

□ **Duras,Oldrich**

■ **Cohn,Erich**

Karlsbad

[Hicks,E]

C77

1911

1.e4 This game has been nicknamed "The Immortal duel." **e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5** The defining move of the Ruy Lopez. **a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.d3** Rarely played these days, d3 is a direct way of defending the pawn. Most common today would be 0-0, allowing the pawn to fall temporarily, but white will get tremendous pressure on the e-file. **d6 6.c4** Giving up on the idea of having a pawn center. **g6** Since white has undisputed ownership of the square d5, black sees little future for his bishop on e7. So he opts to fianchetto the bishop with the idea of a possible f5 break later in the game. **7.d4 exd4 8.Nxd4 Bd7 9.Nxc6** Messing up white's queenside pawns. If 9. ...Bxc6, then white would have played 10. BxB resulting in the same messed up pawn structure. **bxg6 10.0-0** Castle often, castle early. **Bg7 11.c5** If black accepts this pawn, he will have TRIPPLED pawns! **0-0** Trippled pawns and no pawn left in the center does not sound appealing for black...and if white tries 12.cxd, black will answer 12....Nxe4. **12.Nc3** Defending e4 and developing. This is a natural move. **Qe7** Developing the queen, linking the rooks, pressuring the e4 pawn (although is is not safe to take) and preparing a possible d5 push attacking the c4 pawn. **13.cxd6** White was afraid of the d4 push. **14.f3** This is an interesting choice to defend the e4 pawn. More natural is Re1. A pawn is a better defender, do 14.f3 makes the e4 pawn more solid but it does compromise white's king position a bit. Perhaps black is determined to keep a pawn on e4, and therefore chose f3. **d5** Black's anticipated break. **15.Re1** Developing the rook to the obviously powerful file. Developing your rooks to key files is critical in chess. **d4!** A strong move that at first glance looks to be pawn sacrifice. If 16. QxP? Then Ng4. Look at the variation for details. **16.Ne2** Retreating with a threat (attacking the pawn on d4). **c5** Defending d4, offering a trade of light

square bishops, and strengthening the center. **17.Nf4 Be6** A wasteful move. It would have been wiser for black to activate one of his rooks. The Be6 move prepares the advance c5. The black c pawn is BACKWARDS ON A HALF OPEN FILE. Black's only chance of remedying this is to eventually push the pawn. **18.b3** Taking control of the square c4 (pawns are the best square controllers) and assuring that the black c pawn stays backwards. **Rfd8** Developing one of the rooks to the most active file. **19.Nd3** Beginning an attack on the BACKWARDS PAWN on c5. White intends to play the moves Ba3 and Rc1. **Bd7** This move seems counter developing but there is an idea behind it. The position has changed since the bishops squared off 2 moves earlier. Now that white has the pawn on b3, he will be forced to take the bishop or else mess up his pawn structure. **20.Bxd7** Forced. **Nxd7** Thus putting protection on the BACKWARDS c5 pawn. **21.Ba3** Attacking the backwards pawn. **Rac8** More defense...More attackers.. **22.Rc1 Bf8** More defense...is this a struggle for that pawn or what? **23.Qd2** Preparing Qa5 putting a fourth attacker on the pawn. **Qh4!** Just when it seemed like white would finally win the c5 pawn, black does a clever diversion, forcing attention to the kingside. **24.g3** White must now take time to defend his kingside. Take a moment to look at the variation to see an example of black counterplay if white continued attacking the queenside. [24.Qa5 Bd6 25.e5 Bc7 26.Qxa6 Ra8 27.Qb7 Rxa3 28.Qxc7 Rxa2 And black has plenty of counterplay.] **24...Qh5** Attacking the newly created weakness f3. **25.Kg2** Defending f3. **c4** Black is able to rid himself of the BACKWARDS pawn by taking advantage of the DISCOVERY threat on the white bishop. **26.Nf4** If white had played 26.BxB, black had the inbetween move 26....c6. Look closely at the variation, alot of times brilliancies are hidden in the side notes. [26.Bxf8 And black's backwards pawn has transposed into a first degree wedgy! c3] **26...Qe5** Black mustn't forget about his hanging bishop. **27.Bxf8 c3** The inbetween move transforming black's once backwards pawn into a first degree passed pawn wedgy! **28.Qd3** Now black has serious

