



DECODING OPENING TRENDS IN WORLD-CLASS CHESS

OPENING PREPARATION? Trust Yourself And Have Fun!

At the 2023 American Cup in St. Louis, it was exciting to see opening preparations by the best U.S. players, led by the ever-creative and resourceful Hikaru Nakamura, but also principled players like Caruana and Dominguez.

By GM Emilio Cordova

What does it take to make a novelty playable? How to define a novelty in chess? Or how do we know that we are unleashing something interesting, good, new, and of course playable?

Well, definitely those are hard questions to answer. However, I think what makes a novelty good and playable, is the difficulty that our rival will have to deal with it over the board, in order to find the right sequence that will allow him/her to overcome the surprise and obtain a playable position.

Of course, we should remember that not all novelties are going to be equally good or interesting, therefore we need to be creative, and of course – willing to take some risks. The famous saying goes “risk it for the biscuit!” I invite you to join me on this interesting journey in which we are going to dive into all the interesting ideas that elite players have come up with recently.

THE AMERICAN CUP 2023

American Cup

In the 2023 American Cup, we witnessed how the American dream came true in the hands of the amazing Hikaru Nakamura. Naka shows us that there is neither a clear path nor a right training method which will secure success. Hikaru found his own way, showing us that the traditional training methods don't matter that much.

What matters is that you trust yourself whatever you are doing and that you are having fun! You may like Nakamura or not, but we can't deny that he is spreading the chess word around the globe and that his contribution is enormous. A versatile player that he is, he had a lot to offer with his opening choices.

A

“UNIVERSAL OPENING”

How to beat someone who is considered almost unbeatable, well that's a very hard question to answer. However, as usual, Nakamura shows us how to achieve the unthinkable. Famous for his bravery and willingness to play every single game until the end, Hikaru is a true fighter. That's why he is the deserving winner of the prestigious American Cup 2023!

AO6

Hikaru Nakamura	2768
Wesley So	2761

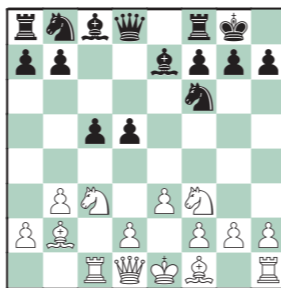
St. Louis 2023, rapid playoff

1. $\text{d}3$ Naka starts with the most flexible move order, the always reliable $\text{d}3$.

ECO Codes

- A** R-1. $\text{d}4$, 1. $\text{e}4$
1. $\text{d}4$ R-1... $\text{d}5$, 1... $\text{d}f6$
1. $\text{d}4$ $\text{d}f6$ R-2. $\text{c}4$
1. $\text{d}4$ $\text{d}f6$ 2. $\text{c}4$ R-2... $\text{e}6$, 2... $\text{g}6$
- B** 1. $\text{e}4$ R-1... $\text{c}5$, 1... $\text{e}6$, 1... $\text{e}5$
1. $\text{e}4$ $\text{c}5$
- C** 1. $\text{e}4$ $\text{e}6$
1. $\text{e}4$ $\text{e}5$
- D** 1. $\text{d}4$ $\text{d}5$
1. $\text{d}4$ $\text{d}f6$ 2. $\text{c}4$ $\text{g}6$ L-3... $\text{d}5$
- E** 1. $\text{d}4$ $\text{d}f6$ 2. $\text{c}4$ $\text{e}6$
1. $\text{d}4$ $\text{d}f6$ 2. $\text{c}4$ $\text{g}6$ L-3... $\text{d}5$

1... $\text{d}5$ 2. $\text{e}3$ The so-called “universal opening”.
2... $\text{d}f6$ 3. $\text{c}4$ $\text{e}6$ 4. $\text{b}3$ $\text{e}7$ 5. $\text{b}2$ 0-0
6. $\text{d}c3$ $\text{c}5$ 7. $\text{cxd}5$ $\text{exd}5$ 8. $\text{xc}1$!

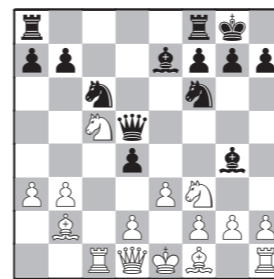


One of the benefits of this opening is its flexibility and the opportunity it gives to obtain pretty unbalanced positions. Of course this 8... $\text{xc}1$ move could be considered a sort of novelty since no elite players have played it previously.

8... $\text{d}4$! Wesley is not afraid of the intrepid $\text{xc}1$, and he is planning to fight for the initiative. 8... $\text{d}4$! is another interesting try. Then, after a series of active moves 9. $\text{d}4$ $\text{d}c6$ 10. $\text{dxc}5$ $\text{ef}6$! 11. $\text{e}2$ $\text{d}b4$!, Black should be able to equalize.

9. $\text{d}a4$ $\text{dxe}3$ Here are a few interesting alternatives for Black. 9... $\text{b}6$! 10. $\text{exd}4$ $\text{cxd}4$ 11. $\text{dxd}4$ $\text{eb}7$ 12. $\text{d}f5$ $\text{d}7$ 13. $\text{d}e3$ $\text{d}a6$ leads to a very complex position.

9... $\text{d}c6$! is a very daring pawn sacrifice. However, Black is ahead in piece development, therefore this sacrifice should be at least sound. Let's go deeper and check 10. $\text{dxc}5$ $\text{eg}4$ 11. $\text{a}3$ $\text{d}5$



All the black pieces have taken the fast lane in order to get activated. The price was just a mere pawn. 12. $\text{d}d3$ $\text{exf}3$ 13. $\text{gxf}3$ $\text{f}d8$ Due to his active pieces, Black has more than enough compensation. For example, 14. $\text{e}2$ $\text{xf}5$ 15. $\text{xc}2$ $\text{ac}8$ 16. $\text{wb}1$ $\text{d}d6$ with satisfactory play.

10... $\text{fxe}3$ Nakamura achieved what he was hoping for – a highly complex position where it's difficult to determine who has the advantage. In such positions, the outcome is often uncertain and victory is determined by the player's skill and strategic decision-making.

10... $\text{b}6$ 11. $\text{e}2$ $\text{d}d5$ 12.0-0 $\text{d}c6$ 13. $\text{we}1$ The queen is advancing to threaten the black king's defenses. Her presence is like a knock at the door, signalling danger and imminent attack.

13... $\text{eb}7$ 14. $\text{wg}3$ $\text{ef}6$ 15. $\text{exf}6$ $\text{dxf}6$ 16. $\text{d}c3$



16... $\text{d}b4$! 16... $\text{wb}8$! There is a belief that when a queen is harassing your king, you should use your own queen to defend your monarch.

A) 17. $\text{wb}8$ Without queens, the position becomes less dangerous for Black. 17... $\text{axb}8$ 18. $\text{d}4$ $\text{cxd}4$ 19. $\text{dxd}4$ $\text{dxd}4$ 20. $\text{exd}4$ $\text{f}d8$ 21. $\text{ec}d1$ $\text{fbc}8$ 22. $\text{ec}4$ $\text{xa}6$ 23. $\text{xa}6$.

B) Or 17. $\text{wh}3$ $\text{wc}8$ following the same strategy, intending to meet 18. $\text{wh}4$ by 18... $\text{wg}4$.

C) 17. $\text{wh}4$ $\text{de}5$! = trading all the potential attackers.

17. $\text{de}5$ $\text{wxd}2$?? A big blunder after which the black queen gets trapped. However, this position was far from clear

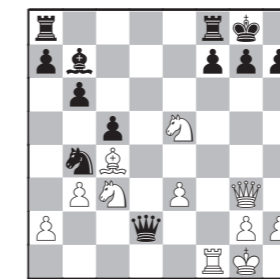


Emilio Cordova a Peruvian Grandmaster, peaked at a 2660 FIDE rating in December 2016. A talented junior, he won multiple Pan-American championships and has represented Peru in seven Chess Olympiads from 2004-2022, leading the team in 2016, 2018, and 2022. Cordova was the American Continental Champion in 2016 and tied for first in 2017. As part of the Webster Chess Team, he earned several Pan-Am titles and an individual gold in 2019. Emilio also has over 14 years of coaching experience.

and easy to play. In fact, it was full of intricate complications. Dear reader, allow me to show you some of the tricky lines of this position; in that way, you can get an idea of how complex and hard it was to play this position.

17... $\text{d}b5$ is logical, but far from simple. Then, 18. $\text{ec}4$ $\text{we}7$ 19. $\text{d}g4$ $\text{d}xg4$ 20. $\text{exd}5$ $\text{exd}5$ 21. $\text{dxd}5$ $\text{we}4$ 22. $\text{d}c7$ $\text{ac}8$ 23. $\text{d}b5$ $\text{wg}6$ should be equal, although not dry.

17... $\text{we}7$ 18. $\text{xf}6$! The beautiful coordination among the white pieces makes all the fireworks work! 18... $\text{wxf}6$ 19. $\text{xf}1$ $\text{d}d6$ 20. $\text{ec}4$ $\text{wxd}2$ Principled and best.



A) 21. $\text{dxf}7$ $\text{d}d5$ 22. $\text{exd}5$ $\text{exd}5$ 23. $\text{de}4$! $\text{wd}3$ 24. $\text{d}f6+$ $\text{exf}7$ 25. $\text{wc}7+$ $\text{cg}6$ 26. $\text{wg}3+$ $\text{cf}7$ =.

B) 21. $\text{e}4$ $\text{b}5$ 22. $\text{exf}7+$ $\text{ch}8$ 23. $\text{xf}4$ $\text{wc}1+$ 24. $\text{xf}1$ $\text{wd}2$ =.

C) 21. $\text{exf}7+$ $\text{exf}7$ 22. $\text{dxf}7$ $\text{wxc}3$ 23. $\text{d}h6+$ $\text{ch}8$ 24. $\text{d}f7+$ $\text{cg}8$ =.

18. $\text{f}d1$ $\text{wb}2$ 19. $\text{d}c4$ Black resigned

The curtain has come down signalling a Champion for the American Cup 2023. The incredible Hikaru Nakamura!

B

THE KALASHNIKOV SICILIAN

B32

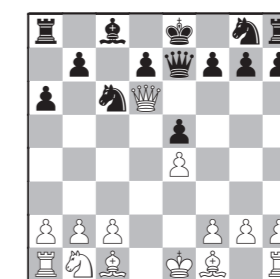
Leinier Dominguez	2743
Hikaru Nakamura	2768

St. Louis 2023, Champions Bracket

1. $\text{e}4$ $\text{c}5$ 2. $\text{d}f3$ $\text{d}c6$ 3. $\text{d}4$ $\text{cxd}4$ 4. $\text{dxd}4$ $\text{e}5$! It's so refreshing to see once in a while a type of Sicilian different from the Najdorf, Dragon, or Sveshnikov. Of course, the approach of any Sicilian won't change at all – the dynamic factor is the core of any Open Sicilian system.

5. $\text{d}b5$ $\text{d}6$ I have the belief that nowadays almost anything could be considered playable, as long as you have studied and analyzed it deeply enough with a strong engine.

5... $\text{a}6$ is an old fashionable line that goes 6. $\text{d}d6+$ $\text{exd}6$ 7. $\text{wxd}6$ $\text{we}7$? – an interesting try by means of which Black can aim to equalize. (Also 7... $\text{wf}6$ has been tried a lot. White has an edge, but Black has ways of complicating matters and fighting for equality.)

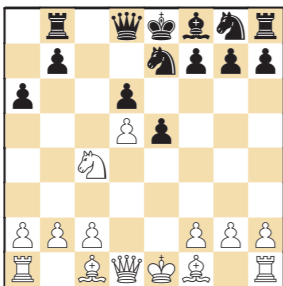


White has many ways to continue here. After, for example, 8. $\text{we}7+$ $\text{d}gxe7$ 9. $\text{d}c3$ $\text{d}5$ Black has good chances to equalize.

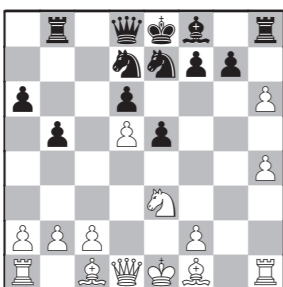
6. $\text{d}1c3$ $\text{a}6$ 7. $\text{d}a3$ $\text{e}6$ 8. $\text{d}c4$ $\text{f}b8$ A very fashionable line directed against 9. $\text{e}3$, when Black follows with 9... $\text{b}5$, having protected the $\text{b}6$ square. Nakamura is known for his versatile style. It's undeniable that Naka is one of the most resilient players in the world, who has improved his game by playing online chess a lot. In other words, Nakamura is a son of the modern chess world.



9.♘d5 To illustrate the play for both sides, here are a couple of games. 9.♘e3 ♖f6 10.g3 h5 11.h3 (11.h4 ♗e7 12.♗g2 ♖g4 13.♖cd5 ♗d7 14.♖b6 ♗d8 15.♖bd5 b5 16.c3 ♗d7 17.0-0 ♗d8 18.a4 b4 19.♗d3 a5 20.♖c4 0-0 21.♖xd6 ♗xd5 22.♗xd5 ♖e7 23.♗d2 ♗e6 and a draw was agreed on move 56 in W.So 2770 - T.Radjabov 2765, Internet, 2020.) 11...g6 12.♗g2 ♗h6 13.0-0 h4 14.g4 b5 15.♖cd5 ♗xd5 16.♖xd5 ♗xc1 17.♗xc1 ♖xd5 18.exd5 ♖a5 19.b3 0-0 20.♗d2 ♖b7 21.b4 ♗c8 22.f4 ♗b6+ 23.♖h1 ♗d4 was S.Sjugirov 2696 - P.Maghsodloo 2699, Internet 2022, which Black won on move 39. 9...♗xd5 10.exd5 ♖ce7 Black has gotten an interesting and less explored position, which, of course, doesn't mean that his position is better or anything like that. However, it is a position where everything is possible.

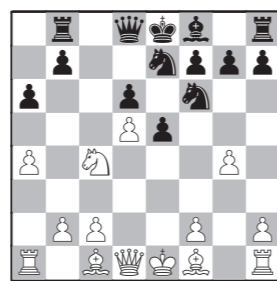


11.g3 The most logical and natural move. However, apparently not the most ambitious one. 11.♘e3 ♖f6 (11...b5?! is strongly met by 12.c4!) 12.g3 transposes to the text. 11.g4!? is an interesting idea suggested by Naka himself. A) 11...b5?! 12.♘e3 ♖f6 13.g5 ♖d7 14.h4 h6 15.gxh6

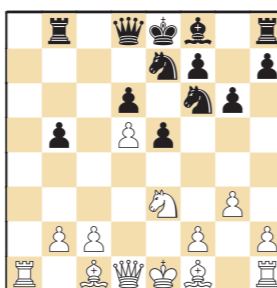


15...♗xh6 16.a4 and White's play is a bit easier and more comfortable. However, the position is far from clear. For example, 16...f5 17.axb5 axb5 18.♖xf5!! ♖xf5 19.♗xh6 ♖xh6 20.♗h5+ ♖f7 21.♗h3 with a strong initiative for White.

B) 11...♖f6 12.a4!



Once again, when you are forced to play unexpected and counterintuitive moves, it's clear that a novelty would be worth trying since we play against emotional humans and not emotionless engines. 12...♗c7 (Or 12...♗d7 13.a5 h6 14.♗g2 ♖g6 15.h4 ♗xg4 16.♗xg4 ♖xg4 17.h5 ♖f4 18.♗f3 with excellent compensation for the pawn in view of White's bishop pair.) 13.a5 h6 14.♖b6 ♖c8 15.♗e3 ♖xb6 16.♗xb6 ♗c8 17.h3. White has more space and the bishop pair, but Black has his own trumps, too. 11...b5 White was better after 11...♖f6 12.♗g2 g6 13.0-0 ♗g7 14.a4 0-0 15.a5 e4 16.♗g5 ♗e8 17.♗xf6 ♗xf6 18.♗xe4 ♖c8 19.♗g2 b5 20.axb6 ♖xb6 21.♖a5 ♗xb2 22.♖c6 ♗f6 23.♗xa6 ♗b7 24.♗e1 ♗xe1+ 25.♗xe1 ♗d4 26.♖xd4 ♗xd4 27.c3 and later won on move 76 in A.Heimann 2581 - U.Boensch 2494, Germany 2022. 12.♖e3 g6N Intentions for both sides are pretty visible: White aims to take advantage of his bishop pair and pawn majority on the queenside, whereas Black will aim to counter with ...f7-f5 in the future, and create his play on the kingside. The only previous game in my database saw 12...f5 13.h4 h5 14.a4 ♖f6 15.axb5 axb5 16.♗a7 g6 17.♗d2 b4 when White won on move 74 in H.Schmidt 2392 - S.Kalinitshew 2492, Travemuende 2008. 13.a4 ♖f6 14.axb5 axb5



15.♗g2 When you have the bishop pair it makes sense to open the position with 15.c4!?. However, playing this sort of

move is not easy at all since it's too radical. A sample line might follow 15...bxc4 (15...♗h6!? 16.cxb5 ♗xe3 17.♗xe3 ♖fxd5 18.♗h6∞ with a complex position, which I would prefer to play as White.) 16.♖xc4 ♗g7 17.♗a4+ ♖f8 18.♗g2 h5 19.0-0 h4 20.♗a3 hxg3 21.hxg3 ♖e8 22.♖a5 with a preferable position for White. Of course, I invite you to do some of your own analysis, since the position is rich with possibilities for both sides along the way. After a tough fight **Black won.**

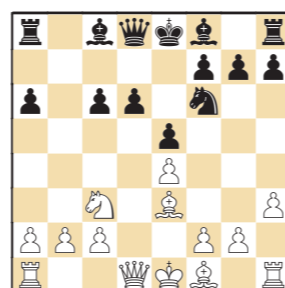
THE NAJDORF SICILIAN

B90

Leinier Dominguez	2743
Sam Shankland	2710

St. Louis 2023, Elimination Bracket

1.e4 c5 2.♖f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♖xd4 ♖f6 5.♖c3 a6 6.♗e3 ♖g4 7.♗c1 ♖c6 8.h3 ♖f6 9.♗e3 e5 10.♖xc6!? Once again, a sort of a novelty, as this line has only been played by a few lower-rated players. Nowadays, it's very hard to find a novelty in the Sicilian Najdorf, since almost everything has been tried. However, as is well known, chess is so vast, and the possibilities to create are going to be always there. In fact, I believe that the hardest part is to have the willingness to look for something more and to be creative. That's why we should thank Leinier for having played something fresh. 10...bxc6



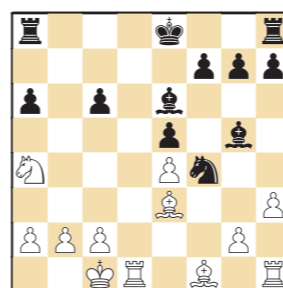
11.f4!N The problem with novelties is that, most of the time, finding the right procedure is not easy. Imagine yourself in a maze where you can take many different paths and most of them look almost the same. Of course, the answer won't come clean and clear. 11.♗c4 ♗b7 (11...♗e6 12.♗xe6 fxe6 13.0-0 ♗e7 14.f4 exf4 15.♗xf4 e5 16.♗e3 0-0 17.♗e2 d5 18.♗ad1 d4 19.♗g5 ♗b6 20.♗c4+ was W.Al Tarbosh 2177 - T.Kanyamarala 2082, Internet 2021,

which White won on move 63.) 12.♗g5 ♗e7 13.♗d2 ♗c7 14.♗b3 ♗d8 15.♗d1 h6 16.♗xf6 ♗xf6 17.0-0 0-0 18.♗d3 ♗b6 19.♖a4 ♗b5 20.c4 ♗a5 21.♖c3 ♗c8 22.♖h1 ♗e6 23.♗c2 g6 24.♗b3 and a draw was agreed in H.Haraldsson 1962 - J.Ulfjotsson 1672, Reykjavik 2020. 11...♗e7 A very natural move that seems to be perfectly playable. However, the flaws are going to be easily noted after further moves.

A) 11...♗a5 Of course, such a move is far from being considered clear or easy to find. We can say that it is not a natural move which could speak for itself. After, for example, 12.♗d2 ♗c5 13.♗f3 exf4 14.♗xf4 ♗e7 15.0-0 0-0 16.♗e2 ♗e6 17.♗g3 ♗fd8 18.♗hf1 ♖e8 19.♗e3 White is a bit better, though the position remains complicated.

B) 11...exf4 Captures are the most logical moves that need to be considered at first, especially when we are playing a gambit. Of course, it is not so easy to suggest this move since the benefits are hard to understand, in comparison to the liabilities that this capture could entail, like subjecting the d6 pawn to pressure that White could inflict. 12.♗xf4 ♗e6 13.♗d4 ♗e7 14.0-0 0-0 15.♗c4 Capturing on d6 might be the engines' first choice, but I prefer exerting further pressure on Black's position without entering any simplifications. 15...♗c8 16.♗xe6 ♗xe6 17.♗he1 keeping Black in passive mode.

C) 11...♖d7 Unless you are Karpov or you have been trained by him, such retreating moves are hard to find as they won't come easily and naturally. 12.♗f3 exf4 13.♗xf4 ♗f6 14.0-0 0-0 15.♗g3 ♗e7 16.♖b1 0-0 17.♗e2 ♗e6 18.h4∞ would lead to a characteristic Sicilian battle. 12.fxe5 dxe5 13.♗xd8+ ♗xd8 14.0-0-0 Now we can see that White's position is more pleasant and easier to play. Therefore, the novelty has worked! 14...♗e6 15.♗d3 ♖h5 16.♖a4 ♖f4 17.♗f1 ♗g5



18.♖b1! Always the subtle ♖b1! Leinier is well-known for his amazing preparation and his always very classic style, which means no suspect moves. Also, he is always a very correct player who likes to follow and respect the fundamentals of chess.

18...0-0 19.g3 ♖xh3 20.♗b6! A very subtle blow! After this move, Leinier obtained a huge advantage which he converted without any problems. **White won**



HITTING THE BERLIN WALL

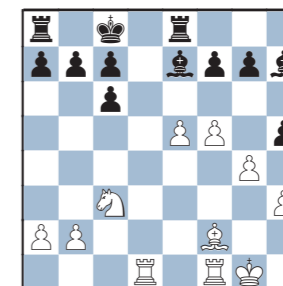
C67

Leinier Dominguez	2743
Levon Aronian	2745

American Cup, St. Louis 2023

1.e4 e5 2.♖f3 ♖c6 3.♗b5 ♖f6 4.0-0 ♖xe4 The Berlin wall is in sight! 5.d4 ♖d6 6.♗xc6 The main line. However, White has tried many different setups, though the Berlin wall has proven to be impassable most of the time. 6...dxc6 7.dxe5 ♖f5 8.♗xd8+ ♖xd8 9.h3 ♗e7 10.♖c3 ♖h4 11.♖xh4 ♗xh4 12.♗e3 h5

c5 21.♗xd4 cxd4 22.♗xd4+ ended in a draw on move 138 in L.Dominguez 2743 - M.Antipov 2581, Internet 2023.) 15.f4 f5 16.exf6 gxf6 17.f5 ♖f7 18.g3 b6 19.♖c3 ♗e8 20.♗f3 ♗d6 21.♖f2 ♗b7 22.♗f4 c5 23.♗fd3 and White won on move 39 in M.Vachier Lagrave 2736 - W.So 2760, Internet 2022. 13...♗f5 14.g4!? With good criteria, the "Latin idol" Leinier sacrifices a pawn for the initiative. In fact, his idea is extremely profound and sound, burying alive the light-squared bishop! 14...♗xc2 15.♗ac1 The idea of a novelty is to surprise your opponent... With a novelty, you cannot expect to win immediately, however, if you could inflict some moral damage, time advantage, doubt, or anything that could help to destabilize your opponent, your novelty is certainly worth a try. 15...♗h7 16.f4 ♗e8 17.♗cd1+ ♖c8 18.♗f2 ♗e7 19.f5



And now we can see the energy contained within the novelty! 19...b6 20.♗g3 ♖b7 21.♖g2 ♗ad8 22.♗xd8 ♗xd8 23.♗d1 ♗xd1 24.♖xd1 c5 25.♖f3 Even though White has obtained wonderful compensation for the sacrificed pawn, the material is too reduced. Therefore, the chances of victory are not so great. 25...♖c6 26.♖e3 hxg4+ 27.hxg4 and after a tough struggle, Levon was able to hold a **draw** in this game, securing his progress to the next round. This pawn sacrifice was very attractive and sound, however, the Berlin Defense has proven its solidity once again. Despite how wonderful White's idea was, when there are not too many pieces on the board it's hard to squeeze something out of the position when there is not much to squeeze.

13.f3!N A very interesting and subtle novelty played by Leinier. The Berlin Defense is well-known for its solidity and its almost impenetrable armor; we should not forget that this defense was employed by Kramnik which helped him to defeat the Baku "ogre" – the one and only Garry Kasparov!

13.♗ad1+ was played by many elite players, and Dominguez was one of them. 13...♖e8 14.♖e2 ♗e7 (14...b6 15.♗fe1 ♗d7 16.♗f4 ♗d8 17.♖d4 c5 18.e6 cxd4 19.exd7+ ♖xd7 20.♗e5

E

A TRICKY CATALAN

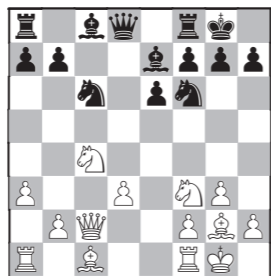
Fabiano Caruana is certainly one of the best theoreticians of the present world elite. His thorough preparations for the World Championship match with Magnus Carlsen in 2018 must have left him with a bag full of surprises in almost every opening. This time, his opponent Ray Robson fell victim to a strong novelty that appeared on the board as early as on move 10 of a tricky Catalan Opening!

EO4
Fabiano Caruana 2766
Ray Robson 2702

St. Louis 2023, rapid

1.d4 ♖f6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.♗g2 I have the feeling that this move order is the most ambitious for White, since it forces Black to go into more complex lines.
 4...♗b4+ 5.♗d2 This has proven to be a rather more ambitious and less explored line in comparison to 5.♗d2, which has been well-studied and played in thousands of games. Therefore, most players know what to do, and which path to take.
 5...0-0 6.♗g3 dxc4 7.♗c2 Still, a lot of games have continued this way, though not that many in comparison to the 5.♗d2 line.
 7...c5 8.0-0 Here comes the less explored path! Now Black will be out of preparation.
 8...cxd4 9.♗xc4 ♖c6 It was necessary to find 9...d3! in order to obtain a playable position... The beauty of a novelty relies

on the fact that finding the best moves or following the right path for your opponent will definitely not be an easy task, since the signal has been lost. 10.exd3 ♖c6 11.a3 ♗e7



- A) 12.♗e1!? ♗d5 Once again not a natural move... 13.♗e3! ♗f6 (After 13...♗xe3 14.♗xe3∞, White's position looks more promising and easier to play.) 14.♗g4 ♗d4 15.♗e3!∞ with very powerful center control.
- B) 12.b4 is met by 12...b5, apparently the main move according to my engine... and a very counterintuitive one! 13.♗ce5 ♗xe5 14.♗xe5 ♗d5 15.♗c6 ♗d7 16.♗b2∞ with a very complex position ahead.



10.♗d1!N After this Black's position becomes difficult to play. It's interesting to note that Black didn't make any obvious mistakes, and White didn't play any exceptional moves. Despite this, Black found himself in a bad position, by just playing logical moves.

10.a3 ♗d6 11.♗d1 e5 12.b4 a6 13.h3 ♗e6 14.♗xd6 ♗xd6 15.e3 ♗ac8 16.♗b2 d3 17.♗g5 ♗c4 18.♗e4 ♗xe4 19.♗xe4 f5 20.♗xd3 ♗xd3 21.♗b3+ ♗h8 22.♗xd3 was D.Fridman 2626 - G.Gajewski 2589, Warsaw 2021, which White later won on move 39.

10...♗e7 Once again, I think it's very hard to find the best moves for Black. 10...a5! is one of the options for Black that deserved attention. Another one is 10...♗d5!?, which can be met by 11.♗g5!, setting more traps and heading into a more complex position. (If 11.a3 ♗e7 12.♗xd4 ♗xd4 13.♗xd4 ♗f6 14.♗d3 ♗c7! Black should be able to equalize...) For example, 11...f5 12.e4!



12...dxe3 13.♗xe3 ♗xe3 14.♗xe3 White will obtain powerful compensation. 14...♗e8 15.♗c4 (15.♗b3 h6 16.♗h3∞; 15.♗f4!? h6 16.♗f3∞) 15...h6 16.♗h3∞. **White won** on move 54.

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CHALLENGE TO READERS

For each position find the winning combination



Solutions on page 96

01
Hanauer - Green
 Marshall CC Championship 1940

02
B.Blumin - J.Soudakoff
 Manhattan CC Championship 1940

03
F.Reinfeld - J.S.Battell
 U.S. Championship Preliminary 1940

04
A.Kupchik - R.Fine
 U.S. Championship Final 1940

05
W.W.Adams - A.C.Simonson
 U.S. Championship Final 1940

06
W.W.Adams - I.Kashdan
 U.S. Championship Final 1940

07
E.Dimock - N.J.Hogenauer
 Correspondence 1940

08
A.Roddy - R.Fine
 A.C.F. Open Preliminary 1940

09
A.E.Santasieri - E.S.Jackson
 N.Y. State Championship 1940