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World Open  
[Admin, ICA]

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**A65**

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6**  
**5.f3 0-0 6.Be3 c5 7.Nge2 Nc6 8.d5**  
**Ne5 9.Ng3 e6 10.Be2 exd5 11.cxd5**  
**h5 12.0-0 Nh7 13.Qd2 h4 14.Nh1 f5**  
**15.Nf2 Re8 16.Rfe1 a6 17.a4 Bd7**  
**18.a5 Rc8 19.Na4 Bb5?** Plays into  
 White's hands. Black needs the bishop to  
 be able to contest the e4 square through  
 f5.

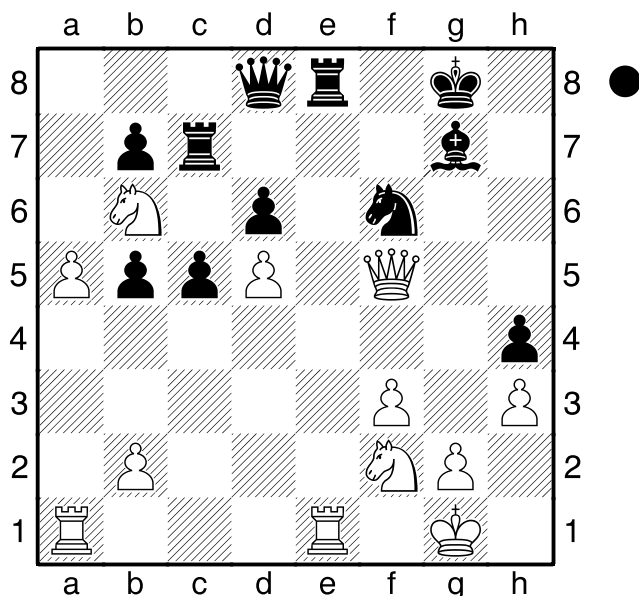
[  $\triangle$ 19...fxe4 20.Nb6 Rc7 21.Nxe4  
Bf5 ]

**20.Nb6 Rc7 21.h3 Nf6?**

A pawn sacrifice that does not work.

[  $\triangle$ 21...Nf7 ]

**22.Bg5 Nf7 23.Bxb5 axb5 24.exf5**  
**Nxg5 25.Qxg5 gxf5 26.Qxf5** Diagram



Black is totally losing. Although this may not be the best move objectively, I like it because it defends the position in the most economical way. With the knight on f8, it is very hard to get checkmated. In

positions like this, you just have to make it frustrating for your opponent to checkmate you, or otherwise find the finishing blow **Nh7**

[ 26...c4 27.Rad1 b4 28.Re6 c3  
29.bxc3 bxc3 30.Nd3 ]

**27.Qg6 Rce7 28.Rxe7 Qxe7 29.Ne4 Nf8 30.Qg4** White does take the exchange.

He does not want to calculate variations, but just win with all the conveniences. In such situations, the defending player should try to keep the position and not force matters. If the opponent is forced to calculate, he will -- and with the big advantage, he will find the win. The goal is to lull him to sleep.

[ 30.Nf6+ Qxf6 31.Qxe8 Qxb2  
32.Re1 Qd4+ 33.Kh1 b4 34.Nc8 ]

**30...Qe5 31.Rb1 Qd4+?!**

[ 31...Nh7 32.Qg6 Rd8 33.Kh1 c4  
34.Nc3 ]

**32.Kh1 Qd3** This invasion of the queen is not the best idea. However, White fails to exploit the looseness of Black's position. He was too intent on solidifying his own position. **33.Re1 Nh7 34.Qg6 Re7 35.Qxd6?**

[ 35.Nc8 would have forced immediate resignation: Re5 36.f4 ]

**35...Rf7 36.Qg6 Qd4 37.b3**

Symptomatic of White's insufficient aggressive play at the end of this game.

[ 37.Nd6 Rf6 38.Qe8+ ( 38.Nbc8  
Rxc6 39.Ne7+ Kf8 40.Nxc6+ Kg8  
41.Ne7+ Kf8 42.Nc6!! ) 38...Nf8  
39.Ne4 Rg6 40.Nc8 Kh7 41.Ne7 ]

**37...Nf8 38.Qd6 Qb4** When the opponent is tentative, it's the time to try and set traps. **39.Rf1??**

[  $\triangle$ 39.Rb1 ]

**39...Qxe4 40.fxe4 Rxf1+ 41.Kh2 Bd4**

**42.g3 Rf2+** Unquestionably, I was lucky here. But the strategy of keeping a small number of pieces defending the King, keeping the position relatively static, and using vague Queen maneuvers to bother White turned out to be, subjectively more than objectively, a good defensive technique

1/2-1/2