Qe4!; 35...Qf5 36.Bg3 Qg6 (36...Qf2 37.Kf2 Bg2 38.Re8 Re8 39.Kg2 gf6 40.d5 Rc8 41.Bd6) 37.Re4 Re4 38.d5]



**36.Re4 Re4 37.d5 Rce8 38.d6 Re1 39.Kh2 Qf5 40.Qg3 g6 41.Qg5 [41.Qg4 Qc5 42.d7 Qg1 43.Kg3 R1e3 44.Kh4 and White is winning] Qg5 42.Bg5 Rd1 43.Bc6 Re2 44.Kg3 1-0 [Z.Krnic]**



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