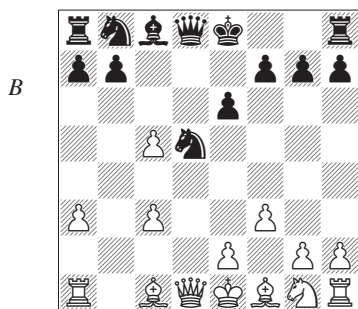


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7 The Main Line: 8 dxc5!?

1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♗c3 ♙b4 4 f3 d5 5
a3 ♙xc3+ 6 bxc3 c5! 7 cxd5! ♗xd5!
8 dxc5!?! (D)



This paradoxical move by Paul Keres currently represents White's best hope for the advantage in this variation. White abandons any thoughts of constructing a strong pawn-centre and instead aims to open the position in order to make use of the strength of the two bishops. Black can either attempt to maintain the knight in the centre with 8...f5! or immediately attack White's weak pawns with 8...♙a5!?. We discuss these moves in the following sections of this chapter:

A: 8...f5!? 72
B: 8...♙a5! 82

Black is unable to equalize after other moves; for example, 8...♗xc3 9 ♙xd8+ ♘xd8 10 ♙b2 ♗a4 11 ♙xg7

♙g8 12 ♙d4, Landau-Van Scheltinga, Amsterdam 1939.

A)

8...f5!?

An ingenious idea of Piotr Romanovsky's – by making it difficult for White to play e4, Black aims to maintain the knight in its excellent position in the centre of the board.

White can either attack the knight straight away with 9 c4 or 9 e4 (White plays this anyway!) or prepare these moves first with either 9 ♙c2! or 9 ♗h3!?. Thus we discuss:

A1: 9 c4 72
A2: 9 e4 73
A3: 9 ♙c2!? 79
A4: 9 ♗h3!? 79

A1)

9 c4

According to theory, this continuation is not considered to be dangerous for Black; however, as we shall soon see, he must play accurately in order to neutralize White's initiative.

9...♙f6!

Accepting the pawn sacrifice with 9...♙h4+?! 10 g3 ♙xc4 gives White an opportunity to develop a strong initiative: 11 e4 ♙c3+ 12 ♙d2 ♙e5 13 ♙d3 fxe4 14 fxe4 0-0 15 ♙c1 with the following possibilities:

- a) 15...♖f6 16 ♘f3 ♗h5 17 e5 ♘g4 18 ♘g5! h6 19 h3! hxg5 20 ♗xg4 ♗xg4 21 hxg4 ♘d7 22 ♙h7+ ♖f7 23 0-0+ ♖e8 24 ♙g6+ ♖d8 25 ♙a5+ ♖e7 26 ♙c7 and White won in Pyhälä-Ahonen, Finnish corr. Ch 1974.
- b) 15...♗e7 16 ♘f3 ♗h5 17 0-0 ♘bc6 18 ♙e3 ♙d7 (Gerusel-Unzicker, Bad Pyrmont 1963) 19 ♘g5! ±.
- c) 15...♗f6 16 ♘h3 ♗e7 17 ♗e2 ♘f6 18 e5 ♘d5 (R.Bagirov-Landenbergue, Biel 1998) 19 ♘f4 is much better for White.

10 ♙g5!?

10 ♙d2 does not give White an advantage: 10...♗c3 (also possible is 10...♗e7 11 ♘h3 ♘bc6 12 ♘f4 0-0 = Ragozin-Sokolsky, USSR Ch (Kiev) 1954) 11 ♗c1 (11 ♙xc3?! ♗xc3+ 12 ♖f2 f4 13 g3 e5 ♚ Paccini-Toro Solis de Ovando, corr. 1973) 11...♗a4 12 ♗b1 ♘d7 (12...♗c6! is an alternative: 13 ♙e3?! ♗e7 14 ♘h3 ♘xc5 ♚ Gerusel-Szabo, Busum 1969) 13 f4!? e5 14 fxe5 (Grechkin-Neishtadt, corr. 1967) 14...♘xe5 with good play for Black.

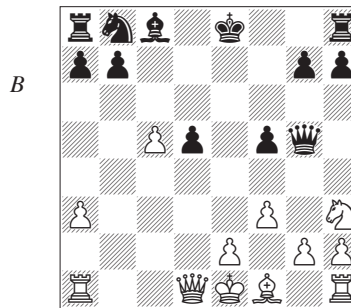
10...♗xg5 11 cxd5 exd5

Other interesting tries are 11...0-0!? 12 d6!? (12 ♘h3 ♗f6 13 e3 ♗c3+ 14 ♖f2 ♗xc5 15 dxe6 ♙xe6 16 ♘f4 = Bondarevsky-Furman, USSR 1958) and 11...f4!?

12 ♘h3!? (D)

It is not advisable for White to start pawn-grabbing: 12 ♗xd5?! ♘c6 13 ♗d1 ♗f6 14 ♗b3 ♙e6 15 ♗c2 0-0 e3 ♗ad8 17 ♙e2 f4! with a strong initiative for Black, Sep-Jongman, corr. 1969.

12...♗e3!?



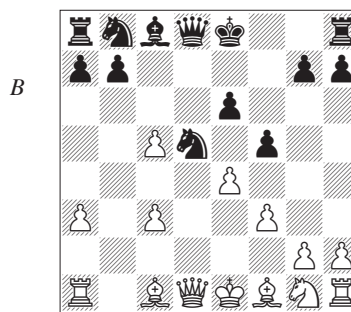
Black played 12...♗f6?! in Moskalenko-Naumkin, Moscow 1991, and after 13 ♘f4! ♗c3+ 14 ♖f2 ♗xc5+ 15 e3 White won his pawn back and his lead in development became decisive. After 15...♗c6 (15...d4? 16 ♗c1 dxe3+ 17 ♖g3 +-) 16 ♗xd5 ♗xd5 17 ♘xd5 0-0 18 ♙b5! ♘e5 (18...♙e6 19 ♙xc6 bxc6 20 ♘e7+ ♖h8 21 ♗hc1 ±) 19 ♗hd1 ♗b8 20 ♗ac1 ♙e6 21 ♘e7+ ♖h8 22 ♗d6 ♙b3 23 ♗c7 White's advantage was obvious.

13 ♗d2 d4

The chances are equal.

A2)

9 e4 (D)



9...fxe4 10 ♗c2

Not worrying about pawns, White seeks to activate his pieces as quickly as possible. Naturally, White must not play 10 fxe4?? due to 10...♖h4+.

Black now has a choice of six(!) replies, which are far from equal in value:

A21: 10...exf3?	74
A22: 10...♖a5?!	74
A23: 10...♖f6?!	74
A24: 10...♖h4+?!	75
A25: 10...0-0!?	76
A26: 10...e3!	77

A21)**10...exf3?**

An unfortunate decision – Black opens the position and furthers White's development.

11 ♖xf3 ♖a5 12 ♔d3! ♖c6

12...♖xc3+ 13 ♖xc3 ♖xc3 14 ♖b2 ♖d5 15 ♖xg7 ±.

13 ♖xh7! ♖xh7 14 ♖xh7 ♖xc3+ 15 ♖f2 ♖xa1 16 ♖g8+ ♖d7 17 ♖f7+ ♖ce7 18 ♖g5!

White has a very strong attack (analysis by Taimanov).

A22)**10...♖a5?!**

Black forces a transition to an endgame although White's bishop-pair assures him the advantage.

11 fxe4 ♖xc3+ 12 ♖xc3 ♖xc3 13 ♔d3 ♖d7

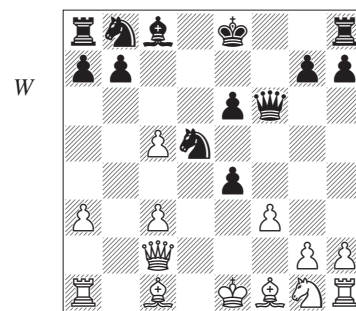
After 13...♖a4 14 ♔e3 ♔d7 15 ♖f3 ♖c6 16 ♖b1 White has a considerable advantage.

14 ♔e3 ♖e5

14...♖f6? loses immediately to 15 ♖c1! ♖xe4 16 ♖c4! +- Deže-Matanović, Novi Travnik 1969.

15 ♔c2 ♖c4 16 ♔d2 ♖xd2 17 ♖xd2 ♖b5 18 ♖f3

Black has succeeded in exchanging one of White's bishops, although the unfortunately placed knight on b5 gives White the better game. Gheorghiu-Unzicker, Hamburg Echt 1965 continued 18...♔d7 19 ♔d3 0-0-0 20 a4 ♖c7 21 ♖e5 ♖hf8 22 ♖e3 ♖de8 23 ♖hb1 ♖e7 24 ♔b5! ±.

A23)**10...♖f6?! (D)**

A refinement on Line A22 – with this move Black simplifies into an endgame but by exploiting the undefended f2-square, hopes to castle kingside before exchanging queens. However, this does not change the assessment of the position.

11 fxe4 0-0 12 ♖f3 ♖xc3+

This is necessary, because in the middlegame the exposed position of the queen would tell: 12...♖f4?! 13 e5!? ♖e7 14 ♖e4 ♖xc5 15 ♖xf4!? ♖xc3+ 16 ♖f2 ♖xa1 17 ♔d3 ♖b2+ 18 ♖g3 g6 19 ♖h6 ♖f7 20 ♖g4! ♖c6 (20...♖h8!? is worth trying, although even here after 21 ♖xg6! hxg6 22