

**The Reader Challenge: Check out my article from 40 years ago, can you find errors?**

**VanMeter, Lester (2238) - Wegman, Douglas [E92]**

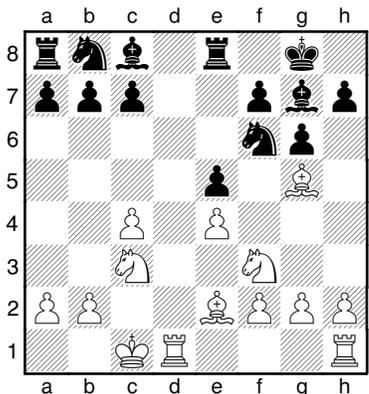
Goshen Swiss (1.1), 09.1980 [FM Lester VanMeter]

[After seeing all of the rust gather on my game while I was in Colombia, I thought that I needed to practice before the big JCA 2nd Anniversary Open [LVM note: In Wisconsin, Nov 1–2, 1980. I was one of the featured players who would attend for publicity purposes. The others were GM Art Bisguier, IM Walter Morris, and National Masters Curt Brasket and Eugene Martinovsky. (All players I have scored against.)] Thus, I entered a one-day tournament. I hadn't played in such an event for a long time, but it was local, and only a 5-block walk. I was pleased with the following game.]

1.  $\text{Nf3}$  [LVM note: Apparently GM Edmar Mednis saw this article in the *Wisconsin Chess News* and he featured this game in his book "From the Opening into the Endgame" for the KID chapter.]  
 1...  $\text{Nf6}$  2.  $\text{c4}$   $\text{g6}$  3.  $\text{Nc3}$   $\text{Bg7}$  4.  $\text{e4}$   $\text{d6}$  5.  $\text{d4}$   
 0–0 6.  $\text{Be2}$   $\text{e5}$  7.  $\text{dxe5}$

[I avoid the complications of the well-known main lines of the KID against my young lower-rated opponent. While this system has a reputation for being dull and lifeless, it does have some venom for the uninitiated.]

7...  $\text{dxe5}$  8.  $\text{Qxd8}$   $\text{Rxd8}$  9.  $\text{Bg5}$   $\text{Re8}$  10. 0–0–0



[My opponent was on unfamiliar ground and here he goes wrong.]

10...  $\text{c6}$ ?

[He had written 10...  $\text{h6}$  on his scoresheet, but then he crossed it out as he was worried about 11.  $\text{N}b5$  (I was simply planning on retreating with 11.  $\text{B}e3$ ) 11...  $\text{hxg5}$  12.  $\text{N}xc7$  but he had missed the

answer to this move 12...  $\text{N}a6!$ ]

[Now I can take advantage of my better development.]

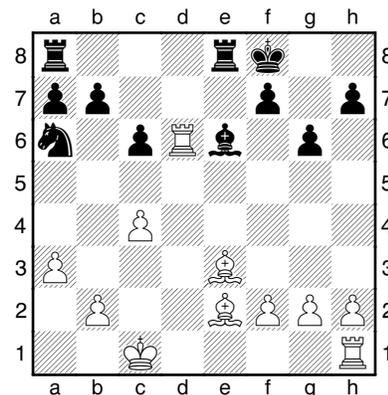
11.  $\text{Nxe5}$ !  $\text{Nxe4}$  [The best move.]

12.  $\text{Nxe4}$   $\text{Bxe5}$  13.  $\text{N}d6$   $\text{Bxd6}$  [13...  $\text{Bxb2}$ + was the alternative]

14.  $\text{Rxd6}$   $\text{N}a6$

[Black's position just doesn't have many options open to it. He must be careful not to allow white a rook penetration to the 8th rank, which would result in black not being able to complete development. In the mean-time black MUST develop his pieces. But white's next moves really restrict the black knight. Where is its future going to lie?]

15.  $\text{B}e3$   $\text{B}e6$  16.  $\text{a3}$   $\text{Kf8}$



[White's moves emphasize black's passive position. He can't contest the d-file and his pieces simply can't do anything constructive. He brings his king to the

## From the Archives: Forty Years Ago

center. My next move is the best one I've played in a long time.]

**17.h4!**

[White envisions an exchange sacrifice. Even though black doesn't have much to do, I still have to figure out how to win. An endgame would be good for me, but I was thinking that I would have to attack on the kingside if he did nothing.

But what ideas could he have? He would probably like to get rid of my rook on d6 and, in general, my d-file domination. Perhaps he saw the possibility of moving his king to d7, and then playing ... ♔d5 winning an exchange.

If I wanted to stop that idea, I would have to play 17. ♖hd1 or prepare ♕f5, but neither of those moves would put pressure on him; in fact, some of his problems would be alleviated as his ♘a6 might get to c5.

I got the idea of the exchange sac being quite good for me...

Visualize here: 17.h4 ♔e7 18.♖hd1 ♔d5 19.cxd5 ♔xd6 20.dxc6+ ♔xc6 21.♕f3+ and I'm convinced that white will win.

I will win the ♘a6 and my 2♕'s will have a field day against the rook. Thus, I "hoped" he had seen 'this win of the exchange' and I didn't want him to think that I knew about it. I would fall into the trap willingly!

Ahh, but you "sharpies" out there may have already thought about bringing the ♘a6 to d5 instead (likely through c7) of the ♕. Indeed, that would wipe out my intended line of play, but I could likely get the 2♕'s vs the rook immediately with cxd5 and dxe6. Perhaps he could even play ♘c7 and still intend to play ♔d5.

At any rate I wanted a solution where I drive his ♔ out to f6 with ♕c5 and ♖d7+, and then after ♔d4+ I wished to force the king into a mating net by driving it up the board. For that to be an idea I needed to control g5, and thus h2-h4 was an integral part of that plan.

I actually had not yet found any mates, yet... If he did nothing then h2-h4 is also in play for my attacking on the kingside. It's too bad my opponent hadn't anticipated any of this, but he did "fall into it".]

**17...♔e7 18.♖hd1 ♘b8?⊕**

[Naturally I didn't understand this, but he was feeling time pressure already! He was unaware, as it turns out of the ♔d5 idea even here.]

**19.♕c5 ♘a6** [I still hadn't found a mate...]

**20.♖d7+ ♔f6 21.♕d4+ ♔f5**

[Since I still had not found a forced mate, I decided to simply capture a pawn, and let him find a move! I also now threaten to bring my rook back into the attack via b3...]

**22.♖xb7** [Perhaps he found the "best move"... **1-0**

He noted that his king wasn't going to find safety, there were all sorts of threats that he was seeing, and he simply didn't have any time to figure out what to do... and I might just wipe out all of his pawns.

SO, he resigned ...]

[His king cannot escape, if 22...c5 23.♕d3+ ♔f4 24.♕f6]

**I had come back from Colombia with a 'nasty' virus and it took its toll before I recovered. I lost lots of weight, robbed me of energy, and when I played any chess my temp would spike up! I actually had to withdraw from this event after round 2 with 2-0. At the JCA I was at 3-0, but had to withdraw, too, before I could play Artie.**

**That event has also has great stories...**

Send your conclusions to: [indyfmchess@gmail.com](mailto:indyfmchess@gmail.com)

I'd like to offer the best reader response a prize. Good Luck!