

Chess Room Newsletter



GM Andy Soltis Lectures on Chess Style
Issue #1075 | September 12, 2026 | Gens Una Sumus!

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Recent Tournaments at the Mechanics' Institute

By Alex Robins

Our flagship tournament of the summer was our, aptly named, **Summer Tuesday Night Marathon**. In addition to our normal lecturers we were also honored to host **GM Andy Soltis** and **GM Boris Avrukh** who gave us some really great lectures on chess style and pawn formations. In the tournament itself, the 2000+ section had a major upset with **NM Jimmy Heiserman (2270)** and **Quincy Chen (2150)** battling to a tie at the top, both finishing with 5.5 to share 1st place. **GM Christopher Woojin Yoo (2665)** claimed 3rd with a 5.0 score, and **Owen J Pang (1855)** rounded out the standings in 4th at 4.5, also picking up the Best u2000 award. **Xiaofei Li (2122)** and **Abhishek Mallela (2077)** tied at 4.5 as well, splitting 4th place and the Best u2200 honors.

In the 1600–1999 section, a strong three-way tie for 1st emerged between **Rajdeep Pinge (1905)**, **John Boyer (1743)**, and **Anirudh Gutta (1655)**, all finishing at 5.5. **Jinfeng Liu (1598)** took 4th with 5.0, earning the Best ul600 prize. **Benjamin Simberg (1795)** and **William Fitzgerald (1492)** tied at 4.5, sharing 5th place and the Best ul800 award.

Over in the ul600 section, **Connor Harriman (1443)** had a standout tournament, going 6.0 to secure 1st place outright. **William Xu (unr.)** followed with a strong 5.5 for 2nd. **Bryan D Martin (1222)** and **Walter Stein-Smith (1400)** tied at 5.0, sharing 3rd place and the Best ul400 award. **William Pang (1090)** closed out the field in 5th with 4.5, taking the Best ul200 prize.

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

This tournament was directed by FA/ANTD Scott Mason.

Our next tournament of the month was our **August Adults Only Tournament**. The 1600+ section saw **Jacob Cameron Sevall (2140)** claim 1st place with a solid 3.0 score. **FM Austin R Mei (2335)** followed with 2.5 for 2nd, and **Anil Kumar Marthi (1841)** rounded out the podium in 3rd with 2.0.

In the ul600 section, **Ron Florian-Moreta (1250)** took 1st place with a 3.0 score, while **Samuel Agdamag (1482)** secured 2nd at 2.5. A three-way tie for 3rd formed at 2.0 points between **Binh Khac Nguyen (1590)**, **Romeo**

Belmes Barreyro (1567), and Laksh Sharma (1406).

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

This tournament was directed by Senior TD Arthur Liou.

Next up that weekend was our **3rd John Grefe Memorial Tournament**. The 2000+ section was topped by **Ethan Guo (2422)**, who finished 3.5 to claim 1st place. Just behind, a three-way tie for 2nd formed at 3.0 points between **Eric Yuhan Li (2420)**, **Advay Bansal (2258)**, and **Jacob Cameron Sevall (2140)**.

In the 1600–1999 section, **Jarod D Heap (1837)** secured 1st place with a strong 4.0 score. **Dev Isak Kosuri (1768)**, **Anirudh Gutta (1680)**, and **Teresa Long (1403)** tied at 3.0, sharing 2nd place.

The 1600 section saw **Andrew W Peng (1319)** take 1st place with a 4.0 score. Rounding out the field, a four-way tie for 2nd formed at 3.0 points between **Ethan C Leung (1393)**, **Jasper Verma (1331)**, **Eshaanth Sandeep (1297)**, and **Arman De (1204)**.

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

This tournament was directed by Senior TD Arthur Liou.

The next weekend we kicked things off with our **Monthly Scholastic Swiss** which had strong showings from all of our players! The over 600 section came down to a tie at the top, with **Valik Stammer (359)** and **Blouin Morin (1186)** both finishing undefeated to share 1st place. **Samuel Steinberg (1008)** claimed 3rd, while **Nathan Sansoni (1095)** took 4th and **Shaurya Jijesh (1312)** rounded out the prize-winners in 5th with 2.5.

In the under 600 section, **Huachong Yao (477)** and **Callum Kenna** (unrated) tied for the top spot, both posting 3.5 to share 1st and 2nd place. **Chelsea Tsang** (unrated) secured 3rd with 3.0. **Charlie Changrui Zhang (101)** and **Gregory Leon Jacinto (233)** rounded out the standings in 4th and 5th, both finishing at 3.0.

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

This tournament was directed by Senior TD Arthur Liou.

The weekend full of chess continued with our **24th JJ Dolan Memorial Tournament**. The 2000+ section was won by **FM Jiangwei Yu (2356)**, who finished 3.5 to take 1st place. Behind him, a crowded five-way tie for 2nd

formed at 3.0 points between **IM Kyron Griffith (2467)**, **Sebastian Suarez (2334)**, **Dmitry Vayntrub (2221)**, **Rohan Das (2185)**, and **Abhishek Mallela (2148)**.

In the 1600–1999 section, **Albert Ming (1924)** claimed 1st place with a 3.5 score. A four-way tie for 2nd developed at 3.0 points among **David Vayntrub (1815)**, **Wes Pereira (1776)**, **Raghav Ramesh (1620)**, and **Vincent Yang (1366)**.

The ul600 section saw **Andrew W Peng (1319)** dominate with a 4.0 score to secure 1st place outright. **Louka Waharte (1400)** and **Justin Yee (1230)** tied at 3.5, sharing 2nd place.

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

This tournament was directed by Senior TD Arthur Liou.

The next day was our day full of fast chess, starting with our **August Mechanics' Weekend Rapid**. 1800+ section was won by **Daniel Cremisi (2350)**, who finished 4.5 to claim 1st place. **Avyukth Ganapathy Viswanath (1679)** secured 2nd with a 3.0 score, while **William C Reuter (2200)** and **Frederic Dutter (1900)** tied at 2.5, sharing 3rd place.

In the ul800 section, an impressive three-way tie for 1st emerged, with **Blouin Morin (1186)**, **Shane Davis (1132)**, and **Yiran Mao (unr.)** all finishing at 4.0 to share top honors.

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

This tournament was directed by FA/ANTD Scott Mason.

Our day of fast chess continued with a strong field in our **August Mechanics' Weekend Blitz**. The 1800+ section was dominated by **GM Christopher Woojin Yoo (2667)**, who finished a perfect 7.0 to claim 1st place. **IM Ladia Jirasek (2432)** secured 2nd with a 5.0 score, and **Jacob Cameron Sevall (2140)** rounded out the podium in 3rd with 4.5.

In the ul800 section, **Rithvik Prakki Prakki (1618)** and **Ryan Chen (1222)** tied for 1st place, both finishing at 6.0. **Joshua Jonathan Weimer (1359)** took 3rd with 5.0.

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

This tournament was directed by FA/ANTD Scott Mason.

Our strongest tournament of the month was our 2-day FIDE tournament, the **3rd Koltanowski Memorial Tournament**. The 2000+ section saw **GM Christopher Woojin Yoo (2667)** finish on top with a strong 4.0 score, claiming 1st place. **GM Mark Heimann (2559)** secured 2nd with 3.5. Behind them, a four-way tie for 3rd emerged at 3.0 points between **WFM Jenny Qi (2078)**, **Evan Ai (2257)**, **Henry Wang (2245)**, and **David Jin (2066)**, splitting 3rd place and the Top u2200 award. **Zhuoyuan Wu (1960)** rounded things out, also at 3.0, earning the Top u2000 prize.

In the 1600–1999 section, **Ritvik Reddy Vuluvala (1792)** dominated with a 4.0 score to win 1st place outright. **Jai Yadav (1326)** followed with 3.5 for 2nd. **Pranav Khandelwal (1552)** claimed the Top u1600 award at 3.0, while a five-way tie for 3rd formed at 3.0 points among **Dev Isak Kosuri (1768)**, **Kristian Clemens (1961)**, **Rajdeep Pinge (1905)**, **Samuel Joseph Petty (1693)**, and **Wilson Han (1630)**, also sharing the Top u1800 honors.

The u1600 section was won by **Ian R Jones (unr.)**, who posted a perfect 4.0 to take 1st place. **Sainika Basu (1204)** secured 2nd with 3.5. A three-way tie for 3rd formed at 3.0 points between **Keller Ma (1318)**, **Sam Agdamag (1482)**, and **Anvit Nadendla (1237)**, who also shared the Top u1400 award. **Shane Davis (1132)** rounded out the prize list with 2.5, earning the Top u1200 prize.

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

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

Both of the GMs came back only a few days later for our Tuesday night **2026 Sizzling Summer Blitz**. The 1800+ section was won by **GM Mark Heimann (2559)**, who finished a near-perfect 7.0 to claim 1st place. **GM Christopher Woojin Yoo (2667)** secured 2nd with a 6.0 score, and **Leyton Ho (2029)** rounded out the podium in 3rd with 5.0.

In the u1800 section, **Evan Baldonado (1630)** took 1st place with a strong 6.0 score. **David Siegel (1703)** and **Connor Harriman (1443)** tied at 5.5, sharing 2nd place.

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

This tournament was directed by IA/NTD Judit Sztaray.

The last tournament of a busy month was the **4th Peter Grey Memorial**.

The 2000+ section was won by **Sivavishnu Srinivasan (2168)**, who finished 4.0 to claim 1st place. **Kaihan Liu (1884)** secured 2nd with 3.0, and **Rudransh Pathak (1929)** rounded out the podium in 3rd with 2.0.

In the 1600–1999 section, **Daniel Sevall (1830)** took 1st place with a strong 4.0 score. **Austin Bo Chen (1728)** followed with 3.0 for 2nd. A three-way tie for 3rd formed at 2.0 points between **Raymond Shao (1607)**, **Aiden Huang (1518)**, and **Ryan Gai (1428)**.

The ul600 section saw **Aneesh Banerjee (1483)** dominate with a 4.0 score to win 1st place outright. Behind him, a four-way tie for 2nd emerged at 3.0 points among **Albert Starr (1500)**, **Perry Cate (1341)**, **Viaan Rai (1154)**, and **Walter Stein-Smith (0)**.

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

This tournament was directed by IA/NTD Judit Sztaray.

Introducing our Scholastic Program Coordinator - Calvin Dees



Calvin first learned chess from his dad in a coffee shop in Berkeley at the age of 6, but picked up the game in a serious capacity during the pandemic in 2020. Inspired by the ever popular Netflix series *The Queen's Gambit* and a booming online chess culture, he slowly started to dip his toes into tournament chess, playing tournaments in San Francisco, Berkeley, San Jose, and Portland. He started coaching chess in 2022 and joined the Mechanics' Institute team in early 2026. He is excited to continue to pursue chess in a professional capacity as the new Scholastic Program Coordinator. Outside of chess, Calvin enjoys rock-climbing, hiking, slacklining, and hanging out with friends in nature.

Introducing [TNMPairings.com](https://www.tnmpairings.com)

By John Boyer

The players of the Tuesday Night Marathon need no reminding of how unique an event it is: the longest-running weekly tournament in the United States, hosted by the oldest continually operating club in the country. This event has seen 55 years of history and progress, from the era of adjournments sealed in envelopes, to the modern era with games broadcast live online.

Nowadays, there's something especially communal about a recurring in-person event; we see the same faces week after week and try new openings and strategies against familiar opponents. The TNM has come to be an anchoring presence in my routine, as I'm sure it has for many of you. And, that weekly routine has grown to encompass another unique feature of an open, all-ratings-welcome tournament, in that we get our pairings a day in advance. I haven't heard of such an opportunity beyond the TNM, and I soon discovered that many of my friends' routines mirrored my own:

On Monday nights, the text messages would start to fly. "Are the pairings posted yet?" "Hey, do you remember what my opponent plays against 1.d4?" "You played this guy last TNM, can you send me the game?". Many of us were waiting on the Mechanics' website at 8pm, refreshing our pages over and over, waiting for the news. Last winter, a friend had joked that the chess

room should release white smoke once the pairings were up, to save us the suspense of refreshing the page.

The initial version of TNM Pairings was built in the spirit of that joke. The ambition was small at first- to make an extremely lightweight, minimal app which would check the Mechanics' site for us, and in the style of meme-sites like isitfriday.org, provide a single-word answer: YES, or NO. I'd envisioned this to be a fun evening project.

And then, the feature requests started landing. What if there were notifications? What if the page were personalized, so that you'd see your specific pairing and board information? What if there were memes? The refrain from friends became "John, you should just build this". The technically minded among us are deeply familiar with scope creep (and wary of it), but also with the allure of an opportunity to explore a new and exciting project, particularly one which might serve one's local community.

I'd also heard by this point that there was a collection of TNM games far larger than what I'd seen on the individual tournament pages. That collection turned out to be over 24,000 games spanning 30 years, with comprehensive coverage back to around 2008 and spanning over 90 tournaments! Access to such a treasure trove of games is another unbelievable facet of this unique tournament.

So, naturally, scope creep and curiosity took over. What would it take to stand up a public archive, featuring almost 30 years of the games of this specific tournament, and make them available to be reviewed and analyzed by myself and the other TNM players, as we prepped each week for our opponents? Furthermore, what kind of dossier features could be added, to enhance the preparation process? And, accompanying these goals, I thought I'd try my best to conduct the design exercise with attention and care, and to make a nice, polished interface for chess on the web. TNM Pairings as it exists today reflects most of that ambition, realized.

This story isn't complete without a nod to the AI tools which have made this project, and so many more, possible. One of the biggest boons of this technology is that it enables bespoke software to be built for specific communities, like the players of the TNM; A year or two ago, I might have considered it unthinkable to develop an application for which the target

audience saturates at around 80 users. Now, I expect this will become the norm.

I also believe strongly in free, open-source software. Growing up in Marin County, I've often heard a phrase which was allegedly first uttered there: "Information wants to be free". To that end, the project is fully open source, with the code available on GitHub. My hope is that TNM Pairings might eventually serve as a template for other clubs with their own unique histories and their own collections of games.

My First Year at the Mechanics'

By Brad Widelock

After two frustrating years trying to learn how to play chess, I joined the Mechanics' last September. I came to learn that in chess parlance, I am what is known as an "adult improver."

That is accurate, in that I am an adult and definitely need to improve my game. I tried learning the game by watching videos and reading books, but that didn't work. What I really wanted was direct instruction from a human being. I had Googled around for places to play in my community, but there were no options. I was reluctant to join the Mechanics', because it is an hour or more from my home by car, often in grandmaster-level traffic. Also, I was intimidated. I had seen the pictures online of the club, and it did not look like a place for beginners. Those grand wooden tables were surely meant for seasoned players and not the likes of newbies like me. I imagined being browbeat for breathing too loud while people played and laughed at for making foolish moves. Eventually, necessity pushed me over the edge. I wanted to play chess over the board, and the only place I could do that was the Mechanics', so I picked up the phone and called the chess room.

Lucky for me, Christian answered my call. He listened patiently to my concerns about being a beginner and assured me I had it wrong. He suggested that I check out the online Chess Café and join the next beginners' class. I did both of those things. Christian was right. At the Chess Café, I met Alex, Urban, Richard, and Ray. Alex welcomed me, and told me

he was the chess director. He explained the format of the Café, and I spent the next hour and a half in conversation about chess and listening to Ray and Urban analyze a game. I did not understand much of what they had to say that day, but I felt like a miner that just hit a rich vein of ore. These folks had a lot of knowledge, and they were generous about sharing it in a kind and patient manner that has kept me coming back ever since.

I then made my first visit to the chess room. It was early in the day, and I was excited to see it for the first time. When I opened the door, there was no one there. I couldn't understand it.

Where were all those players doing battle across the board in library-level silence? Surely a room like this was never empty. It had too much gravitas for that. The beautiful tables were all set up with chess sets ready to be played, like an orchestra's worth of instruments waiting for their musicians. I later learned from Alex that players usually showed up around lunch time. On my second visit, I went later in the day, and when I opened the door, I was greeted by the sounds of laughter and conversation. People were playing, and they were having fun! There were also people playing quietly with the focus of a surgeon in an operating room.

At the Chess Café, I asked for chess book recommendations. Ray suggested Irving Chernev's *Logical Chess*, and I bought a copy. I brought it with me to the chess room and worked my way through the games. I did this because I did not know what else I was going to do when I got there. Surely no one would want to play with me. At some point during my second visit, Zorba asked me if I wanted to play a game. I told him I was a beginner and that I was not very good.

He said that was not a problem, and we played. I lost that game and two more after that. When we finished, Zorba generously gave me some pointers. I never miss an opportunity to play with him.

Last October, I took the beginner's class. What a relief to be in a room with a group of people who knew as little or less than I did. The class was taught by coach Marcie and coach Danny, two very patient people who clearly enjoyed teaching chess. The class lasted six weeks, but after my second visit

to the chess room and that first class, I knew that I made a good decision when I joined the Mechanics'. I learned a lot in that class, basic strategy that I use every time I play (look for checks, captures, threats, and hanging pieces!)

I think the staff in the chess room has created one of the most welcoming places in San Francisco. The players are a mix of people that are as varied and interesting as the many iterations of chess sets one finds from around the world. My experience is that people in the chess room are kind and generous with their time and knowledge, helpful to those who want to learn, and happy to help newcomers. Learning chess, particularly for someone in their seventh decade, can be incredibly frustrating. You have to have a high tolerance for failure in order to make any progress. It is so easy to feel despair and just give up. The community in the chess room is one of the reasons I am able to keep going. The friendship and support I have found there makes the difficult, ugly losses bearable and victories that much sweeter.

Sam in Oaxtepec: King's Indian: Part 3

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!

Jimenez Garcia, Emmanuel **E73**

Shankland, Samuel L **2349**
2647
 American Continental 20th (11) 10.06.26
[samsh]

Coming into the last round, I had already clinched a tie for first, and a draw would be clear first. Still, I was in an ambitious mood, and brought out the King's Indian again. **1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 g6 3.e4 d6 4.d4 Bg7 5.Be2 0-0 6.h4** This line has become trendy in recent times, mainly via a 3.h4 move order aimed at being played as an anti-grunfeld. But, I didn't think it should be too scary. **6...h5** Nice and simple, I kept the tension for the moment. No h5 for you.

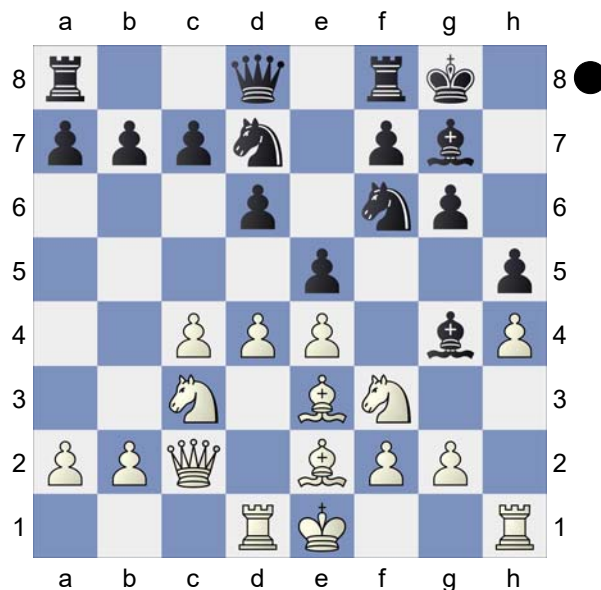
[6...c5 This is the more direct move, and after 7.d5 Black can look for either b5 or e6, both of which should equalize with good preparation. My move is not quite as convincing, but it keeps a bit more tension.]

7.Nf3 Bg4 8.Be3 Nbd7 9.Qc2

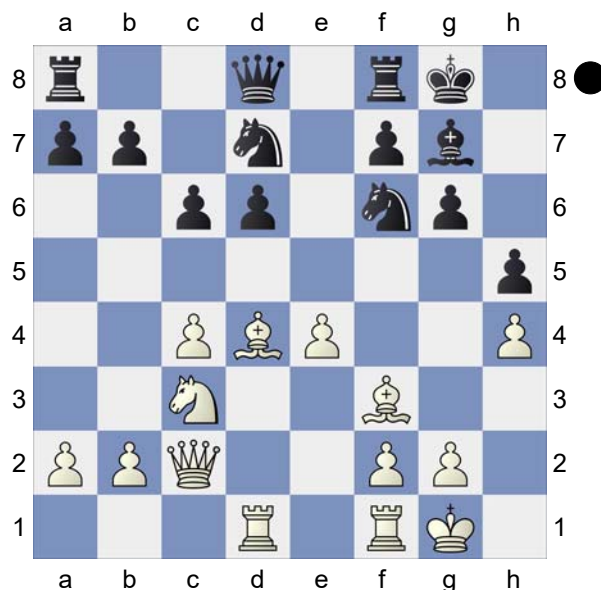
My opponent was still playing very quickly, clearly still in his preparation. I had not remembered checking Qc2, but this is what I like about the King's Indian. My opponent had prepared a line I had not reviewed, the computer gives White a nice edge... but Black's position is super robust, there is a lot of dynamic strategic decisions for both sides to make, and I felt totally fine here. **9...e5 10.Rd1?!**

[10.d5 The machine claimed White should push the pawn. c6 but now... Ng5? or Rc1? Instead of castling one way or the other? This feels a bit weird to me. And even still, the position looks totally playable. If my human continuation of e5 and c6 was not computer approved, the correct responses look decidedly inhuman to

me. They could be prepared, but only if one ignores the computer and puts 10...e5 on the board in a prep file instead of whatever the machine gives instead.]



10...Bxf3! 11.Bxf3 exd4 12.Bxd4 c6 Black has good play on the dark squares, and I was already feeling very comfortable. When the machine runs, it gives a slight edge for White at first but settles on equality pretty fast. **13.0-0**



I think my opponent made a very big psychological mistake by offering a draw here. With a draw, he would qualify for the World Cup. With a win, he would not

only qualify, but also share first place with me. Given the rating mismatch, I totally understand why he might have been satisfied with a draw with White to finish the tournament and qualify for the World Cup, surely the biggest moment of his career so far. But this also telegraphed to me that he was not emotionally ready for a big fight. He had his preparation all the way to Qc2, surely knew that the computer gave him some advantage, and then offered a draw almost immediately after having to start playing on his own. I didn't seriously consider taking it, but I also felt more free to play risky chess from here on out. My sense was that if I ever wanted a draw, even if my position was bad, I could just offer it and he would grab my hand to go play the World Cup. As such, I felt I could be more ambitious and risk taking, though I never really felt like I had to do anything drastic to make chances. **13...Qe7 14.Rfe1 a6!** nice and simple. Let White worry about b7-b5. He worried about it too much.

15.a4?!

[15.g3 Ne5 16.Be2 b5 Black is very much fine, but at least White does not have chronic dark square weaknesses.]

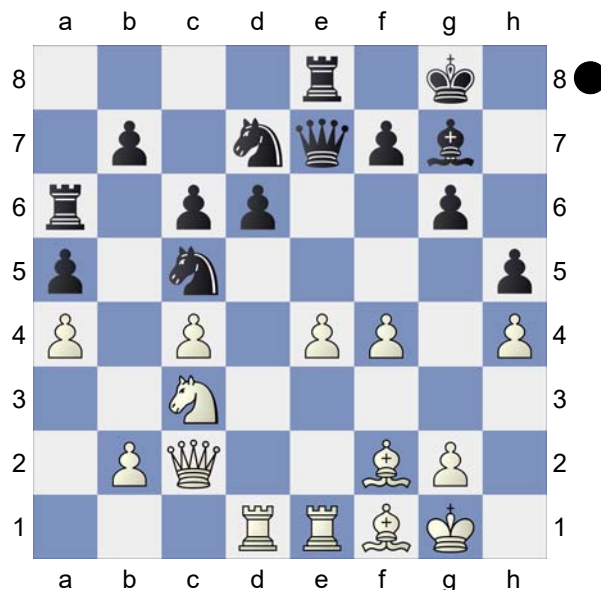
15...a5! Now the c5-square will be forever weak, and I have a clear plan to play on the dark squares and let him wallow around with a bad light squared bishop. **16.Be2 Rfe8 17.f3 Nc5 18.Bf1**

[18.Bxc5 He could have considered taking here, which I was expecting. dxc5 19.g3 Rad8= I felt very comfortable here, but it's not that amazing. My knight will not make it to d4, and as such, it is not really a great piece since the c5 square is no longer available.]

18...Nfd7 19.Bf2 Ra6?! A bit too optimistic.

[19...Ne5 The simple moves were the good ones. Qf6 and Rad8 come next, and Black's pieces are really good.]

20.f4



This is now possible as I cannot go pawn grabbing. **20...Raa8!** It is a mark of a mature player to be able to admit their mistakes. I was not wholly dissatisfied with this change though- White has now weakened his e4-pawn and g4-square.

[20...Rb6 Continuing along with my plan would have been a little too optimistic. 21.g3 Rb4 22.Bh3! When I saw this option, I realized the position is too loose with the rook on b4. Rxc4 23.e5! dxe5 24.Bxd7! Nxd7 25.Qd3 White wins material.]
[20...Bxc3?! 21.bxc3 Nxe4? 22.c5! Oops! Why is the rook on a6?]

21.Bd3 Rad8 22.g3 b6 23.b3 Qe6? A bit aimless.

[23...Nf6?]

24.Kg2 Nf6 This was the right idea, but I should have played it right away, and not with Qe6, which harmed my position.

25.e5! It was here I realized I had messed up. **25...dxe5**

[25...Nxd3 This had been my plan, but I had missed that after 26.Qxd3! dxe5 would allow him to take on d8!]

So, I had to improvise.]

[25...Ng4 This was best, but not inspiring. 26.f5 gxf5 27.Bxf5 Qh6 28.Bxg4 hxg4 The computer thinks Black is still fine, but I did not like the position here.]

26.Rxe5? Accompanied with another draw offer. This move is more about attitude than chessplaying ability. Once White decided he wanted a draw this game, any simplification looks attractive, but this was mistaken.

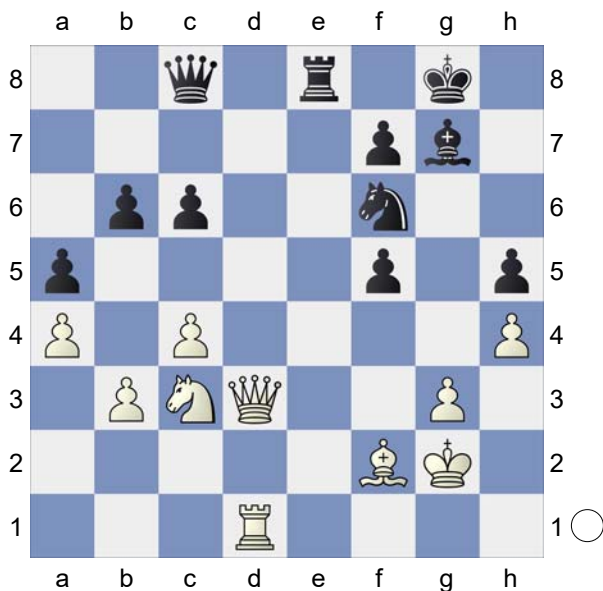
[26.f5! gxf5 27.Bxf5 Qe7 28.Bxc5! bxc5 29.Ne4 White has good play on the light squares and is even a little better despite the pawn down. If he had gotten to this position and offered a draw, I may well have taken it. Rxd1 30.Rxd1 Rd8± Black should hold without a ton of effort, but it's a bit unpleasant and I don't see any universe where I can play for a win.]

26...Qc8 27.Rxe8+ Rxe8 Now White's position is unpleasant again. His overextended kingside and the weak g4-square will be a big problem. **28.f5?**

[28.Bxc5 bxc5 29.Be2

I was expecting this, when White's position looks loose, but I don't see a way through.]

28...Nxd3! 29.Qxd3 gxf5!



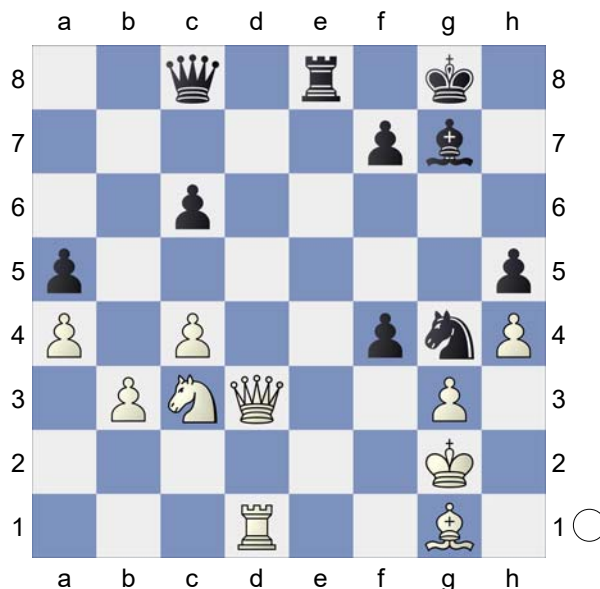
This is not a good change to the position for White. I will be able to play f4 to open up his king. **30.Bxb6?**

[30.Ne2! This was mandatory. White's life will not be easy, but he is not crushed right away.]

30...Ng4! Now it's over. Too many threats, f4 being the biggest one. **31.Bg1**

[31.Ne2 c5! The twin threats of Qc6, winning the bishop, and Ne3 absolutely end the game.]

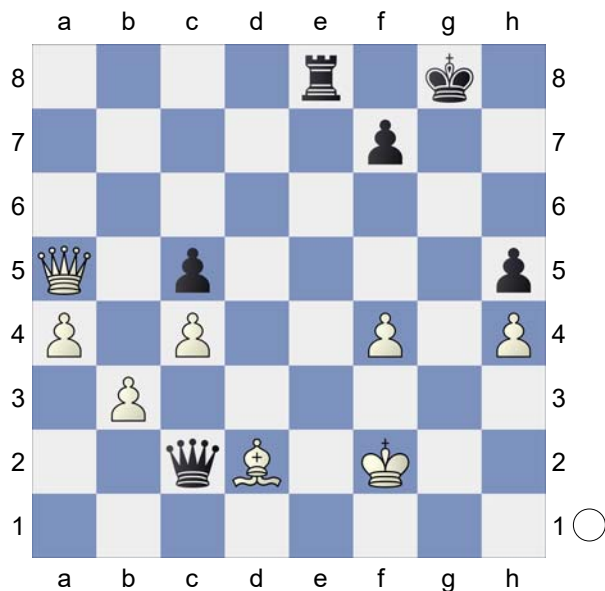
31...f4!



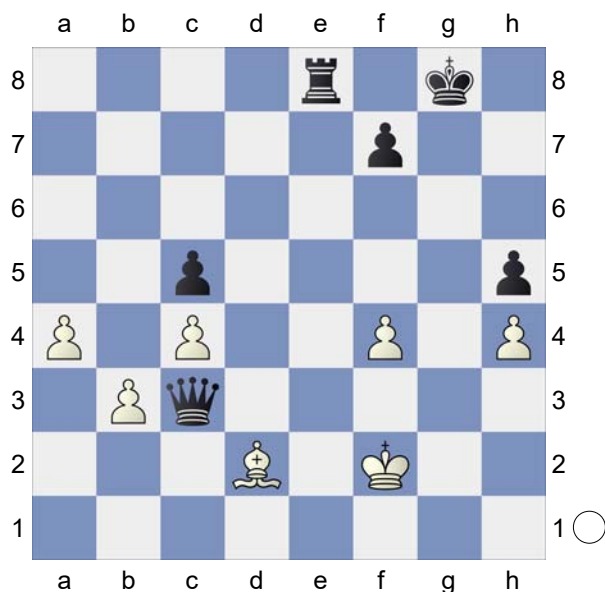
Well calculated. White's kingside is demolished. Now, Ne5 followed by f3 next is not joking around. White tried taking the pawn because what else, but this won't save him. **32.gxf4 Bxc3!** Calculation 101: always examine all checks and captures. **33.Qxc3 Ne3+! 34.Bxe3 Qg4+ 35.Kf2 Qxd1 36.Qxa5 Qc2+! 37.Bd2** [37.Qd2 Qxb3-+] **37...c5!**

(Diagram)

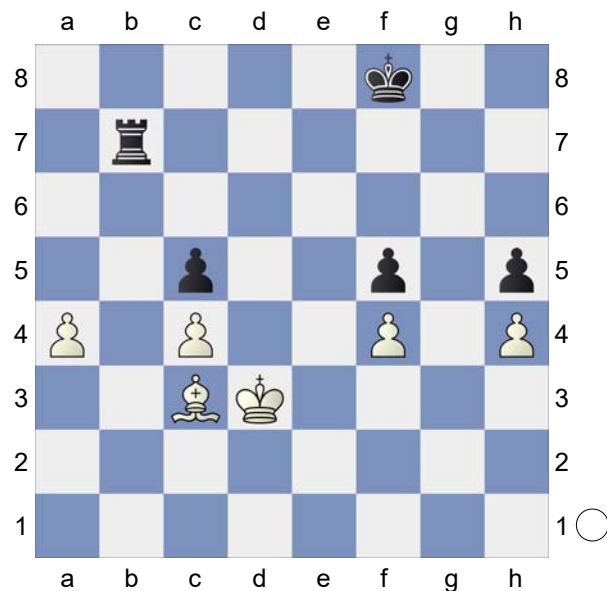
Stopping any hope of the queen reaching g5 for a perpetual. Qd3 is now a colossal threat. **38.Qc3 Qg6?** Somehow I felt like I had to play for mate here, but I should have just gone



into the winning endgame. After my opponent's next move, I realized my mistake, repeated the position, and played better the second time around. **39.Qf3 Rd8! 40.Ke2 Qc2 41.Qc3 Re8+ 42.Kf2 Qxc3!**



Better late than never. **43.Bxc3 Rb8+** Cleaning up from here was easy. **44.Ke3 Rxb3 45.Kd3 Kf8 46.Kc2 Rb7** White's a-pawn will never be a concern. He cannot kick my rook off of the b-file, and his bishop can never fight for the a7-square. As such, when the pawn reaches a5, there is no universe where it ever gets to a6, as Ra7 will scoop it up. **47.Kd3 f5**



White's king is forever kept out. At this point I had already planned to reach the winning pawn endgame. **48.Kc2 Ke7 49.a5 Kd6 50.Kd3 Kc6 51.Be1 Rd7+ 52.Kc3 Re7 53.Bd2 Kb7 54.Kd3 Ka6 55.Be3** This allows me to trade into the winning pawn endgame, but there was nothing else.

[55.Bc3 Re4 White loses the f4-pawn. 56.Bd2 Rd4+ I can take the c4 or a5-pawn for free next... or just premove Rxd2 and get the winning pawn endgame again.]

55...Rxe3+ White resigned instead of facing the music. Taking the rook allows for Kxa5-b4, when Black outflanks and easily wins. The American Continental was not the strongest tournament I have ever played in (to say the least), but to finish with a convincing win at 9.5/11, a point and a half ahead of the field, and punching my ticket to the next World Cup very early in the 2 year season felt good indeed!

0-1

LLM Chess: A Game of Imitation

Dmitry Dzhanhirov, NM, Independent Researcher

Do large language models actually play chess? The question may sound provocative, even facetious. Yet LLMs have already produced thousands of games — in bot-vs-bot tournaments and in games initiated by ordinary users through chat prompts.

We will return to the question in a slightly different form: can the "chess activity" of an LLM be considered playing chess at all?

Shannon's Two Types

The "Old Testament" of chess engine design is Claude Shannon's 1950 paper, "Programming a Computer for Playing Chess." By estimating the enormous number of possible games and positions, Shannon showed why exhaustive search is practically impossible.

The lasting importance of the paper lies in something else. Shannon identified two types of chess programs:

Type A (brute force): the computer examines all possible moves to a certain depth.

Type B (selective search): the computer considers only "promising" moves.

In the same paper, Shannon introduced the concept of an evaluation function — a formula that assigns each position a numerical score. A positive score means White is better; a negative score means Black is better.

Although Type B appeared more promising because selective search could reach greater depth, early selective programs regularly lost to Type A: aggressive pruning discarded good moves. Modern development ultimately produced hybrid systems combining broad search with increasingly sophisticated pruning and evaluation.

The Modern Era

The growth of processing power gave renewed impetus to broad-search programs. Stockfish, the strongest open-source engine, is an heir to this paradigm in modern hybrid form: its search is supplemented by advanced pruning and a neural network-based evaluation function called NNUE (Efficiently Updatable Neural-Network-based Evaluation).

AlphaZero and Leela Chess Zero, along with all AlphaZero-style engines, stand closer to the selective logic of Type B. Their search uses MCTS (Monte Carlo Tree Search), guided by a neural network that evaluates which moves are worth exploring.

Strictly speaking, modern engines have outgrown Shannon's dichotomy. They combine limited search, heuristic move selection, and evaluation functions, but can still be placed roughly along Shannon's spectrum: "closer to Type A" or "closer to Type B."

Enter the LLMs

The real departure from Shannon's dichotomy came in late 2022 and early 2023, when AI chatbots based on LLMs began playing chess.

Before examining them, we need to define what "playing chess" means in the strict sense. Playing chess requires a stable representation of the position. It requires generating only legal moves. It requires checking the consequences of each move. And it requires evaluating the resulting positions. Without these four elements, a system is not playing chess in the full sense.

LLM-based chatbots that play without an external engine or move validator take a radically different approach. Unlike conventional chess engines, they do not explicitly construct a search tree or apply a dedicated evaluation function. Their moves appear to emerge primarily from patterns learned during training.

In this respect, LLMs fall outside Shannon's framework: they do not use the explicit search and evaluation tools on which traditional chess programs rely.

This brings us back to the question from the beginning: if an LLM does not explicitly search variations or apply a dedicated evaluation function, can it be said to play chess at all?

How LLMs Actually Play

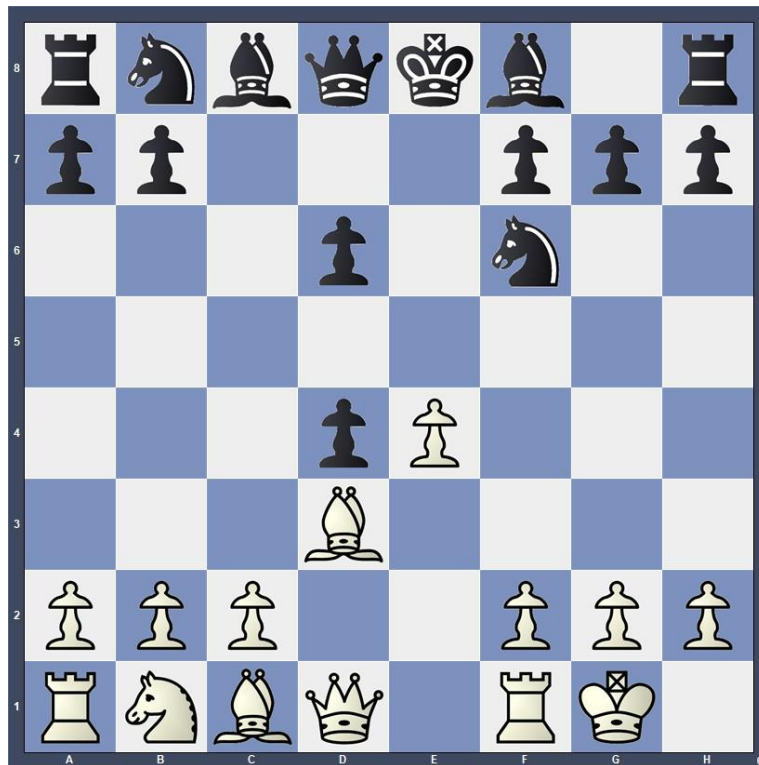
An LLM-based chatbot does not behave like a conventional chess engine. Its play appears to rely primarily on pattern completion: given a familiar configuration, it produces a move associated with similar patterns in its training data. When this goes wrong, the result may be not merely a bad move but an illegal one.

Consider Kimi K2, a Chinese LLM-based chatbot. At the Kaggle Game Arena Chess Exhibition Tournament 2025 (August 4–7, 2025), it played a four-game match against OpenAI o3. Some journalists called the event the "unofficial world championship of AI."

Kimi K2 lost all four games. In every game, it made a series of illegal moves no later than move 8; under the tournament rules, a model forfeited the game after its fourth illegal-move attempt.

In Game 1, on move 7, Kimi K2 tried to capture the black pawn on d4 with its queen from d1. But a white bishop was sitting on d3, blocking the queen's path:

1. e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Bd3 e5 6.O-O exd4 7.Qxd4??
(illegal)



Why did the model make this move? The pattern "white queen on d1 — undefended black pawn on d4" is very common. It appears in the Center Game, in certain lines of the Ruy Lopez and the Philidor Defense, in other open games, and in the Sicilian Defense — as in this case.

Capturing the d4 pawn with the queen from d1 is the overwhelmingly typical response in this pattern. So it is not surprising that Kimi K2 tried exactly this move. The problem was that a white bishop on d3 blocked the file. The capture was impossible.

Statistically, white pieces on d2 or d3 are rare in this pattern. But in this particular game, the "statistically correct" move was illegal.

What This Shows

This single episode does not settle the question of LLMs' chess abilities. But it demonstrates a type of error that is impossible for a system with a reliable board representation. The model recognized the pattern "queen on d1 — pawn on d4" and picked the typical move. What it missed was the full geometry of the position — the bishop on d3 blocking the queen's file.

In principle, this problem is solvable. The path forward lies in more precise pattern definition. The model must recognize not just the key elements of a configuration ("queen on d1 — pawn on d4") but the full geometric context. It must account for pieces that block lines of interaction between the key elements. A "working" pattern must include not only attacking relationships but also blocking ones — the presence of pieces on lines of action.

Conclusion

If we compare an LLM with a human player, its play might be described as almost entirely analogy-driven. What appears to be missing is the explicit calculation, positional evaluation, and reliable rule checking that characterize conventional chess play.

So, does an LLM really play chess? The answer may depend on what we mean by "play." What is already clear, however, is that this is a genuinely new form of chess activity: unlike conventional engines, it is driven primarily by learned patterns, while overlapping with human thought mainly in its reliance on analogy.

Tactical Fireworks

By FM Henry Deng

The Sinquefield Cup and Cairns Cup 2026 were held concurrently at the Saint Louis Chess Club from August 10-19, 2026, as the final leg of the Grand Chess Tour. Both were ten-player round robins, and both came down to the wire.

In the Sinquefield Cup, Wesley So and R. Praggnanandhaa tied for first at 5.5/9 after nine rounds of classical chess. That set up a playoff: two rapid games, both drawn, forcing a sudden-death Armageddon decider. So, with the black pieces and a must-draw, found himself in a losing position but held on to claim the title, his third Sinquefield Cup and second in a row. Praggnanandhaa's runner-up finish was enough to send him to the GCT Finals as the season's points leader, joining So, Fabiano Caruana, and Vincent Keymer.

The Cairns Cup had its own late drama, with Tan Zhongyi taking her second title with 6.5/9, despite losing her final-round game to Stavroula Tsolakidou. Alice Lee could have caught up had she won, but she could only draw with Carissa Yip. That draw was a silver lining for Lee, though, because it earned her her first grandmaster norm.

With the tournament winners settled, here are a few of the sharpest tactical moments from Saint Louis.

□ Sevian, Samuel

■ Giri, Anish

Grand Chess Tour: Sinquefeld Cup 202..

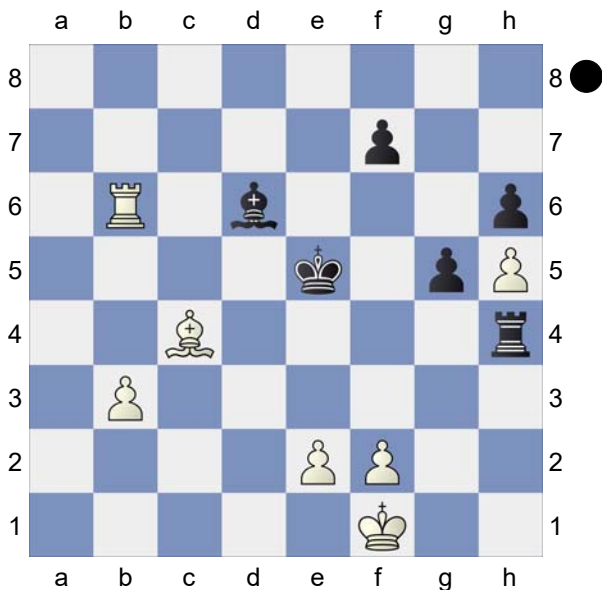
[Deng, Henry]

A14

2701

2764

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.b3 d5 4.Bb2
Be7 5.g3 0-0 6.Bg2 c5 7.cxd5 Nxd5
8.0-0 Nc6 9.d4 cxd4 10.Nxd4 Nxd4
11.Qxd4 Bf6 12.Qd2 Nf4 13.gxf4
Qxd2 14.Nxd2 Bxb2 15.Rad1 Bf6
16.Ne4 Be7 17.Rd2 Rb8 18.Rc1 h6
19.Bf3 Re8 20.Nd6 Rd8 21.Nxc8
Rdxc8 22.Rxc8+ Rxc8 23.Rd7 Bb4
24.Rxb7 a5 25.h4 Rd8 26.h5 Kf8
27.Rb5 Rd2 28.a3 Bxa3 29.Rxa5 Bd6
30.f5 exf5 31.Rxf5 Ke7 32.Kf1 Ke6
33.Rb5 g5 34.Bg4+ Kf6 35.Bf5 Rd4
36.Bd3 Rh4 37.Rb6 Ke5 38.Bc4



Rxh5?? Up until this point, White was slightly better and pushing for the win, but it was holdable for Black with opposite colored bishops. However, by taking this pawn, Black's rook is perfectly lined up with the king, leading to White having a nice tactic to take advantage of that.

[38...f5 39.Bf7 f4=]

39.Bxf7?? White misses the opportunity and simply takes the pawn back. This shows how even Grandmasters overlook

simple tactics. White did end up winning in the end, but only after 70 more moves, when he could have ended it in 1.

[39.f4+! Taking advantage of Black's awkward rook position, there is no defence for Black. If the Black king steps away, the bishop falls.

Otherwise, the rook falls. Kxf4

(39...gxf4 40.Rb5+-) 40.Rxd6+-]

39...Rh4 40.e3 Rb4 41.Ra6 Rb8

42.Kg2 Rf8 43.Bc4 h5 44.Ra5+ Kf6

45.Bd3 Be7 46.Ra6+ Ke5 47.Be2

Rh8 48.Bc4 Kf5 49.Bf7 Bb4 50.Rb6

Bc3 51.Rc6 Bb4 52.Rb6 Bc3 53.f3

Bd2 54.Kf2 Bc1 55.Rc6 Ba3 56.Ra6

Bc1 57.Rc6 Ba3 58.Rb6 Bc1 59.b4

h4 60.Be6+ Ke5 61.Rc6 Bd2 62.Bh3

Bxb4 63.Rg6 Bc5 64.Rxg5+ Kd6

65.Rg6+ Kd5 66.Rg5+ Kd6 67.Rg6+

Kd5 68.Ke2 Re8 69.e4+ Kd4 70.Rg5

Re5 71.Rg1 Re7 72.Rd1+ Kc3

73.Rd5 Kc4 74.Rh5 Kd4 75.Bg4 Rb7

76.Rd5+ Kc4 77.Be6 Re7 78.Bh3

Ra7 79.Be6 Re7 80.Bg4 Ra7 81.Rd2

Ra3 82.Rc2+ Kd4 83.Kf2 Rc3

84.Rd2+ Rd3 85.Rc2 Rc3 86.Rb2

Ke5+ 87.Kg2 Rc1 88.Rb7 Bd6

89.Rd7 Rc7 90.Rd8 Rc1 91.Kh3

Rh1+ 92.Kg2 Rc1 93.Kh2 Ra1

94.Rd7 Rc1 95.Kh3 Rh1+ 96.Kg2

Rc1 97.Bf5 Bc5 98.Rc7 Be3 99.Re7+

Kd4 100.Rd7+ Ke5 101.Bg4 Rg1+

102.Kh2 Rc1 103.Rd5+ Kf6 104.e5+

Kg5 105.e6+ Kf6 106.Rd7 Rc8

107.Rf7+ Kg6 108.Bf5+ Kg5 109.e7

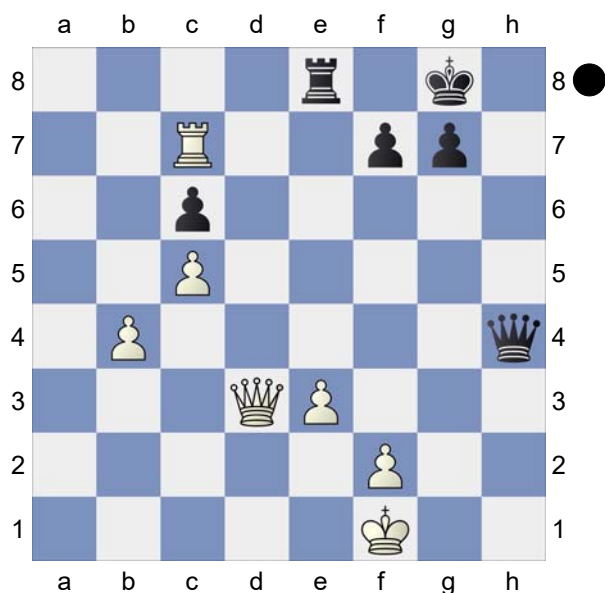
Rb8 110.Bd7

1-0

Aronian, Levon **A13**

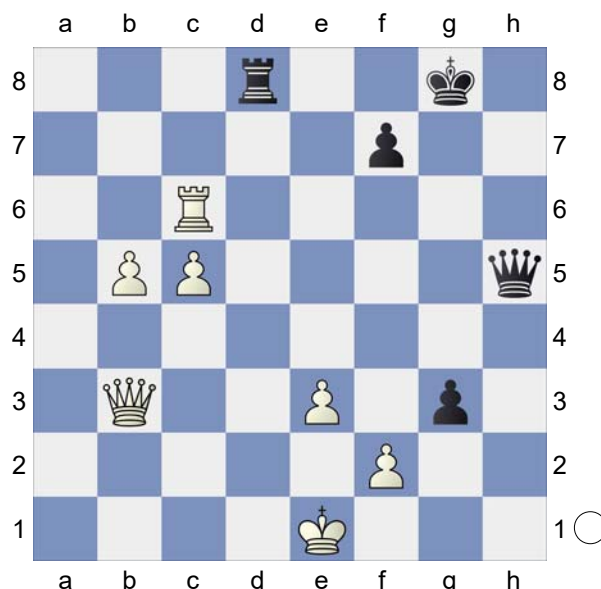
Keymer, Vincent **2721**
2767
 Grand Chess Tour: Sinquefeld Cup 202..
[Deng, Henry]

1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d4 4.Bg2 Nc6
5.0-0 Bc5 6.b3 Nf6 7.Ba3 Bxa3
8.Nxa3 0-0 9.d3 e5 10.Nc2 Qd6
11.Rb1 a5 12.a3 Bg4 13.h3 Bxf3
14.Bxf3 Rfe8 15.b4 e4 16.c5 Qe6
17.dxe4 Qxh3 18.Nxd4 Rad8 19.e3
axb4 20.Bg2 Qc8 21.axb4 Nxe4
22.Qd3 Qg4 23.Rfd1 h5 24.Qc2 Ng5
25.Nxc6 bxc6 26.Rd3 Rxd3 27.Qxd3
h4 28.gxh4 Nf3+ 29.Kf1 Re5 30.Ra1
Re8 31.Bxf3 Qxf3 32.Ra7 Qh3+
33.Ke2 Qg4+ 34.Kf1 Qxh4 35.Rxc7



Rd8 An incredibly sharp game but Black is clearly better here since White's king is in such a perilous position. Black's queen and rook are hunting the king down. White could have still held on albeit still in a worse position had he not taken the pawn. **36.Qb3 Qh5 37.Ke1 Qf3?** The Black queen steps forward, yet Black doesn't have any good threats! There appears to be a mating net or some sort but White has all squares covered. Surprisingly, it is now back to zeroes.

[37...g5! This is the best plan, to push the g pawn up and trade off White's f2 pawn. While it does weaken the Black king, White can't take advantage of it since his own king is in a weaker position. Black has time to completely open up White's king, leaving it with no more defense. **38.Ra7** The best defense for White is to bring the rook back to the King to defend. However this also relieves the pressure on f7, allowing Black to more freely attack. (**38.b5 g4 39.Rxc6 g3**



40.fxg3 Qh1+ 41.Ke2 Qg2+ 42.Ke1 Qxg3+ 43.Kf1 Qf3+ 44.Ke1 Qh1+ 45.Ke2 Qg2+ 46.Ke1 Qd2+ 47.Kf1 Rd3+) **38...g4 39.Ra2 Qh1+ 40.Ke2 Qf3+ 41.Ke1 Qg2+** There isn't a forced win yet, but with threats of g3 looming in the air, Black's rook joining the attack from a more favorable position, White's position will fall apart soon. (**41...g3?** Here this is not so good because White's rook is perfectly positioned to defend. **42.fxg3 Qxg3+ 43.Rf2=**)]

38.Ra7 Rd5 Black is now trying to reroute his rook to h5 and continue the attack on the White king. While Black is still better here, White managed to hold on in the end, with his king getting

chased around, and even won the game when Black slipped up.

[38...g5!? Here is it less effective since Black has effectively wasted a tempo with Qf3. 39.b5 g4 40.bxc6 g3 41.fxg3 Qxg3+ 42.Kf1=

The best that Black can do is make a perpetual since f7 is still targeted, and the White c pawn might be dangerous soon.]

39.Qc2 g6 40.Ra8+ Kh7 41.Ra3 Rh5 42.Qe2 Qe4 43.Qa2 Rh1+ 44.Kd2 Qf5 45.Kc3 Rc1+ 46.Kb3 Qd3+ 47.Ka4 Qb5+ 48.Kb3 Rxc5 49.Ra7 Qc4+ 50.Ka3 Qd3+ 51.Ka4 Qb5+ 52.Kb3 Qc4+ 53.Ka3 Qd3+ 54.Ka4 Rd5 55.e4 Qb5+ 56.Kb3 Qd3+ 57.Ka4 Qb5+ 58.Kb3 Rd4 59.Rxf7+ Kh6 60.Rh7+ Kxh7 61.Qa7+ Kh6 62.Qxd4 Qe2 63.Kc3 Qa6 64.Kd2 g5 65.f3 Qa2+ 66.Ke3 Qb3+ 67.Kf2 Qc2+ 68.Kg3 Qc1 69.Qf6+ Kh5 70.Qf7+ Kh6 71.Kg4 Qa3 72.Qh5+ Kg7 73.Qxg5+ Kf7 74.Qc5 Qb2 75.Qf5+ Ke7 76.Qf4 Qxb4 77.Qc7+ Kf8 78.Qxc6 Qb3 79.Qf6+ Ke8 80.Kg5 Qe3+ 81.Kg6 Qb3 82.Kg7 Qb7+ 83.Kh6 Qb3 84.Qg6+ Ke7 85.Qg5+ Ke8 86.f4 Qe3 87.e5 Kf7 88.Qf5+ Ke7 89.Kg7 Qc3 90.Qf6+ Ke8 91.e6 1-0

□ Yip,Carissa

■ Assaubayeva,Bibisara

Cairns Cup 2026 (6)

[Deng,Henry]

B40

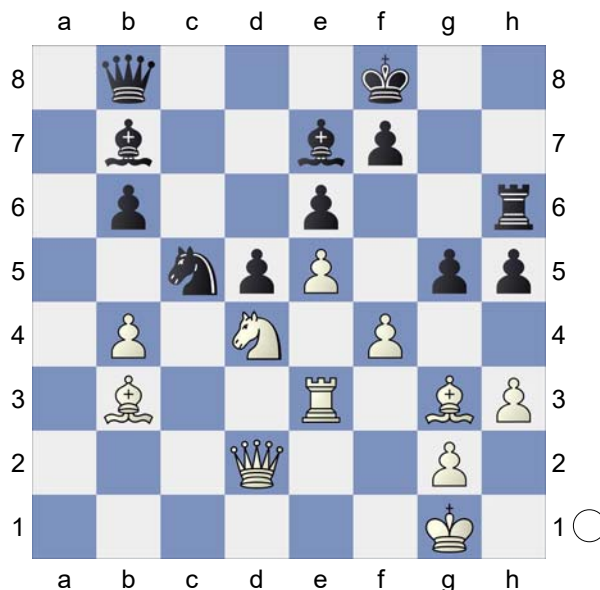
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2538

16.08.2026

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.c3 Nf6 4.Bd3 d5 5.e5 Nfd7 6.Bc2 c4 7.d4 cxd3 8.Bxd3 Nc6 9.Bf4 h6 10.h3 Qc7 11.0-0 Nc5 12.Bc2 Be7 13.Re1 b6 14.Nbd2 Bb7 15.b4 Nd7 16.Nb3 g5 17.Bg3 h5 18.Nbd4 Nxd4 19.Nxd4

Qxc3 20.a3 Rc8 21.Re3 Qc7 22.Rc1 Rh6 23.Nb5 Qb8 24.Bb3 Kf8 25.Rxc8+ Bxc8 26.Nd4 Bb7 27.f4 a5 28.Qd2 axb4 29.axb4 Nc5



An interesting try. White is much better due to the incoming attack on Black's vulnerable king. Black now tries to shake things up, threatening to move the knight into e4. 30.f5!?

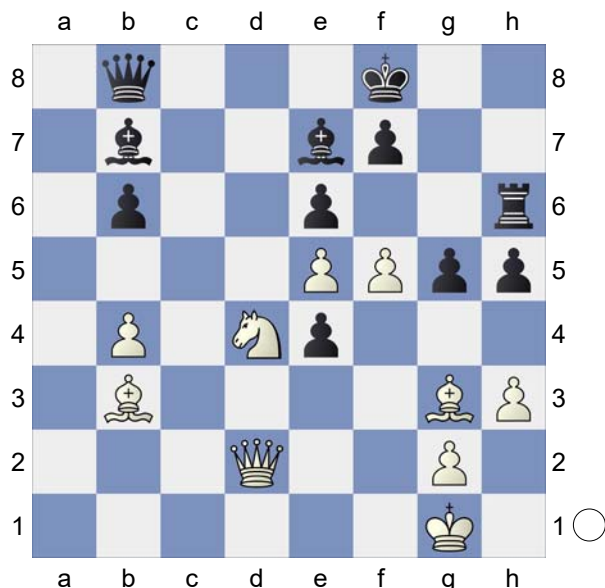
White declines to take the bait on c5, however it might have been best to do so. Regardless, White still has a strong attack.

[30.bxc5 bxc5 31.Nf3 d4 32.Rd3 Ba6 33.fxg5 Rh8 34.Bc2 Bxd3 35.Bxd3+- Black's king is still not safe, and with the two pieces against the rook, White is winning.]

30...Ne4 31.Rxe4! The best move. The knight on e4 would have been annoying, and White chooses to simply eliminate it from the board. 31...dxe4

(Diagram)

This is the critical moment. There is only one move that wins in the position, other moves allow Black to escape. 32.f6? It looks good but here since Black is up a lot of material, she can afford to give some back in exchange for entering a



drawn endgame.

[32.h4! A powerful move, threatening to take on g5. Black cannot take on h4 due to the pin on the Black rook.

White is not in a hurry yet to immediately take on e6 or sacrifice.

A) 32...Qd8 33.hxg5 Bxg5 34.Bf4 e3 (34...Bxf4 35.Nxe6+!+-) 35.Qxe3 Bxf4 36.Qxf4+-

With a crushing attack on the Black king and multiple threats, White is easily winning.;

B) 32...Qa8 The g5 pawn cannot be well defended, so Black gives it up in exchange for some e3 or Qa1 ideas. 33.hxg5 e3 34.Qxe3 Rh8 35.g6 Qa1+ 36.Be1 Qb2 37.Bc2+- There is no way for Black to defend anymore, Black's pawn defense around the king is collapsing. The g pawn that came from White's move h4 is crucial here in destabilizing Black's position.]

32...Rxf6 33.exf6 Qxg3 34.fxe7+

Kxe7 Although White has an extra piece, Black has many pawns, and it is equal.

35.Ba4 e3 36.Qe2 g4 37.hxg4 hxg4 38.Bc6 Qe5 39.Bxb7 Qxd4 40.g3 Qxb4 41.Qxe3 Qc5 42.Qxc5+ bxc5 43.Kf2 f5 44.Ke3 e5 45.Bd5 Kf6 46.Bc4 Kg5 47.Bd3 f4+ 48.Kf2 Kf6

49.Kg2 Ke6 50.Kf2 Kd5 51.Bf5 c4 52.gxf4 c3 53.fxe5 Kxe5 54.Bh7 Kf4 55.Bg6 g3+ 56.Kg2 Ke3 57.Kxg3 Kd2 58.Kf2 c2 59.Bxc2 Kxc2 1/2-1/2

Annotated Games from the TNM and Recent Tournaments

By IM Elliott Winslow

A selection of annotated games from the 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!

□ **Das,Rohan**

■ **Sevall,Jacob Cameron**

2026 Summer TNM: 2000+ (5.1) 04.08.26

[Winslow,Elliott]

Another round where the two highest rated players (both 3-0) are taking a bye! A chance for some others to catch up! Not necessarily; a draw doesn't quite cut it, as these two players faded in the

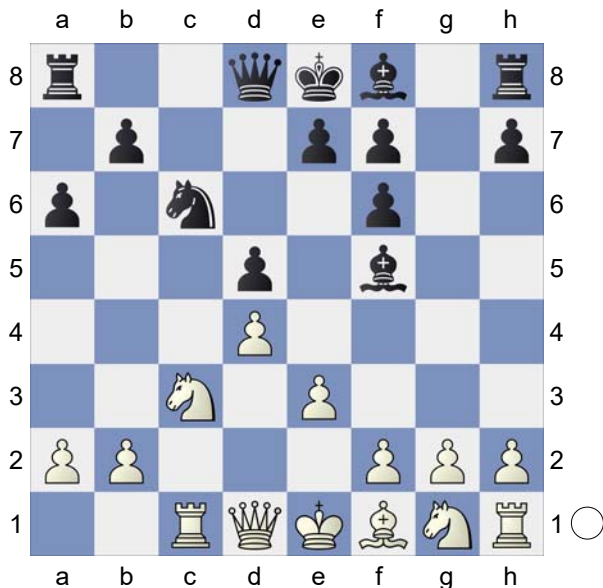
home stretch after Jacob Sevall grabbed a won position after Rohan Das's faulty 19th move, then couldn't quite put it away. **1.d4 2 d5 18 2.c4 4 c6 20**

3.cxd5 44 cxd5 28 4.Bg5 2:04 Nc6 48

5.Nc3 1:17 Nf6 3:13 6.Bxf6 49 gxf6 30

7.e3 19 a6 2:27 8.Rc1 2:00 White has an edge. But not much of one; this

resembles a Trompowski where White trades the bishop pair (well, half of it) for a structural advantage (well, not all that much of one). **8...Bf5 3:11**



9.Qb3?!N 25:28 Now what edge there is goes to Black.

[9.Bd3 Bg6 10.f4 (10.Nge2!?)

10...f5 11.h4 h5 12.Nf3 e6 13.Na4

f6 14.Nc5 Bxc5 15.Rxc5 ½-½ (39)

Grischuk,A (2761)-Carlsen,M (2832)

Paris 2017]

[9.h4!?

D10

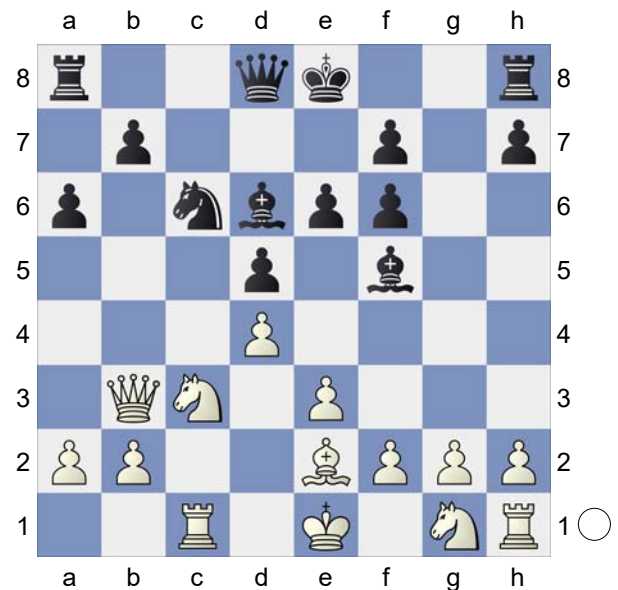
2188

2140

9...e6= 1:19 (-0.20/21) 10.Be2 2:33

[10.Nf3]

10...Bd6 2:14



11.h4?! 11:34 Rg8?! 4:01

[11...h6 11:34]

12.Kf1?! 3:21 Na5?! 6:08 13.Qd1= 4:45

h6! 57 14.Bd3! 9:49 (so that White can play b3 without losing exchange!)

14...Bxd3+ 39 15.Qxd3 2 f5 21

16.Nge2 1:33 Rc8 2:29

[16...Qb6]

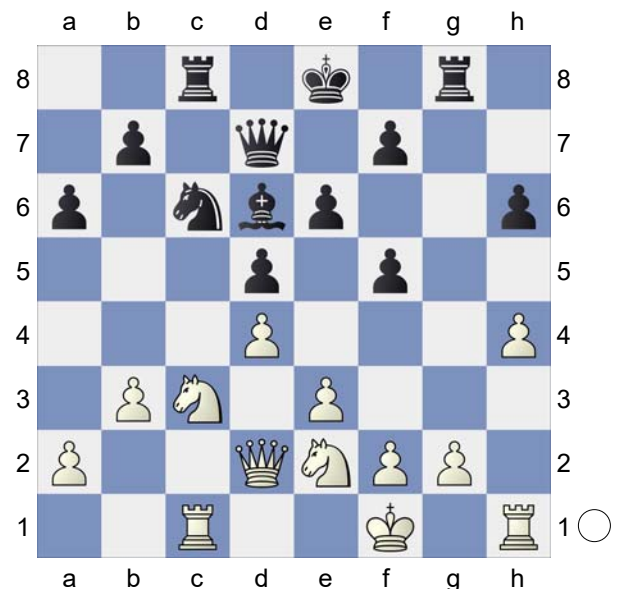
17.b3?! 7:55 (I was only kidding!)

[17.g3 Nc4 18.b3]

17...Qd7 7:03

[17...Nc6]

18.Qd2 2:10 Nc6 9:14



19.e4? 3:04 **fxe4-+** 37

[19...Ba3-+]

20.Qxh6 25 (Bad trade) **20...Nb4** 4:08

[20...Qd8!?]

21.Rh3 6:05 **b5** 7:57

[21...Nd3! 22.Rd1 Qe7

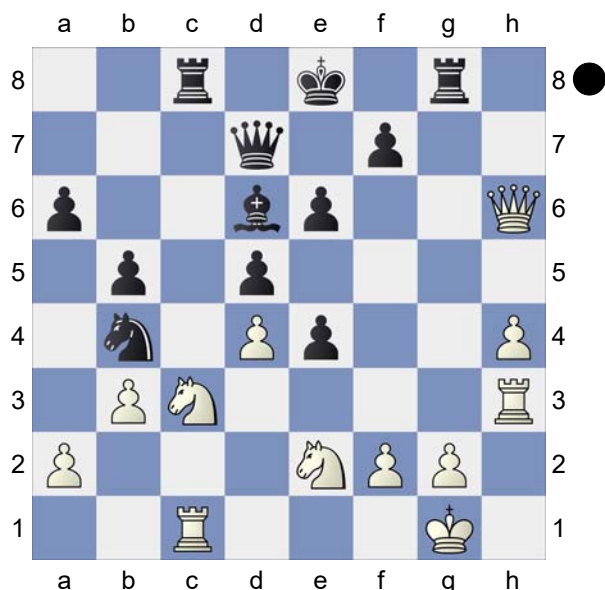
when Stockfish just gives up a rook for knight and pawn now, which could be the most practical attempt to break up the center juggernaut that 19.e4 unleashed.]

22.Kg1 4:56

[22.Rd1!?]

[22.Nd1!?]

[22.h5!?]



22...e5? 4:49 and Black's winning advantage disappears.

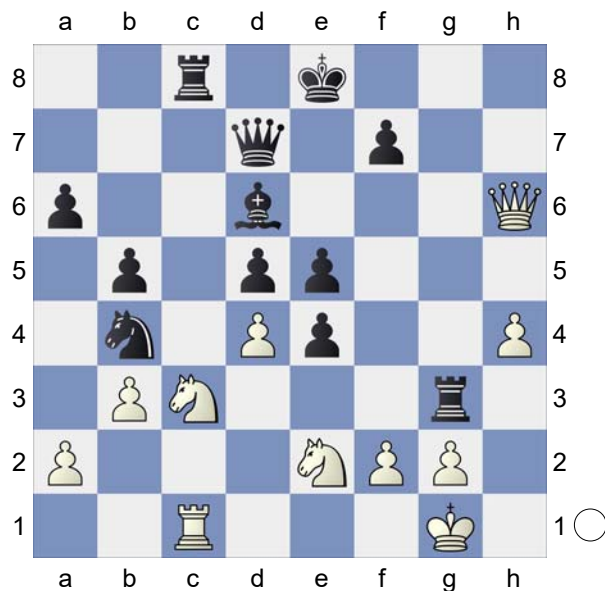
[Again best is 22...Nd3-+ 23.Rd1 b4 (or 23...Qe7!)]

23.Rg3!= 1:21 only move, all but equal -- *if* White follows up properly **23...Rxg3** 39

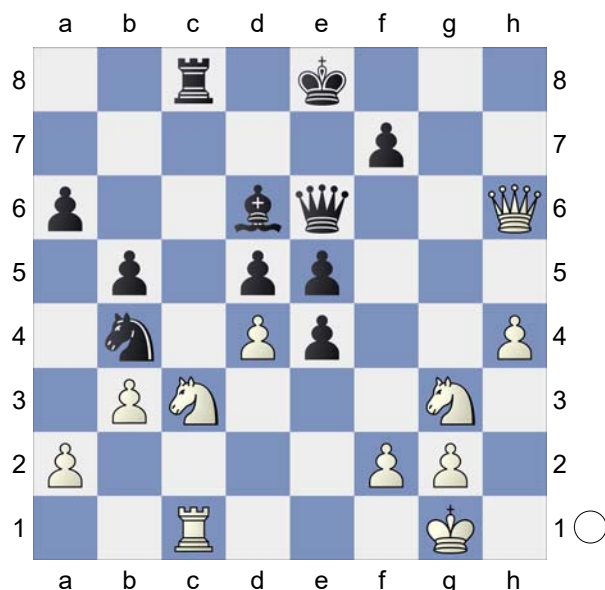
(Diagram)

24.Nxg3? 1:30

[Necessary is 24.Qh8+!= Bf8 (24...Ke7 25.Nxd5+! Nxd5 26.Rxc8=) 25.Nxg3 and it's zero-time. (or 25.Qxe5+ Qe6 26.Qxg3=)]



24...Qe6!-+ 3:55



To their credit, between errors they're finding some good moves **25.Qg5** 8:09

[25.Qh8+ Kd7]

25...exd4 3:33 **26.Nf5** 22

[26.Nce2 Rxc1+ 27.Qxc1 Be5 28.a3 Nc6]

26...Kd7 1:37

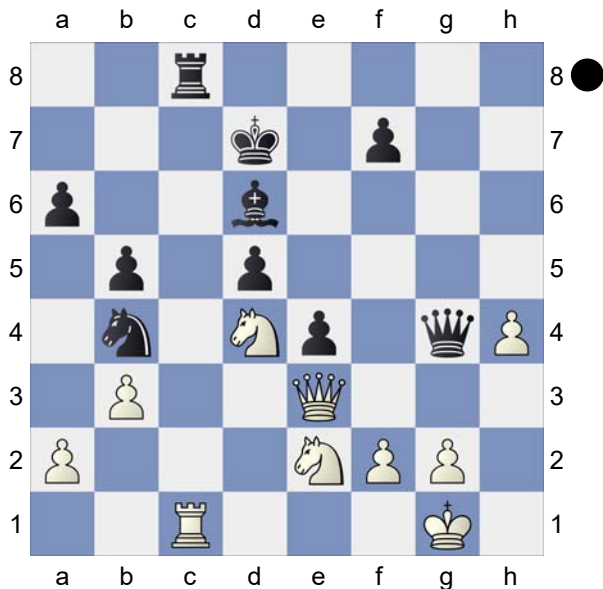
[26...Be5! 27.Ne2 Rxc1+ 28.Nxc1 d3-+]

27.Nxd4 37 Black needs a pretty big reason to give up that pawn! **27...Qg6** 1:13

28.Qe3 36 **Qg4?** 2:58

[Once again: 28...Nd3!-+ 29.Rc2 Qg4 30.g3 Nf4!]

29.Nce2 36



Rg8 1:24

[29...Bc5! 30.g3 (30.Qh6!? Qg6)
30...Nd3-+ (30...Nxa2?! 31.Rxc5!
Rxc5 32.Kh2 Nb4!)]

30.g3= 23 **Rg6** 3:18 **31.Qc3** 20

White has some pressure. **31...Ke7** 1:32

32.Re1? 48 Overlooking, and Black finally plays:

[32.Qc8= and White stays safe. Qxc8
33.Rxc8]

32...Nd3!-+ 20 **33.Rd1** 22 **Kf8** 1:19

[33...b4! 34.Nc6+ (34.Qc6? Bxg3
Pin, Discovered Attack, Double Attack
35.Qb7+ Bc7+ 36.Ng3 Qxd1+-+)
34...Kd7]

34.Rxd3 44 **exd3** 8 **35.Qxd3** 1 **Rf6**

2:45

[35...Bc5-+ aiming for ...Qe4!. 36.Qc3
Bb6]

36.Qc3 47 **Kg7** 1:10

[Better is 36...b4 37.Qd2 a5]

37.Qe3 32

[37.Kg2!=]

37...Rg6 1:35 **38.Qd3** 9

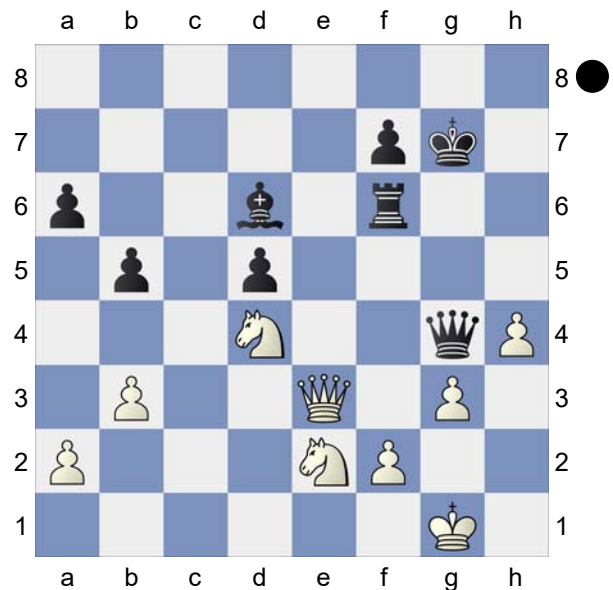
[38.Kf1 might work better.]

38...Rf6 29

[38...Qe4-+ and Black stays clearly on top. 39.Qd2 (39.Nf5+ Kf8)
39...Kh7 (39...Qxh4? 40.Nf5+
Discovered Attack, Double Attack Kf8
41.Nxh4+-)]

39.Qe3 6

[39.Qd2]



39...Rg6! 1:47 **40.f3** 55 Prevents Qe4.

[40.Kf1]

40...Qh5? 3:01

[40...Qh3-+ 41.f4 Bc5]

41.Kf2= 2 The position is equal. **41...Kh7**

46 **42.Nf4** 1:00 **Qe5** 1:35 **43.Nxg6** 23

Qxg3+ 8 **44.Ke2** 23 **Qg2+** 1:01

An exciting game. Black really should have won though! Weighted Error Value: White=0.52/Black=0.51

1/2-1/2

E60

□ **Mallela,Abhishek**

2077

■ **Cawthon,Jeremy David**

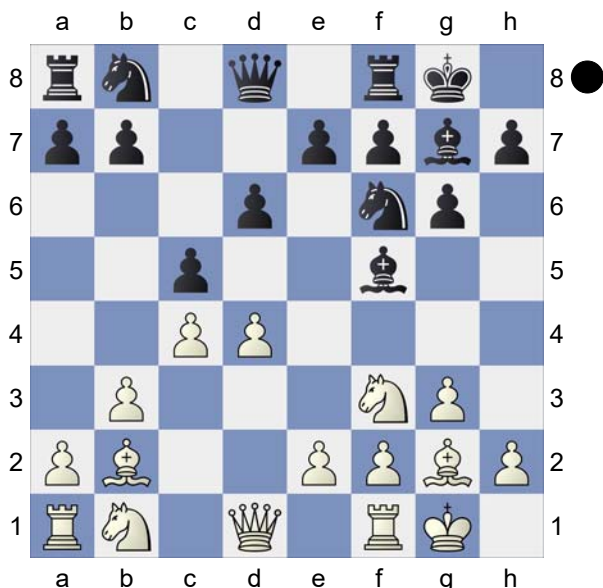
2124

2026 Summer TNM: 2000+ (5.2) 04.08.26

[TA/(Winslow,Elliott)]

Another draw, another opportunity for both players to make a break for it, wasted. **1.Nf3** 4 **Nf6** 17 **2.b3** 21 **g6** 17
3.Bb2 19 **Bg7** 6 **4.g3** 10 **0-0** 8 **5.Bg2**
10 **d6** 20 **6.d4** 9 **c5** 1:12 **7.c4** 29 **Bf5**
48 **8.0-0** 26

(Diagram)



Nc6?! 54

[The engines are adamant, that 8...cxd4± 9.Nxd4 Be4 is the way to go; 10.f3 Bxb1 11.Rxb1 d5!= (11...Nc6±) 12.f4 e6]

9.d5± 2:07 Na5 1:21

[9...Nb4 10.a3 Na6]

10.Qe1 4:42

[10.Nh4! Bd7 11.Qd2 b5 12.cxb5 Bxb5 13.Na3 Ba6 14.Bc3 Nb7 15.Rac1±]

10...Rb8N 1:33

[Predecessor: 10...e5 11.dxe6 Bxe6 12.Nc3 Qb6 13.Na4 Qa6 14.Nc3 Qb6 15.Rb1 Nc6 16.Ng5 Bf5 1-0 (30) Kaliakhmet,E (2113)-Sultanbek,Z (2101) Astana 2024]

11.Bc3 2:46 White is better. **11...b6 12**

12.Nfd2?!± 19

[12.Na3±]

12...Qc8?!± 12:42

[12...Re8±]

13.e4 1:13 Bh3 27 14.f4 1:30

[14.Qe2]

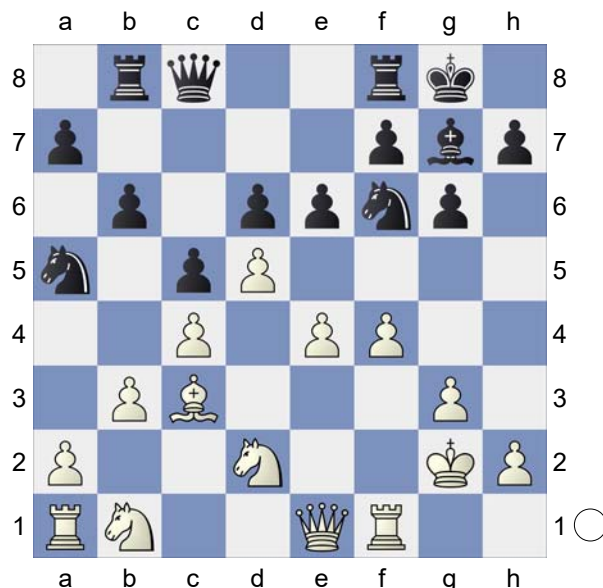
14...Bxg2 1:15 15.Kxg2 9 e6 2:21

(Diagram)

16.e5? 1:17 Premature.

[16.Qe2±]

16...Ne8 1:58



[16...dxe5= 17.fxe5 Nd7]

17.Qe4 8:25 exd5 3:17

[17...Qb7± deserves consideration.]

18.cxd5 17 Qb7 1:26

[△18...Qd7]

19.b4? 10:58

[19.Bxa5!± is necessary to keep the advantage. bxa5 20.Nc4!+- (20.Nc3? dxe5 21.fxe5 Nd6!=)]

19...cxb4 1:50

[19...f5!≠ 20.Qe2 Qxd5+ 21.Nf3 Nc6 22.bxc5 dxe5 (maybe even 22...bxc5≠) 23.Bxe5 Nxe5 (23...bxc5? 24.Nc3+-; 23...Qxc5 24.Nbd2≠) 24.fxe5 Qxc5≠]

20.Bxb4≠ 8 Rd8? 1:18

[20...f5≠ keeps the upper hand. 21.Qe2 Qxd5+ 22.Nf3 Qe4]

21.Nc3± 25 White is more active.

21...Nc7 1:27 White has space advantage and is better

[21...f5± might work better. 22.Qf3 Qa6]

22.Rab1 5:57

[22.Bxd6+- Rxd6 23.exd6]

22...dxe5 39 23.Bxa5 1:07

[23.fxe5 Nxd5 24.Nxd5 (24.Bxa5? Ne3+ 25.Kh1 Qxe4+ 26.Ndxe4 Nxf1+-) 24...Rxd5≠]

[23.Bxf8± Kxf8 24.Rbd1 (24.fxe5 Nxd5 25.Nxd5 Rxd5±) 24...exf4

25.Qxf4 Nxd5 26.Nxd5 Rxd5
(26...Qxd5+? 27.Ne4+-) 27.Nf3]

23...Nxd5 3

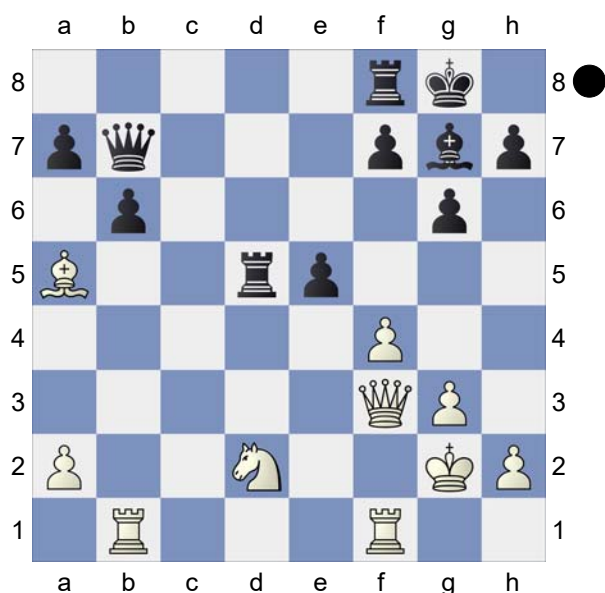
[23...exf4!= 24.Qf3 (24.Qxf4? Nxd5
25.Nxd5 Qxd5+ 26.Nf3 Qxa5-+;
24.Rxf4? Rfe8-+; 24.d6 Qxe4+
25.Ndxe4 Ne6=) 24...Rfe8]

24.Nxd5 2:21

[24.fxe5? Ne3+ 25.Kh1 Qxe4+
26.Ndxe4 Nxf1-+ (26...bxa5 27.Nf6+
Bxf6 28.Rxf6-)]

24...Rxd5 14 25.Qf3? 2:31

[25.Nf3!±]



25...Qd7? 1:07 Wards off Rb5

[Black should play 25...Rfd8!± 26.fxe5
Qd7]

26.Bb4!= 54 Rxd2+? 13

[26...Rd3!= 27.Qe4 a5 28.Bxf8
Rxd2+ 29.Rf2 Bxf8]

27.Bxd2± 8 Qxd2+ 4 28.Rf2 19 Qd4 46

(Diagram)

29.fxe5 43

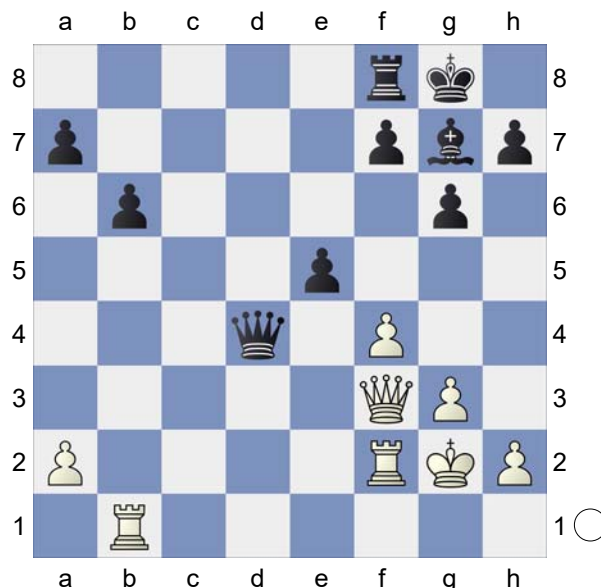
[Better is 29.Rd1!± Qa4 30.fxe5]

29...Qxe5= 19 30.Qb7 22 Qe6 53

31.Rd1 43 White has compensation.

31...a5 35 32.Rd7 39 h5 53 33.Re7 29

[33.Qd5 simplifies Qxd5+ 34.Rxd5
Bh6 35.Re2]



33...Qc4 34 34.Qd7 1:46 The position is equal.

[34.Qe4!?]

34...a4 2:10 35.Re8 3:25 b5 1:11 36.a3

3:19 Qb3 1:48 37.Re4 1:04 Bc3 1:25

38.Qd3 1:16 Bg7 1:24 39.Qxb3 3:13

axb3 9 Endgame KRR-KRB 40.Rb4 5

b2 7 41.Rxb5 17 Ra8 37 42.a4 1:09

Deflection 42...Rxa4 2:11 43.Rb8+ 10

Kh7 1 44.Rxf7 33 Ra2 22 45.Kh3 18

g5 1:16 46.Rbb7 1:12 b1Q 18

(→ ...Kh6!) 47.Rxb1 12 Kg6 20

(→ ...g4+) 48.Rxg7+! 51 Kxg7 2

KR-KR 49.Rb6 9 Rf2 36 50.g4 22

Rf3+ 21 51.Kg2 7 hxg4 2 52.Rb5 22

Kg6 5 53.Rb6+ 8 Rf6 1:44 54.Rb4 44

Kh5 13 55.Rb8 5 Rh6 22 56.Rg8 12

Kh4 7 57.Rg7 8 Rh8 9 58.Rd7 24 Kh5

34 59.Rd4 6 Ra8 6 60.Rd7 9 Ra2+ 7

61.Kg3 5 Ra3+ 40 62.Kg2 4 g3 42

63.hxg3 22 Ra2+ 2 64.Kf3 27 Ra3+ 9

65.Kg2 31 Ra2+ 5 66.Kf3 5 Ra3+ 8

67.Kg2 Weighted Error Value: White=0.

33/Black=0.29 (precise)

1/2-1/2

□ Winslow, Elliott
■ Parsons, Stephen

D55
2200
2014

2026 Summer TNM: 2000+ (5.3) 04.08.26
[Winslow, Elliott]

A lot of fun motifs for me when Parsons went a bit crazy with his rook. Good knight vs. bad bishop, marauding pawns, a sacrifice to speed up a rook lift -- can't complain. **1.d4** 1:41 **Nf6** 15 **2.c4** 10 **e6** 1:40 **3.Nf3** 3:54 **d5** 32 **4.Nc3** 7 **Be7** 1:35 **5.Bg5** 1:34 **0-0** 1:51 **6.e3** 21 **b6** 1:02 Traditionally proceeded by ...h6.

[6...h6 7.Bh4 b6 The Tartakower Variation, or Bondarevsky or Makogonov Variation (7...Ne4 is Lasker's Defense)]

[6...h6 7.Bxf6 Bxf6 8.Rc1 (among others), with which I've won some spectacular games -- but Black isn't so badly off if he handles it delicately.]

[Of course there is also 6...Nbd7 (without or with ...h6), the Orthodox Defense;]

7.Rc1 7:08 **Bb7** 1:12 **8.cxd5** 46 **exd5** 55 **9.Bd3** 1:08 **c5** 54 **10.0-0** 52 **c4** 2:41 **11.Bb1** 27 **Nbd7**± 1:50 **12.Qc2** 3:49 [Δ12.Qe2]

12...g6 36 **13.Ne5** 3:39 [Δ13.h3]

13...Nxe5 2:16 **14.dxe5** 13 **Ng4** 34 [Δ14...Nd7]

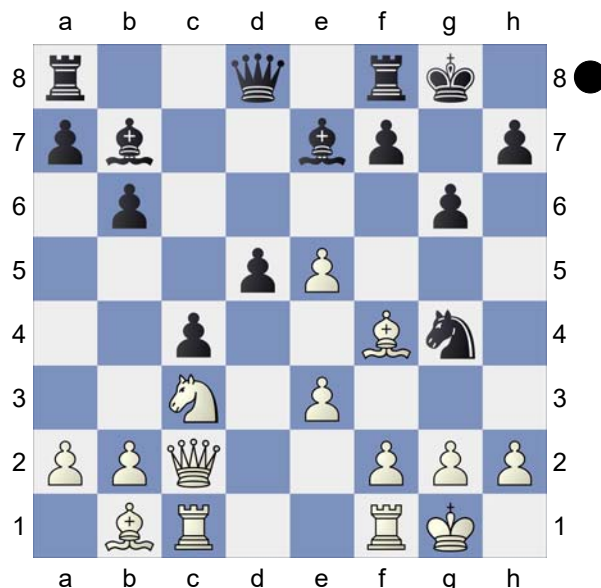
15.Bf4! 1:46

(Diagram)

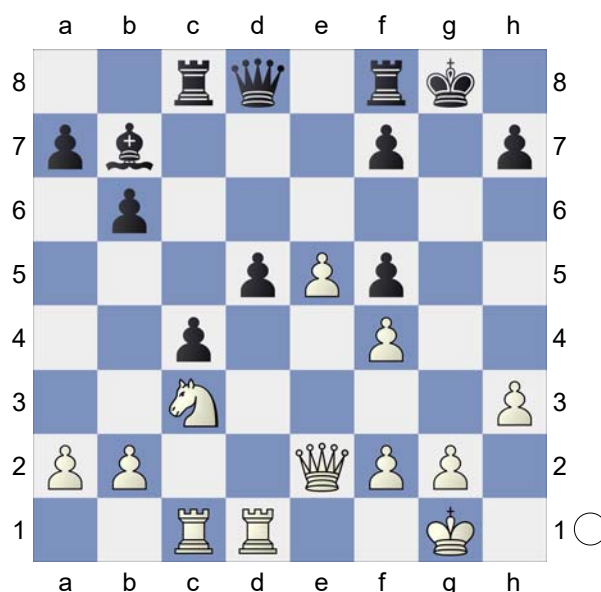
Bg5? 4:45 This costs Black the game. [Last chance to free his game: 15...d4±]

16.h3!+- 1:50 **Bxf4** 2:10 **17.exf4** 36 **Nh6** 20 **18.Rfd1** 1:23 **Nf5** 57 **19.Qe2** 4:27 **Rc8?!** 10:49 This is not going to turn out well!

[Δ19...Ne7 20.b3 cxb3 21.axb3 f6]



20.Bxf5 5:52 **gxf5** 10



21.Qh5 7

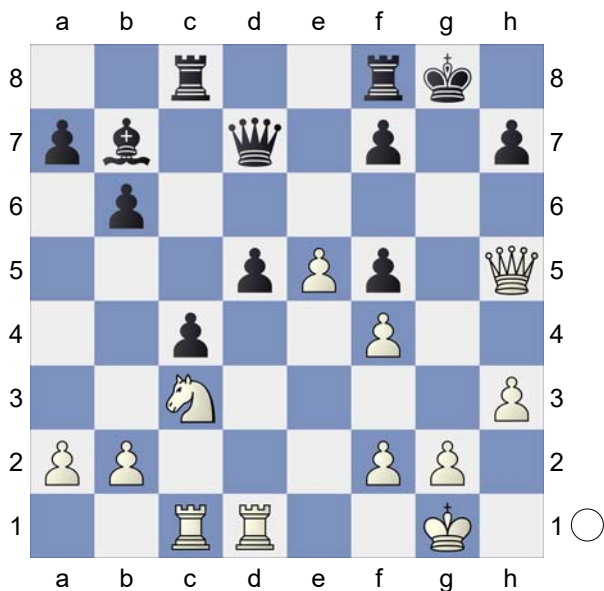
[21.Nb5!]

21...Qd7?! 4:35 (on the "better" moves, the f-pawn goes, White is winning)

(Diagram)

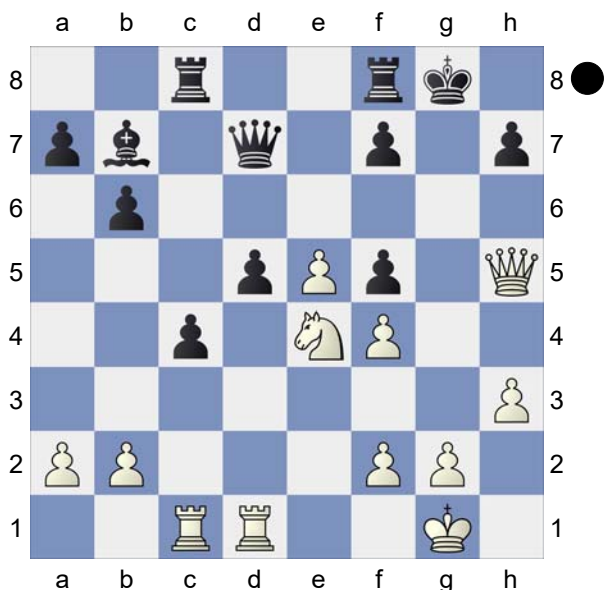
22.Ne2!? 31 The positional winner. But it's 4th best (!) in the "higher number on the computer" game:

[22.Qg5+ is given by SF18 as a prelude to Kh8 23.Qf6+ Kg8 24.Nb5! since Qxb5?! loses to 25.Rc3 Rfd8 26.Rg3+ Kf8 27.e6 Qe8 28.e7+ etc.]



[In fact 22.Nb5 right away (also given by SF18)]

[But the best (over +7 vs. under +5 by SF18) is the real shocker: 22.Ne4!!



f6 (22...fxe4 23.Qg5+ Kh8 24.Qf6+ Kg8 25.Rc3 Rfe8) 23.Nxf6+ Rxf6 24.exf6]

22...Rc6 4:28

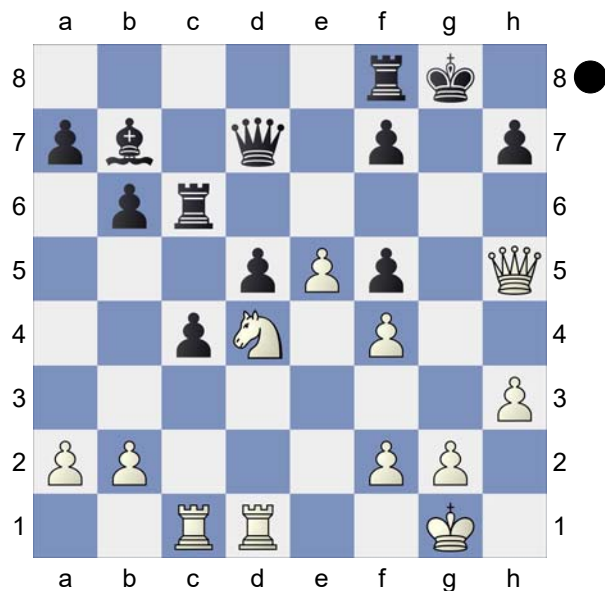
[22...f6 better. But I was pretty sure 23.Nd4 was a lock on the win.]

23.Nd4 1:00

(Diagram)

Rg6 47 **24.Qxf5** 2:41

[24.Nxf5 Kh8 25.Nh4 Qe8 26.Nxg6+



fxg6+-]

24...Qa4?! 5:16 **25.Qc2** 38 Everything is winning -- I thought this was a nice way to save the a-pawn, but the ending might be his last hope.

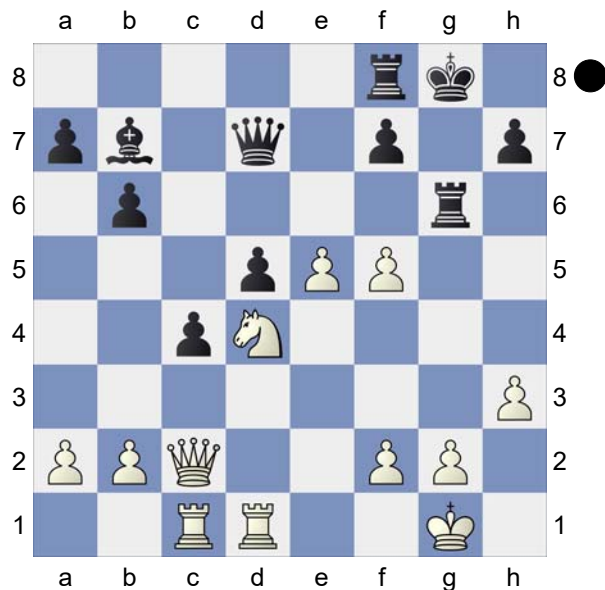
[Just 25.Qb1 "scores" better]

[While the computer is already hunting for the attack: 25.Qh5!]

25...Qd7 55

[25...Qxc2 26.Rxc2 b5 27.Nxb5 d4 28.g3 was active for a few seconds.]

26.f5 2:10



Now for the fun -- my pawns "Space-Invader" his rook. **26...Rg5** 3:52 **27.f4**

1:01 **Rg7** 2:57 **28.f6** 1:01 **Rg6** 3:54

29.f5 2:00 **Rg5** 4:13 **30.Qd2** 35 **h6** 3:10

31.h4 37 Rg4 8:16 32.Qxh6 1:03
 Threatening mate with Rf1!. **32...Qc7 14**
33.Qh5 2:50 White mates. **33...Rg3 8**
34.Re1 1:18 Re8 5:34 35.Rc3 18
 Weighted Error Value: White=0.09
 (flawless) /Black=0.90
1-0

□ **Clemens,Kristian**

■ **Li,Xiaofei**

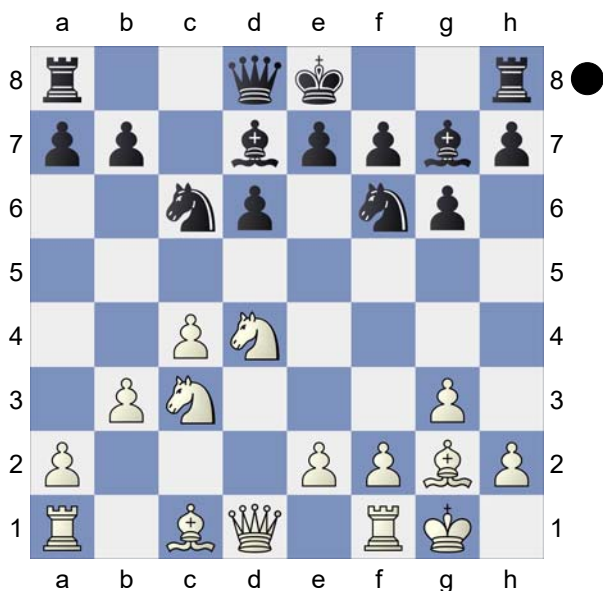
2026 Summer TNM: 2000+ (5.7) 04.08.26
[Clemens,Kristian]

E60

1991

2122

Xiaofei Li outplays Kristian Clemens in the endgame, but Kristian counters with some excellent analysis! If you play with or against the open English, this is a master class. **1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.g3 g6 5.Bg2 d6 6.d4 cxd4 7.Nxd4 Bd7 8.0-0 Bg7 9.b3**



After my opening disaster against Christophe Bambou, I've always been a little gun-shy about this move, although I do like the resulting positions. I spent 7 minutes here, and my opponent spent 5 minutes on his reply. (EW: Bambou is back in the Fall TNM after missing a few events -- perhaps in France for a while? I'll ask Tuesday.) **9...0-0**

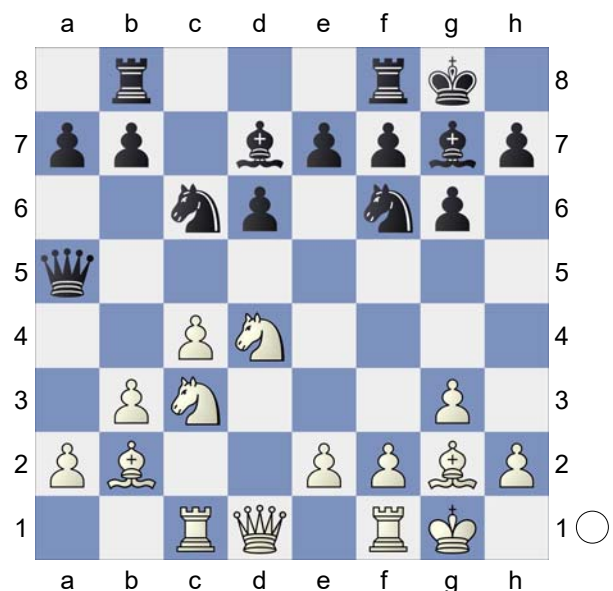
[9...Nxd4 10.Qxd4 Nh5 (10...Nd5 11.Qxg7) 11.Qd3]

10.Bb2 1:23 White: 1:21, Black: **10...Rb8**

I didn't understand this move, although it probably aims to play ...b5 later. I thought maybe ...a6 first was more natural. **11.Rc1** If he's going to play ...b5, I may as well take the file when it opens.

[11.Nxc6 bxc6]

11...Qa5 I recognized this from a game that I saw from my opponent - his idea was probably to play ...Qh5 and ...Ng4. I decided to cut off his queen on the queenside with Nd5.



12.Nd5 I spent 10 minutes here, and Black took 8 minutes on his reply. This was committal, but I didn't see a way to deal with Qh5 that I liked. This was one of the first big strategic decisions of the game - I don't think I dealt with his threat very well.

[12.e3 Bg4 13.Qd2 (13.f3 Bd7 14.Nxc6 bxc6 15.e4)]

[12.Nc2 (ew: "!") I didn't consider this in the game, because I didn't think the d5 square needed any more reinforcing after Ne3, but it does make some sense - White avoids exchanges with a space advantage and prepares to meet ...Qh5 with e4. Qh5 13.e4

A) 13...Ng4 14.h3 Nh6 (14...Nf6

15.Qxh5 Nxh5 16.Ne3±) 15.Qxh5 gxh5;

B) 13...Bg4 14.f3]

12...Nxd5

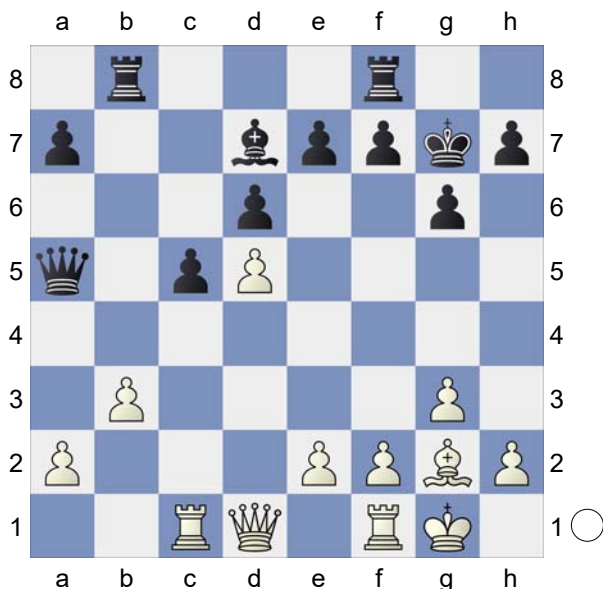
[12...Nxd4 13.Nxe7+ Kh8 14.Bxd4 Qxa2 15.Ra1]

13.Nxc6

[13.cxd5 Nxd4 14.Bxd4 Bxd4 15.Qxd4 Qxa2 16.Rc7 Rfd8 17.Ra1 Qxe2 18.Rxa7 Qe1+ 19.Bf1 Bb5]

13...bxc6 14.Bxg7 Kxg7 15.cxd5 1:13

White: 1:04, Black: **15...c5**



I realized that my opponent had done what I have done in dozens of games - trade off the opponent's three best minor pieces and leave him with his worst one. Now I have dark square weaknesses and am surely fighting for equality.

16.Qc2 Qb4 17.h4 It shouldn't have taken me 9 minutes to decide on this move. Black has no immediate threats, so I should have either played this right away or found another plan. **17...h5**

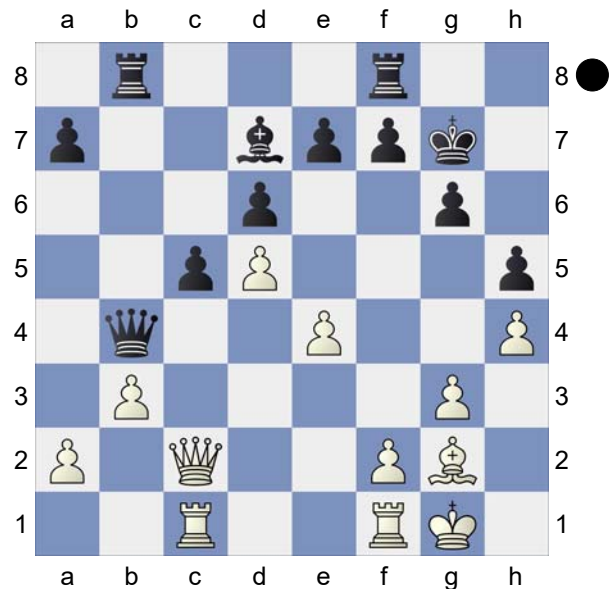
[(ew/sf:) 17...a5!]

18.e4

(Diagram)

a5

[(ew: Stockfish 18 notices 18...f6!± as the best attempt for a real



advantage for Black.)]

19.e5!

[19.f4 a4 20.Rb1 Qd4+ 21.Kh2 axb3 22.axb3 Bg4 23.e5 (23.f5 I looked at these lines, but I discarded them, because I thought they were too committal.)]

19...a4 20.exd6 exd6 White: 35 min, Black: 57. I was simply too slow on the last five moves, taking 29 minutes, although I did take a break for dinner that cost me about 3 minutes. I am not used to getting these slightly worse positions in this opening and did not play the middlegame confidently.

21.Qc3+

[21.Rb1 Bf5 22.Qb2+ Kg8 23.Rbc1 axb3]

21...Qxc3 22.Rxc3 axb3 23.axb3 Rb4 [23...Rfe8 24.Ra1]

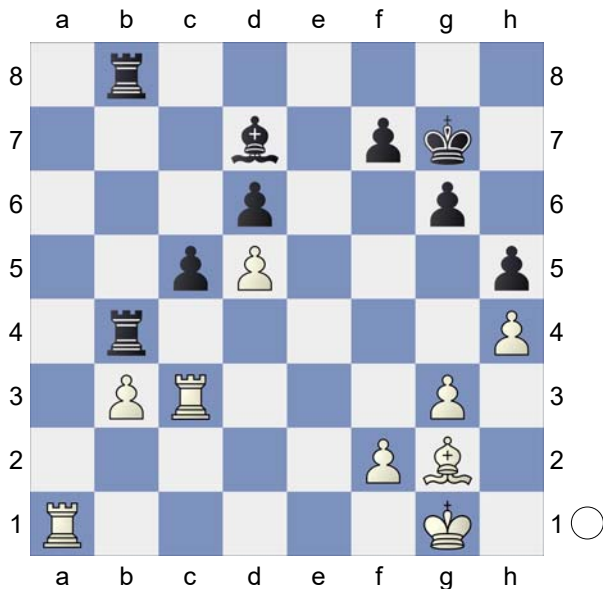
24.Ra1 This was my point - I considered that White had enough counterplay for the backward pawn and the worse bishop.

[24.Re1 Re8 25.Rxe8 Bxe8 26.Bf1]

24...Rfb8

(Diagram)

25.Ra7? This was a mistake, because I just chased his bishop to a better square.



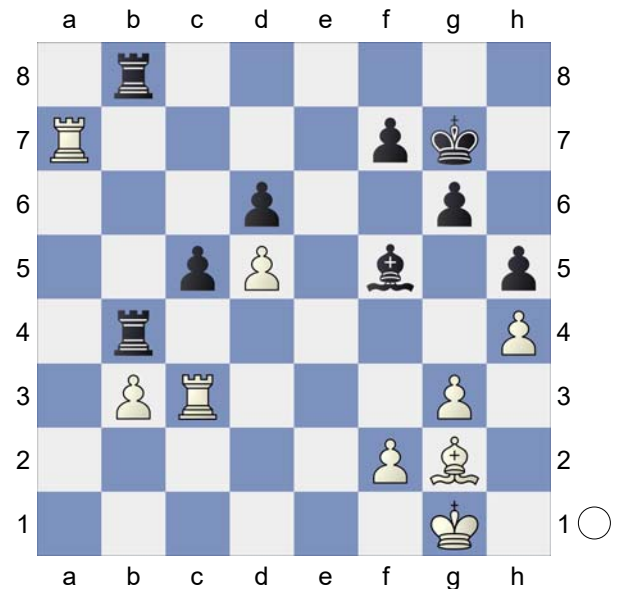
This actually became significant, because now the bishop protects c2. I needed to look deeper and realize that my rook on the seventh rank was practically ornamental and did not serve any actual purpose as long as I can't attack f7. This was the same mistake that my opponent made against me two weeks ago - I played two moves that accomplished what I could have done in one move

[25.Ra6 The engine doesn't like this entire line for White. Maybe it's better to just play Ra3 and grovel. Rxb3 26.Rxb3 Rxb3 27.Rxd6 Bf5 (27...Bb5 28.Rd8 Kf6 29.Rc8 c4 30.Bf1 Ke5 31.Bxc4 Rb1+ 32.Kg2 Rc1 33.d6 Kxd6 34.Be6 A crazy engine line that I did not see in the game) 28.Rc6]

[25.Ra3 The idea is to put the bishop on c4 and bring the king to the queenside, but this seems like a very pessimistic way of playing the position when I'm not even a pawn down. I doubt there's a single player in the open section who would play this move.]

25...Bf5 43 White: 30 min, Black: 43 min

(Diagram)



26.Ra6 Now I think this was conceptually wrong. The position did nominally get simplified, but this was a pretty big bet to place when I couldn't actually see the ends of the variation tree with clarity. I sometimes think of something that Warren Buffett and his business partner said: if they don't understand something, they won't invest in it, no matter how good it looks. I think I should have just filed this line in the "too difficult" category and played Ra3. In the game, I found that the position ended up having so many variations and subtleties that I used up almost all my time. With a 13-minute time deficit, I needed to be practical and keep the game alive... but it was also psychologically difficult to play a grim move like Ra3 and "just hold on". My opponent took 16 minutes to work out every detail.

[26.Ra3 Kf6 (ew: Black's king sees that the Long Diagonal Highway is open for traffic!)]

26...Rxb3 27.Rxb3 Rxb3 28.Rxd6 c4 29.Rc6 c3 30.d6 Again, I took too much time, and it's possible that fatigue was dragging me down. I had 8 minutes left, and Black had 28. This is not a recipe for being competitive against a player of Black's caliber. **30...c2** I calculated this

far when I played 26.Ra6. Now the calculations became very complicated. White had 2 minutes left and played the rest of the game on increment, and Black had 18 minutes. **31.Kh2**

[31.d7

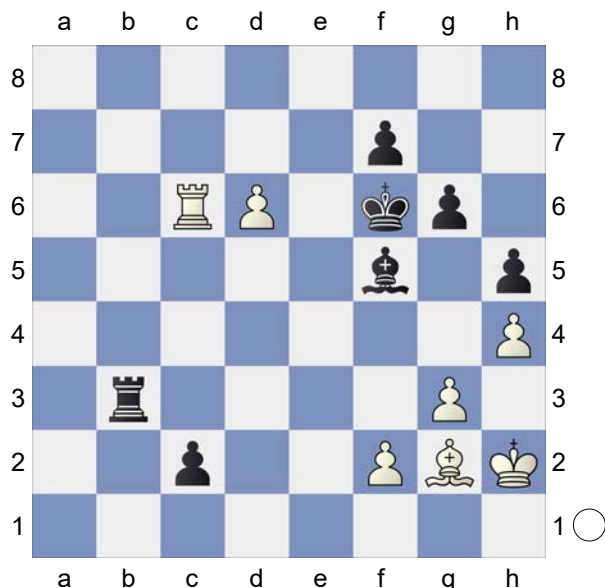
A) 31...Rd3

A1) 32.Bh3 Rd1+ 33.Kh2 Rxd7
34.Rxc2 Bxh3 (34...Bxc2
35.Bxd7) 35.Kxh3;

A2) 32.Rxc2 Rd1+ 33.Kh2
Bxc2;

B) 31...Rb1+ 32.Kh2 c1Q
(32...Bxd7 33.Rxc2) 33.Rxc1
Rxc1 34.d8Q]

31...Kf6



32.d7+?? I was not able to understand the difference between this and Bh3 immediately without an engine (and I definitely didn't grasp it during the game). The point is that this forces the king closer to the c-file where it can chase the rook away.

[32.Bh3! Rb2 (32...Bxh3 33.Kxh3 Rb2 34.Kg2 Ke6 35.Kf3 Kd7 36.Rc4 Kxd6 37.Ke3) 33.Bxf5 gxf5 34.Kg2 Ke6 35.Kf3 Kd7 36.Rc4 Kxd6 37.Ke3 Kd5 38.Rc7 White is in time by one tempo. This is the blockade I tried to set up in the game.]

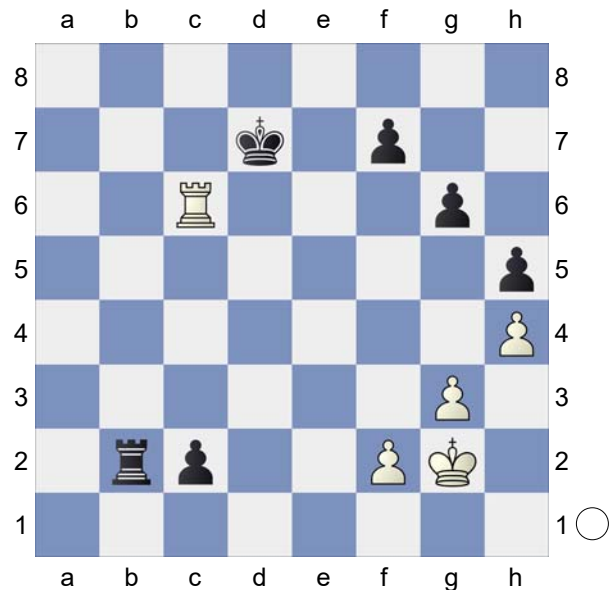
32...Ke7 33.Bh3 Bxh3

[33...Kxd7 34.Rxc2!]

34.Kxh3 Rb2 35.Kg2

[35.Rd6!? Kd8!]

35...Kxd7



36.Rc3

[36.Rc4 Kd6 37.Kf3 Kd5 38.Rc7 Kd4 39.Ke2 c1Q+ This is the problem with having given Black the extra tempo - now he gets to the critical square d4, shouldering my king out instead of the other way around.]

36...Ke6

[36...Kd6 37.Kf3 Rb3 38.Rxb3 c1Q 39.Re3 Black wanted to keep his king from being cut off this way.]

37.Kf3 I saw the pin (I'll never forget this idea after using a similar sacrifice to win against expert Isaiah Kim in the TNM before the pandemic), but the alternative was allowing his king to walk in.

37...Rb3!

[37...Ke5 and]

[37...Kd5 are at least as good! - ew]

38.Rxb3 c1Q 39.Kg2 Qc6+

Of course, this is totally losing for White, but I was still impressed at how easy my opponent made it look. **40.Kg1 Kf5**

41.Rb4 Qd6 42.Rc4 f6 43.Kh2 g5

44.Kg1 Qd5 45.Rb4 Qa5 46.Rc4 Qb5

47.Rd4 Ke5 48.Rd1 gxh4 49.gxh4

Ke4 50.Kg2 Qe2 51.Ra1 Qg4+ 52.Kf1

Qh3+ 53.Kg1 Qb3 54.Ra7 Kf3
55.Rg7 Qd1+ 56.Kh2 Kxf2 57.Rg8
Qd6+ 58.Kh3 Qe6+ This was a brutally difficult and exhausting game that taught me a lot about what it takes to compete at the expert level. My opponent consistently calculated more deeply and quickly than me, and just like in my game against Andrew Zavgorodniy, I felt like I needed an extra hour just to cope with the sheer volume of the calculations. I also need to think about the two major strategic decisions (Nd5 and Ra6) that shaped the game, as I'm not satisfied with those in retrospect.

0-1

□ **Sevall,Daniel**

■ **Gutta,Anirudh**

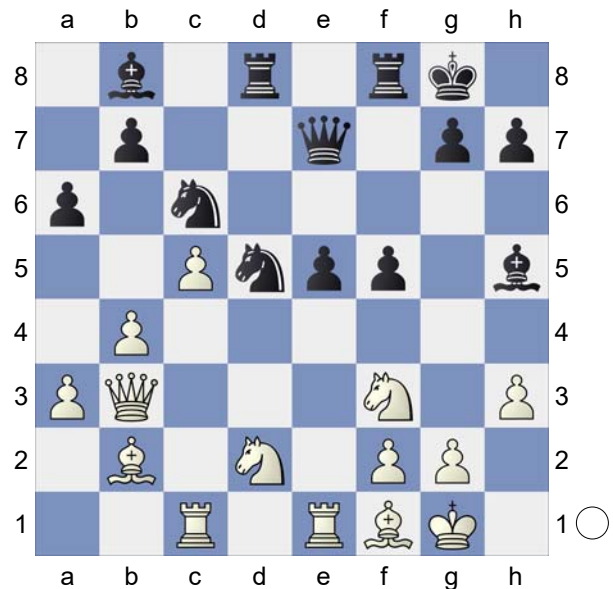
2026 Summer TNM: 1600-1999 (5.5)

[Winslow,Elliott]

Daniel Sevall so completely had Anirudh Gutta on the ropes, it's inexplicable that he first let the win slip (after myriad opportunities to put it away), then the draw dropped away in a rook vs. bishop ending. Incredible. I might have resigned if I were Gutta. **1.d4 3 Nf6 55 2.Nf3 9 d5 14 3.e3 11 e6 32 4.Bd3 10 c5 13 5.c3 9 Nc6 9 6.Nbd2 8 Bd6 43 7.0-0 11 0-0 5 8.dxc5 11 Bxc5 10 9.b4 7 Bd6 11 10.Bb2 22 Bd7 34 11.a3 8 Rc8 22 12.Rc1 23 a6 1:23 13.c4 13 Qe7 7:11 14.c5 54 Bb8 1:13 15.Re1 20 e5 35 16.e4 16 Bg4 2:44 17.h3 15 Bh5 16 18.exd5 2:55 Nxd5 45 19.Qb3 44 Rcd8 4:07 20.Bf1 3:14 f5? 4:31 [20...f6±]**

(Diagram)

21.Nc4?! 54



[21.Bc4!+-]

[21.Bxe5+-]

[21.Nxe5!?+-]

21...Bxf3 4:32 22.Qxf3 1:25 e4 1:58

23.Qb3 20 Kh8 3:04 24.Rcd1± 12 f4? 5:24

[24...Nf4]

[24...Qf7]

[24...Nf6]

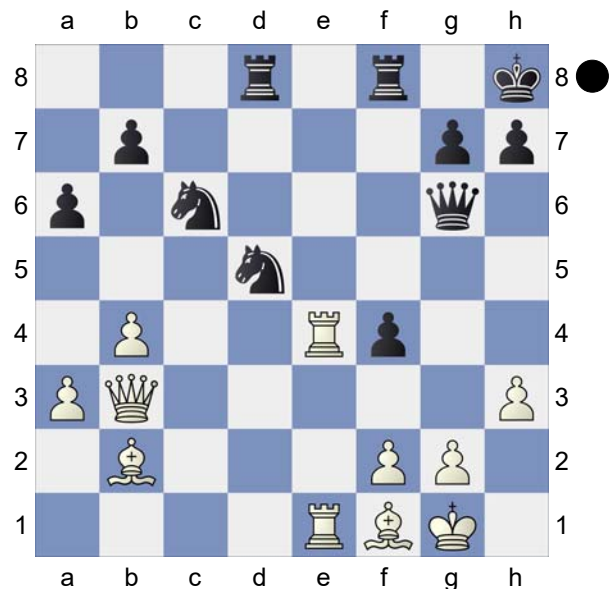
25.Nd6!+- 5:10 Bxd6 1:59 26.cxd6 25

Qxd6 1:41 27.Rxe4 39 Qg6 5:15

28.Rde1?! 4:05

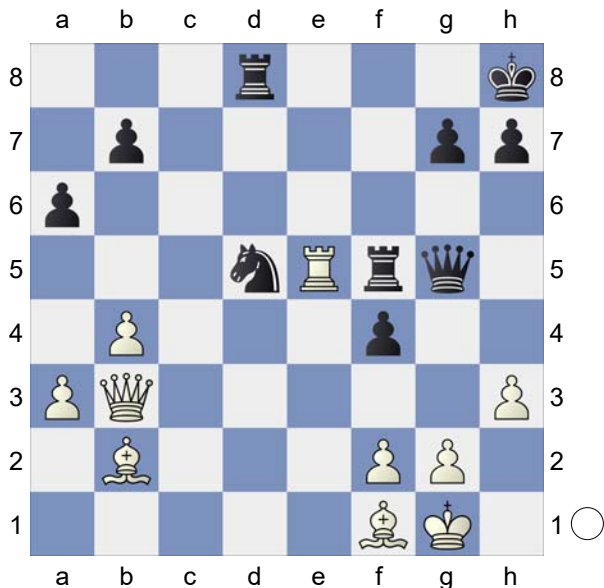
[28.Ree1!]

[28.Qf3!]

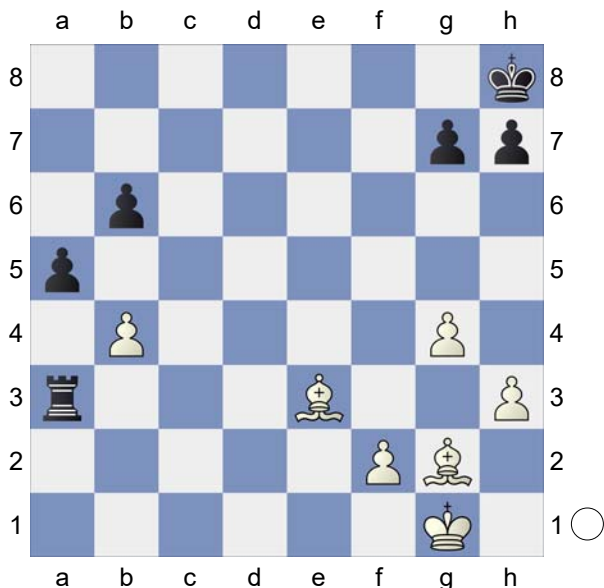


28...Qg5? 3:50

[28...Ne3! 29.Re6! Qf7! 30.fxe3 f3
 31.gxf3 Rd6! (31...Qxf3? 32.Qc2+-)
 32.Bc4! Qxf3 33.Bxg7+! Kxg7
 34.Qb2+ Rf6 35.Kh2!±]
29.Re5 3:18 **Nxe5** 54 **30.Rxe5** 10 **Rf5**
 1:02



31.Qxd5!+- 21 **Rxe5** 3:12 **32.Qxe5** 18
Qxe5 5 **33.Bxe5** 11 **Rd1** 1:59 **34.Bxf4**
 2:15 **Ra1** 22 **35.g4** 33 **Rxa3** 12 **36.Bg2**
 5 **b6** 1:40 **37.Be3** 27 **a5** 32



38.Bxb6? 50

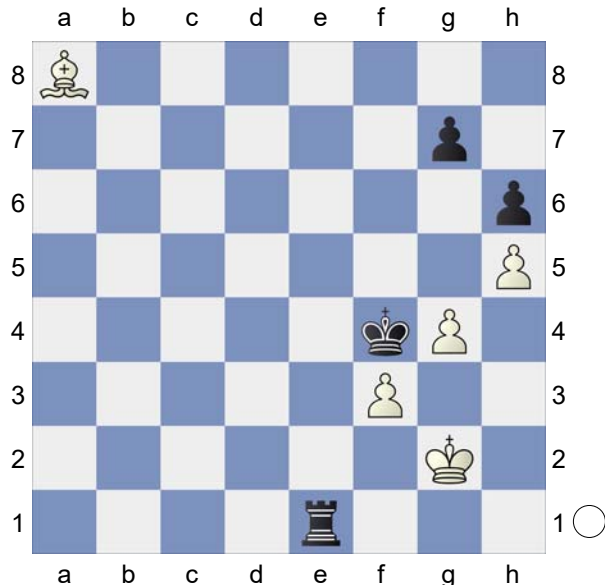
[38.Kf1!±

A) 38...Rb3 39.bxa5 bxa5
 40.Ke2± (40.Bc6±; 40.Bd5±);

B) 38...axb4?! 39.Ke2!+-]

38...axb4= 12 (Here come the 0.00s)

39.Bc5 13 **Ra1+** 46 **40.Kh2** 10 **b3** 35
41.Bd4 27 **Rd1** 1:16 **42.Be5** 4:11 **Rd2**
 37 **43.Kg3** 3:36 **b2** 12 **44.Be4** 13 **Re2**
 13 **45.Bxb2** 27 **Rxb2** 14 **46.f3** 20 **Kg8**
 45 **47.h4** 6 **h6** 11 **48.h5** 25 **Kf7** 12
49.Kf4 9 **Kf6** 11 **50.Bf5** 19 **Rb4+** 50
51.Be4 17 **Rc4** 1:19 **52.Kg3** 16 **Ke5** 16
53.Ba8 30 **Rf4** 15 **54.Bb7** 10 **Rb4** 17
55.Bc6 16 **Kf6** 56 **56.Be4** 15 **Rd4** 12
57.Kf4 11 **Ra4** 2:23 **58.Kg3** 20 **Ke5** 9
59.Bc6 17 **Rb4** 12 **60.Ba8** 17 **Rb8** 35
61.Be4 18 **Rf8** 10 **62.Bb7** 1:12 **Kd4** 37
63.Bc6 12 **Ke3** 12 **64.Bd5** 31 **Rd8** 9
65.Be4 48 **Rd1** 9 **66.Ba8** 2:10 **Rg1+** 14
67.Kh2 20 **Kf2** 21 **68.Be4** 39 **Rg2+** 8
69.Kh3 46 **Rg1** 1:10 **70.Kh2** 19 **Re1** 31
71.Ba8 33 **Ke3** 6 **72.Kg2** 12 **Kf4=** 15



73.Kf2?? 1:01

[73.Bb7]

[73.Bc6]

[73.Bd5]

[73.Kh3]

73...Ra1+ 7

[73...Re8+]

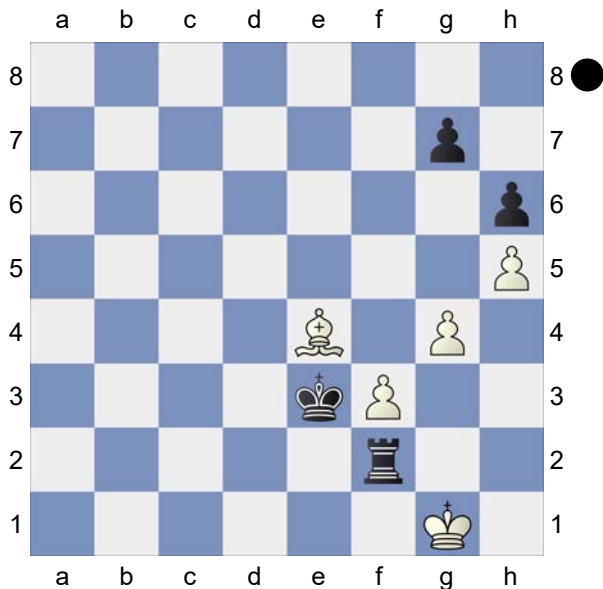
74.Be4 18 **Ra2+** 7 **75.Ke1** 16 **Ke3** 7

76.Kf1 1:01 **Rf2+** 6 **77.Kg1** 8

(Diagram)

Rxf3 7 **78.Bg6** 57 **Rg3+** 10 **79.Kh2**

Rxg4 4 **80.Kh3** 10 **Rxg6** 14 **81.hxg6**



**Kf4 2 82.Kh4 1 Kf5 83.Kh5 Kf6 1
84.Kg4 Kxg6 2
0-1**

□ **Toczyski, David Paul**

■ **Stults, Sawyer**

2026 Summer TNM: 1600-1999 (5.22)
[Winslow, Elliott]

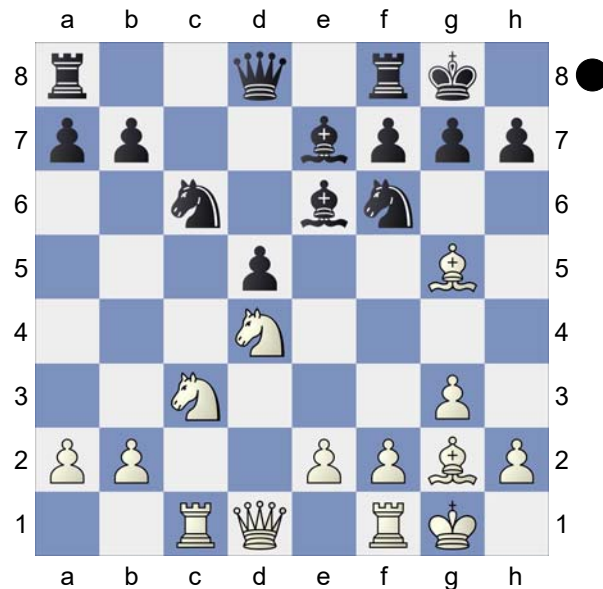
Stults essayed a Tarrasch Queen's Gambit, reaching a typical hanging pawns structure on d5 and c6. Toczyski had chances until a blunderfest ensued, and one of those pawns reached the 7th rank; David felt, wrongly, compelled to sack an exchange to deal with it, but it was just not good enough. He walked into a pin, and it was suddenly over.

Must have been time pressure... **1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 c5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.g3 Nc6 6.Bg2 Nf6 7.0-0 Be7 8.dxc5 Bxc5 9.Bg5 0-0 10.Nc3 Be6 [10...d4!] 11.Rc1 Be7 12.Nd4**

(Diagram)

Rc8?

[12...Nxd4 13.Qxd4 Qd7 14.Rfd1±



(14.e4!?±)]

13.a3?

[13.Nxe6! fxe6 14.Bh3 Qd7 15.e4! d4 16.Qb3+- Nd8 17.Rcd1+- is pressure everywhere.]

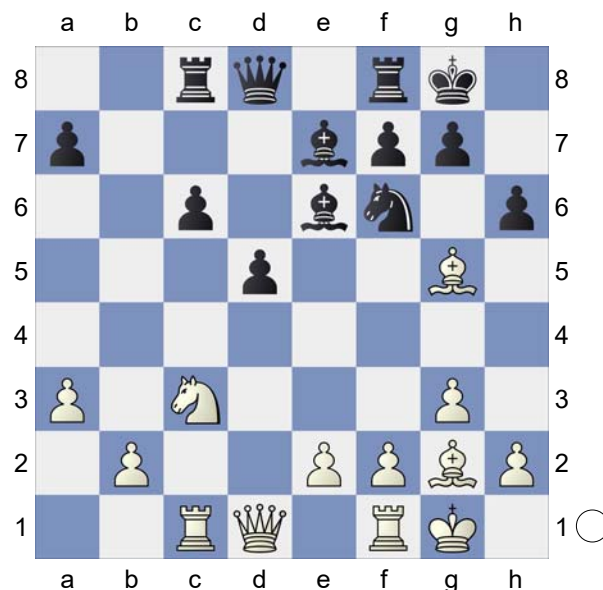
13...h6?!

[13...Nxd4 14.Qxd4 h6=]

14.Nxc6?!

[14.Nxe6 fxe6 15.Bf4 (15.Bd2)]

14...bxc6



15.Bf4?±

[15.Bxf6 Bxf6 16.b4± /=]

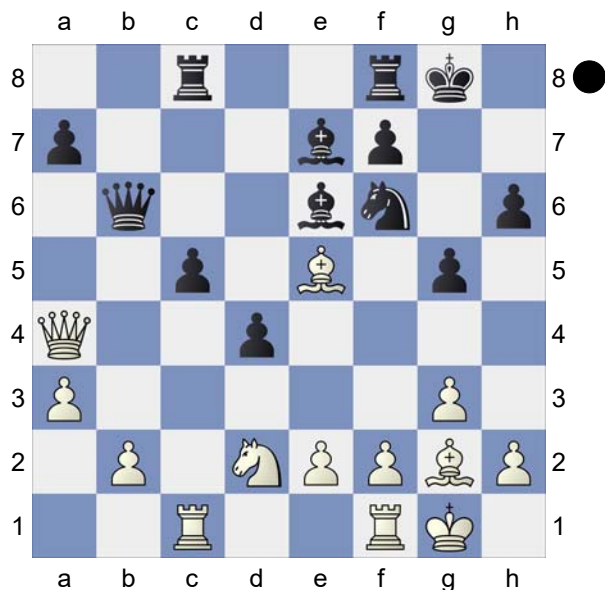
15...c5 16.Nb1? d4-+

[16...Qb6!-+]

17.Qa4

[17.Bb7 g5! 18.Bxc8 Bxc8 19.Bd2

Bh3 20.Qc2 Re8!-+]
17...Qb6+- 18.Nd2 g5! 19.Be5



Nd7?!

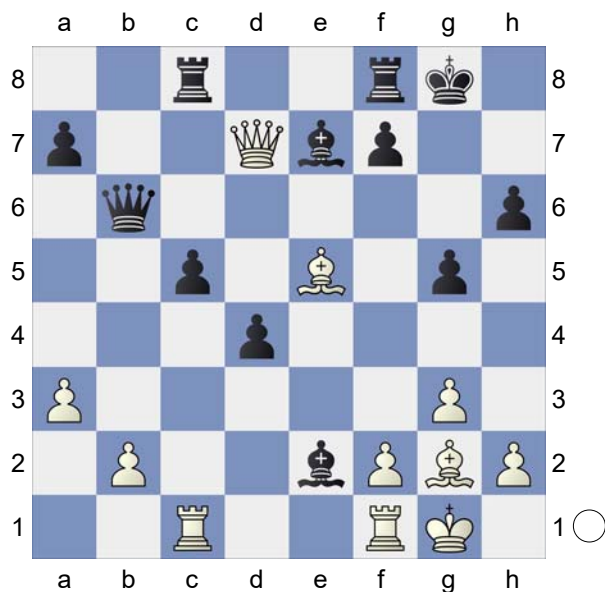
[19...Ng4! 20.Nf3 Bd5+-]

20.Nc4± Bxc4?!

[20...Qd8 21.f4 Nb6± 22.Nxb6
 Qxb6]

21.Qxd7± Bxe2?

[21...Qe6]



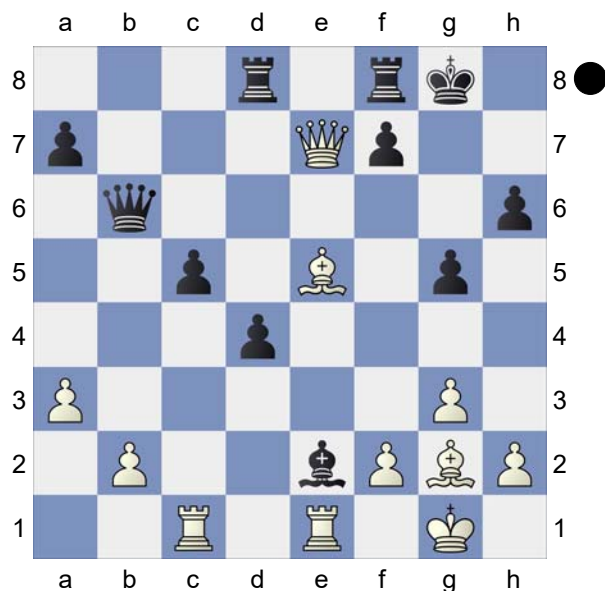
22.Rfe1??

[22.Qxe7 Rfe8 23.Qf6 Qxf6
 24.Bxf6+- Bxf1 25.Bxf1+- Re6?
 26.Bxd4]

22...Rcd8?!

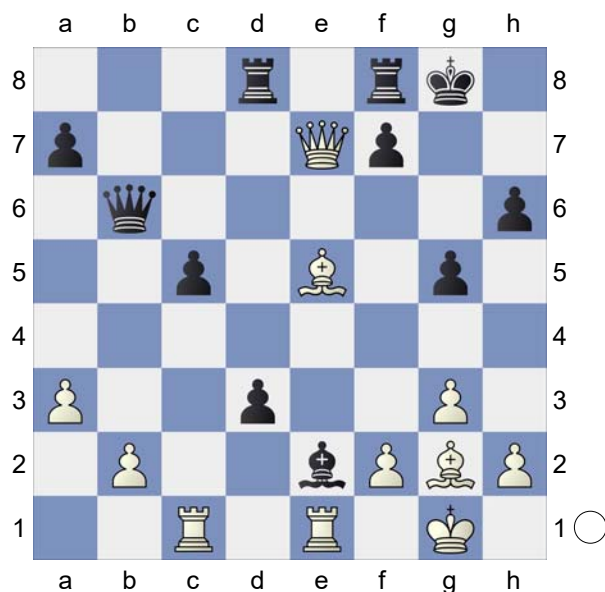
[22...d3!-+ 23.Qxe7 Rfe8+-]

23.Qxe7+-



d3

[23...Rfe8!? 24.Qf6 Qxf6 25.Bxf6
 Rd6 26.Bf3 d3 27.Bc3 d2 28.Bxd2
 Rxd2 29.b3+-]



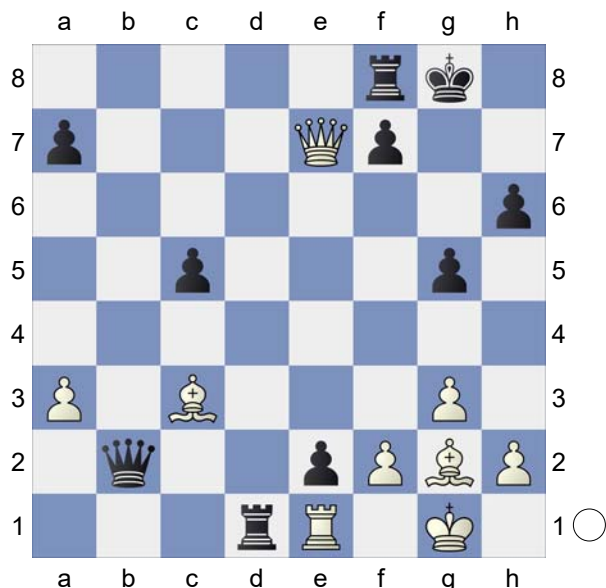
24.Rxe2??

[24.Bc7+-]
 [24.Ra1+-]
 [24.Rb1+-]
 [24.Rcd1+-]

24...dxe2± 25.Re1 Rd1 26.Bc3 Qxb2!

(Diagram)

27.Qe5??



[27.Qe3! Rfd8 28.f4 $\bar{f}$ gxf4 29.gxf4 Rxe1+ 30.Bxe1 Qd4 31.Kf2 Qxe3+ 32.Kxe3 Rd1 33.Kxe2 Ra1 $\bar{f}$]

27...Rxe1+

0-1

□ **Pinge,Rajdeep**

■ **Booth,Kyle Ewart Coventry**

2026 Summer TNM: 1600-1999 (5.17)

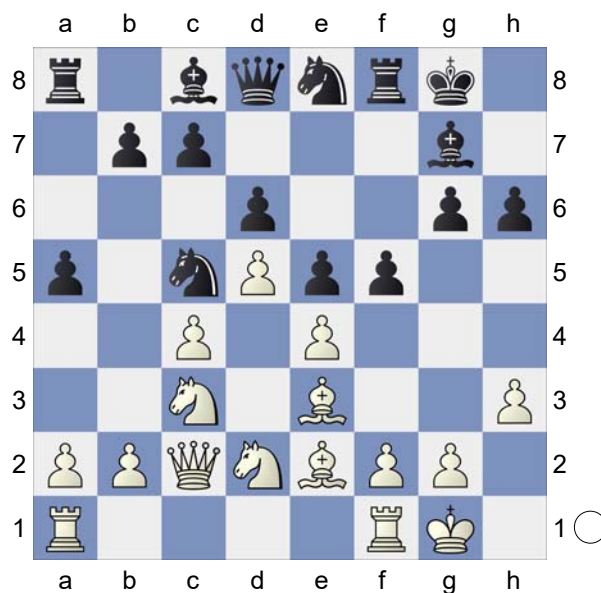
[Winslow,Elliott]

Rajdeep Pinge started with three half-point byes, then *won* his last four games (!) to tie with Boyer and Gutta in the 1600-1999 section. Here he overpowers Kyle Booth, drawing Black's king out in a classical King's Indian and delivering a crisp ending. **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 e5 7.d5 a5 8.0-0 Na6 9.h3 Nc5 10.Qc2 h6**

[Relevant: 10...Nh5 11.Be3 Nf4 12.Nh2 Qg5 13.Bg4 f5 14.exf5 gxf5 15.Bf3 e4 16.Bxf4 Qxf4 17.Be2 Bd7 18.Qc1 Qh4 19.Qd2 Rae8 20.Rad1 f4 21.Bg4 Bxg4 22.Nxg4 h5 23.Nh2 f3 24.Rfe1 Be5 25.Qh6 Rf6 26.Qe3 Rg6 27.Nxf3 exf3 28.Qxf3 Rf8 29.Qe3 Rf7 30.Re2 Rfg7 31.f3 Qg3

32.Kf1 Qh2 33.Qg1 Qf4 34.Nb5 Qxc4 35.Nc3 Qf4 36.Nb5 Qxf3+ 0-1 (36) Sklokin,S (2407)-Sevian,S (2688) Chess.com INT 2025]

11.Be3 Ne8 12.Nd2 f5



13.f4N

[13.exf5 Bxf5 (Gaining a tempo on the queen, but weakening control of e4 ($\leq 13...gxf5$ runs into 14.f4 $\pm$ though, with pressure on Black's pawn center. All standard fare.) 14.Qd1 Qh4 $\pm$]

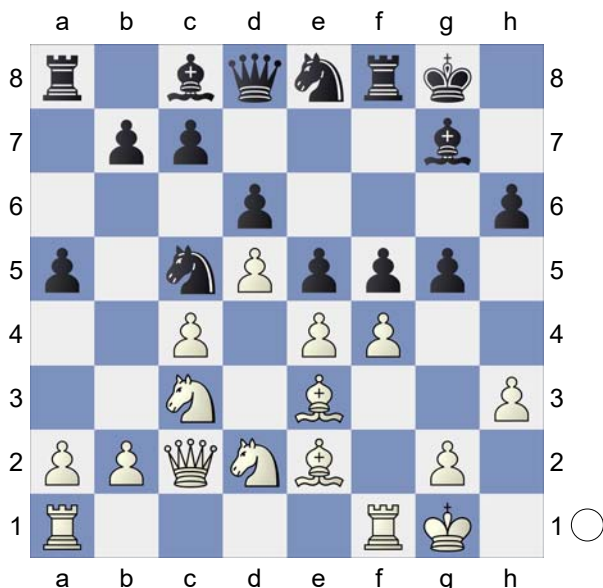
[the *last* example, as 13.f4 is a novelty, was 13.exf5 gxf5 14.f3? Bd7 15.Nb3 b6 16.Nxc5 dxc5 17.Rad1 Nd6 18.Bd3 Kh8 19.Kh1 Qh4 20.Bf2 Qh5 21.Rfe1 Bf6 22.Bf1 f4 23.Nb5 Bf5 24.Qc1 Bxh3 25.gxh3 Qxf3+ 26.Bg2 Qxf2 27.Nxc7 Rac8 28.Ne6 Rg8 29.Rg1 Nf5 30.Rd2 Ng3+ 31.Kh2 Ne2 32.Qe1 Qxg1+ 33.Qxg1 Nxg1 34.Kxg1 f3 0-1 (34) Paulo,U (1800)-Lopes,A (1990) Goiania 2013]

13...g5?

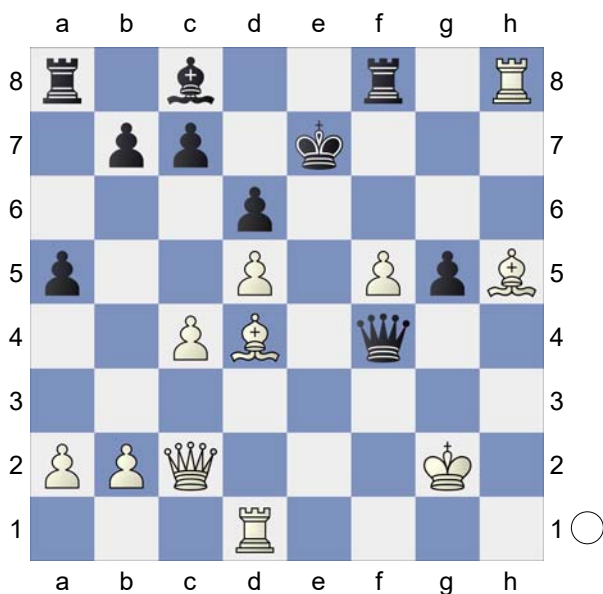
[13...exf4 $\bar{f}$]

(Diagram)

14.fxe5+- Bxe5 15.exf5 Ng7 16.g4 h5



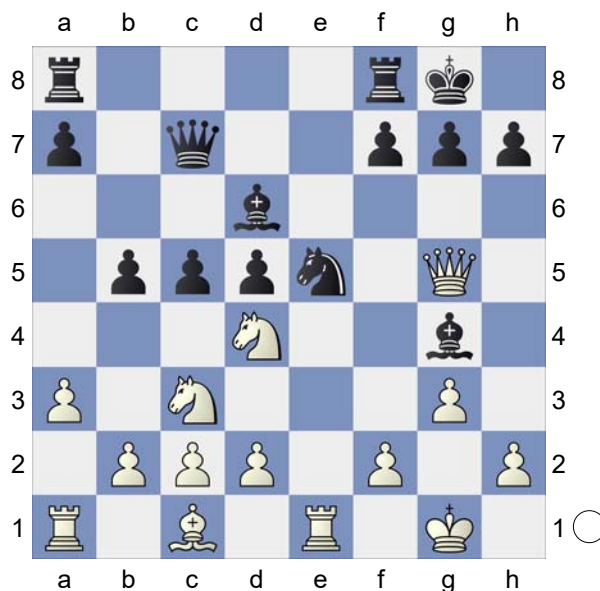
17.Nce4 Nxe4 18.Nxe4 Bf6 19.Rad1
hxc4 20.hxc4 Qe7 21.Nxf6+ Qxf6
22.Bd4 Qh6 23.Kg2 Nxf5 24.gxf5
Qh4 25.Rh1 Qf4 26.Rh8+ Kf7
27.Bh5+ Ke7



28.f6+ Rxf6 29.Bxf6+
1-0

B02
1091
1443
2026 Summer TNM: u1600 (5.6) 04.08.26
[Winslow,Elliott]

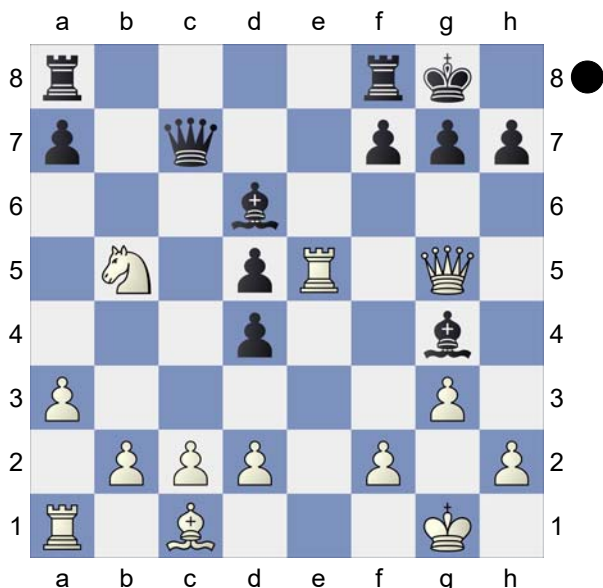
Connor Harriman continued his streak to make it 5-0 (!), showing Shane Davis why you can't just make moves against the Scandinavian Defense. Black's pawns shoved White's knights this way and that; a pretty big inaccuracy transpired, but Davis didn't notice his chance, and a quick win for Black ensued. 1.e4 d5 7 2.exd5 17 Nf6 6 3.Nc3 45 Nxd5 10 4.Bc4 20 c6 1:59 5.Qf3 45 e6 2:03 6.Nge2 1:00 b5 2:34 7.Bxd5 1:33 exd5 22 8.a3 42 Bd6 1:18 9.0-0 40 0-0 40 10.Re1 50 Nd7 1:39 11.Nd4 1:50 Qc7 2:24 12.g3 35 Ne5 1:31 13.Qh5 1:31 Bg4 7:24 14.Qg5 1:31 c5-+ 5:57



15.Ncxb5 2:46 cxd4 1:00
[15...Qd7!]
16.Rxe5 40

(Diagram)

Qc6? 5:24
[16...Qxc2-+]
17.Rxd5?? 1:18



[17.Nxd4±]

17...Be7 1:23 18.Qxe7 2:06 Qxd5 56
19.Nc7 3:58 Qf3 2:23 20.Qh4 1:35
Qd1+ 19 21.Kg2 50 Bf3+ 13 22.Kh3 39
Qf1# 11
0-1

D10

□ Yoo,Christopher Woojin

2665

■ Das,Rohan

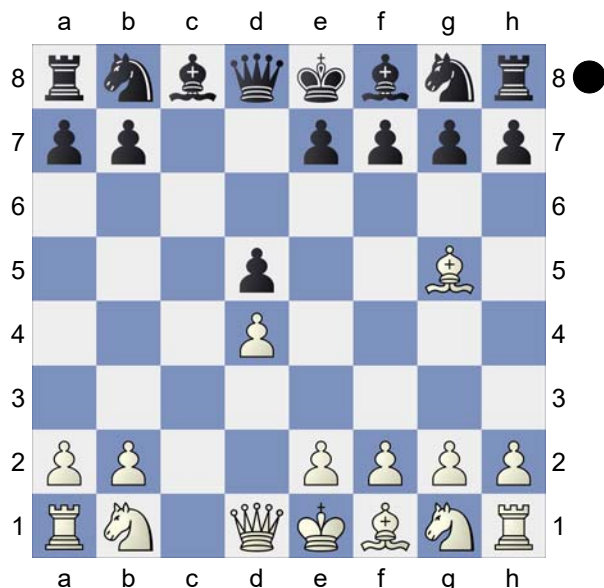
2188

2026 Summer TNM: 2000+ (6.1) 08.11.26
[Winslow,Elliott/TA]

Christopher Yoo returns, with
incomprehensible opening play (4.Bg5!?),
which seemed to befuddle Rohan Das.
Yoo resides in a subtler chess universe
than the rest of us! 1.d4 34 d5 6 2.c4
12 c6 4 3.cxd5 12 cxd5 5 4.Bg5 6

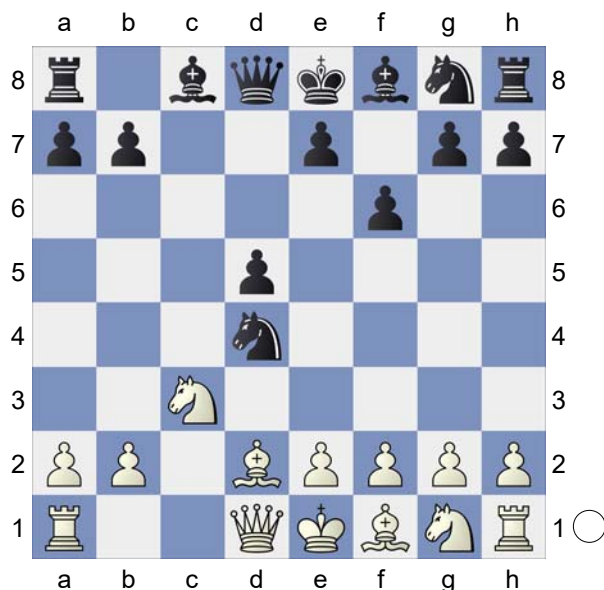
(Diagram)

I'm amazed to see that there are over
1200 games with this move (!). There are
even some 2600+ players playing it as
White more than once. Of course,
looking further I see it's mostly a blitz
weapon; certainly avoids one's main
theory. 4...f6 5:03 5.Bd2 25 (the main
move!) 5...Nc6 6 6.Nc3 6 (same here!)



6...Nxd4 33

[6...e5!? more than twice as common!
And White's "standard" reply? 7.e4!]



7.e3 10 Nf5 5 8.Bd3 33 (By now we've
left all the 2800 games behind (!)) 8...e6
3:20

[8...e5!= 9.Rc1 (9.Qb3 Nge7
10.Bb5+ Kf7 11.Rd1 Be6 12.Nge2
a6 13.Bd3 e4 14.Bc2 d4 15.Qxb7
Nd6 16.Qb4 dxc3 17.Bxc3 Nd5
18.Qd4 Nxc3 19.Qxc3 Rc8 20.Qd2
Qc7 21.Nd4 Bc4 22.Rc1 Be7
23.Ba4 Qb7 24.Bc6 Rxc6 25.Nxc6
Qxc6 26.b3 Rb8 27.bxc4 Nxc4
28.Qd4 Qe6 29.0-0 Nd6 30.a4 Qb3

31.Rc4 Qd3 ½-½ (31) Teixeira,M (1928)-Rodrigues,J (1843) Rio de Janeiro 2024; 9.Nge2!) 9...Nge7 10.Qb3 Be6 (10...d4; 10...Kf7) 11.Qxb7 Nd6 12.Qa6 Qb6 13.Qxb6 (13.Qa4+!±) 13...axb6 14.Nge2 g6 15.0-0 Bg7 16.Nb5 Nxb5 17.Bxb5+ Bd7 18.Nc3 Rd8 19.Bxd7+ Kxd7 20.Rfd1 Ke6 21.Na4 b5 22.Nc5+ Kf7 23.a3 Rc8 24.Bb4 f5 25.h4 e4 26.b3 d4 27.exd4 Nd5 28.Kf1 Rhd8 29.Nb7 f4 30.Rxc8 Rxc8 31.Nd6+ Ke6 32.Nxc8 Bf6 33.Nd6 e3 34.Nxb5 Bxh4 35.f3 g5 1-0 (35) Heus,D (2053)-Van Baar,E (2187) Haarlem 2026]

9.Bxf5 1:58 **exf5** 6 **10.Nge2!N** 1:30 [10.Qb3 Bd6 11.Nge2 Ne7 12.Nxd5 Nxd5 13.Qxd5 Be5 ½-½ (13) Nestorovic,D (2340)-Todorovic,B (2318) Kragujevac 2018]

10...Bc5 12:12

[⊞10...Bd6 11.Nxd5 Ne7=]

11.Qb3 1:08 White has compensation.

11...Qd6? 12:19

[11...Qd7±]

12.Nb5± 3:04 White sacrificed a pawn

[12.Qxd5?! Ne7 13.Qxd6 Bxd6=]

12...Qb6 3:22 **13.Nec3!** 1:51 **Ne7** 7:30

14.Na4! 3:17 Black has to contort to save material

[14.Nxd5 Nxd5 15.Qxd5 Bd7̄

(15...Qxb5 16.Rc1̄)]

14...Qc6 16 **15.Nxc5** 1:03 **a6** 1:28

(Diagram)

16.Nxa6! 4:02 **bxa6** 33 **17.Nd4** 9 **Qb7** 3:13 **18.Qa3** 1:32

[White should try 18.0-0±]

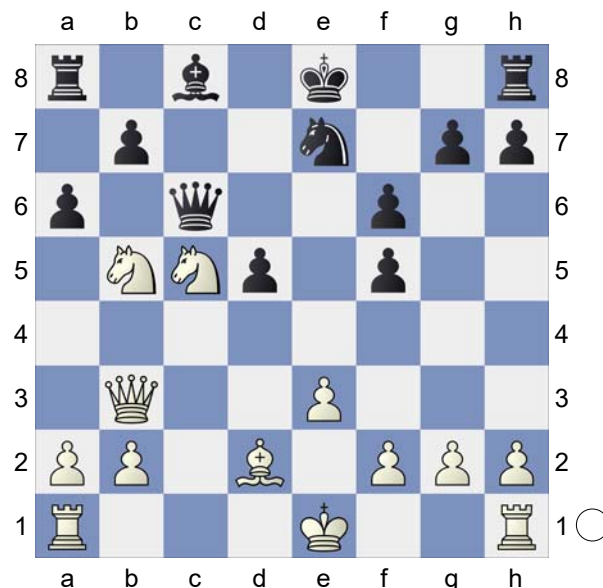
18...Bd7 14:17

[18...Nc6±]

19.Rc1 2:12 Black is weak on the dark squares **19...Kf7** 2:13 **20.Rc3** 18

[20.h3±]

20...Rhc8± 5:57 **21.Rb3** 52 **Qc7** 7

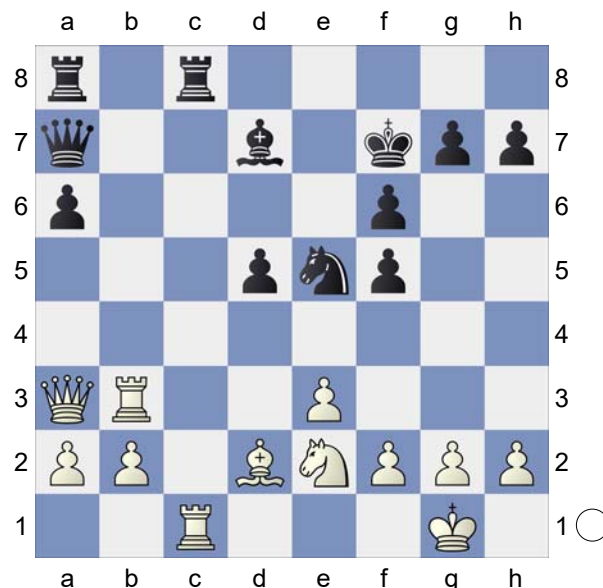


22.0-0↑ 50 Black is under pressure.

22...Nc6 7:09 Prevents Ba5 **23.Rc1** 1:15

Black must now prevent Rbc3. **23...Qa7** 3:57 **24.Ne2** 1:04 White has more active pieces. (Hey! That's the TA's hack note, not mine!) **24...Ne5** 4:35

[⊞24...Nd8]



25.Qd6!± 4:07 **Rxc1+** 27 **26.Bxc1** 13 **Rc8** 47

[26...Be6± was worth a try.]

27.Qxd5++- 1:40 **Be6?** 9

[27...Kg6 28.Nf4+ Kh6]

28.Rb7+ 28 **Kg6** 56 **29.Qxe5!** 3:52

The only winning move

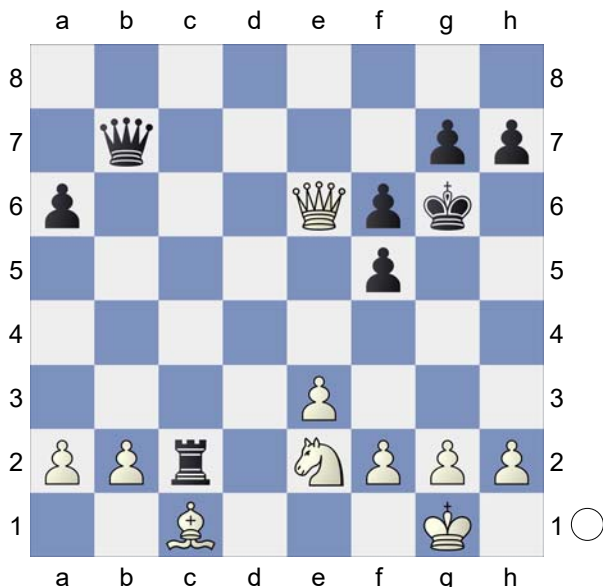
[29.Qxe6? Qxb7 30.Bd2 Qc6

31.Qxc6 Rxc6 (31...Nxc6?
32.Kf1)]
[29.Rxa7 Bxd5 30.Nc3 (30.Rxa6?
is the wrong capture. Rc2-+)
30...Bg8=]

29...Qxb7 1:18 30.Qxe6 6

Bishop, knight and pawn for a rook, and some danger to Black's king? Should be over. But Black still has a trick or two...

30...Rc2 1:48



31.g4 9:02 Dramatic.

[Most convincing is 31.Qe8+! Kh6
32.e4+ g5 33.Qd8]
[31.h4!?]

31...fxg4 3:51 32.e4 3:03

[32.Qxg4+! Kf7 33.Qh5+ Kf8
34.Qxh7]

32...Qb5?! 2:40 Inhibits Qe8+, but...

[32...Qc8 33.Nf4+ Kh6 34.Qxc8
Rxc8]
[32...h6]

33.Nf4+ 1:32 Kh6 42 34.Be3! 11

Mate is in sight (computer sight that is)

34...Qc4 4:04 35.Nd5+ 27 Kg6 22

36.Qe8# 5 TA: "Beautiful play by Yoo!"

Weighted Error Value: White=0.16 (very precise) /Black=0.72

1-0

B22

□ **Cawthon,Jeremy David**

2124

■ **Winslow,Elliott**

2200

2026 Summer TNM: 2000+ (6.2) 08.11.26

[Winslow,Elliott]

This game saw me playing insufficiently deeply. Just another reminder that sometimes you can do more with less -- pieces that is -- if your opponent's army is "sleeping," usually on the queenside (in so many openings). But you have to push your thinking past just counting up the stuff. My game plan, when objectively winning, was rather the opposite of good technique, but I did manage to catch a won endgame when it presented itself. **1.e4 2 c5 16 2.c3 2 Nf6 6 3.e5 4 Nd5 8 4.d4 5 cxd4 6** Lately Cawthon has been blitzing out his games. This certainly looks like pregame preparation if it weren't for that.

5.Qxd4 4

[Jeremy has played quite a few games, including one with me, with 5.Nf3 d6 6.cxd4 e6 7.a3 Bd7 8.Bd3 Bc6 9.0-0 Nd7]

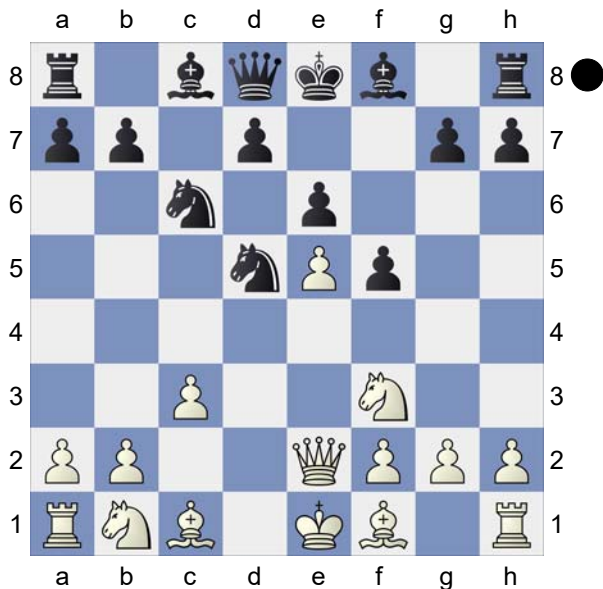
5...e6 8 6.Nf3 4 Nc6 9 7.Qe4 2

It took everyone quite a while to settle on Black's next two moves -- Stockfish 18 takes less than an instant: **7...f5! 58 8.Qe2 2**

(Diagram)

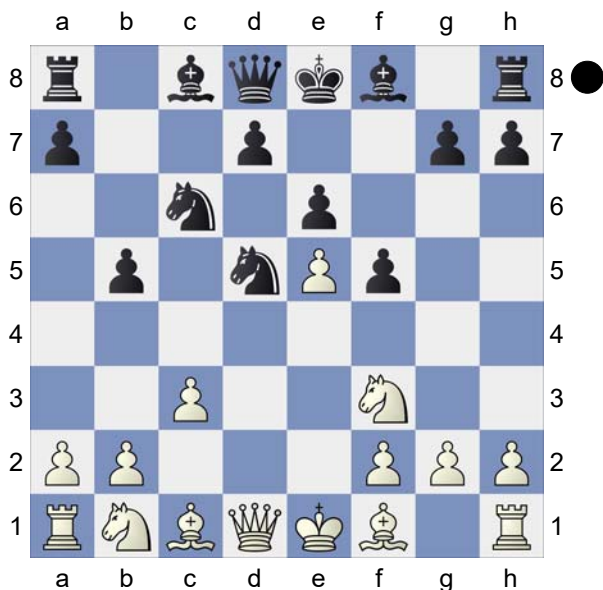
b5! 2:42 Honestly, I don't know if I'd *ever* come up with this if I hadn't had to read up on this line, thanks to Michael Anderson's persistent playing the white side against me (via the Morra Gambit, 2. d4) **9.Qd1 22** SF 18's preference, which Jeremy played fairly instantly. I didn't know this move (Frankly I was expecting another in his long record of a3 games), so was trying to think from this point on.

[Mikey mostly has played 9.g3



which can get pretty wild.]

[9.Qxb5 isn't all that bad either, but it's on the wrong side of equality (as is this whole line). But as is so often said, "at least White has a pawn."]



9...Qc7 4:09 SF 18 can't settle on this or a handful of others, with no real difference in numerical rating, all with a slight (~-0.27) advantage:

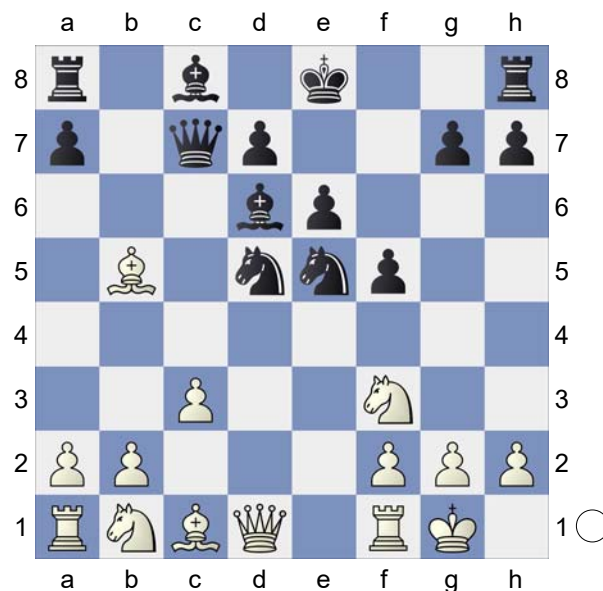
[9...b4]
[9...Qb6]
[9...a6]
[9...Rb8]

10.Bxb5 1:06 **Nxe5** 1:35 Black is slightly better. And that *could* be, turn

into, a nice central pawn mass. Some day. **11.0-0N 7**

[White should just go with 11.Nxe5+ Qxe5+ 12.Qe2 Bd6 13.Qxe5 Bxe5 14.0-0 Rb8 15.Ba4 0-0 16.Rd1 Nf4 17.Bxf4 Bxf4 0-1 (74) Rakhmatullaev, A (2288)-Dimakiling, O (2442) Dubai 2022]

11...Bd6 1:55



12.Re1? 2 Another two whole seconds. This can't be home preparation any more -- Stockfish blows it out of the water! But I didn't see the concept.

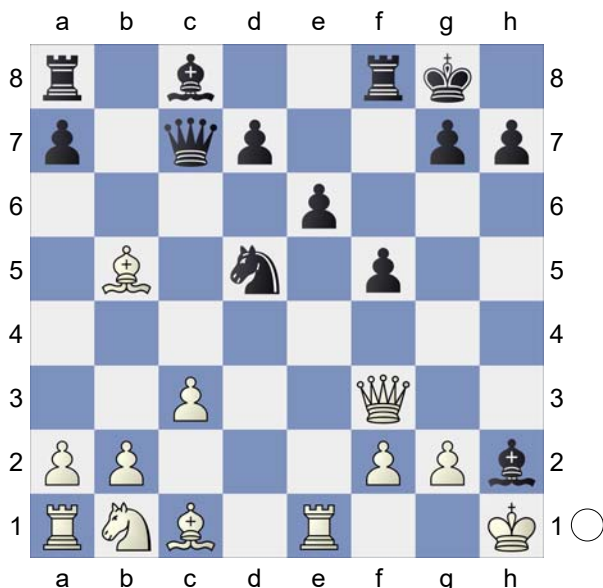
[12.Nbd2+]
[12.Nxe5 Bxe5 13.Qh5+ g6 14.Qh6 Bb7!+]

12...0-0? 1:43

[12...Nxf3+-+ 13.Qxf3 Bxh2+!? (13...0-0+) 14.Kh1 (White actually seems to have a couple threats here) 0-0!-+

(Diagram)

During the game I couldn't get past "15.g3 wins the bishop." In fact, with ... Bb7, ...f4, ...Rf6 it's a disaster for White. When you glance at R/a1, N/b1, B/c1 it's easy to understand why. If you glance! SF18 makes it -4 here, -4. 8 after 15.g3?! Bxg3! better than the



almost-as-good alternatives

(15...f4+; or 15...Bb7+) 16.fxg3 f4
(and the "other" move, ...Bb7 next)

White is lost. I guess for a crass materialist like myself I could be dragged into this with "Black has two pawns and some other compensation for the bishop" -- hah!]

13.c4? 9:25 After a surprisingly long thought!

[The best chance: 13.Nxe5 Bxe5
14.h3 Bb7 15.Nd2]

13...Nf6?! 1:30

[Again: 13...Nxf3+ 14.Qxf3 "Pin"
Bxh2+ 15.Kh1 Nf6!

(Even ChessBase/Stockfish's
"Tactical Analysis" cops out with
15...Nb6 , which is indeed -+ and all (I
don't recommend 16.g3!). But after the
text,) 16.Nd2 Ng4 is crushing.

Entertaining is 17.Qe2 Bg1!]

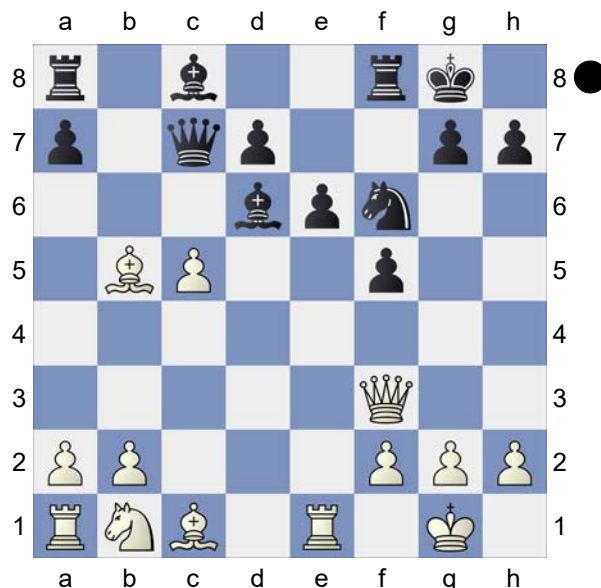
14.c5? 14:47 An even longer thought!

He's even used more time than I have!
(Not that that's a good thing, given how
little I was seeing of what is really going
on here...)

[14.Nxe5 Bxe5 15.h3 Bb7]

14...Nxf3+-+ 5:18 **15.Qxf3** 1:01

(Diagram)



Bxc5 36 Third best. I really couldn't see
this clearly and decide, so I let my hand
do it for me.

[15...Qxc5 is more than a bit better if
you believe comp numbs.]

[But as on every move since it was
first available, 15...Bxh2+! is the star.

A) 16.Kh1 Rb8! (16...Ng4!);

B) 16.Kf1! Qxc5!? 17.Nc3 Rb8
SF 18's "best" is 18.a4 a6 19.Bd3
Ng4 20.Be3 Qb4 21.g3 Nxe3+
22.Qxe3 Qg4 23.Qf4 (23.Kg2
Bb7+ Go ahead, take my bishop...)
23...Qxf4 24.gxf4 Bxf4 the pawn
mass is growing...]

16.Nc3 3:54

[16.Qxa8? Bb7+ (16...Ng4!
is an even better move)]

16...d5?! 3:16 Still -+. But a lot of moves
are better.

[Especially 16...Bb7 17.Qg3 Bd6]

17.Bf4 1:12 **Qb6** 52 **18.Re2** 3:10
Defending b2?

[Some-baked computer-human
thoughts are 18.a4 a5]
[and 18.Bd3 Bd7]

18...Ne4?! 20:33

[For some reason, 18...Bb7! is "it"]

19.Bd3 1:05 **Bd7** 5:14 **20.Be5** 2:03

Bd6 2:20 **21.Bxd6** 3:36 **Qxd6** 4

Sam Shankland's recent excellent book

"Converting an Extra Pawn in Chess" gives three steps: (1) Stabilize the Position (2) Decide Which Exchanges are Good and Bad for you (3) Determine the Extra Pawn's Role. (I might have paraphrased.) Often in the past I've tried (and failed as much as succeeded) in (1); Trading off the B/e5 might be considered part of (2) (my remaining bishop won't be bad if I get those pawns going some day) and as Sam points out, (3) is hardly always "promote to a queen!" -- here in fact, despite there being a passed d-pawn, the extra pawn is usefully holding up e4. **22.Rd1** 22 There is a threat, which provokes me to trade (correctly!) on c3.

[TA salutes $\triangle 22.Rc2$]

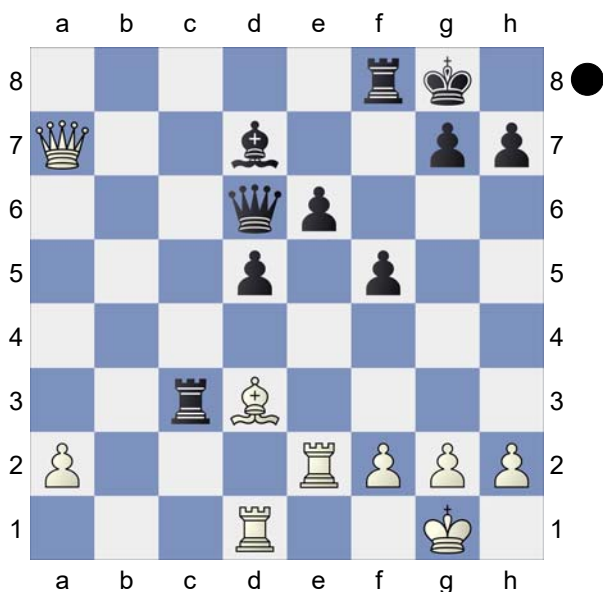
[SF 18 on the loose (TA "governs" SF to a few seconds per move) fights for dark squares with 22.Qe3 when Qb6 fights for them as well]

22...Nxc3 6:02 **23.bxc3** 39 **Rac8!** 16

24.Qe3 48 **Rxc3?! 2:56** Returning the d-pawn to passed status, but now White has one as well.

[24...Qc5!?]

25.Qxa7 33



e5?! 4:57

[25...Rfc8 26.Red2 h6 is Stockfish's cryptic best line.]

26.Bc2? 3:06

[26.Rc2 Rxc2 27.Bxc2 Be6+- is under -2, but Black can hope to win.]

26...f4?! 6:47 Precarious but still okay (as in "-+"), and with "tricks"

[The engine heads down an amusement park train ride: $\triangle 26...Qc6!$ 27.Bb3 Ra8! $\square$

A) 28.Bxd5+? Qxd5 29.Red2 Qxd2! (The TA goes "Intermezzo Maestro" with 29...Qxg2+ Decoy 30.Kxg2 Bc6+ 31.Kf1 Rxa7-+) 30.Qxa8+ Kf7;

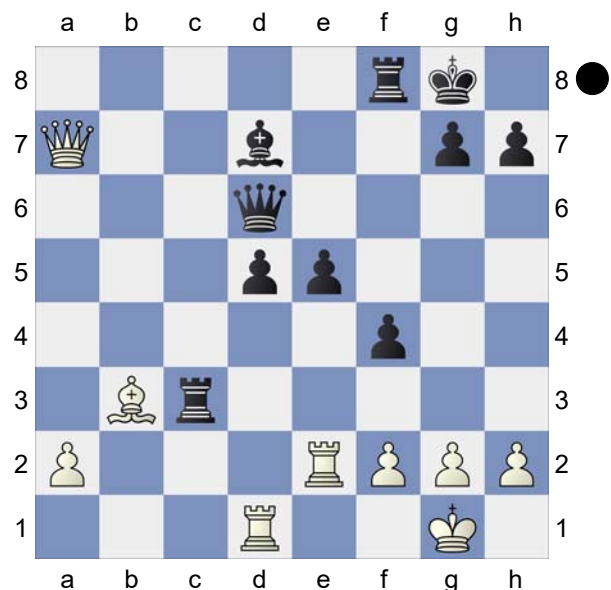
B) 28.Qxa8+? Qxa8 29.Rxe5 Rxb3-+;

C) 28.Rxe5 Rxa7 29.Bxd5+ Qxd5 (29...Be6 30.Bxc6 Rxc6) 30.Rexd5 Be6 31.Rd6 Kf7-+]

[26...Bb5 27.Red2 d4 28.f4 d3-+ hangs on to it all.]

27.Bb3 2:34

[27.f3 Bb5]



27...Be6? 2:22

[27...Kh8!-+ And now ...f3 would win. 28.Red2 d4]

[27...Kh8!-+ Seth Fish; let's not concern ourselves, I've gone far enough.]

28.f3! 48 Rfc8 6:00

[28...d4? 29.Bxe6+ Qxe6 30.Qxd4=]
 [28...Bf7!?]

29.h3 1:48 All my dreams of back rank mate are of course done. **29...Rc1?! 1:22**

[29...Kh8!?]

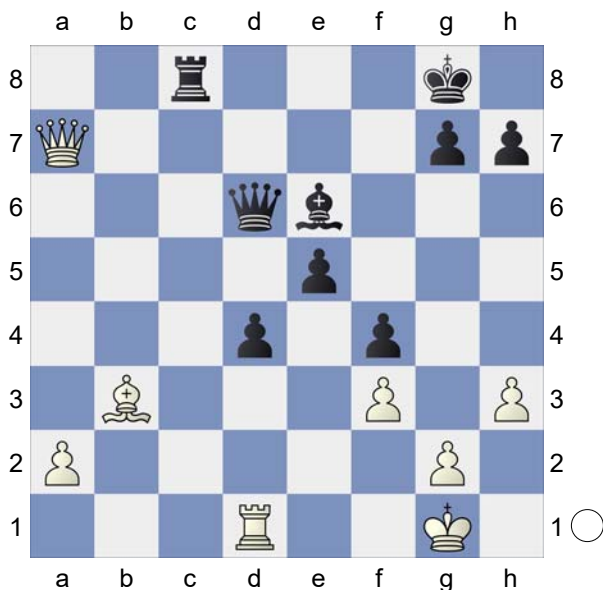
[29...Bf7 30.Red2 R3c5 31.a4 g5!?]

30.Ree1 2:08 **Rxd1** 2:05

[Stockfish makes best 30...R1c3 which is a bad sign.]

31.Rxd1 1 **d4=** 1:56 It's all evaporated -- my advantage that is.

[31...Kh8? should be considered.]



32.Rb1? 3:26 White had 48 minutes to Black's 17 or so, and lets the d-pawn run. There is a threat, which is dealt with easily enough.

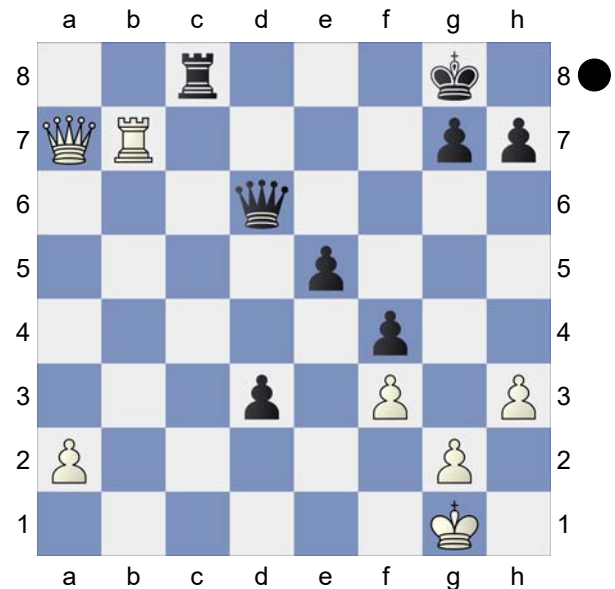
[32.Qb7? and White stays safe. Rd8 33.Bxe6+ Qxe6 34.a4 Qd5 35.Qc7 d3 36.a5 Qd4+ 37.Kh2 e4 38.fxe4 f3 just isn't enough: some plus still, but White is seeing daylight.]

32...Bxb3 1:18 **33.Rxb3** 8

[33.axb3 d3]

33...d3! 33 White has forgotten about ... uh... "Darren" the d-pawn. **34.Rb7** 1:08

[34.Rb1 d2 35.Rd1 Rc1 36.Qa4 Qd4+]



34...Qd4+! 12 **35.Qxd4** 1:12 **exd4** 3

36.Rd7 1:01

[36.Kf2 Rc1!]

36...d2 9 Weighted Error Value: White=0.82/Black=0.33

0-1

C47
Chen,Quincy 2150
Sevall,Jacob Cameron 2140
 2026 Summer TNM: 2000+ (6.3) 08.11.26
 [TA/Winslow,Elliott]

Up and down -- Jacob was winning but never collected the point, and it slid into a rook and pawn vs. rook requiring accurate defense -- which was just not coming. So Quincy is lined up for a run at a prize. **1.e4** 4 **e5** 14 **2.Nf3** 4 **Nc6** 12 **3.Nc3** 22 **Nf6** 31 **4.d4** 9 **exd4** 18 **5.Nxd4** 5 **Bb4** 52 **6.Nxc6** 9 **bx c6** 17 **7.Bd3** 6 **0-0** 33 **8.0-0** 9 **Re8** 18 [8...d5] **9.Bg5!** 1:42 (better than 9.Qf3.) **9...h6** 19 **10.Bh4** 1:10 **g5** 3:16 **11.Bg3** 1:22 **d5** 22

[Black should play 11...Bxc3± 12.bxc3 Nxe4]

12.exd5 3:56

[12.e5± Ng4 13.Re1]

12...cxd5± 1:01 White has an edge.

13.Nb5?! 7:50

[13.h3]

[13.a3 Bd6! 14.h3 a6 15.b4 c5]

13...Ba5! 2:07 14.Nd4 1:29 Bb6?!± 1:19

[14...Bd7=]

15.Nf5 9:18

[15.Nc6± Qd7 16.Ne5 Qe6 17.Bb5

Bb7! 18.Bxe8 Rxe8±]

15...Ne4N 3:55

[15...Bxf5 16.Bxf5 Ne4≠ /= 17.c4?

(17.a4 Qf6 18.Bxe4 dxe4 19.a5

Bc5) 17...dxc4 18.Qc2 Qd3≠

19.Rac1 Rad8-+ (19...h5!-+) 20.Qa4

Qe2?= (20...Qd5 21.Bxe4 Rxe4

22.h3 Qe6 23.Kh1 Rd2-+) 21.Rce1

Qd3?? (21...Nxb3! 22.Rxe2 Nxe2+

23.Kh1 Re5=) 22.Bxe4+- 1-0 (29)

Kislov,O (2249)-Zhukova,N (2328)

Chess.com INT 2020 (22.Qc6!+-

by a lot more)]

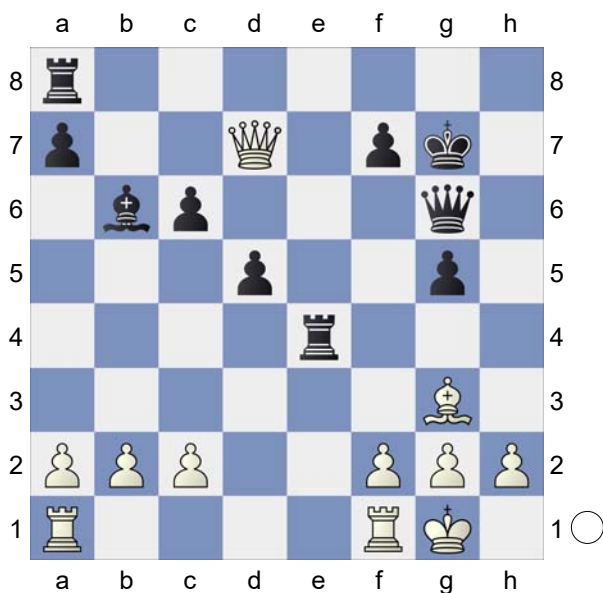
16.Nxh6+ 4:08 Kg7 12 17.Qh5! 2:14

Qf6↑ 2:19 Black is pushing. **18.Ng4!**

3:51 The board is on fire. **18...Bxg4 1:11**

19.Qxg4 6 Qg6 2:32 20.Bxe4 12:06

Rxe4 25 21.Qd7 1:00 c6 25



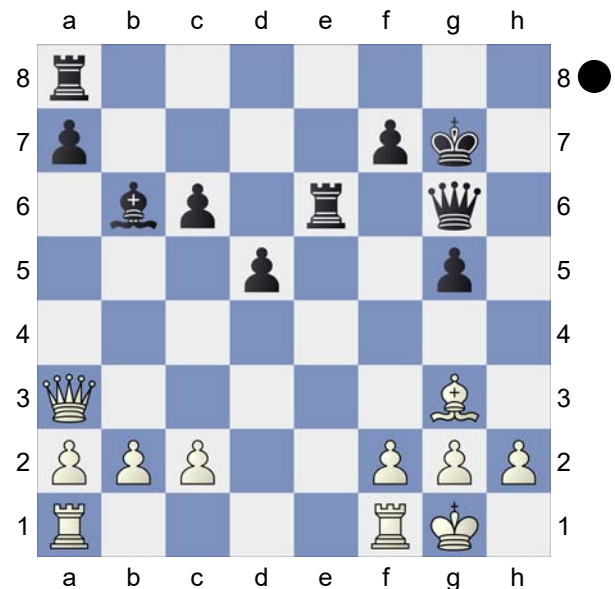
22.Qd6? 14:55

[22.Bc7=]

22...Re6≠ 1:57 23.Qa3 1:09

[23.Be5+? Kg8 24.Qb4 Rxe5-+]

[23.Qb4≠]



23...Rae8? 4:51 Black had better:

[23...f5!-+ 24.h4 Rh8 25.Qc3+ d4]

24.c4!= 2:06 dxc4 4:49 25.Qc3+ 34

Kh7 1:24 26.Qxc4 3:56 f5 1:50 27.h3!

6:52 Re4 2:23 28.Qd3 2:10 Rd4 5:30

[28...f4!? 29.Bh2□ Bxf2+ 30.Kh1

(30.Kxf2 Re2+ Decoy 31.Qxe2

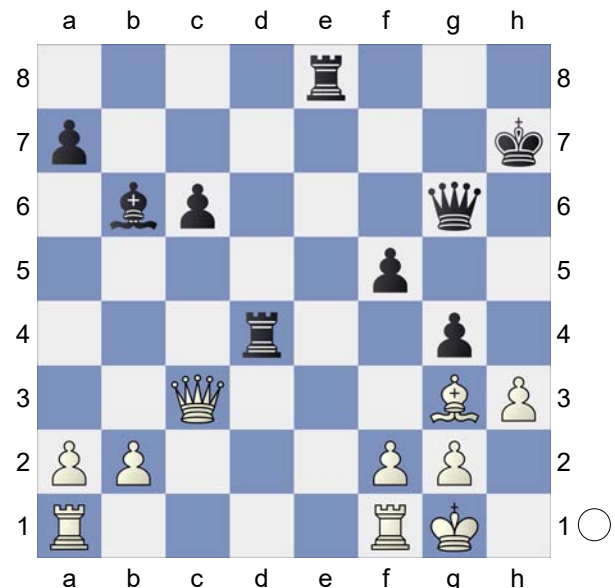
Rxe2+ 32.Kxe2 Qe4+ 33.Kd2 Qxg2+

34.Kc3 Qxh2-+) 30...c5≠ (30...Re2

31.Qf3=)]

29.Qc3 3:50 g4 5:33

[29...f4= remains equal. 30.Bh2 Re2]



30.Bc7 2:09 c5? 9:02

[30...f4!= 31.Rac1 (31.Bxb6 Rd3≠)

31...Rd3 (31...c5 32.Bxb6 Rd3
33.Qxc5±) 32.Qxc6 Re6]

31.Bxb6+- 19 **axb6** 1:03 **32.Rfd1** 2:37

Red8 1:04 **33.Rxd4** 32 **Rxd4** 7

Endgame KQR-KQR. White is a pawn

up. **34.Re1** 18 **Qd6** 1:39 **35.hxg4** 53

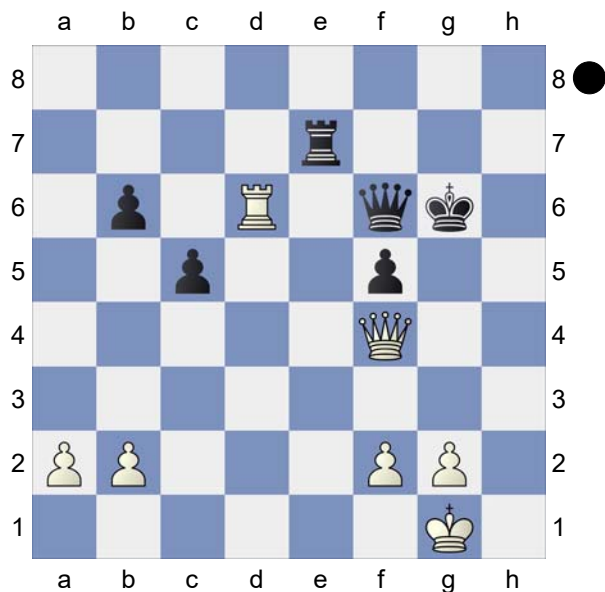
Rxg4 18

[Δ35...fxg4 36.Qc2+ Kh6]

36.Qe3 1:23 **Rg7** 1:50 **37.Qf3** 5:15 **Kg6**

1:07 **38.Rd1** 39 **Qf6** 48 **39.Qf4** 1:34

Re7 38 **40.Rd6** 1:36



Re6 12 **41.Qg3+** 14 **Kh7** 2:38

[Δ41...Kh5 42.Qh3+ Kg6 43.Qg3+

Kf7 44.Rd7+ Re7 45.Qb3+ Kg7]

42.Rd7+ 1:34 **Re7** 7 **43.Qd6** 1:19 **Qxd6**

1:04 **44.Rxd6** 5 KR-KR. White is a pawn

up. **44...b5** 1:00 **45.Kf1** 1:02

Prevents Re1+ **45...Re5** 29 **46.g3** 2:52

Kg7? 47

[46...c4 47.Rc6 Kg7]

47.f4 51 **Re4** 26 **48.Rd5** 13 **Rb4** 54

49.b3 40 **c4** 46 **50.bxc4** 31 **51.Rxf5** 34

Ra4 5 **52.Rc5** 26 **53.g4?** 1:20

[53.Kf2+- Rxa2+ 54.Kf3]

53...c3!= 34 **54.Rxc3** 57 **Rxf4+** 7

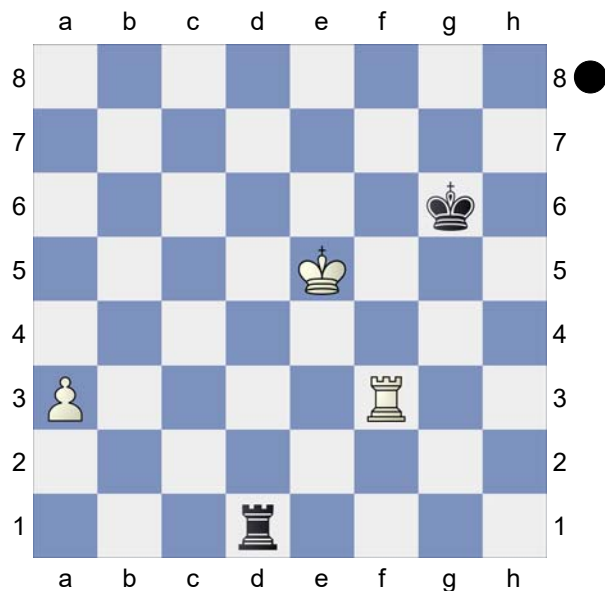
55.Ke1 27 **Rxg4** 17 **56.Rf3** 13 **Rd4** 23

57.Ke2 40 **Ra4** 24 **58.a3** 6 **Rd4** 38

59.Ke3 21 **Rd7** 53

[59...Ra4=]

60.Ke4± 38 **Rd1** 10 **61.Ke5** 32



Rd2? 14

[61...Ra1±]

62.Ke6? 1:07

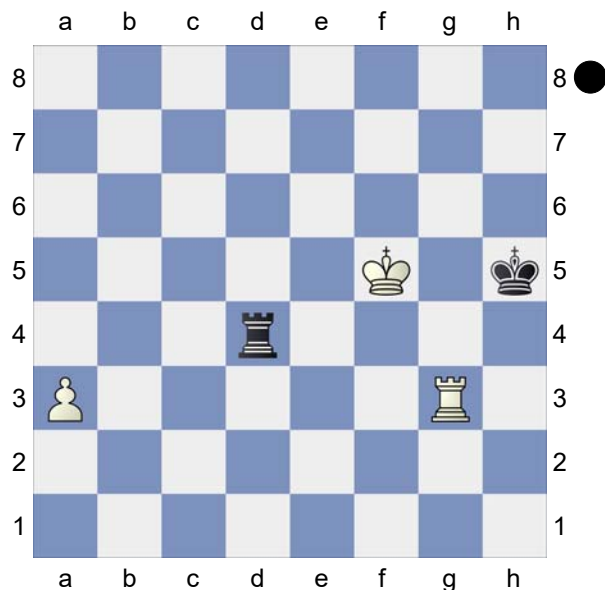
[White should try 62.Rf4+- Rd7

63.a4]

62...Rd4= 21 **63.Rg3+** 13

[63.Ke5= Ra4 64.Kd5]

63...Kh5± 13 **64.Kf5** 27



Kh6? 1:02

[64...Rd5+± 65.Ke4 Ra5]

65.Rg6?

[65.Rg4+- and the rest is easy. Rd1

66.a4]

65...Kh7? 7

[65...Kh5±]

66.Rg4+- 11 White is clearly winning.

66...Rd1 48 67.Ke6 35 Rd2 37 68.a4
12 Rd1 25 69.a5 33 Kh6 6 70.Ra4 13
 a6 is the strong threat. **70...Kg6 13**
71.a6 8 Weighted Error Value: White=0.
 22 (precise) /Black=0.34
1-0

E12
2014
2077
 2026 Summer TNM: 2000+ (6.7) 08.11.26
[Winslow,Elliott]

Another game that tried to go either way.
 A relatively rare Owen's Defense, with a
 double-0-0-0 not seen so often either!
 White was doing well but floundered.
 Rather a miracle Abhishek survived, let
 alone won! **1.c4 b6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3**
Bb7 4.Nf3 e6 5.Bg5

[5.a3]
5...h6 6.Bxf6
 [6.Bh4 Bb4 7.e3 g5 8.Bg3 Ne4]
6...Qxf6 7.e4
 [White should play 7.e3=]
7...g5 8.d5N
 [Predecessor: 8.Be2 Nc6 9.h3 0-0-0
 10.Qd2 Bg7 11.e5 Qe7 12.0-0 h5
 13.Qxg5 f6 14.Qd2 fxe5 15.d5
 0-1 (33) Zhuk,I (2068)-Jakubowski,K
 (2434) Katowice 2026]

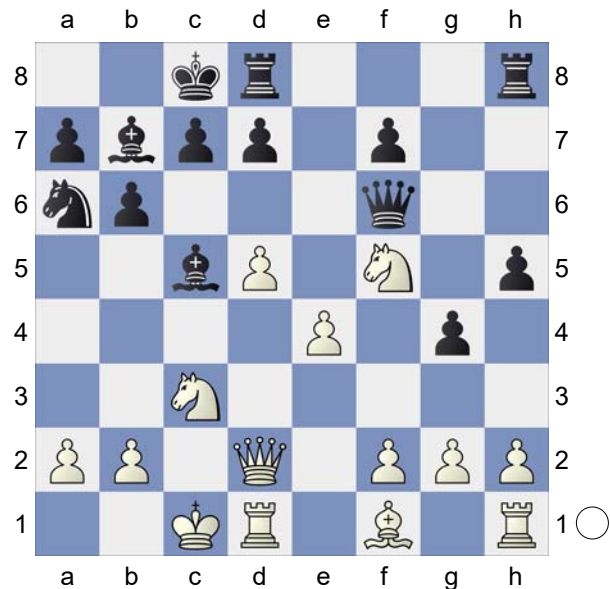
8...exd5
 [8...Na6 7 stays ahead.]

9.cxd5± g4
 [9...Bg7]

10.Nd4 Bc5
 [10...Na6± was worth a try.]
11.Nf5+- h5 12.Qd2 Na6 13.0-0-0
0-0-0

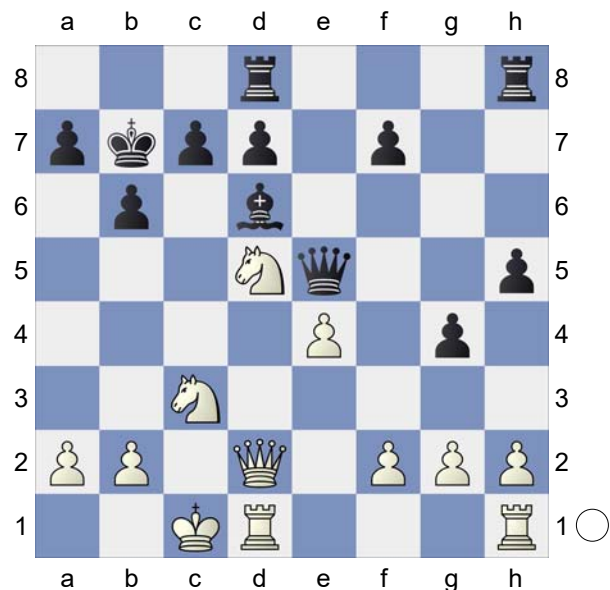
(Diagram)

14.d6?!
 [14.a3±]
14...Bb4?

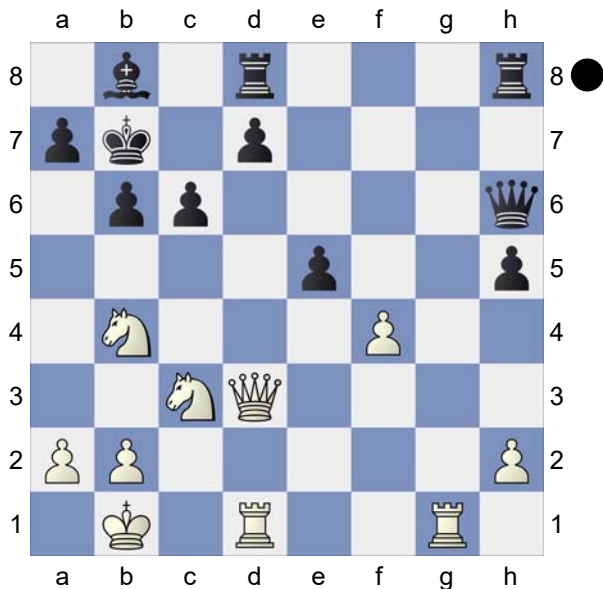


[14...Bxd6!= and Black stays safe.
 15.Nxd6+ cxd6]

15.Ne7+ Kb8 16.Bxa6 Bxd6
 [16...Bxc3 17.bxc3 Bxe4 18.f3+-]
17.Ned5 Dodges Bf4 **17...Qe5 18.Bxb7**
Kxb7



This really should be over... **19.f4 gxf3**
20.gxf3 c6 21.f4 Qg7 22.e5
 [22.Nxb6! Bxf4 23.Qxf4 axb6
 24.Rd6]
22...Bb8 23.Rhg1
 [23.Ne4! d6 24.exd6 f5 25.Rhg1]
23...Qh6 24.Nb4 f6 25.Kb1
 [25.Nd3]
 [25.Ncd5!? fxe5 26.Qd3]
25...fxe5 26.Qd3



Qxf4?!

[26...e4

A) 27.Qxe4 Qh7 28.Qxh7 Rxh7
29.Rdf1+-;

B) 27.Nxe4? Qxf4 (27...Bxf4
28.Rgf1 Rhf8 29.Rf2+-) 28.Rgf1
Qxh2±;

C) 27.Qa6+ Ka8 (27...Kc7
28.Nbd5+!) 28.f5!? e3 29.Nbd5!
cxd5 30.Nxd5 Qc6 31.Rg6 d6
32.Re6 Rde8 33.Qd3]

27.Qa6+?

[27.Ncd5 Intending Qa6+ and mate.
Qf2 (27...cxd5 28.Qxd5+ Kc8
29.Rc1+) 28.Qa6+ Ka8 29.Nxc6
dxc6 (29...Rc8 30.Nd4! Bc7 31.Nb5
Bb8 32.Rc1) 30.Rg7 Rd7 31.Rxd7
Qf5+ 32.Ka1 Qxd7 33.Nxb6#]

27...Ka8

(Diagram)

28.Nbd5 cxd5 29.Nxd5

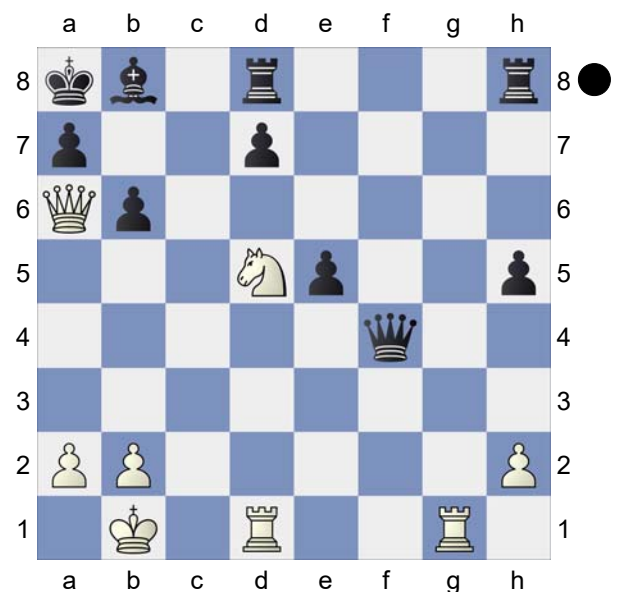
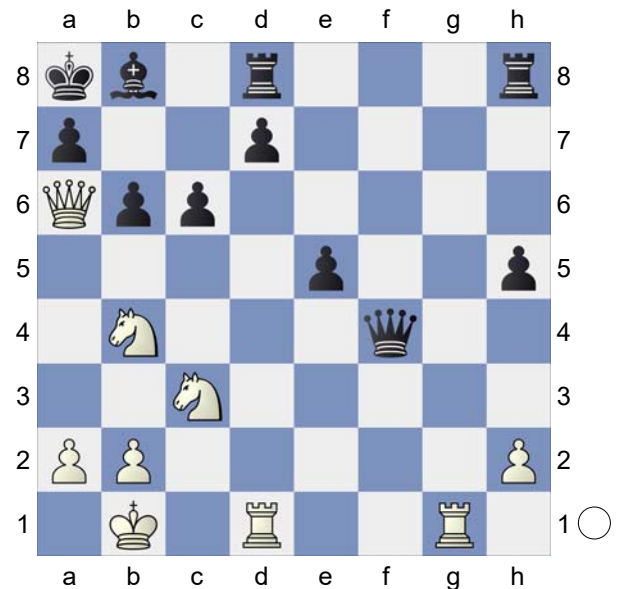
(Diagram)

Qf2??

[29...Qe4+ 30.Ka1 Rh6]
[29...Qf5+ 30.Ka1 Qe6]

30.Rgf1+- Qc5 31.b4?

[31.Rf6!+-



A) 31...Bd6 32.Qd3 Rhg8 33.b4
Qc6 (33...Qd4 34.Qxd4 exd4
35.Rxd6) 34.Rc1;

B) 31...d6 32.b4!+- Qc6
see game]

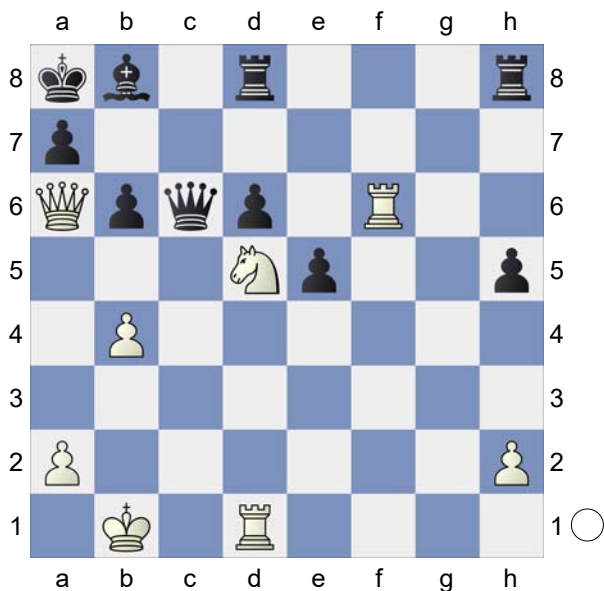
31...Qc6= and ...b5 should not be
overlooked **32.Rf6 d6?**

[32...Bd6!=]

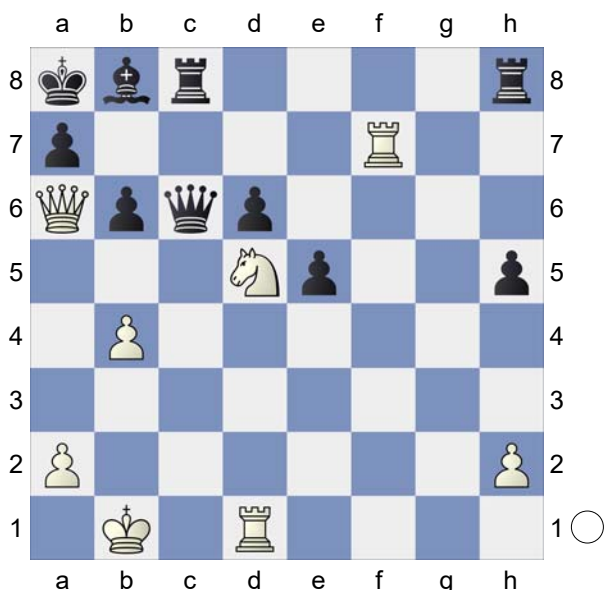
(Diagram)

33.Rf7?±

[33.b5!+- Qb7 34.Qxb7+ Kxb7
35.Rf7+ Bc7 (35...Ka8? 36.Rd3+-)
36.Rc1! (36.Nxc7)]



33...Rc8



34.Ka1?

[34.Qd3!± threatening b5 Qa4 35.Kb2]

34...b5 35.Qa5?

[35.Qxc6+!= ♖ Rxc6 36.a4 bxa4 37.Rb1 (37.b5? Rc5 38.b6 a5 37...Rd8 38.Kb2]

35...Rh8+

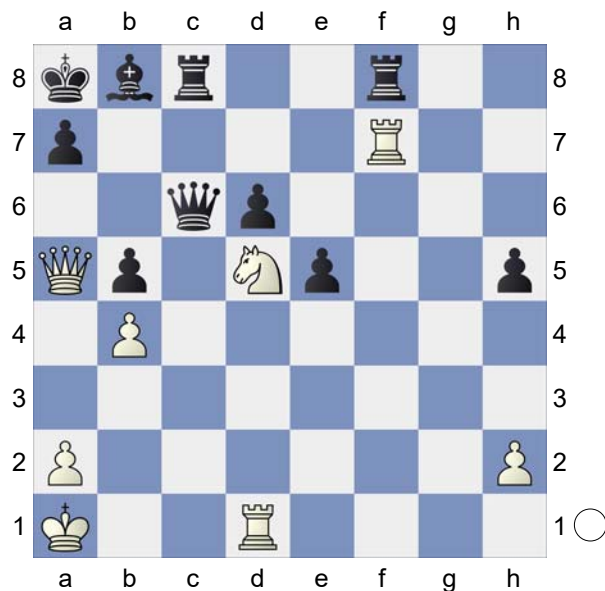
(Diagram)

36.Rxf8 Rxf8 37.Kb1

[37.Qa3 Rf2+]

37...Rc8 (→ ...Qc2+) 38.Ka1 Kb7

39.Qa3 a6 40.Qf3 Ba7 (→ ...Bd4+)



41.Qf7+

[41.Qe4+-+ Qc4 (41...Qc2? 42.Nc3+ Qxe4 43.Nxe4+-+) 42.Nf6+ Rc6 43.Qxc4 Rxc4 (43...bxc4? 44.Kb1+-+) 44.Rxd6 Bd4+ (44...Rxb4? 45.Rd7+ Kb6 46.Nxh5+-+) 45.Kb1 Rxb4+ 46.Kc1]

41...Kb8 42.Qg6 Bd4+ Weighted Error Value: White=0.99/Black=0.71

0-1

E94

♖ **Walder,Michael**

1950

♜ **Shrauger,Alex Hayden**

2216

2026 Summer TNM: 2000+ (6.8) 08.11.26 [TA]

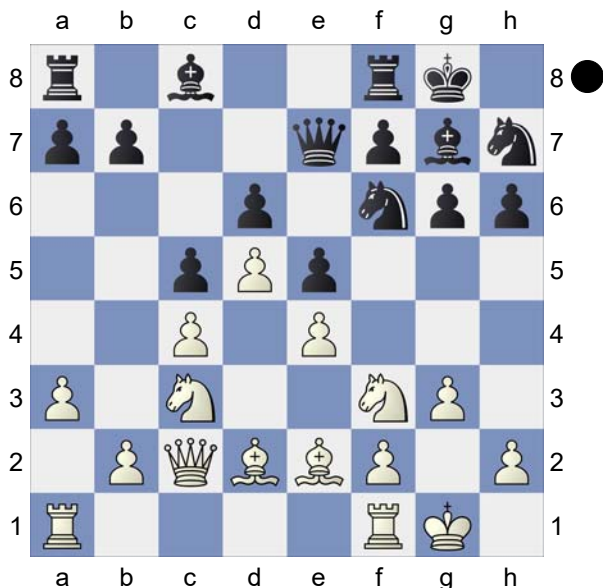
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 Nbd7 7.0-0 e5 8.Be3 Qe7 9.Qc2 c6 10.d5 c5 11.Bg5 h6 12.Bd2 White is much more active.

12...Nh7 White is better.

[Relevant: 12...Nh5 13.g3 Ndf6 14.Kh1 Ng4 15.Nh4 Nf4 16.Bd1 Nh3 17.Bc1 Bf6 18.Ng2 Bg5 19.f4 exf4 20.gxf4 Bh4 21.Bxg4 Bxg4 22.Nxh4 Qxh4 23.Qg2 Rae8 24.Bd2 f5 25.Rae1 fxe4 26.Nxe4 Nxf4 27.Bxf4 Rxf4 28.Nf6+ Qxf6 29.Rxe8+ Kf7 30.Ree1 Bf3 31.Rxf3

Rxf3 32.Qe2 h5 33.Qe8+ Kg7
 34.Qe7+ Qf7 35.Re6 Rf6 36.Re3
 Rf1+ 37.Kg2 Rf2+ 38.Kg1 Rxb2
 39.Qxf7+ Kxf7 40.Re6 Rb6 41.Kg2
 Ra6 42.Kg3 0-1 Navara,D (2681)-
 Amin,B (2636) Julius Baer GenCup D3
 W Chess.com INT rapid 2024 (1.3)]

13.g3 Ndf6 14.a3



Bh3N

[Predecessor: 14...Ne8 15.Rab1 b6
 16.Kg2 Bd7 17.b4 Rc8 18.b5 Rc7
 19.a4 f5 20.Nh4 Qf7 21.f4 exf4
 22.gxf4 Bf6 23.Be1 Ng7 24.Kh1
 Bxc3 25.Bxc3 fxe4 26.Rg1 g5
 27.Rbf1 Qe8 28.fxc5 Rxf1 29.Rxf1
 hxc5 30.Bxc3 Kxc3 31.Qc3+ Kg8
 32.Qg3 Bc8 33.Qxd6 Rd7 34.Qg3
 Rf7 35.Rxf7 Qxf7 36.Ng2 Qf6 37.h3
 Nf8 38.Kh2 Ng6 39.Bg4 Bxc3
 40.Qxc3 Qe5+ 41.Qg3 Kf7
 ½-½ Gozzoli,Y (2597)-Oratovsky,M
 (2412) Catalunya-chT Gp2 Barcelona
 2022 (6.1)]

15.Rfe1 Ng4 1.41/26

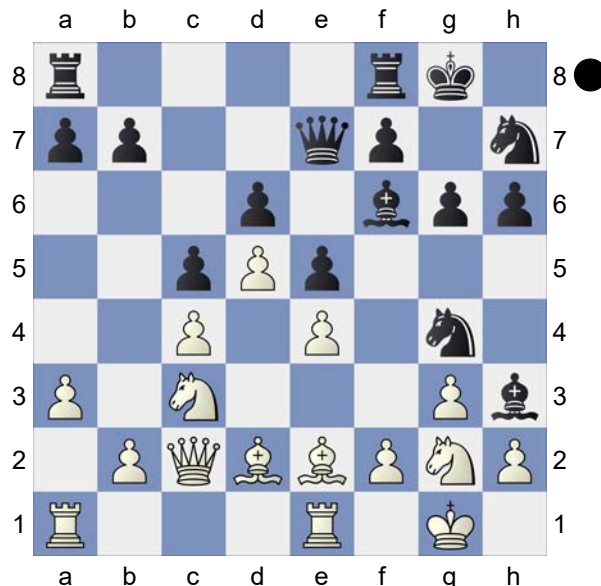
[15...Rab8 1.04/25]

16.Nh4 0.94/28

[16...Bf1 1.41/26 Bxf1 17.Rxf1]

16...Bf6± 17.Ng2

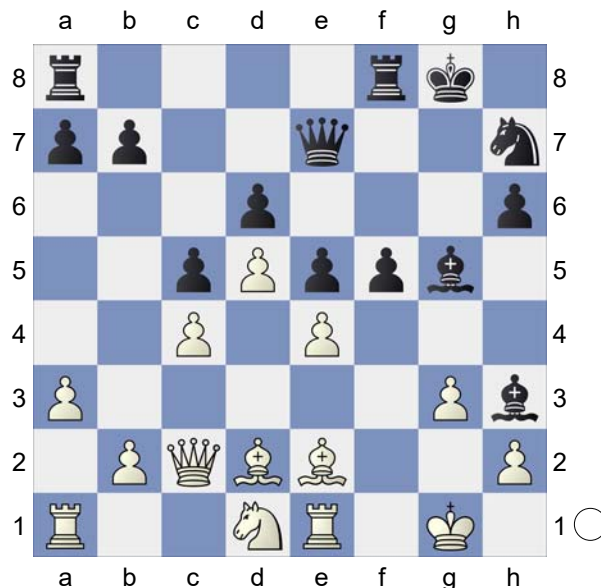
(Diagram)



Bg5! 18.f3 0.09/34

[18.f4± 0.64/28 Bf6 19.f5]

**18...Bxc2= 19.fxc4 Bh3 20.Nd1! f5
 21.gxf5 gxf5**



Strongly threatening ...f4. **22.Nf2 Bxd2
 23.Qxd2 Ng5 24.Nxh3 Nxh3+ 25.Kg2
 Qg5 26.Qxc5+ Nxc5 27.exf5 Rxf5
 28.h4 Nh7!**

[28...Ne4? 29.Bd3+-]

29.Bg4↑ White has the initiative. **29...Rf6
 1.13/23**

[Black should try 29...Rff8± 0.45/30]

30.b4± Black must now prevent bxc5.
**30...b6 31.bxc5 bxc5 32.Rab1 Raf8
 2.33/25**

[32...Kh8 1.74/26 33.a4 Rf7]

33.Re2+- Rg6 34.Be6+ Kh8 35.Rb7

1.08/25

[35.Rb3+- 2.58/26 has better winning chances.]

35...Rg7? 3.73/14

[35...Nf6± 1.08/25]

36.Reb2 Nf6 37.Rxg7 Kxg7

Endgame KRB-KRN **38.Rb7+ Kh8**

39.g4

[39.Rxa7 Ne4±]

39...Ne4 40.Bf5

[40.Rxa7 Rf2+ 41.Kg1 Rb2±]

40...Nd2 41.Rxa7 Nxc4 42.Kf3?

0.26/24

[42.Rh7+- 2.84/23 Kg8 43.Rxh6]

42...Rb8? 2.75/22

[42...h5!= 0.26/24 43.Rh7+ Kg8 44.Rxh5 Ra8]

43.Be6? 0.16/26

[White should try 43.Rh7+- 2.75/22 Kg8 44.Rxh6]

43...Rf8+= 44.Ke2 1.15/21

[44.Bf5 0.75/23]

44...Rf4? 6.69/13

[44...e4± 1.15/21]

45.g5+- White is clearly winning.

45...Re4+ 46.Kf2 Rf4+ 47.Kg3 hxg5

48.hxg5 White wants to mate with g6.

48...Ne3 49.g6 Nf5+ 50.Kh2 Rh4+

51.Kg1 Rg4+ 52.Kf2 Rxg6 53.Bxf5

[Stronger than 53.Ra8+ Kg7=]

53...Rf6 54.Rh7+ Kg8 55.Rh5 Kg7

56.Ke3 Weighted Error Value: White=0.

31/Black=0.54

1-0

□ **Heiserman,Jimmy**

■ **Yoo,Christopher Woojin**

2026 Summer TNM: 2000+ (7.1) 18.08.26

[Winslow,Elliott]

A33

2270

2665

This is hard to believe. Christopher Yoo was a half point head of the field, having taken a couple of half-point byes even;

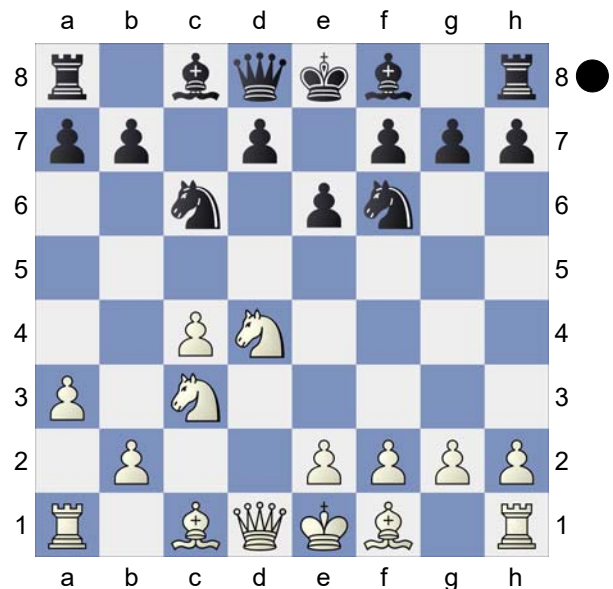
he completely outplays Jimmy

Heiserman on Board 1, cruises into a winning ending (well, some would say queenless middlegame), and ... hangs a rook, to a famous tactic. A few more moves played, and then just left. **1.Nf3**

45 c5 49 2.c4 21 Nc6 46 3.d4 34

cx d4 8 4.Nxd4 5 Nf6 1:42 5.Nc3 14 e6

35 6.a3 2:24



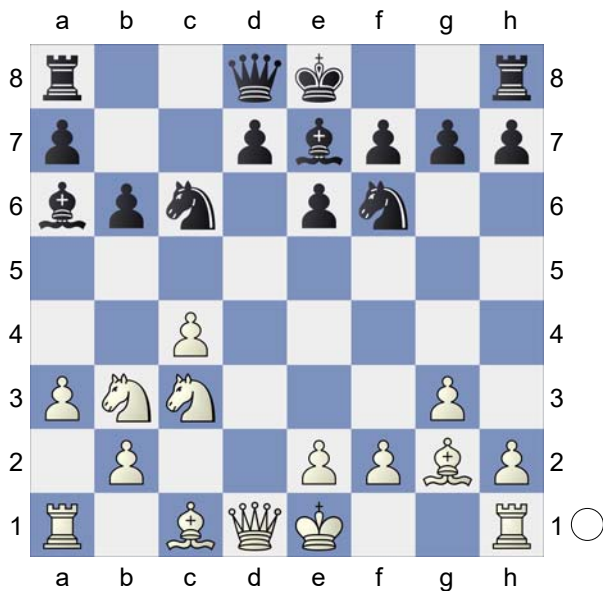
...Bb4 is annoying enough that over the last hundred years, people will just stop it for good. Including some superstars.

6...Bc5 8:11

[6...Nxd4 7.Qxd4 b6 8.Bf4 Bc5 9.Qd2 0-0 10.Rd1 Bb7 11.Bd6 Bxd6 12.Qxd6 Rc8 13.e3 Re8 14.f3 Rc6 15.Qd4 Ba6 16.Ne4 Nxe4 17.Qxe4 Qc7 18.Bd3 g6 19.b3 d5 20.cxd5 Bxd3 21.Qxd3 exd5 22.Kf2 Rc3 23.Qxd5 Rcxe3 24.Rd2 Qe7 25.Kg3 Rxb3 26.a4 Rb4 27.Rd4 Rxd4 28.Qxd4 Qg5+ 29.Kh3 Re2 30.Rg1 Qh5+ 31.Kg3 Qg5+ 32.Kh3 Rd2 33.Qc3 Ra2 34.Qd4 h6 35.Qc4 Qh5+ 36.Kg3 Qe5+ 37.Kh3 Rd2 38.Qh4 Qf5+ 39.Kg3 g5 40.Qxh6 Qf4+ 0-1 (40) Karpov,A (2760)-Timman,J (2620) FIDE-Wch, NED/INA 1993]

7.Nb3 27 Be7 25 7...Be7 has become a bit dusty these days. **8.g3 5:46 b6 6:28**

9.Bg2 2:20 Ba6 10



10.Nb5 16:16

[10.Nd2]

10...d5N 1:50

[10...0-0 11.Bf4 Rc8 12.Nd6 Bxd6

13.Bxd6 Re8 14.Nd2 Na5 15.b3

Nb7 16.Be5 d5 0-1 (43)

Shchekachev,A (2519)-Gharamian,T (2661) Bastia 2012]

11.Bf4 20:50 Rc8 49 12.cxd5 10:20

[12.a4=]

12...Nxd5 8 13.N5d4 6:57

[13.a4 13]

13...Nxd4+ 2:21 14.Nxd4 1:52 Nxf4 41

15.gxf4 2:43 Qd7 2:02 16.Nf3 13:34

Bf6 5:26

[16...Qb5!-+ and Black stays clearly on top. 17.Nd4 Qxb2]

17.Ne5 2:59

[17.Qxd7+ 17 Kxd7 18.Ne5+ Ke8 19.h4]

(Diagram)

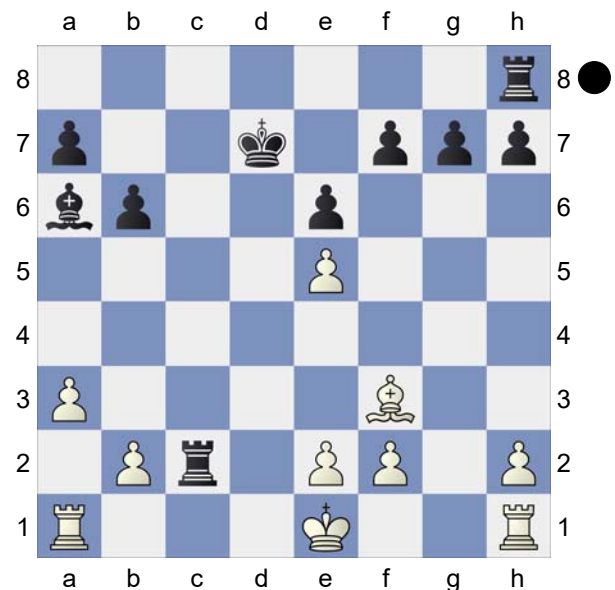
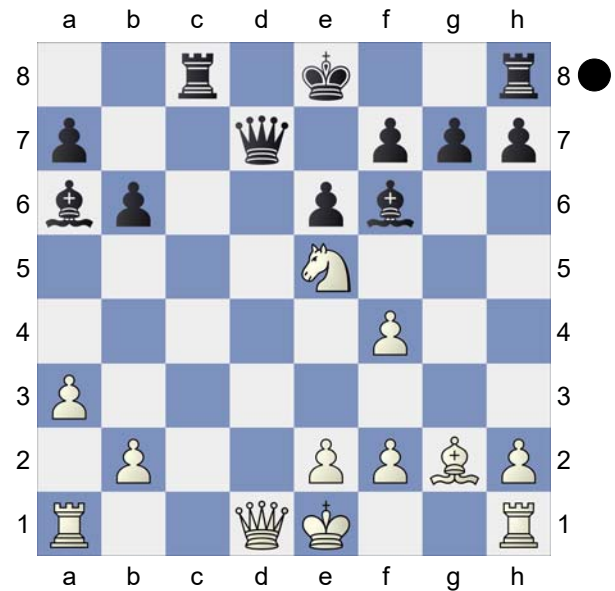
17...Bxe5? 38

[17...Qxd1!-+ 18.Rxd1 Bb5]

18.Qxd7+ 1:46 Kxd7 10 19.fxe5 2

Rc2 26 20.Bf3?! 36

[20.Rd1+ Ke7 21.Rd2 Rbc8 13]



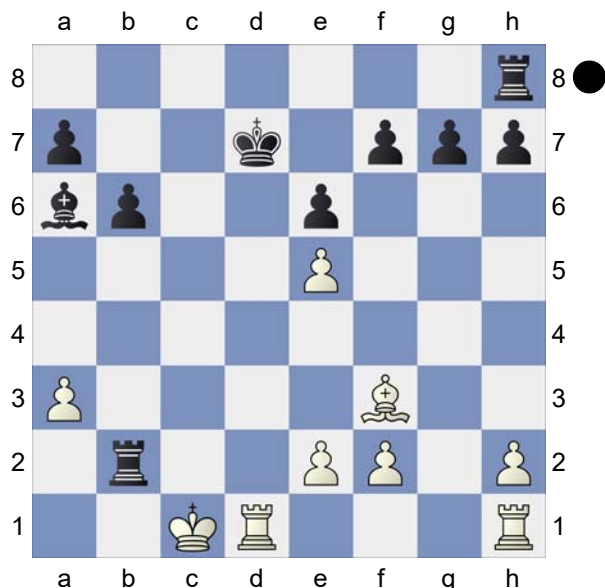
20...Rxb2?? 1:48 Right out of a book on tactics. And yes, White's next move is legal.

[20...Rhc8 21.Rg1 Rc1+ (21...Rxb2 22.Rxg7 Ke8 23.Rg8+ Ke7 24.Rxc8=) 22.Kd2 R8c2+ 23.Ke3 Rxa1 24.Rxa1 Rxb2-+ White could play on. It won't help.]

21.0-0-0+- 10

(Diagram)

Check. **21...Ke7 46 22.Kxb2 6 Rc8 1:23 23.Rc1 7 Bc4 3 24.Rhg1 1:46 g6 15 25.Rg4 1:23 b5 4 26.e3 2:02 a6 3:23 27.Rh4 19 Rd8 1:24 28.Rd4 25**



**Rb8 10 29.Rcd1 12 Rc8 57 30.Rd7+ 7
Ke8 3 31.Ra7 9 b4 36 32.axb4 9**
Weighted Error Value: White=0.27
(precise) /Black=0.59
1-0

□ Winslow, Elliott

D27

■ Chen, Quincy

2200

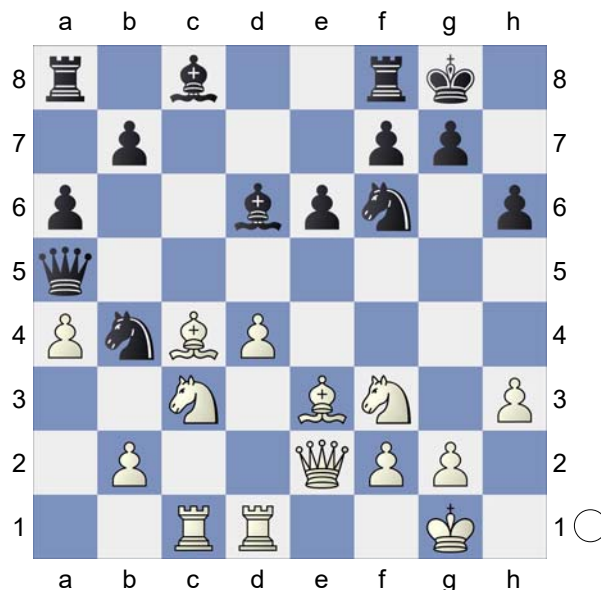
2150

2026 Summer TNM: 2000+ (7.2) 18.08.26
[Winslow, Elliott]

I wince just looking at this! Chen, by winning tied for 1st-2nd with Heiserman. Had I won, it would have been me. I don't know why, but I was unconfident in this game, surprised by the Queen's Gambit Accepted (to which I'd lost a few weeks earlier, to Theo Coyne), and I was just missing tactics. In fact I had a number of wins, especially 22.Bd3! In any case, well done by Chen! **1.d4 1:32 d5 24 2.c4 1:58 dxc4 17 3.Nf3 24 Nf6 11 4.e3 1:06 e6 15 5.Bxc4 9 c5 24 6.0-0 52 a6 10 7.a4 2:25 Nc6 1:32 8.Qe2 cxd4 48 8...Qc7 is vanishing. 9.Rd1! 5 Bd6 1:41 10.exd4 44 0-0 33 11.Nc3 45 h6 8:16 Wards off Bg5. 12.h3 2:55 Qc7 3:10 13.Be3 2:59**
[13.Ne4!?]

[13.Bd3!?]

13...Nb4 6:26 14.Rac1 3:58 Qa5 1:43
[14...Qe7=]



15.Qd2N 5:21

[15.Ne5!±

A) 15...Bxe5?! 16.dxe5 Qxe5 17.f4!

A1) 17...Qf5 18.g4 Qa5

19.Bd4± and Black's best try is to give the pawn back immediately:

b5 20.axb5 axb5 21.Bb3!

White doesn't have to take

(21.Bxb5? Ba6=) 21...Bb7

22.g5± with quite an attack!;

A2) 17...Qc7;

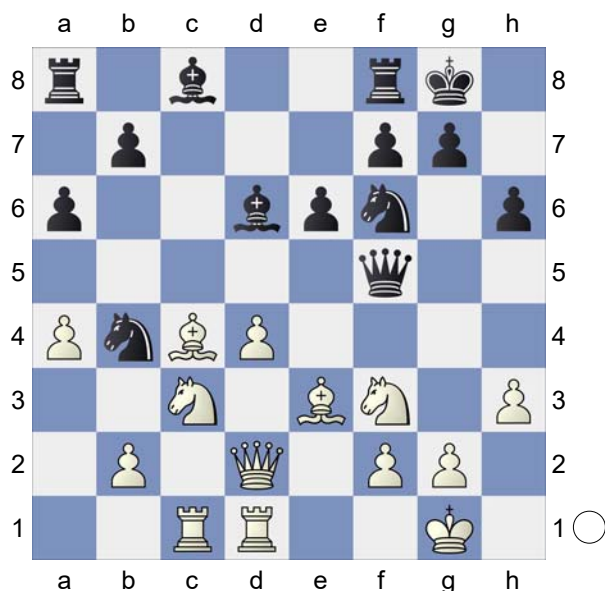
B) 15...Nbd5!? would be best, but that is Black retreating into the d5 blockade, when White has some considerable (but maybe restrainable) plus with 16.Bd2± (or, who knows, my favorite maneuver: the rook lift (SF makes it a bit worse than the other) 16.Rd3±);

C) 15...Bd7? 16.Qd2 Bc6 17.Bxh6 gxh6 18.Qxh6 Bd5 19.Bd3 Nxd3 20.Rxd3 Nh7 21.Rg3+ 1-0 (22) Alterman,V (2350)-Jentsch,D (2176) Dresden 2007 It must be obvious where Black veered off

track...]

15...Qf5 11:08

[15...Rd8!= -- Stockfish even gives some "-" in the -0.05 range.]



16.Ne5!± 8:55 A nice pawn sacrifice -- I just wish (1) I'd seen it a move ago (2) I'd believed in it and not been so generally skeptical of my position

16...Nfd5± 10:11

[16...Bxe5?! 17.dxe5 Qxe5 18.f4±]

[16...Bd7!? 17.g4 (17.Nxd7 Nxd7 18.d5 e5! (no open board for the two Bs)) 17...Qh7]

17.g4 4:53

[17.Bb3!±]

17...Qh7± 3:07 /= **18.Be2** 20:24 **f5** 19:45

[18...g5=]

19.f3 4:07

[19.Nxd5± exd5 20.Rf1]

19...Bxe5 2:17 **20.dxe5** 9

(Diagram)

b6?! 1:49 Against Bc5

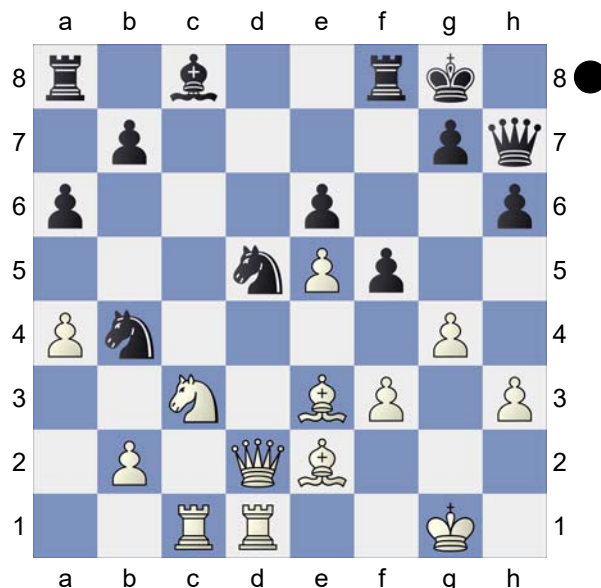
[Black should try 20...Bd7!±]

21.Nxd5+ 5:14 **Nxd5** 9 **22.Rc6?** 46

[White has 22.Bd3!+- (+2.29/21) That queen on h7 matters!]

22...Bd7= 40 **23.Rd6** 20 **Bxa4** 30

24.Ra1 1:05 **Bb5** 7:18 **25.Bxb5** 9:12



axb5 13 **26.Rxa8** 58 **Rxa8** 4 **27.Rxd5**= 7:15 0.00

[27.Rxe6= 0.00]

[27.Kf2= 0.00]

27...Ra1+ 9 **28.Kg2** 26 **exd5** 11

29.Qxd5+ 43 Endgame KQR-KQB

29...Kh8 10 **30.e6** 1:03 **fxg4** 56

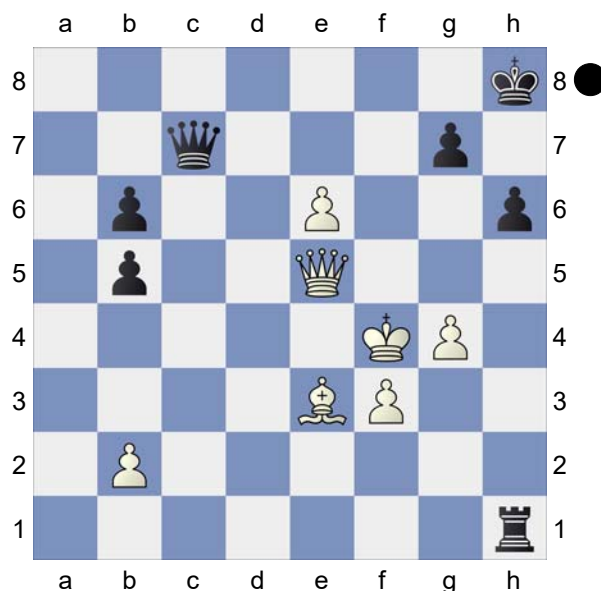
31.hxg4 6:28 **Qc2**+ 2:33 **32.Kg3** 46

Rh1 8:10 **33.Kf4** 46

[33.Bd2= is more appropriate (I completely missed this!) Qc7+ (33...Qxb2 34.e7 Rg1+ 35.Kf2) 34.f4 Rg1+ 35.Kh3]

33...Qc7+ 2:08 **34.Qe5?** 2:53

[34.Ke4 2:53]

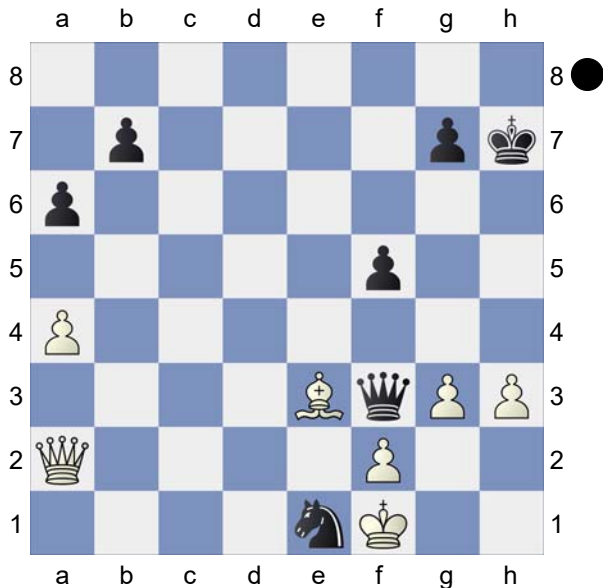


0-1

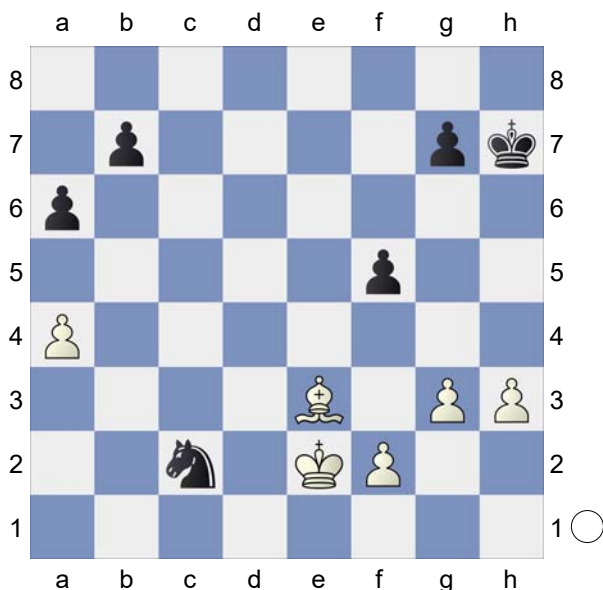
This line has always been troublesome for both sides; Powers was first to step on a landmine, but Mercado missed the opportunity -- then a few moves later

**32.g3?!
[32.Qd5 Qxa4 33.Qd7 a5 34.Kh2
Qh4 35.f4 Nd8 36.Nxg7 Qf6!**

(36...Kxg7?? 37.g3 Qf6 38.Bd4)
 37.Ne8 Qe6 38.Qd4 Qf7 39.Nc7
 Qf6 40.Qd3 Qd6 41.Nd5 Bf8+]
32...Qe1+?
 [32...Qe4!-+]
33.Kg2 Qd1 34.Nf4 g5 35.Ne6 Ne5
36.Nxg5+ Bxg5 37.Bxg5 Qf3+ 38.Kg1
Nd3 39.Be3 Ne1 40.Kf1=

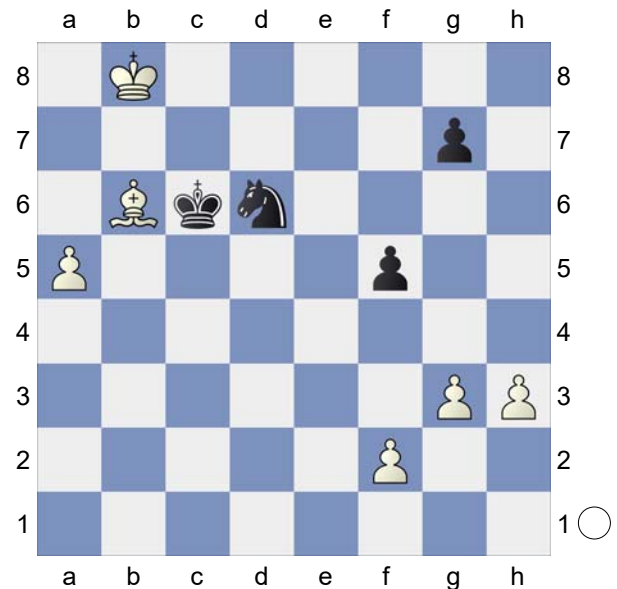


Qd1?? 41.Qe2!+- Qxe2+ 42.Kxe2 Nc2



43.Bc5! Na1 44.Kd3 Nb3 45.Bb6
Nc1+ 46.Kc4 The far-better king wins
 the game. **46...Kg6 47.Kd5 Nd3**
48.Kd6 Nb2 49.a5 Nc4+ 50.Kc7 Kf7
51.Kxb7 Ke6 52.Kxa6 Kd7 53.Kb7
Nd6+ 54.Kb8 Kc6

(Diagram)



55.a6 Kxb6 56.a7 Ne8 57.a8Q
1-0

□ **Turner,Robert** **B07**
 ■ **Hallman,Justin Adam** **1409**
 2026 Summer TNM: u1600 (7.29) 18.8.26
 [Winslow,Elliott]

Life in the trenches! I can't keep count of
 how many times the win changed hands
 in this one game! **1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6**
3.Nc3 c6 4.f4 Qa5 5.Bd3 Bg4 6.Nf3
e5 7.Be3 Nbd7 8.Qd2 Bxf3 9.gxf3
exd4 10.Bxd4± c5?! 11.Be3
 [11.Bxf6!]

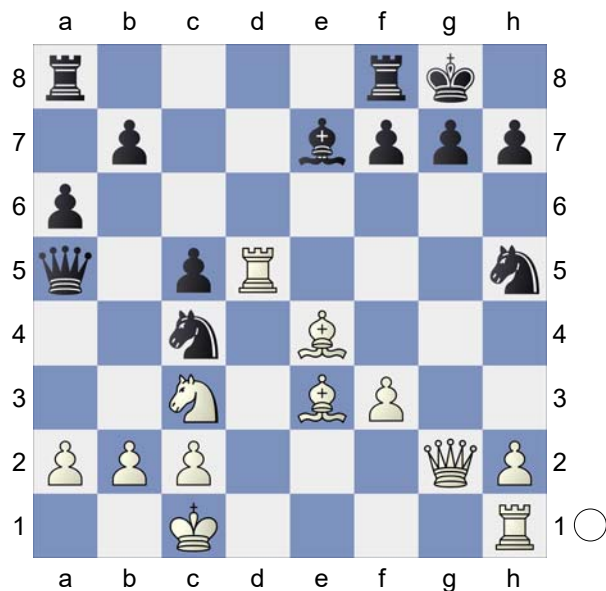
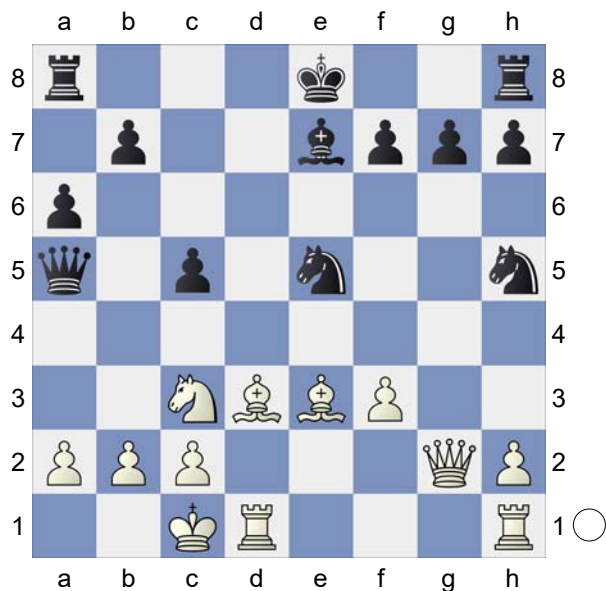
11...Be7 12.0-0-0+- a6 13.Qg2 Nh5
14.e5 dxe5 15.fxe5 Nxe5

(Diagram)

16.Be4??

(Diagram)

(So many winning moves: 16.f4, 16.Nd5,
 16.Be2, 16.Bg5, 16.Rhg1, 16.Kb1)
16...0-0??
 [16...Nc4!-+ 17.Nd5 Qxa2 18.c3
 Qa1+ 19.Bb1 (19.Kc2??? Qxb2+



20.Kd3 Ne5#) 19...Nxe3 20.Nxe3
0-0!-+]
17.Rd5 Nc4

(Diagram)

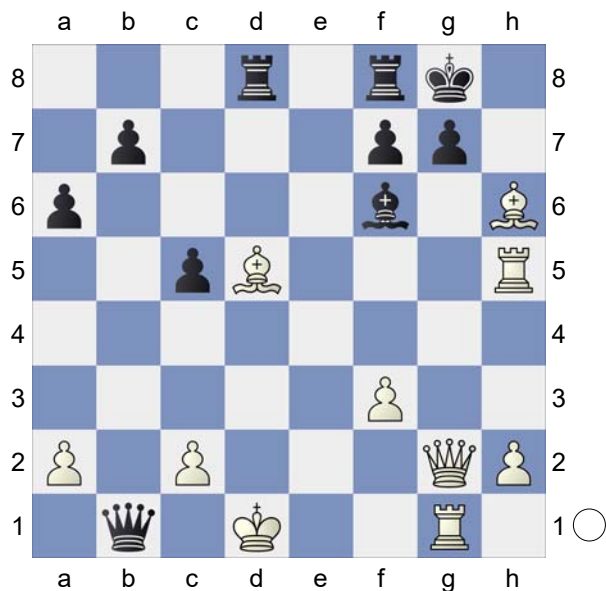
18.Bh6??
[18.Bxh7+! Kxh7 19.Rxh5+ Kg8
20.Qh3 f6 21.Rh8+ Kf7 22.Qh5+ g6
23.Rh7+ Ke8 24.Qxg6+]
[18.Rxh5! g6 19.Nd5!]

18...Bf6??
[18...f5!-+]
19.Rxh5+- Bxc3?
[19...g6!?]
20.Bxh7+ Kh8

21.Bd3+-
[21.Bxg7+! Bxg7 22.Bd3+ Kg8
23.Rh8+! Kxh8 24.Qh3+ Bh6+
25.Qxh6+ Kg8 26.Qh7#]
21...Bxb2+ 22.Kb1
[22.Kd1! mate in 10!]
22...Kg8 23.Rg1 Bf6 24.Bxc4 Qb4+
25.Bb3 Qd4 26.Kc1 Qb2+ 27.Kd1
Rad8+ 28.Bd5 Qb1+

(Diagram)

29.Kd2?
[29.Ke2? Qxc2+-+]
[29.Bc1!+- Qxa2 30.Qd2!+- □]
29...Qb4+ □ 30.Kd1



[30.Ke2 Rxd5!-+ 31.Rxd5 Qc4+
32.Rd3 Qxc2+]

**A) 33.Rd2 Re8+ 34.Be3 Qc4+
35.Kd1 Qc3! 36.Re1 Qa1+
37.Ke2 Rxe3+ 38.Kxe3 Qxe1+
39.Kd3 (39.Qe2 Qg1+) 39...c4+!**
(others also win);

B) 33.Bd2]

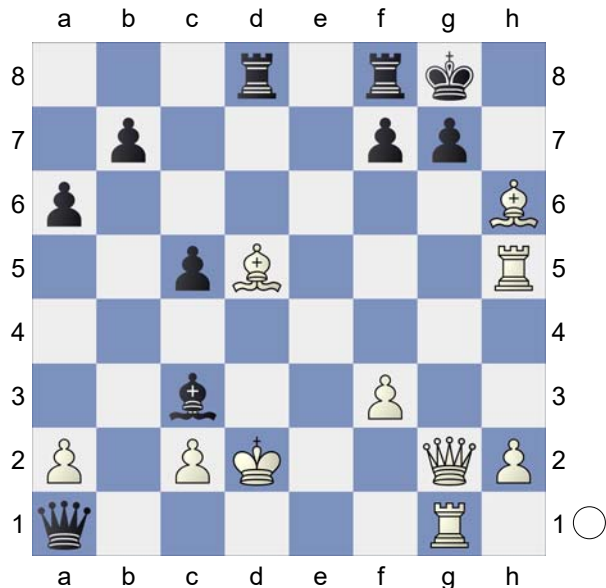
30...Qd4+! □ 31.Kc1 Qa1+

[31...Rfe8!]

32.Kd2 Bc3+?

[32...Qc3+-+]

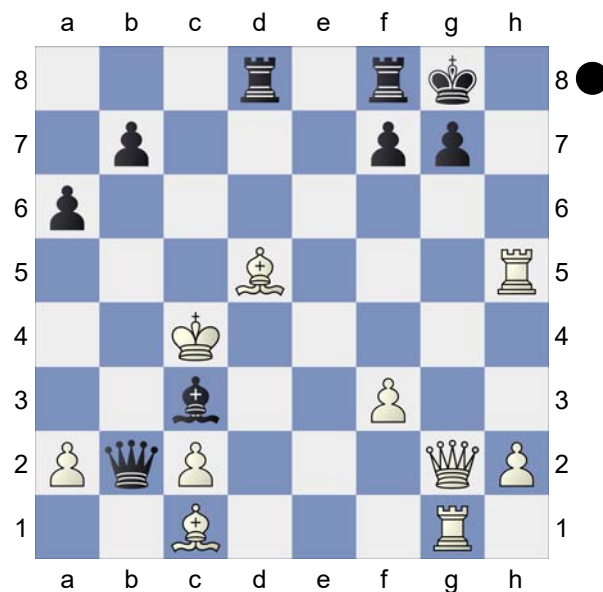
[32...Qd4+ 33.Kc1 Rfe8!-+]



33.Kd3?

[33.Ke2! Rfe8+ 34.Be4+-]

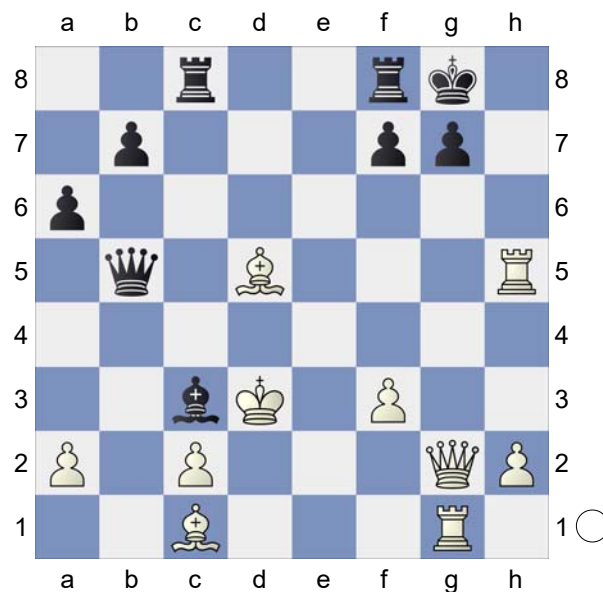
33...Qb2 34.Bc1 c4+! 35.Kxc4
[35.Ke4!?±]



35...Rc8+?

[35...Qb4+! 36.Kd3 Qd4+ (36...Bf6=
37.Ke2 Rxd5 38.Rxd5 Qc4+ 39.Rd3
Qxc2+ 40.Bd2 Re8+ 41.Re3 Rxe3+
42.Kxe3 Qc5+ 43.Ke2 Qc4+ 44.Kd1
Qa4+=)]

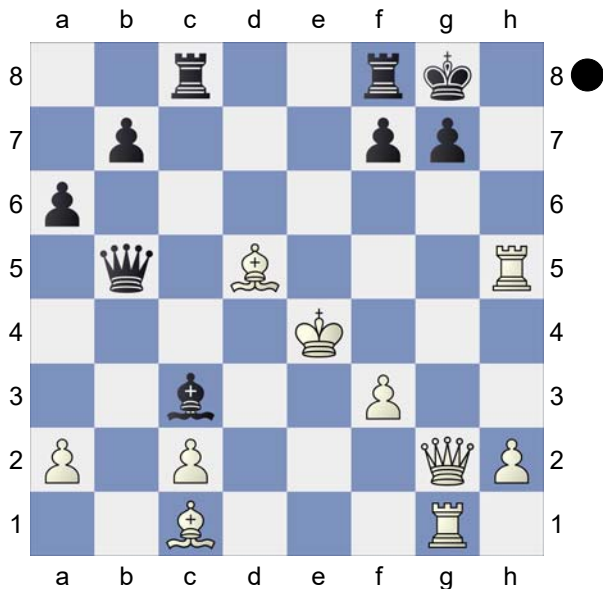
36.Kd3 Qb5+



37.Ke4??

[37.Ke3!+-]

(Diagram)

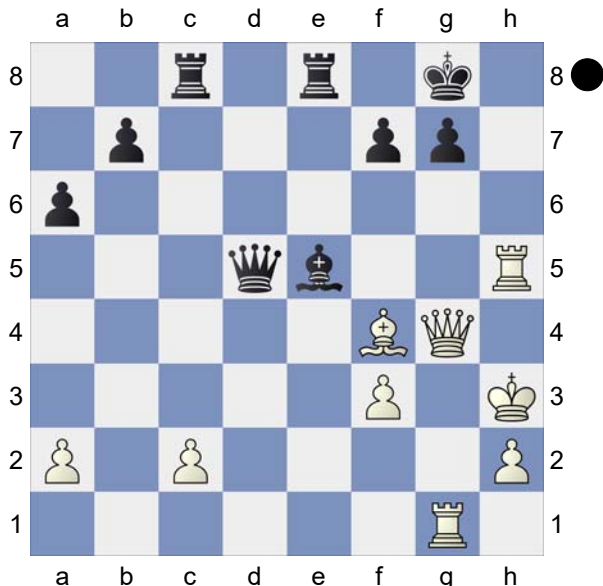


37...Rfe8+?

[37...Rc4+!! 38.Bxc4 Qxc4+ 39.Kf5 (39.Ke3 Qd4+ 40.Ke2 Re8+) 39...g6+ (39...Rc8!) 40.Kg5 Qd5+ 41.Kg4 Qxh5+]
[37...Rc5+ 38.Qh3 Qb4+ 39.Kd3 Qd4+ 40.Ke2 Re8+ 41.Be4 Rxh5 42.Qxh5 Rxe4+ 43.fxe4 Qxg1 44.Qh3! Qc5! 45.Bf4!+]

38.Kf4 Qa4+ 39.Kg3 Be5+ 40.Kh3 Qd7+ 41.Qg4! □ only move! 41...Qxd5 42.Bf4??

[42.Bb2! □ only move to win!]



42...Bf6??

[42...Rc4!= 43.Rg5!?

A) 43...Rxf4? 44.Qxf4± Re6 (44...Qe6+ 45.Qg4+-) 45.Qg4!;

B) 43...g6? 44.Re1!+-;

C) 43...Qe6! 44.Qxe6 Rxe6 45.Bxe5 Rh6+ 46.Kg3 f6= 47.Bxf6 Rxf6 48.Rg2 Rc3 49.Rf2 b6]

43.Rxd5+- Rxc2 44.Rgd1 Rcc8

45.Bh6 g6 46.Rg1 Kh7 47.Rd7! Kg8

48.Qf4 Re6 49.Rxg6+ fxg6 50.Qg4 1-0

C42

□ **Wang,Chase**

1951

■ **Heiserman,Jimmy**

2299

2026 Fall TNM: 2000+ (1.1) 01.09.2026 [TA]

This curious 5.Nc3 Nxc3 6.dxc3 line just goes on and on; opposite sides castling makes for mutual chances. Wang lost his way early though, and Heiserman's queenside attack came fast. That Chase's queen was a frequent tempo target definitely didn't help. Note a number of sharp pawn advances for Black! Nice win by Heiserman. 1.e4 2 e5 8 2.Nf3 6 Nf6 5 3.Nxe5 31 d6 6 4.Nf3 6 Nxe4 5 5.Nc3 1:00 Nxc3 7 6.dxc3 6 Be7 7 7.Be3 35 Nd7 7 8.Qd2 59 0-0 14 9.0-0-0 1:54 Re8 3:31 10.Bd3 3:28 The position is equal. 10...Nf6 27

11.Rde1 5:06 c5 6:43 12.h3N 7:10

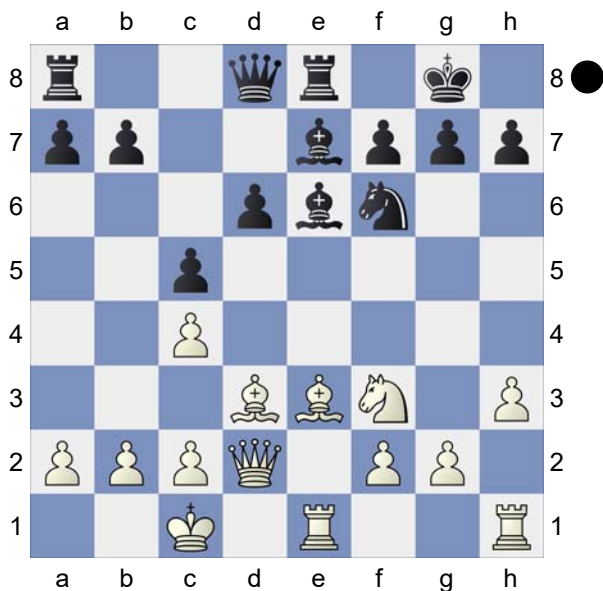
[12.Bg5= keeps the balance: Be6 13.Kb1 c4 14.Bf1 d5 15.Qf4 Qb6 16.Qh4 Ba3 17.Bc1 Ne4 18.Rxe4 dxe4 1-0 (79) Hansen,E (2606)-Paravyan,D (2617) Chess.com INT 2022]

12...Be6+ 9:25 13.c4 13:14

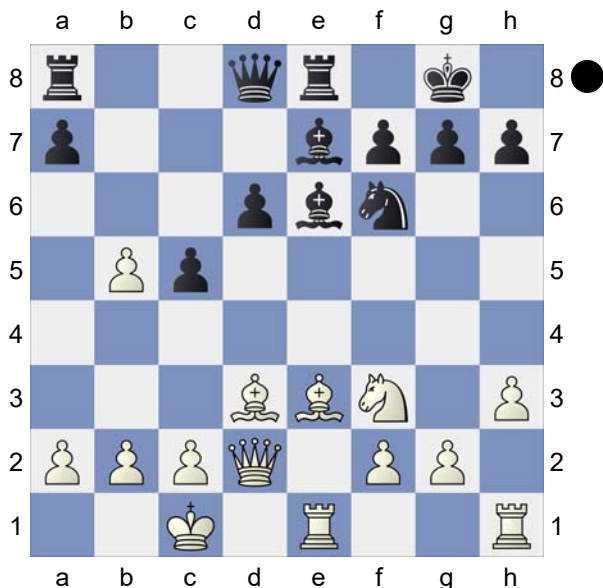
[13.Kb1+ might work better.]

(Diagram)

13...b5!-+ 9:19 14.cxb5 7:52



[14.Ng5 Bxc4]



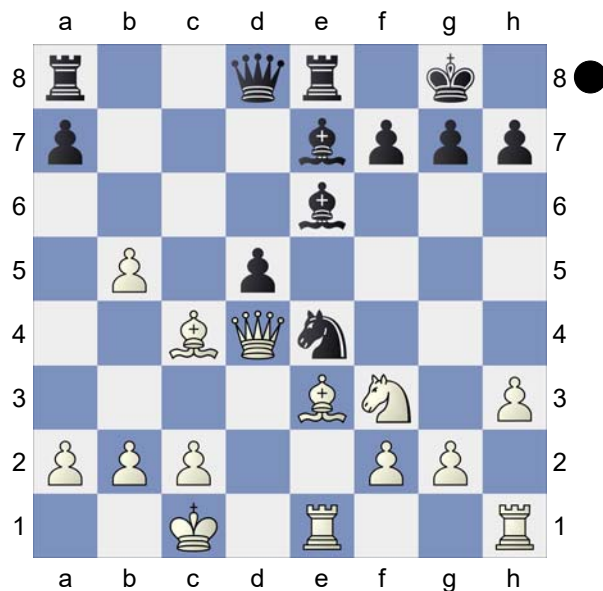
14...c4! 7:30 15.Be2 2:21 Ne4 4:08
16.Qd4 6:43 d5 41 17.Bxc4 9:31

(Diagram)

Bf6! 3:07 18.Qd3 1:07 dxc4 2:29
19.Qxe4 14 Bd5 2:20 20.Qf5 6:16 g6
3:23 21.Qf4 48 Re4 2:41 White's queen
is quite the punching bag in this game.
22.Qh6 4:17

(Diagram)

c3! 25 23.b3 2:59

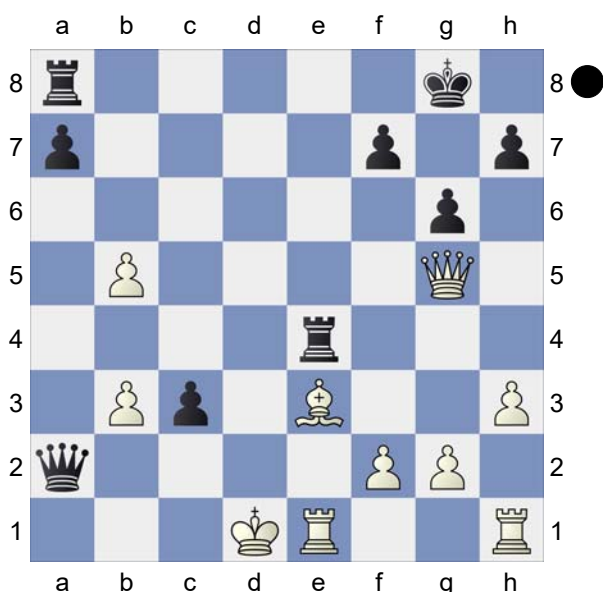
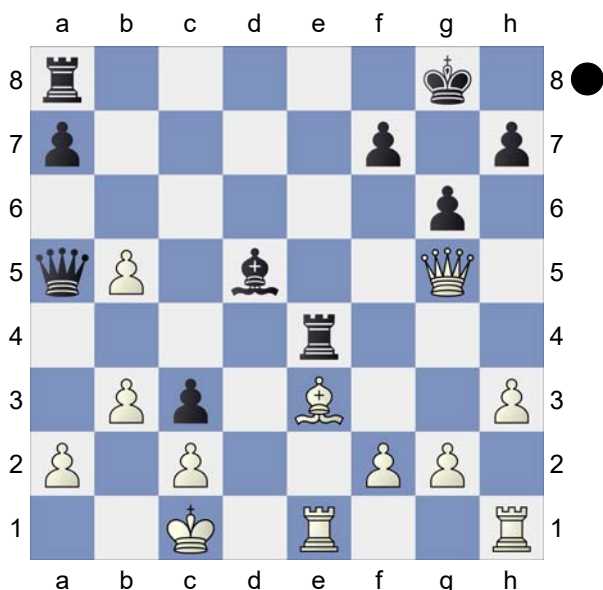


[23.bxc3 Bg7 (23...Bxc3?
too greedy. 24.Ng5+-) 24.Qg5]
23...Qa5 11:07 24.Ng5 1:33 Bxg5 1:17
25.Qxg5 3:56

(Diagram)

Qxa2! 27 26.Kd1 18 Bxb3! 3:12
(among others)
[26...Qb1+ 27.Ke2 Qxc2+ 28.Kf1
Qd3+ (28...Bxb3? 29.Kg1♯;
28...Qxb3? 29.f3+-) 29.Kg1+-]
27.cxb3 41
[27.Ke2+-]

(Diagram)

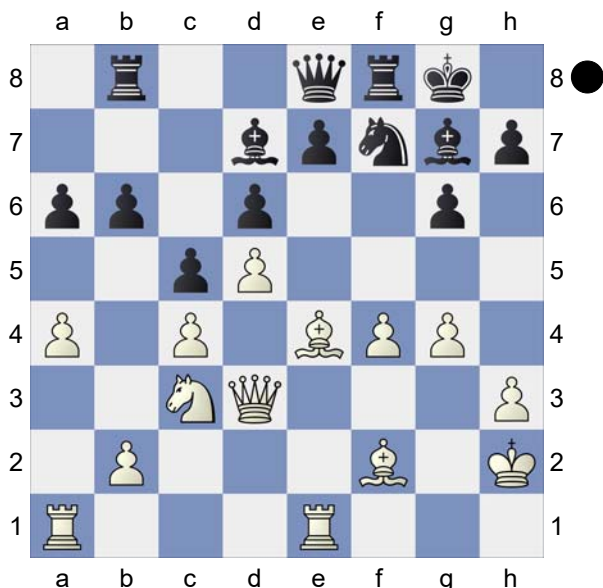


27...Rxe3! 40 28.Qxe3 39 Rd8+ 8 29.Qd4 10 Rxd4+ 6 30.Kc1 2 Qb2# 7
 Black took control after the opening.
 Beautiful play by Heiserman! Weighted
 Error Value: White=0.71/Black=0.18
 (very precise)
0-1

A47
2247
1933
 2026 Fall TNM: 2000+ (1.2) 01.09.2026
 [TA]

Sen Samir had a smooth ascent to master ten years ago, then basically didn't play until this game. Here Hector Viadiu played a difficult system, allowing his queen bishop to be kicked around, White gaining space as it went. Still, Black developed counterplay on the f-file, White's king was uncomfortable, and all was fine -- but allowing the pawn to get to d7 was a bit too much. White held on to the piece and brought about a won ending. **1.d4 1 Nf6 28 2.Nf3 13 c5 1:43 3.e3 8 b6 7 4.c4 2:46 g6 29 5.Bd3 1:59 Bg7 8 6.Nc3 23 0-0 1:11 7.d5± 1:09** White is more active. **7...d6 1:36 8.e4 49** White is better. **8...Nbd7 5:02 9.0-0 25 Ng4 3:52 10.h3N 1:46** [10.Re1 Nge5 11.Bf1 Ba6 12.Nd2 f5 13.f4 Ng4 14.Nf3 fxe4 15.Nxe4 h6 16.h3 1-0 (29) Polig,D-Schaeferhoff,H Schloss Schney 1994] **10...Nge5 10 11.Nxe5 20 Nxe5 12 12.Be2 1:53 f5 1:16 13.f4 1:24 Nf7 15 14.exf5 2:32 Bd4+ 7:29 15.Kh2 1:34 Bxf5 47 16.g4 41 Bd7 1:00 17.Bf3 2:22 Rb8 6:37 18.Re1 2:56** [18.Nb5± Bxb5 19.cxb5] **18...Re8 6:25** [18...b5= remains equal.] **19.Be3 7:17** [19.Nb5± Bxb5 20.cxb5] **19...Bg7 2:31 20.Qd3 2:13 a6 2:09 21.a4 45 Rf8 2:04 22.Be4 6:12** [22.Bd1±] **22...Qe8!± 2:51 23.Bf2 57** [White should try 23.Qc2±]

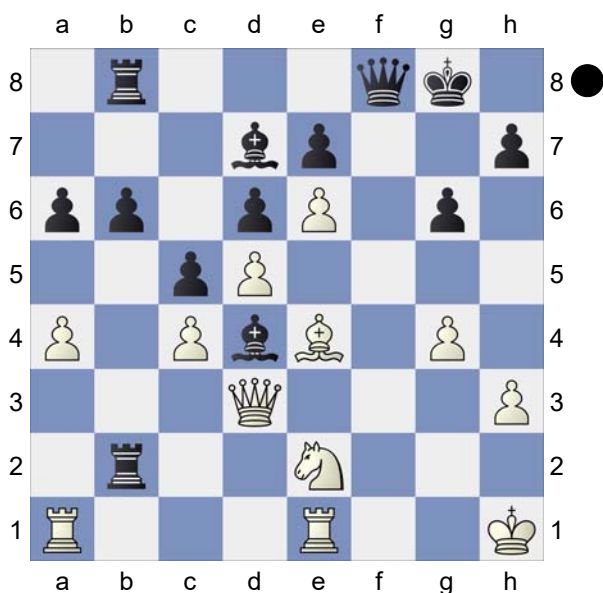
(Diagram)



23...Ne5! 16:38 **24.fxe5** 36 **Rxf2+** 36
25.Kg1 14 **Rxb2** 1:16 **26.e6** 1:08
Bd4+ 5:56

[26...Bxa4!? 27.Nxa4 (27.Rxa4?
 is the wrong capture. **Bd4+** 28.Kh1
 Rb3+) 27...Rb4=]

27.Kh1 59 **Qf8!** 5:28 **28.Ne2** 18:52



Qf2?? 4:31 Bad timing.

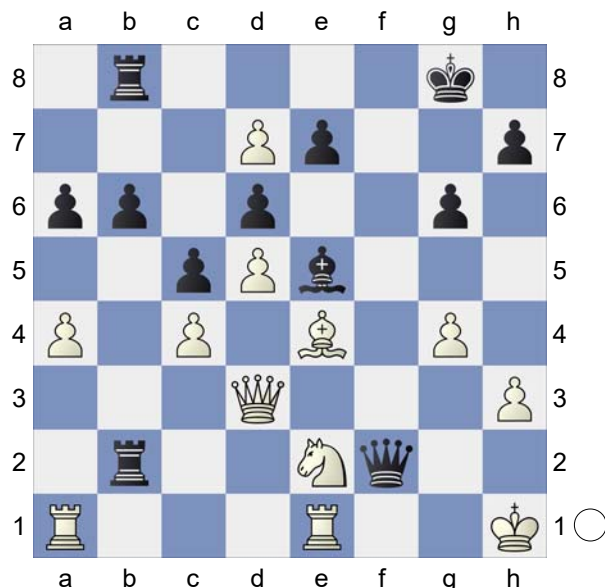
[28...Bxe6! 29.Nxd4! cxd4 (29...Qf2
 30.Nc2) 30.Qxd4! =]

29.exd7+- 2:37 **Be5** 10:14

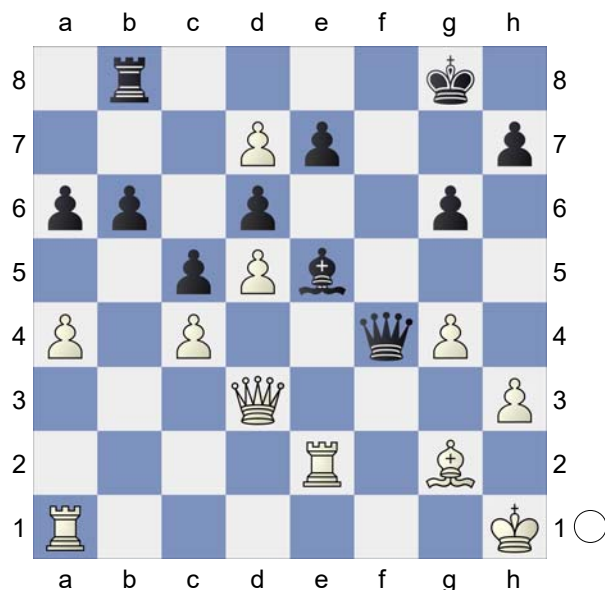
(Diagram)

30.Bg2! 31 **Rxe2?** 5:31

[30...Rd8 31.Rab1 (31.Qf3? Qxf3



32.Bxf3 Rb3=) 31...Rxd7 **32.Qf3+-**]
31.Rxe2 1:25 **Qf4** 12



32.Rxe5! 46 **Qxe5** 16 **33.Rf1** 8 **Rd8** 20
34.Qf3 45 **Qg7** 2 **35.Qe4** 54 **Qe5** 44
36.Qxe5 40 **dxe5** 1 Endgame KRB-KR
37.Rb1 14 **Rxd7** 17 **38.Rxb6** 3 **Rd6** 20
39.Rxd6! 1:16 **exd6** 1 **40.a5!** 21 **Kg7**
 21 **41.g5** 19 **Kf7** 41 **42.h4** 24 **Kg7** 9
43.Bh3 12 Weighted Error Value:
 White=0.15 (very precise) /Black=0.64
1-0

□ Pathak,Rudransh

■ Winslow,Elliott

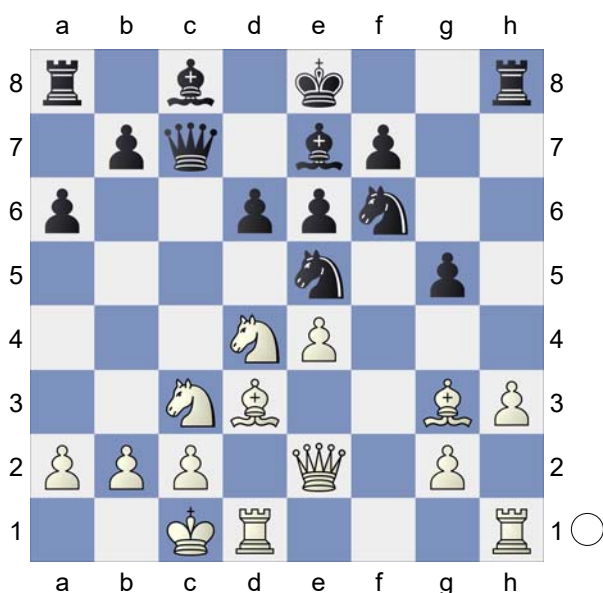
2026 Fall TNM: 2000+ (1.3) 01.09.2026

[Winslow,Elliott]

Pathak couldn't have known that I've been playing this line for over fifty years! Then again, I still don't think I know what I'm doing! There was much confusion, he never really got anything going, I won a pawn and in time trouble managed to get to a double rook ending still a pawn up.

A second pawn and a rook trade later, it was "technique." **1.e4** 40:37 **c5** 9 **2.Nf3** 11 **d6** 29 **3.d4** 12 **cxd4** 7 **4.Nxd4** 7 **Nf6** 8 **5.Nc3** 6 **a6** 38 **6.Bg5** 5 **e6** 23 **7.f4** 35 **Be7** 1:03 **8.Qf3** 6 **Qc7** 36 **9.0-0-0** 29 **Nbd7** 9 **10.Bd3** 2:51 **h6** 15 **11.Bh4** 1:32 **g5** 19 **12.fxg5** 1:17 **Ne5** 20 **13.Qe2** 11:39 **Nfg4** 12

I've happened into this about a dozen times, with a pretty good result. But I think it's an addiction more than a sensible choice! **14.h3** 5:17 **hxg5** 19 **15.Bg3** 1:15 **Nf6** 4:11



16.Rdf1N 3:10

[16.Kb1!? **Bd7**?! (16...b5!; 16...Nh5 17.Bh2 **Nf4**!) 17.Nf3?! (17.Qd2±) 17...Nh5 18.Bh2 **Nf4** 19.Qf2 **Rc8** 20.Rhf1 **Qa5** 21.Nxg5 **Nfxd3**

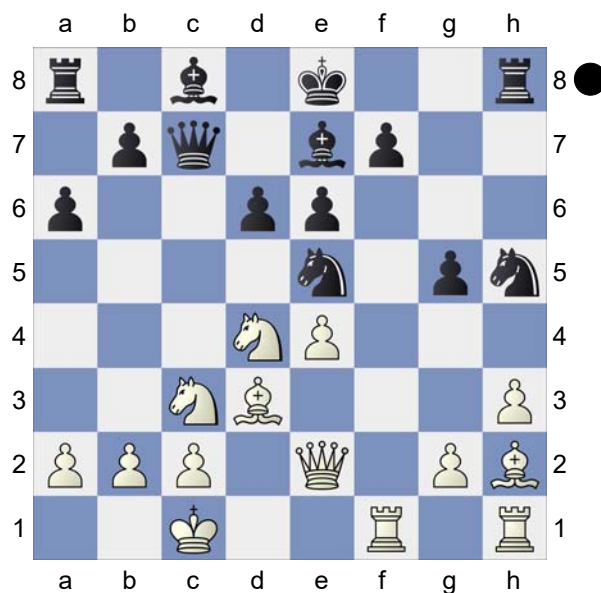
B99

1929

2203

22.cxd3 **Bxg5** 23.d4 **Nc4** 24.Qxf7+ 0-1 (47) Ruiz Castillo,J (2367)-Paragua,M (2520) Philadelphia 2017] [16.Qd2!?]

16...Nh5 2:55 **17.Bh2** 1:03



Bd7?! 2:56

[17...b5± It's always a difficult decision in this Kavalek-Browne Variation when you get this sort of position: compact with ...Bd7 and ...0-0-0, or "go for it" with ...b5 and who knows what, but risking falling apart (I speak from experience). On this occasion I might have gone the wrong way.]

18.Nb3 6:11

[18.Kb1= keeps the balance.]
[18.Qf2! is even the slight lean over 0.00 if you believe Stockfish!]

18...b5 5:44 **19.a3** 3:30 **Nf4** 9:49

20.Qd2 2:14 This costs White the game.

[20.Bxf4± is a better defense. **gxf4** 21.Kb1 (SF 18: -0.99/d23)]

20...Nfxd3+-+ 12:02

[20...Nexd3+ 21.cxd3 a5 was even better]

21.cxd3 4 **a5** 10 **22.Kb1** 3:25 **b4** 2:04

23.Ne2 40 **bxax3** 2:10 **24.bxa3** 2 **Bb5**

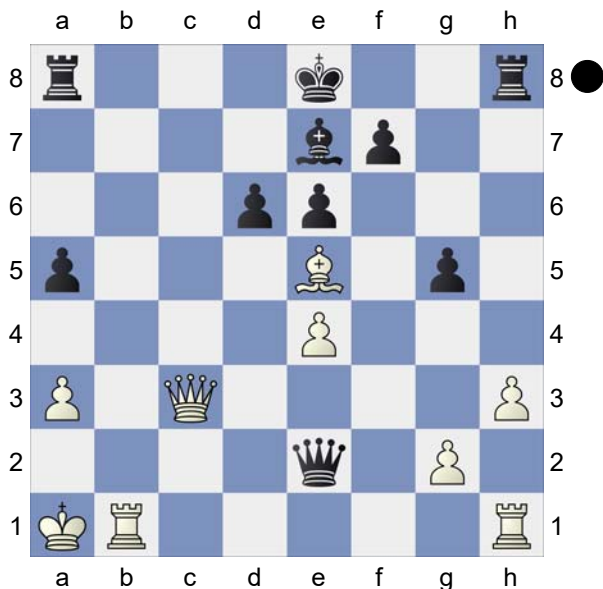
1:07 **25.Ka1** 13:13 **Nxd3** 6:01 **26.Nbd4**

27 **Qc5** 2:31 **27.Nxb5** 51 **Qxb5** 10

28.Qc3 25 **Ne5** 6:48 **29.Rb1** 1:20

[29.Nd4 **Qb4** 30.Rc1]

29...Qxe2 1:18 30.Bxe5 10



White wants to mate with Qc6+. 30...0-0!

30 (You don't see castling on the 30th move too often.) 31.Rb2? 2:29

[31.Rhe1 Qf2 (31...Qxg2 32.Bh8=) 32.Bd4]

31...Qxe4 1:07 32.Re1 10 Qg6 40

33.Qc7 27 Bf6 2:27

[33...Rfe8! 34.Bxd6 Rac8 35.Qb6 Bf6 36.Be5 Red8!]

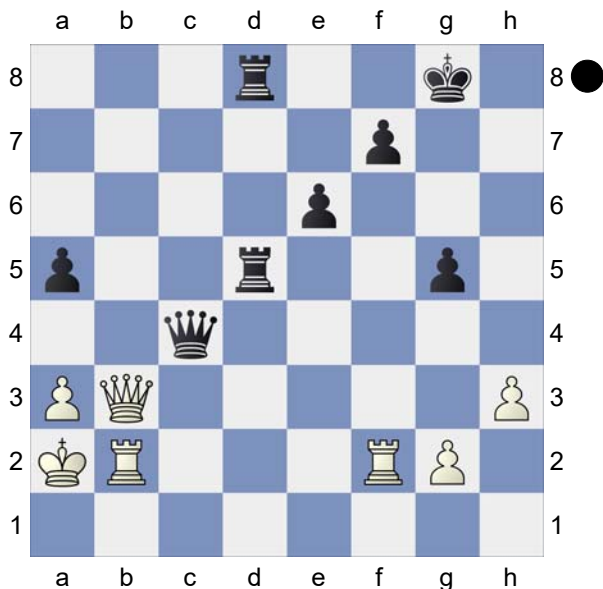
34.Qxd6 13 Rfd8 13 35.Qb6 56 Rd5

3:28 36.Bxf6 3 Qxf6 10 37.Ka2 2

Rad8 27 38.Ree2 24 Qf1 1:41

Strongly threatening ...Rd1. 39.Rf2 9

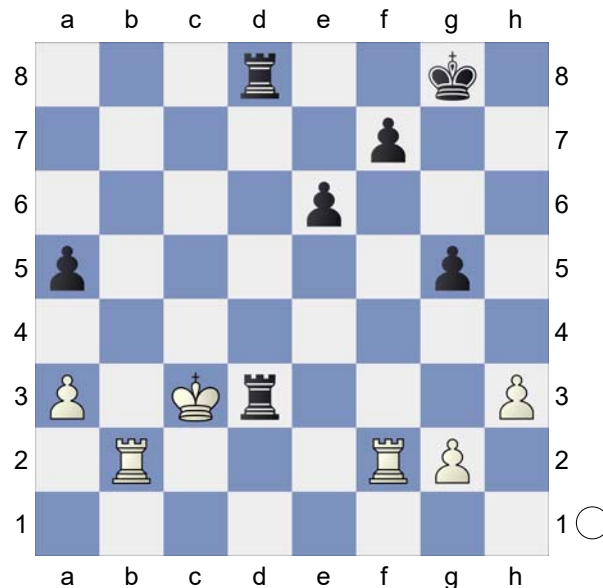
Qc4+ 24 40.Qb3 7



Qxb3+ 22 41.Kxb3 12 Endgame KRR-

KRR. Black is a pawn up. 41...Rd4 2:12

42.Kc3 13 Rd3+ 17



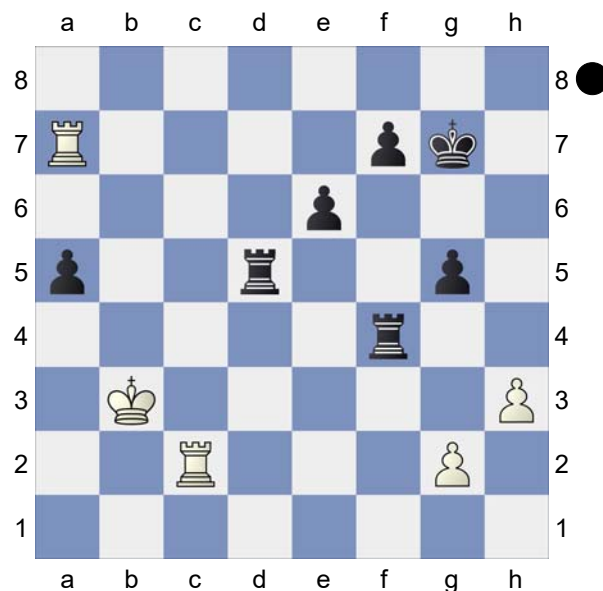
Skewer. Black is clearly winning. 43.Kc4

6 R8d4+ 47 44.Kc5 6 Rd5+ 17 45.Kc4

18 Rxa3 1:01 46.Rb7 1:02 Ra4+ 33

47.Kb3 57 Rf4 11 48.Rc2 43 Kg7 49

49.Ra7 1:12



a4+! 2:25 50.Kb2 1:18 Rd3 18 51.Re2

1:12 Kg6 22 52.Ra8 18 Rg3 32

53.Rg8+ 20 Kf5 2:36 54.Rf8 32 f6 12

55.Re8 36 e5 7 56.Rc2 59 e4 4:18

57.Rc5+ 28 Kg6 11 58.Rc2 34 e3 37

59.Re2 27 Rf2 23 60.R8xe3 11 Rgxg2

48 61.Rxf2 18 Rxf2+ 5 62.Ka3 5 Rf4 6

Weighted Error Value: White=0.42/

Black=0.24 (precise)

0-1

□ Bambou, Christophe

■ Mercado, Adam

2026 Fall TNM: 2000+ (1.4) 01.09.2026

[TA]

Mercado lost his way early in this quirky 1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Bb4 line; but Bambou slipped as well to let Adam equalize. Somehow it ended up with White up pawns, but *all* six of them were isolated (two doubled isolated pairs!); but with Black's knight unable to matter, White won. 1.c4 11 e5 23 2.Nc3 6 Bb4 12 3.Nd5 5 Ba5 10 4.b4 11 c6 21 5.bxa5 5 cxd5 8 6.cxd5 5 Nf6 12 7.Qa4 1:44 0-0 3:58 8.Ba3 1:37 Re8N 8:58

[8...d6±]

[8...d6 9.e4 b6 10.axb6 Qxb6 11.f3 Ba6 12.Bxa6 Nxa6 13.Ne2 Nc5 14.Bxc5 dxc5 15.0-0 1-0 (40) Da Silva,O-De Barros,M Brazil CXEB 2000]

9.e4+- 1:23 d6 3:25 White is clearly better. 10.Nf3 16:48

[10.f3+-]

10...Bd7± 7:03 11.Qb4 13:29 b5! 8:20

12.Bd3 3:24 Nxd5? 14:51 13.exd5+- 11:57 e4 24

(Diagram)

14.Bxe4? 1:54

[14.Bxb5? exf3+ 15.Kd1 (15.Kf1? fxg2+ 16.Kg1 Qf6+-) 15...fxg2+-]
[14.0-0!+- exd3 15.Rfe1 (15.Qxd6? Bg4+-)]

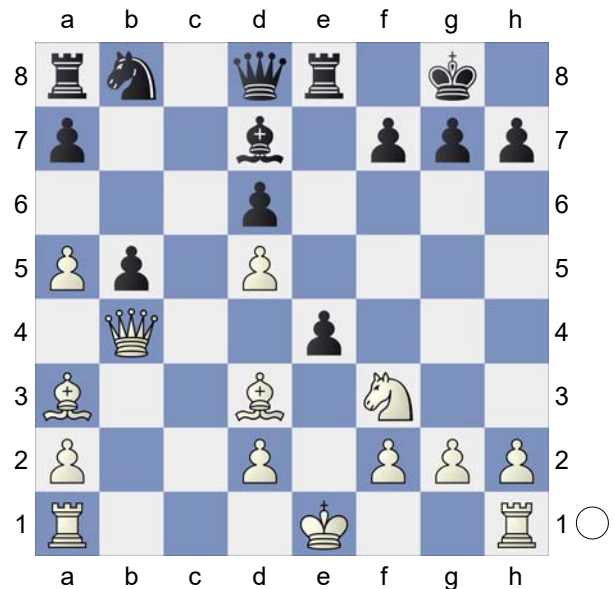
14...Na6!= 4:55 15.Qb1 22:32

[Of course not 15.Qxd6?! Rxe4+ 16.Kf1 b4+- (16...Qxa5? is the wrong capture. 17.Ng5±)]

A21

2113

1928

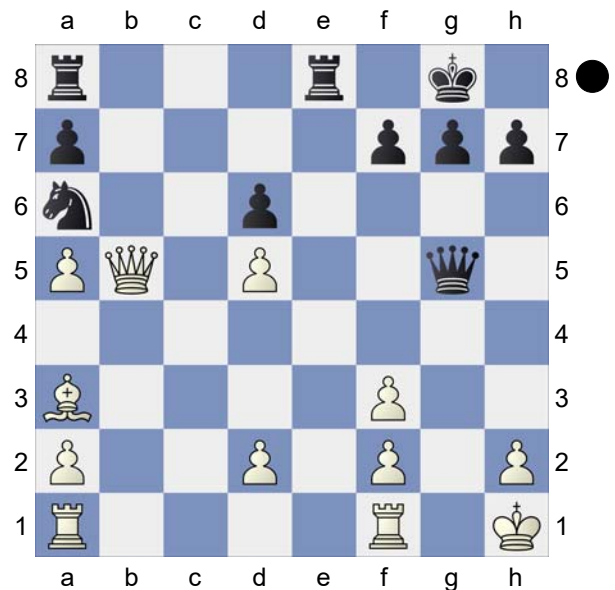


15...Bf5↑ 4:27 Black has some pressure.

16.0-0 2:15 Bxe4 26 17.Qxb5 2:58

Bxf3 15:05 18.gxf3 43 Qg5+ 1:42

19.Kh1 42



Qf5? 10:07

[19...Qf4!=]

[19...Nc7=]

[Even 19...Nc5=]

20.Bxd6± 3:03

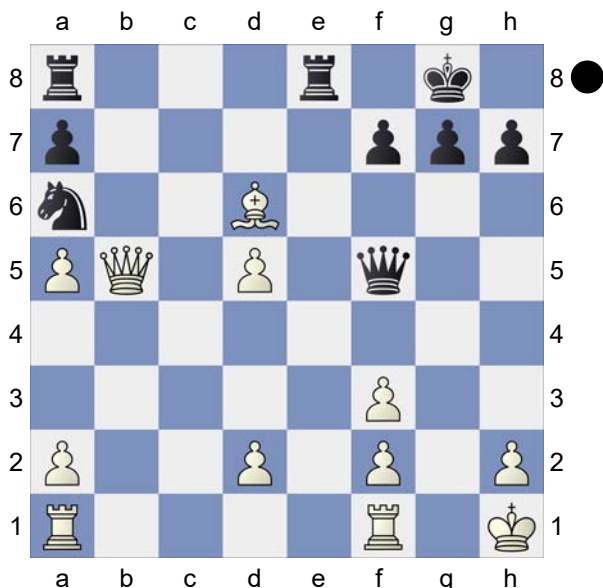
(Diagram)

White now steadily converts the win.

20...Qxf3+ 5:20 21.Kg1 5 Threatens to

win with Bg3!. 21...Qg4+ 3:33

[21...h5±]



22.Bg3+- 10 Nb4 8

[22...h5 23.Rac1 (23.Qxa6? h4+- Pin) 23...h4 Pin]

23.Rae1 1:52 Rxe1 1:23

[23...Reb8 is a better defense.
24.Qe2 Qxe2 25.Rxe2 Nxd5
26.Bxb8 Rxb8]

24.Rxe1 6 Threatening mate with Re8+.

24...h5 7 25.d6 7:13 Nc2 2:09 26.Re8+ 6:00 Rxe8 1:57 27.Qxe8+ 5

Endgame KQB-KQN. White is two pawns up. **27...Kh7 5 28.d7 1:41 Nd4 1:30**

29.Qxf7 1:28 h4 2:58 30.d8Q 47

White mates. **30...hxc3 29 31.hxc3 33**

Nf3+ 27 32.Kg2 1:01 Ne1+ 20 33.Kf1 25 Nf3 11 34.Qd3+ 11 Kh8 39 35.Qf8#

10 Weighted Error Value: White=0.23 (precise) /Black=0.66

1-0

□ **Powers,Christopher**

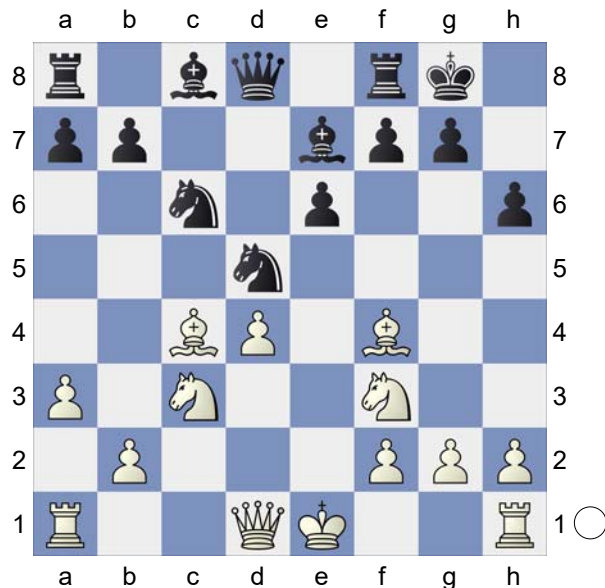
■ **Cawthon,Jeremy David**

2026 Fall TNM: 2000+ (1.5) 01.09.2026
[Powers,Christopher]

(EW: Sitting next to this game I was sure Powers was going to win! But

Jeremy came through.) **1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.c4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6**

6.Bg5 e6 7.Nf3 Be7 8.a3 0-0 9.Be2 dxc4 10.Bxc4 h6 11.Bf4 Nd5



I already became a bit worried here - it seems impossible to preserve the pawn structure, the bishop pair, and the d4 pawn. Ended up using quite a bit of time **12.Qd2** I chose to give up the bishop pair

[12.Bg3 Nxc3 (12...Nb6 13.Ba2 Bf6 Is the pawn falling here?) 13.bxc3 Is this structure playable?]

[12.Be3 Nxe3 13.fxe3 Is this structure good?]

[12.Bxd5 exd5 13.0-0 Bg4 Is d4 in danger?]

[12.Nxd5 exd5 13.Ba2 can black punish white's uncastled king?]

12...Nxf4 13.Qxf4 Bf6 14.Rd1 Qb6

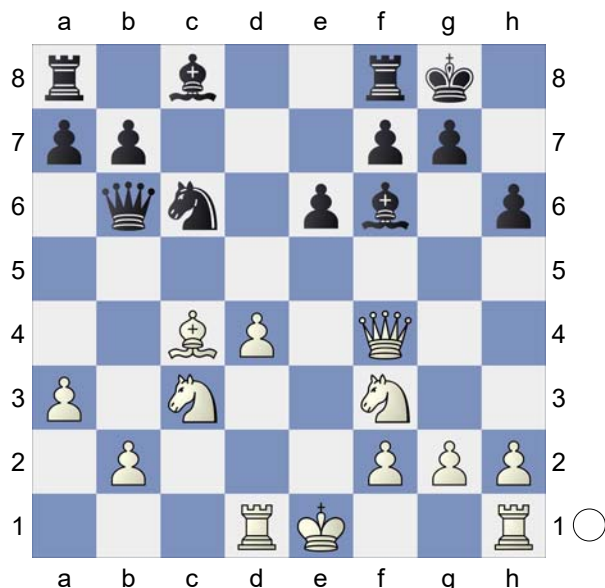
(Diagram)

15.0-0 I intuitively decided to give up b2 for dynamic play. If I try to hold onto it, I might end up losing a pawn for no compensation at all

[15.b4 Rd8 16.Ne2 (16.Ne4 Bxd4 17.Nd6 Bxf2+ 18.Kf1 Rf8 Is this line just nonsense?) 16...a5 17.b5]

15...Qxb2 16.Rd3 Nxd4

[16...Bd7 If black wastes a move:



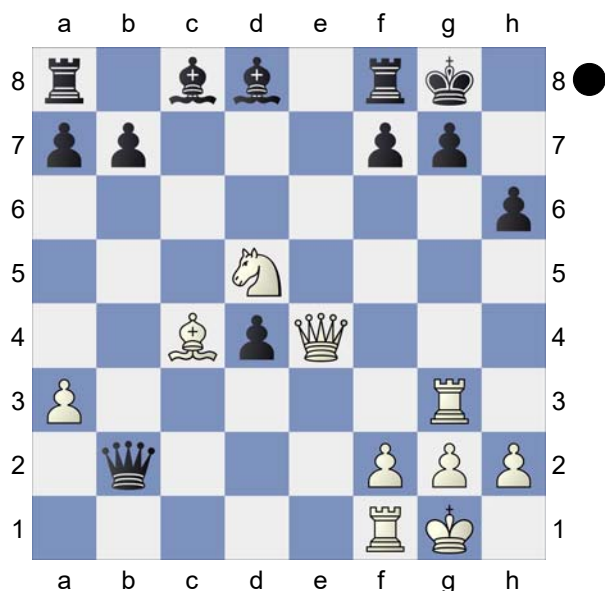
17.Rb1 Qxa3 18.Nd5 Qa4 19.Nxf6+ gxf6 what's the most accurate continuation here? 20.Nd2 Qc2 21.Qxh6 Qxd3 22.Bxd3]

17.Nxd4 e5 18.Qe4

[18.Na4 Qxd4 19.Rxd4 exf4 20.Rxf4]

18...exd4 19.Nd5 Bd8 20.Rg3

[20.Rb3 to kick the queen off the a1-h8 diagonal! Qd2 21.Rg3]



20...Kh8

[20...d3 My opponent brought up this defense after the game 21.Bxd3 g6 22.Rxg6+ fxg6 23.Qxg6+ Qg7]

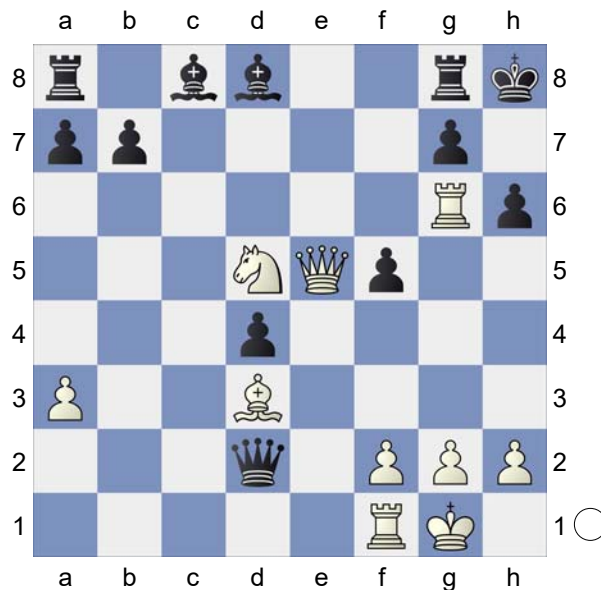
21.Bd3

[21.Nf6!! great example of finding the defense and preventing it - the only move is f5, so just make it impossible Bxf6 22.Bd3 g6 23.Rxg6 fxg6 24.Qxg6 Bf5 activating the other rook 25.Bxf5 Rf7 26.Qxf7 Bg7 27.Re1 Rf8 28.Qg6 Rxf5 29.Qxf5]

21...f5 22.Qe5 Rg8 23.Rg6

[23.Nf4 Bf6]

23...Qd2



24.f4

[24.Nf4 much stronger here Bf6 25.Rxf6 gxf6 26.Qxf6+ Kh7 (26...Rg7 27.Qxh6+ Kg8 28.Bc4+) 27.Qxd4 Qa5 28.Bc4 Rg7 29.Nh5 black has no time to activate]

24...Kh7 25.Bxf5 Bxf5 26.Qxf5 Kh8

27.Qe5 Kh7 I should have taken the perpetual here but played hope chess

28.Re1

(Diagram)

hoping black takes the rook **28...Rc8**

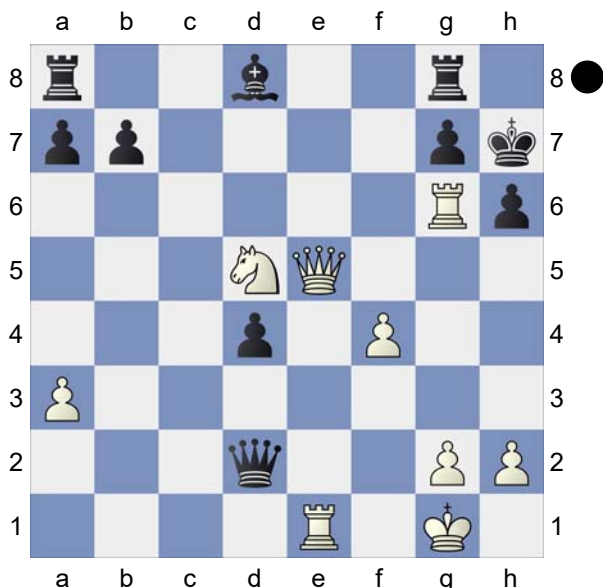
[28...Kxg6 29.Qe4+ Kh5 what's the follow up here? (29...Kf7 30.Qe6+ Kf8 31.Qe8#)

A) 30.g4+ Kh4;

B) 30.Qf5+ very tempting

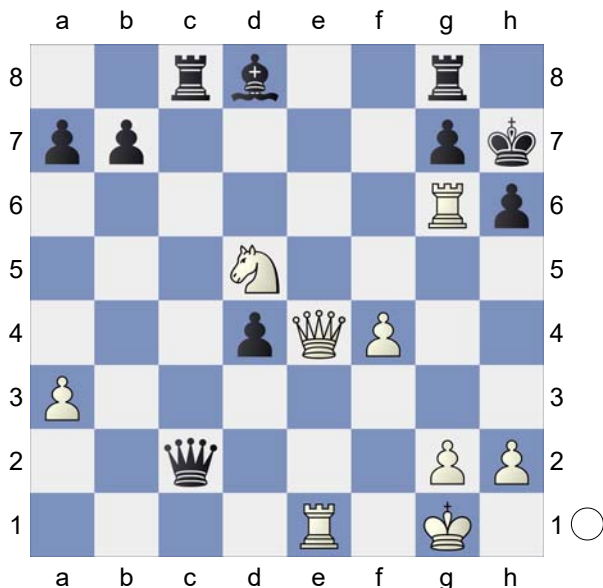
B1) 30...Kh4 31.g3#;

B2) 30...g5?? forced mate



31.Qh3+ (31.g4+ Kh4; 31.Qf7+ Rg6 32.g4+ Kh4) 31...Kg6
32.Re6+ Kg7 (32...Kf7 33.Qf5+) 33.Qxh6+;
B3) 30...Bg5! 31.Qf7+ Kg4
32.Qd7+ Kh5 33.Qf7+ Kg4
34.Qe6+ Kh5 35.fxg5 Rgf8
white should be winning...;

C) 30.f5! black's king is trapped]
29.Qe4 Qc2



30.Qe6?? still in "attacking mode"
[30.Re6+ Qxe4 31.R6xe4
white still has decent activity]

30...Rc6
0-1

D11
Vazquez, Dominic A **1542**
Sevall, Daniel **1830**
2026 Fall TNM: 1600-1999 (1.13) 1.9.26
[Winslow, Elliott]

Taking the "always answer a fianchetto with a rook pawn advance" a bit too far! Dominic so should have won this game!
1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.g3 h5 5.Bg2 e6 6.cxd5? (anything else: ± clear plus) **6...exd5= 7.Bg5** (Stockfish doesn't like this all but obvious move!)
7...Nbd7 8.0-0 Be7 9.Nc3 Ng4?

[9...0-0=]
[9...Ne4=]

10.Qd2?!

[10.Bxe7 Qxe7 11.e4!± dxe4 12.Nxe4 0-0! 13.Re1 Ndf6]

10...Bxg5?!

[10...f6]

11.Qxg5

[11.Nxg5!?]

11...Qxg5 12.Nxg5 h4 13.h3 Ngf6

14.g4± Nf8 15.f3?!

[15.f4]
[15.e3]
[15.Nf3]

15...Ne6 16.Nxe6 Bxe6= /+= 17.e4= dxe4 18.fxe4 0-0-0?!

[18...0-0]

19.Rad1

(Diagram)

Rhf8 ("subtle")

[but 19...Rhe8 is just better.]

20.d5± cxd5?±

[20...Bd7]

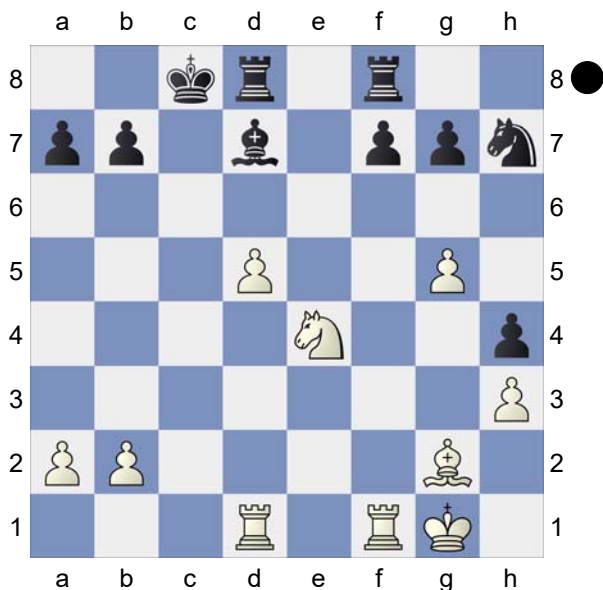
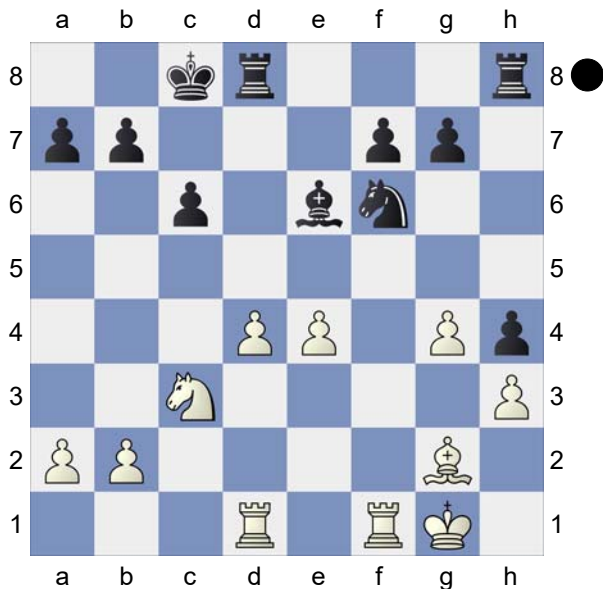
21.exd5 Bd7 22.g5?!

[22.Rf4]

[22.Rd4]

22...Nh7= 23.Ne4

(Diagram)



Bb5??

[23...f6 24.gxf6 (all the alternatives are also "0.00") Nxf6 25.Nxf6 Rxf6 26.Rxf6 gxf6 27.Rc1+ Kb8=]

24.Rf2?!±

[24.Rf5+-]
[24.Rf3+-]
[24.Rf4!+-]

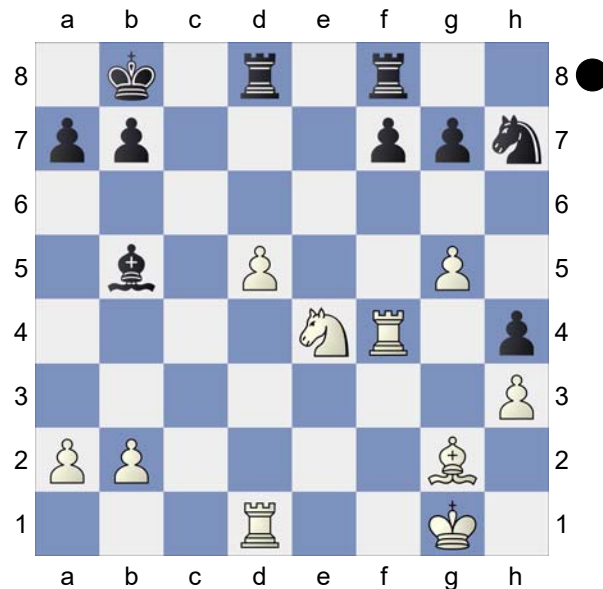
24...Kb8?

[24...f5 25.gxf6 Nxf6±]
[24...f6 25.g6 (25.gxf6) 25...Ng5±]

25.Rf4!+-

(Diagram)

Bc4?! 26.Rxh4

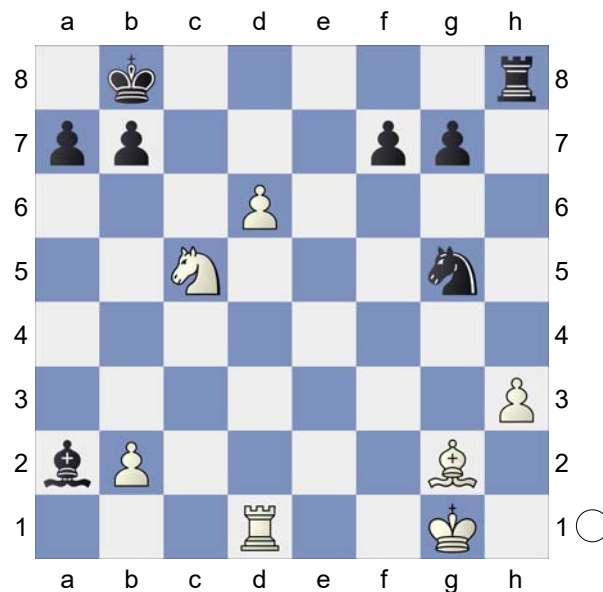


[26.d6]

26...Rh8 27.d6 Bxa2?! 28.Nc5! Nxg5 29.Rxh8?!

[29.Rb4! b6 30.d7! Δ 31.Na6#]

29...Rxh8



30.d7!+-

[30.b3+-]

30...Kc7 31.Nxb7 Ne6

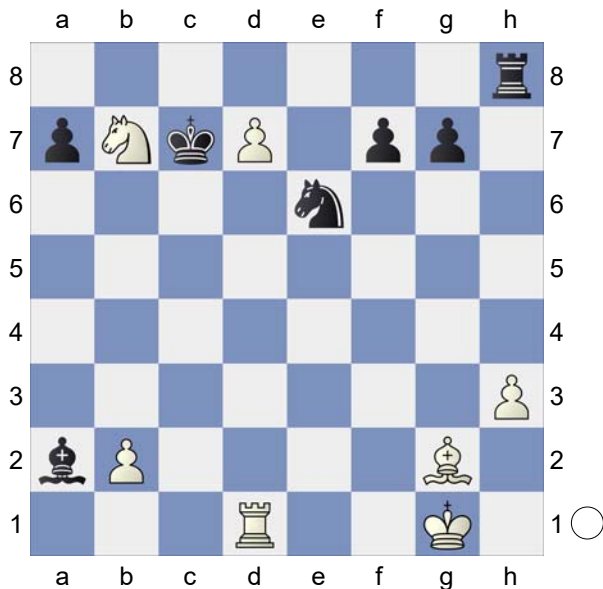
(Diagram)

32.Na5??

[32.Ra1! Bb3 (32...Bc4 33.Rc1+-) 33.Rxa7+-]

32...Nf4?

[32...Nd8!=]



[32...Rb8=]

33.b3

[33.Nc6 Nxc2 34.Kxc2 Kxc6
35.d8Q Rxd8 36.Rxd8±]

[33.Nb7 Nxc2 34.d8Q+ Rxd8
35.Nxd8 Nf4 36.Ra1±]

**33...Rd8= 34.Ra1 Bxb3 35.Nxb3
Rxd7 36.Rxa7+ Kd6 37.Ra4 g5 38.h4
Nxc2 39.Kxc2 gxh4 40.Rxh4 Rb7
41.Rh3 Ke5 42.Kf2 Kf4 43.Nd2 f5
44.Rh4+ Kg5 45.Nf3+ Kg6 46.Rd4
Rb6 47.Rd5 f4 48.Nh4+ Kh6 49.Kf3
Rb4 50.Nf5+ Kg6 51.Nd4 Kf6
52.Kxf4 Rb1 53.Rd6+ Ke7 54.Nf5+
Kf7 55.Kg5 Rg1+ 56.Kh5 Rf1
½-½**

□ **Heiserman, Jimmy**

■ **Fang, Zelin**

2026 Fall TNM: 2000+ (2.1) 08.09.2026
[Winslow, Elliott]

Four players have managed to win to reach 2-0. Via rather different routes! Here is Heiserman with some very nice pawn play, including a noteworthy pawn sacrifice to shut Black out. **1.c4 3 Nf6 8 2.g3 5 c5 9 3.Bg2 6 Nc6 17 4.Nc3 14 g6 30 5.Nf3 2:12 e5 1:50 6.a3 2:41**

A36

2299

2023

**Bg7 1:02 7.b4 6:30 d6 3:58 8.0-0 6:03
0-0 43 9.Rb1 1:57**

[9.d3±]

9...Bf5 16:01 A36: Symmetrical English vs ...g6: 4 Bg2 Bg7.

[9...e4= 10.Ng5 Nh5]

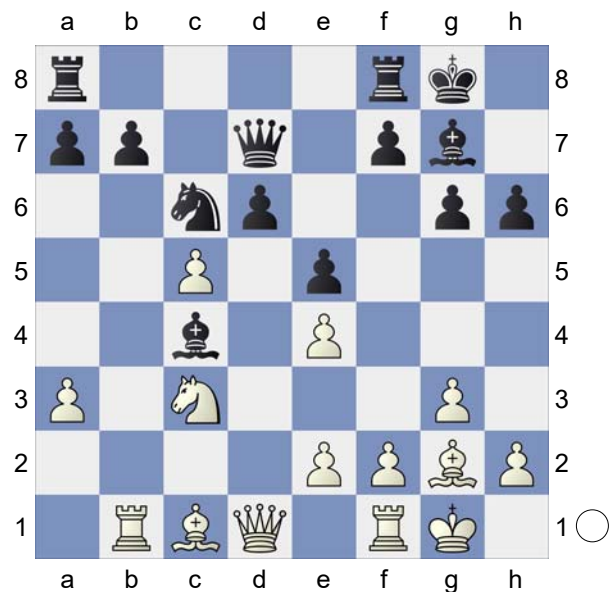
10.d3± 4:35 Qd7 2:31 11.Ng5 10:01

Rad8N 3:03

[11...h6 12.Nge4 (12.e4!?)

12...Nxe4 13.dxe4 Be6 14.bxc5

Bxc4



15.cxd6? (15.Qa4! Δ Rd1±) 15...Nd4
16.Re1 Qxd6 17.e3 Ne2+ 18.Nxe2
Qxd1 19.Rxd1 Bxe2 0-1 (26) Svane,
F (2566)-Erenberg, A (2516) Chess.
com INT 2022]

12.e4 16:39 White is more active.

[12.b5± Na5 13.Bd2]

12...Be6 1:45 13.Nxe6 1:47 fxe6 21

14.Bh3 7:57 Qe7 45 15.Qa4 6:50 Nd7

5:20 16.Be3 2:31 Nb6 3:19 17.Qd1

2:05 Nd4 38

[17...Nd7± is more appropriate.]

18.Bxd4 5:24 exd4 2:57 19.Ne2 1:50

[19.Na4±]

19...Rde8 2:59

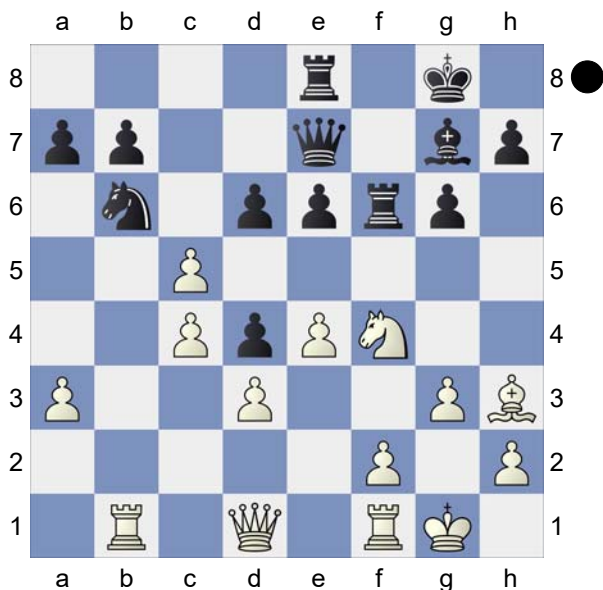
[19...Nd7±]

20.Nf4 4:21

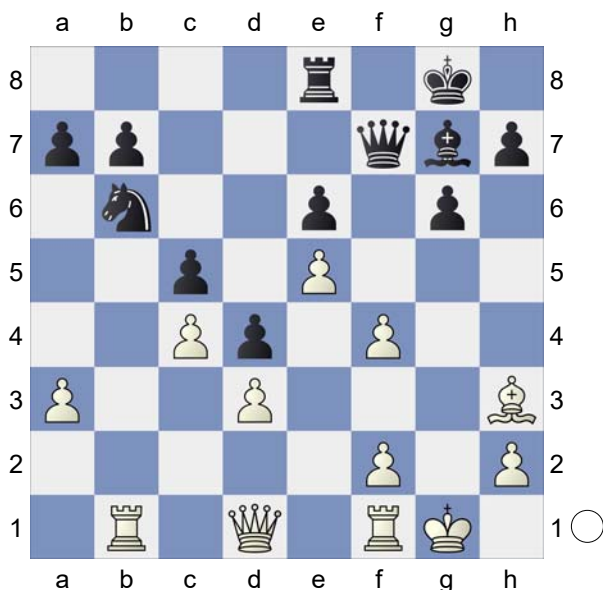
[20.bxc5+- dxc5 21.Nf4]

20...Rf6? 3:18 Black cannot hold the game after this.

[20...e5±]
21.bxc5+- 47



dx c5 17 22.e5 24 Rxf4 2:10
 (best but lost) **23.gxf4 5 Qf7 1:20**



24.f5! 4:34

[Of course Stockfish would prefer
 24.a4 -- party-popper!]

24...exf5 2:06

[⊲24...gxf5 25.f4+-]

25.f4 4 (What a nice idea!) **25...Nc8 23**
26.Bg2 18 Qe7 3:29 27.Rxb7 16 Qh4
11 28.Qa4 1:04 Rf8 1:14 29.Qd7 1:02

Weighted Error Value: White=0.22
 (precise) /Black=0.55

1-0

□ **Parsons, Stephen**

■ **Sen, Samir**

B21

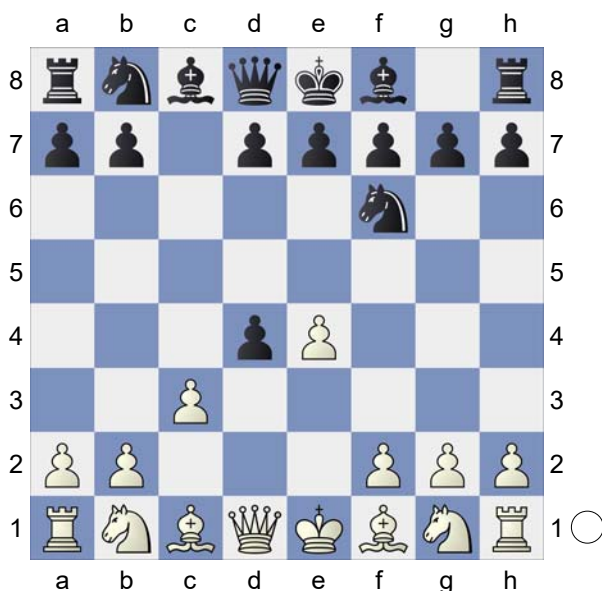
2012

2247

2026 Fall TNM: 2000+ (2.2) 08.09.2026

[TA/Winslow, Elliott]

TNM newcomer (I think!) Samir Sen must have been surprised when Stephen Parsons sent his queen in a move earlier than the known line (see Cawthon-Winslow, this Newsletter issue!). Black was doing well very fast, and the weak light squares were fatal. **1.e4 2 c5 9 2.d4 9 cxd4 9 3.c3 4 Nf6 26**



4.Qxd4 1:12

[4.e5 Nd5 5.Qxd4 might have been Parson's intention but he left the pawn push out!? Certainly there have been a lot of new lines against the Sicilian involving the queen shooting up there, but this one didn't make the grade.

(5.Nf3; 5.cxd4; 5.Bc4 Qc7!?) 5...e6
 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Qe4 f5!?]

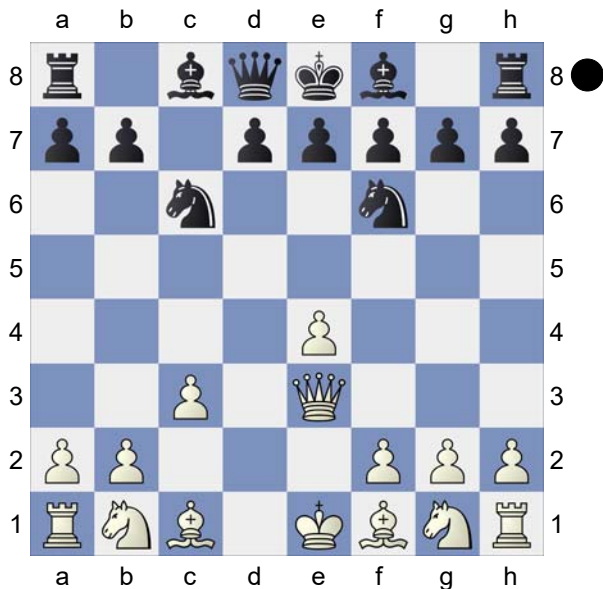
4...Nc6 33 5.Qe3 2:35

(Diagram)

d5! 1:36 Black is already doing great.

6.Bd3 3:42

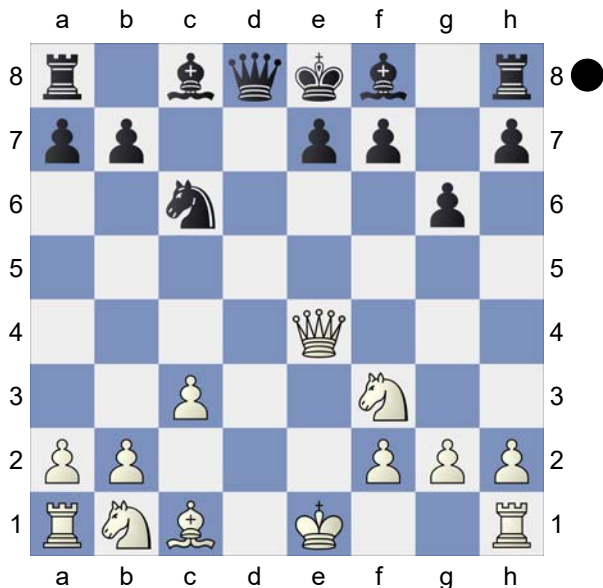
[⊲6.Nd2 although White can't be happy about that Bc1.]



6...dxe4 4:44 7.Bxe4 33 Nxe4 52
8.Qxe4 8 Black is clearly better. **8...g6N**
 1:36

[8...Qa5 9.Ne2 Bf5 10.Qf4 Bd3
 11.Bd2 Bxe2 12.Kxe2 Qb5+
 0-1 (12) Helbig,H-Jung,R freechess.de
 2021]

9.Nf3 3:47



Bf5! 1:52 10.Qa4 1:04 Bd3 6:47

11.Be3 4:24

[11.Na3?]

11...Bg7 3:28

[11...b5+ 12.Qd1 e5]

12.Nbd2 48

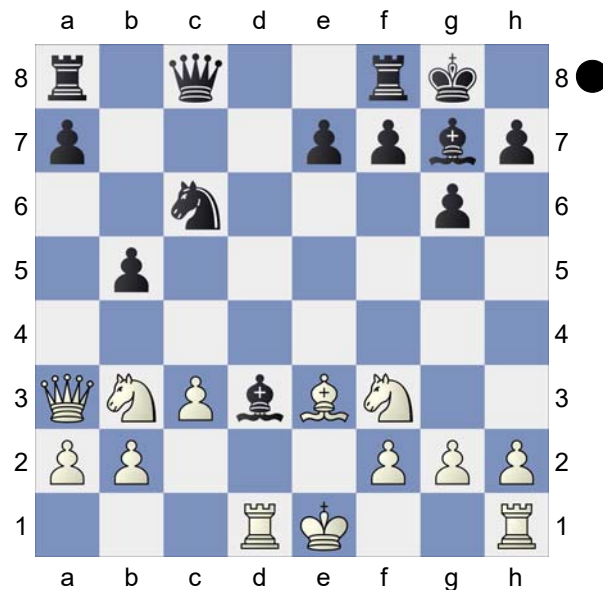
[12.Na3? is a better defense.]

12...0-0 3:05 13.Rd1 1:20 b5 5:44

14.Qa3 1:51

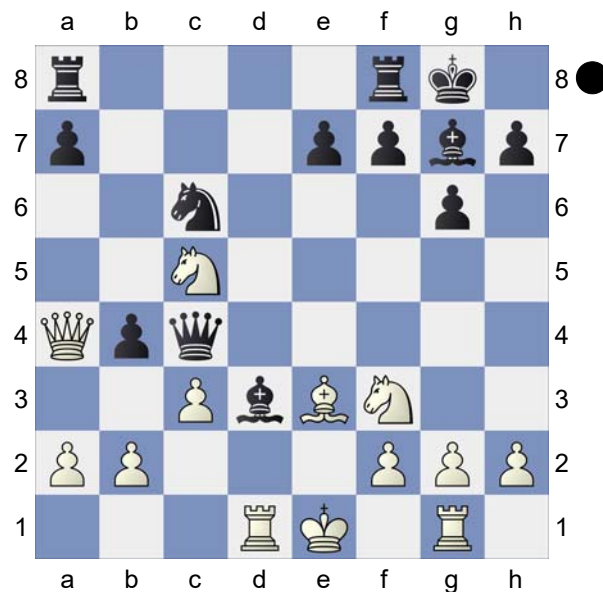
[14.Qa6 Qc7 15.Nb3]

14...Qc8 9:09 15.Nb3 3:15



Qg4! 2:37 16.Rg1 11:17 b4 15:35

17.Qa4 4:09 Qc4 8:02 18.Nc5 7:10



Be2!+ 5:35 A fun move! It just so

happens it works, too. **19.Nd2?! 5:34**

Avoiding the horrible pawns after ...Bxf3,
 but the extra rook and its buddy are all
 too ready to leap into action.

[19.Rc1 Bxf3 20.gxf3]

19...Bxd1+ 36 20.Kxd1 1:46 Qd5 1:54

21.c4 1:53 Qh5+ 1:49 22.Nf3 19

Hoping for g4. **22...Ne5 1:00 23.Ke2**

2:30 Qg4 36 Repels Nd7 24.Rc1 1:06

Qxg2 1:04 25.Nxe5 35 Bxe5 7 26.Nd7

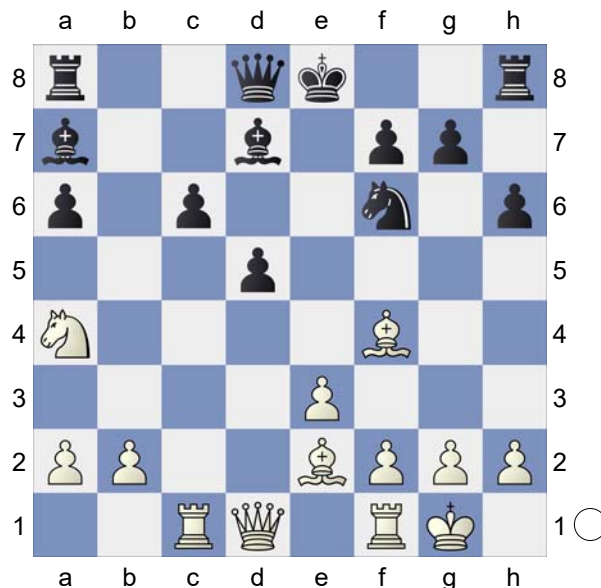
2:52 **Qg4+** 1:33 **27.Kf1** 33 **Bxb2** 31
28.Rc2 3:29 **Qd1+** 1:15 **29.Kg2** 5 **Rfd8**
 36 **30.Nc5** 1:39 **Qg4+** 13 Black took
 control after the opening. Superbly
 played by Sen! Weighted Error Value:
 White=0.84/Black=0.15 (very precise)
0-1

D37
2203
1966
 2026 Fall TNM: 2000+ (2.3) 08.09.2026
[Winslow,Elliott]

My game with Ed Lewis was taking it to
 extremes. I have a huge score against
 Ed, I think it's twelve wins and two draws,
 no losses. I've teetered on defeat more
 than once, but it just never happens.
 This game was really pushing it! And I
 thought I was doing so well, and I *was*,
 then I gave back my pawn plus for what
 I thought was a combinational knockout,
 floundered the play, overlooked Ed's
 great ...Qb4! (*he* didn't overlook it!),
 and was swimming in the dark awaiting
 the sharks. Somehow I never quite got
 eaten, and in a queen vs. rooks scenario
 my rooks coordinated out of nowhere for
 a miracle win. Sorry Ed! **1.d4** 1:58 **Nf6**
22 2.c4 35 **e6** 23 **3.Nf3** 58 **d5** 20
4.Nc3 7 **a6** 6 **5.cxd5** 6:29 **exd5** 14
6.Bf4 44 **c5** 7 **e3** 1:25 **h6** 3 **8.Be2** 1:02
 White is slightly better. **8...Nc6** 7 **9.0-0**
 1:24 **Be7N** 2

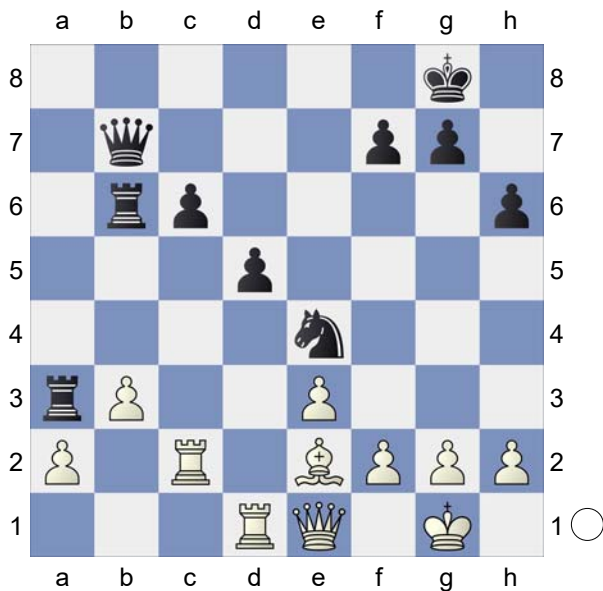
[9...Be6±]
 [9...Be6 10.Ne5 Rc8 11.Nxc6 Rxc6
 12.dxc5 Bxc5 13.Be5 0-0 14.Bf3
 Nd7 15.Bd4 Nb6 16.Bxc5 Rxc5
 0-1 (59) Rustemov,A (2525)-Fedoseev,
 V (2701) Chess.com INT 2022]
10.dxc5± 1:55 **Bxc5** 2 **11.Rc1** 1:30
 [11.Qb3!±]
11...Ba7 3:54
 [11...0-0± deserves consideration.]

12.Ne5 2:14
 [12.Qb3!±]
12...Be6? 44
 [12...0-0±]
13.Nxc6 4:44 **bx c6** 3 **14.Na4** 42 **Bd7**
 10:23
 [14...0-0± 15.Rxc6 d4]



15.Be5? 16:20
 [15.Bxa6+- I looked, but I didn't see.
 0-0 (15...Bxe3 16.Bxe3 Rxa6
 17.Bc5 Ne4 18.Ba3) 16.Bb7]
15...0-0± 1:32 **16.Bd4** 1:15 **Bxd4** 1:49
17.Qxd4± 45 **Re8** 1:37 **18.Nc5** 2:40 **a5**
 1:23 **19.Qa4** 6:48 White is much more
 active.
 [Δ19.b3]
19...Rb8 4:12 **20.Nxd7** 3:25 **Qxd7** 52
 [20...Nxd7!± 21.Rxc6 (21.b3;
 21.Qxc6) 21...Rxb2]
21.b3!± 24
 [21.Rxc6 Re6 (21...Rxb2 22.Bd3⚡
 22.Rfc1 (22.Bb5? Rxb5 23.Qxb5
 Rxc6+-) 22...Rxc6 23.Qxc6 Qxc6
 24.Rxc6 Rxb2=]
 [21.Qxc6 Qxc6 22.Rxc6 Rxb2⚡]
21...Rb6?! 4:52
 [21...Rbc8± 22.Rc2 (22.Qxa5
 Ra8±) 22...Qa7]
22.Qxa5+- 7:53 **Qb7** 23.**Rc2** 3:05 **Ne4**
 1:18 **24.Rd1** 2:09 **Ra8** 1:05 **25.Qe1** 17

Ra3 1:01



26.f3?! 4:13

[26.Bd3!+-]

26...Nf6± 1:49 27.Qc3 52 Qa7 11

28.Rdd2 12 Ra5 2:37 29.a4 1:11 c5? 8

[29...Nd7± 30.Rb2 Rb8]

30.Bb5+- 11 Rbxb5 3:41 31.axb5 15

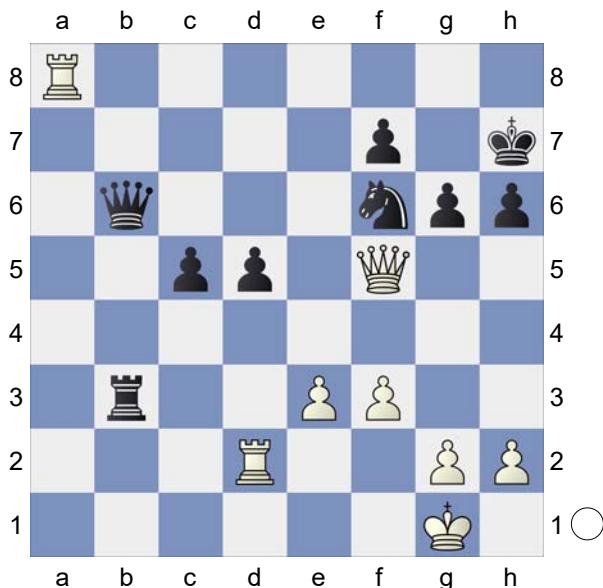
Rxb5 5 32.Ra2 5:39 Qb6 22 33.Ra8+

1:49 Kh7 5 34.Qe5? 1:15

[34.Rf8+- Qb7 35.Qd3+ g6

36.Rxf7+ Deflection Qxf7 37.Qxb5]

34...Rxb3± 3:00 35.Qf5+ 6:45 g6 1:01



36.Qc8 6

[36.Qe5!± and Qe7 would now be decisive c4 37.Re2]

36...g5 1:00 37.Ra6 1:34 Rb1+ 2:21

38.Kf2 3 Dancing on a razor blade.

38...Qb4→ 1:04 Black attacks. **39.Qf5+**

3:35 Kg8 7 40.Qxb1 54 Qxb1 40

41.Rxf6± 7 Endgame KQ-KRR **41...Qb4 2:09**

[41...d4!? 42.exd4 Qb4=]

42.Re2 1:44 c4?! 43

[42...Qh4+ 43.Kg1]

43.Ra6? 2:12

[43.Rxh6= Qc5 44.Ra6]

43...h5+- 28 44.h3 1:23

[44.Ra1]

44...h4 23 45.Raa2 44 Qd6? 53

[45...Kg7+- 46.Ra1 Qb5]

46.Rac2? 48

[46.Ra5= and White has nothing to worry.]

46...Kg7 46 47.Red2 12 Qg3+? 1:24

[47...f5+- 48.Rd1 g4 49.fxg4 Qg3+

50.Kf1 fxg4 51.hxg4 h3 (51...Qxe3

52.Rxd5 c3 53.Rd7+ Kg6 54.Rd6+

Kg5 55.Rd5+ Kxg4 56.Re2=)]

48.Kf1 2 Qe5 21 ...Qa1+ poses a challenge **49.Kf2 8**

[49.e4=]

49...f5 3

[Black should play 49...Qd6!±

And now ...f5 would win. 50.Rd1

Qc6]

50.Ra2= 50 g4 4:10 51.fxg4 2:05

[51.hxg4= fxg4 52.Ra7+ Kf6

53.fxg4]

51...fxg4? 1:59

[51...f4!± 52.exf4 Qxf4+ 53.Ke1

Qe4+-+ (53...d4?? 54.Ra7+= Kg6

55.Ra6+ Kg5 56.Ra5+ Kg6 57.Ra6+

Kg5 58.Ra5+ Kg6 59.Ra6+=)

54.Re2 Qb1+ 55.Kf2 Qb6+ 56.Re3

d4+-]

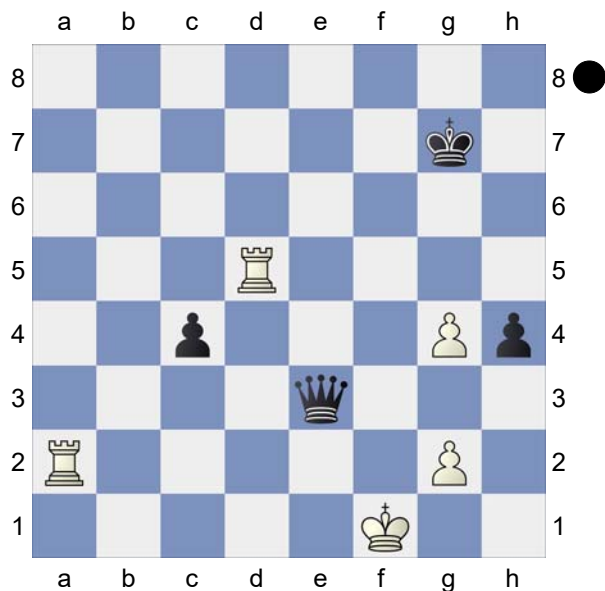
52.hxg4 13 Qg3+ 33 53.Kf1 10 Qxe3

5:25 54.Rxd5= 1:14

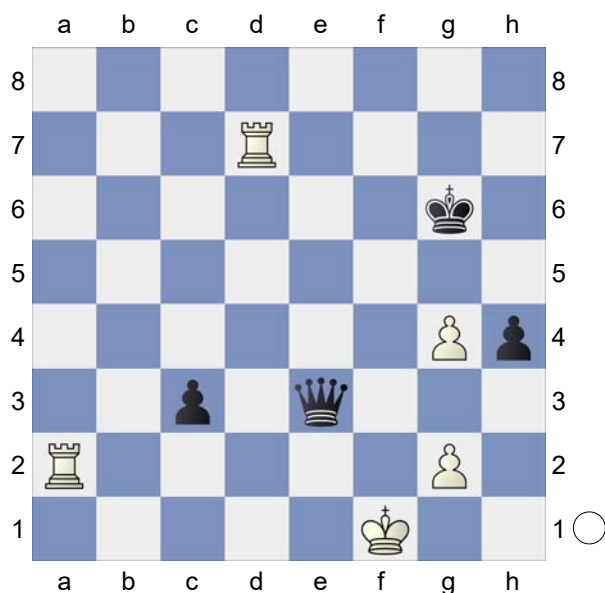
(Diagram)

c3?? 1:24

[54...Qc1+= 55.Ke2 Qg1]



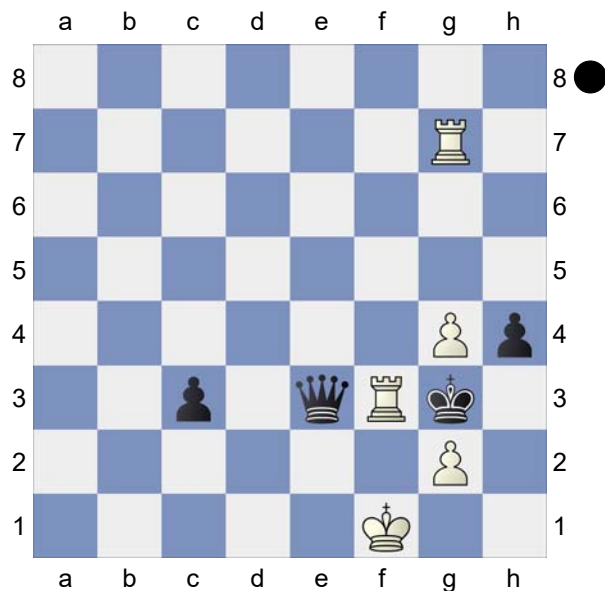
55.Rd7!+- 28 And out of nowhere, White's rooks run Black's king into disaster. **55...Kg6 2:06**



56.Ra6+! 39 Kg5 2:00 57.Rg7+ 11 Kf4 3:56 58.Rf6+ 6 Kg3 10 59.Rf3+ 6

(Diagram)

Qxf3+ 17 60.gxf3 5 h3 10
 [60...Kxf3 I intended 61.g5
 , but I could just pick up the c-pawn
 with my rook since my king covers the
 h-pawn.]
61.Ke2 48 c2 35 62.Kd2 15 h2 3
 [62...Kxf3 63.g5 Here also]
63.Rh7 11 c1B+ 12 64.Kxc1 3 h1N



"A wild game. An entertaining game by Winslow." (Is this counter-snark from the TA!?) Weighted Error Value: White=0.42/ Black=0.78

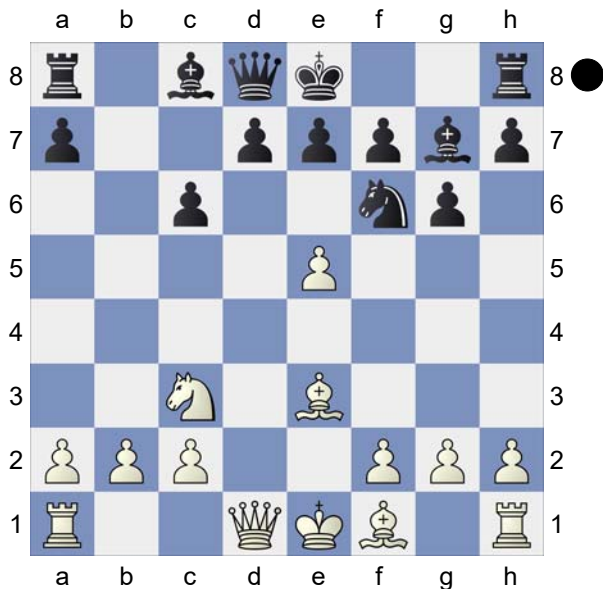
1-0

B34
1802
2113
 2026 Fall TNM: 2000+ (2.4) 08.09.2026
 [Winslow,Elliott]

Christophe Bambou returns to the TNM scene with a curious win over rising star Dev Kosuri, when the latter short-circuits in a position he had lost what advantage he had, but that didn't mean giving away a rook for an illusion... **1.e4 2 c5 9 2.Nf3 8 g6 4 3.d4 14 cxd4 5 4.Nxd4 6 Nc6 6 5.Nc3 1:25 Bg7 5 6.Be3 25 Nf6 7 7.Nxc6 1:40 bxc6 10 8.e5 1:00**

(Diagram)

Ng8 4
 [Nobody believes in 8...Nd5
 any more, what with Stockfish making
 it a solid +1.00 (well, +0.98/d31).
 9.Nxd5 cxd5 10.Qxd5 Rb8 11.0-0-0]
9.f4 1:29

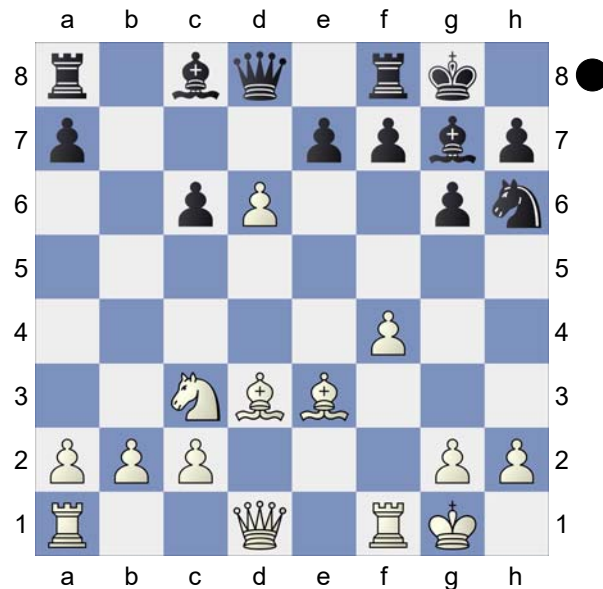


[9.Bd4 might be a better shot at a plus. I see a flurry of Sindarov games for White last year, including a loss to Carlsen! f6 10.f4 Qa5 11.Qd2 fxe5 12.fxe5 Bxe5 13.Qg5 d6 14.Bxe5 Qxe5+ 15.Qxe5 dxe5 16.0-0-0 Nf6 17.Re1 Nd5 18.Rxe5 Nxc3 19.bxc3 Rf8 20.Bc4 Rf5 21.Re3 a5 22.Rhe1 Ra7 23.g3 Rc5 24.Bg8 Kf8 25.Bxh7 Kf7 0-1 (78) Sindarov,J (2722)-Carlsen,M (2839) Titled Tuesday (blitz), 12 Aug 2025]

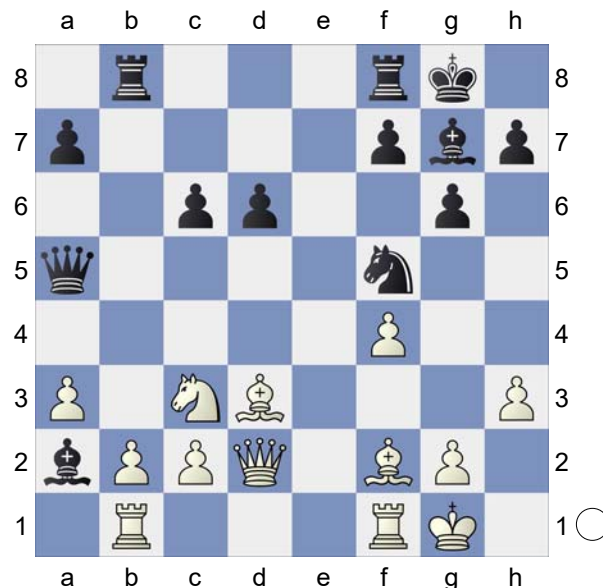
9...Nh6 4 **10.Bd3** 3:59
[10.h3 0-0 11.g4 f6]
10...0-0 33 **11.0-0** 1:03
[11.h3=]
11...d6 5 **12.exd6** 9:23
[12.h3]

(Diagram)

12...exd6 7
[12...Ng4! 13.Bd2 (13.dxe7 Qxe7 14.Bf2 Nxf2 15.Kxf2 Qb4) 13...exd6 (13...Qxd6 14.Qe2)]
13.h3 3:37 **Nf5** 6:37 **14.Bf2** 52 **Rb8N** 17:50
[14...Bb7 15.Bxf5 gxf5 16.Qd3 Qf6 17.Rad1 Rfd8 18.Ne2 Qg6 19.Ng3 Bc8 20.c3 Be6 1-0 (56) Najjar Arrieta,



O (1760)-Almau Izquierdo,I (1224) Salobrena 2023]
15.Rb1 11:53 **Be6** 9:58 **16.Qd2** 2:14 **Qa5** 1:30 **17.a3** 1:06 **Ba2!?** 7:32

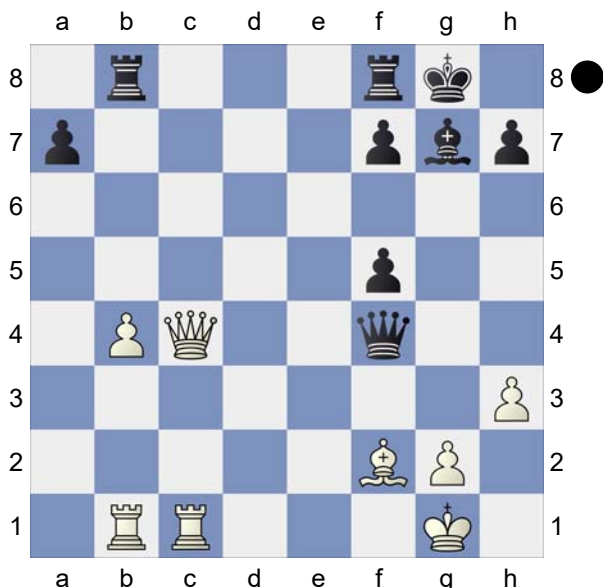


Not necessarily best, but it has a flair to it! **18.b4!** 3:12

[18.Nxa2? Qxd2]
18...Qxa3 3:46 **19.Nxa2** 7 **Qxa2=** 30 **20.Bxf5** 37 **gxf5** 10 **21.Qxd6** 1:12 **Qxc2** 1:59 My engine window just filled with 0.00s **22.Rfc1** 1:51 **Qe4** 1:15 **23.Qxc6** 2:08 **Qxf4** 1:52 **24.Qc4** 1:16

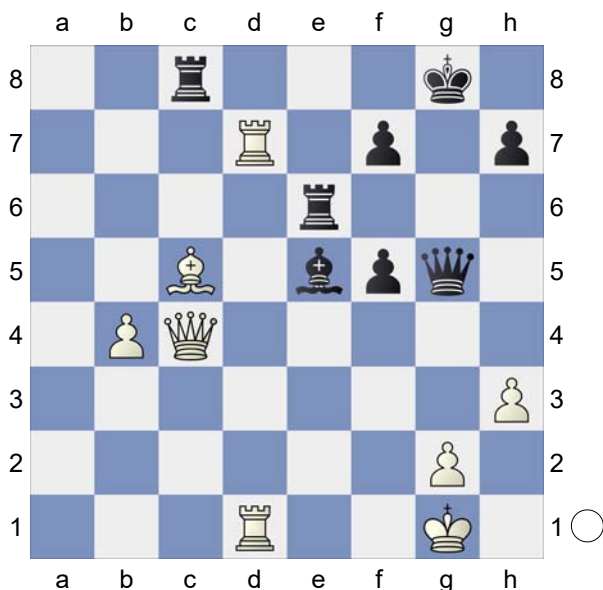
(Diagram)

Qd2?! 6:20 Christophe bends over



backwards a bit to keep winning chances. If he knew how good Dev has been getting (both here at the MI and in Berkeley at the chess school), he might have just acquiesced to a boring draw... **25.Rd1** 1:53

[25.Bxa7!± Rb7 26.Bc5±]
25...Qg5 14 **26.Bxa7** 1:34 **Rbc8** 1:29
27.Bc5± 1:02 **Rfe8** 1:23 **28.Rd7** 2:49
Re6 3:29 **29.Rbd1** 5:26
 [29.Rf1!± (+0.96/23)]
29...Be5= 9:00



30.Rxf7?? 2:23 Well *that's* no good! Dev miscalculates -- everything else was 0.00 even. **30...Kxf7-+** 4:34 **31.Rd7+** 8
 [31.Rf1 Rxc5! 32.bxc5 Qe3+ 33.Kh1

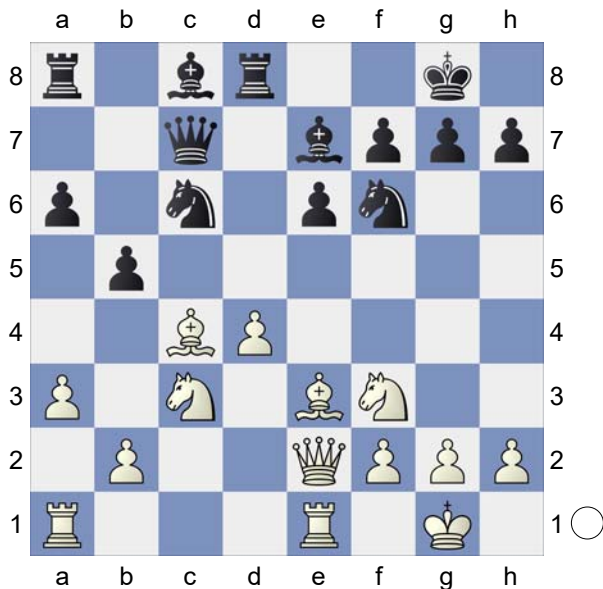
Qg3 34.Rxf5+ Ke7 35.Kg1 Bc7-+]
31...Kf6 46 **32.Be7+** 3:19
 [32.Kf1-+]
32...Rxe7 15 Stockfish is showing mate in eight here... **33.Qa6+** 30 **Re6** 39
34.Qxc8 15 **Qe3+** 50 **35.Kf1** 5 **Qf4+** 10
36.Kg1 12 **Bd4+** 23 Beautiful play by Bambou! Weighted Error Value: White=0.53/Black=0.11 (very precise)
0-1

D40
 1841
Sisti, Daniel J
 1577
 2026 Fall TNM: 1600-1999 (2.22) 8.9.26
 [Winslow, Elliott]

After winning the 1600-1999 section of the Spring TNM and missing the Summer TNM, Richard Finacom is back and going strong this time, but it wasn't so convincing at all -- Daniel Sisti, finding a hard time hitting his mark, was so close this time! Not easy, but there were quite a few opportunities missed this game. And even right at the end, he just had to take a pawn, letting Richard take off with his own passed pawn for a queen. Close! **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.e3 c5 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Bd3 dxc4 7.Bxc4 cxd4 8.exd4 Be7 9.0-0 0-0 10.Re1 a6 11.a3 Qc7 12.Qe2**

[Relevant: 12.Bb3 Rd8 13.Bg5 Qa5 14.Ne4 Nxe4 15.Bxe7 Nxe7 16.Rxe4 Bd7 17.Ne5 Be8 18.Qh5 Nf5 19.d5 f6 20.Nc4 Qxd5 21.Qg4 h5 22.Qf4 g5 23.Qf3 Nd4 24.Rxd4 Qxd4 25.Re1 Bf7 26.h3 Kg7 27.Ne3 Qf4 28.Qe2 Rac8 29.g3 Qd4 30.Qf3 Qb6 31.Nf5+ Kf8 32.Nh6 Qa5 33.Rxe6 Rc1+ 34.Kh2 h4 35.Qxf6 hxg3+ 36.Kg2 1-0 (36) Rindone, A (2160)-Marzatico, L (2022) Piacenza 2024]

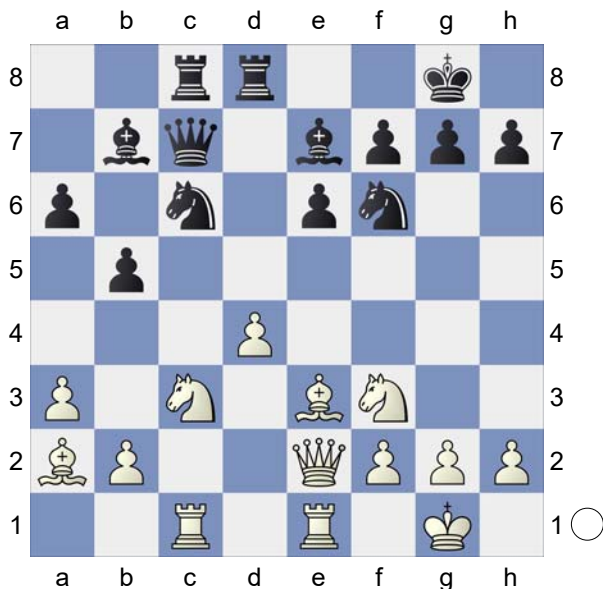
12...Rd8 13.Be3 b5



14.Ba2N

[Predecessor: 14.Bd3 Bb7 15.Rac1 Qd7 16.Ne4 Rac8 17.Rcd1 Nxe4 18.Bxe4 Bf6 19.b4 Ne7 20.Bg5 Bxg5 21.Nxg5 Bxe4 22.Qxe4 Ng6 23.Qf3 Rc4 24.Qh5 Nf8 25.Re4 g6 26.Qe2 Qc7 27.Nf3 Rc2 28.Qe1 Qc3 29.Qxc3 Rxc3 30.Re3 Rdc8 31.Ne5 f6 32.Nd3 Rd8 33.Nc5 Rxd4 34.Ra1 Rxe3 35.fxe3 Rd6 36.a4 e5 37.axb5 axb5 38.Ra5 Rb6 39.Ra8 Kf7 40.Rxf8+ 1-0 (40) Gostelow,L (2039)-Jaszkiwskyj,P (1871) England 2023]

14...Bb7 15.Rac1 Rac8



16.b4

[16.Ng5! Qd7! 17.Rcd1 Na5 18.d5!= /±]

16...h6= 17.Red1 Bf8 18.Bb1 Qb8

[18...Ba8!?]

19.h3

[19.d5!=]

19...Ne7!± 20.Ne5 Ned5

[20...Nf5! 21.Bxf5 exf5 22.Qa2 Rc7 23.Qb1 Bd6±]

21.Nxd5 Nxd5?!

[21...Bxd5]

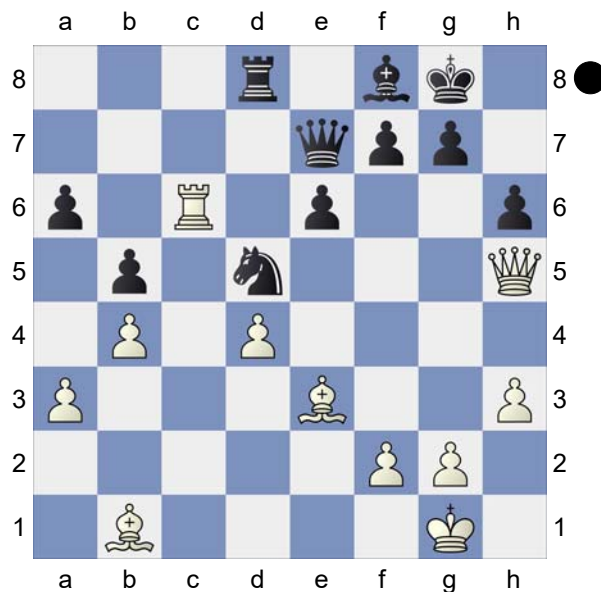
22.Qh5± Rc7 23.Rxc7

[23.Bg5! Rdc8 24.Rc5!±]

23...Qxc7 24.Rc1 Qe7 25.Nc6?

[25.Bg5! Nf6! 26.Bxf6 gxf6! (26...Qxf6?? 27.Rc7+-) 27.Ng4 Rd5± / = 28.Nxh6+ Kg7 29.Qxf7+! Qxf7 30.Nxf7 Rd7 31.Nd8! Bd5 32.Rc8 Bd6 33.Nc6 Bc7 34.Na5 Bb6=]

25...Bxc6 26.Rxc6



Rd6?

[26...a5!±]

27.Rc1 Rd8 28.Qg4 Kh8 29.Qe4 Nf6

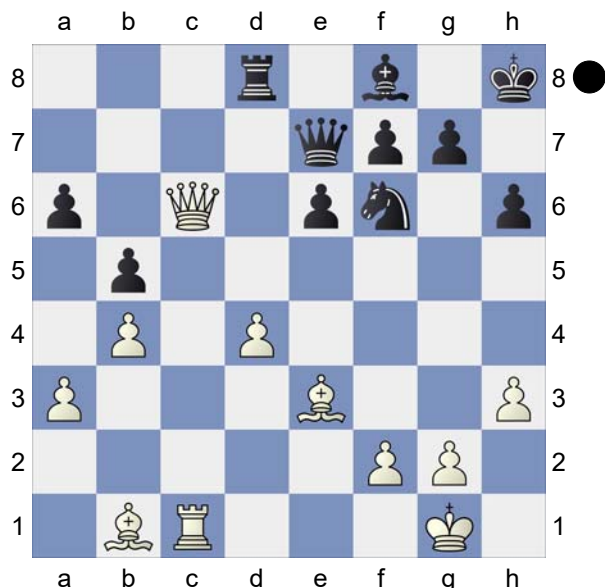
[29...g6]

30.Qc6

(Diagram)

Qd6?!

[30...Nd5! 31.Qxa6 Nxe3 32.fxe3 Qg5 33.Re1 Qg3 34.Kf1 (34.Re2



Bd6) 34...Be7 35.Qb7! Bh4 36.Re2 Qh2 37.g4!=]

31.Qxd6 Rxd6 32.Rc8± Kg8 33.f3

[33.Ba2! Nd5 34.Bxd5

A) 34...Rxd5?! 35.f3± (35.Ra8±);

B) 34...exd5±]

33...g5

[33...Nd5=]

34.Be4 Nd5?!

[34...Kg7]

35.Bf2?!

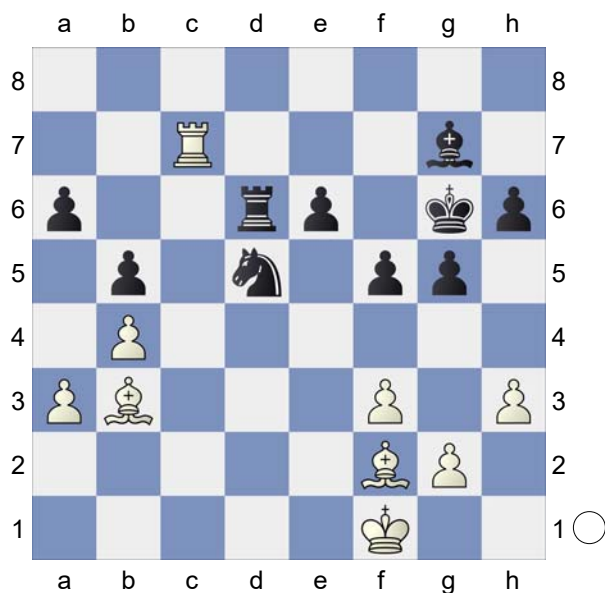
[35.Bxd5 exd5 36.f4!?]

35...f5 36.Bc2 Kf7 37.Bb3 Bg7

38.Kf1 Nf4 39.Rc7+ Kg6 40.d5?!

[40.g3!]

40...Nxd5



41.Ra7?

[41.Bxd5 exd5 (41...Rxd5 42.Rc6) 42.Ke2=]

41...Bb2?

[41...Nf4!-+]

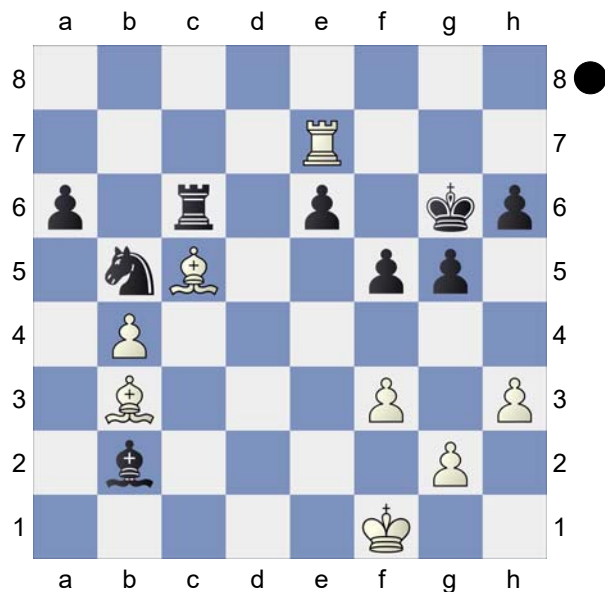
42.Bc5 Rc6 43.a4! Nc7 44.axb5

Nxb5=

[44...axb5!?]

45.Re7?!

[45.Rd7 Kf6 46.Be7+=]



45...Kf6

[45...Bd4!± 46.Rxe6+ Rxe6 47.Bxe6 Bxc5 48.bxc5 Kf6± (48...Nd4 49.Bc4 a5)]

46.Rb7 Bd4?

[46...Ke5]

(Diagram)

47.Be7+??

[47.Rxb5 axb5 48.Bxd4+ e5 49.Bc5+- Surprising? It is to me!]

47...Kg6?

[47...Ke5-+]

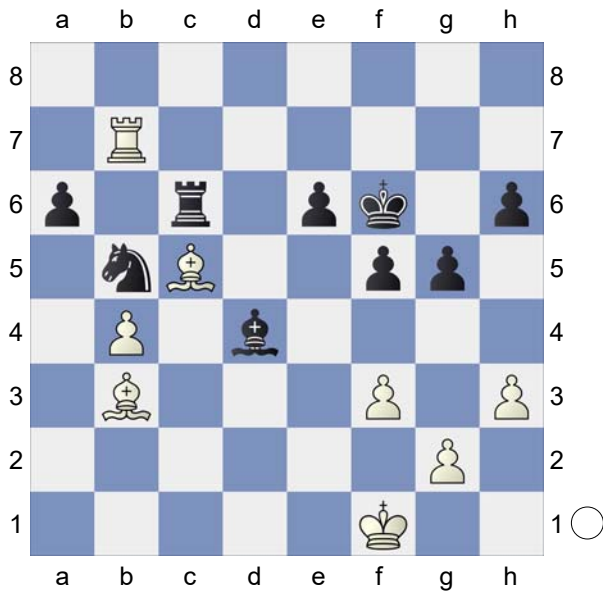
48.Ke2?

[48.g4 h5 49.Kg2±]

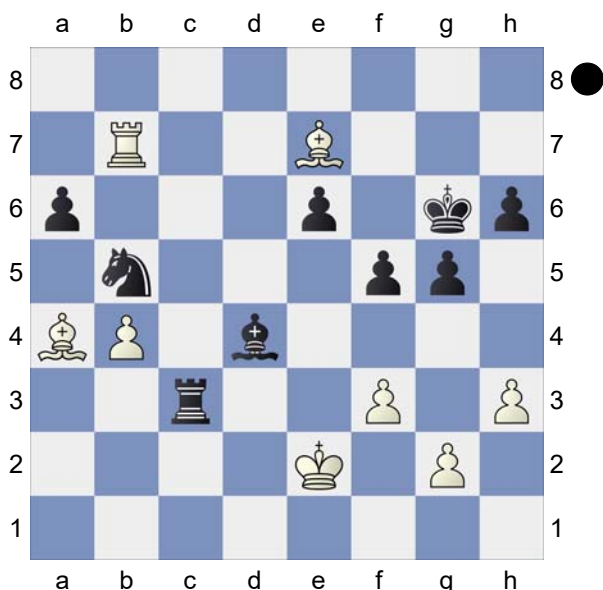
48...Rc3-+

[48...f4]

[48...Kh5]



49.Ba4



Re3+?

[49...Kh5!-+]

50.Kd2 f4?!=

[50...Ra3 51.Bxb5 axb5 52.Rxb5 Ra2+ 53.Kd3 Bg1 f4 !=]

51.Bxb5 axb5 52.Rxb5 Bc3+ 53.Kc2 Bd4 54.Bc5 Bxc5

[54...e5=]

[54...Rc3+=]

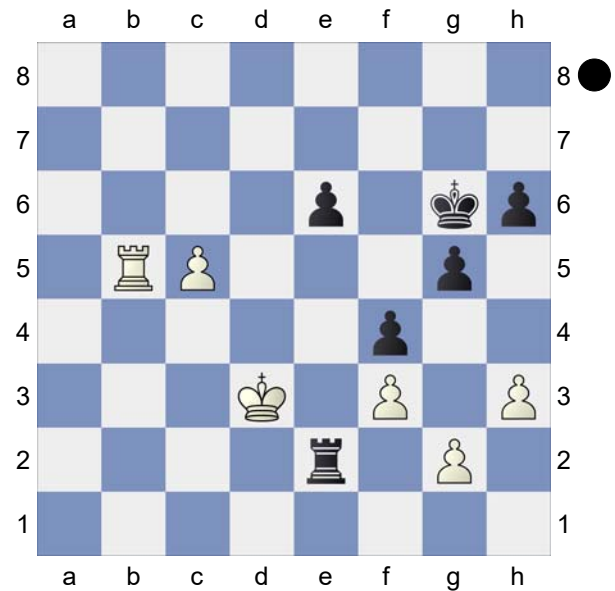
55.bxc5 Re2+

[55...Kf6]

[55...Re5 56.Kd3 Kf6=]

56.Kd3

(Diagram)



Rxg2?? This allows White to make a successful run for it.

[56...Re3+ 57.Kc4 Re2=]

57.c6+- Ra2 58.c7 Ra8 59.Rb8 Ra3+ 60.Kd4 Rxf3 61.c8Q Re3 62.Qe8+ Kf5 63.Rb5+ Kf6 64.Re5 1-0

□ **Siegel,David** **1676**

■ **Chan,John** **1500**

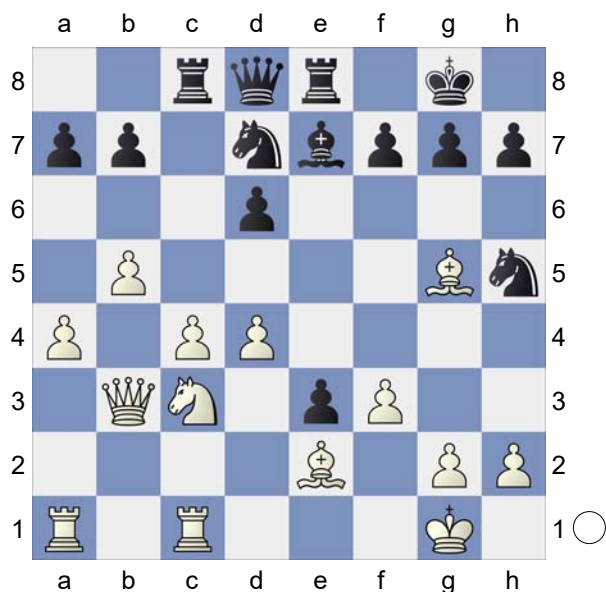
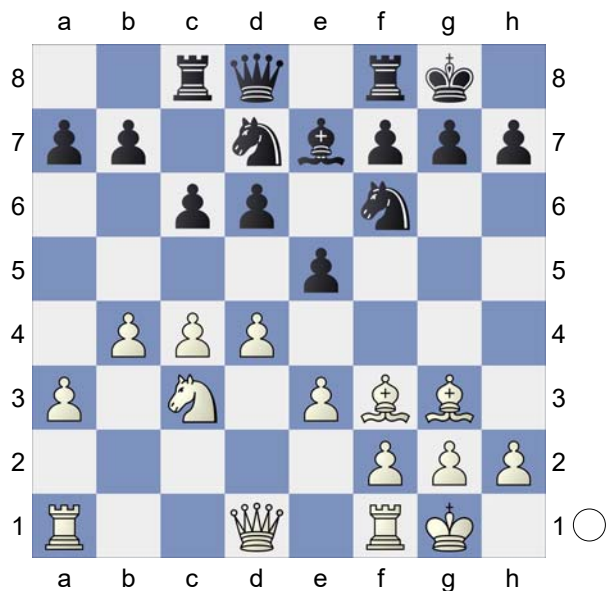
2026 Fall TNM: 1600-1999 (2.24) 8.9.26

[Siegel,David]

(EW: Siegel disassembles Chan's "come and get me" opening. **1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 c6 3.Nf3 d6 4.d4 Bg4 5.Bf4 Nbd7 6.e3 Qa5 7.Be2 Bxf3 8.Bxf3 e5 9.Bg3 Be7 10.0-0 0-0 11.a3 Rac8 12.b4 Qd8**

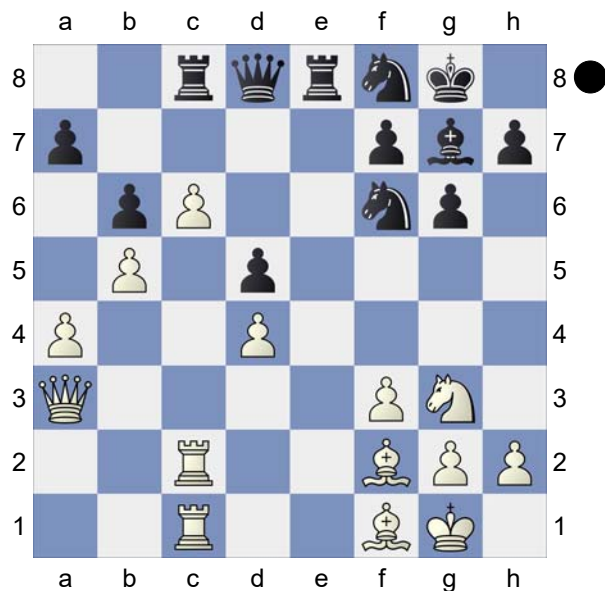
(Diagram)

I've got a lot of space, I guess my plan right now is to either try to break through on the queenside or induce some weaknesses somewhere else... **13.Qb3 Re8 14.Rfd1 Qc7 15.a4 Bf8 16.Rdc1 e4 17.Be2 Qd8 18.b5 c5 19.Bh4 Be7 20.f3 cxd4 21.exd4 e3 22.Bg5 Nh5**

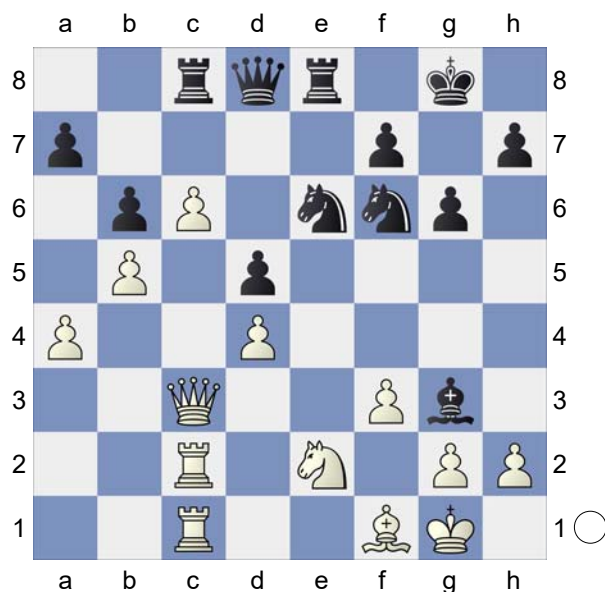


Seems like it's just a free pawn. Bf6 is annoying but Ne4 seems to solve all my problems... **23.Bxe3 Bf6 24.Ne4 Be7 25.Bf1 Nhf6 26.Ng3** I had 3 pieces on the e-file and I'm just trying to consolidate a bit. 25. Bf1 was just to prevent any shenanigans. The purpose of 26. Ng3 was just to avoid trading pieces. Black's position seemed cramped and I didn't want to make it easier for my opponent to play. **26...g6 27.Rc2 Bf8 28.Bf2 Bg7 29.Rac1 b6 30.Qa3 Nf8** I've been preparing to push my c-pawn; 30... Nf8 makes it easier for me. **31.c5 d5 32.c6**

(Diagram)



The pawn on c6 is clearly an advantage, if everything comes off the board I must be winning. I felt pretty good about how things were going at this point but I knew I was far from winning. **32...Ne6 33.Ne2 Bf8 34.Qc3 Bd6 35.Bg3 Bxg3**



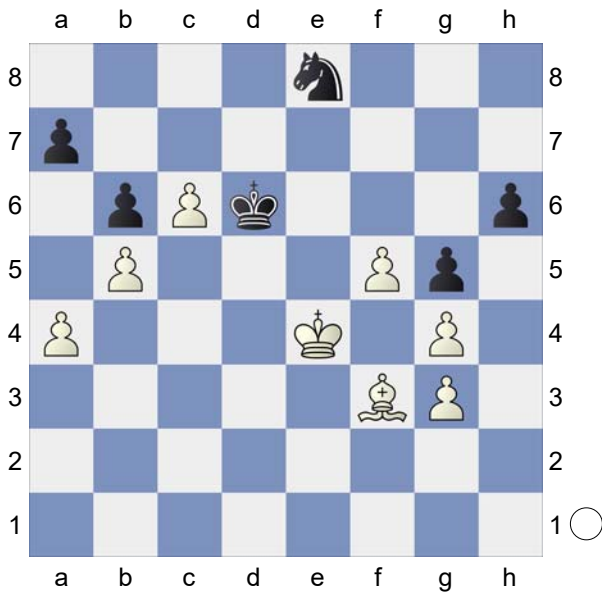
36.hxg3?! probably a mistake; at the time I just didn't want my knight on g3 and I kind of liked the mass of pawns, but I started having to worry a bit about my king safety. Not ideal.

[36.Nxg3+- h5 37.Nh1!]

36...Qc7 37.Qd2 Kg7 38.Nf4 h6 39.Nxe6+ Rxe6 40.g4 Rce8 41.Qf2 R8e7 42.Re2 Ne8 43.Rce1 Qd6 44.Rxe6 Rxe6 45.Rxe6 Qxe6 46.Qe2

Nc7

[The computer thinks 46...Qxe2 is only a small advantage for White.]
47.Qe5+ Qxe5 48.dxe5 f6 49.exf6+ Kxf6 50.f4 g5 51.g3 Ke6 This seems winning for White — the f- and c- pawns are dangerously close to promoting -- but my opponent is extremely crafty. **52.Kf2 d4 53.Bc4+ Kd6 54.Ke2 Kc5 55.Kd3 Ne8 56.f5 Kd6 57.Kxd4 Nf6 58.Be2 Ne8 59.Bf3 Nc7 60.Ke4 Ne8**

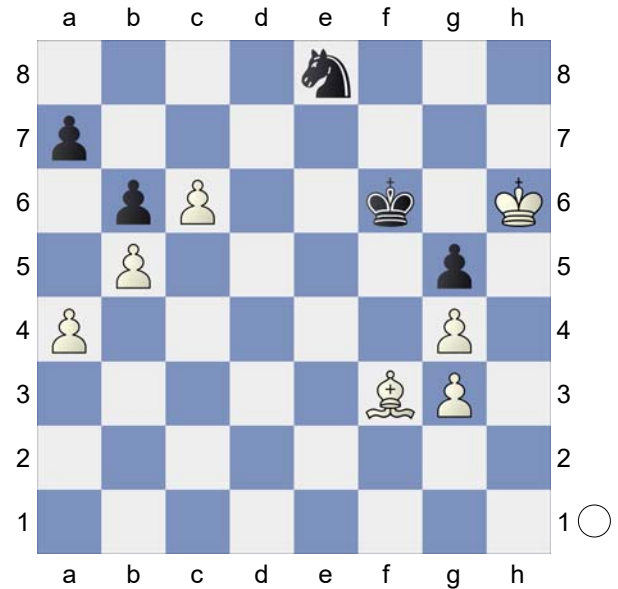


I had a deep think here. My opponent has all of his pawns on dark squares and seems to be preventing my king from infiltrating. For a moment it seemed like there was no way to make progress. Then I saw that I could infiltrate with a properly-timed pawn push. The computer thinks there were better moves but once I saw what seemed like a winning plan I didn't keep looking. **61.f6 Ke6**

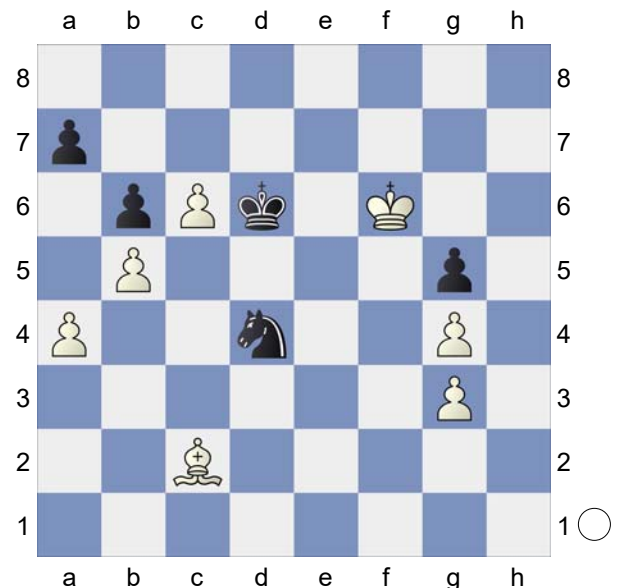
[61...Nxf6+ 62.Kf5 Ne8 63.Kg6]
62.f7 Kxf7 63.Ke5 Ke7 64.Kf5 Nc7 65.Kg6 Ne8 66.Kxh6 Kf6

(Diagram)

I panicked for a moment — was the Black king going to be able to box me out and keep me stuck on the h-file? No — my bishop can prevent him from going



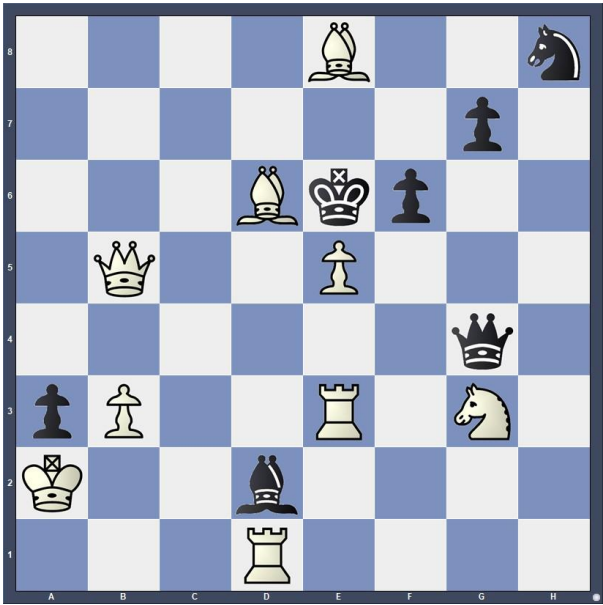
to f7. **67.Be4 Nc7 68.Bf5 Nd5 69.Kh7 Kf7 70.Bd3 Kf6 71.Kg8 Nc7 72.Kf8 Ke6 73.Kg7 Kd6 74.Kg6 Ne6 75.Bf5 Nc5 76.Bc2 Ne6 77.Kf6 Nd4**



I spent several minutes calculating and triple-checking my calculation, and it really looked like sacking my bishop would be a straightforward win, so I went for it. The computer likes it too. **78.Kxg5! Nxc2 79.Kh6 Ne3 80.g5 Nf5+ 81.Kh7 Nxc3 82.g6 Nh5 83.g7 Nxc7 84.Kxc7 Kc7 85.Kf6 Kd6 86.Kf7 Kc7 87.Ke7 a6** It's winning whether or not I capture but capturing was easier to calculate. **88.bxa6 Kxc6 89.Kd8 1-0**

Tony's Teasers

White to Play and Mate in 2.



Solution

1. Nf5! And amazingly Black is now in Zugzwang. If 1...g6 then 2. Ng7# - if
2. Kxf4 then e6!!

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