

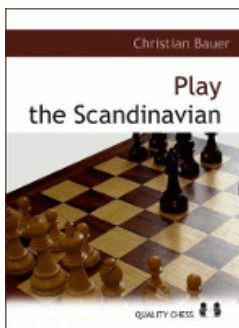


Boxing the Compass

Charles Riordan

[[Find us on Facebook.](#)]

[Translate this page](#)



CHESSTHEATRE
 Play through and download the games from [ChessCafe.com](#) in the [DGT Game Viewer](#).



ChessCafe.com is a proud sponsor of the [New England Nor'easters](#). Each Monday during the 2010 [U.S. Chess League](#) season we will bring you an annotated game or two of the week.

New England Nor'easters Week Nine

Heading into Week Nine of the U.S. Chess League, the Nor'easters needed only a draw against the Carolina Cobras to clinch first place in the Eastern Division. We got that and more: at the end of the night, all four of our players were victorious. Yet it was hardly easy. Carolina had been on a roll heading into the match, drawing two much higher-rated teams in Boston and New York, and when I arrived at the match, it looked as though the Cobras might add to their streak.

The line-ups were as follows:

- **Board One**
IM Robert Hungaski (New England) – IM Jonathan Schroer (Carolina)
- **Board Two**
FM Ron Simpson (Carolina) – IM Jan van de Mortel (New England)
- **Board Three**
FM Chris Chase (New England) – NM Carlito Agner (Carolina)
- **Board Four**
Richard Herbst (Carolina) – NM Alex Cherniack (New England)

The first cause for concern was on board four, where Richard Herbst had what looked like a dangerous attack against Alex's king. Fortunately for us, he got a little too excited and, instead of building up pressure, played an immediate piece sacrifice that didn't work out. When Alex found a nice counter-sacrifice to defuse the attack, I turned my attention to board one – and kept it there, because I couldn't figure out what was going on. I wasn't alone: none of the spectators could agree on the evaluation of the position. Robert had an extra pawn, but it looked like IM Schroer had good compensation, having opened up the kingside and forced Robert's king to take a walk. Fortunately, Robert had seen further than any of us, and was able to navigate his way through a sea of complications to get the win, and a well-deserved third-place finish for Game of the Week!

Hungaski, Robert (2520) – Schroer, Jonathan (2437)

USCL New England vs. Carolina (9), 20.10.2010

Queen's Gambit Declined [D38]

Notes by Hungaski

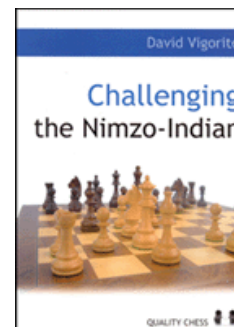
1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 d5 4.d4 Bb4

I was totally surprised by this move and figured my opponent has prepared something against my predictable 5.Bg5, so I knew I needed to improvise. For the past few months I have been on the editing squad behind William Lombardy's upcoming autobiographical work and by virtue of that was able to recall the game Benko-Lombardy, one of many that featured this position. In his comments, William praises Benko's play and though William ultimately won, he listed the game under "notable swindles."

5.Qa4+ Nc6

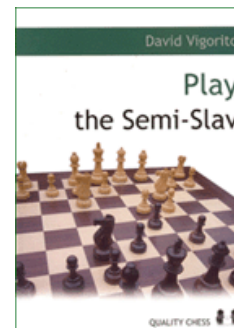
Here I delved into thought for a whole five minutes and decided (unlike Benko) to keep my bishop inside the pawn chain. I began replaying that fateful game in my head and couldn't help being intimidated by the position of

Purchases from our [chess shop](#) help keep [ChessCafe.com](#) freely accessible:



[Challenging the Nimzo-Indian](#)

by David Vigorito



[Play the Semi-Slav](#)

by David Vigorito



[Chess Explained: Main-Line Slav](#)

by David Vigorito

Black's queen once the trade on f6 came about. Therefore, I thought that by keeping Black's knight on f6, Black's kingside initiative would be slower to develop.

6.e3!?

The aforementioned game saw 6.cxd5 exd5 7.Bg5! h6 8.Bxf6 Qxf6 9.e3 0-0 10.Be2 Be6 11.0-0 a6 12.Rfc1 Bd6 13.Qd1+/- 0-1 Benko,P-Lombardy,W/ New York 1958 (41); there is also 6.Ne5 Bd7 7.Nxd7 Qxd7 8.e3 e5! 9.dxe5 d4 10.a3 Bxc3+ 11.bxc3 dxe3 12.Bxe3 Ng4 13.Bd4 Ngxe5 14.f4 Nxd4 15. Qxd7+ Kxd7 16.0-0-0 Nec6 17.cxd4 Rad8 18.d5 Na5 19.Bd3 Kd6-/+ ½-½, Spielmann,R-Fine,R, Zandvoort 1936, HCL (34).

6...0-0



[FEN "r1bq1rk1/ppp2ppp/2n1pn2/3p4/QbPP4/2N1PN2/PP3PPP/R1B1KB1R w KQ - 0 7"]

7.cxd5?

It's fine if White wishes to play with the dark-squared bishop inside the pawn chain, but not with the pawn chain that comes from this capture since Black will achieve great mobility for his minor pieces, while White will remain cramped. What I should have gone for is illustrated in the following line: 7. Bd2 dxc4 8.Bxc4 Bd6 9.0-0 e5 10.d5 Ne7 11.h3 a6 12.Qc2+/-, which was much like the position (White had the extra tempo a3) reached in Karpov-Vescovi, Guarulhos 2006.

7...exd5 8.a3 Bd6 9.Be2

9.Nb5 Be7 10.Be2 a6 11.Nc3 Bd6 helps White in no particular way.

9...Re8 10.0-0 a6 11.b4 Bg4 12.Qc2 Ne4!



[FEN "r2qr1k1/1pp2ppp/p1nb4/3p4/1PIpnb1/P1N1PN2/2Q1BPPP/R1B2RK1 w - - 0 13"]

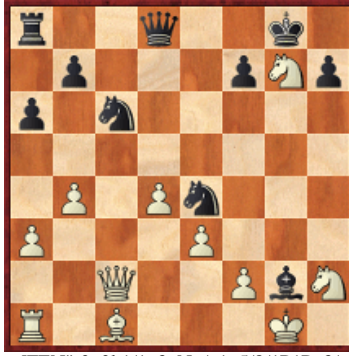
I had anticipated this position since Black played 9...Re8 and had the following risky line prepared. A quieter alternative was 12...Ne7 13.b5 axb5 14.Nxb5 Ng6 15.Nxd6 Qxd6 16.a4.

13.Nxd5

13.Bb2 Nxc3 14.Bxc3 Qf6=/+ looks comfortable for Black.

13...Bxh2+ 14.Nxh2 Bxe2 15.Nxc7! (15.Qxe2 Qxd5) 15...Bxf1 16.Nxe8 Bxg2 17.Nxg7

Only move.



[FEN"r2q2k1/1p3pNp/p1n5/8/1P1Pn3/P3P3/2Q2PbN/R1B3K1 b - - 0 17"]

17.Kxg2? Qg5+! 18.Kf1 Rxe8-/+.

17...Kxg7?!

I was afraid of being tortured in the endgame that follows after 17...Qg5! 18.f4 Qxg7 19.Qxg2 Ne7! 20.Ng4 (20.Qxg7+ Kxg7 21.Kg2 (21.Nf3 Rc8) 21...Rc8 22.Kf3 f5) 20...f5 (20...Rc8 21.f5!!+/-) 21.Nf2 Rc8 22.Qxg7+ Kxg7 23.Nxe4 fxe4-/+.

18.Kxg2 Qg5+

18...Qh4 19.f3 Qg3+ 20.Kf1.

19.Kf1 (19.Kh1? Qf5-/+)
19...Qf5?



[FEN"r7/1p3pkp/p1n5/5q2/1P1Pn3/P3P3/2Q2P1N/R1B2K2 w - - 0 20"]

19...Re8! 20.Bb2 f6 21.Qe2 h5 with good compensation.

20.Ke1!

I was very confident in my position after this move. White is threatening to play f3 and trade queens, while also opening up the position, thus exposing Black's king.

20...Rc8 21.f3



[FEN"2r5/1p3pkp/p1n5/5q2/1P1Pn3/
P3PP2/2Q4N/R1B1K3 b - - 0 21"]

21...Nxd4

21...Nxb4 22.Qg2+ Kh8 23.axb4+-; 21...Nd6 22.Qxf5 Nxf5 23.Bd2+/-.

22.Qg2+!

22.Qxe4 Nc2+ 23.Kf2 Qxe4 24.Bb2+! Kf8 (24...Kg6? 25.Rg1+-; 24...f6? 25.fxe4 Nxa1 26.Bxa1 Rc2+ 27.Kg3 Ra2 28.Bd4 Rxa3 29.Ng4+/-) 25.fxe4 Nxa1 26.Bxa1 Rc2+ 27.Kg3 Ra2 28.Bd4 Rxa3 29.Ng4+/- White also has the better chances here, but the game move is decisive.

22...Ng5 (22...Kh8 23.fxe4) 23.exd4!

Of course, not: 23.Bb2? Rc2! 24.Bxd4+ Kg6!—.

23...Re8+

23...f6 24.Bxg5 fxe4 25.Qg4 Re8+ 26.Kf2 Qc2+ 27.Kg3 Qc7+ 28.Kh3+-.

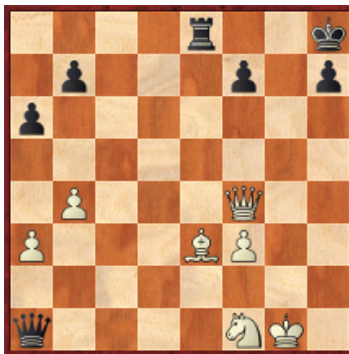
24.Kf2 Qc2+ 25.Kg1

25.Kg3 Re2 26.Qg1 also wins.

25...Qd1+ 26.Nf1 Qxd4+ 27.Be3!

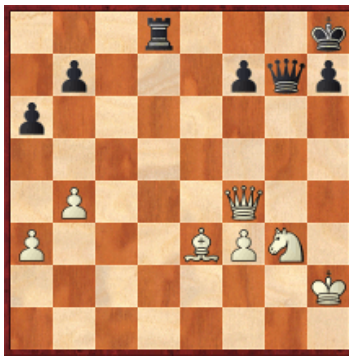
27.Kh1 Qh4+ 28.Qh2 Nxf3 29.Qxh4 Nxh4+/-.

27...Qxa1 28.Qxg5+ Kh8 29.Qf4!



[FEN"4r2k/1p3p1p/p7/8/1P3Q2/
P3BP2/8/q4NK1 b - - 0 29"]

29...Qg7+? (29...Rd8) 30.Kh2 Rd8 31.Ng3+-



[FEN"3r3k/1p3pqp/p7/8/1P3Q2/P3BPN1/7K/8 b - - 0 31"]

Now the knight comes to f5 to support Bd4. Game over.

31...h6 32.Nf5 Qg6 33.Nxh6 Qh5+ 34.Kg3 Qg6+ 35.Kh4! Rd1 36.Nxf7+ Kg8

36...Kg7 37.Ng5 Rh1+ 38.Kg3 Qh5 39.Bd4+-.

37.Nh6+ Kh7 38.Qc7+ Qg7 39.Qc2+ 1-0

On the other two boards, the match was going much more smoothly. Chris played his trademark King's Indian Attack against NM Agner and won a nice positional game, while Jan continued to show great form on board two, getting a dominating position against FM Simpson straight out of the opening. I've been very impressed with Jan's play this year, and in this game, he never let the advantage slip against his dangerous opponent.

Simpson, Ronald (2330) – Van de Mortel, Jan (2462)

USCL New England vs. Carolina (9), 20.10.2010

Scandinavian Defense [B01]

Notes by Van de Mortel

1.e4 d5!

An exclamation mark for the surprise, as Robby Adamson (Arizona Scorpions) had made the following match prediction: "FM Ron Simpson needs to create some unclear complications vs. Van Der Mortel's [sic] patented Dragon." Add that Simpson has his own patent on the Dragon and has a nice USCL record with crushing victories over GM Gulko and IM Schneider (with the Dragon!), and a near brilliancy against IM Sadorra, and it was clear to me I needed to preempt his preparation.

2.exd5 Qxd5 3.d4?!

I had found some twenty-odd games of my opponent against the Scandinavian in which he employed about twenty different variations. A lot of ground needed to be covered in preparation, but I had some of the world's leading experts on my side, as I'm in the middle of editing the English translation of "The Modern Scandinavian" by Wahls, Müller, and Langrock, to be published by New In Chess. This variation doesn't carry a lot of punch and Black has a couple of decent replies.

3...e5 4.Qe2?

4.dxe5?! Qxd1+ 5.Kxd1 Nc6 6.f4 Bf5 7.c3 0-0-0+ 8.Ke1 f6! leads to the great game De Firmian-Granda Zuniga (Amsterdam 1996), one I happened to witness. 4.Nf3 is probably the best, although it doesn't promise much of an advantage for White. 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Nc6 7.Be3 Nf6 is already slightly better for Black.

4...Nc6 5.Nc3

Alternative are hard to come by 5.dxe5 Nd4! 6.Nc3 Bb4 7.Qd2 Bxc3 8.bxc3 Qe4+ 9.Kd1 Bg4+ 10.f3 Nxf3 11.Nxf3 Bxf3+ 12.gxf3 Qxf3+ 13.Ke1 Qxh1-

+; 5.Nf3 Nxd4 6.Nxd4 Qxd4 7.Nc3 Bb4 8.Bd2 Nf6 9.0-0-0 0-0-0/+.

5...Bb4 6.Bd2 Bxc3 7.bxc3 Be6! 8.Qb5



[FEN"r3k1nr/ppp2ppp/2n1b3/1Q1qp3/3P4/2P5/P1PB1PPP/R3KBNR b KQkq - 0 8"]

8.dxe5 0-0-0! 9.Nf3 f6 10.Qe3 Nh6! with attack.

8...0-0-0

With the insurance of a much better endgame in my mind, I spend about thirty minutes looking for a knockout, but couldn't quite find it. 8...Qe4+ 9.Ne2 Only move. (9.Be2 exd4 10.Qxb7 Rb8 11.Qxc7 Nge7 12.cxd4 0-0 with attack) 9...Nge7 10.0-0-0 Bf5 11.Qb3 0-0 12.Ng3+/-; 8...exd4 9.Qxb7 Rb8 10.Qxc7 Nge7 with great compensation; I only fully appreciated this after I had already moved.

9.Rb1?!

9.Qxd5 Bxd5 10.c4 Be4 (better is 10...Nxd4 11.cxd5 Nxc2+ 12.Kd1 Nxa1) 11. d5 Nd4 12.0-0-0 Nxc2-/+.

9...Qxb5 10.Bxb5 Nge7!



[FEN"2kr3r/ppp1nppp/2n1b3/1B2p3/3P4/2P5/P1PB1PPP/1R2K1NR w K - 0 11"]

And as they say, my technique sufficed to win from here.

11.dxe5 Bxa2 12.Ra1 Bd5 13.Ne2 Nxe5 14.0-0



[FEN"2kr3r/ppp1nppp/8/1B1bn3/8/

14...a6

Better is 14...Bc4 15.Bxc4 Rxd2 16.Rxa7 Rhd8.

15.Bd3 Bc4 16.Ng3

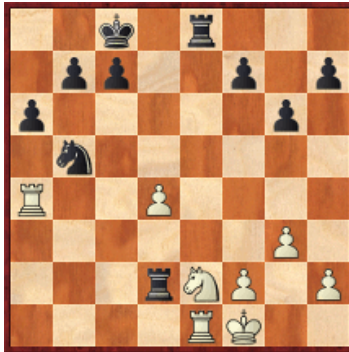
16.Bg5 Bxd3 17.cxd3 Nxd3 18.Bxe7 Rde8.

16...Bxd3 17.cxd3 Rxd3 18.Be3 N7c6 19.Rfc1 Nc4



[FEN"2k4r/1pp2ppp/p1n5/8/2n5/2PrB1N1/5PPP/R1R3K1 w - - 0 20"]

20.Bd4 Nxd4 21.cxd4 Nd6! 22.Ra4 g6 23.Ne2 Re8 24.Kf1 Nb5 25.g3 Rd2 26.Re1



[FEN"2k1r3/1pp2p1p/p5p1/1n6/R2P4/6P1/3rNP1P/4RK2 b - - 0 26"]

26...Rxe2 0-1

With the win, New England was able to lock up first place in the division. This means we will have draw odds and choice of color for the first two rounds of the playoffs, should we make it that far. In the meantime, there is still one match left to play in the regular season, and if we win or draw, we will set the mark for the best regular season record in league history. Not bad for an expansion team! Thanks go out, as always, to our sponsors and fans.

© 2010 ChessCafe.com All Rights Reserved.

Comment on this month's column via our [Contact Page!](#) Pertinent responses will be posted below daily.

Download this week's column:

- [Week One](#)

- [Week Two](#)
 - [Week Three](#)
 - [Week Four](#)
 - [Week Five](#)
 - [Week Six](#)
 - [Week Seven](#)
 - [Week Eight](#)
 - [Week Nine](#)
-

 [TOP OF PAGE](#)

 [HOME](#)

 [COLUMNS](#)

 [LINKS](#)

 [ARCHIVES](#)

 [ABOUT THE
CHESS CAFE](#)

[\[ChessCafe Home Page\]](#) [\[Book Review\]](#) [\[Columnists\]](#)
[\[Endgame Study\]](#) [\[The Skittles Room\]](#) [\[ChessCafe Archives\]](#)
[\[ChessCafe Links\]](#) [\[Online Bookstore\]](#) [\[About ChessCafe.com\]](#)
[\[Contact ChessCafe.com\]](#)

© 2010 BrainGamz, Inc. All Rights Reserved.
"ChessCafe.com®" is a registered trademark of BrainGamz, Inc.