

A great day for the Ukraine!

Two Ukrainian chessplayers **Vasily Ivanchuk** and **Ruslan Ponomariov** will compete in the final of the World Chess Championships in January 2002!

Thursday saw the last classical games in the men's semi-finals and the women's final. In Moscow's Kremlin Palace for Congresses, three games were in progress:

Anand – Ivanchuk
Ponomariov – Svidler
Zhu Chen – Kosteniuk

Only in the first match was the score equal (three draws), while Ponomariov and Zhu Chen each had a lead of 2:1 - and the White pieces. The young Ukrainian star Ponomariov chose a very solid system with c2-c3 to fight Svidler's Sicilian. Petr tried to find some complications, sacrificed a knight for two pawns, but Ruslan reacted very precisely, forced a lot of piece exchanges and Svidler offered a draw himself on the 18th move, because his position was a bit worse.

Vasily Ivanchuk played inspired chess and beat the FIDE World Champion with black. It is interesting to note that in the opening he adopted the same manoeuvre (with change of colours) Nf6-d7-b6 which gave success to Alexander Morozevich in his game against Michael Adams in Dortmund-2001.

And last but not least: **Alexandra Kosteniuk** won with black and equalised the scores! She didn't have any advantage after the opening and maybe her position was even a bit worse but Alexandra maintained the tension very

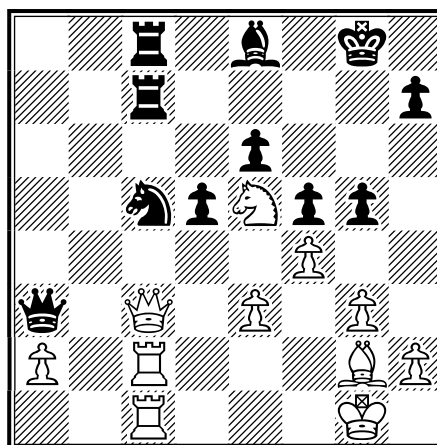
capably (in general she does this very well!) and kept her chances alive. *Look at our Quiz Today; also you can find all these games in the cbv-file, while Anand – Ivanchuk is in our annotated game section.*

So we are waiting for Friday's tie-break **Zhu Chen – Kosteniuk** and January's match **Ponomariov – Ivanchuk**.

Quiz Tday

Zhu Chen (2497) – Kosteniuk (2455)

FIDE WCh Women KO Moscow RUS (6.4),
 13.12.2001



Black to play and win

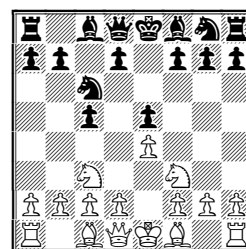
Annotated Game

Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

V Anand (2770) – V Ivanchuk (2731)

FIDE WCh KO Moscow RUS (6.41),
 13.12.2001 B30

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♘c3 e5!?



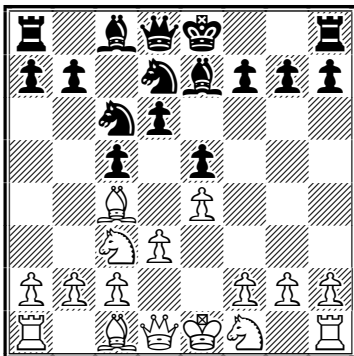
In the 2nd game Ivanchuk played 3...♗f6 Now he chose another system,

where black has very strong control over the important d4-point, but weakens another central point, d5.

4.♖c4 d6 5.d3 ♖e7 6.♗d2

The idea of this 3-move knight maneuver – to take control over the d5 and f5 squares.

6...♗f6 7.♗f1 ♗d7!?

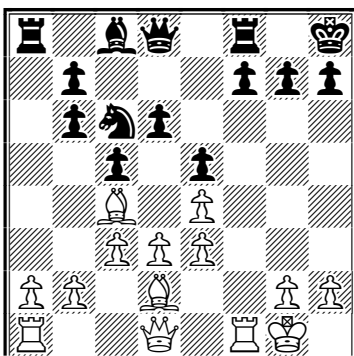


It looks like a new and very interesting idea: black wants to attack the c4 bishop from b6 and also prepares such useful moves as Be7-g5 and f7-f5. Black has usually played 7...♖g4 for example: 8.f3 ♖e6 9.♗e3 0-0 10.0-0 ♗d7 11.g3 ♗b6 12.f4 ♗xc4 13.dxc4 exf4 14.gxf4 f5 15.exf5 ♖c8 16.♗cd5 ♗d4 Svidler – Lautier, Biel 2001.

8.♗d5 ♗b6 9.♗xb6 axb6 10.c3 0-0 11.♗e3 ♖g5! 12.0-0 ♖h8

Apparently black has solved his opening problems and has equal chances.

13.♖d2 ♖xe3 14.fxe3?!



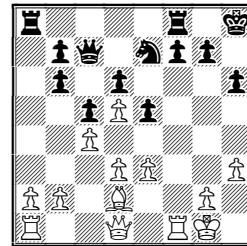
I don't like this move: white is demanding more from the position than it can give, and limiting his bishop.

14...♗e7 15.♖d5 ♖e6 16.♗b3 ♗a5! 17.♗c2

After 17.♗xb6? ♖a6 18.♗b5 ♖d7 white loses a queen.

17...♗c7 18.h3 h6 19.c4 ♗c6 20.♗d1

♖xd5 21.exd5 ♗e7

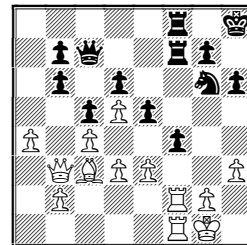


In this position, the e7 knight is at the very least no weaker than the d2 bishop, because black has a very strong pawn chain on the dark squares.

22.a4 f5 23.♖c3?! ♖f7 24.♗b3?

White's 23 and 24th moves were very ambitious but it's hard to get any initiative on the queenside, when black has a half-open a-file. Meanwhile the king on g1 remains almost alone...

24...♗g6! 25.♖f2 ♖af8 26.♖af1 f4!



Black begins an attack.

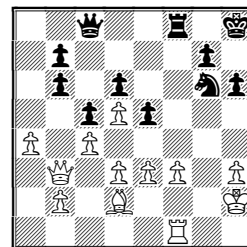
27.♖d2 f3!

Maybe Ivanchuk didn't calculate this pawn sacrifice to the end (really it's very hard to do!) but he understood that black has very strong compensation because his queen can join in the attack faster than it's rival can join the defense.

28.♖xf3 ♖xf3 29.gxf3

After 29.♖xf3 ♖xf3 30.gxf3 ♗h4 31.♖f2 ♗f7 32.♗d1 ♗f5 33.♗h1 ♗xd3 black also has an advantage but maybe that way was more stubborn.

29...♗c8 30.♖h2



30...♖f5!

The so-called "rook lift" – a very unpleasant maneuver here, because the b3 queen is too far from the king.

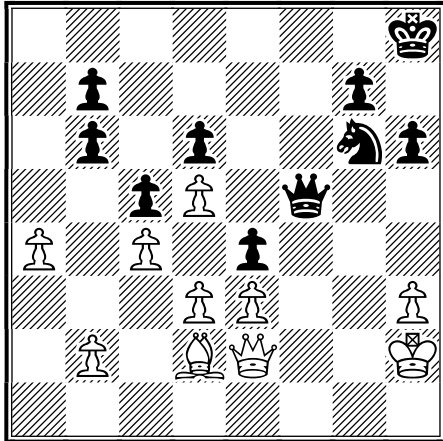
31.f4

Only move.

31...♖h5 32.f5

32.♖f3 ♖g4! 33.♖g3 ♖e2+ 34.♖g2 ♖f3
35.♖g3?! (35.♔g1 ♖xh3+) 35...♖f2+
36.♖g2 ♖xh3+! 37.♔xh3 ♖h4#

32...♖xf5 33.♖d1 ♖f8! 34.♖xf5 ♖xf5
35.♖e2 e4!

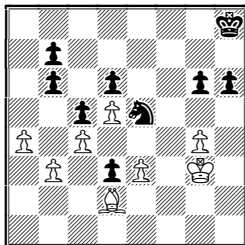


Poor bishop!

36.♖g4

After 36.dxe4 ♖e5+ 37.♔g1 ♖xb2
white's position also isn't a piece of cake
but now Anand loses almost by force.

36...♖xg4 37.hxg4 ♖e5! 38.♔g3 exd3
39.b3 g6!



Ivanchuk simply creates a second
passed pawn on h5. White is unable to
win one pawn because another will cost
a bishop.

40.e4 h5 41.gxh5 gxh5 42.♔f2 h4

42...h4 43.♔c3 ♔g8! 44.♔xe5 dxe5
45.d6 ♔f8 and the black king is in the
quadrant of the d6-pawn, so Anand
resigned. A glorious victory by Vasily
Ivanchuk! 0-1

Answer to Quiz Today:

40...♖b3! 41.♖xb3?

41.♖d3 ♖xc1+ 42.♖xc1 ♖xc1+ 43.♔f1
♖c5 44.♖a3 ♖e4+ 45.♖e7? ♔b5
46.♖xe6+ ♔h8+

41...♖xb3 42.axb3 ♖xc2 43.♖xc2 ♖xc2-
+ 44.fxg5 ♖e2 45.♖f3 ♖xe3 46.♖d4 ♔f7
47.♔f1 ♔d7 48.♔f2 ♖c3 49.b4 e5
50.♖f3 ♔e6 51.♖h4 e4 52.g6 hxg6
53.♖xg6 d4 54.h4 ♖c2+ 55.♔e1 ♖c1+
56.♔f2 e3+ 57.♔g1 ♔b5 0-1

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