

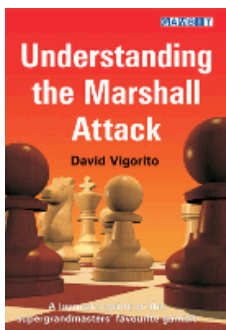


Boxing the Compass

David Vigorito



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New England Nor'easters Week Three

The horrors of starting our season 0-2 had us looking ahead to the glimmer of hope that would come to us in the form of our top gun, GM Sam Shankland. Our aura of invincibility from our first season had long since faded and we were counting on the Leko-beater to bring us back some of our past glory. Week Three would have us facing Baltimore, and for the first time this season we would be the favorites.

The line-ups were as follows:

- **Board One**
GM Sam Shankland (New England) – GM Larry Kaufman (Baltimore)
- **Board Two**
IM Tegshsuren Enkbhat (Baltimore) – IM David Vigorito (New England)
- **Board Three**
FM Brad Bournival (New England) – NM Adithya Balasubramanian (Baltimore)
- **Board Four**
NM Ian Schoch (Baltimore) – NM Mika Brattain (New England)

The match started pretty well. We felt Sam was a clear favorite with White while I had no problems at all with Black on Board Two. Brad quickly went a pawn up on Board Three, although matters were not so clear. Mika had a solid opening on Board Four but things ended up going quickly downhill.

Sam ended up winning very quickly after a quiet opening.

Shankland, Sam (2553) – Kaufman, Lawrence (2405)
USCL, 12.09.2011
Ruy Lopez [C94]

1.e4!?

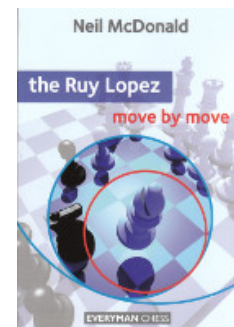
This was supposed to come as a surprise, but my opponent rattled off his first thirteen moves in less than four minutes.

1...e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.h3 Nb8



[FEN "rnbq1rk1/2p1bppp/p2p1n2/1p2p3/4P3/

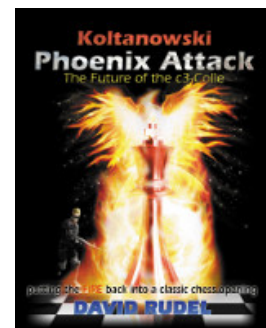
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The Ruy Lopez: Move by Move
by Neil McDonald



Houdini 2 Standard
by Robert Houdart



Koltanowski Phoenix Attack
by David Rudel

The Breyer Defence.

10.d3!? Bb7 11.Nbd2 Nbd7 12.Nf1 Nc5 13.Bc2 Re8 14.Ng3 Bf8

Looks like a typical slow Ruy Lopez middlegame, Black should be fine

15.Nh2

A typical idea.



[FEN "r2qrbk1/1bp2ppp/p2p1n2/1pn1p3/4P3/2PP2NP/PPB2PPN/R1BQR1K1 b - - 0 15"]

15...d5

15...g6 This move might be a better choice, preparing to fianchetto the bishop and stopping Nf5 A) 16.f4?! Bg7 (16...exf4 17.Bxf4 d5 18.e5 Nfd7 19.d4 Ne6 20.Be3) 17.Nf3 exf4 18.Bxf4 Ne6; B) 16.Ng4 Nxg4 17.Qxg4 (17.hxg4); C) 16.Qf3 Bg7 Black is fine.

16.Qf3 Ne6?!

This does stop Bg5, but releases some pressure on e4 and weakens the e5-pawn. 16...Qd7, the artificial-looking computer move, may be best: 17.Bg5 Re6 Black has a solid structure and I don't really see a plan for White.

17.Nf5 Qd7?!

This leads to trouble. 17...c5 18.Qg3; 17...d4 18.cxd4 Nxd4 19.Nxd4 exd4 (19...Qxd4 20.Bb3f Rad8 21.Ng4 Be7 22.Bg5 Qxd3 23.Bxf7+) 20.Bg5 h6 21.Bh4+/- (21.Bxf6) ; 17...Kh8! was best 18.Qg3? Now this does not work 18...Nh5 19.Qxe5 f6.

18.Qg3 dxe4 19.dxe4 Rad8??



[FEN "3rrbk1/1bpq1ppp/p3nn2/1p2pN2/4P3/2P3QP/PPB2PPN/R1B1R1K1 w - - 0 20"]

19...Nc5 was called for: 20.f3 I still think White is better here though - moves like Bg5, Qh4, Rad1, Ng4, etc play themselves, while Nb8-c6-b8-d7-c5-e6-c5 fails to impress.

20.Nf3+-

There is no good way to defend the e5-pawn.

20...Nf4

Black tries to defend tactically, but this does not work.

**21.Bxf4 Nh5 22.Qg5 Nxf4 23.Rad1 Ne6 (23...Qc8 24.Nh6+) 24.Nh6+ Kh8
25.Rxd7 Nxc5 26.Rxd8 Rxd8 27.Nxc5 1-0**

Brad made a nice maneuver and ended up winning quickly.

Bournival, Braden (2396) – Balasubramanian, Adithya (2292)

USCL, 12.09.2011

Philidor Defense [C41]

**1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 Nbd7 4.Nf3 e5 5.Bc4 Be7 6.0-0 0-0 7.Re1 c6 8.a4
b6**



[FEN "r1bq1rk1/p2nbppp/1pp1n2/4p3/
P1BPP3/2N2N2/1PP2PPP/R1BQR1K1 w - - 0 9"]

Adithya and I reached this position the last time we played, which was Week One of the USCL 2010 season.

9.Bg5

9.Ba2 was the move I played last year, but I had trouble getting any advantage. The text move makes plenty of sense; White is putting all his pieces in their best positions to fight for the d5-square.

9...a6

9...Bb7 is the main alternative, but White seems to get a very nice queenside initiative after 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.d5 c5 This is forced otherwise white gets control over the key d5-square. 12.a5! This is the key difference between the game and this subvariation, if Black had played a6, instead of Bb7, he could play b5 here and keep his queenside structure intact. But a6 also has it's drawbacks as it weakens b6. 12...a6 (12...bxa5 13.Nd2 and black will play Nb3xa5 with excellent queenside play.) 13.axb6 Qxb6 14.Qd3 with strong queenside pressure.

10.d5 c5

After this move White retains a long-term space advantage in a closed position. Allowing the d5-square to open up for White's pieces doesn't look too promising either, so this move is probably best. The position is quite depressing for Black though, as he has very few good squares for his minor pieces. Still, his position remains quite solid. 10...cxd5 11.Nxd5 Nxd5 12.Qxd5 Rb8 13.Qd2+/- and, because of the weaknesses on the d-file, White is simply better.

11.Bf1



[FEN "r1bq1rk1/3nbppp/pp1p1n2/2pPp1B1/P3P3/2N2N2/1PP2PPP/R2QRBK1 b - - 0 11"]

This was still part of my preparation. There have been a few different moves played in this position, but I believe this makes the most sense. The bishop has done its job on c4 and now the knight belongs on the c4-square instead. This move helps protect the kingside in many variations and White may even decide to play g3 and Bh3 in some positions.

11...Kh8?!

This plan seems dubious at best. Black's only active plan in this position is to play for f5, the best way to do this is with 11...Ne8. With this move Black immediately sets about playing for f7–f5. Also, the knight on e8 protects the weak d6-pawn, which is useful in many variations. The knight can also come to g7 after Black plays g6 and f5. I still believe White has a nice advantage in these lines, but the text takes two moves to move the knight to an inferior square, and it is not clear if the king is better on h8 than g8.

12.Bc1!

This may seem very strange, but the move makes sense because Black's next move will surely be Ng8. White wants to avoid trading pieces since Black is very cramped. The question is, what is the best square for the bishop? The problem with d2 is that the knight needs d2 to go to the c4-square. Be3 will eventually run into f5–f4, since we know that's Black's only active plan. Also, once White's knight arrives on the c4-square, it often likes to hop to e3. 12.g3 Ng8 13.Bc1.

12...Ng8 13.Nd2 g6

13...Bg5 is likely a better try, as Black desperately needs to trade pieces to relieve his cramped position. 14.Nc4 Bxc1 15.Qxc1 Qe7 16.Ra3+/- and White is still much better, but at least Black has accomplished something by trading off a set of minor pieces.

14.Nc4 Rb8

14...f5 is strongly met by 15.f4! This move is not as effective with the black knight on e8, instead of g8, since Black has better protection of the d6-pawn. This clearly shows why the Kh8 and Ng8 was a bad plan. (15.exf5 gxf5 16.g3 also seems very nice for White.) 15...exf4 (15...Bb7 16.exf5 gxf5 17.fxe5 Nxe5 18.Nxe5 dxe5 19.Rxe5+-) 16.Bxf4 fxe4 17.Bxd6 Bxd6 18.Nxd6 Ndf6 19.Ncxe4 Nxe4 20.Nxe4+-.

15.Ra3!?



[FEN "1rbq1mk/3nbp1p/pp1p2p1/2pPp3/P1N1P3/R1N5/1PP2PPP/2BQRBK1 b - - 0 15"]

This move is very logical, as White plans on playing Rb3 next to put more pressure on b6, and the rook has the potential to swing over to the kingside in the future. 15.f4 is also quite strong, and I considered it during the game. The reason I rejected it is because f4 is even more effective after Black has played f5 himself. Since it is hard to come up with any other plan for Black, I didn't see why I shouldn't just wait for f5 before playing f4, especially when I have a very useful move such as Ra3 available. 15...f6 16.f5+/-.

15...b5

This just loses material, but it's difficult to come up with anything else that's good for Black. 15...f5 16.f4!.

16.axb5 axb5 17.Na5 b4 18.Nc6 Qb6 19.Nxb8

19.Na4 Qc7 20.Nxb8 bxa3 21.Nc6 a2 The advantage of playing this way is that White's queenside structure remains intact. Still, White will waste a lot of time to win the a2-pawn and Black may be able to generate counterplay on the kingside in the meantime.

19...bxa3 20.Nxd7 Bxd7 21.bxa3 Qa5



[FEN "5mk/3bbp1p/3p2p1/q1pPp3/4P3/P1N5/2P2PPP/2BQRBK1 w - - 0 22"]

21...Rb8 22.Bd2 Qb2 23.a4 and White can follow up with moves such as Bb5 and Qc1 to secure the queenside.

22.Nb1!

The knight heads to the great outpost on c4. I was thinking about a setup such as Nc4 Bb2 Qa1, with ideas of f2-f4 and a4-a5.

22...Rb8 23.Nd2 Qa4 24.Re3!

White looks to trade off Black's very active rook with his not so active rook on e1. Also, Black doesn't want to trade on b3, since it fixes White's queenside structure.

24...Bg5?!

Trading dark-squared bishops now favors White as the d6-pawn is quite weak once the knight heads to c4. 24...Qa7 25.Rb3 Ba4 26.Rxb8 Qxb8 27.Bd3 Bg5 gives Black better chances to hold.

25.Rb3 Rxb3 (25...Qa7 26.Nc4+-) 26.cxb3 Qd4 27.Qc2 Bxd2?



[FEN "6nk/3b1p1p/3p2p1/2pPp3/3qP3/PP6/2Qb1PPP/2B2BK1 w - - 0 28"]

This loses the queen, but Black is dead anyways. 27...Bg4 28.h3 Bh4 (28...Bh5 29.g4) 29.Nf3 Bxf3 30.gxf3 Qa1 Otherwise Bb2 traps the queen. 31.Qb2 The easiest. 31...Qxb2 32.Bxb2 And white's extra pawn on the queenside will decide the issue.

28.Bb2!

Now Black's queen is trapped! The rest is easy.

28...Ba5 29.Bxd4 exd4 30.Qc4 Nf6 31.Qa6 Be1 32.Qxd6 Bxf2+ 33.Kh1 Kg7 34.e5 1-0

So we were up 2-0, but Mika was losing. I had a good position from the opening, but then avoided too many simplifications because I had been unsure about what was going on in the other games. I overestimated my position, and by the time I realized a draw was sufficient to win the match, I missed a sinister move and quickly lost.

Enkhbat, T – Vigorito, D

USCL, 12.09.2011



[FEN "3r2k1/5pbp/p1R1q1p1/2R1p3/1B1Pp3/P2rP1P1/4QPKP/8 b - - 0 28"]

28...Qe8?

The queen is vulnerable on the back rank. 28...Qf5?! 29.Rxa6; 28...Qd7 29.dxe5 Bxe5 30.Rxa6 Bd6 should hold, as Black will have counterplay on the d-file.

29.Ba5!

A very annoying move that proves decisive. If the rook moves, Qc2 will penetrate to c8 with decisive threats. If I had only thrown in ...h5 somewhere, I would be fine. I had counted on 29.dxe5 Bf8 30.Rc2 (30.Rc4 Bxb4 31.axb4

Qxe5) 30...Bxb4 31.axb4 Qxe5 32.Rxa6 Qb5.

29...Bf8

I used all of my remaining time only to grimly accept the loss of a pawn for nothing. Tricky little tactical tries do not work. 29...Rb8 30.Qc2 Qd7 31.Rc8+ Bf8 32.Rxb8 Qg4 33.Rb1 defends the first rank.; 29...Ra8 is more creative, but fails: 30.Qc2 Qd7 31.Rc8+ Bf8 32.Rxa8 Qg4 33.Rxe5 Qf3+ 34.Kh3 h5 (34...f5 35.Rxf8+ mates quickly) 35.Rg5+-.

30.Bxd8 Bxc5 31.Rxc5 Qxd8 32.Rxe5 Rxa3 33.Rxe4 Qd5?! 34.Qf3 Kg7
(34...Qd7 35.Qf6) **35.Re7 Qxf3+ 36.Kxf3**

The endgame is lost.

36...a5 37.Ra7 Kf6 38.h4 h5 39.Kf4 Ra2 40.f3 a4 41.e4 a3 42.d5 Kg7 43.
Ke5 Ra1 44.d6 a2 45.f4 Kg8 46.Kf6 Rd1 47.Ra8+ Kh7 48.Rxa2 Rxd6+ 49.
Kxf7 Rd3 50.e5 Rxd3 51.e6 Rf3 52.Ra4 1-0

So after starting 2-0 we could only draw the match. This time the players with white came through, but we lost both black games. Another disappointment, but at least we are on the board. Next week things will not be any easier as we face a very strong Philadelphia team.

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