



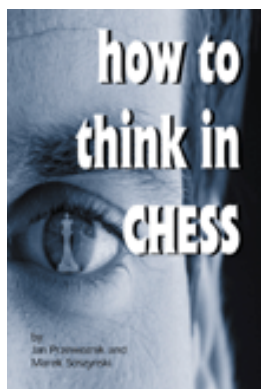
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COLUMNISTS

Opening Lanes

Gary Lane



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Opening Lanes is based in large part on readers' questions. Do you have a question about a particular opening line? Baffled by a branch of the Benoni or Budapest? Submit your questions (with you full name and country of residence please) and perhaps Gary will reply in his next *Chess Cafe* column...

Yes, I have a question for Gary!

New Year Innovations

The art of home analysis is a fond subject by old masters from the Soviet Union who would lovingly tell a tale or two about how they spent a month finding a new move in the Sicilian and waited six years to actually play it in a tournament. Nowadays, things are rather different with so much information available. However, a determined player can always come up with something new and leave their impact on the chess world. This is the reason why I always welcome an insight into the mystery of home preparation as a way to seek out new and interesting ideas.

“My name is **Camiel Peerlings** from **Holland**. For about a year now I have been bothering a bunch of club players about a line in the Queen's Gambit Accepted. I guess one of them really got tired of seeing the variation over and over again and suggested dropping you a note, hoping for clarification. In Chris Ward's book *Queen's Gambit Accepted*, he spends a good deal of time on the following variation, a sharp and sound response to 1 d4: 1 d4 d5 2 c4 dxc4 3 e4 Nc6. Among

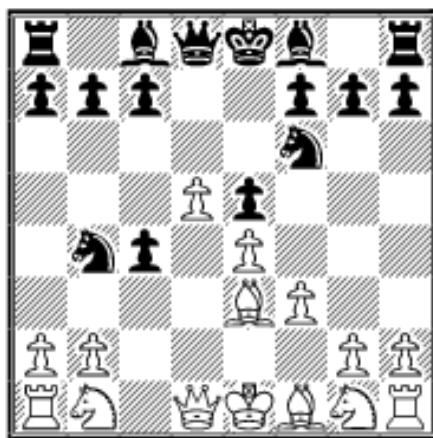


several interesting responses, he includes 4 Be3 Nf6 5 f3 e5 6 d5 Starting from this position, he mentions two games and concludes that it is up to black to find improvements. These games continued with either Ne7 or Nd4. My question is why hasn't anyone (to my knowledge) ever played 6...Nb4 with the following idea: 7 Bxc4 Nxe4 (A) 8 fxe4 Qh4+ 9 Kd2 Qxe4 (now ...Nb4 at least picks up the rook for two minor pieces) 10 Qe2 Bg4 11 Nf3 0-0-0 (B) 8 Bb5+ c6 9 dxc6 Qxd1+ 10 Kxd1 bxc6 11 Ba4 Nc5 12 Bxc5 Bxc5 13 a3 Nd3 14 Bxc6+ Ke7 (Bd7) 15 Bxa8 Nf2+ etc. It seems to me that Nb4 in combination with Nxe4 is playable. Why has that not been done before; have I overlooked something???"

It is not always possible put everything into a book and with players such as Piket and Miles favouring 6...Nd4 it is understandable why this is the favourite move. However, 6...Nb4 has been played a few times, admittedly with a different approach than your suggestion.

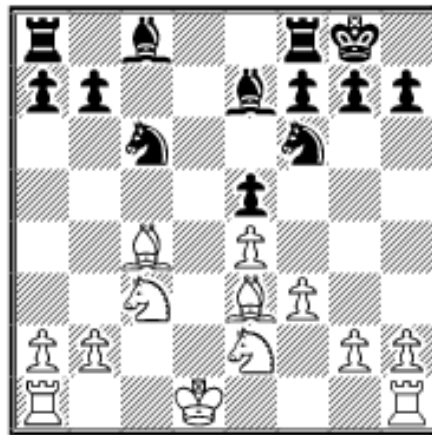
Igor Polovodin-Evgenly Najer St Petersburg 1999

1 d4 d5 2 c4 dxc4 3 e4 Nc6 4 Be3 Nf6 5 f3 e5 6 d5 Nb4



This is the move that is the source of all the controversy. The usual move 6...Nd4 was tried in K.Allen-A.Baburin, Belfast 2001. That game went 7 Bxc4?! (7 Bxd4 exd4 8 Qxd4 c6 is considered the main line) 7...Bc5! 8 Bf2 (or 8 Bg5 h6 9 Bh4 c6 is fine for Black) 8...c6 9 dxc6 Qb6 10

Qd2 0-0 11 Nc3 Nxc6 12 Bd5 Nb4 13 Rd1 Nfxd5 14 Bxc5 Qxc5 15 Nxd5 (15 exd5 Bf5 is very good for Black) 15...Nc2+ 16 Kf1 Be6 17 Qc3 Qxc3 18 bxc3 Bxd5 0-1. **7 Bxc4** In the game T.Laasanen-J.Kivimaki, Heart of Finland 1997, White tried 7 Nc3 possibly to over-protect e4. There followed: 7...Nd3+ (7...c6!? is a possibility) 8 Bxd3 cxd3 9 Rc1 a6 10 Qxd3 Bd6 11 Nge2 with equal chances. **7...c6 8 dxc6 8 Nc3 Nfxd5 9 Nxd5 cxd5 10 Bxd5 Qa5 11 Kf2 Bc5 12 Qd2** and now instead of 12...0-0 with the better chances as played in the game A.Sneitz-J.Kivimaki, Finnish Team Championship 2000. I suggest 12...Bxe3+ causing White a lot of trouble after 13 Kxe3 (13 Qxe3 Nc2 wins) 13...Qb6+ 14 Ke2 0-0 with a strong initiative. **8...Qxd1+ 9 Kxd1 Nxc6 10 Ne2** Also possible: 10 Nc3 Be6 11 Bxe6 fxe6 12 Rc1 Nd7 (12...Rd8+ 13 Ke1 Nd4 is worth investigating) 13 Nh3 Bc5 14 Ke2 Nd4+ 15 Bxd4 exd4 16 Nb5 Ke7 gave White a slight edge in H.Urday-F.Cruz, Buenos Aires 1998. **10...Be7 11 Nbc3 0-0**



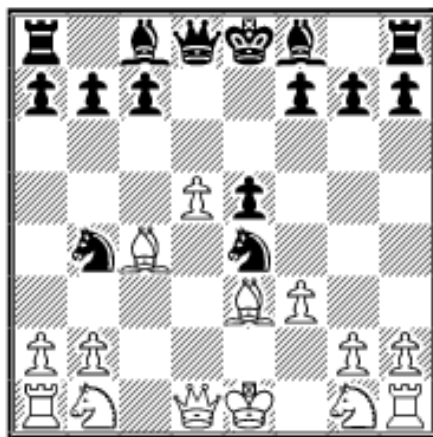
12 Kc2?! A slight inaccuracy that allows any opening advantage to slip away. 12 a3 to give the bishop an escape square is a wiser idea. **12...Na5! 13 Bd5** Or 13 Nd5 Nxc4 14 Nxe7+ Kh8 15 Bg5 Be6 is equal. **13...Nxd5 14 Nxd5 Bd6**

15 Rhd1 Be6 16 Nec3 Rfc8 17 Rd3 17 b3 has the merit of taking away the c4 square from black's knight. **17...Nc4 18 Bf2 b5** Najer now has a decent initiative based on White's exposed king getting in the way of the rest of the pieces. **19 a3 a5 20 Nb6 20 Kb1** is met by 20...Rab8 followed by advancing the b-pawn. **20...Nxb6 21 Bxb6 Rc6 22 Be3 Rac8 23**

Rad1? 23 Kd1 is necessary to avoid the pin on the c-file and experience the least problems. 23...Bc4 24 Rd2 b4 is better for Black. **23...Bf8 24 Kb1** 24 Kd2 b4 25 axb4 axb4 26 Na4 (26 Ne2 Rc2+ 27 Ke1 Rxb2 is very good for Black) 26...Rc2+ 27 Ke1 Rxb2 winning. **24...Bb3! 25 Rc1** 25 R1d2 b4 26 Ne2 Bc2+ and White's position collapses. **25...b4 26 axb4 axb4 27 Nd5 Rxc1+ 28 Bxc1 Bc2+ 0-1**

It is time for a closer look at your analysis:

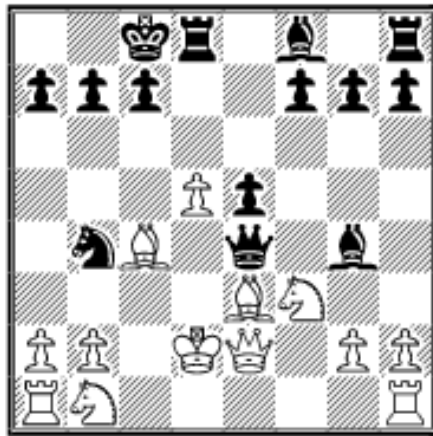
1 d4 d5 2 c4 dxc4 3 e4 Nc6 4 Be3 Nf6 5 f3 e5 6 d5 Nb4 7 Bxc4 Perhaps 7 Nc3 is worth investigating. **7...Nxe4!?**



This is Camiel's big idea and it looks fairly impressive. The intention is to give White a fright by forcing the king to move while picking up a couple of pawns for the piece. **8 fxe4** The easiest way to try and refute a sacrifice is to take the

material! **8 Bb5+?** is a mistake because Black gets all the play without taking any further risks. For example: **8...c6 9 dxc6 Qxd1+ 10 Kxd1 bxc6 11 Ba4** (11 Bxc6+ restores the material balance but after **11...Nxc6 12 fxe4 Rb8** Black has the initiative) **11...Nc5 12 Bxc5 Bxc5 13 a3 Nd3 14 Bxc6+ Ke7 15 Bxa8 Nf2+** when Black has the advantage. **8...Qh4+ 9 Kd2** Or **9 Kf1 Qxe4 10 Qe2 Nc2** wins. **9...Qxe4 10 Qe2** The queen is needed to defend the bishop on c4 and the pawn on g2. **10 Na3!?** gets another piece into the game and covers the c2-square while defending the light-squared bishop. Play might continue: **10...Qxg2+ 11 Ne2 Nxd5** Black has four pawns for the piece but the lead in development for White

makes the position delightfully unclear. If I had to go for one colour I think it would be Black. Then again...! **10...Bg4 11 Nf3 0-0-0**



This is where the analysis ends and it must be considered the critical position. It is probably best to see what happens in tournament play to make a final judgement but my intuition suggests that White might be doing all right in this position.

The key is to co-ordinate the pieces and a good start is to move the king off the d-file. Instead, I would suggest **11...Qc2+! 12 Ke1** and now **12...e4** as one way for Black to make quick progress and secure the advantage. **12 Kc1 Nxd5 13 Bxd5 Qxd5 14 Nc3** when White is unravelling his pieces and should be better.

Andrew Crigger from the **USA** needs help to prepare for a game. He writes, "I am only a 1500 player out of Tennessee. I am currently in an in town match against a 1650. The first game was a Sicilian with the Levinfish and it ended in a draw. Our next game I will have white. He has been studying the Dutch for a while so I think instead of playing against his Najdorf, I will meet him with d4. My question is about the opening **1 d4 f5 2 e4?! It seems less sound, but he is definitely not familiar with the Dutch well enough to know these types of gambit lines. I have been a d4 player for years so these types of gambits aren't unusual for me, but as of the last year I have stuck with e4 trying to test his tactics, I want him in a different field. Thanks for all your help."**

The opening variation that has caught your eye is

known as the Staunton Gambit and has a long history having being named after Howard Staunton who played it against Horwitz in 1847. Basically, it is a bold attempt to demonstrate that by giving away the central pawn White can show that Black's first move is misguided because it exposes the king. In practical experience it scores well at club level where an accurate defence is awkward to play when White has a rampaging attack. Here is an example of how easy it is for Black to go wrong:

Jevgenyij Boguszlavskij-Hu Schulze First Saturday Budapest 2002

1 d4 f5 2 e4



White declares his aggressive intentions by playing the Staunton Gambit. **2...fxe4** 2...d6 is popular but makes no attempt at trying to test the effectiveness of the gambit 3 exf5 Bxf5 4 Qf3 Qc8 5 Bd3 Bg4 (also possible 5...Bxd3 6 Qxd3

Nf6 7 Nf3 with a slight advantage) 6 Qg3 Nf6 7 Nc3 Nc6 8 Nge2 e5 (8...Nb4!? to exchange the useful light-squared bishop should be considered) 9 Be3 exd4 10 Bxd4 Nxd4 11 Nxd4 Qd7 12 h3 Be6 (12...Bh5 13 0-0 intending Re1+ is strong because 13...0-0-0?? is horrible after 14 Bf5) 13 0-0-0 0-0-0 14 Rhe1 when Black did the honourable thing and resigned in view of 14 ..Re8 15 Nxe6 Rxe6 16 Bf5 **3 Nc3 Nf6 4 Bg5** 4 f3 d5 (if 4...exf3 then 5 Nxf3 e6 6 Bd3 is usual a prelude to a decent White attack) 5 fxe4 dxe4 6 Bc4 White temporarily cuts off the option of Black castling kingside (6 Bg5 is also possible) 6...Bf5 7 Nge2 e6 8 0-0 c6 9 Bg5 Be7 10

Ng3 g6 11 Qd2 gave White sufficient compensation for the pawn, J.Delmont-J.Appendino, St Chely d'Aubrac 2001. **4...c6 4...d5?** looks tempting but after 5 Bxf6 exf6 6 Qh5+ g6 7 Qxd5 White is already on top. **5 f3** White offers another pawn in an effort to speed up development so that he will have more options for the attack. The original game in this line saw 5 Bxf6 exf6 6 Nxe4 d5 7 Ng3 Bd6 8 Bd3 0-0 9 N1e2 f5 10 f4 c5 and Black has emerged from the opening with a slight edge although White eventually won, H.Staunton-B.Horwitz, London 1846. **5...d5 6 fxe4 dxe4 7 Bc4** The bishop is well placed on c4 to cut out the option of kingside castling. **7...Bg4 8 Nge2 Nbd7 9 0-0** White is a pawn down but can smoothly develop. **9...Qa5** Or 9...Nb6 10 Bb3 Nbd5 11 Nxd5 cxd5 12 h3 Bh5 13 Ba4+ with advantage to White. **10 Qd2 Bxe2 11 Bxe2 Qb6 12 Kh1 0-0-0 13 Rad1 h6?!** Schulze encourages the bishop to retreat but it what White wants to increase the pressure on the queenside. 13...e6 is a quiet move but it is what needed in the circumstances simply to enable the kingside pieces to be activated. **14 Be3** The threat now is the discovered attack with d4-d5. **14...Nd5 15 Nxd5 cxd5 16 c4!** A natural response to try and open lines against the black king. **16...e6 17 c5 Qc6 18 b4** An avalanche of pawns is the prospect for Black who has zero counterplay to distract White. In other words the Staunton Gambit has been a triumph! **18...g5 19 b5 Qc7 20 Rf7 Kb8 21 Rc1 1-0**

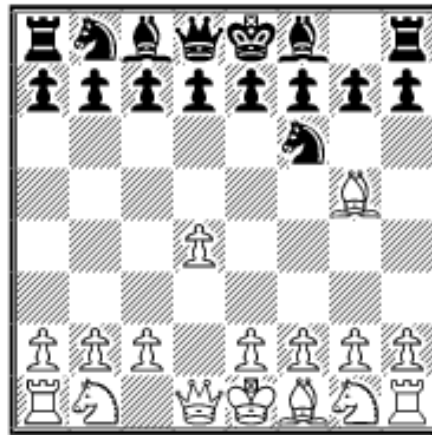
John Tobisch from **Jamaica** e-mailed with this message, "I have a question regarding the Trompovsky Attack. I noticed the wonderful success of Hodgson with it .Yet when Anand essayed it against Kasparov with success he never repeated the opening. Anand gave a receptive commentary on it in ChessBase, praising the creative possibilities. John Watson calls it essentially a truly modern opening.

Kasparov had success with it in Simultaneous Exhibitions and Rapid games. So why is it not played more in 2700 circles?"

It is true that at the moment it is not fashionable. Although Michael Adams has favoured it in the past and still plays it in simultaneous displays. This of course can be partly explained by the fact that he is good friends with Julian Hodgson who did so much to popularise the opening in recent times. In the next example we don't have one of the very famous names playing the line but White is rated 2542 and easily beats a 2591!

Shakhriyar Mamedyarov-Ashot Anastasian Batumi 2002

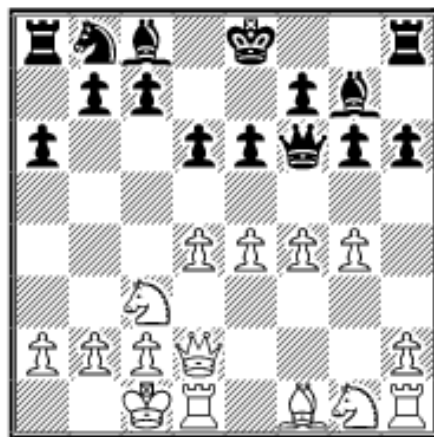
1 d4 Nf6 2 Bg5



2...e6 Julian Hodgson had to face 2...Ne4 in the German Team Championship against Gallagher. That game saw: 3 Bf4 c5 4 f3 Qa5+ 5 c3 Nf6 6 d5 Qb6 7 Bc1 d6 (Black is a King's Indian player and steers clear of a different but

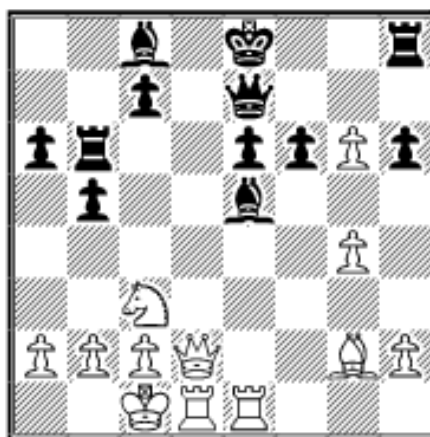
reasonable set-up starting with ...e7-e6) 8 e4 g6 9 c4 Bg7 10 Nc3 0-0 11 Nge2 e6 12 Ng3 exd5 13 cxd5 with equal chances although White won after 42 moves. **3 e4 h6 4 Bxf6 Qxf6 5 Nc3** 5 c3 is a quiet but popular way to continue. For instance: 5...g6 6 Bd3 Bg7 7 Ne2 d6 8 0-0 Nc6 9 f4 Qe7 10 Nd2 0-0 11 Qe1 gave White a pleasant space advantage in V.Milov-J.Ehlvest, Panormo 2002. **5...d6 6 Qd2** The queen comes to d2 to enable the advance f2-f4.

6...g6 7 0-0-0 Bg7 8 f4 a6 9 g4



Charge! White is having fun by throwing his kingside pawns in the direction of the black queen and king. **9...Nd7 10 Nf3 b5 11 e5 Qe7 12 f5 dxe5** Or 12...b4 13 Ne4 exf5 14 gxf5 gxf5 15 Ng3 looks excellent for White. **13 dxe5 Nxe5 14**

Nxe5 Bxe5 15 Bg2 Rb8 16 Rhe1 The combination of rapid development and the emphasis on attack is how the Trompovsky should be played. **16...f6 17 fxg6 Rb6**



18 Rxe5! The dark-squared bishop is holding together Blacks tattered position so it makes sense to trade it off. **18...fxe5 19 Ne4 Rg8 19...0-0 20 Qxh6** with a winning advantage. For example: 20...Qg7 21 Qh4 Qxg6 22 Rd8 Qg7 23 Rxf8+

Qxf8 24 Qg5+ Qg7 25 Qd8+ Qf8 26 Qxc7 Rb7 27 Nf6+! Wins. **20 Qxh6 1-0**

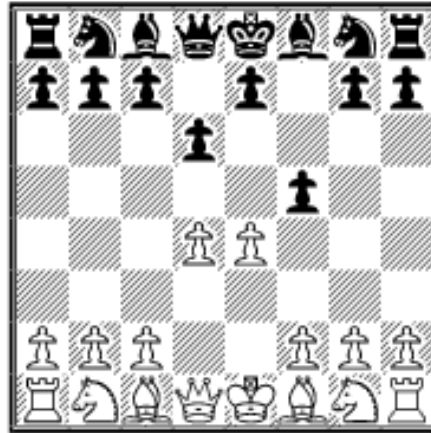
And finally **N. Dinngah** from **Malaysia** says, “I want to ask about the opening 1 e4 d6 2 d4 f5. Is this opening good for Black? What is the idea behind it?”

I have to admit that when I first saw this question the opening seemed rather bizarre but having looked at the Staunton Gambit I spotted a transposition. Have a look at the note to move 2 in the main game Jevgenyij Boguszlavskij-Hu Schulze and you will realise that 1 e4 d4 2 d4 f5 is simply the same as

declining the Staunton Gambit with 1 d4 f5 2 e4 d6. To be honest the main idea behind the move-order in the Pirc is probably to baffle White and gain lots of time on the clock.

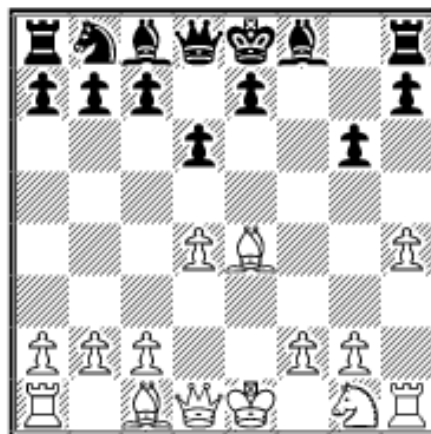
Genadij Timoscenko-Francesco Kusterle Portoroz 1997

1 e4 d6 2 d4 f5



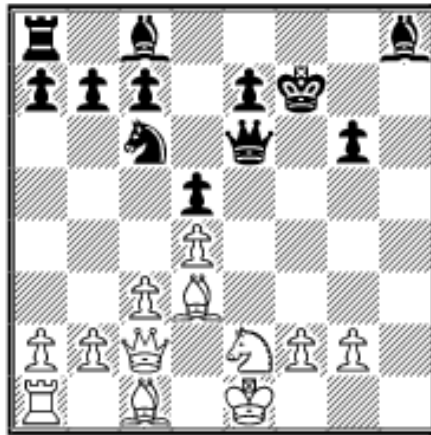
I have changed the original move-order for convenience but the position was originally reached via 1d4 d6 2 e4 f5 **3 Nc3** If you wonder what can go wrong then look at this game by W.Krueger-I.Antusch, Dresden 2001. 3 exf5

Bxf5 4 Bd3 Bxd3 5 Qxd3 Nf6 6 Nf3 Nbd7 (6...Qd7!?) 7 0-0 g6 8 Ng5! (the theme in this line is often the weakness of the e6 square since the light-squared bishops have been exchanged) 8...e5 9 Qb3 Nb6?? 10 Qf7 mate 1-0 **3...Nf6** 3...g6 worked out well in the game 4 Bd3 fxe4 5 Nxe4 Nf6 6 Nf3 Bg7 7 Bg5 0-0 8 Qd2 Bg4 with equal chances although Black eventually won in A.Bereznev-V.Poletaev, Orsk 2000. **4 Bd3 fxe4 5 Nxe4 Nxe4 6 Bxe4 g6 7 h4!**



The grandmaster spots the opportunity to inflict some damage on Black and goes for it. It is a well known idea to advance the h-pawn in such positions because Black's kingside defence is flimsy without the protection of

the king's knight. **7...d5 8 Bd3 Qd7 9 h5 Qe6+** The queen is employed to defend the g-pawn. It is fine in the short-term but it gets in the way of the other black pieces and is an easy target for White. **9...Rg8 10 hxc6 hxc6 11 Bf4** is good for White. **10 Ne2 Bg7 11 c3** There is no hurry so Timoscenko guards the c-pawn and at the same time makes available the c2 square for the queen in order to put pressure on g6. **11...Nc6 12 hxc6 hxc6 13 Rxc8+ Bxc8 14 Qc2 Kf7**



It looks ugly and is a reflection how the opening has gone terribly wrong. **15 Be3** Another piece is brought into the action and the idea is to block the pin on the e-file to allow Ne2-f4.

15...Qg4 16 Nf4 Bf5 17 Bxf5 gxf5 If **17...Qxf5** then **18 Qb3** and Black must lose material. **18 Nxd5 Bg7 19 Qb3** The dual threats of Qxb7 and discovered check help bring the game to an abrupt halt. **19...Na5 20 Qb4 1-0**

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