



## COLUMNISTS

*Inside Chess*

Yasser Seirawan

*Winning Chess  
Combinations*

by Yasser Seirawan

## Yasser Annotates:

## Kasparov - Karpov, Linares 1992

*Garry Kasparov (2780) – Anatoly Karpov (2725)*

Linares (2) 1992

Caro-Kann [B17]

The greatest chess rivalry of all time opened another chapter as Garry Kasparov convincingly trounced Anatoly Karpov.

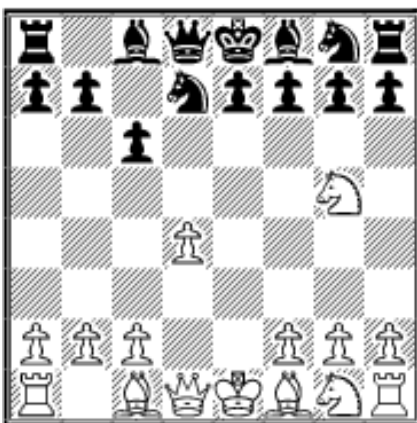
1.e4 c6

The Caro-Kann has long been a staple in Karpov's opening diet. At the 1990 World Championship Match, I had expected Karpov to wheel out this venerable defense, but he stuck to his Spanish guns.

2.d4 d5 3.Nd2

The most precise move order. After 3...Nc3, Black can try 3...g6, intending to pressure the d4-pawn. After 3.Nd2, Black should sidestep 3...g6, as White has the reinforcing c2-c3 move. I've always felt that a careful study of the K's openings will sharpen a player's awareness of such nuances.

3...dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nd7 5.Ng5!?



How to annotate such a move? Believe it or not, today's e4-players consider this the best attempt to gain an opening advantage. But, as a Caro-Kann devotee myself, am I to allow this to pass without comment? White plays Nb1-d2xe4-g5, moving his knight three times in the first five moves as he seeks an advantage – I don't believe he should find one! But how can I argue with success?

5...Ngf6

Black might want to take a closer look at 5...e6  
6.Bc4 Be7!? 7.N1f3 h6 8.Ne4 Ngf6 as a neutralizing effort.

6.Bc4 e6 7.Qe2 Nb6

There are many traps to avoid around here, including 7...h6?? 8.Nxf7, winning at once.

## 8.Bb3 h6

The grab 8...Qxd4? 9.N1f3 Bb4+ 10.c3 Bxc3+ 11.Kf1 is also suicidal for Black.

## 9.N5f3 c5 10.Bf4!

An important wrinkle in this line. Black has no problems after 10.dxc5 Nbd7, intending the recapture ...Nd7xc5, with a comfortable game. Kasparov aims for maximum mobilization of his pieces and there isn't a more active square for the bishop.

## 10...Bd6

Karpov evidently feels that 10...Nbd5 11.Bd2 (11.Bg3 Qa5+ is disturbing) misplaces the knight, as it is constantly vulnerable to the c2-c4 boot.

## 11.Bg3 Qe7 12.dxc5 Bxc5 13.Ne5!



White has emerged with a model position against the Caro. White's last move touches the very heart of White's strategic aims in the opening. It is well known that White tries to control the e5-square and that a knight is best placed here. Has Black made a mistake? Perhaps not. His position is solid enough, but I prefer White's attacking options.

## 13...Bd7 14.Ngf3

A very difficult decision. Reinforcing the e5-knight is fine, but the text costs White the use of his magnificent dark-squared bishop. Should White speed up his development by 14.Ngf3 or should he take time out for 14.h3 (14.h4, with the idea h4-h5 and Bg3-h4, is interesting) preserving his bishop? A tough choice. Kasparov plays for rapid mobilization.

## 14...Nh5 15.O-O-O Nxg3 16.hxg3 O-O-O 17.Rh5!?

A little fantasy is good for the soul. Kasparov feels the need to heighten the conflict, else Black will have time for the Karpovian moves ...Kc8-b8 and ...Bd7-c8, followed by trades on the d-file. Don't forget who has the two bishops! With the text White has a disguised hit on the c5-bishop, but his long-term goal will be to shift as much wood to the queenside as possible.

## 17...Be8?



Very Karpovian indeed. Black prevents the threatened Ne5xf7, which would snare a pawn, and offers an exchange of rooks. Simple enough, but this plays into Kasparov's hands. The exchange of rooks will draw Black's king back into the center, and lose tempi in the long run. Black also cuts his h8-rook out of action, meaning the e8-bishop will have to move again. So White will be given three or four moves to conjure up something on the



queenside. Kasparov doesn't need much and this sounds like plenty! Hindsight being 20/20, I'd suggest 17...Rh8 and ...Kc8-b8, sprinting behind the queenside pawns. White's space advantage should be manageable.

### 18.Rxd8+ Kxd8 19.Qd2+ Bd6

A nice move to have provoked. Though a target on c5, the bishop was gunning on the f2-pawn and now that concern is over. In reality Black had no choice, as 19...Kc8 20.Nd3 Bd6 21.Qc3+ picks up the g7-critter. It's for such reasons that Black's king belongs on b8 or a8.

### 20.Nd3

Taking time to sidestep Black's ...f7-f6 threat. The e8-bishop has earned Black this short-term benefit. Even so, the fifth rank is cleared and now the rook has an open highway to the queenside.

### 20...Qc7

A cunning move. Karpov is well aware that Kasparov threatens Qd2-a5 or Rh5-a5 or a2-a4-a5, in all cases with a virulent queenside attack. With the text Black tries to make life more difficult for White by opening the option ...Kd8-e7, slinking over to the kingside.

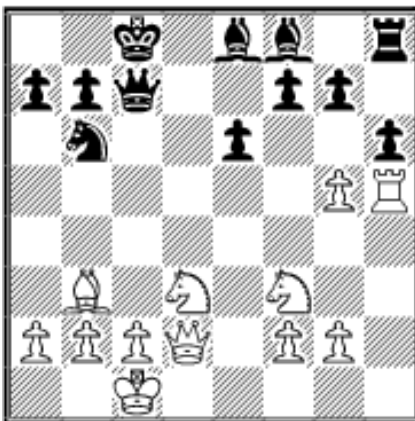
### 21.g4!

Beautifully timed. I had been looking at 21.Nd4 (playing for the cheapo Bb3xe6) 21...Kc8 22.Nb5 Bxb5 23.Rxb5, which accomplishes nothing. In fact, 23...Qc6 only works for Black. With the text Kasparov prepares g4-g5, not only discouraging Black's king from seeking a kingside refuge, but also creating an h6-target.

### 21...Kc8?!

This is unnecessarily compliant. Black seems willing to allow his pieces to be tied down to the kingside. Karpov may have been frightened by lines such as 21...Rg8 22.g5 hxg5 23.Qxg5+ Kc8 (23...Qe7 24.Qa5!) 24.Rh7 Kb8 25.Rxg7 f6 26.Rxg8 fxg5 27.Rxe8 + Nc8 28.Bxe6, winning – an especially brutal line. But if Black is willing to be tied down, wouldn't it be wiser to play 24...Bf8, instead of 24...Kb8? For the moment Black is being squeezed, but, as before, if White permits Black time, he quickly unravels by ...Nb6-d7-f6. In this line, White still has his space advantage to try massaging Black's position with, while Black has no glaring weaknesses. In the game this isn't the case.

### 22.g5 Bf8



### 23.Rh4!

A very fine move. White avoids 23.gxh6 Rxh6 24.Rxh6 gxh6, which exchanges an active rook for a passive one. Since the fifth rank is blocked, the rook steps back to the fourth rank. On this square the rook performs especially important duties. It protects the a4- and c4-squares, restricting the b6-knight. It also prepares the push a2-a4-a5, which allows the



killing shot Rh4-c4. This teamwork style of Kasparov's can't be stressed enough. He constantly manages to gel his whole army into

a cohesive unit. In passing, it might be mentioned that White also enjoys the distant threat of g5-g6, which undermines the e6-pawn. After g5-g6 and a subsequent ...f7xg6, there is no h5-rook to attack.

**23...Kb8 24.a4!**

And here we have it at last. Black has planted his king on the queenside and White doesn't miss his opportunity to make its life as unpleasant as possible. Since 17...Be8, Black has been playing a rook down.

**24...Be7 25.a5 Nd5 26.Kb1**

In getting off the c-file, White prepares c2-c4, winning a piece. Black has to make room for his knight.

**26...Bd8 27.a6 Qa5**

This looks panicky. Black's game is under plenty of pressure, but after this the foundations creak, if not collapse. Black needs to cement his walls fast. Best was 27...Nb6! (bad is 27...bxa6 28.Nb4!? (28.Bxd5 exd5 29.Nb4 also looks good) 28...Nxb4 29.Rxb4+ Ka8 30.Ne5, with the crunching threat of Bb3-d5+) 28.axb7!? Bc6. To be clear, I don't like Black's game, but at least Black's got a lot of guards around his king.

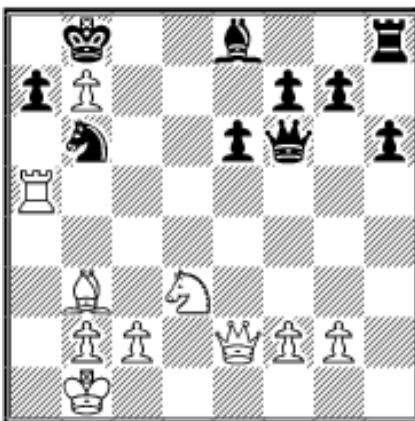
**28.Qe2!**

White certainly avoids a queen swap, as he's got a vicious initiative. The text menaces Qe2-e5+ and Qe5xg7, picking up a whole rook.

**28...Nb6 29.axb7 Bxg5**

There's not much else. After 29...Bc6 30.Nfe5 Bxb7 31.Nxf7, the game is a rout.

**30.Nxg5 Qxg5 31.Rh5 Qf6 32.Ra5**



The crowning achievement of White's fantastic play. Since 17.Rh5!?, White has kept a careful eye towards this leap. Now that the way has been properly prepared, this move becomes the decisive blow. Against the threat of Nd3-c5 and Qe2-a6, Black's army lies helpless. White has several ways to win, but Kasparov is unerring to the end.

**32...Bc6 33.Nc5 Bxb7 34.Nxb7 Kxb7 35.Qa6 + Kc6 36.Ba4+! Kd6 37.Qd3+ Nd5 38.Qg3+! Qe5 39.Qa3+ Kc7 40.Qc5+! Kd8 41.Rxa7 1-0**

A powerful demonstration of Kasparov in his best form. His play was utterly flawless. For Karpov, this couldn't have been a harsher disappointment.

 [TOP OF PAGE](#) [HOME](#) [COLUMNS](#) [LINKS](#) [ARCHIVES](#) [ABOUT THE  
CHESS CAFE](#)

[\[ChessCafe.com Home Page\]](#) [\[Book Reviews\]](#) [\[Columnists\]](#)  
[\[Endgame Studies\]](#) [\[The Skittles Room\]](#) [\[Archives\]](#)  
[\[Links\]](#) [\[Online Bookstore\]](#) [\[About The Chess Cafe\]](#) [\[Contact Us\]](#)

© 2007 CyberCafes, LLC. All Rights Reserved.

"**ChessCafe.com**®" is a registered trademark of Russell Enterprises, Inc.