

□ Anand,Viswanathan

■ Kramnik,Vladimir

WCC Bonn (6)

21.10.2008

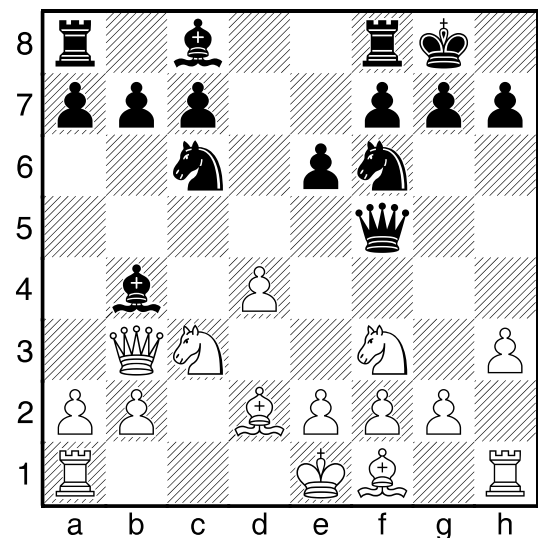
We saw today a game which probably may be decisive for the outcome of the match. Anand won for the third time, setting an almost unsurmountable advantage after only six games. White played again d4, but today allowed the Nimzoindian. Instead of the weird 4.f3, Anand went today for the Capablanca variation 4.♖c2. In one of the main lines the world champion showed his superior preparation by introducing a novelty as early as move 9, so getting the initiative once again. Kramnik reacted well at the beginning to blunder later. "Deja vu" one frenchman would say. After snatching a pawn Anand went to win the game finding some precise moves at the critical moments. 1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♘b4 4.♖c2 d5 5.cd5 ♔d5 6.♘f3 ♗f5 7.♗b3!?

The only way to fight for the advantage in my opinion. [ The same players had this position some years ago, but with opposite colors. It was a quiet draw: 7.♗f5 ef5 8.a3 ♘d6 9.♘b5 ♘e6 10.e3 ♘c6 11.♘d2 ♘e4 12.♘d3 a6 13.♘d6 cd6 14.♔e2 ♔d7 15.♖hc1 ♖hc8 16.♘e1 ♘e7 17.♘g1 b5 18.f3 ♘f6 19.♘h4 ♘fd5 20.♘e7 ½-½ Kramnik,V (2790)-Anand,V (2770)/Frankfurt 1998]

**7...♘c6** [ Anand himself defended the black side with another setup early this year: 7...c5 8.a3 ♘a5 9.♗c4 ♘c3 10.♗c3 ♘bd7 11.g4 ♗g4 12.dc5 ♘d5 13.♗c2 ♗f5 14.♗c4 ♘e5 15.♘e5 ♗e5 16.♘g2 ♘d7 17.♘d5 ½-½ Eljanov, P (2692)-Anand,V (2799)/Wijk aan Zee 2008 ] **8.♘d2 0-0 9.h3!?** Here it comes the novelty! Anand knows that Kramnik analysis go very deep on the main lines so he is trying to get his opponent "out

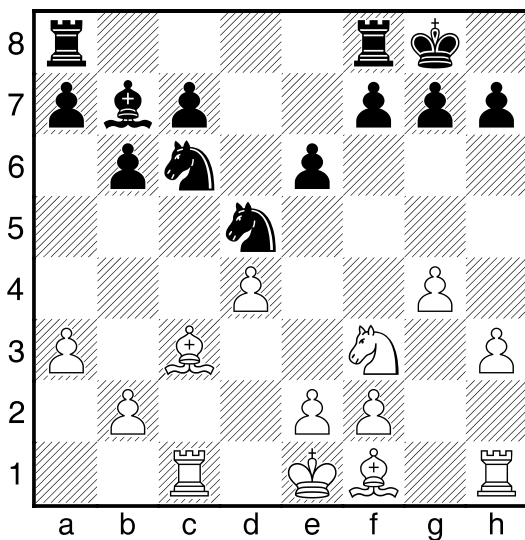
of book" as soon as possible in every game. A very sensible approach which is bringing him great success.

[ One of the first games with this line was precisely played with black by Anand in 1996: 9.e3 ♖d8 ( Recently we saw 9...a6!? 10.♘e2 ♘d6 11.♘h4 ♗g5 12.g3 with an unclear game in Kobalia,M (2644)-Sadvakasov,D (2605)/Sochi 2005) 10.♘e2 e5?! A dubious experiment in the Monaco blind/blitz... 11.♘e5 ♘e6 12.g4! ♗e5 13.de5 ♘b3 14.ef6 with better chances for white, Ivanchuk,V (2735)-Anand,V (2725)/Monte Carlo 1996 ]



**9...b6!?** After ten minutes thinking Kramnik finds a fine positional move. Black is going to follow a "light squares strategy", with a clear cut plan. Anand was took by surprise. [ Probably the natural 9...♖d8 was well analysed by Anand and his team; The attempt to get freedom with 9...e5?! is met by 10.g4 ] **10.g4 ♗a5** [Of course not 10...♗g6? 11.♘g2 and the black queen is in danger ] **11.♖c1** [ Seirawan was proposing 11.g5!? which leads to a much sharper battle. Some variations: ♘e8 ( 11...♘d7!? 12.e4?! e5; 11...♘d5?! 12.e4 ♘c3 13.bc3 ♘d6

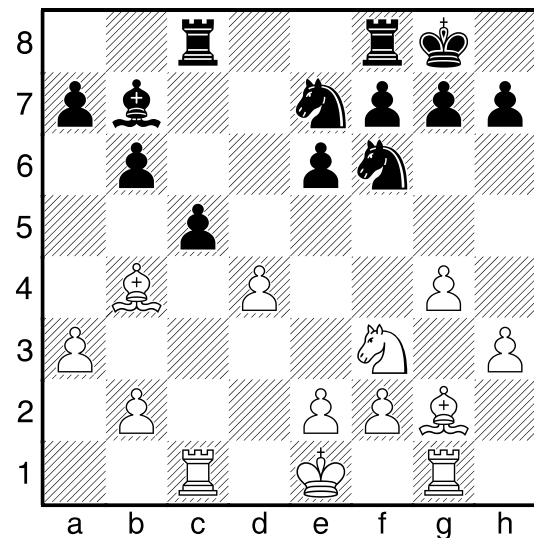
14.♙b5 ♘b7 15.a4) 12.e4 ♙a6! ]  
 11...♙b7 12.a3 [ Again it was possible  
 the aggressive 12.g5!? but black seems  
 to have enough resources. ♘e8!?  
 ( 12...♘d7 13.e4 e5; 12...♘d5? 13.a3  
 ♙c3 14.bc3) 13.e4 ♘d6 14.a3  
 ♘e4! ] 12...♙c3 13.♙c3 ♚d5 14.♚d5  
 ♘d5 After the previous quiet moves we  
 reach an endgame which was quite  
 pleasant for Anand given the match  
 situation. Kramnik had also reasons to  
 be satisfied since he is close to equality  
 after facing an annoying novelty.



15.♙d2 ♘f6 16.♞g1 ♞ac8

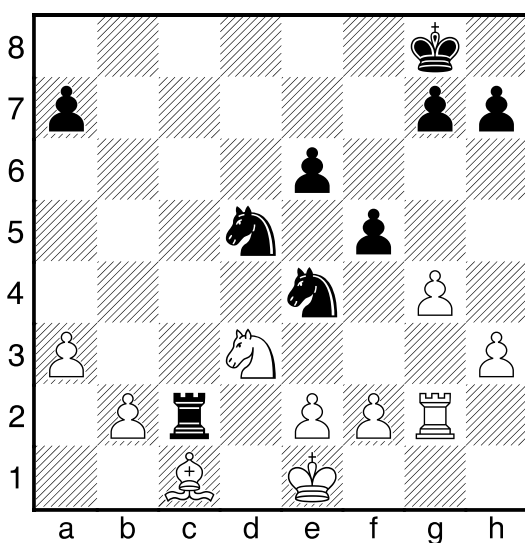
[ Why not first to attack on d4? After  
 16...♞fd8! 17.e3 (if 17.♙g2 ♘d4  
 18.♘d4 ♙g2 19.♘e6 fe6 20.♞g2 c5  
 black seems to be ok) 17...♞ac8  
 the position looks pretty equal. After  
 playing e3 white is deprived of using the  
 third rank to activate his rook via g3 and  
 also the d2 bishop remains quite  
 passive. ] 17.♙g2 Now white is slightly  
 better. ♘e7?! Kramnik was not happy  
 with this move after the game.  
 [It was late for 17...♞fd8? 18.♘e5! ;  
 It was possible 17...♘e4!? when after  
 18.♘g5 (if 18.♙f4 ♘a5! 19.b4 ♘b3  
 20.♞b1 ♙d5 it is not to easy to punish  
 black risky play) 18...♘d2 19.♚d2 ♘a5

20.♙b7 ♘b7 and black may suffer a bit  
 but with a correct defence I find it  
 difficult to believe that black can be lost  
 here. ; Kramnik suggested 17...♙a8!?  
 which is better than the move played in  
 the game ; Also 17...♘b8!?, proposed  
 by Anand, makes a lot of sense.]  
 18.♙b4 c5?! Three dubious move in a  
 row and black is already in trouble. This  
 pawn sacrifice could work but  
 calculation is needed and Kramnik  
 seemed simply unable to sit and work  
 hard. [Of course not 18...♘fd5?!  
 19.♘e5 when white would be better;  
 The modest 18...♞fe8 19.♘e5 ♙g2  
 20.♙e7 ♞e7 21.♞g2 c5 22.dc5 ♞c5  
 23.♞c5 bc5 24.♞g3 led to a very  
 pleasant endgame for white but again  
 black should not loose. ]



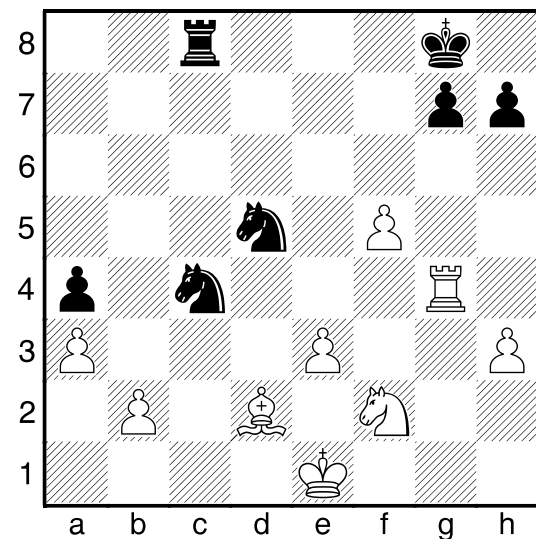
19.dc5 ♞fd8?! After thinking for ten  
 minutes on the pawn sacrifice Kramnik  
 spent now more than twenty minutes! A  
 clear sign that things were going wrong  
 for Vladimir... [ It seems to me that  
 19...bc5! was better. Probably white  
 should not insist in keeping the pawn  
 and be happy to be slightly better with  
 20.♙c3!? (if 20.♞c5 ♘e4! 21.♞c8 ♞c8  
 black gets very good compensation.;  
 And in case of 20.♙c5 ♘e4 21.b4 ♘c5

22. **bc5** ♕f3 23. ♕f3 ♖c7 24. ♔d2 ♜fc8  
 25. ♜c4 ♜c5 26. ♜c5 ♜c5 27. ♞b1 g5  
 28. ♞b7 ♘c8 black may hold the  
 endgame ] Now it comes a long  
 sequence of moves after which Anand  
 will consolidate his material advantage.  
**20. ♘e5 ♕g2 21. ♞g2 bc5 22. ♜c5 ♘e4**  
**23. ♜c8 ♜c8 24. ♘d3 ♘d5 25. ♕d2**  
**♜c2 26. ♕c1 f5!** Kramnik finds the most  
 stubborn defence. White has problems  
 to get his rook into play.



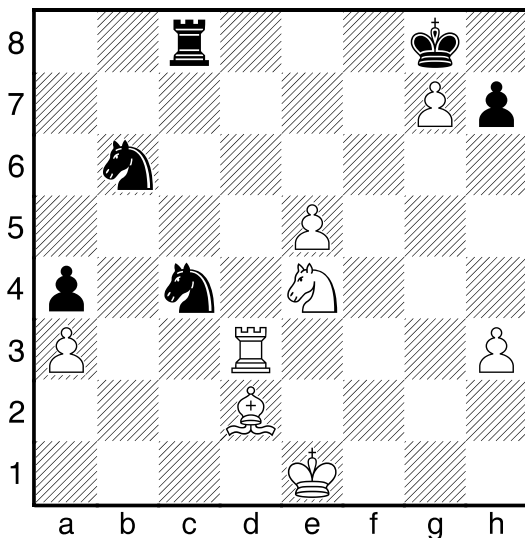
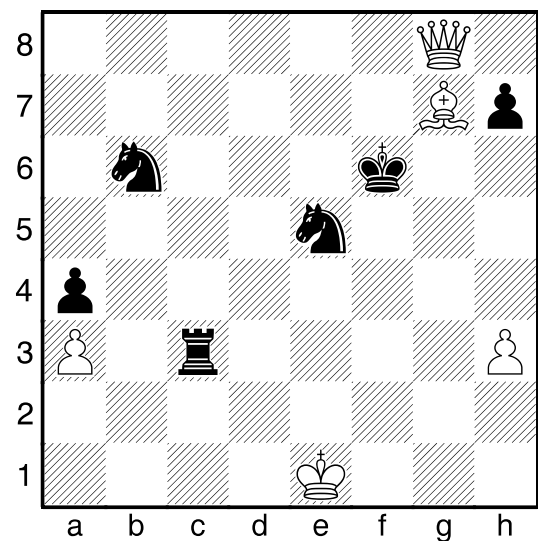
**27. ♔d1 ♜c8 28. f3 ♘d6 29. ♔e1 a5?!**  
 [ Maybe it was better to insist on  
 29... ♜c2!? Here is a sample line: 30. ♞f2  
 ♘e4!? 31. fe4 fe4 32. ♕g5! ( 32. e3?/  
 ♜c8 ) 32... h6! 33. ♕h4 ed3 34. ed3 ♜c1  
 35. ♔d2 ♞h1 and white is better but  
 black gets some counterplay] **30. e3**  
**e5!?** Again black finds the way to  
 complicate the game but Vishy kept  
 cool. **31. gf5 e4! 32. fe4 ♘e4 33. ♕d2**  
**a4?** Kramnik pointed this move as the  
 final mistake at the press conference.  
 Probably he was right. [ Black could get  
 more drawing chances with 33... ♜c2!? ;  
 or 33... ♞e8!? while admitting white is  
 still clearly better.] **34. ♘f2!** After this  
 move white gets the coordination he  
 was lacking. **♘d6 35. ♞g4 ♘c4** [ After  
 35... ♘f5 36. ♞a4 ♘de3 37. ♕e3 ♘e3

it would be a matter of technique ]



**36. e4** [ Why not a simple retreat? After  
 36. ♘d1! Anand told me that he was  
 worried with the blockade of the black  
 knights but to my view after ♔f7 37. ♞d4  
 ♘db6 38. ♕c3 white is simply two  
 pawns up. ] **36... ♘f6 37. ♞g3 ♘b2**  
 Takes one pawn back but the position is  
 still lost. [After 37... ♘e4 there is a  
 forced variation: 38. ♘e4 ♞e8 39. ♕c3  
 ♞e4 40. ♔f2! ♘e5 41. ♞e3! ♞e3  
 42. ♔e3 and white is easily winning  
 here ] **38. e5!** A precise move which is a  
 giant step to the victory. [ Weaker would  
 be 38. ♕c3? ♘h5! ] **38... ♘d5**  
 [Anand was worried with 38... ♞e8  
 39. ♕c3 ♘c4 40. e6 ♘d6! but then he  
 saw 41. ♘g4! (instead of 41. ♕f6?  
 ♘f5! ) 41... ♘fe4 42. ♘h6! and white is  
 winning ] **39. f6 ♔f7** The game is over  
 [ 39... g6 was also losing after for  
 example 40. ♘e4 ] **40. ♘e4 ♘c4 41. fg7**  
 [It was faster 41. ♞g7! ♔e6 42. f7 ]  
**41... ♔g8** [After 41... ♞g8 white may win  
 with 42. ♘d6 ♘d6 43. ed6 ♔e6 44. ♕h6  
 ♘d6 45. ♞f3 ♘e7 46. ♞f8 where black  
 king cannot avoid the defeat, i.e.: ♔d5  
 47. ♔d2 ♔c4 48. ♔e3 ♔b3 49. ♔d4  
 ♔a3 50. ♔c5 ♔b3 51. ♔d6 ] **42. ♞d3!**  
 The last precise move Anand had to

find. This wins by force. [ His original idea was 42.♘f6? ♘f6 43.e6 but then he saw that after ♖e8! 44.♔d1 ♜d8! 45.♔c2 ♜d2 46.♔c3 ♜f2 47.♔c4 ♜f6 48.♔b5 ♜f4 black could get this rook endgame which he thought should be winning but was not sure. In fact it may be a draw, i.e.: 49.♜g4 ♜f3 50.♔a4 ♜h3 51.♔b4 h5 52.♜g1 ♜h4 53.♔b5 ♜g4 ] **42...♘db6** The only square to prevent white's rook entering on the seventh rank.



**43.♘h6** [It was nicer 43.e6 ♔g7 44.♜g3 ♔f8 45.♘b4 ♔e8 46.♜g8# ]  
**43...♘e5 44.♘f6 ♔f7 45.♜c3 ♜c3**  
 [ Of course 45...♘bc4 46.g8♙ ♜g8 47.♘g8 ♔g8 48.♘f4 is hopeless for black ]  
**46.g8♙ ♔f6 47.♘g7**  
 and Kramnik resigned

(Diagram)

1-0