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## Inside Chess

Yasser Seirawan

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## Yasser Annotates:

Seirawan-Dzindzichashvili  
U.S. Championship 1999

In Round five of the US Championships, I had Roman Dzindzichashvili on the edge of defeat, he once more showed his class by finding some extremely difficult defensive moves playing a whole series of forced moves remarkably quickly. Isn't annoying when your opponent finds the best moves and plays them quickly?

**White: GM Yasser Seirawan**

**Black: GM Roman Dzindzichashvili**

**Salt Lake City, US championship (05) 1999**

**August 28, 1999**

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c6 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Qc2 Bd6 6.Nf3 Ne7  
7.Bg5 h6 8.Bh4 Bf5 9.Qxf5 Nxf5 10.Bxd8 Kxd8 11.e3**



**11...Bb4!**

While I don't have much of an advantage in this ending, Black has to be very careful else he will fall into a passive position. After: 11...Nd7? 12.Bd3 Ne7 13.a3 Nf6 14.h3, it is easy to see that White is ready to expand on both wings, while the e7-Knight is very passive. The text vacates

the d6-square, which will be perfect for Black's f5-mule.

**12.Bd3 Nd6 13.Ke2 Bxc3 14.bxc3 Nd7 15.a4 a5 16.Nd2 Nb6  
17.f3 Re8?!**



An error which lands Black in a bit of trouble. Best was 17...f5 18.h3 h5!, with equality.

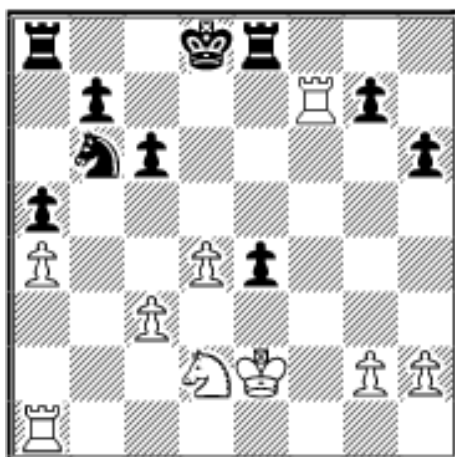
**18.e4 dxe4?**

Roman had spotted a tactic, which boomerangs against him. Surrendering the center was wrong. Necessary was 18...f6, with a disadvantage.

**19.fxe4 Nxe4?!**

Flustered after realizing that the intended: 19...Nd5? 20.Kf3 Nxc3? 21.Rhc1, traps a piece, Roman tries to bail out. Once more, 19...f6 was best, when White has a big edge.

**20.Bxe4 f5 21.Rhf1! fxe4 22.Rf7**



Now Black is in deep doo-doo. After 22...Re7 23.Rxe7 Kxe7 24.Rb1 Nxa4 25.Rxb7+ Ke6 26.Nxe4, White is positionally winning. This is where Roman finds a string of only moves.

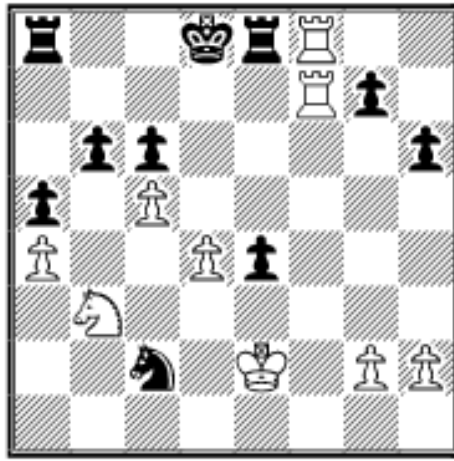
**22...Nd5! 23.c4 Nb4!  
24.Raf1 Nc2!**

Doing his best to be as irritating as possible. I had discounted this guerrilla tactic believing that the c2-Knight in time would just get kicked back. In any case there was nothing else to do about Rf7xg7 or Rf7xb7 with a decisive doubling of the Rooks to follow.

**25.Nb3 Re7 26.Rf8+ Re8 27.R1f7?**

It was physically impossible for me to resist this move as I had calculated a fine win, which ended any further calculations. As Roman quickly pointed out - after the game - with 27.Kd2! Nb4 28.Nc5 b6 29.Nxe4, White has a clear advantage.

**27...b6 28.c5**

**28...Ra6!!**

A stunning move which I had completely missed. I had thought that: 28...Rb8 (28...b5? 29.axb5!) 29.d5! cxd5 30.c6 Rxf8 31.c7+, was a beautiful break-through win. Having crashed to the reality of watching Roman avoid one win, I just assumed that there would be another. I was quite

surprised to discover that: 29.Kd2? e3+ 30.Kxc2 e2 31.Rxe8+ Kxe8, leaves my f7-Rook *en prise* so that I'm not in time to stop the e2-pawn. Nor was: 29.cxb6 Rxb6 30.Nc5 Nxd4+ 31.Ke3 Rxf8 32.Rxf8+ Ke7, cheering, as ...Rb6-b4 is better for Black. Even more confounding was that Black is now ready to trade Rooks and start his own counterplay with ...b6-b5, when, wouldn't you just know it, the c2-Knight is perfectly placed to support Black's pawns. So, after cursing myself for my bone-headed play...

**29.Rxe8+ Kxe8 30.Rb7?**

After this, I have to rein in my horns so that I'm not worse. The move does not prevent ...b6-b5, which it was designed to do. I was far better off playing 30.Rxg7 b5, with a likely draw as in the game.

**30...b5! 31.axb5 cxb5 32.Kd2!**

The intended 32.d5 a4 33.c6 axb3 34.Rb8+ Ke7 35.c7 Nd4+, ends in tragic failure, as White is lost.

**32...a4 33.Kxc2 axb3+ 34.Kxb3 e3! 35.Kc2 Ra2+ 36.Kd1 Rd2+ 37.Ke1 Rxd4 38.Rxb5 Rd2 ½-½**

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