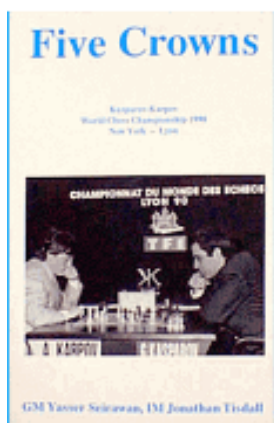


Inside Chess

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Yasser Annotates:

Kasparov-Short
 Amsterdam (VSB) 1994
 Round 2

One of the unanswered questions of the 1993 PCA Championship match was why Nigel didn't defend against 1.e4 with his beloved boyhood friend, the French Defense? Well, I think I can answer for Nigel. First, the French ain't that good. Second, Nigel's results with it against the world's best ain't that good either. It was a good idea to prepare something else for the London match, the Marshall Gambit as it turned out. A pity Kasparov never gave him a chance to play it! The following game shows what might've happened against the French.

Garry Kasparov-Nigel Short
Amsterdam VSB (2) 1994
French Steinitz C11

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6

Theory moves in mysterious ways. The Winawer (3...Bb4) was almost exclusively employed back when I played the French. Now the older Steinitz is the rage.

4.e5 Nfd7 5.f4 c5 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Be3 cxd4

I prefer 7...a6 in order to allow White to exchange Bishops on the c5-square.

8.Nxd4 Bc5 9.Qd2 O-O 10.O-O-O a6 11.h4!

Best. White's trumps include more space and central control, in particular, control of d4. Even so, this isn't enough for a serious advantage and it's necessary to open another front. The text intends to turn the battle towards the kingside.

11...Nxd4 12.Bxd4 b5 13.Rh3 b4

A consequent move. Black has to come up with his own counterdemonstration. The text will seek to develop the buried c8-Bishop, e.g., 14.Ne2 a5 and a quick ...Bc8-a6.

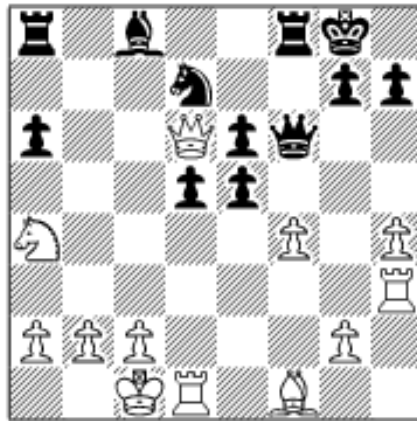
14.Na4 Bxd4 15.Qxd4 f6

Considerably sharpening the game. The tame 15...a5 16.Bb5!? Rb8 17.Bxd7!? Bxd7 18.Nc5 Bb5!? yields White a small plus.

16.Qxb4 fxe5 17.Qd6!

A powerful move, likely underestimated by Nigel. The immediate threat of Qd6xe6+ and Qe6xd5, eradicating Black's center, needs to be addressed. As does the simple f4xe5, winning a pawn.

17...Qf6

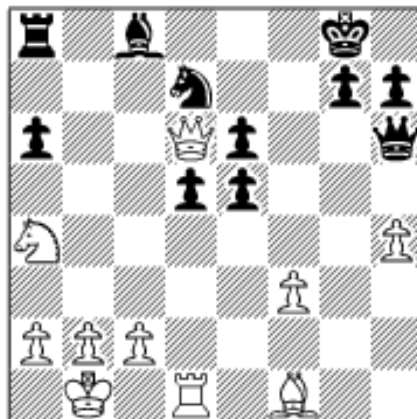


Both players have ridden the current to this position. Garry now uncorks his specialty, a devastating tactical shot.

18.f5!

Very nice. 18...exf5?? 19.Qxd5+ and 18...Qxf5?? 19.Rf3 Qg4 20.Rxf8+ Nxf8 21.Nb6 both win for White. Nigel finds a third, seemingly wholly satisfactory de-fense. Garry, however, has seen much further.

18...Qh6+ 19.Kb1 Rxf5 20.Rf3! Rxf3 21.gxf3



A new and troubling position for Black has arisen. Despite his extra pawn, he has no moves! Black's complex of pieces, the a8-Rook, c8-Bishop and d7-Knight, is rooted to these squares for mutual protection. The d7-Knight can't move due to the disruptive Na4-b6, the c8-Bishop can't move and so on. If Black does have a defense, I don't see it!

21...Qf6 22.Bh3 Kf7 23.c4! dxc4

With this, Nigel goes down in flames. Had he tried 23...d4 24.f4! exf4 25.Rxd4 e5 26.Qd5+, it would've cost a piece. Now White gets his Knight into the game with devastating effect.

24.Nc3 Qe7 25.Qc6 Rb8 26.Ne4 Nb6

At long last, Black has an opportunity to unwind his pieces. However, this untanglement comes too late.

**27.Ng5+ Kg8 28.Qe4 g6 29.Qxe5 Rb7 30.Rd6 c3 31.Bxe6+ Bxe6
32.Rxe6 1-0**

A powerful game by Kasparov. Garry at his chessic best.



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