

Chess Room Newsletter



Blitz on Twitch!

Issue #1072 | June 13, 2026 | Gens Una Sumus!

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Recent Tournaments at the Mechanics' Institute

By Alex Robins

Our first tournament of the month was our 25th Addison Memorial named in honor of a former Mechanics' Institute Chess Director IM William Addison who ran the club here from 1965-9 and also had some well known games against Fischer. In the **2000+ section**, **GM Christopher Woojin Yoo (2663)** and **Theodore Biyiasas (2158)** shared first place with 3.5 points each. Half a point behind them, **Reyansh Paragiri (2126)** and **Anthony Vladimir Ivanenko (1882)** tied for third after strong performances against higher-rated opposition.

In the **1600–1999 section**, three players tied for first with 3.5: **CM Isaac Dan Zhao (1947)**, **Rajdeep Pinge (1894)**, and **Daniel Sevall (1798)**.

The **ul600 section** produced a clear winner in **Sandesh Aher (1584)**, whose 3.5 put him alone at the top. **Peter Xu (1550)** followed with 3 points, and a group of players at 2.5—including **Albert Martin Starr (1510)**, **Srikar Yenamandra (1470)**, and **Keller Ma (1430)**—shared third.

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

This tournament was directed by FA/ANTD Scott Mason.

Our next tournament of the month was our **May Monthly Scholastic Tournament**. The 500+ section was won by **Ethan C. Leung (1170)**, who scored 3.5 with an undefeated performance that included wins in the final three rounds. **Bradley L. Harger (1344)** followed closely with 3 points, his only loss coming against Leung. A group at 2.5—**Arnav Parisaboyina (1103)**, **Rafael Max Petlin-Teisch (1050)**, **Kepler McTiernan (1239)**, and **Theodore Tissot-Dupont (503)**—rounded out the top 5 in order.

In the u500 section, **Idir Youssefi (unr.)** dominated with a perfect score! Four players finished just behind at 3 points: **Travis Wong (378)**, **Keyan Manuel (unr.)**, **Tobin Wong (unr.)**, and **Jasper Rausch (488)**. Great job to all of our players and we hope to see you back soon!

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

This tournament was directed by Senior TD Arthur Liou.

Our next tournament was our **4th Ray Conway Memorial**. **GM Christopher Woojin Yoo (2663)** dominated the field with a perfect score. **Daniel Videna**

(2044) secured second place with 3 points, his only loss coming against the eventual champion. **Naga Abhiram Ponnaluri (1925)** finished third with 2.5. In the 1600–1999 section, **Ansh Ankit Doshi (1744)** swept the section with a perfect 4 points and a strong performance! Behind him, **Aashvi Sri Rangamreddy (1695)** and **Jeff C. Andersen (1612)** shared second place with 3 points each, both scoring key wins in the early rounds.

The **u1600** section was won decisively by **Arman De (841)** with another perfect score in this section! Four players tied for second with 2 points: **Albert Martin Starr (1500)**, **Aarna Sriram (1142)**, **Adar Cohen (1000)**, and **Thanmayee Keerthana Ponnaluri (829)**.

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

This tournament was directed by Senior TD Arthur Liou.

Our next weekend event was a day full of fast chess starting with our **Mechanics' May Weekend Rapid**. In the **1800+** section, **Hugo Pu (1819)** and **Conor McAvity (1700)** shared first place with 3 points, **Mikhail Grigorev (1843)** finished just behind them with 2.0.

In the **u1800** section, **Ben Vaughn (1509)** delivered the standout performance of the entire event, sweeping the section with a perfect score - well done. **Keshav V. Raman (1489)** secured a clear second with 4 points, his only loss coming against the eventual champion. A tightly packed group at 3.5—**David Siegel (1627)**, **Elliott Regan (1562)**, **Volodymyr Kirilonkov (1465)**, and **Vu Lan Tien (1456)**—shared third place after consistent results across the five rounds.

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

This tournament was directed by FA/ANTD Scott Mason.

In the **Mechanics' May Weekend Blitz**, **NM Daniel Cremisi (2350)** delivered a perfect score in the **top** section going 7 for 7 - **have you signed up for his next class yet?** **Hugo Osmar Santiago (2019)** secured second with 5. **Ansh Ankit Doshi (1744)** finished third with 4.5, highlighted by wins over higher-rated opponents and a strong closing stretch.

In the **u1800** section, **Elliott Regan (1562)** and **Vu Lan Tien (1456)** shared first place with 6 oiubts, each dropping only a single game. **Daniel Sevall (1798)** followed closely with 5.0, taking clear third after a strong start and steady middle rounds.

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

This tournament was directed by FA/ANTD Scott Mason.

Our next tournament was the **3rd Mike Goodall Memorial**. In the **2000+ section**, **Alex Nguyen (2032)** took first place with 3.5 points, scoring three wins and a final-round victory over FM Austin Mei to secure the top prize. **FM Austin R. Mei (2336)**, **FM Pranav Sathish (2324)**, and **Zee Chin (1993)** shared second with 3.

In the **1600–1999 section**, **Rishan Biswas (1686)** and **Russell Nguyen (1654)** tied for first with 3.5, both undefeated and showing consistent form throughout the event. **Adithya Chitta (1751)** and **Elliott Regan (1562)** shared second with 3.0, each rebounding well after early draws or losses.

In the **ul600 section**, **Peter Vu (1456)** and **Ethan Wang (1417)** shared first with 3.5, each winning their first three games before drawing in the final round to finish atop the standings. Four players tied at 3.0—**Vik Markova-Raina (1513)**, **Nirup Sai Venati (1225)**, **Mixtli Carter (1024)**, and **Cayden Chen (924)**—all delivering strong performances and staying in contention throughout.

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

These tournaments were directed by Senior TD Arthur Liou.

Our final tournament of the month was our **4th Ruth Haring Memorial**. WIM Ruth Haring was a huge figure in Bay Area chess history and we're honored to hold a tournament in her memory. A special shoutout to her son Theodore Biyiassis for letting us hold this event and donating a special prize to the top performing woman in each section. In the **2000+ section**, **Xiaofei Li (2081)** took clear first with 3.5, scoring three wins and a final-round victory to secure the top prize. A three-way tie at 3.0 followed: **Manan Rai (2031)**, **Rehaan Malhotra (2022)**, and **Olivia Xu (1843)**. A special shoutout to Olivia for being the top performing woman in the top section! In the **1600–1999 section**, **Bhaskar Moganti (1687)** dominated with a perfect scorefield. Three players tied for second with 3.5: **Rayna Yan (1738)**, **Akash Venkata Anumalasetty (1717)**, and **Ritvik Reddy Vuluvala (1684)**, each combining three wins with a single draw to stay just behind the leader. A big shoutout to Rayna Yan who was the top performing woman in the middle section!

In the ul600 section, **Milan Patel (1500)** swept the field with a perfect score, winning every game and taking clear first. **Shlok Narayan (1507)** followed closely with 3.5, giving up only a single draw and securing a clear second. **Bradley L. Harger (1402)** and **Raam Mahadev Prasannakumar (1216)** both scored 3.0 to share the next tier of prizes, each winning key games in the final rounds. A group at 2.5—**Angelina Ramesh Lee (1389)**, **Renate Otterbach (1128)** were the top performing women in the section - great job Angelina and Renate!

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

This tournament was directed by IA/Senior TD Abel Talamantez and FA/ANTD Scott Mason.

UN Plaza Tournament and Simul with GM in Residence Sam Shankland Recap

By Alex Robins

Last Month the Mechanics' Institute Chess Club held our second **Free UN Plaza Tournament with GM Sam Shankland**. And this year it was again a success, even bigger than last year. Overall we had 60 players participate in the tournament from all over the Bay Area and 24 players in the simul for a busy day full of chess out in the sun. I'd like to thank our partners at the Civic Center Community Benefit District, Mayor Daniel Lurie's Office, and

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the Office of Workforce Development for making this event possible!



It was a fun and busy day!



Sam's end score was 23-0-1 - congrats to the player who drew!



A day of stiff but friendly competition!

Tournament Results

In the **750+ rated section**, two players shared first place with 3.5 points. **Mahat Aravind** (1288) put together an excellent run, winning his first three games before drawing in the final round. Matching him at the top was **Marcus Lee** (1342), who also started with three straight wins and then drew against Mahat in the last round. Just behind them, **Caden Chan** (906) and **Pranav Raman** (858) each scored 3 points, with Caden rebounding strongly after a second-round loss and Pranav finishing with two consecutive wins. **Wen Larson** (778) followed with 2.5 points after a steady performance.

In the **U750 section**, two players also tied for first with 3.5 points. **Aria Ponde** (619) remained undefeated, scoring three wins and a draw, while **Brian Luo** (649) matched that result with an equally strong performance. Close behind them, **Saurjyesh Potla** (720) finished with 3 points after facing one of the toughest schedules in the section. In fourth and fifth place, **Aaron Kwan** and **Cameron Lee** (314), also reached 3 points.

The final group, our **non-rated section**, produced a four-way tie at the top. **Brandon Lee** (unr.) scored 3.5 points with three wins and a final-round draw. He was joined by **Il Bala Aravindan** (567), who also went undefeated, as well as **Anika Aravind** (938), who posted three wins and a draw of her own. **Ian Kim** (unr.) finished just behind them with 3 points, as did **Brandon Chan** (unr.) and **Wallace Kwan** (unr.) who was just barely edged out on tiebreaks.

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

This tournament was directed by FA/ANTD Scott Mason and Senior TD Arthur Liou. A big shoutout to our instructors NM Daniel Cremisi, Calvin Dees, Nikhil Sekaran, and Marcie Yang for their help throughout the day as well!

Finally thanks to all of our players and again to our partners without you all we wouldn't be able to hold these events and we hope we are able to do more in the future!

BotezLive Live at Mechanics'

By Alex Robins

This last week the Mechanics' Institute Chess Club was honored to host two of the most popular and important chess influencers on the internet. You can [find the link to the stream here](#). Check it out as they play some of our regular scholastic players and at the time of writing have over 100k views!



More Than Rating Points

By Chris Martinez

Besides the rating points we all tend to chase after, chess has slowly become less about the game itself and more about the people and communities surrounding it.

Like many adult improvers, my journey into OTB chess started quietly. A local tournament here, a Thursday gathering there, occasional online

conversations and over time, familiar names slowly started turning into familiar faces.

On Mondays, after long days working retail and whenever time allows, I sign into the Chess Café hosted through the Mechanics' Institute. The atmosphere is casual and welcoming, and over time I began recognizing many of the regulars, including Alex and others who help guide the weekly conversations.

During one recent Monday session, Alex mentioned that he knew I had been writing and suggested I consider contributing something to the Mechanics newsletter. I was honestly surprised. I explained that I had recently written a few pieces for the Chess Journalists of America, along with occasional opinion articles for newspapers back in Colorado, including the Aspen Daily News communities I still follow closely despite now living on the West Coast.

What stayed with me afterward was not simply the opportunity to write, but realizing how interconnected the Northern California chess community had already begun to feel almost like a recurring déjà vu of familiar faces, tournaments, and shared spaces.

Earlier this year, after attending tournaments in Pleasanton, I began visiting informal Thursday chess gatherings in Livermore hosted by the Emerald Chess Club after hearing about them through Coach Eric Lai. It was there that I met Scott Mason. At the time, I simply knew him as a strong player and tournament director active around the local scene. Only later did I begin realizing how interconnected many of these spaces truly were, with Scott also helping host events connected to the Mechanics' Institute and the broader Northern California chess community.

That feeling became even stronger during the 5th Stephen Sosnick Memorial Chess Festival in Davis earlier this April. Between rounds, conversations, lectures, and even a quick trip downtown to pick up a chess book from a local seller, the event felt less like an isolated tournament and more like a gathering place for people connected through a shared love for the game.

Before one of the rounds, I briefly spoke with another player named Brian Sullivan. We exchanged names, wished each other luck, and eventually disappeared into the tournament hall among dozens of players and conversations. A few weeks later, I unexpectedly ran into Brian again at a Sunday tournament in Lathrop after he had traveled from Folsom to compete. By coincidence, we ended up paired against each other in the first round and eventually drew the game.

Moments like that continue to remind me how small and interconnected the chess world can become once you immerse yourself in it. Online Chess Café conversations, local tournaments, Thursday night gatherings, Saturday rated events, and familiar faces all slowly begin connecting together.

As an adult improver balancing work, family life, and tournament chess, those connections have meant a great deal to me. What keeps many players returning is not only competition, but community. Slowly but surely, the Bay Area and Northern California chess scene has started feeling smaller, warmer, and more welcoming with every tournament and every familiar face.

I'm grateful for the connections I've made, and giving back to the community and the chess scene is something I look forward to continuing as the journey unfolds.

Chess Down Undah

By John Mark Krejci Ph.D.

This chess travelogue is going to be a little different. Using chess notation, I will highlight my experience—both playing chess and otherwise—in the most beautiful and peaceful large city I have ever visited: Brisbane, Australia. A city of nearly three million people, Brisbane is situated on the country's east coast, in the state of Queensland, about a nine-hour drive north of Sydney. Searching for venues to play casual chess, I found everything I was looking for with the "Brisbane Social Chess Club." This thriving group, which has been hosting chess meetups for over a decade,

attracts players of diverse ages, cultural backgrounds, and ability levels, and meets six days a week!

Before the chess experiences began, I must first take the reader on a journey of renting a car in Brisbane and driving in this sprawling but shockingly "forestry" city. The straight-faced worker at Simba Rent-a-Car emphasized that any dent—or perhaps even the slightest scratch—incurred during my rental could cost me \$4,000. I declined the extra insurance (?!), but complimented the worker on his impressive use of psychological intimidation. I then walked outside where I had left my bags, only to find them gone! Happily, this turned out to be a fine example of Aussie kindness, as a family had moved my bags out of the rain (!), which had suddenly started.

Driving to my first chess venue—constantly reminding myself to stay on the left side of the road—I was struck by the amount of greenery in the third-largest city in Australia. Fact-checking my observation online, I learned that Brisbane, in an effort to combat rising temperatures, has substantially more canopy cover than Sydney, Melbourne, or Canberra, the nation's capital. Future travelers would do well to enjoy that greenery via public transportation, as driving here is no less stressful than in San Francisco—and every bus and train in Brisbane costs only 50 cents! The chess vibe I experienced in Brisbane is unique: a mix of laid-back adults and competitive children. Whereas every adult allowed or even encouraged "takebacks" (mentioned in the description of their meetup events), the more aggressive children seemed to relish slamming pieces when capturing (?) and trash-talking far more flagrantly than their elders. One child's behavior was so egregious that the adults had to intervene after he moved pieces on a board where two others were playing (??). The chess elders, apparently tasked with socializing the younger players on appropriate etiquette, assured me this behavior was an anomaly.

In addition to mentoring Brisbane's chess-playing youth, Ben, organizer of Brisbane Social Chess, models the best of Australian chess culture—laid-back, yet with a healthy mix of competition, education, and love of the game. Impressively, he also frequently wins the chess

tournaments held by the official Brisbane Chess Club. After over three hours of spirited play, I thought the chess was finished for the day; however, despite having just met me, Ben kindly invited me to walk a few blocks to Queensland University to stroll through the lush botanical gardens on campus and look in on the university chess club, whose meetup had just begun. I was pleasantly surprised that not only were we *not* regarded with suspicion—being obvious non-members—we were quickly welcomed to join in, with no forewarning given whatsoever.

A unique aspect of playing chess here was being surrounded by the sights and sounds of Australia's bustling wildlife, even at an outdoor city cafe. With White cockatoos screeching overhead, within ten feet of my table were an elegant bird called an Ibis—known in Aussie slang as the (trash) “bin chicken” for its scavenging tendencies, and a three-foot-long water dragon on the ground (see pictures), both seemingly peering at the action on the chessboard (!?). My favorite nature experience, though, was the extraordinary bird sounds: the R2-D2-like calls of the Australian magpie, the chimp-like laughter of the Kookaburra, and my personal favorite—the Butcher bird, boasting an impressively vast musical repertoire of human whistle-like melodies, one of which reminded me of Close Encounters of the Third Kind (!!).

And just as the country of Australia is unique, this travelogue has played out accordingly.

Australians have an endearing linguistic habit of adding “-ie” to various professions. Tradesmen are “tradies,” carpenters are “chippies,” electricians are “sparkies.” I asked one young man whose father was an accountant whether they were called “numbuh crunchies,” to which he replied: “No—their job is too boring” to have a cool name. Perhaps the reason chess professionals do not have a special name is that non-chess-playing Aussies may not yet realize how exciting our favorite game truly is. In my final meetup (six out of six for the week!), it was a chess player who delivered the most comically clever remark of the entire trip. Having never before seen a chess player in full motorcycle gear, I asked him what motorcyclists are called in Australia. Without a moment's hesitation, he

replied: "temporary citizens." (!!)

I thoroughly enjoyed my initiation into Australian chess culture in Brisbane, I hope my own stay in Australia proves anything but temporary, unlike my visa.



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Editor's Note: Maybe we should start a Mechanics' branch in Australia! Our readers may not know but Australia was home to many Mechanics' Institutes!

Spy's Mate Review

By Alex Robins

Spy's Mate is an engaging and fun novel that successfully combines historical fiction, KGB intrigue, and the competitive world of international chess, marking a new genre that I've heard called "chesspionage". Set during the waning years of the Soviet Union, the story follows a young, talented Armenian chess player, Yasha Basmajian. Throughout the novel, we follow Yasha, loosely based on Gary Kasparov, from his beginnings with his mother and making elementary mistakes - and victories - against his cousin Semyon, to his ascent in the chess world and world championship match with a sinister and Karpovesque Evgeny Volosin. The book successfully captures the tensions and culture of the royal game that we all love and will be a compelling read for any chess enthusiast.

Spy's Mate is also remarkable in that it formally and stylistically stands apart from other chess fiction, which often misses the mark for me personally - maybe I get enough interaction with chess players at my day job. But, *Spy's Mate* really is a chess novel as opposed to a novel about chess or chess players. The chess scenes are particularly well executed and are the real meat of the book. The obvious comparison will be to *Queen's Gambit*, but unlike *Queen's Gambit*, *Spy's Mate* not only tells an engaging story but also narrativizes the games! That is, it shows positions from games and interweaves the positions into the story - and some of the games may even be familiar to readers with a background in chess history. I am unaware of any other novels which have taken this format straddling the line between a novel and "chess book" so successfully, and I found it quite compelling and well executed.

The novel as a whole leans heavily into the theater of the mind and reads at times almost like a screenplay. I mean this in a very positive sense, this is not a novel that is about dense prose, but instead a page-turning thriller where one can easily envision the scenes in the mind's eye. At the same time, it also has touching moments - particularly between Yasha and his mother which will resonate with anyone who has cared for a sick loved one. It's obvious between these that Brad is a strong writer and it came as no

surprise to me when I discovered that he had been on the faculty of an English Department in his former life!

Overall, *Spy's Mate* is a well-crafted novel that balances history, chess, and suspense. Copies are for sale at the Chess Room Office and we look forward to hosting Brad here again for a future event! There's even a rumor going around that Yasha may visit Mechanics' in the future!

Strongly Recommended

Annotated Games from the TNM and Recent Tournaments

By IM Elliott Winslow

A selection of annotated games from the Spring TNM annotated by IM Elliott Winslow. All the games from the current TNM can be found here, and games from previous TNMs are in the [Tournament Archive](#). So scroll down to the next page to check out the games!

E94

□ Seshadri,Sudarshan

2004

■ Yoo,Christopher Woojin

2663

3rd Silman TNM: 2000+ (1.1) 05.05.2026

[Winslow,Elliott]

Against the King's Indian some people think, "exchange pawns, trade pieces down the d-file, draw." This strategy fails as often as not. Yoo shows how. **1.d4 2 Nf6 19 2.c4 11 g6 54 3.Nc3 25 Bg7 5 4.e4 14 d6 7 5.Nf3 1:15 0-0 19 6.Be2 10 e5 18 7.Be3 1:56 Nbd7 1:13 8.0-0 4:14 Re8 2:56 9.dxe5 4:07 dxe5 8 10.Ne1 2:54**

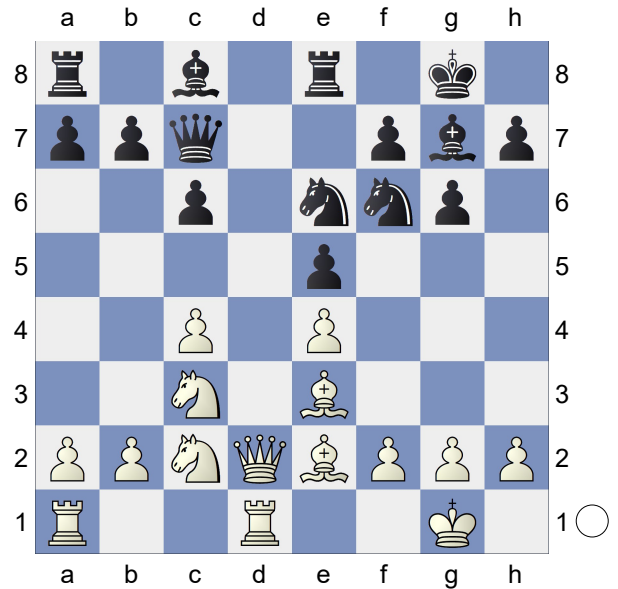
[10.Qc2 c6 11.c5 Qe7 12.b4 Nf8 13.Rfd1 Bg4 14.Nd2 Bxe2 15.Nxe2 Ng4 16.Nc4 Nxe3 17.Nxe3 Ne6 18.Nc4 Re8 19.Rxd8+ Rxd8 20.Rd1 Nd4 21.Nxd4 exd4 22.Qd3 b6 23.cxb6 axb6 24.a3 Qa7 25.g3 h5 26.e5 b5 27.Na5 Qd7 28.Qe4 h4 29.Qxh4 c5 30.Nb7 Ra8 31.Nxc5 Qf5 32.Qxd4 Bxe5 33.Qd3 Qxd3 34.Rxd3 Bb2 35.Rb3 Bxa3 36.Nd3 f6 37.Kf1 Kf7 38.Ke2 Ke6 39.Kd1 Kd5 Nesterov,A (2605)-Sargsyan,S (2656) Chess.com INT 2026 ½-½]

10...c6 3:05 11.Nc2 6:06 Qc7 40 12.Qd2 3:19 Nf8 3:53 13.Rfd1 46 Ne6 44

(Diagram)

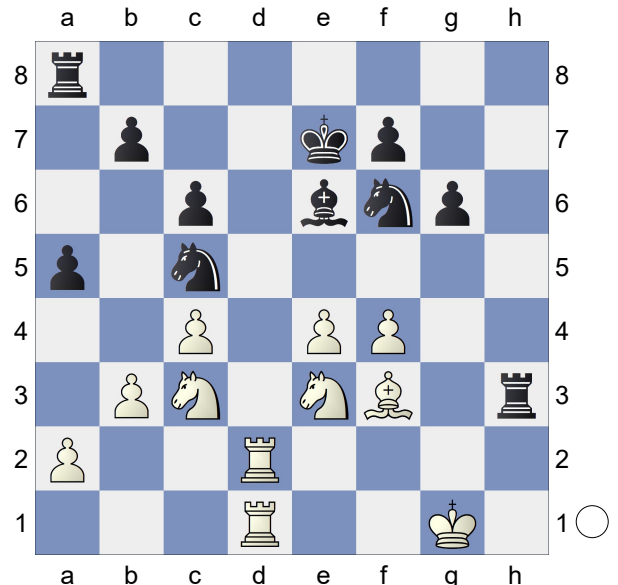
White has done his best to cover d4, but inevitably it's too nihilistic a plan to succeed. **14.Qd6N 2:37**

[14.f3 Nh5 15.Bf1 Bf8 16.Qf2 b6 17.b4 Nd4 18.Rab1 Nxc2 19.Qxc2 Nf4 20.c5 bxc5 21.bxc5 Ne6 22.Na4 Rb8 23.Rxb8 Qxb8 24.Rb1 Qc7 25.Qb2 Rd8 26.Qb8 Qa5 27.Qb4 Qc7 28.Qb8 Qa5 29.Qb4 ½-½ (29) Boehmer,T (2045)-Kosak,M



(2200) Germany 2010]

14...Qxd6 13 15.Rxd6 5 Bf8 1:05 16.Rdd1 2:49 Bc5 1:15 17.Bxc5 6:49 Nxc5 23 Black has a "forever" position -- not yet enough to win, but White's little problems aren't going away. **18.f3 1:20 a5 14 19.b3 3:09 Be6 1:43 20.Rd2 1:40 Nfd7 4:43 21.g3 7:42 Kf8 3:27 22.Ne3 4:53 Nf6 24 23.Rad1 2:16 Ke7 1:23 24.Kf2 2:20 h5 1:15 25.Bf1 1:26 h4 1:32 26.Bg2 4:35 Rh8 1:40 27.f4 12:01 Rh5 4:02 28.Bf3 4:20 hxg3+ 12 29.hxg3 31 exf4 1:15 30.gxf4 8:24 Rh2+ 54 31.Kg1 39 Rh3 13**



32.Rf2? 2:09 wrong piece to f2 -- playing

the king there would carry on...

32...Nfxe4!-+ 3:12 33.Nxe4 21 Nxe4 5
 34.Bxe4 15 Rxe3 6 35.Bg2 1:28 Rh8
 20 36.Rfd2 1:24 Rh4 30 37.Rf1 3:43
 Rg3 1:05 38.Kf2 1:12 Rc3 22 39.Kg1
 1:00 Rg4 25 40.Re2 1:07 Kf6 50
 41.Kh2 1:10 a4 39 42.Rb2 30 axb3 27
 43.Rxb3 45

[43.axb3 Rgg3]

43...Rc2 31 Finishing with more than an
 hour on the clock.

0-1

A21

2547

2000

□ Heimann,Mark

■ McCollum,Patrick

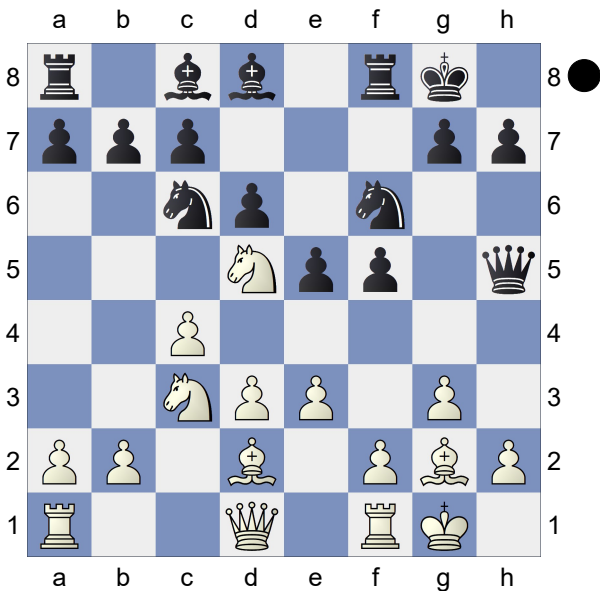
3rd Silman TNM: 2000+ (1.2) 05.05.2026

[Winslow,Elliott]

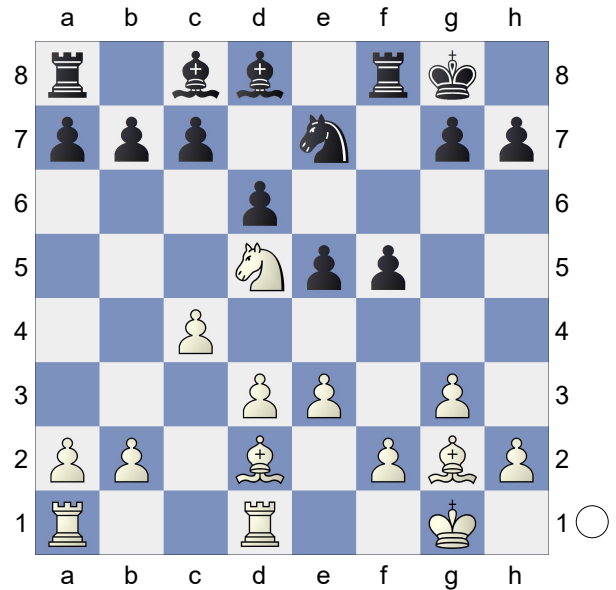
Grandmasters don't mind trading queens
 for an unshakable advantage. 1.c4 6:20
 e5 10 2.Nc3 25 Nc6 32 3.g3 17 f5 33
 4.Bg2 5 Nf6 15 The "Grand Prix Attack
 Reversed." 5.e3 7

[5.Qa4]

5...Be7 23 6.Nge2 9 0-0 38 7.0-0 10
 d6 31 8.d3 1:38 Qe8 35 9.Bd2 1:11
 Qh5 4:18 10.Nd5 53 Bd8 17 11.Nec3
 2:28



Qxd1 1:56 12.Rfxd1 5 Ne7 22
 13.Nxf6+ 3:09 Rxf6 24 14.Nd5 29 Rf8
 19

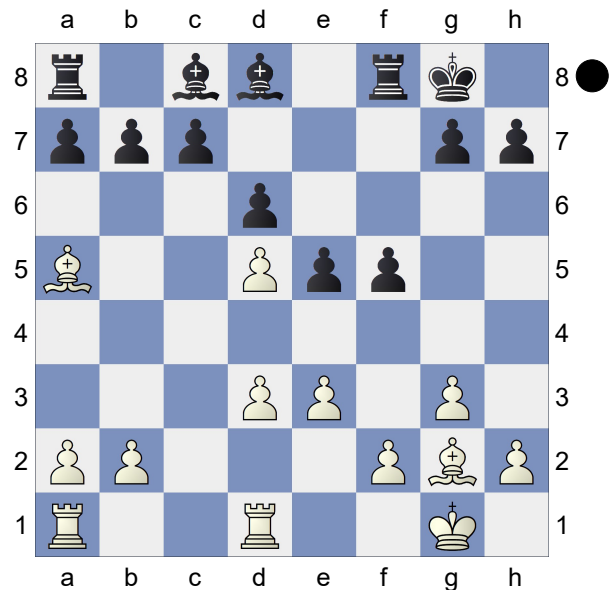


15.Ba5?! 2:03

[15.b4+- is the plan to pursue,
 expanding on the queenside and
 enhancing the long diagonal control.]

15...Nxd5 7:31 16.cxd5?! 17

[16.Bxd5+ Kh8 17.b4± is still
 something, although clearly White's
 knight outshone Black's.]

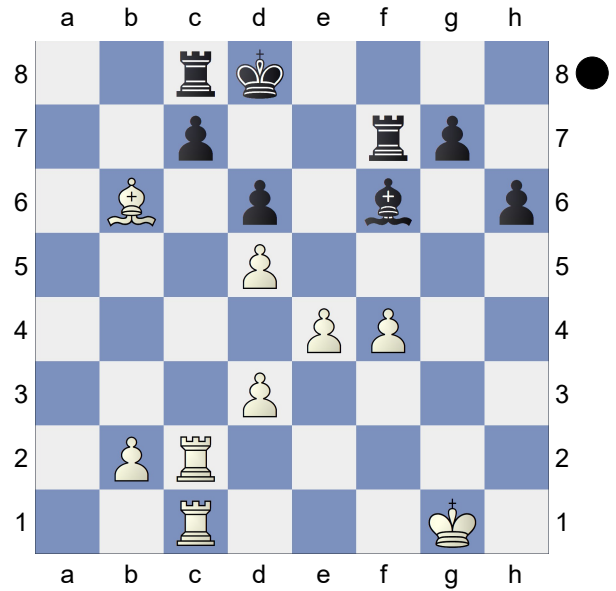
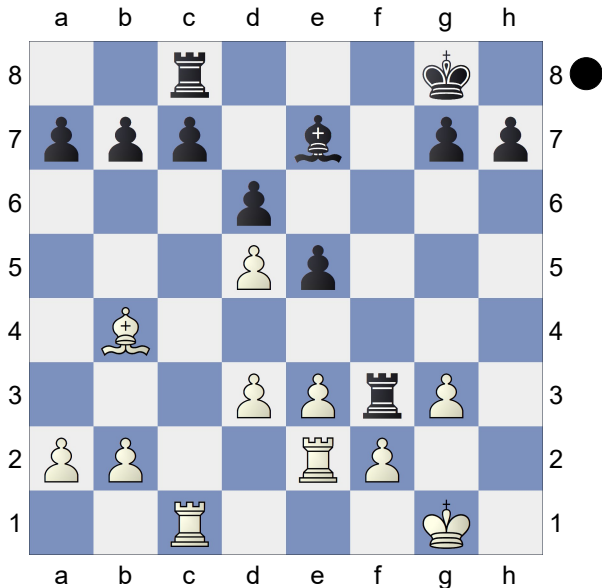


16...f4!= 2:01 17.Be4 1:21 Bd7 6:10

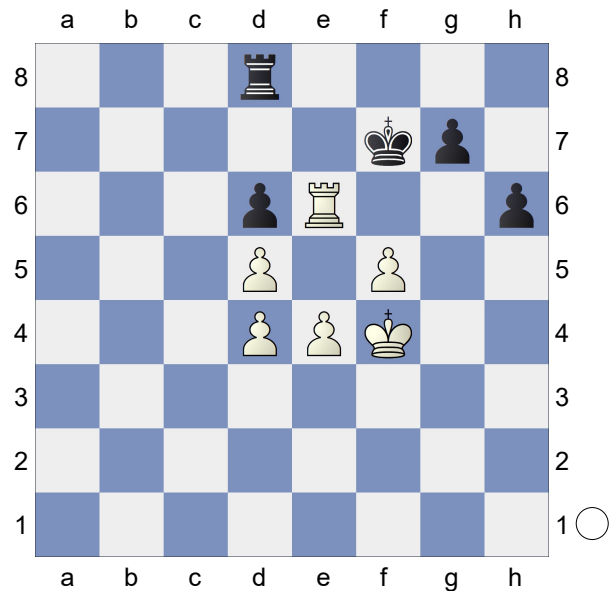
[17...fxe3 18.fxe3 Bh3]

18.Rac1 41 Rc8 12 19.Bd2 4:22 ffg3

2:05 20.hxg3 9 Bg4?! 2:29 21.Rf1 1:36
 Be2 1:58 22.Rfe1 22 Bf3 8 23.Bxf3 11
 Rxf3 8 24.Bb4 7:10 Be7 6:11 25.Re2
 2:29



46.Rg1 14 Rd7 1:49 47.Kf4 30 Kf7 37
 48.d4 37 Rd8 11 49.Rg6 27 Rd7 23
 50.Re6 23 Rd8 22



51.f6 52 g6 38 52.e5 29 dxe5+ 40
 53.Kxe5 45 An excellent performance
 throughout!
 1-0

Rf7? 34

[25...c5!?± 26.dxc6 bxc6 Black is worse, but not fatally so.]

26.Rec2+- 17 Bf8 13 27.Ba5 5:36 b6 10
 Black's pawns lose any flexibility; it's all but over. 28.Bb4 16

[28.Bd2!]

28...Rd7 1:47 29.a4 1:52 Kf7 10:06

30.a5 12 Ke8 9 31.e4 3:50 Rf7 56

32.axb6 1:28

[32.Bd2]

32...axb6 10 33.Bd2 4 Kd8 1:10

34.Bg5+ 41 Be7 27 35.Be3 7 h6 54

36.f4 3:22

[36.Bxb6? Bg5! 37.Be3 Bxe3 38.fxe3±]

36...exf4 24 37.gxf4 5 Bf6? 12

but now... 38.Bxb6+- 3:46

(Diagram)

Bxb2 25 39.Rxb2 5 cxb6 15 40.Rxc8+

14 Kxc8 15 41.Rxb6 13 Rd7 8:56

42.Kf2 24 Kd8 7 43.Ke3 31 Ke7 1:00

44.Rb1 34 Kf6 5:11 45.f5 2:27

(One way of many) 45...Ra7 3:55

A06

□ Agrawal, Varun

1997

■ Krishnan, Varun

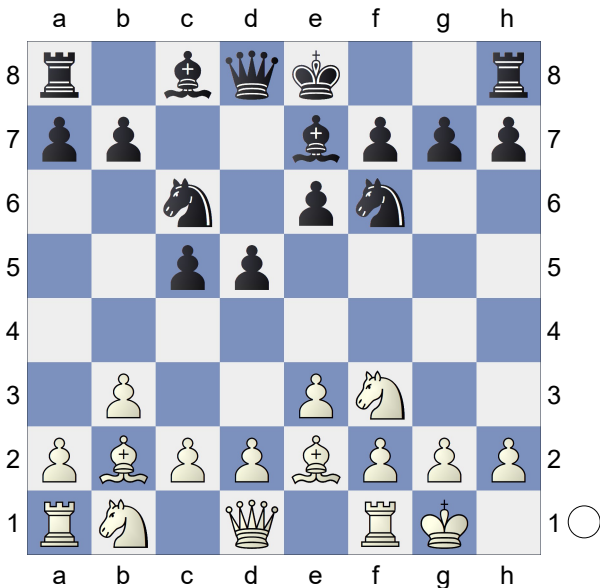
2440

3rd Silman TNM: 2000+ (1.3) 05.05.2026

[Winslow, Elliott]

This is Krishnan's first TNM, although he's played both Shankland Blitz tournaments (last November and July), with excellent scores; in the last one he only dropped one draw -- to Shankland.

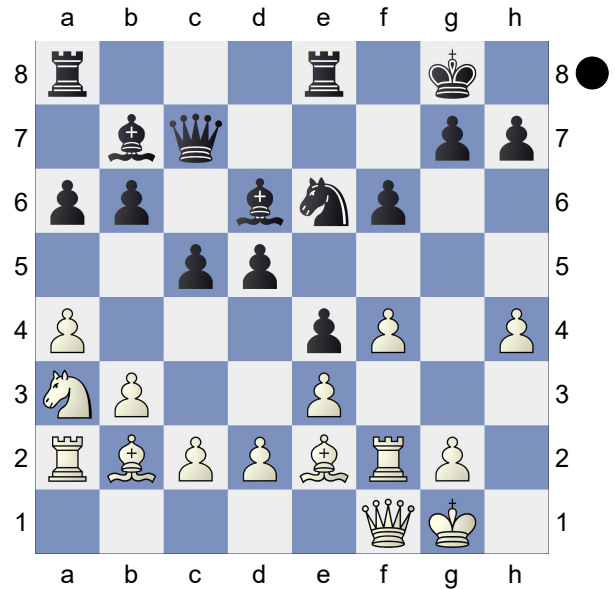
1.b3 5 d5 3 2.Bb2 5 Nf6 2 3.e3 8 e6 4 4.Nf3 22 Be7 19 5.Be2 1:19 c5 1:10 6.0-0 59 Nc6 31



A classical deployment; Black can contest e5 later. 7.Ne5 2:06 Nxe5 2:32 8.Bxe5 10 0-0 54 9.a4 3:47 b6 4:48 10.Na3 20:34 Bb7 1:17 11.Ra2 5:31 Nd7 4:17 12.Bb2 1:05 Bd6 1:53 13.Qa1 2:43 (It's fun to play this but that's all.) 13...e5 10:08 (Meanwhile, the center is Black's.) 14.f4 5:23 Re8 4:53 15.Bb5 4:53 f6 3:07 16.Qd1 5:23 a6 3:19 17.Bd3 1:07 e4 1:53 18.Be2 40 Qc7 4:53 19.Rf2 6:19 Nf8 1:58 20.h4 3:24 Ne6 3:39 21.Qf1 ♠ 2:22

(Diagram)

c4?! 7:32 (Not the best plan, but at least

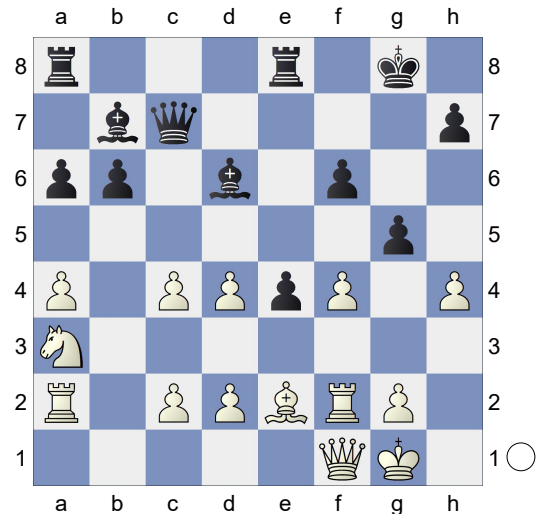


as entertaining as 13.Qa1! Black should be building: ...Qe7, ...Kh8, ...Qf8, ...Rad8, etc. 22.bxc4 4:26 d4! 1:06 (But certainly the best followup!)

23.Bg4? 9:02

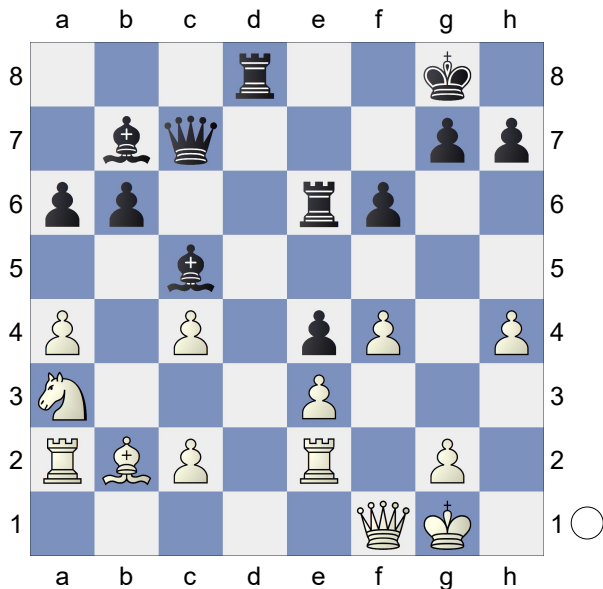
[23.Bxd4! Nxd4 24.exd4

when, according to Stockfish 18, the only move for any advantage is: g5! ♠



Still, White stays in the game with 25.c5! bxc5 26.Nc4 Bxf4! (26...cxd4 27.Nxd6 Qxd6 28.fxg5 fxg5 29.Rf6) 27.dxc5 Qxc5 28.Rb2] 23...dxe3 1:13 24.Bxe6+ ♠ 39 Rxe6 ♠ 10 25.dxe3 8 Bc5 1:18 26.Re2 ♠ 59 Rd8+ ♠ 57

(Diagram)



□ Lee, Andy C

B01

■ Horowitz, Phineas F

2322

3rd Silman TNM: 2000+ (1.4) 05.05.2026

1951

[Winslow, Elliott]

Here's a game with all sorts of twists and turns... with the master ending up on top.

1.e4 2 d5 7 2.exd5 7 Qxd5 3 3.Nc3 9

Qa5 10 4.d4 1:13 Nf6 22 5.Nf3 1:59

Bf5 38 6.Ne5 2:56 c6 2:02 7.Bc4 1:08

e6 1:29 8.Bd2 3:46 Qc7 5:58 9.Qe2

7:29

[9.g4!]

9...Nbd7 17:05 10.Nxd7?! 2:54

[10.0-0-0±]

Call in the cleaning crew... 27.c3 2:51

Red6 3:15 28.Nc2 1:01 Rd1 34 29.Re1

10 Rxe1 20 30.Qxe1 10 Qxf4 36

31.Nd4 44 Qg4 4:49 32.Ba3 2:39 a5

3:43 33.Kh2 4:36 Ba6 4:48 34.Qg3

1:13 Qxg3+ 4:02 35.Kxg3 5 Bxc4 5

36.Ra1 29 Bd3 2:48 37.Bxc5 1:22

bxc5 8 38.Nb3 2 Ra8 8:21 39.Nxc5 6

Rc8 38 40.Nb3 4:38 Rxc3 10 41.Nxa5

2 Kf7 3:04 42.Nb7 2:27 Ke7 27 43.Kf4

2:14 g5+ 4:23 44.hxg5 1 fxg5+ 1

45.Kxg5 47 h5 3:55 46.Kf4 33 Rc2

1:43 47.Rh1 1:27 Be2 56 48.Rb1 1:22

Bd3 23 49.Rh1 22 Be2 27 50.Rb1 2:04

Rc6 11 51.a5 46 Ba6 1:08 52.Rb6 31

Rxb6 22 53.axb6 1 Bxb7 13 54.Kg5 2

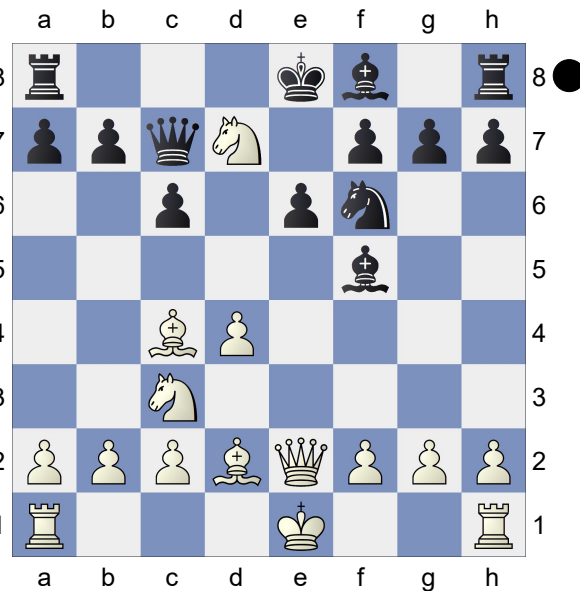
Kd6 31 55.Kxh5 2 Kc5 10 56.g4 4

Kxb6 33 57.Kg5 4 Kc5 43 58.Kf5 19

Kc4 27 59.Ke5 1:17 Kd3 7 60.g5 4

Ba6 7 61.Kd5 18 Bc4+ 5

0-1



10...Qxd7 1:01

[Stockfish gives 10...Kxd7!=

; years ago I learned from Nick De Firmian that whenever Black's king gets "centered" like this, White does well. In fact, in this particular position Stockfish has Black quickly scurry with ...Rd8 and ...Kc8, "castling by hand" and getting the rooks connected.]

And there's a tactical problem: 11.d5!±

1:23 Impressive! But Black should be

able to survive the blow. 11...Be7?! 4:06

[11...Bc5!?]
 [11...0-0-0!? 12.dxe6 Bxe6 13.Bxe6
 Qxe6 14.Qxe6+ fxe6 15.0-0-0 Bd6
 is "one weakness," and should be
 okay.]

12.dxc6 5:53

[12.dxe6 here also, isn't much but it is
 something.]

12...bxc6 34 13.0-0-0 40 0-0 4:35

[13...Qb7! 14.Kb1 a5=]

14.Bf4?! 5:24

[14.Rhg1!± and roll 'em!]

14...Qb7 2:32 15.Be5 5:40 a5 8:57

16.Na4 7:53 Rfd8 6:59 17.f3 2:20 h5

4:56 18.Rhe1?! 10:53 Qb4 3:41

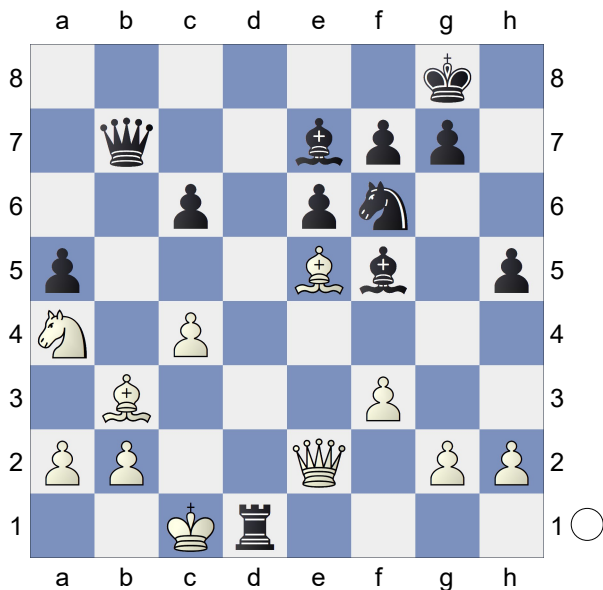
[18...Nd5!±]

19.Bb3 4:01 Qb5 8:54 20.c4! 10:19

Qb7 2:14 21.Rxd8+ 1:50

[21.Qe3!±]

21...Rxd8 21 22.Rd1 50 Rxd1+



23.Qxd1? 4:59

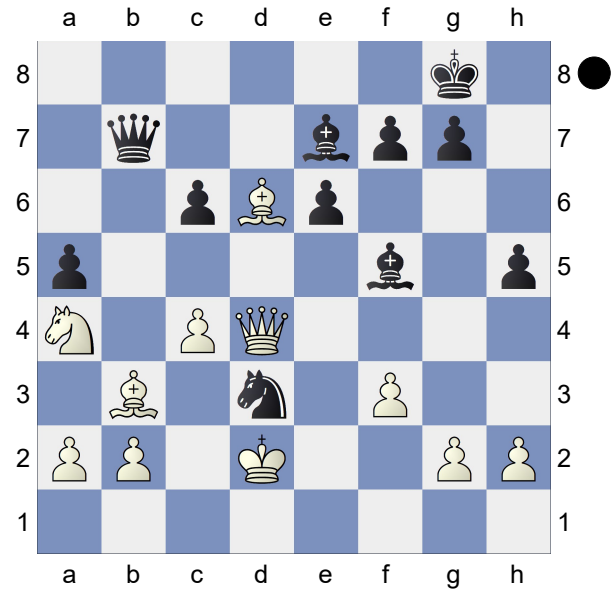
[23.Bxd1±]

23...Ng4!-+ 2:00 Quite a shot! Now it's
 White that tries to survive, and it should
 be possible. **24.Bd6 10:26 Nf2 2:29**

25.Qd4 1:15 Nd3+ 39 26.Kd2 1:29

(Diagram)

Bf6?? 7:47 Various moves win here,



most notably:

[26...e5! 27.Bxe5 (27.Nc5 Nxc5
 28.Qxc5 Qd7-+ the king is vulnerable
 on the d-file) 27...Bb4+ 28.Ke2
 Qe7-+ the king is vulnerable on the *e-
 file!*]

27.Qb6± 39 Qxb6?!= 2:52

[27...Bg5+±]

28.Nxb6 5 Nxb2 56 29.Na4 3:16 Nd3

1:14 30.Bc7 3:14 Be5 2:00 31.Bxe5 15

Nxe5 2 32.Nc5 9 g5 37 33.Kc3 51 g4

26 34.f4 16 Ng6 14 35.g3 10 e5 31

36.fxe5 1:33 Nxe5 5 37.Ba4 46 Kf8

2:10 38.Nb7? 23 Ke7? 51

[38...Nf3]

39.Nxa5 30 Kd6 58 40.Bd1= 3:33

(Diagram)

Be4? 2:54

[40...c5=]

41.Nb3? 8

[41.Kd4+-]

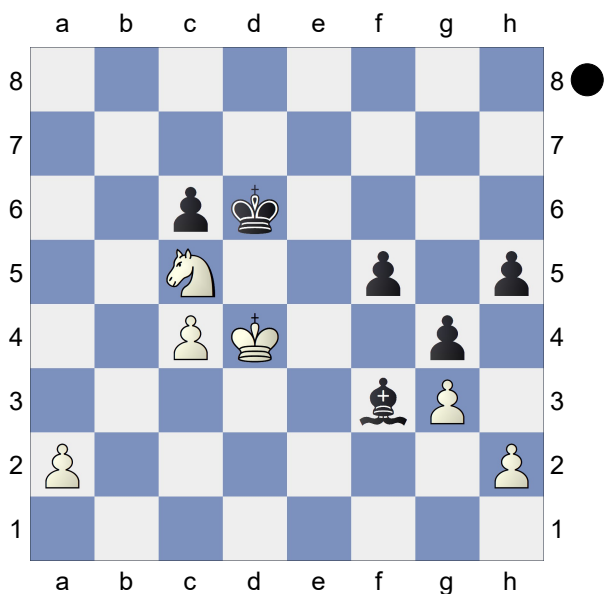
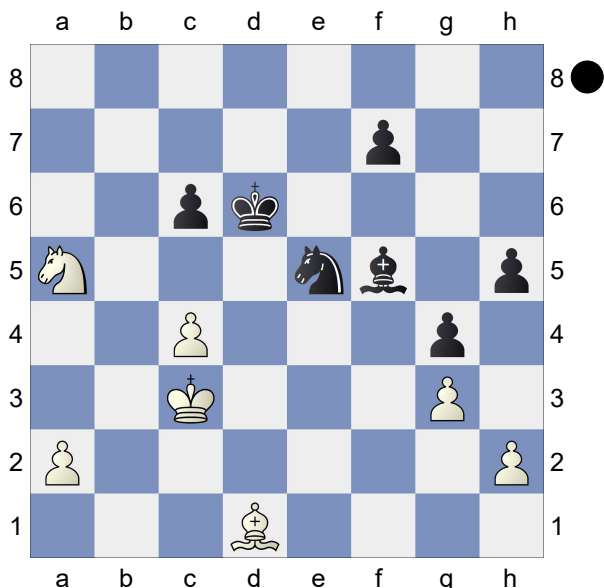
41...f5= 46 42.Kd4 42 Nf3+ 38 43.Bxf3

15 Bxf3 33 44.Nc5?= 55

[44.c5+-]

[44.a4+-]

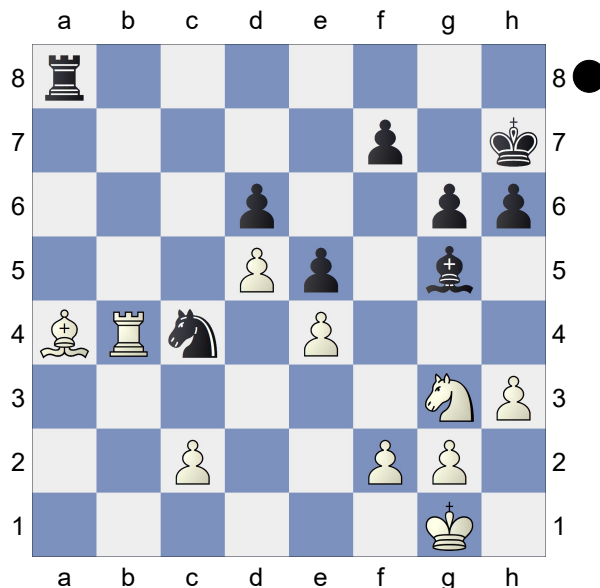
(Diagram)



Wang, Chase C41
 Heiserman, Jimmy 1912
 3rd Silman TNM: 2000+ (1.7) 05.05.2026 2262
[Winslow, Elliott]

Young Chase Wang acquits himself well against master Jimmy Heiserman, even missing a win at one point. 1.e4 d6
 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 e5 4.Nf3 Nbd7 5.Bc4 Be7 6.0-0 0-0 7.h3 c6 8.Bb3

[8.a4]
 8...b5 9.a3 Bb7 10.Re1 a6 11.Bg5 h6 12.Bxf6 Bxf6 13.d5 c5 14.Ne2 c4 15.Ba2 g6 16.Qd2 Kh7 17.Ng3 Rc8 18.Qe2 a5 19.a4 Ba6 20.Nd2 Qc7 21.axb5 Bxb5 22.b3 Bg5 23.bxc4 Ba6 24.Bb3 Nb6 25.Rxa5 Bxc4 26.Nxc4 Nxc4 27.Ra6 Na5 28.Ba4 Ra8 29.Rxa8 Rxa8 30.Rb1 Qc4 31.Qxc4 Nxc4 32.Rb4=



44...Bd1? 33

[44...f4! 45.gxf4 h4 46.Nd3 g3 47.hxg3 hxg3 48.Ne5=]

45.Nd3+- 26 Bc2 23 46.c5+ 5 Ke6 31

47.Nf4+ 7 Kf6 20 48.Nxh5+ 5 Kg5 35

49.Nf4 6 Kf6 17 50.Ne2 43 Kg5 50

51.Ke5 15 Bd3 33 52.Nd4 18 Be4 13

53.a4 12 Bd3 46 54.Ne6+ 18 Kh5 9

55.Nf4+ 6 Kg5 20 56.Nxd3 6 f4 15

57.Nxf4 31 It's still a mystery to me how Andy not only didn't lose, but went on to win this one.

1-0

"1/2-1/2?" 32...Na3 33.Bb3 Rd8?

[33...Nb1=]

34.Ne2?

[34.Kf1+- Bd2 35.Rb7 Kg7 36.Ke2 Ba5 37.Nf1 Rc8 38.Ne3]

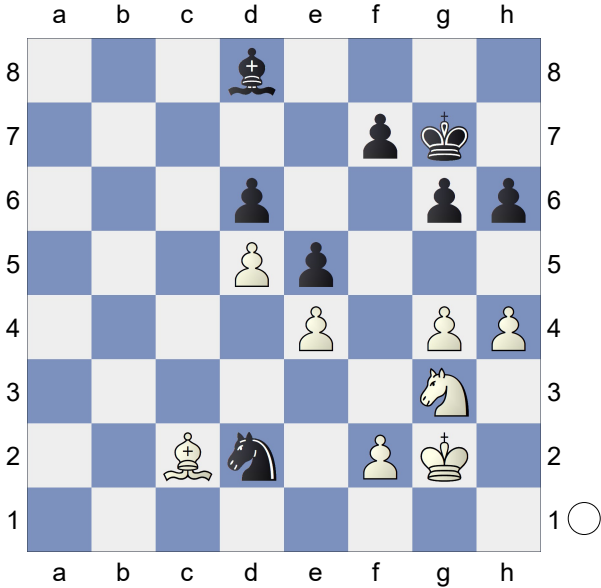
34...Nb1!= "1/2-1/2?" 35.Ba2 Nd2 36.g3

Nf3+ 37.Kg2 Ne1+ 38.Kf1 Nxc2

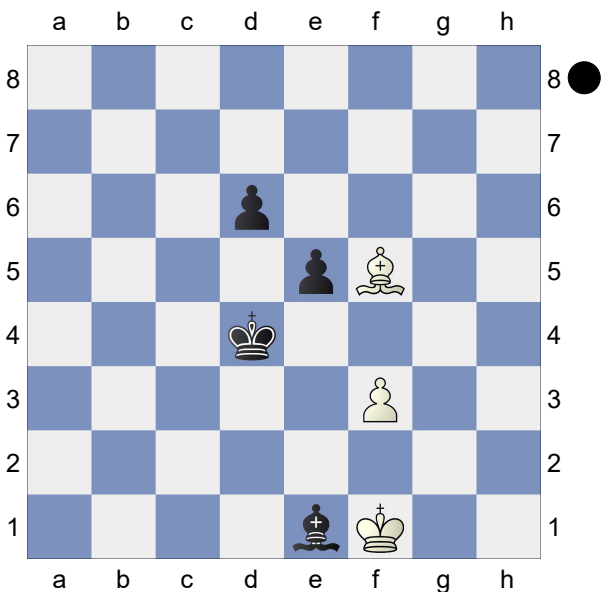
39.Rc4 Na3

[39...Na1!=]

[39...Nd4 40.Nxd4 exd4 41.Rxd4=]
40.Ra4 Nb5 41.Rb4 Ra8 42.Bb3 Na3
43.Ra4 Rxa4 44.Bxa4 Nc4 45.Kg2
Kg7 46.Bb5 Nd2 47.Bd3 Bd8 48.g4
Bb6 49.Ng3 Kf6 50.h4 Bd8 51.Bc2
Kg7



52.Nf1 Nxf1 53.Kxf1 Bxh4 54.Kg2
Kf6 55.f3 Kg5 56.Kh3 Be1 57.Bd3
Kf4 58.Kg2 Kg5 59.Kh3 h5 60.gxh5
Kxh5 61.Be2 Kg5 62.Bd3 Kf4 63.Kg2
Ke3 64.Bc2 f6 65.Bb1 Kd4 66.Kh3
f5 67.exf5 gxf5 68.Bxf5 Kxd5 69.Kg2
Kd4 70.Kf1

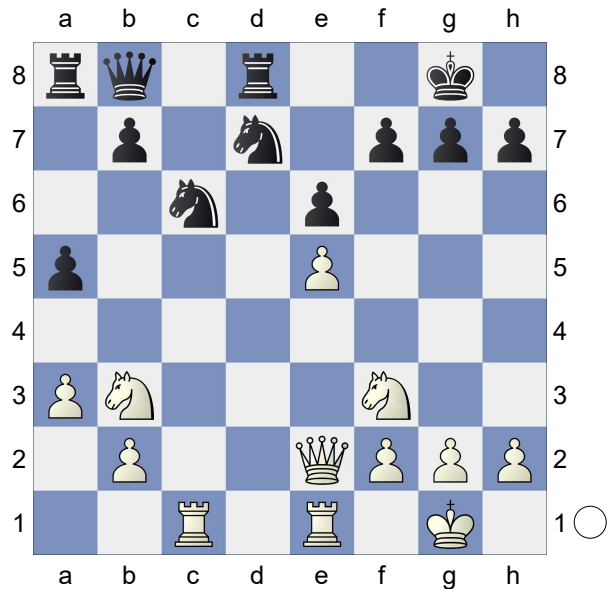


Ke3 71.Be4 Bh4 72.Bc6 Kd3 73.Bb7
Ke3 74.Bc6 Kd2 75.Bb7 Kd3 76.Bc6

Kc4 77.Ke2 d5 78.Bd7 Kd4
 1/2-1/2

□ **Casares, Nick** **B22**
 1600
 ■ **Zhao, Isaac Dan** **1947**
 3rd Silman TNM: 1600-1999 (1.20) 5.5.26
[Winslow, Elliott]

The start of Isaac Zhao's ascent in the middle section. Beating the Alapin has become an important skill, so many people are playing it for White lately.
 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.c3 Nf6 4.e5 Nd5 5.d4 cxd4 6.cxd4 d6 7.Bb5+
 Not at all the most dynamic handling by Casares. 7...Bd7 8.Bxd7+ Nxd7 9.0-0 Qc7 10.Re1 dxe5 11.dxe5 Bc5 12.a3 a5 13.Nbd2 0-0 14.Nb3 Rfd8 15.Bg5 Be7 16.Bxe7 Nxe7 17.Qe2 Nc6 18.Rac1 Qb8



19.Rxc6?? It was pretty balanced (as it often is in the Alapin) until this inexplicable exchange sac! 19...bxc6 20.Nbd4 Qb6 21.Rc1 Rac8 22.Rd1 Nf8 23.Qc2 c5 24.Ne2 Rxd1+ 25.Qxd1 Qxb2 26.h4 c4 27.Ned4 Rd8 28.Kh2 c3 29.Qd3 Qxa3 30.Ne1 Qc5 31.Nef3 a4 32.Qd1 a3 33.Qa4 a2

34.Nb3 Qxf2 35.Nc1 Rd2

0-1

D93

1782

☐ Ramirez, Nazaret

■ De La Fuente Alvarez, C

1529

3rd Silman TNM: 1600-1999 (1.25) 5.5.26

[Winslow, Elliott]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 g6 3.e3 Bg7 4.Nf3

0-0 5.c4 I'm not sure this is a London

any more 5...d5 And now it's a

Gruenfeld, especially after White's next

6.Nc3 c5 7.Be2

[7.dxc5! I remember when I first saw the Bf4 Gruenfeld lines, I couldn't see why this was the standard response.

In this position it happens to be close to 3-to-1 played over the rest of the field. But that doesn't mean it scores so great. Qa5! (This is the best response, it would appear) (But

7...Ne4!? could well outshine (Stockfish 18).)

7...Nc6 8.Ne5 cxd4

[8...Be6!?]

9.exd4 dxc4 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Bxc4 Nd5! =

[11...Qb6!?]

(Diagram)

12.Bg3?

[12.Bxd5 cxd5 13.0-0 Qb6= 14.Re1]

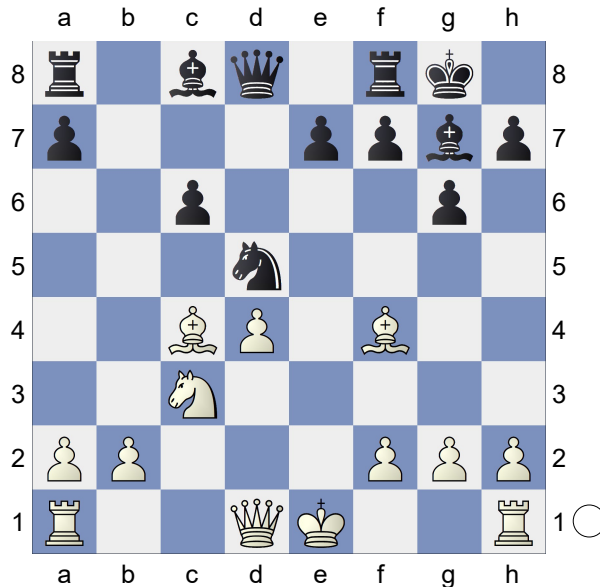
12...Qb6

[12...Nb6! 13.Bb3 (13.Be2 Bxd4) 13...Ba6! (xd4) 14.Qd2 Qxd4 15.Qxd4 Bxd4 16.0-0-0 c5]

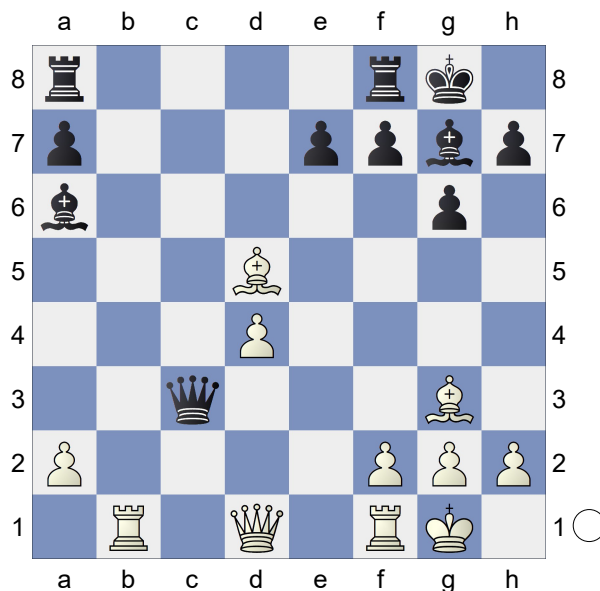
13.0-0! Qxb2? =

[13...Be6!]

14.Nxd5 cxd5 15.Bxd5 Ba6! 16.Rb1! Qc3! =



[16...Qxd4? 17.Qxd4 Bxd4 18.Rfd1±]



17.Bxa8

[17.Re1 Rad8 18.Qf3 Qxf3 19.Bxf3 e6 20.Be5=]

17...Bxf1☐ 18.Qf3 Qxf3 19.Bxf3 Bc4 20.h3

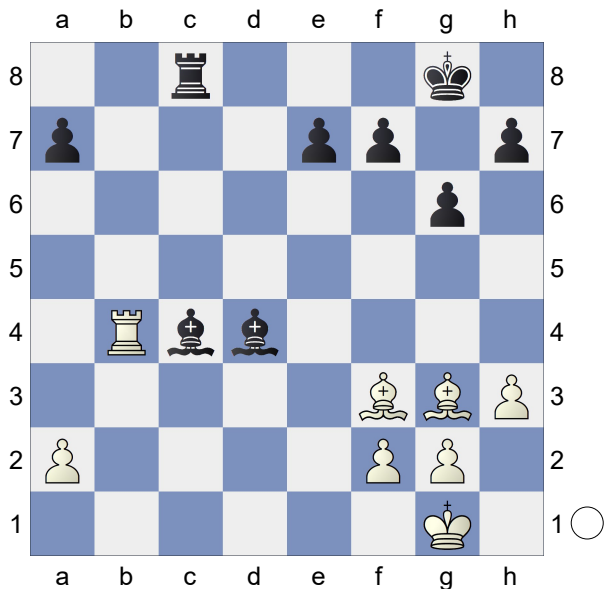
[20.Rb4 Bxa2 21.Ra4 Rc8 22.h4=]

20...Bxd4 21.Rb4 Rc8=

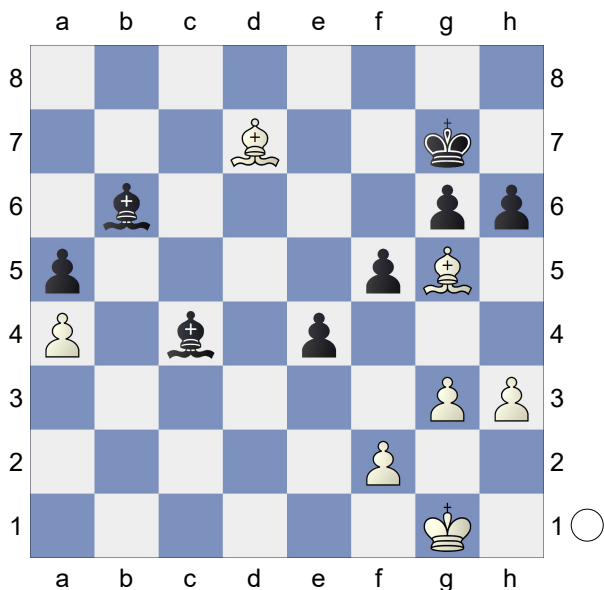
(Diagram)

22.a4?

[22.Be2 Bxe2 (22...Bxf2+!? 23.Kxf2

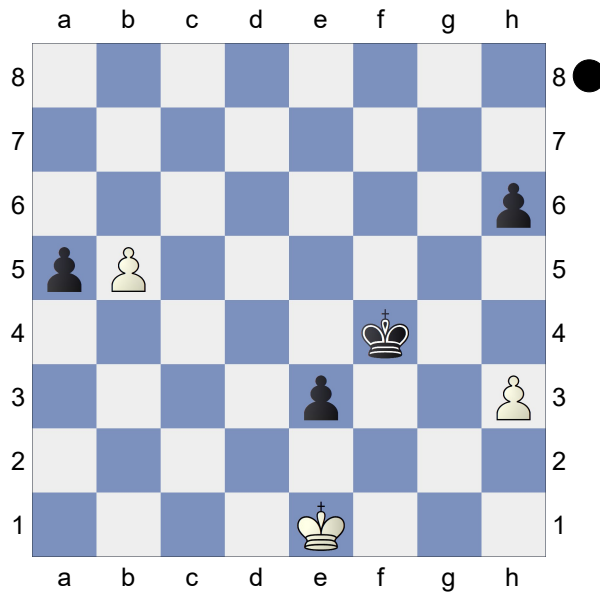


Bxe2 24.Kxe2 Rc2+ 25.Kf3 Rxa2=)
 23.Rxd4 Bb5= 24.Rb4 Rc1+ 25.Kh2
 Bc4 26.Rb8+ Kg7 27.Rb7]
22...a5?!
 [22...e5-+]
23.Rb7 e5 24.Bh4 Kg7 25.Bg4 Rc6
26.Bd7 Rb6 27.Rxb6 Bxb6 28.Be7 f5
29.g3 e4?! 30.Bg5 h6?!



31.Be3??
 [31.Bf4 \bar{f}]
 [31.Bd2 \bar{f}]
 [31.Bc1 \bar{f}]
31...Bxe3 32.fxe3-+ Kf6 33.Kf2 Ke5
 [33...Ke7! 34.Bc6 Be6]
34.Ke1 g5 35.Kd2 f4 36.gxf4+ gxf4

37.exf4+ Kxf4 38.Bb5?! e3+ 39.Ke1
Bxb5 40.axb5



Ke5! 41.b6 Kd6 42.Ke2 Kc6
 [42...a4]
43.b7 Kxb7 44.Kxe3 Kc6 45.Kd4 a4
46.Kc4 a3 47.Kb3 Kd5 48.Kxa3 Ke4
49.h4 Kf4 50.Kb3 Kg4 51.h5 Kxh5
52.Kc3 Kg4 53.Kd3 Kf3 54.Kd2 h5
55.Ke1 Kg2
0-1

C63
 ♖ **Yoo, Christopher Woojin** **2663**
 ♜ **Tsodikova, Natalya** **2258**
 3rd Silman TNM: 2000+ (2.1) 12.05.2026
 [Winslow, Elliott]

Yoo strikes again. Against this gambit line he takes the pawn on his terms (I guess!), and puts a sleeper on Tsodikova's aspirations of an initiative and compensation. **1.e4 26 e5 14 2.Nf3 22 Nc6 14 3.Bb5 27 f5!? 39**
 The Schliemann Defense in the West, the Jaenisch Gambit in the East. I have to wondered what provoked Natalya to break this always interesting line out, but I see now that she's played it before. **4.Nc3 1:13** Leading to all sorts of

unusual and unbalanced variations;
 [4.d3 has become more popular (Karpov's influence!), an attempt to keep the violence manageable! But 4. Nc3 lives on as well.]

4...fxe4 20 5.Nxe4 10 Nf6 12
 Especially in this line, which is less likely to get stratospherically complicated and has a number of adherents.

[5...d5 has led to a *lot* of analysis and madness. For example: 6.Nxe5 dxe4 7.Nxc6 Qg5 8.Qe2 Nf6 9.f4 Qxf4 10.Ne5+ c6 11.d4 Qh4+ 12.g3 Qh3 13.Bc4 Be6 Still about a thousand games in the database!]

6.Nxf6+ 1:11
 [6.Qe2 d5 7.Nxf6+ gxf6 8.d4 Bg7 (8...e4!?) 9.dxe5 0-0 is another fairy tale.]

6...Qxf6 45 7.Qe2 1:05 Be7! 43
 Black drops a pawn but comes out okay.

8.Bxc6 31 dxc6 42 Most common.
 [But 8...bxc6!? 9.Nxe5 (9.Qxe5 d6 Black even has a plus score; 9.d4!? Qg6! 10.0-0 d6) 9...Qe6!? (or 9...Bb7!? and queenside castling) 10.d4 Bf6 and the theme of great compensation continues. (or 10...0-0)]

9.Nxe5 1:29 0-0 1:12 10.0-0 46 Bd6 2:15 Sensible, although we've lost our 2700+ participants around now.

[10...c5 hasn't fared well, for instance 11.b3 Bd6 12.Bb2 Bf5 13.Rae1 Rae8 14.f4 Qh4 15.d3 b6 16.Qf3 Re6 17.Qd5 Rfe8 18.Re3 c6 19.Qf3 Bc7 20.Rfe1 h6 21.a4 b5 22.g3 Qh3 23.Nxc6 bxa4 24.bxa4 Bg4 25.Qd5 Kh8 26.Qd7 R6e7 27.Bxg7+ Kh7 28.Qxe7 Rxe7 29.Rxe7 Bd6 30.Bc3+ Bxe7 31.Rxe7+ Kg8 32.Ne5 Be6 33.Re8+ Kh7 34.Nf3 Qf5 35.Kf2 c4 36.Rh8+ Kg6 37.Nh4+ 1-0 (37) Durarbayli,V (2625)-

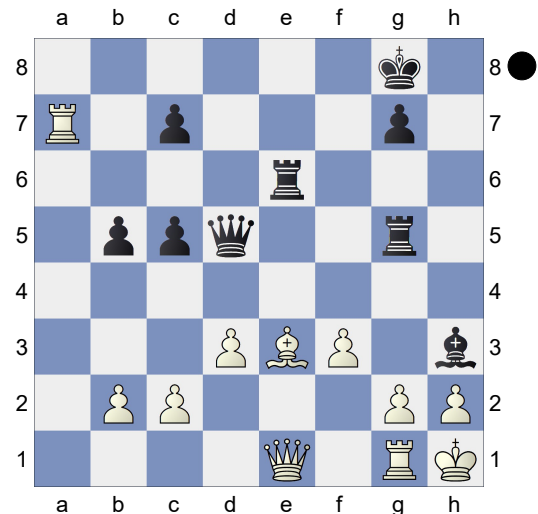
Beerdsen,T (2511) AI Cup Div 3 L (online) 2023]

11.Nc4 59
 [Stockfish and practice lean towards 11.d4 -- this whole variation must be an acquired taste, I don't get it. Isn't White just up a pawn with a great knight on e5!?]

11...Bf5?! 5:15
 [11...Be6!?

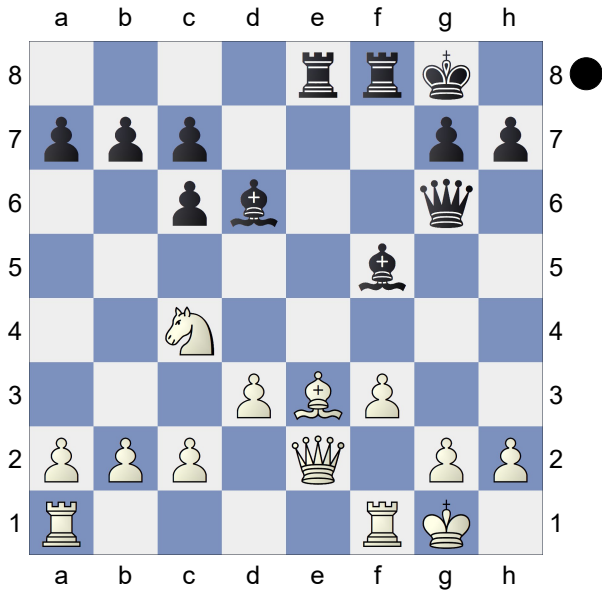
12.d3 13 Rae8 1:15 13.Be3 15 Qg6 2:54 14.f3 1:26

[Perhaps a hint as to why anyone would want to play this line as Black can be found in the following game, the sole occasion that a player or this level appears in the record: 14.Kh1 Be5 15.Nxe5 Rxe5 16.Qd2 Rfe8 17.Qc3 h5 18.Rae1 h4 19.Qc4+ Qf7 20.Qxh4 Qxa2 21.Qd4 c5 22.Qc3 Qd5 23.Ra1 Bh3 24.Rg1 R8e6 25.Rxa7 b5 26.Qe1 Rg5 27.f3



Bxg2+ 28.Rxg2 Qxf3 29.Qf2 Rxe3 30.Ra1 Qxg2+ 31.Qxg2 Rxg2 32.Kxg2 Re2+ 33.Kg3 Rxc2 34.Ra7 Rd2 35.Kf4 Rxd3 36.Rxc7 c4 37.b4 Rb3 38.Kf5 Kh7 39.Ke6 Rxb4 40.Kf7 Rb2 41.Rc5 Rf2+ 42.Ke6 Rb2 43.Kf7 Kh6 44.Rc6+ Kg5 45.Rc5+ Kf4 46.h4 Ke4 47.h5 Kd4 0-1 (47) Anand,V (2794)-Freise,E (2018) Mainz 2001. An incredible

upset! Ah, but I look further: it's a simul game! Still...]



14...Re7N 12:25

[14...Bf4 15.Rae1 b5 16.Qf2 Bxh2+ 17.Kxh2 bxc4 18.Bxa7 cxd3 19.cxd3 Bxd3 20.Rxe8 Rxe8 21.Re1 Bc4 22.a4 Ra8 23.Ra1 Re8 24.Qh4 Bd5 25.Re1 c5 26.Rxe8+ Qxe8 27.Qf4 Bf7 28.Bxc5 Bb3 29.Qxc7 Bxa4 30.Bd4 Bd7 31.b4 h6 32.Be5 Qh5+ 33.Kg1 Qf5 34.Qc3 g5 35.Kh2 Kf7 36.b5 g4 37.f4 Ke8 38.Qb3 Be6 39.Qd1 Qe4 40.b6 h5 41.Kg3 Qe3+ 42.Kh4 Qxb6 43.g3 Qb7 44.Qa4+ Kraft,D (2459)-Bissmann,S (2390) GER email 2015 ½-½]

15.Qf2 2:40 Rfe8 2:12 16.Rae1± 4:05

White is a long way from making the extra pawn count, but it's there. And Stockfish makes it +1.22/29. Christopher snips another pawn and out of nowhere it's critical. **16...Bb4?! 5:59 17.Bd2+- 2:32 Bd6 3:18 18.Rxe7 3:27 Rxe7 57 19.Qxa7 2:04 b6 4:31 20.Nxd6 10:44 Qxd6 10 21.Rf2 37 h6 10:48 22.Qa4 2:20 Re8 11:15 23.Bc3 1:54 b5 5:49 24.Qh4 1:30 c5 1:57 25.f4 1:33 c4 3:39 26.Be5 1:18 Qd7 4:00 27.dxc4 1:23 Qd1+ 2:07 28.Rf1**

22 Qxc2 15 29.cxb5 2:13 Qc5+ 28 30.Qf2 11 Qxb5 28 31.Rc1 58 c6 2:42 32.Qa7 48 The "Bishops of opposite color favor the attacker" cuts both ways - in fact Black's attack never got off the ground. Yoo is of another class. **1-0**

D35
 2247
 2547
 3rd Silman TNM: 2000+ (2.2) 12.05.2026
 [Winslow,Elliott]

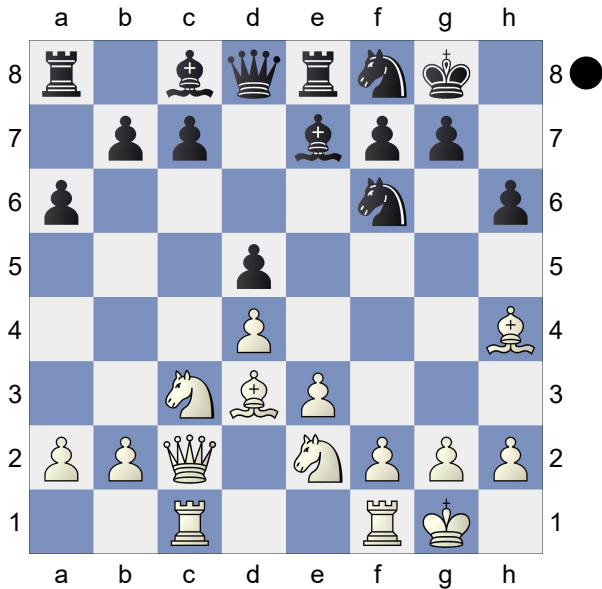
A nice master (well, Grandmaster) class on Black vs. the Exchange Variation Queen's Gambit by Heimann. **1.d4 2 d5**

1:04 2.c4 6 e6 4 3.Nc3 10 Nf6 11 4.cxd5 17 exd5 5 5.Bg5 7 Be7 21 6.e3 21 h6 26 7.Bh4 57 0-0 7 8.Bd3 15 Re8 29 9.Nge2 55 Nbd7 37
 [9...c6 10.Qc2 Nbd7 11.h3 Nf8 12.Bg3 Ne6 13.0-0 Bd6 14.Be5 Bxe5 15.dxe5 Nd7 16.f4 Nec5 17.Bh7+ Kh8 18.b4 Nf8 19.bxc5 Nxh7 20.e4 Qa5 21.exd5 Qxc5+ 22.Kh1 cxd5 23.Qd2 Bd7 24.Rac1 Qa5 25.Qb2 Qb6 26.Qd2 Qa5 27.Nd4 f6 28.Qb2 fxe5 29.fxe5 Rxe5 30.Rf7 Nf6 31.Rf1 Qc7 32.Ncb5 Qc4 33.R1xf6 gxf6 34.Qf2 Qc1+ 35.Kh2 Qg5 36.Rxd7 Re4 37.Nd6 Qe5+ 38.g3 Qxd4 39.Nxe4 Abdusattorov,N (2751)-Bluebaum,M (2679) Wijk aan Zee 2026 1-0]

10.0-0 1:24 Nf8 14 11.Qc2 1:19 a6 2:00 12.Rac1 6:39

(Diagram)

Not the most focused deployment, neither for a Minority Attack (b2-b4-b5) nor a central advance (f2-f3, e3-e4). **12...Ne6N 5:00** There has been a sea



[21.e4!?]

21...Qd8! 1:10 22.Bxd7 39 Qxd7 4
 23.Qd3 26 Rbc8! 2:15 24.Kh1 2:40
 Qe6 2:28 25.Rce1 3:44 c5 1:02
 26.dxc5 5:02 Bxc5 20 27.Nf5 10:07
 Bf8 1:08 28.a3 9:06 Qe4 4:07 29.Rd1
 4:58 Rc2 2:07 30.Qxe4 58 dxe4 6
 31.Rb1 17 g6 3:10 32.Nd4 23 Rd2 4
 33.f5 4:39 Bg7 3:28 34.f6 43 Bf8 8
 35.Rfe1 2:45 Bd6 53 36.Nb3 2:07 Rd3
 8:11 37.Rbd1 1:29 Re6 45 38.Nd2 9:17
 Bc5 56 39.Rc1 37 Bxe3 1:37 40.Rc8+
 6 Kh7 3 41.Nc4 1:08 Bf2 45
 0-1

change regarding the Exchange Variation of the Queen's Gambit; Black is no longer letting White slowly move pawns forward and overrunning Black. Black is fighting back better than before. Or maybe I just haven't noticed. *Or* maybe I conveniently forget my losses, and enjoy my wins.

[12...c6 13.f3 Be6 14.e4 c5 15.e5 N6d7 16.Bxe7 Qxe7 17.f4 cxd4 18.Nxd4 Qc5 19.Qf2 g6 20.Ncb5 Qb6 21.Nc7 Rac8 22.Nxe8 Rxe8 23.f5 gxf5 24.Bxf5 Nxe5 25.Bxe6 Nxe6 26.Nxe6 Qxf2+ 27.Rxf2 Nd3 28.Nc7 Rc8 29.Rfc2 Nxc1 30.Rxc1 Rd8 31.Rc5 d4 32.Rd5 Rc8 33.Rd7 b5 34.Kf2 b4 35.Ke2 a5 36.Kd3 Rb8 37.b3 Rb6 38.Rxd4 Rc6 39.Rc4 Rd6+ 40.Ke3 Rd1 41.Rc2 Kg7 42.Na6 Fathallah,J (2067)-Burrows,M (1857) Swansea 2018 1-0]

13.Bxf6?! 6:04 Ceding any thought of opening initiative or advantage. 13...Bxf6 6 14.Qb3 24 c6 19 15.Na4 46 Be7 5:32 16.Nb6 1:40 Rb8 7 17.Nxc8 3:36 Qxc8 5 18.Bb1 4:28 Bd6= 1:29 19.f4!? 2:52 Nf8 1:04 20.Ng3?! 1:13

[20.Qd3 Qe6 21.Rf3 Qg6=]
 20...Nd7± 1:52 21.Bf5?! 6:18

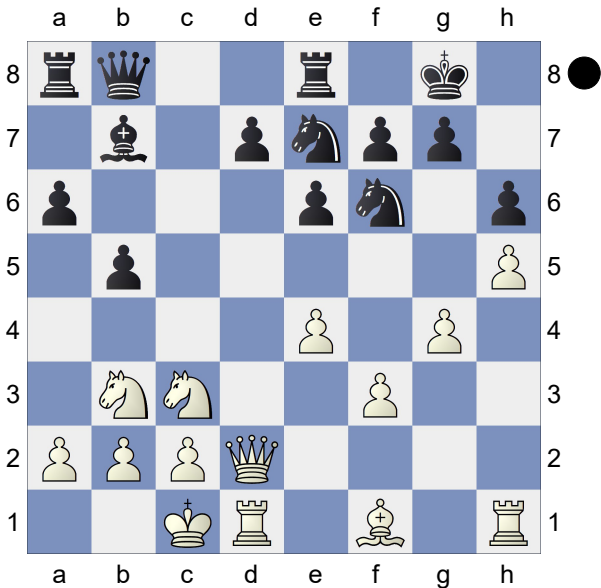
B45
 □ Suarez,Sebastian **2314**
 ■ Zavgorodniy,Andrew **2088**
 3rd Silman TNM: 2000+ (2.4) 12.05.2026
 [Winslow,Elliott]

Sebastian "Sebby" Suarez has significantly upped his game of late. Especially in the opening, where he's often showing master of modern mainstream lines. Here in a fashionable Sicilian he is on top of theory. But that doesn't mean an advantage! What eventually matters is experience in opposite-sides attacking. Sebby comes through, after an up-and-down mess. 1.e4 39 c5 24 2.Nf3 10 e6 20 3.d4 8 cxd4 9 4.Nxd4 4 Nf6 15 5.Nc3 7 Nc6 12 6.Ndb5 8 Bc5! 22 A *very* old line that has recently been totally resuscitated. 7.Bf4 8

[Much of the revival has White trying 7.Nd6+ Ke7 8.Bf4 e5 9.Nf5+ Kf8! 10.Bg5 d6 11.Bc4 Be6± 12.Bb3 (12.Qe2 Bxc4 13.Qxc4 Bxf2+! 14.Kd2!± !=) 12...h6 13.Bxf6 Qxf6 14.0-0 Bxf5 15.Nd5 Qg6 16.exf5 Qxf5 17.c3 Ne7 White has compensation for the pawn, but

more?]

7...0-0 16 8.Bc7 4 Qe7 18 9.Bd6 5
 Bxd6 11 10.Qxd6 5 Qd8 21 11.0-0-0 4
 a6 22 12.Nd4 6 Ne7! 25 13.h4!? 5
 [13.a4!? b5 14.axb5 axb5 15.Bxb5
 Ne8 16.Qb4 Ra1+ 17.Kd2 Ra8
 18.Kc1 Ra1+ 19.Kd2 Ra8 20.Kc1
 ½-½ (20) Leko,P (2660)-Erigaisi,A
 (2769) Goa 2025]
 13...b5 24 14.h5 5 h6 28 15.g4 48
 Bb7 37 16.f3 24 Re8 59 17.Nb3 25
 Qb8 1:04 18.Qd2 13:30



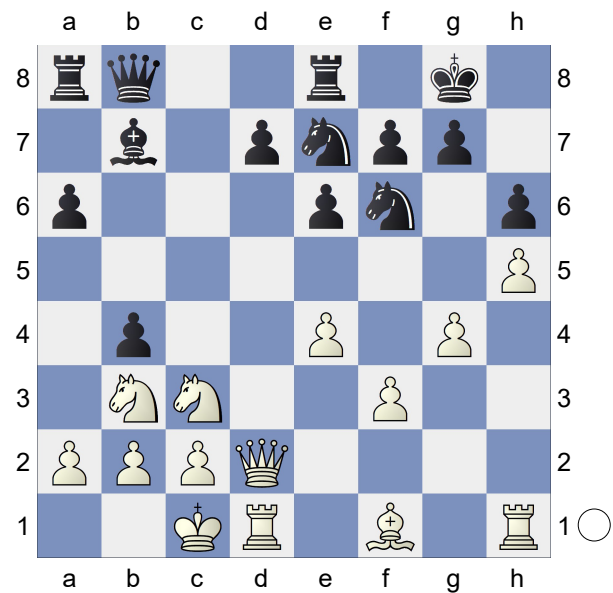
b4?! 7:07

[18...Nh7 holds White back for an important bit. 19.Na5± (19.Qxd7? Nd5!± I had to rely on the engine for *that* response!) 19...Bc6 20.Nxc6 dxc6 21.f4 White looks to be ahead, but Black keeps it under ± into = with Rd8= (or 21...f6=)]

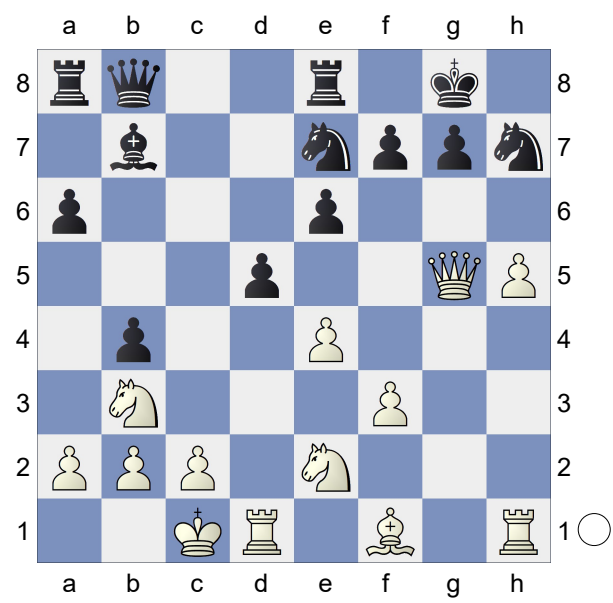
(Diagram)

In this position, looking more like a Taimanov, Zavgorodniy loses balance.

19.Ne2= 2:00
 [19.Na4!±]
19...d5! 1:23
 [19...Qc7!?]



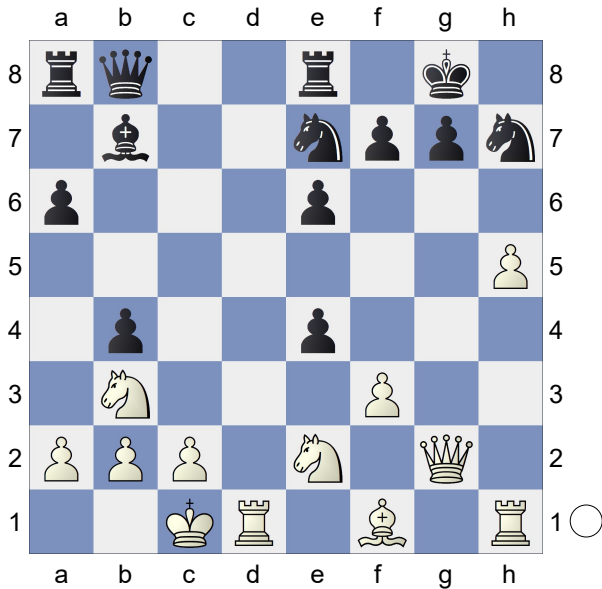
20.g5! 1:24 hxg5 3:07 21.Qxg5 35
 [21.h6!±]
21...Nh7± 3:00



22.Qg2? 11:30
 [22.Qh4= dxe4 23.fxe4 Qe5 (-0.16/25)]
22...dxe4+ 2:21

(Diagram)

23.Rg1N 41 A novelty on move 23!
 [23.fxe4 Qe5 (23...Nf5!-+) 24.Ng3 Red8 25.Bd3 a5 26.Nd2 a4 27.Kb1 a3 28.Nc4 Qg5 29.Qf2 Ba6 30.Qe3 Bxc4 31.Qxg5 Bxa2+ 32.Kxa2 Nxc5



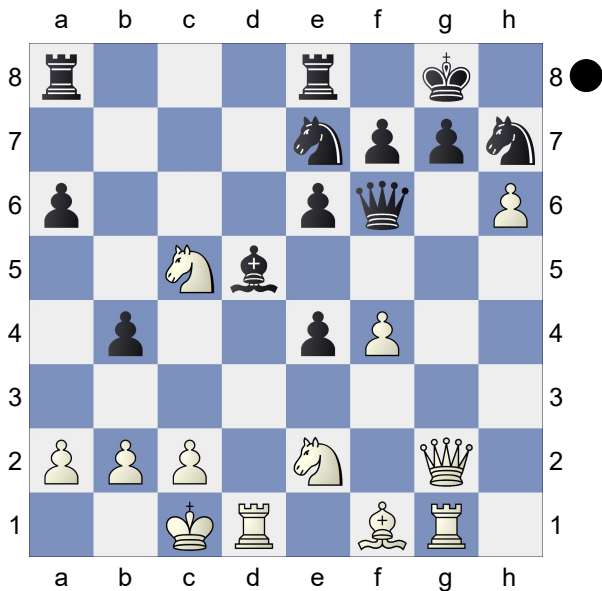
33.Rhf1 Nc6 34.Bc4 Ne5 35.Be2
 Rdc8 36.Bd3 axb2+ 37.Kxb2 Ra3
 38.Ne2 Ngf3 39.Rf2 Rca8 40.Nc1
 Nd4 41.Bf1 Ndc6 42.Bb5 R8a5
 43.Be2 Re3 44.Nb3 Ra7 45.Rg2
 Kh7 46.Rdg1 f6 47.Nc5 Nd4 48.Bd3
 b3 49.Kc3 Nxc2 50.Kxb3 Nxd3
 51.Nxd3 Rc7 52.Rg3 Rxe4
 Gradalski,O (2167)-Kurmman,O (2377)
 Katowice 2026 0-1]
 [23.h6 g6 24.fxe4 Nf5-+]

23...Qe5 2:30

[23...Nf5! 24.fxe4 Qe5-+]

24.f4 3:36 Qf6 12 25.Nc5 28 Bd5 3:58

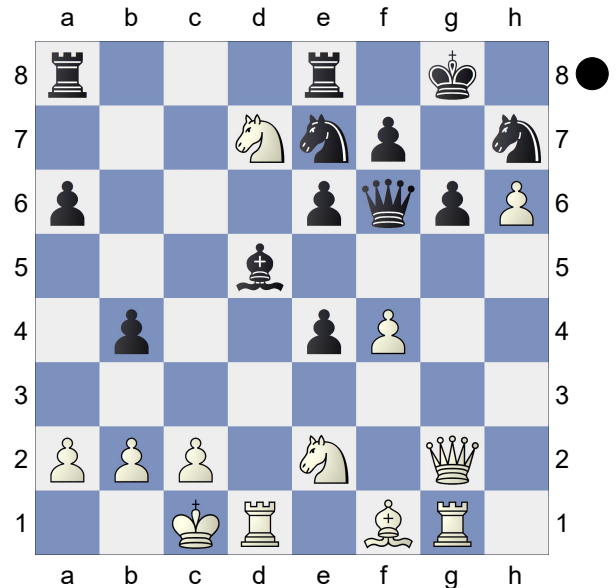
26.h6 18:34



g6? 8:03

[26...Qxh6! 27.Rh1 Qg6 28.Qh2
 Red8±]

27.Nd7 4:51



Qf5 3:18

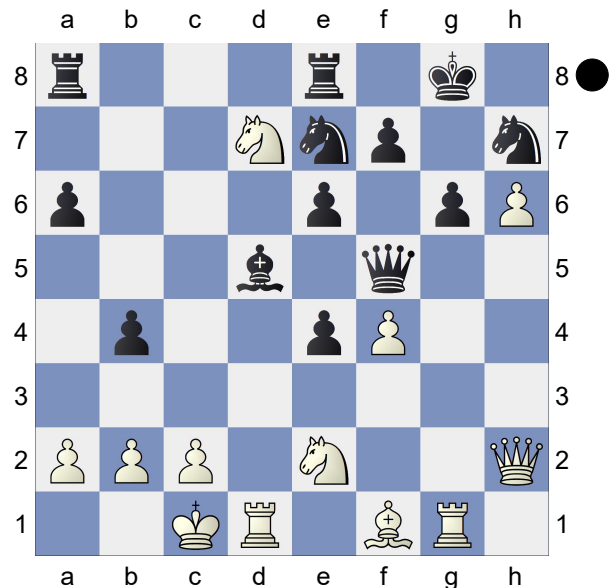
[27...Qh8!=

A) 28.Rh1? e3-+ (28...Rad8-+);

B) 28.Ne5 Nf6 29.Qg5 Nh7

30.Qg2 Red8]

28.Qh2 2:36



Nc6?! 10:24

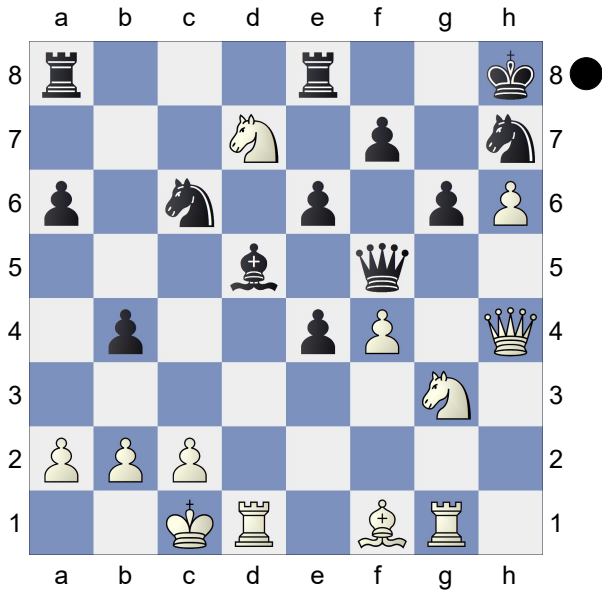
[28...Bc6! 29.Ne5 Red8±]

29.Qh4 35:19

[29.Bh3!±]

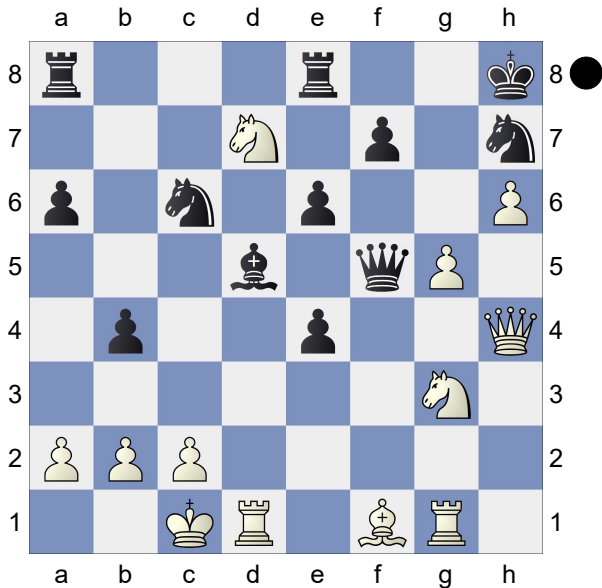
29...Kh8! 3:57 30.Ng3 35

[30.Bh3! Qh5 31.Qxh5 gxh5
32.Rg7± Re7 33.Nb6 Rd8 34.f5!±
Nf6 35.Nf4]



30...g5! 19 31.fxg5? 32

[31.Qxg5!? Qxg5 32.fxg5 Rad8!=
33.Nc5 (33.Nf6? Nxf6 34.gxf6 Rg8
35.Bxa6 Ne5-+) 33...Nxg5]



31...Qxg5+?? 20

[31...Qf3? 32.Bg2! Qe3+ 33.Kb1
Qxg5 34.Qxg5 Nxg5 35.Nf6 Ne5!
36.Nxe8 Rxe8 37.Nh5 Rg8!±]
[31...Qf2!

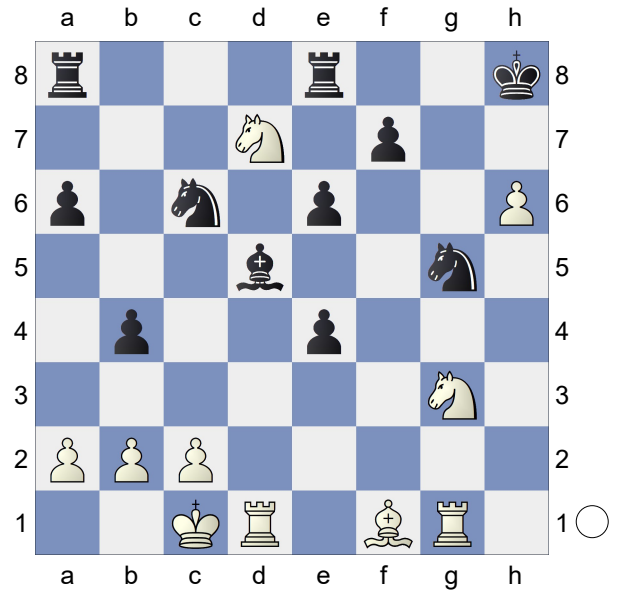
A) 32.Bg2 b3!-+ 33.axb3

(33.cxb3 Rad8-+) 33...Nd4!

34.Rxd4 Rac8!;

B) 32.Rg2 Qe3+ 33.Rdd2 Rg8±]

32.Qxg5 1 Nxg5 8



33.Nf6 1:30

[33.Nh5!+-]

33...Nf3 9:44 34.Rg2 1:08 Nh4 7:19

35.Re2± 1 /+- 35...Red8 6:18 36.Ngxe4

5 Bxe4?! 1:48

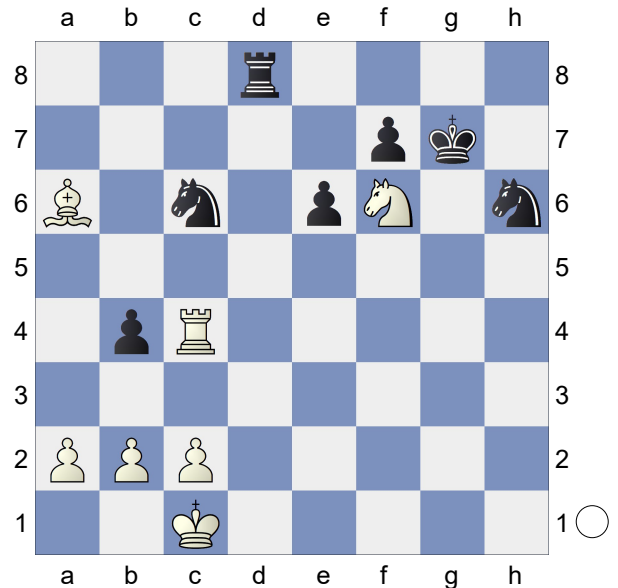
[36...Nf5 37.Ng5!+- Nxh6 38.b3 Kg7

39.Rf2 Ne5 40.Be2]

37.Rxd8+ 7 Rxd8 16 38.Rxe4 Nf5 2:29

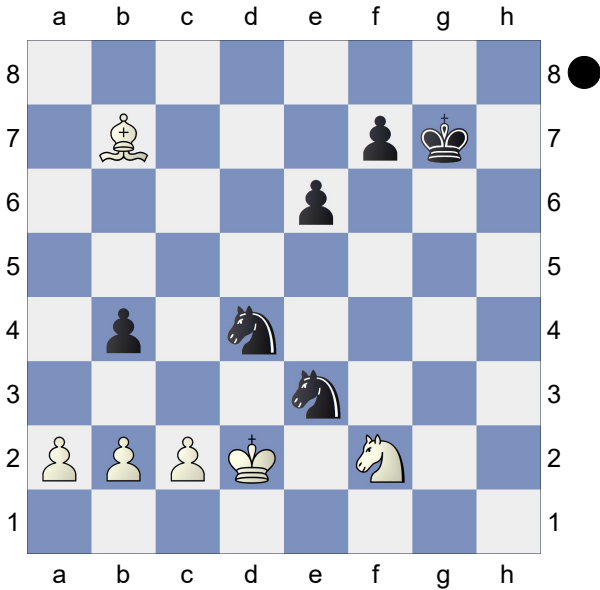
39.Bxa6 6 Nxh6 2:18 40.Rc4 10 Kg7

2:15



41.Ne4? 41

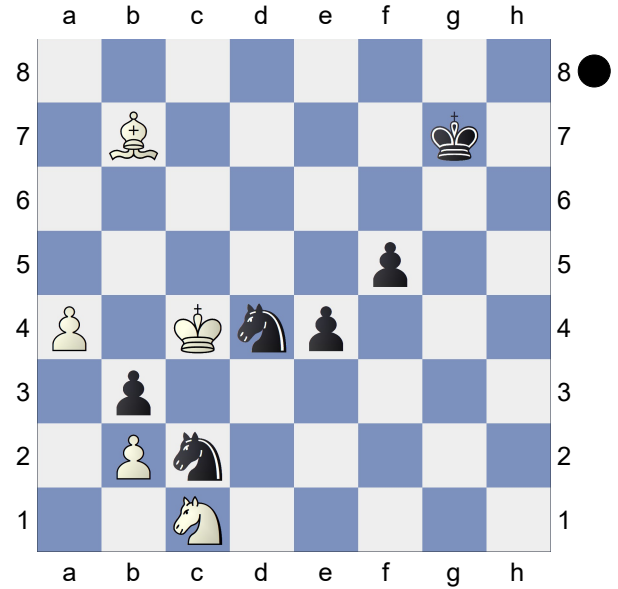
[41.Nh5+! Kg6 42.Nf4+ Kf5
43.Nd3+-]
41...Rd4! 2:16 42.Rxd4 37 Nxd4 5
43.Nf2 11
 [43.Kd2!?=]
43...Nhf5 2:10 44.Bb7 1:00 Ne3 1:27
45.Kd2 3:43



Nexc2! 3:58 46.Be4 24 Na1! 51
47.Kd3 2:43 e5 39 48.Kc4 2
 [48.Ng4!? f6= 49.Kc4 Nac2 50.Kc5
Kf7=]
48...f5!= 1:09 all 0.00s 49.Bb7 1:04
Nac2 5:58 50.Nd3 b3= 27
 [50...Kf6=]
 [50...Ne3+ 51.Kxb4 Kf6=]
 [50...e4=]
51.a4! 28 e4 35 52.Nc1 38

(Diagram)

e3? 1:20
 [52...Kf6!= 53.a5 Ke5 54.a6 Ne3+
55.Kc5 Ne6+ 56.Kb6 Nc4+ 57.Kb5
Nd6+ 58.Kc6 Nxb7 59.a7□ Na5+=]
53.a5 15 Ne6 4:42 54.a6 56 Nc7 47
55.a7 30 Na3+ 1:17 56.Kd3 48 f4 37
57.Ne2 17 Nab5 33 58.a8Q 32
1-0



B22
 □ Heimann, Mark **2547**
 ■ Yoo, Christopher Woojin **2663**
 3rd Silman TNM: 2000+ (3.1) 19.05.2026
 [Winslow, Elliott]

The Grandmasters meet in a relatively early Round 3, and it's a *very* long battle, in fact one of the longest games ever in the Tuesday Night Marathon. (There are a few longer, even I managed to go 120 moves with Bambou a few years ago.) And there is action in all phases. The ending was extremely difficult, with the win slipping in and out of Yoo's grasp. But eventually ... a draw.

1.e4 7:02 c5 23 2.c3 5 The Alapin Sicilian -- again! 2...Nf6 1:45 3.e5 5 Nd5 4 4.Nf3 4 Nc6 23 5.d4 6 cxd4 17 6.cxd4 3 d6 1:30 7.Bc4 7 e6 51
 [7...Nb6]
 [7...dxe5!?]
8.0-0 54 Be7 30 An amazing twenty-two moves have been played here! **9.Qe2 1:33** This is the top of the list, by a large popular margin. **9...0-0 1:10 10.Rd1 1:08** This is marginally higher rated by Stockfish (Carlsen has played both sides,

if you can call that endorsement!) ...

[but 10.Nc3 has been played the most.]

[10.exd6]

[10.Bd2]

[10.Re1]

[10.Nc3]

[10.Qe4 -- and ten *other* moves, given by Kotronias in his "Beating the Anti-Sicilians" book.]

10...Bd7 2:50

[10...Na5 "!" Kotronias but after

11.Bd3 Nb4 he didn't consider

12.Nc3 (just 12.exd6 Qxd6 13.Be4 f5!?) 12...Nxd3 13.Rxd3 is some sort of way forward for White.]

[10...b6 is Stockfish's fave, some leetle edge. (0.19/27)]

[10...Qc7 is less popular, scores well except for 11.a3]

11.Nbd2 1:34 Giving Black a moment that he takes

[Relevant: 11.Nc3 Nxc3 12.bxc3 dxe5 13.dxe5 Qc7 14.Bd3 Rfd8 15.Qe4 g6 16.h4 Be8 17.h5 Rd5 18.c4 Rd7 19.Bf4 Rad8 20.Be2 Qa5 21.Rxd7 Rxd7 22.h6 Qc3 23.Rc1 Qb2 24.a4 Nd4 25.Bf1 Bc5 26.Ng5 Nf5 27.Rc2 Qb1 28.Re2 Rd1 29.Qxb1 Rxb1 30.g4 Nd4 31.Rd2 Bxa4 32.Be3 b6 33.Bxd4 Be7 34.Be3 Bc6 35.f3 Rb3 36.Kf2 Rxe3 37.Kxe3 Bxg5+ 38.f4 Be7 39.Bd3 a5 40.Be4 Be8 Wagner,D (2600)-Hansen,E (2609) Chess.com INT 2025 0-1]

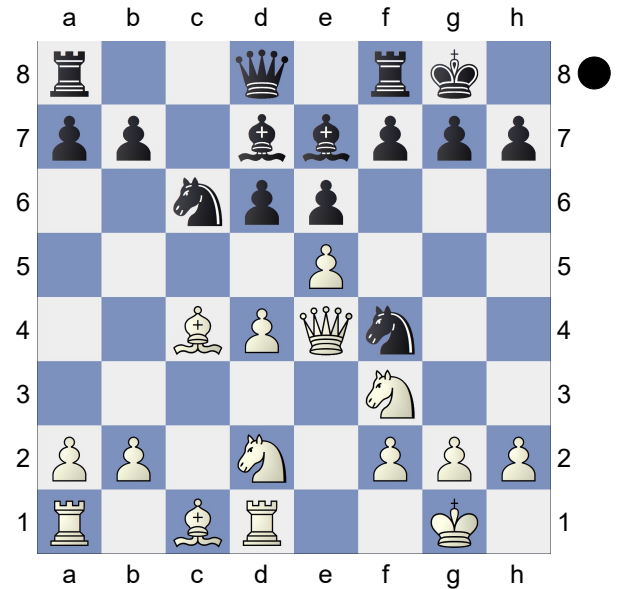
11...Nf4 2:21 12.Qe4 10:05

[12.Qe3 dxe5 13.dxe5 Ng6?]

(Diagram)

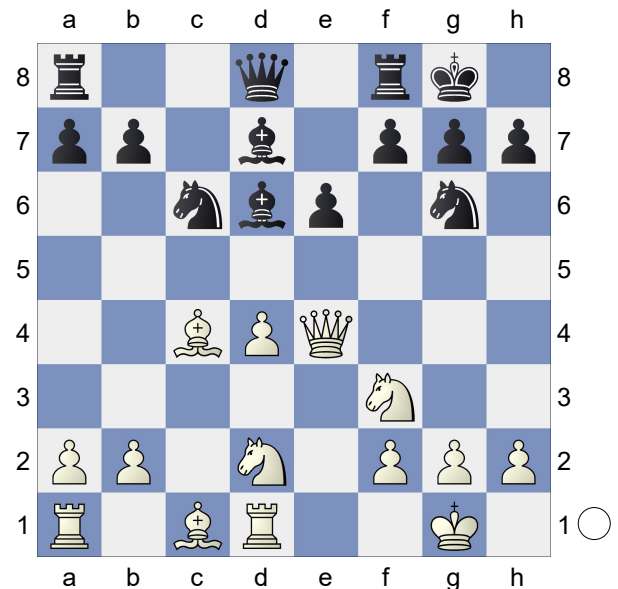
12...Ng6?! 26

[12...Nh3+! 13.gxh3 d5 14.Qg4 (14.Bxd5? exd5 15.Qxd5 Nb4!



16.Qe4 Bc6+ is disaster on the long diagonal.]

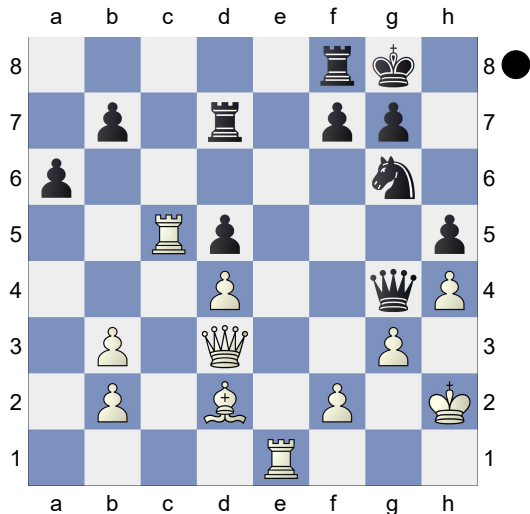
13.exd6 3:43 Bxd6 26



14.Nb3N 1:02

[Predecessor: 14.Bb3 Na5 15.Nc4 Bc6 16.Qe2 Nxb3 17.axb3 a6 18.Nfe5 Bd5 19.Nxd6 Qxd6 20.Nc4 Qb4 21.Qd3? Rac8 (21...Rfc8!) 22.Bd2 Qb5 23.Rdc1 Rcd8 24.Ra5 Qd7 25.Nb6 Qd6 26.Nxd5 exd5 27.Rac5 Rd7 28.g3 h5 29.h4 Qe6 30.Re1 Qg4 31.Kh2

(Diagram)



f6?? 32.f3+- 1-0 (42) Plotkin,V (2273)-
Pourkashiyan,A (2271) Toronto 2024]

14...Nb4 5:32

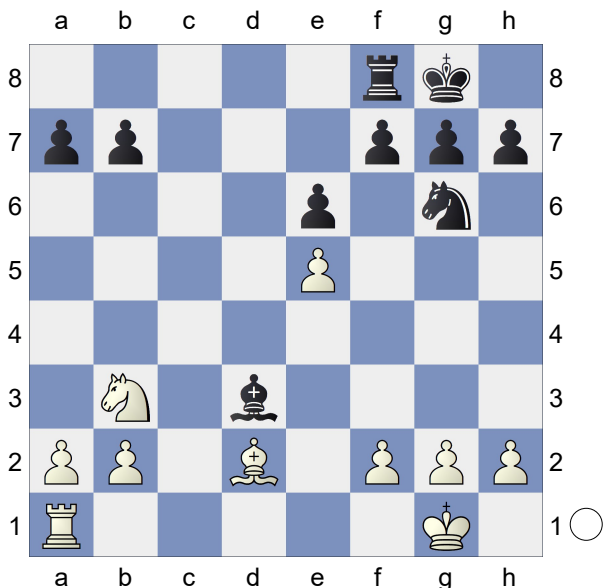
[14...Nce7!#]

15.Ne5 9:47 Bxe5 3:18 16.dxe5 1:30

Bc6 1:07 17.Rxd8 6:03 Bxe4 25

18.Rxf8+ 28 Rxf8 1:22 19.Bd2 1:00

Nd3 13:32 20.Bxd3 1:20 Bxd3= 5



21.Nc5 3:22 Rd8 1:10 22.Nxb7 6:34
Rb8 38 23.Nd6 1:14 Rxb2 15 24.Be3 3
a6= 1:11 Bishops of opposite colors, but
rooks and knight too, but Black's rook is
a bit better... with careful play a draw.

25.Rc1 1:03 Bc2 1:30 26.a3 39 Ra2 45

27.Bd4 3:43 Kf8 2:44 28.g3 3:56 Ke7

29 29.Bc5 1:42 f6 2:07 (Now it's the 0.

00s everywhere routine) 30.exf6+ 6:46

gxf6 19 31.Ne4+ 1:05 Kf7 17 32.Nd6+
33 Kf8 33 33.Nb5+ 2:18 Kg8 1:39
34.Nd4 40 Be4 6 35.f3 6:17 Bd5 28
36.Bd6 1:19 Rd2 55 37.Rc8+ 32 Kf7
53 38.Rc7+ 31 Ke8 10 39.Bc5 18 h5
6:17 40.Rg7 2:56 Ne5 2:01 41.Re7+ 8
Kd8 49 42.Nxe6+ 6 Kc8 1:13 43.Rc7+
5:28 Kb8 4 44.Ba7+ 4 Ka8 5 45.Nd4 5
Bxf3 56

[45...Rxd4?? 46.Bxd4 Nxf3+ 47.Kf2
Nxd4 48.Rd7]

46.Nxf3 6:26 Nxf3+ 5 47.Kf1 3 Nxb2+

10 48.Ke1 3 Nf3+ 16 49.Kf1 2 Ra2

1:22 50.Rf7 48 Ne5 53 51.Rh7 48

Rxa3 31 Two pawns, but not a win at all.

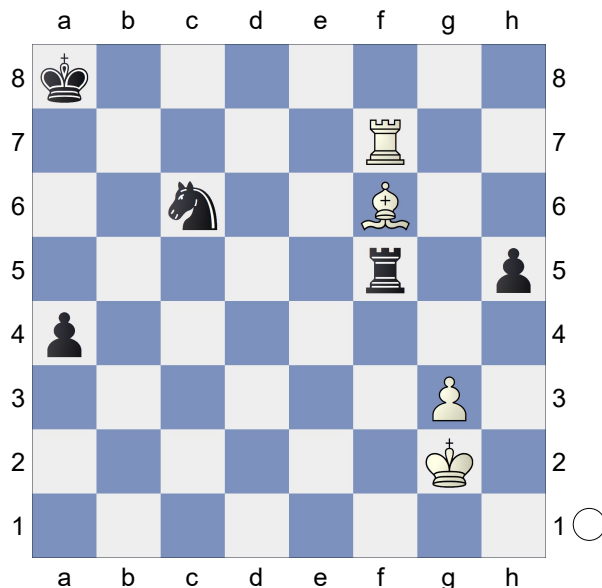
52.Bd4 20 Nc6 1:10 53.Rh8+ 25 Kb7 6

54.Rh7+ 3 Kb8 35 55.Bc5 14 Rf3+ 35

56.Kg2 40 Rf5 11 57.Bd6+ 10 Ka8 10

58.Rc7 1:50 Nd4 57 59.Rf7 22 a5 1:37

60.Be7 55 Nc6 7 61.Bxf6 21 a4 18



62.Rf8+ 13 Kb7 6 63.Bg7 5 Rg5 1:52

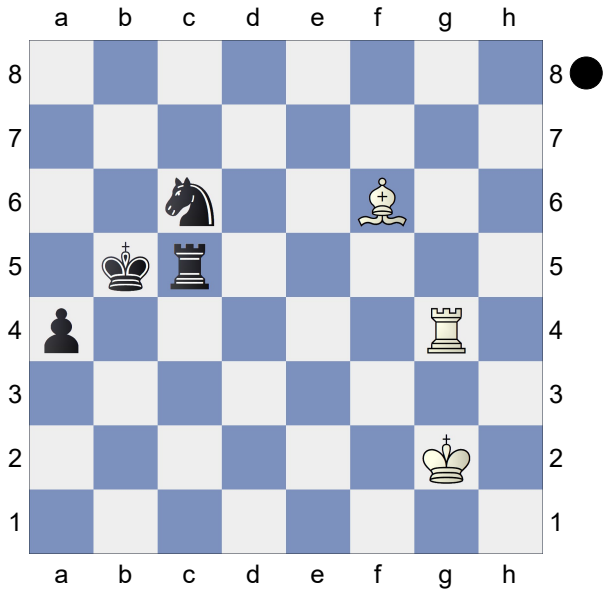
64.Bf6 16 Rc5 1:55 65.Re8 1:33 Kb6

57 66.Re4 1:00 Kb5 40 67.g4 36 hxg4

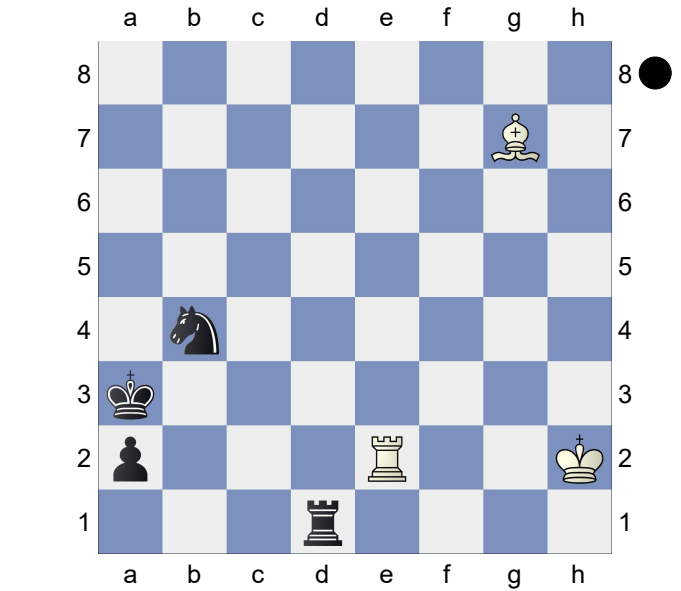
35 68.Rxg4 3

(Diagram)

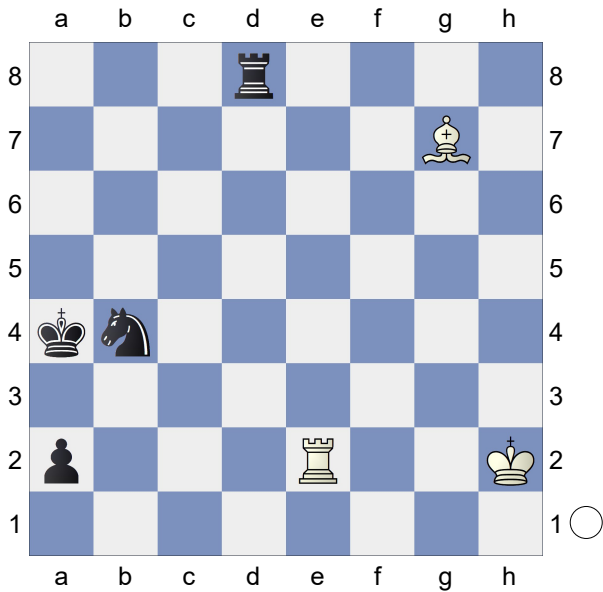
There goes the last pawn pair, reducing
the position to a Tablebase entry: Draw.
But there will now be a "few" moves...



68...a3 15 69.Re4 55 a2 1:07 70.Kg3
40 Nb4 31 71.Re2 1:15 Ka4 16
72.Bh8 28 Rc8 54 73.Bf6 30 Rg8+ 6
74.Kh2 1:06 Rf8 10 75.Bg7 23 Rd8 22



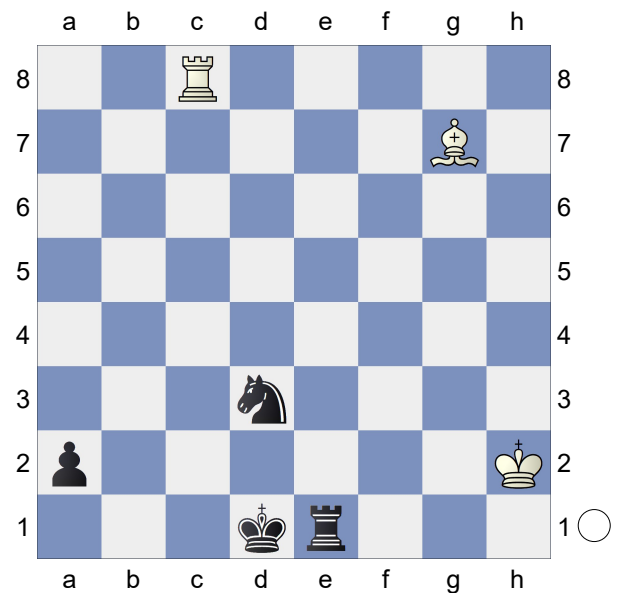
here! And it's a draw again. 84...Re1
6:55 85.Ra8+ 1:15 Kb3 6 86.Rb8+ 13
Kc2 28 87.Rc8+ 10 Kd1 20



76.Ba1? 47
[76.Re7= ♖ was the only move!]
76...Rd1 20 Now it's a win for Black...
77.Bg7 10 Rd5 30 78.Ba1 9 Kb3 10
79.Rb2+ 26 Kc4 8 80.Re2 11 Rd1 34
81.Bg7 9 Kb3 34 82.Rb2+ 54 Ka3 11
83.Re2 4

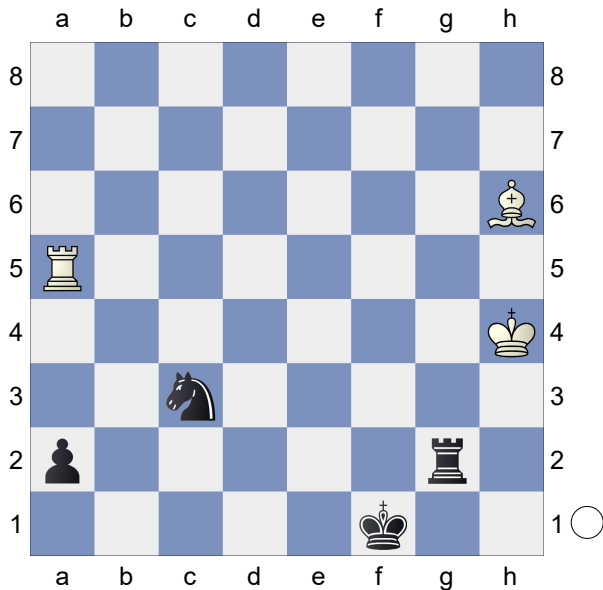
(Diagram)

Nd3? 23 84.Re8! 16 ♖ The only move



88.Rc3? 2:57 ...to a loss... 88...Re2+-+
2:04 89.Kg3 27 Re3+ 33 90.Kh2 45
Re2+-+ 4:00
[90...Ne5!]
91.Kg1 1:56 Re1+ 2:13 92.Kh2 17 Nb2
1:16 93.Ra3 Re2+♖ 3 94.Kg1 27
Nc4♖ 4 95.Ra4 1:54 Rc2 10 96.Bh6 38
Ke2 2:31 97.Kg2 41 Ne3+?= 1:10
98.Kh3♖ 18 Kf2 1:16 99.Bg7 1:25 Kf3
1:06 100.Ra3 32 Ke2 38 101.Bh8 42
Kd2 17 102.Bg7♖ 28
[or 102.Bf6♖]

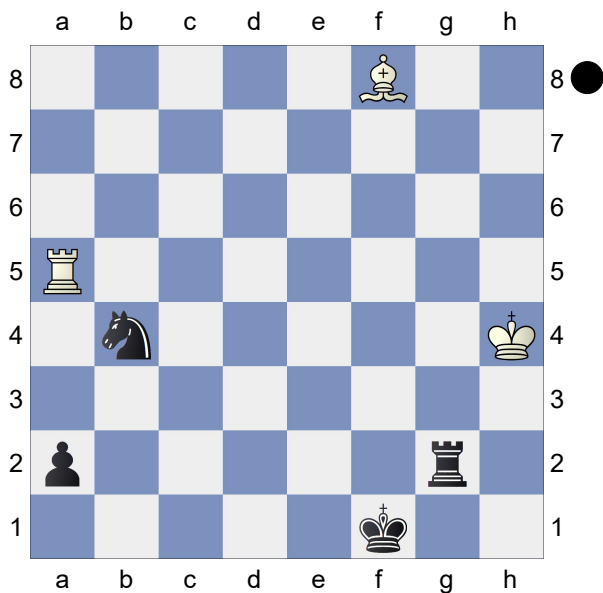
102...Nc4 19 103.Rg3! 1:52 □
 103...Ne3 6 104.Rg6! 14 □ 104...Nd1
 1:44 105.Rd6+□ 31 Ke2 47 106.Re6+
 4 Kf1 2:00 107.Ra6 23 Nc3 2:09
 108.Ra3 58 Nd5 23 109.Ra5 53 Rd2
 24 110.Bh6 35 Rg2 30 111.Kh4 32
 (45 secs left) 111...Nc3 2:50



(22:41 left) At this point (after 11pm) the game was moved to the annex. So no times. 112.Kh3? Nd5?

[112...Rg8! □ was still a win -- just five moves before the 50 move rule though, so perhaps there's still a draw! (I'm not going to figure *that* out!)]

113.Kh4 Nb4 114.Bf8



Epic game! Note the larger picture, after Round 6 with one game to go, these two players have drawn each other and won every other game -- and are a point ahead of the field.

1/2-1/2

□ Krishnan, Varun **B12**
 2440
 ■ Cawthon, Jeremy David **2119**
 3rd Silman TNM: 2000+ (3.2) 19.05.2026
 [Winslow, Elliott]

After a slight misstep early on, Cawthon took command and was perilously close to a nice upset -- but just couldn't land the knockout. A close call for both players. 1.e4 1:10 c6 2 2.d4 7 d5 2 3.e5 6 c5 4 4.dxc5 5 e6 1 5.a3 1:10 Bxc5 12 6.Nf3 13 Qb6 1:55 7.Qd2 1:04 a5 1:01

[7...Nd7±]
 8.Bd3± 1:37 White is better. 8...Ne7 34
 9.0-0 47 Bd7 56
 [9...Nbc6±]
 10.c4? 3:17
 [10.Qg5!±]
 10...Bc6 3:08 11.Nc3 1:56
 [11.cxd5= remains equal. Bxd5 12.Nc3]
 11...Nd7 57
 [Black should try 11...dxc4 12.Be4 Nd7]
 12.cxd5!= 3:24 Nxd5 6 13.Ne4 1:52
 [13.Rb1 is interesting. 0-0 14.Qg5 f5 15.exf6 N5xf6 16.Bf4]
 13...h6 2:22 Repels Qg5 14.Bc2 6:02 Be7 1:58 15.b3 11:16 Nc5 13:14
 16.Nd4 1:02 Nxe4 57 17.Bxe4 14 Bg5 2:45 18.Qb2 7:26 Bxc1 2:20 19.Raxc1 12 0-0 30 20.Bb1 1:18 Rfd8 57
 21.Rc4 7:38 Ne7 3:12 22.b4? 7:09
 [22.Nxc6! 23.Be4]
 22...Bd5+ 2:59 23.Rc5 1:04 axb4 1:17

24.axb4 14 Ra4 2:59 25.Rb5 5:21 Qa7

35 26.Rc5 2:23 Against Bc4 26...Qb6!

24 27.Rb5 35 Qa7 19

[27...Qc7-+ is more deadly. 28.Rd1 b6 (28...Qxe5 29.Qc2~~7~~)]

28.Rc1 2:19

[28.Rc5~~7~~]

28...b6 1:51 29.Qc2 3:26

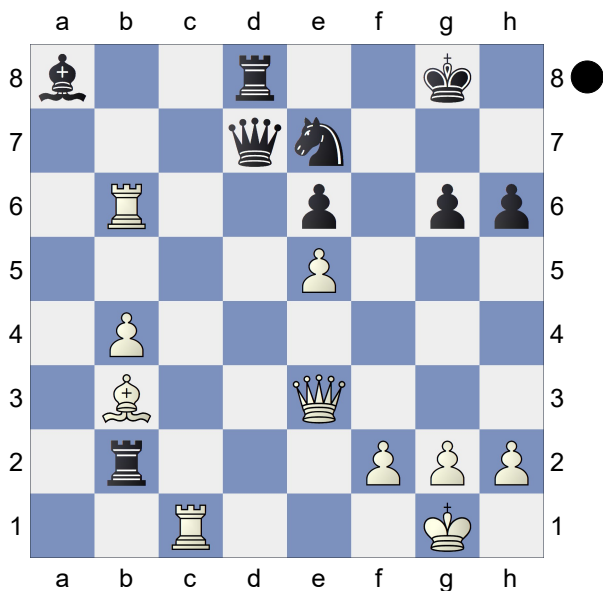
[Δ 29.h4]

29...g6 1:37 30.Qd2 3:20 Ba8 2:04

31.Qe3 13:05 Qd7 32.Bc2 42 Ra2 1:48

33.Bb3 1:33 Rb2 24 34.Nxe6 2:21 fxe6

2:49 35.Rxb6 1:06



Bd5? 2:57

[35...Nd5!-+ 36.Qxh6 Nxb6 37.Qxg6+ Qg7 38.Qxe6+ (38.Bxe6+? Kh8-+) 38...Kh8 39.Qh3+ Qh7]

36.Rd6~~7~~ 2:05 Qe8 54 37.Bxd5 3:12

Nxd5→ 1:14 Black goes for the king.

38.Qxh6 56

(Diagram)

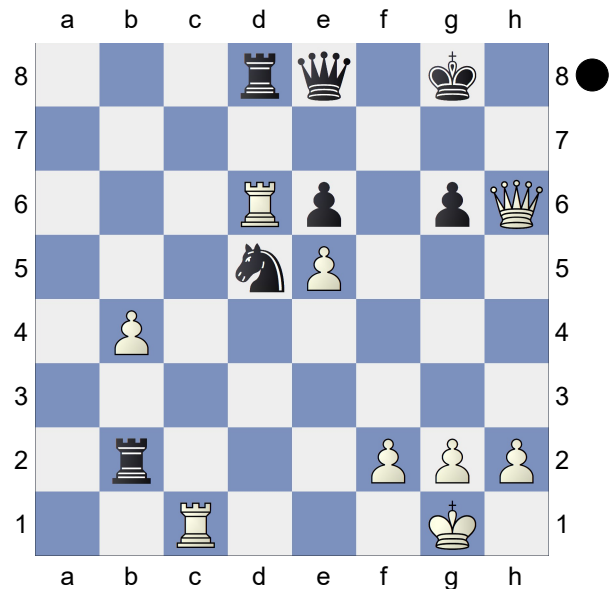
Ne7 1:42

[38...Ra8!~~7~~ White must now prevent ... Qf7!. 39.Rdc6 Rxb4]

39.h3= 2:44 Threatens to win with Rc7.

39...Qf8 1:00 40.Qe3 1:12

[40.Qh4!? Rb8 41.Rxe6 R8xb4



42.Qg5=]

40...Nf5 1:05 Repels Qd4 41.Rxd8 1:05

Qxd8 3 42.Qa3 1:57

[Better is 42.Qc3~~7~~ Qd4 43.Qxd4 (43.Qc8+? Kh7~~7~~) 43...Nxd4 44.Rc4]

42...Qd4-+ 1:54 43.Qa8+ 1:31 Kh7 9

44.Qb7+ 21

[Don't play 44.Rc7+ Kh6 (44...Ng7? 45.Qa7-+) 45.Qh8+ Kg5 46.Qf6+ Kf4-+]

44...Kh6 48 45.Qf3 37 Qxe5 31 46.g4

46

[46.Qa3 was called for.]

46...Nd4 1:49 47.Qf8+ 11 Qg7 22

48.Qd8 52 Qe5? 8:21

[48...Ne2+-+ 49.Kh2 Qe5+ (49...Nxc1 50.Qh4#) 50.Kh1 Qd5+ (50...Nxc1 51.Qh4+ Kg7 52.Qe7+ Kh6 53.Qh4+ Kg7 54.Qe7+ Kh6 55.Qh4+=) 51.Qxd5 exd5]

49.Qh4+= 24 The position is equal.

49...Kg7 5 50.Qe7+ 10 Kh6 6 51.Qh4+

7 Kg7 4 (-> ...Nf3+) 52.Qe7+ 6 Kh6 7 1/2-1/2

□ Diller,Bradley R

■ Ponnaluri,Naga Abhiram

3rd Silman TNM: 2000+ (3.3) 19.05.2026

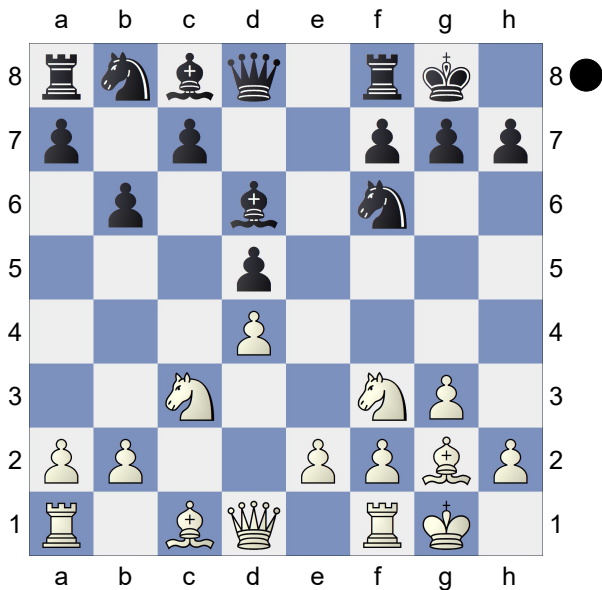
[Diller,Bradley R]

A13

2129

1925

Brad wins with some sharp tactics both found and avoided, and provided these notes. 1.c4 e6 2.g3 d5 3.Bg2 Nf6 4.Nf3 b6 5.0-0 Bd6 6.cxd5 exd5 7.d4 0-0 8.Nc3



Re8?

[Relevant: 8...a6 9.Bg5 Bb7 10.Ne5 c6 11.e4 h6 12.Bxf6 Qxf6 13.exd5 Bxe5 14.dxe5 Qxe5 15.Re1 Qf6 16.Qb3 cxd5 17.Bxd5 Ra7 18.Rad1 b5 19.Bxb7 Rxb7 20.Nd5 Qg5 21.Qf3 Rd7 22.h4 Qd8 23.Qf5 Re8 24.Rxe8+ Qxe8 25.Kg2 Qd8 26.Rd4 Rd6 27.Qe5 Kf8 28.Qe4 Nc6 29.Rd3 Kg8 30.Nf4 Rxd3 31.Nxd3 Qd6 32.Qe8+ Kh7 33.Qe4+ g6 34.h5 Kg7 35.hxg6 fxg6 36.Nf4 Ne7 37.Qb7 Kf6 38.Qf3 Svane,R (2609)-Grebnev,A (2621) Chess.com INT 2026 ½-½]

9.Bg5 Bb7 I thought this was the clearest way to exploit Black's mistake in attacking the d5 pawn and preparing a possible e4 pawn sacrifice, but it turns

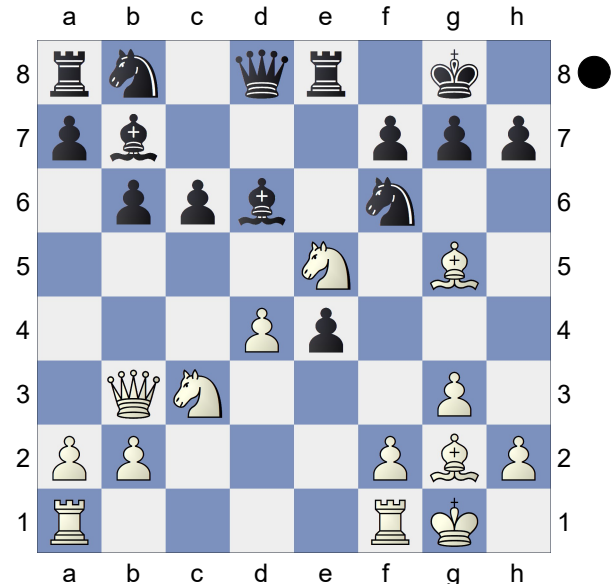
out Nh4 is the best way to secure an advantage. 10.Qb3?

[Δ10.Nh4 Be7! 11.Nf5 Bf8 12.Qc2±]

10...c6?

[Δ10...Nbd7 11.Nb5 h6 12.Nxd6 cxd6 13.Be3±]

11.e4! dxe4 12.Ne5



Bxe5N

[Predecessor: 12...Qe7 13.Nxe4 Bxe5 14.dxe5 Qxe5 15.Rae1 Kf8 16.Nxf6 Qxe1 17.Qa3+ c5 18.Bxb7 Qe5 19.Nxe8 Qxg5 20.Bxa8 1-0 (20) Tratar,M (2497)-Kitarovic,M (1989) Bosnjaci 2009]

13.dxe5 Rxe5 14.Nxe4!

(Diagram)

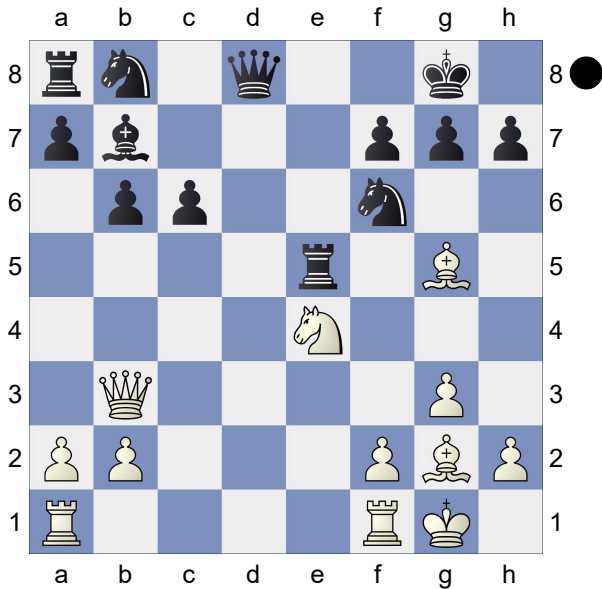
Qe7?

[Δ14...Nbd7 15.Nd6 Re6 16.Nxb7 Qc7! 17.Rae1 Rae8! 18.Rxe6 Rxe6 19.Na5 bxa5! 20.Bf4 Qb6 21.Rc1±]

15.Rad1?

[Δ15.Nxf6+ gxf6 16.Bf4 Re6 17.Bh3 c5 (17...Re2? 18.Qf3+-) 18.Bxe6 Qxe6 19.Rfe1 Qxb3 20.axb3 Nc6 21.b4 Nxb4 22.Re7 Bf3 23.Raxa7+-]

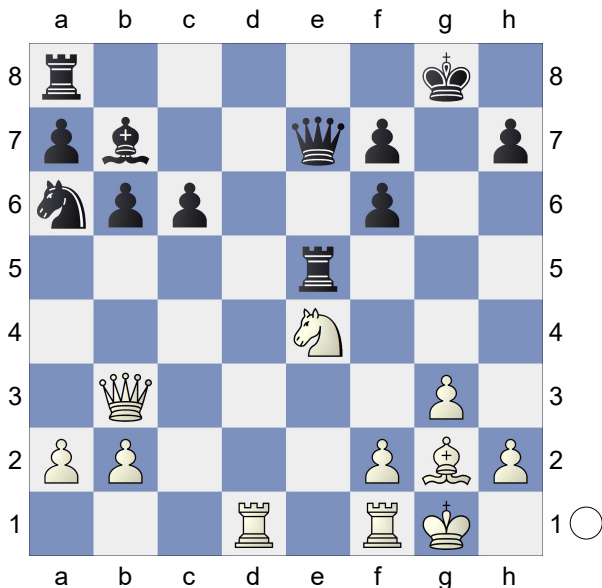
15...Na6?



pieces are poorly placed and inactive.
 19...Rae8 20.Qxf6 Nc5 21.h4 Re6
 22.Qg5+ Rg6 23.Qd2 Rge6 24.b4
 Ne4 25.Qf4 Nc3 26.Qc4 Nb5 27.Rd1
 Nd6 28.Qg4+ Kh8 29.Qf4 Re1+
 30.Rxe1 Rxe1+ 31.Kh2 Rd1 32.b5
 cxb5 33.Bxb7 Nxb7 34.Qxf7 h6
 35.Qxb7 b4 36.Qb8+ Kh7 37.Qxa7+
 Kh8 38.Qb8+ Kh7 39.Qxb6 h5
 40.Qxb4 Kh6 41.a4 Kg7 42.a5 Kh6?!
 43.a6 Kg6 44.a7 Kh7 45.a8Q Kg6
 46.Qc6+ Kf5?! 47.Qf4#
 1-0

[15...Nbd7 I played 15 Rad1
 assuming that 15 ... Nbd7 fails to 16
 Rxd7 but I missed the zwischenzug
 17... Rxe4 which equalizes!
 Fortunately, Black was under the spell
 of my delusion and blundered with 15
 ... Na6. 16.Rxd7 Qxd7 17.Bxf6
 Rxe4!! 18.Bxe4 gxf6! 19.Rd1 Qe7]

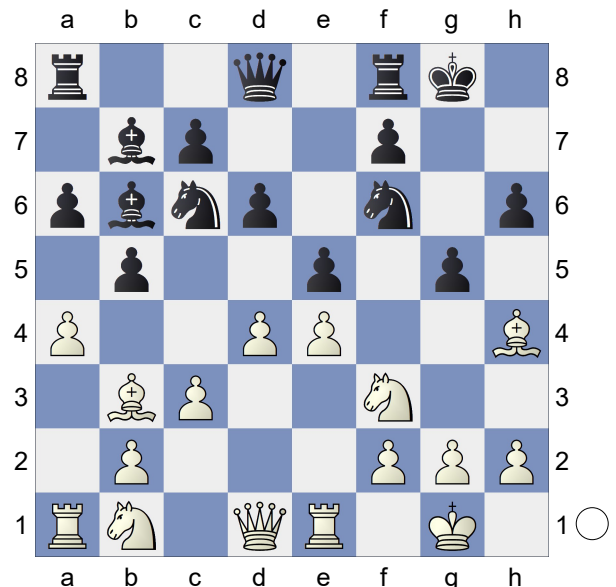
16.Bxf6 gxf6



17.Rd7!! Now this sac wins. **17...Rxe4**
18.Rxe7 Rxe7 19.Qc3 Although Black
 has material equality (a rook and knight
 and pawn for the queen), Black is
 busted: the pawn at c6 is weak, kingside
 pawn structure is ruined and minor

C78
 2322
 2262
 3rd Silman TNM: 2000+ (3.7) 19.05.2026
 [Winslow,Elliott]

This was one incredible battle; I implore
 all to see Andy's notes in his blog on
 Substack: "Lit and Chess," where this
 game is extensively annotated in "An
 Irrational Game". 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6
 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 b5 6.Bb3
 Bc5 7.c3 d6 8.d4 Bb6 9.a4 Bb7
 10.Re1 0-0 11.Bg5 h6 12.Bh4 g5



C78: Ruy Lopez: Archangelsk and

Möller Defences. 13.Nxg5 hxg5

14.Bxg5 exd4 White is slightly better.

15.Bd5 White is more active. 15...Rb8?

A sharp opening

[15...d3!±]

16.Bxc6?

[16.a5+- Ba7 (16...Bxa5? 17.Bxc6
Bxc6 18.Qf3+-) 17.Bxc6 Bxc6
18.cxd4]

16...Bxc6= 17.cxd4 → White mounts an attack.

[17.a5!? Ba7□ 18.cxd4±]

17...Re8! 18.Ra3N

[18.a5!? Ba7□ 19.d5=]

[Predecessor: 18.d5 Re5 19.Bh4

Bd7 20.Qf3 Bf5 21.Nc3 Qe7

22.Bxf6 Qxf6 23.exf5 Rxf5 24.Qg3+
½-½ (69) Sevian,S (2393)-Kavutskiy,K
(2272) Saint Louis 2013]

18...Bxe4 19.Nd2 d5 20.Rg3 Kf8!

21.Nb3

[21.Bh6+ Ke7 22.axb5 a5
(22...Bxd4 23.Rd3±) 23.Nxe4 dxe4]
[21.Nf3!= keeps the balance.]

21...Re6

[21...bxa4⚡ 22.Bh6+ Ke7]

22.a5 Ba7 23.f3 Bf5

[23...Bg6= 24.Rxe6 fxe6]

24.Rxe6+- fxe6 25.Qe1??

[25.Bh6+!+- was the only winning
move. Ke8 26.Rg7]

25...Kf7!+- 26.Qe5 Nd7

[Black should try 26...Rc8!+-
Strongly threatening ...Qh8. 27.Bh6
Bg6 28.Rxg6 Kxg6 29.Qg5+ Kf7
30.Qg7+ Ke8]

27.Qf4= Qh8 28.Rh3 Qg7 29.g4! Pin

29...Rg8! 30.Rh5 The board is on fire.

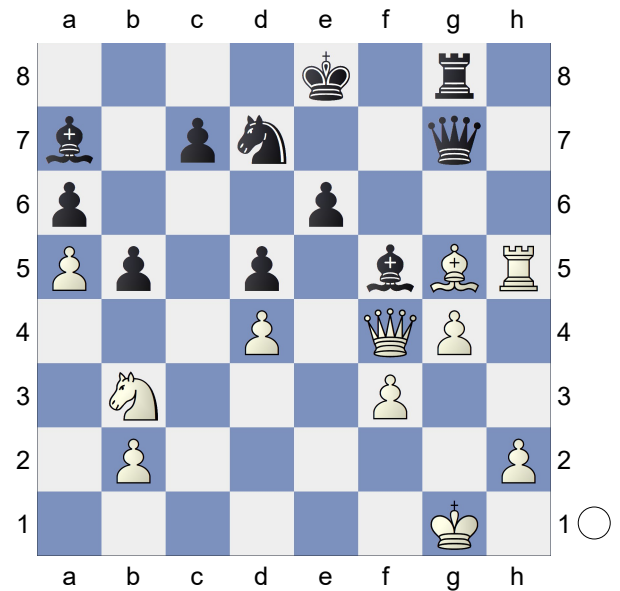
30...Ke8?

(Diagram)

White leaves nothing to chance now.

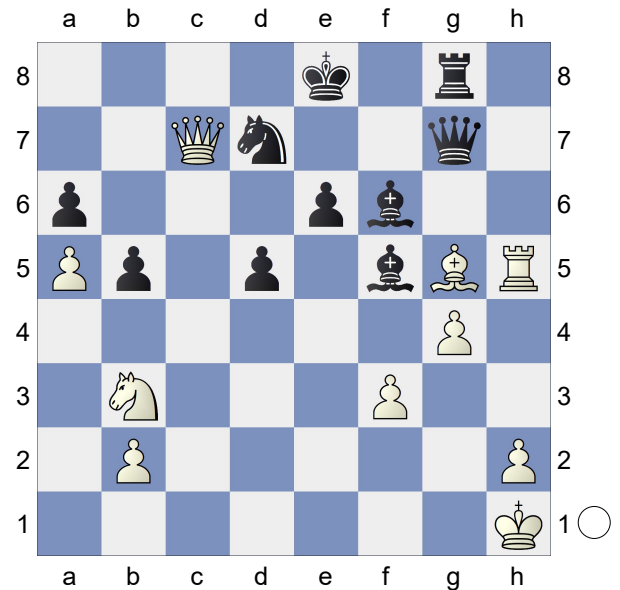
31.Qxc7!+-

[Worse is 31.gxf5 Nf6 32.Qe3 e5



(32...Nxf5 33.Qxe6+ Kf8 34.Qc8+
Kf7 35.Qxc7+ Kf8 36.Qd8+ Kf7
37.Qe7#) 33.Qxe5+ Kf8⚡]

31...Bxd4+ 32.Kh1 Bf6



33.Bxf6 Nxf6 34.Qxg7 Deflection

34...Rxg7 35.Rh8+ Ke7 36.gxf5 exf5

Endgame KRN-KRN 37.Nd4 Rg5

[37...Rg6 was called for. 38.Nxf5+
Kd7]

38.Ra8 f4 39.Rxa6 Nd7 40.Re6+ Kf7

41.a6 Nc5 42.a7 Rg8 43.Rb6

Strongly threatening Rb8!. 43...Nd3

44.h3 Threatening mate with Rb7+.

44...Ra8 45.Nxb5 Re8 46.Nd6+

Superbly played by Lee!

Weighted Error Value: White=0.25

(precise) /Black=0.87

Loses game: ---

Black=3

Missed win: White=2

Black=1

Mistake: White=1

Black=2

Inaccurate: White=1

Black=3

OK: White=14

Black=7

Best: White=5

Black=2

Strong: White=2

Black=4

1-0

□ Tsodikova,Natalya

B51

2258

■ Dharmatti,Ritesh

1844

3rd Silman TNM: 2000+ (3.9) 19.05.2026

[Winslow,Elliott]

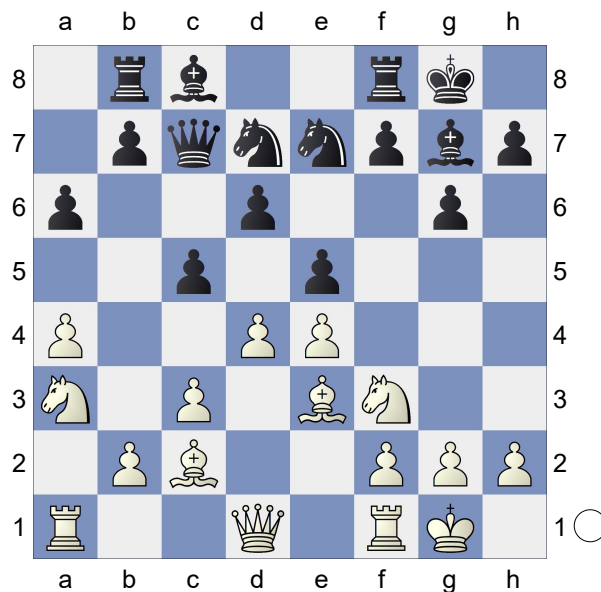
Tsodikova was doing well but something went off-track. Even the final position wasn't at first clearly resignable (but Stockfish 18 believed). **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Nd7** This sense is that this is slightly less sound than blocking with the bishop -- but it's still the fashionable line. **4.0-0 a6 5.Bd3**

[This is still being seen in the stratospheric games: 5.Bxd7+ Bxd7 6.c3 e6 7.d4 Ne7 8.dxc5 dxc5 9.Ne5 Ng6 10.Nxd7 Qxd7 11.Qxd7+ Kxd7 12.f4 Kc6 13.Nd2 Bd6 14.g3 h5 15.Nf3 Rae8 16.Be3 h4 17.Kg2 f6 18.Rfd1 Rd8 19.b4 b6 20.bxc5 bxc5 21.Nd2 Bc7 22.Nb3 Bb6 23.c4 Ne7 24.Kf3 Rxd1 25.Rxd1 hxd3 26.hxd3 Rh2 27.Rd2 Rxd2 28.Bxd2 Nc8 29.Bc3 Nd6 30.Nd2 f5 31.exf5 ½-½ (31) Anand,V (2743)-Volokitin,A

(2628) Germany 2026]

5...g6 6.c3 Bg7 7.Bc2 e5 8.d4 Ne7

9.Be3 Qc7 10.a4 0-0 11.Na3 Rb8



12.Qe2?!N

[Predecessor: 12.Qd2 b5 13.dxc5 Nxc5 14.axb5 axb5 15.Rfd1 Rd8 16.b4 Ne6 17.Bb3 Qb7 18.Qd3 h6 19.Nc2 Qd7 20.h4 f5 21.Bc5 Qc6 22.exf5 gxf5 23.Ne3 e4 24.Qxd6 Rxd6 25.Rxd6 exf3 26.Rxc6 Nxc6 27.Bd6 f4 28.Nf5 Bxc3 29.Rc1 Ra8 30.Rxc3 Ra1+ 31.Kh2 fxd2 32.Kxd2 Kh7 33.Rxc6 Bb7 34.Bd5 Bxc6 35.Bxc6 Kg6 36.Be4 Re1 37.Kf3 Kh5 38.Bxf4 Nd4+ 39.Nxd4 Rd1 40.Be3 Kxh4 41.Nxb5 h5

Henriquez Villagra,C (2491)-Valls Marti,A (2133) Barcelona 2016 1-0]

[12.dxc5 Nxc5 13.Re1±]

[12.dxe5 Nxe5 13.Nxe5 dxe5±]

12...Nf6?

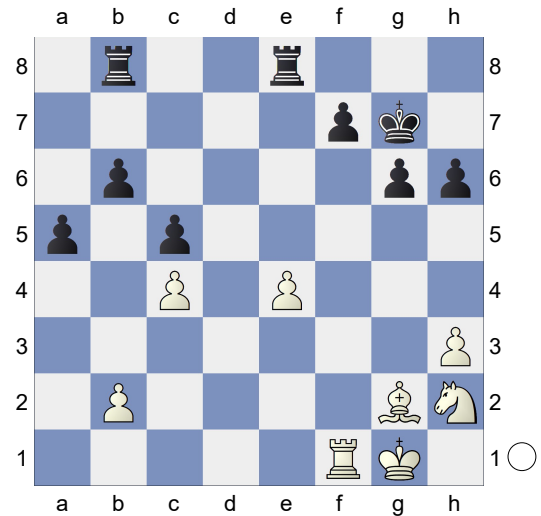
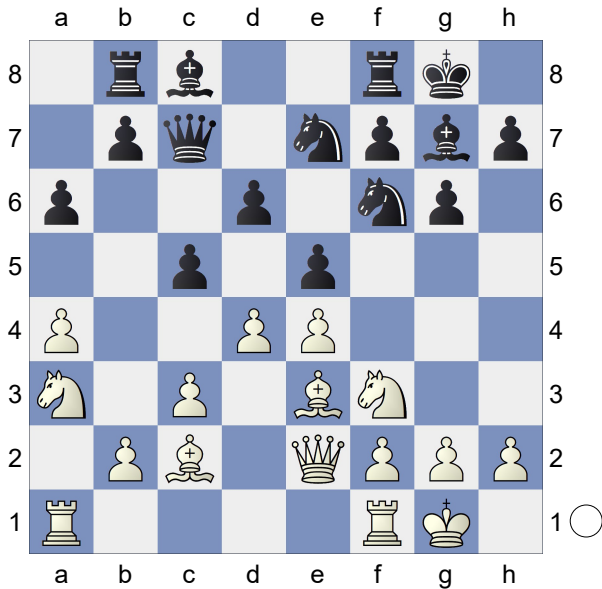
[12...cxd4 13.cxd4 exd4= (-0.17/24)]

(Diagram)

13.dxe5!± dxe5 14.h3 b6 15.Bg5 h6

16.Bxf6 Bxf6 17.Bd3 Qc6?!

[17...Ra8±]



18.Nc4

[18.Bxa6 Bxa6 19.Qxa6 Qxe4?!
(19...Ra8! \pm) 20.Rfe1+-]

18...Qc7 \pm 19.Ne3 Qc6 20.c4 Qe6
21.Nd5 Nc6 22.Rad1 Bd8 23.Rfe1
Re8 24.Qd2 Kg7 25.Ne3 Qf6 26.Nh2
Nd4 27.Nd5 Qh4 28.Bf1 Bd7 29.Qd3
Bxa4 30.g3 Qh5 31.Rd2 Bg5 32.f4
exf4 33.gxf4 Qh4 34.Ra1 Bc2
35.Rxc2 Nxc2 36.Qxc2 Bxf4
37.Nxf4?

[37.Bg2=]
 [37.Nf3= Qg3+ 38.Bg2 (38.Qg2)]

37...Qxf4 38.Bg2 a5?!

[38...Qe3+ 39.Kh1 Rbd8]

39.Qc3+?!

[39.Ng4! \neq]

39...Qf6

[39...Qe5! 40.Qxe5+ Rxe5 41.Ng4
Re6 42.Ne3 f5 43.Kf2 fxe4 44.Ke2]

40.Qxf6+ Kxf6 41.Rf1+ \mp

[41.e5+! \bar{f}]

41...Kg7

[41...Kg7

(Diagram)

42.Ng4 b5+-]

0-1

D38

□ Yoo,Christopher Woojin 2663

■ Senthilkumar,Pranav 2183

3rd Silman TNM: 2000+ (4.1) 26.05.2026
[Winslow,Elliott]

So much for the Ragozin's reputation as a solid, almost boring defense. Yoo castles on the queenside and launches his h-pawn, leading to fireworks around Senthilkumar's king. The tactics are rather unique. **1.Nf3 17 Nf6 46 2.c4 7 e6 4 3.Nc3 9 d5 6 4.d4 9 Bb4 1:42 5.Qa4+ 48 Nc6 3 6.e3 14 0-0 30 7.Qc2 13** White is happy to "lose a tempo" to get Black's knight on a less harmonious c6.

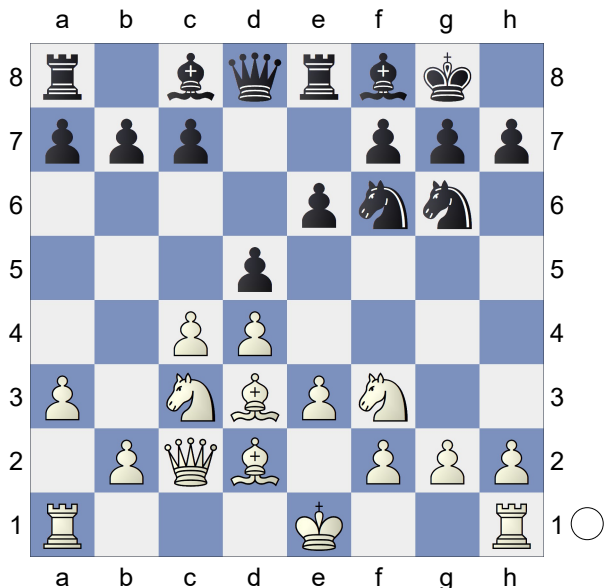
[7.Bd2 dxc4 8.Bxc4 Bd6 9.Qc2 e5 10.dxe5 Nxe5 11.Nxe5 Bxe5 12.0-0-0 Qe7 13.Kb1 Be6 14.Bxe6 Qxe6 15.f3 Rfd8 16.e4 h6 17.Be3 b6 18.Ne2 c5 19.h4 Nh5 20.Rhe1 Qf6 21.f4 Bc7 22.e5 (22.g4= Nxf4 23.Rxd8+ Rxd8 24.g5 hxg5 25.hxg5 Qxg5 26.Qc1) 22...Qe6 0-1 60, So,W (2754)-Caruana,F (2793) Titled Tuesday, 28 Apr 2026 (22...Qxh4 \bar{f} 23.Rh1 Qg4)]

7...Re8 1:07 8.Bd2 1:22 Bf8 1:24 9.a3 50 White is slightly better. **9...Ne7 2:34**

10.Bd3 3:46 White is more active.

10...Ng6 7:54

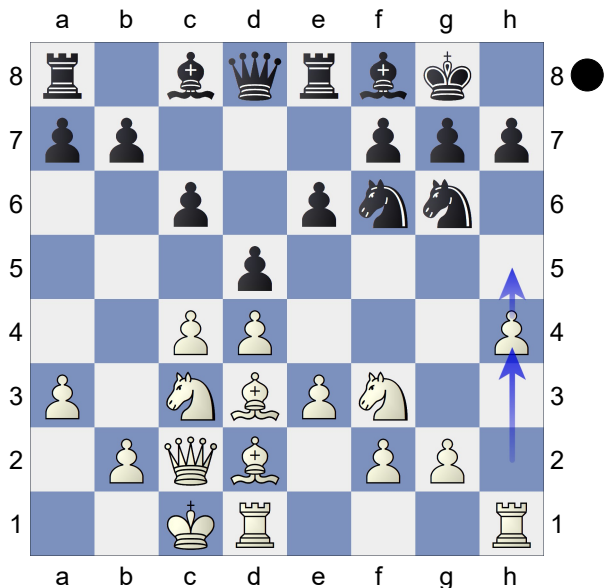
[10...dxc4± 11.Bxc4 Ng6]



11.0-0-0N 4:47

[The previous occasion is unsatisfying: 11.h4!± Be7 12.Ng5 Nf8 13.e4 ½-½ (13) Botica,V (1909)- Petrus,A (2120) Krapina 2026]

11...c6± 3:44 12.h4 1:17



e5! 23:05 "A wing attack is best met..."

etc. 13.cxd5 28 exd4 4:05

[13...cxd5= keeps the balance. 14.h5 e4]

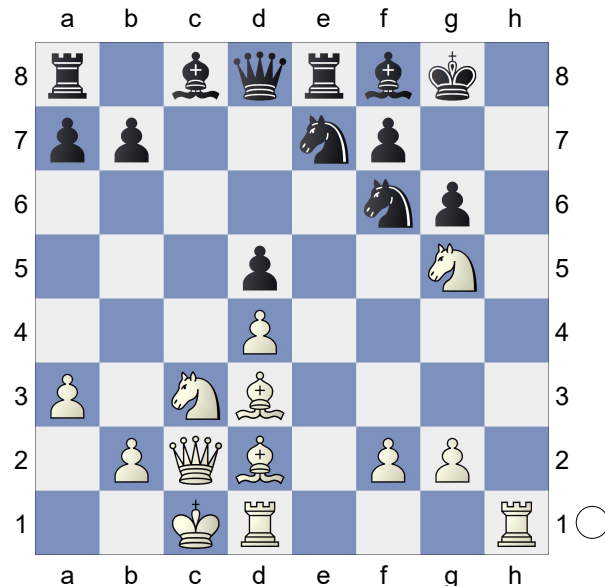
14.exd4 1:22 cxd5? 1:08

[14...Bg4±]

15.h5+ 1:05 What happened? Suddenly it's quite bad for Black. 15...Ne7 35

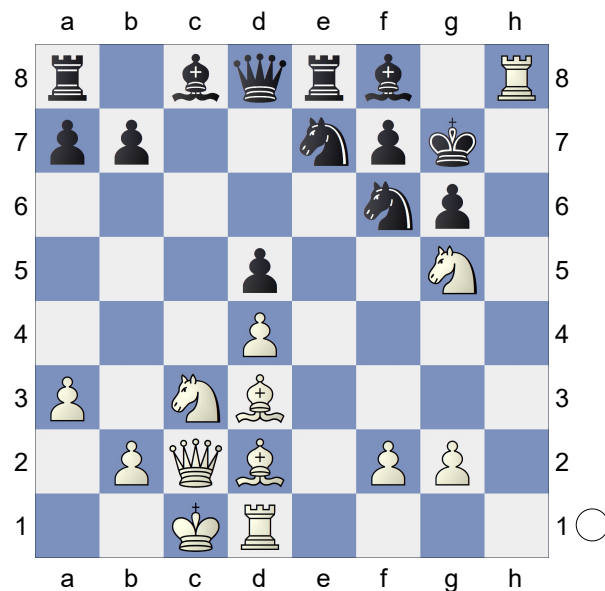
16.Ng5 44 g6 2:18 17.hxg6 22 hxg6 36

[17...fxg6 is a better defense. 18.Bf4 Bg7]



18.Rh8+!! 57 Decoy 18...Kg7 1:08

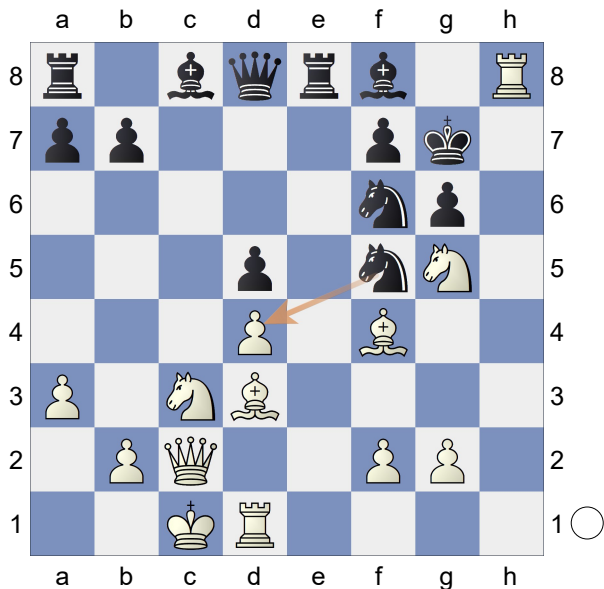
[18...Kxh8 19.Nxf7+]



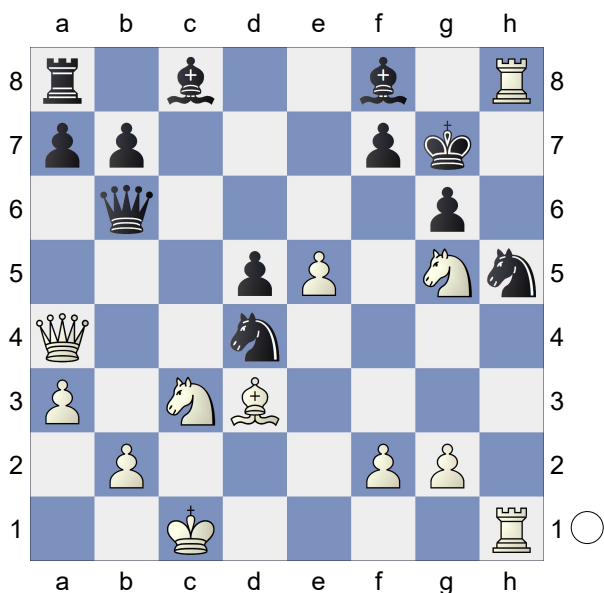
19.Bf4! 1:49 And now Rdh1 would win.

19...Nf5 14:47

[19...Bf5 20.Be5]



20.Be5 1:39 Rxe5 5:18 21.dxe5 20
Nd4 5:19 22.Qa4 52 Qb6 2:29
23.Rdh1 1:43 Nh5 1:23



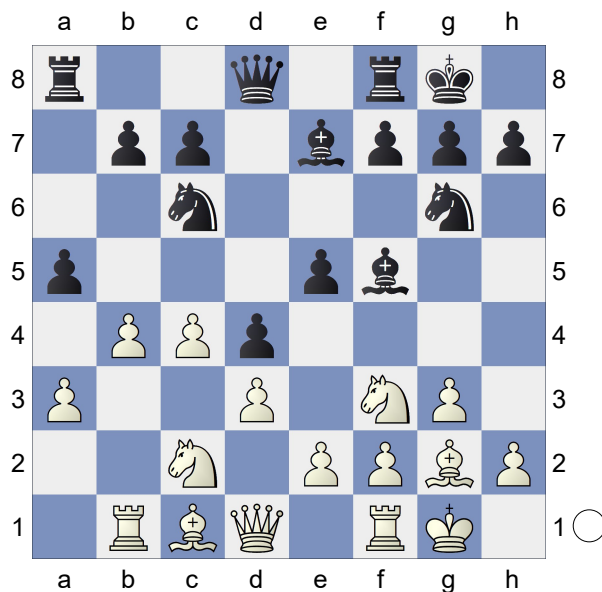
24.Qe8! 54 Nb3+ 3:33
 [24...Be6 25.Qxa8]
25.Kc2 57 Qxf2+ 2:08 26.Kxb3 13 Be6
21 27.Qxa8 15 "Ingenious play by Yoo!"
 and for once I'm in complete accord with
 the "TA" quip at the end.
1-0

A13
 2129
 2547
 3rd Silman TNM: 2000+ (4.2) 26.05.2026
 [Winslow,Elliott]

Diller was holding his own for quite a while, but eventually Heimann wore him down. Stamina matters in chess! **1.c4 1 e6 8:44 2.g3 1:55 d5 3 3.Bg2 11 Nc6 9 4.Nf3 3:07 d4 8 5.0-0 1:18 Bc5 8 6.d3 27**

[6.e3 Nge7 7.b4 Bxb4 8.Nxd4 Nxd4 9.exd4 0-0 10.Bb2 Nf5 11.Qb3 Be7 12.d5 c6 13.Nc3 Bd7 14.Rab1 Rb8 15.Ne4 Re8 16.Rfd1 cxd5 17.cxd5 exd5 18.Qxd5 Be6 19.Qe5 Bf8 20.Qf4 Ne7 21.Ng5 Bxa2 22.Ra1 Ng6 23.Qf5 Bb3 24.Rxa7 h6 25.Nxf7 Bxf7 26.Bxb7 Re7 27.Qf3 Qb6 0-1 (27) Yakubboev, N (2689)-Nakamura, H (2792) Chess.com INT 2026]

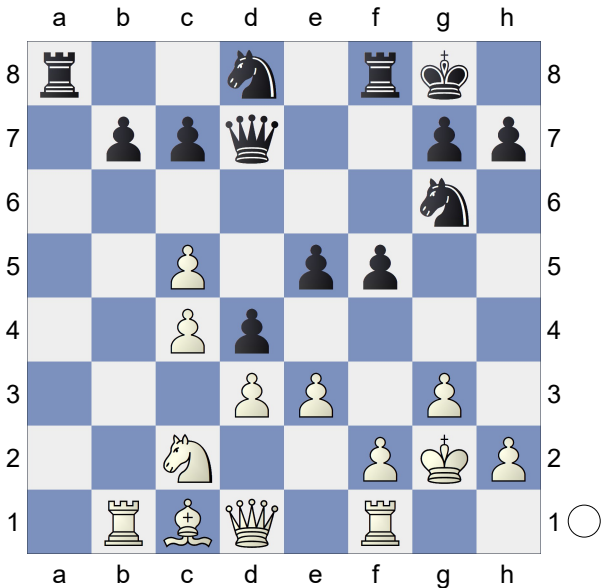
6...Nge7 21 7.Na3 2:18 e5 3:04 8.Nc2 59 a5 16 9.b3 13:42 0-0 2:30 10.a3 1:18 Ng6 4:15 11.Rb1 3:40 Bf5 1:28 12.b4 2:07 Be7 2:15



13.Nd2N 9:22
 [13.h4 axb4 14.h5 Nh8 15.axb4 e4 16.dxe4 Bxe4 17.Nfxd4 Bxg2

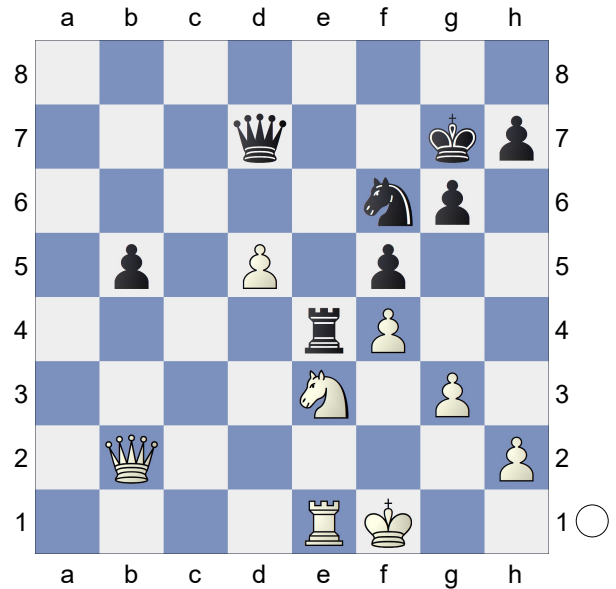
18.Kxg2 Ne5 19.Nf5 Bf6 20.Qxd8
Rfxd8 21.Nce3 c6 22.c5 g6 23.Nd6
gxh5 24.Nxb7 Rdb8 25.Nd6 Nhg6
26.Nef5 Ra2 27.Bb2 Kf8 28.b5
cxb5 29.c6 Bd8 30.Rfc1 1-0 (30)
Sadhvani,R (2616)-Tukhaev,A (2534)
Abu Dhabi 2021]

13...Qd7 59 14.Ne4 4:26 Bh3 2:04
15.e3 10:39 Bxg2 14 16.Kxg2 4 axb4
2:46 17.axb4 2 f5 1:08 18.Nc5 8 Bxc5
12 19.bxc5 2 Nd8 12:11



20.exd4 3:21 exd4 8 It's turned into
some sort of Benoni structure, where it's
a contest for whose pawns are weaker:
White on c5 vs. Black's on b7 and d4.
21.f4 4:36 c6 5:24 22.Re1 2:57 Ne6
1:18 23.Bb2 54 Rfd8 3:49 24.Kh1 3:46
Ngf8 10:53 25.Ra1 3:01 Rxa1 45
26.Bxa1 2 Nxc5 5:34 27.Bxd4 1:06
Nfe6 1:16 28.Bxc5 4:32 Nxc5 7
I should have mentioned pawn/d3! Black
will have an edge with the knight at e4
outclassing its counterpart. 29.d4 7 Ne4
16 30.Kg1 4:10 b5?! 1:11
[Solid with 30...g6 and ...h5-4
perhaps.]
31.cxb5 23 cxb5 2 32.Ne3 22 g6 9:48
33.Qb3+ 2:47 Kg7 13 34.d5= 10
White is no worse now. 34...Re8 1:18
35.Qb2+ 2:03 Nf6 32 36.Kf1?! 6:52

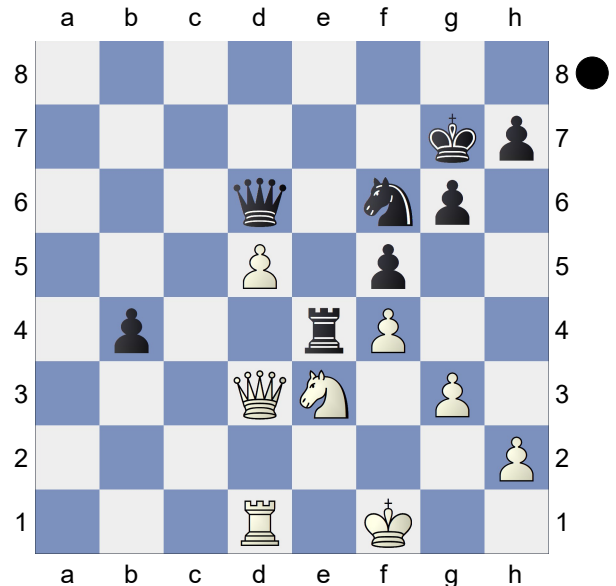
Re4 3:11



Here's where the 3rd-hour energy kicks
in... 37.Qd2?! 1:48 Brad needed to get
something going, namely the d-pawn.
Now it's nice how Heimann mixes
blocking and invading...

[37.d6!? Qc6 38.Qd2 Re8 39.Qd4
Rd8 40.Rd1 Kf7 7]

37...Qd6!-+ 1:55 38.Rd1 50 b4 2:58
39.Qd3 4:36



Qc5! 36 40.Re1 2:17 Rd4 28

[40...Qb6!]

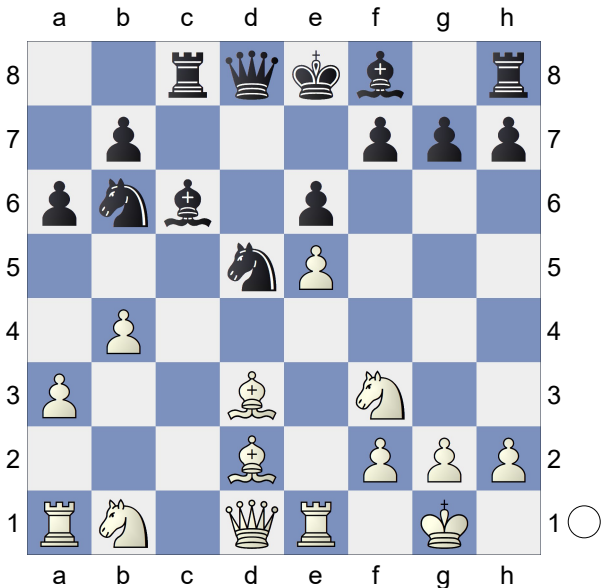
41.Qb3 34

[41.Qc2!? Qxc2 42.Nxc2 Rc4
43.Ne3 Re4-+ (says Stockfish)]

41...Ne4 1:00 42.Qb2 1:00 Kf7 44
 43.Rc1 39 Nc3 15 44.Re1 56 Rd3 2:01
 [44...Rd3 45.Qf2 b3
 is too depressing to continue.]
 0-1

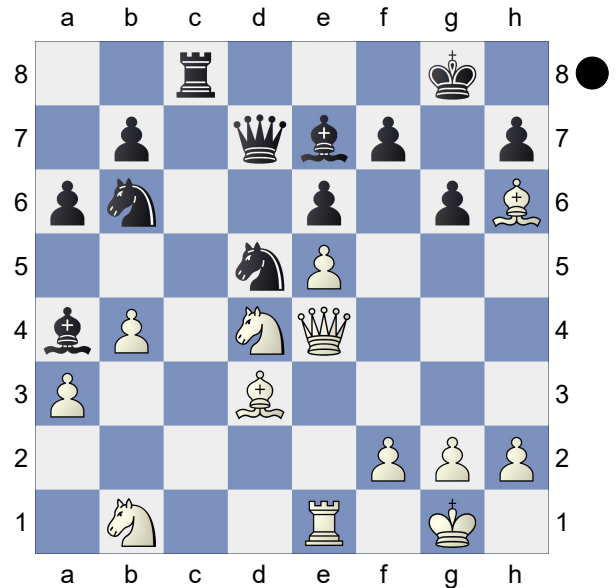
□ Cawthon,Jeremy David 2119
 ■ Suarez,Sebastian 2314
 3rd Silman TNM: 2000+ (4.3) 26.05.2026
 [Winslow,Elliott]

Cawthon plays a dangerous looking
 piece sacrifice, but Suarez finds
 promising resistance, Jeremy fumbles,
 Sebby takes the point. 1.e4 c5 9:52
 2.c3 3 Nf6 18 3.e5 2 Nd5 10 4.d4 4
 cxd4 10 5.Nf3 2 d6 12 6.cxd4 2 e6 21
 Yes, Alapin again. This time a different
 variation, but also in the cxd4 flavor. 7.a3
 4 Bd7 1:31 A positioning worth
 investigating, rather than the usual ...
 Nc6. 8.Bd3 5 Bc6 14 9.0-0 6 Nd7 13
 10.b4 1:21 a6 10 11.Re1 5:37 Rc8
 B22: Sicilian: 2 c3. 12.Bd2 37 dxe5
 10:43 13.dxe5 40 N7b6 25



Black is slightly better. 14.Qe2N 15:54
 [Predecessor: 14.Ng5 Be7 15.Ne4
 0-0 16.Qh5 g6 17.Qh3 Bb5 18.Bxb5

axb5 19.Nbc3 Nxc3 20.Bxc3
 0-1 (48) Onea Gaspar,V-Filip,A (2132)
 Targu Mures 2021]
 14...Be7 1:00 15.Ra2 5:26 0-0 1:57
 16.Rc2 8:32
 [16.Nd4 is interesting. Nf4 17.Bxf4
 Qxd4 18.Be3]
 16...Qd7 14:55 17.Nd4 5:20 Ba4 3:25
 18.Rxc8 46 Rxc8 12 19.Qe4 47 g6 38
 20.Bh6 1:02
 [20.h4♣]



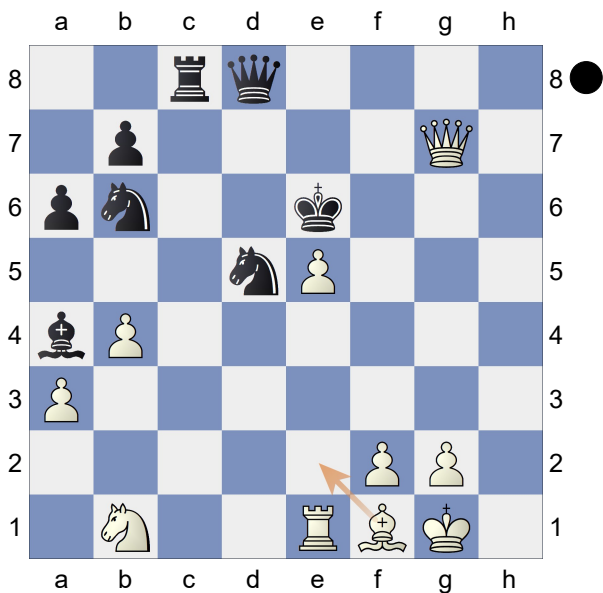
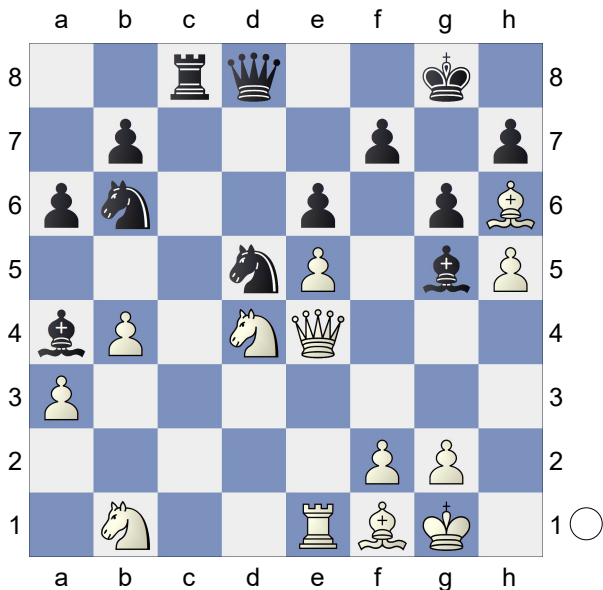
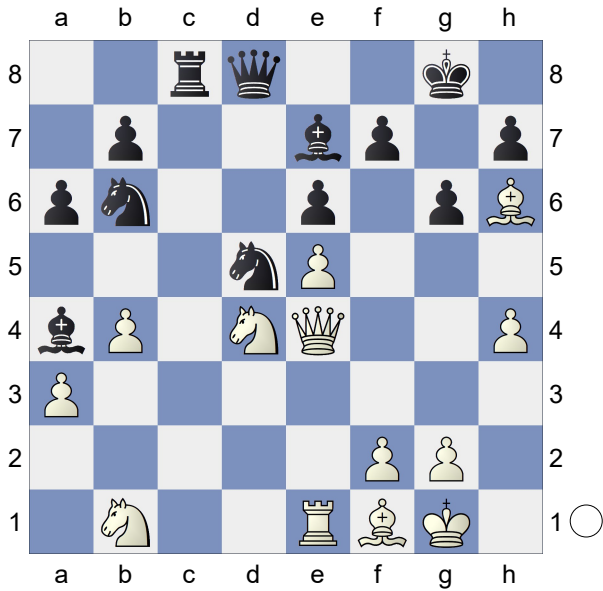
20...Rd8 19:03
 [Better is 20...Nc3!♣ 21.Nxc3 Rxc3]
 21.Bf1!= 2:55 Rc8 17:07 22.h4 44 Qd8
 2:35

(Diagram)

23.h5 1:36 Bg5 16

(Diagram)

24.hxg6! 35 Bxh6□ 3:44
 [24...hxg6?? crashes in. 25.Nxe6!]
 25.gxf7+ 2 Kxf7 17 26.Qxh7+ 16 Bg7
 1:20 27.Nxe6 White will have three
 connected passed pawns for a knight.
 Yet they never quite matter. 27...Kxe6
 14 28.Qxg7 2:17



29.Qg6+ 1:46 **Kd7** 37 Active counter play!

30.g3 3:06 Too slow!?

[30.Nd2]

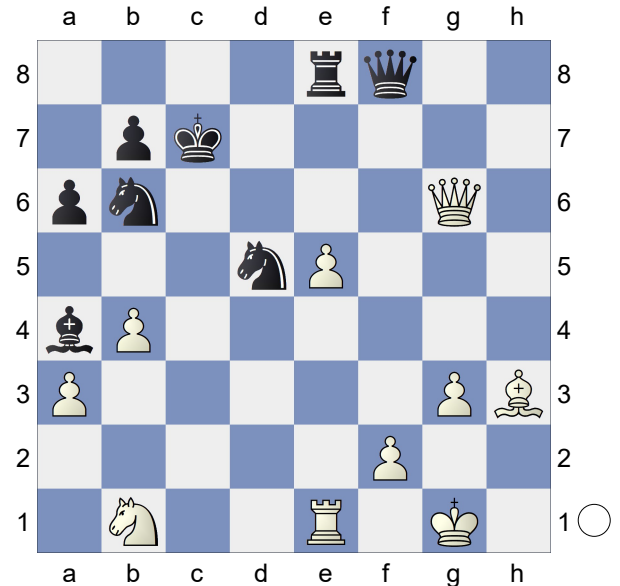
[30.b5]

[30.e6+= Kc7 31.Nd2]

30...Kc7 2 **31.Bh3** 2:14

[31.Bg2=]

31...Re8 30



32.Rc1? 54 A losing move.

[White should play 32.Nd2]

[or 32.Bg2]

32...Kb8 4

[32...Bc6!-+]

33.Nc3 49

[33.Qd6+ Qxd6 34.exd6]

33...Bc6 2:56 **34.Nxd5** 23 **Nxd5** 2

35.f4? 1:37

[35.Qd6+ Qxd6 36.exd6]

35...Qe7? 32

[35...Ne7-+ 36.Qd6+ Ka8]

36.Rc5? 1:06

[36.Bg2]

36...Qd8 46 **37.Qd6+** 2:44

[37.Qd3 was necessary. Qb6

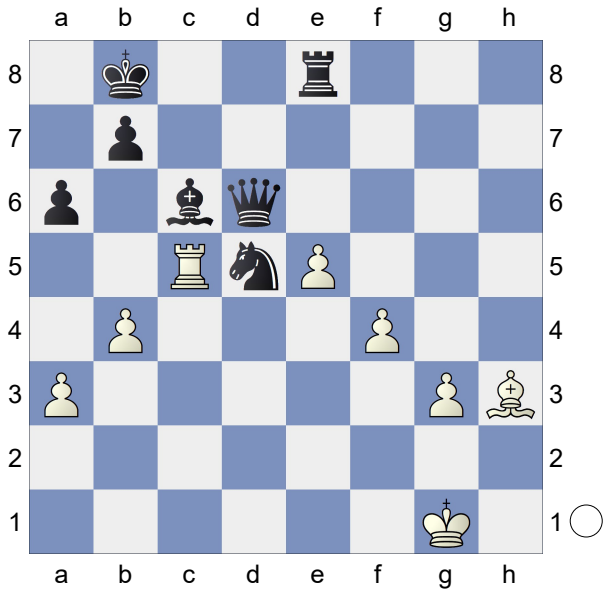
38.Qd4]

37...Qxd6-+ 1

(Diagram)

38.exd6 1 **Re3** 1:09 **39.Kf2** 43 **Rxa3** 3

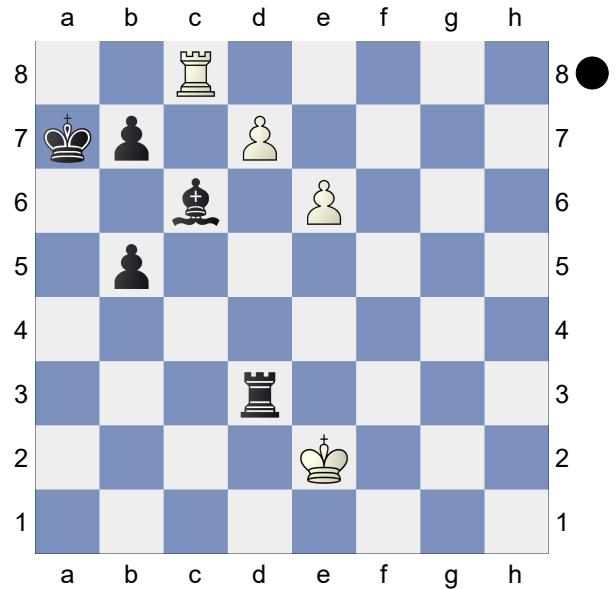
Qf8 5:48 Dancing on a razor blade.



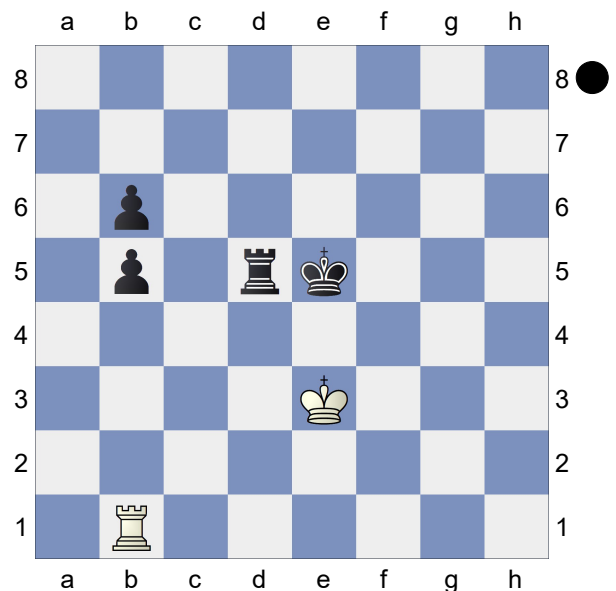
40.b5 4:36 axb5 17 41.Be6 17 Nb4 24
 42.Rh5 25
 [Δ42.Rg5 Rd3 43.g4 Rxd6 44.Bg8]
 42...Rd3 40 43.Rh8+ 9 Ka7 1 44.Rd8 1
 Na6 3:41 45.f5 57 Nc5 23 46.Ke2 30
 Rxc3 51
 [Δ46...Bf3+ 47.Kf1 Ne4 48.Bb3
 Rxb3 49.Ra8+ Kxa8 50.Kg1 Rb1+
 51.Kh2 Rh1#]
 47.d7 47 Ra8+! is the strong threat.
 47...Rd3 6 48.Rc8 31 Nxe6 2:28
 [Δ48...Bf3+ 49.Ke1 Nxd7]
 49.fxe6? 1:04
 [49.Kxd3 Nc5+ (49...Bxd7
 50.Rg8=) 50.Kd4 Nxd7 51.Rd8]

(Diagram)

49...Bxd7! 14 Endgame KRB-KR
 50.Rd8 1:45
 [50.Rc1 Rd5]
 50...Rd6 7 51.exd7 1:39 KR-KR. Black
 is a pawn up. 51...b6 55 52.Ke3 1:48
 Kb7 1 53.Ke2 22 Kc7 4 54.Rh8 6
 Rxd7 25 55.Rh1 6 Rd5 38 56.Rc1+ 9
 Kd6 59 57.Ke3 15 Rc5 51 58.Rb1 19
 Rd5 20 59.Rc1 1 Ke5? 1:33
 [59...b4+ has better winning
 chances. 60.Rc2 b3]



60.Rb1? 19
 [60.Rc6#]



60...Ke6! 20 Black is clearly winning.
 61.Ke4 16 Kd6 33 62.Ke3 22 Kc5 30
 63.Rc1+ 34 Kb4 2 64.Rb1+ 30 Kc3 28
 65.Ke4 52 Rc5 15 66.Ke3 1:50 b4 26
 67.Rc1+ 53 Kb2 7 68.Rh1 8 b3 27
 69.Kd3 1 Ka2 1:08
 [Δ69...b5 70.Kd4 Rc4+ 71.Ke5 Ka2
 72.Rh2+ b2 73.Kf6 Ka1 74.Rh3
 b1Q 75.Ra3+ Kb2]
 0-1

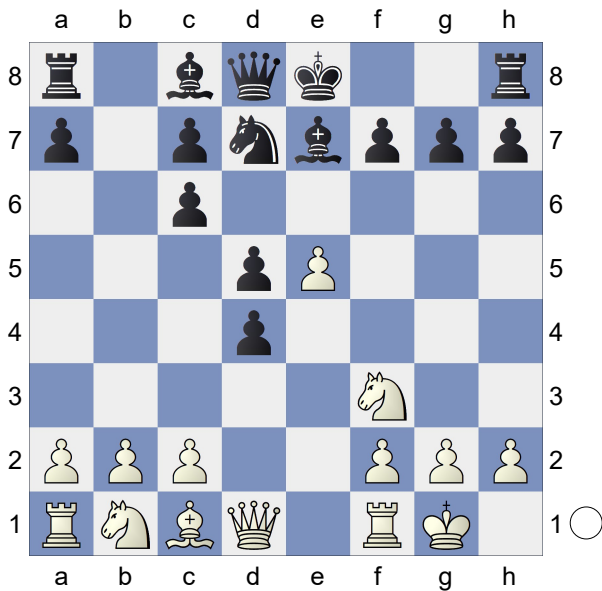
□ Wang, Chase

■ Lee, Andy C

3rd Silman TNM: 2000+ (4.4) 26.05.2026

[Winslow, Elliott]

Andy Lee sets Chase Wang's advancement back a few clicks, with his better feel for this particular pawn structure. **1.e4 2:45 e5 7 2.Nf3 12 Nc6 6 3.d4 14 exd4 20 4.Bc4 14 Nf6 42 5.e5 15 d5 11 6.Bb5 30 Nd7 1:29 7.0-0 5:31 Be7 48 8.Bxc6 5:33 bxc6 9**



9.Qxd4?! 2:50 Not the best recapture.

[9.Nxd4= Nb8 10.Nc3]

9...0-0 50 10.Bf4 1:50

[White should try 10.Re1]

10...Nc5 6:15 11.Be3 2:19

[11.Bg5! 7]

11...Ne6+ 4:36 12.Qd2N 4:21

[12.Qd1]

[12.Qa4 Bd7 13.Qa6 c5 14.c3 Qb8 15.Na3 f6 16.Qe2 c6 17.Bc1 Qc7

18.Nc2 ½-½ (37) Muir, W-Klovans, J Finland 1971]

12...c5 48 13.c3 4:11 Bb7 1:30 14.Rd1

5:22 f5 6:28 15.exf6 3:34 Bxf6 7:36

16.Qe2 6:13 Qe8 5:38 17.Na3 3:02

Kh8+ 2:06

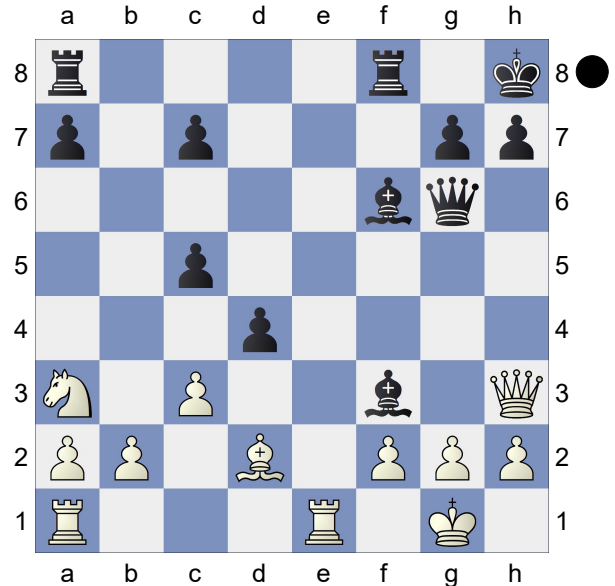
[17...Nf4! 18.Qb5 Bc6]

C56 18.Re1 14:22

1912 [18.Nc2 might work better.]

2322 18...d4 2:57 19.Bd2 7:13 Qg6 7:32

20.Qxe6 4:39 Bxf3 14 21.Qh3 8

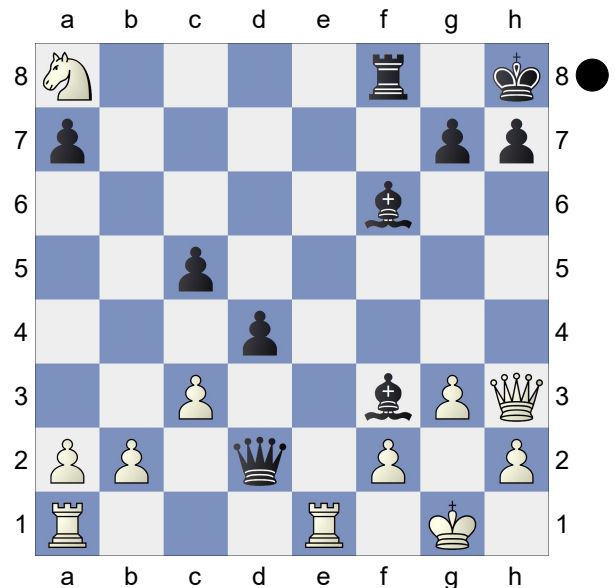


Bh4! 2:42 Nice tactical resolve! **22.g3 3:05**

[22.Rf1 Rae8]

22...Bf6 1:23 23.Nb5 1:48 Qd3 3:14

24.Nxc7 4:06 Qxd2 1:17 25.Nxa8 23

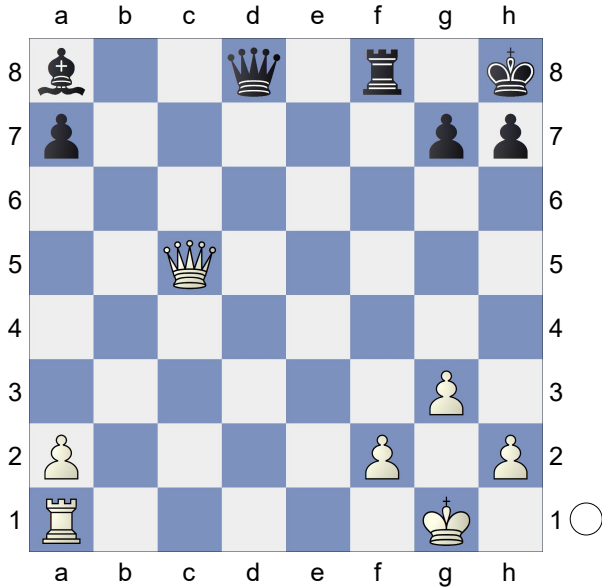


dx3 1:56 26.bxc3 4:03 Bxc3 5:05

27.Qf5 1:05 Qd8 14 28.Qxc5 1:36

Bxa1 45 29.Rxa1 1:10 Bxa8 23

(Diagram)



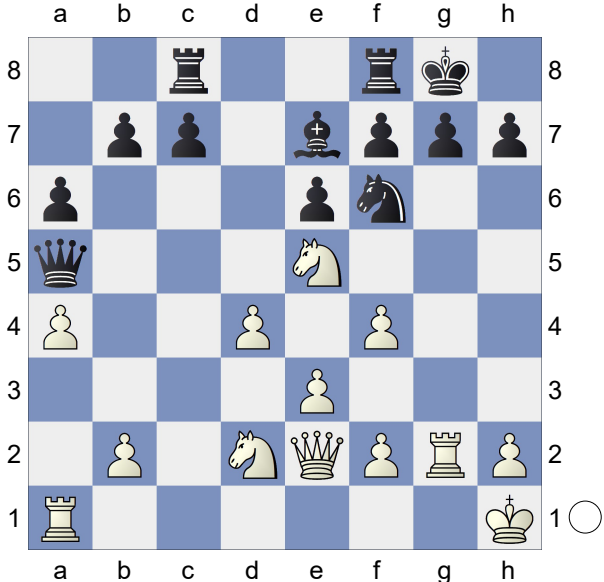
Chase likes to play on. To mate even.
30.Rc1 48 Qf6 41 31.Qe3 32 Qf5 50
32.Rc5 33 Qb1+ 22 33.Rc1 Qb7 37
34.f3 22 h6 20 35.Rf1 10 Rxf3 44
36.Rxf3 15 Qxf3 5 37.Qxf3 7 Bxf3 4
38.Kf2 8 Bd5 6 39.a3 5 Kg8 14
40.Ke3 7 Kf7 7 41.Kd4 11 Ke6 5
42.h4 8 h5 24 43.Kc5 23 Bg2 22
44.Kd4 8 Kf5 8 45.Ke3 7 Kg4 4
46.Kf2 6 Bc6 5 47.a4 9 a5 7 48.Kg1
10 Kxg3 5 Black mates. 49.Kf1 8 Kxh4
13 KB-KP 50.Kg1 6 Kg3 5 51.Kf1 19
h4 5 52.Kg1 5 h3 4 53.Kf1 9 h2 11
54.Ke1 8 h1Q+ 6 55.Kd2 6 Qf3 40
56.Ke1 5 Qf2+ 32 57.Kd1 1 Bxa4+ 7
58.Kc1 4 Qc2# 7 White got outplayed
 after the opening. An excellent game by
 Lee.
0-1

□ **Bhatia,Aadit** **E05**
2279
 ■ **Kalonaris,Zeno** **1883**
 3rd Silman TNM: 2000+ (4.7) 26.05.2026
[Winslow,Elliott]

Both players have had better
 tournaments! Kalonaris has already
 secured first place in Berkeley, Bhatia

did well the previous TNM -- this game
 neither of them seemed resolute -- but
 master mastered. **1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6**
3.g3 Nf6 4.Bg2 Be7 5.Nf3 0-0 6.0-0
dxc4 7.Qc2 a6 8.a4 Bd7 9.Qxc4 Bc6
10.Bf4 Nd5 11.Nbd2N E05: Open
 Catalan: 5 Nf3 Be7.

[11.Bd2±]
 [11.Bd2 Nd7 12.Re1 a5 13.e4 Nb4
 14.Qb3 b6 15.Bxb4 Bxb4 16.Nc3
 Bb7 17.Rad1 Qe7 18.Re2 Rfd8
 ½-½ (60) Shankland,S (2670)-Shirov,
 A (2620) Samarkand 2025]
11...Nxf4 12.gxf4 Qd6 13.e3
 The position is equal. **13...Nd7 14.Qe2**
Nf6 15.Kh1 Qb4 16.Rg1
 [16.Rfc1=]
16...Qa5?
 [16...Bxa4 Threatens to win with ...
 Bb5!. 17.Rgc1 Bb5 (17...Qxb2
 18.Rcb1+-)]
17.Ne5± Bxg2+ 18.Rxg2 Rac8
 [18...Bd6±]



19.Qf3? c5?
 [19...g6= 20.Ne4 Nxe4 21.Qxe4
 Qd5 22.Qxd5 exd5]
20.Ndc4
 [♞20.Rxg7+ Kh8 (20...Kxg7
 21.Rg1+ Kh8 22.Qg2) 21.Qg2 cxd4

(21...Qxd2 22.Rg8+ Nxc8 23.Rg1)
 22.Rg8+ Nxc8 23.Rg1 Qd5
 (23...Qxd2 24.Qg7#) 24.e4 Bg5
 25.Qxg5 Qxe5 26.fxe5 h6 27.Qg7#]

20...Qc7+- 21.Rag1

[21.d5!+- Black must now prevent
 Rxc7+!. exd5 22.Rxc7+ Decoy Kxc7
 23.Rg1+ Kh8 24.Qg3]

21...g6

[21...Ne8±]

22.f5?

[22.h4!+-]

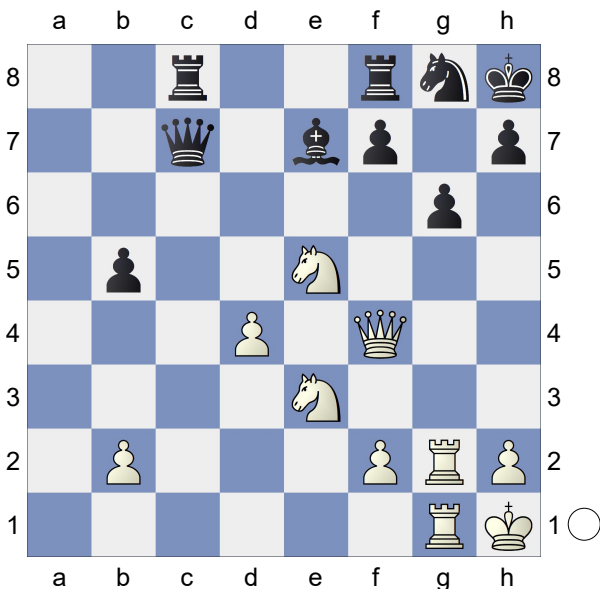
22...exf5= 23.Qxf5 Kh8?

[23...cxd4!= and Black stays safe.
 24.Rxc7+ fxg6 25.Nxc7 Qxc4
 (25...Qc6+ 26.f3#) 26.Ne5+ Kh8
 27.Nxc4 Rxc4]

24.Qf4?

[White must play 24.Qh3!+- Kg7
 25.f4]

**24...cxd4 25.exd4 b5 26.axb5 axb5
 27.Ne3 Ng8**



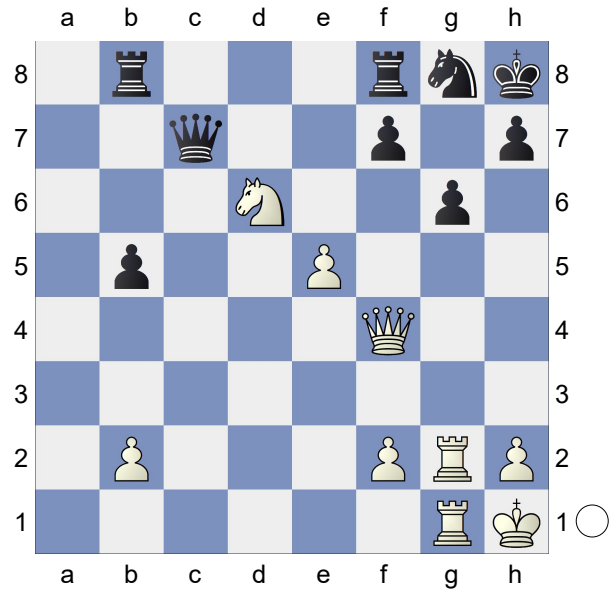
28.Nf5 Bf6!# 29.Nd6 Bxe5

[29...Rcd8# 30.Ne4 Qb6
 (30...Rxd4? 31.Nxc6+ hxc6
 32.Qxc7+-)]

30.dxe5= Rb8

[30...Rcd8= keeps the balance.]

(Diagram)



31.Qd4 White is much more active.

[Better is 31.h4!±]

31...Qb6 32.Qd5

[32.Qf4± is superior.]

32...Ne7 33.Qb3

[33.Nxf7+? perishes. Kg7 34.Qd2
 Rxf7+-]

33...Kg7 34.f4 Qd4 35.Qg3

[35.Qf3±]

35...f6 36.Qg4 Rfd8 Dodges Qd7

[36...f5= 37.Qf3 Qd5]

37.Qe6 An interesting game. A slurry of errors resolved in the higher-rated player's favor.

1-0

D32

□ Xia, Yusheng

2247

■ Heiserman, Jimmy

2262

3rd Silman TNM: 2000+ (4.10) 26.05.26

[Winslow, Elliott]

Heiserman continues his recent (?) switch to the Tarrasch QGD from the Gruenfeld. Less to remember? In any case, it's a good opening for strategical *and* tactical play. 1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.Bg5 Be6 7.e3 c4 This is an unusual

version of what used to be called the Swedish Variation. I can admit: the fast queenside pawn advance can be a problem for White, even without queenside castling. It's a sort of Panov-Botvinnik Attack in reverse. **8.Be2 Bb4**

9.0-0 e4! is in the air **9...Nbd7**

White has an edge. **10.Qc2 Qa5**
 [10...0-0± is more appropriate.]

11.a3N

[11.Nd2±]

[Predecessor: 11.Nd2 0-0 12.Bh4

Rfe8 13.a3 Bd6 14.h3 g6 15.g4 h5

16.f4 hxg4 17.f5 Bxf5 18.Rxf5 gxf5

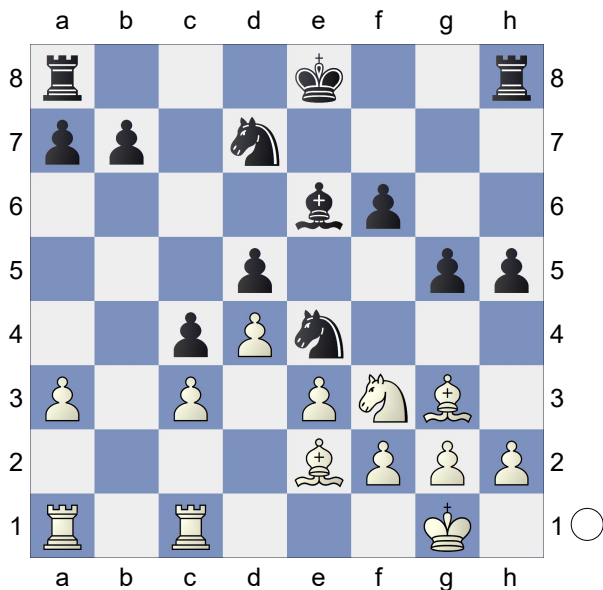
19.Qxf5 1-0 (27) Jakubowski,K (2473)-
 Carlstedt,J (2428) Germany 2023]

11...Bxc3= 12.Qxc3

[12.Bxf6̄ Nxf6 13.bxc3]

12...Qxc3̄ 13.bxc3 Ne4 Wards off

Nd2 14.Rfc1 f6 15.Bf4 g5 16.Bg3 h5



17.h4 Black has space advantage and is better

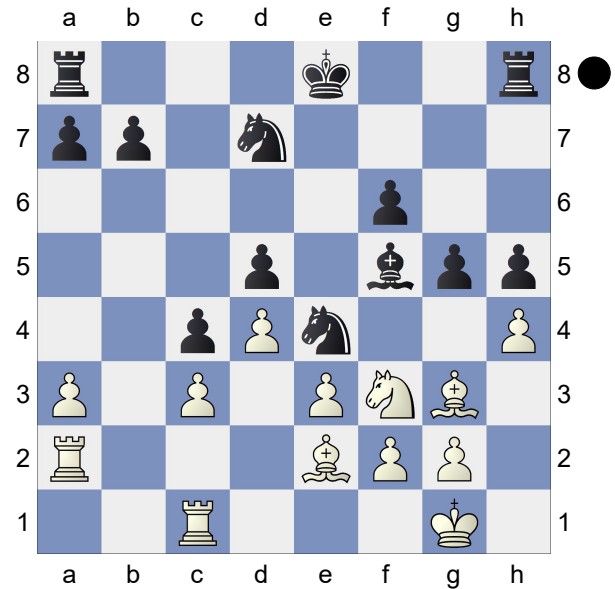
[Δ17.h3]

17...Bf5? Black is more active.

[17...g4̄ 18.Nh2 Nxg3 19.fxg3
 Ke7]

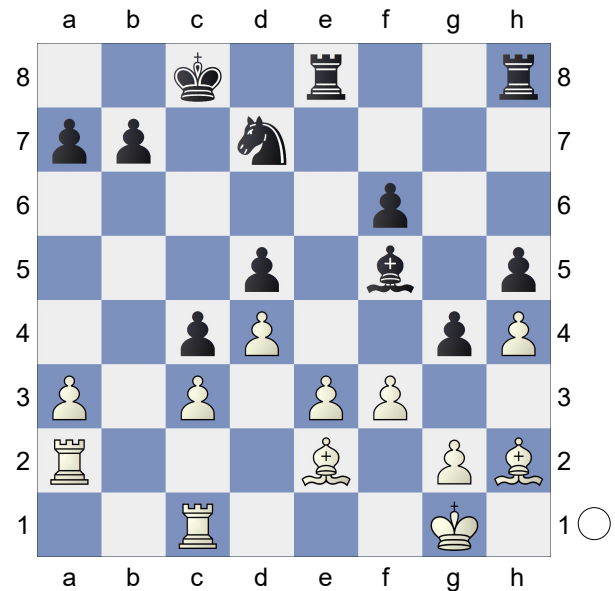
18.Ra2=

(Diagram)



0-0-0 19.Bh2 g4 20.Nd2 Rde8

21.Nxe4 Bxe4 22.f3 Bf5



23.e4

(Diagram)

gxf3 24.gxf3

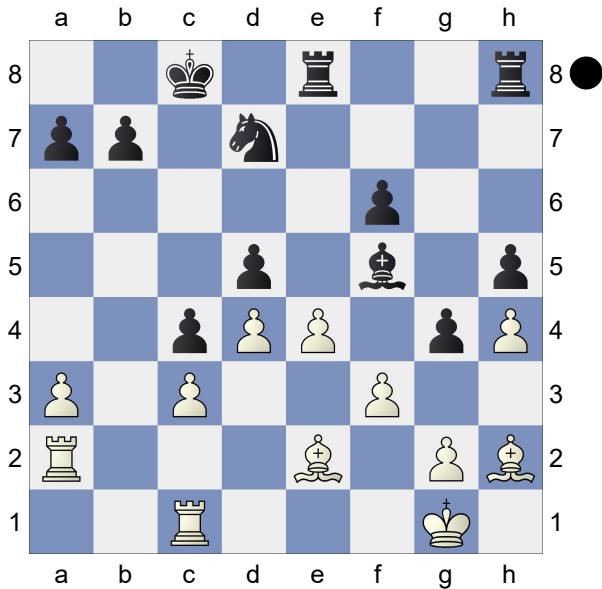
[24.Bxf3 simplifies Bxe4 25.Rf1 Re6
 26.a4]

24...dxe4 25.Bxc4 exf3 Black wants to
 play ...Nb6. **26.Kf2! Nb6 27.Bb5**

A strong pair of Bishops. **27...Reg8**

28.Kxf3 Rg4↑ Strongly threatening ...
 Be4+. Black is pushing. **29.Bg3**

[29.Re1= remains equal.]



29...Rhg8 30.Bf2

[30.Rg1 was the only chance.]

30...a6+ 31.Bf1 Nd5 32.c4

[Δ32.Ke2 Re8+ 33.Kd1]

32...Rf4+ 33.Ke2 Re8+

Weighted Error Value: White=0.47/

Black=0.09 (flawless)

Mistake: White=7

Black=2

OK: White=10

Black=12

Best: White=1

Black=7

Strong: White=1

0-1

□ Suarez, Sebastian

B90

2314

■ Yoo, Christopher Woojin

2663

3rd Silman TNM: 2000+ (5.1) 02.06.2026

[Winslow, Elliott]

Sebby is improving his opening play, but still a ways to go. **1.e4 2 c5 53 2.Nf3 15 d6 16 3.d4 5 cxd4 6 4.Nxd4 3 Nf6 24 5.Nc3 6 a6 19 6.f3 22 e5 47 7.Nb3 5 Be6 35 8.Be3 6 Nbd7 26** A solid third place in the popularity contest, though

frankly no more committal than the two more common

[8...Be7 when Black might still play ... h5,]

[and 8...h5 , definitely a pawn that can't move backwards.]

9.Qd2 8

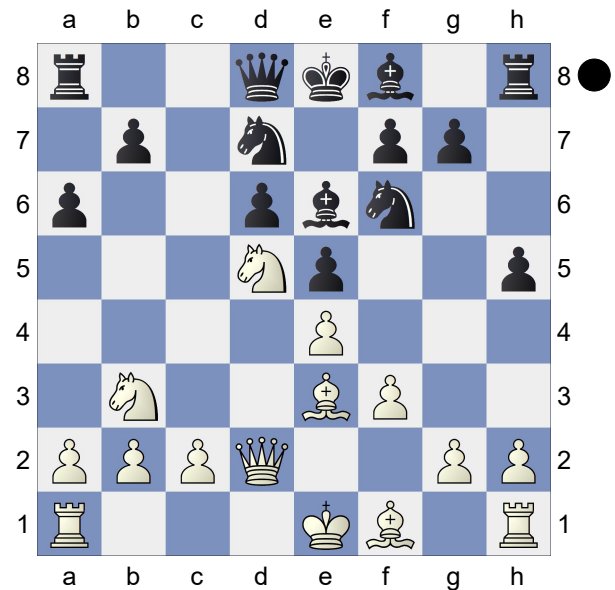
[9.g4]

9...h5 6

[9...b5]

[9...Be7]

10.Nd5 12



Suarez has played this plan before (against me for example), changing the structure after Black takes. **10...Nxd5**

1:31

[10...Bxd5 11.exd5 g6!? is the other way]

11.exd5 6 Bf5 5 12.Be2 18 Be7 48

13.0-0 10 0-0 1:02 14.f4 10

This doesn't go so well with the bishop able to defend well from g6.

[White should try 14.Na5±]

14...exf4= 1:08 15.Rxf4 6:14 Bg6 34

16.Rff1 2:27 Re8 4:58 17.Nd4 21:54

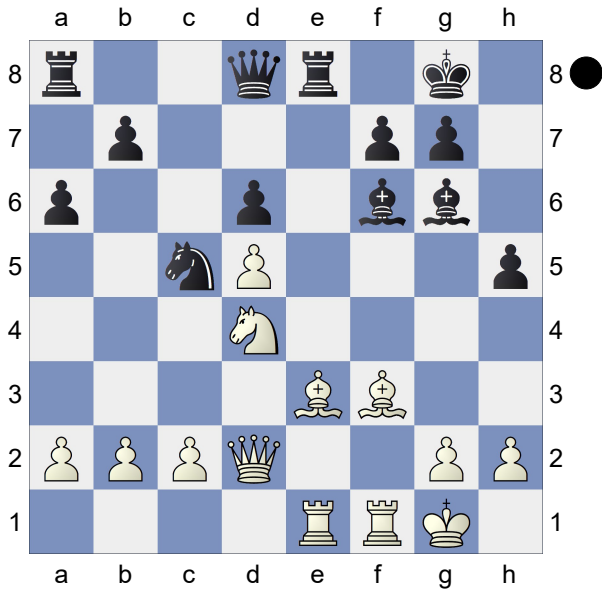
[17.Bd3]

17...Nc5 4:01

[17...Bf6!]

18.Bf3 5:55 Bf6 2:06 19.Rae1 3:34

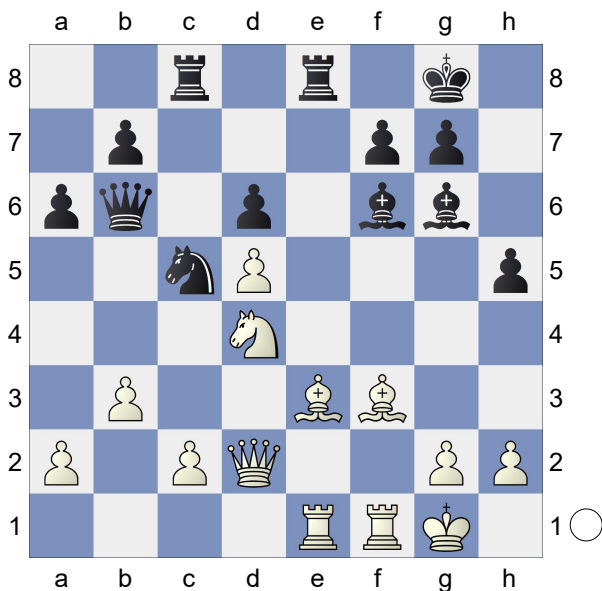
(Diagram)



Rc8N 2:28

[19...Ne4 20.Qd1 Ng5 21.Bxg5 Bxg5 22.Bxh5 Be3+ 23.Kh1 Bxh5 24.Qxh5 Bxd4 25.Qxf7+ Kh8 26.Qh5+ Kg8 27.Qf7+ Kh8 28.Qh5+ Kg8 29.Qf7+ ½-½ (29) Mannion,S (2179)-Mompel Ferruz,X (2019) Benidorm 2023]

20.b3 3:15 Qb6?! 4:04
[20...Re5!♣]



21.Bf2?! 5:37

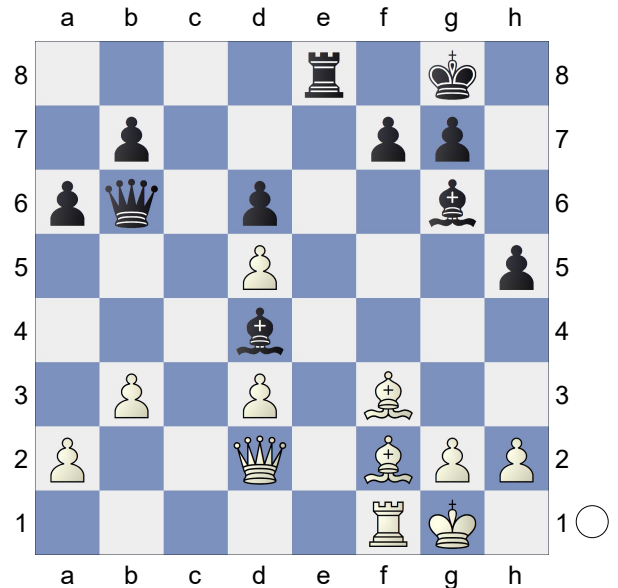
[21.Ne6!= keeps the balance: fxe6 22.b4 exd5 23.Qxd5+ Kh8 24.bxc5 dxc5 25.Qxb7 Symmetrical

somehow.]

21...Nd3!♣ 11:58 22.Rxe8+ 12:19

[♠22.cxd3 Bxd4 23.h3]

22...Rxe8♣ 9 23.cxd3 1:44 Bxd4 5



24.Bxd4? 40 Loses the game.

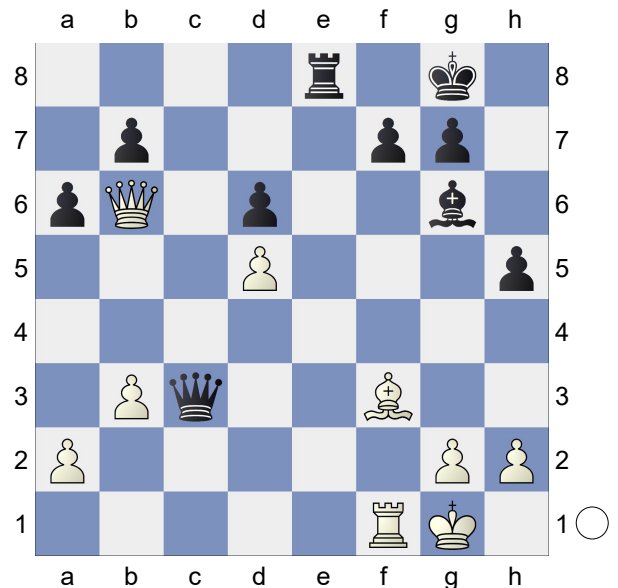
[24.h3♣ is a better defense.]

24...Qxd4+-+ 6 25.Qf2 3 Qxd3 1:07

It's just a pawn (-+) 26.Qb6 2:11

[♠26.Rd1 Qc3 27.Qd4]

26...Qc3!+- 1:35



Quite a bit better than other good moves, impressive find. 27.h3 7:54 Bd3 1:46

28.Rd1 28 Be2! 50 29.Bxe2 4:51

[29.Qd4 Qc8!]

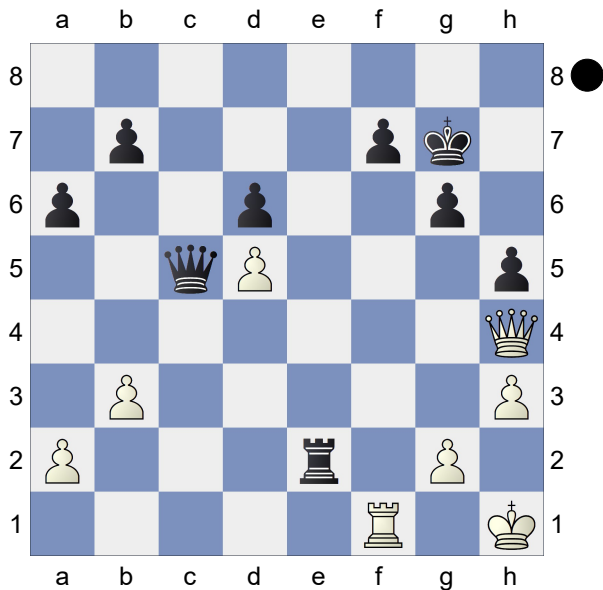
29...Rxe2 5 30.Qd8+ 17 Kh7 5 31.Qg5

23 Prevents Qg3. 31...g6 2:24
 [31...Rxa2?! 32.Rf1= Qe5
 (32...Qxb3?? 33.Qxh5+ Kg8
 34.Qxf7+ Kh7 35.Rf5+-) 33.Qxe5
 dxe5 34.Rxf7=]
 [31...Qc2!]

32.Rf1 5:04 Kg7 45 Black is clearly
 winning.

[32...Re1]

33.Qh4 4:32 Qc5+ 1:00 34.Kh1 13



White threatens mate, but... 34...Qxd5
 19 35.Qg3 34 Rxa2 53 Yoo once again
 just outplays his strong opponent.
 0-1

□ Smith,Olivia **B40 2104**
 ■ Heimann,Mark **2547**
 3rd Silman TNM: 2000+ (5.2) 02.06.2026
 [Winslow,Elliott]

Smith had a more than satisfactory
 opening, then a pretty big positional
 slipup let Heimann take over the dark
 queenside square -- then Mark lost his
 way and it was quite even, then Olivia
 inexplicably traded queens into a lost
 rook ending (it's usually the other way
 around!) and it was indeed over. 1.e4 c5

10:54 2.Nc3 7 e6 31 3.Nf3 26 a6 42
 4.g3 1:57 b5 1:12 5.Bg2 1:13 Bb7 7
 6.d3 39 Nf6 3:04

[6...Qc7= remains equal.]

7.0-0 1:01

[7.e5±]

7...d5 32

[7...d6=]

8.exd5± 4:27 Nxd5 15 9.a4 1:59

[Better is 9.Nxd5 Qxd5 10.c4±]

9...Nxc3 1:22 10.bxc3 10 b4N 2:19

[10...Be7= 11.axb5 axb5 12.Rb1

Qb6 13.d4 0-0 14.Qe2 Ra2

15.Rxb5 Qa7 16.Rb2 Rxb2 17.Bxb2

½-½ (60) Fang,Y (2307)-Nguyen,A

(2147) Ho Chi Minh City 2014]

11.cxb4 1:56 cxb4 12 12.Bb2! 2:13

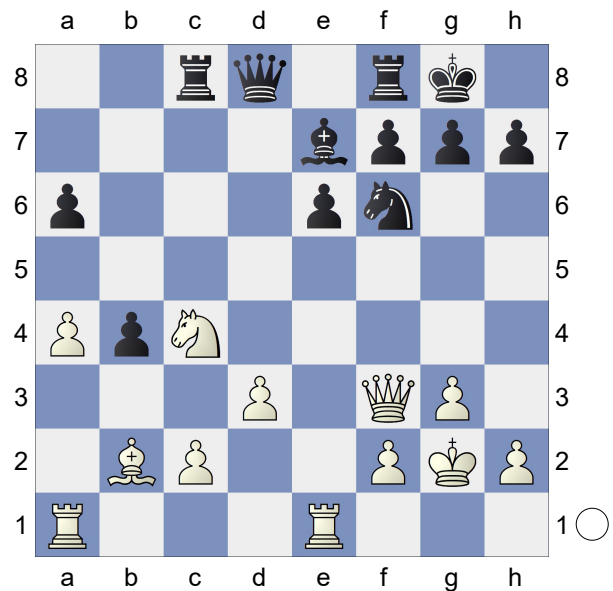
Nd7 20 13.Re1 9:29

[13.c3±]

13...Nf6= 1:00 14.Ne5 10:20 Bxg2 1:58

15.Kxg2 4 Rc8 21 16.Nc4 4:20 Be7

1:18 17.Qf3 2:10 0-0 16



18.Bxf6? 5:24

[18.c3= and White stays safe.]

18...Bxf6-+ 6 19.Rab1 21 Bc3 2:51

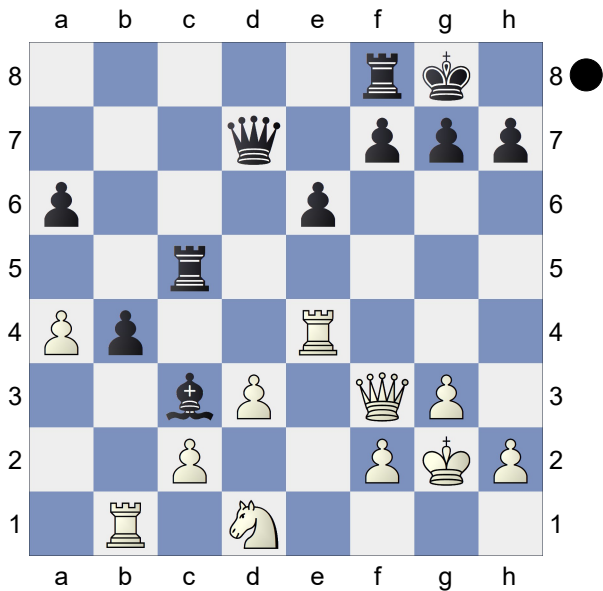
20.Re4 3:29 Rc5 36

[20...a5 21.Qe3 Rb8]

21.Ne3! 4:51 Qd7 3:17 22.Nd1? 13:19

[22.d4! Rcc8 (22...Bxd4 23.Rxb4

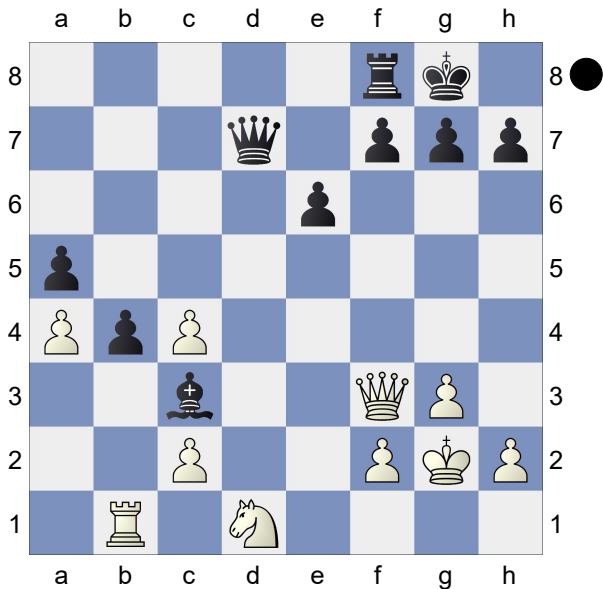
Bxe3 24.Rxe3 23.a5]



22...a5!-+ 47

[Weaker is 22...Qxa4 23.Nxc3 Rxc3
(23...Qxc2 24.Rexb4 Qxc3
25.R1b3) 24.Rexb4 Qxc2 25.Ra1]

23.Rc4 4:17 Rxc4 8 24.dxc4 3



Qxa4? 6:14

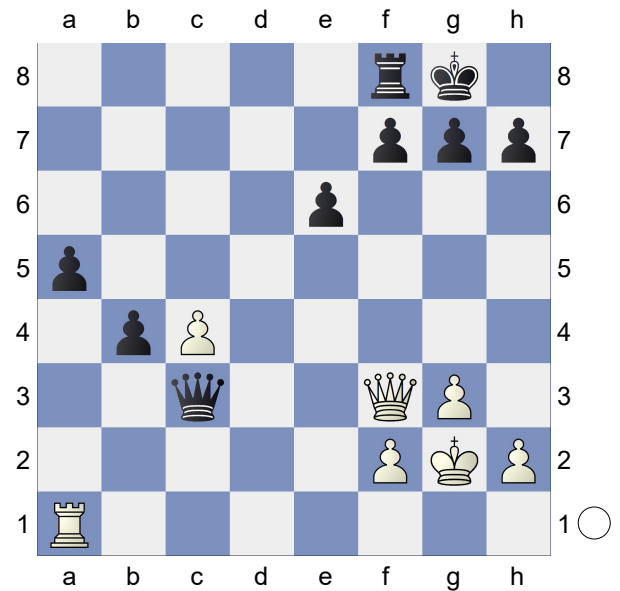
[24...Bd2!-+ 25.Nb2 Qc7]

25.Nxc3= 18 Qxc2 3 26.Ra1 6:56

Qxc3 8

[26...Qb2 27.Ra2 Qb3 (27...Qxc3
28.Rxa5 Qxc4 29.Qb7)]

(Diagram)



27.Qxc3?? 1:12

[27.Rxa5 Qxf3+ (27...Qxc4
28.Qb7=) 28.Kxf3]

27...bxc3-+ 3 28.Rc1 45 Ra8 14

29.Rxc3 6 Kf8 13 30.Kf3 3:34 a4 32

31.Ra3 1:39 Ke7 1:37 32.Ke3 7 Kd6 6

33.Kd4 4:13 e5+ 1:22 34.Kc3 18 Kc5 3

35.Ra2 5:54 a3 10 36.Kb3 12 f5 8

37.Kc3 1:46 e4 5 38.h4 3:34 Rd8 11

39.Kb3 1:08 Rd3+ 4 40.Kc2 53 Kxc4 5

0-1

B45

□ **Lee, Andy C**

2322

■ **Chen, Quincy**

2077

3rd Silman TNM: 2000+ (5.3) 02.06.2026

[Winslow, Elliott]

Lee was tending a slight positional advantage when he walked into a pretty knight sac -- queen sac back-rank mate!

1.e4 1 c5 4 2.Nf3 10 e6 4 3.d4 25

cxd4 6 4.Nxd4 33 Nf6 6 5.Nc3 33 Nc6

7 6.Ndb5 1:12

[6.Nxc6 bxc6 7.e5 Nd5 8.Ne4 Qc7

9.f4 Qb6 10.c4 Bb4+ 11.Ke2

(and alternatives along the way) is still out there on its own for strange play.]

[

[And there are moves like 6.a3, which anticipate...]

6...Bb4 17 An old, relatively quiet line, that's been around for decades.

[6...d6 7.Bf4 e5 8.Bg5 would be the Sveshnikov Variation with an extra move. Black has avoided the Nd5 (without Bg5) line, which zoomed in popularity after the Caruana-Carlsen world championship match, London 2018.]

[And fairly recently a serious resuscitation of 6...Bc5!? with some key novelties bringing it back to life.]

7.a3 7 Continuing in the positional style (and grabbing the two bishops, which may play a factor).

[There must be a good reason we don't see 7.Bf4!? any more.]

7...Bxc3+ 5 8.Nxc3 6 d5 6 9.exd5 1:50 exd5 6

[9...Nxd5 10.Bd2! is more than a little something for White.]

10.Bd3 1:20 0-0 6 11.0-0 2:22 Bg4 22

[Nowadays more popular than 11...d4 (Stockfish might have some responsibility for that), but wherever the knight goes (probably e2), Black has pretty easy development and little trouble with the isolated d-pawn.

I had that position so many years ago and played (if memory serves; I can't find the game) 12.Ne2 followed by b2-b4 and Bb2 pressuring the d-pawn anyway; there must be a solution because the computer just calls it the slightest of plusses for White. Bg4 (the main move) White does have some plus score in the database...]

12.Qd2 6:10

[Far and away the most common here is 12.f3

A) The principle-bending 12...d4!? has been played by Cheparinov and Mamedyarov (and others): 13.fxg4

(Of course, White can just move the knight away) dxc3 14.bxc3 Ne5 15.h3 (15.g5 Qb6+ 16.Kh1 Nfg4 17.Qe2 Rae8 18.Bf4 Nxd3 19.Qxd3 Nf2+ 20.Rxf2 Qxf2 21.Bg3 Qe2 22.Qf5 Re6 23.h3 Qe4 24.Qf2 f5 25.Qxa7 f4 26.Bf2 f3 27.g3 Qxc2 28.Rf1 Qxc3 29.Qxb7 Qxa3 30.Qd5 Qa6 31.Re1 Rfe8 32.Rxe6 Qf1+ 0-1 (32) Lima,K (2108)-Cheparinov, I (2660) Titled Tuesday, 25 Apr 2023) 15...Rc8 16.Bf5 Rxc3 17.Qxd8 Rxd8 18.Bb2 Rc5 19.Rad1 Rxd1 20.Rxd1 Nc6 21.Bxf6 gxf6 22.Rd7 Ra5 23.Rxb7 Rxa3 24.Be4 Ne5 25.Bd5 a5 26.c4 Kg7 27.Ra7 a4 28.c5 Rd3 29.Be4 Rc3 30.c6 Nxc6 31.Bxc6 1/2-1/2 (31) Murzin,V (2678)-Mamedyarov,S (2746) Ankara 2025;

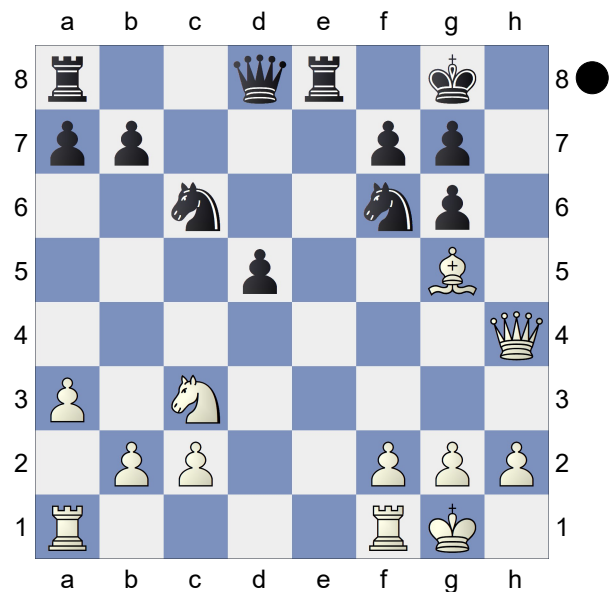
B) 12...Bh5]

12...Re8 53 13.Qf4 2:50 Bh5 2:48

14.Qh4 4:51 Bg6 8:53 15.Bxg6 4:21

[15.Bg5 Bxd3 16.Bxf6 Qxf6 17.Qxf6 gxf6 18.cxd3 Kg7 19.Rfe1]

15...hxg6 8 16.Bg5 54

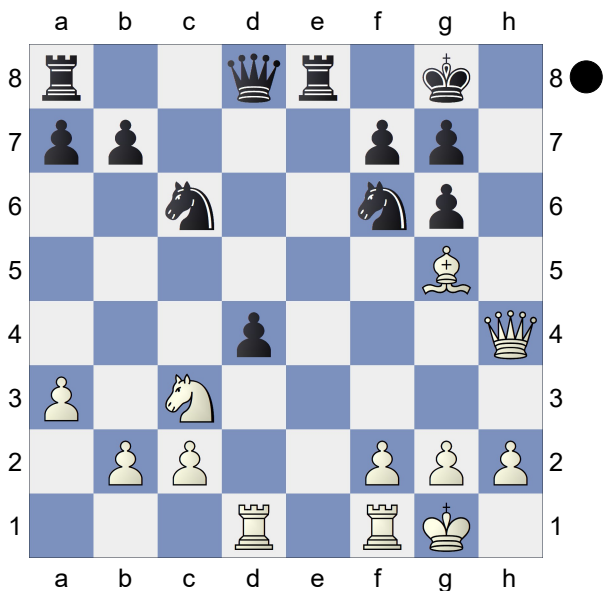


d4N 4:37

[16...Qd6 17.Bxf6 gxf6 18.Rad1 d4

19.Ne4 Rxe4 20.Qxe4 f5 21.Qe2 Kg7 22.Rfe1 Rh8 1-0 (32) Kucza,K (2346)-Eisa Mohmood,A (1851) Chess.com INT 2024]
 [Predecessor: 16...Qd6 17.Bxf6 gxf6 18.Rad1 d4 19.Ne4 Rxe4 20.Qxe4 f5 21.Qe2 Kg7 22.Rfe1 Rh8 23.h3 Qf6 24.Qb5 g5 25.Rd3 f4 26.Qd5 g4 27.hxg4 Rh4 28.Rh3 Rxc4 29.Qh5 Qg5 30.Qh8+ Kg6 31.Qh7+ Kf6 32.Rh6+ 1-0 (32) Kucza,K (2346)-Eisa Mohmood,A (1851) Chess.com INT 2024]

17.Rad1 6:11



Qd6 18:07

[17...a6 simplifies 18.Rd3 Qd6 19.Bxf6 Qxf6 20.Qxf6 gxf6 21.Nd5 Re2 22.Rc1 Kg7=(0.00)]

18.Nb5 6:38 Qc5 3:21 19.Bxf6 1:52

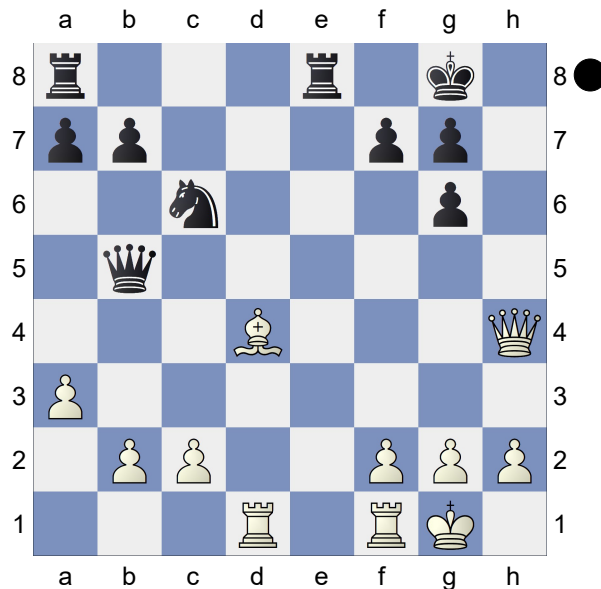
The only move to keep the balance, but...

[19.Nxd4? Re4 20.Nb3 Qf5≠ (or 20...Qxc2 21.Qh3≠)]

19...Qxb5 8 20.Bxd4 14:00

(Diagram)

(again, an only move) **20...Re2 24**
 Black had half a dozen moves that go "0.00" rather quickly. This permits some



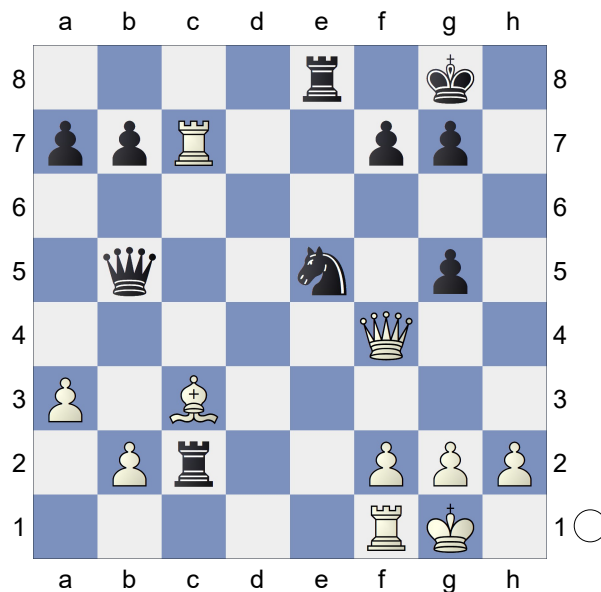
plus for White -- *if* he's alert! **21.Bc3 4:55 Rae8! 1:48** (I blinked -- it's all 0.00s here, too) **22.Qf4 5:12 Rxc2 7:27 23.Rd7 3:10** Still one of many equal moves, but it is getting a bit frisky...

23...Ne5 1:23

[23...Nd8 is safer, but then we wouldn't see a quick decisive end.]

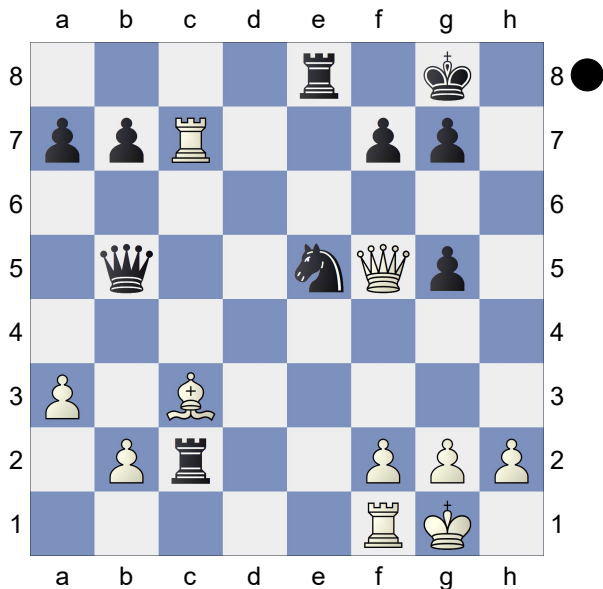
24.Rc7 1:26 g5!? 13

[24...Nd7 25.Rd1 Nf6 26.h3 g5 27.Qf3 Qe2=]



25.Qf5?? 4:32

[25.Qd4!± /= Qd3! 26.Rxb7 Qxd4 27.Bxd4 Nc4 28.Bxa7 Nxb2]



Not a time-trouble move (Lee had 27 minutes left when he played it after 4m32s), but just completely overlooking the 1-2 shot: **25...Nf3+!** 30 Wow! Credit to Quincy for seeing it of course...

0-1

Zavgorodniy, Andrew **B40**
2088
 Diller, Bradley R **2129**
 3rd Silman TNM: 2000+ (5.4) 02.06.2026
[Diller, Bradley R]

Another Diller mind-search. His ruminations in the French Defense are edifying. 1.e4 8 e6 7 2.Nf3 16 d5 7 3.e5 19 c5 9 4.c3 13 Nc6 18 5.Bb5 9 Qb6 3:51 6.Ba4 20 Bd7 8:49 7.0-0 51 White has a slight edge. 7...Nge7 12:21 8.d4 1:18 cxd4 45 9.cxd4 15 Nf5 13

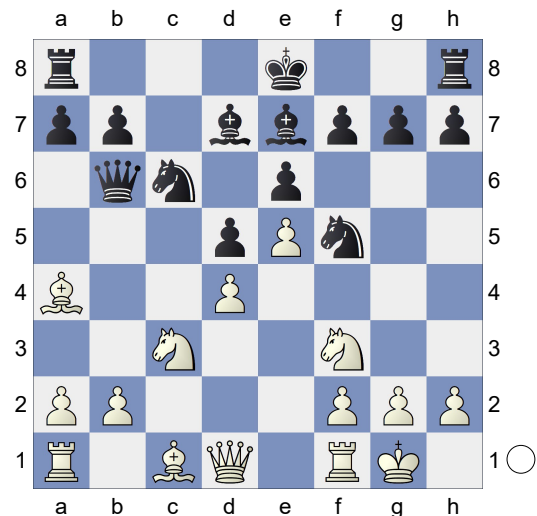
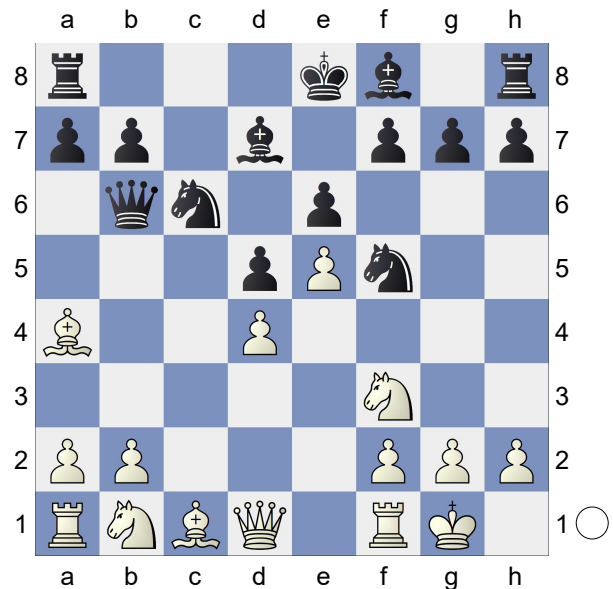
(Diagram)

10.Nc3 2:49

[≤10.g4 Nfe7 11.Nc3 h5 12.h3 hxg4 13.hxg4=]

10...h5?! 3:46 I knew this was a positional mistake but thought 10...Be7

was refuted:
[10...Be7



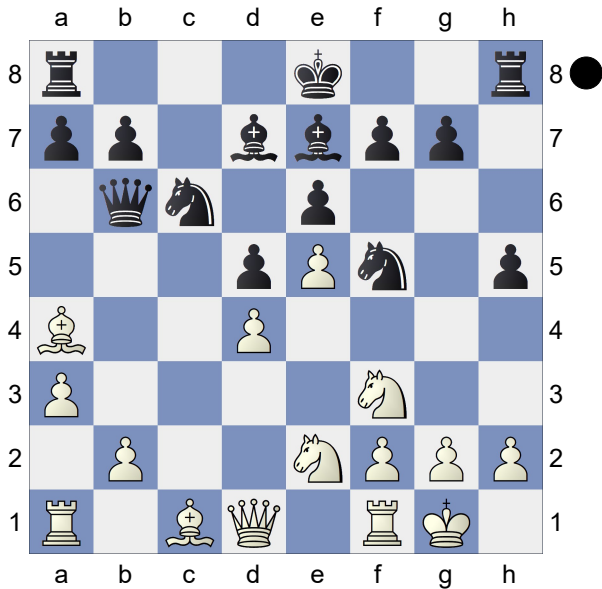
11.g4? Nh4 12.Nxh4 Bxh4 13.g5 h6 14.Qh5 . But I failed to see the surprising 14...Qxd4 If 15.Be3 there is the rejoinder g6♣ g6 and Black has a strong edge.] [So White should just play 10...Be7 11.Ne2 0-0 12.Bc2 (12.g4 Nh4 13.Nxh4 Bxh4=) 12...Nb4 13.Bxf5 exf5 14.Nf4 Be6±]

11.Ne2± 2:14 Be7 47 12.a3 2:03

(Diagram)

a5 13:46

[⚬12...Na5 13.Bc2 (13.Bxd7+ Kxd7

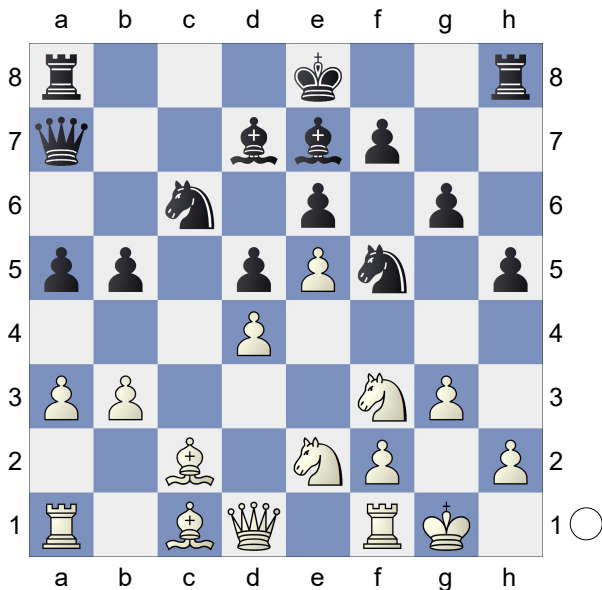


14.b4 Nc4=) Now it is essential to trade off the knight and not allow Bxf5 ruining my kingside pawn structure: 13...Nh4 (13...g6 14.b4 Nc4 15.Bxf5 gxf5 16.h4± followed by Bg5, and my dark squares and pawn structure are weak.) 14.Nxh4 Bxh4 15.Nf4 Be7 16.Rb1±]

13.Bc2 3:44 g6 4:24 14.g3 6:45 Qa7?! 2:15

[14...a4!?

15.b3 5:34 b5?! 4:26

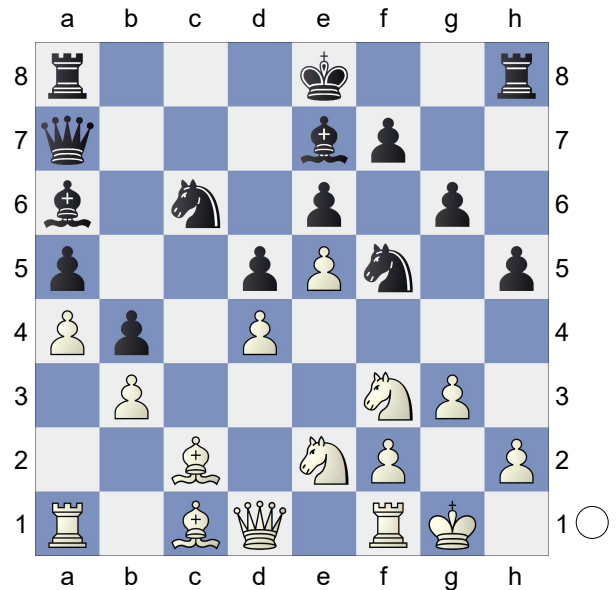


16.Qd3? 6:31

[Here White missed his chance to get a significant advantage with 16.Bxf5

exf5 followed by 17.Bg5+- trading the dark-squared bishop. Black's kingside pawn structure is compromised and is weak on the dark squares.]

16...b4 1:34 I am still worse, but not losing. 17.a4 1:00 Bc8 36 18.Qd1 5:31 Ba6 27



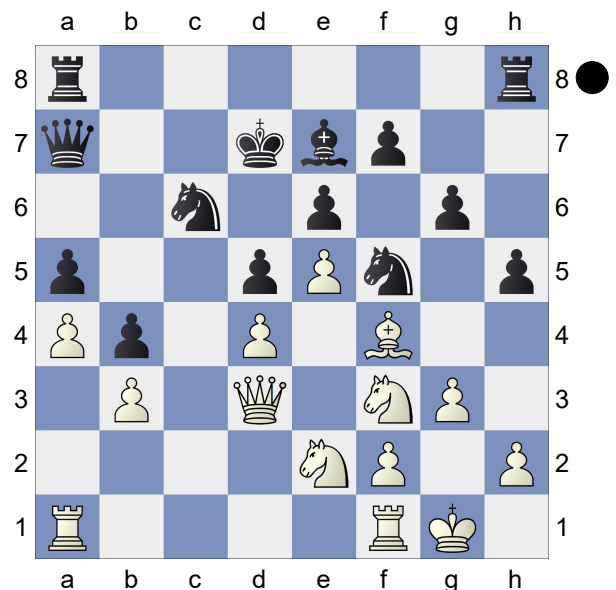
19.Bd3?± 16 This is a serious positional mistake. I have no problems after the trade of the light-squared bishop.

[Δ19.Bxf5 gxf5 20.Be3 h4 21.Re1

Kd7 22.Rc1 Rac8 23.Nf4 Qb6

24.h3 Qd8 25.gxh4 Bxh4 26.Kh2±]

19...Bxd3 2:34 20.Qxd3 26 Kd7 3:16 21.Bf4 4:30



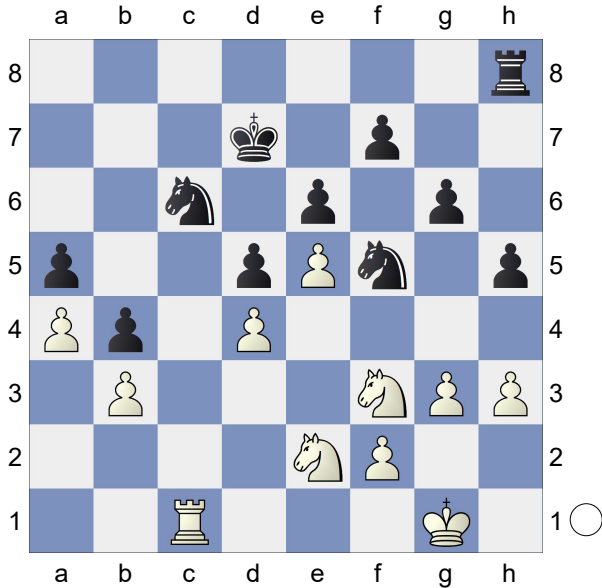
Qa6? 1:10

[21...Rhg8! was an essential prophylactic to entice 22.h4 and solidfy the knight at f5 so that it cannot be evicted by h3 and g4. Bd8= Followed by Bb6 with pressure against the d-pawn.]

22.Qxa6? 3:23

[22.Qd2 White is clearly better and will eventually play Kg2 followed by h3 and g4 with complete domination.]

22...Rxa6= 0 23.Rfd1 12 Raa8 26 24.Bg5 47 Rac8 1:51 25.Bxe7 1:43 Kxe7 1 26.h3 12:14 Na7 5:55 27.Rac1 0 Rc6 58 28.Rxc6 0 Nxc6 1 29.Rc1 0 Kd7 27



30.Kf1?! 3:23 More prudent was 30.Rd1 preventing g5. **30...g5! 4:05 31.Rc5?? 5:34** This move loses the game.

[231.Rd1 g4 32.Ng5!= (32.hxg4 hxg4 33.Ne1 Ke77)]

31...g4 5:07 32.Ng5 55

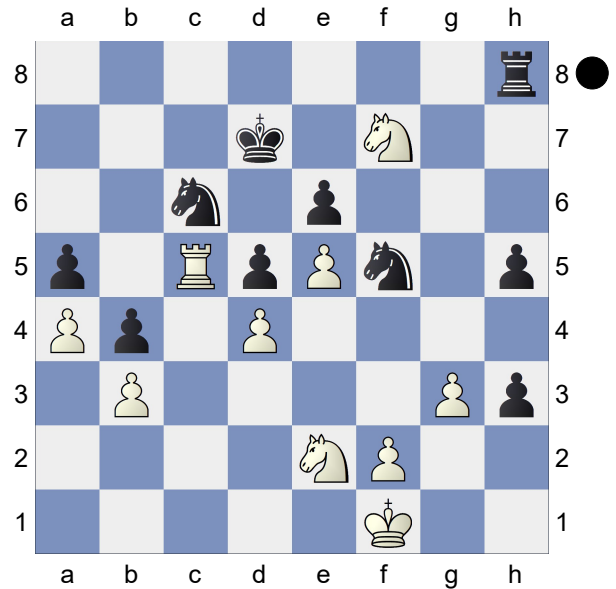
[32.hxg4 hxg4 33.Ng5 Rh1+ 34.Kg2 Re1+-]

32...gxh3 1:31 33.Nxf7 1:53

(Diagram)

Ra8 31

[33...Rf8 was perhaps better, but the



move I played is a clear win.

34.Nd6 Ne3+ 35.Kg1 h2+ 36.Kxh2 Rxf2+ 37.Kg1 Rxe2]

34.Nd6 5:24 Nfxd4 54 35.Nxd4 36 Nxd4 2 36.Nb5 15 Nxb5 3:41 37.axb5 34 Rc8 26 38.Rxc8 1:21 Kxc8 1 39.f4 8 a4 26 0-1

D13

□ Heiserman, Jimmy

2262

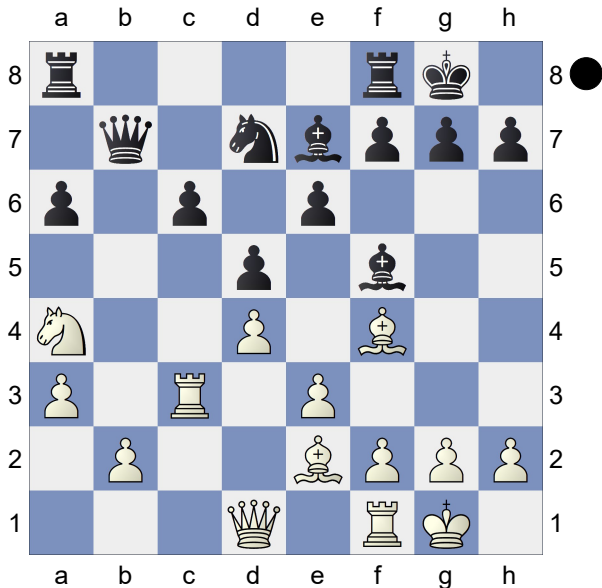
■ Cawthon, Jeremy David

2119

3rd Silman TNM: 2000+ (5.7) 02.06.2026 [Winslow, Elliott]

The dreaded Exchange Variation of the Slav Defense. No it's not a draw on move 3. But the challenge is there for Black to make something of it. For White for that matter! **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 cxd5 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.Bf4 a6** This is so often a useful move for Black, yet you don't see White playing it so often. (We might ignore 1. d4 d5 2.a3 -- as played in Dzhahirov-Taylor, N.Cal. Senior championship 2026! -- at our "peril") **7.Ne5 Qb6 8.Nxc6 bxc6** So there is a "feature" for White to play on. **9.a3 Bf5 10.Na4 Qb7**

11.e3 e6 12.Be2 Be7 13.0-0 0-0
 14.Rc1 Nd7 15.Rc3
 [15.Qd2]



15...f6?!±

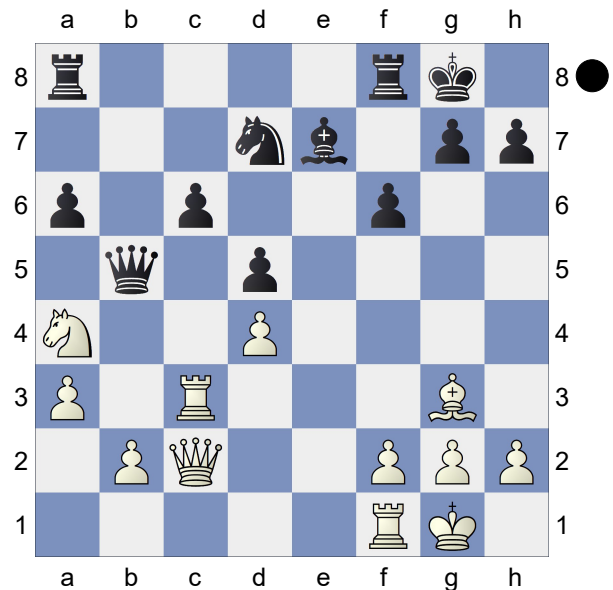
[15...Rfc8± 16.Qd2 c5 17.dxc5 Bf6
 18.Rcc1 a5 19.Bd6 Bg6 20.h3 Rc6
 21.f4 Qb3 22.Bd1 Qd3 23.Qxd3
 Bxd3 24.Rf2 Rac8 25.Bc2 Bb5
 26.Rd1 Nxc5 27.Bxc5 Bxa4 28.Bxa4
 Rxc5 29.Rdd2 g6 30.Rfe2 Rc1+
 31.Kf2 h5 32.Bb5 Rh1 33.e4 dxe4
 34.Rxe4 Rb1 35.Ree2 h4 36.a4
 Rcc1 37.Bd3 Ra1 38.b3 Be7
 39.Bb5 g5 40.Kf3 gxf4 41.Kxf4 Rc5
 42.Re5 Rc3 43.Bc4 Kg7 44.Rd7
 Kf6 45.Rxa5 Re1 46.Raa7 Bf8
 47.Bd3 Bh6+ 48.Kg4 Ke5 49.Ra5+
 Kf6 50.Kxh4 Re3 51.Bh7 Rg3
 52.Be4 Rg8 53.Bf3 Bf4 54.Raa7
 Bg3+ 55.Kh5 Rc5+ 56.Bd5 Rxd5+
 57.Rxd5 exd5 58.b4 d4 59.Rd7 Be5
 60.b5 Ke6 0-1 (60) Reilly,T (2350)-
 Handoko,E (2475) Jakarta 1993]

16.Bd3?!

[16.Qd2]
 [16.Bg4]
 [16.h3]

16...Bxd3 17.Qxd3 e5± 18.Bg3 Qb5
 [18...exd4 19.exd4 f5 20.Rb3±]

19.Qc2
 [19.Qf5]
 19...exd4 20.exd4±



Nb6?

[20...f5±]

21.Nc5+- Bxc5?! 22.Rxc5 Qa4
 23.Qc3! Nc4 24.b3 Qxa3 25.Ra1 Qb2
 26.Rxc4 Qxa1+ 27.Qxa1 dxc4
 28.bxc4 a5 29.Qa4 Rfd8 30.c5 Rd5
 31.h4 Rad8 32.Bd6 h5 33.g3 Kh7
 34.Qxc6 Rxd4 35.Bc7 R8d5 36.Bxa5
 Rf5 37.Qc8 Kg6 38.Bb6 Rb4 39.Qd8
 Rc4 40.c6
 1-0

A16

□ Zhao,Isaac Dan

1947

■ Dutter,Frederic

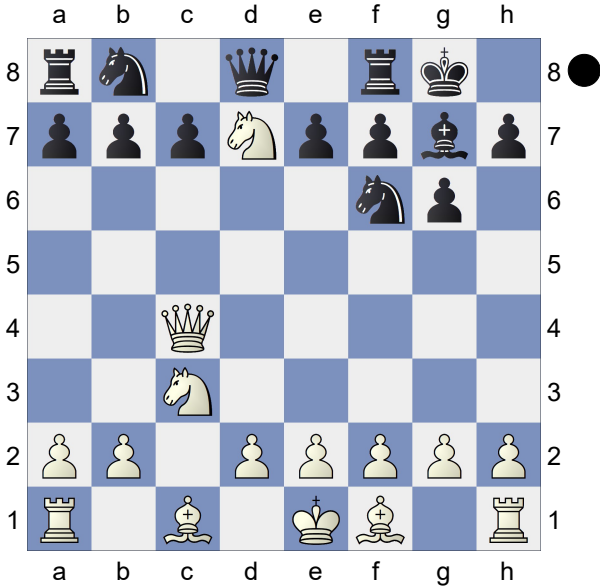
1900

3rd Silman TNM: 1600-1999 (5.5) 2.6.26
 [Winslow,Elliott]

Zhao pushes on, positioning for the
 middle section win. 1.Nf3 2 Nf6 11 2.c4
 55 g6 37 3.Nc3 9 d5 4 4.Qa4+ 1:44
 Bd7 6:45 5.Qb3 24 Some relation to the
 Russian Variation of the Gruenfeld...
 5...dxc4 11:48 6.Qxc4 8 Bg7 2:09
 7.Ne5 4:11

[7.e4 a6 8.e5 Be6 9.exf6 Bxc4

10.fxg7 Rg8 11.Bxc4 Nc6 12.0-0 g5
 13.Bd5 g4 14.Bxc6+ bxc6 15.Ne5
 Rxg7 16.d4 Qxd4 17.Re1 Qd6
 18.Bf4 f6 19.Ne4 Qd5 20.Nc3 Qd6
 21.Ne4 Qd5 22.Nc3 Qd6
 ½-½ (22) Bruzon Batista,L (2682)-So,
 W (2731) Havana 2014]
7...0-0 2:08 8.Nxd7 6



Qxd7N 1:52

[8...Nbx d7 9.g3 c6 10.Bg2 Nb6
 11.Qb3 e6 12.0-0 Qe7 13.d3 Rfd8
 14.a4 Nbd5 15.Bd2 Nxc3 16.bxc3
 Rac8 17.a5 Rb8 18.Rab1 Qc7
 19.Qa4 c5 20.c4 Ng4 21.Bg5 Bf6
 22.Bxf6 Nxf6 23.Rb2 Ne8 24.Rfb1
 Nd6 25.Qa3 Kg7 26.Rb3 Rd7
 27.Qb2+ f6 28.Qc3 Re7 29.h4 Kf7
 30.Bf3 h5 31.Qd2 Kg7 32.Qc3 Kf7
 33.Kg2 Qc8 34.R1b2 Nf5 35.e3
 Nd6 36.Rc2 Qc7 37.Qa1 Kg7 38.d4
 Obiamiwe,P (1920)-Sagar,S (1740)
 Caleta 2020 1-0]
9.g3 1:00 Qc6 23 10.Qxc6 11 Nxc6 1
11.Bg2 35 Nb4 2:46 12.0-0 12 c6 4
13.d3 4:58 Nfd5 2:45 14.Bd2 2:10
Nxc3 3:21 15.bxc3 6 Nd5 1:00 16.Rfc1
26 Rfd8 4:53 17.Rab1 10 Rd7 2:14
18.a4 1:07 e6 6:54 19.Rb3 1:48 b6
2:39 20.c4 7:32 Ne7 49 21.c5 1:30
bxc5 9:14 22.Rxc5 39 Bd4 3:49

23.Rxc6 14:38 Rad8 4:54 24.Rc4 1:27
Bg7 7:54 25.Ba5 57 Re8 2:12 26.Rcb4
11:06 Nd5 5:03 27.Rb8 4:11 Rde7 1:45
28.Bd8 16:58 Be5 2:59 29.Bxe7 12
Rxb8 1:07 30.Bxd5 48 exd5 5 31.Rb5
37 Rxb5 38 32.axb5 7 Bd4 2 33.g4
4:58 f5 27 34.gxf5 12 gxf5 35.Kg2 50
Kf7 2 36.Bb4 47 Ke6 27 37.e3 1:36
Be5 17 38.Bc5 13 Bb8 12 39.Kh3 1:21
Ke5 13 40.Kh4 1:06 f4 1:04 41.Kg5 39
fxe3 31 42.fxe3 4 Ke6 34 43.h3 37
Ke5 50 44.Bd4+ 29 Ke6 19 45.h4 1:32
1-0

C02
 1419
Barreyro,Romeo Belmes 1500
 3rd Silman TNM: u1600 (5.6) 02.06.2026
[Winslow,Elliott]

Getting ahead of ourselves (Round 6 is done), Barreyro has locked up the Under 1600 section with a round to go! **1.e4 3 e6 9 2.d4 5 d5 13 3.e5 6**

Another French Advance Variation.
3...c5 16 4.c3 7 Nc6 58 5.Nf3 36 Qb6 50 6.Be2 36 Bd7 43 7.0-0 1:06 Rc8 1:12 Black seems to be mixing systems -- pressure on d4? Play on the c-file? Possible exchange of the light-square bishops with ...Bb5?

[7...Nge7!?!]
8.h4 2:47
 [8.Na3 cxd4 9.cxd4 Nge7 10.Nc2 Ng6 11.h4 h6 12.h5 Nge7 13.Bd3 Nf5 14.b4 Be7 15.a4 0-0 16.a5 Qd8 17.Bd2 a6 18.Re1 Na7 19.Qb1 Nh4 20.Nh2 Bb5 21.Ne3 Bg5 22.g3 Bxd3 23.Qxd3 Nf5 24.Nxf5 Bxd2 25.Qxd2 exf5 26.e6 Qf6 27.exf7+ Qxf7 28.Nf3 Qxh5 29.Ne5 Nb5 30.Rac1 Kh7 31.Nd7 Rfe8 32.Rxc8 Rxc8 33.Qf4 Qf7 34.Nc5 Nc3 35.Re7 Qf6 36.Qe5 Qxe5 37.dxe5

Annotated Games from the Continental All-Women's Chess Championship

By Lauren Goodkind

Tournament Highlights

The event was held at the beautiful **Delfines Hotel** in Lima and was well-organized. It was a large, diverse field with **55 players**, including **8 Americans**. While a good number of participants didn't speak English, I was still able to connect and communicate with everyone using a translator app on my phone!

- **The Standings:** USA's Iris Mou won the tournament with 7.5 points. A talented player from Colombia took 2nd, while Americans swept 3rd, 4th, and 5th place: <https://s2.chess-results.com/tnr1366777.aspx?art=1>
- **My Performance:** I finished in **24th place** with **5/9 points**. This was a great personal milestone for me, as it's a one-point improvement from my 4/9 finish at the same event in the Dominican Republic two years ago. I was also the top-finishing untitled player (excluding my online AFM title) in Lima.

Memorable Matchups

It was an honor to play against such a high level of competition:

- **WGM Sabina Foisor:** I faced the former US Women's Champion in the main tournament. Although I lost, I felt I played a very solid game.
- **IM Deysi Cori:** I had the privilege of playing Peru's top woman player in the rapid section. I lost to her.
- **Megan Chen:** I lost a tough game against Megan (who has impressively played in all 50 states) after missing a winning line.

Cultural Experience

Beyond the chessboard, I loved learning about Peruvian culture. After the tournament, a friend and I were fortunate enough to travel to **Machu Picchu** and hike to the saddle of **Rainbow Mountain (about 17,000 feet high)**. I highly encourage other players to participate in international

tournaments—it is such a rewarding way to experience new cultures and meet players from all over the world.

□ Goodkind, Lauren

■ Contreras Huaman, Fiorella

D02

1863

2208

XVII Campeonato Continental Femenino..

[Goodkind, Lauren]

1.d4 Fiorella is one of Peru's top women chess players. 1...Nf6 2.Bf4 d5 3.Nf3

This is the London System Opening. I

have been playing this opening for

around 1.5 years now. I used to play e4

for many years. 3...c5 4.Nc3 e6

I am simply developing my pieces. 5.e3

This move creates a pawn chain and opens up lines for my Bf1 bishop.

5...Be7 6.Bd3 0-0?! 7.0-0 Nc6?!

8.Ne5 I'm trying to advance my knight

into her territory. 8...Nxe5 9.Bxe5 c4

10.Be2 Bd7 11.e4 I am trying to break

up her central pawn chain. 11...Bc6

12.exd5 exd5 13.Bf3 Finally, my

bishop is on the long diagonal and is aiming towards the black's d5 pawn.

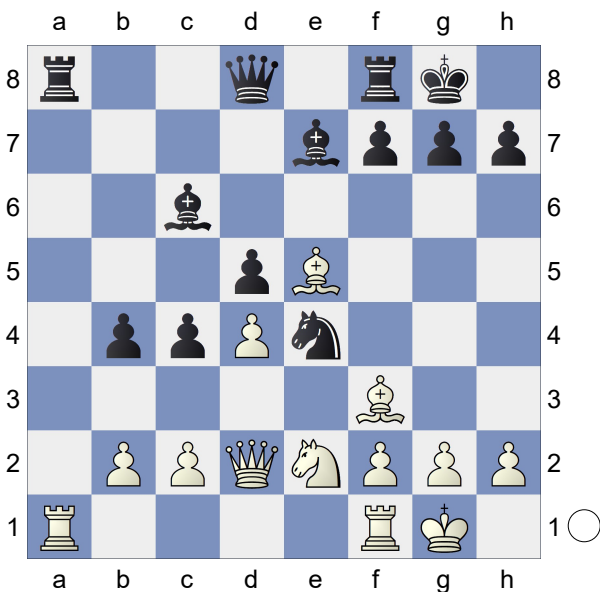
13...b5 It appears that Fiorella wants to

expand on the queenside. 14.a3 a5

15.Qd2 This queen move connects both

rooks now. 15...b4 16.axb4 axb4

17.Ne2 Ne4



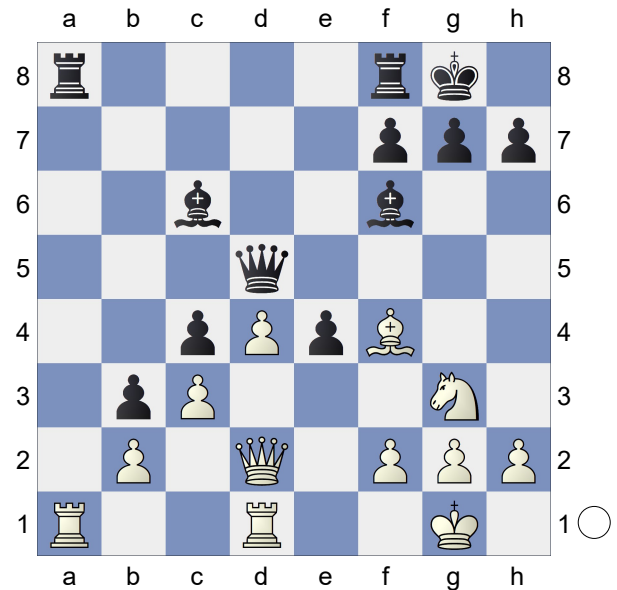
Her knight here is very powerful and is attacking my queen. 18.Bxe4

I captured her knight on e4 because the piece was too strong and in my space.

18...dxe4 19.c3 b3 I don't like the fact that she has connected passed pawns on c4 and b3, which are in my space.

20.Rfd1?! Bg5? 21.Bf4?! Bf6?

22.Ng3? Qd5?!



When she plays Qd5, I knew this was a powerful move. She's threatening to

move her pawn to e3, which attacks my

queen. She's also threatening

checkmate by Qxg2. I had to find a

solution to stop e3 pawn move! 23.Nf1

I am glad that I found this move. If she

does move her pawn to e3 on the next

move, then I'll simply capture the e3

pawn with my knight \$1 With my knight

on e3, the piece is attacking Fiorella's

queen and stops the checkmate on g2 at

the same time \$1 23...Qb5? 24.Ne3?!

Bd5 25.Qe1?! Rfe8 26.Bd6?

(Diagram)

I wanted my bishop to be on the a3-f8

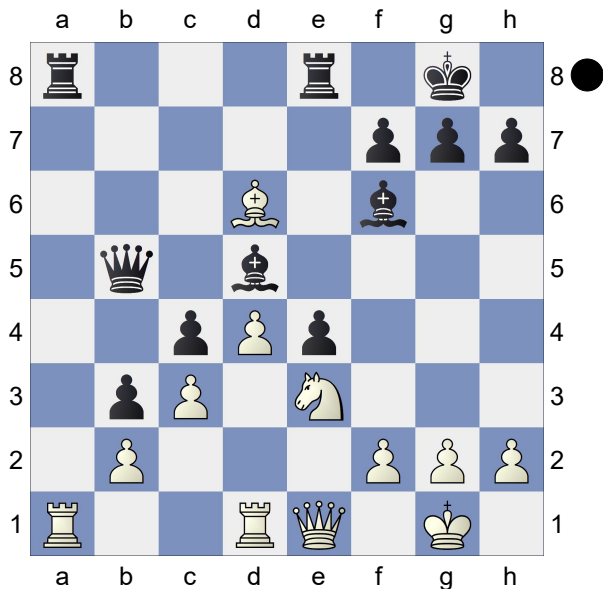
diagonal. Chess.com's analysis engine

doesn't like this move, but later on in the

game, this bishop was very beneficial on

this diagonal to help me win the game.

26...Qc6 27.Bb4? Bg5 28.Rxa8 Rxa8



29.Ra1 This move is to challenge Fiorella's rook on a8. One of my ideas is if she did move her rook to a2, then perhaps I can move my bishop to a3 to protect my pawn on b2.

29...Bxe3? 30.Rxa8+

[If 30.Qxe3??, then my queen is not protecting my rook on a1 and then Fiorella can simply capture my unprotected rook on a1 with her rook on a8.]

30...Qxa8 31.fxe3! I had to take it with my f pawn instead of my queen. If I took the bishop with the queen, then Fiorella's queen can zoom down to a1 and checkmate me in 2 moves since I would have a weak back rank. **31...f6**

32.h3 This move gives my king another square to move to. I don't want to worry about weak back ranks. **32...Qb8**

33.Qf2 Be6 This move stops my queen from going to f5. And Fiorella's bishop is on a more active diagonal. **34.Qd2**

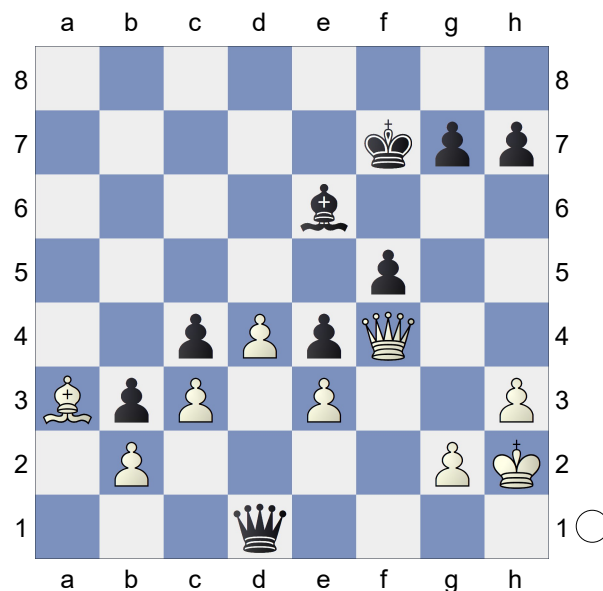
Qa8 35.Qf2 I am trying to get my queen to a more active square. Also notice that my queen is protecting my b2 pawn. **35...Qa1+**

She attacks first with her queen. Her queen is officially in my space. **36.Kh2 Kf7?! 37.Ba3**

As I mentioned before, I am happy that

my bishop is on the a3- f8 diagonal. I moved the bishop here to protect my pawn on b2. I want to move my queen to f4 on the next move to be more active.

37...Qd1! 38.Qf4 I followed through with my plan! Now my queen is more centralized and more active. According to the chess.com engine, the position is roughly equal. **38...f5??**



This move seems to be okay, but this move cost her the game. **39.Qc7+!** Time to attack with my queen! **39...Kg6 40.Qd6** I moved here to pin her unprotected bishop and I am threatening to capture her bishop on the next move.

Another good move which I didn't play was 40. Bf8, threatening to capture her weak g7 pawn on the next move.

40...Kf6 She defends her pinned bishop with her king. Notice that her queen on d1 cannot join the defense. **41.Qe7+** I wouldn't have been able to safely move my queen here if it wasn't for my bishop on a3! **41...Kg6** This was her only move.

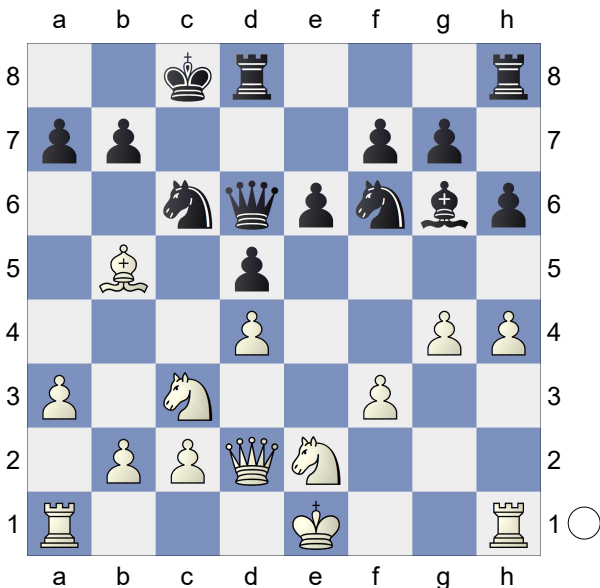
The attack continues! **42.Qxe6+ Kg5 43.Be7+** Time to get my bishop in the attack too! She resigned after I played this move. She can't avoid checkmate now. If she didn't resign, the the line is:

43...Kh5. 44. Qxf5... g5. 45.Qxg5++.
1-0

Rojas Raraz, Jarely Katty **B13**
1493

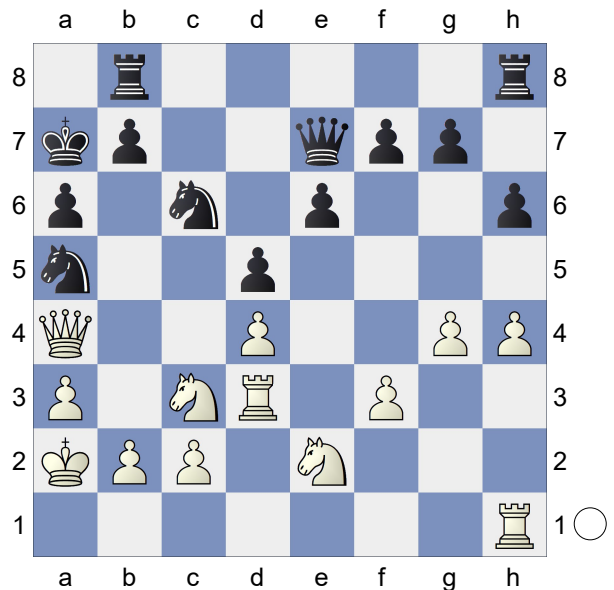
Goodkind, Lauren **1863**
 XVII Campeonato Continental Femenino..
[Goodkind, Lauren]

This was my round 4 game. Jarely is a talented 9 year old from Peru. **1.e4 c6**
2.d4 d5 This is called the Caro-Kann Defense, which is a very popular opening. **3.exd5 cxd5** **4.Bd3 Nf6**
5.Ne2 Bg4 **6.f3 Bh5** **7.g4 Bg6!** **8.Bf4 e6** **9.h4** She's getting aggressive with her pawns. **9...Nc6** **10.a3 Bd6**
11.Bb5? h6?! I moved h6 to prevent her from trapping my bishop on g6 by **12. h5.**
12.Nbc3 Qc7?! I moved my queen here to develop with a threat, **13...Bxf4,** which would win a piece! **13.Bxd6 Qxd6**
14.Qd2 0-0-0



I castled queenside because I thought that castling kingside would be too dangerous since she already has pawns on g4 and h4. She can use these pawns to do a pawn storm. **15.0-0-0 Nd7**
16.Bd3?! **Bxd3** I took her bishop to

preserve my pawn structure. **17.Qxd3 Nb6** I am moving my knight closer to her king. **18.Nb5 Qe7** This move saves the queen and is still attacking Jarely's a3 pawn. I am thinking that perhaps I can get my knight to c4, which would be a nice square for my knight. **19.Qb3** I like this move Now she's threatening **20. Nxa7+!** Once my knight captures her knight on a7, then her queen can safely capture my knight on b6! **19...Kb8** Now my king protects the a7 pawn. **20.Kb1 Nc4** I finally got my knight to c4, which is a great square for my knight. My knight is controlling a lot of squares in her territory. **21.Rd3?!** Maybe she wants to double up her rooks? **21...a6** Her b5 knight is on my side of the board, so it's time to kick the knight out. **22.Nbc3! Ka7** I wanted to unpin my b7 pawn from her queen on b3. **23.Ka2?** This move is a huge mistake. If you notice now, Jarely's queen's mobility is very limited now! **23...N4a5!** I took advantage of Ka2. Notice that her queen isn't able to safely move to b4, thanks to my knight on c6. **24.Qa4 Rb8!**



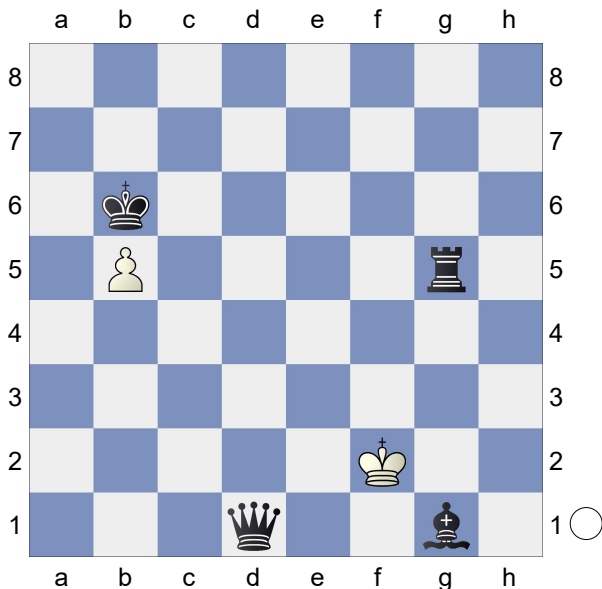
My initial move was **24...b5,** but I decided to move **Rb8** instead. If I moved **24....b5,** then she can sacrifice her

Now she successfully captures my passed pawn, but now she is down a rook. **49...Re4 50.Rd2 Rxh5 51.Kb2 Rhe5 52.Kc3 h5 53.Rh2 h4 54.a4 Rh5** I want my rook to be behind my passed pawn on h4, so the rook can support my pawn moving forward.

55.Kd3 h3 My passed pawn is moving forward! **56.Kd2?** Checkmate is now unavoidable. b4 was best. **56...Rg4 57.Ke3 Rg2 58.Rxg2?!** Checkmate is now unavoidable.

[58.Rh1 was best.]

58...hxg2 Jarely is in a completely losing position now and now it's time for me to finish her off. **59.Kf2 Rg5 60.Kg1 d4 61.b4 d3 62.a5 d2 63.axb6+ Kxb6 64.b5 d1Q+ 65.Kf2 g1B#**



This was a magical checkmate! I believe this is my first time checkmating by promoting my pawn to a bishop. Have you ever promoted your pawn to a bishop to deliver checkmate? I thought Jarely played pretty well against me.

0-1

A48
1863
2000

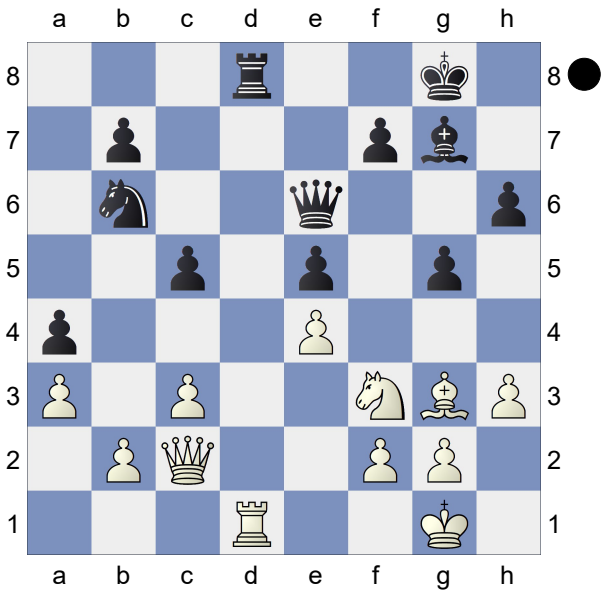
□ **Goodkind,Lauren**
■ **Morales Flores,Monserrat**
XVII Campeonato Continental Femenino..
[Goodkind,Lauren]

1.d4 Nf6 I knew that playing Monserrat was going to be a tough match. In the previous round (round 6), she beat another 1800 player in only 14 moves!
2.Bf4 g6 3.Nf3 Bg7 4.e3 0-0 5.c3 d6
This opening is called the A48 (Indian Game: East Indian, London System).
6.Bc4 Nbd7 7.h3 In case Monserrat moves her knight to h5, then I can retreat my bishop to h2. That's why I moved the pawn to h3. **7...Nb6 8.Bb3**
This move saves my bishop and my bishop is still pinning her f7 pawn to her king. **8...a5 9.a3?!**

[Chess.com's engine says that 9.a4 is better.]

9...a4 10.Ba2 e6?! 11.0-0 Qe7 12.Nbd2 c5?! 13.Bg5?! I moved my bishop here to pin her knight to her queen on e7. **13...h6 14.Bh4 e5 15.dxe5 dxe5 16.Ne4?!** Capturing my knight with her f6 knight would be a huge mistake. This would enable my h4 bishop to capture her queen on e7.
16...g5 Now my h4 bishop is not pinning her f6 knight to her queen. This means that both my knight on e4 and bishop on h4 are hanging. **17.Nxf6+** This move avoids losing a piece. **17...Bxf6 18.Bg3**
This is the only safe square that my bishop can move to. **18...Bf5 19.e4**
This move seems like I am hanging a pawn, but I get compensation for it. For example, 19...Bxe4. 20.Qe2. If her bishop decides to capture my knight, then I would capture her bishop with my queen. Then her white squares near her king would be weak. I would be happy since I have a white square bishop on

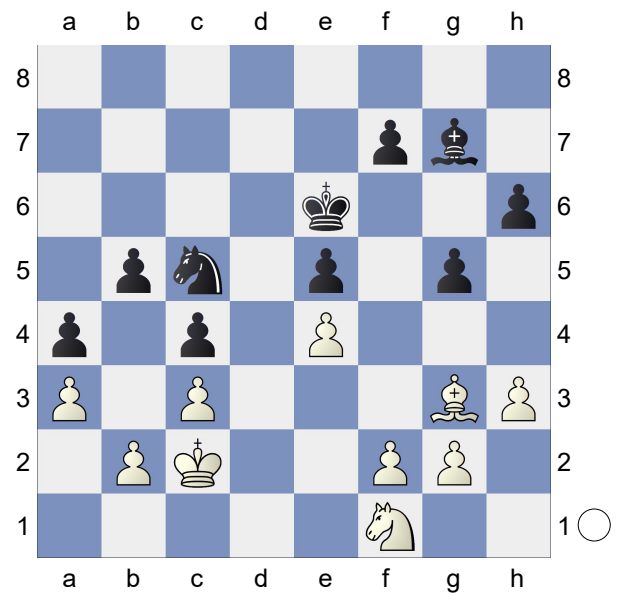
a2. **19...Be6** Monserrat decides to not capture the pawn. I guess she was aware of the complications. **20.Bxe6 Qxe6 21.Qc2** This queen move connects both of my rooks now. **21...Rfd8 22.Rad1** Since my a1 rook is on the same diagonal as her f6 bishop, I decided to challenge her rook on d8. **22...Bg7?! 23.Rxd8+ Rxd8 24.Rd1!**



Let's get the other rook to challenge her rook on d8. **24...Rd6** If my rook captures her rook, then she'll capture back on d6 with her queen. And her queen would be controlling the open d file. **25.Qe2 Rxd1+ 26.Qxd1 Qd7 27.Qxd7?! Nxd7** We are officially in a knight and bishop endgame with lots of pawns. **28.Kf1** I'm getting my king active now. Kings should be fighting pieces in the endgame. **28...Kf8?! 29.Ke2?! Ke7?! 30.Kd3 b5 31.Nd2?** Chess.com's engine doesn't like this move. I simply want to get my knight to d5. **31...Ke6 32.Nf1** Chess.com says that moving my pawn to c4 is the best move. **32...c4+ 33.Kc2! Nc5**

(Diagram)

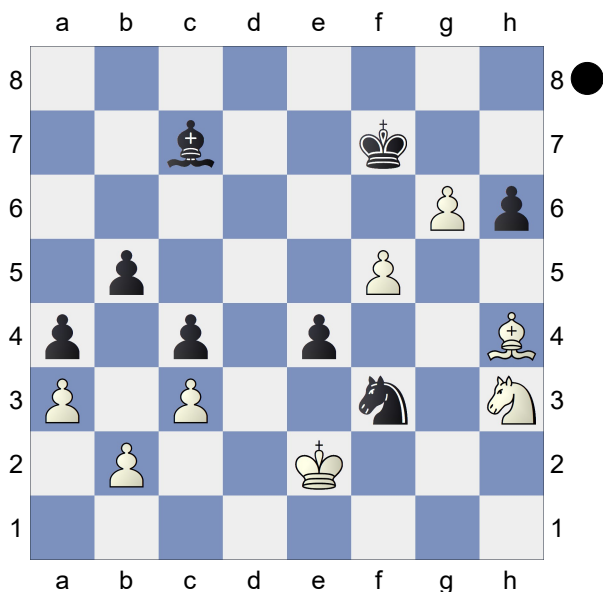
This is a great move. Her knight is now



threatening to capture my pawn on e4. The knight can also move to d3 and attack my b2 pawn. **34.f3! f5 35.exf5+ Kxf5 36.Ne3+?!** I am pushing her king back to her side of the board. **36...Ke6 37.h4 gxh4 38.Bxh4 e4 39.f4** I decided to push my pawn forward so I can get a passed pawn. **39...Nd3!** Her knight is powerful on this square, attacking my f4 and b2 pawns. **40.f5+ Kf7 41.g4** My other pawn is supporting my passed f5 pawn. I like how her only passed pawn on e4 cannot move due to my knight on e3. **41...Be5? 42.Nd1?** According to chess.com's engine, this move is a mistake. I just simply wanted to move the knight to f2 to offer a knight trade. **42...Bf4! 43.Nf2 Ne1+?** She checks my king. According to chess.com's engine, the best move is to simply capture my knight on f2. **44.Kd1!** I moved my king here to simply get my king towards the center. **44...Nf3** Monserrat is getting aggressive and is threatening to capture my unprotected bishop. **45.Nh3** If her knight captures my bishop, then my knight will capture her bishop. **45...Bc7 46.Bf2 Kf6?! 47.Ke2 Nh2** She is now threatening to capture my pawn on g4. **48.Bh4+ Kf7?**

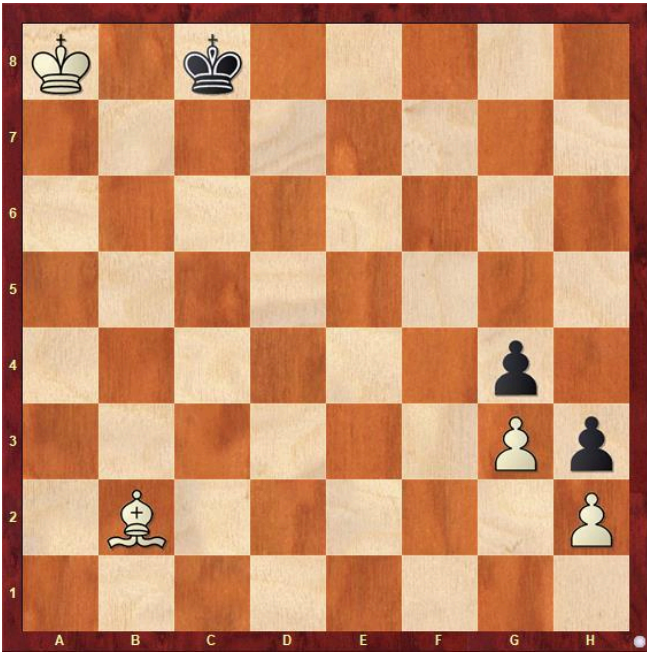
I like how she moved her king back. If 48...Ke5, then I skewer by moving my bishop to g3! Once she gets out of check, then I capture her bishop for free! **49.g5 Nf3?** She is getting more aggressive and is attacking my g5 pawn and bishop. **50.g6+!**

60...Nf2+ 61.Ke2
1-0



This pawn is now safe and is pushing her king back. **50...Kg7 51.Be7 Bb6?!**
52.Nf4 My knight is back towards the center now. **52...Ne5 53.Ne6+?!**
I liked how I moved my knight here to check her king. Also, my knight is controlling the f8 square for my f5 pawn.
53...Kg8 54.Bd6 Ng4 It would be nice to move my f5 pawn up but I cannot do it now since her knight is controlling the f6 square. **55.Be7 Ne5 56.Bf6 Nd3?**
She finally gets her knight to d3 again, attacking my b2 pawn again. I don't care if she capture my b2 pawn now. I am happy that I have two passed pawns and now my focus is to promote at least one of the pawns successfully. **57.Bd4! Bxd4 58.cxd4** This move also prevents her knight from safely going to the e5 square. **58...Nc1+?! 59.Kd1**
I move my king here so she cannot check me on the next move. **59...Nd3 60.f6** Moving my passed pawn forward!

Tony's Teasers
White to Play and Win.



Solution

1. Bd4, Kc7 2. Ba7! Kc6 3. Kb8, Kd7 4. Kb7, Kd6 5. Kc8, Ke7 6. Bb8, Ke6 7.
Kd8, Kf6 8. Kd7, Kf7 9. Be5, Kg6 10. Kd6, Kh5 11. Bd4, Kg6 12. Ke5, Kg5

And from there it's pretty straightforward!

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.

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