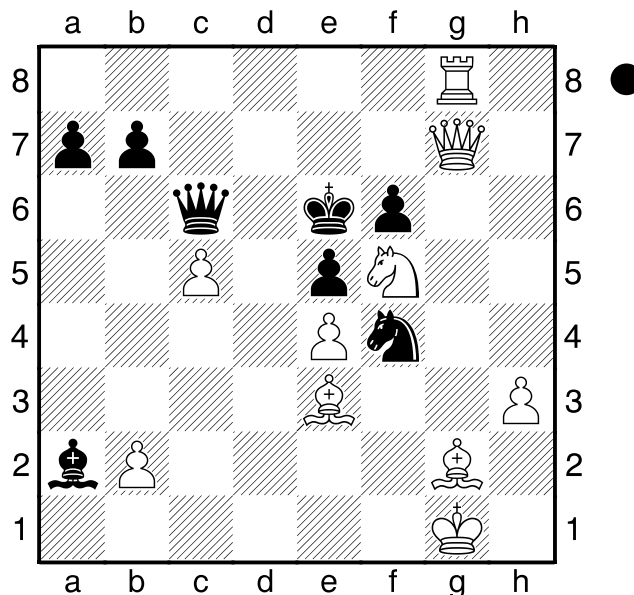


Botvinnik, Mikhail
 Tartakower, Saviely
 Nottingham 1936
[Hicks, E]

A55

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 d6 3.d4 Nbd7 4.g3 e5
5.Bg2 Be7 6.0-0 0-0 7.Nc3 c6 8.e4 Qc7
9.h3 Re8 10.Be3 Nf8 11.Rc1 h6 12.d5 Bd7
13.Nd2 g5? Trying to prevent white's dominating move f4. Alekhine wrote that after this move, black was doomed. **14.f4** Anyway. **gxf4 15.gxf4 Kg7 16.fxe5 dxe5 17.c5** Threatening to stick black with a deadly pawn fork. **cxd5 18.Nxd5** White's most powerful choice. Now the critical c4 pawn is protected by both the rook and the bishop. **19.Qc6 20.Nc4** Threatening knight invasions all over the place. **Ng6 21.Nd6** It is important to see the reason this move works is that the Bishop is PINNED to holding the f6 knight. **22.Be6** Since taking the d6 knight is not a good option, black desperately tries to trade off some of the invaders. **23.Nxe7** Alekhine wrote of this move, "Instead of taking the exchange plus a pawn by 21. Nxe8+ Rxe8 22. Nxe7 (see variation) white prefers to sacrifice material in order to build up a mating attack. It is difficult to say which method is stronger since they both secure the win. But certainly Botvinnik's way is more elegant." To this Botvinnik replied: "White cannot resist the temptation to decide matters by an attack." [21.Nxe8+ Rxe8 22.Nxe7 Rxe7 23.Bxh6+ Kxh6 24.Rxf6 And white is clearly winning.] **21...Nxe7** After Rxe7? Black loses a piece. See the variation to see why. [21...Rxe7 22.Nf5+ Bxf5 23.exf5 Attacking both the queen (with the g2 bishop) and the knight.] **22.Rxf6 Kxf6 23.Qh5 Ng6 24.Nf5 Rg8 25.Qxh6 Bxa2** This is no time for foolish pawn grabbing! But black does not have much better...he is hopelessly losing. **26.Rd1** Threatening a deadly Rd6+. **27.Qg5+** Skewering the back rank rook. **Ke6 28.Rxd8 f6** Uh oh! Did white forget something? **29.Rxg8!** Notice if pawn takes queen, black will lose his queen. Do you see how? **Nf4 30.Qg7** Diagram



In a hopeless position, black resigns. We will continue for the sake of education. **Qd7 31.Nd4+ exd4 32.Qg4+ Ke7 33.Rg7+ Bf7 34.Rxf7+! Kxf7 35.Qxd7+ Kg6 36.Bxf4** And now it is really over. Wanting to avoid this painful finish, black was wise to define and save himself some agony.

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