

New Mexico Champions – Eric Slud

Eric Slud won the New Mexico Chess Championship in 1975. Outside of that, the only thing I know about him is that he beat me in an embarrassing game at the Eastern Classic in 1977.

Eric, as Black in this game, plays for the Marshall Attack in the Ruy Lopez. The Marshall is very sharp - not the kind of opening you want to play if you are not booked up. Being not booked up, I try to avoid the Marshall, but Eric quickly demonstrates he is also well prepared for anti-Marshall lines. Eric gets the better game, but it was still a game until my last move. It was so embarrassingly bad that I did not even wait for a response before resigning.

Grinberg, Matthew M. - Slud, Eric, 0:1
Eastern Classic, Round 3
Washington, DC, 9/4/1977

Ruy Lopez

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Ba4 Nf6 5. O-O Be7 6. Re1 b5 7. Bb3 O-O Black has omitted the normal d6 because he plans to play the Marshall Attack. Or does he simply want White to make a concession because he thinks Black is going to play the Marshall?
[7... d6 8. c3 O-O 9. h3 Na5 10. Bc2 c5 11. d4 This is the "normal" Closed Ruy Lopes. White has a small edge due to his better center]



8. d3!? If it was the latter, he succeeded.

[White could instead risk the Marshall. 8. c3 d5 9. exd5 Nxd5 10. Nxe5 Nxe5 11. Rxe5 c6 12. d4 Bd6 13. Re1 Qh4 14. g3 Qh3 Theory says this is good for White, but who knows?; But the better anti Marshall line is 8. a4 Bb7 9. d3 d6=]

8... d6 9. c3 Na5 10. Bc2 c5 11. Nbd2 Re8 12. Nf1 Bf8 13. h3 h6 Up to here this is very much like a Closed Ruy Lopez except that White played d3 instead of d4.



14. **g4?! White** hopes to play a knight to f5, but the plan is easily stopped and meanwhile he has weakened his kingside

[Better is 14. **Ne3 Bb7 15. Nh2 d5 16. Nhg4 dxe4 17. Nxf6 Qxf6 18. dxe4 Rad8 19. Qe2 Qe6 20. b3 Rd7 21. Nd5 Bxd5 22. exd5 Rxd5 23. Be4 Rd7 24. Qf3 g6 25. g4 Rc8 26. Be3 Nc6 27. Rad1 Rxd1 28. Rxd1 Rd8 29. Rd5 c4 30. bxc4 bxc4 31. Rxd8 Nxd8 32. Bd5 Qe7 33. Qe4 Ne6 34. Bxc4 Bg7 35. Bxa6 Ng5 36. Bxg5 Qxg5 37. Bc4 Qf4 38. Qc6 Kh7 39. Qc7 h5 40. Be2 hxg4 41. hxg4 Qe4 42. Qc4 Qb1 43. Kg2 Qb7 44. Bf3 Qe7 45. a4 f5 46. gxf5 gxf5 47. Kf1 e4 48. Bd1 Qe5 49. Qf7 f4 50. Bg4 e3 51. Bf5 Kh8 52. Bd3 Qf6 53. Qe8 Bf8 54. a5 Qd6 55. Qe4 Qh6 56. a6 Bc5 57. Qe5 Kg8 58. Bc4 Kh7 59. Qxc5 Qh3 60. Ke1 exf2 61. Kxf2 Qg3 62. Ke2 Qg2 63. Kd1 f3 64. Qe7 Kh6 65. Qe3 Kh5 66. Bd5 Qf1 67. Kd2 f2 68. Qe2 1-0, Mamedov Nidjat (AZE) 2614 - Westerinen Heikki M J (FIN) 2362, Balaguer (Spain) 2009.07]**

14... **g6!?** Black stops White's "threat."

[But with White's kingside compromised, Black could have seized the initiative. 14... **d5! 15. Qe2 Bb7 16. Rd1 Qc7 17. Ng3 c4!** Black opens the position to his advantage]

15. **Ng3 Nh7!?** N Anemic.

[Black could still play for the initiative. 15... **Bg7 16. Kh2 Bb7 17. Rg1 d5]**

16. **Be3 Ng5 17. Kg2!?** Why?

[Why not simply double Black's pawns? 17. **Nxg5 hxg5]**

17... **Nxf3 18. Qxf3 Be6 19. b3!?** Another weakening pawn move.

[Instead 19. **Qe2 Bg7 20. f3** gives White solid equality]

19... **Bg7 20. Rad1 Rc8 21. Qe2 d5!?** Not bad...

[But a better idea is to play to take advantage of White's 19th move. 21... **Nc6! 22. Qd2 Qh4 23. f3 b4!** Black gains control of d4. 24. **Ne2 bxc3 25. Nxc3 Nd4** White's position is cramped and difficult]

22. **Qd2?** This looks strong, but it overlooks his response.

[22. **exd5** looks dangerous, but after 22... **Bxd5 23. f3** White seems to be okay]



22... d4! 23. Bxh6

[23. cxd4?? cxd4 24. Bxh6 Bxh6 25. Qxh6 Rxc2 Black wins]

23... dxc3 24. Qe3 b4 25. f4?? What was I thinking? White is dead busted after 25... Bxh6, so I resigned.



[After 25. Rh1 his protected passed pawn and my bad bishop should be enough to win, but there is still some hope]

[0:1]

Matt Grinberg, 4/5/2016