



COLUMNISTS



Chess Informant
Subscription Service

Kramnik-Topalov, Elista 2006

Zdenko Krnic

Chess Informant 98 will soon be available. It covers the period from September 1 to December 31, 2006, during which the most important event was undoubtedly the world championship match between Vladimir Kramnik and Veselin Topalov. Volume #98 provides annotations to all fifteen games and this month we are pleased to present Kramnik's annotations to the fourteenth game (the second rapid game).

This game exemplifies Kramnik's approach to the match. His main task was to avoid the type of complicated positions in which his opponent excels. As white, Kramnik sought a slight opening advantage that could later be converted into a better endgame at an appropriate moment, where he could then bring about victory with his skillful play.

In the fourteenth game, after the exchange of queens, Kramnik subtly attacked the queenside with both bishops via the maneuver Bb2-c1-e3. Topalov's only serious mistake was 31...b4, which enabled Kramnik to win an important point without much difficulty.

Kramnik 2743 – V.Topalov 2813 [D 45]
Elista (m/14-rapid) 2006

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6 5.e3 Nbd7 6.Qc2 Bd6 7.b3 0-0 8.Be2 b6 9.0-0 Bb7 10. Bb2 Re8 11.Rad1 Qe7 12.Rfe1 Rac8!? [12...Rad8 equal, see 90/(391)] 13.Bd3 [a novelty; 13.e4 Ne4 14.Ne4 de4 15.Qe4 Bb4 16.Rf1 Nf6 17.Qh4 Ba3 equal] e5 [13...c5 14.cd5 ed5 15. Bf5] 14.e4 dc4 [14...ed4 15.ed5 and White is superior] 15.Bc4 b5 16.Bf1 [16.Bd3 a6 17.a4 (17.Ne2?! c5 18.d5 c4!) Rcd8 18.Ne2; 17...g6! with the idea 18.Ne2 ed4] g6



17.Qd2!? [with the idea de5; 17.de5 Ne5 18.Nd4 Rcd8 unclear (18...Ned7) 19.f4 Neg4 20.e5 Bc5 21.Ne4 Ne4 22.Re4 Bb6!; 17.g3 ed4!? (17...a6) 18.Nd4 b4 19.Na4 c5] Rcd8 18.Qg5 a6 19.h3 [19.g3! and White is slightly better, with the idea 19...ed4 20.Nd4 Ne5 21.Bg2] ed4 20. Nd4 [20.Rd4!? Ne5 21.Red1 unclear] Qe5 21.Qe5 Ne5 [21...Be5?! 22.Nf3! Bc7 (22...Bc3 23.Bc3 Ne4 24.Ba5) 23.e5 Nh5 24.Ne4 and White is superior] 22.Nc2 g5!? [22...Bc5 equal] 23.Bc1 [23.Ne3!?] h6 24.Be3 c5 25.f3 Bf8 [25...Ng6! unclear, with the idea Be5] 26.Bf2 Be8 27.Ne3 Be6 28.Ned5 Bd5 [better is 28...Nd5 29.ed5 Bf5 30.a4!? (30.Ne4 Be4 31.Re4 f5 32.Re2 c4) c4 31.bc4 bc4 32.Ne4] 29.ed5 Ned7 [29...Bd6?! 30.a4 and White is superior; 29... c4 30.Bd4 Nfd7 31.Ne4 Bg7 32.Bf2 and White is slightly better] 30.Re8 Re8 31.a4 b4? [31...

c4! 32.bc4 bc4 and White is slightly better] **32.Ne4** (and White is superior) **Ne4 33.fe4 Nf6** [33...Re4 34.Ba6 Bd6 35.a5 and White is winning; 33...a5 34.Bb5 Rd8 35.Bg3 and White is winning; better is 33...Ra8 34.d6 Bg7 35.Bc4 and White is superior] **34.d6 Ne4 35.d7 Rd8 36.Ba6** (and White is winning) **f5** [36...Nc3 37.Rd2 Ne4 38.Rd3; 36...Bg7 37.Bc8 Nf2 38.Kf2 Bd4 39.Rd4 cd4 40.a5] **37.a5** [37.Bc8? Nd6!] **Bg7** [37...Kf7 38.Bc8 Nd6 (38...Bd6 39.g4) 39.Rd6 Bd6 40.a6 Bb8 41.Bc5 Ke6 42.a7] **38.Bc4 Kf8 39.a6 Nf2** [39...Ke7 40.a7 Nf2 41.Kf2 Bd4 42.Rd4 cd4 43.Bd5] **40.Kf2 Bd4 41.Rd4 cd4 42.a7 Ke7 43.Bd5 Kd7 44.a8Q Ra8 45.Ba8 1-0** [Kramnik]

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