

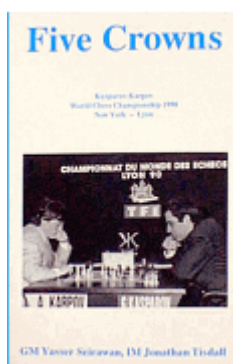


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Yasser Annotates:

Two from Lugano 1989

Margeir Petursson -Federico Manca
Benko Gambit A57

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.cxb5 a6 5.e3 g6 6.Nc3 Bg7 7.Nf3 O-O 8.a4 d6 9.Ra3! Nbd7 10.e4

It was this line of play by White that really put the damper on the Benko Gambit. That was why the inventive Lev Alburt introduced lines with an early ...Qa5 and ...Bb7. While staring at the game position, the quip "The purpose of the Benko Gambit is to get a lost position" comes to mind.

10...Ng4 11.Nd2

Making the case for outright refutation of Black's plans. If now 11...Nge5 12.f4 wins a piece. 11...Nde5 12.h3 Nf6 13.f4 also stinks for Black. The real problem for Black is how to activate his queen.

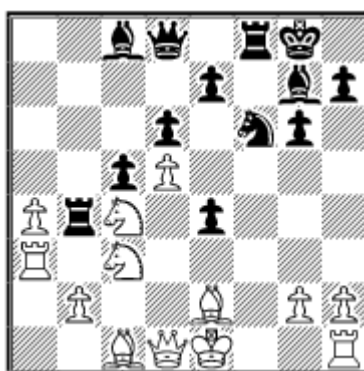
11...f5 12.Be2 axb5! 13.Nxb5 Nxf2?

There is no justification for this sacrifice. If 13...Ngf6 14.exf4 gxf5, Black could at least aspire to pressure on d5.

14.Kxf2 fxe4+ 15. Ke1 Nf6 16.Nc3! Rb8 17.Nc4!

After 17.Ndxe4 Nxe4 18.Nxe4 Bxb2 19.Bxb2 Rxb2, Black has chances to activate his queen. The text is indicative of White's plan to quietly develop his pieces. Black has to counter quickly.

17...Rb4



18.a5!

Well played. Black's only counter lies in the center based on ...e7-e6. White wants to lure the black bishop to a6 where it will be quite useless after 19.b3.

18...Bb7 19.a6 Ba8 20.Bg5!

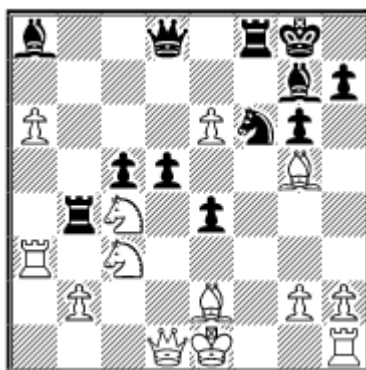
White holds all the trumps-passed pawn, extra piece, etc. The only danger for White lies in ...e7-e6. With 20.Bg5

White neutralizes any dangers. Now his threat is Rh1-f1-f4.

20...e6

Black has little choice. If 20...h6 21.Bh4 g5 22.Bg3 e6 23.dxe6 d5 24.Bd6 Rxc4 25.e7 Qxd6 26.exf8(Q)+ Qxf8 27.Bxc4 and White is two exchanges to the good.

21.dxe6 d5



At first sight Black appears to have counter-chances. White, however, has prepared a combination to return his extra piece and transpose into a winning ending. How?

22.e7! Qxe7 23.Nxd5 Bxd5 24.Qxd5+ Nxd5 25.Bxe7 Nxe7 26.Rf1

A reminder about the monster on a6.

26...Ra8 27.Nd6! Bxb2 28.Re3 Nd5 29.Rxe4 Rxe4 30.Nxe4

White has a winning advantage.

30...Re8 31.a7 Kg7 32.Kd2 Ra8 33.Rb1 Be5 34. Rb7+ Kh6 35.Bf3 c4 36.g4 Bf4+ 37.Kc2 Rd8 38.g5+! 1-0

Viktor Kortchnoi-Rainier Knaak
Dutch Defense A85

1.d4 e6 2.c4 f5? 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e3!?

A restrained but dangerous system for Black to meet. The key battle in the Dutch is the fight for the e4-square. White intends to control e4 by Bf1-d3, Ng1-e2, and f2-f3. This means that Black has to alter his normal scheme of development and play for ...d7-d6 and ...e6-e5.

4...Bb4 5.Bd2!? O-O 6.Bd3 d6 7.Qc2! Nbd7

In view of the above, the natural continuation is 7...g6 intending ...e6-e5. White may then change course by starting play on the queenside with 8.a3 Bxc3 9.Bxc3 Nbd7 10.O-O-O e5 11.f3 with a complex middlegame in which I prefer White's position.

8.Nge2 b6 9.O-O Bb7 10.a3 Bxc3 11.Nxc3 Qe8 12.f3!

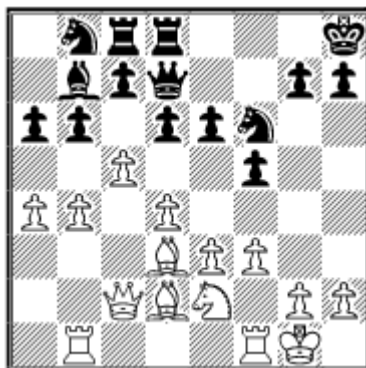
Shortening black's bishop on b7. White has a pleasant advantage. He can play in the center with e3-e4 or the queenside. Black's position is too passive.

12... a6?! 13.b4 Rc8 14.Rab1 Kh8 15.c5!

Starting operations on the queenside. Black has no counterplay in the center

or the kingside. The idea of c5-c6 and Bd3xa6 hangs over the position.

15...Nb8 16.a4 Qd7 17.Ne2 Rfd8



18.Be1

A wonderful repositioning of the bishop. On d2 it “exists”; on h4 or g3 it lives! The impulse to play e3-e4 is also getting stronger.

18...Ba8

In order to be able to play ...bxc5.

19.Bh4 Rf8 20.Rfc1

White is conducting his pieces marvelously. Threats now include Bxf6 and cxb6.

20...dxc5?

A real concession. Trading the d-pawn for White's b-pawn opens up the game for the white rooks.

21.bxc5 Nd5 22.e4 fxe4 23.fxe4 Ne3 24.Qd2 Ng4

Black is getting knocked around pretty convincingly. For the reason, we have to go back to the first two moves of the game. Black is now quite lost.

25.cxb6 cxb6 26.Rxc8 Rxc8 27.h3 Nh6 28.Rxb6 Nc6 29.Bxa6 Rf8 30.Bb5 Qc7 31.a5 Na7 32.Bd3 e5 33.Qb4 Qf7 34.Rb8 1-0

A powerful display by Viktor Kortchnoi, who continues to play phenomenal chess. Well done!



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