



COLUMNISTS



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The Ten Best Games of Chess Informant

Sasa Velickovic

It seldom happens that one plays a normal continuation in a tranquil position and then sees a series of beautiful and unexpected moves that cause “consternation.” However, when that happens, you peacefully accept a loss as an inevitable truth. That must have been how the upcoming star Vachier-Lagrave felt when confronted with an avalanche of ideas from grandmaster Akopian during the Dresden Olympiad.

Everything that can be experienced in a game can be seen in this duel, and both players enjoyed it, without regard to the final result, as they offered the chess world the enjoyment of yet another memorable game. The *Chess Informant* jury found it remarkable as well, given that it beat out the fifth match game from the Anand-Kramnik match in Bonn to be chosen as the Best Game of Volume #104. Let's enjoy it together!

<p>DESET NAJBOLJIN 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 BÄSTA PARTIERNA I FÖRSGÅENDE VOLYM 上一卷最优秀的十盘棋</p> <p>الأشواط العشرة الأهم الواردة في العدد السابق</p>									
<p>РЕДАКТОР РЕДАКЦИИ ПРЕДЛОЖЕНИЯ РЕДАКЦИИ EDITORIAL SELECTION VORSCHLAG DER REDAKTION PROPOSITION DE LA REDACTION PROPOSICIÓN DE LA REDACCIÓN REDAKTIONENS FÖRSLAG 編輯部の建議</p> <p>مقترحات التحرير</p>									
	ALEXANDER BELAVSKY	LARRY CHRISTIANSEN	MIKHAIL GUREVICH	ALEXANDRE MATAROVICH	ADRIAN MICHALCZ-ISHIN	ZOLTÁN RIBI	JON STEELMAN		
1. AKOPIAN, VL. — YACHER-LAGRAVE, M.	52	7	9	9	4	10	9	9	51
2. KRAMNIK, V. — AMAND, V.	116	2	2	10	10	7	7	10	48
3. ARONIAN, L. — VOLKITSKY, A.	130	8	10	—	—	9	10	4	34
4. KRAMNIK, V. — AMAND, V.	143	10	—	—	9	9	—	8	34
5. CARLSSEN, M. — ARONIAN, L.	114	1	7	8	4	5	7	6	30
6. AMAND, V. — KRAMNIK, V.	146	9	—	7	8	4	4	6	30
7. CARLSSEN, M. — IVANCHUK, V.	104	—	3	4	4	5	8	1	21
8. TOPALOV, V. — SVIDLER, P.	125	—	8	5	3	—	5	5	27
9. KRAMNIK, V. — SHOTK, N.	83	3	4	—	7	—	—	2	16
10. KAMAKURA, MI. — BRUZON BATISTA, L.	94	6	—	—	—	8	—	—	14
11. LINTCHEVSKI, D. — GALKIN, A.	185	5	—	—	5	1	2	—	15
12. LEKO, P. — GASHIMOV, V.	64	—	4	—	—	1	3	8	10
13. MALAKHOV, V. — PREKOJEVIC, B.	89	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	8
14. KASIMDZHANOV, R. — AKOPIAN, VL.	112	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	8
15. GELFAND, E. — RUBLEVSKY, S.	97	—	—	3	2	—	—	—	5
16. GELFAND, B. — NAIDITSCH, A.	105	—	—	2	—	3	—	—	5
17. RUBLEVSKY, S. — GASHIMOV, V.	47	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
18. BU XIANGZHI — MOVSESIAN, S.	92	—	4	—	—	4	—	—	4
19. SVIDLER, P. — RIZANTSEV, A.	57	—	3	—	—	3	—	—	3
20. DOMINGUEZ PEREZ, L. — MOROZEVICH, A.	78	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	3
21. VITUGOV, N. — TIMOFEEV, AITOM	17	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
22. KANTSLER, B. — URIZKY, M.	163	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
23. NEPOMNIACHICH, I. — VITUGOV, N.	206	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
24. VITUGOV, N. — DYACHKOV, S.	222	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	0
25. VITUGOV, N. — ALEKSEEV, LYVGENY	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
26. VITUGOV, N. — ROIZ, M.	117	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
27. KASIMDZHANOV, R. — CHIPARNOV, I.	150	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
28. NAVROZOV, RAUF — VUKOVIC, BO.	180	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
29. VERA GONZALEZ, L. — PRASCA SOSA, R.	246	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
30. ROBBENTH, M. — GOICO, V.	240	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0

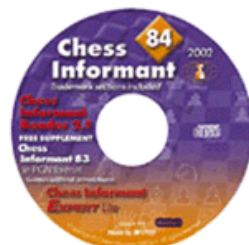
1. Vl.Akopian (2679) – M.Vachier-Lagrave (2716)
Dresden (ol) 2008 — 104/52 [B84]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cd4 4.Nd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 e6 7.Be2 Qc7 8.a4 b6 9.f4 Bb7 10.Bf3 Nbd7 11.Oe2 g6 12.0-0 e5



13.Rad1!! [a novelty; 13.Nb3 see 104/(52)] **Be7** [13...Bg7 14.Ndb5! ab5 15.Nb5 Qb8 16.Nd6 Ke7 17.Qd3 Rd8 (17...Bd5!? 18.Nb5 Bc6 19.Qa3 Kd8 20.Nd6 Ra4 21.Nf7 Kc7 22.Qd6 Kb7 23.fe5 and White is winning) 18. Qa3! Nc5 19.fe5 Ra4 20.Bc5! Ra3 21.Ba3 with attack; 13...ed4 14.Bd4 a) 14...Bg7 15.e5 de5 (15...Bf3 16.Qf3 and White is superior) 16.fe5 Ng8 17. Bb7 Qb7 18.Ne4 with attack; b) 14...0-0 15.e5 de5 16.fe5 Ne8 17.Bb7 Kb7 18.Rf7 with attack; c) 14...Be7 15.e5 de5 (15...Bf3 16.Qf3 and White is superior) 16.fe5 with attack] **14.fe5 Ne5?** [14...de5! 15.Nd5!? Nd5 16.

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ed5 0-0 (16...ed4? 17.Bd4 Rg8 18.d6 and White is winning) 17.Nc6 Bd6 and White is slightly better] **15.Bh6 Bf8 16.Bf8 Kf8 17.Qe3! h6?** [17... Kg7 only move 18.Be2 (18.Qg5 Qc5! 19.Kh1 Nf3 equal) Rhe8 (18...Qc5 19.Kh1 and White is slightly better) 19.Rf6!? Kf6 20.Qh6 Ke7 unclear; 19. Rf4 and White is slightly better]



18.Bh5!! Qe7 [18...Kg7 19.Bg6! Ng6 (19...Kg6 20.Qg3 Nfg4 21.h3 Rag8 22.hg4 Kh7 23.Rf4 and White is superior) 20.Nf5 Kg8 21.Nd6 Ng4 22. Qg3 h5 23.h3 N4e5 24.Nf7! Qf7 25.Rf7 Kf7 26.Rd6! with attack] **19. Bg6! Ng6** [19...fg6 20.Rf6 Qf6 21.Rf1 Qf1 22.Kf1 Re8 23.Nf3 Nf3 24. gf3 and White is superior] **20.Nf5 Qe5 21.Qb6 Be4** [21...Ng4 only move 22.Qd6 Kg8 23.h3! Qd6 24.Nd6 Ne3 25.Nb7 Rb8 26.Nd6 Nd1 27.Nd1 and White is superior] **22.Qd6 Qd6 23.Nd6 Bc2 24.Rf6! Ra7** [24...Bd1 25.Rf7 Kg8 26.Nd5! and White is winning] **25.Rd2 Kg7 26.Rf3!** [26... Bb3 27.Nf5 Kh7 28.Rh3 and White is winning] **1-0 [I.Rogers]**

2. V.Kramnik (2772) – V.Anand (2783)
Bonn (m/5) 2008 — 104/116 [D49]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6 5.e3 Nbd7 6.Bd3 dc4 7.Bc4 b5 8. Bd3 a6 9.e4 c5 10.e5 cd4 11.Nb5 ab5 12.ef6 gf6 13.0-0 Qb6 14.Qe2 Bb7 15.Bb5 Rg8!? [a novelty; 15...Bd6 see 104/(116)] **16.Bf4** [16.g3 Ra5 17.Nd4 Qd4 18.Rd1 Qd1 19.Qd1 Rb5 and Black is superior; 16.Rd1 Ra5 17.Bd7 (17.a4 Rb5 18.ab5 Ne5 with attack) Kd7 18.Rd4 Qd4 19.Nd4 Bg2 equal] **Bd6 17.Bg3** [17.Bd6 Qd6 18.Rfd1 Kf8 (18...e5 19.Rd4 Qd4 20. Nd4 Bg2) 19.Bd7 (19.Rd4 Rg2 20.Kf1 Qc5 21.a4 Ne5 22.Qe3 Qc2!) Qd7 20.Rd4 Qd4 21.Nd4 Bg2 (21...Rg2 22.Kf1 Rh2 23.Qd2 Rh1 24.Ke2 Ba6 25.Ke3 Ra1 26.Qc3 unclear) 22.Qe3 Bh3 23.Qg3 e5 equal] **f5 18.Rfc1** [18.Ne5 d3! 19.Bd7 Ke7 20.Qd3 Be5 21.Qb5 Qb5 22.Bb5 f4 23.Bh4 f6 24.g3 fg3 25.hg3 Bd5 and Black is slightly better] **f4 19.Bh4**



19...Be7! 20.a4 Bh4 21.Nh4 Ke7!? **22.Ra3?!** [22.b4? Rg2! 23.Ng2 Rg8 24.f3 d3 25.Qf2 Bf3 26.Qb6 Rg2 27.Kf1 Nb6 28.Bd3 Nd5 and Black is superior; 22.g3! fg3 23.hg3 Rg5 a) 24.Qd2 Rag8 25.Ra3 (25.Qb4 Kf6 26. Rc4 Rg4) Qd6; b) 24.Bd7 Rag8! 25.a5 Qd6 26.Ra3 Rg3 27.fg3 Rg3 28. Rg3 Qg3 29.Ng2 Bg2 equal, with the idea 30.Qf2 Qg5] **Rac8 23.Rc8 Rc8 24.Ra1 Qc5! 25.Qg4** [25.Qd2 Qd6 26.Rd1 (26.Rc1 Rc1 27.Qc1 Ne5) Ne5 27.Kf1 f3 with initiative] **Qe5** [25...Qc2 26.Qf4 d3 27.Nf5 ef5 28. Re1 Kf8 (28...Kd8 29.Qf5 Bc6 30.Bd3 Qd2 31.Re3 f6 unclear) 29.Qh6 Kg8 30.Bd7 d2 equal] **26.Nf3 Qf6 27.Re1** [27.Nd4? Qd4 28.Rd1 Nf6 and Black is winning; 27.Qg5 Qg5 28.Ng5 Ne5 and Black is superior; 27.Qh4 Qh4 28.Nh4 Ne5 with counterplay; 27.Rd1 Ne5 28.Ne5 Qe5; 27.Bd7!? Kd7 28.Nd4 Ke7 29.Rd1 Rc4] **Rc5 28.b4** [28.h3 h5] **Rc3 29.Nd4??** [29. Bd7 Kd7; 29.Qh5 d3 (29...Bf3 30.gf3 Qg6 31.Qg6 hg6 32.a5 Rb3 33.a6 Rb4 34.Bc6 Nb6 35.a7 Rb2) 30.Rd1 Bf3 31.Qf3 Qd4 32.Bd3 Qb4 33.Qe2 Nf6; 30...Be4] **Qd4 30.Rd1 Nf6** (and Black is winning) **31.Rd4 Ng4 32. Rd7 Kf6 33.Rb7 Rc1 34.Bf1 Ne3 35.fe3 fe3 0-1 [V.Anand]**

3. L.Aronian (2757) – A.Volokitin (2659)
Kallithea 2008 — 104/130 [D94]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e3 g6 5.Nf3 Bg7 6.h3?! 0-0 7.Bd3 Be6?! [7...Nbd7 8.0-0 (8.cd5 see 56/(560)) Re8 9.cd5 cd5 10.Qb3 e5! equal; 7... c5 see 103/(340)] **8.Ng5** [a novelty; 8.cd5; 8.Qb3; 8.b3; 8.Qe2] **Bf5 9.Bf5 gf5 10.Qb3** [10.cd5 Nd5 11.Nd5 Qd5 12.0-0 Nd7 equal] **Qb6** [better is 10...Qd7 11.Bd2 dc4 12.Qc4 Na6 13.Nf3 Ne4 equal] **11.Qc2!** [11.g4!? fg4 12.hg4 Na6 13.cd5 Qb3 14.ab3 Nb4 15.Ke2 cd5 16.f3 Rfc8 equal] **e6**

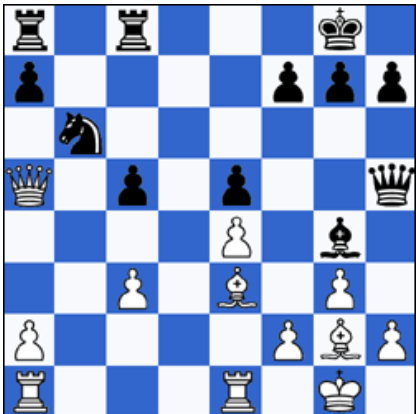
12.g4!? **h6** [12...Na6 13.gf5 Nb4 14.Qe2 h6 15.Nf3 ef5 16.c5 and White is superior] **13.Nf3 fg4 14.hg4** [14.Ne5 gh3 15.c5 Qc7 16.e4 de4 17.Rh3 with compensation] **Ng4 15.e4!** [15.c5 Qc7 16.e4 f5 17.e5 b6 and Black is superior] **dc4** [15...Na6! 16.a3 dc4 17.e5 f5 18.ef6 Rf6 19.Qe4 Rf3! 20.Qf3 Qd4 21.Be3 Ne3 22.Qe3 Qe3 23.fe3 Nc5 and Black is slightly better] **16.e5 Nd7** [16...f5 17.ef6 Rf6 18.Qe4 Rf3 19.Qf3 Qd4 20.Be3 Ne5 21.Qh5 and White is superior] **17.Be3** [17.Rg1 f5 18.ef6 Ndf6 19.Qg6 Rf7 20.Rg4 Ng4 21.Qg4 Raf8 22.Bh6 Qb2 23.Rc1 Kh8 24.Qh3! equal] **f5 18.0-0-0 c5 19.d5 f4?** [19...Nde5 20.Ne5 Ne5 21.Bh6 Rf7 22.Bg7 Rg7 23.Rh6 with compensation; 19...Rae8! 20.Rhg1 ed5 21.Nd5 Qc6 22.Qc4 Kh8 and Black is slightly better]



20.Ng5! hg5 21.Qh7 Kf7 22.Ne4 [22.Qh5 Kg8 23.Qh7 Kf7 equal; 22.de6! Qe6 23.Ne4 Ke8 24.Qg7 Nge5 25.Bc5 Nd3 26.Rd3 cd3 27.Re1! and White is superior] **ed5 23.e6** [23.Ng5 Ke8 24.Qg7 Nge5 25.Bf4 and White is superior] **Ke6 24.Qg7** [24.Ng5 Kd6 25.Qg7 Qc6 26.Nh7 fe3 27.Qg4 Kc7 28.Nf8 Rf8 29.fe3 and White is superior] **Ngf6! 25.Bc5** [25.Ng5 Kd6 26.Bf4 Kc6 27.Rhe1 Kb5 28.Re6 Qa5 unclear] **Nc5 26.Nc5** [26.Nf6 Nd3 27.Rd3 cd3 28.Re1 Kf5 29.Qh7 Kf6 30.Qh6 Kf5 31.Qh7 equal] **Qc5??** [26...Kd6 27.Na4 Qc6 28.Nc3 Rae8 29.Rh6 Kc5 30.Qg5 with initiative] **27.Rde1 Kf5** [27...Kd6 28.Qe7 Kc6 29.Re6 and White is winning] **28.Rh5!** (and White is winning) **Nh5 29.Re5 Kg4 30.Qg5 Kf3 31.Qh5 Kf2 32.Qe2 1-0** [A.Mikhalchishin]

4. V.Kramnik (2772) – V.Anand (2783)
Bonn (m/10) 2008 — 104/143 [E20]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Nf3 c5 5.g3 cd4 6.Nd4 0-0 7.Bg2 d5 8.cd5 Nd5 9.Qb3 Qa5 10.Bd2 Nc6 11.Nc6 bc6 12.0-0 Bc3 13.bc3 Ba6 14.Rfd1 Qc5 15.e4 Bc4 16.Qa4 Nb6 17.Qb4 Qh5 18.Re1!? [a novelty; 18.Bf4 see 103/(376)] c5 [18...Rfd8?! 19.Be3 and White is superior] **19.Qa5** [19.Qa3 Rfc8 20.Be3 Bb5! 21.Qa5 Be2] **Rfc8** [19...Bd3 20.Be3 Nc4 21.Qc5 e5 22.Rad1; better is 20...Rfc8] **20.Be3 Be2** [20...Bd3! 21.e5! Nc4 22.Qa4 Ne5 (22...Qe5 23.Bf4) 23.Qd1 Qd1 (23...Qf5 24.Bc5 and White is slightly better) 24.Rad1 c4 25.Bf4 Nc6 26.Rd2 a5 27.Rb2 Ra6] **21.Bf4!** [21.h3 Nc4 22.Qa6 Ne3 23.Re2 Ng2 24.Kg2 Qe5 equal] **e5** [21...Nc4?! 22.Qa6 Bd3 23.Rad1 with the idea 23...Be2 24.Re2! Qe2 25.Rc1! Rd8 26.Bf1 and White is winning; 21...h6 22.h3; 21...Bd3 22.Rad1 (22.h3) Be2 23.Rc1 Bd3 24.h3 and White is slightly better; 21...Bf3 a) 22.Qa6 Bg2 (22...f6 23.a4 e5 24.Be3 Bg2 25.Kg2 Qf7 26.Rab1 and White is slightly better) 23.Kg2 e5 24.Be3 Qg6 25.f3 Qc6 26.a4 and White is slightly better; b) 22.Qb5 f6 (22...Bg2 23.Kg2 f6 24.Red1) 23.Bd6 (23.Rab1 Bg2 24.Kg2 Qf7) Bg2 24.Kg2 and White is slightly better] **22.Be3** [22.Be5! 23.Nc4 23.Qa6 Qe5 24.Re2 Qc3 25.Ree1 Ne5 26.Rec1 Qd4 27.Rd1 Qc3 28.Rac1 Qb2 29.Qd6 (29.Rb1 Qc3 30.Rb7 c4 31.Ra7 Rab8) c4 30.Rb1 Qc3 31.Rdc1 Qa5 32.Qd5 and White is slightly better] **Bg4** [22...Nc4 23.Qa6 Ne3 24.Re2 and White is slightly better; better is 22...f6 23.h3 (23.Bc5 Nc4 24.Qb5 Rab8 25.Qd7 Rc5 26.Rab1 Rb6 27.Bh3 Kf8 28.Rb6 ab6 29.Be6 Qe8 30.Qe8 Ke8 31.Re2 Nd6 32.Re3 Nb5 and White is slightly better) Bd3 24.Bc5 Nc4 25.Qb5 Qf7 26.Be7! and White is slightly better]



23.Qa6! [23.Bc5 Nc4 24.Qb5 Nd2 (24...Be6!?) 25.Bd6 Nc4 26.Be7 f6 27.Bb4 a5 equal] **f6?!** [23...Bh3 24.a4 and White is superior; 23...Be6! 24.Bf1 Bh3! (24...Qf3 25.a4 Qe4 26.Bf4 Qc2 27.Be5 Re8 28.a5 Nd7 29.Bd6 and White is superior) 25.a4 (25.Bh3 Qh3 26.a4 and White is slightly better) Bf1 26.Qf1 Qf3 27.a5 Nd7 28.Qg2 Qg2 29.Kg2 and White is slightly better] **24.a4** (and White is superior) **Qf7** [24...Be6?! 25.a5 Bc4

26.Qb7 and White is winning] **25.Bf1 Be6** [25...Kh8 26.a5 Nd7 27.Rab1 (27.Bc4 Qh5 28.Bd5) Bf3 28.Rb7 (28.Bc4 Qh5 29.Bd5 and White is superior Qh3 30.Qf1) Be4 29.Ra7 and White is superior; 25...c4 26.Bb6 (26.a5 Nd7) ab6 27.Qb6] **26.Rab1!** [26.Reb1!] **c4?!** [26...Nc4? 27.Rb7; 26...Bc4? 27.Bc4 Qc4 28.Rb6; 26...Kh8 27.a5 Na4 (27...Nc4 28.Rb7 Qg8 29.Bh6! gh6 30.Bc4 and White is winning) 28.Rb7 Qg8 29.Rc1 and White is winning; 26...Rab8 27.a5 (27.Rb5 Nc4 28.Reb1 Rb5 29.Rb5 Ne3 30.fe3 and White is superior) Nc4 28.Rb8 Rb8 29.Bc5 Nd2 30.Bg2 Rc8 31.Qa7 Qa7 32.Ba7 Nc4 and White is superior; 26...Re8 and White is superior] **27.a5 Na4 28.Rb7 Qe8 29.Qd6!** and White is winning [29...Qc6 30.Qe7; 29...Nc3 30.Re7; 29...Rd8 30.Qb4; 29...Bf7 30.Qb4] **1-0** [V.Kramnik]

5. M.Carlsen (2775) – L.Aronian (2737)
Bilbao 2008 — 104/114 [D47]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6 5.e3 Nbd7 6.Bd3 dc4 7.Bc4 b5 8. Bd3 Bb7 9.a3 b4 10.Ne4 Ne4 11.Be4 ba3 12.0-0 Nf6 13.Bd3 ab2 14. Bb2 a5 15.d5!? [a novelty; 15.Qa4 see 101/(358)] **Nd5** [15...ed5 16.Qa4 with compensation, with initiative] **16.Ne5** (with compensation, development advantage) **Nf6** [16...Be7 17.Qh5! with the idea 17...g6 18. Bg6 fg6 19.Ng6 with attack] **17.Qa4 Bb4?!** [17...Qd5 18.Be2 with the idea Bf3; 17...Qc7 18.Rfc1 with compensation] **18.Nc6 Bc6 19.Qc6 Ke7 20.Rfd1 Rc8 21.Qf3 Qb6 22.Bd4 Qb8 23.Ba6 Rcd8 24.Bb7 h5?!** [24... e5 25.Bb6 with compensation, weak point Ke7] **25.h3 h4**



26.Rab1! (and White is winning) **e5** [26...Rh6 27.Rb4! ab4 28.Bc5 Ke8 29.Bc6] **27.Rb4! ab4 28.Bc5 Ke6 29.Ra1 Rd6 30.Bd6 Kd6 31.Qc6 Ke7 32.Ra8 Qd6 33.Qd6 Kd6 34.Rh8 b3 35.Ba6 Nd7 36.Rh4 Nc5 1-0** [Bjelajac]

6. V.Anand (2783) – V.Kramnik (2772)
Bonn (m/6) 2008 — 104/146 [E34]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 d5 5.cd5 Qd5 6.Nf3 Qf5 7.Qb3 Nc6 8.Bd2 [8.a3 see 81/(441)] **0-0**



9.h3! [a novelty; 9.e3] **b6** [9...Rd8!? 10.g4 Qg6 11.Rc1] **10.g4 Qa5 11. Rc1 Bb7 12.a3 Bc3 13.Bc3 Qd5 14.Qd5 Nd5 15.Bd2 Nf6** [15...Rfd8 16. e3 (16.Bg2 Na5 17.Ba5 Nf4! with counterplay; 16.Rg1 Rac8 17.Bg2 Nb8 with the idea Nd7) Rac8] **16.Rg1 Rac8** [16...Rfd8 17.g5 Ne8 18.e3 and White is slightly better] **17.Bg2 Ne7** [17...Nb8 18.Bf4; 17...Ba8! 18.Bg5 (18.g5 Ne4 19.Bf4 Na5 with counterplay) Na5 (18...Ne4 19.Be3 Ne7 20. Ng5 Ng5 21.Bg5 f6 22.Ba8 Ra8 23.Bf4 Rfd8 24.g5 Ng6 25.gf6 Rd4 26. Be3 Rd7 27.fg7 Kg7 28.b4) 19.Bf6 gf6 20.Nd2 Bg2 21.Rg2 Rfd8 (21...c5 22.dc5 bc5 23.Ne4) 22.b4 (22.e3 c5 23.dc5 Rd2 24.Kd2 Nb3 equal) Nb7 23.Nb3 a5 24.e3 (24.ba5 Na5 25.Na5 ba5 26.e3 c5 27.dc5 Rd5 equal) ab4 25.ab4 Rd5 with the idea Rb5] **18.Bb4 c5** [18...Rfe8 19.Ne5 Bg2 20.Rg2 and White is slightly better] **19.dc5 Rfd8 20.Ne5 Bg2 21.Rg2 bc5** [21... Nc6 22.cb6 Ne5 23.Rc8 Rc8 24.b7 Rb8 25.Bd6 Nf3 26.ef3 Rb7 with compensation; 22.Nd3 and White is slightly better] **22.Rc5 Ne4 23.Rc8 Rc8 24.Nd3 Nd5 25.Bd2 Rc2 26.Bc1 f5** [26...Nc5 27.Kd1 Nd3 28.ed3 Rc8 29.g5! with the idea Rg4-c4 and White is superior] **27.Kd1 Rc8 28. f3 Nd6 29.Ke1** [29.e3 Nc4 30.Re2 Rd8 31.Kc2 Rc8 32.Kb3 Na5 33.Ka4! (33.Ka2 Rc3 34.Rd2) Nc6 34.Bd2 and White is slightly better] **a5 30.e3** [with the idea Re2, e4] **e5 31.gf5 e4 32.fe4 Ne4 33.Bd2** [33.Ke2! Nd6 34. Rg4 Nf5 35.Ra4] **a4?** [33...Re8! 34.Nf4! (34.Ba5? Ne3 35.Rh2 Nc4) Re5 (34...Nf4 35.ef4 and White is superior) 35.Nd5 Rd5 36.Bc3 Nc3 37.bc3

Rd3; 35.Ne6] **34.Nf2 Nd6** [34...Nd2 35.Kd2 Rb8 36.Nd3 Re8 37.Rg4 Ne3 38.Ra4 Nf5 39.b4 and White is winning] **35.Rg4** [35.Ke2 Rc2 36.Nd1 Nf6 37.Kd3 Rc5 38.Nc3 and White is winning] **Nc4 36.e4** [36.Nd1!] **Nf6 37.Rg3 Nb2** [37...Ne4 38.Ne4 Re8 39.Bc3 Re4 40.Kf2 Ne5 41.f6 g6 42.Rg5 a) 42...Nd7 43.Kf3 Re6 (43...Rc4 44.Rd5 and White is winning) 44.Ra5 and White is winning; b) 42...Nd3 43.Kf3 and White is winning] **38.e5 Nd5** [better is 38...Re8 39.e6 Nc4 40.Bc3 (40.Bh6 g6) Nd6! 41.Ng4 only move Nh5 42.Nh6 Kf8 43.Rg5 g6 44.fg6 only move (44.Rh5 gh5 45.Bb4 Kg7 46.Bd6 Kh6 47.Bf4 Kg7 48.Bg5 h6 49.Bh4 Kf8!)] Re6 45.Re5! Rg6 46.Rh5 and White is winning] **39.f6 Kf7** [39...g6 40.Ne4 Nc4 41.e6 and White is winning] **40.Ne4! Nc4** [40...Ke6 41.fg7 Ne7 42.Ng5 Kd5 43.Nh7 and White is winning] **41.fg7 Kg8** [41...Rg8 42.Nd6 Nd6 43.ed6 Ke6 44.Bh6 Kd6 45.Rf3 and White is winning] **42.Rd3 Ndb6** [42...Nd2 43.Kd2 Nb6 44.Rg3 Nd5 45.Nf6 Nf6 46.ef6 and White is winning] **43.Bh6 Ne5 44.Nf6 Kf7 45.Rc3! Rc3 46.g8Q Kf6 47.Bg7** [47...Kf5 48.Qh7 Ke6 49.Qh6 and White is winning; 47...Ke7 48.Qf8! (48.Be5 Re3) Kd7 49.Qf5 and White is winning] **1-0** [V.Anand]

7. M.Carlsen (2775) – V.Ivanchuk (2781)
Bilbao 2008 — 104/104 [D37]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 Be7 5.Bf4 0-0 6.e3 c5 7.dc5 Bc5 8.Qc2 Nc6 9.a3 Qa5 10.0-0-0 Be7 11.h4 Rd8 12.Nd2 a6!? 13.Be2 [a novelty; 13.g4 see 104/(104)]



13...b5! 14.cd5 [14.cb5?! ab5 a) 15.Bb5 Bd7 (15...Bb7!?) 16.Nb3 Qb6 a1) 17.Kb1 Nb4 18.Qe2 (18.ab4 Bb5) Ne4 19.ab4 Nc3 20.bc3 Bb5 21.Qb2 Ra4 and Black is superior; a2) 17.a4 Rdc8 18.Kb1 e5 with initiative; b) 15.Nb5 e5 16.Bg3 (16.Qc6 Bd7 17.Qc2 Bb5 and Black is winning) Ba6 with initiative; 14.Bf3 b4! (14...Bb7!?!; 14...Qb6 15.cd5 ed5 16.Nb3 Be6 with initiative; 14...bc4 15.Nc4 Qc5 16.Na4 Qb5 17.Ncb6!) 15.Nb3 Qb6 a) 16.cd5 ed5 17.Nd5 Nd5 18.Bd5 (18.Rd5 Be6 19.Rd8 Rd8 20.Qc6 Rc8 and Black is winning) Rd5 19.Rd5 ba3 and Black is superior; b) 16.Na4 Qa7 17.c5 e5 18.Bg5 e4 19.Be2 ba3 20.ba3 Rb8 and Black is superior] **ed5** [14...Nd5 15.Nd5 ed5 16.Bd3!? (16.Qc6 Bf5 17.Bc7 Qa3 18.Nb1 Qa1 19.Bd3 Bd3 20.Rd3 Rdc8 with compensation, with the idea 21.Rc3 b4 22.Rc2 b3 23.Rc3 Bb4 with attack) Be6 17.Bh7 (17.Kb1 Rac8!) Kh8 18.Kb1 Rac8 19.Nf3 b4 20.Ng5 Bf6 with attack] **15.g4?!** [15.Bf3?! Be6 16.Nb3 Qb6 17.Nd4 Nd4 18.Rd4 Rac8 and Black is superior; 15.Nb3 Qb6 16.Nd4 Nd4 17.Rd4 Bc5 18.Be5 Bd4 19.Bd4 with compensation] **Be6 16.Nb3** [16.g5 Ne4 17.Nde4 (17.Nb3 Qb6 18.Ne4 de4 19.Rd8 see 16.Nb3) de4 18.Rd8 Rd8 19.Rd1 (19.Ne4 Rc8 20.Kb1 b4 with initiative) Rc8 and Black is slightly better] **Qb6** (with attack) **17.g5** [17.Kb1 Rac8 18.f3 b4 with attack] **Ne4 18.Ne4 de4 19.Rd8 Nd8!?** [19...Rd8?! 20.Kb1 (20.Rd1? Rc8) Rc8 21.Rc1 equal; 19...Qd8 20.Kb1 (20.Nc5 Bc5 21.Qc5 Rc8 22.Rd1 Nd4 23.ed4 Bb3 24.Rd2 f5 25.gf6 gf6 26.Be3 and Black is superior) Qd5 21.Nc1 Rc8 22.Qd1 Qc5 23.Nb3 Qf5 with initiative] **20.Kb1** [20.Bc7 Qa7 21.Ba5 (21.Be5 Rc8 22.Bc3 Nc6 with attack) Rc8 22.Bc3 b4 23.ab4 Bb4 24.Nd4 and Black is slightly better; 22...Nc6 with the idea b4 with attack] **Rc8 21.Qd1** [21.Qe4? Bb3 22.Qe7 (22.Bd3 Qg6 and Black is winning) Qc6 23.e4 a) 23...Ne6 24.Rc1 Bc2 (24...Qe4 25.Ka1 Rc1 26.Bc1 Qc6 and Black is winning) 25.Ka1 Nf4 26.Bd1; 25...Nd4 and Black is winning; b) 23...Qc2 24.Ka1 Ne6 25.Bg4 Qe4 and Black is winning] **Nc6 22.h5 a5! 23.g6** [23.h6 a) 23...g6 24.Nd2 (24.Nd4 Rd8 and Black is slightly better) b4 25.a4 b3 with attack; b) 23...a4 24.Nd4 Rd8 25.hg7 b4 26.Qa4 (26.ab4 a3! 27.ba3 Nd4 28.ed4 Bb4 and Black is winning) Nd4 27.ed4 ba3 28.Qb5 Qd4 29.Be3 (29.Rd1 a2) Qg7 and Black is winning] **a4 24.Nd2** [24.Nd4 Nd4 25.ed4 (25.Qd4 Qc6 and Black is winning) Qc6 26.Bg4 f5 27.d5 Qd5 28.Qd5 Bd5 29.Rd1 (29.Bf5 Rf8 and Black is winning) Be6 30.Be2 and Black is superior; 25...b4] **b4 25.gf7** [25.Nc4 Bc4 26.Bc4 ba3 a) 27.Qc2 h6 (27...Kh8! 28.h6 hg6 29.hg7 Kg7 30.Qc3 Nd4 31.Be5) 28.Bf7 Kh8 29.Be5 Bf8! 30.Bc3 (30.Qe4 Ne5 31.Qe5 Rc5 and Black is winning) Ne5 31.Ba2 a1) 31...Nd3 32.Bd5 Rc7 (32...ab2? 33.Bg7!)) 33.Rh4 Nb2 34.Ka1 Nd3 and Black is winning; a2) 31...Bb4 32.Bd4 Rc2 33.Bb6 Rb2 34.Ka1 Nd3 35.Bd4 Rf2 36.Rd1 and Black is superior; b) 27.Bf7 Kh8 28.Qc2 Nd8 29.Qd2 Bf6 and Black is winning] **Bf7 26.Nc4** [26.Bc4 ba3 27.Bf7 Kf7 28.Nc4 Qb5 29.Qd7 Qc4 30.Qc8 Qd3] **Qb7!** [26...Qc5 27.Bd6!] **27.Qa4 ba3 28.Na3 Ba3 29.Qa3 Nb4! 30.b3 Nd3 31.Bd3 ed3 32.Rc1 d2** [33.Rc8 Qc8 34.Qd6 Qc1 35.Ka2 Qc2] **0-1** [V.Ivanchuk]

8. **V.Topalov (2791) – P.Svidler (2727)**
Nanjing 2008 — 104/125 [D87]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cd5 Nd5 5.e4 Nc3 6.bc3 Bg7 7.Bc4 c5 8. Ne2 Nc6 9.Be3 0-0 10.0-0 Bd7 11.Rb1 Qc7 12.Bd3 [12.Qd2!? Rad8 13. Bh6 Na5 14.Bd3 e5 15.Bg7 Kg7 16.Qe3! and White is slightly better] **Rfd8 13.h3** [a novelty; 13.Qc1 see 94/366; 13.f4 cd4 14.cd4 Bg4 15.d5 Nd4 16.Qd2 Ne2 17.Be2 and White is slightly better] **Be8** [13...e5 14.d5 Na5 15.Qd2 b6 16.f4 Nb7 17.f5 with initiative] **14.d5 Ne5 15.c4** [15.f4 Nd3 16.Qd3 b5 17.c4 a6 18.Rfc1 Rac8 19.Qd2 b4 unclear] **e6** [15...b6 16. f4 Nd3 17.Qd3 e6 18.e5 and White is superior] **16.Nf4** [16.Nc3 Qa5! (16... Nc4 17.Bc4 Bc3 18.Qb3 and White is superior) 17.Rb3 a6 18.f4 Nd3 19. Qd3 b5 with initiative] **Rab8** [16...Nd3 17.Qd3 b6 18.Qc2 and White is slightly better; 16...Rd6!? V.Topalov] **17.Be2** [17.Qc2!? Nd3 18.Nd3 and White is slightly better; V.Topalov] **Rd6** [17...Nc6 18.Qc1 Nd4 19.Bd3 (19.Bd4 cd4 20.de6 d3 21.Nd3 fe6 with compensation; V.Topalov) e5 20. Ne2 and White is slightly better] **18.Qc2 Ra6**



19.Rb5 Bf8 [19...Bb5 20.cb5 Rd6 (20...Ra3 21.Bc1 Ra5 22.de6 and White is superior) 21.Qc5 Qc5 22.Bc5 and White is superior] **20.a4 Bb5** [20...Rc8 21.Qa2 Bb5? 22.cb5 Rd6 23.de6 fe6 24.Ne6 Qf7 25.Bc4 Nc4 26.Ng5 and White is winning; 21...Be7] **21.cb5 Rd6 22.Qc3** [22.Qc5 Qc5 23.Bc5 Rd7 24.Ba7 Ra8 25.b6 Bh6 26.g3 and White is superior] **Bg7 23. Qc5 Rc8** [23...Qc5 24.Bc5 Rd7 25.de6 fe6 26.Ne6 and White is superior] **24.Qa7 b6** [24...Qd8!? 25.Bc5 Ra8 26.Qa8 Qa8 27.Bd6 Qa4 28.Rc1 h6 29.de6] **25.Qc7 Rc7 26.Rd1 Bf6** [26...g5 27.Nh5 h6 28.f4 and White is superior] **27.de6 Rd1 28.Bd1 fe6 29.Bb3 1-0** [A.Mikhalchishin]

9. **V.Kramnik (2772) – N.Short (2642)**
Dresden (I) 2008 — 104/88 [D07]

1.d4 Nc6 2.Nf3 d5 3.c4 Bg4 4.Nc3 e6 5.cd5 ed5 6.Bf4 Bd6 [6...Nf6 see 98/270; 6...Bf3 see 98/271] **7.Bg3 Nge7** [7...Bf3 8.gf3 see 6...Bf3] **8.e3 Qd7 9.a3** [a novelty; 9.Bd3 Nb4!? 10.Bb1 c6 11.a3 Na6; 9.Be2] **0-0 10. Bd3** (and White is slightly better) **a6** [10...h6 11.Qc2] **11.Bd6 Bf3** [11... Qd6? 12.Bh7 Kh7 13.Ng5 Kg6 14.Qg4 f5 15.Qf4 Qf4 16.ef4 and White is superior] **12.Qf3 Qd6 13.Qg3!** [13.0-0 Nd8! 14.b4 Ne6] **Rfd8** [13...Qd7 14.Na4 b6 15.Nc3 (and White is slightly better) Nd8 16.0-0 Ne6 17.Rfd1] **14.b4 g6 15.Na4 Nc8** [15...b6 16.Rc1 and White is superior] **16.Rc1!** [16.0-0 Qg3 17.hg3 Nb8! 18.Nc5 Nd6 19.Rfc1 c6] **Ra7** [16...b5 17.Nc5 Qg3 18.hg3 Nd6 19.Ne6 fe6 20.Rc6 and White is superior] **17.0-0** [17. Nc5 Qg3 18.hg3 N6e7 19.g4 Nd6 and White is slightly better] **b5?!** [17... Qg3 18.hg3 Nd6 19.g4 Ne8 and White is slightly better] **18.Qd6 Rd6 19. Nc3!** [19.Nc5 Nb6! 20.Na6 Nc4 21.a4 ba4 22.Bc4 dc4 23.b5 Ne7 24.Rc4 c6 unclear] **N6e7** [19...Nd8 20.Bb5 (20.a4 ba4 21.Na4 and White is superior) ab5 21.Nb5 c6 22.Na7 Na7 23.a4 and White is superior]



20.Bb5! and White is superior [20.a4 c6 21.Ra1 and White is slightly better] **ab5 21.Nb5 Rda6 22.Na7 Ra7 23.Rc5! Nb6** [23...Ra3 24.Rc7 and White is superior] **24.Ra1 Kf8 25.a4 Ke8 26.a5 Nc4 27.Ra2** [with the idea e4; 27.e4 Nd2!; 27.g4!] **f5! 28.Kf1 Kd7 29.Ke2 Nd6** [29...c6 30.f3 and White is superior; 29...Kd6 30.a6 and White is superior] **30.b5 Nc4 31.Ra4** [31.a6] **Kd8** [31...Na5 32.Rc2 and White is winning] **32.a6 Nb6 33.Ra1 Nec8 34.h3! h5?!** [34...Nd7 35.Kd3!? (35.Rc2) Nc5 36.dc5 and White is superior] **35.g4! hg4 36.hg4 fg4 37.Rg1** [37.Rh1 Ne7 38.Rh8 Kd7 39.Rb8 Kd6 40.Rb7! Rb7 41.ab7 Nd7 42.Rc1 and White is winning] **Ne7** (time) **38.Rg4 Na4 39.Rh4! c6** [39...Nc5 40.Rh8 Kd7 41.dc5 Ke6 42.

Kd3 and White is winning] **40.Rh8 Kc7 41.Rc2** (and White is winning) **Nb6** [41...Kd6 42.Rd8 Kc7 43.Re8 Kd6 44.Re7 Ke7 45.Rc6 Ra8 46.b6] **42.Rh7 Kb8 43.bc6 Rc7 44.Kf3 Ka7 45.Ra2 Nbc8 46.Rb2 Ka6** [46...Rc6 47.Rb7 Ka6 48.Rbe7 Ne7 49.Re7; 46...Nb6 47.Kg4 Ka6 48.Kg5] **47.Rh1! 1-0** [V.Kramnik]

10. Hi.Nakamura (2704) – L.Bruzon Batista (2622)
Dresden (I) 2008 — 104/94 [D15]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 dc4 5.a4 e6 6.e4 Bb4 7.e5 Nd5 8.Bd2 b5 9.ab5 Bc3 10.bc3 cb5 11.Ng5 Nc6 12.Qh5 Qe7 13.Ne4!? [a novelty; 13.Be2 see 102/284] **0-0 14.Bg5** [14.Be2 b4 unclear] **f6!** [14...Qc7 15.Nf6 (15.Be2) gf6 16.Bf6 Nf6 17.Qg5 (17.ef6 Kh8) Kh8 18.Qf6 Kg8 19.Qg5 Kh8 equal] **15.ef6** [15.Bh4 Qc7 16.ef6 Qf4! and Black is superior] **gf6 16.Bh6 Rd8** [16...Bd7! 17.Bf8 (17.Be2) Rf8 18.Be2 f5 19.Qg5 (19.Ng3 Nc3 20.0-0 Be8 21.Qf3 Nd5 and Black is superior) Qg5 20.Ng5 h6 21.Nf3 Nc3 22.Ne5 Rd8! and Black is slightly better] **17.Be2 e5** [better is 17...Qf7 18.Qh4 Qg6 19.Bf3 Nce7 20.Nf6 Nf6 21.Ba8 Nf5 22.Qg5 Nh6 23.Qg6 hg6 24.Ra7 b4 25.g4 Nf7 (25...Nhg4?! 26.h3 Nh6 27.Rg1 with attack) 26.cb4 e5 27.de5 Ne5 and Black is slightly better] **18.0-0 Qf7 19.Qh4 Bf5 20.Ra6** [20.Bh5 Bg6 21.Ra6 Rac8 22.Bg4 Rc7 23.Re1 with compensation] **Be4**



21.Rc6! [21.Qe4 Nc3 22.Qg4 Kh8 23.Rc6 Rg8 24.Bc4 (24.Qf3?! Ne2 25.Qe2 Qd5 and Black is winning) bc4 25.Qf3 Ne2 26.Kh1 Nd4 27.Rf6 Nf3 28.Rf7 Nd4 29.Re1 Rge8 and Black is slightly better] **Nf4** [21...Qg6!?] **22.Rf6! Ne2 23.Kh1 Qb7 24.Qg5 Bg6** [24...Kh8 25.f3 Bg6 26.Qe5 Kg8 27.Qe2 Re8 28.Qd2 Qd5 29.Qf4 with attack] **25.Rg6** [25.Re1 Nf4 (25...Nc3 26.Re5! and White is winning) 26.Re5 Qg2 27.Qg2 Ng2 28.Kg2 a5 29.h4 Kh8! 30.h5 Bd3 31.Bg5 b4 32.cb4 ab4 33.Rf3 Rg8 34.Kh2 Rgf8 35.Bf6 Rf6 36.Rf6 c3 37.Rb6 Rc8 38.Re1 c2 39.Rc1 Rc4 unclear] **hg6 26.Qg6 Kh8 27.Bg5** [and White is superior, weak point Kh8] **Rf8 28.Bf6 Rf6 29.Qf6 Kg8 30.Qe6** [30.Qe5 Nc3 31.Qg3 Qg7 32.Qc3 Rd8 33.Rd1 Qf6 34.Kg1 a6 35.g3 and White is slightly better] **Qf7** [30...Kh7 31.Qe5 b4 (31...Nc3 32.Re1! Qg7 33.Qh5 Kg8 34.Re3 and White is winning) 32.Qe2 (32.f4!?) b3 33.Qc4 a5 34.Qd3 Kh8 35.d5 b2 36.d6 Rb8 37.Rb1 and White is winning; 30...Kf8 31.Qe5 Qh7 32.Qe2 Qd3 33.Qe1 Re8 34.Qc1 and White is superior] **31.Qg4 Qg7** [31...Kf8 32.Qe2 ed4 33.Qe5 Re8 34.Qh8 Qg8 35.Qd4 and White is superior] **32.Qe2 ed4 33.cd4** [33.Qe6 Qf7 (33...Kh8? 34.Re1 Rg8 35.g3 Qg6 36.Qe5 Qg7 37.Qb5 and White is winning) 34.Qg4 Qg7 35.Qf5! Rd8 36.Qb5 dc3 37.Qc4 Kf8 38.Qc5 Kg8 39.h3 and White is winning] **Rd8 34.Rb1 Qd4 35.Qe6 Kg7 36.Qe7 Kh8 37.h3 a6** [37...c3 38.Rb5 Qd1 39.Kh2 Qd6 40.Qd6 Rd6 41.Re5 Rd3 42.h4 and White is winning] **38.Re1!** (and White is winning) **c3 39.Re5 Qd1 40.Kh2 Qd6 41.Qh4 Kg7 42.Qg3** [42.f4] **Kf6 43.f4 c2 44.Qg5 Kf7 45.Qf5 Kg7 46.Qc2 Rf8 47.Rg5 Kf7 48.Qh7 Ke8 49.Re5 Kd8 50.Qb7 1-0** [L. Bruzon Batista]