



## COLUMNISTS



**Chess Informant**  
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## The Best of the Best

Zdenko Krnic

Vladimir Kramnik achieved one of the best performances of his career at the Turin Olympiad, where he scored the top first board result. The game he won against Bruzon, played in a combinatory style, was selected as the best game of [Informant 97](#), ahead of the game Rublevsky – Mamedyarov by a margin of three points.

We will soon be releasing a new CD, *The Best of Chess Informant – Vladimir Kramnik*, and, as an introduction to Kramnik's creative output, I would like to present my foreword from the CD.

"A while ago, back then in 1989, the editorial work on *Chess Informant 47* was in full swing. As many times before, a large shipment from Moscow had just arrived with contributions from Soviet players. Among the heaps of material, a notebook with many annotated games caught the eye of our Editorial Board. The games were neatly handwritten, which obviously took a lot of time and patience. Fourteen-year-old elementary school pupil who wrote that was none other than today's World Champion; we could hardly imagine at the time that the future would bring regular worldwide e-mailing service.

As one of the most talented juniors he was awarded an early admittance into the famous Botvinnik's school for gifted young players. Mikhail Moiseevich insisted upon absolute commitment to the analytical work, based on his firm belief that one can benefit most from thorough understanding of his own games. Apart from his extraordinary gift, probably most of Kramnik's fundamentals stem from this school.

Many wrote about Kramnik's play. His greatest strength lies in subtle positional outmaneuvering of the opponent and subsequent conversion of the advantage in the ending. His harmonious piece coordination is astounding, and his mental stability guarantees his best performance in decisive games.

I first met Vladimir Kramnik at the Dortmund tournament in 1992. With his brilliant performance in the Open tournament and subsequent meteoric rise, he announced his entrance into the elite of world chess. A few months later he won his gold medal as first reserve for the Russian team in the Manila Olympiad. Later that year he became a Grandmaster, which was a mere formality, as he was obviously destined for greatness. Nowadays, Dortmund is one of his favorite venues, as he managed to conquer it seven times so far.

For *Chess Informant's* 35th anniversary, Kramnik wrote: '*Chess Informant* has had great importance and influence to the development of world chess. As for me, I have always been cooperating with *Chess Informant* and eagerly expecting appearance of every new volume.' In a month or so the work on *Informant 99* shall enter the final phase. To my great satisfaction, Vladimir's annotated games from Wijk aan Zee and Monaco have already arrived. It is my sincere hope that this CD, which covers his creative opus, will contribute to the development of many young generations to come."

**DESET NAJBOLJIH PARTIJA PRETHODNOG TOMA • ДЕСЯТЬ ЛУЧШИХ ПАРТИЙ ПРЕДЫДУЩЕГО ТОМА • THE BEST TEN GAMES OF THE PRECEDING VOLUME • DIE ZEHN BESTEN SCHACHPARTIEN AUS DEM VORIGEN BAND • LES DIX MEILLEURES PARTIES DU VOLUME PRÉCÉDENT • LAS DIEZ MEJORES PARTIDAS DEL TOMO PRECEDENTE • LE DIECI MIGLIORI PARTITE DEL VOLUME PRECEDENTE • DE TIO BÅSTA PARTIERNÄ I FÖREGÅENDE VOLYM • 上一卷最优秀的十盘棋 • الأشواط العشرة الأهم الواردة في العدد السابق**

PREDLOG REDAKCIJE ПРЕДЛОЖЕНИЕ РЕДАКЦИИ EDITORIAL SELECTION VORSCHLAG DER REDAKTION PROPOSITION DE LA REDACTION PROPOSICION DE LA REDACCION PROPOSTA DELLA REDAZIONE REDAKTIONENS FÖRSLAG 编辑部的建议 مقترح هيئة التحرير	ALEXANDER BELIAVSKY	LARRY CHRISTIANSEN	MICHAEL GUREVICH	ALEKSANDAR MATANOVIC	JEROEN PIKET	ZOLTAN RIBLI	JONATHAN SPEIDMAN	XIE JUN	
1. <b>KRAMNIK, V.</b> — BRUZON, L. 326	9	5	8	—	8	6	10	7	<b>53</b>
2. <b>RUBLEVSKY, S.</b> — <b>MAMEDYAROV, SH.</b> 215	1	8	10	10	—	10	6	5	<b>50</b>
3. <b>NISIPLEANU, L.-D.</b> — GRISCHUK, A. 165	—	10	6	7	9	9	—	3	<b>44</b>
4. <b>TOPALOV, V.</b> — <b>ANAND, V.</b> 236	10	7	1	5	—	3	9	1	<b>36</b>
5. <b>GELFAND, B.</b> — ARONIAN, L. 375	6	2	5	—	7	5	—	9	<b>34</b>
6. <b>VOLOKITIN, A.</b> — BARSOV, A. 197	8	—	4	—	10	2	—	8	<b>32</b>
7. <b>TOPALOV, V.</b> — <b>SVIDLER, P.</b> 338	5	3	—	8	1	—	8	—	<b>25</b>
8. <b>KRAMNIK, V.</b> — LEKO, P. 398	3	1	—	—	5	—	2	10	<b>21</b>
9. <b>DOMINGUEZ, L.</b> — JUSSUPOW, AR. 196	—	9	—	4	—	7	—	—	<b>20</b>
10. <b>SANDIPAN, CH.</b> — HIMANSHU, SH. 80	7	—	7	—	—	—	3	—	<b>17</b>
11. <b>BACROT, E.</b> — <b>ANAND, V.</b> 372	—	—	—	9	—	—	5	—	<b>14</b>
12. <b>HILLARP PERSSON, T.</b> — <b>SUTOVSKY, E.</b> 333	4	4	—	6	—	—	—	—	<b>14</b>
13. <b>KRAMNIK, V.</b> — ARONIAN, L. 12	2	—	—	2	—	4	6	—	<b>14</b>
14. <b>KOBALIA, M.</b> — AKOPIAN, VL. 194	—	—	—	1	—	8	—	4	<b>13</b>
15. <b>TIVIAKOV, S.</b> — TIMMAN, J. 73	—	—	3	—	3	—	7	—	<b>13</b>
16. <b>TOPALOV, V.</b> — PONOMARIOV, R. 237	—	6	—	4	—	—	—	—	<b>10</b>
17. <b>SVIDLER, P.</b> — PONOMARIOV, R. 173	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	<b>9</b>
18. <b>CARLSEN, M.</b> — ADAMS, MI. 389	—	—	—	6	—	—	2	—	<b>8</b>
19. <b>AZAROV, S.</b> — <b>MOISEENKO, A.</b> 87	—	—	2	3	—	1	—	—	<b>6</b>
20. <b>DOMINGUEZ, L.</b> — <b>SVIDLER, P.</b> 252	—	—	—	—	4	1	—	—	<b>5</b>
21. <b>MOISEENKO, A.</b> — MAMEDOV, RAUF 417	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	<b>2</b>
22. <b>LAUTIER, J.</b> — ZHANG ZHONG 16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	<b>0</b>
23. <b>IODACHESCU, V.</b> — MAKSYMENKO, A. 170	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	<b>0</b>
24. <b>SUTOVSKY, E.</b> — MITON, K. 208	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	<b>0</b>
25. <b>MALAKHOV, V.</b> — NAIDITSCH, A. 219	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	<b>0</b>
26. <b>ADAMS, MI.</b> — PINTER, J. 240	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	<b>0</b>
27. <b>VOLOKITIN, A.</b> — PONOMARIOV, R. 245	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	<b>0</b>
28. <b>BOLOGAN, V.</b> — <b>RUBLEVSKY, S.</b> 286	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	<b>0</b>
29. <b>LEKO, P.</b> — NAIDITSCH, A. 362	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	<b>0</b>
30. <b>RIAZANTSEV, A.</b> — KASIMDZHANOV, R. 423	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	<b>0</b>

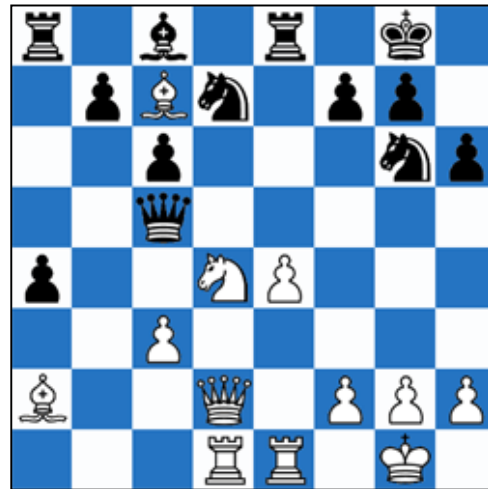
**KRAMNIK 2729 – BRUZON 2652 [D 52]  
Torino (ol) 2006 – 97/326**

1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.c4 c6 4.Nc3 e6 5.Bg5 Nbd7 6.e3 Qa5 7.cd5 Nd5 8.Qd2 Bb4 9.Rc1 h6 10.Bh4 0-0 11.a3 Be3 12.bc3 Qa3 13.e4 [13.Bd3!?] Ne7 14.Bd3 Ng6 15.Bg3 e5 16.0-0 [a novelty; 16.h4 see 87/400] Re8 17.Rfe1 [17.h4?! ed4 18.cd4 Nf6 unclear] Qa5 [17...a5 18.h4 ed4 19.cd4 Nf6 20.Ra1 and White is superior; 17...Qe7] 18.Qb2 Qd8 19.Bb1! a5 [19...Qf6 20.Qd2! (20.Ba2 Nf4! 21.Qd2 g5 unclear) a5 21.h4] 20.Rcd1 a4 21.Ba2 Qe7 [better is 21...Qa5] 22.Qc1 Ra5 [22...b5 23.h4 ed4 24.Nd4!]



23.Qd2! [with the idea c4] ed4 [23...b6 24.h4 a) 24...ed4 25.Nd4 a1) 25...Nge5 26.Nf5 Qc5 27.Nd6 Rf8 (27...Rd8 28.Bf4 and White is superior) 28.Bf4 and White is superior; a2) 25...Qc5 26.Nf5 Nde5 (26...Nge5 see 25...Nge5) 27.Nd6 and White is superior; b) 24...h5 25.Ng5 Rf8 26.de5 Nde5 27.f4 and White is superior; c) 24...Nf6 25.Ne5 Ne5 26.Be5 Re5 27.de5 Qe5 and White is slightly better; better is 23...Ra6 and White is slightly better] 24.Nd4 (and White is superior) Qc5 [24...Nde5 25.f4 and White is superior; 24...

Qg5 25.f4 Qc5 26.Bf2 Qf8 27.Nf5 and White is superior] **25.Bc7** [25.Nf5 Nde5 26.Nd6 Rd8 unclear] **Ra8**  
 [25...Ndf8 only move 26.Ba5 Qa5 27.f4 and White is superior]



**26.Bf7!! Kf7 27.Qa2 Kf8** [27...Kf6 28.Bd8!! a) 28...Ke5 29.Nf3 (29.Qf7 and White is winning) Kf4 30.Qd2 Kg4 31.h3 Kh5 32.g4 mate; b) 28...Ne7 29.Qe6 Kg5 30.Nf3 Kf4 31.g3 Kf3 32.Rd3 Qe3 33.Rde3 mate; c) 28...Rd8 29.Qe6 Kg5 30.Nf3 Kf4 31.g3 Kf3 32.Rd3 Qe3 33.Rde3 mate; 27...Ke7 28.Qe6 Kf8 29.Bd6 and White is winning] **28.Ne6 Re6 29.Qe6 Ne7** [29...Qg5 30.Rd7 (30.Re3 and White is winning) Bd7 31.Bd6 Ne7 32.Qd7 and White is winning] **30.Re3 Ke8 31.Rf3 Qh5 32.Bd6 1-0** [Kramnik]

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