



*For
Friends
&
Colleagues*

VOLUME II

Reflections on My Profession

Mark Dvoretzky

**For
Friends
&
Colleagues**

by
Mark Dvoretzky

Volume 2

Reflections on My Profession



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For Friends & Colleagues
Volume 2: Reflections on My Profession
by Mark Dvoretzky

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Volume 2: Reflections on My Profession

From the Author

In general, Volume 2 is compiled from my articles and interviews published either on the web or in chess periodicals over the last few years. However, readers will be able to find some earlier publications, with fresh chess examples in some cases and original material in this book.

There are no purely analytical studies here; we will deal with more general questions. Coaches may become interested in the articles reflecting my views on the coaching vocation, tips on the choice of chess literature and digestion of its contents, in some personal characteristics and the analysis of the factors that may influence the results shown by individual players or chess teams. Other materials reflect my views on the chess situation both in Russia and the world, as well as on problems and prospects of chess development.

The publication source for each article may be found at the end of the book. Most of my articles have been published both in Russian and in English; for those, both citations are given, Russian and English.

I had to make some corrections, both stylistic and analytical, in my earlier texts here and there. If those changes are insignificant and non-essential, I do not set them off, but, in more serious cases, the additions, explanations, and corrections are set off in a different kind of font. As usual, all citations are italicized.

Mark Dvoretzky
Moscow
March 2015

For Friends & Colleagues

Signs, Symbols and Abbreviations

- ! a strong move
- !! a brilliant or unobvious move
- ? a weak move, an error
- ?? a grave error
- ! ? a move worth consideration
- ? ! a dubious move
- = an equal position
- ± White stands slightly better
- ± White has a clear advantage
- + - White has a winning position
- ∓ Black stands slightly better
- ∓ Black has a clear advantage
- + Black has a winning position
- ∞ an unclear position
- # mate
- (D) See the next diagram

SCE-1 School of Chess Excellence: Endgame Analysis

SCE-2 School of Chess Excellence: Tactical Play

SCE-3 School of Chess Excellence: Strategic Play

SCE-4 School of Chess Excellence: Opening Developments

SFC-1 School of Future Champions: Secrets of Chess Training

SFC-2 School of Future Champions: Secrets of Opening Preparation

SFC-3 School of Future Champions: Technique in Chess

SFC-4 School of Future Champions: Positional Play

SFC-5 School of Future Champions: The Development of Creative Thinking

DEM Dvoretsky's Endgame Manual

TIE Tragicomedy in the Endgame

DAM Dvoretsky's Analytical Manual: Practical Training for the Ambitious Chessplayer

SFPP Studies for Practical Players (with Oleg Pervakov)

Competitions

I wrote many articles for various periodicals on competitions in which my students or I had participated. The specific nature of this genre is such that readers tend to lose interest in such reports in due time. However, some of those articles are not limited to accounts of the battles at some particular tournament or of its everyday details. They also comprise reflections on various teaching, sporting, and creative problems which, in my opinion, remain relevant today, as well as some vivid and instructive chess fragments. Such articles are included in this book.

Spartakiad of Second Category Players

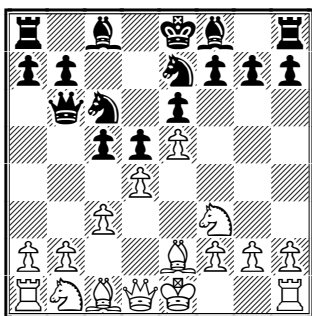
In 64 – *Shakhmatnoye Obozreniye* magazine there is a section titled “Junior.” Since about the end of 2007, they have been publishing games annotated by well-known chessplayers, which games were played by them in their youth. I also wrote such a story, but it was not a story of a single game but of a whole tournament called the “Spartakiad of Second Category Players.”

The narrative was preceded by a short introduction that you can find in the section “Beginnings” that opens the first chapter of Volume 1.

Qualifying standards were enormously high: a score of 75 percent. That meant 9 points out of 12, but, as we had to play 13 games and the standards were never rounded down, it was necessary to win 10 games out of 13. I outscored that norm by a half-point, won first place, and was awarded the first category title.

Gorelik – Dvoretzky (Round 1)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 ♟c6
5.♟f3 ♟b6 6.♞e2 ♟ge7?!



W?

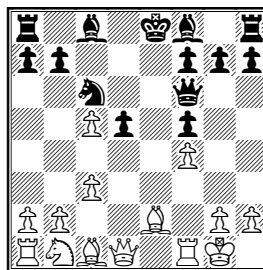
7.♟a3

White fails to take advantage of Black’s opening inaccuracy, well-known in theory. In Euwe-Kramer (Zaandam 1946), there followed 7.dxc5! ♟c7 8.♟d4! (the exclamation mark is from the old books and notes; in fact, no less strong is 8.♟a3!?) 8...♟xe5? 9.♟b5 ♟xc5 10.♟d4!, and it is about time for Black to resign.

Unfortunately, it was not my habit then to check a reference book either before a game or after it, to look into the books in order to get to know an opening variation better, so I was doomed to repeat my mistake sooner or later. Indeed, a year later, when I was already a student in the Palace of

Pioneers, my friend Sasha Shvartz caught me in the variation.

However, I managed to keep my wits about me and after 8...♟xe5 (instead of the losing 8...♟xe5?) 9.0-0 (White intends to obtain an overwhelming advantage on the queenside by playing b2-b4) 9...♟f5 10.f4 ♟f6 11.♟xf5, started to confuse the game with the non-standard 11...exf5!? (after 11...♟xf5 12..♞e3±, White’s task is simpler).



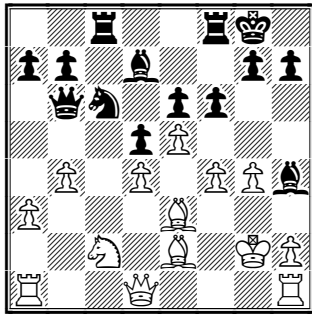
“Fritz” on my PC has no particular objections to my partner’s subsequent moves; nevertheless, the position soon becomes unclear: 12.♞e3 ♞e6 13.♟d2 0-0-0 14.♟f3 d4! 15.cxd4 ♞xc5 16.♞c1 ♞b6 17.♟e5 ♞d5 18.♞f3 ♟b8 19.♞xd5 ♞xd5 20.♟xc6+ bxc6∞. On move 36, the game ended in a draw.

7...cxd4 8.cxd4 ♟f5 9.♟c2 ♞b4+ 10.♟f1 ♞e7 11.a3?!

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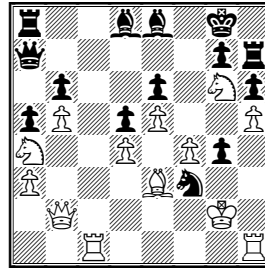
Theory recommends here 11.h4 or 11.g3, followed by 12.♖g2. My opponent chooses an ineffective plan, resulting in a considerable lag in development.

11...♙d7 12.b4 ♜c8 13.g4? ♗h4 14.♗xh4 ♙xh4 (with the threat of 15...♗xh4!) 15.♙e3 f6 16.f4 0-0 17.♗g2



Has any kind of association occurred to you in connection with the position that has been created? One did occur to me during the game. In my case, “slithering” through opening

theory did not mean no interest at all in chess literature or in general chess theory. I recalled a game between Alekhine and Capablanca at the 1938 AVRO Tournament in Holland where Alekhine moved his king forward to destroy an enemy piece that had wandered into his camp.



31.♗g3! ♗f7 32.♗xg4 ♗h4 33.♗xh4 ♗xh5+ 34.♗g3 ♗f7 35.♗f3, and Black resigned.

So, I started to worry about losing my bishop after a king move to h3. I did not want to take on e5 with my pawn because of the reply 18.dxe5. Of course, I thought about a reciprocal attack on



*My dad watches my friendly game against Sasha Shvartz.
Near Moscow, summer of 1967.*

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the vulnerable c2-knight. Having figured out a forced (as it seemed to me then) variation, I immediately saw its impressive concluding move.

17...♖e7! 18.♗h3 ♕a4

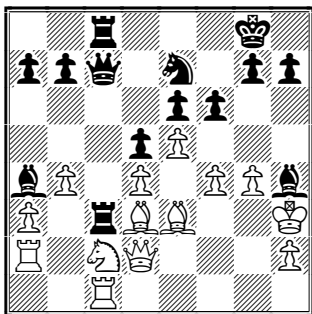
There is a simpler way to play: 18...♗g6 19.♕d3 fxe5 20.♕xg6 (20.fxe5 ♕f2) 20...exf4!-+, but I was so enchanted with the idea I had found that I was not looking around anymore.

And, I did not look around later either; this game was not subjected to critical analysis for many years after it was played. The reason is obvious. Subconsciously, I did not wish to throw doubt on an idea I was justifiably proud of. And, only recently, Fritz the Merciless put everything in its place; it became clear that Black had many ways to obtain a great advantage, and the one chosen by me, although not bad, objectively is not the best.

19.♕d3 ♖c3

There are worthy alternatives here as well; for example, this combination is very strong: 19...♕xc2! 20.♕xc2 fxe5 21.♗xh4 exf4, followed by 22...e5-+.

20.♗d2 ♗c7 21.♖hc1 ♖c8 22.♖a2



B?

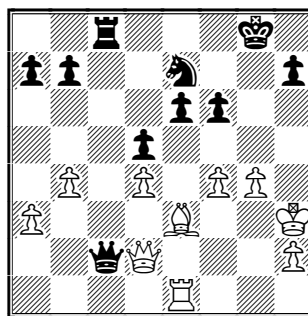
22...♕e1!!

Right under three strikes! In *Lasker's Manual of Chess*, which was unavailable to me at the time, such thrusts are called “desperado.” The world champion showed that pieces seemingly doomed to death are capable of all kinds of craziness. I will speak of

“desperadoes” at greater length in the opening section of the chapter dedicated to the art of coaching.

Understandably enough, I have never ever considered any other move, although 22...fxe5 23.dxe5 (23.fxe5 g5) 23...g5! (but not 23...♗g6 24.♕xg6 h×g6, counting on 25.♗xh4? g5+!, because of 25.♗d4!) 24.fxg5 ♗xg5-+ is not bad.

23.♖x e1 ♕xc2 24.♖xc2 ♖xc2 25.♕xc2 ♗xc2 26.e×f6 (this is preferable to exchange queens immediately) **26...g×f6**



The picture of the battle has changed sharply. Black has a clear advantage because of the opponent’s “bad” bishop (it has been my favorite positional theme since childhood!) and my possession of the open c-file. However, this latter factor becomes irrelevant if White manages to knock all the major pieces off the board.

27.♖e2?!

27.♗xc2 ♖xc2 28.♖c1 is better, on which Black replies 28...♖c4±. The text move allows him to create an attack with queens still on the board, continuing 27...♗g6!, but I was already in the mood for a favorable endgame.

27...♗xd2 28.♕xd2 ♗f7 29.♖e3 ♖c2 30.♕e1 ♖c4 31.♖d3 b5!

Correct: my opponent’s pawns are fixed on the squares which are the color of his bishop.

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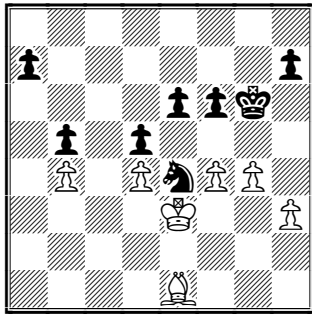
32. ♖g3 ♜c8!

The knight comes closer to the “holes” in the pawn chain, the e4- and c4-squares.

33. ♖f3 ♜d6 34. ♖e2 ♜c2+ 35. ♜d2 ♜c3 36. ♜d3 ♜x3

The temptation to win a pawn was too strong. Although it is not impossible that, with rooks still on the board, it would have been easier for Black to make the best of his advantage.

37. ♖x3 ♜c4 38. ♜f2 ♜x3 39. ♜g3 ♖g6 40. h3 ♜c4 41. ♜f2 ♜d6 42. ♜e1 ♜e4 43. ♖e3



In this position, the game was adjourned. I had to analyze it myself; computer programs did not exist in those days, and I had no coach. Of course, I evaluated my position as easily winning, but, to my surprise, it all turned out to be not so simple. In the end, I managed to find a correct plan. As it turned out, my analysis was very useful for the future; it helped me to understand important peculiarities of similar endings.

A knight by itself cannot win the game. Black has to create a path to his king. For that, you have to exchange one or two pairs of pawns on the kingside.

The immediate 43...f5 is a mistake because of 44.g5, so I sealed the move **43...h6.**

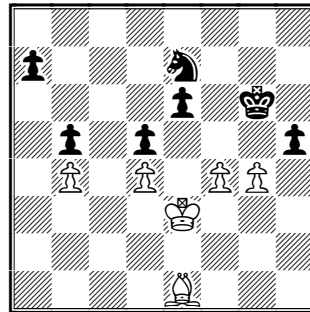
44. ♖f3

My opponent chose a waiting tactic. During analysis, I had to account for a more active try, 44.h4!?. On the direct 44...h5?, White replies 45.f5+! exf5 46.gxh5+ ♖xh5 47.♖f4, with sufficient counterplay. I intended 44...♜d6 45.h5+ ♖f7, with a subsequent ♜e8-g7 (taking the h5-pawn in my sights), and only then f6-f5. I do not know how convincing that plan was, but I did not see a better one.

44... ♜d6 45. ♜c3 ♜c8!

Now, it was already possible to play f6-f5, then exchange on g4 and h6-h5. But what then? The white king gets in the way of the black one! It was the “principle of two weaknesses” (about which I had not the slightest idea at the time, of course) that came to my aid. Transferring the knight to c6 creates a threat of breaking through with a7-a5; and to prevent this breakthrough, the white king must get closer to the queenside. Then, undermining the pawn chain on the kingside has more force.

46. ♖e3 ♜e7 47. ♜d2 f5! 48. ♜e1 f×g4 49. h×g4 h5



Black’s knight is positioned ideally. On 50.g5, the continuation 50...♜f5+ 51.♖d3 h4 52.♜f2 h3 53.♜g1 ♜g3 decides matters. And, the main idea of Black’s plan is displayed in the variation 50.♖f3 h×g4+ 51.♖xg4 ♜c6! 52.♜c3 a5 53.bxa5 b4 54.♜d2 b3 55.♜c3 ♜xa5 –+.

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50.gxh5+ ♖xh5 51.♣f3 ♘c6
52.♣e3

The same thing again: 52..♙c3 a5!
 53.bxa5 b4-+.

52...♣g4

In my comments on an episode from an ending in the first Karpov-Kasparov match, I wrote:

In such positions, the opponent's king is slowly pushed back, the knight comes to f5, and after the king's forced retreat, the black king goes to f3, followed by another knight check, etc. (In relation to this endgame, the specific squares and the color of the pieces have been changed). As you can see, I mastered this typical plan back in my childhood game with Gorelik.

53.♙d2 ♘e7 54.♙c1 ♘g6

54...♗f5+ corresponded to the plan described above, but it is also possible to play this way: first gobble the pawn, and only then, drive the king back.

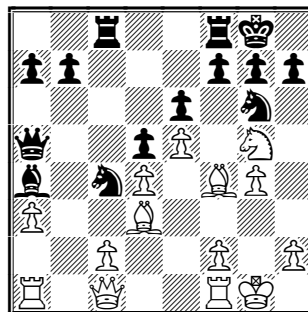
55.♙d2 ♘x4 56.♙c3 ♘g6
57.♙b2 ♘e7 58.♙c3 ♗f5+
59.♣d3 ♣f3 60.♙e1 ♘e7 61.♙h4
♘g6 62.♙f6 ♗f4+ 63.♣d2 ♣e4
64.♙e5 ♘g2 65.♙f6 ♗e3 66.♙e5
♗c4+ White resigned.

*The grandmaster did not spoil his opponents with a variety of openings (a line from my favorite novel by Ilf and Petrov, *The Twelve Chairs*), and I also followed the example of the “great con man” Ostap Bender. In my next game, as Black, as in almost all my subsequent ones, my favorite French Defense was played.*

Komov – Dvoretzky (Round 3) (D)

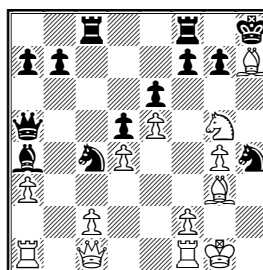
19.h4! ♘xh4?!

Impudent play. Black does not want to defend accurately with 19...♞fe8 20.h5 (20.♗xh7!? ♣xh7! 21.h5 ♞c3 22.hxg6+ fxg6 23.♣g2 ♞xd4 24.♞d1!, and only after a queen retreat, 25.♞h1+ is unclear) 20...♗f8 21.h6 ♞c3.



Objectively, the best reply is 19...h6! 20.♗x6, and now either 20...♗x4 21.♗x4 ♗d2 22.g5!?, with a sharp position, or 20...fxe6!? 21.♙xg6 ♞c3, with good play for Black. Here, and later, I am giving (far from exhaustive) variations only for objectivity; in second-category tournaments, no one calculates them accurately. That is a difficult task even for masters and grandmasters.

The main drawback of the text move is the opening of the h-file, on which White will attack. By luring his opponent's king there (20.♙xh7+! ♣h8 21.♙g3! , but not 21.♙d3? ♞c3), he achieves a decisive advantage.

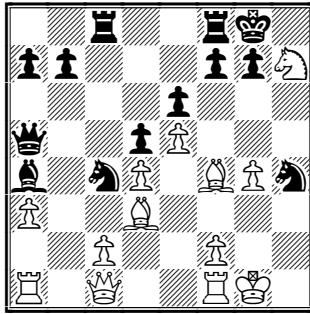


For example, 21...♗f3+ (sacrifice of a piece for two or three pawns) does not help either: 21...♞c3 22.♙xh4 ♞xd4 23.♙g3!, with a subsequent ♣g2) 22.♣g2! (22.♗x3 ♣xh7 is unclear) 22...♗cd2 (22...♗xg5 23.♞xg5 ♣xh7 24.♞h1+ ♣g8 25.♞h5+-) 23.♗x3 ♗x1 24.♞x1 (24.♙d3 ♗xg3 25.♣xg3 ♣g8 26.♞h1 ♞fd8 27.♞h5 is also good,

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intending ♖h1 and ♗g5) 24...♙xh7
25.♗h1+ ♖g8 26.♗h5 ♗xc2 27.♖h1
f6 28.exf6 gxf6 29.g5+- (or
29.♗d6+-).

20. ♗xh7?!



B?

My opponent was tempted with an attack on the rook, hoping to mate me after 20...♖fe8 21.♗g5! ♗f3+ 22.♙g2 ♗xg5 (22...♗xd4 23.♗f6+! ♖f8 24.♖h1) 23.♗xg5. However, Black could defend successfully here too, by continuing 21...♗g6! (instead of 21...♗f3+?), as 22.♗f6+ gxf6 23.♗xf6 ♗d2 does not work. And, on 22.♗xc4 (with the idea of 22...♖xc4? 23.♗f6+!), there follows 22...♙xh7 or 22...♙c3.

I solved this problem in a much simpler way, with a positional exchange sacrifice.

20... ♙c3!

In such a sharp position, the rook is no more valuable than a minor piece. And time is what is really important here. It is vital to create reciprocal threats as quickly as possible. Counterplay in the center, according to the well-known classical principle, is the best way of opposing a flank attack..

For a sophisticated player, the solution for Black is probably obvious, but, for a young second-category player, this was a small discovery.

21. ♗xf8 ♙xf8

21...♙xd4! is stronger.

22. ♗e3

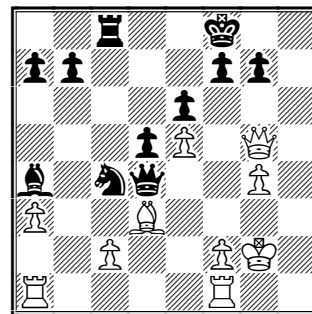
22.♗g5 ♗f3+ 23.♙g2 ♙xd4 (for 24.♖h1 is threatened) 24.♗f4 (24.♙xf3? ♗xe5+) 24...♙xf4 25..♗xf4 ♗cxe5! (or 25...♗fxe5) leads to a favorable endgame for Black.

22.♗g3!? ♙xd4! (22...♗f3+? 23.♙g2, with a subsequent ♖h1) 23.♗xh4 ♙xg4+ 24.♗g3 ♗xe5 25.♗f4 ♗f3+ deserves attention, and now, White either agrees to a repetition of moves, 26.♙g2 ♗h4+ 27.♙g1 ♗f3+, or continues the battle in the double-edged position that arises after 26.♖h1 ♙h3+ 27.♗h2 ♗c6!?

**22... ♗f3+ 23. ♙g2 ♗xd4
24. ♗xd4?**

A hasty exchange. 24.♖h1 ♖e8 is better, with mutual chances.

24... ♙xd4 25. ♙g5



B?

25... ♗xe5?

The simple 25...♙xe5 brings Black a clear advantage. Without thinking twice, I made a natural-looking move, attacking everything at once (g4, c2, d3), after which my opponent could force a draw. Alas, I was not able to rid myself of this kind of “flunk” throughout my entire playing career.

26. ♖h1 ♙g8

26...♖e8 27.♙xg7 also led to equality. For instance: 27...♗xc2 (27...♙xg4+ 28.♙xg4 ♗xg4 29.♖h4! f5 30.f3 is risky) 28.♖h8+ ♖d7 29.♗b5+ (29.♖xc8 ♗xd3 30.♙g8=) 29...♙c7 30.♖xc8+ ♙xc8 31.♖c1 ♙e4+ 32.♙g1

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♟f3+ 33.♞f1, with an inevitable perpetual check.

27.♙h7+ ♜f8 28.♙d3

Neither player noticed the interesting retort 28.♙f5!?. On 28...♞g8, it is possible to play 29.♞h4 (the g4-pawn is defended). On the other hand after 29...♟g6 30.♙xg6 f×g6, the position remains drawn. 28...f6 29.♞h8+ ♜f7 30.♞h5+ ♞e7 31.♞xc8 ♞xa1 32.♞h8 exf5 33.g×f5 (33.♞xg7+ ♞e6) 33...♟c6 34.♞xg7+ ♞d6 probably leads to the same outcome, but via a more complicated path.

28...♞g8 29.♞h5??

Fighting spirit triumphs over reason – this reminded me of a phrase from Bronstein’s book about the 1953 Candidates Tournament. My opponent does not want to repeat moves, but playing for a win turns out to be playing for a loss.

29...♞xg4+ 30.♞xg4 ♟xg4 31.♞h4 f5

Black has too many pawns for the exchange, and his opponent does not manage to win a piece.

32.♞b1 b6 33.♞g3?! ♙xc2!

A straightforward tactic: 34.♞c1 ♞c3.

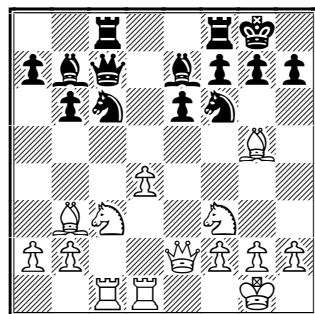
34.♙xc2 ♞xc2 35.f3 ♞c3 36.♞f4 ♟f6 37.♞e1 ♞f7 38.♞e3? g5+ White resigned.

Weak play? Of course it was weak, but it was not devoid of ideas.

Dvoretzky – Romanov (Round 6)

1.d4 ♟f6 2.c4 e6 3.♟c3 ♙b4 4.e3 c5 5.♟f3 d5 6.♙d3 0-0 7.0-0 c×d4 8.exd4 d×c4 9.♙xc4 b6 10.♙g5 ♙b7 11.♞e2 ♙e7 (11...♟bd7!?) 12.♞fd1 (12.♞ad1) 12...♞c7? 13.♙b3 (13.♞ac1!) 13...♟c6 14.♞ac1 ♞ac8

The typical breakthrough in the center, 15.d5, suggests itself. However, after 15...exd5 16.♟xd5 ♟xd5 17.♙xd5 ♙xg5 18.♟xg5 h6, White does not



W?

obtain anything. 16.♙xf6 ♙xf6 17.♟xd5 ♞d6 (there is also 17...♟d4!? 18.♟xf6+ g×f6 19.♟xd4 ♞xc1=) is useless too.

Despite my younger age and low chess qualification, I managed to find an unusual solution to the problem. As a result, I not only won the point I needed, but also added a useful little brick to the wall of my future strategic arsenal.

15.d5! exd5 16.♙xd5!

This move, when it is not the knight that is being exchanged, but the bishop, is discussed in the book *School of Future Champions 2*, “In the Footsteps of One Game.”

16...♞fe8 17.♞c4

This queen thrust seemed very strong to me, but my computer confirms that this is not the case for the reply 17...♟e5!, and it suggests, instead, 17.♞d3!±, with the idea of 18.♞f5.

17...♟xd5? 18.♟xd5 ♞b8 19.♙f4

Black is defenseless. On 19...♞a8, the move 20.♟c7 is decisive, and on 19...♙d6, either 20.♙xd6 ♞xd6 21.♟xb6, or 20.♟f6+ g×f6 21.♙xd6 ♞a8 22.♞g4+.

19...♟a5 20.♟xe7+ ♞xe7 21.♞xc8+! Black resigned.

Not all my games ended so favorably. I suffered two defeats and made one draw, and I had to score 1½ points in the last two rounds to achieve the first-category norm. I had to play Black in both games. However at that