



## COLUMNISTS

### Inside Chess

Yasser Seirawan



### Winning Chess Combinations

by Yasser Seirawan



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## Yasser Annotates:

### Yusupov - Karpov, Candidates Semifinals 1989

*Artur Yusupov* (2610) - *Anatoly Karpov* (2755)

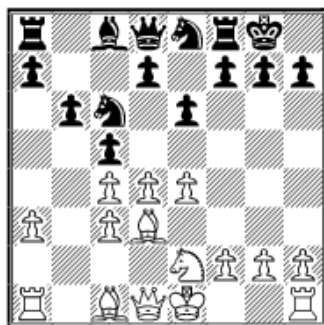
Candidates Semi-Finals (6) 1989

Nimzo-Indian Sämisch [E29]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 O-O 5.Bd3 c5 6.a3!?

I remember Larry Christiansen doing a lot of work on the white side of this variation for the Moscow Interzonal of 1982. In exchange for his compromised pawns, White gets the two bishops and a kingside initiative.

6...Bxc3+ 7.bxc3 Nc6 8.Ne2 b6 9.e4 Ne8!



An excellent move and a common theme in this variation. Black prevents the pin Bc1-g5, while preparing to pressure c4 by Ne8-d6.

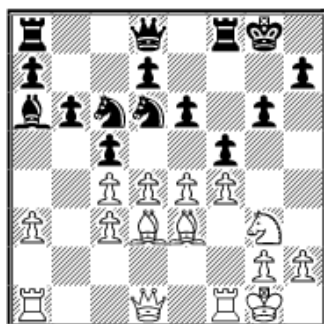
10.O-O Ba6 11.f4 f5

A solid defensive reaction. Black shuts the bishop on c1 down and gains space on the kingside. In Timman-Polugaevsky, Tilburg 1983, Black won a spectacular game after 11...Na5 12.f5 f6. It's hard to say which is the better choice. Karpov probably felt that fewer surprises were in store for him after the text.

12.Ng3 g6?!

Karpov plays a weak move that just makes a lot of weak dark squares around the black king. Black should defend f5 by 12...Ne7! 13.dxc5 bxc5 14.exf5 Nxf5 15.Bxf5 exf5 16.Qd5+ Kh8 17.Nxf5 Bxc4 18.Qxc4 Rxf5 when the smoke has cleared and the position is about equal. Another safe equalizer is 12...Nd6 with a similar pattern: 13.dxc5 bxc5 14.exf5 Nxf5 15.Bxf5 exf5 16.Qd5+ Kh8 17.Nxf5 Ne7 18.Nxe7 Qxe7, when the opposite-colored bishops give Black good equalizing chances.

13.Be3 Nd6



Theory gives 13...Na5 14.dxc5 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Bxc4 16.Rf2 Nf6 17.Qd4 b5 18.Rd2 h5 19.h3 L.Christiansen-R.Rodriguez, Moscow Interzonal 1982.

14.exf5

Challenging Black to win an exchange. Bravado should never go unrewarded and White does have an edge after 14.dxc5! Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Bxc4 16.Rf2 b5!? 17.Rd2 Rf7 18.a4, though a draw is a likely result as Black's king is vulnerable to attack.

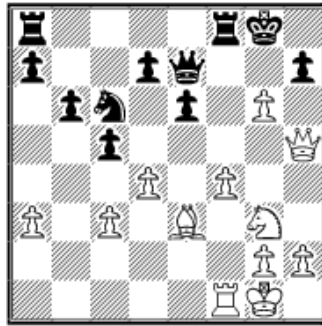
14...Nxc4

Black accepts the challenge.

15.Bxc4

White has fewer attacking chances after 15.fxg6 Nxe3 16.Qh5 Qe7 17.Bxa6 Nxf1 18.Rxf1 hxg6 (18...cxd4!?) 19.Qxg6+ Qg7 20.Qe4 cxd4 21.Bb7 Rad8, which favors Black.

15...Bxc4 16.fxg6 Bxf1 17.Qh5! Qe7 18.Rxf1



For his exchange, White has a bishop and pawn. Additionally, Black's king has no clothes. For Karpov, this is rare indeed! I suppose both players were happy. Yusupov is gambling and the odds look pretty good. As for Karpov, if he can hold the position, his extra exchange will win the game.

18...hxg6?!

This definitely helps White. I prefer Black after 18...cxd4 19.cxd4 Qg7! 20.gxh7+ (20.f5 exf5 21.Bh6 Qxg6 favors Black) 20...Qxh7 (20...Kh8!?) when White still has to justify his

attack.

19.Qxg6+ Qg7 20.Qd3??

Playing for the attack. The prudent decision was 20.Qxg7+ Kxg7 21.dxc5 Na5!, which is an even ending. Black should not have allowed White this possibility (another reason why 18...cxd4 was more precise). White's attack, based on Ng3-e4 and Rf1-f3-g3, looks promising; but Black has the resources to meet the attack. My pessimism about White's position is based on his ugly bishop on e3. What is it doing? I see plenty of defenses based on Nc6-e7-d5/f5, when White's attack is stopped dead in its tracks. With open c- and g-files, Black will counterattack with vigor. The situation, while tense, favors Black.

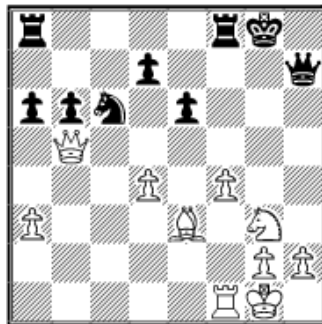
20...cxd4 21.cxd4 Qh7!

A nice move. Black strengthens the light squares.

22.Qb5

Bad is 22.f5? Ne7! 23.Rf3 Nxf5 24.Nxf5 Rxf5 25.Rg3+ Kf7 26.d5 Re8, and Black's king is perfectly happy on the f-file.

22...a6!



A nice shot. White can't afford to lose control of d3: 23.Qxb6 Qd3! 24.Rf3 Rab8, when suddenly Black is on the attack.

23.Qb3

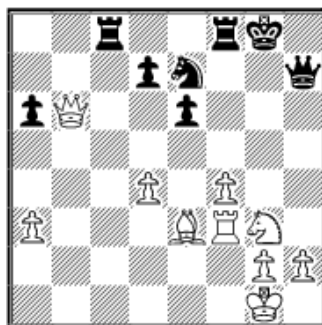
Here Artur probably wished he was in a safe and sane ending.

23...Ne7! 24.Rf3 Rac8

Everything has progressed so smoothly for Black, each move inextricably linked to its predecessor. Black is ready for ...Ne7-d5, ...Qh7-e2, and an imminent scoresheet signing ceremony is in the offing.

25.Qxb6

When in doubt, grab a pawn.



25...Rc6??

Mystifying. Tolya could crown his previous play with the obvious 25...Nd5 26.Qxa6 (what else?) 26...Nxe3! 27.Rxe3 Rc1+ 28.Nf1 (28. Kf2 Rxf4+ doesn't bear contemplating) Rxf4 29.Qa8+ Kf7 30.Rf3 Qf5 31.Qb7 Rxf3 (31... Ke7!?) 32.Qxd7+ Kg6 33.gxf3 and Qg5+ wins for Black. Obviously, White has to deviate somewhere, but the whole line flows so smoothly that it constitutes a quintessential Karpovian masterpiece. The text costs several tempi. It also allows White to steal the b6-

pawn and bring his queen back into the game. Time trouble may have influenced Black's move.

## 26.Qa5

With two pawns for the exchange, White's cause seems more reasonable. Endings become a lesser worry. His problem is still his king and activating his minor pieces.

26...Nd5 27.Nf1 Qf5 28.Qe1!

Artur realizes that his best chances lie in making an open-field tackle of White's king.

28...Rb8 29.Qh4 Kf7 30.h3

Because of his vulnerable king, White's pieces can easily get pinned. With the text, the king is given a little air. If White is able to activate either minor piece, the curtains close quickly around Black's king. Black must keep his king protected and must prevent White from coordinating pieces.

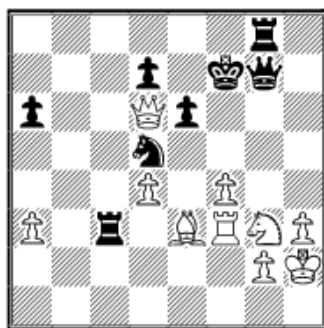
30...Rc3! 31.Kh2 Rg8!

Reports from London stated that Yusupov had less than ten minutes left to move forty, while Karpov had only three minutes.

32.Ng3 Qf6 33.Qh5+ Qg6 34.Qe5 Qg7!

Avoids many pitfalls and sidesteps White's threat of f4-f5. Among the traps are 34...Qf6? 35.Ne4 winning, and 34...d6? 35.Qxd6 Rxe3 36.f5, when White wins.

35.Qd6



35...Ke8!

Karpov plays for the win! That's a dangerous decision, considering that the ending is by no means clear. After 35...Rxe3 36.Rxe3 Nxe3 37.Qxd7+ Kf8 38.Qd8+, the game would end in perpetual check.

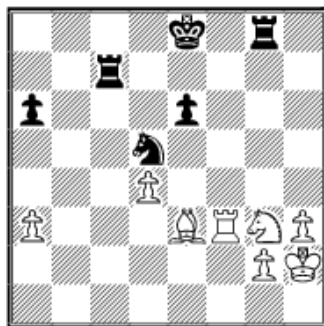
36.f5 Qe7?!

Continuing his plan to force an exchange of queens. Tolya could force favorable complications by: 36...Rxe3! (not 36...Nxe3 37.

f6 Nf1+ 38.Kg1 winning for White) 37.Qb8+ (The only move. If 37.f6? Qxg3+!, then 38.Rxg3 Rxxg3 wins for Black. Similarly, White has no time for 37.fxe6? (37.Rxe3? Nxe3 38.fxe6 Qxg3+ --+) 37...Rxf3 38.gxf3 dxe6 and Black emerges with an extra rook.) 37...Ke7 (Black can also walk into a double check with 37...Kf7 38.Qd6 (Black doesn't fear 38.fxe6+ Kxe6 and White has run out of fire power) 38...Rxf3 39.Qxd7+ Ne7 and once again, White has run out of ammunition) 38.f6+ Nxf6 39.Qb4+ Kf7 (39...Ke8 40.Rxe3 Ng4+ (40...Nd5 41.Qb8+) 41.hxg4 Qh6+ 42.Nh5 Qxe3 43.Nf6+ Kf7 44.Nxg8 Kxg8 with equality) 40.Rxe3 Ng4+ 41.hxg4 Qh6+ 42.Nh5 Qxe3 43.Qd6 Rxg4 44.Qxd7+ Kg6 is winning for Black.

In these variations, Karpov's king surfs through rough waters. It's understandable that he wanted to calm the seas by going into an ending. I wonder what the time situation was by this point?

37.Qb8+ Qd8 38.Qe5 Qc7 39.Qxc7 Rxc7 40.fxe6 dxe6



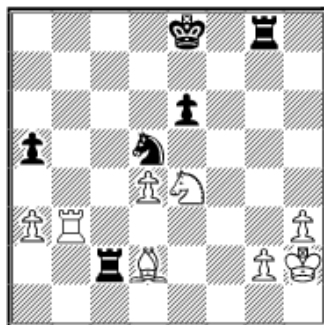
The ending that Karpov has been aiming for. My only question is why? White has two connected passed pawns for his exchange and stands better! An extraordinary lapse of judgment on Karpov's part!

41.Ne4 Rc2 42.Bd2 a5?

Unwarranted optimism. Black is still playing for the win. His plan is to play a5-a4 and then maneuver a rook to b3. The problem is that it just doesn't work. Instead, this carefree move weakens b5. Don't laugh! That is important!

Black's best is 42...Kd7, preparing to activate the rook on g8, though I still prefer White.

**43.Rb3!**

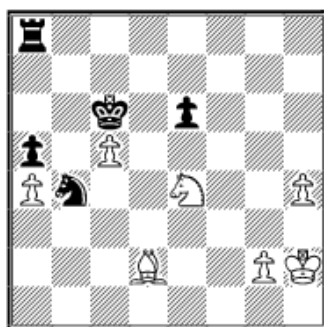


Extremely powerful. It keeps Black from activating the rook on g8 while activating his own rook. White now threatens Rb3-b7, Ne4-d6+, and a Bd2 check somewhere. White is winning.

**43...Kd7 44.Rb5! Ra8 45.a4**

Black has good drawing chances after 45. Rxa5? Rxa5 46.Bxa5 Ne3 47.Nd2 Ra2 48.Bb4 Nc2. Remember not to unnecessarily trade active pieces (Rb5) for passive pieces (Ra8). Black's a5-pawn isn't going anywhere.

**45...Kc6 46.h4 Rc4 47.Rc5+ Rxc5 48.dxc5 Nb4**



**49.h5??**

Time trouble was probably responsible for this lemon. Before this move, Artur had played the ending magnificently. Black's king and rook are no match for White's knight, bishop, king, and two connected passed pawns. But White's triumphant march up the board has to be in concert with the king. The children mustn't be allowed to wander too far by themselves. Best is 49.g4! Kd5 (49...Rd8 50.Kg3 Rd4 51.Kf3 Kd5 52.Nf6+ Kc4 53.Be3 Rd3 54.g5 and the children are about to grow up big and strong.) 50.Nf6+ Ke5 51.Nd7+ Kc4 52.Kg3 and once

again the kids are unstoppable.

**49...Kd5 50.Nf6+ Ke5 51.Bc3+ Kf4**

Tolya has managed to activate his king, which is now performing miracles. It stops the pawns, limits White's king, and harasses Whites pieces. This is all a direct result of White's forty-ninth move. Has White thrown away his win?

**52.g4!**



The only move to dislodge Black's king. It is too late to activate White's king: 52.Kh3? Rd8 53.Kh4? Rd1, when Black is on the verge of winning.

**52...Rd8! 53.h6 Kg5 54.h7 Kg6 55.Kg3 Nc6 56.Kf4 Kg7**

Black has made a fine comeback and now has good drawing chances. However, after 57. Ke4! Black still has to struggle. If his rook leaves the eighth rank, then the e-pawn is lost: 57...Rd1? 58.Nd7+ Kxh7 59.Nf8+ Kg8 60.

Nxe6. Because of the weakness of a5, Black should lose. It seems that Black's only moves are ...Kg7-g6-g7 and ...Rd8-a8-d8. Can White win this position? It's all academic because, in big time pressure, Artur simply throws the game away!

**57.g5?**

Allowing Black to activate his rook.

**57...Rd3 58.Be5 Rd1 59.g6??**

A gross blunder. After 59.Bd6 the game is still a battle.

**59...Rf1+ 60.Kg5 Nxe5**

The game was adjourned here. Artur had sealed 61.Nh5+ but resigned without resuming. A tragic game. Both players had clear wins. As they say, "The next to last player to blunder wins." Ouch. A tough loss for Yusupov.



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