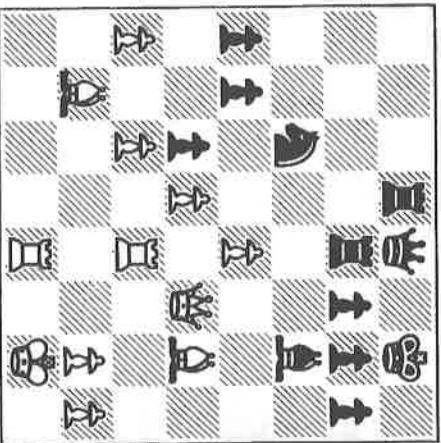


THE POSITIONAL EXCHANGE SACRIFICE

My intention is to give you some idea of a chessplayer's laboratory; — how tournament wins and losses are born. The topic, the positional exchange sacrifice, is both interesting and difficult. The exchange sacrifice (provided it is a real sacrifice) belongs to complicated weapons. It occurs in games by players of various strength. My opinion is that the main problem, when one makes such a decision, it is first of all of a psychological character. Our knowledge of relative strength of chess pieces is acquired at our very first steps in chess. A beginner is taught during his very first lessons that the strength of pieces is measured by pawns. A minor piece is equal to three pawns; in other words, if you have three pawns as compensation for a Knight or a Bishop you have a sufficient equivalent. A Rook is equal to four pawns or to a minor piece plus a pawn; a piece plus two pawns are, as a rule, good enough. When a player makes his choice this involuntary knowledge reduces his vision; he mechanically rejects moves which put a stronger piece under attack of a weaker one. (This is why he never thinks about moving his Queen to a square controlled by a pawn, — or a Rook to a square controlled by a Bishop, so as the capture can be performed without any immediate penalty.) This is the greatest psychological difficulty in the course of a chess game. (See Diagram 66.)

This position occurred in my perhaps most famous game with an exchange sacrifice; it has become a teaching aid, a reader item. I played Black against S. Reshevsky (Candidates Tournament, 1953). The situation is very tense and comp-

Diagram 66



licated, materially balanced. So-called dynamic balance exists, with even chances for both sides in attack and defense. White has a strong pawn center which would smash Black's position if put into motion. On the other hand, it is not easy to advance White's central pawn; no use of e5-e6 and no sense of d4-d5 (the square d5 is protected). Therefore I was satisfied with this position until I realized that Black's situation is rather difficult. You may ask, why. Because Black's pieces are posted passively, limited strictly to defense. White can prepare the advance of his Q pawn till d6, throwing Black's pieces back and achieving a winning position. On the other hand, White has the possibility of advancing his KR pawn: h2-h4, threatening h4-h5-h6. If Black will react by means of h7-h5 or h7-h6 he would create weaknesses on his K-side giving White a good

attacking opportunity; the Bishop b2 will go to c1 and join the main forces. I realized that moving my Knight to d5 I would change the situation completely so as to make it very favorable instead of difficult. White's pawns would be blockaded; his Bishop on b2 would be very poor; after eventual b5-b4 Black could obtain a passed, very powerful pawn supported by Nd5 and Bg6. However, it is very difficult to bring the Knight to d5. This could be done via b6, c7, e7. But a Knight maneuver to b6 or c7 would take a lot of time; White plays Bg4-f3 and d4-d5, obtaining a winning position. Of course the idea of moving the Knight to e7 is highly welcomed, but how to do it? First I should go away with the Rook, but where? Supposing so: 25. . . . Rb7 26. Bf3 (threatening d4-d5), or even 26. e6 Ne7 27. Bf3 Nd5 28. Bxd5 Rxd5 29. Qf3, and the Rook d5 cannot go away because another Rook hangs, whereas 29. . . . fxe loses to 30. Qxd5.

I spent a good deal of time thinking over this position, and when I found the right move I felt kind of amused. The move was so simple, that there was no doubt about its correctness. I overcame the psychological barrier mentioned above and put my Rook under a fire of White's Bishop.

25. . . . Re6

"Ingenious play by Reshevsky and Iron logic by Petrosian make this game one of the real gems of the tournament." (D. Bronstein).

If White plays 26. Bxe6, he could not prevent Nc6-e7-d5 (after 27. . . . fxe). His extra exchange plays perfectly no role. All files are closed, White's pawns are immobilized, Black's threat is the above-mentioned Knight rout followed by advance of the Q-side pawns.

26. a4 Ne7

Black ignores White's trick of provoking 26. . . . b4? The idea was 27. d5 Rxd5 28. Bxe6 fxe 29. Qxc4 and Black is in a precarious situation; the position is opened and all White's pieces have a lot of play.

27. Bxe6 fxe 28. Qf1 Nd5
29. Rf3 Bd3

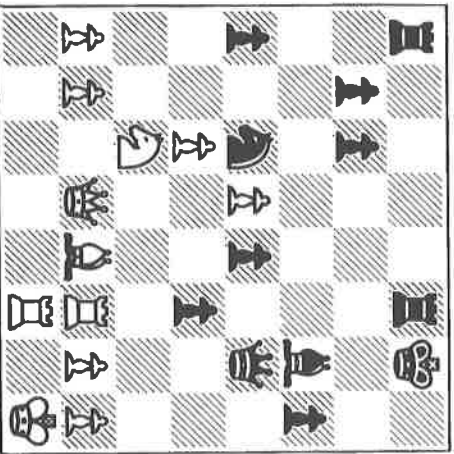
If White does not give the exchange back on d3 and plays e.g. 30. Qf2, Black has a fine play after b5-b4. The most important is that White's material plus has no practical sense.

Reshevsky played 30. Rxd3. The game went 30. . . . cxd 31. Qxd3 b4 32. cxb. Here White could have played 32. c4 obtaining a pawn phalanx in the center. Reshevsky preferred a safe continuation; 32. c4 could be met by 32. . . . Nb6 followed with Nx2d4, and Black would have two passed pawns. All this would lead to an extremely sharp play; Reshevsky throws the idea away and the game ends in a draw.

32. . . . axb 33. a5 Ra8
34. Ra1 Qc6 35. Bc1 Qc7
36. a6 Qb6 37. Bd2 b3
38. Qc4 h6 39. h3 b2
40. Rb1 Kh8 41. Be1.
Draw agreed.

Before we pass to the second position I would like to repeat that the first and main difficulty with positional exchange sacrifices is the psychological prejudice when one has to give up a Rook for a minor piece. Another difficulty is that you give up something not being forced to do so. What made me play 25. . . . Re6 in that game with Reshevsky? I could prepare an air-hole for my King (h7-h6) plus make some other useful move, landing in a perfectly hopeless situation. Therefore I had to foresee the eventual course of the game and take necessary means beforehand.

Diagram 67



This position occurred in my game with Gilgoric (Olympiad, 1962). I played White. An experienced player would tell at once that White's situation is rather difficult. Black's pieces are very active, he has mobile pawns (K and KB); if he advances his K pawn (e.g. after Rf6 and Ra7) White would be in great danger. Usually if one's opponent has hanging pawns one should try to provoke an advance of a pawn in order to blockade them occupying the weak square before the back pawn (in our case — e4, as Black has already advanced the KB pawn). But now, the square e4 is beyond White's disposition because of the very favorable combination of Black's pieces (Nc5, Bg6).

25. . . . Ra6

He could play 25. . . . Rf6 followed by 26. . . . Ra7. The text move is more inventive: Gilgoric moves his Rook to f6 via the 6th rank and avoids any need of calculating consequences of d5-d6.

26. Bf3

White might seem to be making a mistake as now 26. . . . e4 could follow

with a gain of tempo. However White's response would be 27. Qd4, and 27. . . . Nd3 would be met by the same exchange sacrifices as in the actual game but the pawn e4 would hang. Or 27. . . . Qe7 28. Re2 with a very sharp play.

Gilgoric has made a quiet move.

26. . . . Ra6

White's position seems completely hopeless. Black intends to play e5-e4 (possibly preceded with b7-b6). White seems to have no way of taking the square e4 under control because his Rooks are misplaced and cannot be moved to the K file: 27. Re2 Bd3, or 27. Re1 Nd3, apparently with dark prospects for White.

But nevertheless I have played 27. Re1! A purely positional exchange sacrifice. And again White does not wait to make a decision. He takes it because he has foreseen eventual consequences and realizes what could happen.

27. . . . Nd3 28. Rfe Nxe1

29. Qxe1

The pawn e5 hangs. If Black gives it up White could have a pawn as compensation for the quality.

29. . . . Re8 30. c5

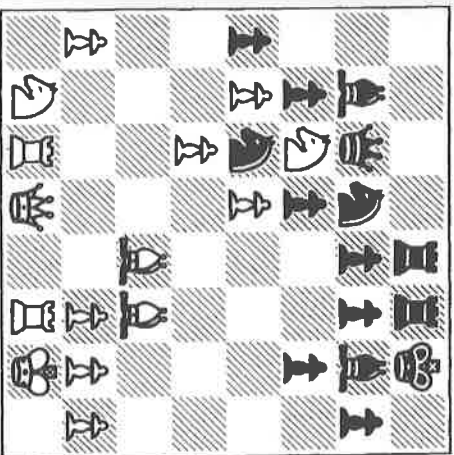
Yes, Black has the exchange extra, but if you have time to consider this position attentively, trying some lines, you should feel that the material plus means nothing. Anyway, Gilgoric failed to find something better than 30. . . . Rf6. I responded with 31. Ne4, and he offered a draw. There is no sense for White to reject this offer, he has no reasons to play for a win. Draw agreed.

Another example.

Portisch — Petrosian

San-Antonio, 1972

Diagram 68



This position is very interesting from a psychological aspect. White has an obvious positional advantage. He makes his move, but after my response he thinks some 10 minutes looking at me all the time. He cannot decide whether I have sacrificed an exchange or blundered it away. Finally, after the game, Portisch said he had decided that it was a blunder; therefore he took the exchange and got a bad position.

In an objective chess sense the situation was typical. Black had a backward pawn e7, White — the strong Knight on c6. The usual method for White is pressure (by Rooks) along the K file which forces e7-e6; after the exchange on e6 Black has new troubles. Without hurry, through positional transformations, White increases his positional plus. The natural order of moves could be Re1 followed by Bf4 or Bg5, depending on Black's reaction, so as to exercise a lasting pressure which could grow step by step.

Instead of it, Portisch played 24. Bg5, attacking the pawn e7. Now Black could have played 24. . . . Bf6, or 24. . . . Nf6, or even 24. . . . Nb8, protecting the attacked pawn. The move Black cannot dream about is, naturally, f7-f6. But after White's inaccuracy (24. Bg5) the idea of e7-e5 fascinated me. If White takes en passant: 25. dxe, Black can hold this position; he recaptures by the Rook, he has the strong Bishop g7, another Rook goes to e8, the Knights are good etc. A playable position.

After 24. . . . e5 Portisch came finally to the conclusion that I had blundered the exchange away. He played 25. Be7, the game continued 25. . . . f5 26. Bxf8 Nxf8.

The position has been changed radically within two moves. White has a Rook for a minor piece but no active play: all the files are closed, while Rooks are valuable only when they operate on open files. The Black pawn stands on e5, not on e7, so the White Knight c6 is very beautiful, but nothing else. Situations might arise where Black could have an extra piece in action. Unfortunately I failed to win this game, although Black had undoubtedly the edge.

27. Be2 Bh6

Not the best. Black should have played 27. . . . h5 first

28. Rc2 Bc8

The Bishop is moved to an active diagonal.

29. Nc3 Nf7 30. Re1 Nf6

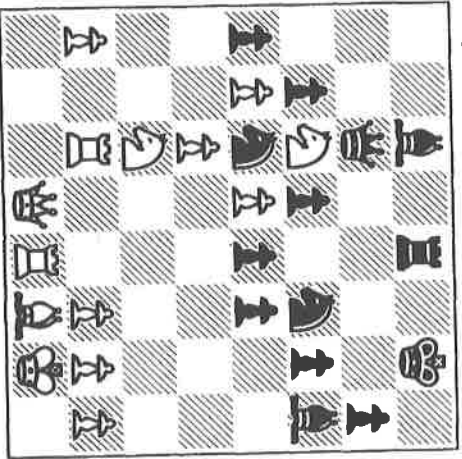
31. Bf1

(See Diagram 69.)

Here I was a bit hasty. Of course, I should have taken some prophylaxis like 31. . . . Kh8. But I played 31. . . . f4.

Such moves require great caution. The pawn pair e5-f5 has become less mobile, and the pawn e5 can be blockaded.

Diagram 69



Naturally, I had taken into consideration that my pieces (Nc5, Nf6, eventually Bf5) kept the square e4 under control, so I hoped to play e5-e4 safely.

32. Rce2 Rf8 33. Na4

White seeks for exchanges so as to weaken the pressure.

33. . . . Nxa4 34. Qxa4 Nd7

35. Ne7+ I have overlooked this simple move.

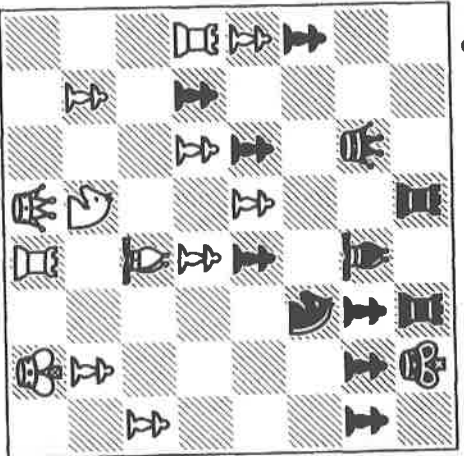
35. . . . Kh8 36. Nxc8 Qxc8

37. Qa3 Nc5 38. Qf3 Qf5

39. h3. Draw.

Every chess player has memorable games which are especially precious for him. My game with Mikhail Tal (the XXV USSR Championship, 1958) is memorable for me as a creative achievement rather than a sporting success. Some chess players are proud of almost every game they have played; some have enough self-criticism. I must say that, as a rule, I am seldom satisfied with my own play. The game with Tal is one of those which have brought me pleasure, due to a successfully performed idea.

Diagram 70



White has a great positional advantage.

He practically has an extra passed pawn d5. Right now, it is not so important because it can be blockaded at d6, d7, even d8, therefore it is not directly dangerous. But when the game will be transposed into endgame (quite a natural perspective) to endgame (quite a natural perspective) the passed, well-protected pawn can be decisive. How should Black defend his position? At the moment he is threatened by nothing. He can play Bd6, Nd7, f6, Rf7, another Rook to f8. But such a passive behavior, against White's good play, will inevitably lead Black to a difficult situation.

Experienced players know that, in a cramped position, the main trouble often happens to be the poorer activity of Rooks. E.g. White advances his K-side pawns, supported by the Rooks from f1 and g2; the Black Rooks are limited to the 7th and 8th rank, waiting till the game will be opened.

Here I managed to elaborate a rather interesting plan of defense. I liked the plan, I like it now. I hope it is instructive for everybody.

Tal played 25. Qf3, my response was 25. . . . Rdd6.

This move seems queer. According to strategic principles, the stronger the blockading piece the less it fits this role. E.g. if it is a Queen, in case of being attacked by any piece you must move it away. A Rook feels discomfort being attacked by a minor piece. But my idea was somewhat different.

26. Nb3 Nd7 27. Raal Rg6

This is the idea invented and beloved by me. Black foresees that his Rook, being left "at home," would be too motionless, and "drags out" one of them in order to supply it with active functions. Of course, Tal could choose another plan — not the one he followed in the game — e.g. Nd2-f1-g3-f5, but it would then be some other game. Anyway, I think the Rook stands on g6 well enough. Our actual game was very interesting, as you will see.

28. Rf1 Bd6 29. h4

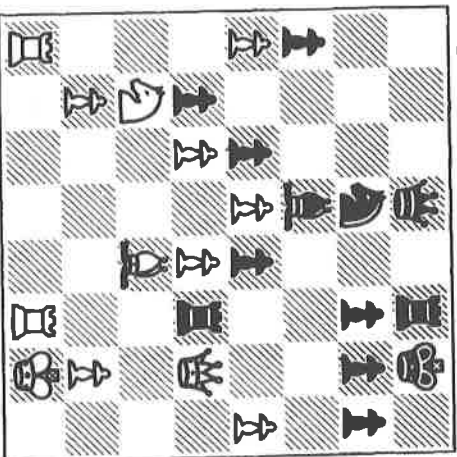
Of course, I could have played 29. . . . Rf6, exchanging the Rook, but I repeat this was not my idea.

29. . . . Qd8 30. h5 Rf6 31. Qg4

What springs to mind first of all? In 1958, I played a move which would possibly skip my mind were it today. I would take on f1, and the result would be either draw, or loss. But then my mind worked some other way, so 31. . . . Rf4.

The same method: a Rook, by no means forced, goes to a square attacked by a minor piece. Of course, if Tal realized all the consequences he would be satisfied with a gain of a pawn: 32. Rxf4 exf 33. Bxf4 Bxf4 34. Qxf4 Qe7. Black would be a pawn down, but the position quite unclear. His Knight would be able to go to e5, the pawn d5 would be stopped. I thought this situation would be better

Diagram 71



than a cramped position with a material balance.

32. Bxf4 exf 33. Nd2

This Knight is the only White piece which can fight for the square e5, so Tal wants to move it to f3. Perhaps Nc1-d3, with the same idea, would be better.

33. . . . Na5 34. Qxf4

White is not forced to capture this pawn. He could play e.g. 34. Qe2. Then Black would have quite a number of possibilities: 34. . . . g5, 34. . . . Qh4. It is hard to say that White's extra exchange would be tangible. Tal realized that the events were taking a bad turn for him, so he tried to complicate the matters.

34. . . . Nxc4 35. e5 Nxe5

36. Ne4

By means of counter-sacrifices White has opened files for his Rooks. However Black has plenty of counter-chances.

36. . . . h6 37. Rael Bb8

38. Rd1 c4.

White is already faced with great difficulties: the threat is 39. . . . Ba7+ followed by Ne5-d3 with attack against his

King. Moreover, when the Knight comes to d3 the White Rook is interposed and the pawn d5 is in danger. Tal seeks defending resources.

39. d6 Nd3 40. Qg4 Ba7+
41. Kh1 f5 (the sealed move).

The line 42. Rxf5 Rxf5 43. Qxf5 Qh4+ 44. Qh3 Qxe4 is rather unpleasant for White, but he finds 42. Nf6+. The Knight is taboo in view of the check from c4. What followed is a tactical outburst.

42. ... Kh8 43. Qxc4 Nxb2
44. Qxa6 Nxd1 45. Qxa7 Qxd6
46. Qd7 Qxf6 47. Qxd1 Rb8

Black has good winning chances, but I failed to exploit them, and the game ended in a draw.

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| 48. Rf3 Ra8 | 49. Qe1 Rxa5 |
| 50. Qxb4 Re5 | 51. Qf4 Kh7 |
| 52. Kh2 Rds | 53. Rf1 Qg5 |
| 54. Qf3 Re5 | 55. Kg1 Rcs |
| 56. Qf2 Re5 | 57. Qf3 Ra2 |
| 58. Kh2 Kh8 | 59. Kg1 Ra2 |
| 60. Qd5 Rc2 | 61. Qa8+ Kh7 |
| 62. Qf3 Rc1 | 63. Rxc1 Qxc1+ |
| 64. Kh2 Qc7+ | 65. Kh3 Qe5 |
| 66. g4 fxg+ | 67. Kxg4 Qg5 |
| 68. Kh3 Qf6 | 69. Qe4+ Kg8 |
| 70. Qe8+ Qf8 | 71. Qxf8+ Kxf8 |
| 72. Kg4 Kf7 | 73. Kf5. |

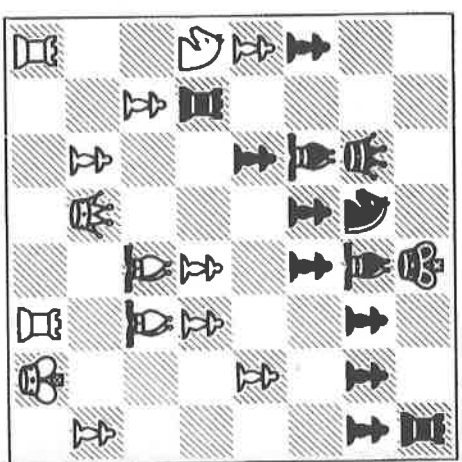
Draw agreed.
Those who want to take some exercises in calculation technique (especially young players will profit from it) are advised to study this game, starting from the 38th or 39th move. A lot of interesting variations; try to find them without looking at the chessboard.

The sacrifices we have seen were for defense. However this tactical weapon can be used for attack as well.

Playing the Sicilian Defence by Black, I sacrificed my Rook on e4 several times

— a typical operation. Three examples follow.

Diagram 72



My game with Vladimir Dunaiev (the USSR School Championship, 1946) is the first example. My opponent is well known to many: he is political commentator of Moscow TV.

19. ... Rxe4!

If 20. Bxe4 Bxe4, White's position would be obviously bad: Black retreats with this Bishop along the great diagonal and plays Qc6. In addition to it, Black's King is still not castled, so h7-h6 is possible (the KR file will be opened). Therefore White plays 20. c4 first, in order to take the Rook by his Knight (after Na4-c3).

20. ... h6! 21. g6?

This move is bad, — my opponent was then young and inexperienced. He should have played 21. Nc3 Rxe3 22. Qxe3 hxg 23. fxg Ne5 24. Bxc6+ Qxc6, although Black would be more than compensated for the exchange.

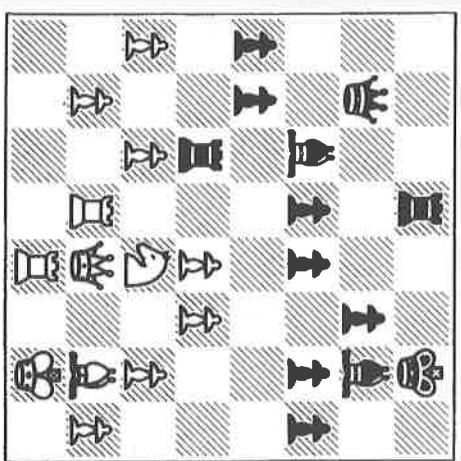
21. ... f5 22. Nc3 Nf6
23. Bxe4 fxe 24. Rad1

One who has some experience would have played 24. f5, fighting for the square d5.

24. ... d5 25. cxd exd
26. f5 d4 27. Bf4 Qc8
28. Ne2 Qxf5! 29. Bg3 Qxg6
30. Nf4 Qf7 31. Qc2 g5
32. Ne2 d3.

The next example is from my game against the experienced Rumanian master Trojanescu (Bucarest, 1953).

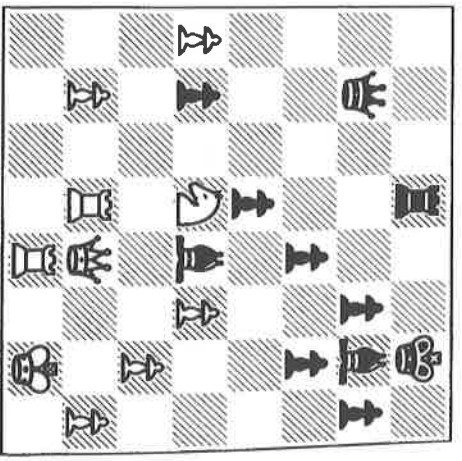
Diagram 73



Why Black sacrificed the exchange, in this and in the previous example, so "lightheartedly"? Because he got for his Rook, in addition to a minor piece, a pawn. And, "ceteris paribus" a minor piece plus a pawn are a good compensation for a Rook. Black has two Bishops now. His light-squared Bishop is particularly strong, while the White Rooks have no operational freedom. It is quite clear that Black will strengthen his position and increase the pressure. The further course of the game is rather interesting.

25. ... Rxe4 26. Bxe4 Bxe4
27. Nc2 d5 28. Nd4 b4
29. cxb axb 30. a4

Diagram 74



Estimating this position from afar one could be afraid of sacrificing an exchange. White has a passed pawn, a strong Knight on d4, the QB file is opened, a Rook will protect the passed pawn from a1. However White's King stands badly, this is what counts. Black should have foreseen the Bishop maneuver to c5; after it, all White's pluses are obviously unimportant, whereas the heaven over his King is growing dark. The most stubborn method is 30. h4 so as to play Kh2, where the King would be more safe. It is true, however, that Black, with his positional advantage and sufficient compensation for the exchange, can find some new possibilities, e.g. e6-e5 fx-e. Bxe5, and the Bishop works against White's King again.

30. ... Qa7 31. Qf2
31. ... Rc8 32. b3 Bf8!
33. Nb5 Qa6 34. Qe2 Qb6+
35. Kf1

A little trap: the threat is 32. Nxe6. Bishop's arrival to c5 will cause great troubles for White.

A nice position Black has, but how to win it? By means of breaking through the QB file? All the squares are under fire. Direct play for mate? Then we should try to move our pieces nearer. But if 35. . . . Bc5, then 36. Rct: after all, White has an extra exchange. The Knight on b5, is protected and safe. . . .

Happily enough, here is a possibility of another exchange sacrifice which maintains Black's advantage.

35. . . . Rc3!

The threat is Rf3+; in addition, the pawn b3 hangs.

36. Nx3 bxc 37. Rc2
 Or 37. Rd3 Bf5 38. g4 Bxd3 39. Qxd3 Qxb3 with a winning position.
 37. . . . Qxb3 38. Rec1 Bb4

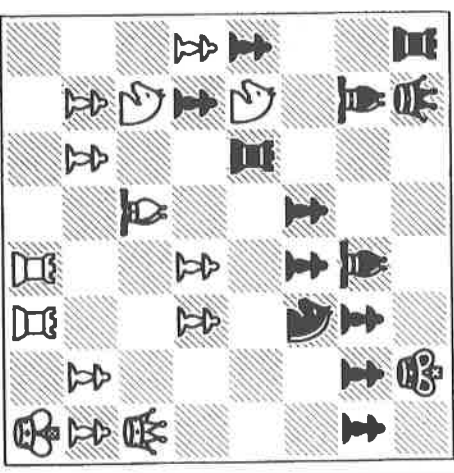
My advice is to consider this position more attentively. Many players are terribly afraid of giving up an exchange, but what use is it if the White Rooks have no decent moves? They must stand and wait until Black will take them, while Black has plenty of ways to strengthen his position.

39. g4 Bxc2 40. Rxc2 Qxa4

Now the situation is obvious enough, and only elementary accuracy is required.

41. f5 exf 42. gxf g5
 43. h4 Bc5 44. hxg Qf4+
 45. Ke1 Qg3+ 46. Kd1 Qg1+
 47. Qe1 Qxe1+ 48. Kxe1 hxg
 49. Ke2 Bd4 50. Ra2 Kg7
 51. Kd3 Be5 52. Ra5 Kf6
 53. Rxd5 Kxf5 54. Ke3 f6
 55. Rc5 Kg4 56. Rc4+ Kg3
 57. Ke4 g4. White resigned.
- Finally, another position from my most beloved ones: the game with Bruno Parma (Moscow, 1971).

Diagram 75



In this Sicilian Defence, an attack on the pawn e4 along the 4th rank from the squares b4, c4 even d4 is quite a usual matter. But the idea, which I managed to discover in this game, is interesting mainly due to its paradoxical character.

21. . . . Rh5

This move seems to be absurd. The Rook will be surrounded by White's pieces: when the Queen goes away, g2-g4 threatens, and what should Black do with his Rook at all?

22. Qf3 e5!
- This move is necessary. Black intends to attack the pawn e4, in one form or another. An object of attack should be first fixed and deprived of mobility; then follows the attack itself.
23. f5
 The Rook is posted queerly, to say the least.
23. . . . d5
- Attacking the pawn e4 White cannot capture on d5 in view of 24. . . . e4.
24. Nd2

The general exchange on e4 (24. . . . dxe4 25. Nxe4 Nxe4 26. Bxe4 Bxe4 27. dxe4) leads to the position which tells clearly that Black's idea has been wrong. The Knight b5 is wonderful, the pawn e5 is attacked and the Rook h5 is out of play. However the idea of the Rook maneuver was quite different from this.

24. . . . Rh4! 25. g3 dxe
 26. Nxe4, and now 26. . . . Rxe4
- After 27. Bxe4 Nxe4, similarly to my game with Troianescu, the diagonal h1-a8 would be weak, another Bishop goes to c5, Black develops a strong pressure and the missing exchange means nothing.
27. Rxe4 Qd8 28. Rfe1 Rce8
- No need of being hasty.
29. Rfe2 Qd5

We have fallen into mutual time-trouble. Everything seems easy, simple, understandable when a game is being demonstrated, while when it is being played it takes a lot of effort, nerves, time. No wonder that practically in all the games, we have seen, there was time-trouble.

30. b3 h6 31. Kg2 Qd7
 32. h3 Bc5 33. h4 h5
 34. Kh3 Bb6
- While in the game with Portisch White's Knight was out of play on c6, here we have such a Knight on b5.
- On the decisive field of battle Black has an overwhelming advantage.
35. Kh2 (an error in time-trouble)
 35. . . . g6 36. fxg Ng4+
 38. Kg2 f5. White resigned.

Summing up, I would like to repeat that the positional exchange sacrifice is very effective and strong. But it requires sufficient experience. Do not be hypnotized by the relative force of a Rook. The decision comes from an actual evaluation of forces and positional factors.

SUPPLEMENT

The preceding scores of the games from this article up to the diagrammed positions.

Reshevsky - Petrosian
 The Nimzo-Indian Defence

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1. d4 Nf6 | 2. c4 e6 |
| 3. Nc3 Bb4 | 4. e3 0-0 |
| 5. Bd3 d5 | 6. Nf3 c5 |
| 7. 0-0 Nc6 | 8. a3 Bxc3 |
| 9. bxc b6 | 10. cxd exd |
| 11. Bb2 c4 | 12. Bc2 Bg4 |
| 13. Qe1 Ne4 | 14. Nd2 Nxd2 |
| 15. Qxd2 Bh5 | 16. f3 Bg6 |
| 17. e4 Qd7 | 18. Rae1 dxe |
| 19. fxe Rfe8 | 20. Qf4 b5 |
| 21. Bd1 Re7 | 22. Bg4 Qe8 |
| 23. e5 a5 | 24. Re3 Rd8 |
| 25. Rfe1. | |

Petrosian - Gillgoric
 The King's Indian Defence

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1. d4 Nf6 | 2. c4 g6 |
| 3. Nc3 Bg7 | 4. e4 d6 |
| 5. Be2 0-0 | 6. Nf3 e5 |
| 7. d5 Nbd7 | 8. 0-0 Nc5 |
| 9. Qc2 a5 | 10. Bg5 h6 |
| 11. Be3 Nfd7 | 12. Nd2 f5 |
| 13. exf gxf | 14. f4 exf |
| 15. Bxf4 Ne5 | 16. Nf3 Ng6 |
| 17. Be3 Qe7 | 18. Qd2 f4 |
| 19. Bf2 Ne5 | 20. Nxe5 Bxe5 |
| 21. Bd4 Bf5 | 22. Rf2 Bg6 |
| 23. Rafl Qg5 | 24. Bxe5 dxe |
| 25. Kh1. | |

Portisch - Petrosian
 The English Opening

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| 1. c4 c5 | 2. Nf3 Nc6 |
| 3. Nc3 g6 | 4. e3 Bg7 |
| 5. d4 d6 | 6. Be2 cxd |
| 7. exd Nf6 | 8. d5 Ndb8 |

9. 0-0 0-0
10. Be3 Na6
11. Nb5 b6
12. Nf4 Bb7
13. Bf3 Nd7
14. Qd2 Ne5
15. Be2 Qc8
16. Rac1 Nc5
17. b4 Ne4
18. Qd1 a6
19. Na3 a5
20. b5 Qc7
21. Nc6 Raee8
22. Nb1 Nd7
23. Bf3 Nee5.

Tal - Petrosian
The Ruy Lopez

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| 1. e4 e5 | 2. Nf3 Nc6 |
| 3. Bb5 a6 | 4. Ba4 Nf6 |
| 5. 0-0 Be7 | 6. Re1 b5 |
| 7. Bb3 0-0 | 8. c3 d6 |
| 9. h3 Na5 | 10. Bc2 c5 |
| 11. d4 Qc7 | 12. Nbd2 Bd7 |
| 13. Nf1 Nc4 | 14. Ne3 Nxe3 |
| 15. Bxe3 Be6 | 16. Nd2 Rfe8 |
| 17. f4 Rad8 | 18. fxe dxe |
| 19. d5 Bd7 | 20. c4 Rb8 |
| 21. a4 b4 | 22. a5 Rf8 |
| 23. Ba4 Bxa4 | 24. Rxa4 Rbd8. |

Dunaiev - Petrosian
The Sicilian Defence

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1. e4 c5 | 2. Nf3 d6 |
| 3. d4 cxd | 4. Nxd4 Nf6 |
| 5. Nc3 e6 | 6. Be2 a6 |
| 7. a4 Be7 | 8. Be3 Qc7 |
| 9. Nb3 b6 | 10. f4 Bb7 |
| 11. Bf3 Nbd7 | 12. 0-0 Rce8 |
| 13. g4 Nc5 | 14. Nxc5 bxc |
| 15. g5 Nd7 | 16. a5 Rb8 |
| 17. Qd2 Bc6 | 18. Na4 Rb4 |
| 19. b3. | |

Troianescu - Petrosian
The Sicilian Defence

- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| 1. e4 c5 | 2. Nf3 d6 |
| 3. d3 Nc6 | 4. Nbd2 g6 |
| 5. g3 Bg7 | 6. Bg2 e6 |
| 7. 0-0 Nge7 | 8. Re1 0-0 |
| 9. c3 b6 | 10. Nf1 Ba6 |
| 11. d4 cxd | 12. Nxd4 Ne5 |
| 13. Bg5 h6 | 14. Qa4 Bb7 |
| 15. Bxe7 Qxe7 | 16. Rad1 Rf8 |
| 17. Ne3 Rc5 | 18. f4 Nc6 |
| 19. Nxc6 Bxc6 | 20. Qc2 Rd8 |
| 21. Qe2 Qb7 | 22. Nc2 b5 |
| 23. Rd2 Rc4 | 24. a3 a5 |
| 25. Ne3. | |

Parma - Petrosian
The Sicilian Defence

- | | |
|-------------|----------------|
| 1. e4 c5 | 2. Nf3 Nc6 |
| 3. d4 cxd | 4. Nxd4 Qc7 |
| 5. Nc3 e6 | 6. Be3 a6 |
| 7. f4 b5 | 8. Nb3 d6 |
| 9. Bd3 Nf6 | 10. 0-0 Be7 |
| 11. Qf3 Bb7 | 12. a4 b4 |
| 13. Nb1 a5 | 14. Nf4 d2 0-0 |
| 15. Kh1 Nb8 | 16. Nd4 Nbd7 |
| 17. Nb5 Qb8 | 18. Rael Rc8 |
| 19. Qh3 Nc5 | 20. Bxc5 Rxc5 |
| 21. Nb3. | |

If my lecture will help you play chess a little bit better, I shall consider my task fulfilled.

THE PETROSIAN VARIATION

One of the most important methods of playing White in the King's Indian Defence has become, in the last two decades, development of QB to g5.

This pin may not seem dangerous for Black, at least because White cannot strengthen the pressure produced by his Bishop. In addition, Black's Queen can easily escape from the pin by means of Qb6 or Qa5 initiating Q-side actions; or can stay on more modest squares inside his own camp, such as c7 or e8.

On the other hand, attacking White's Bishop by the move h7-h6, creates a problem for his opponent: in which direction should he retreat? To h4? Then the Bishop will very probably appear on g3 where it should be posted rather strangely and not quite luckily. Or should he find himself a place on the diagonal c1-h6? But what was the reason for Bg5 in that case?

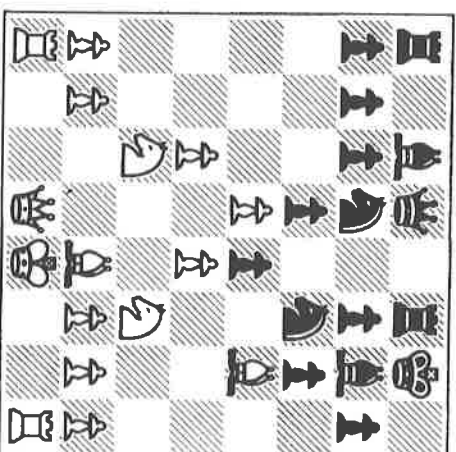


Diagram 77

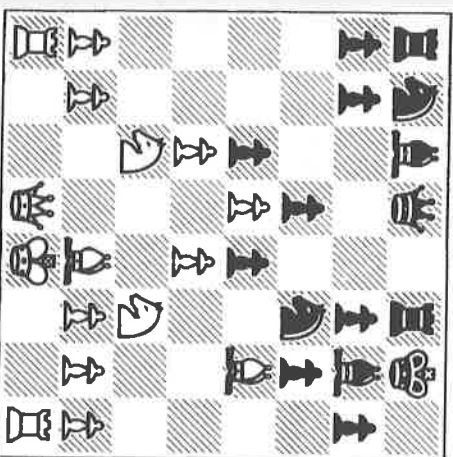


Diagram 76

c5 is caulked securely in the case #1 (Diagram 76) and free in the case #2 (Diagram 77). It is a great difference.

We know from the practice with the King's Indian Defence that in case 1 the black pawn on c5 is a buffer which softens White's pawn assault on the Queenside and helps Black's counterplay on the Kingside.

In case 2 the Black Knight has a more or less safe outpost at c5 (after a7-a5) and becomes, beside Bg7, the most important character of the whole action.

Geller - Ljubojevic
The Interzonal Tournament
Petropolis, 1973

- | | |
|-----------|------------|
| 1. d4 Nf6 | 2. c4 c5 |
| 3. d5 g6 | 4. Nc3 Bg7 |
| 5. e4 d6 | 6. Nf3 0-0 |
| 7. Be2 e5 | 8. Bg5 h6! |

