

Capablanca – Janowski [C68]

St Petersburg, 1914

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Bxc6 [A practical decision by Capablanca. Janowski, a brilliant tactician and attacker, was uncomfortable in dry positions. He had played the exchange variation badly with black in his match against Lasker. This must have influenced Capablanca's opening choice.]

4...dxc6 5.Nc3 [Later the move 5.0-0 became more popular in this position and was used effectively by Fischer in many games.]

5...Bc5?! [♟5...f6 the common continuation in this position today. Janowski's move allows white to exchange bishops after which black no longer has the double bishop advantage.]

6.d3 Bg4 7.Be3! Bxe3?! [Janowski makes another bad strategic decision. This capture reduces black's chances on the kingside and makes it easy for white to get out of the pin on his king's knight.]

8.fxe3 Qe7?! [Δ8...f6 with the idea of ...Ne7 and ...0-0.]

9.0-0 0-0-0 [A flawed idea which exposes the black king to a fierce attack.] [It would have been better to play 9...Nh6 followed by ...0-0. The black king would be much safer on the kingside where his pawn structure is intact.]

10.Qe1 [Now one of the drawbacks of capturing on 'e3' reveals itself. The knight on f3 has been supported by the rook and white easily unpins it.]

10...Nh6 11.Rb1! [The black pawns on 'a6' and 'c6' are obvious targets for a pawnroller. Capablanca prepares to advance his b pawn without wasting a move with a2-a3]

11...f6 12.b4 Nf7?! [Black's best defensive try would have been 12...Be6 when after 13.a4 b6 14.b5 cxb5 15.axb5 a5 he keeps the d5 square controlled and the white knight cannot occupy it.]

13.a4 Bxf3 [hoping to simplify the position by exchanging pieces.] [It is now too late to defend with 13...Be6 as white manages to crash through after 14.b5 cxb5 15.axb5 a5 16.b6!→]

14.Rxf3 b6 [this is the only way to keep the queenside closed, but now the white knight lands on 'd5' creating numerous threats] [Black could have hoped for better defensive chances with the ugly looking 14...b5 with the idea of playing ...Kb7 and being ready to oppose rooks in the 'a' file. White continues to hold the advantage after 15.Ne2 Nq5 16.Rf2 Ne6 17.Nc1 Δ Nb3 – c5/a5.

The exchange of bishops on 'e3' has deprived black of the outposts 'f4' and 'd4' for his knights.]

15.b5 cxb5 16.axb5 a5 17.Nd5 Qc5 18.c4!
[Capablanca plays very simply and gains a winning position by making natural strategic moves. He now plans to start another pawn roller with d3-d4 and c4-c5.]

18...Ng5 19.Rf2! [guarding against tactical tricks.]
[19.Rf1?! Ne6 20.Qc3? Rxd5 21.exd5 Qxe3+
followed by Nc5 with good compensation for the
exchange.]

19...Ne6 20.Qc3 Rd7 21.Rd1 [21.Rd2? Rxd5]

21...Kb7 22.d4 [The pawns begin to move, driving away everything in their path.]

22...Qd6 [Black can prevent white from gaining a tempo in the attack with 22...Qf8 when c4 – c5 would not attack the queen. Yet white's attack is too strong and black cannot put up much resistance. for eg. 23.Rc2 Nq5 24.c5 exd4 25.c6+]

23.Rc2 [Capablanca systematically takes control of one square after another.]

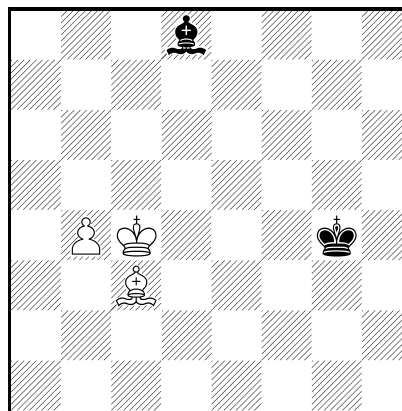
23...exd4 24.exd4 Nf4 25.c5 [now resignation is in order.]

25...Nxd5 26.exd5 Qxd5 27.c6+ Kb8 28.cxd7
Qxd7 29.d5 Re8 30.d6 cxd6 31.Qc6

1-0

Taimanov,M – Fischer,RJ

Buenos Aires, 1960



[In such bishop endings, if the weaker side can't put the king in front of the pawn, then its best place is usually behind it, in opposition to the enemy king.]

1...Kf4! [The Black king is headed for 'c4!']

[The attempt to retreat his king would have led to a loss. 1...Kf5?! 2.Kd5 Kg6? (it is not yet too late for 2...Kf4) 3.b5 Kf7 4.Kc6 Ke6 5.Bd4 Ba5 6.Bc5 followed by Bd6-c7.]

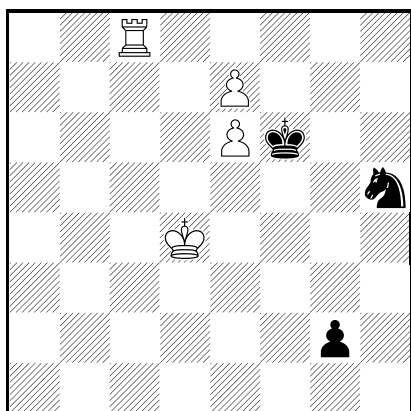
2.b5 Ke4 3.Bd4 Bc7 4.Kc5 Kd3! 5.Kc6 Kc4 [5...Kxd4? 6.Kxc7]

6.Bb6 Bf4 [Due to the correct positioning of the black king, White can't challenge the Black bishop from c7 without losing his pawn.]

7.Ba7 Bc7 [7...Bg3 is also sufficient to secure the draw. 8.b6 Bf2]

½-½

Study – Mitrofanov,L 1987



1.Rg8 Ng7 [1...Kxe7 2.Ke5]

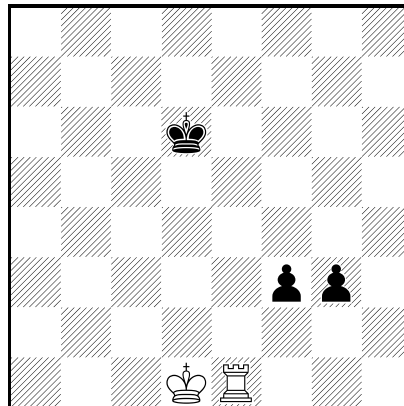
2.Kd5 g1Q 3.e8N+ Kf5 [3...Nxe8 4.Rxg1 Nc7+ 5.Kd6 Nxe6 6.Rf1+]

4.Nxg7+ Kf4 5.Nh5+ Kf5 6.Ng3+ Kf4 [6...Kf6 7.Ne4+]

7.Ne2+

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Composed Position

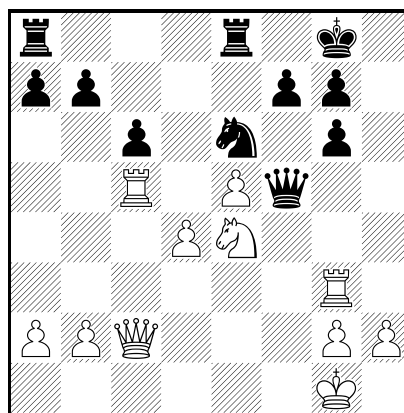


1.Kd2 f2 [1...g2 2.Ke3]

2.Rd1 g2 3.Ke2+ Ke6 4.Kxf2

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Abramovic,B – Zheliandinov,V Ptuj, 2000



1.Nf6+! Kf8 [1...Kh8 2.Qxf5 gxf5 3.Rh3#; 1...gxf6 2.Qxf5]

2.Nxe8 Nxc5 3.Qxc5+ Kxe8 4.Rh3 Qb1+ [4...Rd8 5.Rh8+ Kd7 6.Qd6+]

5.Kf2 Qf5+ [5...Qxb2+ 6.Kf3]

6.Ke3! Qg5+ 7.Kd3 Rd8 [7...Qf5+ 8.Kc3]

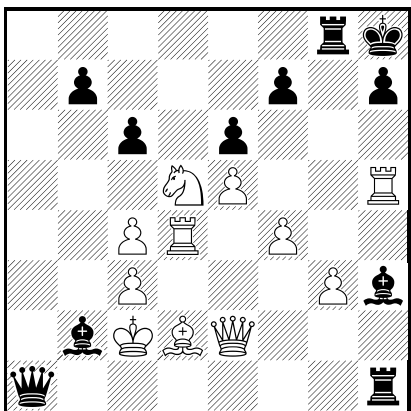
8.Rh8+ Kd7 9.e6+! fxe6 10.Qxg5

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IIT NSO – Tuesday, January 23, 2024

Corrales,Fi – Ferragut,A

Cuba, 2004



1.Rxh7+! Kxh7 2.Qh5+ Kg7 3.Qh6+! [3.Qg5+ Kf8 4.Qe7+ Kg7 5.Qg5+]

3...Kxh6 4.f5+ Rg5 [4...Kg7 5.f6+ Kf8 6.Bh6+ Rg7 7.fxg7+; 4...Kh7 5.Rh4+ Kg7 6.Bh6+]

5.Rh4+ Kg7 6.f6+ Kf8 7.Rh8+ Rg8 8.Bh6+ Ke8 9.Rxg8+ Kd7 10.Nb6+ Kc7 11.Rc8+ Kxb6 12.Be3+ c5 13.Bxc5+ [13.Bxc5+ Ka6 (13...Ka5 14.Ra8#) 14.Ra8#]

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