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## Tactics

Nikolay Minev

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## Modern Benoni: 64 Times Typical Tactics and New Ideas (Part 1)

**A60 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6**

ECO	White	Black	Place	Year
4.g3 exd5 5.cxd5 b5	Ribli Mileika	Garcia,Guillermo Tal	St.Petersburg Latvia	1977 1953
4.Nf3 exd5 5.cxd5 b5	Buhton	Simmons	Corr.19	8/59
4.Nc3 exd5 5.cxd5 g6?	Kalantar	Pavlenko	Baku	1959
4.Nc3 exd5 5.cxd5 Bd6?!	Gisbergen Vaganian	Lupu Hodgson	Cappelle la Grande Sochi	1994 1986

**A61-64 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.Nf3 g6**

ECO	White	Black	Place	Year
7.Nd2 Na6	Garcia, Raimundo Sadler	Kostka Stratil	Buenos Aires Oakham	1975 1988
7.Nd2 Bg7 8.Nc4	Van den Berg	Kortchnoi	Wijk aan Zee	1971
7.Bg5	Piket	Wahls	Adelaide	1988
7.Bf4 a6 8.e4	Flear, G.	King	Great Britain	1985
7.Bf4 Bg7 8.Qa4+	Polgar, Zsuzsa Vossen Lopez	Hardicsay Haan Cordoba	Hungary Soest Seville	1985 1996 1987
7.g3	Cech Alburt	Stodola deFirmian	Prague USA	1994 1985

**Zoltan Ribli-Guillermo Garcia St. Petersburg 1977****1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 c5 4.d5 exd5 5.cxd5 b5 6.a4**

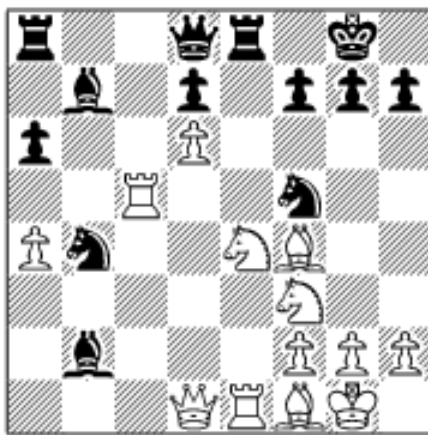
The theory recommends 6.Qc2 Bb7 7.e4 Qe7 8.Nbd2! Bxd5 9.Bxb5 Bxe4 10.Nxe4 Qxe4+ 11.Qxe4 Nxe4 12.O-O Nd6 13.Ba4 Be7 14.Re1 Nc8 15.Bf4! with better chances, Polugaevsky-Beliavsky, Las Palmas 1974. 6...Na6!? was proposed by Polugaevsky.

**6...Bb7?**

For 6...bxa4 or 6...b4!? - see next game.

**7.e4! Nxe4 8.Bxb5 Be7 9.O-O O-O 10.Re1 Nd6 11.Bf1 Na6 12.Nc3 Nb4 13.Bf4 Nf5?**

Relatively better is 13...Rc8

**14.d6! Bf6 15.Rc1 a6 16.Ne4! Bxb2 17.Rxc5 Re8**

All Black's minor pieces are unprotected. White wins material by force.

**18.Qb1! Nh4 19.Neg5 1-0** For if **19...Nxf3+ 20.gxf3 g6 21.Rxe8+ Qxe8 22.Qxb2**

*Mileika-Mikhail Tal* Latvia (ch) 1953

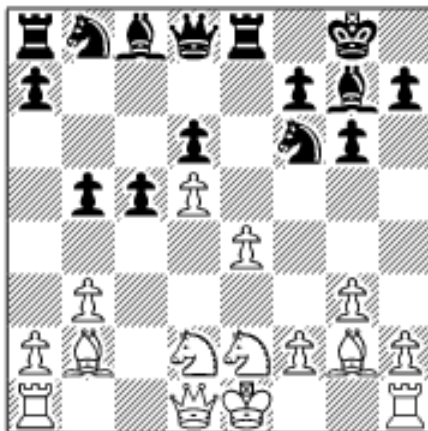
**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.g3 exd5 5.cxd5 b5 6.a4 b4!?**

ECO shows 6...bxa4 7.Nc3 d6 8.Qxa4+ Bd7 9.Qb3 Qc7 with chances for both sides.

**7.b3?!**

Developing the Bishop on b2 is not a good idea in the Modern Benoni. Better is 7.Bg2 d6 8.Qc2 Ba6 9.Nd2, intending Nc4

**7...g6 8.Bg2 d6 9.e4 Bg7 10.Bb2 O-O 11.Ne2 Re8 12.Nd2**



One of the typical tactical tricks for Black in the Modern Benoni (and King's Indian too! ) is feasible now.

**12...Nxe4! 13.Bxg7 Nxd2 14.Bh6 Bg4 15.Be3 Nf3+ 16.Bxf3 Bxf3 17.Rg1 Nd7 18.Qd2 Nf6 19.Nf4 g5 20.Ne2 Re5 21.O-O-O Ne4 22.Qc2 Bxe2 23.Qxe2 Nc3 0-1**

*Buften-Simmons* Corr. 1958/59

**1.c4 e6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nf3 c5 4.d5 exd5 5.cxd5 b5 6.e4!?**

A very interesting and forgotten gambit idea.

**6...Nxe4 7.Bd3 Nd6**

It seems that 7...Nf6 8.O-O (8.Bxb5!?) is in White's favor.

**8.O-O c4?**

Black should try 8...Be7 9.Re1 O-O 10.Qc2 h6 11.Qxc5 Na6.

**9.Re1+ Be7 10.Bg5! f6 11.Bf4 O-O 12.Bc2 Na6 13.Nc3 Nc7 14.Ne4 Nxe4 15.Bxe4 d6 16.Nd4 g6?**

A blunder in already difficult position. Now White wins by force.

**17.Nc6 Qd7**

If 17...Qe8 18.Bxg6! hxg6 19.Rxe7.



**18.Bf5! 1-0** Black loses his Queen: 18...Qxf5 19.Nxe7+, or 18...gxf5 19.Rxe7.

*Kalantar-Pavlenko Baku 1959*

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3 exd5 5.cxd5 g6? 6.d6! Qb6**

The other option is 6...Bg7 7.e4 Nc6 8.f4 O-O 9.e5 Ne8 10.Nf3 (White has the advantage - ECO), and now: Van den Berg - Nievergelt, Berlin 1965: 10...b5 11.Bxb5 Qb6 12.O-O Nd4 13.Bc4 Qb4 14.Qd3 Bb7 15.Nxd4 cxd4 16.Qxd4 Kh8 17.a3 Qa5 18.Be3 Rc8 19.Ba2 1-0

Rades - Bazon, Rumania (ch-corr) 1991: 10...f6 11.Bc4+ Kh8 12.O-O! fxe5 13.fxe5 h6 (If 13...Nxe5 14.Nxe5 Rxf1+ 15.Qxf1 Bxe5 16.Qf8#) 14.Qd5 Nb4 15.Qe4 1-0 For if 15...Kh7 16.Nh4, or 15...Rf5 16.Nh4, or 15...g5 16.Bxg5 hxg5 17.Qg6 Nf6 18.Nxg5.

**7.Bf4!?**

Forgotten. ECO's 7.Bg5 Bg7 8.Qd2 O-O 9.O-O-O looks more risky.

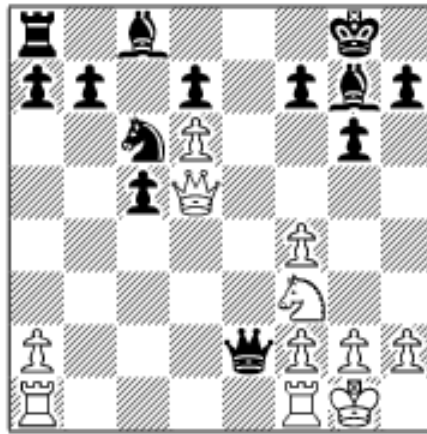
**7...Bg7**

7...Qxb2? 8.Be5 Bg7 9.Rb1 Qa3 10.Nb5 Qa5+ 11.Bc3, or 8...Ne4 9.Bxh8 Nxc3 10.Qc1, in both cases with advantage for White.

**8.Qd2 O-O 9.Nf3 Nc6 10.e3 Re8 11.Be2 Ne4 12.Nxe4 Rxe4 13.O-O! Qxb2 14.Qd5! Rxf4?**

Relatively better is 14...Re5, but after White clearly has the advantage.

**15.exf4 Qxe2**



White wins. A forced five-move variation!

**16.Rae1 Qb2 17.Ng5 Qf6  
18.Re8+ Bf8 19.Rxf8+ Kxf8  
20.Nxh7+ 1-0**

*J. van Gisbergen-IM S. Lupu  
Cappelle la Grande 1994*

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3  
exd5 5.cxd5 Bd6?! 6.e4 Bc7?**

A decisive mistake, refuted very convincingly in this game. Correct is 6...O-O.

**7.d6! Ba5 8.e5 Ne4**

Or 8...Ng8 9.Qg4 g6 10.Bc4 with a winning position.



**9.Qg4!**

A typical tactical idea, feasible also in the Sicilian and other openings. White temporarily sacrifices a piece, but inevitably regains the loss with interest.

**9...Nxc3 10.Qxg7 Ne4+ 11.Ke2 f5**

If 11...Rf8 12.Bh6

**12.Qxh8+ Kf7 13.Qxh7+ Ke6 1-0**

Because of 14.f3.

*Rafael Vaganian-Julian Hodgson Sochi 1986*

**1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 c5 3.d5 e6 4.c4 exd5 5.cxd5 Bd6?! 6.Nc3 O-O  
7.Bg5! Re8 8.e3 h6 9.Bh4 g5 10.Bg3 Bxg3 11.hxg3 Kg7 12.d6! b6  
13.Bc4 Bb7 14.Qd3 Nc6 15.O-O-O Na5**



The shelter of Black's King is weakened. Demolish it!

**16.Bxf7! Kxf7 17.Rxh6 Bxf3  
18.gxf3 1-0**

For if 18...Rg8 9.Qf5 and 10.Ne4, or 18...Ng8 19.Qg6+ Kf8 20.Rh8 and wins.

**Raimundo Garcia-Kostka Buenos Aires 1975**

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3**

**exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.Nf3 g6 7.Nd2**

Introduced by Nimzovich.

**7...Na6?! 8.Nc4 Nc7 9.a4 b6 10.e4!?**

Presumably stronger than ECO's 10.Bg5, followed by e2-e3.

**10...Ba6 11.Bg5 Bxc4 12.Bxc4 Be7?**

A mistake, but also after 12...Bg7 13.O-O O-O 14.f4 White has the advantage.



Here a most typical tactical opportunity for White in the Modern Benoni is possible.

**13.e5! Ng8**

If 13...dxe5 14.d6! Bxd6 15.Bxf6 Qxf6 16.Ne4 and White wins a piece.

**14.Bf4 dxe5 15.Bxe5 f6? 16.d6! fxe5 17.dxc7 Qd4**

If 17...Qxc7 18.Qd5!, or

17...Qxd1+ 18.Rxd1 Rc8 19.Nb5 and 20.Be6 wins.

**18.Qf3 1-0**

**M. Sadler-L. Stratil Oakham 1988**

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 c5 4.d5 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.Nc3 g6 7.Nd2 Na6?! 8.Nc4 Nc7 9.e4!?**

If 10...Ncxd5?? 11.Nxd5 Qxa5+ 12.Bd2 Qd8 13.Nxf6+ Qxf6 14.Bc3 and wins, or 10...b4 11.Nc6 Qd7 12.Nb5 Bb7 13.Nxc7+ Qxc7 14.Bb5 with advantage for White.

**11.Bg5 Bg7 12.Qf3 Bd7?**



Better is 12...O-O.

The same variation as in the previous example, with the same tactical shot. The key to success here is White's 14th move!

**13.e5! dxe5 14.Nb7! Qe7 15.d6 Qe6 16.Bxf6 Bxf6 17.Nxc5 1-0**

For if 17...Qxd6 18.Nce4.

*Carel van den Berg-Viktor  
Korchnoi Wijk aan Zee 1971*

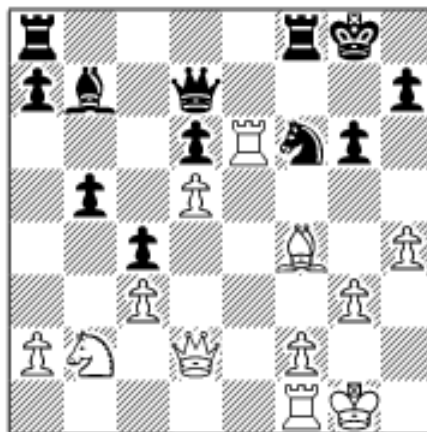
**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c5 4.d5 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.Nf3 g6 7.Nd2 Bg7 8.Nc4 O-O 9.Bf4 Ne8 10.Qd2 Bxc3!? 11.bxc3 b5 12.Nb2 Bb7!?**

Omitted in ECO's second edition.

**13.g3 Nd7 14.Bg2 f5 15.O-O c4 16.Rae1**

16.e4 =, according to ECO, 1st edition, but 16...fxe4 17.Bxe4 Ndf6 18.Bg2 Nc7 looks dangerous for White.

**16...Ndf6 17.h4 Qd7 18.e4? fxe4 19.Bxe4 Nxe4 20.Rxe4 Nf6 21.Re6**



After 21...Nxd5 22.Rxd6 Qf7 Black has the better chances. Can you find stronger continuation?

**21...Nxd5! 22.Rxd6 Qh3! 0-1**

Because of 23.Rxd5 Rad8! and Black wins.

*Jeroen Piket-M. Wahls Adelaide 1988*

**1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.c4 c5 4.d5 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.Nc3 g6 7.Bg5 Bg7 8.Nd2 h6 9.Bh4 g5 10.Bg3 Nh5 11.Nc4 Nxd3 12.hxg3 O-O 13.e3 Qe7 14.Qc2 f5 15.Nb5?!**

Instead 15.Be2 Bd7 16.a4 leads to a position with approximately equal chances.

**15...Rf6**



Is 16.Ncxd6 a sound or faulty combination?

**16.Ncxd6? Bd7!**

Bear in mind that when playing tempting combinations, one frequently fails to notice one's opponent's reply! Here White's nice looking idea was 16...Rxd6 17.Qxc5, with a winning double-attack.

**17.Qb3 Rxd6 18.Nxd6 Qxd6**

**19.Qxb7 Qb6! 20.Ba6**

Or 20.Qxa8 Qxb2 and Black wins

**20...Qa5+! 21.Kd1 Ba4+ 0-1**

For if 22.b3 Qxa6 23.Qxa8 Qd3+ 24.Kc1 Qc3+!, or 22.Kc1 Qxa6 23.Qxa8 Qc4+ 24.Kd2 Qb4+!, and wins.

### ***G. Flear-Daniel King Great Britain (ch) 1985***

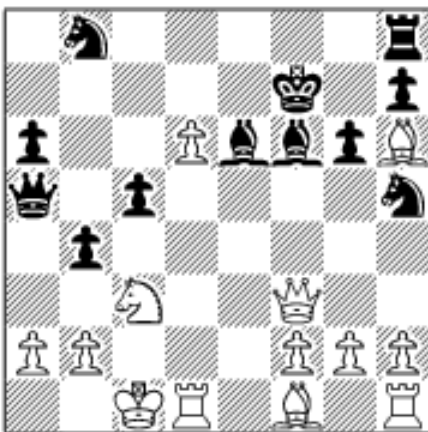
**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.Nf3 g6 7.Bf4 a6 8.e4 b5 9.Qe2! Be7?**

Correct is 9...Nh5

**10.e5 Nh5**

If 10...dxe5 11.Bxe5 O-O 12.d6! Bxd6 13.O-O-O

**11.Bh6 dxe5 12.O-O-O f6 13.Nxe5! fxe5 14.Qxe5 Kf7 15.d6 Bf6 16.Qd5+ Be6 17.Qxa8 Qa5 18.Qf3 b4**



Black's counter-play is an illusion. White demonstrates this in only two moves!

**19.Bc4!! Bxc4 20.Qb7+ 1-0**

### ***Zsuzsa Polgar-P. Hardicsay Hungary 1985***

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.Nf3 g6 7.Bf4 a6 8.e4 Bg7 9.Qa4+ Bd7 10.Qb3**

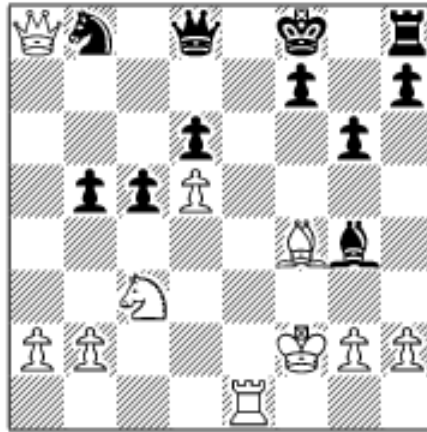
**Bg4?**

This leads to wild, but favorable complications for White. The simple retreat 10...Bc8 is probably Black's best try.

**11.Qxb7 Bxf3 12.Qxa8 Nxe4 13.Rc1! Bd4 14.Rc2 Nxf2 15.Rxf2 Bxf2+ 16.Kxf2 Bg4 17.Bb5+! axb5 18.Re1+ Kf8**

Or 18...Kd7 19.Qb7+ Qc7 20.Re7+!

**19.Bh6+ Kg8**



Two attractive tactical shots in a row, and Black's King will be mated. Find it!

**20.Re7! Bd7 21.Qxb8!! Qxb8 22.Ne4 1-0**

*R. van Vossen-E. de Haan Soest 1996*

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.Nf3 g6 7.Bf4**

**Bg7 8.Qa4+ Bd7 9.Qb3 b5**

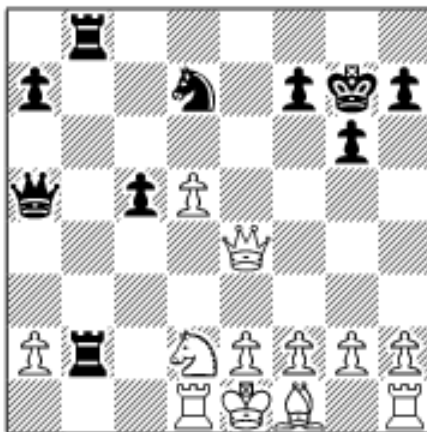
A controversial, but interesting gambit.

**10.Nxb5**

For 10.Bxd6 see next example.

**10...Bxb5 11.Qxb5+ Nbd7 12.Bxd6 Ne4 13.Be5 O-O 14.Bxg7 Kxg7 15.Qa4 Rb8 16.Qxe4 Qa5+ 17.Nd2 Rxb2 18.Rd1 Rfb8!?**

Another option is 18...Nf6 19.Qc4 Rfb8 20.e3 Rxa2 21.Be2 Rbb2 =



Poorly developed and with his King in the center, White is under strong attack. What is his best defense?

**19.e3?**

This loses, while 19.Qf4! R8b4 20.e4 Rd4 is unclear - ECO.

**19...Rxd2! 20.Rxd2 Rb2 21.Qd3 Ne5 22.Qe2 Nc4! 23.Qd1 Nxd2 0-1**

*Campos Lopez-Illescas Cordoba Seville 1987*

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.Nf3 g6 7.Bf4 Bg7 8.Qa4+ Bd7 9.Qb3 b5 10.Bxd6 Na6**

Probably not the best. The theory recommends 10...Qb6 11.Be5 O-O 12.e3 c4 13.Qd1 Na6 with compensation for the pawn.

**11.e4! c4 12.Qa3 Qb6**





The critical moment of the game. Black has two very strong threats: 13...b4 and 13...Ng4. What is White's best response?

**13.Bxc4!**

A tactical solution! While White's King will be in safe place, Black's King will be subject to a decisive attack.

**13...bxc4 14.e5 Ng4 15.O-O O-O-O 16.b3!**

Black's position is already untenable.

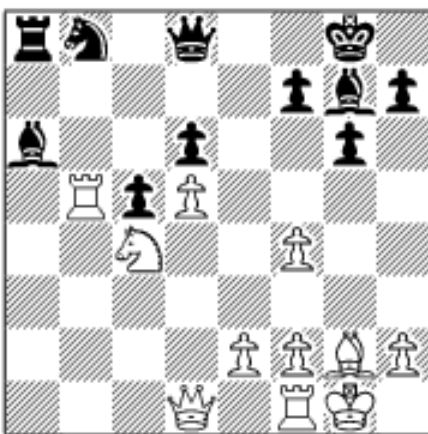
**16...Bf5 17.Na4 Qa5 18.Rac1 Bd3 19.Rfd1 Rxd6 20.Qxd6 Nb4 21.Rxd3! Nxd3 22.Rxc4+ Kb7 23.Nc5+! Nxc5 24.Qc6+ Kb8 25.Rxc5 1-0**

*P. Cech-J. Stodola Prague 1994*

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.Nf3 g6 7.g3 Bg7 8.Bg2 O-O 9.O-O a6 10.a4 Re8 11.Bf4 Ne4 12.Nxe4 Rxe4 13.Nd2 Rxf4?**

This sacrifice does not bring enough compensation to Black. Better is 13...Rb4.

**14.gxf4 Bxb2 15.Rb1 Bg7 16.Nc4 b5 17.axb5 axb5 18.Rxb5 Ba6**



What is better here: ECO's recommendation 19.Ra5, or 19.Qa4, played in this game?

**19.Qa4!?**

ECO's 19.Ra5 is strong, but this novelty, based on tactics, is even stronger.

**19...Bxb5 20.Qxa8 Bc3**

The point of White's idea is if 20...Bxc4 21.Rb1! and wins.

**21.Rc1 Bb4 22.e4 Qc7 23.e5! Bxc4 24.Rxc4 Kg7**

If 24...dxe5 25.fxe5 Qxe5 26.Re4 and wins.

**25.e6 1-0**

*Lev Alburt-Nick de Firmian USA (Open) 1985*

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.Nf3 g6 7.g3 Bg7**

**8.Bg2 O-O 9.O-O Nbd7 10.Re1 Re8 11.e4 b5?**

Usual is 11...a6 12.a4 c4!?, with a sharp and unclear position.

**12.Nxb5 Nxe4 13.Ng5!?**

According to Alburt, 13.Nd2! is stronger.

**13...a6**

If 13...Nxc5 14.Rxe8+ Qxe8 15.Nc7 Qd8 16.Nxa8 h6 17.Qb3 Ba6 18.Bxc5 hxc5 19.Re1! Qxa8 20.Qa4!, intending 21.Qc6, with advantage - Alburt.

**14.Nxe4 axb5 15.Nxd6 Rxe1+ 16.Qxe1 Ba6**

Tempting is 17.Nxf7. Is this sacrifice winning? Calculate carefully!

**17.Nxf7! Qe8**

If 17...Kxf7 18.Qe6+ Kf8 19.Bf4! (The key of the attacking idea. If 19.d6? Qe8!) Bxb2 20.d6, intending 21.Bd5, and wins.

**18.Nh6+ Kh8 19.Qe6 Ne5 20.Bf4 1-0**

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