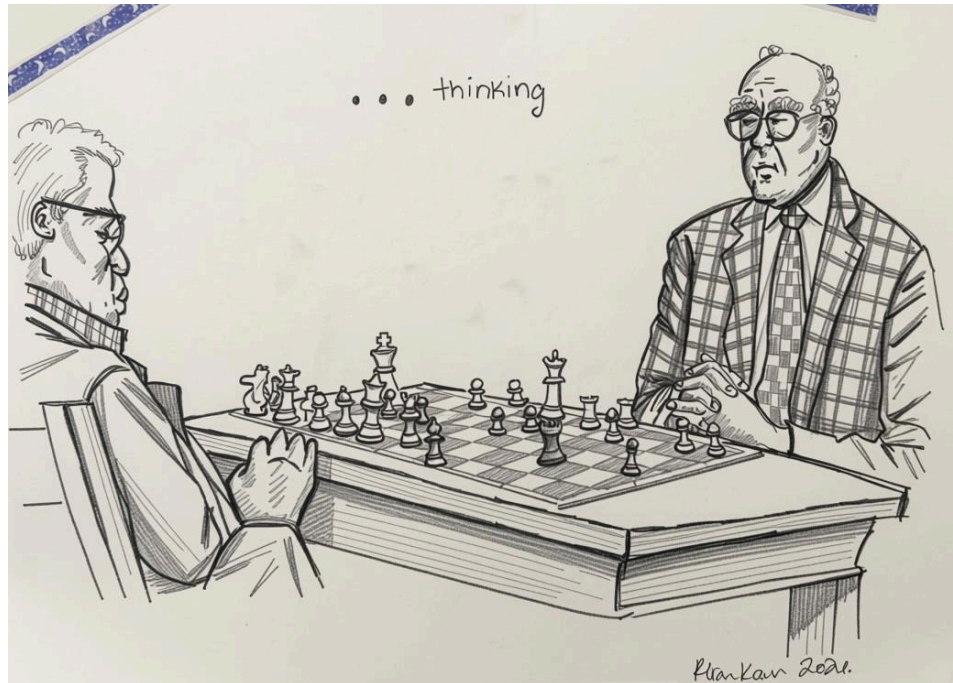


Chess Room Newsletter



Sketch of MI Board Member Neil Falconer by our Events Program
Coordinator Kiran Kuar

Issue #1074 | August 1, 2026 | Gens Una Sumus!

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Recent Tournaments at the Mechanics' Institute

By Alex Robins

Our first tournament of July, after an intermission for the holiday, was our **July Monthly Scholastic Tournament**. **Blouin Morin (1135)** and **Thomas C Moore (1305)** finished in a tight tie at the top, both posting 3.5 with Blouin edging out Thomas on tiebreaks. **Preston Lung (1026)** claimed 3rd with a 3.0 score, while **Kanstantsin Halasiuk (586)** and **Matthew Tang (1023)** rounded out the standings in 4th and 5th, scoring 2.5 and 2.0 respectively. **Reece Carter (289)** had the standout performance of the section, going a perfect 4.0 to take 1st place outright. **James Muse Sinek (380)** and **Wallace Kwan (371)** tied at 3.5 for 2nd and 3rd, and **Atticus Pass (310)** and **Santiago James Echevarria (143)** closed out the field at 3.0, taking 4th and 5th place respectively.

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

This tournament was directed by Senior TD Arthur Liou.

Our next tournament of the month was our **July Monthly Rapid Tournament**. In the over 1800 section, **Avik Saha (1831)** and **Beren Demir Ozer (1715)** tied for 1st place, both finishing with strong 3.5 scores. Just behind, **Beckett Spence (1931)** and **Arjunsai Navaneetha Prabhu (1840)** shared 3rd place at 3.0 points a piece.

In the under section, **Victor Lue (1660)** and **Alex Yuen (unr.)** put together an excellent tournament, both finishing at 4.5 to tie for 1st place. **Ritwik Saha (1692)** rounded out the podium in 3rd with a 4.0 score.

Later that day, our **July Monthly Blitz Tournament** took place and was a lot of fun. To nobody's surprise, **GM Christopher Woojin Yoo (2665)** delivered a dominant performance, finishing 6.5/7 to take 1st place. **Javier Silva (2188)** secured 2nd with a strong 6.0 score and managed to draw Christopher! **Beckett Spence (1931)** and **Mikhail Grigorev (1884)** tied for 3rd, both finishing at 4.0 points.

In the under section, **Daniel Dandurand (1626)** was the standout posting a perfect score to claim 1st place. **Alex Yuen (unr.)** followed with 5.5 for 2nd place. **Aneesh Banerjee (1483)** and **Ethan Lam (1273)** tied for 3rd, both finishing at 5.0 points.

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

This tournament was directed by FA/ANTD Scott Mason.

Our next tournament of the month was our **19th Smith Memorial Tournament**. **NM Sebastian Suarez** (2334) led the section wire-to-wire, finishing with a perfect score and locking in first place. Behind him, a tight four-way tie at 3.0 points formed among **Alexander Pn Ng** (2049), **Tapas Aarav Natraj** (1990), **WIM Laurie Qiu** (2258), and **Hanchi Yao** (2175), splitting 2nd and 3rd place honors.

In the 1600-1999 section, **Jarod D Heap** (1847) took 1st place and also had a perfect score. **Dev Isak Kosuri** (1770) and **Ethan Han** (1652) tied at 3.0, sharing 2nd and 3rd place.

In the under1600 section, **Ethan C Leung** (1393) finished on top with a perfect 4.0, securing 1st place outright. **Ananda Doel-Agarwal** (945) earned 2nd with 3.5 points. Rounding out the field, a crowded six-way tie for 3rd formed at 3.0 points between **Albert Martin Starr** (1500), **Ryan Gai** (1265), **Andrew W Peng** (1215), **Sainika Basu** (1150), **Raymond Liu** (1117), and **Ron Florian-Moreta** (unr.).

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

This tournament was directed by Senior TD Arthur Liou.

Our final weekend event of the month was our two day FIDE tournament, the **25th Wilkerson Memorial**. This tournament was so popular we opened up the annex and sold that out as well - so sign up earlier this month! In the top section **Reyansh Paragiri** (2164), **Vivaan Pavuluri** (2107), and **Aung Thura Tun** (1795) all finished at 3.5 to share 1st place. Just behind them, **Zlata Mokeeva** (2092), **Tapas Aarav Natraj** (1990), and **Roi Weiss** (1964) tied at 3.0, splitting 4th place along with the Best U2200 and Best U2000 honors. In the 1600-1999, **Aaron Ahsan** (1423) ran away with it and had a perfect score. **Darsh Goel** (1741) followed with 3.5 for 2nd. From there, a massive nine-way tie for 3rd formed at 3.0 points, featuring **Rakshita Dhanasekar** (1778), **Hovik Manvelyan** (1861), **Jarod D Heap** (1847), **Ritvik Reddy Vuluvala** (1752), **Max Katkin Meacham** (1749), **Avyukth Ganapathy Viswanath** (1679), **Pranav Shankar** (1642), **Shan Ramesh Lee** (1618), and **Jeremy Kalas** (1610) — a testament to how deep this section ran. **Brahma Prakash Mohanty** (1568) and **Advaith Nadiminti** (1444) tied at 2.5 for the Best U1600 award.

In the under1600 section, **Shrihayagrivan Karthigayan (1310)** claimed 1st place with a strong 3.5 score. Behind him, **Keller Ma (1336)**, **Sainika Basu (1150)**, and **Byron Li (1133)** tied at 3.0, sharing 2nd and 3rd place along with the Best U1400 prize. **Arnav Parisaboyina (1126)** and **Arjun Bemgal (1098)** rounded out the standings, tying at 2.0 for the Best U1200 award.

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

This tournament was directed by FA/ANTD Scott Mason.

Sam in Oaxtepec: King's Indian Continued

By Sam Shankland

Our GM in Residence will be analyzing his games from his recent [1st place finish](#) at the 20th American Continental Championship. More specifically, Sam is going to keep teaching us about one of the newer weapons in his repertoire, the King's Indian Defense!

Rios Gomez, Cristhian Camilo **E73 2405**

Shankland, Samuel L **2647**
 American Continental 20th (4) 04.06.26
[samsh]

1.d4 To continue along in the article series, I'd like to show 3 more King's Indian games, from my recent victory at the American Continental. The players here were not as strong as they were in the Grand Swiss, and I was able to really show in all 3 games how powerful the KID can be even in positions the computer is skeptical of. **1...Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Be2 0-0 6.Bg5**
 Coming into this game, I had no clue what to expect. The round time had been scheduled for 5pm, but when I was at breakfast at 930, I was told the time had been changed to 10am! Of course, it's my fault for not attending the technical meeting. But the point remains that I came in totally unprepared, and I had not reviewed this line, or any other in fact. But, I had some recollection of how I wanted to play. **6...Na6**

This way I am ready for e5 next.

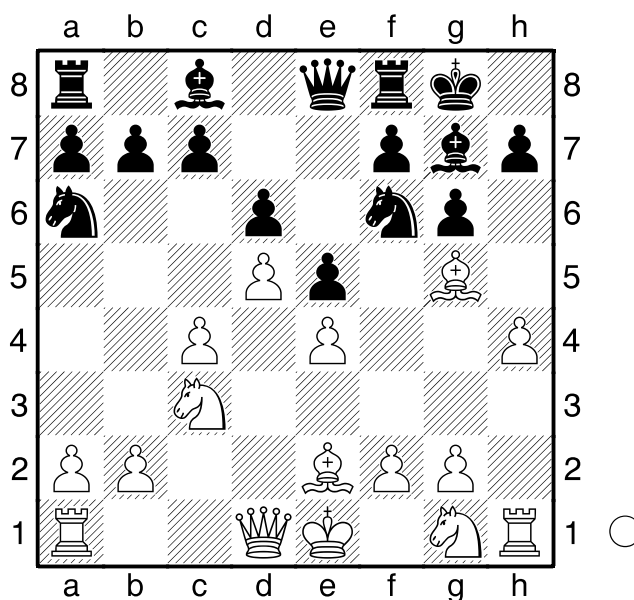
[6...c5 This did not feel like the right moment to go for the Benoni to me. Be2 and Bg5 is not the most harmonious way for White to play against the Benoni, but it is not terrible either. This is the main move, but I like the one I chose in the game better.]

[6...e5? Black is not ready for this. 7.dxe5! dxe5 8.Qxd8 Rxd8 9.Nd5+-
 Oops. Black loses material.]

7.h4 e5! 8.d5 Qe8?

[8...h6 As it turns out, Black should immediately break the pin with a gain of tempo to play Nc5. I saw the move but wasn't a huge fan. 9.Be3 Nc5 10.Bxc5 dxc5 11.h5 This was precisely the position where I disliked

my pawn on h6. I will never play Bh6, I will never take back with my h pawn if he takes on g6, and it will be hard to play Bg7-f6-g5 with my h6-pawn hanging. Still, this was the way, and Black's position is basically fine. Ne8 The knight comes to d6, and the game goes on.]



This was my one poor decision of the game. I had the natural desire to play Nc5 without allowing b4, but White could have taken advantage of this inaccuracy. **9.h5?** This is tempting but it lets a chance slip.

[9.g4! This was the way. Now, I will never be able to play f5. Nc5 10.f3 Normally, when White plays g4 and f3 together, Black can play h5 to attack the kingside since gxh5 Nxh5 will not allow Bxh5. If I had the time to play both a5 and h5 here, I would have decent counterplay. As is... I don't. a5 (10...h5 11.b4! Na6 12.Rb1! Sicne the knight was kicked off of c5, White can comfortably ignore the kingside pawn tension without worrying about the e4-pawn falling. Next up is Nh3-f2, and Black is in bad shape, suffering under a big space

advantage without any real counterplay.) 11.Nh3! h5 12.Nf2!± White is just in time to solidify everything, and Black is badly lacking a plan.]

9...Nc5!

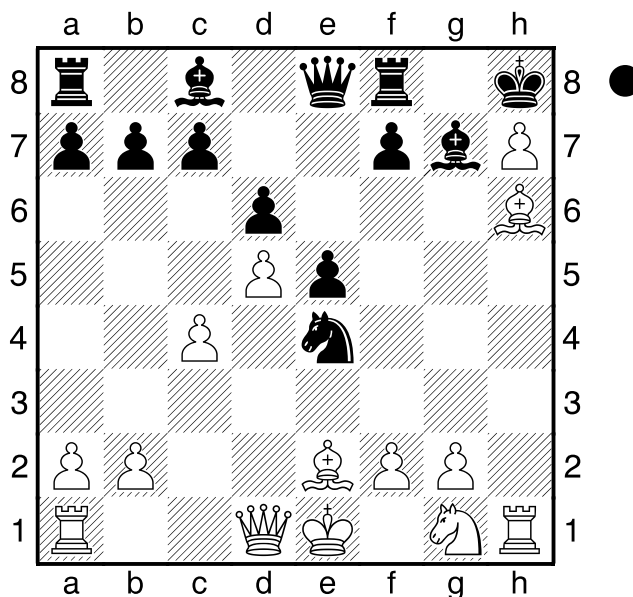
[9...Nxh5 The computer prefers this move, which is not bad, but in human terms I was not a fan. 10.Bxh5 f6! The point. 11.Be3 gxh5 12.Qxh5 I felt White should be slightly better here, and that I have basically no counterplay while my opponent's moves will be easy to play.]

10.hxg6? The computer does not mind this move so much, but to me, it really seems to be asking for trouble. I did not take too long to decide to grab the center pawn.

[10.h6 I was expecting this one, though I was not too concerned. Bh8 11.Bf3 (11.f3 The machine claims this is best, though after Nh5! I felt Black has good counterplay with Ng3, Nf4, and f5 in the air.) 11...a5 12.Be3 Bd7 White is a little better but the game goes on. c6 could come next.]

10...Nfxe4! 11.Nxe4 Nxe4 12.gxh7+ Kh8 Now according to the machine, White is better. If... he finds the best move... which is, by far, Bc1. Who plays such a move? In human terms, this feels close to impossible to me. After my opponent's more human decision, my position immediately became very pleasant. **13.Bh6?**

[13.Bc1! White should avoid the bishop exchange, but putting the bishop on e3 would allow for f5-f4 to come with tempo. c6 Apparently White is better here. Even with the machine running, the position looks fully playable for Black to me, with good central counterplay. (13...Bd7 14.Nf3 c6)]



13...Bxh6! The bishops were clearly going to get traded. So, I traded on my terms, making sure my king could stay on h8 and remain a good blockader of the h7-pawn. **14.Rxh6 Qe7**

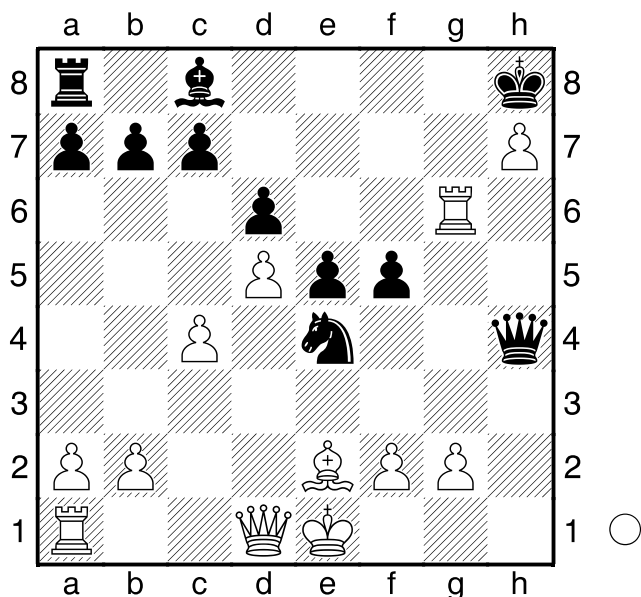
Threatening Qg5 and provoking White's knight to f3. **15.Nf3 f5!** This was well calculated, gaining more space. Black's play in the upcoming moves is very straightforward- Bf7, Rf6, Raf8, etc. I did have to make sure that I had Nh4 under control, which looked a bit scary at first glance, but I had calculated well. My opponent did not believe me, and this turned out to be his undoing. **16.Nh4?!**

[16.Bd3 White should prefer a move like this one, though after Qg7! 17.Rh2 Nf6 I would strongly prefer Black, even if the machine calls it equal.]

16...Rf6! 17.Ng6+? And now this loses on the spot.

[17.Rh5 For better or for worse, this had to be played. Bd7 18.Bd3 Raf8 With moves like Qf7 and Be8 on the way, I don't envy White's position, but the game goes on.]

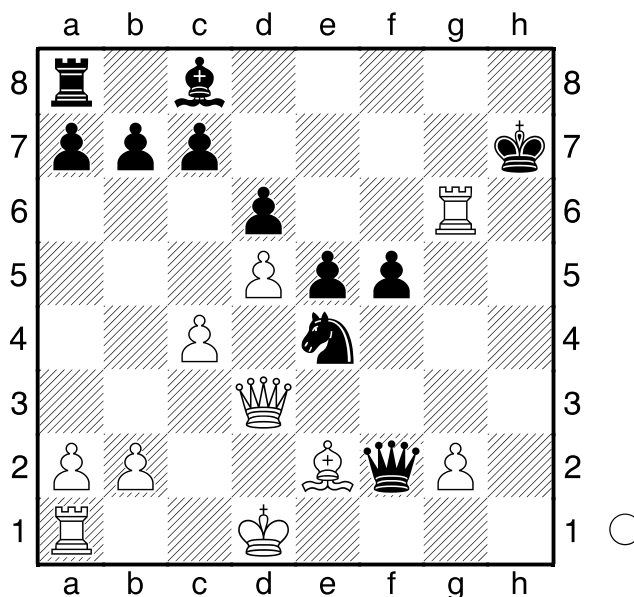
17...Rxxg6 18.Rxxg6 Qh4!
(Diagram)



Oops. White cannot prevent a disaster on f2. **19.Qd3** A sad necessity.
 [19.g3 Qh2 Black crashes through on f2 all the same.]
 [19.Qa4 I was expecting this one, and had found a nice win. Qxf2+ 20.Kd1 Bd7! The computer claims anything wins, but I like this one. 21.Qxd7 Qd4+ And now it is forced mate. 22.Kc2 (22.Ke1 Qg1+! 23.Bf1 Qf2+ 24.Kd1 Qd2#) 22...Qd2+ 23.Kb3 (23.Kb1 Qe1+ 24.Kc2 Qxe2+ 25.Kc1 Qd2+ 26.Kb1 Qd1#) 23...Nc5+]
19...Qxf2+ 20.Kd1 Kxh7!

(Diagram)

The only winning move, but a very convincing one. White's rook is trapped.
21.Re6 Bxe6 22.dxe6 Qxg2 23.Kc2 Ng3 With 2 pawns down (soon to be 3, as I can scoop up e6 at will), and not a shred of counterplay, White threw in the towel.
0-1



When the AI "Blunders" Like a Master LLM Hallucinations in Chess and the Psychology of the Chess Error

Dmitry Dzhanhiov, NM, Independent Researcher

The idea, first articulated over sixty years ago, that "chess plays the role of the drosophila fly of artificial intelligence" has today become one of the widely accepted mainstream approaches to studying AI systems built on large language models (LLMs).

Just as the drosophila fly serves in genetics, so chess serves in the field of AI: a model system on which researchers develop and verify methods for analysing machine reasoning.

From the standpoint of LLM-based AI systems, chess is merely one of a broad class of tasks involving complex multi-step reasoning, planning, and precise state tracking — alongside:

- optimisation of limited resource allocation;
- geopolitical and/or military planning;
- generation of scientific hypotheses;
- path-planning for robotic systems under physical terrain constraints;
- and so forth.

Relative to this class of strategic games, chess possesses a unique combination of rigidly formalised rules, complete state determinacy, a practically unlimited game database, and a de facto objective criterion of truth in the form of modern engines (Stockfish, AlphaZero, and others).

As an independent researcher, I study the emergence of "hallucinations" in various LLM-based AI systems during play. It is precisely in chess that we have the opportunity to determine with reasonable accuracy the mechanisms by which "hallucinations" arise — not merely to detect and register their presence. This allows us, at the level of a reasonably reliable hypothesis, to posit analogous mechanisms of "hallucination" in LLM-based reasoning across other strategic games — far less formalised than chess.

Although the reasoning of LLM systems differs radically from the thought process of a chess player, it was fascinating to discover certain similar mechanisms of "hallucinations" / "blunders".

Let us consider two examples of "hallucinations" drawn from the reasoning of Gemini 2.5 Pro (White) after Black's move 12...b3 in Game 3 of the

third-place match against o4-mini at the Kaggle Game Arena Chess Exhibition Tournament 2025 (August 4–7, 2025).



Position after 12...b3. Gemini 2.5 Pro (White) to move.

1. "Phantom Hallucination," or the "Was–Is" Confusion

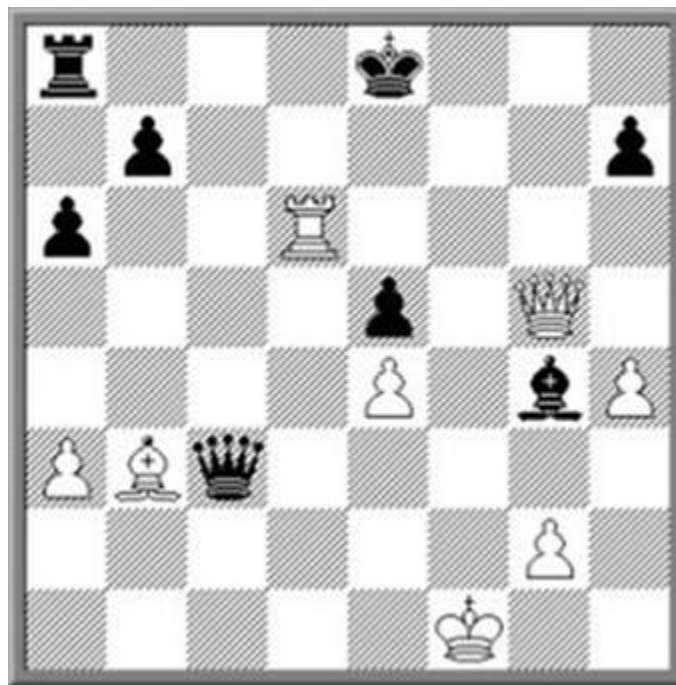
In considering the candidate move 13.a3 in this position, Gemini 2.5 Pro believes that "Black's best response is 13...bxa2+."

We shall set aside the fact that the LLM system treats this move as a check — that is, it assumes the white king is on b1 (in three branches of Gemini 2.5 Pro's reasoning, the white king turns out to be on different squares — a1, b1, and c1 — but this type of hallucination, which I classify as "quantum," is specific to LLMs) — and draw attention to something else: the LLM "sends" a pawn to a square it has just left. Such a "hallucination" occurs frequently enough in LLM chess reasoning to warrant its own category — the "phantom hallucination," in which the LLM confuses the "was" and "is" states of one of the game agents — in this case, the white pawn.

It is striking that a remarkably similar mechanism of human error was described nearly a century ago by the outstanding Soviet master Alexander Ilyin-Genevsky. In his article "The Psychology of a Chess Error," published in the magazine Shakhmatny Listok, No. 19, 1928, he cites a game against

the well-known master Vasily Nenarokov, played in 1922. Introducing the analysis of his error, Ilyin-Genevsky writes:

Very often an error stems from the fact that the board and pieces are right before one's eyes. Let me explain. In order to work out a combination, one must mentally detach oneself from the position standing on the board and picture a new, imaginary position that will arise after a series of moves by both sides. In such a case, the position standing on the board not only fails to help, but, on the contrary, hinders calculation. At times it so confuses one that the whole calculation turns out to be wrong. (...)



V. I. Nenarokov — A. F. Ilyin-Genevsky. Moscow, 14 December 1922.

The position is clearly winning for White. The black king is caught in a mating net. And so, without much thought, I announced mate in six: 1. Bf7+! Kf8 (If 1...Kxf7, then 2. Rf6+ Ke8 3. Qg8+ Kd7 4. Qg7+ Ke8 5. Rf8#) 2. Qh6+ Kxf7 3. Rf6+ (Now I expected Black to reply 3...Ke8, and then 4. Qf8+ Kd7 5. Qg7+ Kc8 6. Rf8# — when suddenly, oh horror!..) Kg8, and there is no mate. Only with great difficulty did I manage to bring this game to a draw. And yet, had I played on the second move Qxg4, Black would have had to resign, since after 2...Kxf7 a genuine mate in three would follow.

Why did I overlook such a simple move as 3...Kg8? It is very simple! Look at the initial position. In it the square g8 is attacked by two pieces — the bishop on b3 and the queen on g5. And while calculating my combination, I, looking at the board, formed the mistaken notion that the king could not go to g8.

Ilyin-Genevsky's "oversight" has almost exactly the same mechanism as the LLM "hallucination" examined above — a confusion of the "was" and "is" states. The only difference is that here we are dealing not with a game agent but with a property of a game location — in this case, the square g8, which over the course of two moves slipped out from under the control of the white pieces and became available to the black king.

Alexander Ilyin-Genevsky (1894–1941)

Alexander Fyodorovich Ilyin, party alias "Genevsky" (after the Swiss city where he joined the Bolshevik émigrés), was a Soviet chess master, organiser, man of letters, and diplomat — one of the founders of the Soviet chess school. A native of St. Petersburg.

Three-time champion of Leningrad (1925 — shared, 1926, 1929). Ilyin-Genevsky tirelessly promoted chess as a means of cultivating tactical and strategic thinking; it was largely through him that the Soviet system embraced the idea of chess as a school of scientific and rational thought.

The crowning achievement of his tournament career came at the international tournament in Moscow, 1925: there he defeated the world champion José Raúl Capablanca.

2. "Tunnel Hallucination," or Potential Instead of Reality

Considering the candidate move 13.axb3, Gemini 2.5 Pro calculates a line beginning with 13...axb3 — which is the most common type of LLM hallucination, *fabrication*: the AI creates *ex nihilo* a black pawn on a4, undeterred by the fact that this square is occupied by a white knight.

What interests us, however, is the continuation of this "calculation": "If White tries 14. Nc3, Black has the crushing check 14...Ra2+."

As we can see, the LLM moves the rook from a8 to a2, disregarding the presence of its own pawn on a6 — that is, the AI confuses the potential (in

the absence of restrictions) and the actual (in their presence) capabilities of the game agent — in this case, the black rook. (As for the check: as noted above, Gemini 2.5 Pro localises the white king on different squares in different branches of its reasoning — in this case, on a1.) I have termed this type of "hallucination" "tunnel hallucination."

For chess players, the opposite is more typical — which Ilyin-Genevsky called "the demolished partition," citing as an example his game against the same opponent, played in 1923.



V. I. Nenarokov — A. F. Ilyin-Genevsky. Game 3 of the match, 22 May 1923.

The position is approximately equal. In order to gain the initiative, I decided to open the f-file and played thus: 1. Rf1 g6 2. Qe3 Ne7. Now, it seemed, nothing any longer stood in the way of carrying out my plan, and in my elation I played 3. f4, but the following happened: 3...exf4 4. Qxf4 Qxb5. Now this was by no means part of my plans. The file I had indeed opened, but I had lost a piece.

Many will say: a gross blunder. Yes, a blunder, but the psychology of this blunder is what is interesting. While hatching my plan and looking at the board, I saw that the black queen on g5 and the undefended white bishop on b5 were separated by a solid partition — the pawn on e5. This notion took firm root in my mind. So firmly, indeed, that even

when the black queen captured the bishop, it seemed to me that it had jumped over the pawn.

The type of "hallucination" described by Ilyin-Genevsky can be classified under the "phantom" type discussed above (White failed to account for the "disappearance" of the black pawn on e5); however, the key point here is that the potential capability of the black queen to move along the rank unexpectedly — for White — became reality.

Instead of a Conclusion

As we can see, the errors described by Ilyin-Genevsky in 1928 and the errors of the LLM language model in 2025 reveal similar mechanisms: "blinding" by the position on the board, confusion of "was" and "is" states, substitution of the potential for the real (or vice versa).

The fundamental difference is that in a human, this is rooted in the psychology of perception, while in an LLM it stems from the peculiarities of token processing and the absence of an internal board model. But precisely because chess is a fully formalised task for an LLM, we can accurately "diagnose" the AI's error — and carry this diagnosis over to far less formalised strategic games, where errors come at a much higher cost than a lost tournament point.

An Odd Representation of our Game

By Richard Hack

On Friday July 17, 2026 an ill-conceived piece on a New York MOMA exhibition appeared in the Weekend Arts section of *The New York Times*. It was entitled "Duchamp Gave Up Art for Chess. Now He Inspires a New Gambit." They never say what that gambit is, or whether it's real or symbolic. In chess we know a gambit is generally the offer of a pawn in the opening (or any material at any time). If the opponent accepts the freebie, the game may open up sooner than usual and get quite exciting and perhaps unpredictable, especially in the wild, spontaneous attacks and

counter-attacks of an opening like the King's Gambit, which every player knows to some degree and usually tries to avoid in favor of something a little more systematic and controllable, like many lines of the Queen's Gambit, among others.

For many years, perhaps centuries, the following question has been posed to chess players so often that it's almost boring: "Is chess a sport, an art, or a science?" Of course the answer is all three. It's also one of the world's favorite games and a common symbol of mental prowess, which all of us have some ability to express even over the board. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) formally recognized chess as a sport in 1999, though of course chess has its own Olympiad. It's pretty clear that the unfortunate writer of the *Times* hit piece, Deborah Solomon, doesn't know or care about much of that.

In mentioning the Susan Polgar simul that accompanies the exhibition at MOMA, the fourth paragraph seems to indicate that the writer knows little about the subject: "Truth be told, [Polgar's] art-world opponents are not necessarily major chess talents." Major talents would not fill the tables at a simul. One or a handful might appear because they're friends or teachers, but mostly they would play each other one-on-one in competitive events that affect their performance ratings. Imagine how long simuls would be if they had large numbers of really advanced players—far longer than any tournament round. You'd have to insert some gimmick to speed it up, but then it wouldn't be straight chess anymore. The usual purpose of a simul is to enable any member of the general public to play a quick game against a rated master or expert—something that lasts a little longer than just collecting the autograph of a well-known person. At times it can also give the master a good fee, something that only the top world players and winners of state and local tournaments are used to.

The unfortunate writer goes on to belittle chess with prejudice and lame comments that are way off the mark. She has no idea how to evaluate chess except with a handful of her own presumably PC principles whose relevance seems completely made up for this occasion. A persistent online search reveals the following unattributed remark and some related ones at

various chess sites: “While St. Louis holds the official congressional title as the nation's chess capital, New York remains the historic and cultural heart of American chess. St. Louis won the official designation in 2013 due to heavy funding and elite tournaments, but New York keeps its crown through everyday street culture and deep-rooted clubs.” So why did *The New York Times* choose a writer who dislikes chess?

The following two paragraphs were put together from various online sources:

Chess reached Europe and later the Americas through multiple channels, but the most important western route ran through the Islamic world into places such as Iberia and southern Europe. From there it spread through courts, monasteries, manuscripts, and noble households. European society reinterpreted pieces through feudal and church imagery. The game was played in medieval Europe long before the modern rules were established. Earlier European chess in important ways still resembled shatranj (the Persian version) because the queen and bishop had not yet gained their long-range power.

Modern chess rules began to emerge in late 15th-century Europe. The decisive change was the strengthening of the queen and bishop, which transformed the pace and tactical force of the game. A poem published as a manuscript in Valencia, Spain around 1475 includes a stanza for each move in a made-up game between Mars and Venus written by several literary figures. The white pieces were red and the black pieces were green. Including introduction and commentary on each move, there are 64 stanzas, one for each square on the board. This game is said to be the first one with the modern rules ever documented. The manuscript was discovered by a Jesuit in 1905, then lost during the Spanish Civil War, and later rediscovered. See <https://lichess.org/study/MzylVivG/bl9x6ihv>. Some researchers say the change to modern rules came in about 1670.

Much later we had the classical school, the modern school, the hypermodern school, the Soviet school, the digital era, and so on. These are the names of chess art movements. The game changed because national

cultures changed it. The names, piece powers, symbols, and teaching traditions all shifted as the game crossed borders. That is part of what makes chess history so rich and dynamic, so ancient and modern. Really more than any news commentator or even many players know.

Not an art? We know about many arts of arranging words, images, and materials. In chess we learn how to see dynamic patterns, how to arrange them and exploit them. Good results are nice for a player, hopefully more wins than losses, but not necessarily. New knowledge solving a problem can be uplifting and broadening in all directions wherever and whenever it originates. This is something great that all art strives to connect with and produce in the viewer, the listener, the reader, and maybe history, though you cannot know the yes or no about all that. Regardless of whether they innovate in some technical way while speaking in the conventional or colloquial ways of their times, and regardless of whether or not they break rules which self-proclaimed revolutionary or copycat artists and critics tell them they must. Often the compulsion to break these rules or the claim of having done so is kind of thin and shallow, not much more than a stab at notoriety.

There is of course a conflict in chess between men and women, as well as a frequent difference in the appeal of the game to these two genders and other groups. Men of all types are used to getting into fight mode to defeat their opponents; they revel in it, whether they play football, baseball, basketball, or chess. Of course it's a war game where rapid development, taking over space by controlling more squares, putting pressure on the opponent's pieces and squares, and bringing superior or at least equal force to each moment of open conflict. Girls and women are not generally drawn to that kind of scene, or welcomed in it (until today perhaps, with greater popularity of women's sports), though there have been many outstanding exceptions throughout history. Women might like or expect men to be more outwardly aggressive but loyal in support of them, not against them. There are various theories about why girls shy away from the game while boys are more drawn to it, and how to address this discrepancy.

The *Times* article includes that famous photo of Duchamp playing chess

with a nude young woman (Eve Babitz, who became a writer): "The image," Solomon writes, "of the septuagenarian male genius basking in attention beside an anonymous, unclad and much younger woman can strike you as a betrayal of the female-empowering spirit of chess." That sounds rather counter-intuitive given that we have many more men than women among steady, competitive chess players. In today's game we welcome girls and try to recruit them to student competition; and also try to figure out why so many of them don't stick with it.

Then she claims this inner meaning for the game: "Invented in India in the sixth century, chess was redesigned in the Middle Ages to reflect the power that queens held in feudal society and provide a diversion for nobles ensconced in dim castles. Of all the pieces, the queen is the only figure permitted to whisk across multiple spaces in every direction in a single move. The king, by contrast [in contrast, we would usually say], is limited to crossing one square at a time, as if hampered by plantar fasciitis." A nicely vicious image that ignores the fact that checking the king can disturb the balance of power in the position, and that making him unsafe can lead to checkmate, which immediately decides the game, regardless of who has more pieces on the board at the end. While the queen is the most powerful warrior on the board, the king symbolizes ultimate authority or power and critical decision-making, something all teams and organizations require. As Harry Truman reiterated, "The buck stops here."

Solomon says, "Many intellectuals have dismissed the game as a waste of time." Then mentions Albert Einstein and what he said about that subject. She quotes another player in the simul: "'Chess is not an art form,' says Amy Cappellazzo, the prominent art adviser. 'It does for your brain what yoga does for your body. With art, the potential for innovation has to be there, and there is no potential for innovation in chess. You can't change the rules of the game.'" Yet the rules have changed a number of times as the now widely popular game in every major part of the world slowly approaches 2,000 years of existence. It's incredibly lame to claim that innovation in art always depends on changing the rules of whatever artistic game you're in. Chess players constantly love and struggle with new possibilities inherent in their oldest and most commonly occurring

positions, just as novelists, playwrights, and poets can discover and express new meaning in old methods and dramatic structures. Players are often encouraged by their fellows to experiment with new ways, until they discover whole new move-orders and systems of play. They talk a lot about the art of the game: the beauty and drama of a new arrangement on the board, the sudden move, the unexpected maneuver that turns the tide. The game can be positional and tactical in the same campaign; its careful flow can suddenly get very fast, even without clocks. It can be deliberate, spontaneous, unsound, inspired, exciting or dull, novel or conventional, unpredictable, and certainly very artful and surprising.

However, Solomon responds to Cappellazzo's throwaway lines above in this way: "True enough. Chess, in the end, is a game of war or military strategy set on a mini-battlefield. To my mind, it remains at odds with the basic impulse of art-making, which requires that artists pull deep into themselves and try to breathe life into new forms rather than crushing the competition. . . . Artists are better off ignoring their enemies and focusing instead on their own creative development." Oh, sure, no competition in real art! No backbiting, fawning, pandering, weakness, viciousness, defeatism, triumphalism, or braggadocio (a term said to have been created by poet Edmund Spenser in his 1590 epic, *The Faerie Queene*). Her flat, one-dimensional assertion ignores the inner life of players and the creative understanding that brings out the commonality of work, play, and ambition.

"Whether or not chess is an art form," she goes on, "the design of chess boards certainly qualifies as one." She embellishes this point with some pictures accompanying the piece and incorrect assertions of originality about an older but still familiar version of the Staunton-style chess set, and the following points about Yoko Ono's all-white chess set from about 1966 (both sides are white as well as all the squares), surely one of the most gimmicky and one-dimensional celebrity art works ever presented to submissive critics and fans. Solomon calls it "a brilliantly efficient instrument designed to thwart cut-throats and promote a give-peace-a-chance worldview. Ono's creation . . . leaves players unable to distinguish their kings and queens from those of their opponent and dooms any effort at vanquishing the enemy."

And yet you do have to give the writer credit for ending with comments by Susan Polgar, the first woman grandmaster: “Not unlike Duchamp, she believes that chess games possess a fierce beauty. ‘When you look at Michelangelo’s Sistine ceiling, you know it’s beautiful, and it’s the same in chess, except you need more knowledge to understand it,’ she said. ‘You need to know how the pieces move to appreciate the beauty in front of you. It’s a hidden beauty.’ ”

AjedreZ14 in Guatemala City

By Daniel Porres

Editor’s Note: Recently we’ve made friends with some really nice folks in Guatemala City. Check them out online and play a game with them next time you’re in Guatemala!

AjedreZ14 is a vibrant community dedicated to the timeless art of chess. We believe that chess is far more than just a game; it is a powerful tool for developing the sharp analytical thinking, strategic foresight, and patience required for success in both life and business. Whether you are a CEO, manager, or professional looking to sharpen your decision-making skills under pressure, or a student seeking to master the board, our club provides the ideal environment to hone your craft.

Our mission extends beyond the classroom and the local club level. We are actively working toward a future where Guatemala becomes a premier destination for international chess, and we are dedicated to organizing and hosting major championships here in the city. We are also excited to introduce our upcoming newsletter, "Ruq'ijol," which translates from the Mayan language as "The Message." This publication will serve as our platform for sharing insights, club updates, and chess strategy.

We invite you to join our community, take your strategic thinking to the next level, and help us put Guatemala on the global chess map! Follow us and join our online communities:

Instagram: @ajedrez14gt

Facebook: @ajedrez14gt

WhatsApp: <https://wa.me/50246562313>

Chess.com: <https://www.chess.com/club/ajedrez14>

Lichess: <https://lichess.org/team/ajedrez14-hombresdemaiz>





Tactical Fireworks

By FM Henry Deng

The 2026 U.S. Junior & Senior Championships were held at the Saint Louis Chess Club from July 14 to 24. The event brought together both seasoned masters and the nation's most promising young talents, creating a dynamic showcase of experience and ambition across generations. Congratulations to GM Vladimir Akopian for winning the Senior Championship, GM Andy Woodward for winning the Junior Championship, WGM Anjelina Belakovskaia for winning the Senior Women's Championship, and WGM Zoey Tang for winning the Junior Girl's Championship. Here are a selection of tactics that caught my eye from each section:

□ Goldin,Alexander

■ Rachels,Stuart

D05

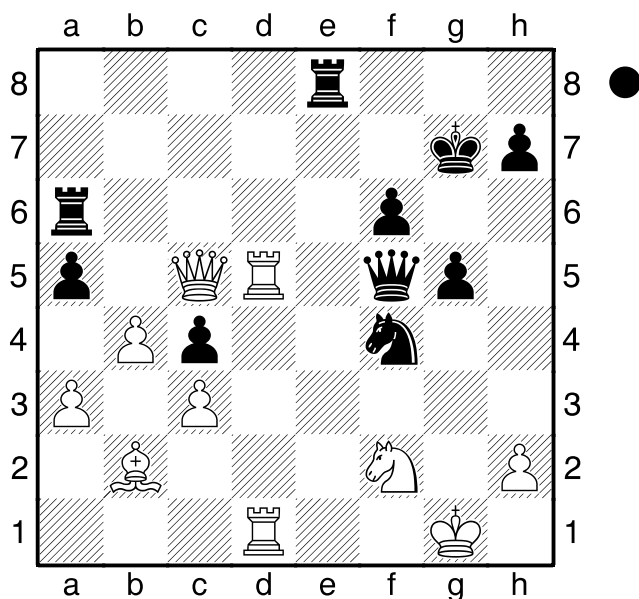
2537

2431

U.S. Junior & Senior Championships 202..

[Deng, Henry]

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e3 e6 4.Bd3 c5
5.b3 cxd4 6.exd4 Bd6 7.Bb2 0-0
8.0-0 b6 9.Qe2 Nc6 10.a3 Bb7
11.Nbd2 Ne7 12.Ne5 g6 13.Rae1 Nf5
14.g4 Ng7 15.f4 Qe7 16.b4 a5 17.c3
Nfe8 18.f5 exf5 19.Qg2 Qc7 20.gxf5
f6 21.Ng4 g5 22.Nh6+ Kh8 23.Qh3
Bf4 24.Re2 Nd6 25.Rfe1 Bxd2
26.Rxd2 Nc4 27.Bxc4 dxc4 28.Qg3
Qd7 29.d5 Rfe8 30.Red1 Nh5 31.Qf2
Nf4 32.Qxb6 Ra6 33.Qc5 Kg7 34.Ng4
Qxf5 35.Nf2 Bxd5 36.Rxd5



A complex position with both kings feeling uneasy, though White's king is much more open. Thus, Black has a winning position. **36...Rae6?**

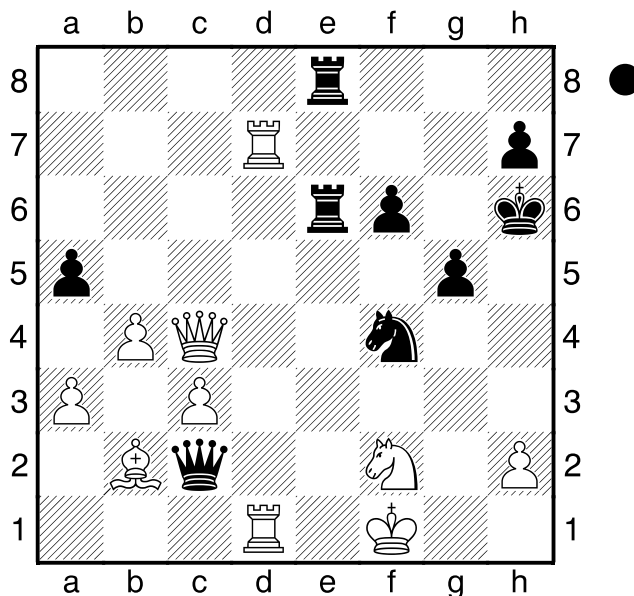
Leaving the queen en prise. Of course, it cannot be taken as there is Re1 with mate. However, this also gives White an opportunity to get back into the game.

[36...Qxd5 This was the simplest and best. Black forgoes their attack for a winning endgame. 37.Qxd5
(37.Rxd5?? The queen cannot be

taken. Re1#) 37...Nxd5 38.Rxd5 Re1+ 39.Kg2 a4!-+ The strongest move. Otherwise, White could have gone b5 and a4, giving a protected passed pawn and also allowing the dark-squared bishop out via Ba3. Now, with the dark-squared bishop out of play and the strength of lack's rooks, Black is winning.]

37.Kf1? Missing the chance. Black's attack is now unstoppable.

[37.Rd7+! The only move. Kh6 (37...Kg8? 38.Kf1 Qc2 39.Qxc4± Pinning the rook so there is no Re1 shenanigans. It is a really unclear position, however White objectively can survive and even be better with their extra piece.) 38.Rf1 Re1 was still a threat, and this was the only move to defend against it. (38.Kf1? Qc2 39.Qxc4



Re1+! A nice tactic, similar to the one played in the game. 40.Rxe1 Rxe1+ 41.Kxe1 Ng2+ 42.Kf1 Ne3+-+ Black picks up the queen and the game.) 38...Re5 39.Qc7= Still an extremely messy position, White is still up a piece but their king is in a precarious position. Turns out to be objectively equal.]

37...Qc2 38.Rd7+ Kg6 39.h3 Re1+!
 Leading to mate after 40. Rxe1 Rxe1+
 41. Kxe1 Qe2#
0-1

□ **Woodward,Andy**

■ **Ghazarian,Kirk**

U.S. Junior & Senior Championships 202..

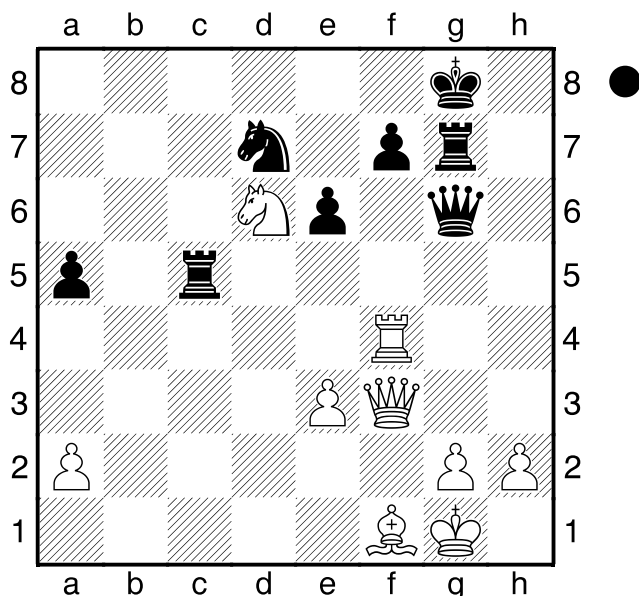
[Deng, Henry]

D37

2638

2546

1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3
Nbd7 5.Bf4 dxc4 6.e3 b5 7.Nxb5
Bb4+ 8.Nd2 Nd5 9.Bg3 a6 10.Nc3
Nxc3 11.bxc3 Bxc3 12.Rc1 Bb4
13.Rxc4 Bd6 14.Bd3 a5 15.Qg4 Ba6
16.Qxg7 Qf6 17.Qg4 Bxc4 18.Nxc4
Bxg3 19.Qxg3 c5 20.0-0 cxd4
21.Rb1 dxe3 22.fxe3 Kf8 23.Rf1 Rg8
24.Qh3 Qe7 25.Bxh7 Rg7 26.Bd3
Rc8 27.Rf3 Kg8 28.Rf4 Qg5 29.Bf1
Rc5 30.Nd6 Qg6 31.Qf3



Black is slightly better with the extra exchange, but has a slightly exposed king. **31...Nf8?** It's unclear what the knight was trying to do, but this gives White an unexpected opportunity. Granted, Black was low on time and likely played the move without too much

thought.

[31...Rd5 32.Ne8 Rh7 33.Rg4 Rg5#
 Black is still slightly better but it is not much of an advantage.]

32.Ne8! An usual way to trap the rook! If Black goes Rh7, Nf6+ forks the King and rook. **32...Nd7??** An even worse mistake. Black likely panicked here and decided to go back with the Knight and give up the rook. However, White seizes the opportunity.

[32...f5 This was been the best move. However, without the material advantage being in time trouble, Black's situation would still not be favorable, though at least he can put up a fight. 33.Nxg7 Qxg7±]

33.Qa8! White exploits the weak back rank. **33...Kh7 34.Qd8!**

Another accurate move, attacking the Black knight. The knight can't move anywhere because of Nf6+ or Rh4+.

34...f6 35.Rh4+ Nxg7 would also be winning, but this is good enough too.

35...Rh5 36.Rxh5+ Qxh5 37.Nxg7 Qf7
38.Nh5 White is up a clean piece.

1-0

E73

□ **Tsodikova,Natalia**

2059

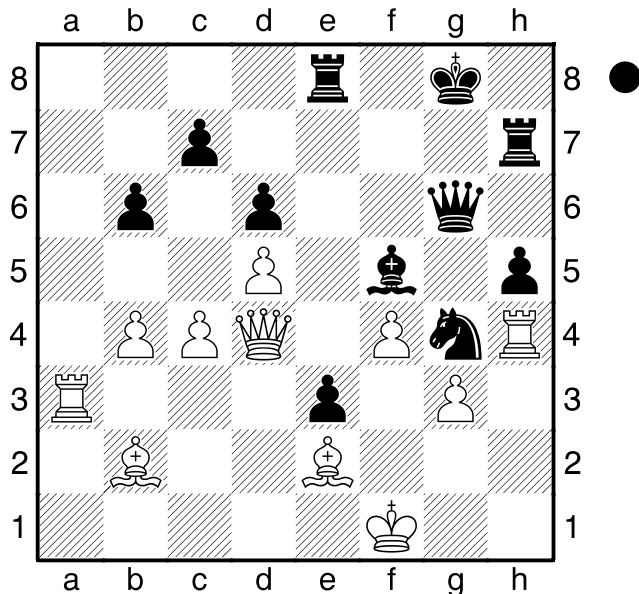
■ **Airapetian,Chouchanik**

1916

U.S. Junior & Senior Championships 202..
 [Deng, Henry]

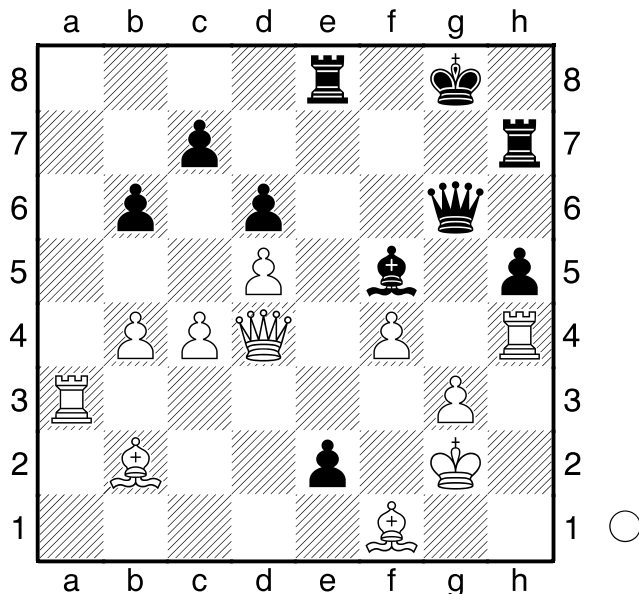
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6
5.Be2 0-0 6.h4 e5 7.d5 h5 8.Bg5
Qe8 9.Qd2 Na6 10.f3 Nc5 11.b3 Bd7
12.Nh3 a5 13.Nf2 Nh7 14.Be3 f5
15.exf5 gxf5 16.Rc1 b6 17.Nh3 Qg6
18.Kf1 Nf6 19.Ng5 Bh6 20.Qc2 Rae8
21.a3 e4 22.f4 Ng4 23.Bg1 e3 24.g3
Kg7 25.b4 axb4 26.axb4 Ne4
27.Ncxe4 fxe4 28.Qc3+ Kg8 29.Bxe3
Bxg5 30.hxg5 Qxg5 31.Kg2 Qg6
32.Rh4 Re7 33.Rch1 Rh7 34.Bc1 Bf5

**35.Bb2 Rff7 36.Ra1 Re7 37.Qd4 Re8
38.Ra3 e3 39.Kf1**



Re4? Missing a nice way to win.

[39...Nh2+! 40.Kg2 (40.Rxh2 Qxg3 41.Rg2 Bh3!-+ White has no defence.) 40...Nf1! A beautiful move, the Knight keeps on trying to sacrifice itself, and this time White cannot decline. 41.Bxf1 (41.g4 Bxg4 42.Bxg4 Qc2+ 43.Kh1 Ng3+ 44.Kg1 Qf2#) 41...e2



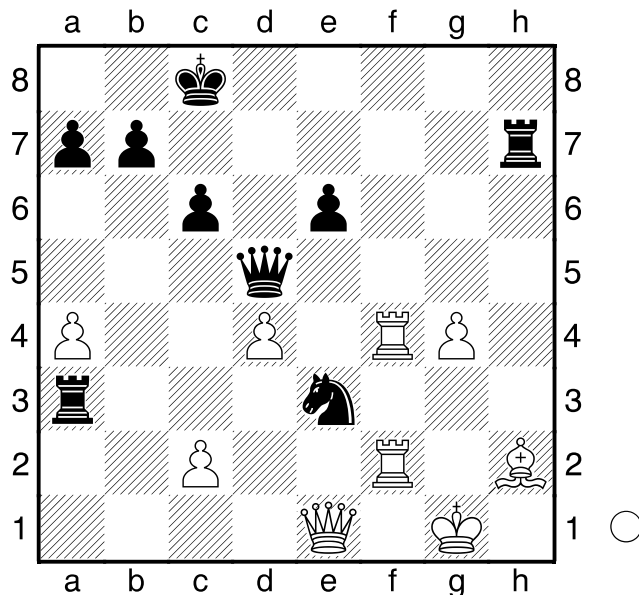
**42.Bxe2 Rxe2+ 43.Kf1 Rhe7
44.Qh8+ Kf7 45.Qxh5 Rxb2-+]
40.Qc3 Re8**

[40...Nh2+?? This doesn't work now because the back rank is left undefended. 41.Rxh2 Qxg3 42.Ra8+ Re8 (42...Kf7 43.Qf6#) 43.Rxe8+ Kf7 44.Rxe3+-]

41.Qd4? Black is given the opportunity again, but being low on time, decided to make the repetition. **41...Re4 42.Qc3 Re8 43.Qd4 Re4**
1/2-1/2

B15
2243
2241
U.S. Junior & Senior Championships 202..
[Deng, Henry]

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nf6 5.Ng3 h5 6.h3 h4 7.N3e2 Bf5 8.Nc3 Qa5 9.Bd3 Na6 10.a3 Bxd3 11.Qxd3 Nb4 12.Qd1 Nbd5 13.Nge2 Nxc3 14.bxc3 0-0-0 15.Qd3 e6 16.Bd2 Nd7 17.Nc1 Qd5 18.0-0 Nb6 19.a4 Bd6 20.Ne2 Nc4 21.Nf4 Bxf4 22.Bxf4 g5 23.Bh2 g4 24.hxg4 Rdg8 25.f3 h3 26.Rf2 f5 27.Qe2 hxg2 28.Rxg2 f4 29.Bxf4 Rf8 30.Bh2 Rxf3 31.Rf1 Rxc3 32.Rf4 Ne3 33.Rgf2 Ra3 34.Qe1 Rh7??



Black was significantly better before, with a strong attack against White's exposed King. However, Black just made a huge mistake! **35.Qc1?** Missing a big chance. However, White still went on to win a long endgame.

[35.Rf8+ Kd7 36.Qb1! A double attack. The first threat against b7 is obvious, Black can easily defend... b6 37.c4! The hidden threat was against Black's rook on h7! Black has no choice but to give up a rook Ra1 38.Qxa1 Qg5 39.R2f7+ Rxf7 40.Rxf7+ Ke8 41.Rf3+-]

35...Nc4 36.Rf8+ Kd7 37.R2f7+ Rxf7 38.Rxf7+ Ke8 39.Qf4 e5 40.Rf8+ Kd7 41.Qf5+ Kc7 42.Qf7+ Qxf7 43.Rxf7+ Kd6 44.g5 Re3 45.g6 Re4 46.g7 Rg4+ 47.Kf2 Ke6 48.Rxb7 exd4 49.Bf4 a5 50.Bh6 Nd6 51.Rb8 Ne4+ 52.Ke2 Nf6 53.Rc8 Kd7 54.Rf8 Ke7 55.Kd3 c5 56.Kc4 Rg2 57.Kxc5 Rxc2+ 58.Kxd4 Rg2 59.Kc5 Nd7+ 60.Kb5 Rxg7 61.Bxg7 Nxf8 62.Bxf8+ Kd7 63.Kb6 Kc8 64.Bd6 Kd7 65.Bg3 Kc8 66.Bc7 Kd7 67.Kb7 Ke7 68.Bxa5
1-0

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!

□ Yoo, Christopher Woojin

■ Fink, Justin

2026 Summer TNM: 2000+ (2.1) 14.07.26

[Winslow, Elliott]

B07

2665

2077

Christopher, for whatever reason, avoids the main theoretical line 4.f4. 1.d4 4 d6

8 2.e4 7 Nf6 8 3.Nc3 5 c6 6 4.Be3

2:19

[The Main Line is 4.f4! Qa5 5.Bd3 e5 6.Nf3±]

[but the Polish GM Zbigniew Pakleza has singlehandedly turned 4.f4 Qb6!? into something to pay attention to, having played well over 200 games with ...Qb6, with mixed results against the best (including a draw with Carlsen); unfortunately Stockfish 18 shows it also to be an uphill struggle after

A) and/or 5.Nf3 Bg4

A1) How Pakleza survived against Magnus is a mystery!

6.a4 a5 7.e5 Nd5 8.Nxd5 cxd5

9.Bb5+ Nc6 10.c3 e6 11.h3

Bf5 12.0-0 Be7 13.g4 Be4

14.exd6 Bxd6 15.Ng5 0-0

16.Qe2 Na7 17.Bd3

(17.Nxe4!+-) 17...Bxd3 18.Qxd3

g6 19.f5 exf5 20.gxf5 Be7

(20...Rae8!?) 21.Bf4 Nc6

22.Rae1 Rae8 23.Nf3?!

(23.Qg3 Qxb2 24.Rf2 Qb6

25.Ref1 Bd8 26.Qh4 h5

27.Qg3+-) 23...Bf6 24.Qb5

Qxb5 25.axb5 Na7 26.Bd6

Rxe1 27.Rxe1 Ra8 28.b6 Nb5

29.Bc5 a4 30.Ne5 a3 31.Bxa3

Nxa3 32.bxa3 Rxa3 33.Nd7

Kg7 34.fxg6 hxg6 35.Rf1 Bg5

36.Rf3 Bd2 37.Nc5 Rxc3

38.Kf2 Rxf3+ 39.Kxf3 Ba5

40.Nd7 f6 41.Nc5 Bxb6

42.Nxb7 Bxd4 43.Nd8 Be5

44.h4 Kh6 45.Kg4 f5+ 46.Kh3

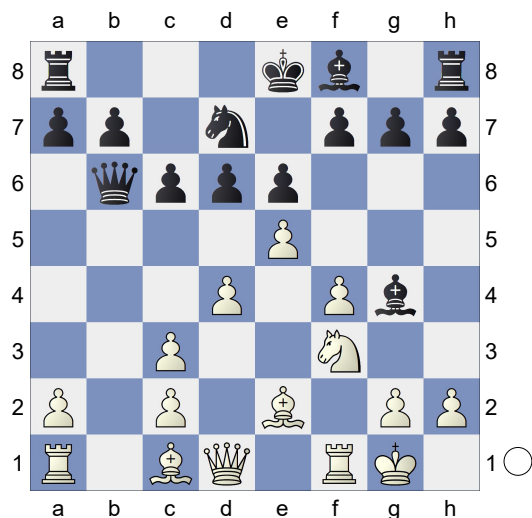
d4 47.Nf7+ Kh5 48.Nxe5 g5

49.hxg5 Kxg5 50.Nf3+ Kf4

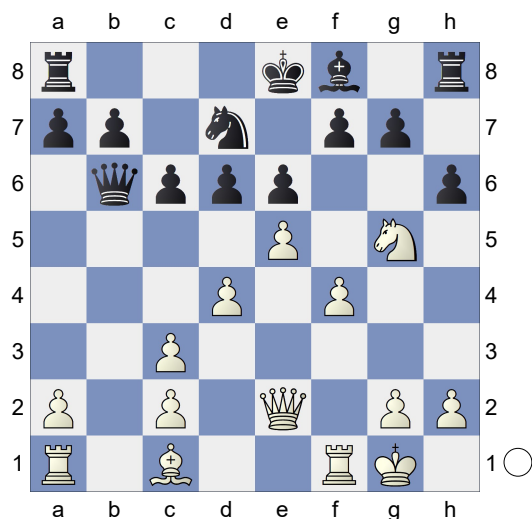
51.Nxd4 Ke4 52.Nxf5

½-½, Carlsen, M (2839)-Pakleza, Z (2496), 1st Thursday, Chess.com Nov 27th 2025;

A2) Interesting that the first game in the Mega database is this Tal win; not like Tal to take so long against a dodgy line! Then again, this was early in his career. But he puts his stamp on the game in no time: 6.Be2 Nbd7 7.e5 Nd5 8.0-0 Nxc3 9.bxc3 e6



10.Ng5! Bxe2 11.Qxe2 h6



12.Nxf7! Kxf7 13.f5! I remember seeing this game, if I in fact did (I

don't trust my memory at all these days!), in a book on Tal, at the Capablanca Chess Club in the mid- to late 1960. I remember the author, Hajtun, but even more I remember the diagrams: the pieces were Yugoslavian, not the usual Chess Life/Review pieces. I didn't like them. But the games more than made up for it. dxe5 14.fxe6+ (14.Qh5+!) 14...Kxe6 15.Rb1 Qxb1 16.Qc4+ Kd6 17.Ba3+ Kc7 18.Rxb1 Bxa3 19.Qb3 Be7 20.Qxb7+ Kd6 21.dxe5+ Nxe5 22.Rd1+ Ke6 23.Qb3+ Kf5 24.Rf1+ Ke4 25.Re1+ Kf5 26.g4+ Kf6 27.Rf1+ Kg6 28.Qe6+ Kh7 29.Qxe5 Rhe8 30.Rf7 Bf8 31.Qf5+ Kg8 32.Kf2 Bc5+ 33.Kg3 Re3+ 34.Kh4 Rae8 35.Rxg7+ Kxg7 36.Qxc5 R8e6 37.Qxa7+ Kg6 38.Qa8 Kf6 39.a4 Ke5 40.a5 Kd5 41.Qd8+ Ke4 42.a6 Kf3 43.a7 Re2 44.Qd3+ R2e3 45.Qxe3+ 1-0 (45) Tal,M-Simagin,V Leningrad 1956 URS-ch [ChessBase];

A3) 6.e5±;

B) 5.e5±]

4...Nbd7 1:42

[Perhaps Christopher was "inviting" Fink to transpose into the hugely popular Be3 System against the Pirc, after 4...g6]

5.f4 6:24 Back on track!? Best of both worlds!? Rarely played (30 out of 360 or so games), horrible results (5...Qa5, 5...e5 and 5...Qb6 all have plus scores), and Stockfish 18: best move. There's a parallel to the main Pirc Defense, in that, after 3...g6, writers have declared, with support, that the Austrian Attack, 4.f4, is the strongest and most critical move --

yet the popularity of 4.Be3 sustains as well. That could end up being true here also, except that 3...c6 just isn't as popular, nor popular enough to really be talking about a consensus. And, the 4.f4 Bg7 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be3 line is up there as well.

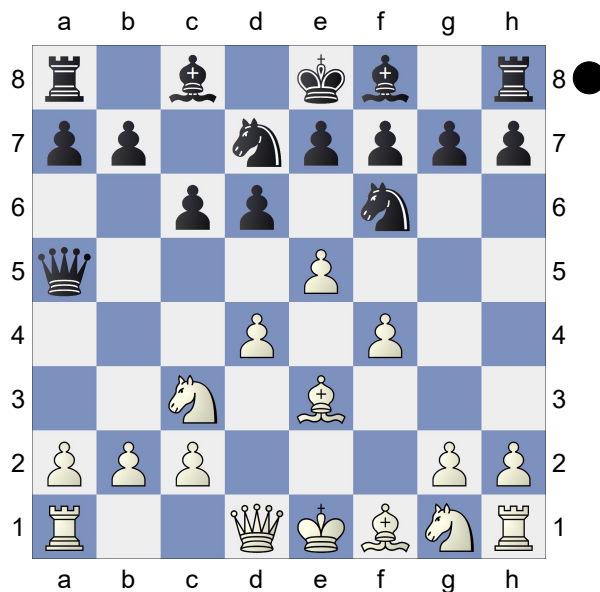
[5.f3 e5 6.Qd2 Be7 7.0-0-0 0-0 8.g4 b5 9.h4 b4 10.Nce2 d5 11.g5 Nh5 12.exd5 cxd5 13.dxe5 Nxe5 14.Qxd5 Qc7 15.Nd4 Bb7 16.Nb5 Qb8 17.Qb3 Nxf3 18.Be2 Ng3 19.Bxf3 Nxh1 20.Nd4 Ng3 21.Nc6 Qc7 22.Nxe7+ Qxe7 23.g6 Bxf3 24.gxh7+ Kh8 25.Nxf3 Rad8 26.Re1 Qd6 27.Kb1 Qd1+ 28.Bc1 Ne2 29.Qe3 Nxc1 30.Rxd1 Rxd1 31.c3 bxc3 32.bxc3 Rh1 33.Kc2 f6 34.Qxa7 Ne2 Kovalev,V (2648)-Krysa, L (2531) Chess.com INT 2020 1-0]
[No, wait! 5.g4! has inched ahead! h6 6.a4 e5 7.h3 d5 Yow!]

5...Qa5?! 1:14

[5...b5± is another move.]

6.e5 1:11

[6.Bd3!±]



6...Nd5?!N 6:49 Meanwhile, Fink isn't doing the best at holding up Black's side of the bargain.

[Better is 6...Ne4!± 7.Bd2 (7.Nf3!)
 7...Nxd2 8.Qxd2 dxe5 9.fxe5 e6
 10.Nf3 Nb6 11.Ne4 Qxd2+ 12.Kxd2
 Bd7 13.c4 Bb4+ 14.Kc2 0-0 15.c5
 Nc8 16.h4 Ba5 17.h5 f5 18.exf6
 gxf6 19.Rh4 Bc7 20.Bc4 Ne7 21.g4
 Nd5 22.g5 fxe5 23.Nfxg5 Ne3+
 24.Kd3 Nxc4 25.Kxc4 h6 26.Nh3 e5
 27.Rg1+ Kh7 28.Nhf2 Be6+ 29.Kb4
 a5+ 30.Ka4 Rad8 31.Rg6 Rxd4+
 32.Ka3 Bd8 33.Rh2 Bd5 34.Nc3
 Be7 35.Nxd5 cxd5 36.Ng4
 Dristellas,N (1446)-Karamichos,M
 (1412) Rio Achaia 2018 ½-½. Note
 the ratings of the players...]

7.Bd2± 39 Nxc3 2:03 8.bxc3 1:39

White is better.

[Much less strong is 8.Bxc3 Qc7±]

8...e6 5:19

[8...Nb6]

9.Bd3 2:07 b6 8:10

[9...d5±]

10.a4+- 1:45 Black must now prevent c4.

10...dxe5 2:34 11.fxe5 40 Ba6 3:53

12.Qf3 1:42 Rc8 15:54

[12...Bxd3 was worth a try. 13.Qxc6
 (13.Qxd3 Qd5±) 13...Be4 14.Qxe4
 Rc8]

13.Ne2 2:20 Bxd3 1:42 14.cxd3 24

Qd5 4:31 15.Qf2 44 Nb8 2:34 16.0-0

1:27 Qd7 5:41 17.Rae1 1:24 Ba3 7:24

[17...Rc7 18.Nf4 g6]

18.Ng3 1:00 0-0 9:17 19.Nh5 25

White is clearly winning. **19...Be7 5:39**

(Diagram)

Black had to worry about 20.Nf6+, but
 that wasn't all. Christopher sends it in in
 a manner that would make Tal smile:

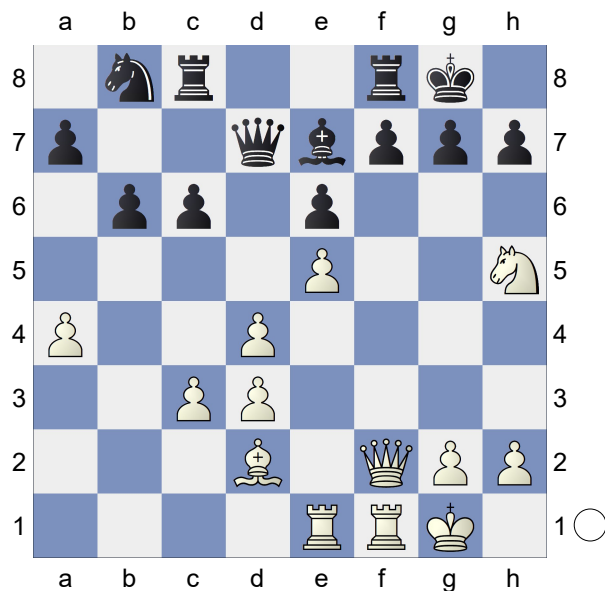
20.Bh6! 51 gxe6 2:52

[20...f5 21.Bxg7]

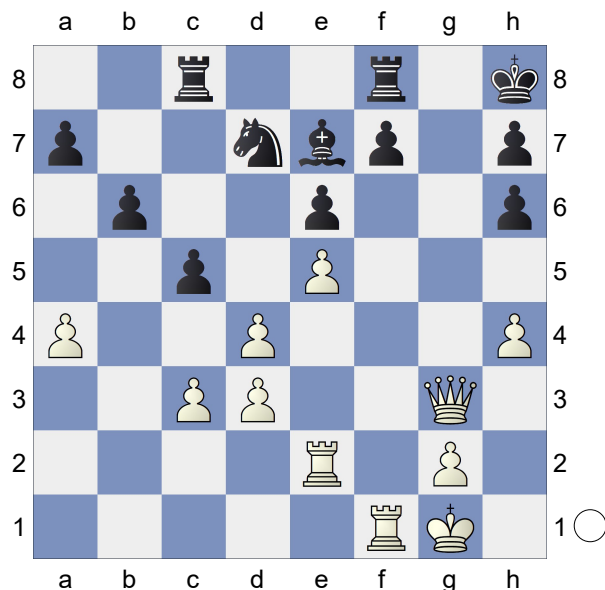
21.Qg3+ 5 Bg5 7 22.Nf6+ 7 Kh8 25

Strongly threatening ...Bxf6. **23.Nxd7 5**

Nxd7 4 24.Re2 31 c5 44 25.h4 1:15



Be7 8



26.d5! 19 exd5 34

[26...b5 27.axb5]

27.Qf4 2:17 Rc6 29 28.Qf3 10

Weighted Error Value: White=0.13 (very
 precise) /Black=0.44

1-0

□ Das,Rohan

E60

■ Heiserman,Jimmy

2188

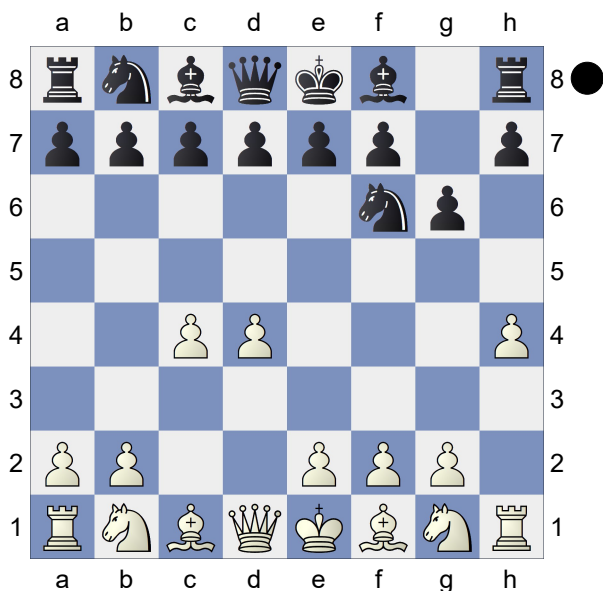
2270

2026 Summer TNM: 2000+ (2.2) 14.07.26

[Winslow,Elliott]

Rohan Das takes the rocky road with 3. h4!? against the King's Indian, or more likely a Gruenfeld from Heiserman: 3... d5 hasn't done so well compared to routine Gruenfeld lines. White had some plus (it's hard to admit that 3.h4 might be sound even), but Heiserman jacked up the volume with 8...b5.

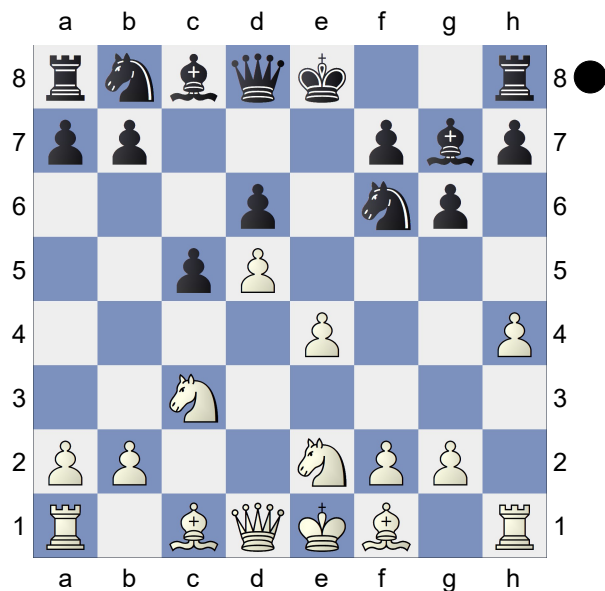
Complications ensued: White was almost certainly winning! But Das didn't seem to land right, indeed right away when White avoided 9.e5!? and later. Heiserman's play was objectively not so hot, but he surfed the big wave and came away with the point. 1.d4 2 Nf6 8 2.c4 2 g6 1:42 3.h4



c5 1:33 4.d5 15 Bg7 4:06 5.Nc3 1:28
d6 15 6.e4 7 e6 46 7.Nge2 2:50 exd5
1:05 8.cxd5 2:14

(Diagram)

White has an edge. 8...b5N 6:44
[Predecessor: 8...Nbd7 9.Ng3 h5



10.Bg5 a6 11.a4 Ne5 12.Qd2 Qa5
13.Be2 0-0 14.0-0 Bd7 1-0 (49)
Erigaisi,A (2782)-Vachier Lagrave,M
(2723) Classic Losers Chess.com 21
May 2025]

[8...0-0 9.Ng3 has happened well
over a dozen times, h5 is still some
plus for White but practical results
have Black doing *very* well.]

9.Nxb5 37:25

[Looks like a radical response was
called for: 9.e5!± dxe5 10.Bg5]

9...0-0?! 2:53

[9...Nxe4!= 10.Qa4 0-0 11.Qxe4
Re8± (Stockfish says: "0.00")]

10.Ng3± 3:48 Nxe4? 24:11

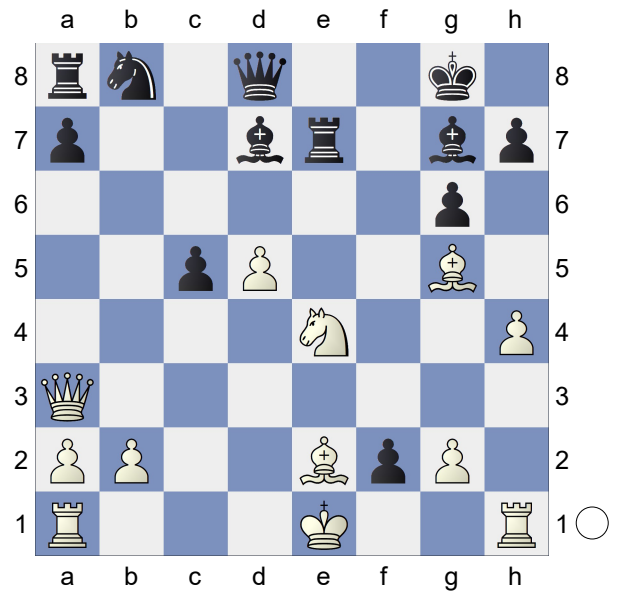
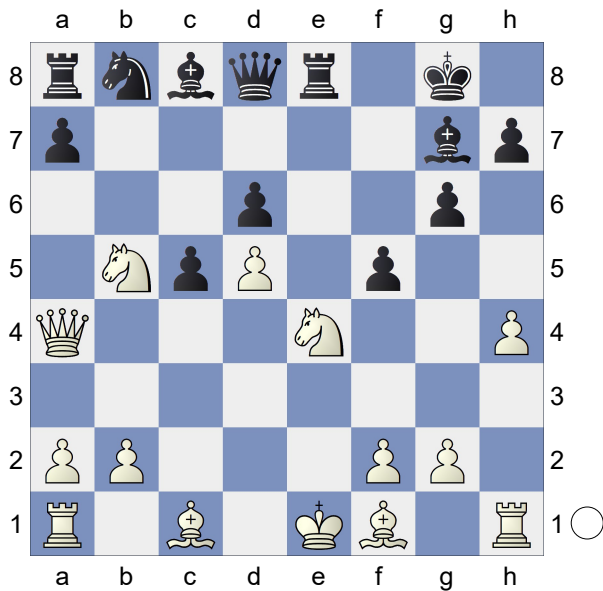
[10...Re8 11.f3 a6 12.Na3±
(12.Nc3±)]

11.Nxe4+- 6:00 Re8 7 12.Qa4 7:24 f5?
32:37

[12...Bd7 was necessary. But 13.Be2
gets the "+-" from SF18 anyway.]

(Diagram)

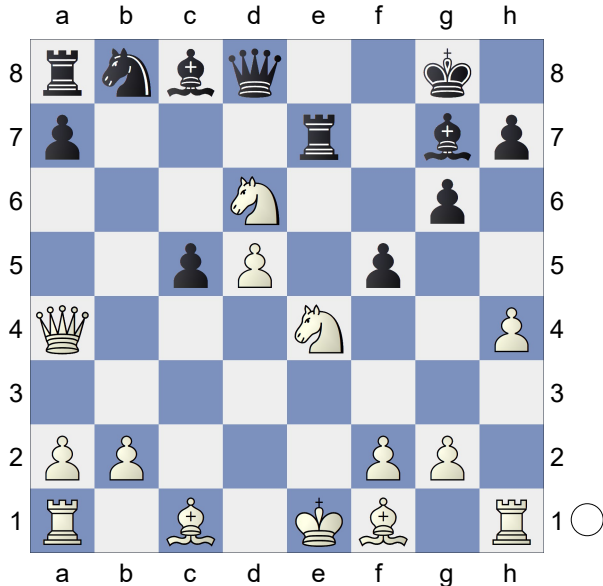
13.Nbxd6! 1:41 Great! But now Rohan
slides, move after move without a
knockout. 13...Re7 2:59
[13...Re5 14.Be2]



18.Nxf2? 2

[18.Kf1!+-]

18...Rxe2+!± 14 19.Kxe2 15 Bb5+ 9
20.Ke1! 55 Qxd5 48 Hoping for ...Nc6!.
21.Rd1 1:22 Bd4 32



14.Be2!+- 9:19 Bd7 12:05

[14...h6 15.Bf4]

[14...fxe4 15.Nxc8 Qxc8 16.d6 Rd7
 (16...Re5 17.Bf4; 16...Re8 17.0-0)
 17.Bg4]

15.Qa3+- 10:21

[15.Qc4!]

15...fxe4 1:06 16.Bg5 36

[16.Qxc5 Ba4 17.Qa3 h6]

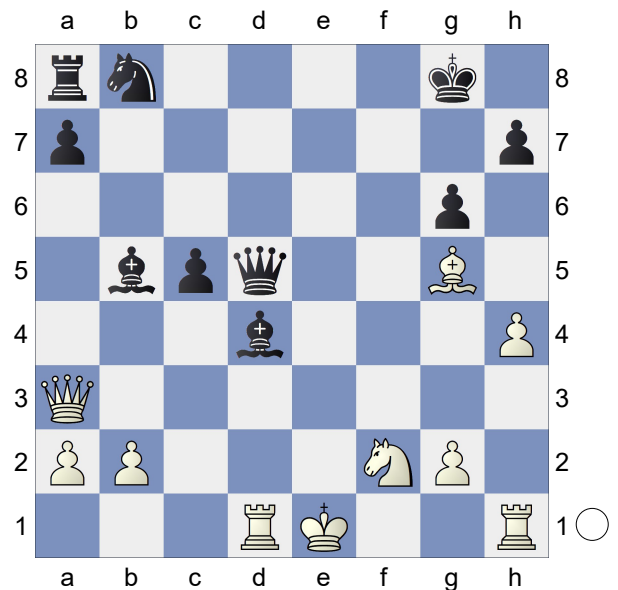
16...e3 39 17.Ne4 7:01

[17.0-0!]

[17.fxe3]

[17.Qb3]

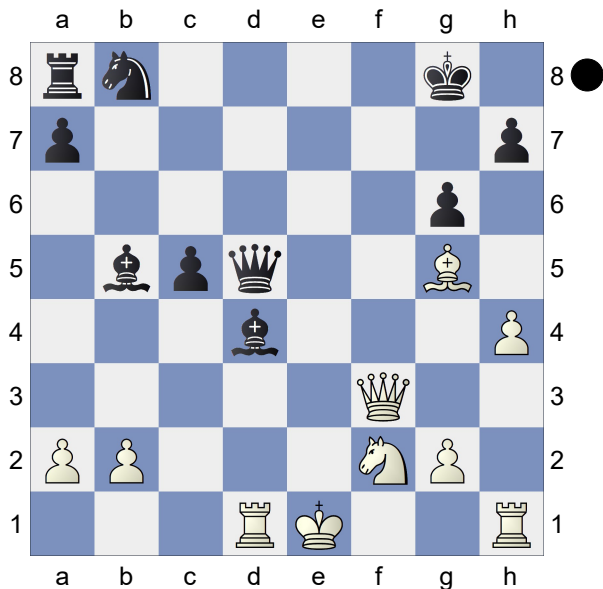
17...exf2+ 1:37



Dancing on a razor blade. This pair of bishops is nice. 22.Qf3? 2:34

[22.Rxd4!± and White needn't worry.
 cxd4 23.Ng4 Qe6+ (23...Qxg2
 24.Nh6+ Kg7 25.Qe7+ Kh8
 26.Qf8#) 24.Kf2 Nd7!=]

[22.Qb3! Bc4 23.Qf3 Qe5+ 24.Kd2
 Stockfish calls this 0.00. And why is
 this different from the game?]



22...Qe6+!-+ 48 23.Ne4 1:46

Hoping for Rxd4!.

[23.Kd2 Nc6]

23...Bc6? 1:07

[23...Nc6-+ 24.Kd2 Rf8]

24.Rxd4? 32 cxd4 11 25.Kd2 27

TA gives "Beautiful play by Heiserman!"

Well, it was pretty dodgy there for a while! Weighted Error Value: White=0.71/Black=0.44

0-1

□ Powers,Christopher

■ Sevall,Jacob Cameron

2026 Summer TNM: 2000+ (2.7) 14.07.26

[Winslow,Elliott]

Jacob Sevall has returned, and with this win (he had a half point bye in Round 1) he starts his ascent. These notes coming from after Round 4, and with Yoo and Heiserman taking two and even three half-point byes, the effect is he's in prize-winning position. (Of course, still three more rounds to go.) Powers didn't quite master the opening complications, letting Sevall come out of it with bishops and a pawn; Jacob transitioned to a won

queenless middlegame. 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.d4 exd4 5.Nd5 Nb4 [5...Nxe4!?]

6.Nxf6+ Qxf6 7.a3

[Relevant: 7.Bc4 Bc5 8.0-0! d6!

9.e5! dxe5 10.Bg5! Qd6 11.Re1 0-0

12.Rxe5 Be6 13.Bxe6 fxe6 14.Qe2

d3 15.cxd3 Qxd3 16.Rxe6

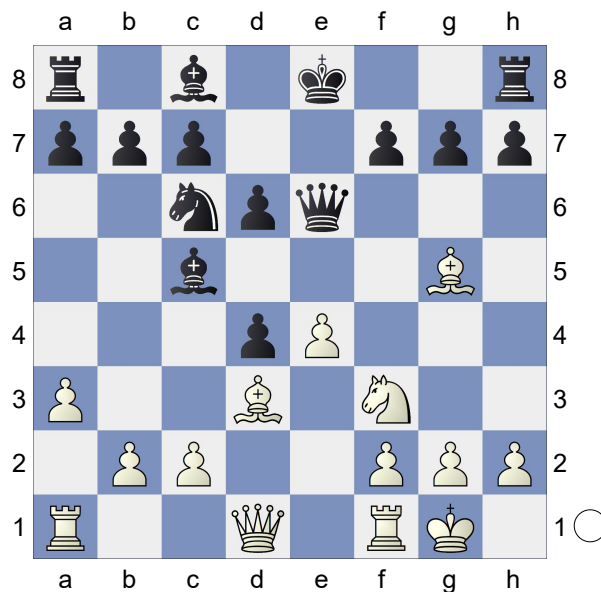
½-½ (16) Mamedov,R (2636)-Amin,B (2628) Chartres 2026]

7...Nc6 8.Bd3 Bc5 9.0-0

White sacrificed a pawn. The position is equal. 9...d6 10.Bg5

[10.b4!? Bb6 11.b5]

10...Qe6



11.Bb5N

[Predecessor: 11.Qe2 11.b4 -0.34

Ne5 12.h3 Prevents Qg4 (12.b4 Nxf3+ 13.Qxf3) 12...Qg6 13.Nxe5

dxe5 14.f4 (14.Bh4 14...exf4

(14...h6!-+ 15.Bh4 Bxh3 16.fxe5

Bg4) 15.Bxf4 Bxh3 16.Bxc7 Bd7

(16...Rc8 17.Be5 0-0) 17.Rf2

(17.e5= Rc8 18.Bd6) 17...Qg4

(17...0-0 18.Rf3 (18.Qxg4= Bxg4

19.b4) 18...a6 (18...Rc8 19.Bh2

0-0) 19.Qf2= Be6 20.Rf1 Strongly

threatening Rxf7. 0-0? (20...Rc8!=

and Black has nothing to worry.

21.Be5 Qg5) 21.Rg3!+- Qh5 22.Qf6

Dodges Be7 g6 ($\Delta 22...Bg4$ 23.Qf4 f5 24.exf5 Bxf5) 23.Be5 1-0 (23) Fernandez Velasquez,J-Santamarta Marcos,M Valladolid 1994]
[11.b4 $\bar{f}$ Bb6 12.Kh1]

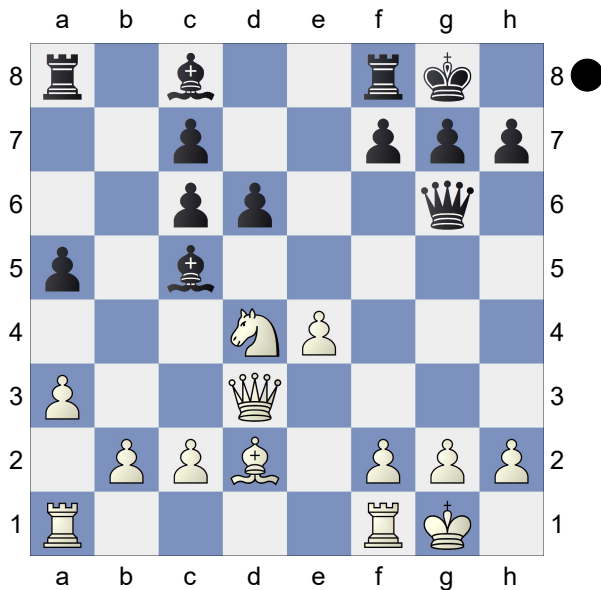
11...0-0 12.Bxc6

[$\Delta 12.Re1$]

12...bxc6 $\bar{f}$ 13.Qd3 a5 14.Nxd4 Qg6

15.Bd2

[15.Bf4 $\bar{f}$]



15...Ba6

[15...Bxd4!-+ 16.Qxd4 Bh3]

16.c4 d5! 17.Qc3

[17.Rfe1 $\bar{f}$]

17...Qxe4-+ 18.Be3

(Diagram)

Bxc4?

[Black should play 18...Bd6!-+

White must now prevent ...c5.

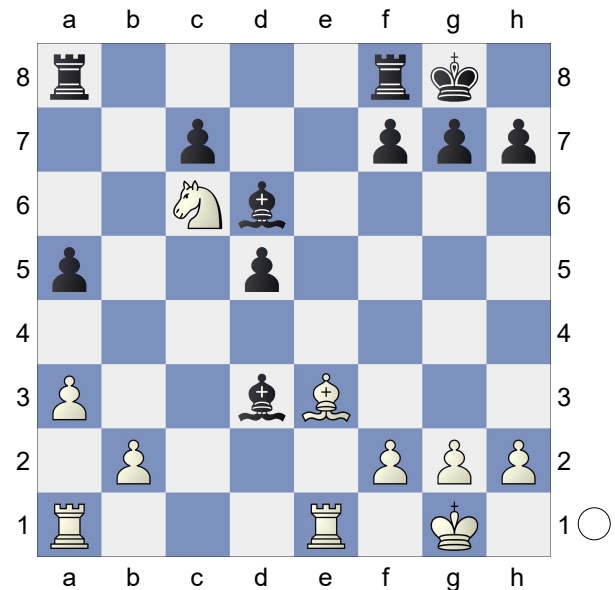
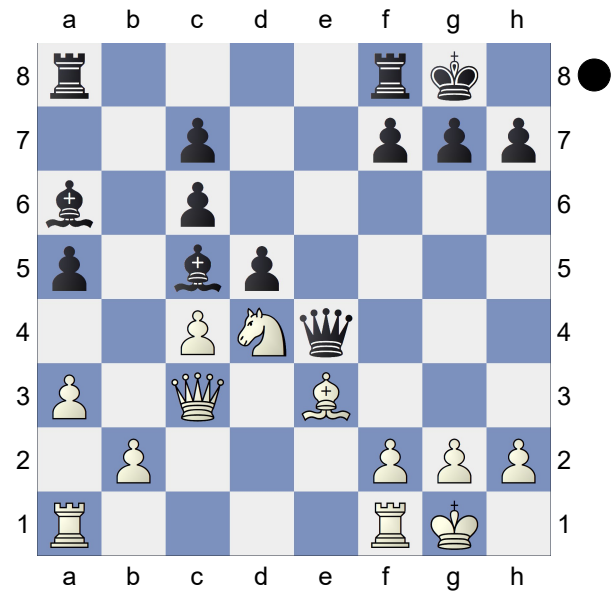
19.Nxc6 dxc4 Discovered Attack
(19...Bxc4 20.Rfe1 $\bar{f}$; 19...Qxc4 20.Rfc1 $\bar{f}$)]

19.Rfe1! $\bar{f}$ Bd6

[19...Qd3 simplifies 20.Qxd3 Bxd3
21.Nxc6 Bd6]

20.Nxc6 Qd3! 21.Qxd3 Bxd3→

(Diagram)



22.b4? White is now going downhill.

[White should try 22.Bd2 $\bar{f}$]

22...axb4-+ 23.Nxb4

[23.axb4 Bb5 24.Na7]

23...Bc4 24.Red1 Bb3 This pair of
bishops is nice. **25.Rdb1**

[25.Rd3 might work better. Bc4
26.Rdd1]

25...Be5 Black is clearly winning.

26.Rxb3 Bxa1 27.Bc5 Rfb8 28.g3

Rb5 29.Rb1 Rxc5 30.Rxa1

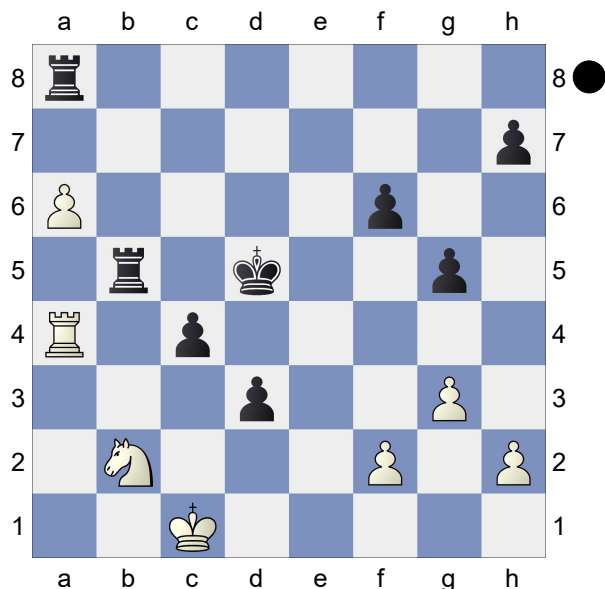
Endgame KRR-KRN 30...c6 31.Kf1 f6

32.Ke2 Rc3 33.Kd2 d4 34.Nc2 c5

35.a4 Kf7 36.Ne1 Ke6 37.a5 Rb3

38.Nd3 Kd5 39.Ra4 g5 40.Kc2 Rb5

41.a6 c4 42.Nb2 d3+ 43.Kc1



d2+! Weighted Error Value: White=0.39/
Black=0.19 (very precise)
0-1

□ Pang,Owen J

■ Yoo,Christopher Woojin

2026 Summer TNM: 2000+ (3.1) 22.07.26
[TA/Winslow,Elliott]

B08

1855

2665

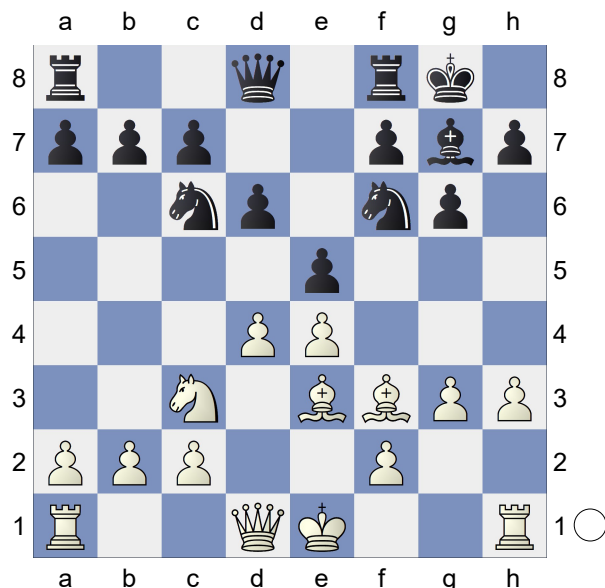
A mishmash of anti-Pirc play led to a confusing middlegame; neither side was faultless. But Yoo coordinated play on the queenside, Owen put up insufficient resistance, and Black pushed through.

1.e4 2:21 g6 1:00 2.d4 1:01 Bg7 6
3.Nf3 9 d6 49 4.Nc3 37 Nf6 41 5.g3
1:57 White usually plays this a move
earlier if he's going to, keeping KN
options. 5...Bg4 2:22 Trying to disrupt
things right away.

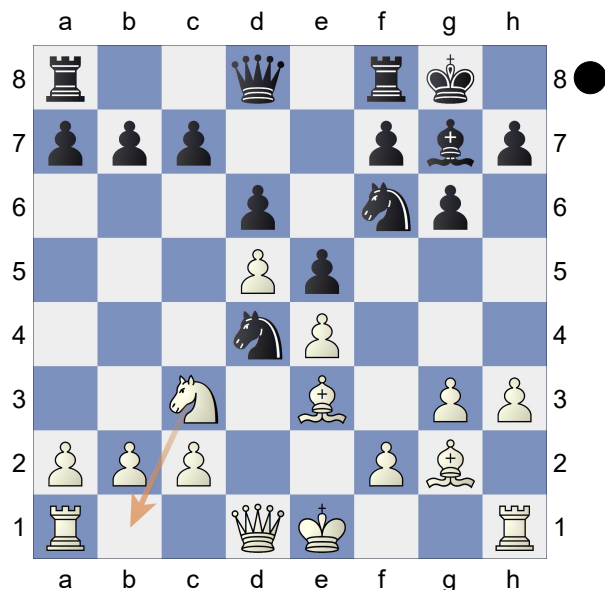
[5...0-0=]

6.Bg2 1:16 Nc6 18 7.Be3 2:00 0-0 1:54
8.h3 3:11 White is slightly better.
8...Bxf3 46 9.Bxf3 42 e5 1:08

(Diagram)



10.d5 5:23 Nd4 1:19 11.Bg2 2:04



c5?± 6:10

[11...c6= 12.dxc6 bxc6 13.Rb1 h5!?
14.0-0 h4]

12.a4N 2:45

[12.0-0!± Nh5?! (12...Nd7!
13.Nb1!±) 13.Nb1 (13.a4) 13...f5
14.Bxd4 cxd4 15.exf5 Qb6 16.fxg6
hxg6 17.Nd2 d3 18.Nc4 dxc2
19.Qxc2 1-0 (34) Tosic,D (1882)-
Bubanja,D (2075) Mojkovac 2016]

12...Qb6 51

[12...Nd7!=]

13.Qc1 7:16

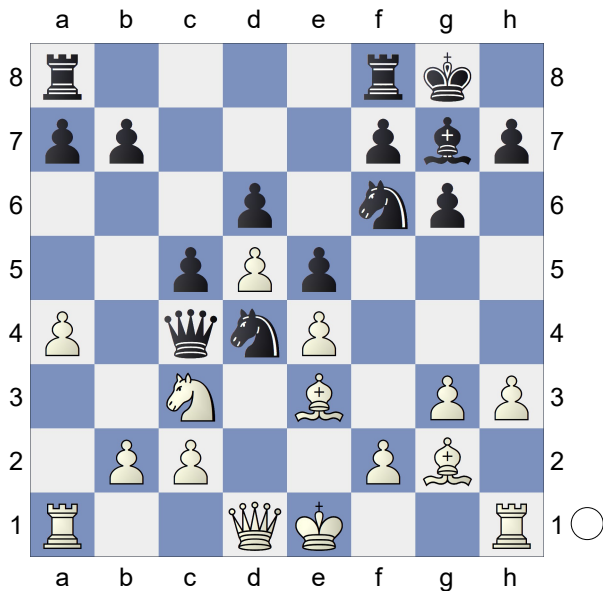
[13.Bc1±]

13...Qa6 43

[13...Nh5]

14.Qd1 8:47 Qc4 1:44

[14...Nh5=]



15.Bd2± 8:51 Qa6 2:26 16.Bf1 7:01

[16.Ra3±]

16...c4 20

[16...Qb6= was better]

17.Bg2 1:17 Qb6 1:03 18.Qc1 2:28

Nh5 54 19.a5 4:14 Qc5 12 20.Be3!

5:00 b5 2:20 21.axb6= 3:23

[21.0-0!±]

21...axb6 7 22.0-0 40 b5 11 23.Qd2 56

Qb4 40 24.Rxa8 5:30

[24.Rab1=]

24...Rxa8 6 Black starts to get some

initiative 25.Rb1 48 Qa5 1:22

[25...Nf6]

(Diagram)

26.Kh2 1:38

[26.b4? cxb3 27.Rxb3 (27.cxb3?

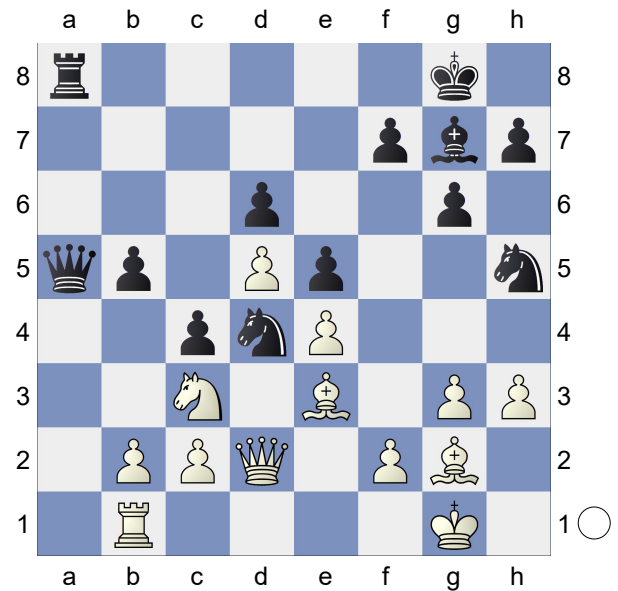
Qxc3 28.Qxc3 Ne2+ 29.Kf1

Nxc3-+) 27...Nxb3 28.cxb3 Rc8-+]

[26.Qd1= balances]

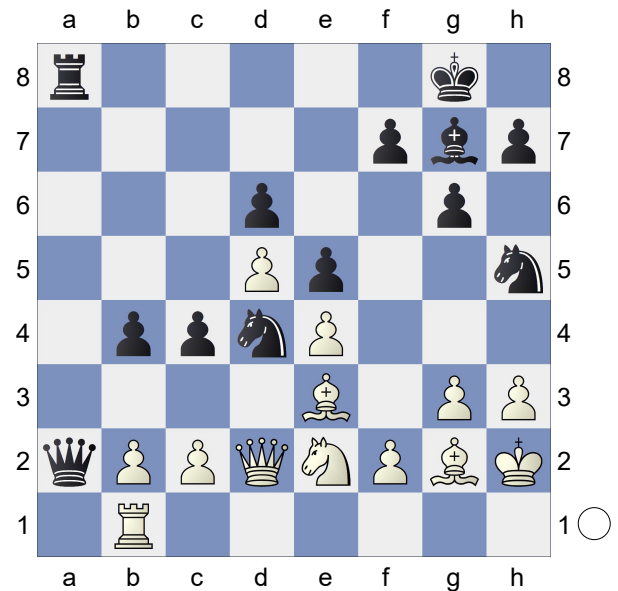
26...b4± 35 Black is more active.

27.Ne2? 1:57



[27.Nd1!±]

27...Qa2-+ 33



Deflection 28.Rd1 2:10 Qxb2 24

29.Nxd4 1:25 exd4 18 30.Bxd4 8 c3

21 31.Bxg7 1:40 Kxg7 19

[31...Nxg7-+ 32.Qc1 Ra2 33.Qxb2

Rxb2 (33...cxb2 34.Rb1±)]

32.Qd4+± 4:44 Kg8 22 %m now wins.

33.e5? 40

[33.Rf1!±]

33...b3-+ 21 34.e6 4:54 bxc2 40

35.exf7+ 38 Kxf7 6 36.Rd3 50 c1Q 21

Black mates. 37.Rf3+ 8 Kg8 6 38.g4 54

c2 16 39.Qe4 9 Qe5+ 19 Weighted

Error Value: White=0.78/Black=0.22

(precise)

0-1

□ Diller,Bradley R

■ Hasteer,Divija

2026 Summer TNM: 2000+ (3.2) 22.07.26

[TA]

Diller plays a Benoni Reversed, with even more in White's favor (...e6?) -- and *still* gets pressed for space. Nicely done by Divija! 1.c4 Nf6 5:14 2.g3 7 e6 16 3.Bg2 20 d5 22 4.Nf3 47 d4 31 5.0-0 14 c5 13 6.e3 9 Nc6 1:20 7.exd4 10 cxd4 1:25 8.d3 18 Bd6 7:49

A13: English Opening: 1...e6. 9.Bg5

5:43 0-0 1:28 10.Nbd2 17 h6 24

The position is equal. 11.Bxf6 2 Qxf6 6

12.Re1 4:43 Rb8N 4:46

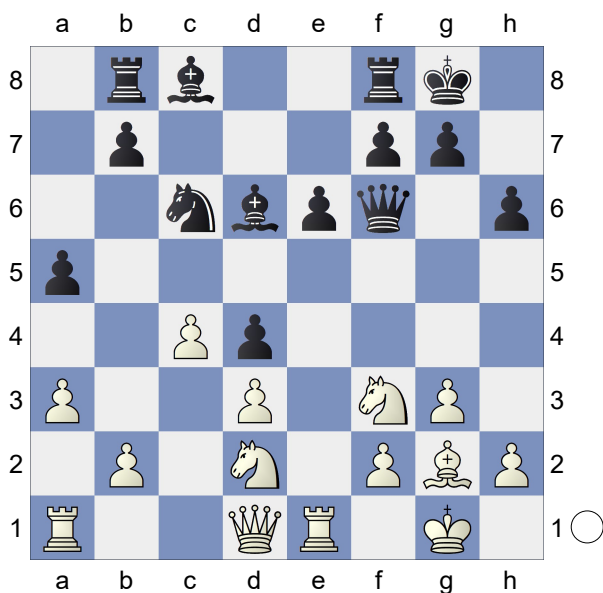
[12...Qe7 13.Nb3 Qf6 14.a3 a5

15.Rc1 Rd8 16.c5 Bc7 0-1 (56)

Mitrabha,G (2515)-Klimkowski,J

(2508) Chess.com INT 2025]

13.a3 12:26 a5

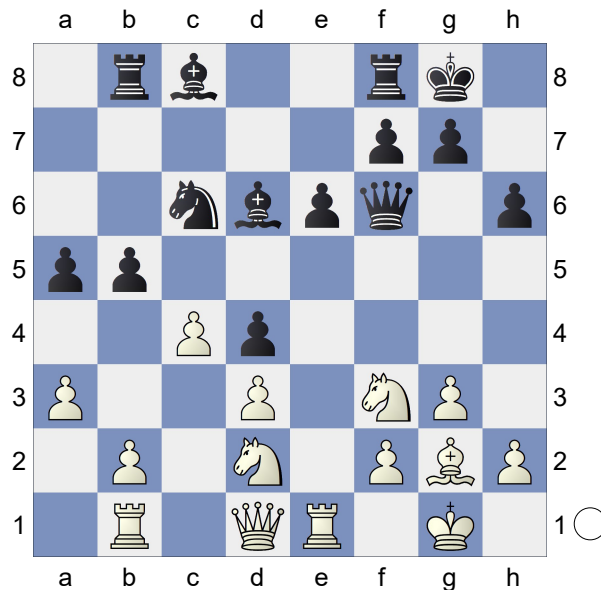


14.Rb1 1:06

[14.Ne4± Qe7 15.Nxd6 Qxd6 16.Nd2]

14...b5 5:29

[14...Qd8!=]



15.c5? 4:01 This goes nowhere.

[15.cxb5 Rxb5 16.Qa4 Ba6 17.b4±]

15...Bc7!= 2:07

[15...Bxc5? 16.Qc1+-]

16.a4? 7:50

[16.b4= for equality]

16...Nb4 3:19

[16...bxa4!]

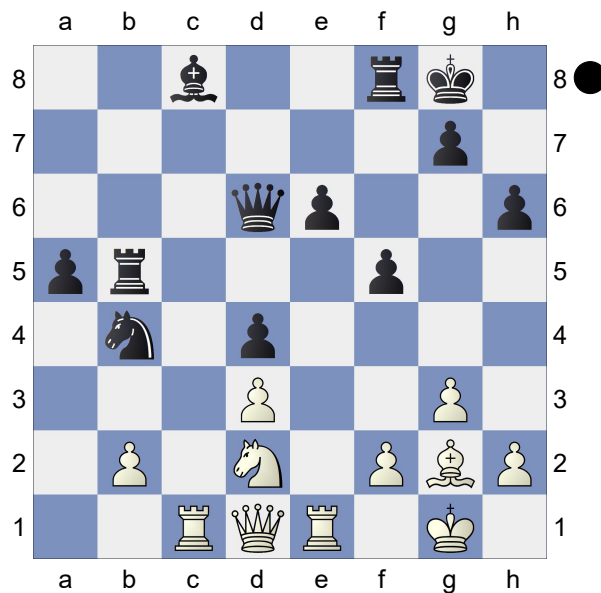
17.axb5 26:05 Rxb5 7:30 18.Ne4 5:45

Qd8 46 Black is more active. 19.Rc1

3:33 f5 2:56 20.Nd6 45 Bxd6 31

21.cxd6 4:31 Qxd6 28 White has weak

pawns 22.Nd2 3:29



e5 4:56

[22...Nxd3? blunder 23.Nc4 Qc7

24.Qxd3+-]

[22...Qb8 23.Nc4 Rc5]

23.Nc4 43 Qb8 1:12

[23...Qe7 was better 24.f4 e4

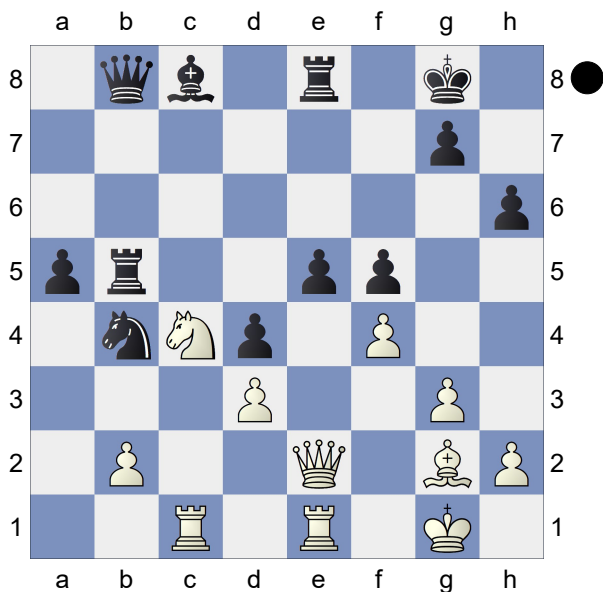
25.dxe4 d3]

24.Qe2 29 Black converts the advantage convincingly.

[24.Na3!= was the only way to keep the balance.]

24...Re8 1:24 White is under strong pressure. **25.f4? 32**

[25.Qd1]



25...e4!-+ 9:45 26.dxe4 2

[26.Qd1 e3]

26...d3! 1:30 27.Qf2 11 Nc2! 2:49

28.Rxc2 7 dxc2 8 29.e5 19 Qc7 6:57

Black is clearly winning. **30.Qxc2 1:57**

Rc5 2:30 31.b3 3:24

(Diagram)

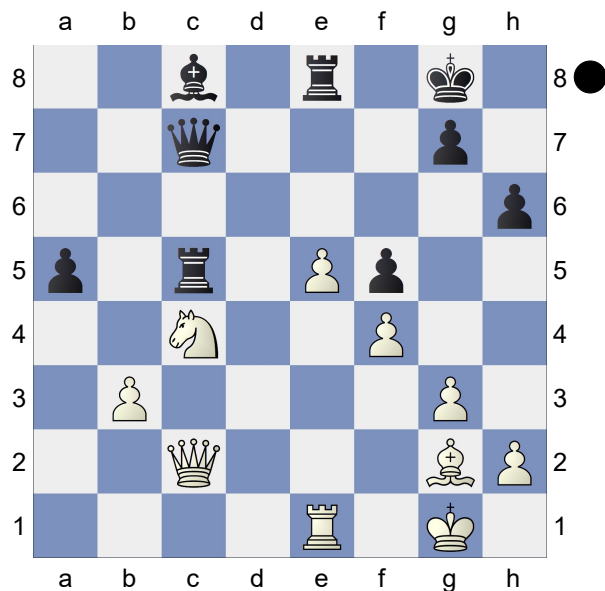
a4! 1:13 32.Qb1 16

[32.Qa2 axb3]

32...Be6 46 33.Nd6 26 Rb8 11 34.b4 30

[34.Nxf5 Bxb3 (34...Rxb3

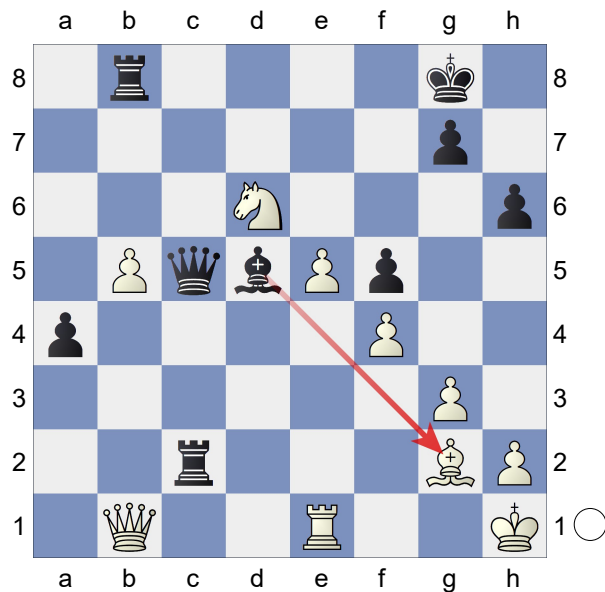
35.Nxh6+ Kh8 36.Qg6=) 35.Nd4]



34...Rc2 2:07 35.b5 32 Qc5+ 2:39

36.Kh1 2 Bd5 4:40

[36...a3]



37.Qxc2 1:52 Qxc2 4 38.Bxd5+ 15 Kf8

7 ...a3 is coming up 39.e6 8:41 Ke7 21

40.Nc4 16 Rxb5 1:37 Weighted Error

Value: White=0.89/Black=0.26 (precise)

0-1

C00
Sevall, Jacob Cameron 2140
Melville, Cailen Jeremiah 1852
 2026 Summer TNM: 2000+ (3.3) 22.07.26
 [TA]

Another point for Jacob. Cailen was doing fine up to a point, then the players traded misses, and Jacob took over.

Nice finish. 1.e4 12 e6 6 2.Nc3 48 d5 14 3.Nf3 22 Two Knight vs. the French, a favorite of Candidate Sindarov. 3...d4 34 4.Ne2 23 c5 24 5.c3 45 Nf6!= 18 Black should be fine (and results have been excellent from here). 6.e5 1:24

C00: French: Unusual White 2nd moves. 6...Nfd7 6 and %m would now be decisive 7.cxd4 54 cxd4 8 8.Nexd4 37 The position is equal. 8...Nxe5! 11 Deflection 9.Bb5+ 1:27 Nec6 16 10.0-0 1:01 Bd6 4:16

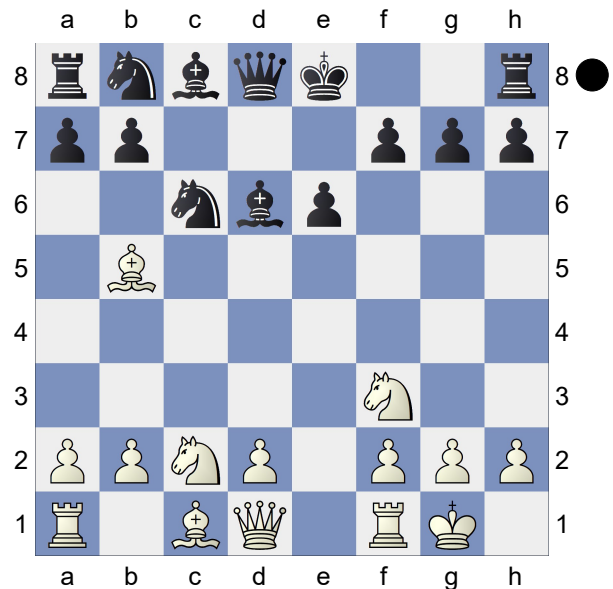
[Relevant: 10...Bd7 11.Ne2 Bd6
12.d4 0-0 13.Nc3 Nb4 14.Bc4 Qc7
15.Bb3 Bc6 16.a3 Nd5 17.Nxd5
Bxd5 18.Bxd5 exd5 19.Qb3 Rd8
20.Bg5 Rd7 21.Rae1 Nc6 22.Bh4
h6 23.Bg3 Bxg3 24.hxg3 Rad8
25.Qd3 Re7 26.Rxe7 Qxe7 27.Re1
Qd7 28.Qb3 Na5 29.Qb4 Nc6
30.Qc5 b6 31.Qc2 Rc8 32.Qe2 Kf8
33.Qd3 Kg8 34.b4 Ne7 35.Ne5 Qf5
36.Qb5 Qe6 37.Qa4 Nc6 38.Nf3
Qd7 39.Rc1 f6 40.Re1 Suyarov, M
(2555)-Gordon, F (2444) Aix en
Provence 2026 ½-½]

11.Nc2?! 40

(Diagram)

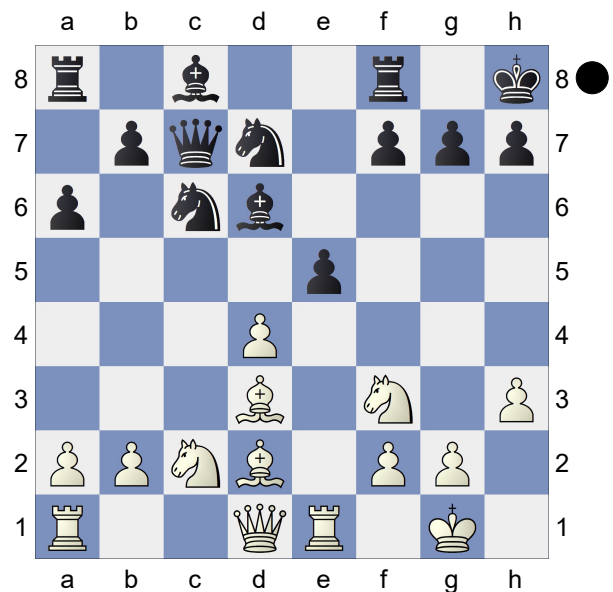
a6N 4:03

[Predecessor: 11...0-0 12.d4 b6
13.Bg5 Be7 14.Bf4 Bb7 15.a3 a6
16.Bc4 Na5 17.Ba2 Bd5 18.Ne3
Bxa2 19.Rxa2 Bd6 20.Bxd6 Qxd6
21.b4 Nac6 22.d5 exd5 23.Rd2 Ra7



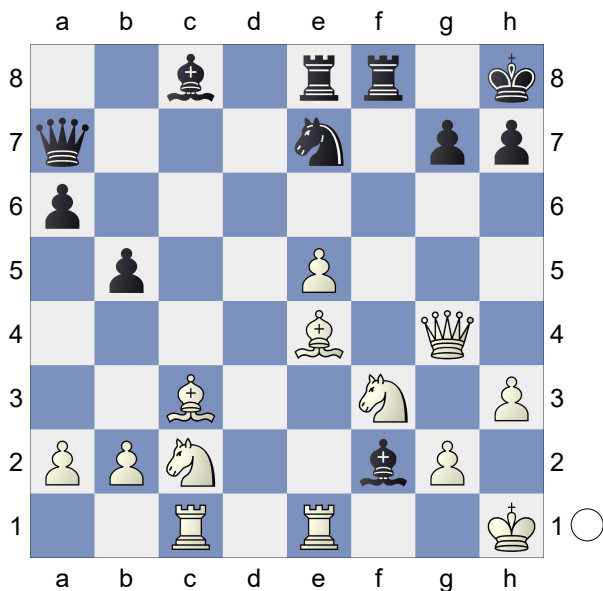
24.Rxd5 Qc7 25.Qb1 Ne7 26.Ng5
g6 27.Qb2 f6 28.Qb3 Nxd5
29.Qxd5+ Kh8 30.Ne6 Qf7 31.Nxf8
Qxf8 32.Qe6 b5 33.Rc1 Rd7 34.h4
Kg7 35.h5 Qd8 36.Qh3 Rc7 37.Rd1
Rd7 38.Re1 Re7 39.Qg3 Kf7
40.Rc1 Rd7 41.Rc3 Qashashvili, A
(2378)-Socko, B (2654) Yerevan 2014
½-½]

12.Be2 58 0-0 2:50 13.d4 1:02 Nd7 29
14.Bd3 3:26 Qc7 9:16 15.Re1 3:32 e5
2:30 16.h3 6:33 Kh8 20:33 17.Bd2
3:09



b5? 4:28
[17...f5±]

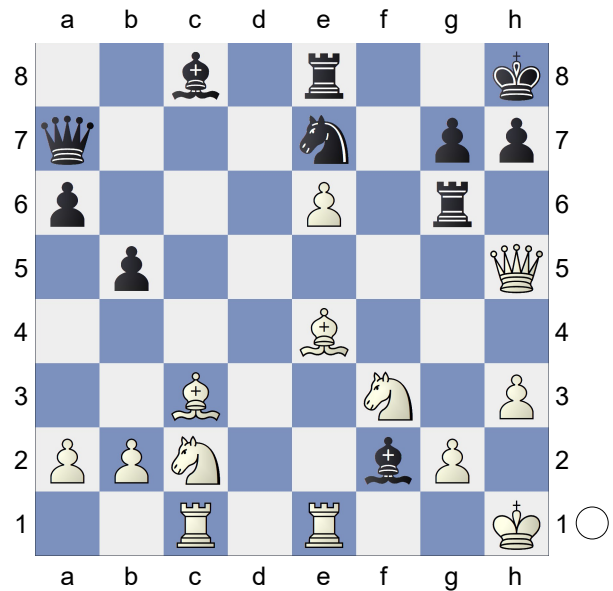
18.Bc3? 8:07
 [18.Rc1+-]
18...f6? 6:28
 [18...Bb7±]
19.Rc1+- 6:22 **Qa7?** 5:12
 [19...Ne7 20.dxe5 Nxe5 21.Nxe5 fxe5]
20.Be4 3:00 **Bb7** 58 **21.dxe5** 1:24 **Bc5**
 3:34 **22.Qxd7** 58 **Rad8** 2:40 **23.Qe6**
 1:33 **Bxf2+** 1:43 **24.Kh1** 23 **Rde8** 2:35
 [Δ24...Nxe5 25.Nxe5 Bc8]
25.Qg4 2:14 **f5** 5:03
 [Δ25...Nxe5 26.Bxe5 fxe5]
26.Bxf5 25 **Ne7** 7 **27.Be4** 3:58 **Bc8** 14



Inhibits e6. **28.e6!** 41 **Rf6** 1:16
 [28...Ng8 29.Bc6]
29.Qh5 1:39 **Rg6** 1:36

(Diagram)

30.Ng5! 1:10 Weighted Error Value:
 White=0.44/Black=1.18
 1-0

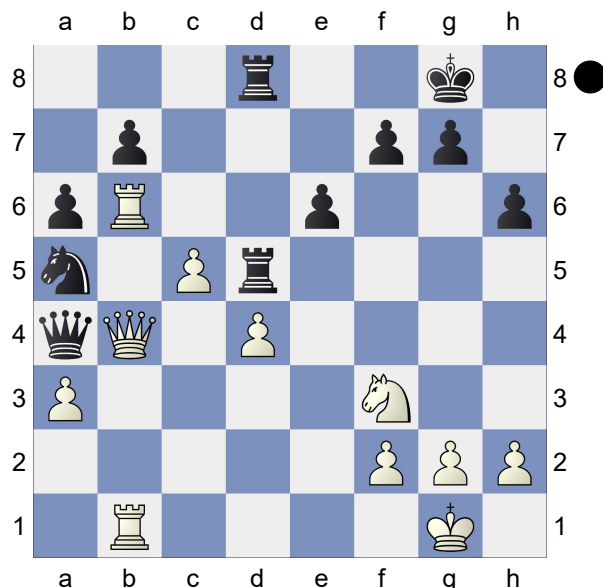
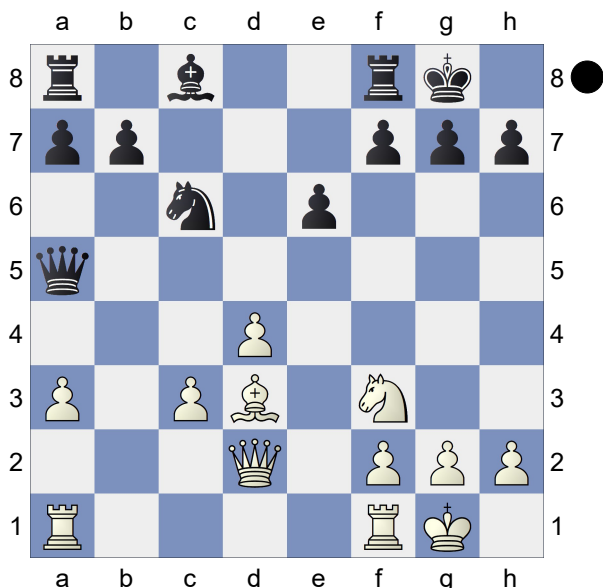


B22
 Cawthon,Jeremy David 2124
 Dharmatti,Ritesh 1859
 2026 Summer TNM: 2000+ (3.4) 22.07.26
 [TA]

Cawthon's favorite Alapin Sicilian left
 Dharmatti with a backward b-pawn under
 some pressure, but countered by same
 vs. d4. Why he gave away the Exchange
 on d4 is unclear. In any case, Cawthon
 didn't make the most of it, Black got
 some pawns for it, slipped later, Jeremy
 made it stick, taking the point. 1.e4 2 c5
 52 2.c3 Nc6 7 3.d4 1 d5 7 4.exd5 6
 Qxd5 1 5.Nf3 6 Nf6 10 6.Be2 25 cxd4
 1:38 7.cxd4 2 e6 10 8.Nc3 7 Qa5 8
 9.0-0 8 Bb4 12 10.Bd2 1:09
 B22: Sicilian: 2 c3. 10...0-0 24 11.a3 5
 Bxc3 5:12 12.bxc3 48 The position is
 equal. 12...Ne4 2:48 13.Bd3 14 Nxd2
 42 14.Qxd2 12

(Diagram)

h6N 33:07
 [14...b6= 15.Qf4 Ba6 16.c4 Qh5
 17.Rfd1 Rfd8 18.Be4 Rac8 19.g4



Qh6 20.Qxh6 gxf6 21.Bxc6 Rxc6
1-0 (27) Nielsen,L (2260)-Haubro,M
(2151) Copenhagen 2012]

15.Rfb1 1:20 a6 33

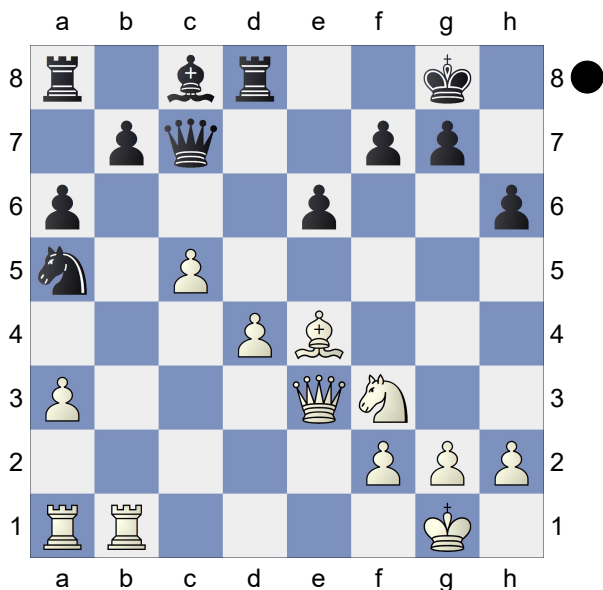
[15...Ne7±]

16.Be4 37

[16.Qe3±]

16...Rd8± 1:57 17.Qe3 43 Qc7 14:23

18.c4 6:08 Na5 6:43 19.c5 24



Bd7 1:36 20.Ne5 1:34 Bc6 11:26
21.Rb6 1:48 Bxe4 5:01 22.Qxe4 2 Rd5
25 23.Rab1 7:19 Rad8 25 24.Nf3 1:47
Qd7 4:56 25.Qe1 2:09 Qa4 29 26.Qb4
1:19

(Diagram)

Rxd4? 57

[26...Qxb4= 27.axb4 Nc6]

27.Nxd4+- 35 Rxd4 15 28.Qe1 2:02

Parries Rd1.

[28.Qxa4+- Rxa4 29.Ra1]

28...Qxa3= 2:07 29.Rd6 4:40 Ra4 1:38

[29...Rc4=]

30.Qd1? 6:31

[30.Rxe6+- fxe6 31.Qxe6+ Kh8
(31...Kh7? 32.Qf5+ Kh8 33.Re1+-)
32.Qc8+ (32.Qe8+? Kh7+-) 32...Kh7
33.Qf5+ Kg8 34.Re1]

30...Nc6? 2:33

[30...Rc4!=]

31.Rd3!+- 3:41

[31.Rxb7 Rc4 32.Qe2 (32.Rxc6
Rc1= Pin) 32...Qxc5±]

31...Qa2 1:26 32.Rxb7 34 Rc4 1:48

33.Rc7? 11:17

[33.h3!+-]

33...Rxc5? 59

[33...Nd4!= 34.Qe1 (34.Rxd4? Rxd4
35.Qe1 Qb3+-) 34...Qc2]

34.Rd6? 1:47

[34.Rd8+!+- Kh7 35.g3]

34...Rf5= 13 35.Rd2 38 Active counter
play!

[35.Rcxc6? Qxf2+ (35...Rxf2?

36.Rc8+ Kh7 37.Qd3+ Rf5

38.Qc2+-) 36.Kh1 Qf1+ 37.Qxf1

Rxf1#]

[35.Rc8+ Kh7 36.Rd2 (36.Rcxc6?

Qxf2+ 37.Kh1 Qf1+ **Back Rank**

38.Qxf1 Rxf1#) 36...Qc4±]

35...Qc4 1:00 36.Rc2 53 Qd5 23

37.Qb1 2:07 Nd4 28 38.Rc8+ 2:02 Kh7

5 39.R2c5 1:17 Qd6 2:08

[39...Ne2+? 40.Kf1+-]

40.Rxf5 6:04 exf5 2 Endgame KQR-

KQN 41.Qd1 1:58 Qe6 14 42.Ra8 29

White has compensation. 42...Ne2+ 14

43.Kh1 36 Nc3 22 44.Qf1 12 Nb5 40

45.f3 1:23 Qc6 11 46.Rf8 23 Qd7 14

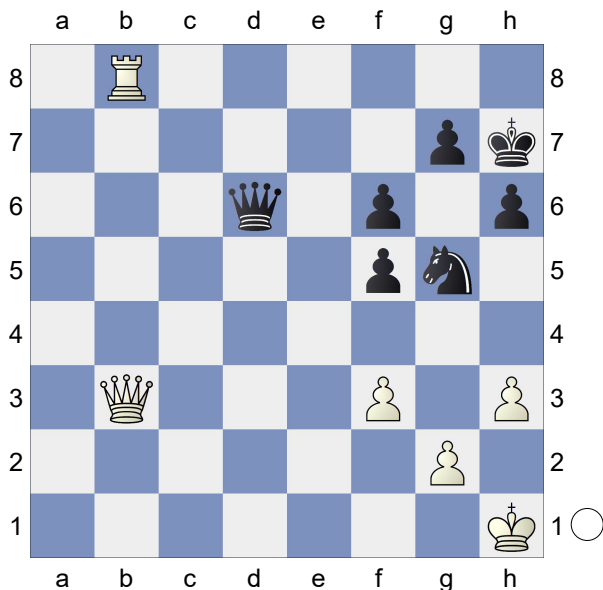
47.Qa1 34 Nc7 43 48.h3 19 a5 19

49.Qe5 1:55 f6 1:27 50.Qa1 3:54 a4 6

51.Rb8 21 Qd6 26 52.Qxa4 32 Ne6 12

53.Qb3 17 Ng5? 1:07

[53...Qe5=]



54.Rb5? 3:25

[54.Qb1!+- Kg6 55.h4]

54...Qf4± 30 55.Qc2 1:26 Kg6 25

[55...Ne4!?

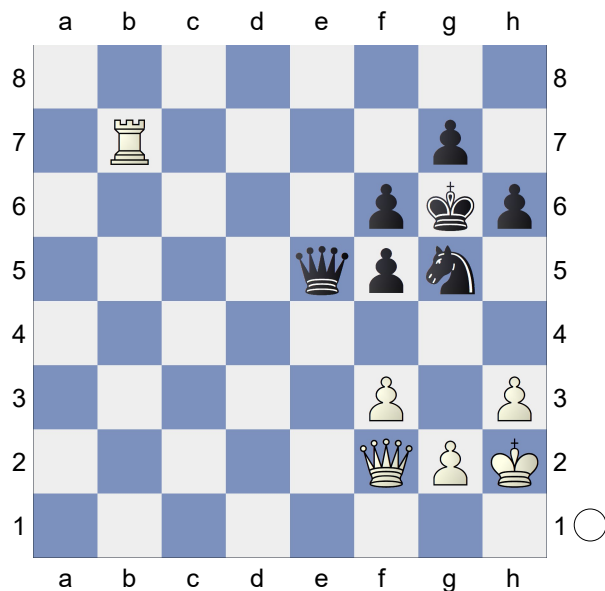
56.Rb7 2:44 Qe5 41 57.Qf2 2:21

Qa1+? 18 Black is on the road to losing.

[57...Ne6= **equal**]

58.Kh2+- 18 Qe5+ 51

(Diagram)



59.Qg3! 3:46 Qxg3+ 56

[59...Qd5 **was safer**]

60.Kxg3 3 KR-KN 60...Nf7 28

[Δ60...Ne6 61.Rd7 f4+ 62.Kh2 Nf8]

61.Kf4 56 Ng5 32 62.Re7 23 Avoids

62...Nf7 20 63.h4 18 h5 15 64.Re8 44

Nh6 24 65.Ra8 30 Nf7 30 66.Ra5 20

Nh6 13 67.Ke3 2:27 Kf7 21 68.Kd4 30

g5 1:31 69.hxg5 34 fxg5 2 70.Ke5 18

h4 34 71.Ra6 25 Kg7 13 72.Rb6 42

g4 48 73.Kf4 47 Kh7 1:12 74.Kg5 1:43

gxf3 25 75.Rxh6+ 13 Kg7 2 76.gxf3 11

Weighted Error Value: White=0.36/

Black=0.54

1-0

C47

□ Rosston,Andrew Burkett

1471

■ McCutcheon,Bennett

1647

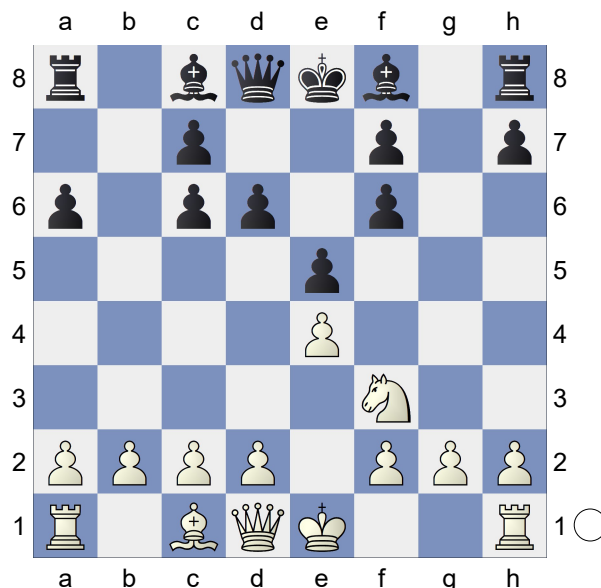
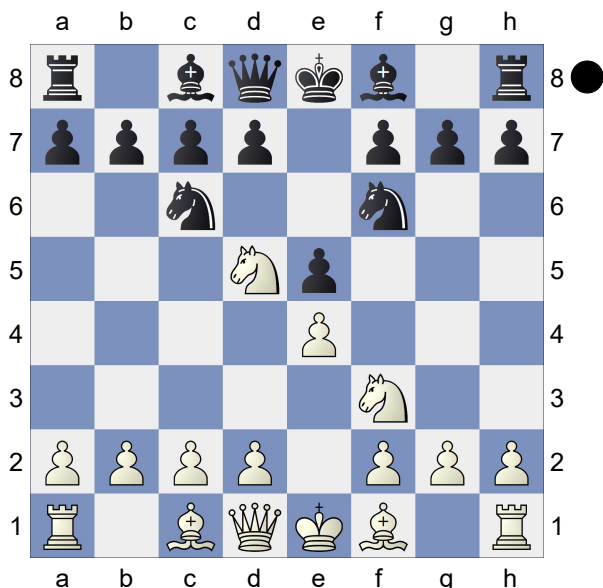
2026 Summer TNM: 1600-1999 (3.25)

[Rosston,Andrew Burkett]

(EW: Andy Rosston's excellent notes to his win are good enough for me to just include in this month's Newsletter as they are. Okay, so there are a couple

"??"s and all, but at least they're noticed in the notes!) 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nc3

Nc6 4.Nd5



For Danya! A 10+ minute think ensued here, but Black had good defensive instincts. Theory branches out heavily, as Black can capture knight or pawn, develop the bishop to c5, or play d6, and each option itself has a number of reasonable branchings for Black, often only tested in blitz games by the late grandmaster. Nxe4 is the "main line" if one is prepared for the raging attack that follows, after which GM Arturs Nieksans suggests 5. d4 d6 6. Bb5 for a version of the Spanish, or rapid development, usually with Bd3 and/or Qe2, in a number of other lines. Play can resemble all manner of Open Game variations, especially the Spanish, as the knights' position is the only differentiating factor from main lines.

4...d6 5.Bb5?!N A mix-up of theory - Nieksans suggests d4 first. Either way, this will resemble a version of the Spanish Steinitz Defense. **5...a6 6.Bxc6+ bxc6 7.Nxf6+ gxf6!?♞**
 [7...Qxf6 More similar to some theoretical lines and much safer for Black]

(Diagram)

Opening both the b and g files causes some issues for White's king safety as well, but Black's can never find permanent shelter. **8.d4?**

A misunderstanding of the position - White has not sacrificed and needs to play solidly for positional advantages. (EW: I dunno, but Stockfish agrees at least.)

[8.d3]
 [8.Nh4 d5 This immediate expansion was concerning, but the engine says White is still better.]

8...Rg8 9.Nh4?? Rg4 appeared to be prevented but was not.

[9.Be3 Rxc2 10.Nh4 (10.Nd2) 10...Rg4 11.Nf5 (11.Qf3) 11...Rxe4 12.Qh5 A gambit not worth the compensation (12.Qf3)]
 [9.g3 Bg4 10.Qd3 Bxf3 11.Qxf3 exd4 The better way to offer up a pawn]

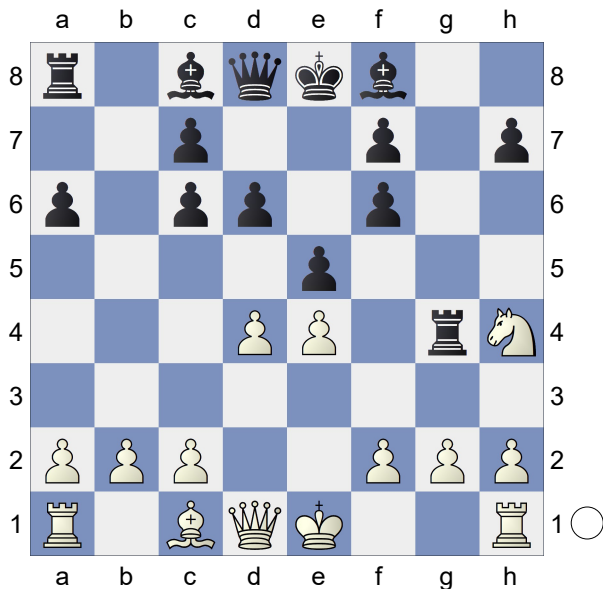
9...Rg4

[9...Bg4 10.f3 (10.Qd3)]

(Diagram)

10.g3?

[10.Nf3 Rxe4+ 11.Be3]



[10.Nf5 Rxe4+ White is still forked - an important detail that was missed 11.Ne3 exd4]

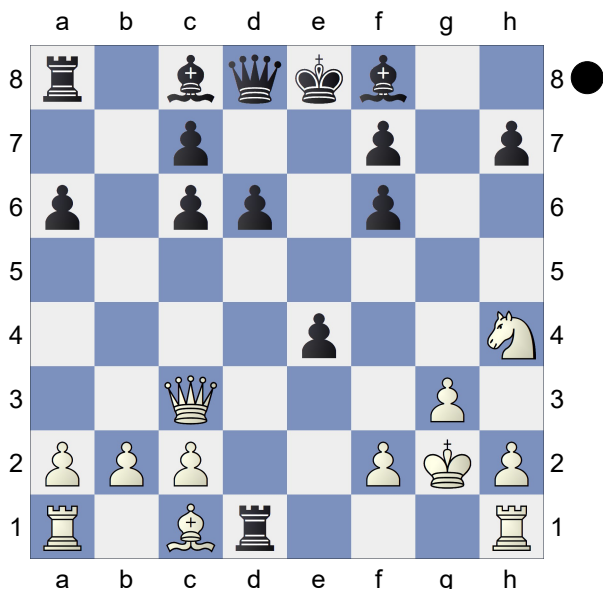
10...Rxe4+ 11.Kf1 Rxd4 12.Qf3

This square is the correct place for the queen in the true Steinitz, with an excellent diagonal and threats against the black kingside, though it is too little here for the two pawn loss. **12...e4**

13.Qc3 Rd1+

[13...c5 14.Be3 Rd5 The rook is nearly trapped but escapes in all lines]

14.Kg2



Bh3+??

[14...Rxb1 15.Qxc6+

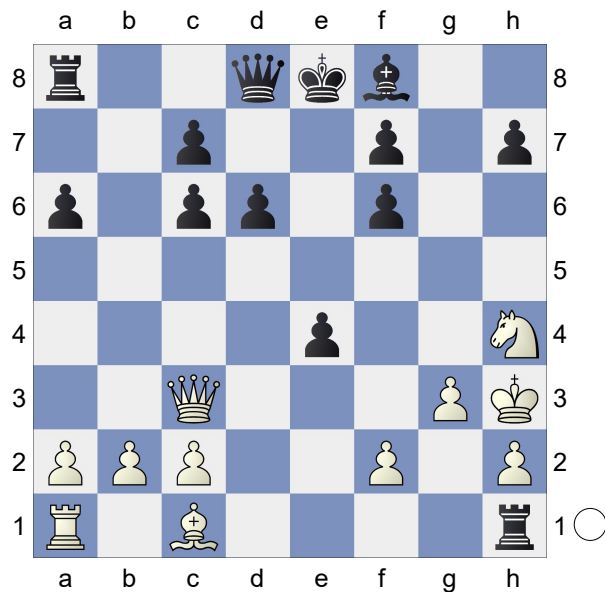
A) 15...Qd7 16.Qxe4+ (16.Qxa8 Qh3+ 17.Kxb1 Qf1#) 16...Qe6

17.Qc6+ Kd8;

B) 15...Bd7 16.Qxe4+ Be7

17.Kxb1 Rb8 18.b3]

15.Kxb1 Rxb1



16.Kg2! Black missed this ghost move, eliminating the indirect defense against Qxc6 with Qd7+ forcing the queen trade.

[16.Qxc6+ Qd7+]

16...Rxc1

[16...Rd1 17.Qxc6+ Ke7 (17...Qd7 18.Qxa8+) 18.Nf5+ (18.Qxe4+ Kd7 19.Qg4+) 18...Ke6 19.Qxe4+ Kd7 20.Qg4]

17.Qxc6+ Ke7 18.Rxc1

[18.Nf5+ Ke6

A) 19.Qxe4+ Kd7 20.Qa4+ (20.Rxc1) 20...Kc8 The king escapes;

B) 19.Nd4+ Ke5 20.Rxc1]

18...Qe8

[18...Ra7

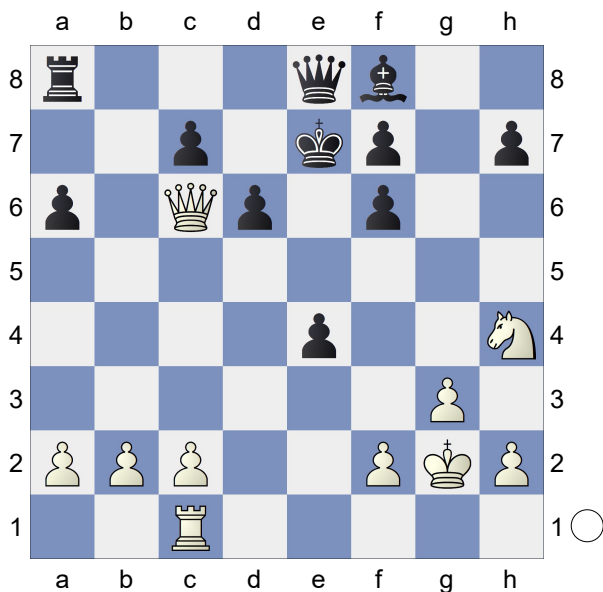
A) 19.Nf5+ Ke6

A1) 20.Nd4+ Ke5 21.f4+ Kxd4 (21...exf3+ 22.Nxf3+) 22.Rd1+ Ke3 23.Qc3+;

A2) 20.Qxe4+ Kd7;

B) 19.Re1;

C) 19.Qxe4+ Kd7]
[18...Qc8 19.Re1]



19.Nf5+

[19.Qxc7+ Qd7 20.Nf5+ Ke6
21.Qxd7+ Kxd7 22.Rd1]

19...Ke6 20.Nd4+ Ke5 21.f4+ exf3+

[21...Kxd4 22.Rd1+ Ke3 23.Qc3+
Ke2 24.Qe1#]

22.Nxf3+ Kf5 23.Nh4+

[23.Qd5+ Kg6 24.Re1 Qc8]

23...Kg5 24.Qf3 Qc8 25.Rf1 Be7

26.Qf4+ Kh5 27.Nf5

1-0

B06

□ **Sevall, Jacob Cameron**

2140

■ **Winslow, Elliott**

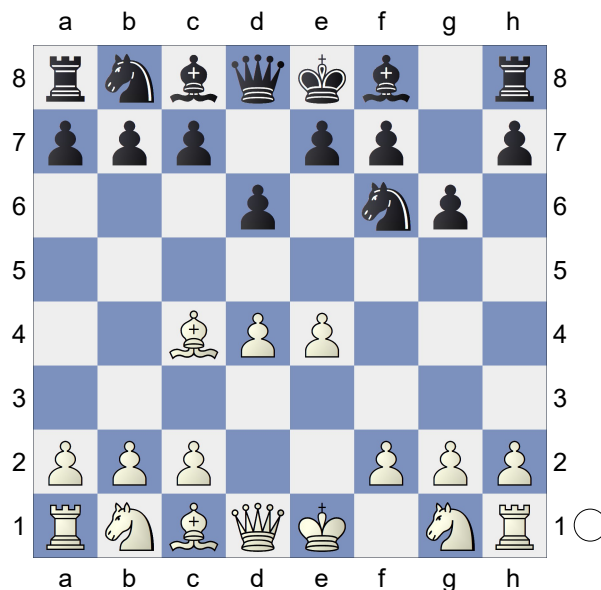
2200

2026 Summer TNM: 2000+ (4.1) 07.07.26

[Winslow, Elliott]

A curious moment for the tournament: Christopher Yoo, tied for 1st-2nd with 3-0, is taking two half-point byes -- and Jimmy Heiserman, the other perfect score, is taking *three* byes! In clear 3rd a half point below is Jacob Sevall, back in the US after a few years in Germany. Against him I was affronted by

some curious opening play, but although I pushed him around a bit I couldn't push him over. I did have some chances, only one real (the others imagined), and after the usual fruitless attempt to win three vs. two on the same side in a rook ending it was a draw. *FLASH* Except there was a double blunder on move 57! For one move I could have won. **1.e4 49 d6 1:46 2.d4 24 g6 13 3.Bc4 1:26 Nf6 1:17**

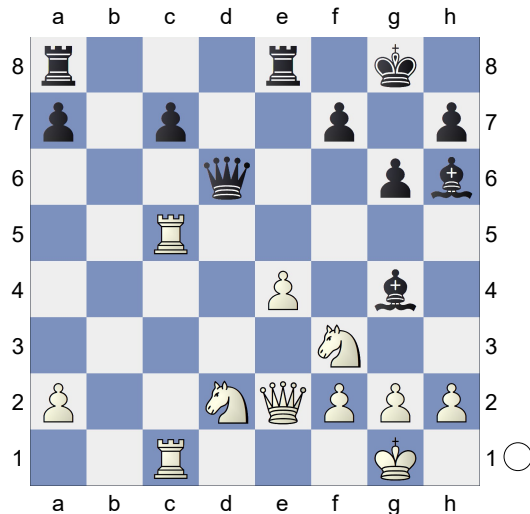


4.Qd3?! 1:21 Highly experimental!

[4.Qe2 has been seen quite a few times (well, maybe a hundred fifty in Mega), including a couple of Carlsen games, including one loss, to Andreikin (in a blitz game of course): Nc6 5.Nf3 Bg4 6.c3 e5 7.Bb5 Nd7 (7...exd4 8.cxd4 Nd7= 9.Be3 Bg7 10.Bxc6 bxc6 11.Nbd2 0-0 12.Rc1 c5 13.dxc5 Bxb2 14.Rc2 Bg7 15.0-0 Re8 16.Rd1 Nxc5 17.Bxc5 dxc5 18.Rxc5 Qd6 19.Rdc1 Bh6

(Diagram)

20.Rxc7 Rad8 21.R1c2 Bxd2 22.Qxd2 Qf4 23.Re7 Rf8 24.Qa5 Rd1+ 25.Ne1 Qg5 0-1 (25) Tal, M-Olafsson, F Las Palmas 1975) 8.dxe5



Ndxe5 9.Nbd2 Bg7 10.h3 Bd7
 11.0-0 0-0 12.Nxe5 Nxe5 13.f4 a6
 14.Bxd7 Nxd7 15.f5 Qe7 16.Qf3
 Rae8 17.g4 Bh6 18.Rf2 d5 19.f6
 Qd8 20.Qg3 Nxf6 21.e5 Bxd2
 22.Rxf6 Bxc1 23.Rxc1 Re6 24.Rcf1
 Qe7 25.Rxe6 fxe6 26.Rf6 Rxf6
 27.exf6 Qc5+ 28.Kg2 d4 29.cxd4
 Qc2+ 30.Kf3 Qd3+ 31.Kg2 Qxg3+
 32.Kxg3 g5 33.h4 h6 34.hxg5 hxg5
 35.Kf3 Kf7 36.Ke4 Kxf6 37.d5 a5
 38.a4 e5 39.b3 b6 40.Kd3 Ke7
 41.Ke3 Kd7 42.Kd3 c6 43.Ke4 c5
 44.Kxe5 b5 45.axb5 1-0 (45)
 Andreikin,D (2729)-Carlsen,M (2861)
 Titled Tuesday intern op 27th Sep
 Early
 2022]

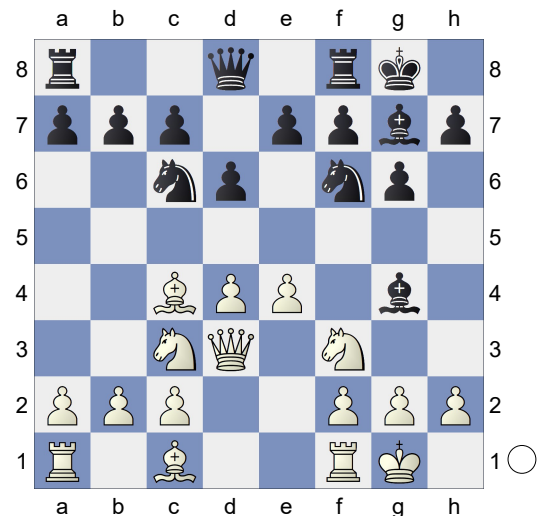
4...Bg7 1:51 5.Nc3 9 Praxis is getting thin here:

[5.Nf3 Nc6 6.Ng5 e6 7.c3 a6 8.0-0
 Na5 9.Bb3 Bd7 10.f4 Qe7 11.Bd2
 0-0-0 12.e5 Ng4 13.c4 Nxb3
 14.axb3 dxe5 15.fxe5 f6 16.Qf3
 Nxe5 17.dxe5 fxg5 18.Rxa6 Kb8
 19.Ra2 Bc6 20.Qe3 b6 21.b4 Bf8
 22.Qb3 Bb7 23.Qg3 Qd7 24.Qxg5
 Be7 25.Qe3 Qc6 26.Qe2 Rhf8
 27.Rxf8 Rxf8 28.Na3 Rd8 29.b3 h5
 30.Nb5 h4 31.Na7 Qe8 32.Be3
 Bxb4 33.Qg4 Rd3 34.Bg5 Rxb3
 35.Bxh4 Bc5+ 36.Kf1 Qf7+ 37.Bf6

Qd7 38.Qe2 Rb1+ 0-1 (38) Breen,V-
 Egeland,M Hamburg 1999]
 [5.c3 0-0 6.Nf3 c6 7.0-0 b5 8.Bb3
 a6 9.Bf4 Bb7 10.Nbd2 c5 11.Bc2
 cxd4 12.cxd4 Nc6 13.a3 Rc8
 14.Rac1 h6 15.Qe3 Ng4 16.Qd3 e5
 17.dxe5 dxe5 18.Qxd8 Rfxd8
 19.Bg3 Re8 20.Bb3 Rcd8 21.Bd5
 Na5 22.Bxb7 Nxb7 23.Rc7 Nd6
 24.Rfc1 f5 25.Ra7 Nxe4 26.Nxe4
 fxe4 0-1 (26) Kitzler,G (1145)-
 Schuelke,T (1989) Griesheim 2006]

5...Nc6 5:44 6.f4N 3:17 Out here in the wilderness, we're finally on our own.

[It was a disaster in one game: 6.Nf3=
 0-0 7.0-0 Bg4

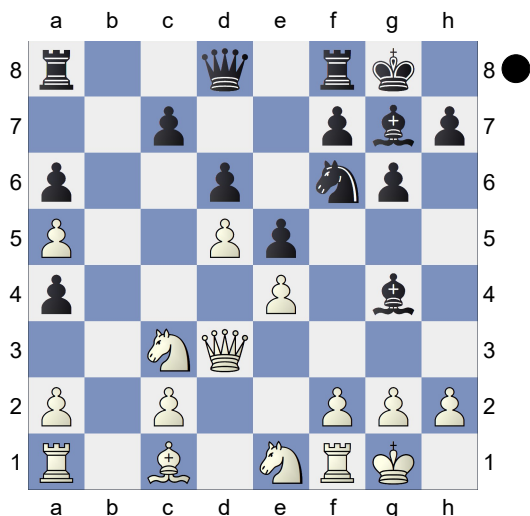


Well, we've almost transposed into something normal (except that Q/d3 will never be normal!): 8.Ne1

(The aforementioned horror: 8.Ng5
 h6 9.e5 dxe5 10.dxe5 Nxe5
 11.Qxd8 Rfxd8 12.Bb3 hxg5
 13.Bxg5 Nc6 14.Rfe1 Bf5 15.Re2
 Rd7 16.Re3 Nh7 17.Na4 Nxg5
 0-1 (17) Roger,P-Ouellet,A IECG
 email 1997) 8...e5 9.d5 Na5 10.Bb5
 a6 11.Ba4 b5 12.b4 bxa4 13.bxa5

(Diagram)

I'm always on the lookout for such wonders Bd7 14.Rb1 Nh5 15.Qc4

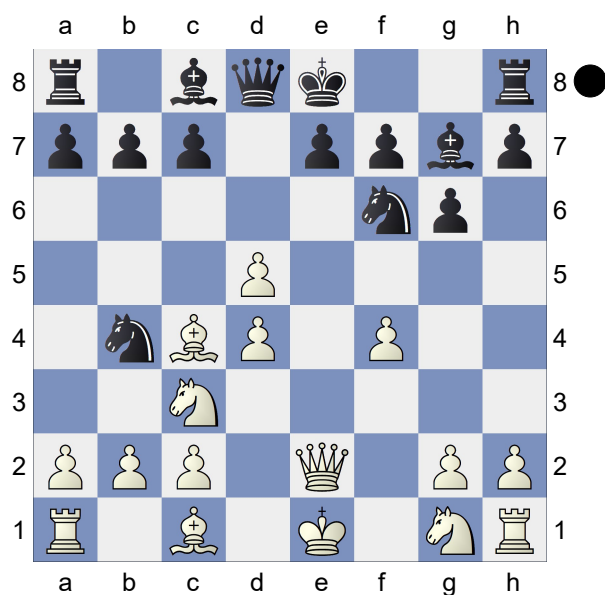


Qc8 16.Nf3 h6 17.Bd2 f5 18.Nh4
Kh7 19.exf5 gxf5 20.Qe2 Be8
21.Rb4 Bf6 22.Qd3 e4 23.Qh3 f4
24.Nxe4 Qxh3 25.Nxf6+ Nxf6
26.gxh3 Rg8+ 27.Kh1 Nxd5 28.Re4
Bc6 29.f3 Rae8 30.Rfe1 Rxe4
31.Rxe4 Rb8 32.c4 Rb1+ 33.Re1
Rxe1+ 34.Bxe1 Ne3 35.c5 dxc5
36.Bd2 a3 37.Bc1 Nc2 38.Kg1 Bd5
39.Kf2 Bxa2 40.Ke2 Bd5 0-1 (40)
Murtazin,B (2404)-Vavulin,M (2545)
St Petersburg 2018]

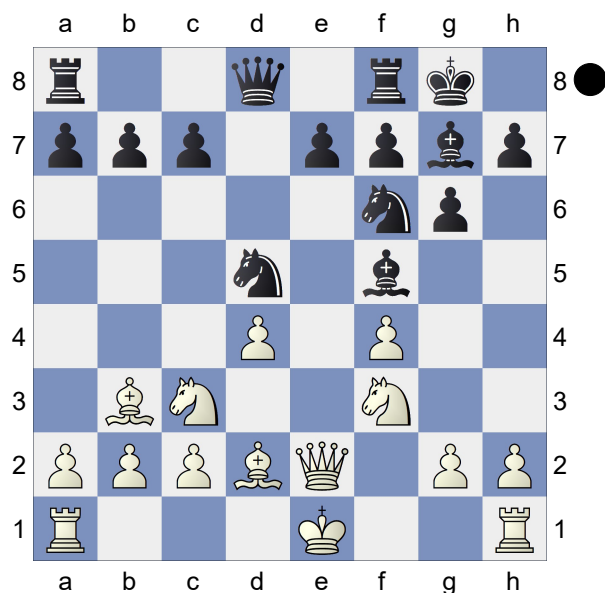
[6.a3!?=]
6...Nb4 5:07 **7.Qe2** 42
[7.Qd2]
7...d5 1:15
[7...Bg4!]
8.exd5?! 32
[8.Nxd5]

(Diagram)

8...Nbx d5 2:43
[8...Bg4! 9.Qf2 0-0 10.h3 Bf5
11.Bb3 e6! I should have been more
alert to his king in the center.]
9.Nf3 42
[9.Nxd5 Nxd5 10.Nf3]
9...0-0 1:22 **10.Bd2**?! 3:21 **Bf5**?! 5:08
[10...c6]
11.Bb3?! 9:20

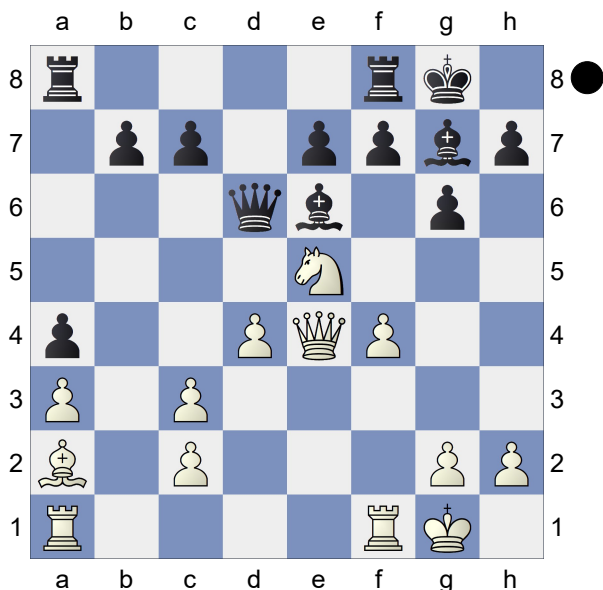


[11.Nxd5 Nxd5 12.0-0-0 b5!?
13.Bxb5 c5]



11...a5 3:36 Even this I wasn't sure of,
[and indeed Stockfish gives the nodal
nod to 11...Nxc3 12.Bxc3 Nd5]
12.a3?! 2:35 **Nxc3** 1:27 **13.Bxc3** 3:28
Ne4 2:12 **14.Ne5** 33 **Nxc3** 1:12
15.bxc3 10 **Qd6**?! 4:30
[15...a4! 16.Bc4 c5 (-1.44/22)]
16.0-0 3:04
[16.a4!?]
16...a4 1:36
[16...c5!]
17.Ba2?! 1:48

[17.Bc4!⚡]
17...Be6?! 1:28 18.Qe4?! 6:20
 [18.Bxe6 Qxe6 19.Qb5=]



18...c6? 5:15 Too stodgy. The engine seems to have a completely different perspective than these two humans!

[18...Bxa2 19.Rxa2 c5⚡]
19.Rfb1? 10:43
 [19.Bxe6 Qxe6 20.f5=]
19...Bxa2 3:48 20.Rxa2 14 Qe6-+ 3:44
 (or so it says!) **21.c4 25 Rad8 6:29**
 (wrong rook of course) **22.Qd3! 23:03**
Bxe5 1:58

[22...b5! 23.d5 Qd6 24.Nxc6 Qc5+-+ 25.Kf1 (25.Kh1 bxc4 26.Qe4 Rd7) 25...bxc4 26.Qe4 Rd7]
 It's making Black winning, but the particulars are perplexing.]

23.fxe5⚡ 2

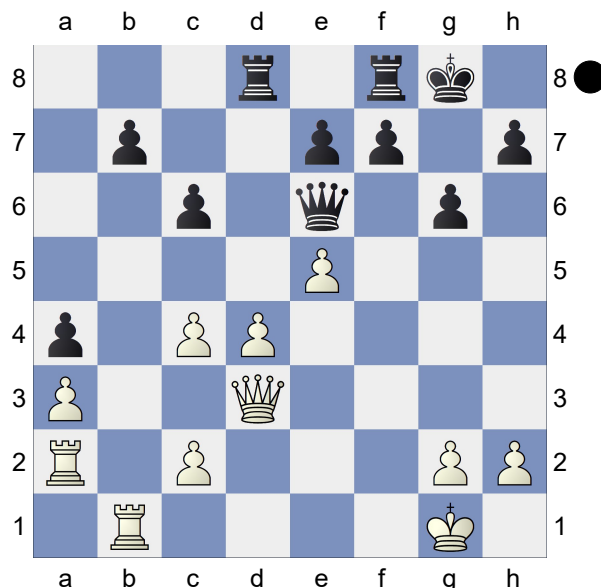
(Diagram)

c5?! 18

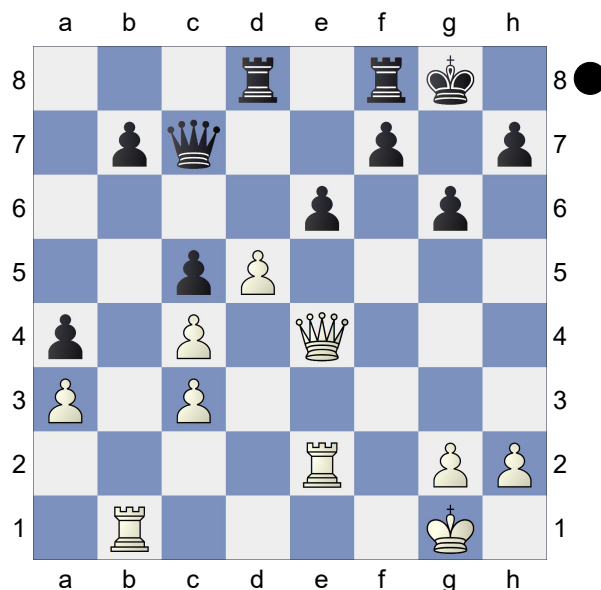
[23...b5! 24.Rab2⚡ (24.Raa1?! bxc4 25.Qe4 f5 26.Qf4 c5-+) 24...bxc4 25.Qe4 f5 26.Qh4 c5!⚡ (26...c3!?!⚡ 27.Rb7 Rd7 28.h3)]

24.c3 2:49 Qxe5⚡ 4:04 (best "try")

25.Re2 2:05 Qc7 1:54 26.d5 1:31



[26.Reb2!]
26...e6 2:37 27.Qe4?! 25
 [27.h4⚡]
 [27.h3⚡]

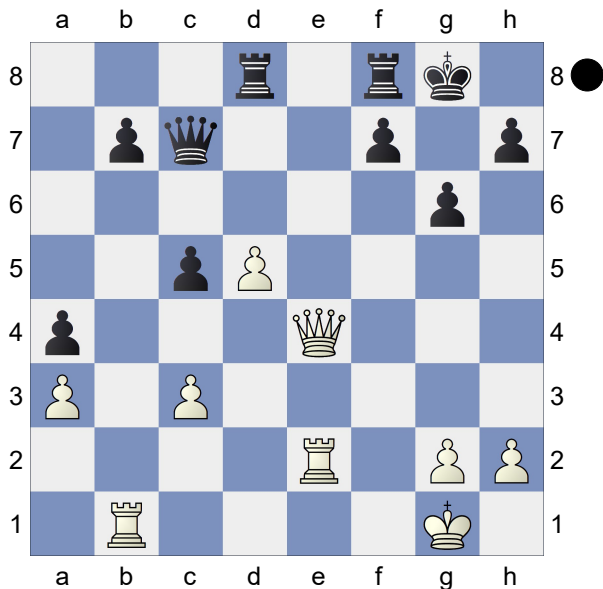


27...exd5? 57

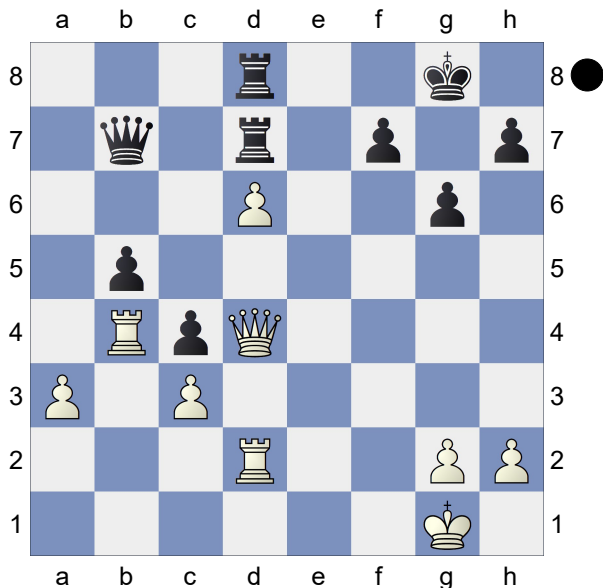
[27...Rd6 28.Qf4 b6 29.Rbe1 Qd8 30.dxe6⚡ fxe6!⚡]
28.cxd5= 8

(Diagram)

So I've won a nearly worthless pawn. In the time it took to type this Stockfish 18 has wracked up 8 x 0.00/d54. **28...c4**



1:56 I felt I had to stop c3-c4, and the comp agrees. 29.Qd4! 57.Rd7 6:42 30.Rb4 34.Rc8 1:06 31.Rxa4 25 (not inferior enough to merit a "?!", but there was no hurry. 31...b5 1:00 32.Rb4 58.Qb7 1:59 (So Black has earned a sustained "-0.20" that has grown to -0.30 at depth 26, but could it become anything more!? 33.Rd2 3:38 Rcd8 1:01 34.d6 31

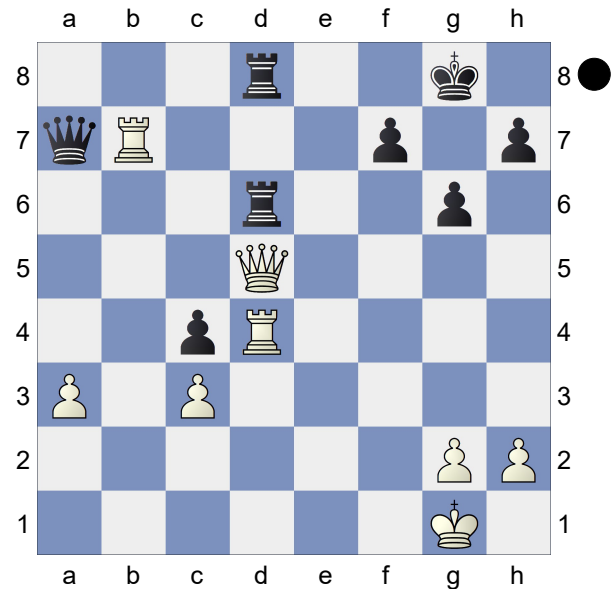


Qc6 4:58

[I had dwelled on 34...Rxd6 35.Qxd6 Rxd6 36.Rxd6 and now 36...Qe7 37.Rd1 Qe3+ 38.Kh1 Qxc3 39.Rxb5 Qxa3 The machine makes

this a full complement of zeroes, but I was thinking it's unlosable, and those pawns are still on the board. But I convinced myself that there must be some advantageous rook ending in there somewhere with the text move. I was wrong.]

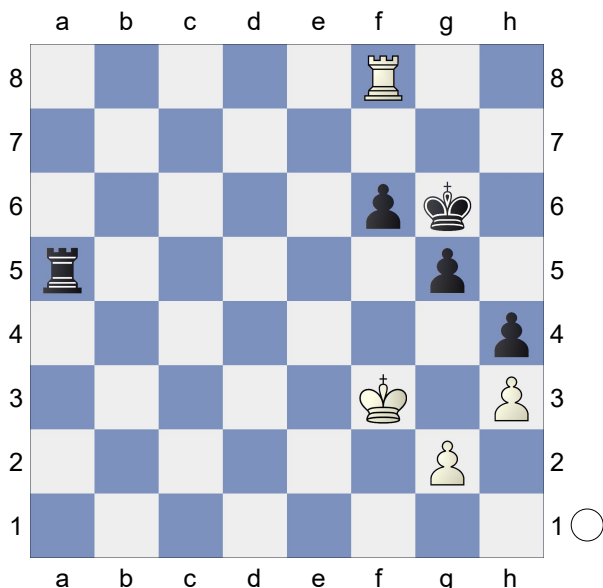
35.Qd5 56.Qb6+ 1:36 36.Rd4 35.Rxd6 2:03 37.Rxb5 15.Qa7 5:43 38.Rb7 33



Rxd5 9 39.Rxa7 7 Rxd4 18 40.cxd4 14 Rxd4 36 The c- and a-pawns will go away, with one of those extra pawn draws. Jacob defended confidently but not flawlessly: 41.Rc7 7 h5 1:16 42.Kf2 11 Rd2+ 42 43.Kf3 29 Rd3+ 1:02 44.Ke2 15 Rxa3 5 45.Rxc4 9 Kg7 19 46.Rc6 8 h4 22 47.Kf2 13 g5 18 48.h3 26 f6 7 49.Rb6 9 Kg6 3 50.Rb5 24 Ra4 33 51.Rb6 34 Rf4+ 23 52.Ke3 32 Kh5 44 53.Rb8 1:02 Rf5 47 54.Rg8 1:29 Re5+ 23 55.Kf3 36 Ra5 32 56.Rf8 1:00 Kg6 13

(Diagram)

57.Re8?? 42 20m 15s. Not flawlessly at all! 57...Ra3+?? 1:03 Black 7m 38s. I only now, days after the game, spot this while right-clicking through the game with Stockfish on when it clobbers me



over the head with it.

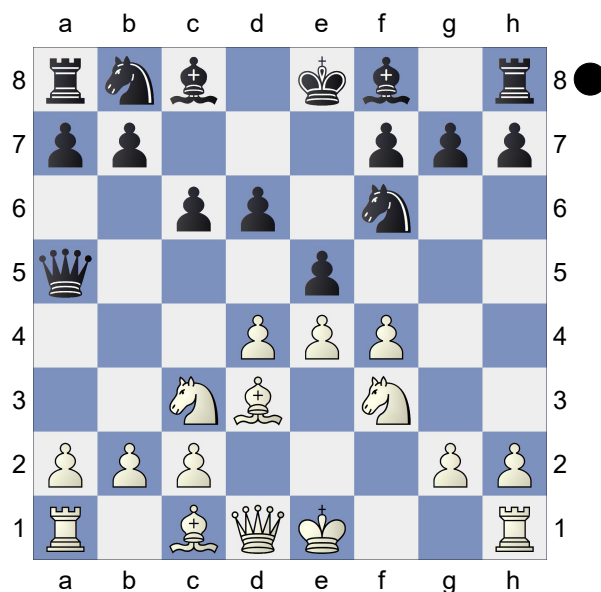
[57...Rf5+ would be a routine win after some accuracy: 58.Ke4 (58.Ke2 Re5+ is trivial.) 58...Rf2 59.Rg8+ Kf7 60.Ra8 Rxd2 61.Kf5 Rf2+ 62.Kg4 Rf4+ 63.Kh5 Rf3 64.Ra7+ Ke6 65.Kg6 Rxd3 R+2 v R. I even have the correct h-pawn "pre-led ahead" of the g-pawn (but of course that is about White's king in front of the pawns, not behind).]

58.Kf2 15 No more surprises. After wasting a scoresheet and fifteen more moves I relented. **58...Kf5 15 59.Rb8 24 Ra4 1:15 60.Rb3 52 Rd4 30 61.Kf3 25 Ke5 36 62.Re3+ 14 Kd5 26 63.Re8 16 f5 42 64.Rg8 43 Rd3+ 13 65.Kf2 16 Rg3 10 66.Re8 30 f4 15 67.Rd8+ 51 Ke6 10 68.Rf8 42 Rd3 2:00 69.Re8+ 41 Kf7 8 70.Ra8 57 Rg3 14 71.Ra7+ 51 Kg6 2 72.Ra6+ 13 Kh5 20 73.Ra5 16 Re3 3:03**

1/2-1/2

B07
2188
2077
 2026 Summer TNM: 2000+ (4.2) 07.07.26
[Winslow,Elliott]

Rohan Das continues his recovery, beating Justin Fink's Czech Defense in style. **1.d4 1 d6 46 2.e4 20 Nf6 10 3.Nc3 5 c6 11 4.f4! 28 Qa5 44 5.Bd3 53 e5 14 6.Nf3 6:35**



Nbd7 4:52

[6...exd4 7.Nxd4 Qb6!? is a favorite of my co-broadcaster on ICC of old, Varuzh Akobian. (7...g6!?) Now 8.Be3 has a huge score, but only because one Asa Hoffman of New York has gone 1-12 against it in Titled Tuesday blitz games over the last few years.]

7.0-0 14:58 Be7 2:51 8.h3 2:25

[8.Kh1]

8...exd4 4:03

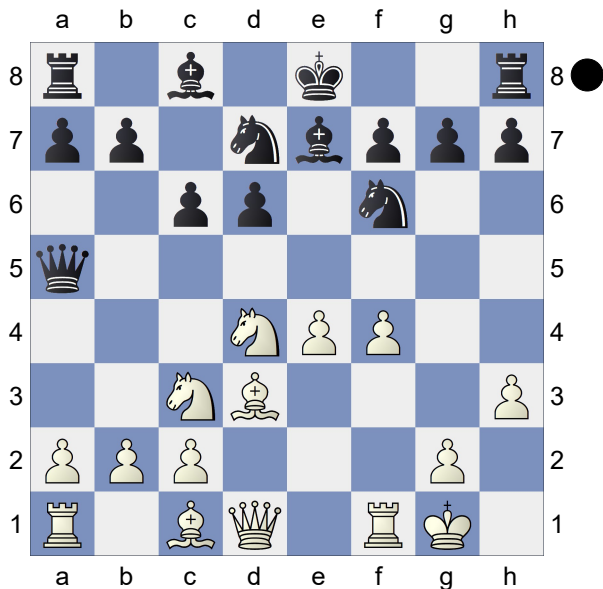
[8...0-0]

[8...Qc7]

[8...0-0]

9.Nxd4± 22

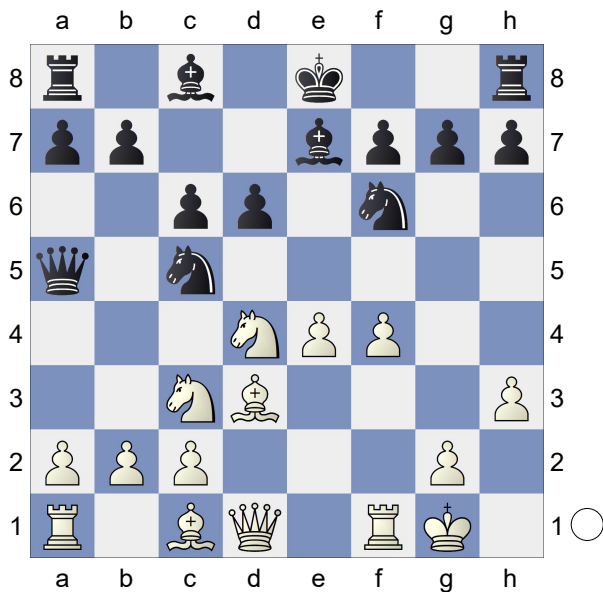
(Diagram)



Nc5? 19:26

[9...0-0 10.Nf5 Bd8 11.a4±]

[9...0-0±]



10.e5N 21:24 That didn't take long!

"White has a decisive advantage." (TA)

[Predecessor: 10.Be3 Nxd3 11.cxd3 Bd7 12.Nde2 Qh5 13.Rf3 h6 14.f5 g5 15.g4 Nxg4 16.hxg4 Qxg4+ 1-0 (60) Bartos,A (1884)-Modrova,H (1781) Olomouc 2023. (But why did it take so long!?)]

10...dxe5 4:09 **11.fxe5** 1:32 **Nd5** 5:23

12.Nxd5 9:07 **cxd5** 36 **13.Bb5+** 7:09

Bd7 2:32 **14.Bxd7+** 51 **Nxd7** 23

15.Qg4 6:13

[15.Nf5!]

15...Qb6 9:55 **16.Be3** 6:16

[16.Qxg7 Qxd4+ 17.Kh1 0-0-0+ (17...Qxe5 18.Qxf7+ Kd8 19.Bh6±)]

16...Qg6 5:50 **17.Qf3** 1:07 **Nb6?** 8:58

[17...Nxe5 keeps fighting. 18.Qxd5 Nc6]

18.Nf5 2:31 **Bf8** 25 **19.a4** 4:49 **Qe6**

3:57 **20.Bd4** 5:46 **Nc4** 5:51 **21.Rfe1**

5:25 **0-0-0** 4:25 **22.b3** 43

[22.Bxa7 b6 23.Kh1 Kb7+- 24.a5! Kxa7 (24...Bb4 25.Bxb6!) 25.Nd4 Rc8 26.axb6+]

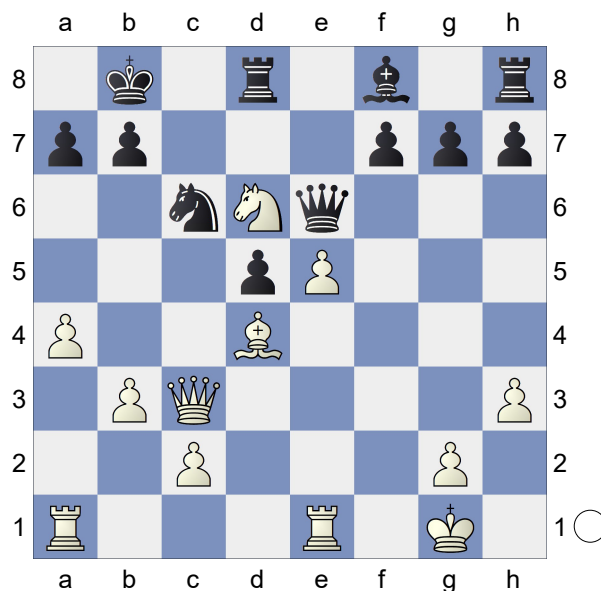
22...Na5 2:10 **23.Qc3+** 1:59

[Δ23.Bxa7 b6 24.Nd4]

23...Nc6 20 **24.Nd6+** 24 **Kb8** 1:07

[Δ24...Bxd6 25.exd6 Qxd6 26.Rad1!+- (26.Bxa7 26.Rad1 1.69 d4±; 26.Bxg7 d4±)]

[24...Bxd6+- 25.exd6 Qxd6]



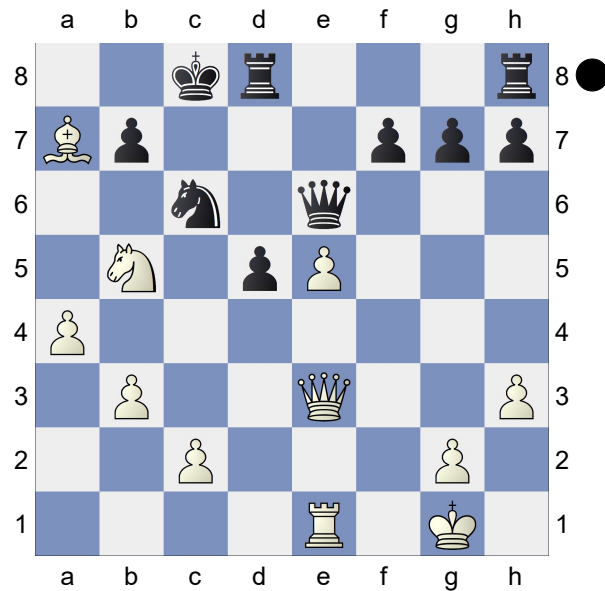
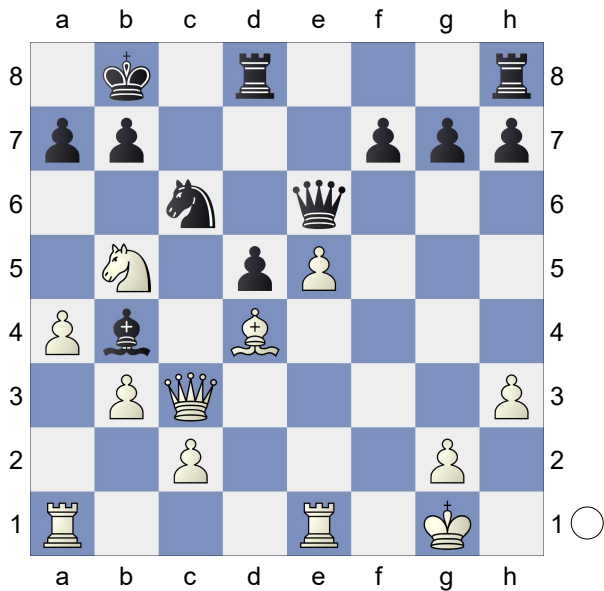
25.Nb5 25 " White has more active pieces" (TA).

[25.Bf2!±]

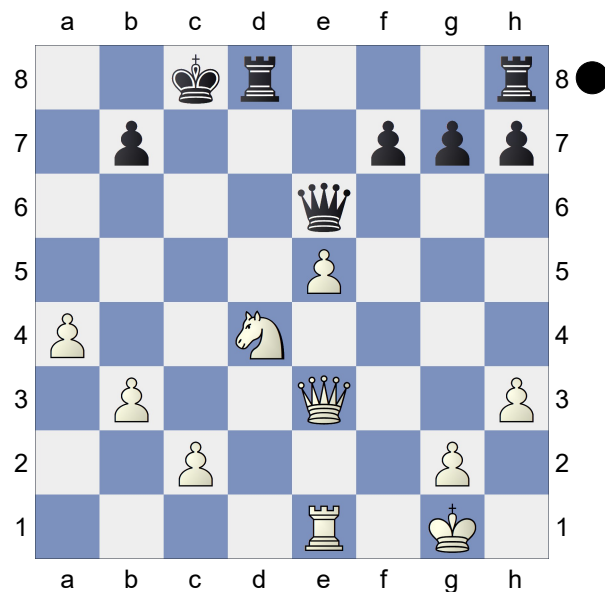
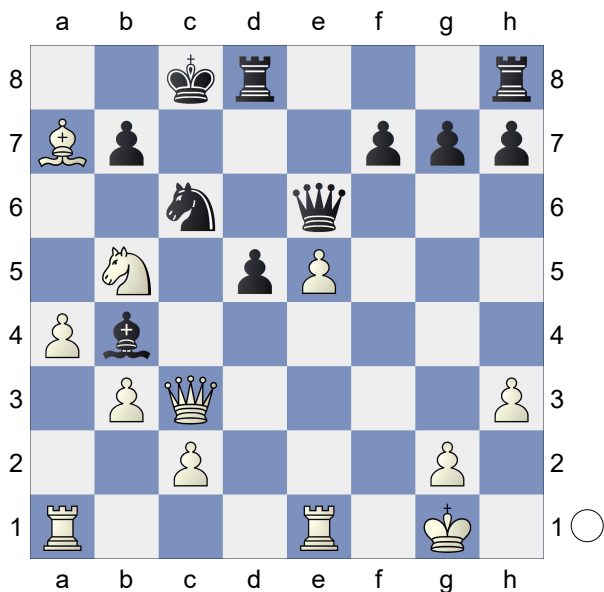
25...Bb4?! 1:23

[25...Rc8± 26.Qe3 Nxd4 27.Nxd4 Qb6 (27...Bc5 28.c3±; 27...Qd7)

28.Rad1 Bb4 29.Rf1±]



26.Bxa7+!± 27 Kc8! 13



27.Qe3!→ 42 Bxe1 1:19 28.Rxe1 2

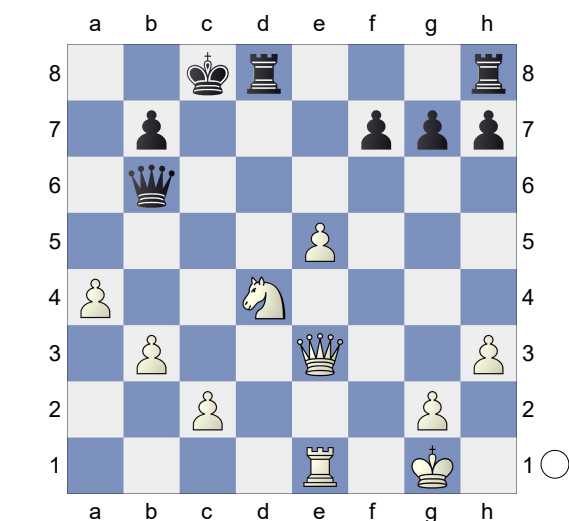
(Diagram)

d4 1:04 Inhibits Qc3. 29.Bxd4 15 Nxd4 1:46 30.Nxd4 1

(Diagram)

Qd5 44
[30...Qb6

(Diagram)



31.c3! and b4 should not be overlooked Rhe8 32.Qe4±]

[30...Qb6± is a better chance. 31.c3 Rhe8]

31.Nb5+- 45 White is clearly winning.
31...Rhe8 1:09 32.Qc3+ 1:53 Qc6 40
33.Na7+ 9 "Artfully played by Das." I'll just have to agree with this one!
 Weighted Error Value: White=0.29 (precise) /Black=0.77
1-0

B01
 2124
 1962
 2026 Summer TNM: 2000+ (4.4) 07.07.26
[Winslow,Elliott]

Jeremy once again takes his time to win (although not on the clock!), against Phineas Horowitz. **1.e4 2 d5 2 2.exd5 6 Qxd5 4 3.d4 10 Nf6 12 4.c4 7 Qd8 39 5.Nc3 6 g6 3:53 6.Nf3 43 Bg7 2:00 7.Be2 6 B01: Scandinavian Defence. 7...c6 1:23 8.0-0 8 Bg4 6:47 9.Be3 36 White is clearly better. 9...0-0 28 10.h3 2:35 Bxf3 1:00 11.Bxf3 2 Nbd7 5:13 12.Qc2 59 Qc7 1:05 13.Rfe1 1:01 Rad8 8:27 14.Rad1 21 White is more active. 14...Nb6N 2:21**

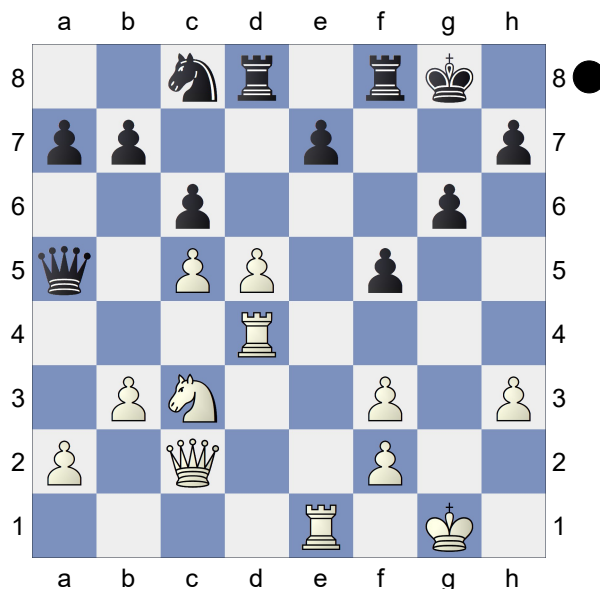
[14...Rfe8 15.b3 h5 16.Bg5 c5 17.Nb5 Qb8 18.dxc5 a6 19.c6 axb5 20.cxd7 Rxd7 21.Rxd7 Nxd7 22.Rxe7 Rxe7 23.Bxe7 1-0 (36) Omtvedt,P (2138)-Undheim,B (1479) Oslo 2006]

15.b3 27 Nfd7 4:19
 [15...Rfe8± 16.Bg5 Rd7]
16.c5+- 2:26 Nc8 2:46 17.d5 26 Ne5 2:26 18.Be4 1:19 f5 4:27 19.Bf3 3:52 Nxf3+ 1:54 20.gxf3 41 Qa5 7:00 Repels b4

[20...Rfe8± is a better defense.]

21.Bd4? 1:42
 [White has to play 21.dxc6!+- bxc6 22.Ne2]

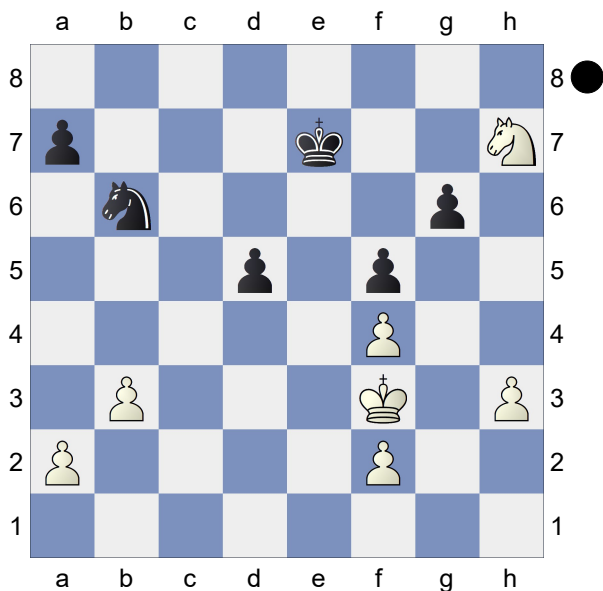
21...Bxd4= 2:39 22.Rxd4 2



Qxc5 49 23.Rc4 3 Qd6 3:13 24.dxc6 32 bxc6 1:20 ...Nb6 is the strong threat. 25.Na4 53 Qd2 13:55 26.Re2 2:15 Qg5+ 2:20
 [26...Qxc2 simplifies 27.Rexc2 Nd6 28.Rxc6 Nb5]
27.Kh2 10 Rd6 13:16 28.Rxc6 1:20 Rxc6 3:01 29.Qxc6 3 Qf4+ 1:45 30.Kh1 1:03 Qd6 3:55 Repels Qd5+ [30...Rd8= 31.Nb2 Kf8] 31.Qxd6 49 [31.Qc4+± Kg7 32.Kg2] 31...exd6± 10 Endgame KRN-KRN 32.Nc3 17 Kf7 56 33.Nd5 27 Re8 32 34.Rc2 1:26 Re1+ 1:09 35.Kg2 7 Nb6 32 36.Rc7+ 23 Kf8 48 37.Nf6 29 Re7 49 38.Nxh7+ 29 Kf7 14 [38...Ke8= 39.Rxe7+ Kxe7] 39.Rxe7+ 46 [39.Ng5+± Ke8 40.Rc2] 39...Kxe7 2 KN-KN. White is a pawn up. 40.f4 20 d5 29 [40...Nd5=] 41.Kf3 8

(Diagram)

Kd6? 57 One too many.
 [41...d4±]



42.Nf8+- 28 d4 36 43.Nxg6 4 Kc5 57
 44.Ne7 29 Kb4 23 45.Nxf5 39 d3 4
 46.Ne3 1:52 Kc3 23 47.h4 17 Kb2 41
 48.h5 37 d2 43 49.h6 39 Kc1 21 50.h7
 8 Nd5 16 51.h8Q 9 Nxe3 53 52.Kxe3
 25 d1N+ 51 Weighted Error Value:
 White=0.20 (precise) /Black=0.56
 1-0

□ Powers,Christopher

■ Krishnan,Sreyshth

2026 Summer TNM: 2000+ (4.12) 7.7.26
 [Winslow,Elliott]

B92

1857

1941

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be2 e5 7.Nb3 Be7
 8.Be3 0-0

[8...Be6]

9.g4 Be6 10.g5 Nfd7

(Diagram)

11.Qd2 White is more active.

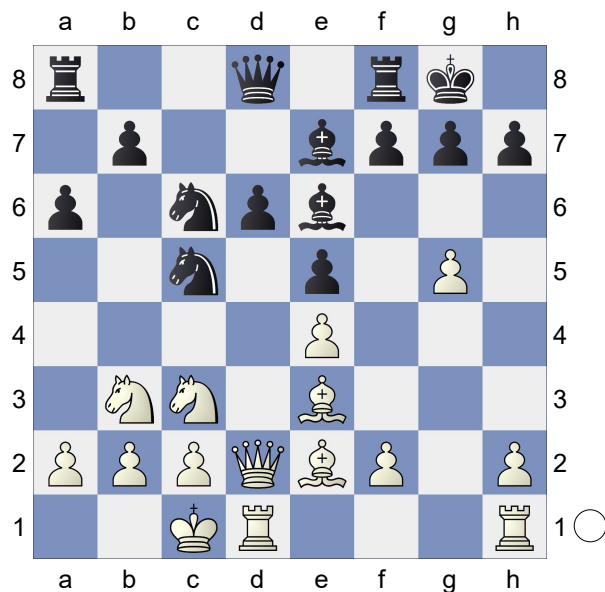
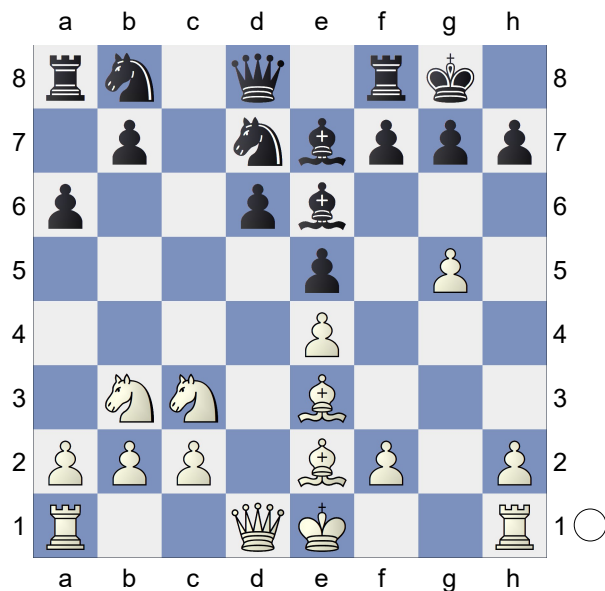
[11.h4!±]

11...Nc5

[11...a5±]

12.0-0-0± Nc6

(Diagram)



13.f4

[13.h4±]

13...exf4± White is slightly better.

14.Bxf4 A sharp opening 14...Bxb3N

[14...Nxb3+± 15.cxb3 Re8]

[Predecessor: 14...Nxb3+ 15.cxb3
 Ne5 16.Kb1 b5 17.h4 b4 18.Nd5
 Bxd5 19.Qxd5 Qb8 20.h5 Rc8
 21.Bxe5 dxe5 1-0 (40) Mamadshoev,
 M (2242)-Toh,T (2408) Shenyang
 1999]

15.axb3?

[15.cxb3+- h4! is the strong threat.

Qa5 16.Kb1 (16.Bxd6? Rad8+-)]

15...Ne6

[15...Qa5= 16.Kb1 (16.Bxd6? Nxe4
17.Qe3 Bxg5+- Pin) 16...Nb4]

16.Be3?

[16.Bxd6? Bxg5 17.Kb1 Bxd2+-]
[16.h4+-]

**16...Bxg5= 17.Rhg1 Bxe3 18.Qxe3
Qa5 19.Kb1 Prevents Qa1+. White has
compensation. 19...Qc5 20.Qg3 Ncd4**
[20...Qe5=]

21.Bg4

[21.Bc4±]

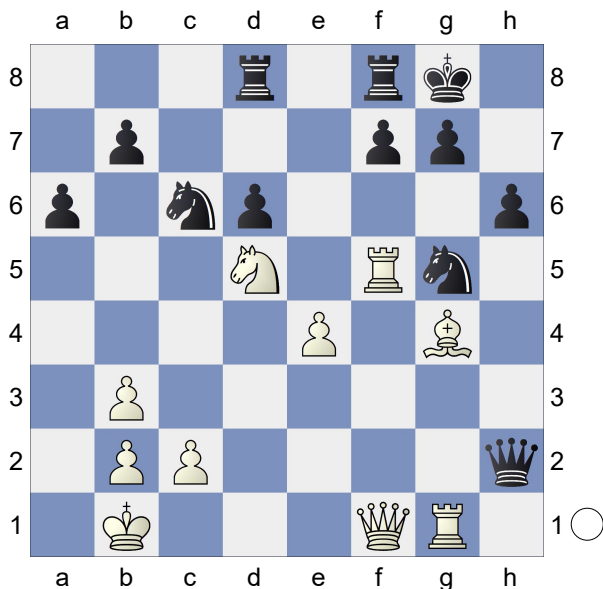
**21...Qe5! 22.Qd3 Rad8 23.Nd5
Strong Knight 23...Nc6 24.Rdf1 h6?**
[24...Nc5 25.Qh3 Nxe4 26.Bf5
Nd2+ 27.Kc1+-]
[24...Kh8±]

25.Rf5+- Qxh2

[Δ25...Qd4 26.Qg3 Ne5]

26.Qf1 Ng5

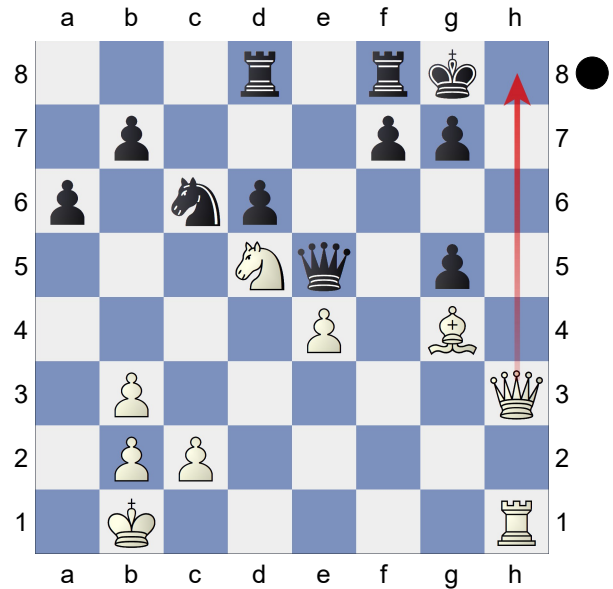
[26...Qd2 was worth a try. 27.Rg2
Qd4]



27.Rxg5! hxg5 28.Rh1 Qe5
[Δ28...Qh4 29.Rxh4 gxh4]
29.Qh3

(Diagram)

f5 30.Qh7+ Kf7 31.Bxf5
[Δ31.Qg6+ Kg8 32.Qh7+ Kf7



33.Bxf5]

31...Ne7 32.Rf1?

[32.Qh5+- g6 33.Qh7+ Skewer
Qg7 34.Be6+ Deflection Kxe6
35.Qxg7]

**32...Nxd5= 33.exd5 Ke7 34.Qg6→
White mounts an attack. 34...Rf7
and ...Rdf8 would now be decisive**
**35.Qxg5+ Qf6! 36.Re1+ Kf8 37.Qh5
g5?**

[37...Qh6!= 38.Qg4 Qd2]

38.Be6 Re8 39.Rg1?

[39.Qxf7+? Qxf7 40.c4 g4+-]
[39.Qh2+-]

39...Rg7?

[39...Rxe6!± 40.dxe6 Qxe6]

40.Qh2

[40.Qh8+ Ke7 41.Qh2 Rf8=]

40...Qe5?

[40...Rxe6± is a better chance.
41.dxe6 Qxe6]

41.Qf2+ Ke7 42.Qb6?

[White should play 42.Rf1+- Ra8
43.Bg4]

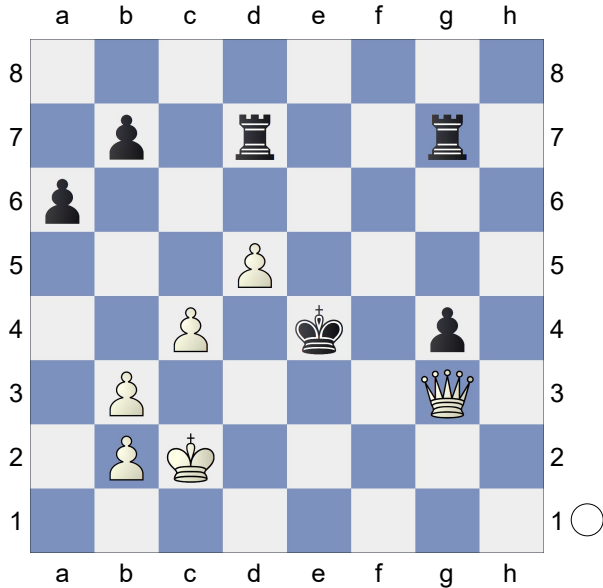
42...Kf6± 43.Rf1+ Kg6 44.Bf5+

[44.Qf2± Rxe6 45.dxe6 Qxe6
46.Qd2]

44...Qxf5!= The position is equal.

**45.Rxf5 Kxf5 46.Qxd6 Ree7 47.Qg3
g4 48.c4 Ke4 49.Kc2 Rd7**

[49...a5=]



Black defended with fortune.
An interesting game.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.59/
Black=0.89

Loses game: ---
Black=4
Missed win: White=3

Mistake: White=4
Black=7
Inaccurate: White=3
Black=2
OK: White=10
Black=6
Best: White=4
Black=4
Strong: ---
Black=3
1/2-1/2

□ Hasteer, Divija 1892
■ Heap, Jarod D 1847
2026 Summer TNM: 2000+ (4.13) 7.7.26
[Winslow, Elliott]

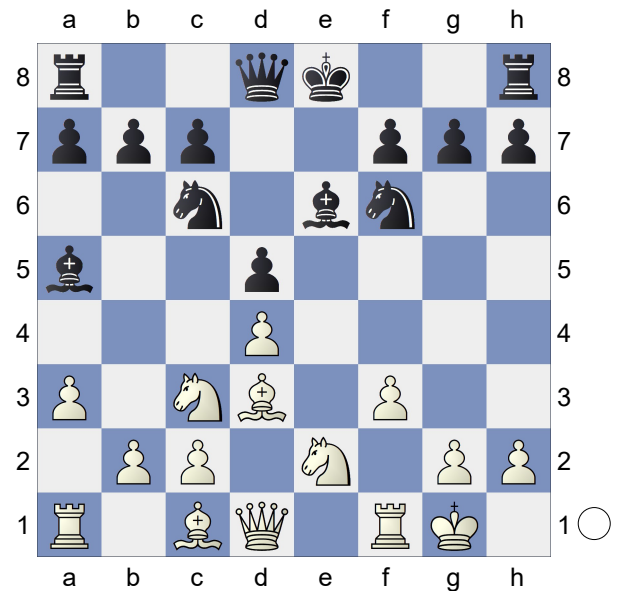
Heap sidelined his dark-squared bishop, Hasteer took advantage by taking over those squares on the king side, and just as it was about to be over: missed opportunity! 1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.exd5 exd5 5.Bd3 Nc6 6.a3 Ba5 7.Nge2 Nf6 C01: French: Exchange Variation.

[7...Nge7]

8.0-0 Bg4

[8...0-0±]

9.f3!± Be6



White is better. 10.Qe1N

[♖10.Na4]

[Predecessor: 10.Na4 Bb6 11.Nxb6 axb6 12.b3 0-0 13.Bb2 Ne7 14.Nf4 Bf5 15.Bxf5 Nxf5 16.Qd2 0-1 (33) Brnusak,A (1668)-Bubnov,K (2163) Liptovsky Mikulas 2016]

10...Qd7 11.Qg3

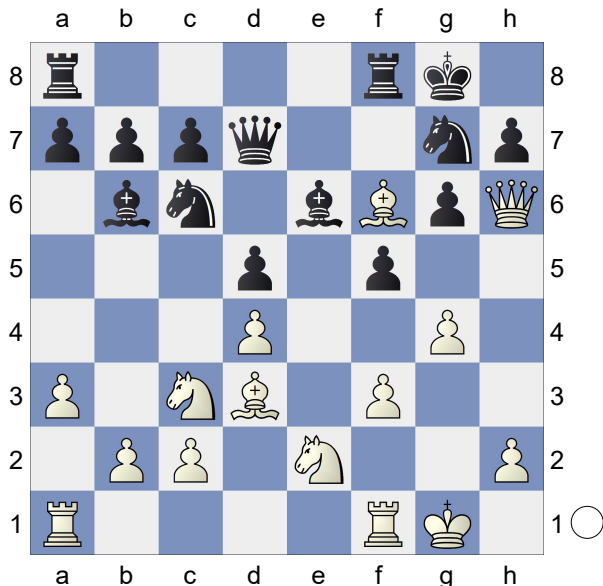
[11.Bg5±]

11...Nh5?

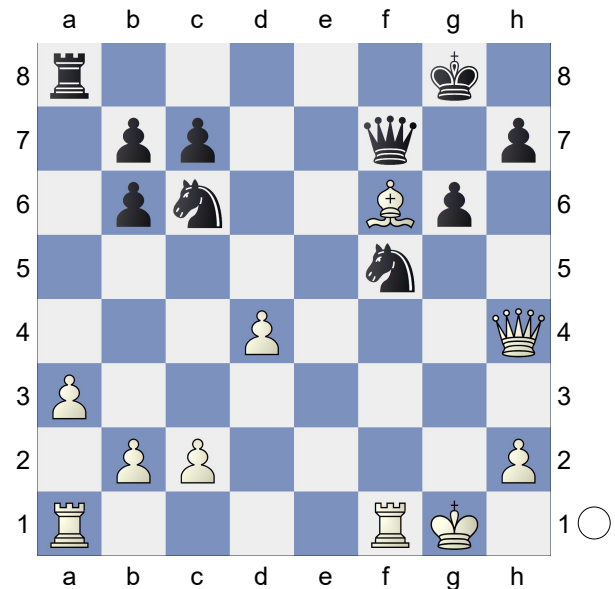
[11...0-0!±]

12.Qh4+- g6 13.g4 Ng7 14.Qh6

[14.b4+-]
14...f5
 [♖14...0-0]
15.Bg5
 [White must play 15.Na4!±]
15...Bb6= 16.Bf6
 [16.h4=]
16...0-0



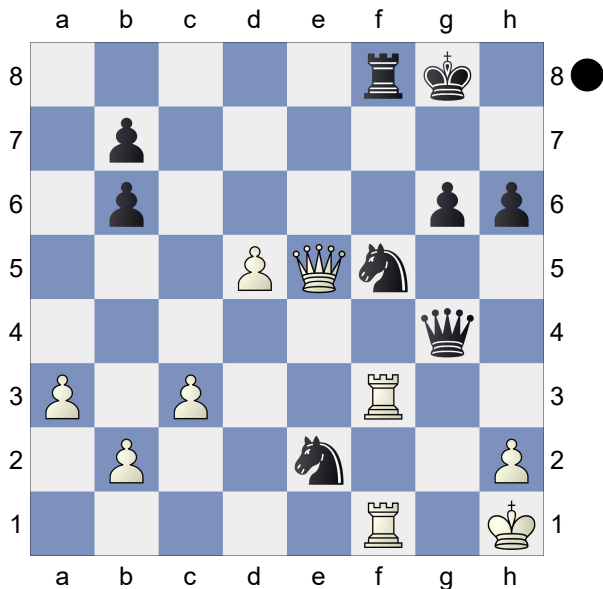
17.Qh4 fxg4
 [17...Ne8 18.g5 Nxf6 19.gxf6 Ne5]
18.fxg4 Bxg4 19.Nxd5! Deflection
19...Bxe2?
 [19...Qxd5 keeps the upper hand.
 20.Qxg4 Rxf6 21.Rxf6 Nxd4
 22.Rxb6 Nf3+ (22...Nxe2+ 23.Qxe2
 Qc5+ 24.Kh1 23.Kh1 (23.Kf2
 Ne5 23...Ng5+ (23...axb6?
 24.Bc4+- Pin) 24.Kg1 (24.Be4?
 Nxe4 25.Qg2 axb6-+) 24...Qc5+
 (24...axb6? 25.Bc4+- Pin) 25.Kh1
 axb6 26.Qc4+ Kf8 27.Rf1+ Ke7]
20.Nxb6+- axb6 21.Bxe2 and Bc4+
would now be decisive 21...Nf5?
 [21...Qd5 22.Rae1 Rae8 (22...Nf5?
 23.Rxf5 Deflection Qxf5 24.Bc4+ Rf7
 25.Bxf7+ Kxf7 26.Qxh7+ Kxf6
 27.Rf1+- Pin)]
22.Bc4+ A strong pair of Bishops.
22...Rf7 23.Bxf7+ Qxf7



24.Qg5? Divija misses an "obvioius"
exchange sacrifice:
 [24.Rxf5! gxf5 25.Kf2!+-]
24...h6-+ Deflection 25.Qf4 Qxf6 26.d5
Ncd4 and ...Ne2+ would now be decisive
 [26...Qd4+]
27.Qxc7?
 [27.Rae1 Qg5+ (27...Nxc2?
 28.Re4-+) 28.Qxg5 hxg5 29.Rf2]
27...Re8
 [♖27...Ne2+!]
28.c3
 [♖28.Kh1 Qh4 29.Qf4]
28...Ne2+ 29.Kh1 Qh4 Repels Qc4. (-
> ...Qe4+) 30.Rf3 Qg4
 [30...Qe4!]
31.Raf1 Rf8 32.Qe5
 [32.h3-+ Neg3+ 33.Kg1 Qxh3
 34.Rxg3 Qxg3+ 35.Qxg3 Nxg3
 36.Re1]

(Diagram)

Prevents Nfg3+ 32...Nfg3+! 33.Rxg3
 [33.Qxg3 Nxg3+]
33...Nxg3+ Hasteer was doing so well!
 Then it all turned around. Weighted
 Error Value: White=0.99/Black=0.88
0-1

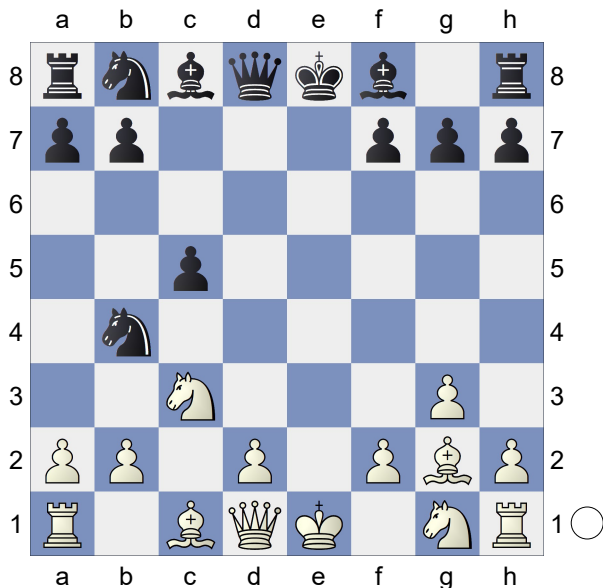


□ Sevall, Daniel
 ■ Siegel, David

A19
 1824
 1703

2026 Summer TNM: 1600-1999 (4.15)
 [Siegel, David]

1.c4 c5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.g3 e6 4.e4 d5
 5.exd5 exd5 6.cxd5 Nxd5 7.Bg2 Nb4



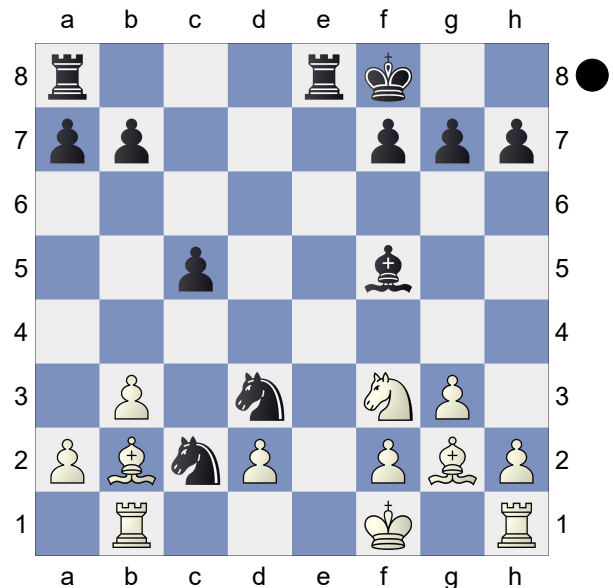
One of the classic blunders of playing Daniel Sevall is to get into a tactical battle with him. So while I thought that 7... Nb4 looked good, I was out of book and extremely wary about what he might

have had in store for me. So I spent a lot of time analyzing this move. Was it some sort of crazy gambit? The fact of the matter is that there just aren't a lot of White pieces that can defend the d3 square, but I also had to wonder if there were some tactic or massive advantage in development he could use to overwhelm my position. After all, I was planning to make 4 moves with my knight without touching any other minor pieces. Was that going to be worth it? I couldn't find a refutation, so I made the move. The computer likes it. **8.Nf3 Nd3+ 9.Kf1 Nc6 10.Qe2+ Be7 11.Ne1 Bf5 12.Nd5**

[The computer prefers 12.Bxc6+ ;]

[I was expecting 12.Ne4 over the board, but there are all sorts of crazy tactics coming after say Ncb4]

12...Nd4 13.Qxe7+ Qxe7 14.Nxe7 Kxe7 15.Nf3 Nc2 16.Rb1 Rhe8 17.b3 Kf8 18.Bb2



I think I've played well and the Stockfish eval is -4.1. But it's honestly not that easy to figure out how to proceed. The computer figures out that neither White's queenside rook nor dark squared bishop have any space to maneuver, and it eventually finds ways

to capture them and/or cause problems along the queenside of the board. Slow improvements until something breaks. Over the board, I didn't love that the light-squared bishop was seeing daylight, so I decided to trade off my knight for it.

18...Nxb2 19.Rxb2 Bd3+ 20.Kg1 Nd4?! Ok this was a real mistake: I missed that the king would be safe after 21. h3. Stockfish 18 considers it a won game after the following moves:

[20...Rad8]
[20...a5]
[20...Ne1]
[20...Re7]
[20...Re6]
[20...Nb4]

21.h3 Nxf3+ 22.Bxf3 Be4?!

I figured the position would be more straightforward for me with the bishops off the board since White would have to contend with the isolated pawn. I thought I probably had a slight edge but the game was probably drawn. My opponent and I did offer draws to each other a few times over the next couple dozen moves.

[22...Rab8!±]

23.Kg2 Rad8 24.Rc1 Bxf3+ 25.Kxf3 Rd3+ 26.Kg2 b6 27.Rc3 Red8 28.Rxd3 Rxd3 29.Kf1 Ke7 30.Ke2 Rd4 31.Rc2 f5 32.Rc3 Kf6 33.f4 h6 34.Rc4 Rd5 35.Ke3 b5 36.Rc3 g5

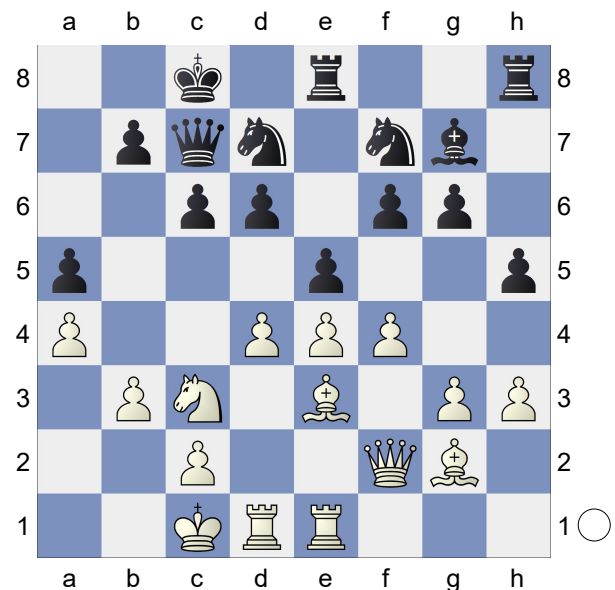
The computer is useless now because it thinks everything is a draw, but my opponent suggested after the game that 36... g5 might have been a mistake since it allows White to get a passed h-pawn. My plan at this point was to get my king to c6 to support the c-pawn and give my rook some freedom, but maybe that didn't really make sense in light of the passed h-pawn. **37.a3 Ke6 38.d3 Kd6 39.b4 Kc6 40.fxg5 hxg5 41.h4 gxh4 42.gxh4 f4+ 43.Kxf4 Rd4+ 44.Kg3 c4**

45.dxc4 bxc4 46.h5 Kb5 47.h6 Rd6 48.Kf4 Rxh6 49.Ke4 Rd6 50.Ke3 1/2-1/2

B06
 Wickliffe,Zachary **1678**
 Chan,John **1524**
 2026 Summer TNM: 1600-1999 (4.21)
[Winslow,Elliott]

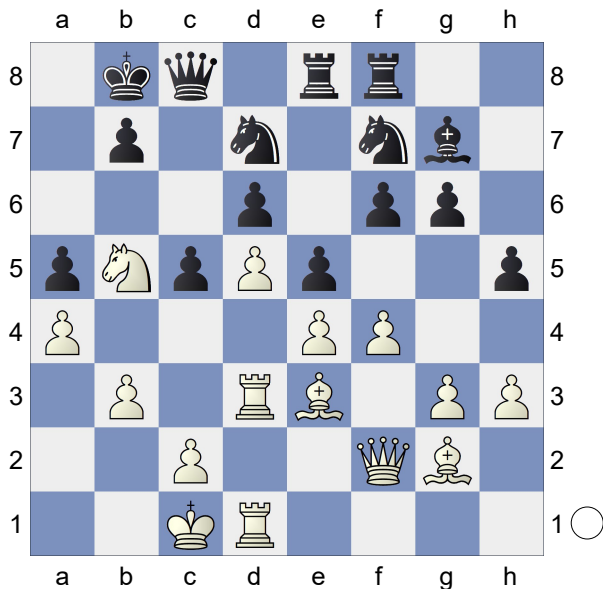
With great patience Zack prepared for the only break remaining; Chan waited patiently for the slip up that inevitably comes. It did! And Chan was back in the game and even winning! But after a repeated trade-off of blunders, Wickliffe righted his ship, and John was sunk.

1.e4 c6 2.Nc3 d6 3.d4 g6 4.Be3 Bg7 5.Qd2 Nd7 6.Nf3 h5 7.0-0-0 a5 8.a4 Nf8 9.Bc4 Be6 10.Be2 Bg4 11.Rhe1 Bxf3 12.Bxf3 Nd7 13.Bg5 f6 14.Be3 Nh6 15.h3 Nf7 16.g3 Nb6 17.Qe2 Qc7 18.Bg2 0-0-0 19.f4 Rde8 20.b3 e5 21.Qf2 Nd7



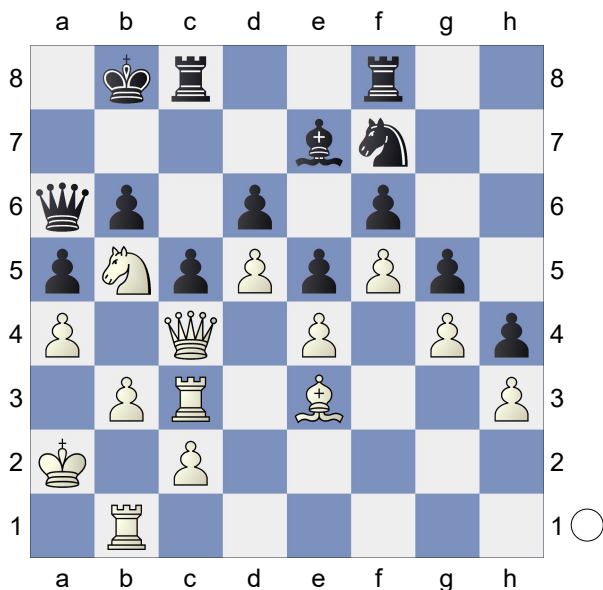
22.Rd3 Kb8 23.Red1 Rhf8 24.d5 c5 25.Nb5 Qc8

(Diagram)



26.f5 g5 27.Bf1 Nb6 28.Rc3 Qd8
29.Be2 Rh8 30.Kb1 Qe7 31.Qe1 Na8
32.Na3 Rc8 33.Bf3 Bf8 34.Qe2 h4
35.g4 Qd7 36.Ka2 Be7 37.Rb1 b6
38.Qe1 Qb7 39.Be2 Nc7 40.Bc4 Na6
41.Bxa6 Qxa6 42.Nb5 Qb7 43.Qf1
Rhf8 44.Qc4 Qa6?!

[44...Qd7]



45.Rd3! Carefully preparing for c3 & b4.

[45.Nxd6? Qxc4 46.Nxc4±

actually isn't anywhere near as good.

The missing pawn just gives Black a square for knight and bishop (!).]

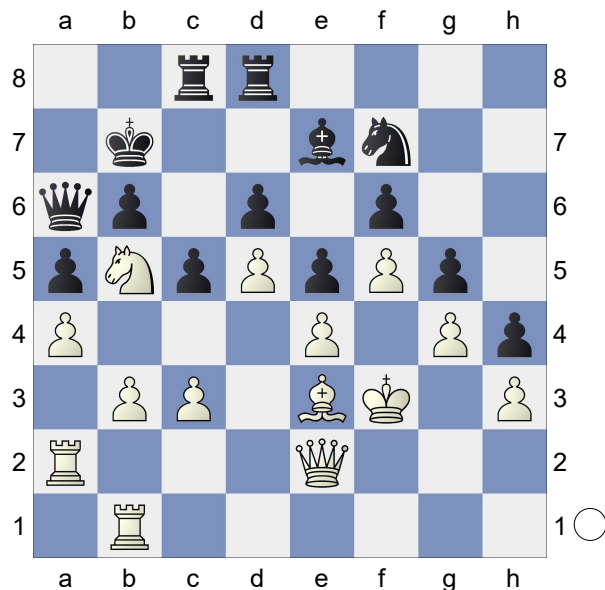
45...Kb7 46.c3 Rfd8

[46...Nd8]

47.Kb2?!

[47.b4!! cxb4 48.Qb3 bxc3 49.Rxc3
Rxc3 50.Nxc3+-]

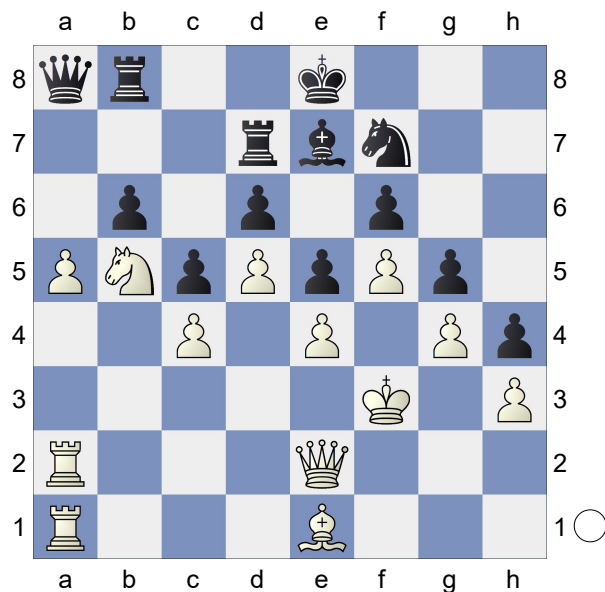
**47...Nh6 48.Kc1 Nf7 49.Kd1 Rh8
50.Ke2 Rcg8 51.Rd2 Rc8 52.Ra2
Nh6 53.Kf3 Nf7 54.Qe2 Rhd8**



55.b4! Rd7 56.bxa5 Qxa5 57.c4?!

[57.Na3! (58.Nc4 on almost anything)
Qxc3?! 58.Qb5]

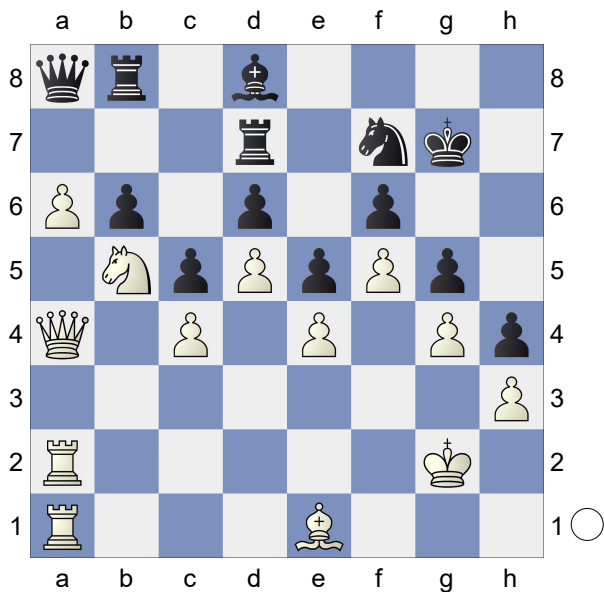
**57...Rb8 58.Bd2 Qa8 59.a5 Kc8
60.Be1 Kd8 61.Rba1 Ke8**



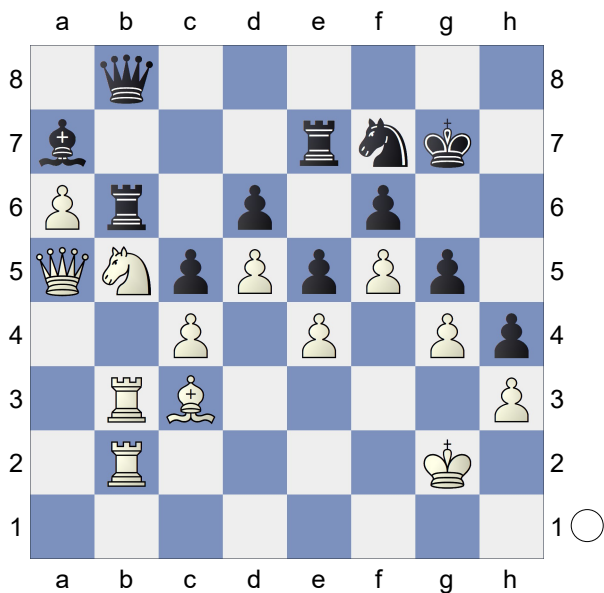
62.a6?!

[62.axb6! Qb7 63.Nc7+ Kf8 64.Ra7
Qxb6 65.Ne6+ Ke8 66.Ng7+ Kf8

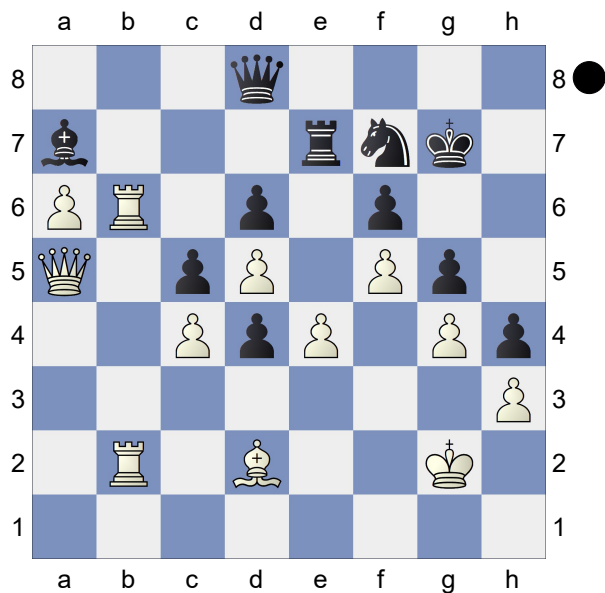
(66...Kd8 67.Ba5) 67.Rxd7 Kxg7
 68.Rxe7]
62...Nd8 63.Bf2 Kf8 64.Qe1 Kg7
65.Qd1
 [65.Bxh4!?]
65...Nf7 66.Qa4 Bd8 67.Kg2 Kh6
68.Qd1 Kg7 69.Qa4 Kh6 70.Be1 Kg7



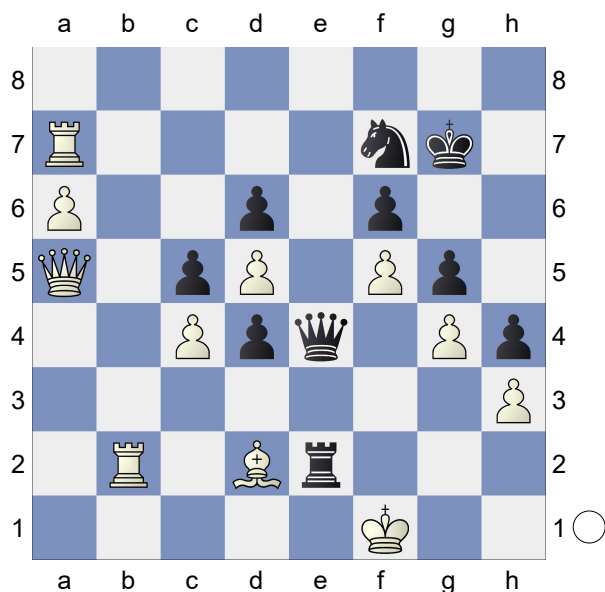
71.Bc3
 [71.Nd4!]
71...Kh6 72.Bb2 Kg7 73.Nd4! b5
 [73...exd4 74.Qxd7]
74.Nxb5 Bb6 75.Bc3 Re7 76.Rb1
Ba7 77.Rb3
 [77.Ba5]
77...Rb6 78.Rab2 Qe8 79.Qa5 Qb8



80.Nd4?? exd4+- 81.Rxb6 Qd8??
 [81...Bxb6 82.Rxb6 Qe8+-]
82.Bd2??
 [82.Rb7!+-]



82...Rxe4??
 [82...Bxb6 83.Rxb6 Rxe4 84.Kf1=d3 (84...Re8; 84...Qe7)]
83.Rb7+- Re2+ 84.Kf1 Qe8 85.Rxa7
Qe4

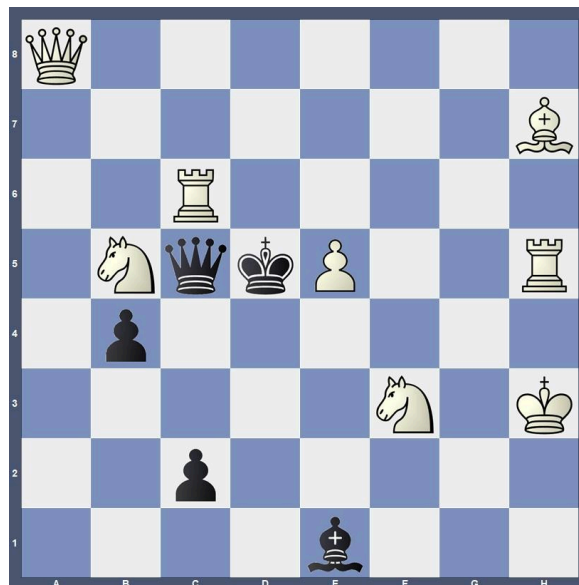


86.Rxf7+! Kxf7 87.Qc7+ Qe7
88.Qxe7+ Rxe7 89.Rb7
1-0

 **Babayan,Gagik** **A28**
1741
 **Vazquez,Dominic A** **1446**
2026 Summer TNM: 1600-1999 (4.23)
[Winslow,Elliott]

[Smooth win by Babayan...](#) 1.Nf3 Nf6
2.c4 Nc6 3.Nc3 e5 4.d3 Bb4 5.Qc2
d6 6.h3 Bd7 7.e3 0-0 8.Be2 Bf5 9.e4
Bg6 10.Bd2 Qd7 11.a3 Bc5 12.Be3
Nd4 13.Bxd4 Bxd4 14.g4 h6 15.Nh4
h5 16.Rg1 hxg4 17.hxg4 Bh7 18.Bf3
c6 19.Nf5 c5 20.Qd2 Ne8 21.Rh1
Bxc3 22.bxc3 Qe6 23.Qg5 Qf6
24.Qh5
1-0

Tony's Teasers
White to Play and Mate in 2.
William B. Rice
First Prize, Good Companions
January, 1918



Solution

1. Nfd4! And now Qg8 is unstoppable and if 1...Qxd4 then 2.Nc7# seals the deal in a very pretty way.

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