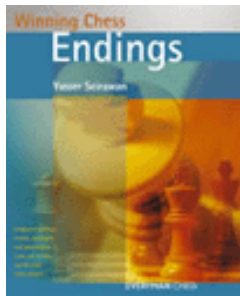


Inside Chess

Yasser Seirawan



Winning Chess Endings
by Yasser Seirawan

Yasser Annotates:

Kasparov - Anand, PCA World Championship 1995

Garry Kasparov - Viswanathan Anand

Intel PCA World Championship (6) 1995

Open Ruy Lopez [C80]

1.e4

Kasparov's first move got a cheer from the audience. Clearly dissatisfied with the results of games two and four, Kasparov switches to his first-string opening.

1....e5

Anand favors this classical King Pawn opening. We now expected an Open Spanish (Ruy Lopez), but held out the possibility for a Scotch, Italian Game, or even an Evans Gambit.

2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.O-O Nxe4

As expected, Anand plays his favorite Open Spanish. This defense is noted for its free piece play at the expense of pawn weaknesses.

6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5

Black is forced to return the pawn, as 7...exd4 gives White too much pressure on the open e-file.

8.dxe5 Be6 9.Nbd2



Well-known, but slightly offbeat. The main line is 9.c3, allowing for Bb3-c2 to put pressure on the e4-knight.

9...Nc5 10.c3 d4 11.Ng5

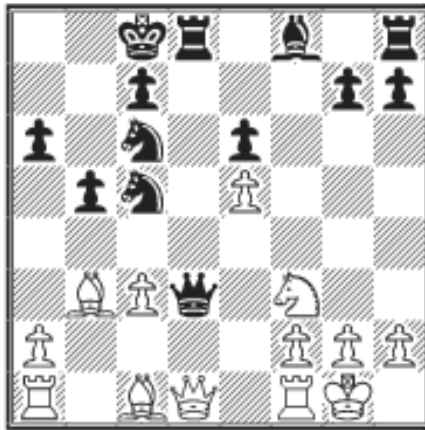
This was the shot heard round the world during the Karpov-Kortchnoi match in the Philippines in 1978. Facing this surprise, Kortchnoi decided not to take the piece and eventually groveled for a draw. Tournament

practice since then has strongly favored White, especially after 11...Qxg5. The idea is straightforward: White wants to eliminate the e6-bishop. If 11...Qxg5 12. Qf3 Kd7 13.Bd5!, White beneficially regains the sacrificed piece. Also 11...Bxb3 12.Nxb3 opens the possibility of Qd1-f3 with multiple threats.

11...dxc3

Anand avoids 11...Bd5, probably expecting Kasparov to have found a big improvement in the line for White.

12.bxc3 Qd3 13.Nxe6 fxe6 14.Nf3 O-O-O



Played with trepidation; it appears this is Anand's novelty. Kortchnoi played 14...Qxd1, and suffered for a long time. Castling does not solve all of Black's problems, though. His king will remain more exposed than its White counterpart.

15.Qe1!

An understandable decision. White wants to keep queens on the board to retain attacking chances against Black's king. White also prepares the tempo-winning 16.Bg5 Be7 17.Rd1, giving Black's queen the boot.

15...Nxb3!

A surprising, but correct, decision. Black gets rid of the powerful b3-bishop, but develops White's a1-rook. An important benefit of this trade is that Black may now use the d5-square.

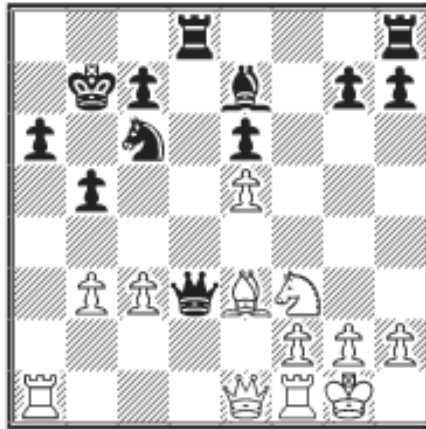
16.axb3 Kb7

Anand spent some time here, apparently looking at 16...Bc5 17.Rxa6 Kb7 18.Ra2!, and decided that Black wasn't getting enough for his material.

17.Be3!

Very crafty. White would like to prevent ...Bf8-c5-b6, which safeguards the king. It would seem the best way to do that is to trade bishops, but 17.Bg5 Rd5! avoids this exchange and helps Black. White couldn't speculate with 18.c4? bxc4 19.bxc4 Qxc4 20.Qb1+ Rb5!, as he is stopped cold. The text prepares either Nf3-d4 or Ra1-d1.

17...Be7



A controversial decision. This natural developing move allows White to force the desired bishop swap. To be considered was 17...h6, preventing the hop Nf3-g5 and preparing ...g7-g5 to gain space. Anand stated he saw the game continuation and considered the exchange sacrifice to offer satisfactory compensation.

18.Bg5! h6 19.Bxe7 Nxe7 20.Nd4

This natural move appears to be a real powerhouse, forcing the win of the exchange. Another interesting possibility is 20.Ra2! Nc6 21.Qa1 a5 (21...Ra8 22.Rd1) 22.Rd2 Qf5 23.Nd4 Nxd4 24.cxd4, simply playing against Black's exposed king.

20...Rxd4!

Anand is forced to sacrifice the exchange here, e.g., if 20...Qg6? 21.b4 followed by Nd4-b3-c5+ wins. In return, he gets a pawn and some connected passers on the queenside, but White will be able to activate his rooks and central pawn mass quickly in the ending.

21.cxd4 Qxb3!

Black's point. White has gained a slight material advantage of rook for knight and pawn, but in return Black has the potential of utilizing his protected passed pawns.

As soon as he saw ...Qxb3!, Kas-parov slumped backward in his chair and, biting his lip, grimaced.-YN

22.Qe3

Kasparov thought for 25 minutes before deciding to force what appears to be an attractive ending. 22.Qe4+ gets nowhere: 22...Qd5 23.Qg4 Nf5! The attacking idea 22.Qc1!? Ra8!! (22... Nd5? 23.Rxa6 Kxa6 24.Qc6+ Ka5 25.Ra1+ Qa4 26.Rxa4+ is good for White) 23.Qc5 Nc6! 24.Rfc1 Qd5 reaches an impasse. The text has the advantage of opening the f-file.

22...Qxe3

Forced, as 22...Qd5?? 23.Qa3! wins on the spot.

23.fxe3 Nd5



24.Kf2!

A fine move. White centralizes his king, and prepares to bring the monarch to the queenside to defend the passed pawns if the need arises. At this point, most GM commentators, myself included, felt White was nearing victory.

24...Kb6!

Anand's best defense is a strong offense. White's invasion down the f-file can't be stopped, so Black must use his trumps, pushing the queenside pawns forward as fast as they can scurry.

25.Ke2!

25.e4 also looks strong.

25...a5! 26.Rf7! a4! 27.Kd2

27.e4! is still very strong. By delaying, White has allowed the Black pawns to become more dangerous. In the post-game press conference Anand admitted he was worried by 27.e4, citing the variation 27...Nb4 (27...Nc3+ 28.Kd3 b4 29.Kc4 is winning for White) 28.Re7 Nc2 29.Rd1 a3 30.Rxe6+ Kb7! (30... c6? 31.d5 and 30...Ka5? 31.Rc6 win for White) 31.d5 (not 31.Kd3? Nxd4! introducing a nasty tactical surprise on the d-file) 31...a2 32.Kd3 a1=Q 33. Rxa1 Nxa1 34.Kc3 Ra8 35.Re7 with chances to use the central pawn mass. This line was keenly followed by the assembled GMs, who felt Black wasn't necessarily worse after 35...Kb6 36.Rxg7 c5!

I thought the text to be correct, as White crowds out the knight's possible jumps, while preparing to carry out the threat of e3-e4 and Rf7-e7, which would win the crucial e6-pawn.

27...c5

The game is incredibly sharp, with the outcome hanging in the balance on every move. Anand decides he either has to frustrate White's central pawn structure or establish a third passed pawn. Also possible was 27...Rd8, preparing ...c7-c5.

28.e4 Draw



Giving the d5-knight the boot from its dominating central perch. The audience was thrilled with this razor-sharp battle of thrust and parry.

Most of us felt that Kasparov was still cashing in on his earlier play when we were shocked into stunned silence. The players had shaken hands! Since the position still offered plenty of opportunity, we could only speculate that Kasparov must have chickened

out and offered a draw!! Indeed, he had.

A storm of protests erupted from the audience. The viewers had paid their money to see two great chess minds battle it out and they were denied the second half of a great show. I was too stunned for words; I apologized to my audience and waited for the post-game commentary by Anand. (Black gives the post-game press conference in the event of a draw, otherwise it is the winner's job.)

Anand explained that he had no intention of offering a draw himself, but was happy to accept Kasparov's offer! He admitted that he was very uncertain about the evaluation of the final position, and had made what he considered a prudent decision.

Australian GM Ian Rogers shot out the brutally frank question, "Isn't the audience being ripped off?" Staggered, Anand managed to offer the opinion that the game had already been exciting enough.

Thus ended one of the least satisfying games in the annals of championship chess. Cowardice by Kasparov? In this writer's view, yes!

Certainly, the final position will be debated for months, perhaps years, to come. Is White winning? I can't say with certainty, but White holds an advantage. The disgruntled audience wanted an answer, now!

GMs Walter Browne and Maxim Dlugy played a ten-minute game from the final position. Browne, playing White, quickly gained a winning

position after 28...Nb4 29.dxc5+ Kxc5 30. Rc1+ Kb6 31.Re7 Rd8+ 32.Ke2 a3 33.Rc3! a2 34.Rxe6+ Kb7 35.Re7+ Kb6 36.Re6+ (Walter repeated moves to prove that White is taking no risks by playing on) 36...Kb7 37.Ra3 Rd4 38.Ra5 Rxe4+ 39.Kd2 Rd4+ 40.Kc3 Rc4+ 41.Kb3 and White was winning. In time trouble, Walter missed the trick 41...Nd5 42.Rg6? Rb4+ 43.Kxa2 Nc3+ 44.Ka3 Rb1! and now Black was winning! The game was drawn in a time scramble, but Walter had proven his point. White had an advantage.

After the game, Anand and Kasparov shared their thoughts with one another. Anand had intended 28...Nc7 (?) 29. dxc5+ Kc6 30.Kc3 (threatening Ra1-d1-d6+) 30...Rd8 31.Re7, but Black would be in *Zugzwang* and the compulsion to move would prove fatal. Clearly, Black's best is 28...Nb4 and, although Browne's treatment in a 10-minute game isn't the final word, the verdict is clear: in practical play, White's chances must be better.

Overall, this game was an interesting and complicated struggle, with Kas-par-ov damaging his reputation with a weak-kneed draw offer.



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