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## COLUMNISTS



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## Viorel Bologan Annotates

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Picture the usual silence in a tournament hall during a double round-robin four-player Category 16 world class event. And then, try to feel the roar of the crowd as raging bulls charge towards the bullring in a frantic race with death-defying young men running for their lives during the (in)famous San Fermin festival annually held in Pamplona, Spain. Nothing in common, you might say? You're terribly wrong, mister... and probably a patzer, too! Seldom is the royal game of ours less then a killing field, despite the deceptive calmness of the players hunched over the chequered board. However, once the game is over, the losers rush out fuming in sheer despair, whilst the winners strut their stuff complacently... Once the decorum is lost, you'll get everything from a whisper to a scream!

Apart from the traditional open tournament, Pamplona 2002 chess festival boasted a main event of four 2600+ star players: Viktor Bologan (2627), Rustam Kasimdzhanov (2653), Francisco Vallejo Pons (2635) and Ivan Sokolov (2684). The year of success ended somewhat unfavorably for I. Sokolov who struggled to assert himself, drawing four games and losing the remaining two (one against each of the co-winners), whereas Paco Vallejo held his own drawing all the games that he played with Black rather quickly, while definitely living on the edge trying to squeeze out with White all the chances that he could get; anyway, the result was very much the same – three more draws.

The co-winners deserve the accolades as usual: I. Sokolov's pet Ruy Lopez could not withstand the pressure exerted by Bologan and Kasimdzhanov, so it took their two-game clash to determine the winner. Once again the advantage of having White pieces proved decisive, and in the end they had to split the dough. The game that follows is quite topical of the contemporary style: an important novelty



provided a small but lasting advantage, followed by dynamic piece play which ended in an all-out Viktorious assault – a great game by all means... Chapeau!

**Bologan 2627 — Kasimdzhanov 2653 Pamplona 2002**

**1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. Ne5 d6 4. Nf3 Ne4 5. d4 d5 6. Bd3 Nc6 7. 0-0 Be7 8. c4 Nf6 9. h3 Nb4 10. Be2 dc4 11. Bc4 0-0 12. Nc3 Nbd5 13. Re1 c6 14. Qb3 Nb6 15. Bd3 Be6 16. Qc2 h6 17. a3 Nbd5**



**18. Na4! N** (18. Bd2 a) 18... Nc3? 19. bc3 Qc8 (19... c5?! 20. Re6! fe6 21. Re1 and White is superior; Anand 2795 - Jussupow 2640, Dortmund 1998 – 73/344) 20. c4 and White is slightly better; b) 18... Rc8 b1) 19. Na4 Rc7 20. Nc5 N (20. Re2 Bd6 21. Rae1 Nh5 22. Bh7 Kh8 23. Bf5 Nh4 24. Bf4 Nf4 25. Re3 Nd5 26. R3e2 Nf4 27. Re3 1/2 : 1/2 Gelfand 2712 - Jussupow 2645, Istanbul (ol) 2000 – 80/(331)) Bc8 21. Rac1 Bd6 22. Ne5 Re8 23. b4 Rce7 24. b5!? (24. Qb2?! Nc7 25. a4 Ne6 equal; Ch. Lutz 2655 - D. Fridman 2571, Essen 2002) Be5 25. de5 Re5 26. Re5 with compensation; b2) 19. Rad1 Re8 20. Na4 Rc7 21. Ne5 Bf8 22. Ba5 b6 23. Bd2 Qc8 24. Re2 Rd8 25. b4 and White is slightly better; Ivanchuk 2719 - Jussupow 2610, Frankfurt 2000) **18...d7!?** (18... b6 19. Ne5 and White is superior; 18... Qc7 19. Nc5 Bc5 20. dc5 Nf4 21. Bf1 and White is slightly better) **19. Bd2 Re8 20. Rad1** (20. Re2!? Qc7 21. Rae1 Nf4 22. Bf4 Qf4 23. Nc3!? (23. Bc4 Bc4 24. Qc4 Kf8 25. Qd3 g6 26. b4 Bg5 27. Re8 Re8 28. Re8 Ke8 29. Nc5 Nc5 30. dc5 Bd8 equal) a) 23... Kf8 (weak point e7) 24. Re6! fe6 25. Bg6 Red8 26. Re6 and White is superior; b) 23... Qc7 24. d5 cd5 25. Nd4 and White is slightly better) **20...Bf6 21. Ne5?! (21. Bc1 with the idea Nc3-e4 and White is slightly better) 21...Qc7** (21... Bg5! 22. Nc5 (22. Bg5 Qg5 23. Nf3 Qf6 24. Be4 equal) Nc5 23. dc5 Bd2 24. Qd2 Qf6 25. Bb1 Nf4 equal) **22. f4 Nf8 23. Nc5 Rad8 24. Bc1 Bc8** (24... Bh4!? a) 25. Rf1 f6 26. Ng6 (26. Ne6 Ne6 27. Bh7 Kh8 28. Ng6 Kh7 29. Nh4 Kg8 and Black is slightly better) Ng6 27. Ne6 Re6 28. Bg6 Qe7 29. Qb3 Re3 30. Be3 Qe3 31. Qe3 Ne3 32. Rd3 Nf1 33. Kf1 f5 34. Bf5 Bf6 35. d5 cd5 equal; b) 25. f5 b1) 25... Bc8 26. Re4 (26. Rf1 Bg3 27. Ne4 Be5 28. de5 Re5 29. g4 Nh7 30. Qf2 b6 and Black is slightly better) b1) 26... Bg3 27. Rg4 Be5 28. de5 Qe5 29. Bh6 Ne3 30. Bg7 (30. Be3 Qe3) Qd5 31. Qc3 Ng4 32. hg4 b6 33. Nb3 with compensation; b12) 26... Be7 27. Re2 Bd6 28. Rde1 unclear; b2) 25... Be1 26. fe6 f6 27. Nf7 Ne6 28. Nd8 Nd8 29. Bc4 Nf7 30. Qf5 Qe7 31. Bd3 with compensation) **25. Qf2 Ne6** (25... Be7 with the idea Bd6, f6 unclear) **26. Ne4 Be7 27. Bc4!?** (diagonal a2-g8) **27...Nf8 28. f5!** (and White is slightly better) **28...Nh7?** (28... Nd7 a) 29. f6!? N7f6 30. Bh6 Be6 31. Ng5 Bd6 (31... gh6 32. Ne6 fe6 33. Bd5 and White is winning) 32. Ne6 Re6 33. Bg5 Rde8; b) 29. Bf4 Qb6 30. Nc3 (30. Nd7 Bd7 31. Be5 f6 32. Bd6 Bd6 33. Nd6 Re1 34. Re1 Kf8 unclear) N7f6 31. g4 and White is slightly better) **29. Bf4!** (29. Bh6 f6! (29... gh6 30. Qg3 Bg5 31. h4 Bf5 32. hg5 Be4 33. Re4 hg5 unclear)

30. Qg3 Bf8 31. Qg6 fe5 32. Bg5 Be7 33. f6 (33. Bh6 Bh4 34. g3 Kh8) Bf8)  
**29...Qb6** (29... Nf4 30. Bf7)



**30. Bh6!!** (and White is winning)

**30...gh6** (30... f6 31. Qg3 Bf8 32. Ng6)

**31. Qg3 Ng5** (31... Kf8 32. Nf7! a) 32... Bg5 33. Nd8 Qd8 34. Ng5 Re1 (34...

Ng5 35. Re8 Qe8 36. Bd5 cd5 37. Qd6

Kg7 38. Qd5) 35. Re1 Ng5 36. Bd5 Qd5

(36... cd5 37. Qb8 Nf7 38. Rc1 Nd6 39.

Rc5) 37. Qe5; b) 32... Ng5 33. Nd8 Qd8

34. f6! Bf6 35. Bd5 cd5 36. Nf6; c) 32...

Kf7 33. Qg6 Kf8 34. Qh7 Bf6 35. Nf6

Re1 36. Kh2! Qc7 (36... Re3 37. Qh6

Kf7 38. Ng4 Re4 39. Ne5 Ke7 40. f6 Nf6

41. Qg7 Kd6 42. Nf7) 37. Qc7 Nc7 38. Nh7 Kg7 39. Re1 Rd7 (39... Kh7 40.

Re7 Kh8 41. Rc7 Bf5 42. g4 Rd4 43. gf5 Rc4 44. Kg3) 40. f6 Kh7 41. f7

Kg7 42. Re8 Rf7 43. Bf7 Ne8 44. Be8 Kf6 45. Kg3; 31... Bg5 32. h4 Bf5

(32... f6 33. Nf6 Nhf6 34. hg5 Nh5 35. Qg4 Ng7 36. gh6) 33. hg5 Be4 34.

gh6 Bg6 35. Ng6) **32. h4 f6** (32... Bf5 33. hg5 Be4 34. gh6 Bg6 35. Ng6) **33.**

**hg5 hg5 34. Ng6 Kf7** (34... Kg7 35. Ng5 fg5 36. Ne7 Re7 37. Re7 Ne7 38.

Qg5 Kf8 39. f6) **35. Qh3** [better is 35. Bd5 cd5 (35... Rd5 36. Qh2 Kg7 37.

Ng5 fg5 38. Re7) 36. Qh3 Kg7 (36... Bf8 37. Qh7 Bg7 38. Ng3 Re1 39.

Re1) 37. Nf2] **35...Kg7 36. Bd5 cd5** (36... Bf5!? 37. Qf5 Rd5 38. Ne7 Rf5

39. Nf5 Kg6 40. Neg3 Re5 41. Rf1 Re8 42. Rde1 Re5 43. Kh2) **37. Nf2!** (37.

Ng3 Bd6 38. Nh5 Kf7 39. Re8 Re8 40. Nhf4 Kg7 41. Nh5 Kf7 42. Nhf4

equal) **37...Bd6 38. Re8 Re8 39. Ng4 Bf5 40. Qh6 Kf7 41. Nh8!** (41... Rh8

42. Qf6 Kg8 (42... Ke8 43. Qh8) 43. Qg5 Kf7 44. Qf5 Kg7 45. Qf6 Kg8 46.

Qg6 Kf8 47. Rf1) **1 : 0** [Bologan]

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