

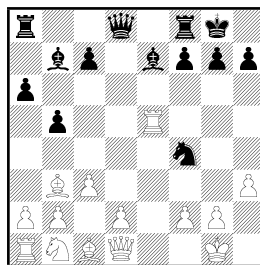
□ Bryan Norman (2230)	Pittsburgh Chess League (1), 2006
■ Federico Garcia (1909)	(Anti-)Marshall – C88

1. e4 e5 2. ♘f3 ♘c6 3. ♖b5 a6 4. ♗a4 ♘f6 5. 0-0 ♗e7 6. ♚e1 b5 7. ♗b3 0-0 8. h3 ♗b7 9. c3?!

As a general rule, 'Anti-Marshall' means not only avoiding the Marshall move order, but also abandoning the plan of c3 and d4. Now follows a modified Marshall, where Black has acquired the Queen-side fianchetto, in exchange for White's inoffensive (and indeed dangerous for White) h3.

9... d5 10. e×d5 ♘×d5 11. ♘×e5? [this is not forced at all. 11. d4 offers equality.] 11... ♘×e5 12. ♚×e5 ♘f4! (D)

Federico Garcia



Bryan Norman

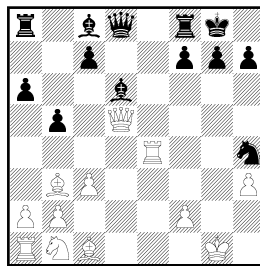
12... ♘f4

Now the full extent of the ♗b7's power is realized. The text move is so foreign to the Marshall Attack (at least at these early stages) that it is easily missed when deciding to accept the pawn.

13. d4 [What else? White cannot afford allowing the knight into d3] 13... ♘×g2 14. d5! ♘h4 [better than harassing the rook with 14... ♗d6, that allows 15. ♚g5 (there turns out to be nothing especially dangerous about the rook in g5, but that wasn't known during the game). The knight on h4 is always threatening a fork on f3, a possibility that White now tries to cut off for good.] 15. ♚e4 ♗c8! [But there are other resources to Black. This is better than 15... ♚c8 16. ♚g4] 16. d6!? [desperately trying for counterplay. Otherwise, for example, after 16. ♖h2?! ♗d6+ 17. f4 (17. ♗f4 ♚g5! 18. ♗g3 ♗f5 19. ♚e3 ♚ae8 20. ♚×e8 ♚×e8 21. ♘d2 (running to cover f3) 21... ♚e3! 22. ♘f1 (22. ♚g1 ♚×g3 23. f×g3 ♚×d2+) 22... ♘f3+ 23. ♖g2 ♚e1+) 17... ♚g5! 18. ♚f1 ♗f5 19. ♚e1 (19. ♚e2 ♗d3, or 19. ♚e3 ♗×f4+)

19... ♖ae8 20. ♖xe8 (20. ♕d2 ♖xe1 21. ♕xe1 ♕xf4+) 20... ♖xe8 and White is in an unlikely *zugzwang*, unable to prevent threats like ♖e1] 16... ♕xd6 17. ♖d5⊕ (D)

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17. ♖d5

17... ♖f6! [a move that really looks like a mistake, so that the following variation is very tempting for White] 18. ♖xh4 [of course not 18. ♖xa8? ♕h2+! 19. ♖f1 ♕xh3+ and the Queen falls.] 18... ♖xh4 19. ♖xa8 ♕xh3 20. ♖f3 ♕h2+! [The point] 21. ♖xh2 [21. ♖h1 ♕g4 22. ♖g2 ♕f4+ 23. ♖g1 ♕xc1 △♕xb2 --+] 21... ♕g4+ 22. ♖g2 ♕xf3+ 23. ♖xf3 ♖h1+--+ 24. ♖g3 ♖xc1 25. ♖a3? 0:1