



COLUMNISTS



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The 1,000 Best of the Best Part Three

Zdenko Krnic

Our latest book, [1000 The Best of the Best](#), has finally reached the American market. It celebrates the publication of 100 volumes of *Chess Informant* and 42 years of publishing. In it we invite readers to choose the ten best games from the 100 golden games. The task is exceptionally difficult. How should one choose the ten best games from 100 chess brilliancies? Among the 100 winners from these 100 volumes are 42 different players:

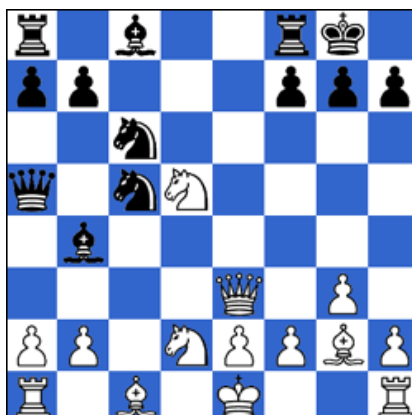
- 15 wins: Kasparov
- 14 wins: Karpov
- 6 wins each: Anand, Ivanchuk
- 5 wins: Kramnik
- 4 wins: Tal
- 3 wins each: Dreev, Fischer, Geller, Spassky
- 2 wins each: Leko, Miles, Portisch, Short, Smyslov, Topalov
- 1 win each: Agrest, Atalik, Botvinnik, Bronstein, Gelfand, Gipslis, M. Gurevich, Jussupow, Kantsler, Korchnoi, Kuligowski, Larsen, Ljubojevic, Nataf, Nisipeanu, Nunn, Petrosian, Pinter, Polgar, A. Sokolov, Sutovsky, Vaganian, Vallejo Pons, Vasiukov, Velimirovic, Zvjaginsev.

This month we present five new pearls played by grandmasters who were neither world champions, nor among the top players.

Polish grandmaster Adam Kuligowski was one of the best young players in the 1970s. He retired from chess very early, but his beautiful game against his countryman Schmidt will remain forever in the annals of chess history.

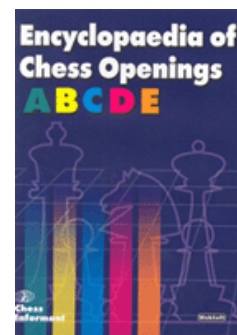
Wl.Schmidt 2505 – Kuligowski 2325
Polska 1978 — 25/645 [E20]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.g3 c5 5.Nf3 Ne4 6.Qd3 d5!? 7.dc5 [7.cd5] Qa5 8.Nd2? [8.cd5 Qc5 9.Be3 Qd5 10.Qd5 ed5 11.Rc1 equal] Nc5! 9.Qe3 0-0 10.cd5 ed5! 11.Nd5 Nc6 12.Bg2



12...Bh3!! [12...Bg4 13.0-0 Rfe8 14.Qg5 Be2 15.Nf6 Kh8 16.Ne8 Re8 17.

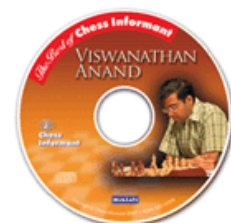
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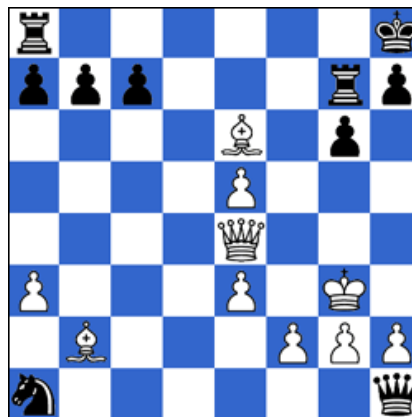
[Anthology of Chess
Combinations \(book\)](#)



[The Best of Chess Informant
Viswanathan Anand \(CD\)](#)

Turkish grandmaster Suat Atalik is one of the few grandmasters whose game was voted as the best game and the most important theoretical novelty. There is no doubt that this victory against Sax was the result of home analysis on the weakness of the f7-square.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 d5 5.a3 Bc3 6.Qc3 Ne4 7.Qc2 Nc6 8.
e3 e5?! 9.cd5 Qd5 10.Bc4! Qa5 11.b4 Nb4 12.Qe4 Nc2 13.Ke2 Qe1 14.
Kf3 Na1 15.Bb2 0-0 16.Kg3 Kh8 17.de5! Be6 (only move) 18.Nf3 Qh1
19.Ng5 g6 20.Nf7!! Rf7 21.Be6 Rg7 [21...Rf2!? 22.Kf2 Rf8 23.Kg3 Qe1
24.Kh3 Kg7 25.Bd7 Kh6 26.e6 Rf5 27.Bf6!! Rh5 (27...Rf6 28.e7 and
White is winning) 28.Kg4 Rf5 29.e7 Qd1 30.Kh3! a) 30...Rh5 31.Kg3
Qe1 32.Kf4 Qf1 (32...Qf2 33.Qf3 Rh4 34.Bg4!; 32...g5 33.Ke5 Qc3 34.
Qd4 g4 35.Kf4 and White is winning; 32...Rh4 33.Bh4 Qh4 34.Kf3 and
White is winning) 33.Qf3 and White is winning; b) 30...Qd7 31.e8Q Rf3
(31...Rh5 32.Kg3 and White is winning) 32.Kh4 and White is winning]

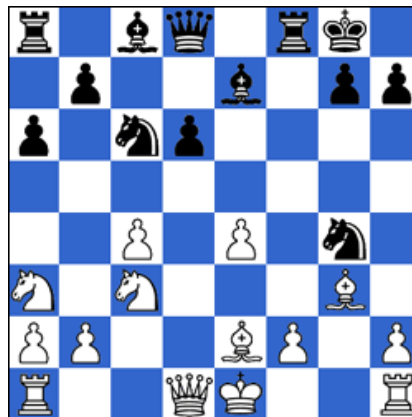


French grandmaster Igor Nataf did not hide his pleasure when I personally informed him that his victory against Nunn was voted as the

Nunn 2600 – I.A.Nataf 2475

France 1999 — 75/144 [B32]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cd4 4.Nd4 e5 5.Nb5 d6 6.c4 Be7 7.N1c3 a6 8. Na3 f5!? 9.Bd3!? f4 [weak point Bc1; 9...fe4!?] **10.g3!? Nf6!?** [10...fg3 11.hg3 unclear] **11.gf4 ef4 12.Bf4 0-0** (unclear) **13.Bg3** [13.Qd2?! Ng4! (and Black is slightly better) 14.0-0-0? (14.Bg3? Nf2!! 15.Bf2 Rf2 16.Kf2 Bg5!! and Black is winning) Rf4! 15.Qf4 Bg5 and Black is winning] **Ng4!** [with attack, weak point f2] **14.Be2!** [14.h3?? Nf2!! 15.Bf2 Rf2 16.Kf2 Bh4 17.Ke2 (17.Kg2 Qg5 18.Kf1 Qf4 19.Ke2 Nd4 mate) Nd4 18.Kd2 (18.Ke3 Qg5 19.Kd4 Qc5 mate) Qg5 mate; 14.Nc2? Nf2! 15.Bf2 Rf2 16.Kf2 Bh4 and Black is winning; 14.Qd2? Nf2! 15.Bf2 Rf2 16.Kf2 (16.Qf2 Bh4 and Black is winning) Bg5! (16...Bh4? 17.Kg2 and White is winning, weak point g5) 17.Qc2 Bh4! and Black is winning; 14.0-0!?]



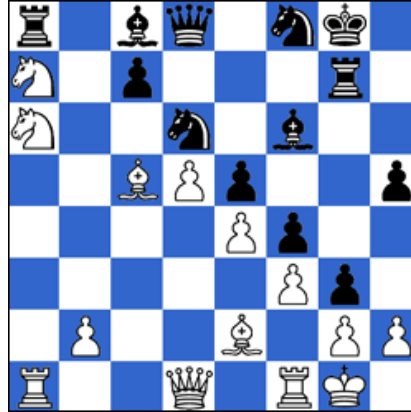
14...Nf2!! (and Black is winning) **15.Qd5!** [15.Bf2?! Rf2! a) 16.Kf2? Bh4 17.Kg2 (17.Ke3 Qg5 18.Kd3 Nb4! 19.Kd4 Qc5 mate) Qg5 and Black is winning; b) 16.Qd5 Rf7!? and Black is slightly better; 16...Kh8!] **Kh8!** [15...Rf7?? 16.Bf2 and White is winning] **16.Bf2 Nb4!!** [16...Bh4? 17. Bg3! and White is winning; 16...Rf2? 17.Kf2! Nb4 (17...Bh4? 18.Kg2! and White is winning, with the idea Rhg1, Kh1) 18.Qf7!! Bh4 19.Kf3! and White is winning] **17.Qh5** [17.Qd4? Rf2! 18.Kf2 Bh4 and Black is winning, with the idea Qg5; 17.Qd2? Rf2!! 18.Kf2 Bg5!! (with the idea Bh4; 18...Bh4? 19.Kg2 Bg5 20.Qd4 Bf6 21.Qe3 Bg5 22.Qf3 and White is winning) 19.Qd4 Bh4! (19...Bf6!? 20.Qe3 Bd4! 21.Qd4 Qh4 equal) 20. Kf3!? (20.Kg2 Qg5 and Black is winning) a) 20...Nc6?! 21.Qe3 Qf6 22. Kg2 Qg6 23.Kf1 Qf6 24.Bf3! (24.Qf3? Bh3 25.Kg1 Qd4 and Black is winning) Bh3 25.Ke2 Nd4 26.Kd1 Nf3 27.Kc2 and White is winning; b) 20...Bh3! (with the idea Qf8) 21.Nd5 Qg5! (21...Qf8 22.Nf4 Qf4!? 23.Kf4 Rf8 unclear) 22.Nf4 Rf8! 23.Qd6 Bg4 24.Ke3 Rf4 25.Qf4 Bf2! and Black is winning] **Rf2!! 18.Kf2 Bh4 19.Kg2** [only move; 19.Ke3 g6! 20.Qf3 (20.Qh6 Bg5 and Black is winning) Qg5! 21.Qf4 (21.Kd4? Qc5 mate) Qc5! (J.-M.Degraeve; 21...Bf2? 22.Kf3 Bg4 23.Qg4 Rf8 24.Kg2! and White is winning) 22.Kf3 (22.Kd2 Bg5 and Black is winning) Qf2 mate] **g6! 20.Qf3** [20.Qh6? Bg5 and Black is winning] **Qg5 21.Kf1** (only move) **Bh3!! 22.Qh3 Rf8 23.Bf3 Qe3!** [with the idea Qf2 mate] **24.Qh4** (only move) **Nd3!!** [24...Rf3 25.Kg2 and White is winning; 24...Qf3 25.Kg1 Qe3 26.Kg2 equal] **25.Nd5** [weak point Qe3; 25.Qg3? Rf3 26.Kg2 Rg3!? 27.hg3 Qd2 28.Kh3 Nf2! 29.Kh2 (29.Kh4 Qh6 mate) Nh1 30.Kh1 Qb2 and Black is winning; 26...Nf4! and Black is winning, Nunn] **Qf3** [25... Rf3 26.Kg2 Qe2 27.Kg1 g5 and Black is winning] **26.Kg1 Nf2!!** [with the idea Qh1 mate] **27.Kf1** [27.Nf6 Nh3! (27...Rf6?! 28.Qf6 Qf6 29.Rf1! unclear) 28.Qh3 Qh3 29.Nd5 (29.Rf1 Kg7! 30.Nd5 Qg4 mate) Qg4 mate; 27.Qf6 Rf6 28.Nf6 Nh3 mate] **Qh1 28.Ke2 Qa1 0-1** [I.A.Nataf]

Israeli grandmaster Boris Kantsler can be proud of his victory against Boris Gelfand in one of his favourite openings: the King's Indian Defence.

B.Gelfand 2712 – Kantsler 2507

Israel 2001 — 81/489 [E98]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 e5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.d5 Ne7 9.Ne1 Ne8 10.Be3 f5 11.f3 f4 12.Bf2 h5 13.c5 g5 14.a4 Ng6 15.a5 Rf7 16.cd6 [16.c6!?] Nd6 [16...cd6?! 17.Nb5 a6 18.Nc3 Nf6 19.Na4 and White is superior] 17.Nd3 [17.Nb5 Nb5 18.Bb5 g4 unclear] Bf6 [with the idea Rg7, Nf8, g4; 17...Bh6!?] 18.Nc5 Nf8 19.Nb5 Rg7 20.a6 ba6 [20...b6 21.Nb7 Qe7 (21...Nb7?! 22.ab7 Bb7 23.Na7 with initiative) 22.Rc1 Nb5 23.Bb5 g4 24.d6 cd6 25.Nd6 Be6 26.Nf5 Bf5 27.ef5 (27.Qd5? Be6 28.Qa8 gf3) Rd8 unclear; 27...Kh8!?] 21.Na6 [21.Nd6 cd6 22.Ne6 Ne6 23.de6 Be6 (23...Qe7 24.Qd5 unclear) 24.Ra6 Be7 25.Ra7 Ra7 26.Ba7 g4 with initiative; 25.Bc5!?] g4 22.Na7 g3 23.Bc5

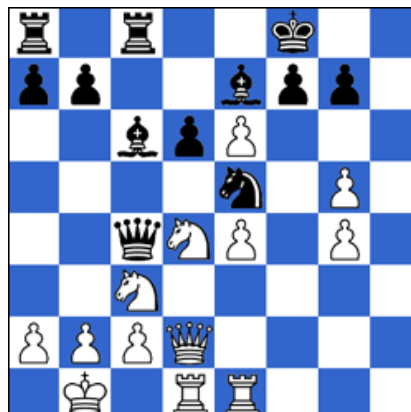


23...Bh3!! 24.gh3? [24.hg3!? Bg2 (24...Rg3 25.Rf2 unclear) 25.Kg2 Rg3 26.Kf2 (26.Kh1 Rh3 equal) Bh4 unclear] Qd7 25.Bd3 [only move; 25.Kg2? Ng6 and Black is winning; 25.hg3? Qh3 and Black is winning] Qh3 26.Qe2 Ng6 27.Qg2 Qd7 28.Nc7 [28.Rfc1 Nh4 29.Qf1 Nf3!! 30.Qf3 Qh3 and Black is winning] Nh4 29.Qe2 Qh3! [29...Qc7 30.Nc6] 30.Ne6 [30.Bd6 Ng2!! 31.Qg2 gh2 and Black is winning; 30.Na8 Ng2!! 31.Rfc1 Qh2 32.Kf1 Qh1 33.Bg1 Nh4 34.Ke1 (34.Rc2 g2 35.Kf2 Nh5 36.Qd2 Nd4 and Black is winning) Nf3 35.Kd1 Qg1 36.Qf1 (36.Kc2 Nd4 and Black is winning) Qh2 37.Rc2 (37.Qf3 g2 and Black is winning) g2 38.Rg2 Rg2 39.Qf3 Rf2 and Black is winning] Ng2!! 31.Rfc1 Qh2 32.Kf1 Qh1 33.Bg1 Nh4! 34.Ng7 Nf3 [35.Qc2 Qg1 36.Ke2 Qf2 37.Kd1 Qe1 mate; 35.Qg2 Nh2 and Black is winning] 0-1 [Kantsler]

At the end of his career, Russian grandmaster Evgeny Vasiukov played a game against Van Wely in the manner of a young man at the height of his creativity.

Vasiukov 2524 – Van Wely 2697
Moscow 2002 — 84/163 [B53]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cd4 4.Qd4 Nc6 5.Bb5 Bd7 6.Bc6 Bc6 7.Nc3 Nf6 8.Bg5 e6 9.0-0-0 Be7 10.Rhe1 0-0 11.Kb1 Qa5 12.Qd2 Qa6 13.Nd4 Rfc8 14.f4 [14.g4; 14.f3] h6 15.h4!? [15.Bh4? Ne4] Qc4 16.g4 Kf8 17.f5! [17.Bf6 Bf6 18.g5 Bd4 19.Qd4 Qd4 20.Rd4 equal] hg5 [17...e5?! (with the idea hg5) 18.Bf6! Bf6 19.Nf3 with the idea g5, with attack] 18.hg5 Nd7 19.fe6 Ne5



20.Rh1! fe6 [20...g6 21.Rh8 Kg7 22.Rh7! Kh7 (22...Kg8 23.Rdh1) 23. Qh2 Kg8 24.Rh1 Qf1 (only move) 25.Rf1 Bg5 26.ef7 Nf7 27.Ne6 and White is winning; 20...Ke8 21.Rh8 Bf8 22.e7! (22.Nf5!) Ke7 23.Nf5 Kd7 (23...Ke8 24.Qd6 Ng6 25.Ng7 mate; 23...Ke6 24.Qd6 Bd6 25.Rd6 mate) 24.Nd6 Qb4 25.Nc8 Bd6 26.Nd6 Rh8 27.a3! and White is winning; 20... Ng6 21.Rdf1! Be8 22.Nd5 (with the idea Qh2-h8) Bg5 23.Qg5 Qd4 24. Qe7 Ne7 25.Rh8 Ng8 26.e7 mate] **21.b3! Qb4 22.Rh8! Kf7 23.Qf4 Bf6** [23...Kg6 24.Ne6 and White is winning] **24.Rh7!! Kg8** [24...Qc3 25.Qf6 and White is winning; 24...Ng4 25.gf6 Nf6 26.e5 de5 27.Rg7! Kg7 28. Ne6 Kf7 29.Qb4 Ke6 30.Qd6 Kf7 31.Rf1 and White is winning] **25.gf6!! Kh7 26.Qg5!! Rc7** [26...g6 27.Rh1 Kg8 28.Rh8! (28.Qh6! with the idea 28...Rc7 29.Qh8 Kf7 30.Rh7 mate) Kf7 (28...Kh8 29.Qh6 Kg8 30.Qg7 mate) 29.Rh7 Ke8 30.Re7 Kf8 (30...Kd8 31.Ne6 mate) 31.Qh6 Kg8 32. Qg7 mate] **27.Ne6! Rac8 28.fg7 Kg8** [28...Be4 29.g8Q! Rg8 30.Qh5 mate] **29.Rh1 Be4 30.Rh8 Kf7 31.Nc7** [31.g8Q and White is winning] **Qc3 32.g8Q** [32...Rg8 33.Qg8 Kf6 (33...Ke7 34.Qg7) 34.Rh6 Ng6 (34... Bg6 35.Nd5) 35.Qh8] **1-0** [Vasiukov]



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