



MECHANICS'
INSTITUTE
Since 1854

Chess Room Newsletter



GM-Elect Mark Heimann teaches us how to make GM Caruana sweat in a close game from his St. Louis Masters Performance!
Issue #1058 | February 28th, 2025 | Gens Una Sumus!

Contents

[Recent Tournaments at Mechanics' Institute by Alex Robins](#)

[Annotated Games from the TNM by IM Elliott Winslow](#)

[Annotated Games from the GM-Elect Mark Heimann Blitz and Chessable Masters by NM Sricharan Pulela](#)

[How to Analyze Your Games: A Review by IM John Donaldson](#)

[2025 San Francisco Scholastic Championship Coming March 29th! by Christian Brickhouse](#)

[Tony's Teaser - A New Puzzle in the Library](#)

[Solutions - Contact Us](#)

Recent Tournaments at the Mechanics' Institute

Alex Robins

Our first Tuesday Night Marathon of the year, our aptly named New Year Tuesday Night Marathon, ended on February 18th and was a great showing - sign up for our next one before it sells out!

In the top section **NM Daniel Cremisi (2398)** won the tournament outright with a score of 5.5 points and a wild game against **IM Elliott Winslow** in round 6. Sign up for his upcoming Game Analysis Series [here](#)! Second place was taken by **CM Chinguun Bayaraa** (2083) with **WFM Laurie Qiu** (2155) and **NM Jimmy Heiserman** (2298) splitting third and the top u2200 prizes. **Anthony Vladimir Ivanenko** (1969) was right behind them and secured the top u2200 prize.

In the 1600-1999 section, **Jeremy David Cawthon** (1984) took home first place with 5.5 points. Second place and third place were split three ways with **Stephen Parsons** (1919), **Roger Christopher Smith** (1843) and **Nguyen Hoang Duy Pham** (1810) scoring 5 points each. Performance prizes went to **Isaac Mays-Smith** (1518) taking the top u1600 and **Marlon Rigel** (1761) and **Yonathan Admassu** (1765) splitting the top u1800.

In the under 1600 section **Bliguun Bayaraa** (1359) won the section outright with the best score in any section - 6 points! **Immanuel Huang** (unr.) and **Satyakam Dash** (1480) split second and the u1200 prizes with 5.5 each. The third place and u1400 prizes were split by a slew of Mechanics' regulars including **Joseph Karwat** (1367), **Albert Starr** (1530), **Sawyer Stults** (1348), and **Nick Hollon** (1295).

Full results can be found [here](#).

This tournament was directed by IA Judit Sztaray and National TD Scott Mason.

The Mechanics' Institute Chess Club started off February with our 2nd Alla Kushnir Memorial. The top section had a clear winner with MI Chess Coach **NM Daniel Cremisi** (2390) scoring 3.5 points. Second and third place were split in a three-way tie between **Baasansure Erdene** (2288) **Sebastian Suarez** (2221), and **Hanchi Yao** (2165) who each scored 3 points.

Full results can be found [here](#).

This tournament was directed by IA Judit Sztaray and Senior TD Arthur Liou.

We had our first Grandmaster visit of the year on February 6th with GM-Elect Mark Heimann lecturing and playing in a blitz tournament named in his honor. Mark was also generous enough to bring everyone homemade cookies, if you needed another incentive to show up. In the top section, **GM-Elect Mark Heimann** (2597) scored a perfect score and took home the first place prize. MI Chess Coach **NM Daniel Cremisi**

(2398) came in a close second place - only dropping a game to Heimann himself. **IM Varun Krishnan** (2412), **Sivavishnu Srinivasan** (2016), and **Romulo Silvestre** (1929) tied for third place with five points each. Stay tuned for more upcoming events with GMs from across the Bay Area!

Full results can be found [here](#).

This tournament was directed by IA Judit Sztaray and Senior TD Arthur Liou.

Our flagship event for the month was our FIDE-rated 3rd Neil Falconer Memorial Tournament. We've moved to holding more of these 2-day FIDE tournaments this calendar year so if you enjoy the longer time controls you are in luck, but sign up early as this tournament sold out well before the day of. First place was a clear win by **GM Fidel Corrales Jimenez** (2628) who managed a perfect score and won an intense rook and bishop vs rook endgame against **FM Ruiyang Yan** (2347). **CM Jashith Karthi** (2160) took home the second place prize undefeated with 3 wins and a bye. **Neil Bhaduri** (2118), **Reynash Paragiri** (1981), and **Austin Jin** (2008) all tied for the 3rd place prize as well as both the best u2200 and u2000 - great job to all three in a strong field!

Full results can be found [here](#).

These tournaments were directed by IA Judit Sztaray and National TD Scott Mason.

Our month with quite a few GMs making appearances finished off with our February FIDE Blitz. **GM-Elect Mark Heimann** (2597) took down **GM Fidel Corrales Jimenez** (2628) and secured first place with Fidel right behind him in second. **FM Bassansuren Erdene** (2288) took third place edging out quite a few other masters with his only losses coming from the two aforementioned Grandmasters in the building.

Full results can be found [here](#).

These tournaments were directed by IA Judit Sztaray and National TD Scott Mason.

For our Monthly Scholastic Swiss Tournament, **Anna Boddanova** (873) took home first in the over-800 section with a perfect score of 4 points. **Wesley Lau** (845), **Kepler McTiernan** (1082), **Joshua Gonzalez** (842), and **Evan Tsao** (672) came in second through fifth respectively with 3 points each.

In our 300-599 section, **Wen Larson** (474) took first with 3 points and the tiebreak, and again barely sneaking past **Josh Bi Jun Kyuak** (541) and **Andy Montufar Calderon** (540) on tiebreaks. Fourth and fifth went to **Colby Lin-Conrad** (404), **Sergei Pimenov** (412) respectively, with order determined by tie breaks.

In our u300 section we had a clear first place winner with **Hunter Indelicato** (279) leaving the tournament undefeated! **Elias Whalen** (unr.), **Kael Fong Hing** (unr.), **Jonathann Herla** (unr.), and **Silas Hoffman** (unr.) took second through fifth respectively with each scoring 3 points.

A big thank you to all of our scholastic players and their families for participating in our monthly tournament and please sign up for our [Scholastic Championship](#) on March 29th!

Full results can be found [here](#).

This tournament was directed by IA Judit Sztaray and Senior TD Arthur Liou.

Annotated Games from the TNM

IM Elliott Winslow

A selection of annotated games from round one of the 2024 Winter TNM annotated by IM Elliott Winslow and the players. All the games from the current TNM can be found here, and games from previous TNMs are in the [Tournament Archive](#).

■ **Cremisi, Daniel** **A65**
■ **Bayaraa, Chinguun** **2398**
 2025 NY TNM: 2000+ (5.1) **2083**
 [Winslow, Elliott] 04.02.2025

The two players on 3 1/2 meet, and it was a close one. Chinguun played his offbeat Benoni again but this time lost control and a pawn. But then he fought back fiercely; Cremisi seemed taken aback that he wasn't just winning when up an exchange for nothing -- except "nothing" included a rather annoying passed pawn on the 7th. More than once it drifted into "+-" and then back;

eventually a repetition loomed and a draw was agreed.. **1.d4** 1:25:25 **Nf6** 53 **2.c4** **c5** 54 **3.d5** 5 **d6** 49 **4.Nc3** 34 **g6** 10 **5.e4** 38 **Bg7** 6 **6.Bd3** 51 **0-0** 8 **7.h3** 25 **e6** 39 **8.Nf3** 1:09 **a6** 21 **9.a4** 18 **exd5** 34 **10.cxd5** 17 **Nbd7** 2:54 **11.Bg5** 0.67/27 1:50

[11.0-0± 1.18/23]

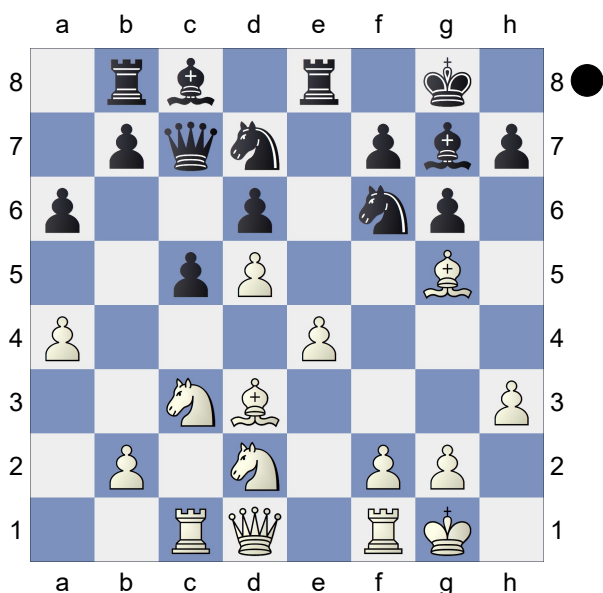
11...Qc7 1.10/25 35

[11...h6± 0.67/27 12.Bf4 c4]

12.0-0 26 **Rb8** 2:48 **13.Rc1** 0.91/26 2:04

[13.Re1 1.31/25]

13...Re8 3:32 **14.Nd2** 1:16

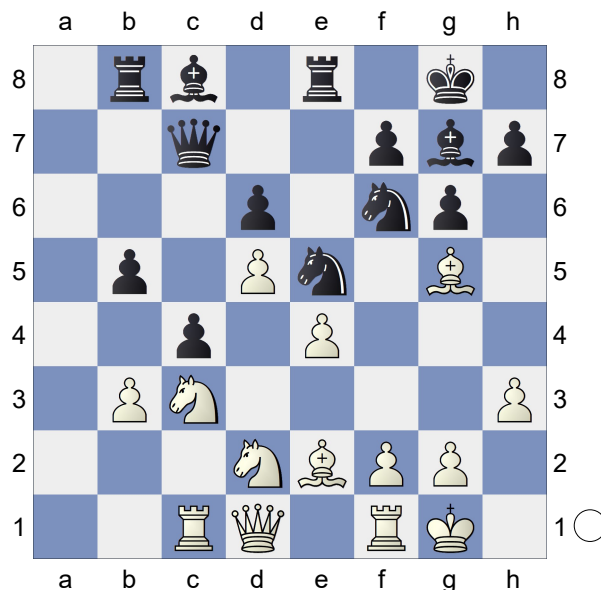


Ne5N 5:03

[14...h6 15.Be3 (15.Bf4!?) 15...Qd8 16.f4 Perhaps a bit early b5! 17.axb5 axb5 18.Qf3 (18.Bxb5 Rxb5 19.Nxb5 Nxe4 20.Nxe4 Rxe4 21.Bf2 Nf6± +0.38/20) 18...b4 (18...c4) 19.Nd1 Ra8 20.Bf2 Ba6?! 21.Bxa6 Rxa6± 1/2-1/2 (54) Dreev,A (2630)-Kozak,A (2365) Presidents Cup Elista 1998 (1.1)]

15.Be2 42 **c4!** 1:35 **16.b3** 0.73/27 11:12 [White should try 16.f4 1.14/26 Ned7 17.Bxc4 (17.Kh1!? b5 18.b4±) 17...b5 18.Bd3±]

16...b5± 2:40 **17.axb5** 5:06 **axb5** 51



Now if only Black could get in ...b4 ...

18.b4 0.18/25 3:10

[18.bxc4!± 0.82/21 bxc4 (18...b4 19.Nb5) 19.Be3]

18...Qa7?! 0.86/23 3:34

[18...h6!= 0.18/25 keeps the balance. 19.Be3 g5]

19.Qc2 1:23 **Ned7?** 2.44/23 9:48

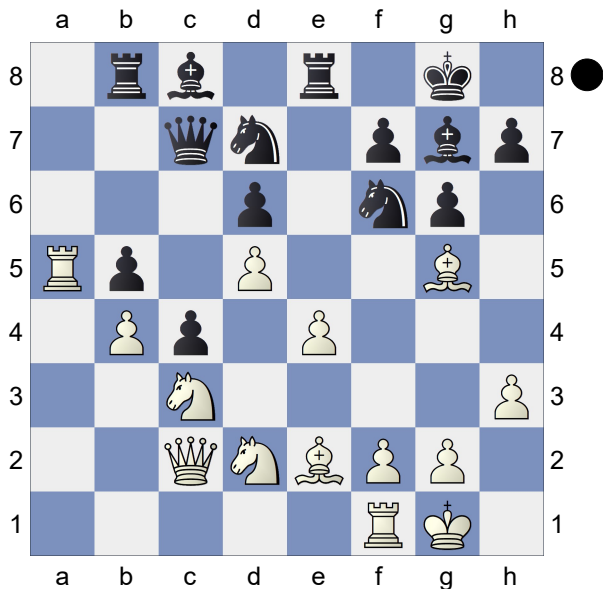
[19...h6!± 0.54/25 20.Be3 Qe7]

20.Ra1 1:08 **Qc7** 2:30 **21.Ra5+-**

(Diagram)

The b-pawn is unprotectable. But ...

21...Nc5!? 3.50/26 9:30 Black is quite



lost -- but this Benoni Madness
confuses Cremisi who takes a while but
finally slips up.

[21...h6 2.38/27]

22.Nxb5!? 3:32

[22.Bxf6! Bxf6 23.Nxb5 Rxb5

24.Rxb5 Bd7 25.Qxc4! Bxb5

26.Qxb5 Nd7 27.Qc6 Qd8 28.Bb5

Re7 29.Qxd6+- That's a lot of
pawns.]

22...Rxb5 7 23.Rxb5 23 Ncxe4 17

24.Bxf6! 1:33

[24.Qxc4 Qxc4 25.Nxc4 Bd7

24...Nxd2 7 25.Bxg7! 4:01

[25.Qxd2?! Bxf6 26.Qa2 c3

25...Rxe2 6

(Diagram)

26.Qd1? 0.58/30 8:54

[26.Qc3!+- 1.86/26 Nxf1 27.Kxf1

is -- still! -- winning.]

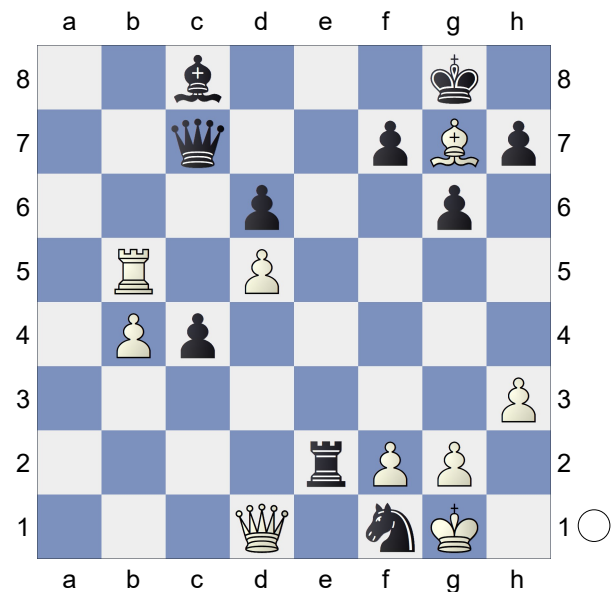
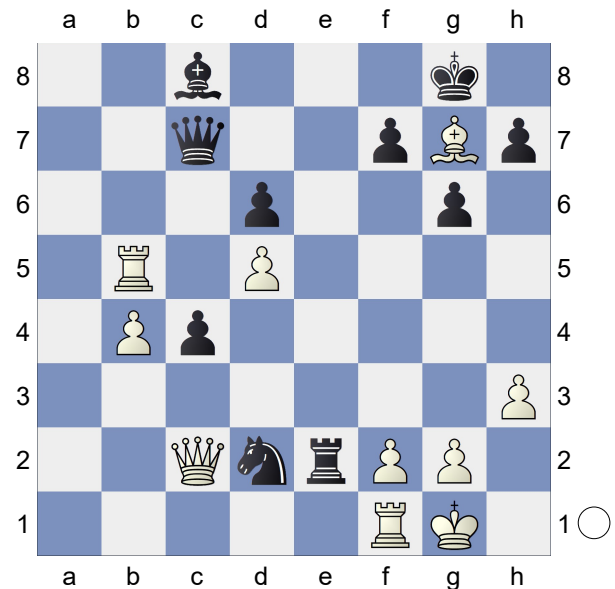
26...Nxf1?! 2.08/27 4:00

[26...Kxg7!± 0.58/30 27.Qxe2 Nxf1

28.Qxf1 c3 would be the game]

(Diagram)

27.Qxe2? 0.56/29 40



[27.Bc3!+- 2.08/27 Ng3 28.fxg3

Qa7+ 29.Bd4 when 29...Qe7!?

is the best try, but 30.Kh2!+-]

27...Kxg7± 5 28.Qxf1 20 c3 1:20

(Diagram)

29.Ra5 2:26 Against Ba6 29...c2 16

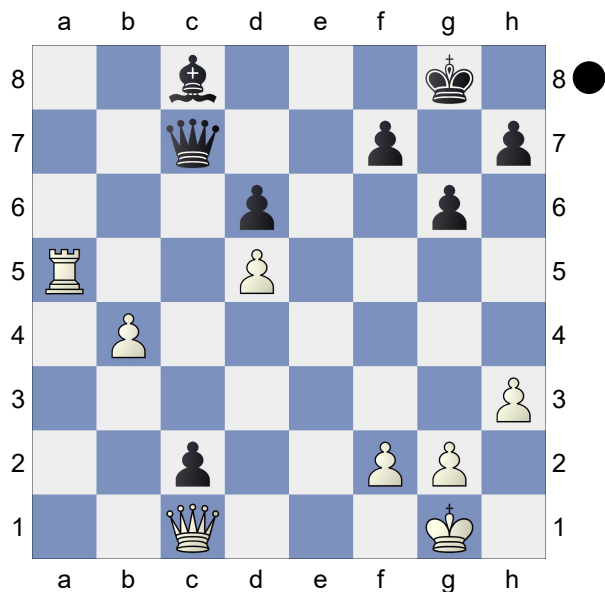
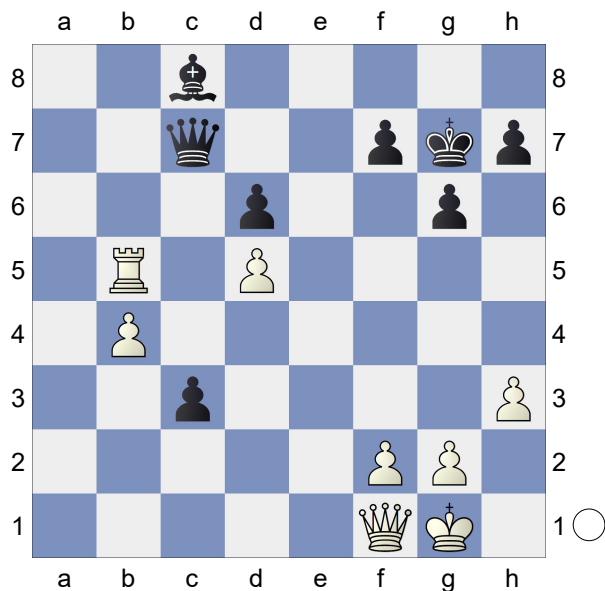
30.Qa1+ 1:11 Kg8 1.13/30 1:29

[30...f6 0.74/30 31.Qc1 (31.Ra7

c1Q+ 32.Qxc1 Qxa7±) 31...g5]

31.Qc1± 6

(Diagram)



Bf5 2.39/25 28

[31...Qc3± 1.23/26 was worth a try.]

32.Ra1? 0.17/28 6:15

[32.Ra8+- 2.39/25 Bc8 33.b5]

32...Qc3= 2:36 **33.Qe1** 5:16 **Qb2** 2:02

34.Kh2 3:00 **Kg7** 1:53 **35.Rc1** 1:48 **h5**

2:12 **36.Qd2** 1:59 **Qe5+** 1:36 **37.Kg1**

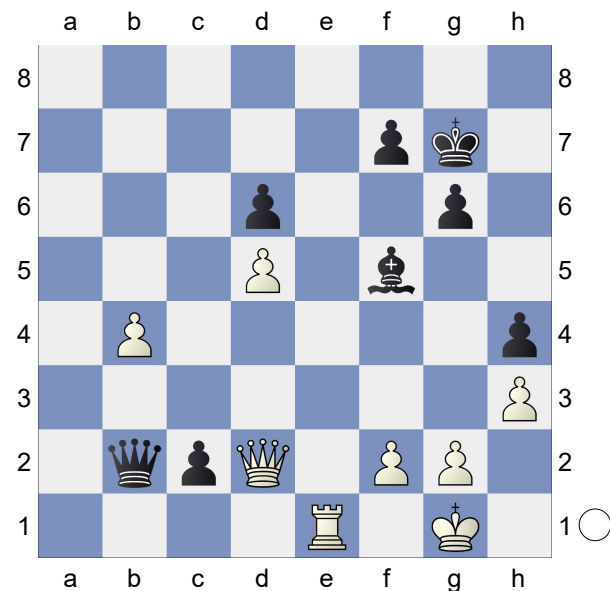
1:00 **Qb2** 1:04 **38.Re1** 2:54 **h4?**

2.12/28 3:11

[38...Bd7± 0.51/45]

(Diagram)

39.Kh2!+- 1:03 **Kh7** 2.79/27 2:16



[Δ39...Be4 1.91/31 40.b5 (40.Rxe4? c1Q-+) 40...Qe5+ 41.Kh1 Qb2]

40.Qf4 2:46 **Kg7** 18 **41.b5!** 8:46 **Qxb5**

3:34 **42.Qxd6** 0.00/39 55

[White has to play 42.Qxh4+- 3.07/31

aiming for f3. Kg8 (42...Qxd5?

too greedy. 43.Re8+-) 43.Qd4

(43.Qd8+ Kg7±)]

42...Qb1 1:52 The position is equal.

43.Qe5+ 4:27 **Kh7** 52 **44.Qe3** 29 **Qd1** 5

Prevents Qd2 **45.Qe7** 5:45 **Kg7** 2:50

46.Qe5+ 1:46 **Kh7** 34

1/2-1/2

A40

□ **Dzhanhirov,Dmytro**

2238

■ **Winslow,Elliott**

2215

2025 NY TNM: 2000+ (5.2) 04.02.2025

[Winslow,Elliott]

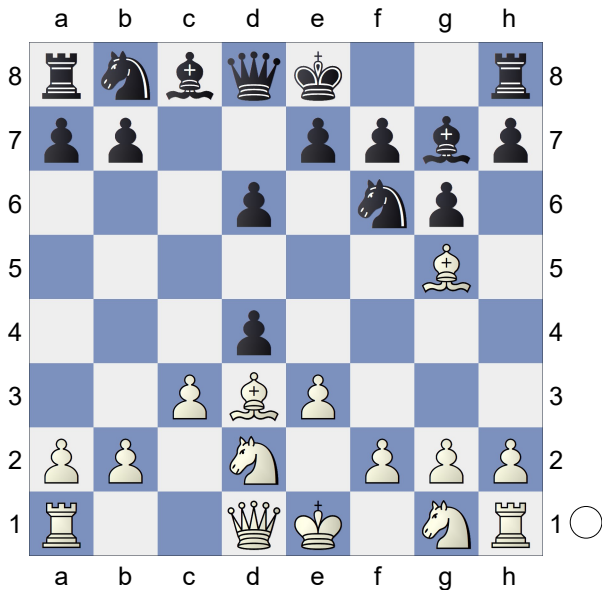
Dzhanhirov had already shown himself to be a Trompowski adherent. I tried to "dissuade" him with 1...g6 but he played 2.Bg5 anyway! I didn't see any way (I'm sure it's there!) to complicated and so settled into a small disadvantage with mutual isolated queen pawns but the "bad" bishop for the only minor piece. Lore tells us this should be a draw with

only the one weakness, and so it was.

1.d4 16 g6 4:16 2.Bg5 21 Bg7 1:52
3.c3 9 d6 1:17 4.e3 35

[4.Nd2 h6 5.Bh4 Nf6 6.e3 0-0
7.Ngf3 Nbd7 8.Nc4 b6 9.Be2 Bb7
10.0-0 a6 11.a4 Qe8 12.Qb3 Rb8
13.Rfd1 e5 14.Qc2 exd4 15.cxd4
Nd5 16.Bg3 Qe7 17.Re1 f5 18.Bf1
N7f6 19.Ncd2 Rbe8 20.Rac1 Kh7
21.b4 Qf7 22.b5 a5 23.h3 Re7
24.Bc4 Kh8 25.Qb3 Rfe8 26.Bh2
Qf8 27.Nh4 Kh7 28.Qb1 Nb4
29.Bf1 Ne4 30.Nhf3 Bd5 31.Bc4
Bb7 32.Bf1 g5 33.Red1 Qf7
0-1 (59) Zubov,A (2598)-Onyshchuk,V
(2622) Titled Tuesday intern op 20th
July Chess.com INT blitz 2021 (6)]

4...Nf6 37 5.Bd3 20 c5 1:04 6.Nd2 1:06
cx d4 1:05

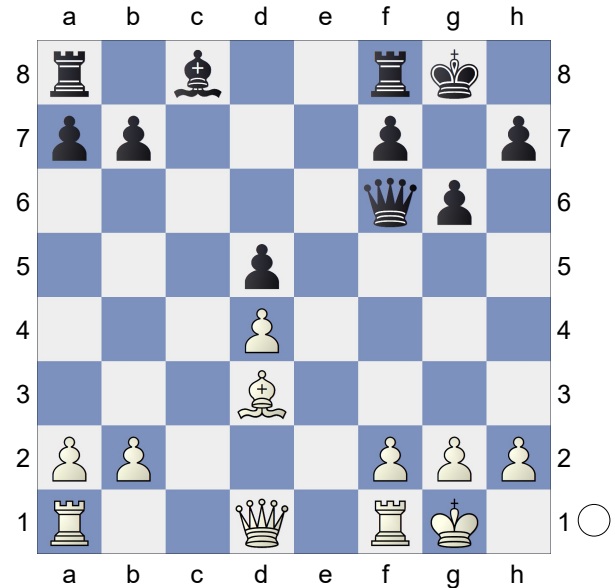


7.cxd4N 29

[7.exd4 Nc6 8.Ngf3 0-0 9.0-0 h6
10.Bh4 e5 11.Re1 Qc7 12.Nc4 Nh5
13.d5 Nd8 14.Nfd2 f5 15.Bxd8
Qxd8 16.Qb3 Kh7 17.Bf1 Rf7 18.a4
Nf6 19.Rad1 Rc7 20.Na3 Re7
21.c4 e4 22.c5 dxc5 23.d6 Qxd6
24.Nxe4 Qe6 25.Ng5+ hxg5
26.Qh3+ Nh5 27.Rxe6 Bxe6 28.Bc4
Rae8 29.Bxe6 Rxe6 30.Nc2 Re2
31.Ne3 g4 0-1 Rzaev,C (2144)-

Tsydendambaev,A (2011) Paracin
Prestige op 2024 (5)]

7...Nc6 1:35 8.Ne2 1:20 0-0 4:45 9.0-0
53 e5 4:17 10.Ne4 17:52 exd4 7:00
11.Nxd4 1:06 Nxd4 5:58 12.exd4 22
d5 37 13.Nxf6+ 1:56 Bxf6 9 14.Bxf6 4
Qxf6 8



Aha: Stockfish gives *Black* the
slightest advantage (-0.15/27). I can't
explain as usual. But I was already
"resigned" to neither of us resigning.

15.Bc2 16 Re8 8:47 16.Qd2 7:56 Kg7
2:50 17.Rfe1 8:05 Bd7 1:47 18.Rad1
4:13 Rxe1+ 3:12 19.Rxe1 8 Re8 41
20.Rxe8 9 Bxe8 5 21.Qe3 3:41 Bc6
3:46 22.f4 2:33 Qd8 2:37 23.f5 2:13 f6
58 24.fxg6 4:17 hxg6 1:27 25.h4 23
Qd6 4:42 26.a3 2:11 Bd7 46 27.Bd3
4:19 a5 1:48 28.Kf2 9:23 b6 2:19
29.g3 2:22 Be6 2:12 30.Qf4 1:48
Qxf4+ 3:02 31.gxf4 Bd7 11 32.Kg3
1:07 Kh6 8 33.Ba6 14:33 g5 2:05
34.hxg5+ 57 fxg5 6 35.Bb7 26 Be6
2:14
1/2-1/2

C47
2144
2298
 □ **Smith,Olivia**
 ■ **Heiserman,Jimmy**
 2025 NY TNM: 2000+ (5.3) 04.02.2025
[Winslow,Elliott]

Heiserman started draw, win, draw and then a half-point bye, then win (this game) draw, draw. And tied for 3rd-4th! Solid pays, sometimes. **1.e4 1 e5 5 2.Nf3 12 Nc6 4 3.Nc3 30 Nf6 10 4.d4 12 exd4 11 5.Nxd4 4 Bb4 9**
 The Scotch Four Knights isn't as innocent as it seems at first. But by now you'd think it'd been tried in every direction with antedotes found. Still, people, like Olivia Smith here, fall -- or rather slide -- by the wayside often enough. **6.Nxc6 12 bxc6 5 7.Bd3 8 d5 33 8.Bd2 1:56**

[Much more common is 8.exd5 when 8...0-0!? is a little transposition joke. (8...cxd5 9.0-0 0-0 etc.) 9.0-0 cxd5 is some 16,000 games, with a score around 50%. (9...Bg4!? (played by an array of the best of the best) is an attempt to try something new, with adequate results)) 10.Bd2?! (Not too many stars play this here) (Mostly played is 10.Bg5; or maybe 10.h3)]

8...0-0 7:15

[8...Bxc3!? 9.Bxc3 dxe4 10.Bxf6 Qxf6 11.Bxe4 (11.Qe2!?) 11...Ba6! 12.Bd3! Bxd3 13.Qxd3 Qxb2 14.Qe3+! Kf8 15.0-0=]

9.0-0 4 Bg4!? 2:49 Trying to keep the game alive!

[9...Bxc3 (Frankly this is a non-game line. "Let's make a draw, but they want us to play some moves, so...") 10.Bxc3 dxe4 11.Bxf6 (11.Bc4!? Nd5 12.Qd4 Nxc3 13.Qxc3 Re8 $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ (40) Nepomniachtchi,I (2784)-Giri,A (2764) Legends of Chess Final

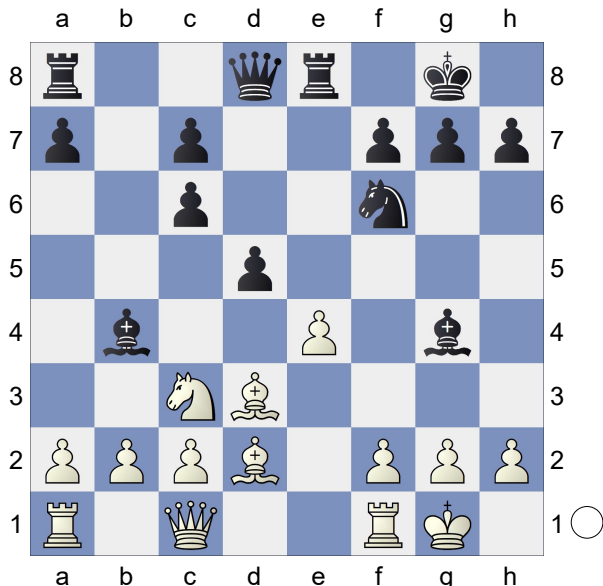
chess24.com INT rapid 2020 (1.21))

11...Qxf6 12.Bxe4 Qxb2 13.Bxc6 Rb8 14.Rb1 Qxb1 15.Qxb1 Rxb1 16.Rxb1 Rd8 17.Bf3 Kf8 18.Rb8 Re8 19.h4 Ba6 20.Rb3 Be2
 (Vidit has the unsavory distinction of being the rare player to lose this ending: 20...Re5 21.Rc3 Re7 22.Ra3 Re6 23.Bd5 Rb6 24.Bb3 c5 25.Ra4 g6 26.f3 Rd6 27.c4 Ke7 28.Ra5 Kd8 29.Rxc5 Bc8 30.Kf2 Rd2+ 31.Kg3 h6 32.h5 Rd6 33.hxg6 fxg6 34.Kf4 g5+ 35.Ke5 Re6+ 36.Kd4 Re2 37.g4 Rd2+ 38.Ke3 Rd6 39.Ra5 Re6+ 40.Kd4 Rf6 41.Bd1 a6 42.Be2 Rf4+ 43.Ke3 Bb7 44.Rf5 Rxf5 45.gxf5 Ke7 46.c5 Kf6 47.Bd3 Ke5 48.Be4 Bc8 49.c6 h5 50.c7 a5 51.a4 Kf6 52.Kf2 h4 53.Kg2 Ke5 54.Kh2 Kf6 55.Bd3 Ke5 56.Bf1 Kf6 57.Bh3 Bd7 58.Bg4 Bc8 59.Kg2 Bd7 60.Kf2 Bc8 61.Ke3 Bd7 62.Kd4 Bc8 63.Kc5 Kf7 64.Kb6 1-0 Karjakin,S (2743)-Vidit,S (2727) Tata Steel-A 84th Wijk aan Zee 2022 (13)) 21.Bxe2 Rxe2 22.Rc3 Re4 23.g3 Ra4 24.Rxc7 Rxa2 25.c4 a5 26.c5 a4 27.Ra7 Rc2 28.Rxa4 Rc1+ 29.Kg2 Rxc5 30.Ra8+ Ke7 31.Ra7+ $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ Mamedov,R (2656)-Radjabov,T (2698) AZE-ch 79th Baku 2025 (4.2)]
 [9...Rb8!? (Carlsen, once) 10.Re1 Re8 11.h3 Be6 12.b3 Nd7 13.exd5 cxd5 14.Qf3 Nc5 15.Re2 c6 16.Rae1 g6 17.Nb1 Bxd2 18.Nxd2 Qg5 19.c3 Bd7 20.b4 Rxe2 21.Rxe2 Ne6 22.g3 Qd8 23.h4 a5 24.a3 axb4 25.axb4 Ra8 26.Nb3 Ra3 27.Bc2 Kg7 28.Re3 Qf6 29.Qd1 h5 30.Rf3 Qe5 31.Re3 Qf6 32.Rf3 Qe5 33.Re3 $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ Tari,A (2654)-Carlsen,M (2864) Norway Chess 10th Stavanger 2022 (7)]

10.Qc1 9:37

[10.f3! dxe4 11.Nxe4 Nxe4 12.Bxb4 Qd4+ 13.Kh1 Qxb4 14.Bxe4 Qxe4! 15.fxe4 Bxd1 16.Raxd1 is +0.19/21 on Stockfish, but hardly most people's idea of a winning try.]

10...Re8 4:33



11.Nxd5!? 5:36 **cx d5!N** 5:06

The position is equal.

[11...Nxd5 12.exd5 Bxd2 13.Qxd2 cxd5 14.Qf4 (14.b4 almost an advantage) 14...Be6 15.b4 c6 16.a4 Qb8 17.Qh4 h6 18.a5 Qd6 19.Rfd1 Rab8 20.Rab1 Rec8 21.h3 c5 22.b5 Qe5 23.Re1 Qg5 24.Qxg5 hxg5 25.Re5 c4 26.Bf5 Bxf5 27.Rxf5 Rc5 28.b6 Rxa5 29.b7 f6 30.Rf3 Rc5 31.Ra3 a5 32.c3 Kf7 33.f3 Ke6 34.Kf2 Kd6 35.Ra2 Kc7 36.Re2 Kd6 37.Ra2 Kc7 38.Re2 Kd6 1/2-1/2 Nepomniachtchi,I (2763)-Svidler, P (2737) Wch Blitz St Petersburg 2018 (15)]

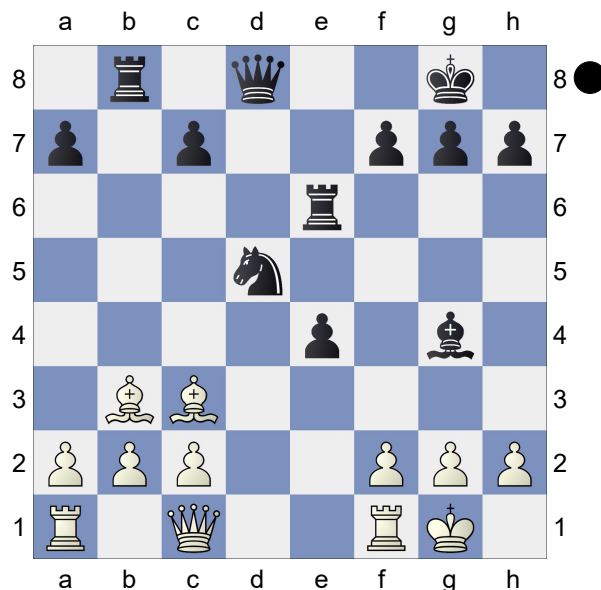
12.Bxb4 9 **dxe4** 16 **13.Bb5** 5:46 [13.Bc4]

13...Re5 2:44 **14.Bc6?!** 1:34 [14.a4 a6 15.Bc4]

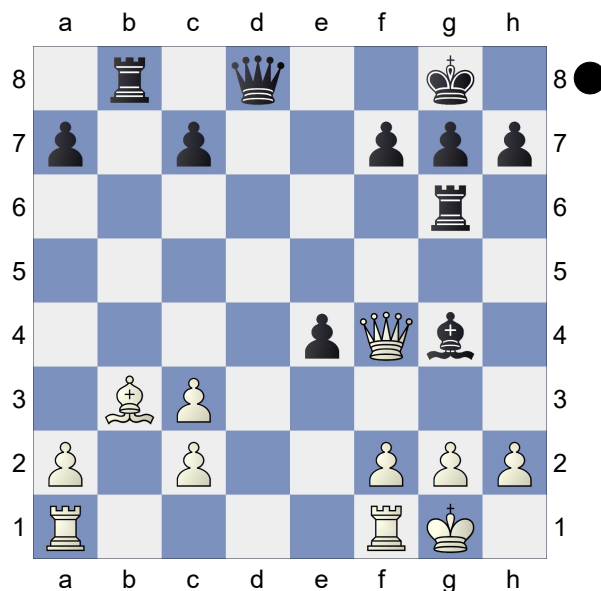
14...Rb8 1:15 **15.Bc3** 43 A strong pair of Bishops. **15...Re6** 9:54 **16.Ba4?** -1.23/24 13:29 [16.Bxf6!= -0.11/26 gxf6 (16...Qxf6

17.Bd7±) 17.h3]

16...Nd5 3:09 (Black starts to aim at the kingside) **17.Bb3** 2:45



ugly but probably best **17...Nxc3!** 17:55 **18.bxc3** 7 **Rg6** 5 **19.Qf4** -2.43/26 4:53 [19.f4± -1.10/25]



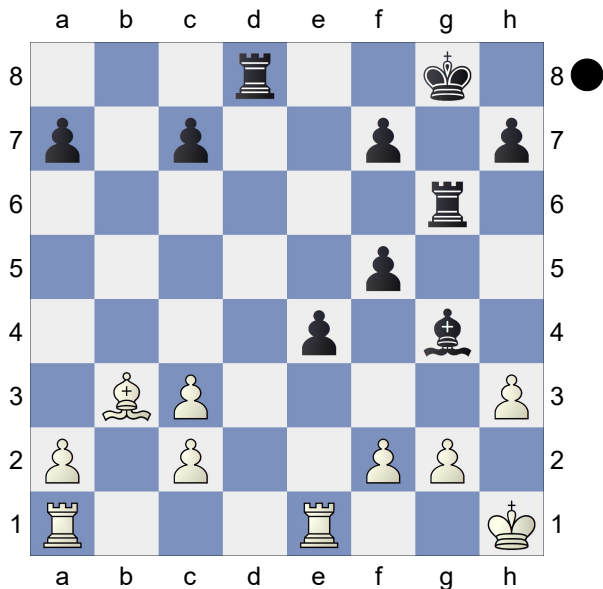
19...Qf6? -0.63/28 4:06

[19...Rxb3!-+ -2.43/26 20.axb3 Bf3 21.g3 Qd7-+]

20.Qxf6 2:56 **gxf6** 38 **21.Kh1!** 8:30 **Rd8** 7:24 **22.Rfe1** -1.18/27 6:06 Prevents Be2

[22.Rae1!± -0.66/30 f5 23.h3]

22...f5 2:28 **23.h3!** 1:01



Bh5 -0.55/26 57

[Black should play 23...Rh6! ♣ -1.16/29 and ...Rd2 should not be overlooked

24.Ba4 Rd2]

24.g4! ♣ 4:15 **fxg4** 23 **25.Rxe4** 15 **gxh3** 6:44 **26.Rf4** 29 Prevents Bf3+ **26...Rg5** -0.14/28 7:42

[26...Rc6 ♣ -0.55/28

is more appropriate.]

27.Rg1!= 3:08 **Rxg1+** 1:00 **28.Kxg1** 3 **Bg6** 2:55 **29.Kh2** 2:59 **Rd6** 48 **30.Kxh3** 1:40 **Rc6** 26 **31.Rf3** -1.32/30 3:34

White is on the road to losing.

[31.Ra4 ♣ -0.40/32]

31...Kf8 -0.90/34 1:26

[♠31...Rc5 -1.32/30 32.Re3 Kf8]

32.Kg3 1:01 **Ke7** 1:01 **33.Re3+** 1:15 **Kf6** 39 **34.Rf3+** 4:21 **Kg7** 1:49 **35.Re3** 4:08 **Rc5** 17 **36.f3** -2.07/23 9:44

[36.c4 ♣ -1.01/30 keeps fighting.]

36...Kf6+ 1:09 **37.c4** 1:48 **Re5** 51

38.Kf2 -4.29/22 2:17

[38.Rc3 -2.20/26 only move.]

38...Rxe3 1:29 **39.Kxe3** 4 KB-KB **39...c5** 8 **40.Kf4** 16 **Bf5** 1:14 **41.c3** 1:00 **h5** 1:19 **42.Ba4** 40 **Be6** 31

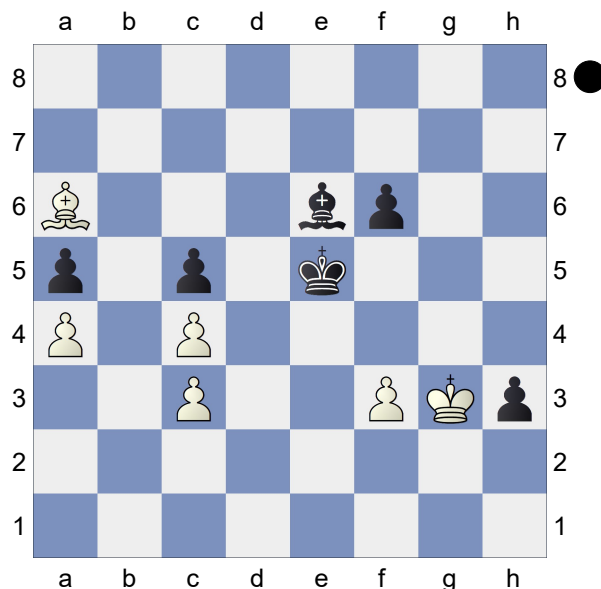
43.Bb5 59 **h4** 17 **44.a4** -6.95/22 33

[♠44.Bc6 -4.54/25 Bxc4 45.a4]

44...a5 12 **45.Ba6** 18 **h3** 2:01

(-> ...h2) **46.Kg3** 5 **Ke5** 14 **47.Bb5** 56

f6 1:24 **48.Ba6** 10



h2! 2:06 Deflection **49.Kxh2** 4

[49.Bb7 h1N+]

49...Kf4 2 **50.Kg2** 1:45 **Ke3** 3 **51.Kg3** 32 **Kd3** 5 **52.Kf4** 28 **Kxc3** 5 **53.Bb5** 17 **Kb4** 27 **54.Ke4** 1:04 **Bxc4** 16 **55.Bd7** 29 **Be2** -10.56/22 41

[♠55...Bb3 -80.53/25 56.Kd3 Bxa4]

56.f4 21 **c4** 15 Black mates. **57.Ke3** 35 **Bd1** 22 **58.Kd4** 10 **c3** 33 **59.Kd3** 31 **Kb3** 23

0-1

A29

□ **Diller,Bradley R**

2089

■ **Qiu,Laurie**

2155

2025 NY TNM: 2000+ (5.7) 04.02.2025
[Diller,Brad]

Laurie Qiu didn't play a game until this one (!), gett a half-point bye, two unplayed zeroes, a forfeit win, and then won the three games she *did* play -- entering 3rd-4th and the money. Here Brad Diller meets his bete noir (excuse my lack of French accents), and the curse holds. He was gentlemanly enough to annotate the game! **1.c4 e5 2.g3 Nc6 3.Bg2 Nf6 4.Nf3 d5 5.cxd5**

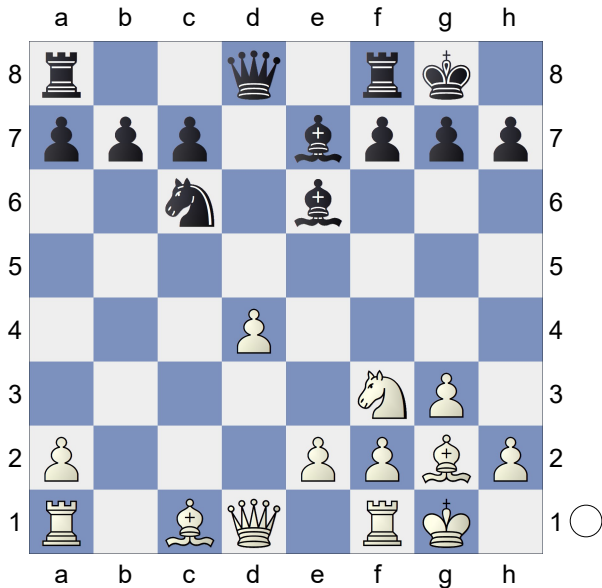
Nxd5 6.0-0 Be6

[6...Nf6 7.Nc3 h6 8.b4!? (8.d3 Bd6 9.b3 0-0 10.Bb2 Re8 11.Rc1 Bf5 0-1 (38) Shankland,S (2683)-Praggnanandhaa,R (2757) Biel GM1 Blitz 57th 2024 (1)) 8...Bd6 9.b5 Nd4 10.a4 0-0 11.d3 a6 12.Be3 (12.Bd2 Re8 13.Re1 axb5 14.Nxd4 b4 0-1 (61) Nepomniachtchi,I (2771)-Carlsen,M (2839) Chess.com Speed Chess Chess.com INT blitz 2023 (2. 18)) 12...Bb4 13.Na2 Nxf3+ 14.Bxf3 Bd6 15.Nc3 Re8 16.Qc2 Qd7 17.Bg2 axb5 18.Nxb5 c6 19.Nxd6 Qxd6 20.Rab1 1-0 (43) Nepomniachtchi,I (2755)-Carlsen,M (2832) Titled Tuesday intern op 10th Sep Early Chess.com INT blitz 2024 (8)]

7.Nc3 Be7 8.d4! Nxc3 9.bxc3 exd4 10.cxd4

[10.Nxd4]

10...0-0



11.Rb1? 11 Rb1 was inferior, but I could not find an advantage after the natural 11 e4. I did not like the positions that evolved after 12.Be3.

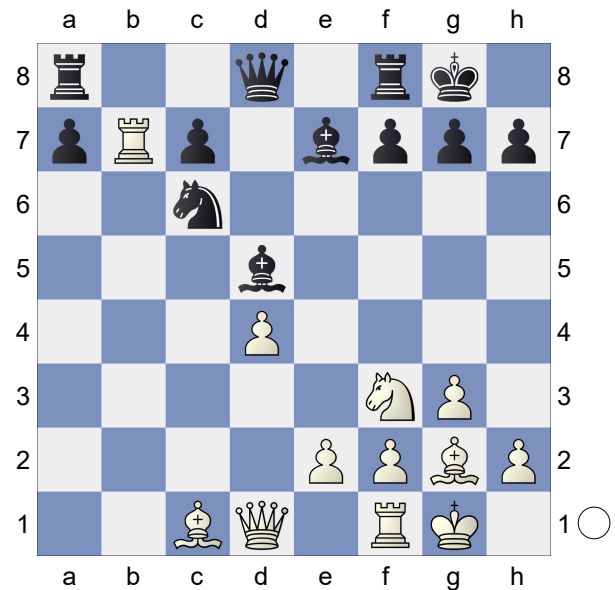
[♠11.e4 Bf6

A) 12.Bb2, which I also considered, was probably the best

line. Na5 13.Bc3 c6 (13...Nc4 14.Rc1±) 14.h4±;

B) 12.Be3 The exchange sacrifice looked dubious but stockfish gives a +/- evaluation that I don't agree with. 12...Na5 13.Rc1 (13.d5!? Bxa1 14.Qxa1 Bg4 15.Ne5 Be2 16.Re1 Bb5±; 13.h4 Nc4 14.e5 Nxe3 15.fxe3 Be7 16.Ne1 c6±) 13...Nc4=]

11...Bxa2 12.Rxb7 Bd5



13.e3? Of course this was a blunder.

[13.Rb5!=]

[13.Bf4! Nxd4! 14.Rxc7 Nxf3+ 15.Bxf3 Bxf3 16.exf3 Qxd1 17.Rxd1 Bf6 18.Rdd7 a5 19.Ra7= a4 20.Bc1]

13...Nb4 14.Ne5 Bxb7 15.Bxb7 Rb8 16.Bg2 Bd6 17.Nc4 Qd7 18.e4 Qb5 19.Ne3 Rfd8 20.Nf5 Bf8! 21.Qg4?

[21.d5! Nd3 (21...c6 22.Nh6+ gxh6 23.Qg4+) 22.Nd4 Qc4 23.Nc6 Rb1 24.Nxd8 Rxc1 25.Qf3=]

21...g6 -1.09/34 "After I missed 21.d5 I

was dead lost." **22.Bh6 Bxh6**

23.Nxh6+ Kg7 24.Nf5+ Kf8 25.Nh6

Rxd4 26.Qf4 Kg7 27.Nxf7 Rf8

28.Qe5+ Qxe5 29.Nxe5 c5 30.Rc1

Rc8 31.Nc4 Na2 32.Rc2 Rd1+ 33.Bf1

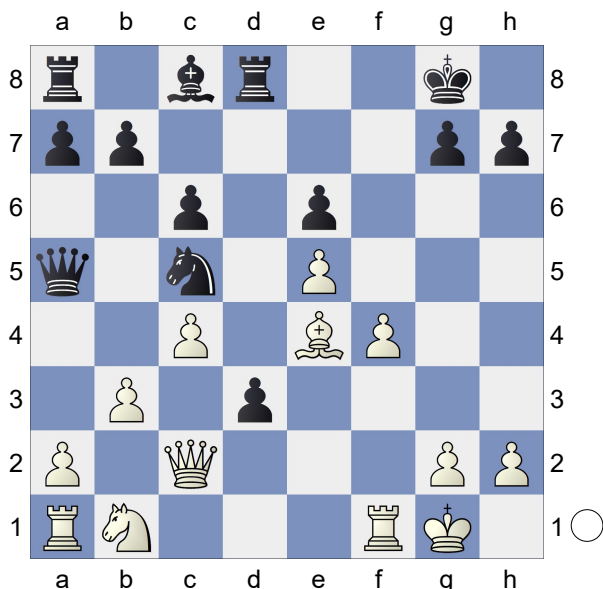
Nb4 34.Rc3 Re1 35.e5 Rd8 36.Kg2

Rdd1 37.Ne3 Rd2 38.Ra3 Ra2
 39.Rc3 a6 40.h4 Rd2 41.Kf3 Nd5
 42.Nxd5 Rxd5 43.Bxa6 Rdxe5 44.Rc2
 Ra1 45.Be2 Ra3+ 46.Kg2 Kf6 47.Bg4
 Ra7 48.f4 Rd5 49.Bf3 Rd3 50.Be2
 Re3 51.Kf2 Raa3 52.g4 Rec3 53.Rb2
 Ra7 54.Rb6+ Kg7 55.Bf3 Ra2+
 56.Be2 Rc4 57.Ke3 Ra3+ 58.Kd2
 Rd4+ 59.Ke1 Rxf4
 0-1

A80

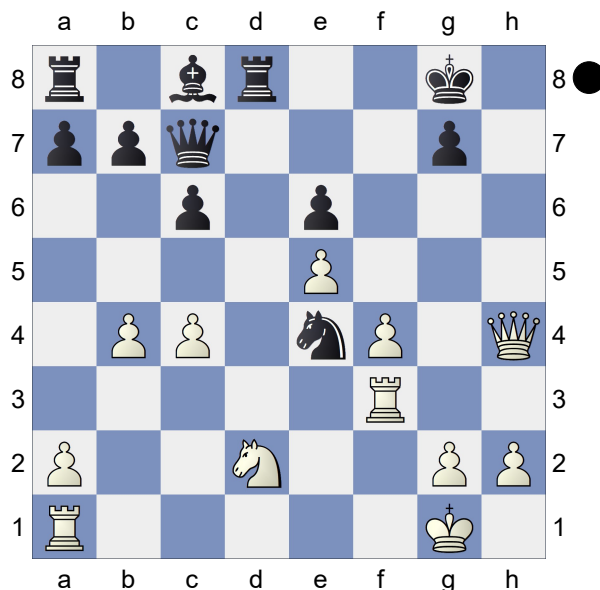
□ Viadiu-Illaraza,Hector **1934**
 ■ Agrawal,Varun **1913**
 2025 NY TNM: 2000+ (5.8) 04.02.2025
[Winslow,Elliott]

Varun had another bad day. Hector's "Greek Gift" had no sufficient followup, or rather woudn't had Agrawal captured with the rook on d2 for a win. As it went it was quickly drawn then lost. **1.d4 f5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e3 c6 4.Bd3 d5 5.b3 e6 6.0-0 Nbd7 7.c4 Ne4 8.Ba3 Bxa3 9.Nxa3 0-0 10.Ne5 Nxe5 11.dxe5 Qc7 12.f3 Nc5 13.f4 Qa5 14.Nb1 Rd8 15.Qc2 d4 16.e4 fxe4 17.Bxe4 d3**

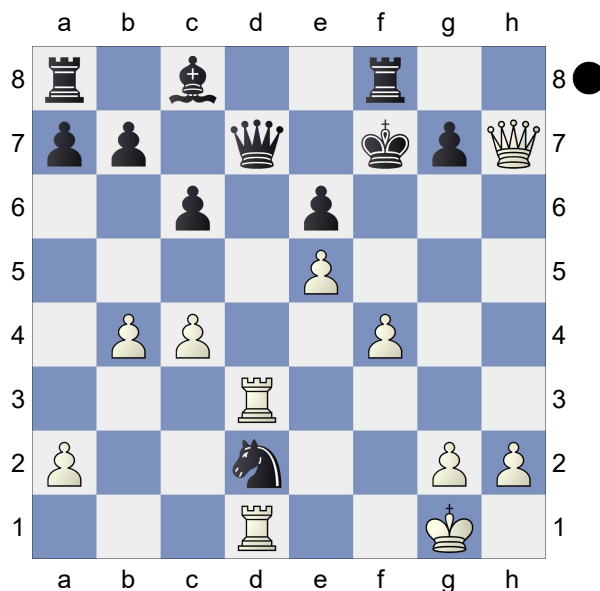


18.Bxh7+?! Kxh7 19.Qf2 Ne4

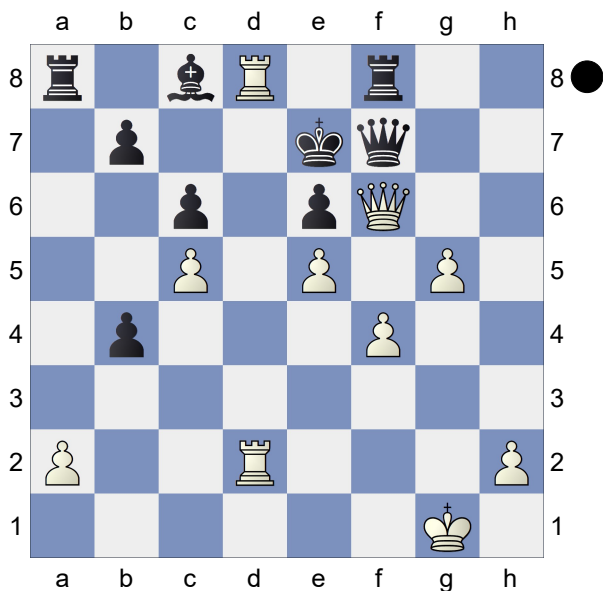
20.Qh4+ Kg8 21.b4 Qc7+ 22.Rf3 d2
 [22...Qd7!]
23.Nxd2



Nxd2??
 [23...Rxd2+]
24.Rh3= Rf8 25.Rd1 Qd7± 26.Qh7+ Kf7 27.Rd3



Qe7??
 [27...Nf3+! 28.Kh1! Qe8! 29.Rxf3 Rh8 30.Qd3 Kg8±]
28.R1xd2+- Rg8 29.c5 a5 30.g4 axb4 31.g5! Rf8 32.Qh5+ Engine sees mate in 14 32...g6 33.Qh7+ Ke8 34.Qxg6+ Qf7?! 35.Rd8+ Ke7 36.Qf6+?!
 [36.Qd3 is mate]



36...Qxf6 37.exf6+ Rxf6 38.gxf6+ Kxf6 39.h4 Ra5 40.Rc2 Ra4 41.Rxc8 b3 42.axb3 1-0

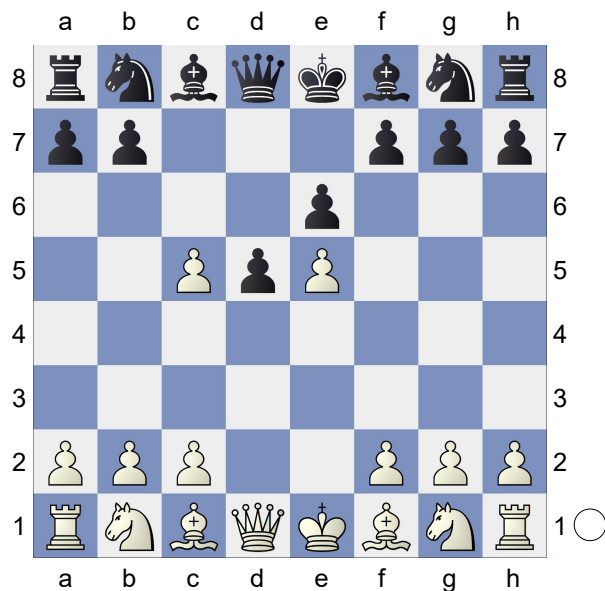
B12
 □ Ivanenko,Anthony Vladimir 1969
 ■ Srinivasan,Sivavishnu 2092
 2025 NY TNM: 2000+ (5.46) 04.02.2025
[Winslow,Elliott]

What can I say? The combination of sharp theoretical opening lines and overlooking elementary tactical shots is just not a good pairing. Still, Tony won his last two games to take the under-2000 prize alone! **1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.dxc5 e6**

(Diagram)

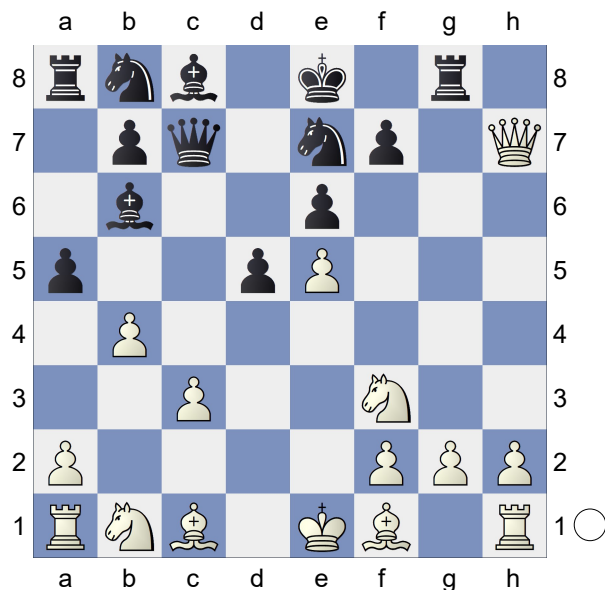
5.c3

[5.a3 Bxc5 6.Nf3 f6 7.b4 Be7 8.Bb2 a5 9.b5 Nd7 10.Bd3 Nh6 11.Qe2 0-0 12.c4 Nf7 13.cxd5 Ndxe5 14.Nxe5 Nxe5 15.Bxe5 fxe5 16.Nc3 exd5 17.Nxd5 Bc5 18.0-0 Be6 19.Ne3 Bd4 20.Qh5 g6



21.Bxg6 Qe7 22.Be4 Rf4 23.Bd5 Raf8 24.Rae1 Kh8 25.g3 R4f6 26.Bxe6 Qxe6 27.Re2 b6 28.Nc2 Bb2 29.Qh4 Qd5 30.a4 Rf4 31.Qh6 Qc4 32.Qh5 R8f5 33.Ne3 Rxe5 34.Nxc4 Rxc4 1-0 (48) Erigaisi,A (2797)-Andreikin,D (2729) EU-Cup 39th Vrnjacka Banja 2024 (5.1)]

5...Bxc5 6.Qg4 Ne7 7.b4 Bb6 8.Qxg7 Rg8 9.Qxh7 Qc7 10.Nf3 a5



11.Bg5??N

[11.bxa5 Bxa5 12.Bd2 Nbc6 13.Bb5 Bd7 14.0-0 Nxe5 15.Nxe5 Qxe5 16.Re1 Qf6 17.Qd3 Bc7 18.g3 Nc6 19.Qxd5 0-0-0 20.Qe4 Rh8 21.Re2

Kb8 22.Na3 e5 23.h4 Qe7 24.Qa4
Rdg8 25.Bg5 Qe6 26.Rb2 Rxcg5
27.Bc4 Nd8 28.Nb5 Rxcg3+ 29.fxcg3
Bb6+ 30.Nd4 Qh3 31.Qa3 Qxcg3+
32.Kf1 Bh3+ 33.Ke2 exd4 34.Rxb6
Re8+ 35.Be6 Rxe6+ 36.Rxe6 Nxe6
37.Kd2 Qe3+ 38.Kd1 d3 39.Qd6+
Kc8 0-1 Macias Pino,D (2471)-
Nakada,A (2414) Madrid-A 2024 (5)]

[11.b5!?±]

[11.Ba3!±]

11...Rxcg5+ 12.Nxcg5 Qxe5+ 13.Be2
Qxcg5 14.0-0 axb4 15.h4 Qf6 16.g4
bxc3 17.g5 Qe5 18.Bh5 Qg3+
0-1

□ Rigel,Marlon

D94
1761

■ Cawthon,Jeremy David

1984

2025 NY TNM: 1600-1999 (5.5) 04.02.25
[Winslow,Elliott]

What could have been: Jeremy slithers
out of a rather lost one in a knight
ending! 1.d4 5 Nf6 3 2.c4 6 c6 4
3.Nf3 10 d5 4.Qc2 43

[4.Nc3]

[4.e3]

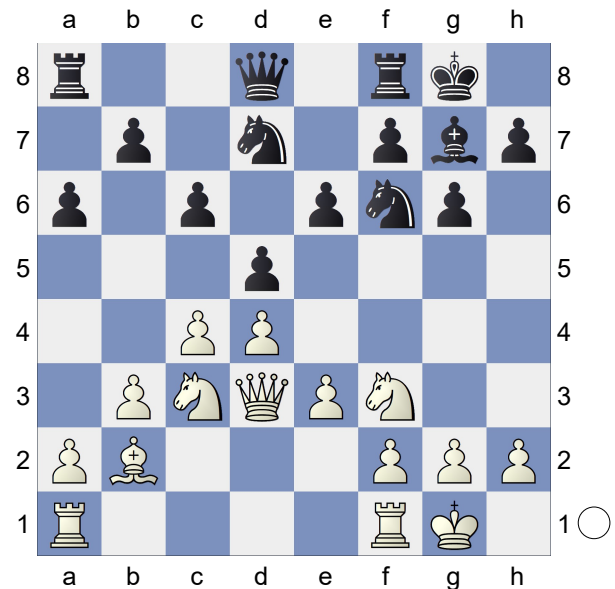
[4.g3!?]

4...g6 7 5.e3 25 Bf5 1:49 6.Bd3 35
Bxd3 7 7.Qxd3 6 Bg7 5 8.Nc3 51 0-0
9 9.0-0 14 Nbd7 22 10.b3 1:36
[10.cxd5 cxd5 11.Bd2 e6=]
10...e6 6:12 11.Bb2 5:29 a6 5:45

(Diagram)

12.Rfd1 5:07

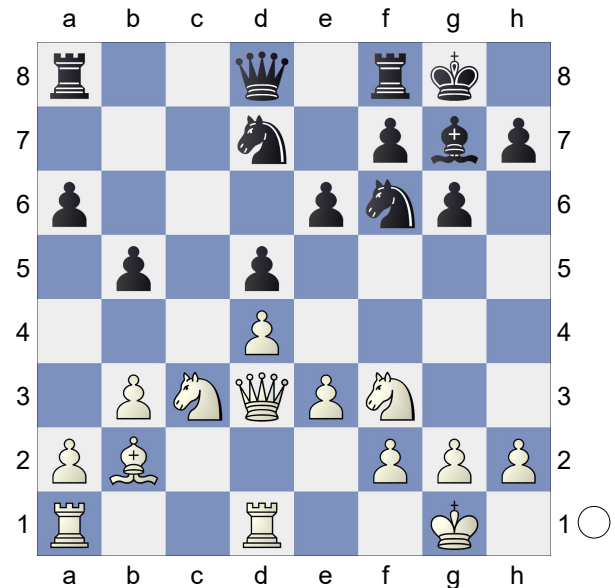
[12.Rac1 Re8 13.Rfd1 Qe7 14.e4
dxe4 15.Nxe4 Nxe4 16.Qxe4 Rad8
17.Qe2 Nf6 18.Rd3 Nh5 19.g3 Bf6
20.Rcd1 Ng7 21.g4 Qc7 22.h3 h5
23.Qe4 Rd7 24.Ne5 Rd6 25.Bc1
Qa5 26.Bd2 Qxa2 27.Qf4 Qc2



28.Qxf6 Qxd1+ 29.Kg2

1-0 Nakamura,H (2802)-Niemann,H
(2733) Chess.com SpeedChess Final
Paris blitz 2024 (2.15)]

12...b5! 3:02 13.cxd5 2:57 cxd5 17

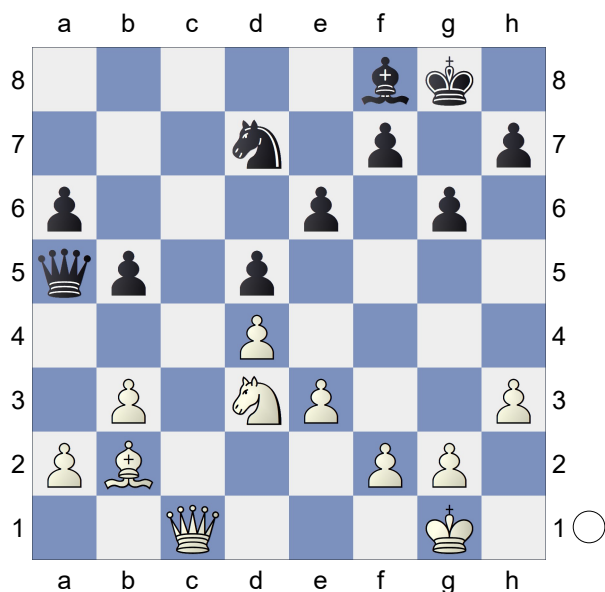


14.Rac1N 1:06

[14.a3 Qb6 15.Rac1 Rac8 16.Rc2
Rc7 17.Rdc1 Rfc8 18.Ne2 Ne4
19.Ne1 f5 20.Kf1 Kf7 21.f3 Nd6
22.Qd2 Nb7 23.Bc3 a5 24.Nd3 Bf8
25.Bb2 Bd6 26.h3 Rxc2 27.Rxc2
Rc6 28.Qc1 Nd8 29.Rxc6 Nxc6
30.g4 Ne7 31.Kf2 Bb8 32.Ne5+
Nxe5 33.dxe5 Qc6 34.Qd2 a4
35.bxa4 bxa4 36.Qb4 Bc7 37.f4

fxg4 38.hxg4 Qc2 39.Qc3 Qb1
40.Qxc7 Qxb2 41.Qc3 Qb3 42.g5
Qb6 43.Qd4 Nc8 $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ (51) Primel,D
(1966)-Flachet,T (2158) Sautron op
15th 2015 (5.21)]

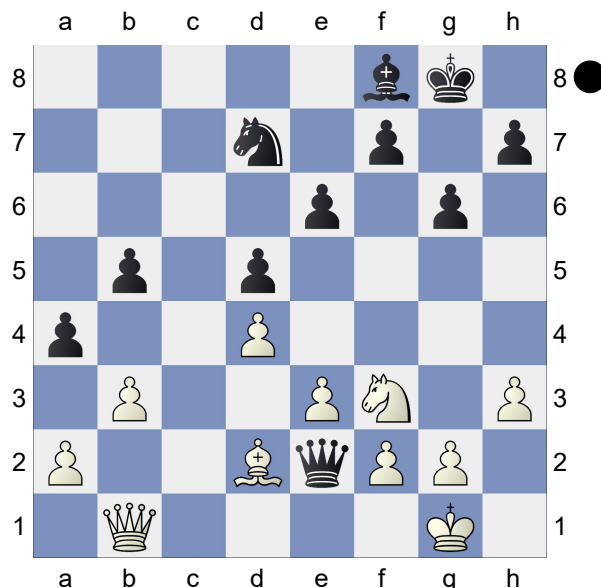
14...Qb8 1:17 **15.h3** 2:50 **Rc8** 2:06
16.Ne2 10:00 **Ne4?!** 11:45 **17.Rxc8+**
3:23 **Qxc8** 34 **18.Rc1** 16 **Qd8** 2:39
19.Nd2 6:35 **Nxd2** 2:42 **20.Qxd2** 11
Rc8 9 **21.Nf4** 5:22 **Bf8** 4:58 **22.Nd3**
4:11 **Rxc1+** 1:31 **23.Qxc1** 30 **Qa5** 33



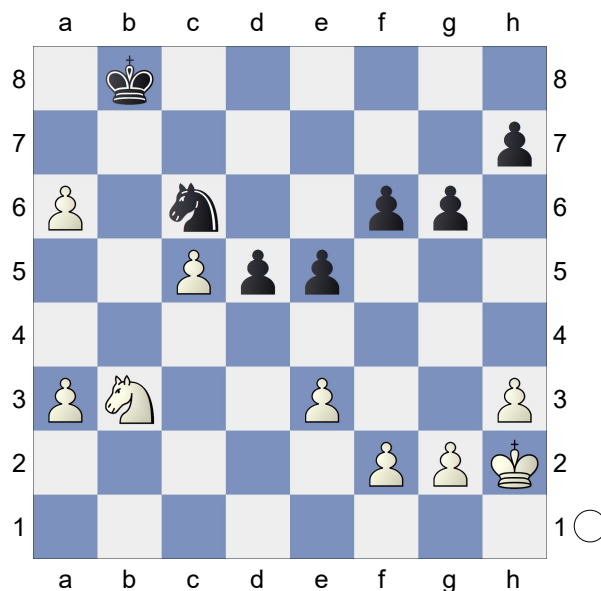
24.Qb1?! 7:09
[24.a3 h5=]
24...Qd2 2:40 **25.Ne1** 2:03 **a5** 1:09
26.Nf3 1:16 **Qe2** 1:15 **27.Bc3** 42 **a4** 21
28.Bd2 4:17

(Diagram)

Nb8?? 5:09
[28...axb3= 29.axb3 Nf6]
[28...e5!? 29.dxe5 Nxe5 30.Nxe5
Qxd2 31.bxa4 bxa4=]
29.bxa4+- 3:33 **b4** 2:09 **30.Bxb4** 1:17
Nc6 2:36 **31.Bxf8** 46 **Kxf8** 3 **32.Qb5**
4:12 **Qd1+** 2
[32...Qc4 33.Qxc4 dxc4 34.Kf1]
33.Kh2 19 **Qc2** 2 **34.Qc5+?!** 1:12
[34.a5+- +5.55/20]
34...Qxc5 3 **35.dxc5** 7 **e5** 22 +3.21/21

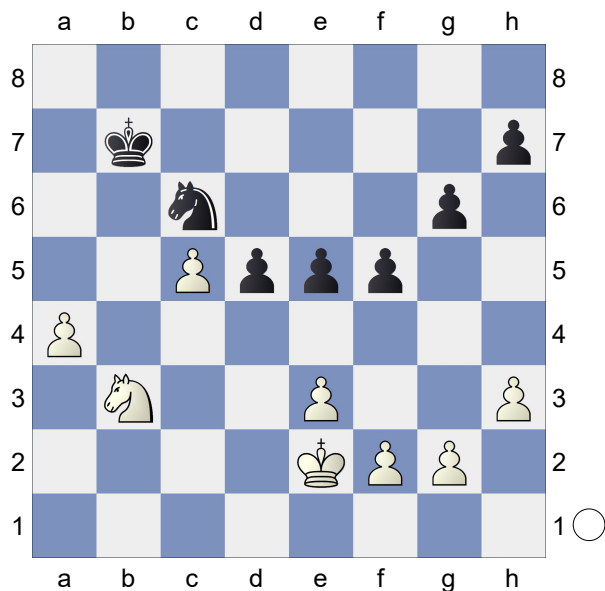


36.a5 1:31 **f6** 1:01
[36...e4 37.Nd4 Nxa5 38.g4 Ke7
39.g5+-]
37.a6 17 **Ke7** 4 **38.Nd2** 16
[38.Ne1! Kd7 39.Nd3 Kc7 40.a3!]
38...Kd7 1:09 **39.Nb3** 14 **Kc7** 2 **40.a3!**
1:25 **Kb8** 9



41.Kg1? 26
[41.Nc1! Ka7 42.Nd3 Kxa6 43.Nb4+
Nxb4 (43...Kb5 44.Nxd5) 44.axb4
Kb5 45.Kg1+-]
41...Ka7 5 **42.Kf1** 1:13 **Kxa6±** 1 **43.a4!**
37 f5? 1:36
[43...Kb7 44.Ke2 Nb4 45.g4 Kc6
46.h4 h6 47.f3]

44.Ke2+- 21 Kb7 41



45.f3 3:41

[45.f4!+-]

45...Nb4 43 46.Na5+? 1:40

[46.f4! e4 47.g4]

46...Ka6 4:09 47.Nb3 9 Kb7 2

48.Na5+?? 6 Ka6 2:11

[48...Ka6 49.c6!? Kb6 50.Kd2 Na6!
(50...Nxc6?! 51.Nxc6 Kxc6 52.Kc3
Kc5 53.f4 e4!? 54.g4! fxg4 55.hxg4
h5 56.f5! h4 57.fxg6 h3 58.g7 h2
59.g8Q h1Q 60.Qf8+ Kc6 61.Qf6+
Kd7 62.Kb4+-) 51.Nb3 Nb4 52.f4
Nxc6 53.fxe5 Nxe5 54.Kc3 Nc4
55.Kd4 Kc6=]

1/2-1/2

C02

□ Vandenhoven,Clarke Raymond 1737

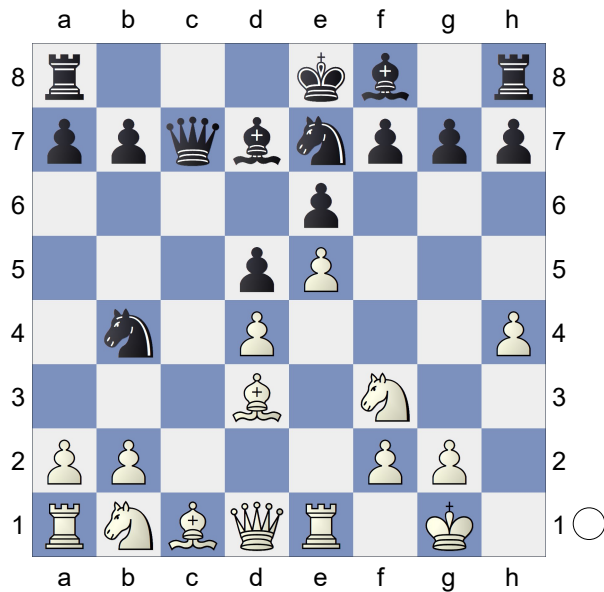
■ Babayan,Gagik 1686

2025 NY TNM: 1600-1999 (5.15) 04.02.25

[Winslow,Elliott]

I wonder if Gagik even knew that this is the super-recent way to play the gambit line of the Advance French -- he just shrugs, ignored the pawn but not the Exchange. 1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Qb6 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.Bd3 cxd4 7.0-0

Bd7 8.Re1 Nge7 9.h4 Qc7 10.cxd4 Nb4



11.Bf1? Nc2 12.Nc3 Nxa1 13.Bg5 h6
14.Bf4 Ng6 15.Bh2 Bb4 16.Qxa1 Bxc3
17.bxc3 Rc8 18.Rc1 0-0 19.h5 Ne7
20.Bd3 b5 21.Bb1 Nc6 22.Qb2 Be8
23.Qc2 g6 24.Qd2 Kg7 25.Bf4 Qe7
26.Bg3 g5 27.Qe3 a6 28.Qd3 Rh8
29.Re1 b4 30.Qxa6 Rb8 31.c4 Qb7
32.Qxb7 Rxb7 33.cxd5 exd5 34.e6 f6
35.Rc1 Rb6 36.Bc7 Rb5 37.Bd3 Rb7
38.Bd6 Ra7 39.Bb1 Rg8 40.Kf1 Kh8
41.g4 Ra3 42.Ne1 Rg7 43.Nc2 Rc3
44.Rd1 Rb7 45.Ne3 Ne7 46.Bxe7
Rxe7 47.Nxd5 Rxe6 48.Nxc3 bxc3
49.Re1 Bb5+

0-1

C01

□ Siegel,David 1438

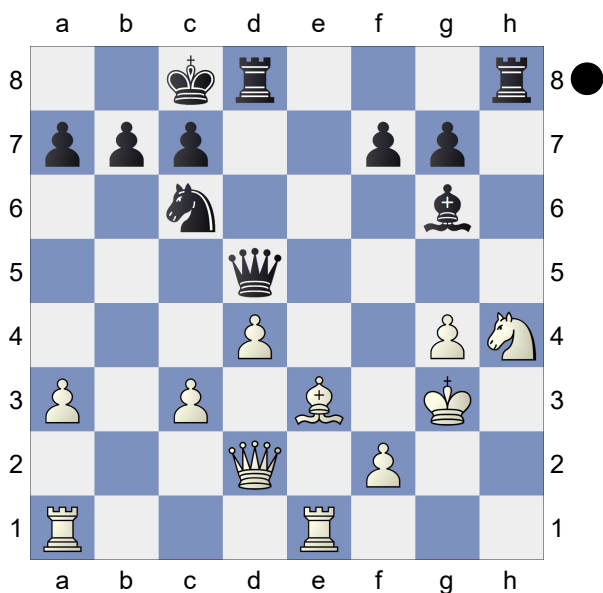
■ Pickering,Carl Anthony 1619

2025 NY TNM: 1600-1999 (5.18) 04.02.25

[Siegel,David]

Dave loses a nice game and -- sends in annotations! An aside: Boris Spassky just passed away at 88 years; did he really applaud Bobby Fischer's win in the 6th game of their world

championship match!? **1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.c4 Bb4+ 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Nf3 Bg4** There are seven games in the master's database in this position. The computer and most common move is 7. Be2, breaking the pin and allowing me to castle, but I liked the idea of getting the bishop pair and didn't love spending the extra tempo on recapturing at c4 eventually. But I think 7. Be2 here would have been better. **7.a3 Qe7+ 8.Be3 Bxc3+ 9.bxc3 Nf6** Now I think the spirit of the position is to go 10. Be2 and castle in the next move or two, and if Black spends a tempo on dxc4 then White has an initiative and the position is roughly equal. I tried to have my cake and eat it too, but I started to get into worse and worse trouble. **10.h3 Bh5 11.g4 Bg6 12.cxd5 Nxd5 13.Qd2 Qe4 14.Bg2 Nf4 15.0-0 Nxc3 16.Kxg2 0-0-0** This certainly felt spicy but I didn't realize how quickly the end would come! **17.Rfe1 Qd5 18.Kg3 h5 19.Nh4 hxg4 [DS: 20. Nxc3 will lead to mate immediately] 20.hxg4!**

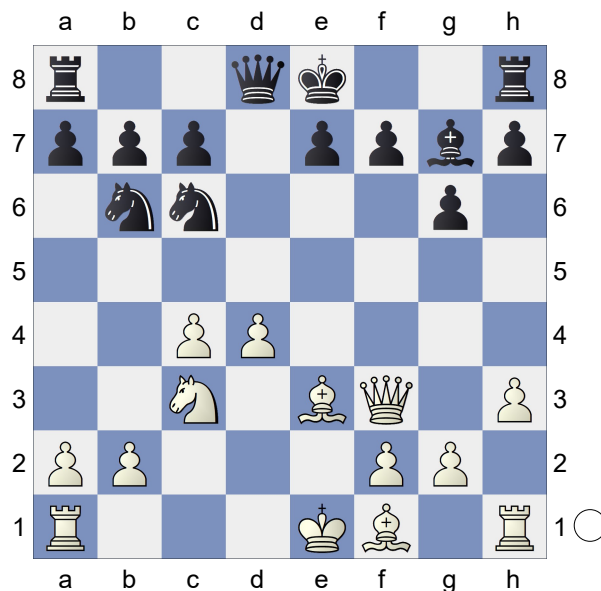


Rxh4 [DS: A great find by my opponent! If I take the rook then there's Qf3, but if I don't take it there's some version of Rh3 Kxh3 Qxf3 with Rh8 to follow.]

21.Kxh4 Qf3
[21...Qg2!]
22.Bh6 Rh8 23.g5 Bf5
0-1

B01
1638
□ **Boyer, John**
■ **McCutcheon, Bennett** **1431**
2025 NY TNM: 1600-1999 (5.22) 04.02.25
[Winslow, Elliott]

I flagged this game for "instructive missed defense" when entering it; here it is as it was. **1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.d4 Nxd5 4.Nf3 g6 5.c4 Nb6 6.Nc3 Bg7 7.Be3 Bg4 8.h3 Bxf3 9.Qxf3 Nc6**



10.c5 Nd7 11.Bc4 0-0 12.0-0-0

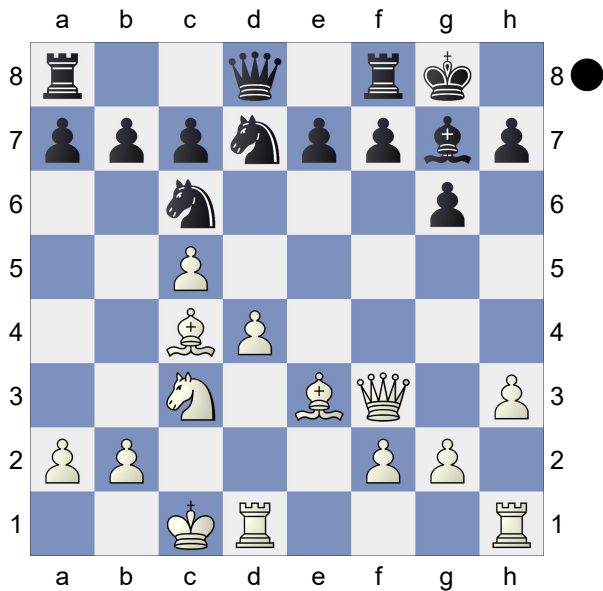
(Diagram)

Na5?

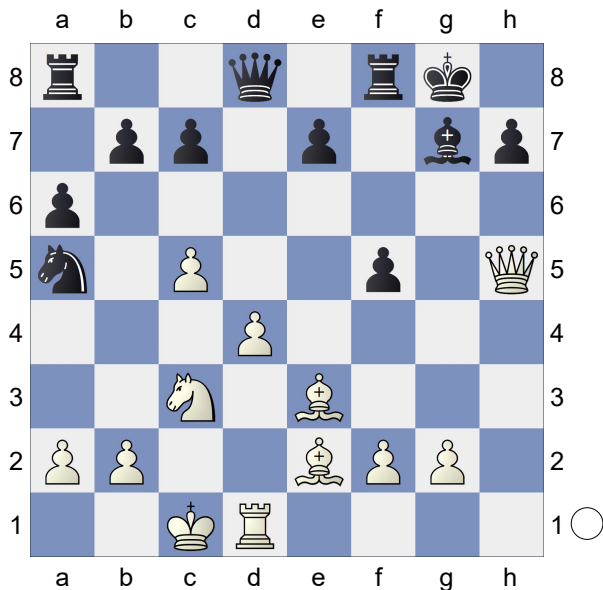
[12...e5!

A) 13.d5 Nd4 14.Bxd4 exd4 15.Ne4 Rb8 (15...b5!? 16.Bxb5 f5 17.Bxd7 fxe4 18.Be6+ Kh8 19.Qxe4 Qg5+ 20.Rd2 Rxf2);
B) 13.dxe5! Ncxe5 14.Qe4 Nxc4 15.Qxc4 Ne5=]

13.Be2!+- a6?! 14.h4! Nf6 15.h5!



Nxh5 16.Rxh5 gxh5 17.Qxh5 f5



18.b4?!

[18.Rh1]

18...f4! 19.bxa5?

[19.Bd2! Nc6 20.Bc4+ e6! 21.Bxe6+ Kh8 22.Rh1! h6 23.Nd5! Nxd4 24.Bc3!+-]

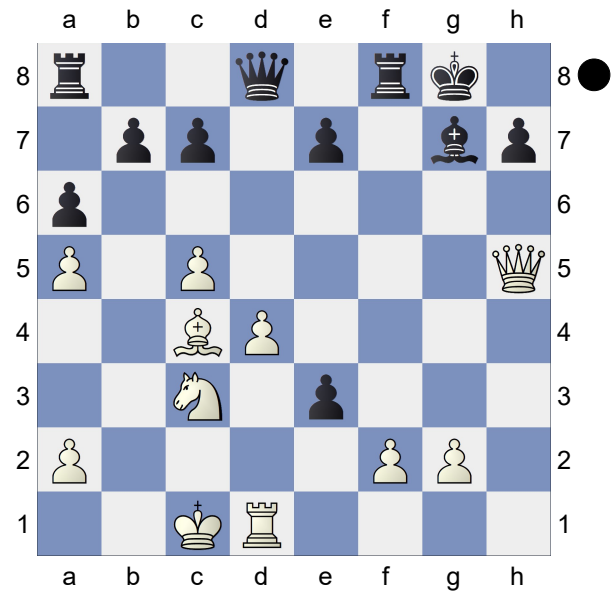
19...fxe3= 20.Bc4+

(Diagram)

Kh8??

[20...e6!

A) 21.Bxe6+ Kh8 22.fxe3 (22.Bf5 Bh6!! 23.fxe3 Qe8! 24.Qxh6



Rxf5);

B) 21.fxe3]

21.Bd3! h6 22.Qg6 Kg8 23.Qh7+ Kf7

24.Bg6+ Ke6 25.Qxg7 exf2 26.Qe5+

[26.Bh5!]

26...Kd7 27.Bf5+ Rxf5

[27...Ke8 28.d5!]

28.Qxf5+ e6 29.Qf7+ Qe7 30.Qxe7+

Kxe7 31.Rf1 Rf8 32.Kd2 c6 33.Ke3

e5 34.dxe5 Ke6 35.Rxf2 Rxf2

36.Kxf2 Kxe5 37.Ke3 Kf5 38.Kd4 h5

39.Ne4 h4 40.Ke3 Kg4 41.Kf2 h3

42.gxh3+ Kxh3 43.Nd6 Kg4 44.Nxb7

Kf4 45.Ke2 Ke4 46.Kd2 Kd4 47.Kc2

Kc4 48.a3 Kb5 49.Kd3 Ka4 50.Ke4

1-0

B23

□ **Hollon,Nick**

1295

■ **Bayaraa,Bilguun**

1359

2025 NY TNM: u1600 (5.6) 04.02.2025

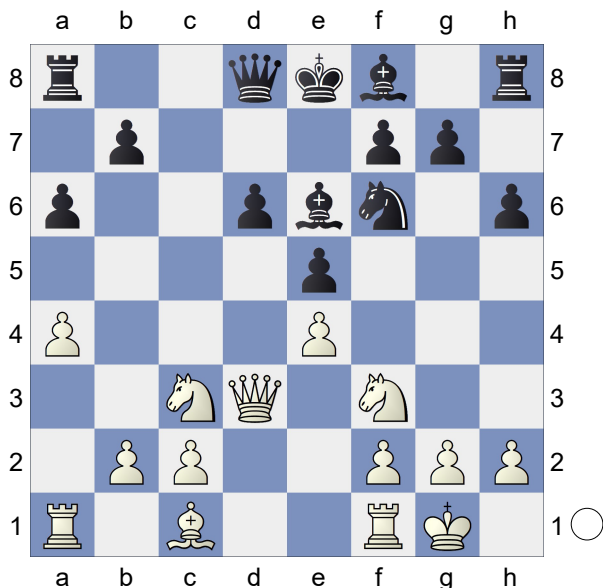
[Winslow,Elliott]

Bilguun lines up to win the tournament, but not without a bit of luck in this game. Nick had a big positional advantage but forgot that occupation is not control, sent a knight into d5, and just slipped into a lost rook ending. **1.e4 3 c5 6**

2.Nc3 5 Nc6 9 3.Bb5 7 Nd4 9 4.Nf3
11 Nxb5 2:22 5.Nxb5 11 d6 50 6.d4
20 a6 1:36 7.Nc3 10 cxd4 45 8.Qxd4
15 e5 2:03

[8...Nf6 9.Bg5 e6 10.0-0-0 Be7
 11.Bxf6 Bxf6 12.Qxd6 Qxd6
 13.Rxd6 Be7 14.Rd3 b5 15.Rhd1
 Bb7 16.a3 Rd8 17.Rxd8+ Bxd8
 18.Nd4 Bb6 19.f3 g5 20.b4 Ke7
 21.h3 Rc8 22.Kb2 Rd8 23.Nb3
 Rxd1 24.Nxd1 Kd6 25.Kc3 h5
 26.Nb2 f5 27.Kd3 fxe4+ 28.fxe4
 Ke5 29.Nd2 Kf4 30.c4 bxc4+
 31.Nbxc4 Bc7 32.Ke2 h4 33.Kf2
 Bc6 34.Nb2 Bb6+ 35.Kf1 Bb5+
 36.Nbc4 Be3 37.Ke1 Bd4 38.Nd6
 ½-½ (59) Carlsen,M (2864)-Topalov,V
 (2728) Zagreb SuperUnited Blitz 2022
 (11)]

9.Qd3 21 Nf6 1:00 10.0-0 2:41 Be6
1:25 11.a4 1:56 h6 1:50



12.Nd2?!N 1:11

[12.a5 Rc8 13.Re1 Be7 14.Be3 0-0
 15.Bb6 Qd7 16.Nd2 Qc6 17.Nf1
 Nd7 18.Ba7 f5 19.exf5 Bxf5
 20.Qd5+ Kh8 21.Ne3 Bg6 22.Qe6
 Nf6 23.Rad1 Rce8 24.Qc4 Rc8
 25.Qe6 Rce8 26.Qb3 Bf7 27.Qb6
 Rc8 28.Nf5 Bd8 29.Qxc6 Rxc6
 30.Rxd6 Bg6 31.Rxc6 bxc6 32.Ne3

Bxa5 33.Bc5 Rb8 34.Ra1 Bxc3
 35.bxc3 Ne4 36.Bb4 c5 37.Ba3 Rc8
 38.f3 Nxc3 39.Bb2 Ne2+ 40.Kf2
 Nd4 41.Rxa6 Bxc2 0-1 (53)
Hernandez Guerrero,G (2564)-
Martinez Alcantara,J (2620)
Iberoamericano Chess24 chess24.
com INT blitz 2020 (2.4)]

12...g5? 10:12

[12...d5! 13.Qg3 d4]

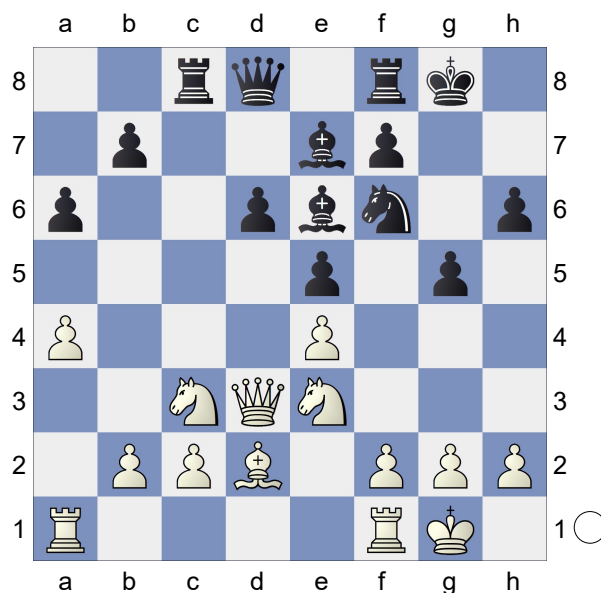
13.Nc4? 1:06

[13.Nd5!±]

13...Rc8? 2:08

[13...d5! 14.Nxe5 Bg7 15.Nxd5
 Nxd5 16.exd5 Qxd5 17.Qxd5
 Bxd5=]

14.Ne3± 1:49 Be7 5:18 15.Bd2 4:25
0-0 3:07



16.Ned5?! 2:08 Nxd5 3:59 17.Nxd5 56
Bxd5 14:17 18.Qxd5± 1:10 Qb6 2:30
19.Bc3 7:44 Rc5 6:21 20.Qd3 1:21
Qc6 2:09 21.Rfe1 3:46 Qc8 2:19

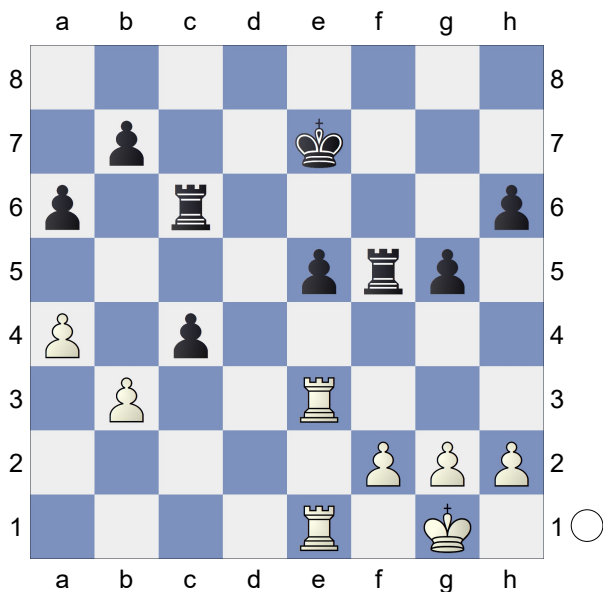
[21...a5=]

22.Rac1 5:43 Qe6 7:39 23.b3 6:11 f5
2:50 24.Bb4 3:40 Rc6 2:15 25.exf5
3:17 Qxf5 2:52 26.Qxf5?! 1:11

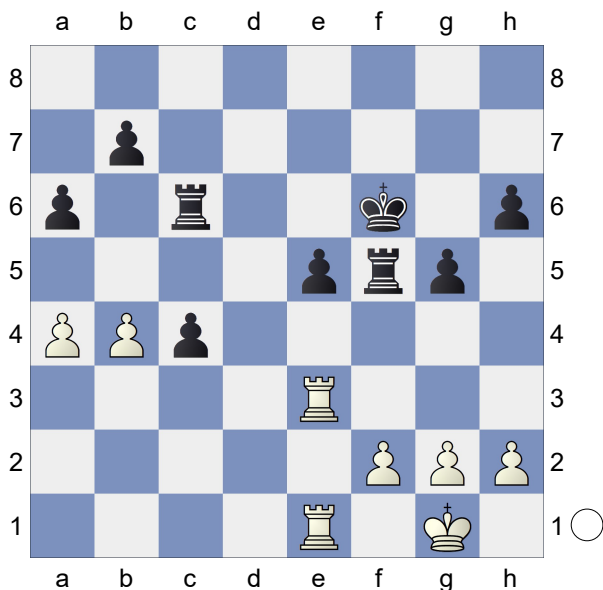
[26.Qe2±]

26...Rxf5 27.Re3 2:31 Kf7 2:46 28.c4
5:08 d5 2:43
 [28...b5!]

29.Bxe7 1:11 Kxe7 8 30.Rce1 35
 [30.g4!?]
30...dxc4 1:19



31.b4? 2:02
 [31.bxc4 Kd6 32.Rb3 Rf7 33.Rc1
 h5=]
31...Kf6 6:57
 [31...Rb6!]



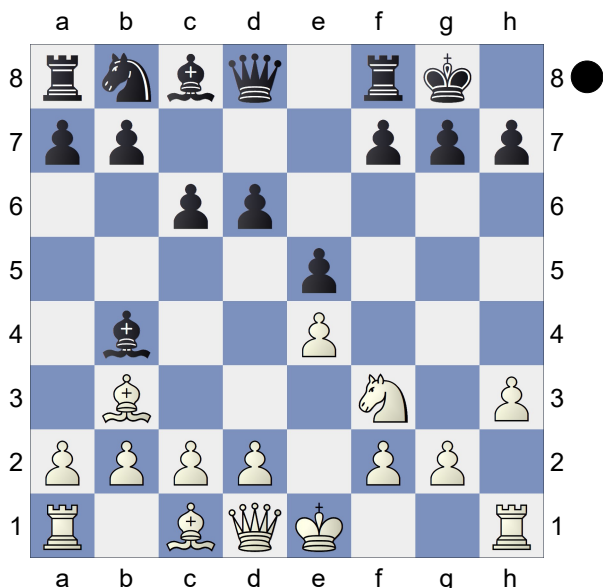
32.b5? 5:44 axb5-+ 53 33.axb5 10
Rc5 1:16 34.Rc3 1:55 Rf4 1:04
35.Rec1 54 Rxb5 11 36.g3 58 Rd4
2:26 37.Rxc4 34 Rd2 1:35 38.g4 4:00
Rbb2 15 39.Rf1 33 Rd4 2:32 40.Rfc1
1:18 Rb4 2:42 41.Rxb4 1:13 Rxb4 1

42.h3 20 Rb3 57 43.Kg2 21 Ke6 14
44.Rc7 1:16 Kd5 14 45.Rh7 29 Rb6 6
46.Rc7 27 Ke4 1:07 47.Rc3 1:49 Rc6
51 48.Rb3 1:00 b6 19 49.Rb5 1:51
Kd4 25 50.Rb4+ 3:59 Kc5 30 51.Re4
21 Kd5 1:13 52.Rb4 39 e4 28 53.Rb5+
1:08 Kc4 18 54.Re5 11 Kd4 40
55.Rb5 28 Re6 11 56.Kf1 1:48 Kc4 52
57.Rb1 1:02 b5 22 58.Rc1+ 30 Kd3
1:07 59.Rb1 59 Re5 7 60.Rb3+ 1:50
Kc2 19 61.Re3 18 b4 53 62.Re2+ 51
Kc3 40 63.Re3+ 43 Kc2 33 64.Re2+
16 Kd3 29 65.Re3+ 26 Kd4 66.Rb3 15
Kc4 10 67.Rb1 1:40 b3 9 68.Ke2 9
Kc3 29 69.Rc1+ 42 Kb2 5 70.Rc8 18
Kb1 1:51 71.Rc6 50 b2 14 72.Kd2 1:14
Ra5 1:28 73.Rc2 2:59 Rd5+ 15
0-1

C42
 □ **D'Mello, Sanjay 1532**
 ■ **Starr, Albert Martin 1530**
 2025 NY TNM: u1600 (5.25) 04.02.2025
[Winslow, Elliott]

Albert Starr came back from his loss
 with this game, an opening from another
 time. **1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.Nc3 Bb4**
4.Nf3 d6 5.h3 0-0

[5...Nc6 6.d3 h6 7.0-0 a6 8.Ne2
 Bc5 9.Be3 Bxe3 10.fxe3 Na5
 11.Bb3 Nxb3 12.axb3 Be6 13.Qe1
 Nh7 14.d4 Ng5 15.Nxg5 hxg5
 16.Qf2 Qe7 17.Qg3 f6 18.Rae1
 0-0-0 19.c4 Rh4 20.Nc3 Rdh8
 21.Rf3 g4 22.hxg4 Rxg4 23.Qf2
 Qe8 24.Kf1 Rgh4 25.Rg3 Qh5
 26.Ne2 Bg4 27.Ng1 Qh7 28.Nf3
 Rh1+ 29.Ke2 Qxe4 30.Rxg4 Qxg4
 31.Rxh1 Rxh1 32.dxe5 dxe5 33.Kd2
 Qd7+ 34.Kc3 a5 35.Qd2 0-1 (36)
Lazarov, K (1556)-Davkov, M (1798)
Skopje op-B 2024 (3)]
6.Nd5 Nxd5 7.Bxd5 c6 8.Bb3



h6N

[8...Re8 9.0-0 Be6 10.c3 Ba5
11.Bc2 Nd7 12.b4 Bc7 13.d4 d5
14.Ng5 Nf6 15.f4 Nxe4 16.Nxe4
dxe4 17.fxe5 Bd5 18.Qg4 Bb6
19.Bh6 g6 20.Bg5 Qc7 21.Kh1 Qc8
22.Qf4 e3 23.Qxe3 Rxe5 24.Qxe5
Qxh3+ 25.Qh2 Bxg2+ 26.Kg1 Bxf1
27.Rxf1 Qxc3 28.Bb3 Bxd4+ 29.Kh1
Rf8 30.Be7 Qd3 31.Qg2 Rc8
32.Bxf7+ Kg7 33.Bb3 Qe3 34.Bg5
Qe8 35.Rf7+ Qxf7 36.Bxf7 Kxf7
37.Qe4 Bf6 38.Qf4 1-0 (50) Briones
Espino,M (1520)-Melo,D (1130) Pan
American-ch Hybrid U16 31st Torneo
INT 2021 (3)]

**9.0-0 Nd7 10.a3 Ba5 11.d4 exd4
12.Qxd4 Nc5 13.Bf4 Bc7 14.Rad1
Nxb3 15.cxb3 c5 16.Qe3**

[16.Qc3!±]

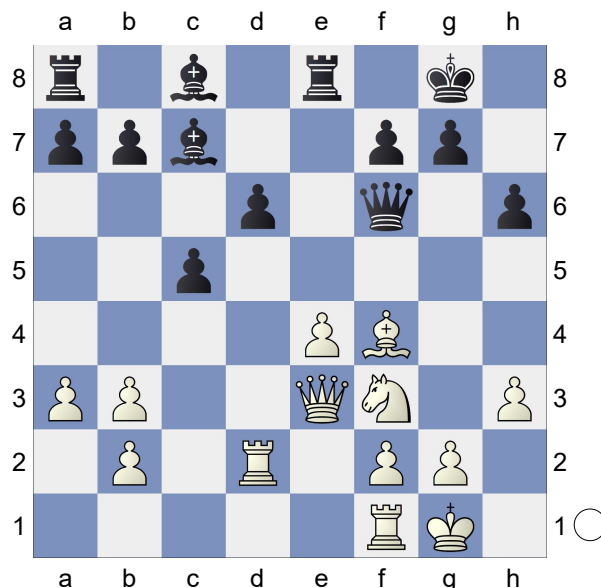
[16.Qd2!±]

16...Qf6 17.Rd2?! Pursuing d6, but
maybe forgetting that his own e4 pawn
will need a solution -- and the advantage,
however slight, passes to Black.

17...Re8

(Diagram)

18.g4?! Radically avoiding ...Bf5, now

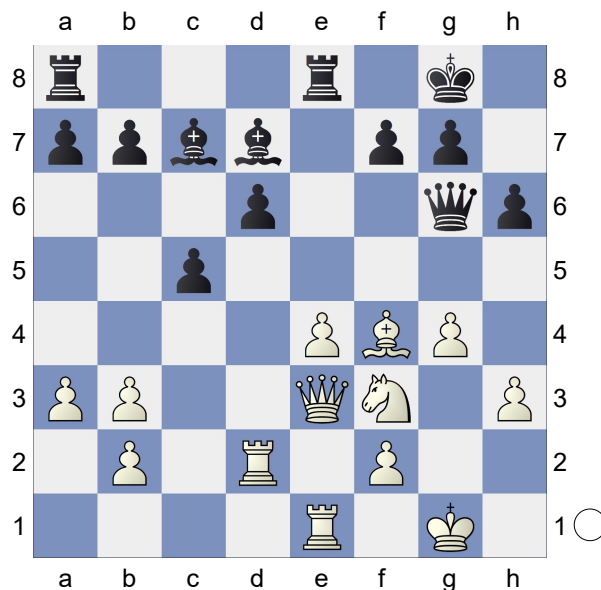


Black's plus could have been significant.

18...Qg6?!

[18...b5! was the most effective
development: 19.Rfd1 Bb7! 20.Bxd6
Bb6! 21.Qc3! Qxc3 22.bxc3 Bxe4
23.Ne1 Rac8± With the bishops
ruling and multiple annoying (for
White) pawn advances -- ...f5, ...c4, ...
b4 -- Black has a clear advantage.]

19.Re1 Bd7



20.Kh1??

[With 20.Nh4! Qf6 21.Nf5!

White could have sent that knight
from underperformer to superstar.

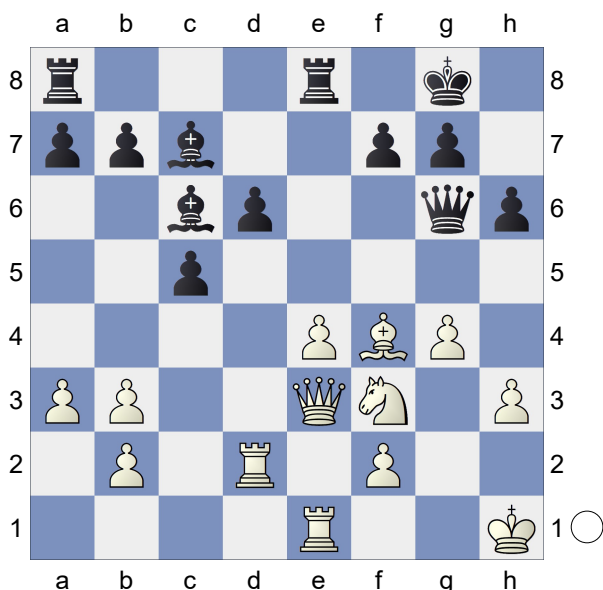
Black should probably just trade it off,

with complications.

A) 21...d5!? 22.Bxc7 Bxf5 23.e5!
(23.gxf5?? Rxe4-+ and the R/e1 falls) 23...Qg6 24.Bd6 b6 25.Kh2 is about even;

B) 21...Bxf5 22.gxf5 Ba5 23.Rxd6 Qh4 24.Re2 Bc7 25.Bg3! Qxh3 26.Rd7 Bxg3 27.Qxg3 Qxg3+ 28.fxg3 b6= is **very** hard to win for either side.]

20...Bc6!



The long diagonal leads straight to White's king. No more tactics for White: it's as good as over (and yet it went on for 38 moves, with some definite not-over moments!) **21.e5 dxe5 22.Bg3 Ba5 23.b4 cxb4 24.Red1 bxa3 25.Re2**

[25.Rd6 Qe4 26.Rxc6-+ was a better but futile try.]

[25.bxa3 Qe4-+ cleans up nicely.]

25...axb2

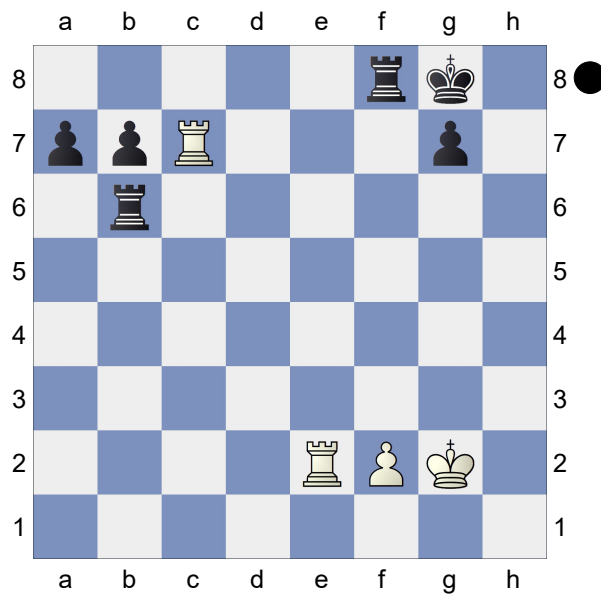
[25...a2! would **really** give White something to worry about.]

26.Rxb2 Qe4 27.Rd3 Qxe3 28.Rxe3 f6 29.Kh2 Bxf3?! 30.Rxf3 Bb6 31.h4 Rac8 32.g5 hxg5 33.hxg5 fxg5
[33...Kf7!]

34.Rf5 Rf8 35.Rxg5 Rf7 36.Kg2 Bd4 37.Re2 Rcf8 38.Bxe5 Bxe5

[38...Bxf2!]

39.Rgx5 Rf6 40.Re7 Rb6 41.Rc7



Rf7?? Black's been letting the win slip further and further, and now it could have disappeared for good.

[41...a5 42.Ree7 Rg6+-+ saves the day (and the pawns).]

42.Rc8+??

[42.Re8+ Rf8 43.Ree7 Rg6+ (43...Kh8 44.Rxg7 Rg8 45.Rxg8+ Kxg8=) 44.Kf1 a5 45.Rxb7= Ra8 46.Ra7 Rxa7 47.Rxa7 Rg5 48.Ke2=]

42...Kh7-+ Back in business. 43.Rc5

Kg6 Waste of time. 44.Ree5 Rd6

[44...Rb2]

45.Rg5+

(Diagram)

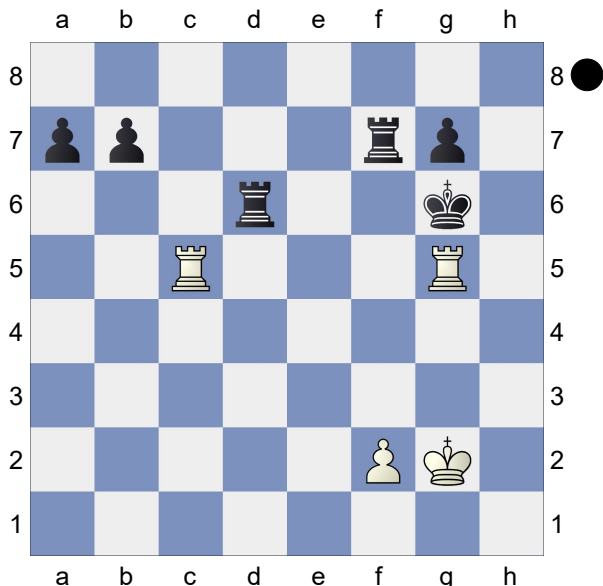
Kf6??

[45...Kh7]

46.f4??

[46.Rgf5+ Kg6 (46...Ke6?? 47.Rce5+-) 47.Rxf7 Kxf7 48.Rc7+=]

46...Ke6-+ The king finally finds a quiet place, and the pawns matter. **47.Kf3 Kd7 48.Rc4 b6 49.Re5 a5 50.Rb5 Rc6 51.Rd4+ Kc7 52.Rdd5 Rc4**



**53.Rf5 Rxf5 54.Rxf5 Rd4 55.Ke3 Rd7
56.Re5 Kc6 57.f5 b5 58.Re6+ Kc5
0-1**

□ Winslow,Elliott

C06

2215

■ Cremisi,Daniel

2398

2025 NY TNM: 2000+ (6.1) 11.02.2025

[Winslow,Elliott]

I really blew my chance. Cremisi has this occasional use of a once-exciting, now-just-dodgy g-pawn push in this line of the French Defense, and I hadn't adequately refreshed my knowledge of the path to all but refute it (nor my understanding of the ideas inherent). Still, he also had problems with coordination, and when I started a somewhat wild kingside attack it put him off his stride -- until I also lost my way. Definitely an exciting game! **1.e4 23 e6 2**

[1...a6 2.d4 e6 Paravyan surprised him with 3.Be3!? (3.Nf3; 3.Bd3)
3...Nf6 4.Nd2 b6 5.Bd3 Bb7 6.h3
d6 7.Ne2 Nbd7 8.c3 Be7 9.Ng3 0-0
10.Nf3 Re8 11.0-0 e5 12.Re1 Bf8
13.d5 b5 14.b3 and Magnus's fast
fooling around (Titled Tuesday blitz

tournament) didn't faze the Russian GM: 1-0 (68) Paravyan,D (2599)-Carlsen,M (2839) Titled Tuesday intern op 10th Oct Early Chess.com INT blitz 2023 (8)]

2.d4 8 d5 2 3.Nd2 7 a6 8 The "high-class waiting move" as annotators would put it frequently. Carlsen played it once here on move 3, but much more frequently (16 times in the Mega Database) played it *first*: 1...a6 (!) 2.d4 e6 3.

[3...c5 is the most principled and annoying for White. Tens of thousands of games.]

[3...Nf6 is more common, as it leads to more combative and complicated positions.]

[3...h6!? would be "high-class waiting on the other side," and does have a bit of a following. And prepares ... well, see the game.]

4.Ng3 10 The standard wait-and-see-as-well. **4...Nf6 11**

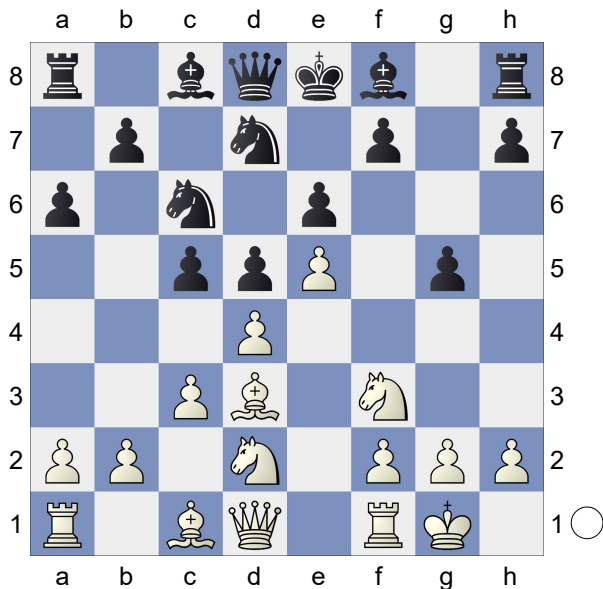
[4...c5 is the other opening strategy, and quite another story (maybe for another time).]

5.e5 3:33 Nfd7 2 6.Bd3 43 c5 6 7.c3 3 Nc6 8 8.0-0 15 White hasn't made any mistakes, but it is a slightly awkward positioning of the knights. **8...g5!? 7**

(Diagram)

9.Nb3! 38 changed the whole story on this line, although it takes a while to sink in.

[The first appearance of 8...g5 was radically met: 9.c4 (If nothing else, the 8 games in the database were all decisive! 4-4) g4 10.cxd5 exd5 11.Ne1 Nxd4 12.Nc2 (12.f4!?) 12...Nxc2 13.Bxc2 Nb6 0-1 (24) Dvoirys,S (2580)-Dyachkov,S (2520) RUS-ch Elista 1995 (6)]



[9.dxc5!? is an alternate "solution." g4
10.Nd4 Ndx e5 11.N2b3 Nxd3
12.Qxd3 e5 Galichenko lost this
game but continues to play this line
(close to a dozen times -- admittedly
mostly in the Titled Tuesdays).

1-0 (63) Naroditsky,D (2622)-
Galchenko,M (2442) Titled Tuesday
intern op 24th Jan Late Chess.com
INT blitz 2023 (3)]

[9.Nb1 -- a hard move to stomach. g4
10.Ne1 cxd4 11.cxd4 Nxd4 12.Qxg4
Nc6 13.f4 Nc5 14.Be3 h5
½-½ (62) So,W (2760)-Carlsen,M
(2853) Norway Masters blitz 11th
Stavanger 2023 (8)]

9...h6! 12

[9...g4 10.Ng5!]

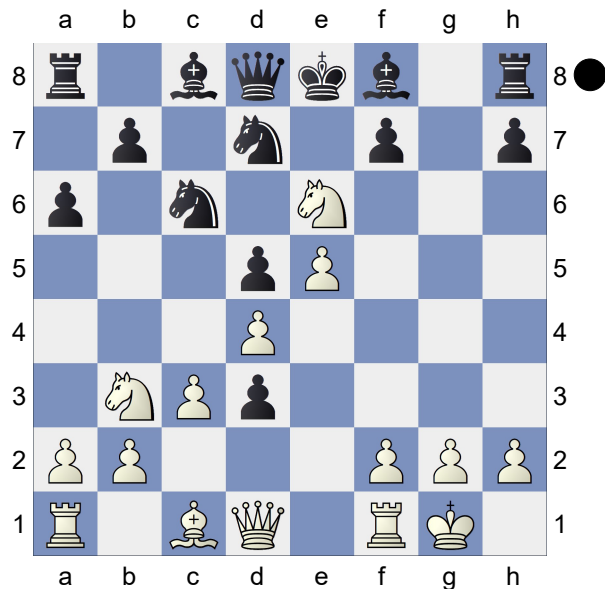
[9...c4 wins a piece, yes? 10.Nxg5!
cxd3 11.Nxe6!

(Diagram)

Qb6 12.Nf4 Ne7 13.Qh5+- Ng6
14.Nxd5 Qc6 15.c4!+- is everybody's
engine's "refutation" -- better
remember this if you're playing this
for White!]

10.dxc5?! 0.64/26 2:47

[10.Be2!± 1.09/27 would sidestep the



central madness and just leave White
solid. On general principals one might
be uncomfortable with Black's
pawns posturing towards White's
king...]

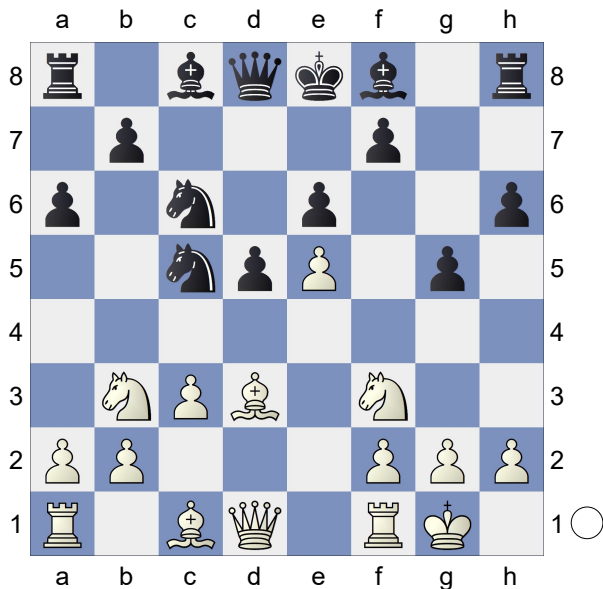
[10.Nxc5! is the right move order to
do something with the center, and the
theoretical recommendation. So I
slipped right away (well, after I
managed to remember 9.Nb3). Nxc5!
11.dxc5 Bxc5 12.Re1 Bd7 13.b4
Bf8 14.h3 d4 15.cxd4 Nxb4 16.Be4
Bc6 17.Bxc6+ Nxc6 18.Rb1 b5
19.a4 is a long line, hardly forced and
easy to miscalculate (who's got the
better bishop? The better pawns?).
But Stockfish (who else can I listen
to?) gives White a solid plus. +1.21/
d28 at the moment.]

10...Nxc5?! 1.20/21 24

[10...Bg7!? 0.64/26 is better, but
might just not equalize for Black
either: 11.Nbd4 Nxc5 12.Nxc6
(12.Re1!?) 12...bxc6 13.Bc2±]

(Diagram)

Giving me a chance to transpose to the
main line. **11.Nbd4?N 0.04/26 6:33**



I completely lose track.

[11.Nxc5± 1.20/21 Bxc5 12.Re1]
 [11.Re1 Nxd3 12.Qxd3 Bg7 13.g4
 Qc7 14.Qe2 Ne7 15.Nbd4 Ng6
 16.a4 Bd7 17.Bd2 0-1 (35)
Kouwenhoven,D (1904)-Vrolijk,L
(2162) NED-ch U14 Rotterdam 2016
(6)]

11...Qc7?! 0.49/23 4:08

[11...Nxd3!= 0.04/26 12.Qxd3 g4
 13.Nxc6 bxc6 14.Nd4 c5 15.Ne2
 a5=]

12.Nxc6?! 0.07/26 8:58

[12.Bc2!± 0.49/23 Nxe5?! (12...Nd7
 13.Re1 Bg7 I think that e-pawn might
 just fall.) 13.Nxe5 Qxe5 14.f4!±]

12...bxc6?! 0.65/27 29

[Black should try 12...Nxd3!= 0.07/26
 13.Qxd3 bxc6=]

13.Nd4? -0.70/26 4:04 Last chance!

[White should try 13.Bc2± 0.65/27]

13...Nxd3!± 2:42 14.Qxd3 14 c5! 1:44

[14...Qxe5 15.Nxc6 Qc7 16.Qd4=]

15.Nc2 2:14 Qxe5?! -0.29/28 2:40

[15...a5!± -0.66/23 16.Re1 Ba6!]

16.f4?! -0.99/27 8:26 White, already
 down a pawn, tries to "cause trouble"
 (objectively suspect).

[16.Re1= -0.29/28 remains within the
 range of balance:

**A) 16...Qc7± 17.b4! (17.Qxd5
 Bb7=) 17...cxb4 18.Nxb4= Be7
 19.Ba3 Bb7 20.Qd4 0-0 21.Nxd5!
 Bxd5 22.Bxe7 Qxe7 23.Qxd5;
 B) 16...Qd6 17.b4= c4!? 18.Qd4
 Rg8±]**

16...Qc7 1:29

[16...Qe4!? 17.Qxe4 dxe4 18.fxg5
 hxg5 19.Bxg5 Be7± is a completely
 different flow (but good for Black).]

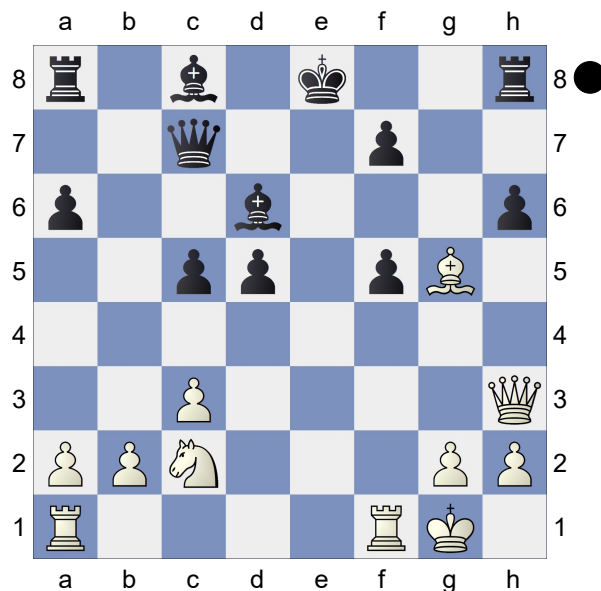
17.f5 1:56 Bd6 3:29

[17...exf5?! 18.Ne3=]

18.Qh3 2:20

[18.Ne3!? Bxh2+ 19.Kh1 Be5
 20.fxe6 Bxe6! (20...fxe6??
 21.Qg6+-) 21.Nxd5 Qd6 22.Nf6+
 Kf8 23.Qe4±]

18...exf5 4:37 19.Bxg5 1:05



Bxh2+! 1:19 20.Kh1! 16 Be5! 44

Repels Bf6 **21.Rae1 3:09 Be6 1:52**

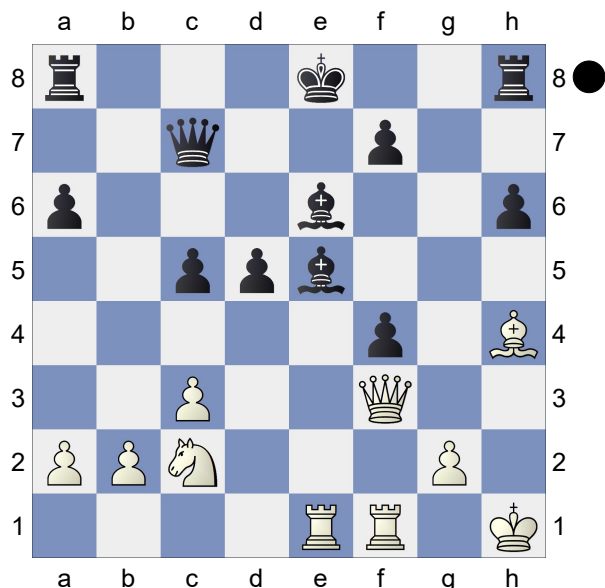
22.Bh4 6 f4! 6:39 Repels Ne3 **23.Qf3**
 2:14

(Diagram)

0-0! 3:45 Black has found a rough home -
 - the pawns might look bad, but they're
 substance. **24.Qh5?! -2.47/25 3:36**

[24.b4!± -1.44/26 keeps fighting.]

24...Bg7±+ 51 25.g3 1:52 d4 2:16



best of various ways forward

[25...fxg3 26.Bf6-+]

26.gxf4 4:32 **Qb7+?! 1:18**

[26...dxc3?! 27.bxc3 Kh7

(27...Bxc3? 28.Qxh6 Qb7+

29.Kh2+-; 27...Bxa2 28.Ne3 $\bar{f}$)

28.Rf3-+]

[26...Kh7 keeps options open.]

27.Kh2 28 Rg1 would now be deadly.

27...Qxb2? 1.38/29 2:29 Ambitious -- but

it's the proverbial Poisoned Pawn! Of course I didn't realize at the time, either, although I was "piqued" by the possibilities...

[27...Bxa2? 28.Rg1!+-]

[27...Kh7!+- -2.69/27 ...Rg8 is the

strong threat. 28.f5 Rg8 (28...Bxa2? 29.f6+-)]

[27...Qd5 28.f5 Kh7 $\bar{f}$ 29.cxd4

(29.Rxe6!? fxe6 30.Qg6+ Kg8 31.f6

Rf7 32.Rg1 Raa7 33.cxd4 cxd4

34.Ne1 Rac7! $\bar{f}$) 29...cxd4 30.Nb4!?

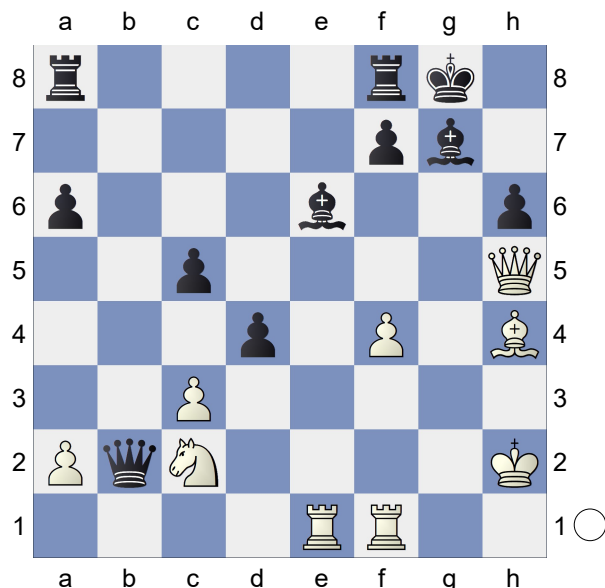
Qd6+ 31.Kh3 Bc4 32.Rg1 Rg8! $\bar{f}$]

(Diagram)

28.Rf2! $\pm$ 35 Qxc3?! 6:48

[28...Bxa2? 29.Rg2 Qb6 (29...dxc3

30.Qxh6 f5 31.Rxg7#) 30.Reg1+-]



[28...Kh7 29.Nxd4! Qb6 30.Nf3

That knight gets around f6! 31.Rg2

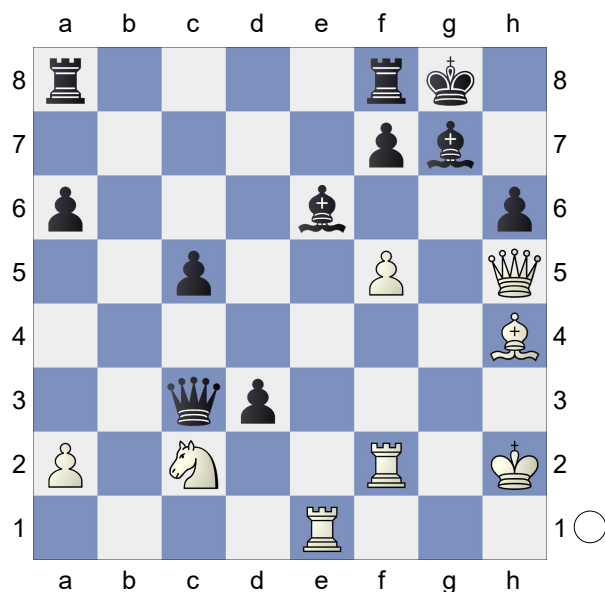
Ra7 32.Rg6 (32.Bf2)]

29.f5!+- 1:21 Amazingly, it's turned around. White's attack is coming full

blast. **29...d3** 8:29

[29...Bxa2? 30.f6 Be6 31.Rg2 Qh3+

32.Kg1+-]



30.f6? 0.49/33 17:37 This doesn't lose, but I was so caught up in this possibility that I neglected proper form: "(!) catalog your candidate moves." I suspected defenses for Black along the b1-h7 diagonal but thought I'd surely have

something. "Bad move! Bad!"
(Paraphrasing Krasnov's famous rebuke of Karpov, not realizing who he was talking to!)

[30.fxe6? fxe6 lets Black's rooks into the game: (30...dxc2 31.exf7+ Kh7 32.Rg2=) 31.Ne3 Rxf2+ (31...Qxe1? 32.Rxf8+) 32.Bxf2 Rf8+-]

[But 30.Re3!+- 1.35/25 I couldn't believe this would work!

A) 30...Qxc2 31.Rxc2 dxc2 and now 32.Re1!+- (the only move) was beyond my horizon in the confusion. Rab8 33.fxe6 (even better than 33.f6)

A1) 33...Rb1 34.exf7+ (34.Qxc5) 34...Rxf7 35.Re8+ the c-pawn will fall to a queen check;

A2) 33...fxe6;

B) 30...Bxf5]

30...dxc2? 3.09/28 4:02

[30...d2!± 0.49/33 31.fgx7

A) 31...Qh3+ 32.Kg1 dxe1Q+ (32...dxe1B 33.gxf8R+ Rxf8 34.Rg2+ Kh7 35.Nxe1±; 32...dxe1R+ 33.Nxe1 Kxg7 34.Rf3±) 33.Nxe1 Kh7!?

(33...Kxg7 34.Rf3!+-) 34.Rf3 Qg4+ 35.Qxg4 Bxg4 36.gxf8Q Rxf8 37.Ra3±;

B) 31...dxe1Q 32.gxf8Q+ Rxf8 33.Rg2+ Kh7 34.Bxe1 Qf6±;

C) 31...dxe1N!? 32.gxf8Q+ Rxf8 33.Bf6! Nf3+! 34.Qxf3 Qxf3 35.Rxf3 Rb8±]

31.Rg2?? -5.65/31 38

["Simply" 31.fgx7+- 3.09/28 wins. Qh3+ (31...Qxe1 32.gxf8Q+ Promotion Rxf8 33.Rg2+ Discovered Attack Kh7 34.Bxe1+-; 31...c1Q? 32.Rxc1 Qh3+ 33.Kg1+-; 31...Kxg7 32.Rg2+ Kh7 33.Rxe6 c1Q 34.Qf5+ Kh8 35.Bf6+) 32.Kg1]

31...c1Q 7:37 Black is clearly winning.

[31...c1R 32.Rxg7+ Kh8 33.Qxh6#]
32.Rxc1 6:53 **Qxc1** 1:33 **33.Rxg7+** 8:28 **Kh8** 12 **34.Bg5** 6:36

[34.Rg5 Qc2+ and ...Qh7. Nothing.]
34...Qb2+ 2:20 **35.Kg1** 14 **Qd4+** 46 **36.Kg2** 55 **Qg4+** 57 Weighted Error Value: White=0.63/Black=0.39 What a wild mess! Hard to tell what caused what, but I was sick for over a week (thus didn't play my last game). And Cremisi continued his magic to hang on in the last round while his competition, Chinguun, *lost* -- and took clear first.
0-1

A04

☐ **Bayaraa,Chinguun**

2083

☒ **Dzhanhirov,Dmytro**

2238

2025 NY TNM: 2000+ (6.2) 11.02.2025

[Winslow,Elliott]

A miracle turnaround from a lost game kept Chinguun tied for first-second with Cremisi -- it did *not* look good for quite a while! **1.Nf3** 18 **d6** 16 Relatively rare -- with 27183 games! **2.b3** 6

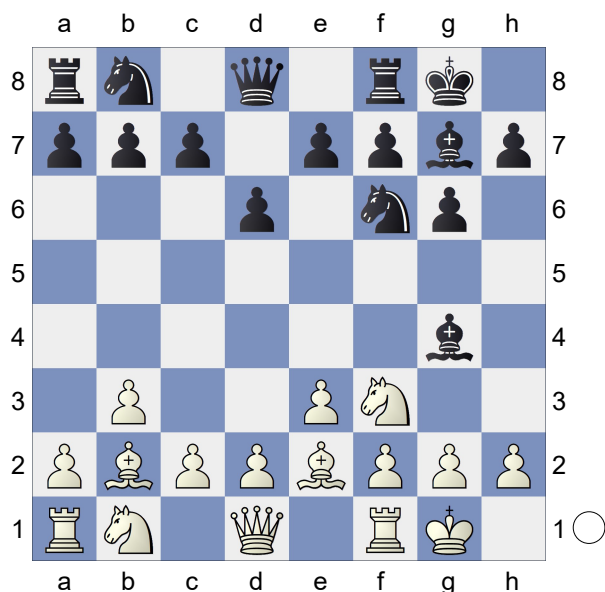
And now we're down to 516 games. That was fast!

[2.g3 e5 3.Bg2 c5 4.0-0 Nc6 5.c4 g6 6.Nc3 Bg7 7.a3 Nge7 8.Rb1 a5 9.Ne1 Be6 10.Nd5 0-0 11.Nc2 Rb8 12.b4 cxb4 13.axb4 b5 14.bxa5 bxc4 15.Nxe7+ Nxe7 16.Ba3 Qd7 17.a6 d5 18.Bc5 Qc7 19.Rxb8 Rxb8 20.a7 Ra8 21.Bxe7 Qxe7 22.Ne3 e4 23.d3 exd3 24.exd3 c3 25.Nxd5 Bxd5 26.Bxd5 Rxa7 27.Qf3 Bd4 28.Rc1 Kg7 29.Kg2 Qc5 30.Rc2 f5 31.Bc4 h5 0-1 (49) Matlakov,M (2623)-Wei,Y (2751) Titled Tuesday intern op 14th Jan Early Chess.com INT blitz 2025 (9)]

2...Bg4 13 22 games! **3.e3** 7 7 games...

[3.Bb2]

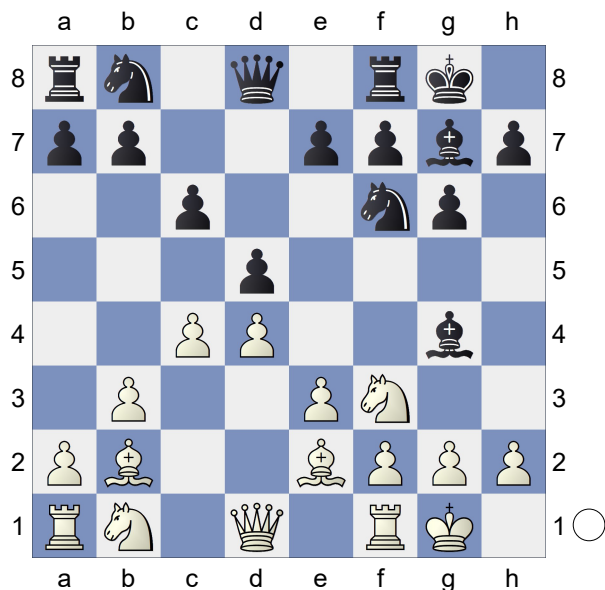
3...Nf6 53 some transposition... **4.Be2**
28 g6 13 **5.Bb2** 6 **Bg7** 7 **6.0-0** 18 **0-0**
 10



7.c4 7

[7.d4 Nbd7 8.c3 c5 9.Nbd2 Qc7
 0-1 (58) Liamos,E (1169)-Ximinis,I
(1039) GRE-ch U10 Achaia 2017 (5)]

7...c6 2:17 **8.d4±** 12 Novel here; a lot of
 transposition. **8...d5** 1:33



9.Ne5N 1:00 I think we're finally breaking
 new ground now:

[9.Nc3 e6 10.Ne5 Bxe2 11.Qxe2
 Nbd7 12.f4 Qe7 13.Rad1 dxc4
 14.Nxc4 Nd5 15.Rc1 Nxc3 16.Rxc3
 Rfc8 17.Rc2 Nb6 18.Ba3 Qd8

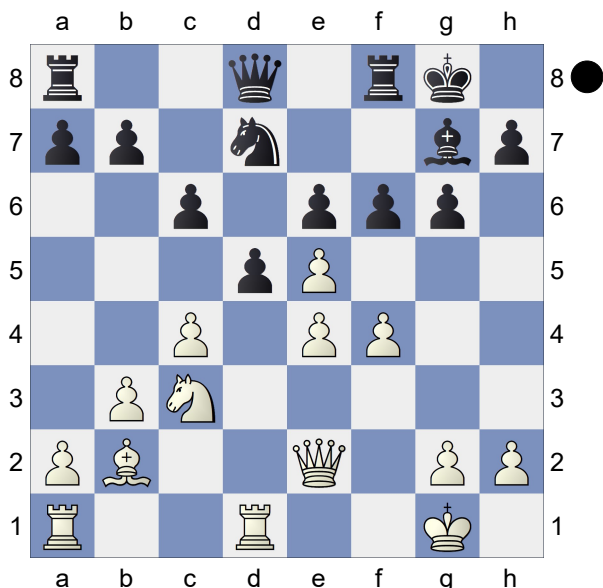
19.Rd1 Rc7 20.Bb2 Nd5 21.a3 Rd7
 22.Rcd2 Qc7 23.Ne5 Bxe5 24.fxe5
 Rad8 25.e4 Ne7 26.Qf2 Nc8
 27.Rd3 Nb6 28.Bc1 f6 29.exf6 e5
 30.Bg5 Kf7 31.Qh4 h5 32.Qf2 Qd6
 33.g4 Qe6 34.h3 exd4 35.Qf4 Qd6
 36.e5 Qe6 37.gxh5 gxh5 38.Qe4
 Ke8 39.f7+ Rxf7 40.Bxd8 Rg7+
 41.Kh2 Kxd8 42.Rxd4+ Nd5 43.Rf1
 Kc7 44.Qf5 Qg8 45.Qf3 Qh7 46.b4
 Qg6 47.Rd2 Qg5 48.Re2 Ne7 49.e6
 Ng6 50.Rg1 Nh4 51.Qg3+ Qxg3+
 52.Rxg3 Re7 53.Re4 Nf5 54.Rf3
 Nd6 55.Re2 Kb6 56.Rd3 Kc7
 57.Kg3 Ne8 58.Kf4 Ng7 59.Rde3
 Ne8 60.Kg5 Nd6 61.Kf6 Re8 62.e7
 Kd7 63.Rd2 Kc7 64.Rxd6 Kxd6
 65.Kf7 Rh8 66.e8Q Rxe8 67.Rxe8
 Kc7 68.Re6 Kd7 69.a4 Kc7 70.Kg7
 a6 71.Kh6 Kd7 72.Rg6 Kc7
 73.Kxh5 Kb6 74.Kg5 a5 75.bxa5+
 Kxa5 76.h4 Kxa4 77.h5 b5 78.h6
 b4 79.Rxc6 b3 80.Rb6 b2 81.Rxb2
 Ka3 82.Rb8 Ka4 83.h7 Ka3 84.h8Q
 Ka4 85.Qa1# 1-0 Kozakow,A (1396)-
Koseski,D (1478) POL Region-ch U11
Lochow 2010 (8.2)]

[9.Qc2 Nbd7 10.Nbd2 Bf5 11.Bd3
 Bxd3 12.Qxd3 Re8 13.Qc2 dxc4
 14.bxc4 Qc7 15.e4 e5 16.dxe5 Ng4
 17.e6 Rxe6 18.Bxg7 Kxg7 19.h3
 Ngf6 20.Rab1 b6 21.Ng5 Re7 22.f4
 h6 23.e5 Ng4 24.Nge4 Ne3 25.Qc3
 Nxf1 26.e6+ Ne5 27.Rxf1
 1-0 (51) Rogov,Y-Nadvikov,R (2188)
Moscow-ch Silent fin 1996]

9...Bxe2 31 **10.Qxe2** 6 **Nbd7** 6:06
11.Rd1 52 **e6** 2:27 **12.Nc3** 56 **Nxe5**
 4:40 **13.dxe5** 12 **Nd7** 3 **14.f4** 55
 With the idea cxd5. **14...f6** 31 **15.e4?**
 -0.95/25 14:47

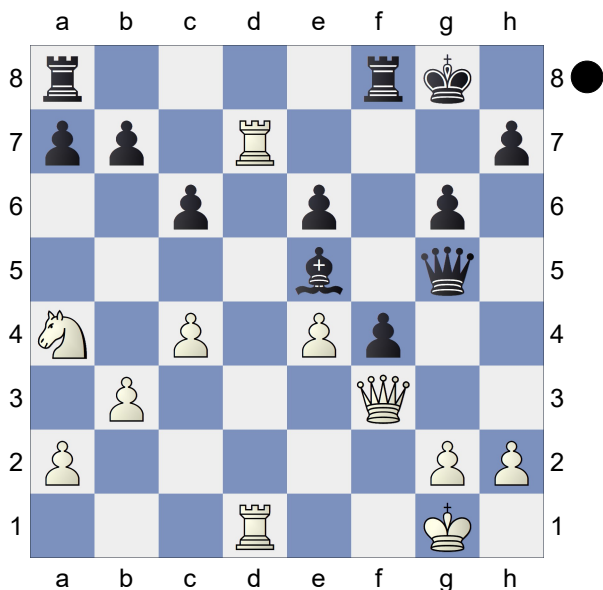
[15.cxd5= 0.12/29 exd5 16.exf6
 Qxf6 17.Rf1]

(Diagram)



15...d4! 11:35 **16.Rxd4** 16:36 **fxe5** 17
17.Rd6 7:38 **exf4** 6:25 Black has a king
side majority **18.Na4?** -2.64/26 4:22
[18.Rad1+ -0.98/23 Qb6+ 19.Kh1]
18...Qe7 10:37

[18...f3! 19.gxf3 Bxb2 20.Nxb2
Qg5+ 21.Kh1 Ne5]
19.Rad1 4:38 **Ne5** 1:48 **20.Bxe5** 4:44
Bxe5 12 **21.Rd7** 7 **Qg5** 4:01 **22.Qf3** 7



Qf6? 0.08/29 20:05
[22...b6+ -1.91/22 23.Qh3 Bg7!
24.Qxe6+ Kh8 Yes, it's White who is
in trouble. Surprising.]
23.Nc5= 4:27 White even has what tiny
advantage there is. **23...Rae8** 9:45

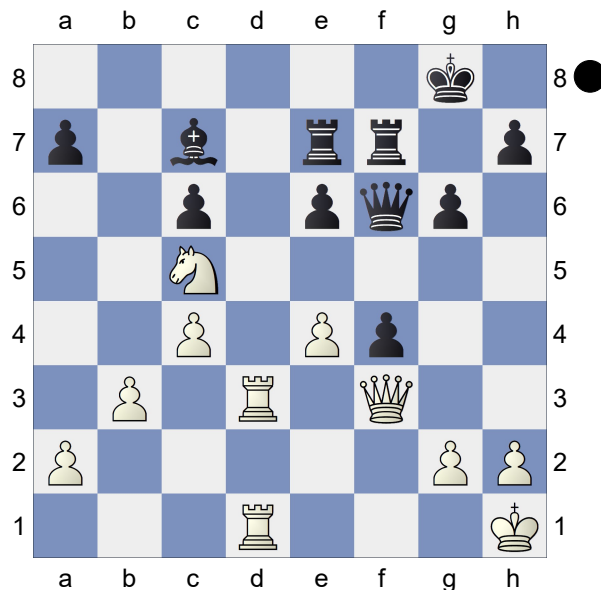
24.Nxb7 2:13 Black is weak on the light
squares **24...Re7** 3:25

[24...Rf7]

25.Nc5 46 **Rff7** 4:44 **26.R7d3** 3:22

[26.Kf1!?]

26...Bc7 52 **27.Kh1** 1:12



Bb6? 1.13/20 1:38

[27...a5= 0.00/22 keeps the balance.]

28.Nd7± 36 White is more active.

28...Qg5 3:29 **29.Nxb6?** 0.10/28 2:37

[29.b4± 1.18/25]

29...axb6= 1 **30.Rd6** 22 **Qc5** 1:29

31.Qh3 9:52 Everything is 0.00 ...

31...Qf2 3:20 **32.R6d2** -0.20/31 8:37

Against f3

[32.Qf3 0.19/27 Qc5 33.g3]

32...Qc5 6

[32...Qe3!+ !=]

33.Qh6± 1:32 !=

33...Rf8 1:54 **34.Rd8** 1:17 **Ref7** 3

35.R1d7→ 2:37

(Diagram)

White attacks. **35...Rxd8??** 3.51/30 1:16

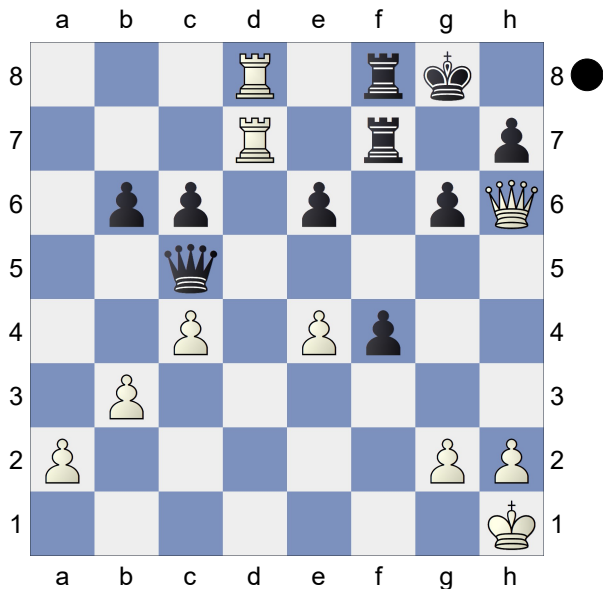
[35...Qb4!= 0.15/28 and Black has no

reason to worry. **36.Rxf8+ Qxf8**

37.Qxf8+ Kxf8]

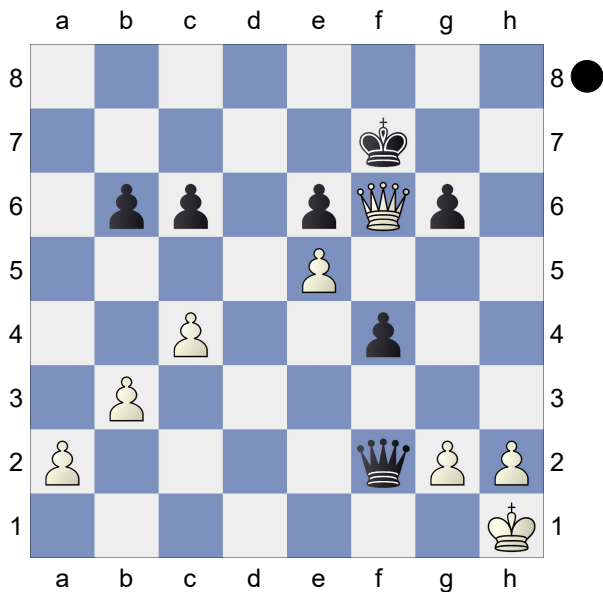
36.Rxd8+ 7 Rf8 2 37.Rd7 20 Rf7 1

38.Rxf7 30 Kxf7 9 39.Qxh7+- 16



[Weaker is 39.Qxf4+ Kg7 40.Qc7+ Kh6±]

39...Kf6 5 40.Qh8+ 30 Kf7 13 41.e5 1:12 Qf2 30 42.Qf6+ 8



Ke8 27 43.Qxe6+ 37 Kd8 43 44.Qd6+ 22 Kc8 3 45.Qxc6+ 10 Kb8 2 46.Qd6+ 53 Ka7 7 47.Qd7+ 1:04 Ka6 21 48.Qd1 1:12 g5 6 49.h3 3:31 Qe3 7 50.Kh2 1:59 Black must now prevent Qf3. 50...Qxe5 17 51.Qd5 11 Qb8 37 52.Kg1 34 Qh8 2:02 53.Qxg5 1:37 Qd4+ 26 54.Kh2 10 Qf2 14 55.Qb5+ 45 Ka7 30 56.Qd7+ 8 Kb8 29 57.Qg4 46 Ka7 20 58.a3 35 Kb8 1:01 59.Qf3 8 Qd2 1:04 60.b4 35 Ka7 16 61.c5 10

bxc5 1:38 62.bxc5 5 Kb8 33.86/17 8 [62...Qd4 4.45/24 63.Qc6 Qe3 64.Qb6+ Ka8]

63.Qb3+ 6 Kc8 6 64.Qe6+ 5 Kb7 41

65.Qb6+ 5 Kc8 24 66.Qc6+ 5

Quite a comeback for White.

1-0

□ Qiu,Laurie B33
 ■ Seshadri,Sudarshan 2155
 2025 NY TNM: 2000+ (6.7) 2003
 [Winslow,Elliott] 11.02.2025

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Nd5 Nxd5 8.exd5 Nb8 9.c4 Be7 10.Bd3 0-0 11.0-0 a6 12.Nc3 f5 13.f3 Nd7 14.Kh1! is recently more successful than 14.Be3. 14...Bg5

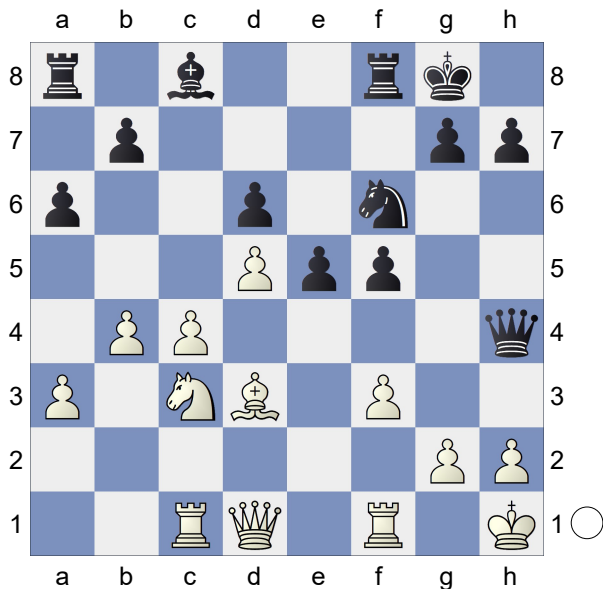
[Relevant: 14...a5 15.a3 Nc5 16.Bc2 Bd7 17.Rb1 a4 18.Be3 Rc8 19.Qe2 Qa5 20.g4 Nb3 21.gxf5 Bxf5 22.Bxf5 Rxf5 23.Rg1 Qc7 24.Nxa4 Rf7 25.Rg4 Bf6 26.Nc3 Nd4 27.Bxd4 exd4 28.Nb5 Qxc4 29.Qxc4 Rxc4 30.Nxd6 Rc5 31.Nxf7 Kxf7 32.Rd1 Rxd5 33.Re4 Kg6 34.Kg2 Kf5 35.Kf1 g5 36.Ke2 Rb5 37.b4 Rb6 38.Rd3 Rc6 39.Kd1 h5 40.Re2 b5 41.Re8 Be5 42.Rf8+ Ke6 43.h3 Rc4 44.Rd8 ½-½ (54) Ivanchuk,V (2647)-Dardha,D (2554) Wch Rapid New York 2024 (12)]

15.a3 Bxc1 16.Rxc1 Qh4 17.b4 Nf6

(Diagram)

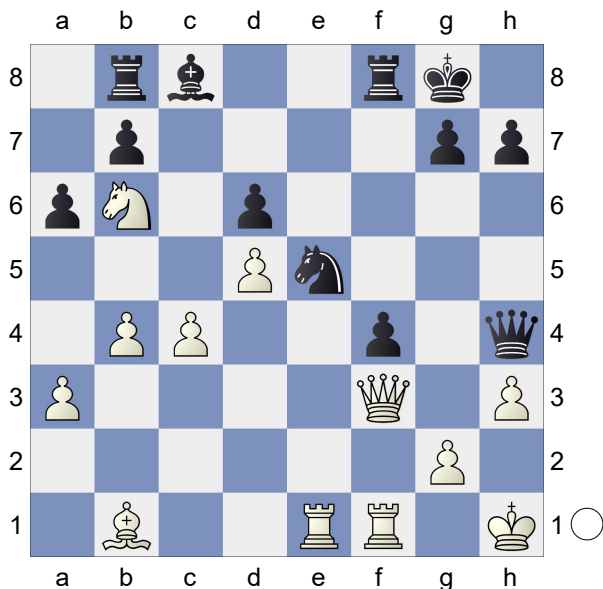
18.Na4N

[Predecessor: 18.Qd2 Bd7 19.Rfe1 Nh5 20.c5 Rae8 21.cxd6 Nf4 22.g3 Qh5 23.gxf4 Qxf3+ 24.Kg1 Rf6 25.Bf1 Rg6+ 26.Bg2 exf4 27.Rxe8+ Bxe8 28.Kh1 Qg4 29.Qe2 Qxe2



30.Nxe2 Rxd6 31.Nxf4 g5 32.Ne6 Rxd5 33.Bxd5 1-0 Vrblijanac,A (2280)-Joubert,D (1566) Titled Tuesday intern op 02nd Aug Late Chess.com INT blitz 2022 (2)]

18...e4 19.Nb6 Rb8 20.Bb1 exf3 21.Qxf3 Ng4 22.h3 f4 23.Rce1 Ne5

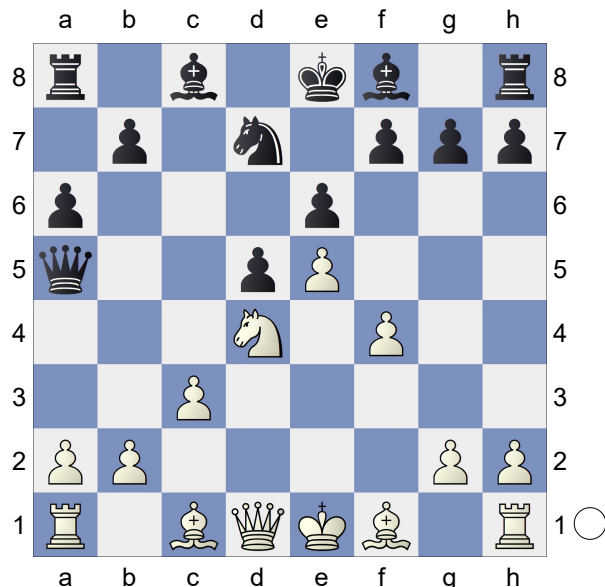


24.Rxe5 dxe5 25.d6 Bf5 26.Bxf5 Rxf5 27.d7 Qe7 28.Qd5+ Kh8 29.c5 Rff8 30.Re1 f3 31.gxf3 Qh4 32.Re3 Rf5 33.Kg2 Rg5+ 34.Kf1 Qxh3+ 35.Ke2 Rg2+ 36.Kd3 Qf5+ 37.Qe4 Qf7 38.Qxe5 Qb3+ 39.Qc3 Qf7 40.Qc4 Qf8 41.Qe6 Rg3 42.Qe8 Rxf3

43.Nc8 Rxe3+ 44.Kxe3 1-0

C05
 1984
 1900
 2025 NY TNM: 1600-1999 (6.5) 11.02.25
 [Winslow,Elliott]

The two leaders meet; Jeremy prevails to stand in clear first with one round to go. 1.e4 1 Nf6 23 2.Nc3 24 d5 26 3.e5 1:17 Nfd7 1:04 4.d4 23 e6 2 5.Nce2 58 c5 24 6.c3 2 Nc6 3 7.f4 26 Qa5 48 8.Nf3 2:14 cxd4 4:33 [8...Be7 9.Be3 Qb6 10.Rb1 a5 11.a4 f6 12.exf6 Nxf6 13.dxc5 Bxc5 14.Bxc5 Qxc5 15.Ned4 0-0 16.Bb5 Ne4 17.0-0 Rxf4 18.Bxc6 bxc6 19.Ne5 Rf6 20.Qh5 Ba6 21.Rxf6 gxf6 22.Qf7+ Kh8 23.Nd7 Qa7 24.Qxe6 Rg8 25.Nxf6 Rg6 26.Qe8+ Kg7 27.Nxe4 dxe4 28.Qxe4 Bc4 29.Qe5+ Kg8 30.g3 Bd5 31.Rf1 Qd7 32.Qb8+ 1-0 Murzin,V (2478)-Jumabayev,R (2637) PNWCC Online Blitz JP 22 Chess.com INT 2021 (3)] 9.Nexd4 5 Nxd4 1:47 10.Nxd4 2 a6 48

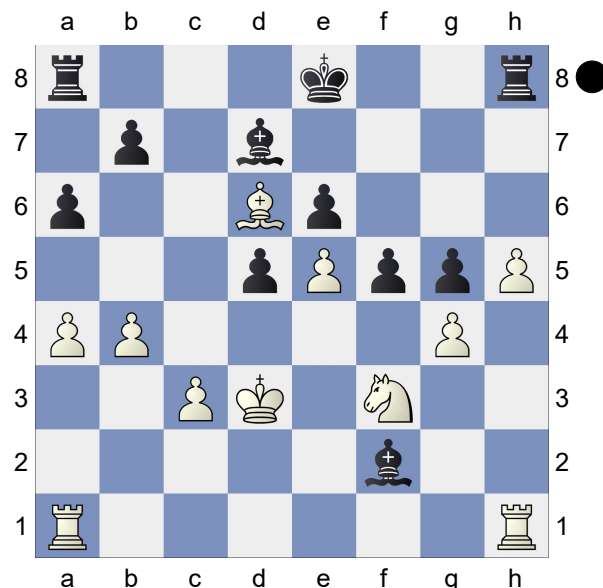


11.Be3± 1:07

[11.Bd3 Qc7 12.0-0 Nc5 13.Bc2 g6
 14.Qe2 Bg7 15.Bd2 b5 16.Rae1 0-0
 17.g4 Ne4 18.Nf3 Bb7 19.Be3 a5
 20.Nd2 b4 21.Nxe4 dxe4 22.c4
 Rfc8 23.b3 a4 24.Bd2 axb3 25.axb3
 Ra2 26.Bb1 Qc5+ 27.Rf2 Rb2
 28.Qe3 Bf8 29.Kf1 Rd8 30.Qxc5
 Bxc5 31.Be3 Rxb1 32.Bxc5 Rxb3
 33.f5 Rc8 34.Bd6 exf5 35.gxf5
 Rxc4 36.e6 e3 37.fxc6 fxe6
 38.gxh7+ Kxh7 39.Rf7+ Kg6
 40.Rxb7 Rg4 1-0 (46) Novotny,O
 (1823)-Zeman,D (1856) CZE-chT2D
 1920 Czech Republic 2019 (6.8)]

11...Be7 1:46 **12.Qc2** 2:49 **g6** 5:55
13.h4 2:40 **Qd8?! 2:59 14.h5+-** 4:37
Bh4+ 8:42 **15.Kd1** 3:30
 [15.Kd2!]
15...Nf8? 15:39
 [15...g5!±]
16.Bd3 16:35 **f5** 7:45 **17.Qb3** 6:15 **g5**
 6:39 **18.Nf3** 54 **h6** 13:46 **19.Bc5?! 3:25**
 [19.Kc2]
 [19.g3! Bxg3 20.fxc6+-]
19...Nd7± 1:11 **20.Bd6** 22 **Bf2** 42
21.fxc6 1:29 **hxc6** 40 **22.g4** 29 **Nc5**
 1:07 **23.Qc2** 49 **Nxd3** 54 **24.Qxd3** 3
Qb6 3:33 **25.b4?!±** 8:22
 [25.b3±]
25...Qe3?! 2:02
 [25...Bd7]
26.Kc2? 1:03
 [26.Qxe3! Bxe3 27.Ke2 Bf4
 28.Rag1±]
26...Bd7 1:01
 [26...Qxd3+ 27.Kxd3 fxc6=]
27.a4?! 2
 [27.Qxe3 Bxe3 28.gxf5 exf5 29.e6!
 Bxe6 30.Be5 Rh6 31.Rae1 f4
 32.Nxc6 Bf5+ 33.Kb2±]
27...Qxd3+ 2:57
 [27...d4!±]
28.Kxd3 2

(Diagram)

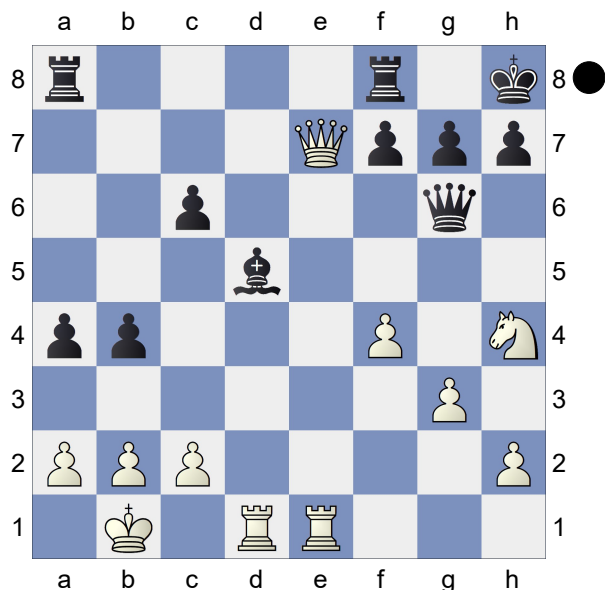


Bh4?? 3:34
 [28...fxg4 29.Nxc6 g3=]
29.Nxc6 1:29
 [29.gxf5!]
29...gxh4 2 **30.Rxh4+-** 42 **fxg4** 30
31.Rxc6 1:54 **0-0-0** 1:32 **32.Rh1** 2:14
Bxa4 41 **33.Rg6** 40 **Bb5+** 15 **34.Kd4**
 20 **Rdg8** 4:15 **35.Rhg1** 2:39 **Rxc6** 1:06
36.hxc6 1 **b6** 2:21 **37.g7** 58 **Rg8** 29
38.Bf8 34 **Be8** 31 **39.Ra1** 35 **Bb5** 25
40.Ke3 18 **Kd7** 47 **41.Ra2** 53 **Bc4** 29
42.Rf2 1:59 **Ke8** 29 **43.Kf4** 43 **Bd3**
 2:11 **44.Kg5** 11 **Bf5** 18 **45.Kf6** 41
Rxf8+ 20 **46.gxf8Q+** **Kxf8** 47.**Ra2** 25
Bd3 57 **48.Kxe6** 14 **Bc4** 2 **49.Rf2+** 2
Ke8 1 **50.Kd6** 20
1-0

C45
 Powers, Christopher 1828
 Pham, Nguyen Hoang Duy 1810
 2025 NY TNM: 1600-1999 (6.15) 11.02.25
 [Winslow, Elliott]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4
 Bc5 5.Be3 Nxd4 6.Bxd4 Bxd4 7.Qxd4
 Qf6 8.e5 Qb6 9.Qc3 Ne7 10.Bc4 0-0
 11.Nd2 a5 12.0-0-0 d5 13.exd6 Qxd6
 14.Rhe1 Be6 15.g3 Nd5 16.Bxd5

Bxd5 17.Nb3 c6 18.f4 b5 19.Nd4 b4
20.Qe3 Kh8 21.Kb1 a4 22.Qe7 Qh6
23.Nf5 Qg6 24.Nh4



Bxa2+ 25.Kxa2 Qxc2 26.Qxb4 a3
27.Re5 axb2+ 28.Ra5 b1Q+ 29.Ka3
Qca2#

0-1

□ Admassu, Yonathan

A07

1765

■ Smith, Roger Christopher

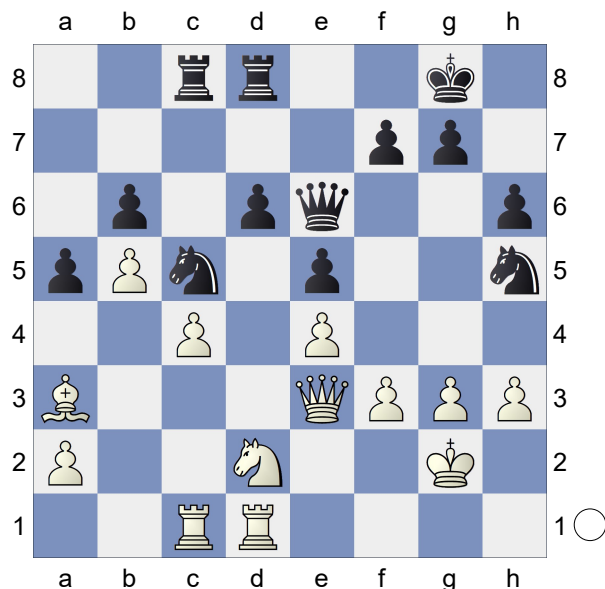
1843

2025 NY TNM: 1600-1999 (6.16) 11.02.25
[Winslow, Elliott]

After a lackluster 2-2 start and a forfeit win in Round 5, Roger finished strong with two wins and a tie for 2nd. Here after a quiet and slightly unusual opening, he is handed a sudden shot against Admassu's weakened king position.

1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 e6 4.0-0 Bd6 5.d3 h6 6.Nbd2 e5 7.e4 dxe4 8.dxe4 Be6 9.Qe2 0-0 10.Rd1 Qe7 11.h3 Nc6 12.c3 Rfd8 13.b4 a5 14.b5 Nb8 15.Nc4 Nbd7 16.Nxd6 cxd6 17.Ba3 Ne8 18.Qe3 Bc4 19.Bf1 Bxf1 20.Kxf1 Qe6 21.Kg2 Rac8 22.Rac1 b6 23.Nd2 Nc5 24.c4 Nf6 25.f3 weakens g3 but still fine, except...

25...Nh5



26.Qe2??

[26.Nf1!= Overprotects g3, opens up protection of d3, and who knows, maybe a step towards a later Ne3-d5. If he was concerned about 26...f5 27. exf5 Qxf5 and now having Ne4 ready, well, there were more pressing things going on!]

26...Qg6! (And just like that: it's over.)

27.Qe3 Qxg3+ 28.Kf1 Qxh3+ 29.Ke1 Nf4 30.Qg1 Ncd3#

0-1

□ Stults, Sawyer

B21

1348

■ Bayaraa, Bilguun

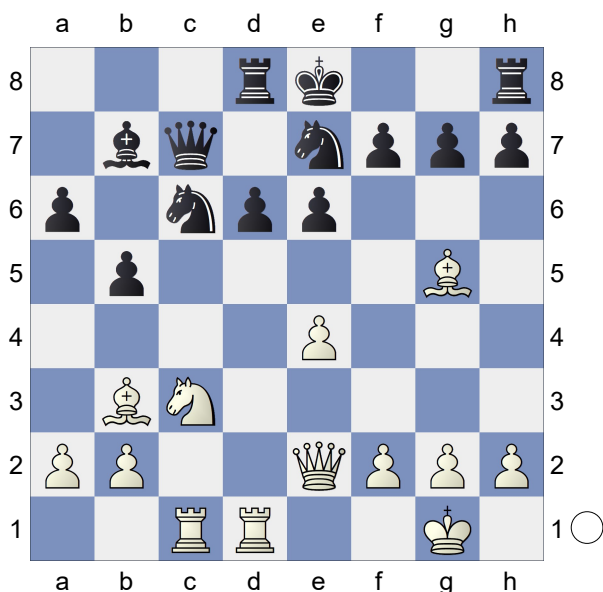
1359

2025 NY TNM: u1600 (6.6) 11.02.2025
[Winslow, Elliott]

Here the sole leader is taken down a notch: Bilguun Bayaraa was the only perfect 5-0 but Sawyer Stults shows some Nd5 flash in a Morra Gambit to join her in first, along with Albert Starr. 1.e4 c5 7 2.d4 3 cxd4 4 3.c3 4 dxc3 2:56 4.Nxc3 6 Nc6 47 5.Nf3 5 d6 3:47 6.Bc4 14 e6 6:24 7.0-0 2:19 Be7 2:22 8.Qe2 23 a6 3:18 9.Rd1 2:45 b5 2:34

[Relevant: 9...Qc7 10.Bf4 Nf6 11.e5 Nh5 12.Bg5 Bxg5 13.Nd5 Qd8 14.Nxg5 Nf4 15.Qf3 Qxg5 16.Nc7+ Kd8 17.Nxa8 Nxe5 18.Qg3 Qxg3 19.hxg3 Nxc4 20.gxf4 Bd7 21.Rac1 d5 22.b3 Nd6 23.Nb6 Bc6 24.Nc4 Kc7 25.Ne3 h5 26.f3 Kd7 27.Rd2 f6 28.g3 g5 29.Re1 Rg8 30.fxg5 fxg5 31.Nc2 Nf5 32.g4 hxg4 33.fxg4 Nd6 34.Nd4 Ne4 35.Rf1 Nxd2 0-1 Haug,U (2486)-Loinjak,S (2623) WC-2017-S-00001 LSS email]

10.Bb3 1:57 **Bb7** 5:13 **11.Bf4** 2:01 **Qc7** 3:11 **12.Rac1** 3:32 **Rd8** 11:04 **13.Ng5** 35:37 **Bxg5** 10:45 **14.Bxg5** 4 **Nge7** 11:07



15.Qh5!?+- 23:54

[Predecessor: 15.Qg4± but something goes wrong down the line: Ne5 16.Qg3 Qb6?! 17.Be3+- Qa5 18.Qxg7 Rg8 19.Qf6?!± (19.Qxh7+-) 19...Rg6?! (19...b4) 20.Qh8+ Rg8 21.Qf6 Rg6 22.Qh8+ Rg8 23.Qxh7!+- N7g6? 24.Qh5? (24.Qxg8+) 24...Rh8 25.Qg5 Rg8 26.Qf6 Bc6 27.Bg5 b4 28.Ne2 Bxe4 29.Nf4 Nc6 30.Re1 (30.Nxe6; 30.Rxc6) 30...Nxf4 31.Qxf4 (31.h4!) 31...Qxg5 32.Qxe4 d5 33.Qf3??-+ Ne5 34.Qg3 Qxg3 35.hxg3 Nd3

36.Red1 Nxc1 37.Rxc1 Ke7 38.Rc6 Rc8 39.Rxa6 Rc1+ 0-1 Manz,A-Mueller,G (2355) Baden-ch AT Waldshut 1991 (7)]
[15.Nd5! right now!]

15...Qc8 23:00 **16.Nd5!** 3:29
Still there! **16...exd5** 2:54 **17.exd5** 2:50 **Qf5** 3:47 **18.dxc6** 4:12 **Bxc6** 14 **19.Rxc6** 1:07 **Nxc6** 15 **20.Re1+** 6 **Ne5** 4:54 **21.f4** 3:30 **0-0** 2 **22.fxe5** 15 **h6** 29 **23.h4** 3:41 **hxg5** 15 **24.Rf1** 10 **Qh7** 1:52 **25.Bxf7+** 3:51 **Kh8** 2 **26.Qxg5** 5 **dxe5** 1:11 **27.Rf5** 3:22 **Rxf7** 55 **28.Qxd8+** 1:21 **1-0**

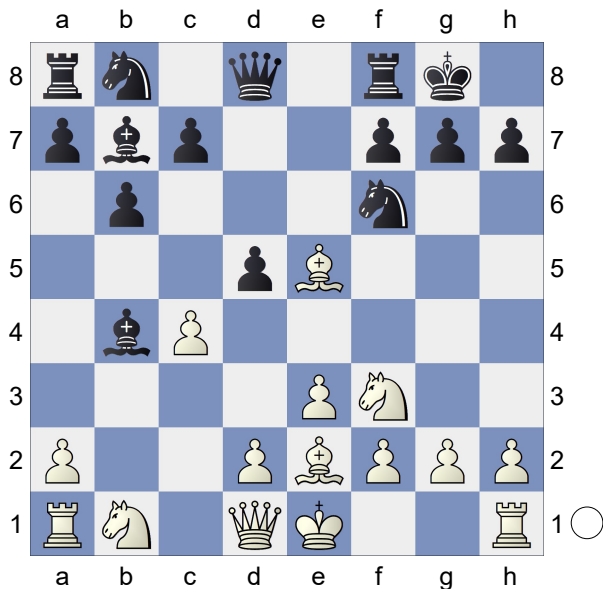
A00
□ **Starr,Albert Martin** **1530**
■ **Hollon,Nick** **1295**
2025 NY TNM: u1600 (6.26) 11.02.2025
[Winslow,Elliott]

Albert makes hay with his always Orangutan, keeping him at the top with Bilguun -- and a new face, Sawyer Stults. But it wasn't a smooth swing through the jungle... **1.b4 e5 2.Bb2 Bxb4 3.Bxe5 Nf6 4.c4 0-0 5.e3 b6**

[5...Re8 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Bb2 d5 8.cxd5 Nxd5 9.Be2 Rxe3 10.fxe3 Nxe3 11.Qb3 Nxg2+ 12.Kf2 Be6 13.Bc4 Nf4 14.Bxe6 fxe6 15.d4 Qf6 16.Na3 Qf5 17.Rhg1 Nd3+ 18.Ke3 Qf4+ 19.Kxd3 Qxf3+ 20.Kc2 Qf2+ 21.Kd3 Ne5+ 22.dxe5 Rd8+ 23.Ke4 Qf5+ 24.Ke3 Bc5+ 25.Ke2 Qf2# 0-1 Firouzja,A (2777)-Hayrapetyan,H (2426) Titled Tuesday intern op 28th Nov Early Chess.com INT blitz 2023 (8)]

6.Nf3 Bb7 7.Be2 d5

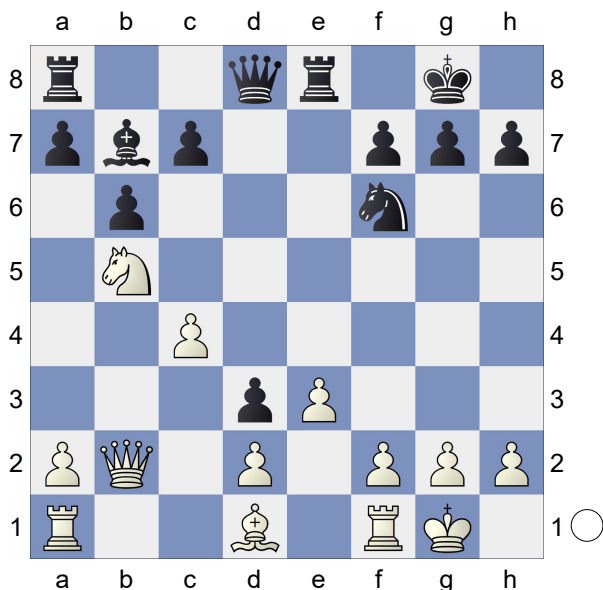
(Diagram)



8.0-0N

[8.cxd5 Nxd5 9.0-0 Nd7 10.Bb2 Qe7 11.Re1 Rfe8 12.Qc2 Bd6 13.Qf5 Nb4 14.Na3 f6 15.Rec1 Nc5 16.Nc4 Be4 17.Qh5 Nbd3 18.Nxd6 Qxd6 19.Ba3 Nxc1 20.Rxc1 Bg6 21.Bc4+ Ne6 22.Qh3 Qxa3 23.Bxe6+ Kh8 24.Rxc7 Qb2 25.g3 Qb1+ 26.Kg2 Bd3 27.Ne5 fxe5 0-1 Kuehnemund,L (2044)-Sawlin,L (2021) Berlin Lichtenberger op 12th 2013 (2)]

8...Bd6 9.Qb3 Bxe5 10.Nxe5 Nc6 11.Qb2 Re8 12.Nxc6 Bxc6 13.Nc3 d4 14.Nb5 d3 15.Bd1 Bb7



16.Bb3?

[16.Qd4 a6 (16...Re7!? 17.a4 a6 18.Qxd8+ Rxd8 19.Nd4±) 17.Qxd8=]

16...c5

[16...a6± 17.Nc3 (17.Nd4 c5) 17...Qd6±]

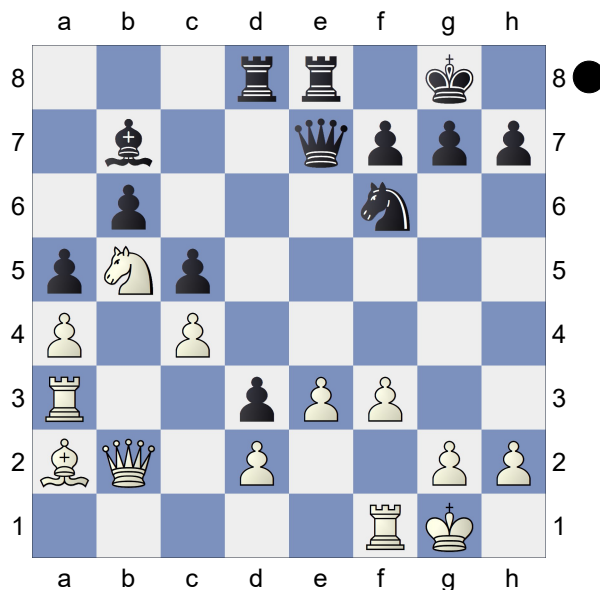
17.f3?

[17.Bd1 Re6 18.f4=]

17...Qe7?

[17...h5]

18.a4= a5 19.Ra3 Rad8 20.Ba2



Qe6?? Some days there's no explanation... **21.Nc7 Qe5 22.Qxe5 Rxe5 23.Bb1 Re7 24.Nb5 Red7**

25.Rc1 Bc6 26.Rcc3 Bxb5 27.cxb5?!

[27.axb5!±]

27...Nd5 28.Rxd3± Nb4

[28...c4!? 29.Rd4 Nb4± 30.Rxd7 Rxd7 31.Rc3 Rxd2 32.Rxc4 g6± it's going to be hard to get that bishop working well. 33.Rc8+ Kg7 34.Be4 f5 35.Ba8±]

29.Rxd7 Rxd7 30.d3 Kf8 31.Kf2 g6

[31...g5!]

32.Ke2 Ke7

[32...g5!]

33.Rc3 f5 34.Rc4 Kf6 35.d4 cxd4

36.Rxd4 Nd5?!

[36...Rxd4 37.exd4 Ke6 38.Ke3± White is still up a pawn, but with a

blockade on d5 and total domination of White's bishop by Black's knight, it's going to be a tough sell.]

37.Bc2 g5? White should step off the check with an easy win: **38.Bb3?!**

[38.Kd2+-]

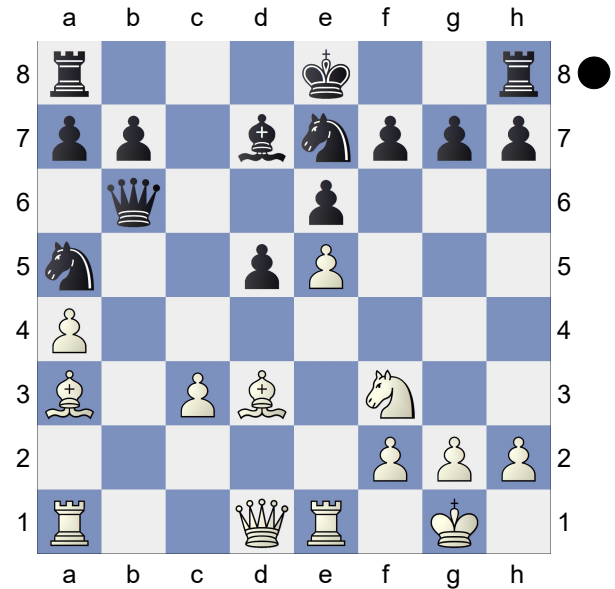
38...Ke5?? Now White clinches it in the pawn ending. **39.Rxd5+ Rxd5 40.Bxd5 Kxd5 41.Kd3 h6 42.e4+ fxe4+ 43.fxe4+ Ke5 44.g3 h5 45.h3 h4 46.gxh4 gxh4 47.Ke3 Ke6 48.Kd4 Kd6 49.e5+ Ke6 50.Ke4 Ke7 51.Kd5 Kd7 52.e6+ Kc7 53.Ke5 Kd8 54.Kd6 Ke8 55.e7 Kf7 56.Kd7 Kf6 57.e8Q Kf5 58.Qe3 Kg6 59.Qe5 Kh6 60.Qf5 Kg7 61.Ke7 Kh6 62.Qg4 Kh7 63.Kf7 Kh8 64.Qg7#**
1-0

□ Heiserman,Jimmy **C02 2298**
 ■ Cremisi,Daniel **2398**
 2025 NY TNM: 2000+ (7.1) 18.02.2025
 [Winslow,Elliott]

1.e4 4 e6 2 2.d4 6 d5 3 3.e5 4 c5 3 4.c3 5 Nc6 5 5.Nf3 4 Qb6 30 6.Bd3 49 cxd4 55 7.0-0! 14 is recently more successful than 7.cxd4. C02: French: Advance Variation. **7...Bd7 33 8.Re1 9 dxc3 3:45 9.Nxc3 8** White is slightly better. **9...Bb4 1.18/25 1:40**
 [9...Nge7± 0.31/25]
10.a3± 6:08 Bxc3 1:06 11.bxc3 6 Nge7 2:58 12.a4 7:53 Na5 6:24 13.Ba3 7:42

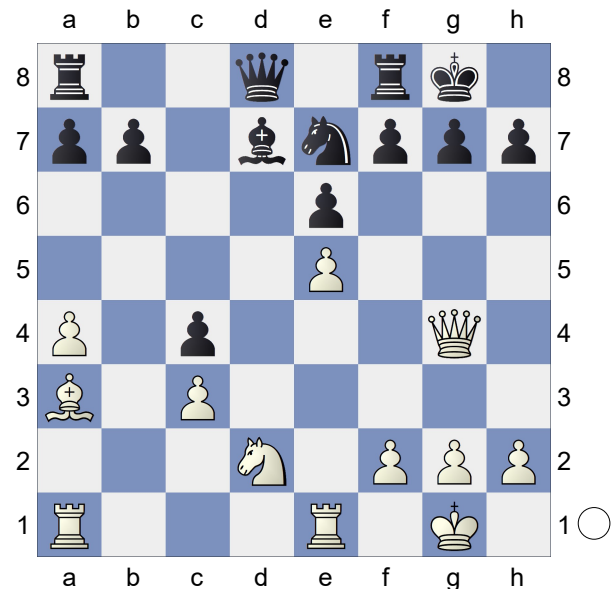
(Diagram)

Nc4N 2.86/20 3:55
 [13...Qd8± 1.25/26]
 [13...Qb3 14.Qc1 Rc8 15.Qg5 1-0 Tukhaev,A (2534)-Bashkite,V (2105) Sharjah Rapid op 27th 2022



(4)]

14.Bxc4+- 3:52 dxc4 6 15.Nd2 3:03 Qd8 3:01 16.Qg4 9:52 0-0 2:51



Black is weak on the dark squares

17.Ne4! 2:25

[Weaker is 17.Qxc4 Bc6±]

[17.Nxc4 Bxa4 18.Bxe7 Qxe7=]

17...Bc6 3.12/25 6:30 A sharp opening
 [17...Ng6 1.82/26]

18.Rad1 6:42 Nd5 5:45 19.Bxf8 2:44 Qxf8 1:24 20.Nf6+ 1.13/26 4:05

[White should play 20.Rd4+- 1.86/27]

20...Kh8± 2:42 21.Nxd5 24 Bxd5 16 22.Qd4 1:21 White is much more active.
22...Qa3 59 23.Ra1 15 Qb2 45 24.h4

1:24 a6 1:53 25.a5 15 Rc8 3:48
26.Qe3 2:50 Rg8 6:58 27.Rac1 0.71/29
7:30

[Δ27.Reb1 1.10/32 Qc2 28.Rd1]

27...Qa2 1.21/23 3:05

[Δ27...Qa3 0.71/29]

28.Qc5 0.81/29 37

[Δ28.Ra1 1.21/23 Qb2 29.Reb1]

28...Re8 2:58 29.Re3 42 Qd2 2:23

30.Ra1 1:34 Kg8 3:49 31.Qa3 1:10

Qc2 1:15 32.Qa4 3:17 Qxa4 24

33.Rxa4± 4 Endgame KRR-KRB

33...Rc8 45 34.Re1 0.27/32 6:11

[34.h5± 0.63/25]

34...Rc5 24 35.Raa1 1:52 h6 1.05/34
1:05

[35...h5= 0.16/35]

36.f3 0.55/27 45

[36.h5± 1.05/34]

36...Kh7 1:51 37.Kf2 1:36 Bc6 2:33

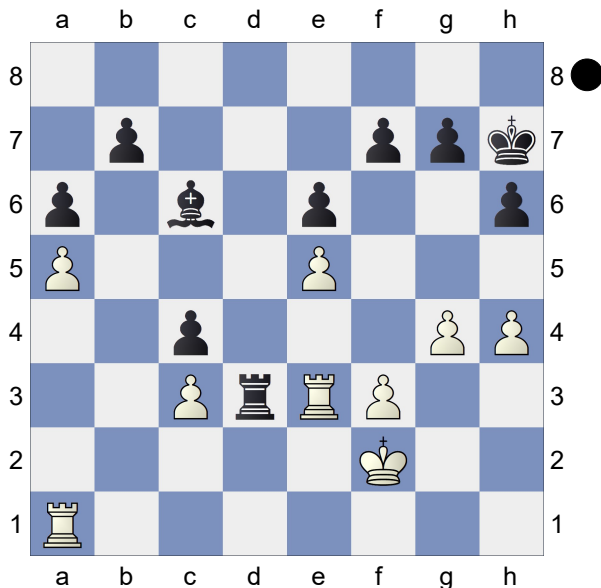
38.g4 0.00/47

[38.f4± 0.62/28]

38...Rd5= 46 The position is equal.

39.Re3 43 Rd2+ 23 40.Re2 13 Rd3 15

41.Re3 4



Hoping for Rxd3. 41...Rd2+ 37 42.Kg3

16 Kg8 4:40 43.f4 2:58 Rg2+ 29

44.Kh3 4 Rf2 13 45.Kg3 3

Black escapes into a draw.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.20

(precise) /Black=0.22 (precise)
1/2-1/2

B38

□ Qiu,Laurie

2155

■ Bayaraa,Chinguun

2083

2025 NY TNM: 2000+ (7.2) 18.02.2025

[Winslow,Elliott]

1.e4 1 c5 2:20 2.Nf3 9 Nc6 25 3.d4 21

cx d4 8 4.Nxd4 4 d6 12 5.c4 4:01 g6

26 6.Nc3 1:58 Bg7 6 7.Be3 21 Nf6 10

8.Be2 1:44 0-0 1:10 9.0-0 45 a6 1:02

10.Rc1 2:41 Rb8 15 11.a3 3:05

[Relevant: 11.h3 Nxd4 12.Bxd4 Be6

13.b3 Qa5 14.Rc2 Rfc8 15.Qd2 h5

16.Nd5 Qxd2 17.Nxf6+ Bxf6

18.Rxd2 Bxd4 19.Rxd4 b5 20.cxb5

axb5 21.Rb4 Rc2 22.Rxb5 Rxb5

23.Bxb5 Rxa2 24.Rb1 Kg7 25.b4

Rd2 26.Bc6 Ba2 27.Ra1 Rb2 28.b5

Bc4 29.Ra5 Kf6 30.Kh2 Ke5 31.b6+

Kf4 32.b7 Rxf2 33.b8Q Bf1 34.e5

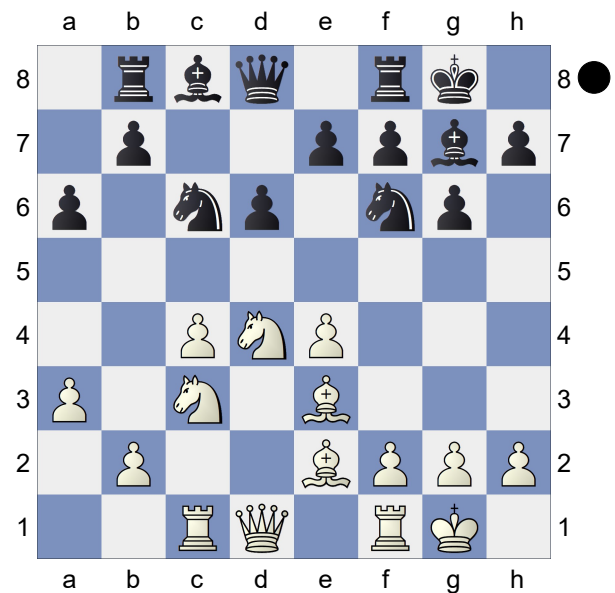
Rc2 35.Qb4+ Rc4 36.Qd2+ Kf5

37.exd6+ 1-0 Jagirapu,H (2029)-Lane,

R (1998) Titled Tuesday intern op

18th Jun Late Chess.com INT blitz

2024 (3)]



B38: Sicilian: Maroczy Bind with 5...Bg7 and 7...0-0. **11...e5N** 1.18/20 7:18

[Black should try 11...Ng4± 0.47/24]

[11...Nxd4 12.Bxd4 Be6 13.b4 Qd7 14.Qd3 Rfc8 15.Nd5 Bxd5 16.exd5 b5 17.Rfd1 bxc4 18.Rxc4

½-½ (67) Skyva,Z-Kubicek,A CSR-ch Open01 Harrachov 1970 (11)]

12.Nxc6!± 2:34 **bxc6** 11 **13.b4** 36

White is better. **13...Bb7** 3:58 **14.Qd2**

2:57 **Qe7** 3:02 **15.Rfd1** 2:54 **Rfd8** 57

16.Bg5 3:47 **Qe6** 7:05 **17.h3** 5:28 **Rd7**

10:07 **18.Bf3** 1.36/25 4:04

[18.Qe3+- 1.72/24]

18...Ne8 2.75/21 6:30

[18...Qxc4± 1.36/25 19.Bxf6 Bxf6]

19.Na4+- 4:30 **Bc8** 4:36 **20.Qc2** 3:28 **f5**

3.79/20 6:34

[Δ20...h5 2.57/25 21.c5 Bf6]

21.exf5 1:15 Discovered Attack

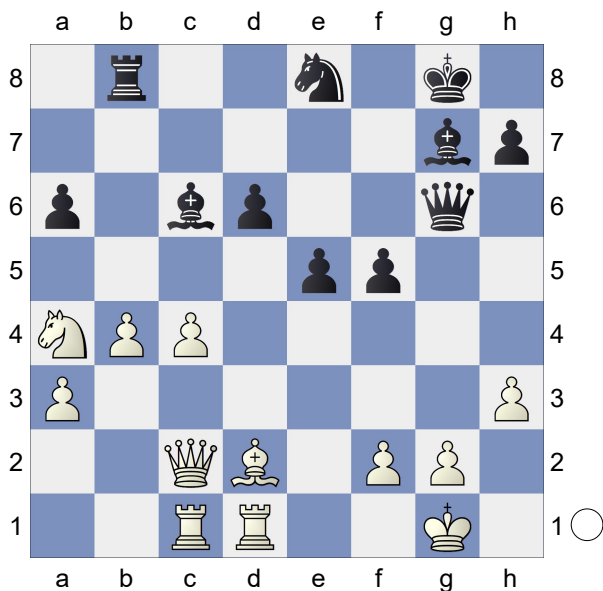
21...gxf5 9 **22.Bxc6** 17 Threatens to

win with Bd5!. **22...Qg6** 18 **23.Bxd7**

2:03 **Bxd7** 7 **24.Bd2** 0.77/25 57

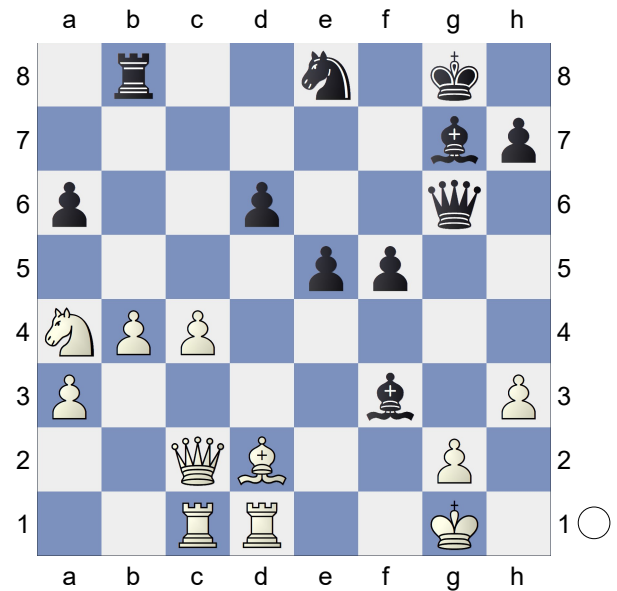
[24.c5+- 3.36/27 has better winning chances.]

24...Bc6± 1:24



25.f3! 2:55 **Bxf3** 55

(Diagram)



26.Be3! 2:36 **Bxd1** 4:28 **27.Rxd1** 36

Qe6 0.91/24 2:30

[27...f4= 0.24/26 keeps the balance.

28.Qxg6 hxg6]

28.Nb6↑ 3:21 Black is under strong pressure. White has more active pieces. White leaves nothing to chance now.

28...Nc7 1.63/24 12:26

[28...f4± 0.91/24]

29.Qd2!+- 6:16 **f4** 5:38 **30.Bf2** 2:13

White attacks a weakness

[30.Qxd6 Qxd6 (30...fxe3 31.Qxc7

Rxb6 32.c5±) 31.Rxd6 fxe3±]

30...Rd8 2.19/27 54

[30...Bf8± 1.41/22 was necessary.

31.c5 dxc5]

(Diagram)

31.Bh4! 2:07 **Bf6** 33 **32.Bxf6** 1:54 **Qxf6**

17 **33.Nd5** 1:04 **Nxd5** 3:13 **34.Qxd5+** 7

Endgame KQR-KQR **34...Kh8?** 3.73/21

4

[34...Qf7 2.12/26 35.Qa5 Rf8]

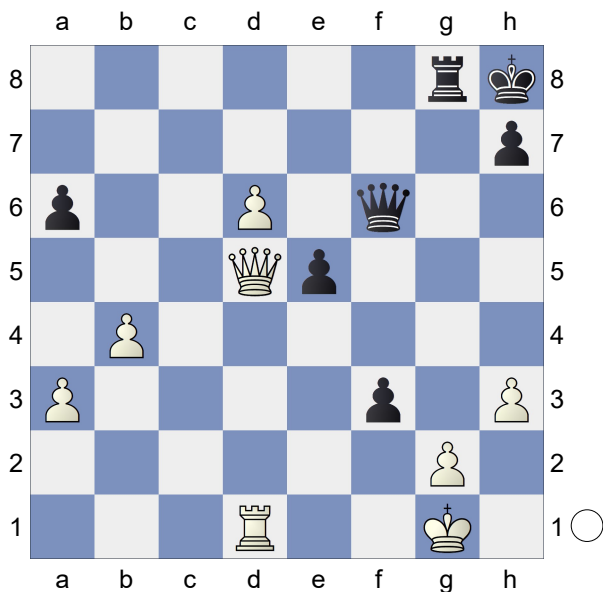
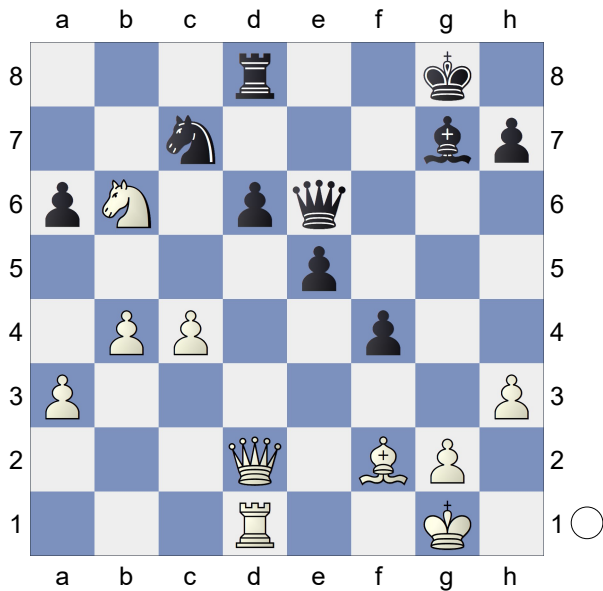
35.c5 3:24 **Rg8** 33 **36.cxd6** 19

[36.Qxd6 Qf5 37.Rd3 (37.Qxa6

f3±) 37...Rg6+-]

36...f3 10

(Diagram)



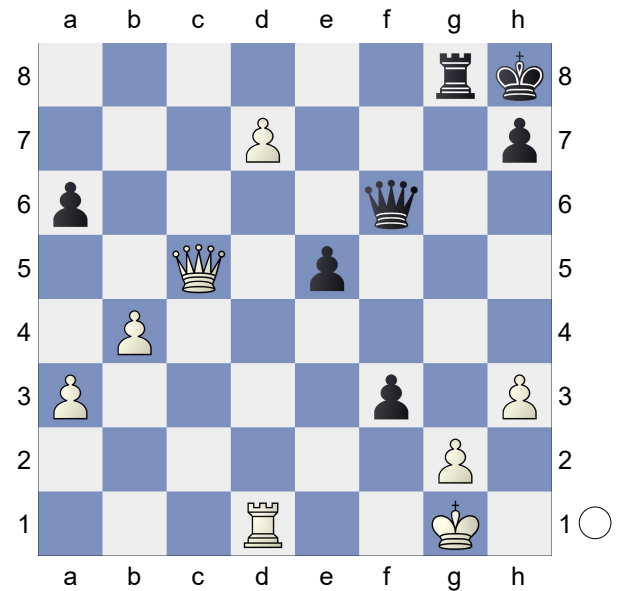
37.d7! 5:50 Qb6+ 12:37

[37...Rxc2+? loses. 38.Kh1 Rg8
39.d8Q+- (39.d8N Rg3+-; 39.d8R
Rxd8 40.Qxd8+ Qxd8+-; 39.Qxg8+
Kxg8 40.d8Q+ Qxd8+-)]

38.Qc5 4:02 Qf6 6

[38...Rxc2+ 39.Kh1 Qxc5 40.d8Q+
(40.bxc5 Rg8+-) 40...Kg7 41.bxc5
Kg6 42.Qd3+ Kg7 43.Qxf3
(43.Qxa6 Rg6 44.Rd7+ Kh6 45.Qc4
Kg5 46.Rf7 Kh5 47.Rxh7+ Kg5
48.Qg4+ Kf6 49.Qxf3+ Kg5
50.Rh5#; 43.Qd7+ Kh6+-)]

(Diagram)



39.d8Q! 4:18 Deflection 39...Rxd8 4

40.Rxd8+ 10 Qxd8 4 41.Qxe5+ 5

KQ-KQ. White is a pawn up. **41...Kg8 4**

42.Qg3+ 16

[Stronger than 42.gxf3 Qd3=]

42...Kh8 4 43.Qxf3 6 Qd4+ 4 44.Kh2

12 Qe5+ 20 45.Qg3 8 Qb2 #23/18 41

[45...Qe8+- 3.51/33 46.Qc3+ Kg8]

46.Qb8+ 39 Kg7 7 47.a4 34 Qa1 1:14

48.b5 22 Qxa4 12 49.b6 9

Weighted Error Value: White=0.16 (very
precise) /Black=0.48

1-0

B15

□ **Dzhanhirov,Dmytro**

2238

■ **Srinivasan,Sivavishnu**

2092

2025 NY TNM: 2000+ (7.3) 18.02.2025

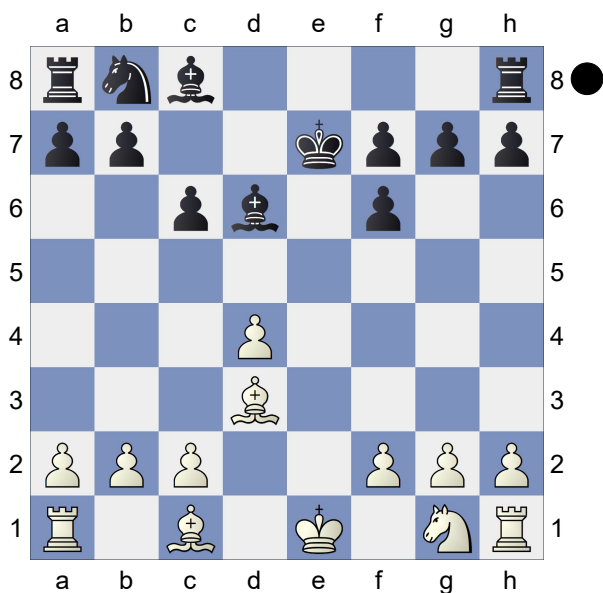
[Winslow,Elliott]

Siva kept the balance all the way to the
rook endgame, in spite of the signature
(the opening's not his!) doubled f-pawns.

**1.e4 7 c6 20 2.d4 10 d5 8 3.Nd2 9
dxe4 5 4.Nxe4 4 Nf6 8 5.Nxf6+ 5 exf6
6 What a nuisance! 6.Bc4 7**

[6.c3 Bd6 7.Bd3 0-0 8.Qc2 Re8+
9.Ne2 h5!! is the "Renaissance Move"
in this opening. Presumably to gain a

[9.Ne2 Be6 10.Bxe6 fxe6 11.Bf4
Nd7 12.0-0-0 Rhe8 13.Bxd6+ Kxd6
14.h4 Re7 15.h5 Kc7 16.Ng3 Nb6
17.Rh4 Rd8 18.Re1 Rd5 19.b3 Rg5
20.c4 Kd7 21.Kd2 Nc8 22.Rf4 h6
23.Rh4 Nd6 24.c5 Nb5 25.Re3 Nc7
26.f4 Rd5 27.Rd3 Ke8 28.Ne2
Red7 29.a4 Na6 30.Rhh3 Kf7
31.Kc3 b6 32.b4 bxc5 33.bxc5 Rb7
34.Rh1 Rb4 35.g4 e5 36.fxe5 fxe5
37.Rf1+ Kg8 38.Rf5 Rxa4
1/2-1/2 (50) Vitiugov,N (2727)-Xiong,J
(2700) Speed Chess GP2 Chess.com
INT blitz 2021 (6)]



[9...Na6 10.a3 b5 11.Ne2 Nc7
12.Bf4 Bxf4 13.Nxf4 Ne6 14.Ne2
Rd8 15.c3 c5 16.Be4 Rb8 17.dxc5

Nxc5 18.Bc2 Ne6 19.Rd1 Bd7 20.f3
a5 21.b4 axb4 22.axb4 Ra8 23.Kf2
g6 24.Be4 Rac8 25.Ra1 Bc6
26.Bxc6 Rxc6 27.Ra7+ Kf8 28.Rha1
Nc7 29.Rb7 Rd2 30.Ke1 Rd7
31.Rd1 Re7 32.Kf2 Kg7 33.Rd8
Ne6 34.Rxe7 Nxd8 35.Nd4 Rxc3
36.Rd7 Rc8 37.Nxb5 Rc2+ 38.Kg3
Nc6 39.Nd6 1/2-1/2 (49) Sindarov,J
(2629)-Erigaisi,A (2689) Olympiad-44
Chennai 2022 (6.3)]

10.Ne2 12 Be6 1:49 11.Bf4 59 Nd7
1:43 12.0-0-0 13 Rhe8 6:15 13.Rhe1
3:05 Bxf4+ 1:07 14.Nxf4 7 Kf8 7
15.d5 6:32 Bxd5 8:00 16.Rxe8+ 13
Kxe8 40 17.Nxd5 6 cxd5 5 18.Bb5 17
a6 19 19.Bxd7+ 12 Kxd7 8 20.Rxd5+ 8
Kc6 17 21.Rd3 8 Re8 39 22.Kd2 7 g6
1:31 23.Rc3+ 36 Kd6 1:16 24.Re3 1:02
Re5 48 25.Rb3 6:02 Kc6 1:48 26.Rf3
55 Rd5+ 3:51 27.Ke2 2:48 Re5+ 45
28.Re3 42 Kd6 1:53 29.f4 2:56 Rc5
6:29 30.c3 3:53 h5 4:25 31.a4 3:34
Rc4 3:09 32.Rd3+ 48 Ke7 19:04
33.Rd4 13 Rc6 17 34.Kd3 1:02 f5 4:12
35.g3 9:12 f6 10:30 36.Rb4 2:42 b6
8:10 37.Rc4 7:58 Rd6+ 1:10 38.Kc2
2:08 Re6 20 39.Kd2 4:45 Kd7 1:16
40.Rd4+ 1:38 Kc7 14 41.b3 1:19 Re4
2:20 42.Rd3 3:08 Kc6 13:17 43.Rd8
1:13 g5 5 44.Rf8 7:48 gxf4 9 45.Rxf6+
8 Kc7 7 46.Rxf5 18 fxg3 6 47.hxg3 14
Rg4 4 48.Rxh5 33 Rxg3 4 49.Re5 34
Rg2+ 27 50.Kd3 33 Kd6 26 51.Re4 20
Rg3+ 15 52.Kc4 27 Rg5 2:04 53.b4
2:05 Rf5 2:07 54.Rh4 9 Rg5 17
55.Rh6+ 17 Kc7 23 56.Rh7+ 10 Kc6
1:03 57.Ra7 2:09 b5+ 8 58.Kb3 7 Kb6
11 59.Rf7 11 Rg6 1:18 60.a5+ 1:40
Kc6 6 61.Ra7 25 Kd5 4 62.Rc7 48
Rc6 1:09 63.Rxc6 51 Kxc6 4 64.Kc2
1:12 Kd6 29 65.Kd2 5 Kc6 33 66.Ke3
22 Kd5 6 67.Kd3 5 Ke5 8 68.Ke2 3:24
Kd6 9
1/2-1/2

C52

□ **Molodyk, Mikhail Alexandrovich 1925**
 ■ **Pham, Nguyen Hoang Duy 1810**
 2025 NY TNM: 1600-1999 (7.13) 18.02.25
[Winslow, Elliott]

With Cawthon and Parsons playing a quiet trade-for-all draw on Board 1, Pham could have tied for 1st-2nd, but ran into Molodyk's Evans Gambit(!). Confusion reigned, the win slipped out of both players' hands more than once -- and it settled into a draw. Pham thus made it to 2nd-4th. **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.b4 Bxb4 5.c3 Ba5 6.d4 exd4 7.Qb3**

[7.0-0 Bb6 8.cxd4 d6 9.Nc3 Bg4 10.Bb5 a6 11.Ba4 Ba5 12.Nd5 Nge7 13.Bg5 b5 14.Bb3 h6 15.Bh4 0-0 16.h3 Bh5 17.Rc1 Qd7 18.Bxe7 Nxe7 19.Nf4 Bxf3 20.Qxf3 Bd2 21.Rc2 Bxf4 22.Qxf4 c6 23.Rfc1 a5 24.a3 Rab8 25.Rc3 a4 26.Ba2 b4 27.axb4 Rxb4 28.Rg3 Kh8 29.Bxf7 Rxd4 30.Qe3 c5 31.Ba2 Nc6 32.Bd5 Nb4 33.Bc4 Qe7 34.f3 Qe5 35.Rg6 d5 36.Rxh6+ gxh6 0-1 (44) Zhigalko, S (2572)-Carlsen, M (2832) Titled Tuesday intern op 09th Jul Early Chess.com INT blitz 2024 (5)]

7...Qe7 8.0-0 Bb6

(Diagram)

9.Ba3?!

[9.cxd4 Nxd4 10.Nxd4 Bxd4 11.Nc3 Nf6 12.Ba3 d6 13.Rad1 Bxc3 14.Qxc3 0-0±]

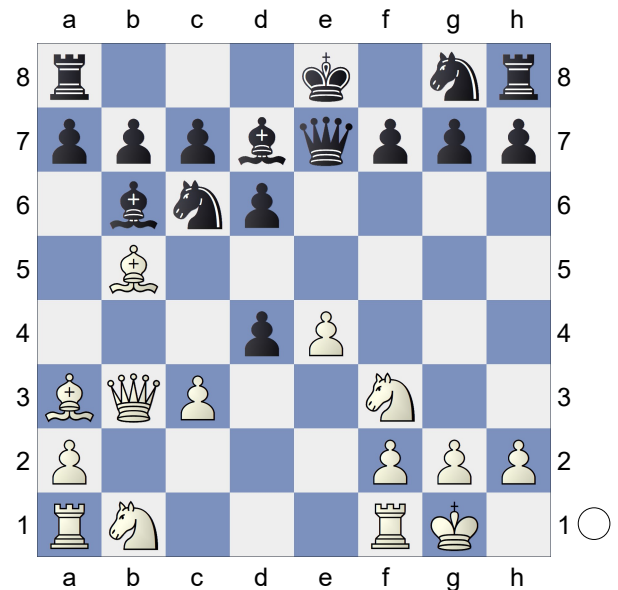
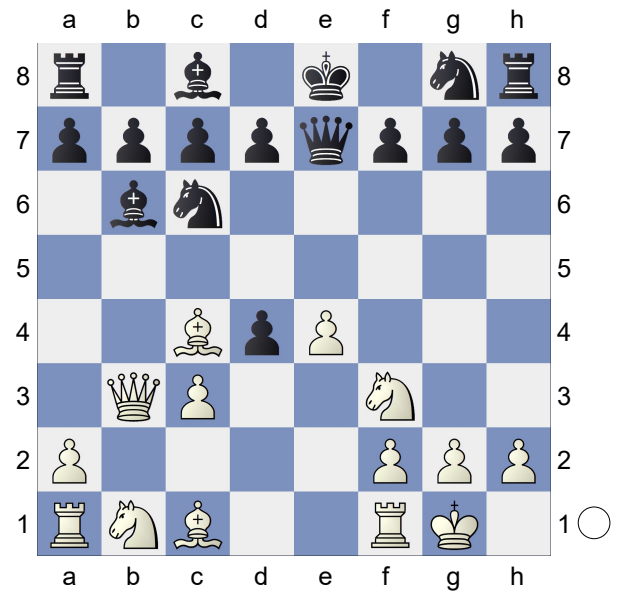
9...d6= 10.Bb5?!

[10.Nbd2]

10...Bd7

[10...Qe6!]

(Diagram)



11.Bxc6N

[11.e5 Nxe5 12.Bxd7+ Qxd7 13.Re1 0-0-0 14.Nxd4 Re8 15.Nd2 Ne7 16.Nc4 Nxc4 17.Qxc4 Nc6 18.Rad1 Nxd4 19.cxd4 Rxe1+ 20.Rxe1 Re8 21.Rxe8+ Qxe8 22.Kf1 Qe6 23.Qxe6+ fxe6 24.Bb2 d5 25.Ke2 Kd7 26.f4 g6 27.Kd3 c5 28.dxc5 Bxc5 29.a4 a6 30.Kc2 Kc6 31.Kb3 Bg1 32.h3 Be3 33.Be5 Kc5 34.a5 Kb5 35.g4 Kxa5 36.Kc3 Kb5 37.Kd3 d4 0-1 Ramsey, D (1797)-Hatton, D (1739) BCF-chT4S 2324 (4NCL) England 2024 (1.14)]
 [11.cxd4 Na5]

11...Bxc6 12.cxd4 Bxe4 13.Nc3 f5

14.Rfe1?!

[14.Ne5! 0-0-0 15.Nxe4 fxe4 16.Nf7 Nh6 17.Nh6 18.Nf7]

14...0-0-0 15.Nd2 Qd7?!

[15...Qg5]

16.Ndxe4

[16.Nc4! 17.Nd2]

16...fxe4+ 17.Rab1 Nf6 18.Bc1

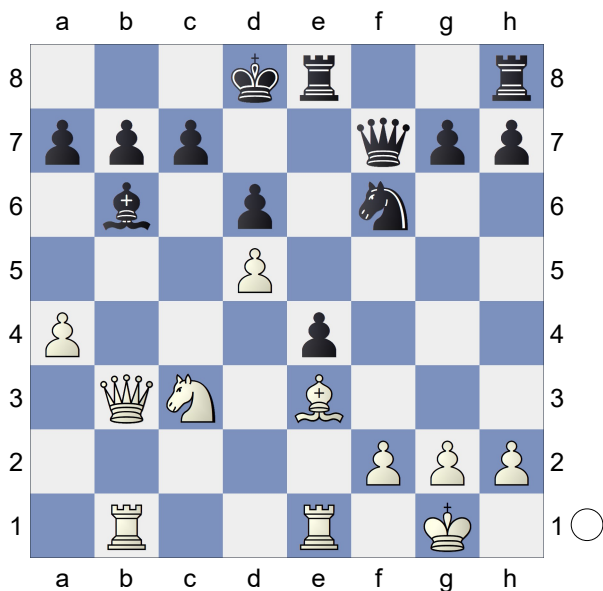
Rdf8 19.Be3

[18...Kb8!-+]

19.Be3

[19.a4!]

19...Qf7 20.d5 Kd8 21.a4 Re8



22.Bg5?

[22.Bxb6!±]

22...h6 23.Bxf6+

[23.Be3! 24.Qxf6]

23...Qxf6 24.Nxe4 Qd4 25.a5 Rxe4

26.axb6

(Diagram)

Rhe8??

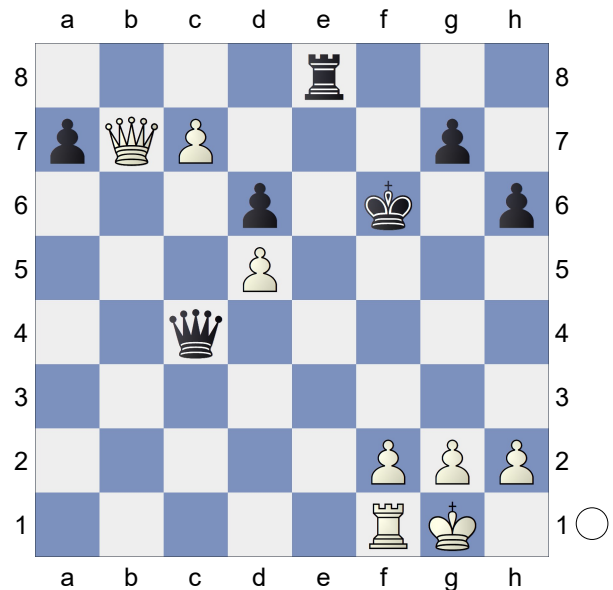
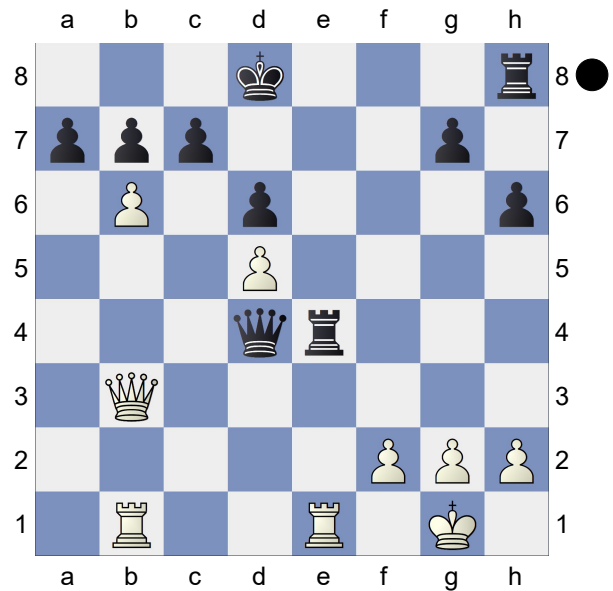
[26...Rxe1+ 27.Rxe1 Qxb6-+]

27.bxc7+ Ke7 28.Qxb7 Kf6

Letting the passed pawn live and sending his king forward? Should lose...

29.Rxe4 Qxe4 30.Rf1 Qc4

(Diagram)



31.Qb8 Kf7 32.Qb7 Kf6 33.h3 Qc3

(Diagram)

34.Qxa7?! (Still winning, but ... 10th best!)

[34.Qb8! best Kf7 35.Qd8!]

[34.Kh2!]

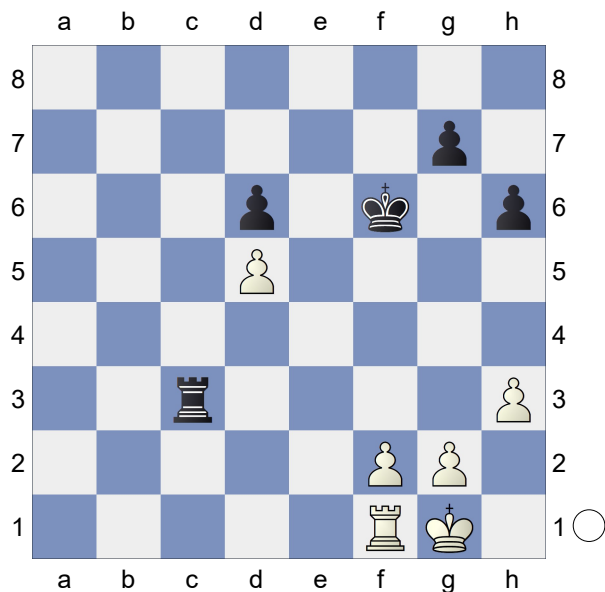
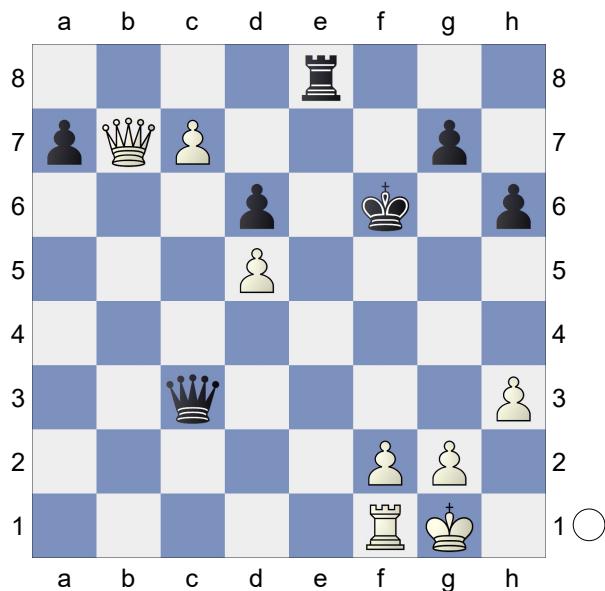
[34.f4!]

[34.g3!]

34...Re7 35.Qa1 Rxc7 36.Qxc3+ Rxc3

(Diagram)

37.Re1!+- Rd3 38.Re6+ Kf7 39.Rxd6



Ke7 40.Re6+ Kf7 41.Re5 Kf6

(Diagram)

42.f4?

[42.Re6+ Kf5 43.Rd6+-]

[42.Rh5!+-]

42...g5?

[42...Rd4 43.g3 g5 44.Re6+ Kf7= (44...Kf5=)]

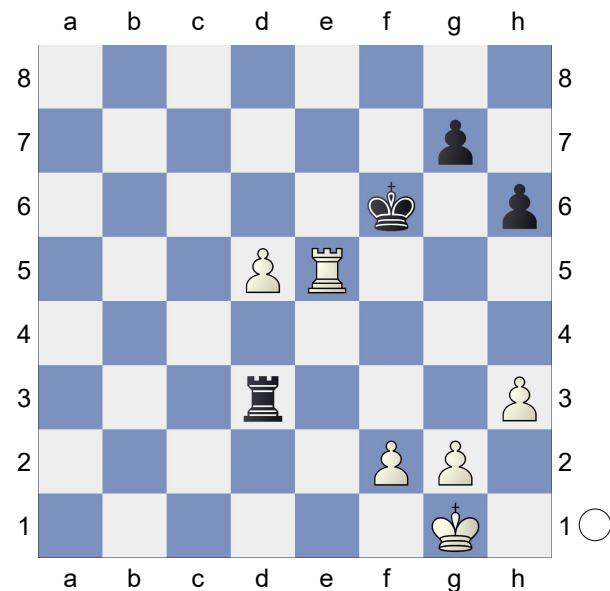
43.Re6+ Kg7

[43...Kf5]

44.fxg5 hxg5 45.d6 Kf7 46.Re7+ Kf6

47.Rd7 Ke6 48.Rh7??

[48.Rd8+-]



48...Kxd6= 49.Rh5 Rd5 50.h4 Rd1+ 51.Kf2 gxh4 52.Rxh4 Ke5

$\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$

B07

□ **Smith,Roger Christopher**

1843

■ **Babayan,Gagik**

1686

2025 NY TNM: 1600-1999 (7.15) 18.02.25

[Winslow,Elliott]

With this careful attrition win Roger Smith joined the others for 2nd-4th money. 1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Bd3 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.b3 c6 6.Bb2 Bg4 7.h3 Bxf3 8.Qxf3 Nbd7 9.Nd2 0-0 10.0-0 b5 11.e5 dxe5 12.Qxc6 a6 13.dxe5 Ne8 14.Rfe1 Nc7 15.a4 Rb8 16.axb5 Rb6 17.Qf3 axb5 18.Bd4 Rb8 19.Qc6 Ne6 20.Bb2 Ndc5 21.Qf3 Nxd3 22.cxd3 Qd7 23.Ne4 Rfc8 24.Qe3 Rb7 25.d4 Rbc7 26.Rad1 Qd5 27.Ba3 h6 28.Nc5 Rc6 29.Nxe6 Rxe6 30.Rc1 Rd8 31.Red1 f6 32.Rc5 Qa8 33.Ra1 fxe5 34.Bb2 Qb7 35.dxe5 Rc6 36.Qe4 Rb6 37.Qc2 Qd7 38.Rc1 Kh7 39.Rc7 Qe6 40.Qc5 Bf8 41.Bd4 Rbb8 42.Qb4 Qd5 43.Bc5 Rd7 44.Rxd7 Qxd7 45.Qf4 Qe6 46.Ba7 Rb7 47.Qxf8 Rxa7 48.f4 Qf5 49.Qxf5 gxf5 50.Rc5

Rb7 51.Kf2 Kg7 52.Ke3 Kf7 53.Kd4 e6 54.Kc3 Kg6 55.Rc6 Kh5 56.Rxe6 Rg7 57.Rf6 Rxb2 58.Rxf5+ Kg6 59.Rf6+ Kg7 60.h4 Re2 61.Kb4 Re3 62.h5 Rh3 63.Rf5 Re3 64.Kxb5 Rxb3+- White won in 18 or so more moves.

1-0

□ **Bayaraa,Bilguun**

■ **Toczyski,David Paul**

2025 NY TNM: u1600 (7.26) 18.02.2025

[Winslow,Elliott]

D15

1359

1294

With this win Bilguun edged out Dash and Huang (who both also won their games) and secured clear first place in the Under-1600 Section. **1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 dxc4 5.e3**

[5.a4 is the main theory move.]

[5.e4!? is the Slav Gambit, which may be due for a reappearance? I even played it once...: b5 6.e5 Nd5 7.a4 e6 8.axb5 Nxc3 9.bxc3 cxb5

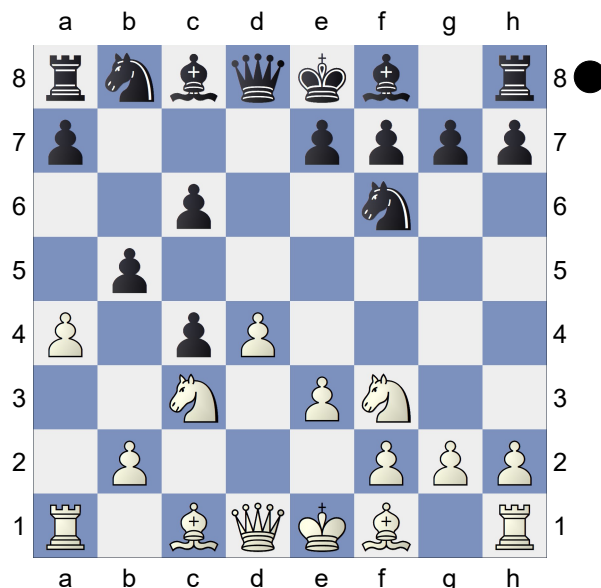
10.Ng5 Bb7 11.Qh5 g6 12.Qg4 Be7 13.Be2 Nd7 14.Bf3 Qc8 15.h4 h6 16.Ne4 a5 17.0-0 Nb6 18.h5 g5 ½-½ Winslow,E (2400)-Donaldson,J (2474) SJSU Spring op San Jose 1984 (5.1)]

5...b5 6.a4

(Diagram)

Qb6?!

[6...b4! This has a plus score over 1775 games in the Mega Database! The imbalance is dramatic, with Black's extra pawn preserved through considerable contortion. Toczyski knew it it was best but thought himself out of it. 7.Nb1 (7.Na2 attacks two pawns right away, but the knight is on

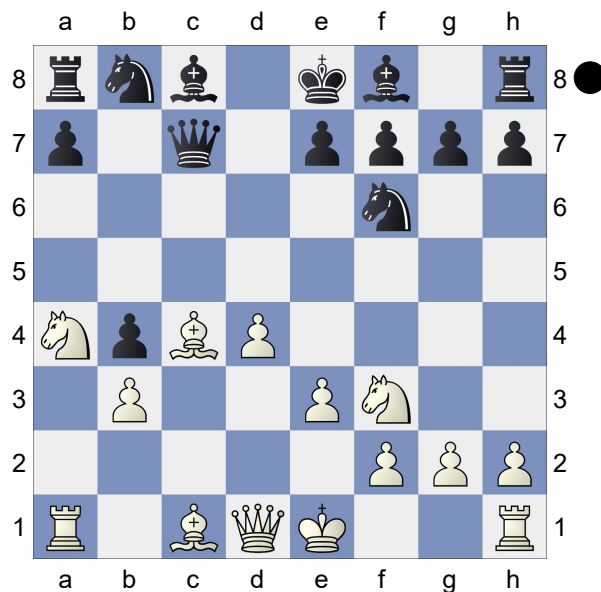


a wrong track. Black already has slightly the better of it. **e6 8.Bxc4 Bb7) 7...Ba6** Most White players have given up on trying to make something of Black's scrappy defense, and stuck with 5.a4.]

7.axb5 cxb5 8.b3 b4?

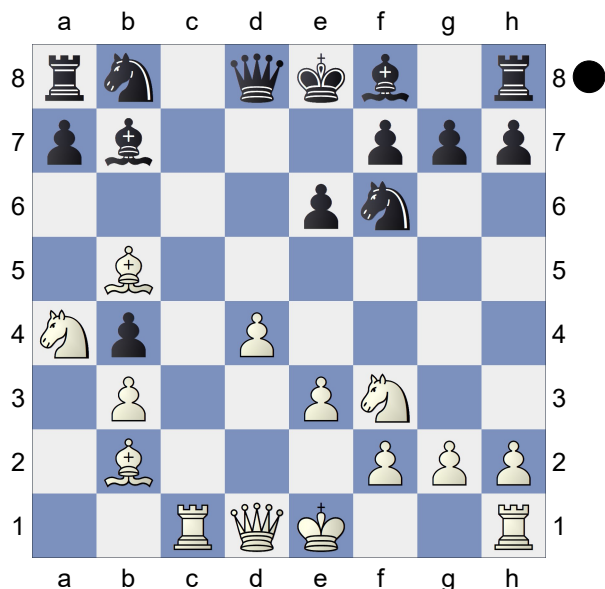
[8...e6 9.bxc4 Bb4 10.Bd2 bxc4 11.Bxc4 a5 and is the a-pawn strong or weak? Computers give it +0.40 or so.]

9.Na4 Qc7 10.Bxc4±



But this a-pawn there is no question -- it's gone rather good for White. **10...e6 11.Bb2 Bb7?! 12.Rc1 Qd8?**

13.Bb5+-



Nbd7 14.Nc5 Bd5?!

[14...Bxf3 15.Qxf3 Bxc5 16.dxc5 and the brand new passed c-pawn is a monster.]

15.Nxd7 Nxd7 16.Ne5 a6 17.Bxd7+ Ke7 18.Bc6 Rc8 19.Bxd5 Rxc1 20.Qxc1 Qxd5 21.Qc7+ Kf6 22.Qxf7+ Kg5 23.Qf4+

[23.h4+ Kh6 24.Ng4#]

23...Kh5 24.Qg4+ Kh6 25.Nf7# 1-0

□ **Starr,Albert Martin** **A00 1530**

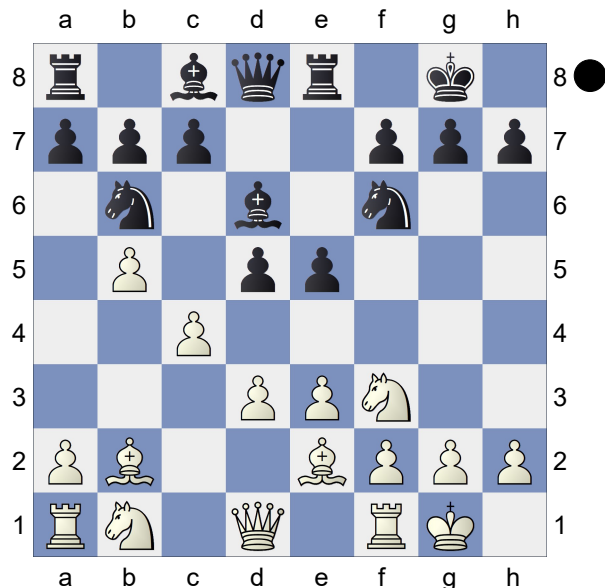
■ **Dash,Satyakam** **1480**

2025 NY TNM: u1600 (7.6) 18.02.2025

[Winslow,Elliott]

Satyam Dash unseats the Orangutan to make it to 2nd-3rd, plus dropping Albert Starr to minor money at 4th-7th. **1.b4 3 d5 14 2.e3 6** Is this what Albert usually plays here!? It does let Black set up the Classical Center... **2...e5 11** ("f" Stockfish -- on move two !!?) **3.Bb2 7 Nd7 1:13** (Black dodges the b-pawn) **4.b5 7 Bd6 32 5.Nf3 15 Ngf6 18 6.Be2 26 0-0 25 7.0-0?! 5 Re8?! 1:31**

[7...e4f]
8.d3 8 Nb6 51 9.c4 27



e4! 1:27 10.dxe4 14 dxe4 1:57 11.Nfd2 7 Bf5 2:10 12.Nc3?! 40

[12.Nb3]

12...Be5? 2:08

[12...Qe7]

13.Qc2?! 47

[13.c5! Nbd5 14.Nxd5 Bxb2 15.Nxf6+ Qxf6 16.Rb1 Be5z]

13...Qe7 1:22

[13...Qd6!]

14.a4 30 a5 3:10 15.g3 23 Rad8 1:45

16.Rfd1 23 h6 1:57

[16...h5]

[16...Rd3!?]

17.Bf1?! 7 Rd7?! 9:33

[17...Bg4f]

18.Bg2? 2:21 Red8-+ 5:00

[18...Bg4-+]

19.Ba3?! 29

[19.c5!? Qxc5-+]

19...Qe6 2:29 20.c5 38 Nbd5 1:04

[20...Bxc3!]

21.Rac1?! 15 Nxc3 1:47 Albert falls apart -- bad time to do so! (7th round, chance for 1st) **22.Re1 1:20 Rxd2 25 23.Red1 2:52 Nxd1 3:31**

0-1

C47

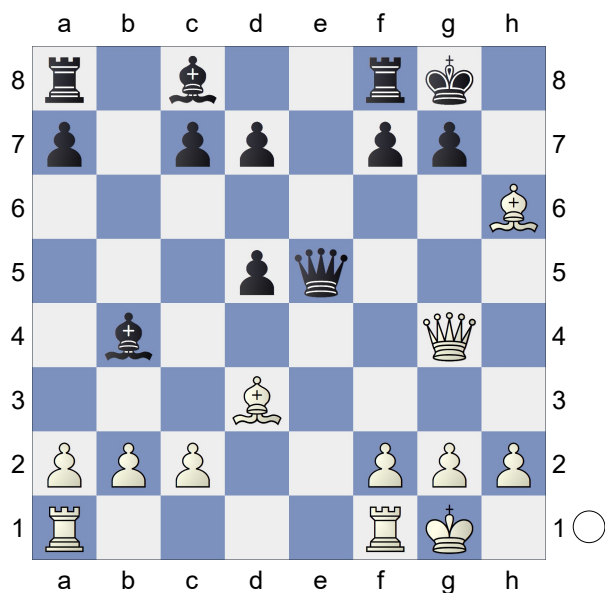
□ Huang,Immanuel

■ Stults,Sawyer

2025 NY TNM: u1600 (7.27) 18.02.2025

[Winslow,Elliott]

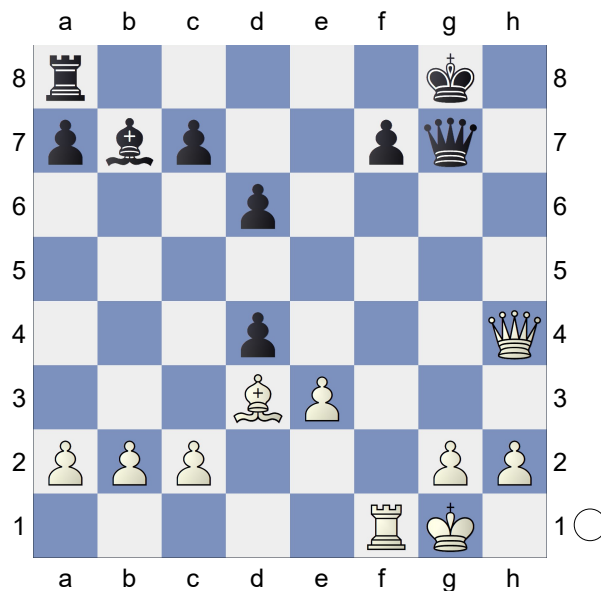
This game simultaneously brought Immanuel Huang into the money, and knocked Sawyer Stults out of his shot at 1st. 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.d4 exd4 5.Nxd4 Bb4 6.Nxc6 bxc6 7.Bd3 0-0 8.0-0 h6 9.e5 Nd5 10.Nxd5 cxd5 11.Qg4 Qe7 12.Bxh6 Qxe5



13.Bxg7 Qxg7 14.Qxb4 d6 15.Qh4 Re8 16.Rae1 Bb7 17.Re3 Rxe3 18.fxe3 d4

(Diagram)

19.e4 Re8 20.Rf3 Re6 21.Qd8+ Qf8 22.Qxc7 Bxe4 23.Bxe4 Rxe4 24.Rg3+ Kh7 25.Qa5 Qh6 26.Qf5+
1-0



Annotated Games from the GM-Elect Mark Heimann Blitz and Chessable Masters Playoffs

NM Sricharan Pullela

The Chess Room Newsletter welcomes a new contributor! Please find below a selection of annotated games from our GM-Elect Mark Heimann Blitz and highlights from the Chessable Masters annotated by NM Sricharan Pullela. Scroll down to the next page for the games and annotation!

Chakraborty,Dipro **D00**
2155

Heimann,Mark **2391**
 2025 GM-elect Heimann Special Blitz (6.1)
[Sricharan Pullela]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Bf4 a6 4.e3 e6 5.g4!? c5

[5...Bb4 Opens the more active way to fight against the threat of g5

6.Nge2!? Nxg4 7.Rg1 g5 8.Rxg4 gxf4 9.Nxf4 Nc6=]

[5...h6 6.h4 Nbd7 7.Bg2 c5 (7...Bd6 8.Nh3) 8.g5 hxg5 9.hxg5 Rxh1 10.Bxh1 Nh7 11.g6 fxg6 12.Qg4±]

[5...Bd6]

6.g5 Nfd7 7.Qf3

[7.Nf3 Nc6 8.a3 b5 9.h4 Bb7 10.h5 Nb6 11.Ne5 Nxe5 12.Bxe5 Nc4 13.Bxc4 dxc4 14.Rg1 f6 15.Bf4 Qd7 16.h6 0-0-0 17.Qe2 cxd4 18.exd4 Qxd4 19.Rd1 Qxf4 20.Qxe6+ Kc7 21.Qf7+ Be7 22.Qxe7+ Kc8 23.hxg7 Rxd1+ 24.Nxd1 Rg8 25.Qf8+ Kc7 26.Qxg8 1-0 (26) Carlsen,M (2832)-Caruana,F (2808) Stavanger 2017]

7...Nc6

[7...b5 8.0-0-0 b4 9.Na4 (9.Nxd5!? exd5 10.Qxd5 Ra7 11.Qe4+ Be7 12.d5 Bb7 13.Nf3 0-0∞)

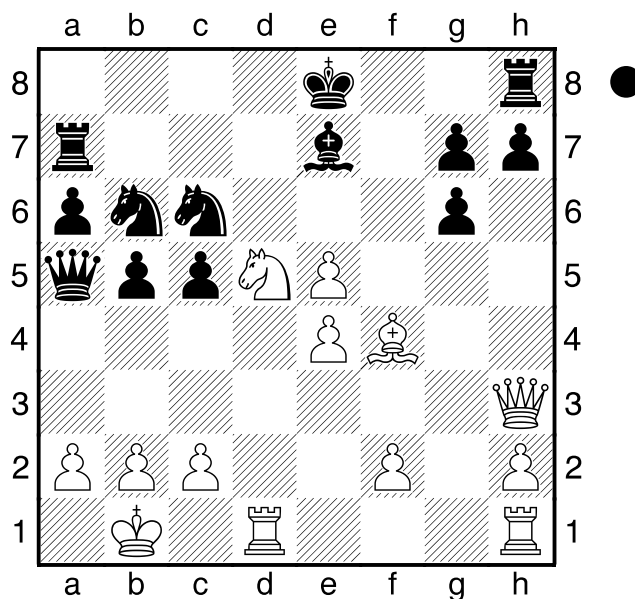
A) 9...cxd4 10.exd4 Bb7 11.Qh3 Bc6 12.Nc5 Nxc5 13.dxc5 Bxc5 14.Nf3 Bd7 15.Bd3!? e5 16.Bf5 Qc8 17.Rxd5± Bxf5 18.Rxe5+ Be6 19.g6!! Kf8□ (19...b3?! 20.axb3 h6 21.gxf7+ Kxf7 22.Rxe6 Qxe6 23.Ne5+ Ke7 24.Qg2+- An exposed king and too many weaknesses lead to black's demise) 20.Qg3□± Be7 21.gxf7 Nc6 22.Rg1 g6 (22...Bf6? 23.Rc5+- Qd7 24.Rd1 Qb7 25.Bd6+ Kxf7 26.Ng5+ Bxg5+ 27.Rxg5 g6 28.Qf3+ Kg8 29.Rc5→) 23.Bh6+ Kxf7 24.Qf4+

Kg8 25.Re3∞ Stockfish gives this position an evaluation of +0.4 but of course the long term compensation here is clear through the positioning of black's king and lack of development;

B) 9...Qa5 10.b3 Nc6 11.Qg3!± Ra7 12.h4 c4 13.Nf3 Ne7 14.e4!? cxb3 15.axb3 dxe4 16.Nd2 Nf5 17.Qh2 Be7 18.Nc4 Qd5 19.Bg2 Bb7 20.Rhe1± An unclear position, but after the pawn on e4 gets captured, white's piece placement and superior development should prevail in the long term]

8.0-0-0 b5 9.Qg3 Qb6?!

[9...Ra7 Stockfish's crazy ideas! Purpose here being to control the c7 square where White's battery was aiming towards, threatening to cause some serious discoordination in black's queenside. 10.Nge2 Ne7 (10...Qa5 11.e4 e5!? 12.dxe5 d4 13.Kb1!! dxc3 14.Nxc3± Nb6 15.Bh3 Bxh3 16.Qxh3 Be7 17.g6!! fxg6 18.Nd5∞



) 11.dxc5

A) 11...Nxc5 12.b4! Nf5 13.Qh3 Nd7 14.e4 dxe4 15.Nd4 (15.Nxe4?! Bb7 16.Bg2 Bxb4↑)

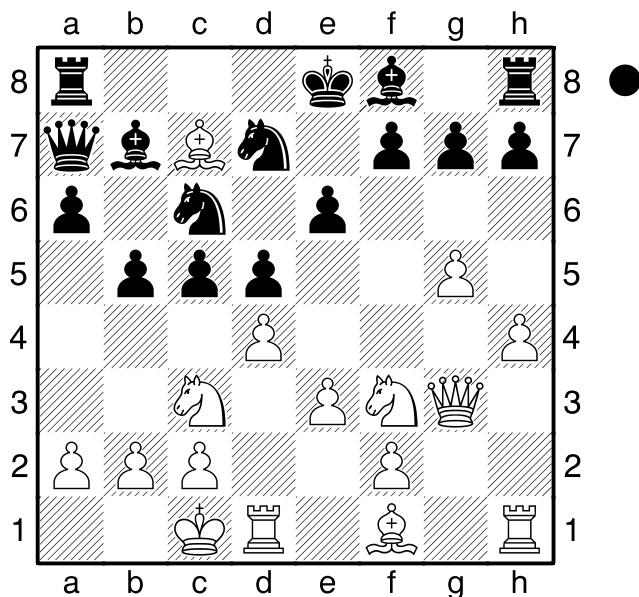
15...Nxd4 16.Rxd4 Qb6 17.Rxe4 Bb7 18.Be3 Qc7 19.Bxa7 Bxe4 20.Nxe4 Qxa7=;
B) 11...b4 12.Na4 Qa5 13.b3 Nxc5 14.Nxc5 Nf5 15.Qf3 Bxc5 16.Kb1∞]

10.dxc5?

[10.Nf3

A) 10...cxd4 11.Nxd4 Nxd4 12.exd4 Bb7 13.Kb1 Be7 14.Bd3 b4 (14...0-0-0 15.Ne2 Bc6 16.h4± Black has major space and development issues, while white enjoys a clear space advantage and clear path forward to make progress) 15.Na4 Qxd4 16.Bxh7 Qa7 17.g6+-;

B) 10...Bb7 11.Bc7 Qa7 12.h4±



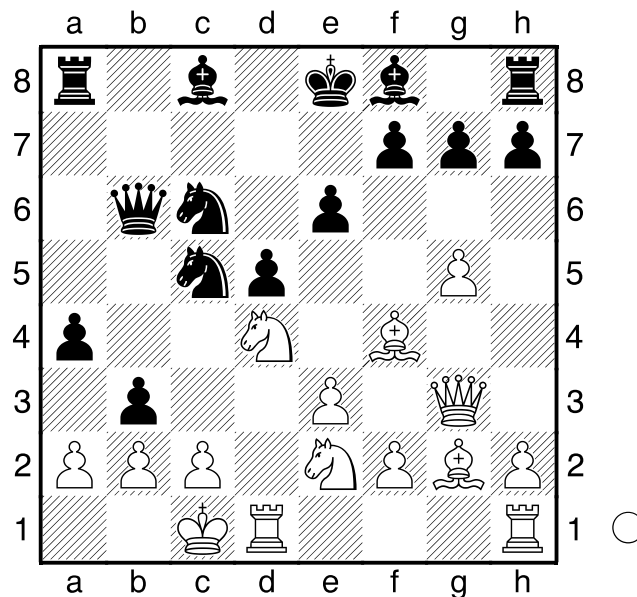
10...Nxc5 11.Bg2? Black's attack is too fast for a move like Bg2

[11.e4! d4 12.Nd5!! exd5 13.Bc7 Qb7 14.exd5 Ne7 15.Re1

A) 15...Qxd5 16.Bg2 Qc4 17.Bxa8 d3 18.Bc6+ Bd7 19.Bxd7+ Kxd7 20.Qd6+ Kc8 21.Qd8+ Kb7 22.Qb8+= (22.c3 Nc6 23.Qe8 Qxa2+-);

B) 15...d3 16.Bg2 (16.cxd3 Qxd5 17.Bg2 Qd4 18.Bxa8 Nxd3+

19.Kd2 Nxe1+ 20.Kxe1 Qxb2+-)]
11...b4 12.Nce2 a5 **13.Nf3**
 [13.Bc7! Qa6 14.Bd6 Bxd6 15.Qxd6 Nb7 16.Qc7∞]
13...a4→ 14.Nfd4 b3



A crucial break **15.cxb3?!**

[15.Bc7 Qb7

A) 16.cxb3 axb3 17.a3 Na4 18.e4 Ra7 19.Bd6 Bxd6 20.Qxd6 Ra6 21.Qg3 Nxd4 22.Rxd4 Qc6+ 23.Nc3 Qc5 24.Bf1 Qxd4 25.Bb5+ Kd8 26.Bxa6 Nxc3 (26...Bxa6? 27.Qd6+=) 27.bxc3 Qc5 28.Bd3;

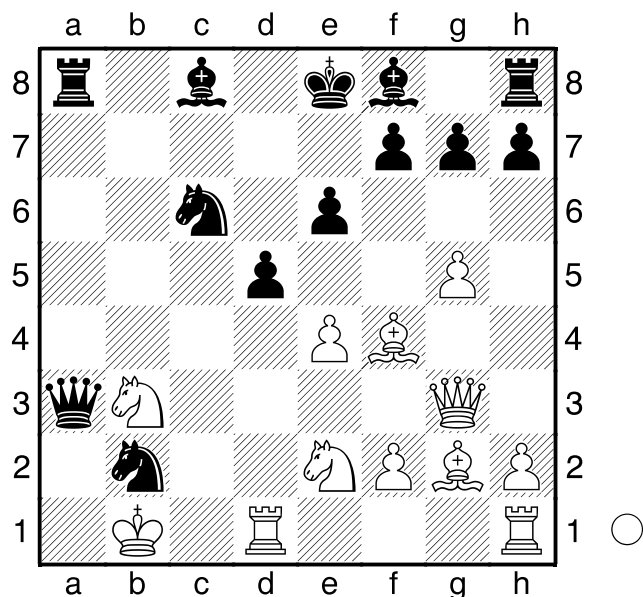
B) 16.a3 bxc2 17.Kxc2 Na5± Black is better but white can still try to hang onto some important squares to fight long term- 18.Bxa5 Rxa5 19.Kb1 Qb6 20.f4 Ne4 21.Bxe4 Bxa3! 22.Rd2 dxe4 23.Rc1 Bc5 24.Qe1 0-0-+]

15...axb3 16.a3 Na4 17.Rd2

[17.e4 Qc5+ 18.Kb1 Nxb2 19.Qxb3 (19.Nxb3 Qxa3

(Diagram)

) 19...Nc4-+ 20.a4 Na3+ 21.Ka1 Nxd4 22.Nxd4 Bd7 With pressure mounting on a4 and eventually the white king.]



17...Na5 18.Bc7 Qc5+ 19.Kb1 Nc4 20.Rhd1

[20.Rd3 may have been a better try in a blitz game, but not much to be expected- Naxb2 21.Rxb3 Nd2+ 22.Kxb2 Nxb3]

20...Naxb2 21.Rxb2

[21.Nxb3 Qxa3 22.Nec1 Nxd1+-]

21...Nxb2 22.Rc1 Qxa3

A shaky opening but in the end a crushing victory for GM elect Heimann! 0-1

□ **Varun Agrawal**

■ **Chakraborty,Dipro**

2025 GM-elect Heimann Special Blitz (2.4) [Sricharan Pulella]

A very topsy turvy game driven by many quick decisions, especially deep into the endgame and time pressure for both players! **1.b3 e5 2.Bb2 Nc6 3.e3 Nf6 4.c4 g6 5.Nf3** Transposing into a Reti-- These types of positions with the queenside fianchetto and flank based central control can often lead to many interesting and dynamic set ups possible for both sides. **5...d6 6.d4** Gives a big

question to black in the center--the decision made here determines the structure of the rest of the game

[6.Be2 Bg7 7.d3 0-0 8.Nbd2

Transposing into a hedgehog system, a favorite of mine with both colors Nd7 9.Rb1 f5 10.0-0 Nf6 11.a3 h6 12.b4 g5 13.b5 Ne7 14.c5 Ng6 15.cxd6 cxd6 16.Qb3+ Kh7 17.Rfc1 Qe7 18.Qc4 Rf7 19.a4 Be6 20.Qb4 f4 21.Ne4 Nxe4 22.dxe4 g4 23.Ne1 f3 24.Bc4 Raf8 25.g3 h5 26.Ba3 Rd8 27.Bxe6 Qxe6 28.Qc4 Qf6 29.Rd1 h4 30.Rxd6 Rxd6 31.Bxd6 hxd3 32.hxd3 Bh6 33.Nc2 Kg7 34.Rd1 Rd7 35.Qd5 Kh7 36.Qc5 Bf8 37.Qc8 Rxd6 38.Rxd6 Qxd6 39.Ne1 Qd1 40.Qxg4 Qxe1+ 41.Kh2 Qxf2+ 0-1 (41) Bauer,C (2623)-Ganguly,S (2652) Berlin 2015]

6...exd4 Now headed towards a more open position

[6...e4!? Is also playable in its own right, leading to a more dynamic center control 7.Nfd2 Bf5 8.Nc3 Bg7

A) 9.h3 h5 10.b4!? 0-0

(10...Nxb4 11.Qa4+ Nc6 12.d5+-) 11.b5 Nb4 12.a3 Nd3+ 13.Bxd3 exd3 14.0-0 d5 15.cxd5 Nxd5 16.Rc1=;

B) 9.Be2]

7.Nxd4 Ne5?! Don't move pieces multiple times in the opening unless necessary!

[7...Bd7 White's a1-h8 diagonal doesn't need to be feared since the knight on f6 is securely defended already 8.Be2 Bg7= 9.Nxc6 Bxc6 (9...bxc6!? 10.0-0 0-0 11.Nc3 c5 12.Bf3 Rb8 13.Qc2 Qe7=) 10.0-0 0-0 11.Bf3 d5 12.cxd5 Bxd5 13.Bxd5 (13.Nc3 Bxf3 14.Qxf3 c6 15.Rad1 Qe7) 13...Nxd5 (13...Qxd5 14.Qxd5 Nxd5 15.Bxg7 Kxg7 16.Rd1 c6 17.e4 Nb6 18.Nc3 a5↑) 14.Bxg7 Kxg7 15.e4 Nf4 16.Qf3

A01

Ne6 17.Nc3 Qf6=]
8.Be2 Bg7 9.0-0 0-0
 [9...c6 10.Re1 Qc7 11.Nc3 0-0
 12.h3 Re8 (12...a5 13.Bf1 Be6)
 13.Qc2 a6 14.f4 Ned7 15.Bf3 Nc5
 (15...Rb8 16.a4 Nc5) 16.e4 Bd7±]
 [9...a5 10.Nc3 Ned7 11.Qc2 c6]

10.Nd2

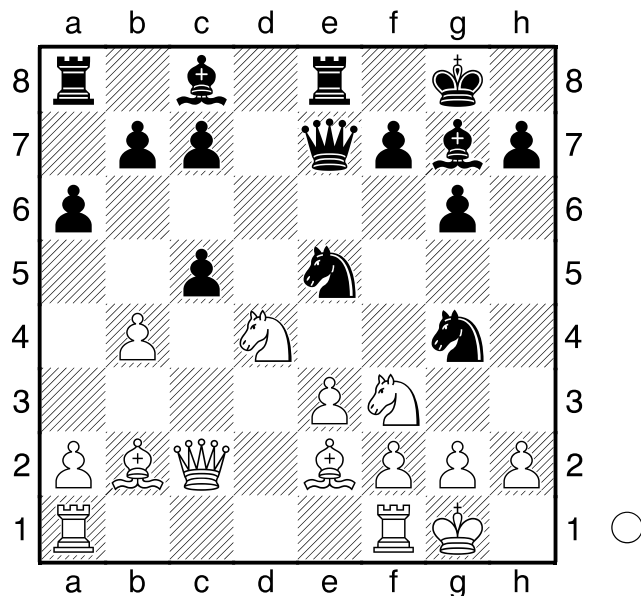
[10.Nc3

**A) 10...d5?! 11.Ba3 (11.cxd5
 Nxd5 12.Nxd5 Qxd5 13.Ba3 Rd8
 14.Nb5 Qd7 15.Qxd7 Bxd7
 16.Nxc7 Rac8 17.Rac1 Bf5
 18.Nb5 Rxc1 19.Rxc1 Rd2
 20.Rd1 Rxe2 21.Rd8+ Bf8
 22.Rxf8+ Kg7 23.h3 Bd7 24.Nc3
 Rd2∞) 11...Re8 12.cxd5 Nxd5
 13.Nxd5 Qxd5 14.Nb5+-;**

B) 10...c6 Preparing for d5 break
 11.Qc2 Re8 12.Rad1 Qc7±]

10...Re8 11.N2f3 Ned7!?

[Stockfish- 11...a6 12.b4 Qe7
 13.Qc2 Nfg4 14.c5 a5 (14...dxc5



Seems slightly more human like-
 inducing the split pawns 15.bxc5
 Nxf3+ 16.Bxf3 Ne5 17.Bd5 Rd8
 18.Bb3 b6∞) 15.a3 axb4 16.axb4
 Rxa1 17.Bxa1 Nxf3+ 18.Bxf3 dxc5
 19.bxc5 Ne5=]
12.Bd3 Nc5 13.Bc2 a5 14.a3 Bd7

[14...Ne6 15.Nxe6 Bxe6 (15...fxe6!?
 16.b4 b6 17.Ng5 axb4 18.axb4
 Rxa1 19.Bxa1 Bb7 20.Ba4 Re7
 21.f3 h6 22.Nh3 e5 23.Nf2 Kh7=)
 16.Nd4 Bd7]

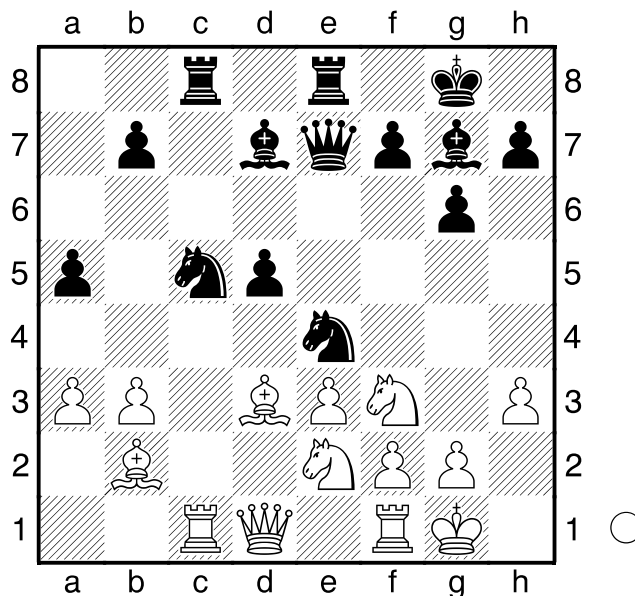
15.Rb1 c6!? An often thematic move in
 these structures, but a risky one in sight
 of the d6 pawn **16.Ne2 Qc7?!**

I'm not a fan of this move particularly
 because the much better way to treat the
 pawn is available, even if it's at the cost
 of a pawn

[16...d5! Often times this
 breakthrough needs to be quick
 before pressure is built 17.cxd5 cxd5

**A) 18.Bxf6 Bxf6 19.Qxd5 Bb5!
 20.Qxd8 (20.Qxc5 Bxe2 21.Rfe1
 Bxf3 22.gxf3 Rc8+-) 20...Raxd8
 21.Rfe1 Ne6 22.Ng3 Rc8↑;**

**B) 18.Rc1 Rc8 19.Bd3 Qe7=
 20.h3 Nfe4↑**



**17.Nf4 Nce4 18.Nd2 Bf5 19.Nxe4
 Bxe4 20.Bxe4 Rxe4 21.Qd3 Ree8
 22.Rfd1 Rad8 23.Qc2 Ne4 24.Rd3
 Nc5 25.Rd2 Qb6 26.Bxg7 Kxg7**

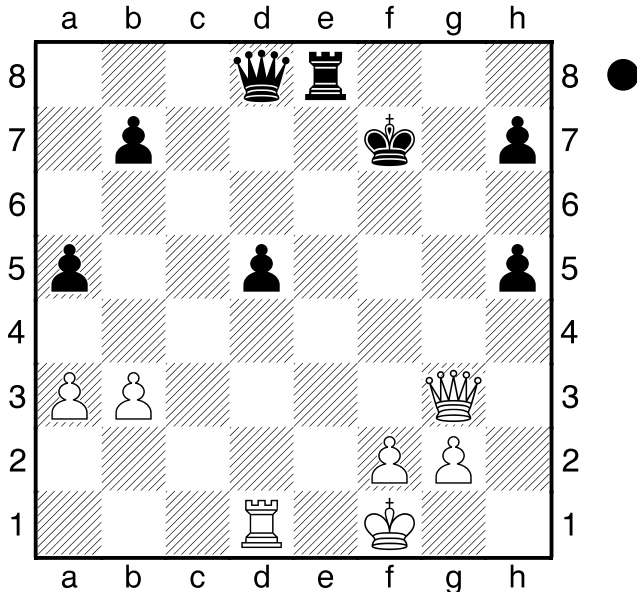
27.Rd4?! Allows Ne6 which leads to a
 slight easing of the pressure

[27.Ne2 Qc7 28.Nc3 Qe7
 29.Rbd1→]

27...Ne6 28.Nxe6+ fxe6 29.Rbd1 d5 30.cxd5 exd5 31.Qc3± Kg8 32.Rf4?

Since there isn't much tension in the center, black has time to solidify, so a quick break point is necessary

[32.h4! Rd6 33.h5↑ gxh5 34.e4 Qd8 35.exd5 Rxd5 (35...cxd5 36.Qg3+ Kh8 37.Qf3 Re5 38.Rf4 Kg8 39.Rf7→) 36.Rxd5 cxd5 37.Qg3+ Kf7 38.Kf1!!



d4 39.Qf3+ Kg6 40.Qxb7+-
That king is not a happy camper on g6!]

32...Rf8 33.Rdd4 Rde8 34.h3 Qd8 35.Qc5 Kg7 36.g4 h6 37.Kg2 Re7 38.Qc3 Kg8 39.Qc5 Ref7 40.Rxf7 Rxf7 41.Rf4 Rxf4 42.exf4 Qf6 43.Qxa5 Qxf4 44.Qd8+?

[44.Qa8+ Qf8 45.Qxb7±]

44...Kg7 45.Qe7+ Qf7 46.Qe5+ Kh7= 47.f4 Qf8 48.a4 Qf7 After escaping white's central and diagonal pressure, the game is flatlined **49.h4 Qd7 50.Kf3 d4⊕ 51.g5??**

[51.f5! creating a speedy passer to fight the d4 pawn gxf5 (51...d3?? 52.Qe6 Qxe6 53.fxe6 Kg7 54.Ke3 Kf6 55.Kxd3 Kxe6 56.Kc4 Kd6 57.b4 Ke5 58.Kc5 Kf4 59.a5 Kxg4 60.Kb6 Kxh4 61.Kxb7+-) 52.gxf5 d3

53.Qe6 Qxe6 54.fxe6 Kg6=]

51...h5??

[51...d3 Passed pawns are meant to be pushed!-White now has no clear way to fight the pawn or get to the black king 52.h5 (52.Qe1 Qh3+-+) 52...gxh5 53.Qe4+ Kh8!! 54.Qe5+ Kg8 55.Qb8+ Kh7 56.g6+ Kg7!! (56...Kxg6?? 57.Qg8+ Kf6 58.Qf8+ Qf7 59.Qd8+∞) 57.Qe5+ Kxg6 58.Qe4+ Kf7 59.Qh7+ Ke8 60.Qh8+ Ke7 61.Qg7+ Kd8 62.Qf6+ Kc8-+]

52.Ke2 b6 53.Kd3 c5 54.Kc4 d3

55.Qe1??

[55.f5!! d2 56.fxg6+ Kg8 57.Qb8+ Kg7 58.Qe5+ Kxg6 59.Qf6+ Kh7 60.Qh6+ Kg8 61.Qg6+ Kf8 62.Qh6+ Ke7 63.Qf6+=]

55...Qd4+ 56.Kb5 d2??

[56...Qb4+-+ A great miss that intantly puts the game away by eliminating all counterplay!]

57.Qe7+□= Qg7 58.Qd6 Qd4 59.Qe7+ Kg8 60.Qe8+ Kh7 61.Qe7+ Qg7 62.Qd6 Qc3 63.Qe7+ Kh8 64.Qf8+ Kh7 65.Qe7+ Kg8 66.Qe8+ Kg7 67.Qe7+ Kh8 68.Qf8+ Kh7 69.Qe7+

A game with multiple opportunities for both sides!-Ends in a perpetual between checks and black protecting his lone pawn on d2

1/2-1/2

B35

□ Winslow,Elliott

2036

■ Heimann,Mark

2391

2025 GM-elect Heimann Special Blitz (3.1)

[Sricharan Pullela]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.Bc4 0-0

This opening already reads an exciting game- **8.Bb3 Ng4**

[8...Re8 9.f3 d5 10.exd5 Nb4

11.Nde2 e6 12.Bd4 exd5 13.Qd2

Nc6 14.0-0-0 Nxd4 15.Nxd4 Bd7
 16.g4 Bc6 17.Kb1 Nd7 18.h4 Nc5
 19.h5 a5 20.a4 Qb6 21.hxg6 hxg6
 22.g5 Nxb3 23.cxb3 Qxd4 24.Qxd4
 Bxd4 25.Rxd4 Kg7 26.f4 Re3
 27.Ka2 Ra6 28.Nxd5 Bxd5 29.Rxd5
 Rb6 30.Rd8 Rxb3 31.Rh2 f5
 32.Rd7+ Kg8 33.Rc2 1-0 (33) Navara,
 D (2740)-Gelfand, B (2703) Batumi
 2018]

9.Qxg4 Nxd4 10.0-0-0 d6 11.Qh4 Nxb3+ 12.axb3 Bd7

[12...a5!? 13.Bd4 Bd7 14.Nd5 f6
 15.Qg3 a4

A) 16.Bb6 Qe8 17.b4 Rc8 18.h4
 h5 19.Rhe1 f5!?∞

A1) 20.exf5 Bxf5 21.Nxe7+
 Qxe7 22.Rxe7 Rxc2+ 23.Kb1
 Rd2+ 24.Ka2 (24.Kc1 Rc2+)
 24...Rxd1 25.Rxg7+ Kxg7
 26.Qc3+ Kh6 27.Qe3+ Kg7
 28.Qe7+ Kg8 29.Qe2=;

A2) 20.Qxg6 Qxg6 21.Nxe7+
 Kf7 (21...Kh7) 22.Nxg6 Kxg6
 23.Rxd6+ Rf6 24.Rxd7 Rxb6
 25.exf5+ Kf6

A2a) 26.Ree7 Bf8 27.Rxb7
 Rxb7 (27...Rxc2+! 28.Kxc2
 Rc6+ 29.Kd3 Bxe7=)
 28.Rxb7 Rc4;

A2b) 26.Re6+ Rxe6 27.fxe6
 b6 28.e7 Re8 29.Rd6+ Kxe7
 30.Rxb6 Kf7∞ The position
 seems to be approaching a
 long draw;

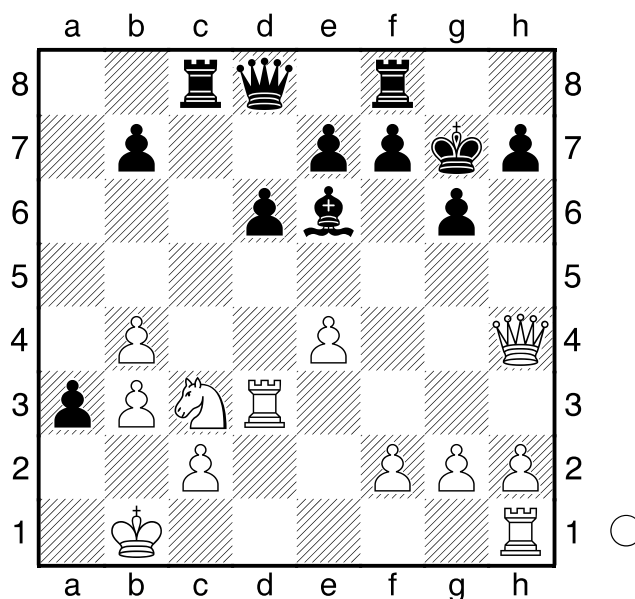
B) 16.b4 Ra6 (16...a3; 16...Be6
 17.Qd3 Rc8 18.h4 Bxd5 19.exd5
 Qc7∞) 17.Qd3 b5 18.h4 h5 19.f3
 e6 20.Nc3 a3 21.bxa3 Qa8
 22.Kb2 Rxa3 23.Ra1 Rxa1
 24.Rxa1 Qc6±]

13.Bh6 Bxh6+?!

[13...a5 14.Bxg7 Kxg7 15.Rd3 a4
 16.b4 (16.bxa4 Bxa4 17.e5 Bc6
 18.exd6 exd6 19.Qxd8 Rfxd8 20.f3
 Ra1+ 21.Nb1 d5= However it is

probably easier to play white due to
 the potential for a superior minor
 piece endgame)

A) 16...Rc8 17.Nd5 e6 18.Ne7!!
 Rc7 (18...Re8 19.Rh3 h5
 20.Nxc8+-) 19.Rf3 h6 20.Qf6+
 Kh7 21.Nxg6 Qxf6 22.Nxf8+ Kg7
 23.Rxf6 Kxf6 24.Nxd7+ Rxd7±
 White enters a rook and pawn
 endgame a clear pawn up;
B) 16...a3 17.b3 Be6 18.Kb1
 Rc8=



]

[13...Bxc3!? 14.bxc3 (14.Bxf8??
 Bf6+-) 14...Re8 15.f4 Qc7 16.Rd3
 a5↑]

14.Qxh6 Rc8 15.h4→ f6 16.f4 Bg4 17.h5 Qe8?!

[17...Bxd1?? 18.hxg6+-]
 [17...gxh5□ 18.Rd3 Rf7 19.f5 Qb6
 20.Nd5 (20.Kb1 a5 21.Qd2 Qa6
 22.Nd5 b5↑) 20...Qf2 21.Qd2 Qxd2+
 22.Kxd2 (22.Rxd2 e6 23.fxe6 Bxe6
 24.Rxh5 Bxd5 25.Rhxd5 Re8
 26.R2d4 Rg7=) 22...Rg7 23.b4
 Kf7=]

18.Rd3 gxh5 Unfortunately one move
 too slow... **19.f5?**

[19.Rg3 Qg6 20.Rxh5→ Bxh5
 21.Rxg6+ Bxg6 22.Qh3± White is

better but it's slightly unclear how to make progress after so much liquidation]

19...Rf7 20.Rg3± Rg7 21.Nd5 Qc6 22.c3 Qb5

[22...Qa6! 23.Nxe7+ Rxe7 24.Qxh5 Rxc3+!! 25.bxc3 (25.Rxc3 Bxh5) 25...Qa1+ 26.Kc2 Qa2+ And black escapes with a perpetual!]

23.c4

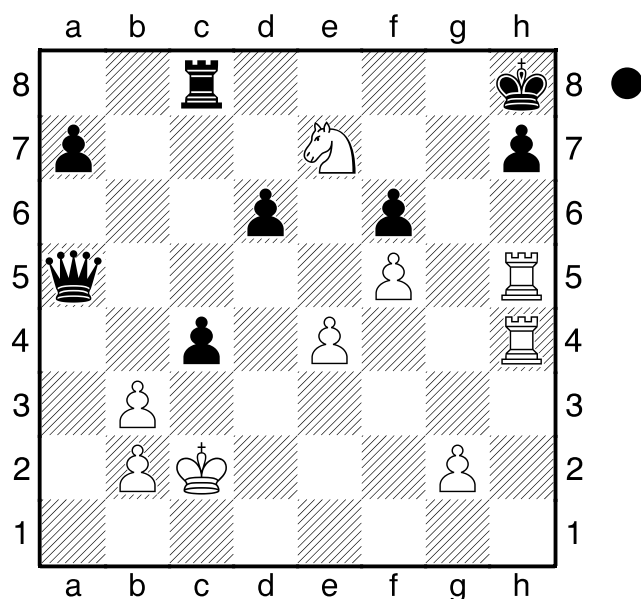
[23.Nxe7+ Rxe7 24.Qxh5± Kh8 25.Rxg4 Qxb3 26.Qh6 Qf7 27.Rd1]

23...Qa5 24.Kc2?? Idea to escape the check is correct, but this needs to be done through getting the king off the c-file-

[24.Kb1+- Rf8 (24...Kh8 25.Nf4 Rf7 26.Nxh5 Rg8 27.Nf4+-) 25.Nxe7+ Rxe7 26.Qxh5 Kh8 27.Qxg4]

24...b5⊕ 25.Rxh5! bxc4 26.Nxe7+ Kf8 27.Nxc8

[27.Qxg7+!! Force checkmate in 12! Kxg7 28.Rxg4+ Kh8 (28...Kf7 29.Rxh7+ Ke8 30.Rg8+ Kd7 31.Nd5+ Kc6 32.Rxc8+ Kb5 33.bxc4+ Ka4 34.Nc3+ Kb4 35.Rb7+) 29.Rgh4!!



cxh3+ 30.Kd3 Qb5+ 31.Ke3 Qc5+ 32.Kf3 And black runs out of useful checks... Kg7 33.Rxh7+ Kf8

34.Rh8+ Kxe7 35.R4h7# It would be a superhuman task to find this with 16 seconds on the clock!]

27...cxh3+ 28.Rxb3 And white flags... A great attack from IM Winslow but Heimann gets away with the clock!
0-1

B00

□ **Sivavi Srinivasan**

■ **Cremisi, Daniel**

2025 GM-elect Heimann Special Blitz (3.3) [Sricharan Pullela]

1.d4 b6 2.e4 Bb7 3.Bd3 g6 4.Nf3

Bg7 The double fianchetto-a personal favorite of mine in bullet chess, however in blitz the dynamic can be different **5.0-0 d6 6.Qe2 Nd7 7.c3** Might not be necessary with the knight on d7

[7.Nc3 c5 (7...a6 8.a4 e6 9.Bf4 Ne7 The hippo set up was popularized in online speed chess during COVID where it was thought of to be a strong defensive set up with lots of opportunities to counteract in the center, but with more than a couple seconds on the clock it might not be as lethal, especially against expert level players. 10.Rad1; 7...e6 8.Bg5 Qc8 9.Rad1 h6 10.Bh4 a6 11.Rfe1 Ne7 12.h3 Qd8 13.Qd2 0-0 14.Ne2 Qe8 15.Nh2 Kh8 16.c3 g5 17.Bg3 f5 18.exf5 Nxf5 19.Ng4 Qf7 20.Ne3 Nxe3 21.fxe3 Nf6 22.Rf1 Qd7 23.Rf2 Ne4 24.Bxe4 Bxe4 25.Rdf1 b5 26.Bh2 Bg6 27.Ng3 Qe7 28.Qe2 Kh7 29.Qg4 c5 30.Ne4 e5 31.dxc5 dxc5 32.Rxf8 Rxf8 33.Rxf8 Qxf8 34.h4 gxh4 35.Qxh4 Qf5 36.Nxc5 Qb1+ 37.Kf2 Qxb2+ 38.Kf3 Qxc3 39.Ne4 Qc6 40.Bxe5 Bxe5 0-1 (40) Lyell, M (2212)-Constantinou, P (2165) Sunningdale 2007) 8.d5 Ngf6 9.h3 0-0 10.Re1±]

7...e5

[7...c5 8.d5 Ngf6 9.c4 0-0 10.Nc3 e6 11.h3 exd5 12.exd5 Re8 13.Qc2±]

8.dxe5?! I don't think that this is in the spirit of white's position since the center seems quite stable

[8.a4 a6 9.d5 Ne7 (9...Ngf6 10.a5 0-0 11.axb6 c6 12.c4 Nc5 13.Nc3 Nb3 14.Ra3 Nxc1 15.Rxc1 Qxb6 16.Rca1↑) 10.a5 b5 11.Bg5±

Maintaining the center and putting pressure on the kingside]

[8.Bg5 Ngf6 (8...Qc8!? 9.a4 a5 10.Nbd2 h6 11.Bh4 Ngf6 12.Rfe1=) 9.Nbd2 0-0 10.Rfe1]

8...dxe5 9.Rd1 Qe7 10.Bb5 Rd8??

[10...Ngf6 11.Bxd7+ Nxd7 12.c4 0-0=]

11.Bg5?

[11.Qc4! putting pressure on c7 with no easy way to defend Qc5 12.Qxc5 bxc5 13.Na3 Bxe4 (13...a6 14.Ba4) 14.Ng5 Bf5 15.Bc4 Nh6 16.h3 0-0 17.Be3± White is soon going to collect the queenside pawns and maintain a comfortable advantage]

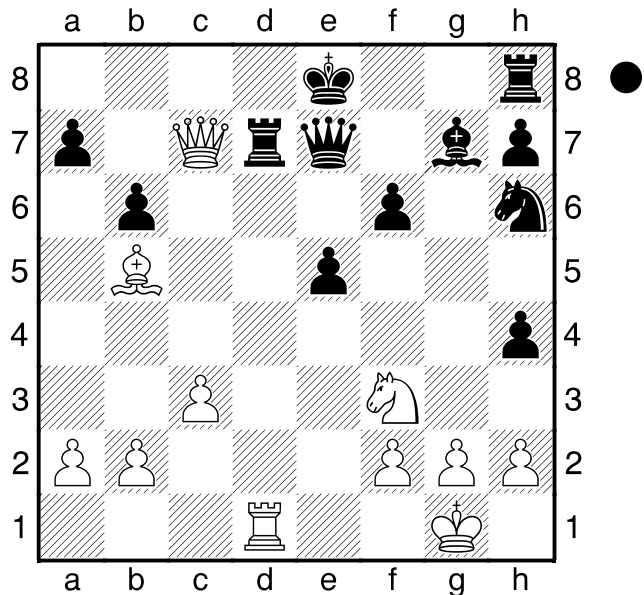
11...f6 12.Bh4 Nh6 13.Na3?!

I find this move to be just a tad bit too slow- with the king in the center and a fragile pawn structure, white needs to put pressure fast

[13.Qc4 Preventing castling and pressuring c7-black must make major concession g5 (13...c6 14.Bxc6 Bxc6 15.Qxc6 g5 16.Bg3±; 13...a6 14.Bxa6 Bxa6 15.Qxa6 0-0 16.Qe2 and white enjoys a comfortable extra side file pawn) 14.Qxc7 Bxe4 15.Nbd2 Bxf3 16.Nxf3 gxh4 17.Rxd7 Rxd7 18.Rd1+-

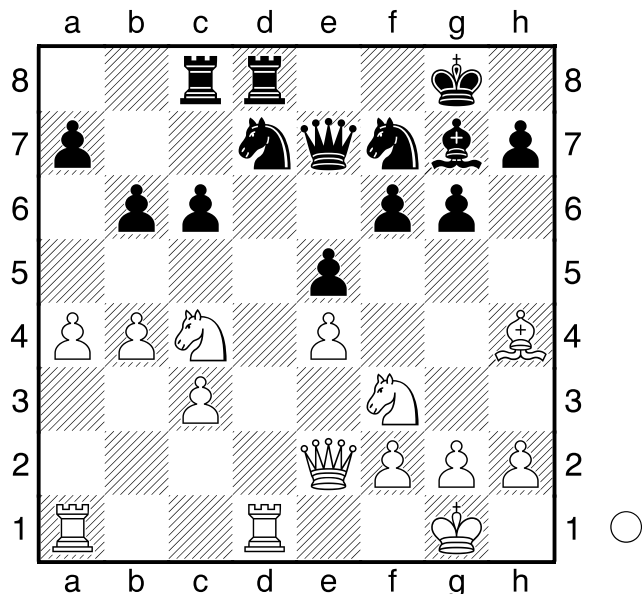
(Diagram)

] **13...c6 14.Ba6 Nc5?** This move loses a



central pawn but it is already difficult to make a decision with black...

[14...Bc8!? 15.Bxc8 (15.Ne1 Nf7 16.f3 Bxa6 17.Qxa6 Nc5 18.Qc4 Nd6 19.Qf1 0-0 20.Bf2 Ndb7 A passive but playable position) 15...Rxc8 16.Nc4 Nf7 17.b4 0-0 18.a4 Rfd8±



] **15.Rxd8+ Qxd8 16.Bxb7 Nxb7 17.Nxe5 Qc7 18.Nf3 0-0 19.Bg3 Qf7 20.Nd4 c5 21.Nc6**

[21.Nf3 Rd8 22.Nb5 a6 23.Nc7 Nd6 24.Bxd6 Rxd6 25.Nd5]

21...Nd8 22.Nxd8 Rxd8 23.Nc4 f5 24.Nd6? A very unnecessary risk for white instead of just advancing the extra pawn
[24.e5 f4 25.Bh4 f3 26.gxf3 Rb8 27.e6±]

24...Qe6⊕ 25.e5??
[25.Kf1!? A somewhat unexpected but necessary move although, it does include seeing that white gives up 2 pieces for a rook which may be counterintuitive to many Rxd6 26.Bxd6 Qxd6 27.Rd1 Qe6 28.exf5 Qxf5 29.Rd8+ Bf8 30.Qd3 Qf6 (30...Qxd3+ 31.Rxd3 Ng4 32.Rd7 a5 33.Rb7→ and white starts collecting) 31.Rd7±]

25...Rxd6! collecting the free piece and a completely winning position-but when players are under time pressure, expect the unexpected! **26.Qa6 Rd7 27.Qc8+ Bf8 28.Qb8 Nf7 29.h4 Rd2 30.Qxa7 Rxb2 31.Rd1 Qxa2 32.Qd7 f4 33.e6**
[33.Bxf4 Rxf2 34.Qg4 Qe2]

33...fxg3?? 2 An abrupt blunder going from completely winning to getting checkmated in
[33...Ne5□ 34.Bxf4 Nxd7 35.exd7 Be7-+]

34.Qxf7+ A sharp ending to a game with a lot of ups and downs, but in the end Srinivasan pulls off a massive upset!
1-0

□ **Heimann,Mark** **A13 2391**
■ **Krishnan,Varun** **2319**
2025 GM-elect Heimann Special Blitz (4.1)
[Sricharan Pullela]

1.c4 e6 2.Nf3 d5 3.e3 Nf6 4.b3 c5 5.Bb2 Nc6 6.cxd5 exd5 7.Bb5 Bd7 8.0-0 Bd6 9.d4 cxd4 10.Nxd4 0-0 11.Nd2 Re8 12.N2f3 Ne4 13.Rc1 Rc8 14.Nxc6 bxc6 15.Ba6 Rb8 16.Qd4 f6 17.Be2 Qa5 18.Ra1 Bc5 19.Qd1 Nc3

20.Qc2 Nxe2+ 21.Qxe2 Bg4 22.Qd2 Qxd2 23.Nxd2 Bb4 24.Nf3 Bxf3 25.gxf3 Rbc8 26.Rac1 Bd6 27.f4 Kf7 28.Rfd1 Bf8 29.Rd4 Red8 30.Ra4 Rd7 31.Kg2 Be7 32.Kf3 f5 33.Ra6 Rd6 34.Rxa7 Re6 35.Ba3 Kf8 36.Rxe7 Rxe7 37.Ke2 Kf7 38.Bxe7 Kxe7 39.Kd3 Kd6 40.a4 Rb8 41.Kc3 c5 42.Ra1 Kc6 43.h4 g6 44.h5 Rd8 45.hxg6 hxg6 46.Rg1 Rd6 47.b4 cxb4+ 48.Kxb4 d4 49.Rc1+ Kb7 50.Rd1 Rb6+ 51.Kc5 Rc6+ 52.Kd5 dxe3 53.fxe3 Ra6 54.Rd4 Kc7 55.Ke5 Rb6 56.a5 Ra6 57.Rd5 Rc6 58.Rb5 Ra6 59.Rc5+ Kd7 60.Rd5+ Kc7 61.Rb5 Kd7 62.Rb7+ Kc8 63.Rb6 Rxa5+ 64.Kf6 Ra3 65.Re6 Kd7 66.Re7+ Kd6 67.Re5 Ra8 68.Kxg6 Rf8 69.Kg5 Rf7 70.Kg6 Rf8 71.Kg7 Ra8 72.Kf7 Ra4 73.Kf6 Ra8 74.Kxf5 Rf8+ 75.Ke4 Ra8 76.Rd5+ Ke6 77.f5+ Kf6 78.Kf4 Ra1 79.Rd6+ Ke7 80.Re6+ Kf7 81.e4 Ra5 82.Rb6 Rc5 83.e5 Rc1 84.Rb7+ Kf8 85.Kg5 Rc6 86.e6
1-0

□ **Cremisi,Daniel** **D26 2266**
■ **Chakraborty,Dipro** **2155**
2025 GM-elect Heimann Special Blitz (4.2)
[Sricharan Pullela]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.e3 Nf6 4.Bxc4 e6 5.Nf3 c5 6.0-0 Nc6 7.Qe2 a6 8.Bb3 cxd4 9.Rd1 Be7 10.exd4 0-0 11.Nc3 Nb4 12.Bg5 b5 13.a3 Nbd5 14.Ne5 Bb7 15.Re1 Rc8 16.Nxd5 Nxd5 17.Bd2 Nf6 18.Bc3 Qb6 19.Rad1 Bxa3 20.d5 exd5 21.Ng4 Ne4 22.Nh6+ Kh8 23.Bxg7+ Kxg7 24.Nf5+ Kh8 25.bxa3 Nc3 26.Qe5+ f6 27.Qe7 Qc7 28.Qxc7 Rxc7 29.Rd2 Rd8 30.Nd4 Ne4 31.Rde2 Rdc8 32.f3 Nc3 33.Re8+ Kg7 34.Ne6+ Kf7 35.Nxc7 Rxc7 36.Rh8 Kg7 37.Rd8

Kg6 38.Bc2+ Kg7 39.Rde8 Kf7 40.Rh8
Rc5 41.Rxh7+ Kg8 42.Rxb7 Rc8
43.Bf5 Rd8 44.Ree7 d4 45.Rg7+ Kh8
46.Rh7+ Kg8 47.Be6+ Kf8 48.Rh8#
1-0

□ **Varun Agrawal**

■ **Winslow, Elliott**

2025 GM-elect Heimann Special Blitz (4.3)
[Sricharan Pullela]

1.b3 e5 2.Bb2 d6 3.e3 Nf6 4.Nf3 g6

5.c4 Agrawal repeat his set up from
round 2 against Chakraborty in which he
got a very comfortable advantage out of
the opening **5...Bg7 6.Be2 0-0 7.0-0**
Re8 8.d4 e4 Winslow choosing to play
a more closed and aggressive approach,
characterizing the typical king's indian
defense play style **9.Nfd2 c6**

[Also interesting is the immediate
9...h5 10.b4 (10.Nc3 Bf5 11.Qc2 h4
12.Rfd1 Nbd7 13.b4 Nf8 14.a4
N8h7 15.b5 Ng5 16.h3 Qd7 17.a5
Bxh3 18.gxh3 Nxh3+ 19.Kf1 Qf5
20.f4 Nxf4 21.exf4 Qxf4+ 22.Ke1
Qg3+ 23.Kf1 e3 0-1 (23) Markowski,
T (2628)-Kempinski, R (2612) Mainz
2010) 10...a5 (10...Nh7 11.Nc3 Bf5
12.a4 a6 13.a5 Nd7∞ With both
sides having attacking chances-an
interesting game would definitely
succeed...) 11.a3

A) 11...Nh7 12.Qc2 Ng5 (12...Bf5
13.Nc3 Ng5) 13.Nc3 Bf5 14.Qb3
b6 (14...axb4 15.axb4 Rxa1
16.Rxa1 Nd7 17.Ra7 b6 18.Nd5
c6 19.Nf4±) 15.bxa5 bxa5
16.Rfb1 Nd7;

B) 11...Nbd7 12.Nc3 h4 13.h3
Nf8]

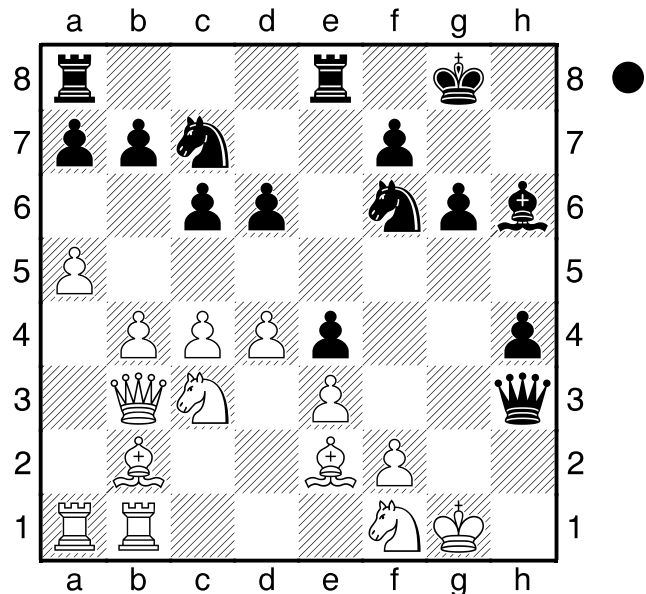
10.Nc3 h5

[10...d5?! 11.b4 Nbd7 12.b5 h5
13.a4± Where the pressure on d5

A15

leaves black's position paralyzed]
11.Qc2 Bf5 12.d5?! Slightly
overextending in the center which would
lead to long term weaknesses

[12.b4→ Na6 13.Qb3 Nc7 14.a4 a6
(14...Qd7 15.a5 h4 16.h3 Bxh3!?
17.gxh3 Qxh3 18.Rfb1 Bh6 19.Nf1∞



) 15.Rfc1]

12...c5 13.a3 Nbd7 14.b4 b6 15.Nb3?

A not so obvious mistake that Winslow
immediately jumps on

[15.Rab1 The knight on b3 doesn't
have a clear future, so in the long run
it will block the white position from
queenside expansion. Ne5 16.bxc5

A) 16...dxc5 17.Rfe1 Qd7 18.a4
Rad8 19.a5 bxa5 (19...Qe7
20.axb6 axb6 21.Ra1=) 20.Qa4;
B) 16...bxc5 17.h3 Qd7 18.Qa4
Qe7 19.Ba1 g5 20.Qa6]

15...Ng4! 16.Nb5

[16.h3 Nge5 17.Nxe4 (17.Nd2
Nf3+-) 17...Nxc4 18.Bxg7 Bxe4
19.Qxc4 Qg5± (19...Kxg7?? 20.f3
Bf5 21.e4+-) 20.f3 Bxd5 21.Bh6
Bxc4 22.Bxg5 Bxe2]

16...Nde5

[16...Bxb2 17.Qxb2 Nde5 18.Nd2
Qe7]

17.h3 Nf6?

[Hard to spot in blitz but Winslow has a clearly winning position after 17...Nf3+

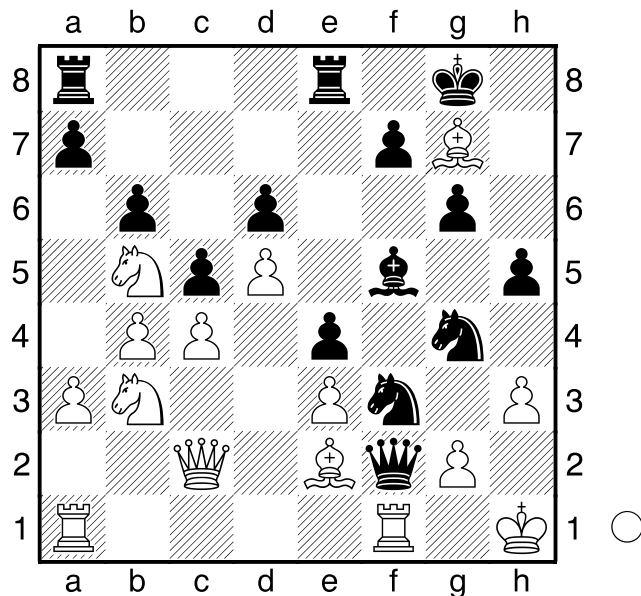
A) 18.gxf3 exf3 19.Qd2 (19.Bd3 Qg5 20.Bxf5 Ne5+ 21.Bg4

Nxg4+-) 19...Qg5 20.Bxf3 Ne5+ 21.Bg2 Nf3+ 22.Kh1 Nxd2;

B) 18.Bxf3 exf3 19.Qd2 fxf2

20.Rfe1 Bxb2 21.Qxb2 Qh4-+;

C) 18.Kh1 Qh4 19.Bxg7 Qxf2!!



20.Bxf3 (20.Rxf2 Nxf2#

These mates don't occur often!)

20...Qxc2]

18.bxc5 bxc5 19.Bc3 Qd7

[19...Nf3+-+]

20.Ba5 Rac8 21.Rad1 Bxh3

[21...Nf3+ was more sound according to the engine but it's blitz, any winning sacrifice wins the game!]

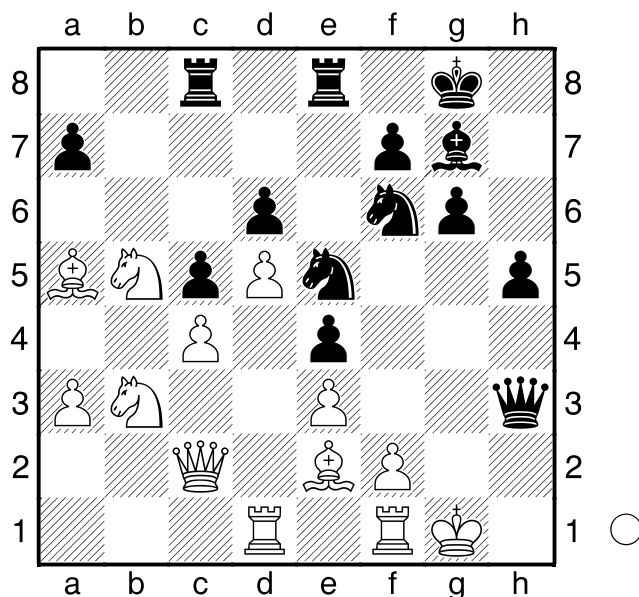
22.gxh3 Qxh3-+

(Diagram)

23.f4 exf3 24.Bxf3 Nxf3+ 25.Rxf3 Qxf3 26.Nxd6 Qg3+ 27.Qg2 Qxd6 28.Bc3 Ng4 29.Bxg7 Kxg7 30.Nc1 Rxe3 31.Nd3 Rg3 32.Ne5 Qxe5

An exciting and sacrificial attack from Winslow ends the game!

0-1



A40

White: Kyle Merri Kaylor

Black: Parsons, Stephen

2025 GM-elect Heimann Special Blitz (4.6)
[Sricharan Pullela]

1.d4 b6 2.Bf4 Bb7 3.e3 g6 4.Nf3 d6 5.Nbd2 Bg7 6.c3 Nd7 7.Bd3 e5 8.dxe5 dxe5 9.Bg3 Qe7 10.e4 Nc5 11.Bc2 Nh6 12.0-0 0-0 13.Re1 Rad8 14.Qe2 a6 15.Rad1 Rfe8 16.Nc4 f6 17.Nfd2 Nf7 18.h4 Bc8 19.Ne3 c6 20.h5 Ng5 21.hxg6 hxg6 22.Nf3 Ngxe4 23.Nh4 Nxg3 24.fxg3 Rxd1 25.Rxd1 f5 26.Nxg6 Qg5 27.Nh4 f4 28.Nef5 fxf3 29.Nxg7 Qxg7 30.Qc4+ Be6 31.Qe2 Bg4 32.Qe3 Bxd1 33.Bxd1 e4 34.Nf5 Qg6 35.Nxg3 Nd3 36.Bc2 Rf8 37.Bxd3 exd3 38.Qd2 Re8 39.Nf1 Re2 40.Qd1 Qxg2#

0-1

☐ **Cremisi, Daniel** **D20**
☒ **Heimann, Mark** **2266**
2391
 2025 GM-elect Heimann Special Blitz (5.1)
[Sricharan Pullela]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.e3 e5 4.Bxc4
 exd4 5.exd4 Bb4+ 6.Nc3 Qe7+ 7.Qe2
 Nf6 8.a3 Qxe2+ 9.Ngxe2 Be7 10.Bf4
 c6 11.0-0 0-0 12.d5 cxd5 13.Nxd5
 Nxd5 14.Bxd5 Nd7 15.Rac1 Bf6 16.b3
 Nb6 17.Bf3 Re8 18.a4 Nd7 19.Rfd1
 Ne5 20.Bxe5 Bxe5 21.Ng3 Rb8
 22.Bd5 Be6 23.Bxe6 Rxe6 24.Kf1 g6
 25.Re1 Rbe8 26.Rc2 Kf8 27.Rce2
 R8e7 28.Ne4 Bd4 29.Ng5 Rxe2
 30.Rxe2 Rxe2 31.Kxe2 h6 32.Ne4
 Ke7 33.f3 f5 34.Nd2 Ke6 35.h3 Ke5
 36.Nc4+ Kf4 37.Nd6 b6 38.Nc8 a5
 39.Ne7 g5 40.Ng6+ Kg3 41.Kf1 Bc5
 42.Ne5 Kf4 43.Nc4 h5 44.Ke2 Kg3
 45.Kf1 g4 46.fxg4 fxg4 47.hxg4 Kxg4
 48.Ke2 Kf4 49.Nd2 Ke5 50.Kd3 Kf4
 51.Ke2 Bb4 52.Nc4 Bc5 53.Nd2 Kg3
 54.Kf1 Kg4 55.Ne4 Bd4 56.Nd2 Kg3
 57.Nf3 Bc5 58.Ng5 Kf4 59.Nf7 Ke3
 60.Ke1 Kd3 61.Ne5+ Kc3 62.Ke2
 Kxb3 63.Kd3 Kxa4 64.Kc4 Bf2 65.Nd3
 b5+ 66.Kc3 b4+ 67.Kc4 Be3 68.Ne5
 Ka3 69.Kd3 Bc5 70.Nc4+ Ka4 71.Kc2
 Kb5 72.Ne5 a4 73.Nd3 Bd4 74.Nf4
 b3+ 75.Kd3 a3 76.Ne2 Be5

0-1

☐ **Nakamura, Hikaru** **A05**
☒ **Carlsen, Magnus** **2803**
2911
 Playoffs Chess.com (5.4) 21.02.2025
[Sricharan Pullela]

Blitz 10min **1.b3 0 c5 8 2.Bb2 1 Nc6 5**
3.Nf3 7 Nf6 2 4.e3 3 g6 4 5.Bxf6!? 27
 Interesting decision from Hikaru

[5.c4 is the continuation I'm more
 familiar with and play myself Bg7

6.Be2 (6.d4 cxd4 7.Nxd4 0-0 8.Be2
 Nxd4 9.Bxd4 d5 10.Nd2) 6...0-0
 7.0-0

A) 7...d6 8.d4 cxd4 9.Nxd4 Nxd4
 10.Qxd4 (10.exd4 d5 11.Nc3)
 10...Bd7 11.Nc3 Bc6 12.Qd2=;

B) 7...d5 8.cxd5 Qxd5 9.Nc3 Qd8
 10.a3 e5 11.d3 Qe7 12.Qc2

With a hedgehog like structure]

5...exf6 1 6.c4 0 d5 9 Striking in the
 center early is important, as if delayed,
 the d pawn can become a permanent
 weakness

[6...Bg7 7.Nc3 d6

A) 8.g3!? 0-0 9.Bg2 Bf5 10.0-0
 Bd3 11.Re1 f5 12.Rc1= Re8

13.Bf1 Bxc3 (13...Bxf1 14.Kxf1
 Qa5 15.Qc2 Nb4 16.Qb1 Rab8
 17.Kg2 a6 18.a4 Bxc3 19.dxc3

Nc6 20.Rcd1= Both sides have
 dynamic play but with both pairs of
 bishops traded, the open position is
 not much of use to either side)

A1) 14.dxc3!? Be4 (14...Bxf1
 15.Kxf1 Qf6 16.Kg2↑ h6
 17.Qd3 Kg7 18.Re2 Re6

19.Rd2) 15.Bg2 Re6 16.Nd2
 Bxg2 17.Kxg2 Ne5 18.Nf3 Ng4
 19.Qd2 h6 20.h3 Nf6 21.Rcd1=

With pressure on the d-file for
 white and prospective queenside
 breaks and central control for
 black, both sides have something
 to play for;

A2) 14.Rxc3 Bxf1 15.Kxf1;

B) 8.Be2 0-0 9.0-0 f5 10.Rc1]

7.cxd5 2 Qxd5 1 8.Nc3 1 Qd8 3 9.Rc1
6 Bd7 39

[9...Bg4 10.Ne4 Rc8!/? 11.Nxc5 Be7
 12.Be2 0-0 13.d4 (13.Nxb7 Qb6;
 13.0-0 Nb4 14.Ne4 Rxc1 15.Qxc1

Nxa2 16.Qa1 f5 17.Nc3 Nxc3
 18.dxc3 Qb6=) 13...b6 14.Nd3 Ba3
 15.Rc2 Nb4 16.Rc4 Qe7=]

[9...Bf5 10.Bb5 Rc8 11.0-0

(11.Na4?! a6 12.Bxc6+ Rxc6 13.0-0

b5 14.Nb2 Bd6) 11...Bd3 12.Bxd3 Qxd3 13.e4

A) 13...Be7? 14.Nd5 Ne5 15.Re1 Nxf3+ 16.gxf3 b5 (16...Kf8 17.Rc4 Rd8 18.Re3 Rxd5 19.Rxd3 Rxd3 20.Qe2+-) 17.Re3 Qd4 18.a4 a6 19.Qe2 Kf8 20.axb5 axb5 21.Qxb5;

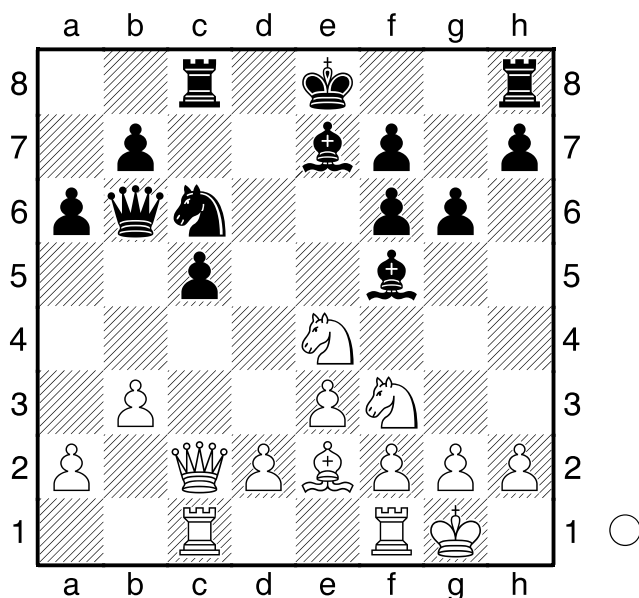
B) 13...Qd8 14.d4! cxd4 15.Nd5 Bd6 16.Nxd4 0-0=]

10.Bb5 21 Rc8 5 11.0-0 3 a6 1:09

12.Be2 1:30

[12.Bxc6 Bxc6 13.d4 (13.Qe2 b5 14.Rfd1 b4 15.Na4 Bb5 16.d3 Be7) 13...b5 14.d5 (14.dxc5 Bxc5 15.Qxd8+ Kxd8=) 14...Bb7 15.Qd3 b4 16.Na4 Qxd5 17.Qxd5 Bxd5 18.Nb6 Rd8 19.Na4=]

12...Be7 10 13.Ne4 22 Qb6 39 14.Qc2 32 Bf5!↑ 4



Using the pressure from this pin, Magnus takes a slight edge in the position **15.d3 1 0-0 4 16.Qb2 5 Nb4 32 17.a3 32 Nd5 1 18.Nfd2 0**

[18.Ned2!? Be6

A) 19.d4 f5 the knight now stands uncontested in the center 20.Nc4 Qd8 21.dxc5 Rxc5 22.Nd4 Bf6;

B) 19.Nc4 Qa7! It's hard to see through what Stockfish sees here to

decide why Qa7 is better than Qd8, but the space for the rooks does prove useful in the longrun 20.d4 b5 21.Na5 Qb6 22.Qd2 cxd4 23.Nxd4 Bxa3 24.Rc6 Rxc6 25.Naxc6 Bd7 26.Ra1 Rc8 27.Rxa3 Bxc6;

C) 19.Rfd1 f5 20.d4 (20.e4? Nf4 21.Bf1 Rfd8↑) 20...Bf6 21.e4 fxe4 22.Nxe4 Bxd4 23.Nxd4 cxd4 24.Bc4 Nf4 25.Qd2 Nh5 26.Bxe6 Qxe6 27.Qxd4= Rxc1 (27...Qxb3? 28.g4! Rxc1 29.Rxc1 Ng7 30.Nf6+ Kh8 31.Rc3 Qb1+ 32.Kg2 Ne6 33.Rh3 g5 34.Qd1!! Qg6 35.Rxh7+ Qxh7 36.Nxh7 Kxh7 37.Qb1+-) 28.Rxc1;

D) 19.g3 Rfd8 20.h4 Bg4 21.e4 Nc7 22.Rfd1 f5 23.Nc4 Qc6 24.Nfe5 Qe6 25.exf5 Bxf5 26.g4 Rd4! 27.gxf5 (27.f4 Rxf4 28.Rf1 Rxf1+ 29.Rxf1 f6 30.gxf5 gxf5 31.Nf3 b5 32.Na5 Nd5↑) 27...Qxf5 28.Bf3 Bxh4∞]

18...Rfd8 5 19.Bf3 4 Be6 6 20.Nc4 6 Qc7?! 7

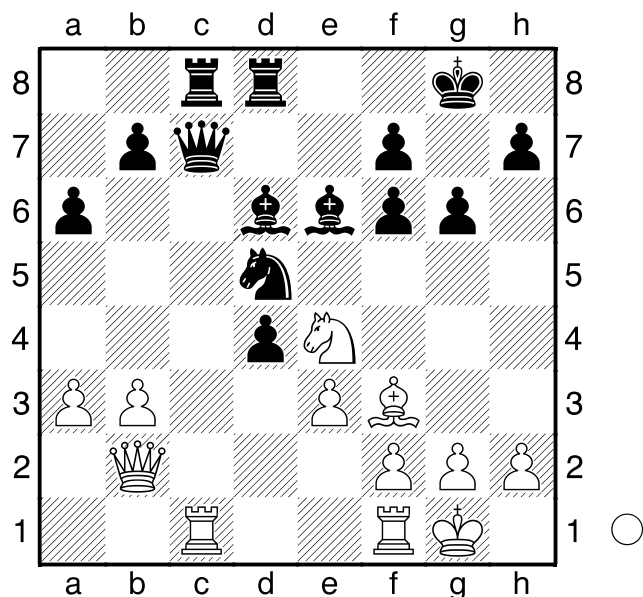
[20...Qa7 Stockfish again in love with Qa7 over anywhere else for the queen 21.Nc3 b5 22.Nd2 (22.Nxd5 Bxd5 23.Bxd5 Rxd5 24.e4 Rxd3+-) 22...Nxc3 23.Qxc3 (23.Rxc3 f5) 23...f5 Black enjoys a comfortable space advantage and the double bishops-Magnus wins these positions out of habit.]

21.d4 9 cxd4? 3 Interesting to see that Magnus wasn't afraid of Nd6 but he seems to have already had his eyes on the queen sacrifice-objectively he can hold equality with a passive defense-

[21...b6 22.dxc5 bxc5 23.h4↑ f5 24.Ng5 Bf6 (24...Bxg5 25.hxg5 f4) 25.Nxe6 fxe6 26.Qe2 Rb8=]

22.Ncd6 2 Bxd6!? 17

(Diagram)



Magnus had his eyes on this idea when he played cxd4 and practically this sacrifice does look sound-Hikaru's queen is misplaced and his minor pieces are discoordinated. **23.Rxc7 2 Bxc7 0 24.Qxd4?** 26 creates an easy target for black's pieces to activate with

[24.exd4 b6 25.g3 a5 26.Rc1 Kg7 27.Rc6↑ White's pawns coordinate to significantly limit black's movement, especially with the aid of the d4 pawn controlling the crucial e5 square]

24...Be5 2 25.Qa7 52 b6 23 26.Qxa6 21 Ra8 7 27.Qb5 9 Rxa3 3 Stockfish gives equality in this position, but the action on the board looks far from it **28.Rd1 4 Rc8 43**

[28...Kg7 Since black's position is quite stable, Magnus can afford to be more prophylactic and slowly improve the position 29.h4 Nc7 30.Qf1 (30.Qc6?! Rxd1+ 31.Bxd1 Ra1 32.f4 Rxd1+ 33.Kf2 Bd5 34.Qc2 Bxe4 35.Qxd1 Bc3?) 30...Rxd1 31.Bxd1 Nd5 32.Qe2 f5 33.f4 fxe4 34.fxe5 Ra1↑]

29.g3 13 Ra5 1 30.Qf1 2 Kg7 2 31.Nd2?! 10 Giving up the crucial c3 square

[31.h4 h5 32.Kg2 Ne7 33.Rc1=]
[31.g4 Nc3 32.Nxc3 Bxc3 33.Rd6 Ra1 34.Rd1 Ra3 35.Rd6 Ra1= (35...Rxb3?? 36.Rxe6!! fxe6 37.Qd1!!)]
[31.Rd2 Nb4 32.Kg2 Bxb3?! 33.Qb1 Ra3 34.Bd1 Bxd1 35.Qxd1 (35.Rxd1 Ra1 36.Qb3 Rxd1 37.Qxd1 Rc4 38.Qb1 Nc2 39.Nd2 Rc6 40.h4 h5 41.Qb5 Re6 42.Qb3 Rc6 43.Kf1±) 35...Rc4 36.Nd6 Bxd6 37.Rxd6 b5 38.Qf3 f5 39.Qb7+-]
31...Nc3 3 32.Re1 0 b5 6 33.Bg2 26 Rd8 3 34.Nf3⊕ 10 Bxb3 1 35.Nxe5 0 fxe5 1 36.f4 26 Bc4 23 37.Qf3 1 e4 3 38.Qg4+- 1 Ra2?! 7

[38...b4 39.f5 Rxf5 40.Bxe4 h5 41.Qh4 g5 42.Qh3 Rf6 43.Bf5 b3+-]

39.f5?! 2

[39.Qg5 gives the best fighting chance Rd5 40.Qe7 Rdd2 (40...h6 41.g4 Rdd2 42.Bh3 Rxh2 43.f5 gxf5 44.Qe5+ f6 45.Qc7+ Bf7 46.Bf1∞) 41.Qe5+ f6 42.Qe7+ Bf7 43.Bf1 Nd5 (43...b4 44.Qxb4 Rdc2) 44.Qxe4=]

39...Rdd2 3 40.f6+ 6 Kxf6 5 41.Qf4+ 1 Kg7 4 42.Qe5+ 5 f6 16 43.Qc7+ 4 Kh6 14 44.Qf4+ 1 Kg7 2 45.Qc7+ 1 Kh6 2 46.Qf4+ 50 Kg7 1 47.Qc7+ 43

A shocking premature draw given up from the world champion-albeit both players are under intense time pressure

[47.Qc7+ Bf7!+- 48.Bf1 (48.Qxc3 Rxg2+ 49.Kh1 Rxh2+ 50.Kg1 Bc4) 48...b4 49.Bc4 Nd5 Perhaps this is what Magnus missed under the time pressure, blocking the pin and leaving white with absolutely no chances left in the position and a white king waiting to be checkmated on the back rank 50.Qd7 Rg2+ 51.Kh1 Rxh2+ 52.Kg1 Rag2+ 53.Kf1 Rc2 54.Kg1 Rhg2+ 55.Kh1 Rgd2 56.Bb3 Rb2+-]

1/2-1/2

Caruana, Fabiano **C47**
2830

Firouzja, Alireza **2877**
 Playoffs Chess.com (2.1) 18.02.2025
[Sricharan Pullela]

Blitz 10min **1.e4 0 e5 2 2.Nf3 2 Nc6 1**
3.Nc3 0 Nf6 2 4.h3!? 1 Interesting
 choice from Fabi-Less than 500 games
 in the database match

[4.Bc4]

4...Bb4 8

[4...d5 5.exd5 Nxd5 6.Bb5 Nxc3
 7.bxc3 Bd6 8.0-0 0-0 9.d4 exd4
 10.cxd4 Bf5 11.c4 Qf6 12.Be3 a6
 13.Bxc6 bxc6 14.c5 Be7 15.Bg5
 Qe6 16.Re1 Be4 17.Bxe7 Qxe7
 18.Nd2 f5 19.f3 Rad8 20.fxe4 Rxd4
 21.Qc2 f4 22.Nf3 Rdd8 23.Rad1
 1-0 (23) Short, N (2678)-Cheparinov, I
 (2710) Riadh 2017]

5.Bd3 2 Already by move 5, Fabiano has
 elected for a very obscure set up **5...0-0**
16 6.0-0 2 d6 13

[6...Bxc3!?

A) 7.dxc3 d6 (7...d5 8.exd5
Qxd5 9.Ng5 Ne7 10.Re1 h6
11.c4 Qd6 12.Ne4 Nxe4 13.Bxe4
Qxd1 14.Rxd1 Rb8 15.Be3 b6)
8.b3 a5 9.a4 Ne7 10.Nh4 Nd7
11.Qg4 Nc5 12.Qg3 Ne6;

B) 7.bxc3 d5 8.exd5 Nxd5 9.Re1
Re8 10.c4 Ndb4 11.Be4 f5
12.Bxc6 Nxc6 13.d3 e4 14.Nd2
Be6 (14...exd3 15.Rxe8+ Qxe8
16.cxd3 Be6) 15.dxe4 fxe4
16.Rxe4 Bf5 17.Rxe8+ Qxe8
18.Bb2 Rd8 19.Qf3 Bxc2=]

7.Ne2N 1 Now revealing the idea behind
 Bd3-followed by c3, tucking the bishop,
 and then pushing for central control

7...Re8 16 8.c4 2

[8.c3

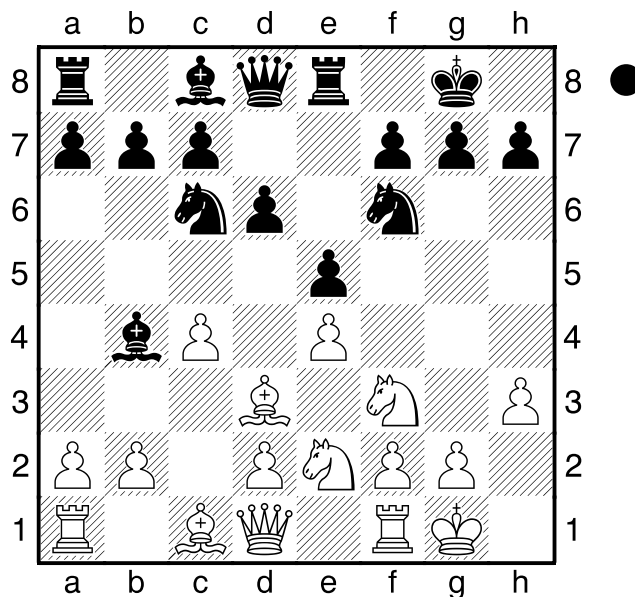
A) 8...d5!?

A1) 9.cxb4 dxe4 10.Bxe4 Nxe4
11.b5 Nd4 12.Nexd4 exd4

13.d3 Nc5 14.Re1 Rxe1+
(14...Bd7 15.Nxd4 Rxe1+
16.Qxe1 Bxh3! 17.Qc3 Ne6
18.Be3) 15.Qxe1 Nxd3 16.Qe4
Nc5 17.Qxd4=;

A2) 9.exd5 Qxd5 10.Bc2 e4
11.Nh2 Bc5;

B) 8...Bc5 9.Bc2 d5 10.exd5
Qxd5 11.b4 Bf8 12.d3 (12.Ng3
h6 13.Bb3 Qd3 14.Bc2 Qd5)
12...Bf5 13.Ng3 Bg6 14.Nh4 a5
15.Nxg6 hxg6 16.Bb3 Qd7 17.b5
Nd8 18.Re1 Ne6= (18...Qxb5
19.Ba4)]



Nevermind!-Also a center oriented idea
 to take full control over the d5 square!

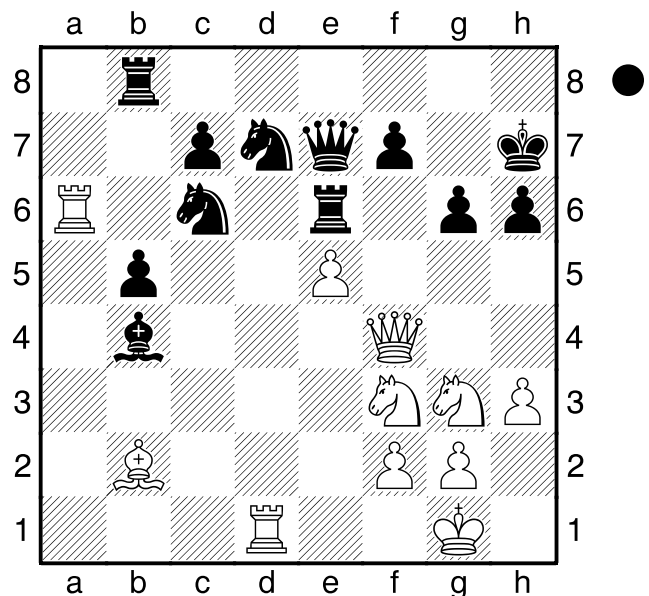
8...Bc5 7 9.Bc2 13 a5 4 10.a3 2 h6 4
11.d3 3 Bd7 2 12.Be3 14 b6!? 14

[12...Bxe3 seems appealing to me
 since the pawn structure is very
 incomplementary to white's bishop
 and the open f-file doesn't need to be
 feared in the long run 13.fxe3
 practically speaking, black has a much
 easier time Ne7 14.Rf2 (14.Ng3 c6
 15.Nh4 Nh7 16.Qf3 Ng5=) 14...Ng6
 15.Ng3 Nf8 16.Qe2 c6 17.Raf1
 N8h7=]

[12...Qb8!? 13.Qd2 b5 14.Bxc5

dxc5 15.cxb5 Qxb5 16.Nc3 Qa6
 (16...Qxb2 17.Rfb1) 17.Na4 Nd4
 18.Nxd4 (18.Nxc5?! over looks the
 long term compensation black will
 have Nxf3+ 19.gxf3 Qc6 20.Nxd7
 Qxd7=) 18...cxd4 19.Nc5 Qd6
 20.Nxd7 Nxd7 21.Bb3 a4 22.Bc4=]
13.Ng3 5 Nh7 15 14.Ba4 34 Ne7 28
15.d4 32 an important break to put the
 question to Firouzja **15...exd4 2**
 [15...Bxa4 16.Qxa4 exd4 17.Nxd4
 Ng5 18.Rad1 (18.Bxg5 hxc5
 19.Rad1 Ng6 20.Qc2 Ne5 21.Ngf5
 g4 22.hxc5 Nxc5 23.Qd2 Qf6=)
 18...Ng6 19.Qc2 Ne6 20.Ndf5 Bxe3
 21.Nxe3 Nef4=]
16.Nxd4 1 Nf8?! 6 A little too passive,
 which opens entry on the kingside
 [16...Bxa4= Transposing into the line
 above]
17.Bxd7 20 Qxd7 5 18.b3 1
 [18.Nh5 Kh7 19.Qd3 Ne6 20.Nf5
 Threatening Nfxg7 and Nf6 (20.Rae1
 Nxd4 21.Bxd4 Bxd4 22.Qxd4 f6
 23.f4 Rad8 24.Qd3 Qe6 25.Re3↑)
A) 20...Ng8 21.Bd2 g6 22.b4
 axb4 23.axb4 gxh5 24.e5! Rxa1
 25.Rxa1 Nf8 26.exd6 Bxd6
 27.Nxd6+ Ng6 28.Ra7 Re7
 (28...Qxd6 29.Qxd6 cxd6
 30.Rxf7+ Kh8 31.Bc3+ Ne5
 32.f4) 29.c5 bxc5 30.bxc5 Qe6
 31.f4 Qe2 32.Qxe2 Rxe2
 33.Nc4±;
B) 20...Qd8 21.Bd2 Nxf5 22.exf5
 Nd4 23.Rad1 d5 24.f6+ g6
 25.Ng3 Qd7 (25...Qxf6 26.Bc3)
 26.b4 axb4 27.axb4 dxc4 28.Qc3!
 Bf8 29.Bxh6 c5 30.Bxf8 Rxf8
 31.bxc5 bxc5 32.Qxc4±]
18...Nc6 59 19.Ndf5 3 Re6 55 20.Bd2
 43 Now the dark squared bishop become
 a big issue for black as it cannot be
 remanouvered without major material
 concession **20...Kh7 51 21.Bc3 21**
 [21.b4 was a faster way to a win Bd4

22.b5 Bxa1 23.bxc6 Qxc6 24.Qxa1]
21...g6 4 22.Nh4 13
 [22.b4]
22...Qe7 33 23.Nf3 3 Rb8 20 24.Qd5
 51 **Qe8 10 25.Rfb1?! 19** A surprising
 decision to seemingly divert the focus at
 first but at low time, makes more sense
 as the easiest way to trap the bishop
 [25.Qd2 repositioning the queen while
 threatening b4 b5 26.b4 axb4
 27.axb4 Bb6 28.cxb5 Ne5 29.Nd4
 Re7 30.Kh2 Bxd4 31.Qxd4 Qxb5
 32.f4 Ne6 33.Qd2 Nc4 34.Qf2↑]
25...b5! 29 26.b4 2 axb4 2 27.axb4 1
Bb6 3 28.c5 1:11 dxc5⊕ 46 29.bxc5 0
Ba7 7 30.Nd4 3
 [30.e5!? Qd7 31.Qe4 Bxc5 (31...f5
 32.Qh4 Qe7 33.Qxe7+ Rxe7 34.Ra6
 b4 35.Bd2±) 32.Rd1 Qe7 33.Qf4
 Bb4 34.Bb2 Nd7 35.Ra6→



]
30...Ne7 20 31.Qb3 9 Bxc5 1 32.Nxe6
 2 **Nxe6 0 33.Rd1 14 Bb6 4 34.Bf6 9**
Ng8 5 35.Bb2 50 c5 1 36.Ne2 5 c4 19
37.Qc3 3 Qc6 2 The game could have
 been played longer but at this point both
 players are under severe time pressure
 and black is running out of moves-A
 great positional and tactical victory of

Fabiano! **38.Qh8# 3**

1-0

□ **Erigaisi Arjun**

■ **Artemiev, Vladislav**

Playoffs Chess.com (1.3)

[Sricharan Pullela]

B15

2721

2778

18.02.2025

Blitz 10min **1.e4 0 c6 1 2.d4 2 d5 0**

3.f3 0 An unusual but aggressive approach against the Caro-Kann-Aims to defend the center that consists of pawns and is supported by pawns **3...g6 1**

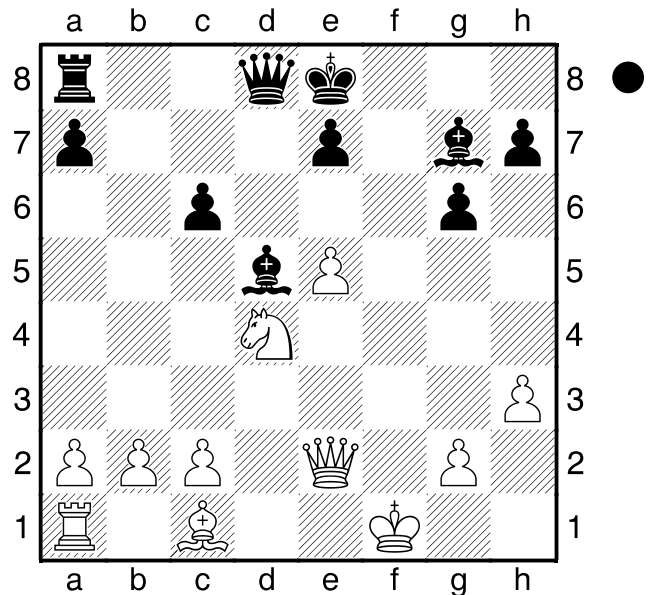
4.Nc3 2 Bg7 1 5.Be3 1

[5.e5 seems more assertive as it allows white to cement a pawn chain in front of black's bishop and easily defend it

A) 5...c5 6.f4 cxd4 (6...Nc6 7.dxc5 d4 8.Ne4 Nh6 9.Nf3 0-0 10.Bd3 Nb4 11.Bc4 Bf5 12.Qe2 Qa5 13.0-0 Bxe4 14.Qxe4 Qxc5 15.Qxd4 Rac8 16.Bb3 Nf5 17.Qxc5 Rxc5 18.g4 Nh6 19.Be3 Rxc2 20.g5 Nf5 21.Bd2 Rxd2 22.Nxd2 Rd8 23.Nf3 Ne3 24.Rfe1 Rd3 25.Rac1 e6 26.Bc4 Nxc4 27.Rxc4 Bf8 28.Kf2 Nxa2 29.Ra1 Nb4 30.Rxa7 Rb3 31.Rc8 Kg7 32.Raa8 Bc5+ 33.Kg3 1-0 (33) Yosifides,A (2385)-Schwartz,Y (2245) Dos Hermanas 2003) 7.Qxd4 Be6 8.Bb5+ Nc6 9.Nf3± Nh6 10.h3 Nf5 11.Qf2 d4 12.Bxc6+ bxc6 13.Ne2 Bd5 14.Nfxd4 Nxd4 15.Nxd4 f6 16.0-0 fxe5 17.fxe5 Rf8 18.Qe2 Rxf1+ 19.Kxf1∞

(Diagram)

B) 5...Bf5 6.Be3 h5 7.Qd2 e6 8.Be2 Nd7 9.Bg5 Ne7 10.g4



hxg4 11.fxg4 Be4 12.Nxe4 dxe4 13.h4→;

C) 5...f6 6.f4 Nh6 7.Nf3 Bg4 8.Be2 Nf5 9.0-0 e6 10.Kh1 0-0 11.Ng1!? Bxe2 12.Ncxe2 fxe5 13.dxe5 c5 14.Qd3 d4 (14...Nc6 15.Bd2 Qe7 16.g4 Nh6 17.Qg3↑) 15.Nf3 Nc6 16.Bd2±]

5...Qb6 7 6.Na4 25 Qa5+ 4 7.c3 0 Nd7 24

[7...e5?! 8.dxe5 Ne7 9.Nc5 Bxe5 10.f4 Bg7 (10...Bxf4? 11.Qd4!) 11.e5 f6 12.Nf3 fxe5 13.fxe5 Nf5 14.Bf2 0-0 15.Bd3= leading to a complex middlegame where both sides are for choice depending on you're preferred dynamic in a position]

8.b4 2 Qc7 3 9.e5 10 f6 16 10.f4 22 Nh6 6 11.Nf3 1

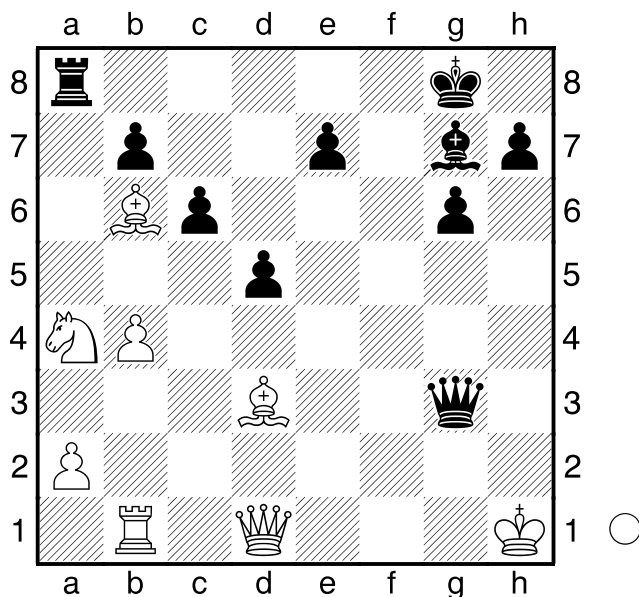
[11.Bd3 b5 12.exf6 Nxf6 13.Nc5 a5 14.h3 0-0 15.Ne2 Nf5 16.Bxf5 Bxf5 17.0-0 Nd7 18.g4 Nxc5 19.bxc5 Be4 20.Ng3 g5 21.Nh5 gxf4 22.Bxf4 e5 23.Bxe5 Bxe5 24.dxe5 Qxe5 25.Qd4 Qxd4+ 26.cxd4 Bd3 27.Nf6+ Kg7 28.Rf3 Be4 29.Nh5+ Kh6 30.Re3 Rae8 31.Rae1 Bg6 32.Re6 b4 33.R1e5 Rxe6 34.Rxe6 Rc8 35.Re7 Bb1 36.h4 Rg8 37.Nf6 Rf8

38.Ra7 Bxa2 39.g5+ Kg6 40.Nd7
Rc8 41.Kf2 b3 42.Ke3 Re8+
43.Ne5+ Rxe5+ 44.dxe5 b2
0-1 (44) Lewandowski,R (2240)-Mista,
A (2562) Warsaw 2010]

11...0-0 53 12.Bd3 7 a5 20 13.0-0?! 50

This move ignores the h6 knight's
potential for activity, thus leaving the
dark squared bishop susceptible to being
jumped

[13.h3 to prevent Ng4 fxe5 14.fxe5
axb4 15.cxb4 Nf7 16.0-0 Nfxe5!!
17.dxe5 Nxe5 18.Bb6 Qb8 19.Nxe5
Qxe5 20.Rxf8+ Bxf8 21.Rb1∞
Bxh3!!= 22.Bc2 (22.gxh3 Qg3+
23.Kh1 Qxh3+ 24.Kg1 Qg3+ 25.Kh1
Bg7̄



) 22...Bf5 23.Bxf5 Qxf5 24.Qb3 Bg7
25.Rf1 Qg4 26.Bf2 Bd4 27.Nc5 Rf8
28.Nd3=]

13...axb4 31 14.cxb4 0 b5? 1

Missing the opportunity to activate the
knight

[14...Ng4

A) 15.Bd2 fxe5 16.fxe5 Ndx5!!-+
17.dxe5 Bxe5

A1) 18.Bc3 Rxf3! 19.Rxf3
(19.Qxf3 Bd4+! 20.Rf2 Bxf2+)
19...Bxc3 20.Nxc3 Qxh2+
21.Kf1 Qh1+ 22.Ke2 Qxg2+

23.Ke1 Ne5 24.Re3 Bg4
25.Ne2 Nf3+ 26.Rxf3 Qxf3→;
A2) 18.Qe2 Bxa1 (18...Bxh2+)
19.Rxa1 Rxa4 Loose Piece Drop
Off!;

B) 15.Re1 fxe5 16.fxe5 Bxe5

A slight variation in the sacrifice!

17.dxe5 Ndx5 18.Re2 (18.Nxe5
Qxe5 19.g3 Nxe3) 18...Nxf3+
19.gxf3 Nxe3 20.Rxe3 Qf4-+;

C) 15.Bf2 fxe5 16.fxe5 Ndx5!!

17.dxe5 Bxe5 18.Nc5 (18.h3
Nxf2 19.Rxf2 Bxa1 20.Qxa1
Rxa4) 18...Bxh2+ 19.Kh1 Nxf2+
20.Rxf2 Bg3 21.Rf1 b6 22.Nb3
e5-+]

15.Nc5 2 Nxc5 16 16.bxc5 11 Bf5 2:13

17.Bxf5 2 Nxf5̄ 2 After a small episode
of chaos, black comes out slightly better
with a better pawn structure and minor
pieces **18.Bf2?! 1**

[18.Qd3 h5 19.Bd2 Ra4]

[18.Qb3]

[18.Bc1]

18...Ra3↑ 3 19.Qe2 9 Rfa8 38 20.g4 23

Nh6 4 21.h3 3 b4 30 22.Rab1 45 Rxa2

10 23.Qd1 1 Rb8 20 Artemiev misses a
manoeuvre to drastically improve his
position

[23...Qc8! 24.Ne1 fxe5 25.fxe5 Nf7
26.Bh4 Bh6 27.Qf3 (27.Bxe7 Qe6
28.Bf6 Rd2 29.Qf3 Rxd4-+) 27...Qe6
28.Rxb4 (28.Nd3 R2a3 29.Rxb4
Bg5 30.Be1 h5 31.Kh1 hxc4
32.hxc4 Nh6) 28...Bg5 29.Bxg5
(29.Bg3 Bd2 30.Rb3 Ng5 31.Qd1
Nxc3+-+]

(Diagram)

) 29...Nxc5 30.Qe3 h6 (30...Ne4?!)

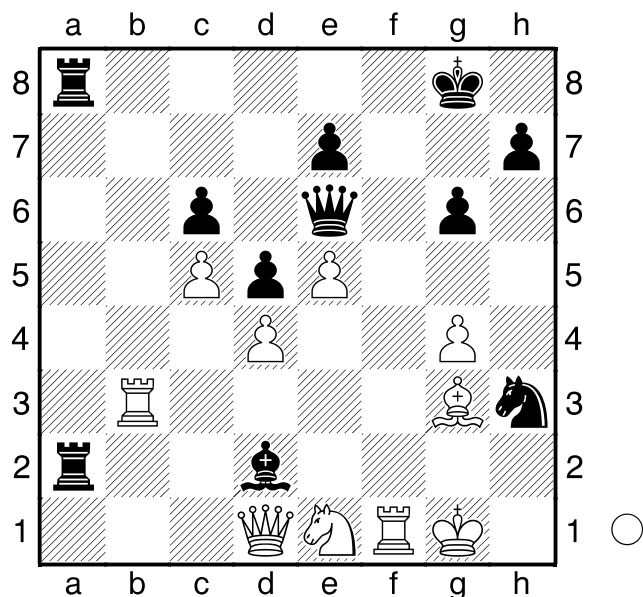
31.Qh6! Qc8 32.Rb3=) 31.Ng2 Qc8

32.Rb3 Qa6̄]

24.Be1 10 Nf7 8 25.Bxb4 12 g5 2

26.Bd2 19 gxf4 24 27.Bxf4 2 fxe5 13

28.dxe5 2 Nxe5?? 24



[28...Rba8 29.Rb6 e6 leaves black with a solid position and central control]

29.Kh1! 56 escaping the capture on f3 with check, forcing the pin onto Artemiev
29...Rf8 13 **30.Bg3** 41 **e6** 36 **31.Qb3** 34 **Qa5** 29 In sight of not being able to hold onto the piece, Artemiev gives up the piece, but there isn't sufficient counterplay to supply this decision
32.Nxe5 34 **Ra3** 7 **33.Rxf8+** 1 **Bxf8** 6 **34.Qb7+-** 0 After giving many opportunities to the opponent, Erigaisi runs away with the final blow!
1-0

□ **Carlsen,Magnus** **B13**
 ■ **Esipenko,Andrey** **2906**
 Playoffs Chess.com (1.3) **2693**
 18.02.2025
[Sricharan Pullela]

Blitz 10min **1.d4** 1 **Nf6** 2 **2.Nc3** 1 **d5** 1
3.Bf4 0 The Jobava London-a staple of Magnus's **3...c5** 2 **4.e3** 1 **cx d4** 2
5.ex d4 0 **a6** 0 **6.Nf3** 1 **Nc6** 1 **7.Ne5** 1
Bd7 1 **8.g4!?N** 1 No surprise that Magnus would play a move like such with the simple idea of dislodging the f6

knight

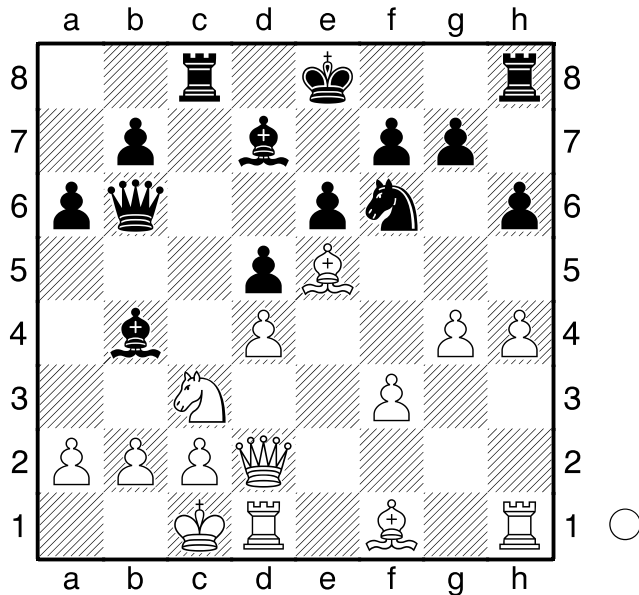
[8.Nxc6 Bxc6 9.Bd3 Qb6 10.Ne2 Qxb2 11.Rb1 Qa3 12.Qd2 e6 13.0-0 g6 14.Be5 Bg7 15.Ng3 Qe7 16.Qf4 Rd8 17.Rfe1 0-0 18.f3 Nd7 19.Bxg7 Kxg7 20.Qg4 Kh8 21.h4 Qf6 22.c3 Rg8 23.Re3 h5 24.Qg5 Qxg5 25.hxg5 Kg7 26.Ne2 Rc8 27.Nf4 Nf8 28.Kf2 Nh7 29.Re5 Rge8 30.Ke3 Nf8 31.Kd2 Rc7 32.Rbe1 Rec8 33.R5e3 Bd7 34.Bb1 Nh7 35.Nh3 Rc6 36.f4 Rb6 37.Kc1 Bb5 38.g4 hxg4 39.Nf2 Ba4 40.Nxg4 Rb4 41.Kd2 Rb2+ 42.Kc1 Rg2 43.Ne5 Nf8 44.Rh3 Nd7 45.Reh1 Nxe5 46.fxe5 Bd7 47.Rh7+ Kf8 48.Rh8+ Ke7 49.Rxc8 Bxc8 50.Bd3 Rxg5 51.Kd2 Rg2+ 52.Be2 Rg3 53.Rb1 Rh3 54.Rb3 Kd8 55.Ke1 Kc7 56.Kf2 Bd7 57.Kg2 Re3 58.Kf2 Rh3 59.Kg2 Rh4 60.Rb1 Bc6 61.Kg3 Rh8 62.Rf1 Rh7 63.Rf2 Kd7 64.Bd3 Ke7 65.Kg2 Rh4 66.Rb2 Rh8 67.Rb6 Rc8 68.Kf2 Kd7 69.Ke3 Kc7 70.Rb2 Rh8 71.Rf2 Be8 72.Be2 Rh3+ 73.Bf3 Kd8 74.Kf4 Ke7 75.Rb2 Bc6 76.Kg4 Rh8 77.Kg3 Bb5 78.a4 Bc6 79.Be2 Rh1 80.Rb6 Rc1 81.Rb3 Ra1 82.Kf4 Rxa4 83.Bd3 Ra1 84.Rb2 a5 85.Bb5 Kd7 86.Bd3 Rc1 87.Rf2 Rxc3 88.Be2 a4 89.Kg5 Ke7 90.Bd1 a3 91.Kh6 Rd3 92.Bc2 Rxd4 93.Kg7 Be8 94.Bb3 b5 95.Rc2 Rb4 96.Rc3 d4 97.Rf3 Kd8 98.Kf8 Bc6 99.Rh3 Rxb3 100.Rxb3 a2 101.Ra3 Bd5 102.Kxf7 b4 103.Ra6 b3 0-1 (103) Tang,A (2509)-Robson,R (2649) chess.com INT 2018]
 [8.Ne2!? is also worth examining after e6 9.Nc1! Nxe5 10.Bxe5 Qb6 11.Nb3 Be7 12.a4 0-0 13.Bd3 a5 14.0-0±]
8...h6 19 **9.h4** 4 **g6** 9 I'm not a fan of pushing more pawns on the kingside-

instead:

[9...e6 10.Qd2 Rc8

A) 11.Nxc6 Bxc6 12.f3 Be7
13.0-0-0 Bb4! (13...0-0? 14.g5
Nh5 15.gxh6 Nxf4 16.hxg7 Kxg7
17.Qxf4±) 14.Be5 Ba4 with further
pressure on the queenside;

B) 11.f3 Nxe5 12.Bxe5 Qb6
13.0-0-0 Bb4↑



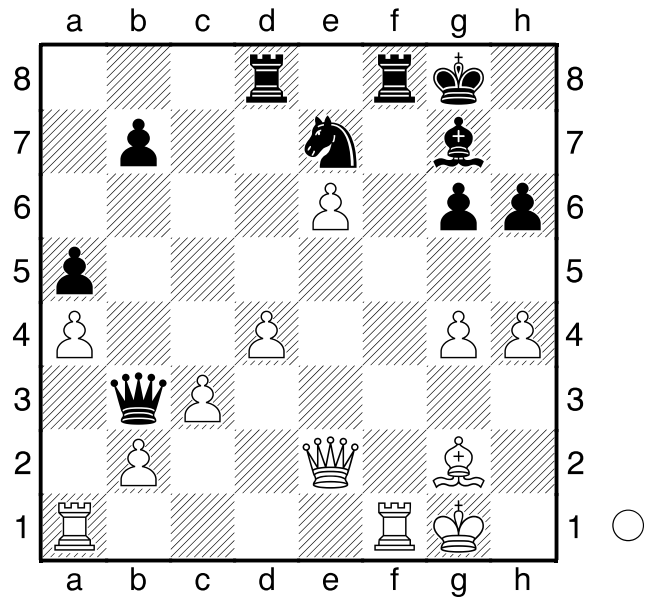
10.Bh3 49 Bg7 1:06 11.Nxd7 2 Nxd7 1
12.Nxd5? 2 A somewhat risky capture
that could've led to greater
consequences than what was found in
the game

[12.Bg2 e6 (12...Nb6 13.Ne2 0-0
14.c3 Qd7 15.Ng3 e5 16.Bxe5
Nxe5 17.dxe5 Bxe5 18.0-0= Bxg3
19.fxg3 Rae8 20.Qd4 Nc4 21.h5↑)
13.Ne2 Nf6 14.Nc1!? Qb6 15.Nb3
a5 16.a4∞ Rd8 17.0-0

A) 17...Ne4 18.c3 0-0 19.Be3 f5
20.f3 f4 21.fxe4 fxe3 22.exd5
Ne7! (22...exd5 23.Rxf8+ Bxf8
24.Qc2↑) 23.dxe6 e2 24.Qxe2
Qxb3

(Diagram)

25.Rf7 Rxf7 26.exf7+ Qxf7 27.Rf1



Qe8 28.Bxb7=;

B) 17...h5 18.g5 Ne4 19.c3 0-0
20.Qc2 Nd6 (20...e5 21.dxe5
Bxe5 22.Bxe5 Nxe5 23.Nd4)
21.Nc5 Nf5 22.Qb3 Qxb3
23.Nxb3 Nxh4 24.Nc5 b6 25.Nd3
Nxg2 26.Kxg2±]

[12.h5

A) 12...g5 least complex and
seems the most appealing-
completely shutting off all kingside
activity 13.Be3 Nb6 14.Bg2 Rc8
15.Ne2 Qd7 16.Ng3 Nc4 (16...e6
17.c3 0-0±) 17.b3 Nxe3 18.fxe3
A1) 18...Nb4 19.c4 dxc4 20.0-0
(20.bxc4 Rxc4 21.0-0 0-0

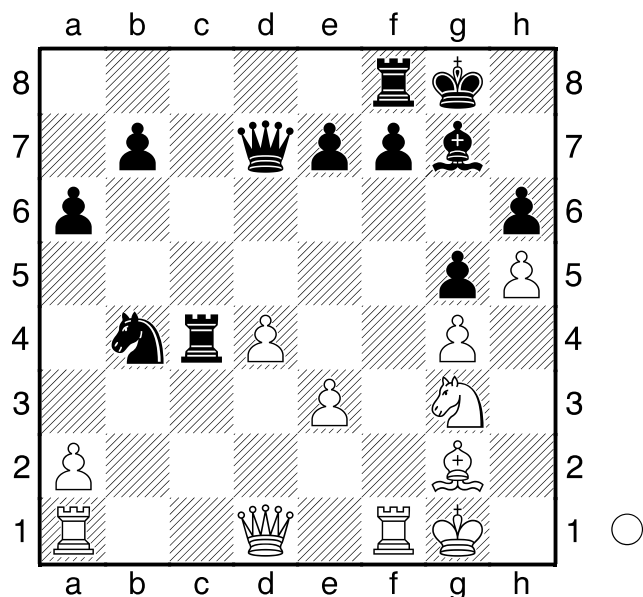
(Diagram)

) 20...0-0 21.Rc1 b5±;

A2) 18...e6 19.0-0 b5 20.c4
bxc4 21.bxc4 dxc4 22.Rc1 Nb4
23.Rb1 a5 24.a3 c3 25.Qb3
(25.axb4 c2) 25...Nc6 26.Qxc3
0-0=;

B) 12...gxh5 13.Be3 (13.Ne2 Qb6
14.c3 Qxb2 15.gxh5 e6 16.Rb1
Qxa2 17.Rxb7∞) 13...h4 14.Nxd5
Qa5+ 15.Nc3 0-0-0↑]

12...Qa5+ 3 13.Nc3 2 Nxd4 11



[13...Rd8!? may have been better after 14.Bg2 Nxd4 15.0-0 Ne5 16.Bxe5 Bxe5 17.Re1 h5 18.b4 (18.g5 0-0 19.Bxb7 Nf5 20.Qe2 Bxc3 21.bxc3 Qxc3 22.Qe5 Qh3→) 18...Qxb4 19.Rxe5 (19.Nd5 Qd6-+) 19...Qxc3 20.Qe1 Qc7 21.Rb1 b5 22.c3 Ne6 23.g5 0-0-+]

14.0-0 8 Ne5 17 15.Bg2 21

[15.Kh1 Rd8 16.Bg3 0-0 17.Bg2 Nc4 18.Qe1! Nxc2 (18...Nxb2 19.Ne2 Qc5 20.Nxd4 Rxd4

And white's early kingside expansion proves to be a weakness more than a strength) 19.Qe4 Nxa1 20.Qxc4 Nc2 21.Bc7 Rc8 22.Nd5 Rxc7 23.Qxc7 Qxc7 24.Nxc7 Rd8-+]

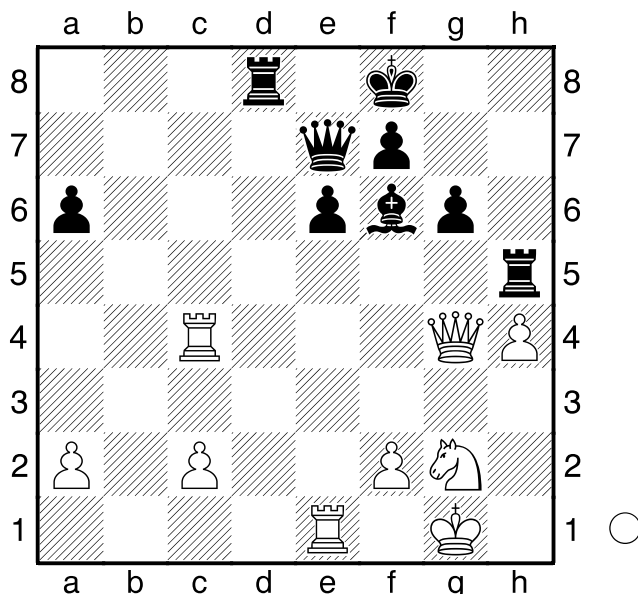
15...Rd8 3 16.Bxe5 29 Bxe5 5 17.Re1 12 0-0?! 1:29

[17...h5 was a crucial miss- 18.b4 Qxb4 19.Nd5 (19.Rxe5 Qxc3 20.Qe1 Qc7 21.gxh5 f6 22.Rd5 Rxd5 23.Bxd5 Rxh5-+) 19...Qd6 20.Rb1 hxg4

A) 21.Qxg4 Nf5 22.Qb4 Rxh4 23.Qxd6 Bxd6 24.Rxb7 Kf8-+;

B) 21.Rxb7 Kf8! 22.Qxg4 (22.Rxe7 Nc6 23.Rb7 Rxh4) 22...Nf5 23.Qe2 Bf6 24.Nxf6 Qxf6 25.Ra7 e6 26.Qxa6 Nxh4↑;

C) 21.Rb6 Nc6 22.Qxg4 e6-+ 23.Ne3 Qe7 24.Bxc6+ bxc6 25.Ng2 Rh5 26.Rxc6 Kf8 27.Rc4 Bf6



and black's superior minor piece and pawn structure should prove decisive in the long run]

18.Qd3 5 e6 26 19.Rad1 56 Bg7 39

20.Ne4⊕ 18 f5? 25 As the players approach their last seconds on the clock, the advantage starts to slip

[20...Nf5! 21.Qh3 Rxd1 22.Rxd1 Nd4 White's intense lack of coordination against black's very active pieces-

A) 23.c3 Ne2+ 24.Kf1 Nf4 25.Qe3 (25.Qg3 Qb5+) 25...Nd5 26.Qe2 Qxa2 27.Bf3 b5 28.Nc5 Nf4 29.Qe4 g5 30.hxg5 hxg5 31.Qb4 Rc8-+;

B) 23.h5 Rd8 24.Bf1 gxh5 25.c3 hxg4 26.Qxg4 Nc6 27.Rxd8+ Qxd8-+ and black enjoys the comfortable extra pawn]

21.gxf5 9 Nxf5 4 22.Qc4 25 Nxh4 7 23.Nc5 58 Nxc2 37 24.Kxg2 4 Rxd1 3 25.Rxd1 2 Qc7= 1 26.Qxe6+ 14 Kh7 2 27.Ne4 1:35 Qxc2 53 28.Rd6 31 Qxb2 14 29.Qxg6+ 1 Kh8 1

[29...Kg8 30.Rb6 Qe5 31.Rxb7 Qd4

32.Qc6 a5 With both sides having such open kings but secure defenses set up, its hard for either side to crack through]

30.Rd7 4 b6 44 31.Rb7 27 a5 0 32.a4 7 Qd4 1 33.Re7 3 Qb2 11 34.Rb7 29 Qd4 1 35.Re7 24 Qb2 8 36.Re6 3 Qd4 3 37.Re7 1 A tough game for both players-many missed opportunities from Esipenko and many saves from Magnus. 1/2-1/2

C54

□ **Firouzja,Alireza** **2869**
 ■ **Nakamura,Hikaru** **2812**
 Playoffs Chess.com (3.5) 19.02.2025
[Sricharan Pullela]

Blitz 10min This game features perhaps one of the best sacrifices I've seen from Hikaru: **1.e4 0 e5 0 2.Nf3 1 Nc6 1 3.Bc4 1 Nf6 3:59 4.d3 1 h6 1 5.c3 1 Bc5 0 6.b4 0 Be7 0** Interesting decision from Hikaru to go for this line as opposed to the mainline with Bb6

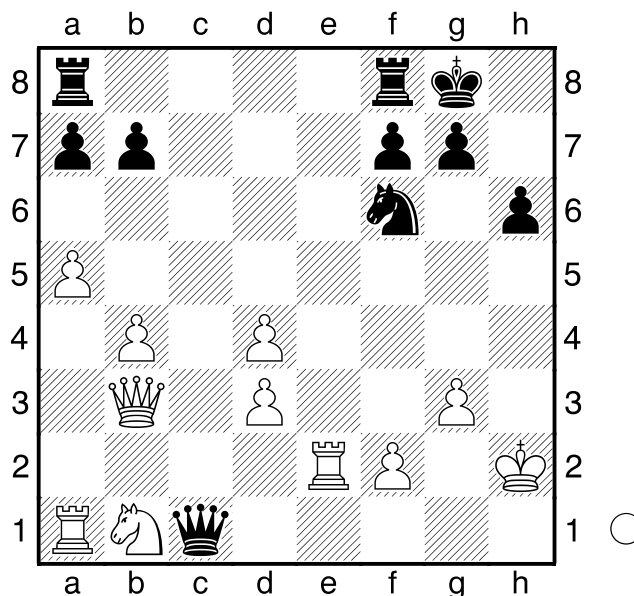
[6...Bb6 7.a4 a6 8.Nbd2 (8.a5 Ba7 9.0-0 0-0 10.Qb3 d6 11.h3 Ne7 12.Be3 Ng6 13.Nbd2 Nh5 14.d4 Qf6 15.Rfe1 Nh4 16.Bf1 c6 17.Kh2 Kh8 18.g3 Ne6 19.d5 Nc7 20.c4 Bxe3 21.Qxe3 cxd5 22.cxd5 Bd7 23.Nc4 Nb5 24.Nb6 Rad8 25.Nxd7 Rxd7 26.Bxb5 axb5 27.Kg2 Qd8 28.Qd3 Rc7 29.Rac1 Rxc1 30.Rxc1 Qd7 31.Qc2 f5 32.Qc7 Rf7 33.Qxd7 Rxd7 34.exf5 Ne7 35.Nh4 Kg8 36.Ng6 Nxf5 37.g4 Nd4 38.h4 Kf7 39.h5 Kf6 40.f3 Kg5 41.Rc8 Rf7 42.Rd8 Nxf3 43.Rxd6 Ne1+ 44.Kg3 Rf3+ 45.Kh2 Rb3 46.Rb6 Rxb4 47.Rxb7 Nf3+ 48.Kg3 Rb3 49.Kf2 e4 50.d6 Rd3 51.d7 Kxg4 52.a6 e3+ 53.Ke2 Rd2+ 54.Kxe3 Rd6 55.a7 Nd4 56.a8Q Nf5+ 57.Ke2 Ng3+ 58.Ke1 1-0 (58) Kosintseva,N

(2533)-Kosintseva,T (2515) Moscow 2010) 8...d5 9.exd5 Nxd5 10.Ne4 Be6± 11.0-0 0-0 12.Re1 Re8]

7.Qb3 1 Alireza grabs the opportunity and puts maximal pressure on black's position from the get go **7...0-0 0 8.a4 1 d6 1 9.0-0 1 Nb8!N 0** A common idea seen in a lot of openings where the knight is misplaced on c6 and therefore relocates **10.Qa2 6**

[10.Ba3]
 [10.Re1 c6 (10...Bg4 11.Nbd2 Nbd7) 11.a5 d5!? Sacrificing a pawn for long term compensation- 12.exd5 cxd5 13.Bb5 Bd7

A) 14.Bxd7 Nbx d7 15.Nxe5 Nxe5 16.Rxe5 Bd6 17.Re2 d4! 18.c4 (18.cxd4 Bxh2+ 19.Kxh2 Qc7+ 20.g3 Qxc1±



) 18...Re8↑;

B) 14.Na3 a6 15.Bxd7 Nbx d7 16.Nxe5 Nxe5 17.Rxe5 Bd6 18.Rf5 (18.Re2 Qd7 19.Be3 Qf5↑) 18...Re8 19.Nc2 Qd7 20.Rf3 Rac8≡]

10...c6 0 11.Bb3 0 a5 1 12.b5 1
 [12.bxa5 Rxa5 13.Ba3 b5 14.axb5 cxb5!? (14...Bg4 15.Nbd2 Rxb5 16.Bb4 c5 17.Ba5 Qd7 18.Rfb1 Kh7=) 15.Qb2 Nc6 16.Nbd2

A) 16...Bg4 17.Bd5 Nxd5 18.exd5 b4! 19.Bxb4 (19.dxc6 bxa3 20.Rxa3 Rxa3 21.Qxa3 Qc7 22.Qa6 Rc8=) 19...Rxd5 20.d4 exd4 21.Nxd4 Nxd4 22.cxd4 Qd7 23.Bc3 Rc8±;

B) 16...Bd7 17.Bb4 Rxa1 18.Rxa1 Nh5=]

12...Nbd7 0 13.Ba3 1 Nh5 1

Both sides are now racing on their respect side of the board **14.g3 2 Nb6 0**

15.Re1 3 Bh3 1 16.Kh1 3 Nf6 0

17.Ng1 0 Bg4 1 18.bxc6 1

[18.f3 Bc8 19.f4 cxb5 (19...exf4 20.gxf4 cxb5 21.axb5 d5 22.e5 Bxa3 23.Nxa3 a4 24.Bd1 Ne8 25.Nf3) 20.axb5

A) 20...Bd7 21.c4 d5!? 22.exd5 (22.fxe5 Bxa3 23.Qxa3 dxc4 24.exf6 cxb3 25.fxg7 Re8 26.Qxb3 Be6 27.Qd1∞) 22...Bxa3 23.Nxa3 exf4 24.gxf4 a4 25.Bd1 Bf5 26.d4

A1) 26...Rc8 27.Bf3 Ng4 28.c5 Qh4 29.Rf1 (29.cxb6 Rc2) 29...Rfd8 30.d6 Rxd6 31.cxd6 Rc2 32.Qxc2 Bxc2 33.Bxg4 Bd3 34.Be2 Be4+ 35.Bf3 Qxf4 36.Rac1 Bd3 37.Rfd1 Be4 38.Rf1=;

A2) 26...Re8 27.Bf3;

B) 20...a4 21.Bd1 Re8 22.Nf3 Bg4 23.c4 exf4 24.gxf4 Nh5 25.Qd2∞]

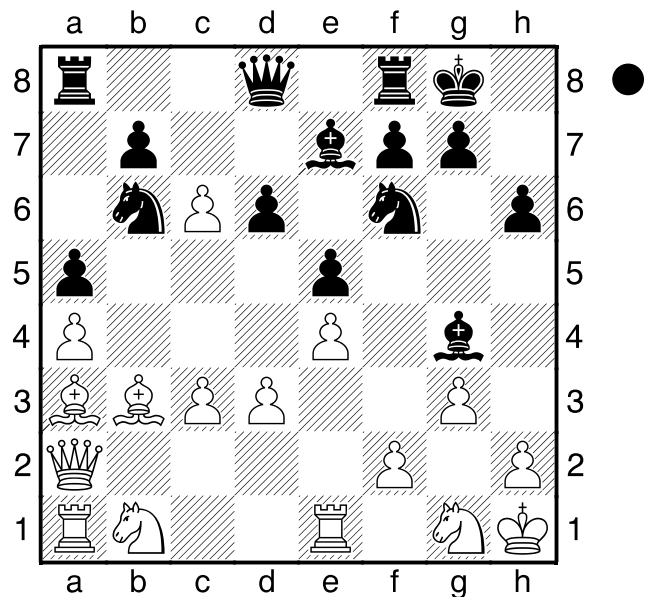
(Diagram)

18...bxc6 1 19.f4 1 exf4 1 20.gxf4 3 d5 1 21.Qg2 45 dxe4 20 22.dxe4 8 Be6? 1

[22...Bxa3 23.Nxa3 Bh5±

A) 24.Bc2 Re8 25.Nf3 (25.e5 Nfd5 26.Qg3 Qe7 27.Nf3) 25...Qe7 26.Qg3 Qc5 27.Nd4;

B) 24.Bd1 Bxd1 25.Raxd1 Qc7=;



C) 24.Nc2 Kh8 25.Nd4 c5 26.Nb5 Qd7 27.Ra2 Rad8 28.e5 Nfd5 29.Rf2 (29.Rd2 Nxf4) 29...Bg6∞]

23.Bc2 1:06 Re8 6 24.f5 24 Bc4 4

25.Nf3 36 Nfd7 21 26.Bc1 50 Kh7 1

27.e5? 23

[27.Bf4 Nc5 28.Rd1! Nd3 29.Bg3

A) 29...g5 30.f6

A1) 30...Bxf6 31.Na3 Ba6 32.e5 Bg7 33.Nb5!! Kg8 (33...cxb5 34.Rxd3) 34.Rxd3;

A2) 30...Bf8 31.Nbd2 Ba6 32.e5 Kg8 33.Ne4 Qd5 34.Nf2 Nxf2+ 35.Bxf2 Qe6 36.Nxg5 hxg5 37.Qxg5+ Kh8 38.Qh5+ Kg8 39.Qh7#;

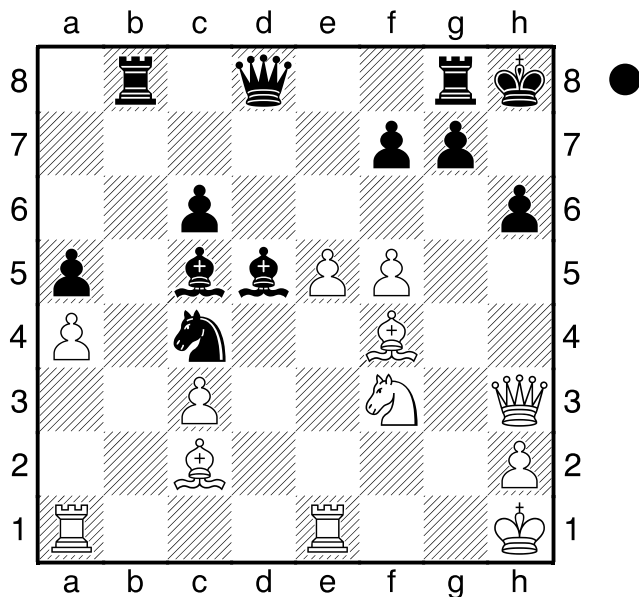
B) 29...f6 30.Nbd2 Ba6 31.Nd4∞ But white should be better Bf8 32.Ne6 Qc8 33.Nf3 Nb2 34.Rg1 Ra7 35.e5 Nd3 36.exf6 gxf6 37.Bh4+-]

27...Kh8 42 28.Rg1 14 Rg8 4 29.Nbd2 1:16 Bd5 1 30.Ne4 48 Nc5 5

31.Nxc5?⊕ 24

[31.Re1 f6 Somewhat counterintuitive but necessary for defense here 32.Qh3 Nxe4 (32...Qf8 33.Nxc5 Bxc5 34.Be4) 33.Bxe4 Kh7 (33...Bf8 34.exf6 Qxf6 35.Bxd5 Nxd5 36.Re6 Qxc3 37.Bxh6 gxh6

38.Rxh6+ Kg7 39.Rg6+ Kf7 40.Ng5+ Ke8 41.Qxc3+-) 34.Bxd5 Qxd5 35.Be3∞]
31...Bxc5 0 32.Re1 5 Nc4 6 33.Bf4 3 Rb8 2 34.Qh3?? 27
 [34.Be4□ Bxe4 35.Rxe4 Qd3 36.Qe2 Qxe2 (36...Rb1+ 37.Rxb1 Qxb1+ 38.Qe1 Qa2 39.e6 f6 40.Qe2 Qb1+ 41.Ne1 Nb6 42.Qc2 Qa1 43.Bc1 Nd5 44.Bb2 Qa2=) 37.Rxe2 Rb3 38.e6 fxe6 39.fxe6 Rxc3 40.Rc1 Rxc1+ 41.Bxc1 Bb4 42.Nd4 Nb6 43.Nxc6 Nxa4 44.Nxb4 axb4 45.Bb2 Nxb2 46.Rxb2 Re8 47.Rxb4 Rxe6=]



Of course no crazy Hikaru game would be complete without an equally crazy queen sacrifice!- **34...Qh4!! 16 35.Kg2 20 Qxf4-+ 2 0-1**

□ **Giri,Anish** **A11**
 ■ **Firouzja,Alireza** **2745**
2867
 Playoffs Chess.com (1.2) 18.02.2025
[Sricharan Pullela]

Blitz 10min 1.c4 0 c6 1 2.Nf3 15 d5 1 3.e3 0 Nf6 1 4.Nc3 1 e6 1 5.b3 2 Bd6 6 6.Bb2 1 0-0 4 7.Be2 3 b6 13 8.Rg1 20 e5 1:01 9.cxd5 21 cxd5 0 10.Nb5 6 e4 6 11.Ne5 18 Re8 5 12.Nxd6 17 Qxd6 1 13.Rc1 11 Bb7 49 14.Qc2 1:14 Na6 56 15.Bxa6 25 Bxa6 1 16.Qc7 22 Qe6 10 17.Rc6 30 Rec8 25 18.Qxc8+ 1:12 Qxc8 2 19.Rxc8+ 0 Rxc8 0 20.Kd1 18 Ne8 5 21.f4 9 Nd6 9 22.a4 8 f6 28 23.Ng4 1 h5 1 24.Nf2 2 Nf5 1 25.g3 24 Kf7 5 26.h3 7 h4 20 27.g4 16 Ng3 1 28.Nh1 33 Nf1 21 29.Rg2 41 Bd3 4 30.Bd4 39 Rc2 8 31.g5 4 Ra2 30 32.gxf6 1 gxf6 0 33.f5 0 Ra3 1 34.Nf2 3 Rxb3 19 35.Nxd3 4 exd3 0 36.Kc1 7 Ng3 2
0-1

□ **Duda,Jan-Krzysztof** **C00**
 ■ **Grischuk,Alexander** **2764**
2714
 Playoffs Chess.com (51.3) 18.02.2025
[Sricharan Pullela]

Blitz 10min 1.e4 0 c5 2:35 2.Nf3 3 e6 0 3.g3 12 Nc6 3 4.Bg2 2 Nf6 1 5.Qe2 1 d6 8 6.0-0 2 Be7 1 7.c3 2 e5 1 8.Rd1 2 0-0 1 9.d4 8 cxd4 19 10.cxd4 0 Bg4 4 11.dxe5 1 Nxe5 0 12.Nc3 7 Qc8 9 13.Bf4 10 Qe6 11 14.Rd2 46 Rac8 12 15.Nd4 46 Bxe2 27 16.Nxe6 1 fxe6 1 17.Nxe2 22 Nfg4 2:28 18.Nd4 23 Nc4 7 19.Rc2 4 e5 4 20.Nf5 3 Bf6 21 21.Bc1 1:14 g6 1 22.h3 29 gxf5 26 23.exf5 0 Nxf2 9 24.Rxf2 31 e4 2 25.Bxe4 1 Bd4 1 26.Bh6 0 Rf6 25 27.Bg5 2 Kg7 6 28.Rd1 29 Bxf2+ 2 29.Kxf2 0 Re8 7 30.Bxf6+ 33 Kxf6 1 31.Bd5 1 Nxb2 13

32.Rd2 1 Na4 2 33.Bxb7 13 Kxf5 19

34.Bc6 4

1-0

How to Analyze Your Games: A Review

IM John Donaldson

How to Analyze Your Games by Kostya Kavutskiy, Jesse Kraai, and David Pruess (Chess Dojo 2025, 538 pages, paperback, \$26)

The question of how to get better at chess has likely been asked for as long as the game has been played. Sensible advice includes studying endgames and tactics as well as playing regularly against opponents who are stronger than you (but not too much stronger). It's hard to fault any of those suggestions but they leave out a fundamental tool.

Socrates believed the first step to true wisdom was to "know thyself." While he wasn't a chess player, his advice holds true for the royal game and is at the heart of the first book by the Chess Dojo team of GM Jessie Kraai and IMs Kostya Kavutskiy, and David Pruess. The Bay Area chess trio (Kraai lived in Berkeley for a number of years playing for the Mechanics' Institute's entry in the US Chess League) believe that a careful analysis of one's games is an essential tool on the road to chess mastery.

They are not alone in thinking this. World Champion Mikhail Botvinnik was the first to emphasize game annotation and later Alex Yermolinsky in *The Road to Chess Improvement* and Gregory Kaidanov in his publication *The Kaidanov Report* echoed the advice of the Patriarch. The latter went on to say that he would not play in a new tournament until he had fully annotated his games from the last one.

The Chess Dojo crew also subscribe to Botvinnik's advice that it is essential to not only analyze one's games but to publish them, simultaneously holding the annotator to a high standard and exposing them to constructive criticism.

The Chess Dojo Training Program (at <https://www.chessdojo.club> and also on YouTube) offers its pupils a forum to annotate their games and get feedback and it is these games that are at the heart of *How to Analyze Your Games*. All told, there are 115 of them from players ranging in strength from near beginner to Grandmaster (Jesse Kraai's games) with both words and concrete analysis contained in each of them. These are carefully analyzed games in which carbon-based life forms reveal their thoughts, not relying on Silicon Oracles to do their work for them.

How to Analyze Your Games starts with a series of essays by Jesse Kraai in which he goes through the mechanics of how to actually annotate your games which, in his case involves using pencil and paper before transforming the information to a computer. A firm believer that clear writing leads to clearer thinking, Kraai holds to the opinion that it was the work he did annotating his games that ultimately led to the successful

conclusion of a long journey - he became a Grandmaster in 2007 at the age of 35. More recently, following this program closely, he took second in the 2024 US Senior Closed despite being the lowest rated player in the field.

Chapters by David Pruess (*David's Advice for a New or Reluctant Analyst*) and Kostya Kavutskiy (*Using Engines*) round out an impressive debut that is more than fairly priced at \$26 for a tome the size of a phone book for a medium sized city.

The journey the Chess Dojo advocates is not for every chess player, but those who put in the work will be amply repaid in their increased understanding of the royal game and themselves.

Highly Recommended

2025 San Francisco Scholastic Championship Coming March 29th!

By Christian Brickhouse

I had written a beautifully vapid paragraph on the return of the San Francisco Scholastic Championship—set for March 29, now in its 18th year, for the first time at Yerba Buena Gardens—to fill this space. It was everything the Scholastic Championship is not. Having volunteered for the 2023 and 2024 Scholastic Championships, what makes me excited about working the event for a third year isn't what makes it onto a flyer or one-paragraph advert. What impressed me the first time, and what keeps me coming back, is being part of a community, building something that makes a difference to hundreds of people every year.

Free Family Fun. It looks great on a flyer or as a buzzword, but what's it mean? The kids who play in the tournament didn't just fall out of a tree one day playing chess. These young players have a network of family and friends who got them to this point. And we don't just leave them hanging. What impresses me year after year is how friendly and welcoming our community volunteers are to everyone who comes. From simultaneous exhibitions, to pick-up games and lessons, to chats about the history of our Club. It's more than handing out trophies to the best players of the day. We're showing these families that we're a community they want to be part of.

I'm also excited about our new venue and partnership with the Yerba Buena Gardens and the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. It might sound like I have to say that, but I think the new venue and addition to our team will help highlight our strengths. Instead of

wearing out our volunteers moving tables, we can play to our strengths by setting up boards, helping with the tournament, or playing games during the day with family members while the professional crew of the YBCA sets up the space. It's not all roses, of course. I'll miss my annual trip to the Botanical Gardens after the tournament since they were right next door to the old venue, but I've been told that Yerba Buena Gardens also has plants.

The San Francisco Scholastic Championship has been and will continue to be a lot of work for the next few weeks. Tell your friends you look forward to seeing them there. Tell your rivals you look forward to beating them there. If you're too old to play in a kid's tournament, consider signing up to volunteer and help make it happen. If you can't, share the information with kids and families you might know. I've included a beautifully vapid paragraph below for your convenience.

Our annual San Francisco Scholastic Chess Championship returns on March 29, 2025! Now in its 18th year, we've partnered with Yerba Buena Center for the Arts and the Yerba Buena Gardens Conservancy to host this free community event with our flagship tournament for kids, simultaneous exhibitions with local chess masters, and other free family fun activities around Yerba Buena Gardens. Parents can sign up their scholastic players for one of our rated or non-rated sections using the QR code below or following the links on the chess website. It's reached capacity the last two years, so register for free before spots run out!



MECHANICS'
INSTITUTE
Since 1854

Free Event

2025 San Francisco Scholastic Chess Championship

a Free Community Event at Yerba Buena Gardens!

Saturday, March, 29 | 9:00 am

New venue for 2025!

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

701 Mission St, San Francisco, CA 94103

Free community event | Registration required

*Whether it's your first tournament or
you're a seasoned veteran join us
for a fun day full of chess!*

YOUTH SECTIONS

4 Non-rated Sections (K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12)

2 Rated Sections (under 800, 800+)

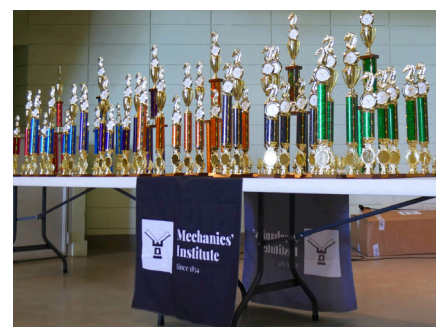
**FOR MORE EVENT INFORMATION & REGISTRATION
(SCAN QR CODE)**

Follow the Links Here:

www.milibrary.org/chess/calendar

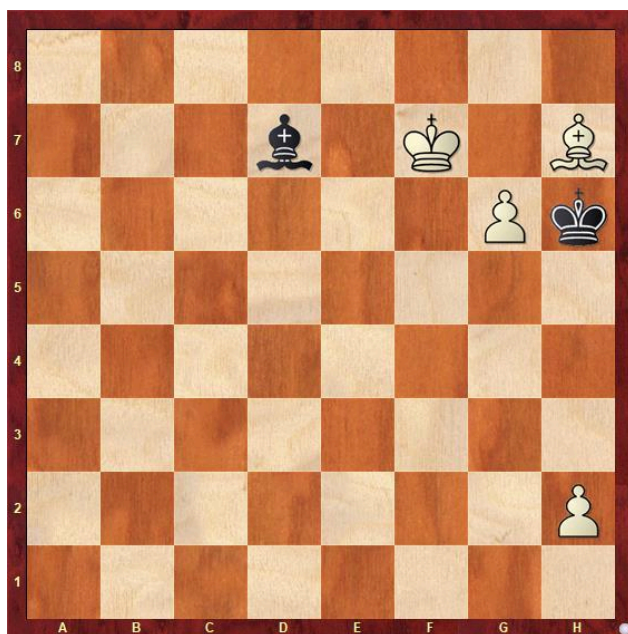
Questions?

chessroom@milibrary.org



Tony's Teasers

Unknown.
White to play and win.



A New Puzzle in the Library

Every week or so Mechanics' Institute's Head of Technical Services, **Steven Dunlap**, puts up a chess puzzle in the library for our members to solve.

White to move and win material



Solutions

For Tony's Teaser:

1.Kg8! (Good luck finding that in a game), if 1...Bf6 then 2. g7,Bxh7 3.Kh8!! And now white can march their h pawn up the board and one of those pawns will promote!

For the Puzzle in the Library:

1.Rg7+!

After this Black will lose their Queen no matter what!

From *Winning Chess* by Irving Chernev and Fred Reinfeld, p.99.

793.1C52.1

Basement Chess Special Collections.



MECHANICS'
INSTITUTE

Since 1854

Contact Us

Mechanics' Institute Chess Club is on the 4th floor at 57 Post Street, San Francisco, CA.
Our phone number is 415-393-0110.

We welcome any feedback, articles, or "Letter to the Editor" piece.
Submit yours today at chessroom@milibrary.org

With more than 4,000 books and periodicals, Mechanics' Institute boasts one of the
largest chess book collections in the U.S.

You can access our newsletter directly from the chess home page!
<https://www.milibrary.org/chess>

