MECHANICS' INSTITUTE
CULTURE IN COMMUNITY

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SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94014

Chess Room Newsletter



GM Mark Heimann's dad's sage chess advice:
"Be Bullish on Yourself!"

Issue #1077 | November 7, 2026 | Gens Una Sumus!

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Recent Tournaments at the Mechanics' Institute

Alex Robins

In October we wrapped up our ongoing **Fall Tuesday Night Marathon** - check out below for IM Elliott Winslow's master analysis of selected games! In the 2000+ section, **GM Christopher Woojin Yoo (2667)** and **IM Elliott Winslow (2203)** tied for 1st place, both finishing at 5.5. **Rudransh Pathak (1929)** claimed 3rd with a strong 5.0. **Jeremy David Cawthon (2098)** earned the Best u2200 prize with 4.5, while **Cailen Jeremiah Melville (1843)** and **Daniel Rob Perlov (1809)** tied at 4.0, sharing the Best u2000 award.
The 1600-1999 section was won by **CM Isaac Dan Zhao (1981)**, who posted an outstanding 6.5 to claim 1st place outright. A three-way tie for 2nd formed at 5.0 points among **Sudarshan Seshadri (1989)**, **Rajdeep Pinge (1974)**, and **Frederic "Fritz" Dutter (1900)**, who shared the 2nd and 3rd place prizes. Shoutout to Fritz who did it despite some health issues! **Hoa Long Tam (1692)**, **Junior Mejia (1682)**, and **Shahin Aghevli (1644)** tied at 4.5, sharing the Best u1800 award. **Daniel J Sisti (1577)**, **Keshav V Raman (1557)**, **Dominic A Vazquez (1542)**, **John Chan (1500)**, and **Connor Harriman (1483)** all scored 3.5, sharing the Best u1600 prize. A special shoutout also to our player **Duif Calvin** who now is the top rated Quick player woman over 65!
In the u1600 section, **Romeo Belmes Barreyro (1567)** and **Julian Ossa (unr.)** tied for 1st place at 6.0. **Bryan D Martin (1233)** took 3rd with 5.5. **Andy Liang (1300)** earned the Best u1400 prize with 5.0, and **Alexander Kojevnikov (1184)** claimed the Best u1200 award with 4.5.

Full results can be found here.

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

Our first tournament of the month was a two FIDE day event, the **24th McClain Memorial**. In the 2000+ section, **Aashvi Sri Rangamreddy (1816)** took 1st place with a strong 3.5. **Darsh Thekkoot (1771)** followed with 3.0 for 2nd. **Pranav Db (1796)** and **Rajdeep Pinge (1974)** tied at 2.5, sharing 3rd place, with Pranav also earning the Best u2200 prize. Rounding out the prize list, a five-way tie at 2.0 among **Alejandro L Canales (1887)**, **WCM Serena Yuan (1884)**, **Dev Isak Kosuri (1830)**, **Ansh Ankit Doshi (1818)**, and

Anirudh Gutta (1815) shared the Best u2000 award.
The 1600-1999 section produced a five-way tie for 1st at 3.0 points between **Serena Liu (1784)**, **Yuvan Nandhakumar (1734)**, **Jinfeng Liu (1715)**, **Rishan Biswas (1693)**, and **Ayden Wang (1670)**, who shared the top three places along with the Best u1800 award. **Samuel Allen Saliva (1546)** earned the Best u1600 prize with 2.0.
In the u1600 section, **Keller Ma (1366)** went 4.0 to win 1st place outright. **Anthony Lawson Defranco (1140)** and **Jacob Eugene Norris (874)** tied at 3.0, sharing 2nd place. **Yousuf Jamal (1194)** claimed the Best u1200 prize with 2.5, and **Arnav Parisaboyina (1167)** took the Best u1400 award with 2.0.

Full results can be found here.

This tournament was directed by FA/ANTD Scott Mason and NTD/IA Judit Sztaray.

Our next tournament was our ever-growing and no longer monthly, **Mechanics' Bimonthly Scholastic Swiss**. The 500+ section was won by Mechanics' Chess Camp alumnus **Callum Kenna (916)**, who posted a strong 3.5 to claim 1st place. **Wen Larson (817)**, **Tiberius Ostrem (831)**, **Miles Chen (761)**, and **Nova Xie (720)** all finished at 3.0, taking 2nd through 5th place in a tightly bunched finish.
In the u500 section, Mechanics' Chess Camp alumnus **Charlie Changrui Zhang (368)** went 4.0 to win 1st place outright with a perfect score - way to go Charlie! **Parker Firmage (371)** and **Alexander Wang (unr.)** tied at 3.5, taking 2nd and 3rd place. **Arjun Sharma (105)** and **Kian Tuolumne Bays (unr.)** both scored 3.0, claiming 4th and 5th.
Among the unrated players, **Jake Welch (unr.)**, **Loic Xavier Noah-Vanhoucke (unr.)**, and **Ryan Mowla (unr.)** each finished at 3.0 to take the top three unrated spots. **Julius Campbell Blodgett (unr.)** and **Mathieu Tricot (unr.)** both scored 2.0, earning 4th and 5th place among the unrated.

Full results can be found here.

This tournament was directed by Senior TD Arthur Liou.

Our next tournament was in honor of "the six-time" himself the **Walter Browne Memorial.** In the 2000+ section, **WIM Laurie Qiu (2219)** won 1st place with a strong 4.0. **Abhishek Mallela (2122)** followed with 3.0 for 2nd. A three-way tie for 3rd formed at 2.0 points among **Youting Long (1912)**,

Arjunsai Navaneetha Prabhu (1888), and **WCM Serena Yuan (1884)**.
The 1600-1999 section was won by **CM Isaac Dan Zhao (1946)**, who posted a solid 3.5 to claim 1st place outright. **Daniel Sevall (1844)** and **Kar Lun Cheng (1729)** tied at 3.0, sharing 2nd place
In the u1600 section, **Craig Baldwin Patrick Faria (1496)** went 4.0 to take 1st place. A three-way tie for 2nd formed at 3.0 points among **Cameron Lee Troy (1380)**, **Nevaan Vikram Jadhav (1277)**, and **Lawrence Tingyu Zhang (925)**.

Full results can be found here.
This tournament was directed by Senior TD Arthur Liou.

Next in the month came our 4th Benson Memorial Tournament. In the 2000+ section, **Abhishek Mallela (2122)** took 1st place with a strong 4.0. **WIM Laurie Qiu (2219)** followed with 3.0 for 2nd, and **Sheel Dandekar (2034)** rounded out the podium in 3rd with 2.5.
The 1600-1999 section was won by **Daniel Sevall (1844)**, who posted a perfect 4.0 to claim 1st place outright. A four-way tie for 2nd formed at 2.5 points among **Anirudh Gutta (1815)**, **Kar Lun Cheng (1729)**, **Avyukth Ganapathy Viswanath (1698)**, and **Jessica Zhang (1548)**, who shared the 2nd and 3rd place prizes.
In the u1600 section, **Yiran Mao (1193)** went 4.0 to win 1st place. **Tyler Bard (1448)** and **Alexander Dylan Wong (1017)** tied at 3.0, sharing 2nd and 3rd place.

Full results can be found here.
This tournament was directed by Senior TD Arthur Liou.

In the off-weeks between Tuesday Night Marathons, we held two fast chess tournaments on Tuesdays starting first with our **Fast Fall Blitz**. In the 1800+ section, **GM Christopher Woojin Yoo (2640)** dominated with a 7.0 to claim 1st place. **Jeremy David Cawthon (2098)** followed with 5.5 for 2nd. **Sivavishnu Srinivasan (2160)** and **Daniel Sevall (1844)** tied at 5.0, sharing 3rd place.
In the u1800 section, **Yousuf Jamal (1194)** posted an excellent 6.0 to win 1st place outright. A three-way tie for 2nd formed at 5.0 points among **David Siegel (1676)**, **Neel Gore (1485)**, and **Oliver Casey (1131)**.

Full results can be found here.

This tournament was directed by FA/ANTD Scott Mason.

Our next two day FIDE tournament was a terrific sold out affair, our **54th Capps Memorial Tournament**! In the 2000+ section, **GM Christopher Woojin Yoo (2640)** took 1st place with a dominant 4.0. **Yuvraj Singh Sawhney (1978)** followed with 3.5 for 2nd, and **Sarvagnya Brahmanapally (1813)** claimed 3rd with 3.0, also earning the Best u2000 prize. A five-way tie at 3.0 among **Xiaofei Li (2118)**, **FM Andrew Boekhoff (2303)**, **Reyansh Paragiri (2212)**, **Reyansh Gupta (2049)**, and **Zelin Fang (2023)** shared 3rd place and the Best u2200 award.
The 1600-1999 section ended in a four-way tie for 1st at 3.5 points between **Wilson Han (1632)**, **CM Isaac Dan Zhao (1946)**, **Ivan Tam (1851)**, and **Srinadh Yenamandra (1776)**, who shared the top three places along with the Best u1800 award. **Jonathan Dai (1573)**, **Ryan Gai (1521)**, and **Srikar Yenamandra (1428)** tied at 2.0, sharing 5th place and the Best u1600 prize. In the u1600 section, **Yi Li (1436)** and **Sumanth Pavuluri (1260)** tied for 1st place at 3.5. **John Chan (1500)** took 3rd with 3.0. **Mohit Kumar Rout (1290)** and **Rishaan Nair (1207)** tied at 2.5, sharing 4th place and the Best u1400 award, while **Arjun Bemgal (1111)** and **Shivaansh Girish (1078)** tied at 2.0, sharing 6th place and the Best u1200 prize.

Full results can be found here.

This tournament was directed by FA/ANTD Scott Mason.

Our second fast chess tournament on an off Tuesday night was our busy **Halloween Rapid** - one of the bigger rapid tournaments we've held in recent years. In the 1800+ section, **Jeremy David Cawthon (2107)** took 1st place with a strong 4.5. **Chawit Asavasaetakul (2172)** followed with 4.0 for 2nd, and **Sheel Dandekar (2023)** rounded out the podium in 3rd with 3.5. In the u1800 section, **Simone Maria Macario (unr.)** posted an excellent 4.5 to win 1st place outright. A four-way tie for 2nd formed at 4.0 points among **Hoa Long Tam (1713)**, **David Siegel (1666)**, **Shardul S Golwalkar (1457)**, and **Peter Shalek (unr.)**.

Full results can be found here.

This tournament was directed by FA/ANTD Scott Mason.

Our next tournament was in honor of the father of Daniel Naroditsky, who also served on our board of directors the **4th Vladimir Naroditsky Memorial** Tournament. Please also consider coming to the roundtable and tournament we'll be holding on 11/15 in honor of his son Daniel. In the 2000+ section, **FM Andrew Boekhoff (2303)** took 1st place with a strong 4.0. **Abhishek Mallela (2135)** and **Aashvi Sri Rangamreddy (1908)** tied at 3.0, sharing 2nd and 3rd place.
The 1600-1999 section was won by **Albert Ziatdinov (1892)**, who posted a perfect 4.0 to claim 1st place outright. **Luciano Lubensky (1659)** followed with 3.0 for 2nd, and **Rishan Biswas (1711)** rounded out the podium in 3rd with 2.5.
In the u1600 section, **Krishna Sadasivan (1324)** went 4.0 to win 1st place outright. A four-way tie for 2nd formed at 3.0 points among **Albert Martin Starr (1500)**, **Arman De (1352)**, **Prahalad Raghavendran (1309)**, and **Cayden Chen (1265)**, who shared the 2nd and 3rd place prizes.

Full results can be found here.

This tournament was directed by FA/ANTD Scott Mason.

Our second **Bi-Monthly Mechanics' Scholastic Swiss** was another hit with the kids! In the 600+ section, **Owen Shen (1090)** won 1st place with a strong 3.5. A four-way tie for 2nd formed at 2.5 points among **Rafael Max Petlin-Teisch (1080)**, **Haonan Niu (1146)**, **Bently Darneal (663)**, and **Shivansh Chejerla (1068)**, who shared the 2nd through 5th place trophies.
In the u600 section, **Charles Kimberlin (497)** went 4.0 to win 1st place outright. **Eva Gunzenhauser (573)**, **Ryan Mowla (550)**, and **Atticus Pass (553)** all finished at 3.0, sharing 2nd place and taking the 2nd through 4th place trophies. **Parker Firmage (462)** closed out the prize list in 5th with 2.5.

Full results can be found here.

This tournament was directed by FA/ANTD Scott Mason.

Our last tournament to cover was our scary strong **November FIDE Blitz**. In the 1800+ section, **GM Sam Shankland (2715)** won 1st place with a dominant 6.5. **GM Balaji Daggupati (2532)** followed with 5.5 for 2nd, and **GM Patrick G Wolff (2588)** rounded out the podium in 3rd with 5.0. Like I said, a scary strong tournament if you're not a GM yourself!
In the u1800 section, **Ethan C Leung (1468)** and **Isaac Chen (1401)** tied for

1st place, both finishing at 5.5. **Yousuf Jamal (1305)** and **Max Malin (unr.)** tied at 5.0, sharing 3rd place.

Full results can be found here.

This tournament was directed by FA/ANTD Scott Mason.

The Scientific Era in the Study of Chess Thinking Part II

Dmitry Dzhanhirov, NM, Independent Researcher

Worcester: Larger Units of Thought (1907)

After the Frenchman Alfred Binet, the next step in the study of chess psychology was taken across the Atlantic. In 1906 Alfred Cleveland (1876–1953) defended a dissertation at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts. The topic had been suggested by his adviser, Edmund Sanford (1859–1924), a prominent member of the first generation of American psychologists. The following year the forty-page study, "The Psychology of Chess and of Learning to Play It," appeared in the *American Journal of Psychology*, published by the first president of Clark University, G. Stanley Hall (1844–1924). In December 1907 it was reprinted by the respected *Lasker's Chess Magazine*.

Binet had dealt almost exclusively with blindfold play; Cleveland gave it only about a seventh of his text. He was interested above all in how a player thinks at the board, how a chess player learns, and how his playing strength grows.

Like Binet, Cleveland relied on a questionnaire and on introspection, but his work is far more vulnerable on methodological grounds. He received about a hundred replies from "chess players of different grades," yet he named none of his respondents and did not explain how they were chosen. Judging from the text, the questionnaire circulated among Cleveland's acquaintances and through chess clubs, and the author often paraphrased the replies in his own words.

The second source of the study was Cleveland's own notes on learning to play chess, along with the observations of four assistants who learned the game together with him. In other words, Cleveland described the stages of a player's growth from novice to master from the standpoint of a beginner. There were no experiments and no control group. The conclusion that chess strength has nothing to do with general intelligence rested on a single case: a patient in a psychiatric ward.

One of today's leading researchers in the field, the Swiss cognitive psychologist and International Master Fernand Gobet (b. 1962), writing in *Moves in Mind: The Psychology of Board Games* (2004) with his coauthors Alex de Voogt and Jean Retschitzki, notes that *"Cleveland's description was vague in places and not buttressed by any experimental data."*

At the same time, Gobet observes: *"While his methodology – questionnaire and introspection – is weak by current standards, some of his results remain of interest."* Cleveland's undoubted achievement was that, behind the very mixed replies of amateurs, he made out an idea that would become one of the pillars of twentieth-century chess psychology: *"The chess player's skill is measured largely in terms of his ability to use larger and larger units of thought."*

Cleveland compared this to learning Morse code (from dots and dashes to words) and learning to read (from letters to phrases). In his view, as a player gains experience he stops noticing details and takes in the position as a whole: the master "feels" the position and can judge it at a glance. Gobet regards Cleveland as one of the first to notice the role of the structures we now call "chunks."

Yet the work remained all but forgotten for nearly eighty years. It was brought back to scholarly attention by the British-born American psychologist Dennis Holding (1925–1993), a professor at the University of Louisville in Kentucky and a specialist in the psychology of skill and training. In his book *The Psychology of Chess Skill* (1985) he refers to Cleveland repeatedly.

There is an irony in this story. Holding was the chief opponent of chunking theory, while Cleveland, with his "larger units of thought," is valued today above all as its forerunner.

Chunking Theory

The term "chunk" was introduced into psychology by George Miller (1920–2012). In his famous 1956 paper, "The Magical Number Seven, Plus or Minus Two," he showed that short-term memory holds about seven units, but each of those units can be as large as you like.

The idea was applied to chess by William Chase (1940–1983) and Herbert Simon (1916–2001), who would later win the Nobel Prize in Economics (1978). In 1973 they published the article "Perception in Chess" in the journal *Cognitive Psychology* and the chapter "The Mind's Eye in Chess" in the volume *Visual Information Processing*.

Subjects were shown a position from a real game for a few seconds and asked to reconstruct it on an empty board. Masters did this far better than novices. But when the pieces were placed at random, the gap disappeared: the master's memory as such turned out to be no better than anyone else's.

From the pauses players made while reconstructing a position, the researchers identified "chunks": groups of pieces linked by defense, attack, color, or proximity.

The conclusion: a master stores a vast repertoire of such familiar configurations in memory, and a recognized chunk immediately suggests certain moves to him.

We will examine chunking theory in detail in a later part of this historical survey.

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One of the questions in Cleveland's questionnaire was inherited from Binet: does a chess player see the future position in his mind's eye? It was worded as follows: *"Can you imagine, pictorially, what difference in the position a move would make, or are you absolutely without such an image, relying wholly on successive associations of one move with another?"*

On the basis of the replies, Cleveland divided players into three groups. Those in the first, and smallest, group see the position after a series of moves, and the actual pieces on the board even get in their way. This matches Siegbert Tarrasch's view, expressed in his reply to Binet's questionnaire, that a visual image is indispensable.

Others see the picture only partly and build it up move by move, mostly in words, that is, with an "inner voice." Still others have no image at all and rely only on the pieces in front of them.

Contrary to Tarrasch, Cleveland concludes that visualizing the position is *"an incidental and by no means essential factor."*

This classification was derived from a single question that offered the respondent two ready-made answers. Moreover, Cleveland did not compare the replies with the respondents' playing strength, although that alone might have settled his long-distance dispute with Tarrasch. It would have been just as interesting to look for a correlation between the depth of calculation and the presence of a visual image of the future position.

The five-stage scheme of learning that Cleveland proposed is also methodologically vulnerable. The first three stages are described on the basis of the experience of Cleveland himself and his four assistants as they learned the game; the last two, from the questionnaire material:

1) learning the names of the pieces and how they move;
2) a "period of blunders," when the pieces *"are moved hither and thither, unsupported and unsupporting"*;
3) learning to judge the strength of the pieces as they work together, and a fondness for premature attacks;

4) conscious planning of development and gradual mastery of general principles;
5) the acquisition of "position sense."

Cleveland himself admitted that these stages *"are somewhat arbitrary, and may not be followed exactly in individual cases."*

He noted, rather vaguely, that the fifth stage is marked by *"a fairly good knowledge of the value of different positions,"* and he described "position sense" by listing his respondents' guesses, for example:
"The mind has been drilled to feel any deviation from principles";
"it is due to a vague idea of similar situations leading to success or failure";
"it is the recognition of several fundamental points of strength or weakness";
"it is a symbolic shortening, a dropping out of intermediate processes of inference."

Cleveland's own conclusion clarifies little: *"Perhaps we should not be wrong in saying that it is all of these."* He attributed differences in position sense among players of equal experience to differences in native endowment, citing the eminent Harvard philosopher and psychologist William James (1842–1910).
It is worth noting that the last of these anonymous replies, about "a dropping out of intermediate processes," anticipates ideas that would later form the basis of chunking theory. Cleveland himself used the term "short circuit" for this, meaning the automatization of calculation, which also echoes chunking theory.

A significant part of Cleveland's study consists of testimony from the strongest players of the day, which he cites from books, magazines, and Binet's research. The central figure here is the American Harry Nelson Pillsbury (1872–1906).

Fame came to Pillsbury a year after Binet's book appeared, when in 1895 he unexpectedly won the international tournament at Hastings, finishing ahead of the entire world chess elite. He soon established himself as the strongest blindfold player of his time. In 1900 in Philadelphia, for example, he gave a blindfold exhibition on twenty-two boards, twenty of chess and two of checkers, while also playing a game of whist.

Cleveland calls him *"the greatest of all blindfold players"* and quotes Pillsbury's article "The Chess Player's Mind," published in the New York weekly *The Independent* on May 10, 1900: *"By the time twenty moves have been made there has been some clearing of the board and a definite objective has been developed. When I turn to the new board I say – Ah! number nine. This is the board on which we have exchanged queens; and the whole play comes back to me."* Cleveland concludes that a distinctive feature of a game serves as the cue for recalling all the moves that preceded it.

Pillsbury, by his own account, remembered each board and the position on it *"not as a picture, but as a record."* That memory was short-lived: five minutes after an exhibition, he had *"to think rather hard to recall the opening in any given game."* By contrast, Cleveland reports, Paul Morphy *"had never forgotten a game that he had played after his chess powers were mature."*

For Cleveland, Pillsbury is the main argument against Tarrasch: the greatest blindfold player did almost entirely without visual images. This agrees with the recollections of Pillsbury's boyhood friend, the Boston lawyer Norman Bingham (1872–1958), who crossed the Atlantic with him in 1899; they were published in the *Iowa Chess Correspondent* in 1944. According to Bingham, Pillsbury *"said he didn't carry a picture of the various tables in his mind and he didn't memorize the moves. He seemed to just know, when told what the move had been on one table, what he wanted to do."*

The most unexpected episode of the study was relegated to an appendix, "On the Case of a Feeble-Minded Chess Player." Cleveland mentions several reports of successful play by chess players with intellectual disabilities, but he judged that *"very likely the strength of these players has been very much overestimated."*
Cleveland himself spent a little over two months observing a fifty-four-year-old patient in the "department for the feeble-minded and criminally insane" at the Massachusetts State Farm, a man classed in the asylum records as a "congenital idiot."

The man could neither read nor write. Asked how many apples he would have if he had two and was given two more, he invariably answered, "Don't know." In January, asked whether it was June, he replied that it was the month before June, and then specified: "That is the month of October." No one had taught him chess; by his own account, he had picked up the moves about three years earlier by watching others play. In Cleveland's words, *"an average player of a year's experience could probably play as well or better,"* yet he played quite sensibly. He met threats at once, liked to "fork" his opponent's pieces, and once announced that his queen was lost before his opponent had even noticed.

Cleveland drew this conclusion: *"Chess skill is not an index of general intelligence."* The reasoning involved in chess, in his words, is *"reasoning within very narrow limits,"* and therefore *"a considerable degree of chess skill is possible to one who is mentally deficient in almost every other line."*

A single case is plainly not enough for so strong a claim, to say nothing of the fact that "a considerable degree of chess skill" hardly describes the play of someone at the level of "an average player of a year's experience." But Cleveland, a beginner himself, saw no contradiction here.

Still, later research on chess thinking would return to this thesis from time to time and find support for it.

After Cleveland, the study of chess thinking entered a thirteen-year pause. No experimental work on chess players appeared in those years. The nature of the game was discussed by the players themselves: World Champion Emanuel Lasker in his philosophical treatise *Kampf* (*Struggle*, 1907), and the well-known British problemist and chess journalist Philip Williams (1873–1922) in his essay "The Psychology of Games," published in the English magazine *Chess Amateur* (1918). On September 11, 1922, three days before his death, Williams, nicknamed "the Mark Twain of the chess world" for his wit, gave a lecture titled "Chess Psychology" at the newly formed Royal Mint Chess Club.

In 1913 a chess metaphor appeared in the writings of Sigmund Freud; we will return to it below.

Psychologists approached chess by a roundabout route. In 1913 Otto Selz (1881–1943), a psychologist close to the Würzburg school, published *Über die Gesetze des geordneten Denkverlaufs* (*On the Laws of Ordered Thought*), in which he showed that solving a problem is not a chain of associations but a directed search. There is no chess in the book, but more than thirty years later Adriaan de Groot (1914–2006) would build his own work on Selz's ideas.

Then everything was interrupted by the First World War (1914–1918), which at the same time taught psychologists how to test people on a mass scale. In the United States, more than one and a half million recruits took army tests under the direction of Robert Yerkes (1876–1956). In Germany, Walther Moede (1888–1958) and Curt Piorkowski (1888–1939) used questionnaires and tests to select drivers for the army; in 1919 they founded the journal *Praktische Psychologie*. It was from this new field, psychotechnics, that Franziska Baumgarten came to the study of chess.

Berlin: A Prodigy in a Hotel Room (1920)

In 1920 Europe watched in amazement as an eight-year-old chess prodigy from Poland, Szmul Rzeszewski, toured the continent. The future American grandmaster Samuel Reshevsky (1909/1911–1992) was born into a poor Orthodox Jewish family near Łódź. His father taught him chess when he was only four, and at six he was already playing the great Akiba Rubinstein (1880/1882–1961) in Warsaw. Soon after the First World War, the family took Samuel on a European tour: Vienna, Berlin, Hamburg, Amsterdam, Brussels, Paris. In the winter of 1920 in Berlin he gave a simultaneous exhibition on twenty boards and lost only one game, and in May, at the Café de la Rotonde in Paris, he won all twenty games.

In January 1920 in Berlin, the boy was examined by Franziska Baumgarten (1883–1970). A native of Łódź with a doctorate in philosophy from the

University of Zurich, she was one of the first European psychotechnicians; we will say more about this field in the next part of our survey. Baumgarten developed vocational aptitude tests, from 1922 served on the executive board of the International Association of Psychotechnics, and later taught psychotechnics at the University of Bern.

Her other research interest was gifted children. Parents of prodigies, Baumgarten observed, readily agree to scientific examinations, quite reasonably seeing them as advertising. Samuel's father was no exception, and the tests were carried out right in the hotel room. The boy understood only Yiddish and did not know the Latin alphabet; his father translated the questions from German.

The results were strikingly uneven. *"He failed to recognise a lion, a monkey, a tiger or a camel; a fox or wolf he called a dog; a bat he called a bird .... Shown a picture of a mushroom, he said 'chocolate!'"* He had never tried to draw, did not know the names of the basic colors, and was behind other children his age in arithmetic.

In the memory tests, however, Samuel *"showed the most extraordinary proficiency."* He was given four minutes to examine forty figures, each drawn in its own square, and he was able to restate them *"without a single mistake, and in the correct order."* The boy refused any help, and in Baumgarten's view *"this desire to overcome difficulties is definitely characteristic of unusually gifted children."* Her conclusion: the ability was there; the knowledge was not.

Many years later this conclusion was challenged by Reuben Fine (1914–1993), an outstanding American grandmaster and an equally accomplished psychoanalyst, as well as Reshevsky's longtime rival. In his monograph *The Psychology of the Chess Player* (1956), he pointed to an obvious methodological flaw in Baumgarten's study: the tests of general development ignored the fact that the boy had never gone to school and that German was a foreign language to him. Failing to recognize a lion in a picture when you have never seen a zoo or a children's picture book is a sign not of a weak mind but of what a child has not learned in early childhood. In Fine's view, the more reliable results came from tasks that depend little

on schooling, such as spatial imagination and memory. And those showed not a lag but a clear superiority, not only over ordinary children but over "average" adults.

At the same time, a more carefully worded version of the thesis – *an exceptional memory for chess material combined with quite ordinary general abilities, even in outstanding masters* – would often turn up in later research reports.

Baumgarten's report appeared in 1920 in the German journal *Praktische Psychologie* under the title "Die Intelligenzprüfung eines Schachwunderkindes" (Intelligence Testing of a Chess Prodigy). Summaries were printed by the *Berliner Tageblatt* and a number of chess magazines. In 1939 a detailed account was published by the English magazine *CHESS*.

In 1930 Baumgarten included the case in her book *Wunderkinder* (*Child Prodigies*), where she recalled with bitterness: *"I pointed out the dangers of the boy's lifestyle to the parents and even suggested that they look after his future, but I could not compete with the dollars that awaited him on his tour."*

In the fall of 1920 the Reshevskys left for America. There, hundreds of spectators turned out for his exhibitions, and newspapers wrote of fees, unheard of at the time, of thousands of dollars per appearance. In 1922 the New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children took the parents to court. In 1924 a group of philanthropists led by Julius Rosenwald (1862–1932) arranged for the boy to give up exhibitions for the sake of his education. He went on to graduate from the University of Chicago with a degree in accounting and returned to chess in 1933.

Documents found later indicate that Reshevsky was born in 1909. If they are correct, Baumgarten examined not an eight-year-old but a ten-year-old. It is quite possible that his parents understated Samuel's age to make him more of a sensation.
Reshevsky was one of the strongest players in the world from the 1930s to the 1950s. He shared 3rd–4th place in the 1948 match-tournament for the world championship and 2nd–4th place in the 1953 Candidates

Tournament, but the barrier of the Soviet grandmasters proved insurmountable for him.

Vienna: "You Cannot Reduce Everything to Oedipus!" (1922)

The first to speak of chess in a psychoanalytic context was the founder of psychoanalysis himself, Sigmund Freud (1856–1939), though only as a metaphor. In his paper "On Beginning the Treatment" (1913) he wrote: *"Anyone who hopes to learn the noble game of chess from books will soon discover that only the openings and end-games admit of an exhaustive systematic presentation and that the infinite variety of moves which develop after the opening defy any such description."* The same, in Freud's view, is true of the rules of psychoanalytic treatment. Here chess is not yet an object of analysis; it serves as an image of a craft that, despite a certain body of theory, can be learned only in practice.

Chess became a direct subject of psychoanalysis nine years later. On March 15, 1922, at a meeting of the Vienna Psychoanalytic Society, Dr. Walter Fokschaner read a paper titled "Über das Schachspiel" (On the Game of Chess). All we know about the author is that he was a dentist and a member of the society from 1919 to 1928. Besides Freud himself, the discussants included people who left a notable mark on psychoanalysis:
the educator and psychoanalyst Siegfried Bernfeld (1892–1953), founder of an experimental children's home for Jewish orphans;
the physician Paul Federn (1871–1950), one of Freud's first followers and later vice president of the Vienna Psychoanalytic Society;
the young philosopher Aurel Kolnai (1900–1973), author of *Psychoanalyse und Soziologie: Zur Psychologie von Masse und Gesellschaft* (*Psychoanalysis and Sociology: On the Psychology of Mass and Society*, 1920);
the former Austrian army officer Walter Schmideberg (1890–1954), who in 1921 joined the staff of Max Eitingon's (1881–1943) Berlin Psychoanalytic Polyclinic.

The chronicle of the *Internationale Zeitschrift für Psychoanalyse* preserved only the title of the paper and the list of discussants; the text itself was never

published. What we know of its content comes only from later reconstructions, all of them secondhand.

Several accounts were passed on in 1959 by the American psychoanalyst Norman Reider (1907–1989), longtime chief of psychiatry at Mount Zion Hospital in San Francisco. The first came from Willi Hoffer (1897–1967), a Viennese child analyst and later president of the British Psychoanalytical Society: Fokschaner compared chess to obsessional neurosis and tried to interpret the pieces and their moves symbolically.

The second came from the psychiatrist Kenneth Colby (1920–2001), a future pioneer of artificial intelligence and the creator of PARRY, a program that simulated a paranoid patient. Colby passed on to Reider a recollection of Bernfeld's: Freud sharply criticized the speaker for oversimplifying. Later, in 1975, the bulletin of the Sigmund Freud House in Vienna quoted the key remark: *"This is the kind of paper that will bring psychoanalysis into disrepute. You cannot reduce everything to the Oedipus complex. Stop!"*

As we can see, the application of psychoanalysis to chess began with a metaphor of Freud's that no one developed and a paper by one of his followers that was never published. Yet Freud's warning (if it was indeed uttered) did not stop his followers. In 1930 in London, Ernest Jones (1879–1958), Freud's closest British ally and his future biographer, read his famous psychoanalytic essay on the chess genius Paul Morphy.

Surprising as it may seem today, given the prevailing stereotypes, the first systematic application of the Oedipal scheme to chess came in the Soviet Union in 1925, in *Psikhoanaliz shakhmatnoi igry* (*The Psychoanalysis of the Chess Game: An Attempt at Interpretation*) by Alexander Herbstman, who would go on to become an outstanding Soviet endgame-study composer.

What is more, in 1925, during the Moscow International Tournament, the Soviet capital became a center for the study of chess psychology. There the Moscow psychotechnicians Ivan Dyakov, Pyotr Rudik, and Nikolai Petrovsky surveyed and ran laboratory experiments with a number of the

world's strongest players. Their work was an important step forward along the "Binet line," and we will discuss it in detail in the next part of our survey. Interestingly, the Moscow researchers, knowing nothing of Freud's "Viennese remark," essentially repeated his objection to applying psychoanalysis to chess. Nevertheless, in the middle decades of the twentieth century this line flourished amid the vogue for psychoanalysis and faith in its universality, and we will devote one of our future installments to it.

(To be continued in the next issue)

Eighteen Years Between Moves: *How a November 2008 issue of Chess Life traveled from Colorado to California and finally found its way into the hands of the grandmaster on its cover.*

Chris Martinez

There is something remarkable about holding onto an object for nearly eighteen years without knowing what significance it might eventually carry. Sometimes we preserve things simply because they interest us. Other times, they become reminders of where we've been, even when we don't realize it at the time. And sometimes, as the years pass, they become artifacts of our own lives.

On October 17, 2026, I found myself standing before Grandmaster Enrico Sevillano at the East Bay Open chess tournament in Pleasanton, California, holding a November 2008 issue of Chess Life. His photograph occupied nearly the entire cover, a striking black-and-white portrait beneath the magazine's familiar red masthead. I had brought a red Sharpie, hoping that if the opportunity presented itself, he might sign it. The red ink, I thought, would complement the cover beautifully. He did sign it, and the brief encounter connected two very different periods of my life.

A Magazine from Colorado

I remember receiving that issue in the mail at my home on Summit Drive in Colorado. At the time, I was living in the Roaring Fork Valley, near Aspen,

surrounded by the Rocky Mountains. I had learned to play chess during my elementary and middle school years, although my involvement had been sporadic. By 2008, however, I was developing a renewed interest in the game.



It was also a challenging period in my personal life. My mother was ill, and I was looking for constructive ways to occupy my mind amid the uncertainty surrounding her condition. Chess gave me something different to concentrate on, whether I was studying positions, playing online, or reading about the game. I received Chess Life through my US Chess Federation membership, and the magazines became an important connection to the broader chess world.

Living in the mountains presented certain limitations. Denver, one of the nearest major centers for organized chess, was approximately three hours away. Attending tournaments wasn't nearly as convenient as it would become years later. Much of my involvement came through reading,

borrowing library books, and playing casual games on Thursday evenings outside an art gallery in Carbondale, where painter and curator Majid and a handful of others would gather. It was one of the most unconventional chess hangouts I can remember, and certainly one of the most memorable. Occasionally, I would even convince one of my uncles to come out and join me for a 30-minute game. Beyond those gatherings, I spent considerable time exploring online, particularly Chesspark.com, which was later absorbed into Chess.com.

When the November 2008 issue arrived, I was particularly interested in the cover. Enrico Sevillano was featured prominently, and his Spanish surname caught my attention. It wasn't a surname I encountered very often in the chess world. I remember thinking of him as a player making his way through competitive chess. I read the magazine and eventually placed it among the others in my collection. I had no intention of obtaining an autograph and no plan to meet the person on the cover. It was simply another issue I appreciated enough to preserve. Years passed, and eventually I relocated from Colorado to California, bringing much of my collection along with me, including that November 2008 issue.

A Different Chess Landscape

Northern California introduced me to a chess environment quite different from the one I had known in Colorado. The Bay Area has a vibrant chess community, with clubs, tournaments, and opportunities to meet players of different backgrounds and skill levels. Over time, I became more involved, attending local gatherings and eventually participating in tournaments.

One thing I discovered was how interconnected the community could be. Conversations at one club often led to familiar names appearing at another. Players, tournament directors, and organizers seemed to know one another, and opportunities to connect developed naturally. At a gathering in Lathrop, a tournament director mentioned that he had been Enrico Sevillano's roommate. At a Thursday evening chess gathering in Livermore, Eric Lei of Emerald Chess mentioned the possibility of inviting Enrico to visit one evening.

Suddenly, the person whose photograph had been sitting on a magazine in my collection for years didn't seem quite so distant. I began thinking about the November 2008 issue again. Wouldn't it be interesting to finally have him sign it? An opportunity almost presented itself in October 2025, when the West Coast Chess Alliance hosted its sixth annual Richmond Chess Festival on October 25. Sevillano was scheduled to give a simultaneous exhibition, and I had registered with the intention of participating in the simul. Unfortunately, I had to travel to Colorado and couldn't attend. Other possibilities came and went, but nothing materialized. The magazine remained unsigned.

An Unexpected Discovery

Fast-forward to October 2026. I had recently returned to tournament chess after taking a summer break to volunteer at the FIFA World Cup, with the San Francisco Bay Area serving as one of the host regions. Eric had helped me renew my US Chess membership and register for tournaments, including the East Bay Open, scheduled for October 17 at Pleasanton Middle

School. This would be another opportunity to compete, and Enrico Sevillano was expected to participate. There was only one problem: my work schedule. The tournament consisted of five rounds, and I couldn't stay for all of them. I arranged to take a bye so I could play while still making it to work. Then came another complication: I couldn't find the magazine. Over the preceding months, I had moved it between my collection and my backpack, anticipating opportunities that never quite transpired. Now that I had a good chance of meeting Sevillano, the original issue seemed to have disappeared.

I searched through my stack of Chess Life magazines and came across a May 2014 issue featuring Northern California chess. I had acquired it as part of a bulk purchase of chess magazines online and had nearly forgotten it was in my collection. It wasn't the issue I wanted, but it would make a reasonable substitute. At least I wouldn't arrive empty-handed. Then, after more searching, I found the original November 2008 issue. Suddenly, I had two magazines. The 2014 issue was an unexpected addition, but the 2008

cover was the one that mattered most to me. It had arrived at my home in Colorado, survived nearly eighteen years, and traveled across state lines. I decided to bring both.

The Right Moment

The morning of October 17 was already proving busy. Parking near the tournament venue was difficult, and I rushed inside to check my pairing and prepare for the first round. I also wanted to locate Enrico, but initially couldn't find him. Eric confirmed that he was there and eventually pointed him out. What struck me was how easily Enrico blended into the crowd. Wearing a baseball cap, he looked like another participant moving through the tournament hall. There was no ceremony surrounding his presence, nothing to announce that the player walking among the boards was the same grandmaster whose face had appeared on the cover of Chess Life nearly eighteen years earlier.

I didn't want to interrupt him unnecessarily. After all, he was there to compete, and I understood the importance of allowing players to prepare for their games. Between rounds, I noticed him walking around and observing other games. It seemed like an appropriate moment. With both magazines and my Sharpies ready, I approached him, introduced myself, and extended my hand. He returned the handshake, and I asked whether he would be willing to sign my magazine. He agreed.

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I handed him the November 2008 issue featuring his portrait. I had brought the red Sharpie specifically because I thought the ink would contrast nicely with the black-and-white photograph while complementing the magazine's red masthead. He signed it. Then I presented the May 2014 issue, which prompted a chuckle. I found myself wondering what he remembered in that moment, and what about the second magazine had amused him. But I didn't want to prolong the interruption by asking. I briefly explained that I had followed his chess career and had kept the older issue for many years. We exchanged a few words.

Another player from the Thursday evening chess gathering happened to be nearby, and I asked him to take a photograph of us holding the magazine. I thought he had taken several pictures with my phone, but later discovered

there was only one. Fortunately, it was exactly the photograph I wanted. Just like that, the moment was over. I thanked Enrico and returned to the tournament.



I managed to play my games and make it to work on time. My result included two wins and a bye, and although I still felt rusty after a summer break, I left with a sense of accomplishment. It wasn't a perfect tournament, but I had made it there, played chess, met Enrico, and finally had the magazine signed. As I hurried back to my car, one thought came to mind: "I'm back." It seemed to capture more than just my return to tournament play.

The Passage of Time

Looking at the magazine now, I appreciate something beyond the signature. The cover shows its age. Its edges are worn, and there are visible marks

from years of handling and storage. On the back, the original mailing label still carries my name and old Colorado address. That detail means something to me. The address belongs to a different chapter of my life, when I followed the chess world largely through magazines, library books, and whatever I could find online, with limited opportunities to participate in organized competition.

Today, I'm playing more tournaments than I ever have, meeting people throughout the Bay Area chess community, and discovering opportunities that would have been difficult to imagine from my home in the Rockies. Chess itself has changed considerably in eighteen years. Online platforms have expanded, competition has become more accessible, and players have more opportunities to study, compete, and connect. I've changed, too. I've made mistakes over the years, just as I continue to make blunders over the chessboard. Chess reminds me that experience doesn't necessarily prevent mistakes. We can prepare, study, and recognize familiar situations, yet still overlook something important. What matters is whether we learn and approach the next position with a little more understanding. Perhaps that's one reason I continue to enjoy the game. I don't expect to stop making mistakes, in chess or in life, but I hope to keep learning, improving, and appreciating the opportunities available to me. I hope to keep writing about them, too.

A Magazine, Finally Complete

I never imagined in November 2008 that I would one day find myself participating in a California chess tournament alongside the grandmaster pictured on that month's cover. Nor did I anticipate that the same magazine would remain in my possession for nearly eighteen years. Yet there I was, holding it as Enrico Sevillano added his signature in red ink. It wasn't about the magazine's monetary value or collecting an autograph for its own sake. There was simply something satisfying about seeing an unexpected possibility become reality. The magazine had traveled from Colorado to California, survived the years, and found its way into the hands of the person whose photograph first captured my attention in 2008. In that sense, it feels complete.

But while objects can preserve moments from our past, our own journeys continue. I don't know where chess will take me next. Perhaps another tournament in California, perhaps an event much farther away, across the globe. I hope to continue playing, meeting people, contributing to the chess community, and improving my game along the way. Eighteen years ago, I couldn't have imagined where chess would bring me today. Perhaps that's what makes the future just as interesting as the past.



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Grandmasters: Reviewed

Sophie Adams

On Wednesday October 14 the five of us from the Sunday Women's Class went to see the movie Grandmasters.

As described on the website: "The once esoteric and uninspired world of top-level competitive chess is thrown into turmoil when an eccentric German entrepreneur enlists Grandmaster Magnus Carlsen to launch a new league that aims to revolutionize the game, challenge the sport's governing body, and 'make chess cool.'"

Overall we thought it was a great movie. Entertaining, definitely some excellent behind-the-scenes drama of the last few years with chess diva Magnus Carlsen, enfant terrible Hans Niemann, and several other chess personalities. Great filmmaking and editing, a fun story about how a billionaire who knows nothing about chess tries to make chess more accessible by introducing Freestyle Chess (also known as Chess960 or Fischer Random Chess). Expect some humor and weirdness rolled into one. Do not expect any chess though! Some parts were, of course, dramatized to keep you entertained, like Wesley So burning pictures of Magnus…. Besides some insights into the families of a few players, the film gave you more of an idea of how certain chess personalities are, what goes on behind the scenes at these high-level tournaments, and the extreme competitiveness of the top-level players.

The ending feels a bit open, and I thought I needed to figure out what the follow up of freestyle chess is. Did FIDE and Freestyle chess make amends?

Like a classical game, definitely a bit too long and maybe a bit drawish - but worth the watch.

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Tactical Fireworks

FM Henry Deng

The 2026 U.S. Championships and U.S. Women's Championships were held from October 9 to 22 at the Saint Louis Chess Club. Both tournaments were hard fought and came to the final round, with Wesley So besting Fabiano Caruana in a rapid playoffs, both tied 7/11, and Rachael Li triumphing over the closely trailing Alice Lee with 8.5/11 to Lee's 8/11 . In particular, Li was the youngest woman to win the title on her debut.

Here are some of the dazzling tactics from both tournaments:

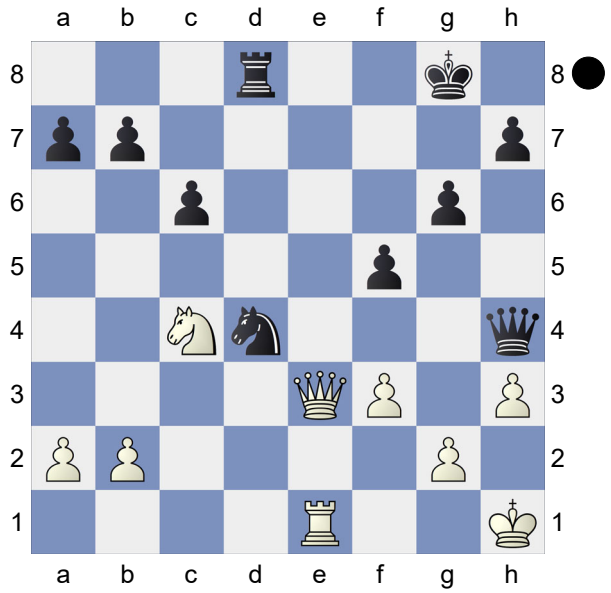
D00

□ **Xiong,Jeffery** 2656

■ **Shankland,Sam** 2646

U.S. Chess Championships 2026 (3)

[Deng,Henry]



29...Nxf3! Black is still better with several other moves, but this one is the best and also the prettiest. It is a discovered attack against the White knight on c4. Addition, White will have to capture the Black knight with the g pawn, since the queen has to defend the rook, thus Black will be able to take the pawn on h3 and severely weaken White's king position. **30.Qe6+** This intermediate check defends the c4 knight. However it also puts the queen farther from the White king.

[30.gxf3 Taking the knight immediately wouldn't have helped either. Qxc4-+ Black is simply up two pawns and will win the game. *(30...Qxh3+?* This would not actually lead to anything for Black since the White queen is close. *31.Kg1 Qg3+ 32.Kf1=)*]

30...Kg7 31.gxf3

[31.Rf1 Nd2-+ Black will be up two pawns.]

31...Qxh3+ 32.Kg1 Qg3+ 33.Kh1 Qxf3+ 34.Kg1 Qg4+ 35.Kf2 Qh4+ 36.Kg2

[36.Ke2 Perhaps a more testing move, though still losing for White. Qh2+ 37.Kf1 Rd4 38.Qe5+ Qxe5 39.Nxe5 Although White has traded into an endgame while keeping the extra piece, Black has too many pawns and will be easily winning by just pushing them upt he board. Kf6-+]

36...Rd4! 37.Qe5+ Kh6 38.Qe3+ f4 39.Qe8 f3+ 40.Kf1 Rf4 41.Re6 Qg3 42.Ne3 f2

0-1

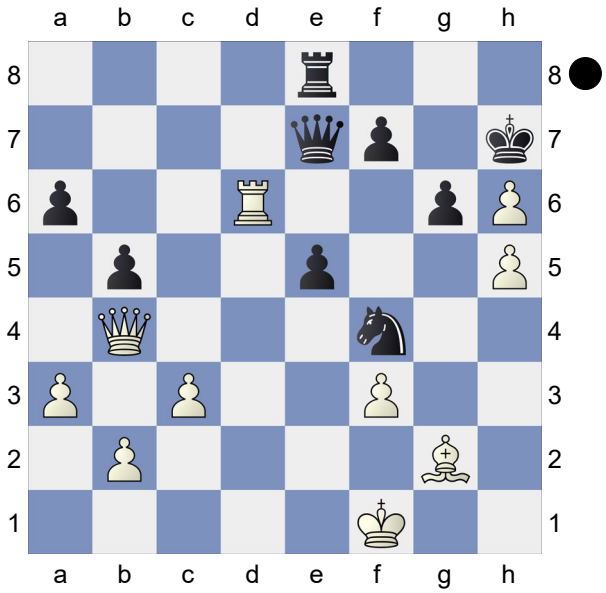
D00

□ **Sevian,Samuel** 2708

■ **Oparin,Grigoriy** 2638

U.S. Chess Championships 2026 (4)

[Deng,Henry]



Black is in a dominating position, White king is in a treacherous position and the Black knight is really strong. **35...Rd8**

[35...a5 Would have been a slightly faster way to win. 36.hxg6+ fxg6 37.Qc5 Rd8-+ There is not way to save the rook for White. 38.Rc6 Rd1+

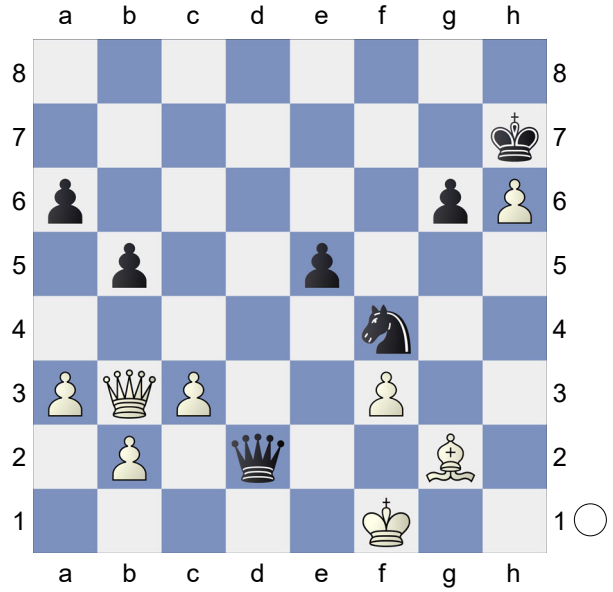
39.Kf2 Qh4+ 40.Ke3 Qe1#]

36.hxg6+

[36.Rxd8 Qxd8-+ The Black queen can infiltrate to d1 or d3, and combined with the knight, can create a devastating attack against the White king.]

36...fxg6 37.Rxd8 Qxd8 38.Qb3 Qd3+? Black is still better but this is a slight mistake.

[38...Qd2!



39.Qf7+ Kxh6 40.Qf8+ Kh5 41.Qh8+ Kg5 42.Qxe5+ Kh4 43.Qf6+ g5 44.Qh6+ With the plan to go Kg3 next turn and threaten checkmate on f2. Nh5 With the plan to go Kg3 next turn and threaten checkmate on f2. The Black king has walked all the way up the board and joins the attack. 45.Qe6 Qxg2+ 46.Kxg2 Nf4+-+]

39.Kg1 Kxh6? 40.Qg8 Kg5 41.Qh8 Qd1+ 42.Bf1 Qd5 43.b4? Up to now, White had gotten back into the game and the position was only slightly better for Black. However now this move gives Black the winning position again.

[43.Qe8∓ This would have been a better move, not allowing Black to take on f3 and keeping checks like Qe7 as an option. Although Black is still pushing, it isn't easy to win anymore.]

43...Qxf3 44.Qxe5+ Kg4 And Black went on to win. **45.Qe1 g5 46.Qd2 Qg3+ 47.Kh1 Kf3 48.c4 bxc4 49.a4 Qh4+ 50.Kg1 Qg3+ 51.Kh1 Nd3 52.Bg2+ Kg4 53.b5 axb5 54.axb5 c3 55.Qe2+ Kh4 56.Qe4+ Nf4 57.Qh7+ Nh5 58.b6 Qe1+ 59.Kh2 Qe5+ 60.Kh1 g4 61.Be4 Qf4 62.Qe7+ Nf6 63.Bd3 Kh3 64.Qe2 Qc1+ 65.Qf1+ Qxf1+ 66.Bxf1+ Kg3 67.b7 Nd7 68.Bd3 Kf2**

0-1

B10

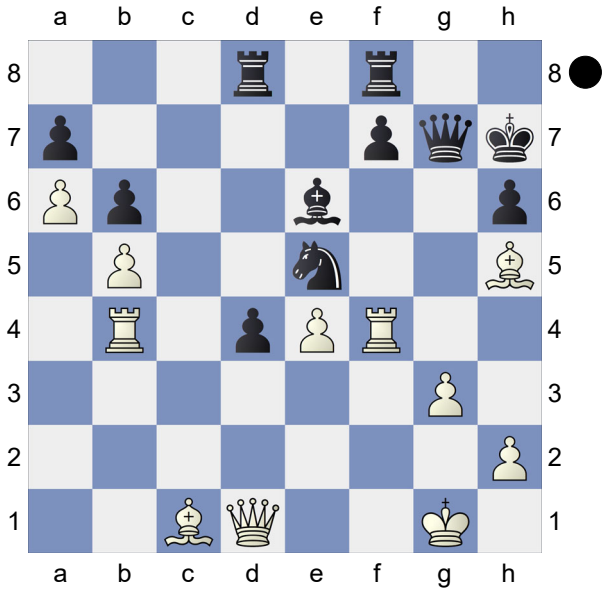
□ **Atwell,Rose** **2325**

■ **Paikidze,Nazi** **2309**

U.S. Chess Championships 2026 (11)

[Deng,Henry]

Slow 90min+30sec



Black is better here on account of the strong passed d pawn and relative disorgzniation of the White pieces. However, Black's king is more vulnerable and Black needs to be careful to not allow counterplay. **32...Nc4?** This move does not really have much of a purpose and also allows White good counterplay.

[32...d3 Passed pawns should be pushed! This simple move was the

best. 33.Qd2 Rc8 Threatening to infiltrate and kick the queen out with Rc2. 34.Bd1 Nc4-+]

33.Rxc4! The White rook on b4 was not doing much anyway, and White wants to target the kingside.

[33.Rh4 Doing so immediately would have also been fine, though Black could potentially block the c1 bishop with Ne3.]

33...Bxc4 34.Rh4 d3 35.Qd2 Rd6 36.Bg4 Qd4+ 37.Kg2 Kg8?

Black was under time pressure at this point and its hard to find a way to deal with the threats against h6, Bf5, etc.

[37...Qxe4+ 38.Bf3 Qe6= Black would have still held on here, with no clear way to victory for White.]

38.Bb2 Qxe4+ 39.Bf3 Qe6 40.Qg5+! A beautiful tactic to force checkmate.

40...Qg6 41.Rxh6! And nothing can be done about Rh8 next.

1-0

C10

□ **Abrahamyan,Tatev** **2353**
■ **Zatonskih,Anna** **2319**

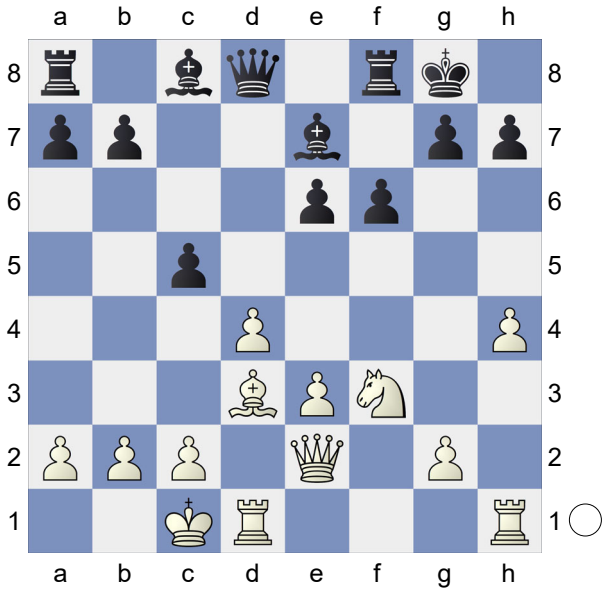
U.S. Chess Championships 2026 (10)
[Deng,Henry]

(Diagram)

14.Ng5! A sharp sacrifice that cracks open Black's defenses.

[14.Bxh7+? The direct greek gift would not be as effective since Black doesn't have to take the knight on g5. Kxh7 15.Ng5+ Kg6 16.Qg4 Kh6∓ White can still continue the attack but Black will be able to defend.]

14...fxg5? Taking the knight is not a good idea since White's bishop, rook, and queen are all lined up to attack the



Black king. Meanwhile Black lacks close defenders.

[14...h6 This move had to be played, not accepting the sacrifice. However, this creates weaknesses on the light squares, and White can win material. 15.Nh7 Rf7 16.Bg6 Bd7 17.g4+- With an overwhelming attack. White doesn't need to take the rook on f7 and instead starts a pawn storm.]

15.Bxh7+! Kxh7 16.hxg5+ Kg8

17.Rh8+! A "puzzle rush" tactic with a picturesque finish. **17...Kxh8**

[17...Kf7 This move avoids losing immediately. 18.Qh5+ g6 19.Rh7+ Ke8 20.Qxg6+ Kd7 21.dxc5++-]

18.Qh5+ Kg8 19.g6 And Black cannot do anything against Qh7 and Qh8 checkmate.

1-0

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Annotated Games from the TNM and Recent Tournaments

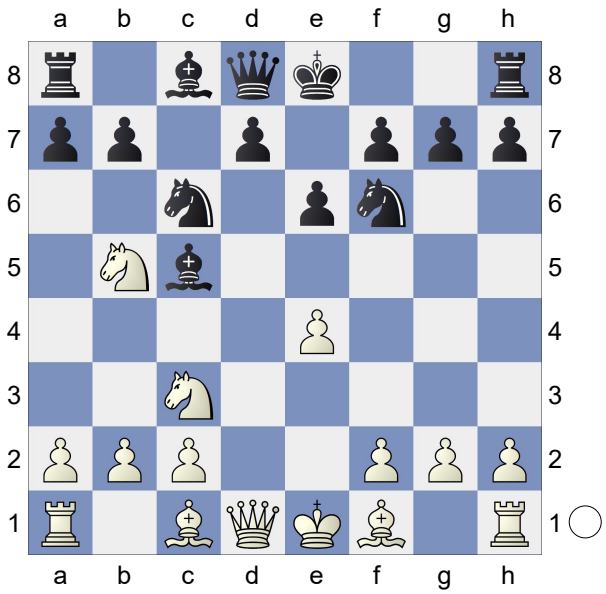
IM Elliott Winslow

A selection of annotated games from the Fall TNM annotated by IM Elliott Winslow. All the games from the current TNM can be found on our website, and games from previous TNMs are in the Tournament Archive. So scroll down to the next page to check out the games!

B45

□ **Winslow,Elliott** **2203**
■ **Yoo,Christopher Woojin** **2667**
2026 Fall TNM: 2000+ (7.1) 13.10.2026
[Winslow,Elliott]

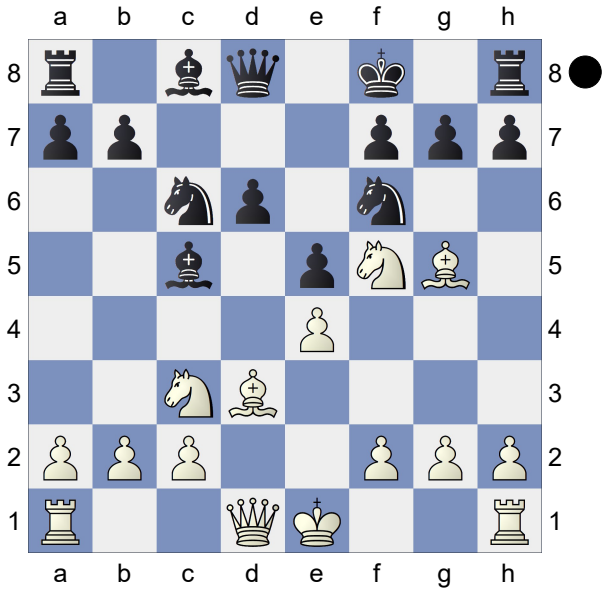
The phenomenon of "playing for a draw is a prescription for losing" is well known, at least to annotators (!). Here in the last round of the Tuesday Night Marathon it was seen all too well. The idea is that the leader lets his guard down. Two other factors came into play, in this tournament and (the 2nd) in this game here. One, The prize structure might have the player thinking the difference between1st and 1st-2nd is 20% of the prize, and so less important. (Bad thinking!) Two, for me (I am this player!), all tournament (well, not the first round) I was getting lost positions, and then kicking into high gear and fighting harder than usual. Of course that's rubbish: to defend a lost position still requires the other player's losing it. Oh, and Three: I was playing International Grandmaster Christopher Yoo, and I just can't count on him hanging a rook (!!) like he did in the previous TNM last round vs. Jimmy Heiserman! **1.e4** 6
I didn't have a well thought out strategy, but I did decide to try to avoid One and come out fighting. Also, I'd seen that he played this line of the Sicilian sometimes and maybe it would happen again. **1...c5** 36 **2.Nc3** 3:12 Two more data points: (1) he plays the Najdorf as well (*not* the dodgy line I was thinking of!) but also has answered 2.Nc3 with 2...Nc6, when: I've ducked the Najdorf!
[2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 In fact, Yoo has played a LOT of Najdorfs, with okay results.]
2...Nc6 23 **3.Nf3** 12 **e6** 37 **4.d4** 12 **cxd4** 6 **5.Nxd4** 3 **Nf6** 13 **6.Ndb5** 52 **Bc5** 14



The "dodgy line" I mentioned. **7.Nd6+** 5:07
["A while ago" I played 7.Bf4 0-0 8.Bc7 Qe7 9.Bd6 Bxd6 10.Qxd6 Ne8 *(10...Qd8!?* has fueled the recent revival of 6...Bc5 *)* 11.Qxe7 Nxe7 12.0-0-0 a6 13.Nd6 Nxd6 14.Rxd6 Rd8?! 15.Be2 1-0 47, Winslow,E - Ragan,J, St. Louis op 25 Jan 1976. I thought I was a genius during the game, but 50 years later I see he just bungled the ending. Still, as far as the opening goes, there may well be more to look for there.]
7...Ke7 5 **8.Bf4** 11 **e5!** 16 **9.Nf5+** 5 White has an edge. **9...Kf8** 5 **10.Bg5** 1:19 **d6** 12 **11.Bd3?!** 1:43
[11.Ne3 Be6 12.Be2 h6 13.Bxf6 Qxf6 14.0-0]
[11.Bc4!]

(Diagram)

11...Be6!? 1:20 An interesting side line.
12.0-0 1.07/22 1:11
[12.Ne3= 0.14/28]
12...h6 0.14/24 10

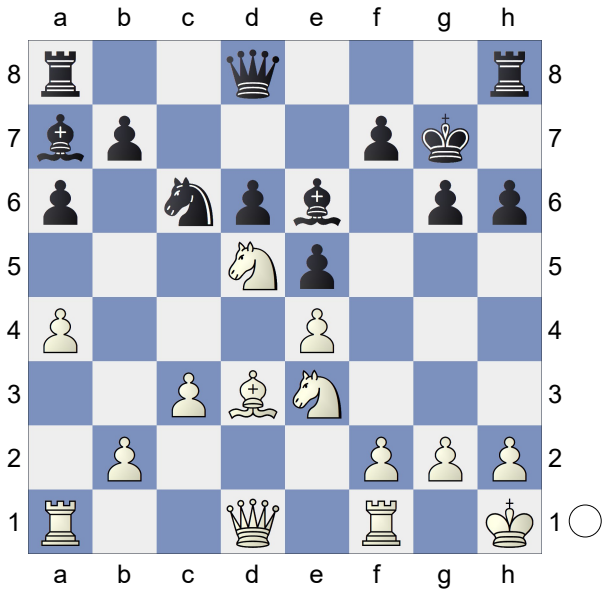


[12...a5± 1.07/22]

13.Bxf6 3:13 **Qxf6** 14 **14.Nd5** 2:19 **Qd8** 2:12 **15.c3** 2:21 **g6** 29 **16.Nfe3** 31 **a6** 7 **17.Kh1** 1:42 **Kg7** 2:12 **18.a4N** 11:18

[18.Qe2 Qd7 19.b4 Bxe3 20.Qxe3 Bxd5 21.exd5 Ne7 22.c4 f5 23.f4 e4 24.Qd4+ 0-1 (48) Phatak,A (2040)-Alivodic,D (2267) Belgrade 2023]

18...Ba7 1:00



Here my psychology was scrambled. Since he moved his king, I had in my not-so-clear thoughts that I should be attacking it. But Black has comfortably "fianchettoed" it to g7. I won't be able to make anything work there. I should be locking up d5 with Bc4 and Qd3. That also fits in with not losing (and thus securing clear 1st). **19.Qf3** 7:56 **h5** 2:10 **20.b4** 1:13 **h4** 10:54 **21.Rab1?!** 2:33

[21.h3! -- of course! I had a delusion that the black pawn on h3 would be weak; see end of game...]

21...Nb8! 5:03 (I saw this before he played it, not that I could do anything about it) **22.Rfd1** -0.67/21 2:20

[22.h3= -0.13/28]

22...Nd7 -0.30/23 17

[22...h3∓ -0.67/21]

23.a5 -0.72/19 2:55

[23.h3= -0.30/23]

23...Rc8 1:20 **24.Rbc1** 1:08 **h3** 4:12

[Funny that 24...Nf6 now was better! 25.Qxf6+ Qxf6 26.Nxf6 Kxf6 27.c4 Bd4∓]

25.g3 2:17 **Qg5** 36

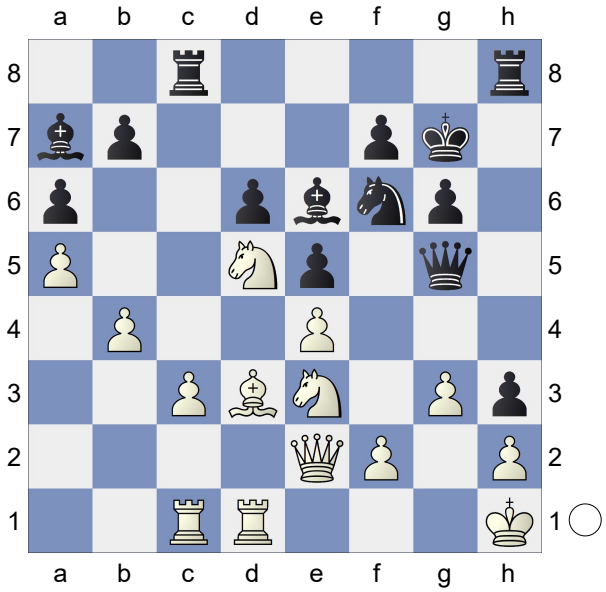
[Still 25...Nf6]

26.Qe2 -0.89/21 2:51

[26.Kg1∓ -0.48/26]

[26.Bf1!]

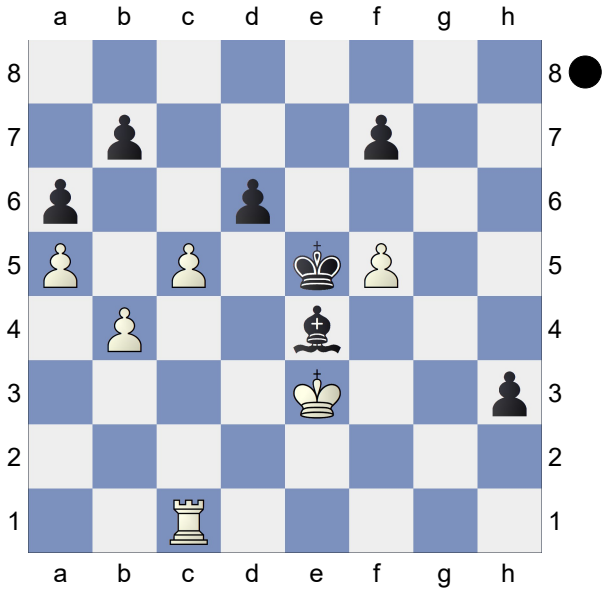
26...Nf6∓ 2:11

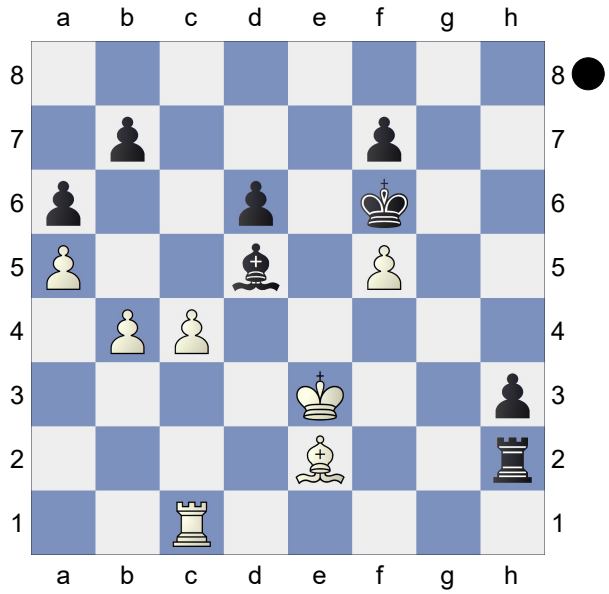


27.f4? -3.90/15 2:21 My bad habit: opening the pawn shelter to my own king.

[27.c4∓ -0.91/25 was worth a try.

Nxd5 28.Nxd5 Bd4]
27...exf4-+ 38 Now Yoo wins crisply.
28.gxf4 16 **Qh5** 32 **29.Qxh5** 7:18 **Rxh5** 24 **30.Nxf6** -4.47/17 20
[⌓30.Nb6 -2.96/19 Bxb6 31.axb6]
30...Kxf6 5 **31.Re1** 31 **Rh4** 21 **32.f5?!** -6.16/15 1:53
[⌓32.Nd5+ -3.91/22 Bxd5 33.exd5]
32...Bxe3 44 **33.Rxe3** 12 **gxf5** 9 Overworked Piece **34.exf5** 2:05 **Bd5+** 9 **35.Kg1** 7 **Rg8+** 31 **36.Kf1** 1:13 **Rf4+** 1:29 **37.Ke1** 12 **Rg1+** 9 **38.Kd2** 18 **Rf2+** 14 **39.Re2** 29 **Rxe2+** 29 **40.Bxe2** 8 Endgame KRB-KRB **40...Rg2** 4 **41.Ke3** 50 **Rxh2** 5 **42.c4** 30



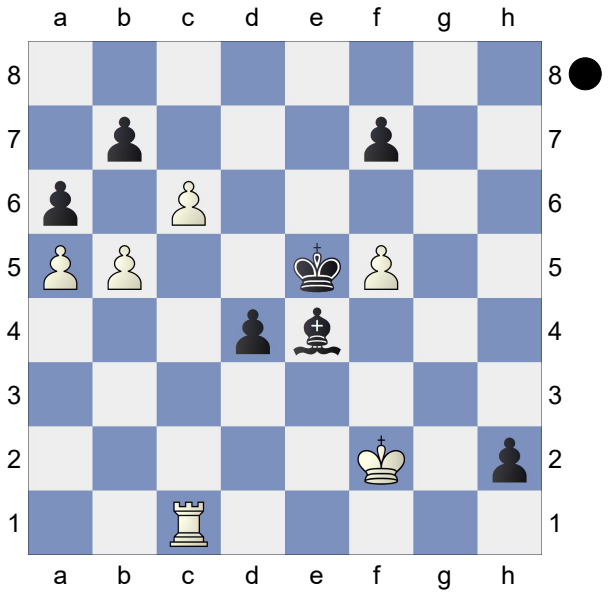


Rxe2+! 1:44 Deflection, Promotion. This was a bit of a surprise, until I saw it to the end (which he of course already had). **43.Kxe2** 20 KR-KB
[43.Kd4 Be4]
43...Be4 6 **44.Ke3** 2:01 **Ke5** 48 **45.c5** 1:29

(Diagram)

d5! 6 **46.b5** 15 **h2** 22 **47.c6** 48 **d4+** 23 **48.Kf2** 48

(Diagram)



bxc6! 9 I've run out of "hope moves." So Yoo efficiently ties for 1st-2nd, and I come away with a lot to think about (and a few dollars and rating points).
Weighted Error Value: White=0.78/ Black=0.05 (flawless)
0-1

C36

□ **Barreyro,Romeo Belmes** **1567**

■ **Ossa,Julian** **0**

2026 Fall TNM: u1600 (7.6) 13.10.2026

[Winslow,Elliott]

Here in the Under 1600 Section the same thing happened: Romeo Barreyro won his first six games to put him in clear first with one round remaining, while his closest competitor, unrated Julian Ossa, lost his first game and then won five more; their inevitable meeting in the last round saw Ossa catch Barreyro by beating him. **1.e4** 3 **e5** 5 **2.f4** 23 Here also we see the leader not exactly playing meekly for a draw! **2...exf4** 35 **3.Nf3** 6 **Ne7** 14

[3...g5]

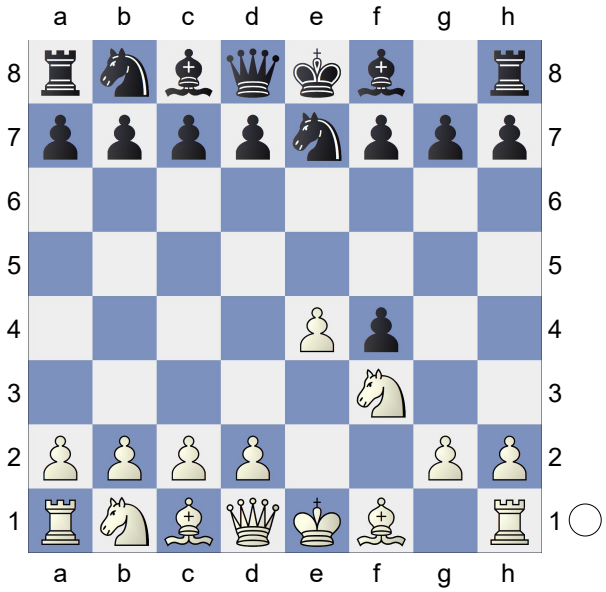
[3...h6]

[3...d6]

[3...d5!? was a big thing half a century ago -- I even played it in a postal game (with real postcards!) at the beginning of my chess life (I lost ignominiously). But actually, it's a sound approach to the King's Gambit, and 3...Ne7 could well be a more accurate way to reach the main position. 4.exd5 Nf6 5.Bc4 *(5.Bb5+)* 5...Nxd5 transposes to the game!]

(Diagram)

I know I like to say about many openings that I don't play either side of, "I really don't know this opening," but in fact I usually know them rather well. But here, I've never seen this at all. As it turns out it's a favorite of French 2700 Etienne Bacrot. And, it appears to have a plus score across the range of players. **4.Bc4** 24 **d5∓** 1:35 Already Black has

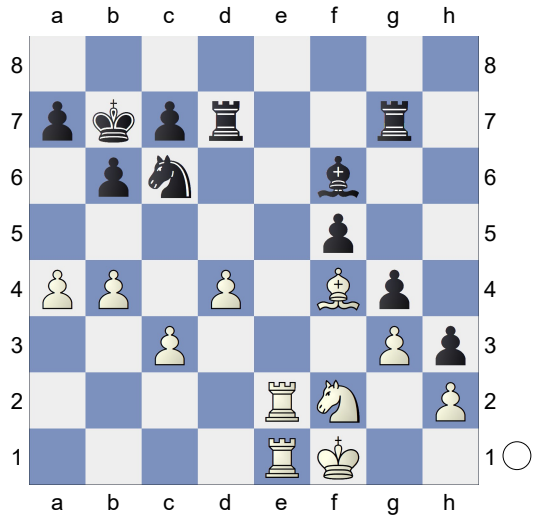


the better of it! **5.exd5** 38 **Nxd5** 10 suddenly jumping to 1400+ games **6.0-0** 38 **Be6** 1:04 **7.d4** 51

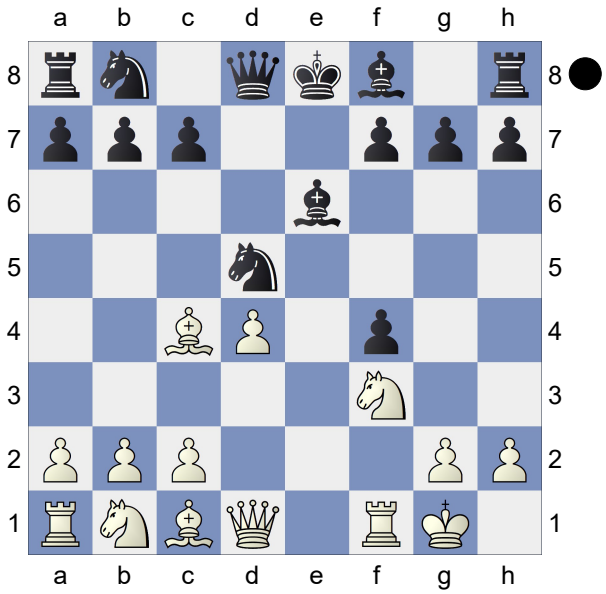
[Relevant: 7.Bxd5 Qxd5 8.d4! Nc6 9.Bxf4 0-0-0 10.c3 h6 11.Nbd2 g5 12.Bg3 Bg7 13.Kh1! g4 *(13...Qd7!?)* 14.Nh4 Qb5 *(14...Kb8=)* 15.Qc2 Rhe8 *(15...Ne7±)* 16.Rae1 Bf8 *(16...b6±)* 17.a4+- Qh5 18.Nf5? *(18.Ne4+- Be7 19.Nf5)* 18...Qg6? *(18...Kb8=)* 19.Ne3? *(19.Ne4!+-)* 19...Qxc2= 20.Nxc2 Be7 21.Ne3 h5 *(21...Bg5=)* 22.Bf4 *(22.Nf5!±)* 22...h4 23.Kg1 b6 24.Ne4 h3 25.g3 Rg8 26.Rf2 *(26.b4!?)* 26...Kb7 27.Rd2 Bd5 *(27...Na5=)* 28.Nxd5 Rxd5 29.Rde2 *(29.Rf2±)* 29...f5 30.Nf2 Bf6 31.b4 *(31.Kf1±)* 31...Rd7 *(31...Bxd4= 32.cxd4 a5)* 32.Kf1 *(32.b5!±* was preferable. *Na5 33.Re6)* 32...Rgg7 *(32...a5= 33.bxa5 Nxa5)*

(Diagram)

33.Nd1 *(33.b5!± Ne7 34.a5)* 33...Ne7= 34.Ne3 Rf7 35.Rf2 Bg7 *(35...Nd5=)* 36.Bg5 *(36.Rb1±)* 36...Nd5 Pridorozhni,A (2564)-Lysyj,I



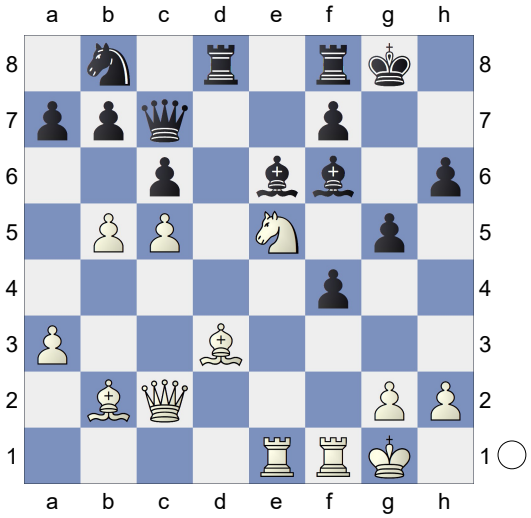
(2603) Sochi 2021 ½-½]



7...c5N 3:07

[7...Ne3 8.Bb5+ c6 9.Bxe3 fxe3 10.Ba4 g6∓]

[Predecessor: 7...Bd6 7...Ne3 -0.67 8.Bd3 *(8.Bxd5= Bxd5 9.Nc3)* 8...Nd7 9.c4 Nb4 *(9...Ne3∓ 10.Bxe3 fxe3)* 10.Be4? *(10.d5= Nc5 11.Bc2 Nxc2 12.Qxc2)* 10...c6? *(10...Bxc4-+ 11.Re1 0-0)* 11.a3= Na6 12.Qc2 Nf6 Threatens to win with ...Nxe4. 13.Bd3 Qc7 *(13...Bg4=* remains equal. *)* 14.Nc3± h6 15.b4 Rd8? *(15...0-0±)* 16.b5? *(16.d5+-)* 16...Nb8± 17.c5 Be7 18.Ne5? *(18.Bd2=* and White stays safe. *)* 18...g5? *(18...Rxd4-+ 19.Nf3 Rd8)* 19.Bb2 Rxd4 20.Rae1 bxc6 is the strong threat. Rd8? *(20...0-0!=* and Black is okay. *)* 21.Ne4? *(21.bxc6+-* is more deadly. *a6 22.Nxf7 Bxf7 23.Nb5 axb5 24.Bxf6 Nxc6 25.Bxh8)* 21...0-0? *(21...Nxe4± 22.Nxf7 Bxc5+ 23.Kh1 Qxf7 24.Bxe4 0-0 25.Qxc5 Nd7)* 22.Nxf6++- Bxf6



23.Bh7+? *(* White has to play *23.Ng4!+-* Bh7+ would kill now. *Bd4+ 24.Bxd4 Rxd4 25.Bf5 Bxf5 26.Nf6+ Kg7 27.Qxf5)* 23...Kg7∓ 24.Bf5? *(* White should play *24.g3∓ Rd5 25.Ng6)* 24...Bxf5-+ 25.Qxf5 cxb5 26.Ba1 Qxc5+ 27.Kh1 Rd5 28.Qxf6+ Kxf6 29.Nd7+ Kg6 30.Nxc5 Rxc5 31.Be5 Nc6?? *(31...Re8-+* avoids the disaster (and then some!). *32.Bd4 Rxe1 33.Rxe1 Rc4 34.Bxa7 Nc6)* 32.Bd6+- Rd8 33.Bxc5 Rd3 34.Rf3 Rd2 35.h3 f5 36.Re6+ Kh5 37.Bf8 Pein,J (2313)-Espitia Torres,M (2018) Chess.com 2nd Thursday 18th Dec 2025 1-0]

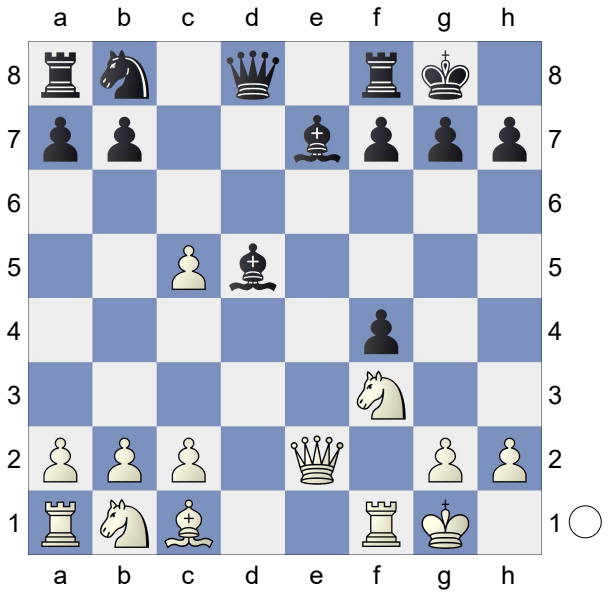
[7...Ne3∓ 8.Bxe3 Bxc4 9.Bxf4 Bxf1 10.Kxf1 c6]

8.Bxd5 1:57 **Bxd5** 29 **9.Qe2+** 53 The position is equal.

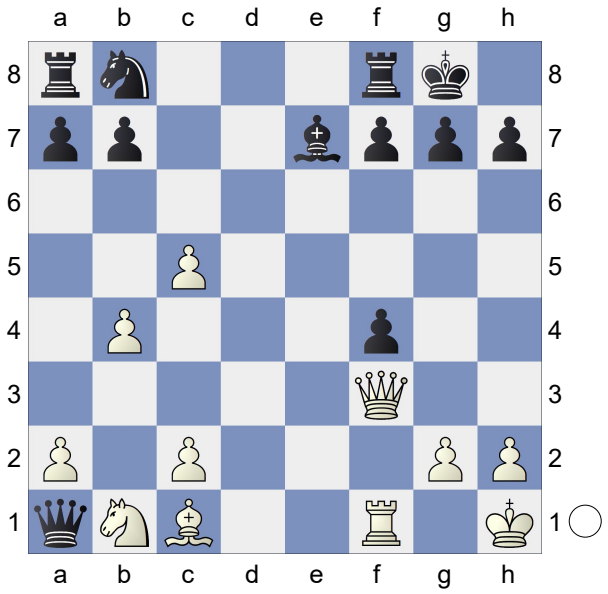
[9.Bxf4 Be7 10.Nc3]

9...Be7 1:03 **10.dxc5?!** 32

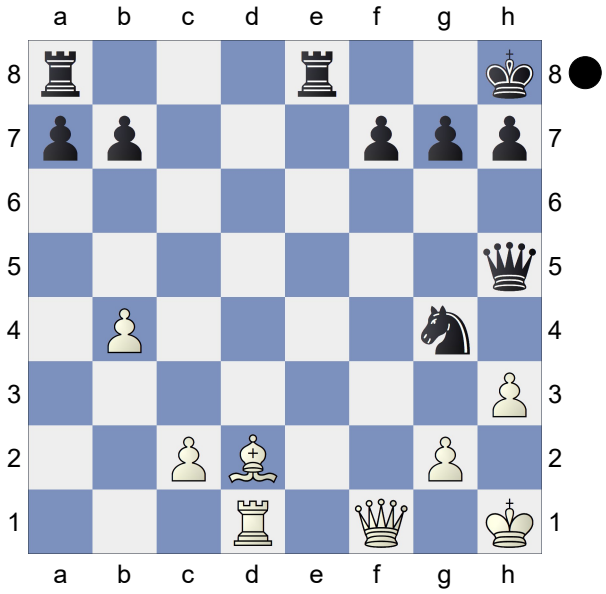
[10.Nc3 Nc6 11.dxc5 0-0=]
10...0-0 34



11.b4? 2:12 This costs White the game -- and clear first place!
[11.Bxf4∓]
[11.Nc3∓]
11...Bxf3-+ 1:04 **12.Qxf3** 27 **Qd4+** 11 **13.Kh1** 3:25 **Qxa1** 16



14.Nc3 1:37 **Bf6** 2:53 The queen makes its way out, and Black is a rook up.
15.Nd5 3:27 **Nd7** 4:33 **16.Bxf4** 1:35 **Qxa2** 1:06 **17.Qd3** 2:10 **Be5** 11:01 **18.Be3** 2:08 **Nf6** 1:47 **19.Ne7+** 8:14 **Kh8** 3 **20.Nf5** 4:07 **Qd5** 2:31 **21.Qe2** 1:04 **Qe4** 5:37 **22.Nd6** 9:28 **Bxd6** 30 **23.cxd6** 13 **Rfe8** 21 **24.d7** 6:59 **Nxd7** 45 **25.Re1** 1:30 **Nf6** 21 **26.Qf1** 1:42 **Ng4** 36 **27.Bd2** 1:32 **Qd5** 3:40 **28.Rd1** 3:12 **Qh5** 34 **29.h3** 6:55



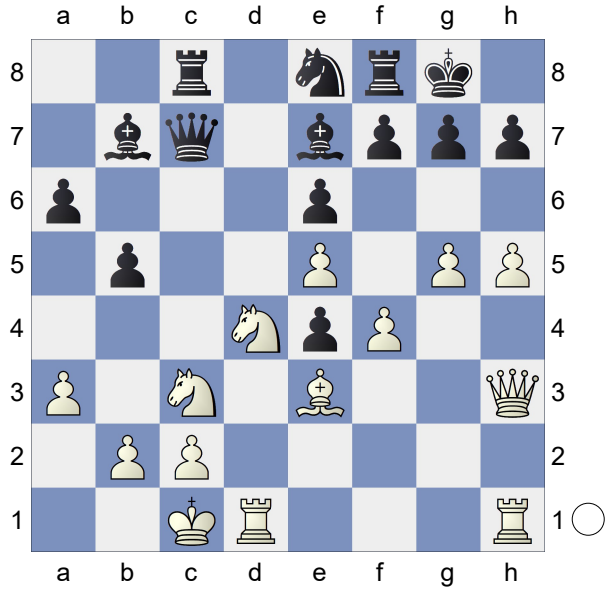
Nf2+! 8 **30.Qxf2** 26 **Qxd1+** 6 **31.Kh2** 14 **Qe2** 13 **32.Qxf7** 1:09 **Qxd2** 16 **33.Qxb7** 1:00 **Qf4+** 36
Weighted Error Value: White=0.55/ Black=0.10 (very precise)
0-1

B80

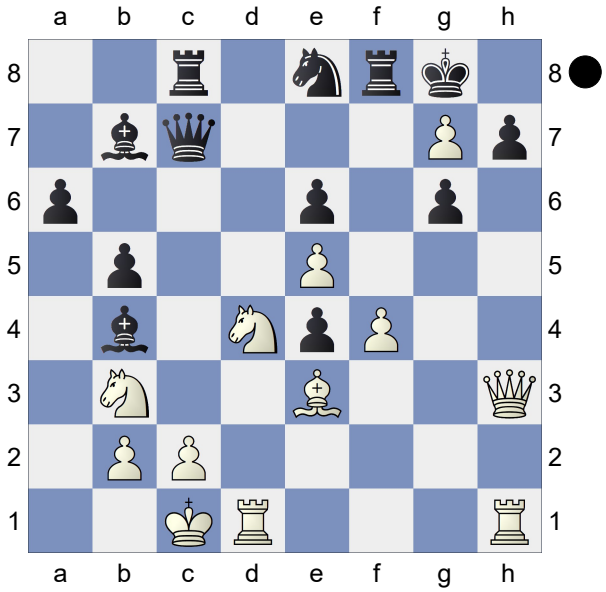
□ **Pathak,Rudransh** **1929**
■ **Perlov,Daniel Rob** **1809**
2026 Fall TNM: 2000+ (7.2) 13.10.2026
[Winslow,Elliott]

Rudransh Pathak recovered nicely from a first-round loss (to me) and a couple byes, winning his other four games and taking clear 3rd. Here he handles a generic sort of Scheveningen with opposite-sides castling and pawn storm to bust through Perlov's defense. **1.e4** 34:48 **c5** 7 **2.Nf3** 3:29 **d6** 7 **3.d4** 4 **cxd4** 4 **4.Nxd4** 2 **Nf6** 10 **5.Nc3** 3 **e6** 6 **6.Bd3** 1:13 **Be7** 9 **7.Be3** 30 **0-0** 9 **8.f4** 0.06/25 12
[8.g4± 0.55/21]

8...a6 1:01 **9.Qf3** 1:19 **Nbd7** 1.31/25 1:41
[9...e5= 0.19/23 remains equal. 10.fxe5 dxe5]
10.g4± 2:59 White is more active.
10...Qc7 2.92/15 5:53
[10...e5 1.67/21]
11.g5+- 49 **Ne8** 12 **12.h4** 6:51 **b5** 1:28
13.a3N 2:59
[13.g6 Nc5 14.gxh7+ Kh8 15.Kf2 b4 16.Nce2 f5 17.Rag1 Bf6 18.h5 fxe4 19.Bxe4 1-0 (31) Van den Heede,D (1965)-Cmor,N (1902) Maribor 2012]
13...Bb7 3.05/19 1:34
[⌓13...Rb8 2.02/23 14.0-0-0 Nc5]
14.h5 2 **Nc5** 2:18 **15.0-0-0** 39 **Rc8** 5:10
16.Qh3 2:31 **d5?** 5.37/14 25:08
[16...Qd7 3.26/20 was necessary. 17.Kb1 Nc7]
17.e5 4:58 **Ne4** 11:59 **18.Bxe4** 9 **dxe4** 30



19.g6! 22 **Bxa3** 2:20
[19...h6 20.Nxe6]
20.Nce2 5:31 Hoping for h6. **20...Bb4** 9.12/12 5:01
[⌓20...h6 4.77/21 21.bxa3 Bd5 22.gxf7+ Rxf7]
21.h6 5:47 **Qa5** 5:59 **22.Nb3** 53 **Qc7** 2:34 **23.Ned4** 5:29 **fxg6** 6:19 **24.hxg7** 17



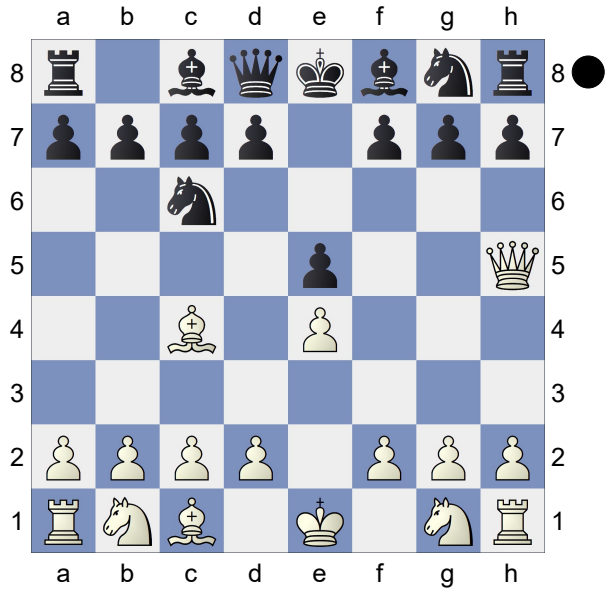
Qxg7 16 **25.Nxe6** 25 **Qf7** 1:22 **26.Nxf8** 2:49 **Kxf8** 3:53 **27.Rd7** 51 **Qc4** 4:07 **28.Qh6+** 1:54 White mates. **28...Ng7** 1:07 **29.Qxg7+** 1:12 **Ke8** 7 **30.Nc5** 2:50 An entertaining game by Pathak. Weighted Error Value: White=0.12 (very precise) /Black=0.94
1-0

C20
□ **Martin,Bryan D** **1233**
■ **Smith,Daniel** **1146**
2026 Fall TNM: u1600 (7.24) 01.09.2026
[Winslow,Elliott]

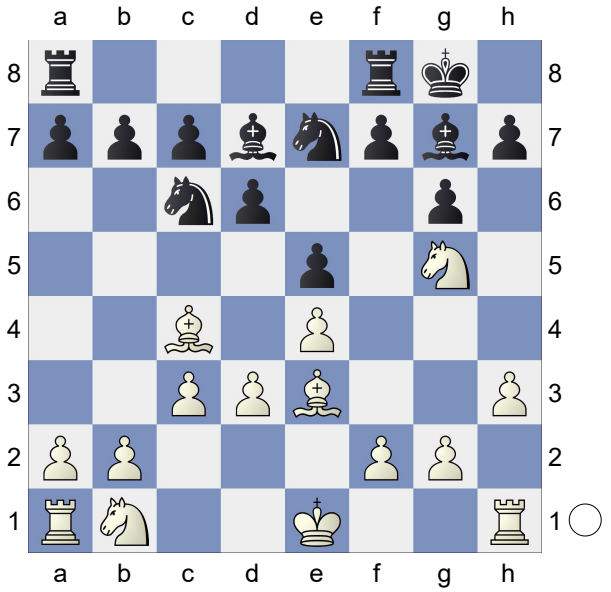
Bryan Martin didn't get his four-move checkmate (Dang!) and in fact was sternly outplayed, but Daniel Smith started drifting and turned a win into a loss, letting his opponent stretch onto the podium with clear 3rd. **1.e4 e5 2.Qh5 Nc6 3.Bc4**

(Diagram)

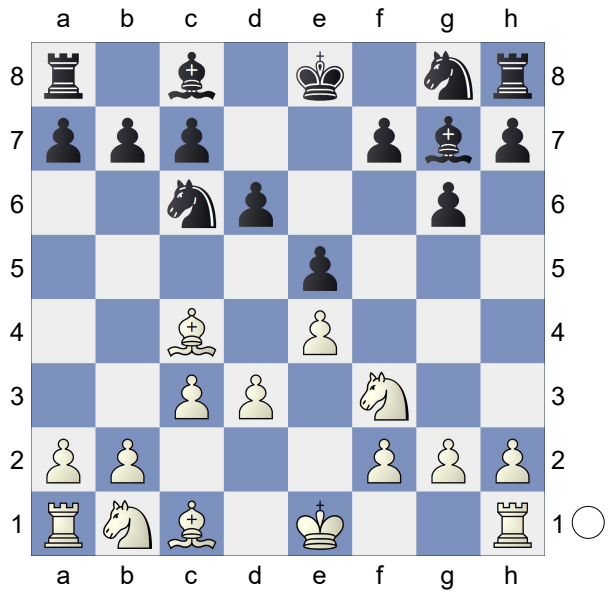
g6 4.Qf3 Qf6 5.c3 Bg7 6.d3 Qxf3 7.Nxf3 d6N
[7...Nf6 8.a4 0-0 9.b4 d6 10.a5 a6



11.Nbd2 h6 12.0-0 Rd8 13.Bb2 d5 14.exd5 Nxd5 1-0 (66) Sahakyan,A (2288)-Milosevic,M (2380) Chess.com INT 2023]



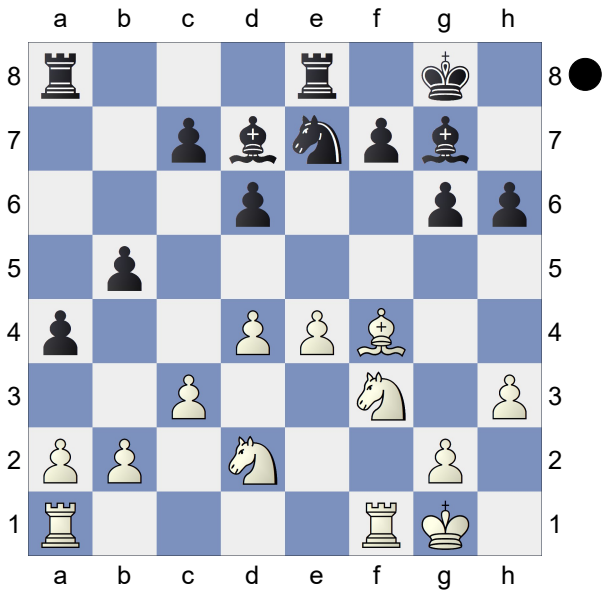
14.Bb3∓ Nxb3 15.Nxb3
[Better is 15.axb3 exf4 16.Bxf4]
15...exf4 16.Bxf4 a5 17.d4?
[17.a3∓]
17...Rfe8 18.0-0 a4 19.Nbd2



8.h3 The position is equal. **8...Nge7 9.Be3 Bd7 10.Ng5 0-0**

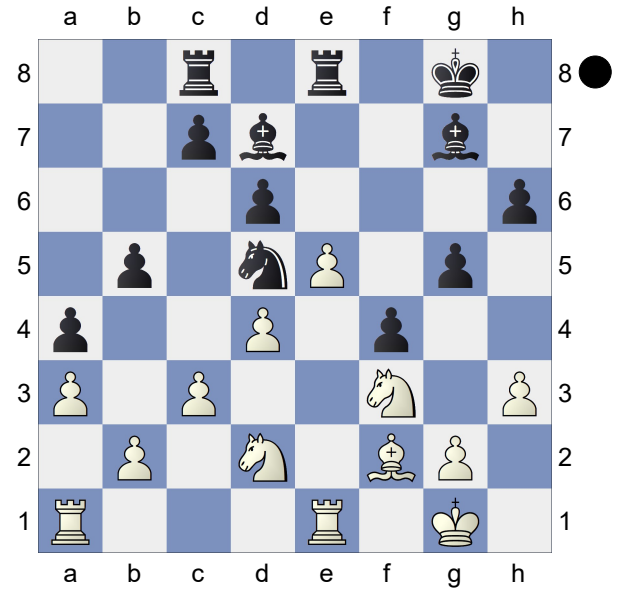
(Diagram)

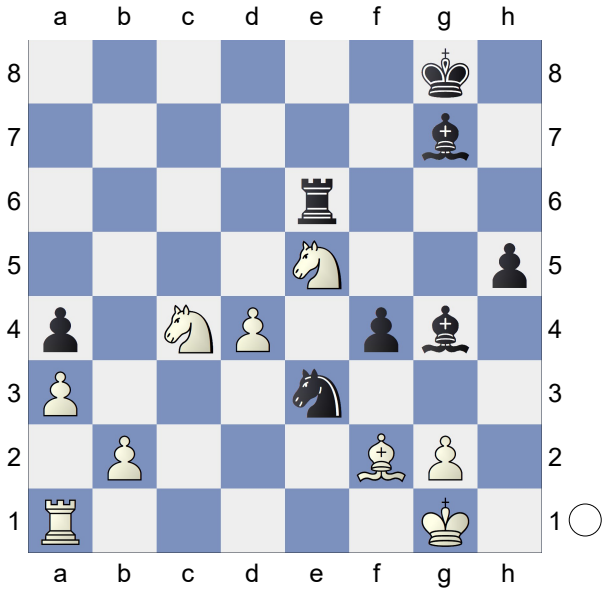
11.f4?
[11.a4=]
11...h6 12.Nf3 Na5 13.Nbd2 b5
[13...Nxc4-+ 14.Nxc4 exf4 15.Bxf4 f5]



Rac8?
[19...a3-+ 20.b3 f5]
20.Rfe1
[20.Bh2∓]
20...f5 21.e5
[21.a3∓]
21...Nd5-+ 22.Bg3 f4 23.Bf2 g5 24.a3
[24.Rac1 was necessary.]

(Diagram)

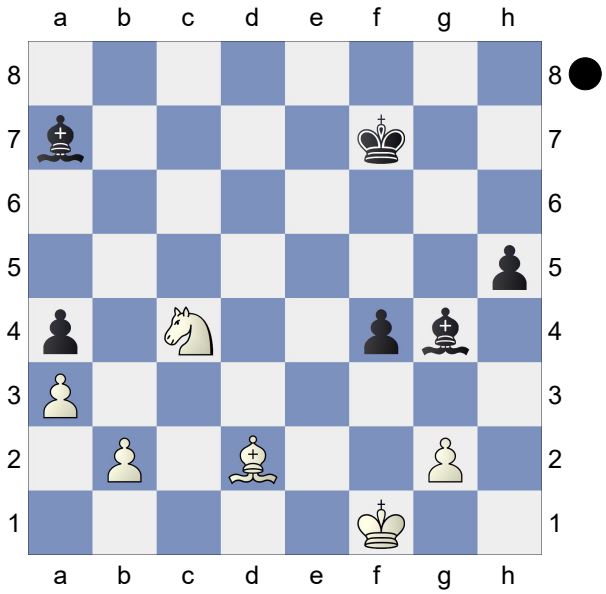




24...g4?
[Black should try 24...Nb6-+ White must now prevent ...Bf5. 25.g4 fxg3 26.Bxg3 dxe5 *(26...Bxh3 27.exd6 cxd6 28.Bxd6∓)* 27.Nxe5 Bxh3]
25.hxg4∓ Bxg4 26.c4 bxc4 27.Nxc4 Rcd8
[27...Bf8∓]
28.exd6 Threatens to win with Bh4.
28...cxd6
[28...Rxe1+!∓ 29.Rxe1 cxd6]
29.Rxe8+= Rxe8 30.Nxd6 Re6 31.Nc4 Ne3 32.Nfe5 h5
[32...Nxc4 simplifies 33.Nxc4 Rg6 34.Kh2 Bf5]

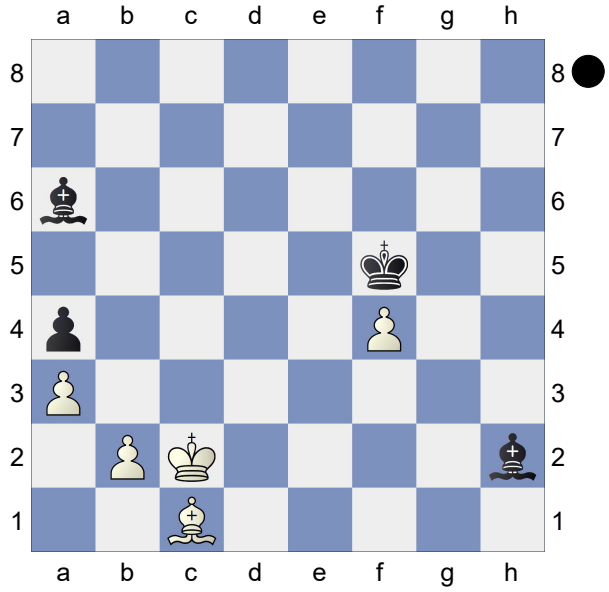
(Diagram)

33.Re1?
[33.Bxe3= fxe3 34.Re1 *(34.Nxe3 Rd6±)*]
33...Nxc4-+ 34.Nxc4 Rxe1+ 35.Bxe1 Bxd4+ Endgame KBB-KBN **36.Kf1?**
[36.Bf2∓ Bf6 37.Be1]
36...Kf7
[⌓36...Be6 37.Nd6 Bxb2]
37.Bc3 Ba7 38.Bd2
(Diagram)



f3
[38...Be6!-+ 39.Ne5+ Kf6 40.Bxf4 Kf5]
39.gxf3= Be6 40.Nd6+ Kg6 41.Kg2 Bb8 42.Ne4 h4 43.Nf2 Bf5 44.Nd1 h3+ 45.Kg1 Bg3 46.Ne3
[46.Be3= is more appropriate.]
46...Bc8 Black has compensation.
[46...Bd3!? 47.Ng4 Be2∓]
47.Ng4
[47.Nd5= and White is okay. Bb7 48.Nf4+ Kf5 49.Nxh3]
47...Bb7-+ 48.Nh2 Kf5 49.Be3 Be5 50.Bc1 Kg6 51.f4 Bd4+
[51...Bd6∓ 52.Ng4 Kf5]

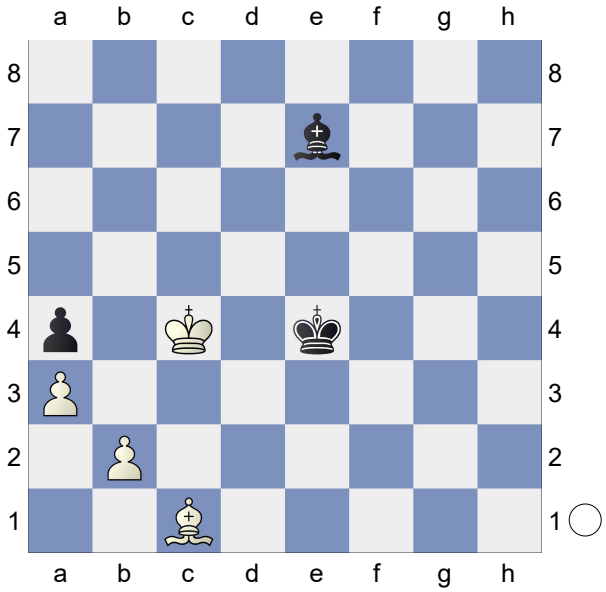
52.Kf1 Ba6+ This pair of bishops is nice.
[⌓52...Kf5 53.Ke1 Ba6]
53.Ke1 Bg1 54.Nf3 h2 55.Nxh2 Bxh2 56.Kd1 Kf5?
[56...Bd3-+ has better winning chances. 57.Kd2 Bc4]
57.Kc2∓



Bc4! 58.Kc3
[58.Bd2∓]
58...Bb3-+ 59.Be3 Ke4 60.Kd2 Bg3 61.Ke2 Bh4
[⌓61...Bxf4 62.Bc5 Bc4+ 63.Ke1 Kd3]
62.Bc1 Bc4+
[⌓62...Be6 63.Kd2 Bf6]
63.Kd2 Kxf4?
[63...Bf6-+ 64.Kc2 Bd3+ 65.Kd2 Bd4]
64.Kc3+= Ke4
[64...Kf3!?± 65.Kxc4 Ke2]
65.Kxc4± Be7!?

(Diagram)

66.Bd2? But, I assume Black resigned. (Time?)
Weighted Error Value: White=0.76/ Black=0.53
[66.Kb5!+- Bxa3!? 67.bxa3 Kd5



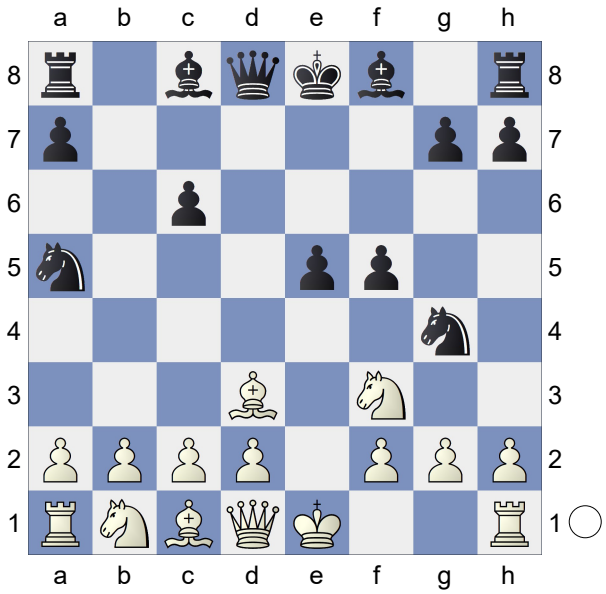
68.Bf4 Ke6 69.Kxa4 Kd7 70.Kb5 Kc8 71.Kc6!+-]
[66.Bd2? The move lost costs White: Bxa3! 67.bxa3 Ke5 68.Kb5 Kd6= Black heads to the a8 corner and there's nothing White can do about it.]
1-0

C58

□ **Tam,Hoa Long** **1692**
■ **Zhao,Isaac Dan** **1981**
2026 Fall TNM: 1600-1999 (7.5) 13.10.26
[Winslow,Elliott]

Isaac Zhao was in a not quite similar situation in the "ABC" section, since he wasn't playing his possible catch-up competitor. In any case he won while that person, Sudashan Seshadri (who held Zhao to his only non-win) only drew (and tied for 2nd-4th). So in all sections Zhao was the only clear winner, and only player to score six and a half. **1.e4 e5** 18:41 **2.Nf3** 20 **Nc6** 3 **3.Bc4** 14 **Nf6** 33 **4.Ng5** 12 **d5** 6 **5.exd5** 11 **Na5** 2 **6.Bb5+** 19 **c6** 6 **7.dxc6** 10 **bxc6** 4 **8.Bd3** 15 **Ng4** 1:07
[8...Nd5]
9.Nf3 1:37

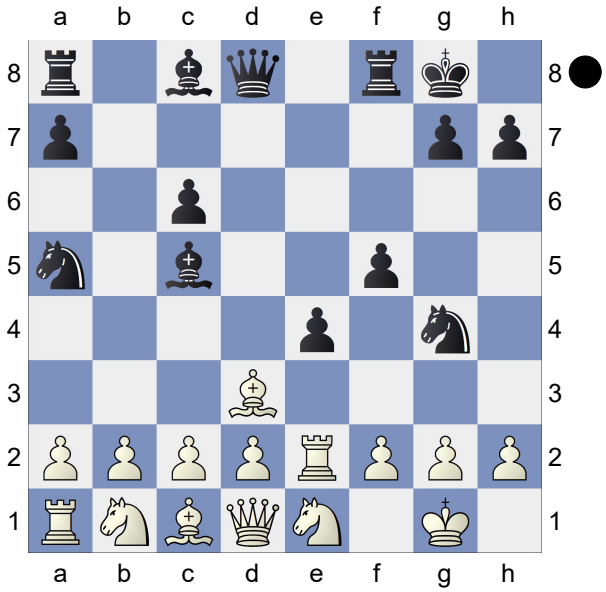
[Not 9.Nxh7 Bc5 10.Rf1 Nxh2-+]
[9.Ne4=]
9...f5! 5



Black has compensation. The main line 9...f5 scores better than 9...Bc5. **10.0-0!** 3:34 Hoping for h3. **10...e4** 13
Black is slightly better. **11.Re1?** 10
[11.h3! Nf6 12.Re1 Be7 13.b4! Bxb4 Hoping for ...0-0. 14.Bf1 0-0 15.Ne5∓]
[11.h3∓]
11...Bc5-+ 7:32 **12.Re2** 11:19 **0-0N** 46
[Predecessor: 12...Nxf2 13.Rxf2 Bxf2+ 14.Kxf2 exd3 15.cxd3 0-0 16.Qa4 c5 17.Nc3 Ba6 18.d4 cxd4 19.Nxd4 ½-½ (56) Pacheco Lugo,A (2127)-Perez Rodriguez,L (2324) Chess.com INT 2021]
13.Ne1 7:40

(Diagram)

Qh4! 2:07 **14.h3** 3:51 **Nxf2** 36 **15.Rxf2** 26 **Qxf2+** 5 Black mates. **16.Kh2** 10 **Qg1+** 23 **17.Kg3** 8 **f4+** 14 **18.Kh4** 23 **Bf2+** 13 **19.Kh5** 46 **Rf5+** 5 White got outplayed after the opening. An exciting game.
Weighted Error Value: White=1.76/

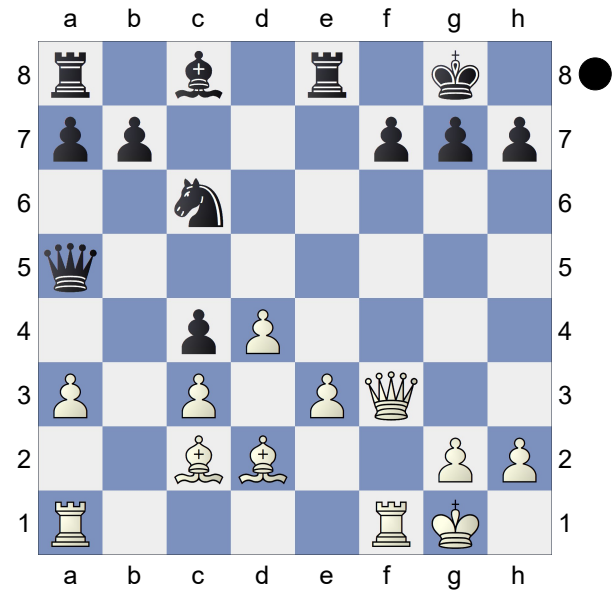


Black=0.73
0-1

E49
□ **Sethuraman,Sandeep** **2526**
■ **Wang,Chase** **1951**
2026 Fall TNM: 2000+ (7.8) 13.10.2026
[Winslow,Elliott]

So I wasn't the only International Master in the Fall TNM!? Nice classical attack in the line of the Nimzo-Indian made famous in Botvinnik-Capablanca by IM Sandeep Sethuraman, who it seems dropped in for one played game. Maybe he'll play the next TNM from the beginning !? **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 0-0 5.Bd3 d5 6.a3 Bxc3+ 7.bxc3 c5 8.cxd5 exd5 9.Ne2 Nc6 10.0-0 Re8 11.Ng3 c4**
[Relevant: 11...Ne4 12.Qc2 Nxg3 13.hxg3 h6 14.dxc5 Ne5 15.c4 d4 16.exd4 Qxd4 17.Bh7+ Kh8 18.Bb2 Qxc5 19.Rfe1 Bd7 20.Rad1 Bc6 21.Qf5 f6 22.Bg6 Nxg6 23.Qxc5 1-0 (23) Hakobyan,A (2620)-Narayanan,S (2669) Chess.com INT 2023]
12.Bc2 Qa5 13.Bd2 Ne4 14.Nxe4

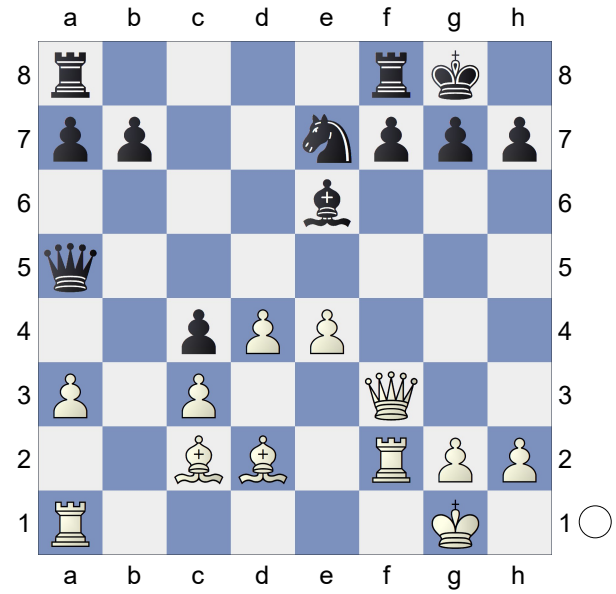
dxe4 15.f3 exf3 16.Qxf3



Be6N

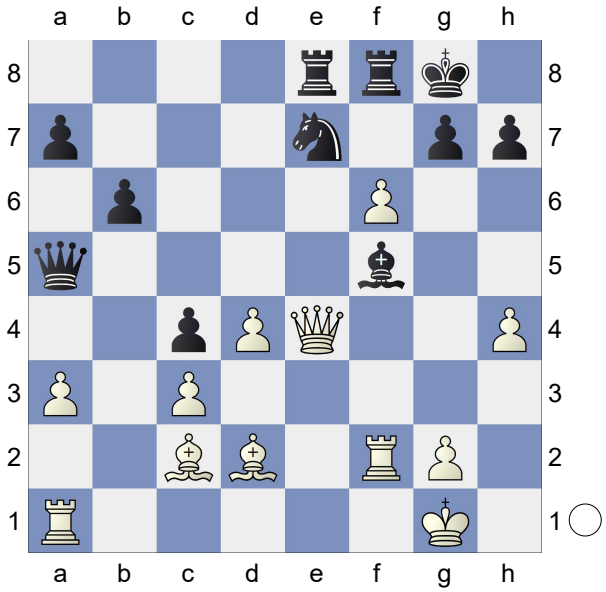
[Predecessor: 16...f6 17.e4 Nxd4 18.cxd4 Qxd2 19.Rf2 Qxd4 20.Rd1 Qe5 21.Rd5 Qc7 22.e5 Rxe5 23.Rxe5 Qxe5 24.Qd1 Qc7 25.Qd5+ Kh8 26.Qe4 g6 27.Rxf6 Bf5 28.Qd4 Qg7 29.Ba4 h6 30.Qd6 c3 31.Bb3 c2 32.Bxc2 Bxc2 33.Re6 Rf8 0-1 (33) Fobbe,O-Koenig,F Vellmar 2012]

17.Rf2 Rf8 18.e4 Ne7



19.e5 b6 20.h4 Rae8 21.Qe4 f5 22.exf6 Bf5

(Diagram)



23.Qxe7 Rxe7 24.fxe7 Re8 25.Rxf5 Qa6 26.Raf1 Qc8 27.Rf8+ Rxf8 28.exf8Q+ Qxf8 29.Bxh7+ Kxh7 30.Rxf8 Kg6 31.g4 a5 32.d5 a4 33.d6 b5 34.d7 b4 35.d8Q bxc3 36.h5+ Kh7 37.Rh8#

1-0

E12

□ **Parsons,Stephen** **2024**
■ **Heiserman,Jimmy** **2287**
2026 Winter TNM: 2000+ (1.1) 03.11.26
[Winslow,Elliott]

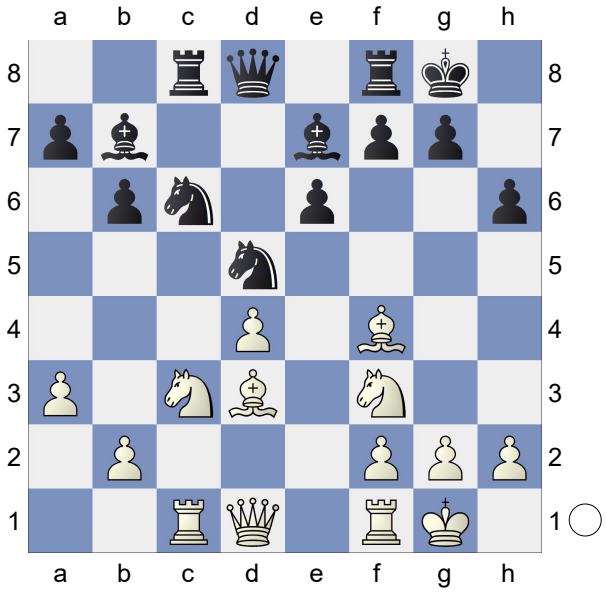
On to the next TNM! Jimmy Heiserman is the top-rated player (so far!?), and after missing a clean win of a pawn in the opening fell under attack in Stephen Parsons' IQP game -- until Parsons "jumped the rail" with an unnecessary piece sacrifice. Parson had a chance for compensation after a slip by Heiserman, but then it was over. **1.c4** 3 **e6** 14 **2.Nc3** 1:00 **d5** 13 **3.d4** 1:14 **Nf6** 16 **4.Bg5** 56 **Be7** 29 **5.e3** 1:52 **h6** 1:08 **6.Bf4** 1:08

[It's not a big deal, but 6.Bh4]
[and 6.Bxf6 are way more popular and make more sense. That free ...h6

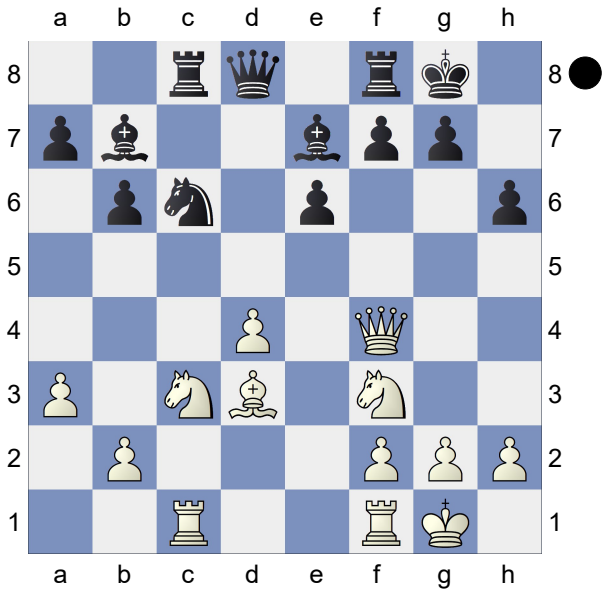
can be useful in Bf4 systems.]
6...0-0 54 **7.Nf3** 45 **c5** 39 As without ... h6, less "correct" but quite playable alternatives exist:
[7...Nbd7]
[7...b6]
[7...c6]
[7...a6]
8.Rc1 1:15
[Again comparing to w/o ...h6: 8.dxc5 is most common and theoretically correct. Bxc5 *(8...Qa5!?)* 9.Qc2]
8...cxd4 4:32
[8...Qa5!?]
9.exd4 37 **Nc6** 4:26 **10.a3** 3:21
[10.c5!?]
10...b6 5:48 **11.Bd3** 2:46 **Bb7N** 4:34
[11...dxc4 12.Bxc4 Bb7 13.0-0 Rc8 14.Qd3 Bd6 15.Bxd6 Qxd6 16.Ba6 Qb8 17.Bxb7 Qxb7 18.Ne4 Nxe4 19.Qxe4 Qd7 20.Rc3 Ne7 21.Rfc1 Rxc3 22.Rxc3 Rd8 23.g3 Nf5 24.Kg2 Qe7 25.h4 Nd6 26.Qe5 Qb7 27.Kg1 b5 28.b3 a5 29.d5 b4 30.axb4 axb4 31.Rd3 Nb5 32.d6 Qc6 33.d7 f6 34.Qf4 e5 35.Qxb4 Rxd7 36.Rxd7 Qxd7 37.Qc4+ Kh8 38.b4 Qb7 39.Qd3 e4 40.Qd8+ Kh7 41.Nd4 e3 42.fxe3 Nc3 43.Qa5 Nd5 44.Nc2 Ne7 45.b5 Qb8 46.Qe1 Qxb5 47.Qb4 Qe5 48.Qf4 Qd5 49.Nd4 Qb7 50.Kh2 Qb2+ 51.Kh3 Qb1 52.Qf3 Ng6 53.Qf5 Qxf5+ 54.Nxf5 ½-½ (54) Ye,R (2375)-Xu,J (2505) China 1987]
12.0-0 1:52 **Rc8** 3:28 This could have been a Queen's Indian. **13.cxd5** 16:06 **Nxd5** 14

(Diagram)

Stockfish 19 is slightly preferring Black already. **14.Qd2?N** -3.99/15 8:54
[14.Be3∓ -0.31/28]
[14.Nxd5 Qxd5 15.Bb1 Rfd8

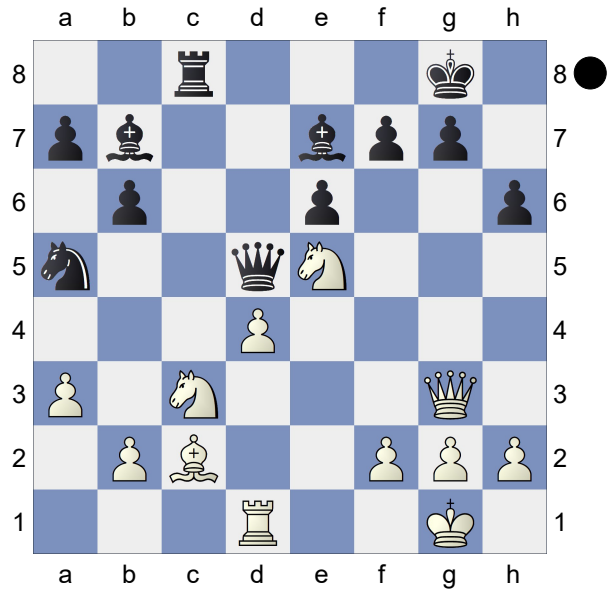


16.Qd3 g6 17.Rfd1 Bf8 18.Qe3 Qh5 19.h3 ½-½ (42) Sanchez Olaya,A (1533)-Mayta Aiza,V (1613) Tornelo INT 2022]
14...Nxf4-+ 8:15 Black is winning.
[More accurate is 14...Nxd4! 15.Nxd4 *(15.Nxd5 Qxd5 16.Bh7+ Kxh7 17.Qxd4 Qxd4 18.Nxd4 Bf6-+)* 15...Nxf4 16.Qxf4 Bg5 17.Qe5 Bf6]
15.Qxf4 6



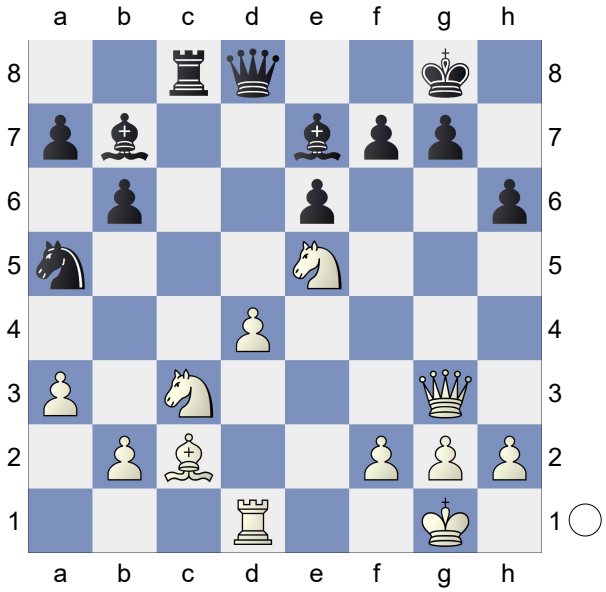
Na5? -0.33/27 17:19
[Last chance to claim a pawn now: 15...Nxd4!-+ -2.60/19 16.Qxd4 White wouldn't have this if 14...Nxd4 first, not that it changes anything

(16.Nxd4? Bg5-+) 16...Bxf3]
16.Ne4∓ 6:59 **Nb3∓** -4.28/24 9:34
The "TA" loses the thread: Black isn't much better at all. sf19: -0.58/29
[16...f5∓ -0.20/26 sf19: -0.35/25
17.Rxc8 Qxc8]
White must play: **17.Rxc8** -0.37/23 4:43
[Not 17.Rc3??-+ -4.28/24 Nxd4
18.Rxc8 Nxf3+ Discovered Attack
19.Qxf3 Qxc8-+]
17...Qxc8 1:03 **18.Rd1** 2:50 **Qd7** 14:50
[18...Rd8]
[18...Qb8]
19.Bc2 11:12 **Na5** 44 **20.Ne5** 3:15
Prevents ...Nc4 **20...Qd5?!** 3:18
[20...Qc8]
[20...Qc7]
[20...Qd8]
[20...Qb5]
[20...Qe8]
21.Qg3= 45 **Rc8?** 7:43
[21...Rd8 22.Nc3 Qd6 23.h3 Kf8=]
[21...Nc6 22.Ng4 Kh8 23.Nc3 Nxd4! 24.Qh3 Qc5 25.Nxh6!=]
22.Nc3!± 3:38



A dynamic duo of knights. (sf19: +1.02/22) **22...Qd8??** 3.87/22 21
[22...Qd6!± 0.51/20 or better]

(Diagram)

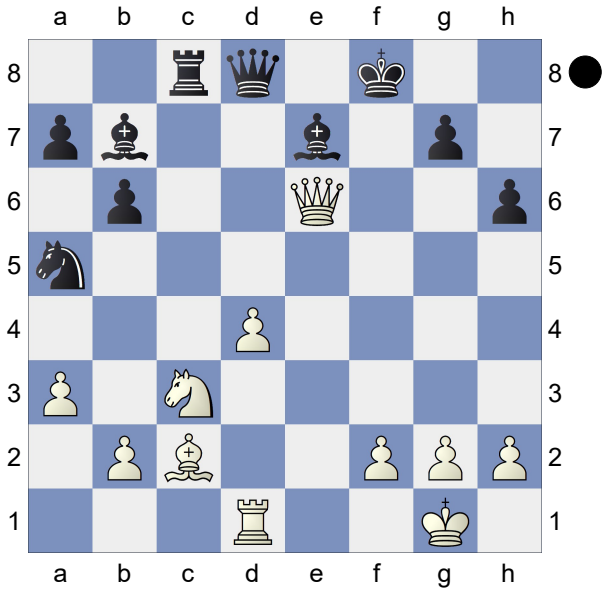


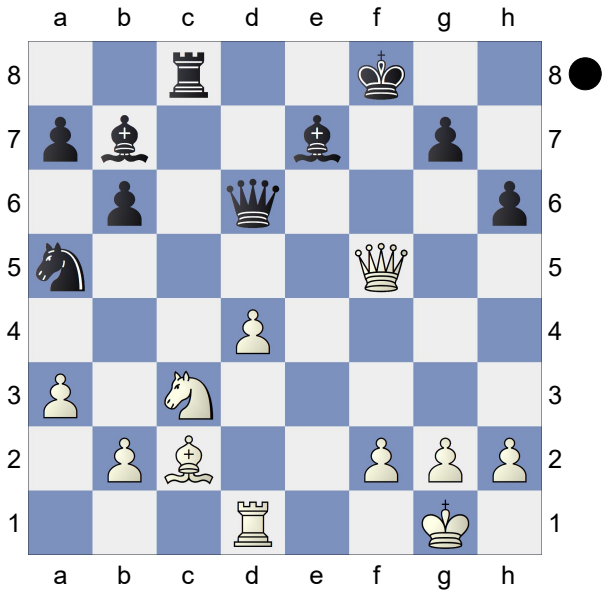
23.Nxf7?? -4.38/20 8:17 Must have been a mirage there somewhere.
[23.Qd3!? Bf6 24.Qh7+ Kf8 25.Ng4 Bxd4 26.Ne2 Nc6]
[23.d5!+- Bxd5 *(23...Qd6 24.Qd3 f5 25.Qe2+-* (sf19: +6.12/16) 24.Qd3 f5 *(24...Bf6 25.Qh7+ Kf8 26.Nxd5 exd5 27.Ng4* Stockfish makes this +5.43/11, +5.83/17 *Rc6 28.Nxf6 Qxf6 29.Ba4 Qxb2 30.Qh8+ Ke7 31.Bxc6 Nxc6 32.Re1+ Kf6 33.Qf8 Kg6 34.Qd6+ Qf6 35.Qxd5 Kh7 36.Qe4+ g6 37.Rd1* 5.68/13) 25.Qe2! +4.87/10 +6.49/26. This and other lines somewhat surprised me until I noticed White was getting all these attacking chances for ... a pawn.]
23...Kxf7-+ 55 **24.Qg6+** 26 **Kf8** 42
25.Qxe6 5:50

(Diagram)

Qd6! 2:14
[25...Bh4!?-+]
[25...-- If only it were White's move: 26.Bh7 mates: *(*merely overwhelming: *26.Bg6)* 26...Bg5 *(26...Bf6 27.Re1 #6)* 27.Qg8+ Ke7 28.Qxg7+ #8]
26.Qf5+ 29

(Diagram)





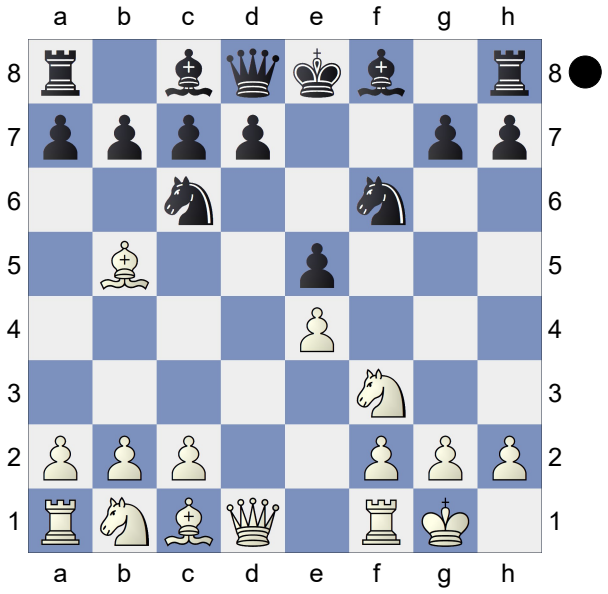
The right move on various other queen retreats is the same... **26...Qf6?** 1:17
[26...Bf6-+ and ...Rd8 is the answer to just about everything. -5.50+]
27.Qd3?-+ 4:33 Black is clearly winning.
[27.Qh7∓]
27...Nc4 41 **28.Re1** 58 **Nxb2** 1:03
29.Qh7 1:33 **Rxc3** 1:11 **30.Bg6** 10 **Bd5** 19 ...Bg8! is the strong threat. **31.Qh8+** 1:09 **Bg8** 6 **32.Be4** 18 **g5** 53
Weighted Error Value: White=0.60/ Black=0.55
0-1

C63
□ **Winslow,Elliott** **2228**
■ **Dandekar,Sheel** **2023**
2026 Winter TNM: 2000+ (1.2) 03.11.26
[Winslow,Elliott]

The memory is going. Did I lose this game? I certainly lost track of my once-upon-a-time excellent command of opening theory. And of my pschological status. In any case, laudits to Sheel Dandekar, who might not have played flawlessly, but kept grabbing chances when they appeared -- until there were no more flaws. **1.e4** 6 **e5** 7 **2.Nf3** 7 **Nc6** 7 **3.Bb5** 17 **f5** 16
Oh good heavens. This is one of the many reasons I might not play 1.e4. **4.d3** 44
[Part of the problem is that I used to really know 4.Nc3 so well, but it's now fallen almost completely out of practice in favor of the game move; I've tried to learn the modern play but it hasn't sunk in. fxe4 5.Nxe4 Nf6 *(5...d5)*]
4...fxe4 16 **5.dxe4** 17 **Nf6** 18
It has been too long since I looked carefully through Caruana's, Doknjas's and Swiercz's coverages of this line! And of course I couldn't remember a thing.
6.0-0 3:08

(Diagram)

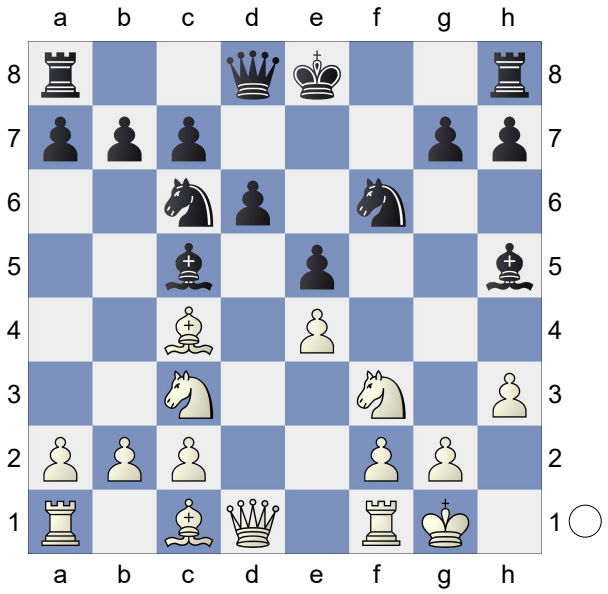
Bc5 47
[6...d6 7.Bc4! is the big move now.]
7.Nc3 1:04
[Everybody recommends grabbing the pawn: 7.Bxc6! bxc6 8.Nxe5 but it's so not easy! The word "tricky" appears in Caruana's coverage here... 0-0 9.Nc3
A) 9...Qe8;
B) 9...Re8;



C) 9...Ba6 10.Nd3 Bd4 11.Re1! (Caruana, Swiercz) *(11.e5!* "!" (Doknjas,J) *)*;
D) 9...d6 10.Na4 ... it goes on for quite a while!]

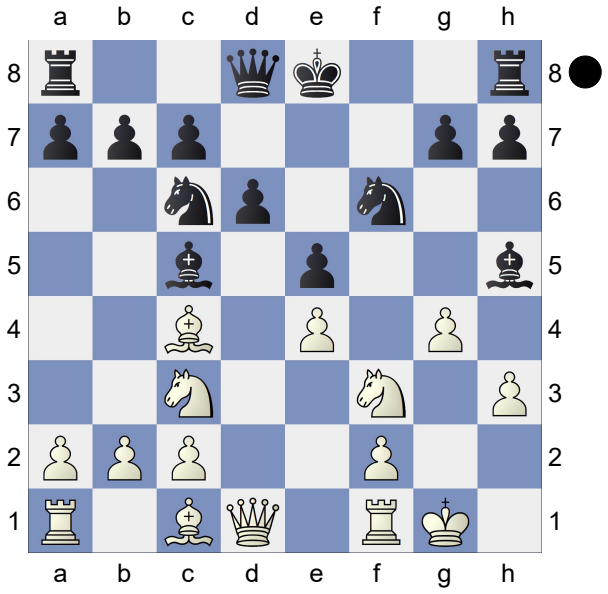
7...d6 2:00
[7...0-0!]

8.Bc4! 46 **Bg4** 7:15 **9.h3** 1:12 **Bh5** 5:54



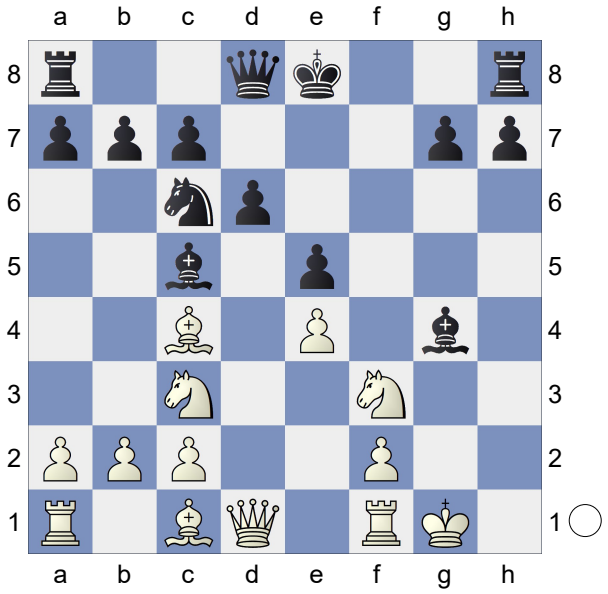
TA: "The position is equal." SF19: +0.47/27 **10.g4?** -0.27/24 2:01
[10.Bg5± 0.37/26]

(Diagram)



10...Nxg4? 1.79/20 24:28
[10...Bg6 11.Nh4 Qd7=]

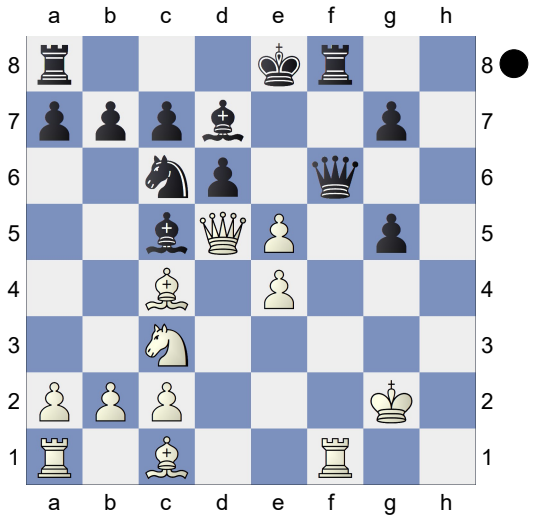
11.hxg4+- 5:47 **Bxg4** 3



12.Be2!N 6:20
[12.Qd5 Qf6!∓ 13.Ng5 Rf8?? *(13...h6! 14.Qf7+ Qxf7 15.Nxf7 Rf8∓)* 14.Kg2?= *(14.Qd3!+-)* 14...h6! 15.f3! Bd7 16.f4!= hxg5 *(16...0-0-0)* 17.fxe5

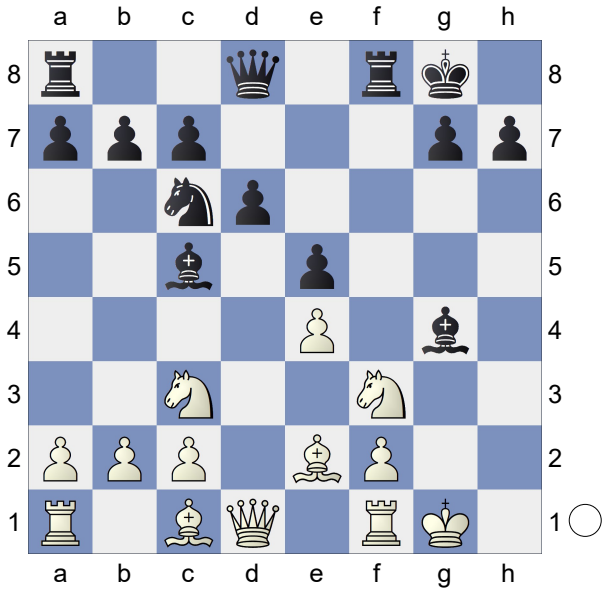
(Diagram)

Qxf1+?? *(17...Qe7 18.exd6 Qxd6 19.Qxd6 Bxd6 20.Rxf8+ Bxf8 21.Bxg5 Ne5; 17...Nxe5!? 18.Rxf6*



Rxf6= 0.00s *)* 18.Bxf1 Rf2+ *(18...0-0-0 19.e6)* 19.Kg3 Nxe5 20.Bxg5 Rf3+ 21.Kh2 c6 22.Qg8+ 1-0 (22) Ribera Veganzones,S (2298)-Urbani,G (2292) Lignano Sabbiadoro 2026]

12...0-0 2:22

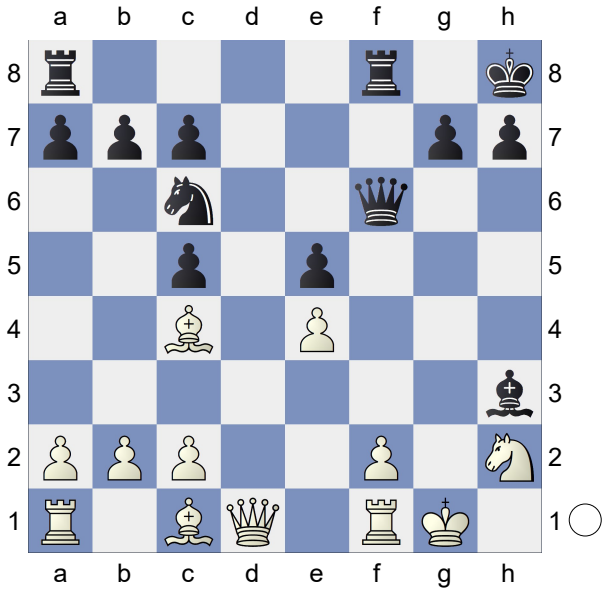


13.Na4?∓ -0.02/23 3:03

[13.Ng5± 1.58/25 Bxe2 14.Qd5+ Zwischenzug *(14.Qxe2 Nd4±; 14.Nxe2 Qe8±)* 14...Kh8 15.Nxe2]

13...Qf6= 22:06 **14.Nxc5** 1:55 **dxc5** 35 **15.Nh2** 2:29 **Bh3** 1:12 **16.Bc4+** 6:15 **Kh8** 22

(Diagram)

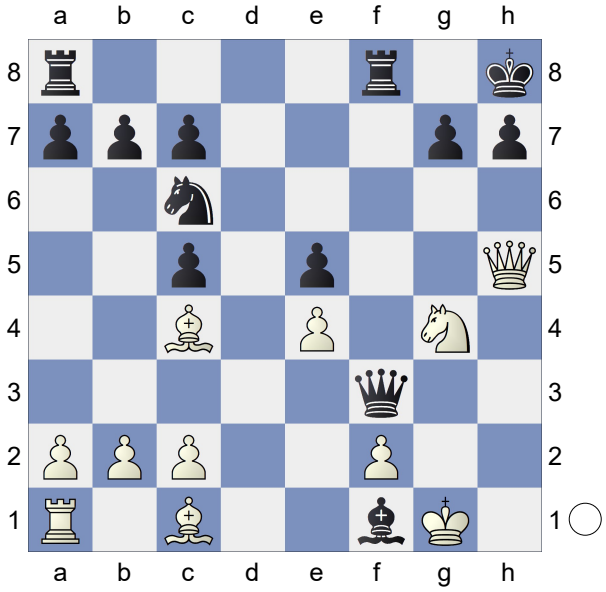


17.Qh5? -3.14/19 13

[17.Qd3! Bxf1 18.Qxf1 Rad8 19.Be3 Nd4 20.Qg2=]

17...Bxf1-+ 1:22 **18.Ng4** 2:21 **Qf3?** -0.61/20 2:23

[18...Bxc4 -3.01/17 19.Nxf6 Rxf6-+]



19.Kxf1? -5.80/17 1:42

[19.Bxf1∓ -0.61/20 Nd4 20.Bg5=]

19...Qd1+ 8:09

[19...Nd4!]

20.Kg2 2 **Qxc2?∓** -0.77/20 1:15

Black attacks with force.

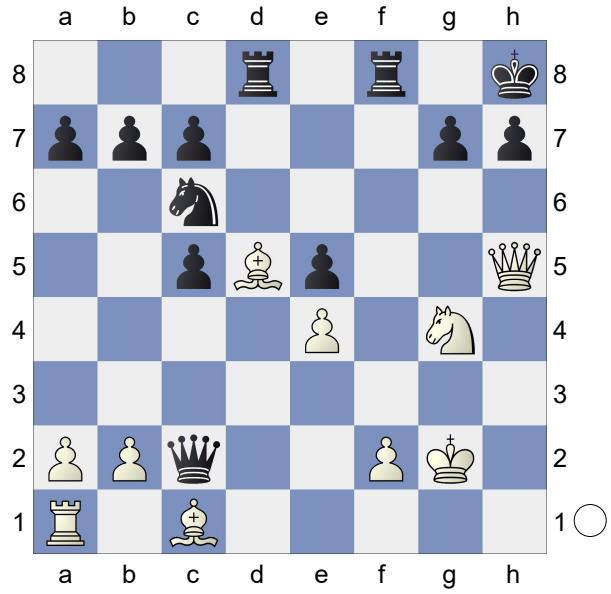
[20...Rad8-+ -4.40/20 has better winning chances. 21.Bd5 *(21.Qh3*

Rd6) 21...Qf3+ *(21...Qxc2 22.Be3=)* 22.Kh2 Nd4]

21.Bd5∓ 1:32

[21.Nxe5? perishes. Qxf2+ 22.Kh3 Nxe5-+]

21...Rad8 3:31



22.Bxc6?? -5.66/16 10:58 Black keeps a firm grip on the game.

[Weaker is 22.Nxe5 Qxf2+ 23.Kh3 Nxe5]

[22.Be3∓ -0.37/26 Rxd5 23.exd5 Qe4+ 24.Kh3 Qxd5 25.Rg1]

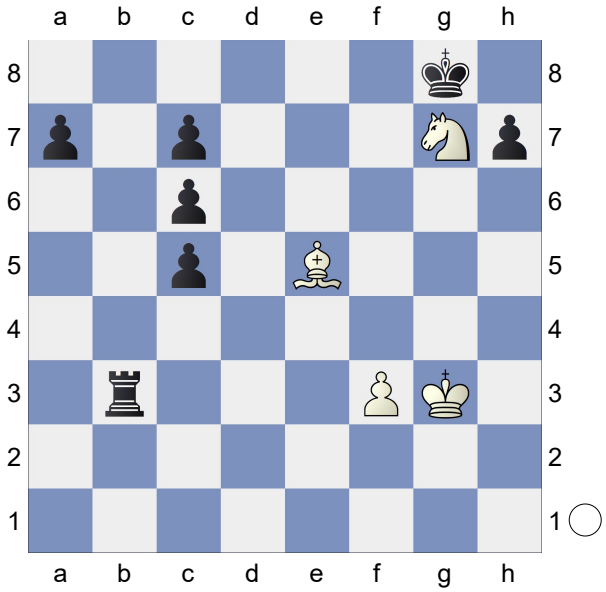
22...bxc6-+ 2 **23.Qxe5** 3:01 Hoping for Bh6!. **23...Rde8** 1:04 Skewer **24.Qc3** 29 **Qxe4+** 50 **25.f3** 3:47 **Qe2+** 1:46 **26.Kg3** 44 **Qe1+** 1:57 **27.Qxe1** 1:08 **Rxe1** 2 **28.b3** -5.74/20 32

[⌓28.Ne3 -3.96/16 Re8 29.Nc2]

28...Rd8 1:55 Lost. If there's a missed chance later I'm not going to look for it. **29.Bb2** 1:31 **Rxa1** 57 **30.Bxa1** 2 **Rd2** 19 **31.Be5** 2:27 **Rxa2** 15 **32.Ne3** 1:49 **Ra3** 3:08 **33.Nf5** 2:23 **Rxb3** 6 **34.Nxg7** 30 **Kg8** 1:32

(Diagram)

There are just too many pawns, and there won't be enough time to take them. Note that it turns out it's the h-pawn that



clinches it. **35.Ne6** 2:02 **c4** 28 **36.Kf2** 1:48 **a5** 3:33 **37.Nd4** 59 **Rd3** 2:48 **38.Ke2** 48 **a4** 22 **39.Nxc6** 2:56 **a3** 5 **40.Nb4** 15 **Rb3** 2:16 **41.Nc2** 7 **a2** 23 **42.f4** 2:58 **Kf7** 47 **43.Kd2** 1:37 **h5** 55 **44.Na1** 2:38 **Rd3+** 41 **45.Ke2** 16 **c6** 11 **46.Kf2** 53 **Ke6** 19 **47.Ke2** 24 **Kf5** 11 **48.Nc2** 14 **Ke4** 47 **49.Nb4** 14 **Ra3** 46 **50.Nc2** 6 **Rh3** 18 **51.Kd2** 33 **h4** 28 **52.Kc1** 2:52 **c3** 49 Weighted Error Value: White=1.04/Black=0.69

0-1

C41

□ **Kalonaris,Zeno** **2019**

■ **Dashtogtokh,Amarsaikhan** **2169**

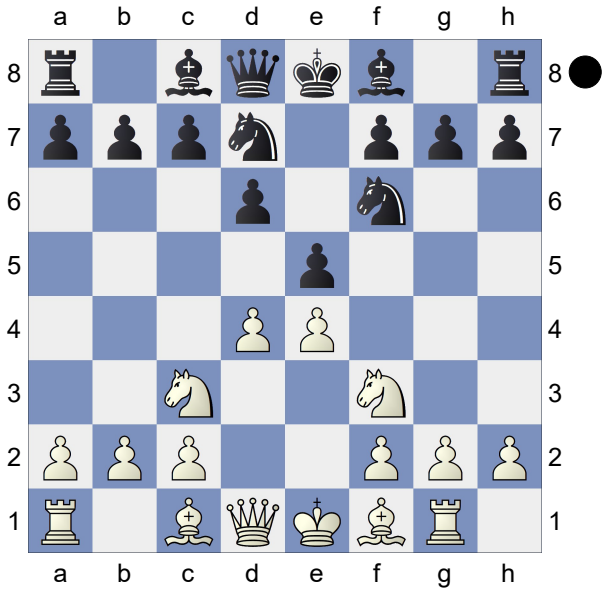
2026 Winter TNM: 2000+ (1.3) 03.11.26

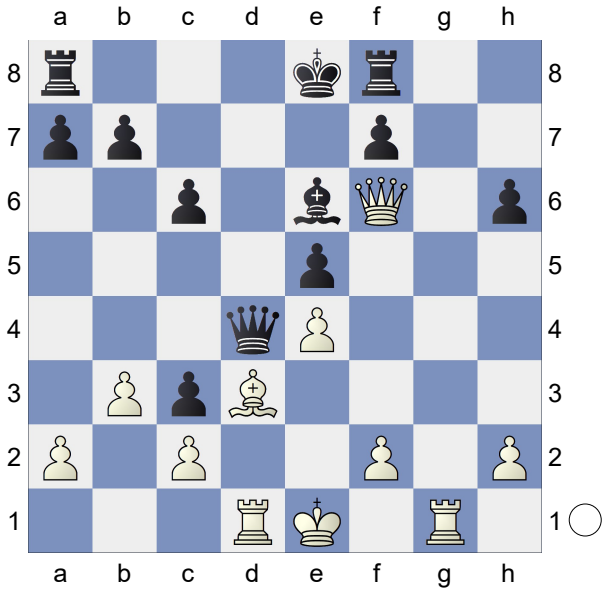
[TA]

Up and down, Zeno was doing quite well here and totally winning there but it was Dashtogtokh in the end. **1.e4** 4 **d6** 12 **2.d4** 7 **Nf6** 6 **3.Nc3** 29 **e5** **4.Nf3** 1:27 **Nbd7** 7 **5.Rg1!?** 2:00

(Diagram)

c6 2:33 **6.g4!** 9:56 **Qa5** 5:04 **7.Qe2** 9:16 **Qb6N** 0.71/22 5:17





[7...g6= 0.24/23 might be stronger.]
[7...g6 8.Bd2 Bg7 9.dxe5 dxe5 10.Nd5 Qd8 11.Nxf6+ Qxf6 12.0-0-0 0-0 13.h4 a5 0-1 (36) Fedorov,A (2396)-Tologontegin,S (2358) Kottayam 2025]

8.g5± 15:29 White is better. **8...exd4** 1.52/24 22:31
[⌓8...Nh5 0.79/22]

9.gxf6 1:15 **dxc3** 58 **10.fxg7** 35 **Bxg7** 19 **11.b3** 7:30
[11.Rxg7? cxb2 12.Rb1 *(12.Bxb2? Qxb2 13.Rd1 Qxg7-+)* 12...bxc1Q+ 13.Rxc1 Qb2-+]

11...Bf6 2:40 **12.Bf4** 0.43/22 5:34
[12.Be3± 1.22/19 Qa5 13.Bh3]

12...Ne5!± 3:01 **13.Nxe5** 5:55
[13.Rd1 seems wilder. Be6 14.Rxd6 Ng6 15.Be3]

13...Bxe5 3:58 **14.Bxe5** 7:53 **dxe5** 32

15.Qf3 33 White sacrificed a pawn

15...Be6 2:12 Against Bc4 **16.Qf6** 0.00/29 9:03
[16.Rd1± 0.49/25]

16...Qd4= 1:42 Double Attack **17.Bd3** 19 A sharp opening
[17.Qxh8+? Ke7 18.Bd3 Rxh8-+]

17...Rf8 0.55/22 2:16
[17...Kd7= -0.12/25]

18.Rd1 2:18 **h6** 1.31/21 8:27

19.Rg3 0.57/24 2:49
[19.a3!± 1.31/21]

19...Qb4!± 8:37 **20.Be2** 0.12/25 8:00
[Of course not 20.Qxh6?! 0-0-0=]
[20.Bc4± 0.82/19 Bxc4 21.bxc4]

20...Qxe4= 4:34 **21.Re3** 2:39
[21.Rgd3!? Qh1+□ 22.Bf1 Qe4+ *(22...Qxh2 23.Rd8+* Back Rank *Rxd8 24.Rxd8#)* 23.Be2=]

21...Qf4 2:26 **22.Qxe5** 2:07 **Qxe5** 35

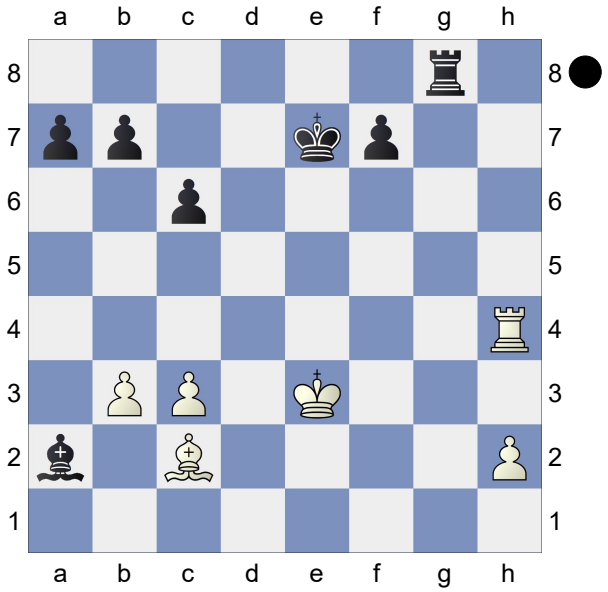
23.Rxe5 2 **Ke7** 1:21 **24.f4** 2:22 **Kf6** 1:27 **25.Rd3** 31 **Rad8** 42 **26.Rxc3** 28 **Rd4** 2 **27.Rh5** 1:09 **Rxf4** 59 **28.Rxh6+** 11 **Ke7** 20
[28...Kg7!? 29.Rh5□ Re4 30.Rg3+ Kf6-+]

29.Rf3 1:22 **Rxf3** 6:57 **30.Bxf3** 2 Endgame KRB-KRB **30...Bf5** 13 **31.c3** 43 **Rd8** 20 **32.Ke2** 1:35 **Bd3+** 22 **33.Ke3** 2:08 **Bb1** 3:56 **34.Be4** 2 Repels Rd3+ **34...Bxa2** 2:44 **35.Bc2** 27 **Rg8** 1:26 **36.Rh4** 1:14

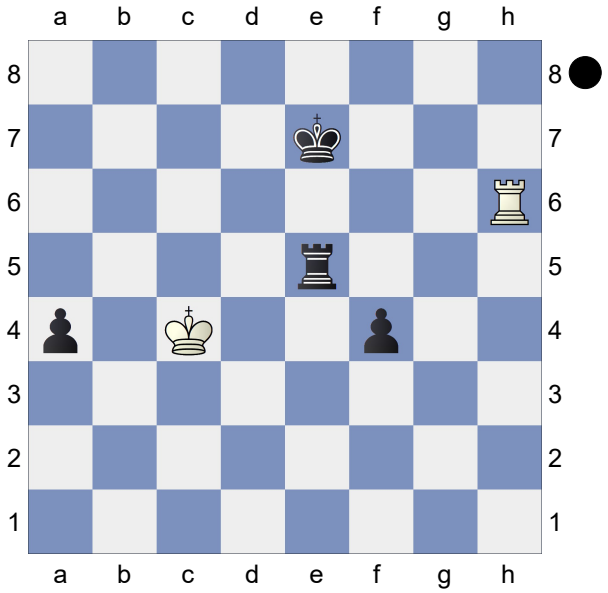
(Diagram)

Black must now prevent Ra4. **36...Rg1?** 2.57/21 1:42
[36...Rg2= 0.00/48 and Black stays safe. 37.Kd3 Rg1]

37.Rb4? 0.00/49 1:10



[37.Ra4+- 2.57/21]
37...b5 49 **38.Re4+** 29 **Kd6** 1:02 **39.h4** 39 **a5** 1:06 **40.Rf4** 22 **Rh1** 1:41 **41.Rf6+** 29 **Ke7** 3:37 **42.Rxc6** 7 **Bb1** 27 **43.Bxb1** 49 **Rxb1** 15 KR-KR **44.h5** 33 **Rxb3** 37 **45.h6** 11 **Rb1** 11 **46.h7** 27 **Rh1** 6 **47.Rc7+** 2 **Ke6** 16 **48.Ra7** 1:21 **a4** 27 **49.Kd4?** -7.09/32 38
[49.Rb7= 0.00/68]
49...Rxh7-+ 15 Black is clearly winning. **50.Ra6+** 24 **Kd7** 10 **51.Kc5** 8 **Rh5+** 19 **52.Kb4** **Re5** 56 **53.Rh6** 23 **Ke7** 16 **54.Rh4** 55 **f5** 50 **55.Rh6** 30 **f4** 9 **56.c4** 1:00 **bxc4** 49 White must now prevent ... Rf5. **57.Kxc4** 15



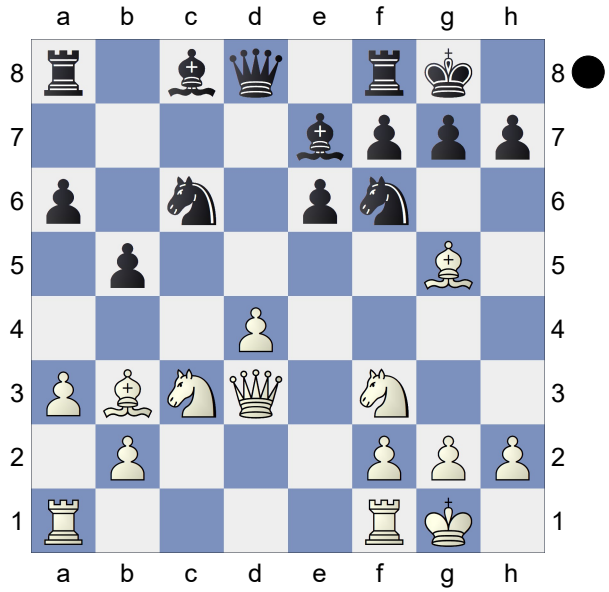
f3 -8.95/13 22
[⌓57...Rf5 -49.72/15 58.Rh2 f3]
58.Kd4 27 **f2** 20 **59.Rh7+** 1:01 **Kf8** 11 **60.Kxe5** 34 **f1Q** 24 **61.Ra7** 3
Weighted Error Value: White=0.47/ Black=0.22 (precise)
0-1

D27
□ **Spencer,David** **2150**
■ **Zhao,Isaac Dan** **1996**
2026 Winter TNM: 2000+ (1.4) 03.11.26
[TA]

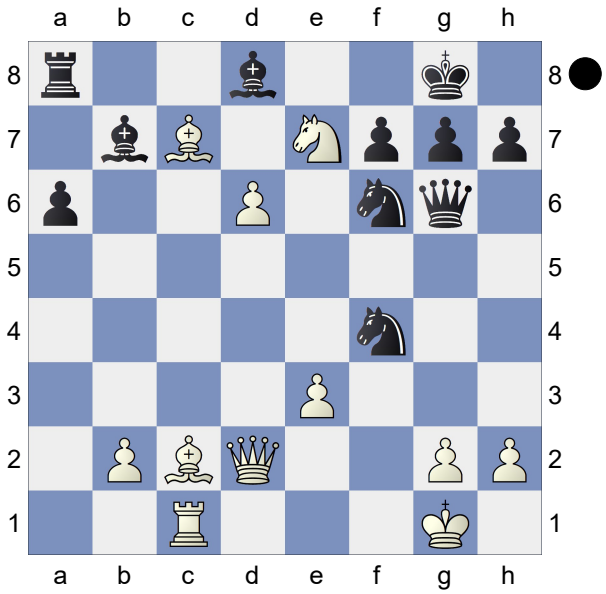
Isaac Zhao had such a fine Fall TNM but this one is starting on the wrong foot. David Spencer absorbs Zhao's ...e5 for a win. **1.d4** 9 **e6** 6 **2.c4** 19 **Nf6** 7 **3.Nf3** 13 **d5** 7 **4.Nc3** 38 **c5** 6 **5.e3** 27 Avoiding Semi-Tarrasch theory
[5.cxd5 Nxd5 *(5...exd5!?* has been shown recently to be not-so-bad *)* 6.e4 Nxc3 7.bxc3 cxd4 8.cxd4 Bb4+ 9.Bd2 Bxd2+ 10.Qxd2 0-0 is a famous and longstanding main line.]
5...cxd4 2:00 **6.exd4** 12 and it's a Caro-Kann, Panov-Botvinnik Attack **6...dxc4?!** 1:04 Usually Black waits for Bd3 or let's White take on d5 (c4-c5 has lost its luster).
[6...Be7 is the usual PB]
[6...Bb4 often transposes into Karpov's Nimzo line]
7.Bxc4 11 **Be7** 4:44 **8.0-0** 39 **Nc6** 33 **9.a3** 31 **a6** 5:39 **10.Bg5** 1:10 **0-0** 1:32 **11.Qd3** 3:27 **b5** 10:03 **12.Bb3** 49
[12.Ba2]

(Diagram)

12...e5? 2.13/25 15
[12...Bb7]



[12...h6]
13.d5+- 5:10 **b4N** 21:25
[13...Nd4 14.Nxd4 exd4 15.Qxd4 Ne4 16.Bxe7 Nxc3 17.Qe5 1-0 (17) Villalba Izquierdo,P (2168)-Gonzalvez Garcia,P (2022) La Pobla de Vallbona 2004]
14.axb4 10:44 **Nxb4** 3:36 White is clearly better. **15.Qd2** 8:03
And now Rfe1! would win. **15...e4** 2.62/23 2:18
[15...h6 1.92/22]
16.Nd4? 0.22/26 4:15
[Only move: 16.Bxf6+- 2.62/23 exf3 17.Bxe7 Qxe7 18.Rfe1 *(18.gxf3 Bh3=)*]
16...Qb6 0.74/24 7:57
[16...Nfxd5= 0.22/26 17.Nxe4 Bxg5 18.Nxg5 h6]
17.Na4 9:14 **Qd6** 3.38/15 3:51
[17...Qb8± 0.80/28 keeps fighting.]
18.Bf4 1:56 **Qd8** 2:24 **19.Rac1** 1.66/19 4:57
[⌓19.Nc6 3.05/17 Nxc6 20.dxc6 Qxd2 21.Bxd2]
19...Bb7? 7.65/13 4:42
[19...Bd6 1.66/19]
20.Bc7 1:06 White is clearly winning.
20...Qd7 5:22 **21.Nb6** 37 **Qg4** 8
22.Nxa8 1:03 **Rxa8** 39 **23.d6** 3:38 **e3** 9
24.fxe3 29 **Bd8** 3:40 **25.Rf4** 3:34 **Qg6** 48 **26.Nf5** 2:05 **Nd3** 41 **27.Bc2** 2:56 **Nxf4** 2:00 **28.Ne7+** 55



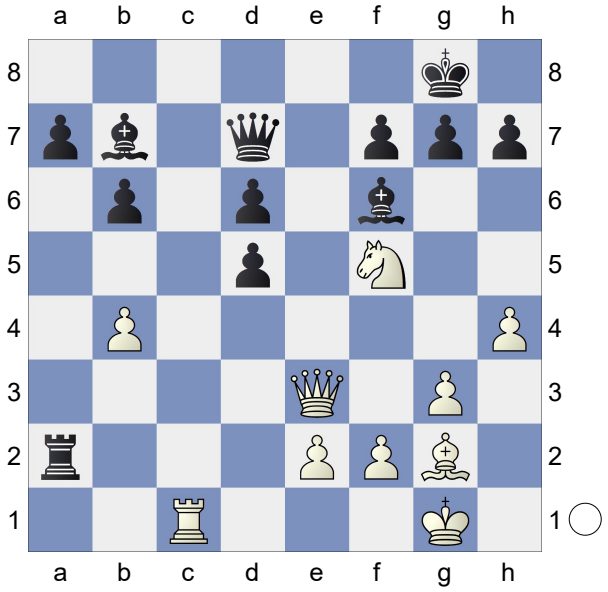
Discovered Attack **28...Bxe7** 4 **29.Bxg6** 14 **Nxg6** 3 **30.dxe7** 13 **Nxe7** 3 **31.Qb4** 2:48
A cool game by Spencer. Weighted Error Value: White=0.46/Black=0.83
1-0

A50

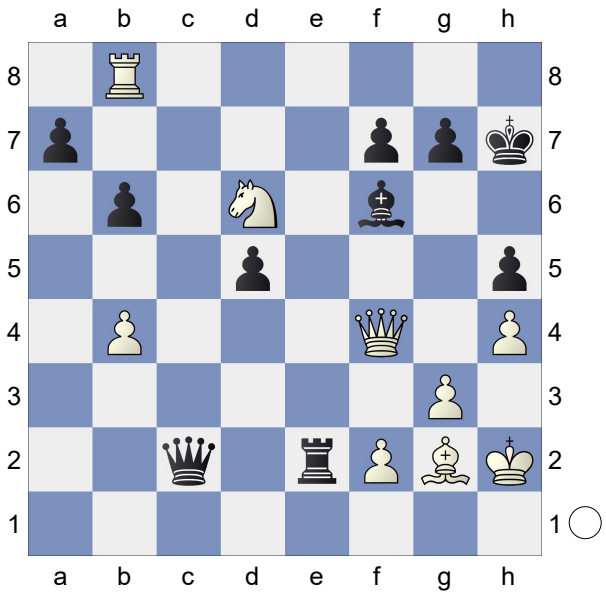
□ **Seshadri,Sudarshan** **1994**
■ **Mallela,Abhishek** **2135**
2026 Winter TNM: 2000+ (1.5) 03.11.26
[TA]

Sudarshan runs circles around Mallela but then inexplicably slides into Bishop and "wrong" Rook Pawn and a draw.
1.d4 4 **Nf6** 37 **2.c4** 13 **b6** 9 **3.Nc3** 56 **Bb7** 16 **4.d5** 1:28 **e6** 12 **5.a3** 33 **Bd6!?** 24 **6.Nf3** 6:55 **0-0!** 42 **7.g3** 36
A50: Queen's Fianchetto Defence (1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 b6). **7...c6** 10 **8.Bg2** 54 **Na6** 4:40 **9.0-0** 1:08 White is slightly better.
9...exd5 26 **10.cxd5** 33 **cxd5** 52
11.Nb5 1:28 White sacrificed a pawn
11...Be7 1:51 **12.b4** 1:34 Repels Nc5
12...Nc7 44 **13.Nxc7** 1:21 **Qxc7** 8

14.Bb2 1:06 **d6N** 0.39/25 49
[14...Ne4= -0.02/31]
[14...Ne4 15.Nd4 Nd6 16.Qb3 Qc4 17.Qf3 Qc8 18.Rac1 Qd8 19.Nf5 Nxf5 20.Qxf5 Re8 21.Bxd5 Bxd5 22.Qxd5 ½-½ (66) Lombaers,P (2311)-Jonsson,G (2123) Hilversum 2025]
15.Rc1 3:42 White has compensation.
15...Qd7 16 **16.Qd3** 5:18 **Ne4** 4:06
17.Rfd1 15:04 **Rad8** 3:45 **18.Nd4** 4:42 f3 poses a challenge **18...Bf6** 7:34
19.Ba1 16:19 **Rc8** 1:00 **20.h4** 3:44
Rxc1 1:02 **21.Rxc1** 4 **Rc8** 27 **22.Rd1** 3:03 **Qa4** 7:56 **23.Nf5** 7:23 **Nc3** 13:01
24.Bxc3 4:45 **Rxc3** 22 **25.Qd2** 54 **Rc2** 9:47 **26.Qd3** 1:13 **Rc3** 6:52 **27.Qd2** 22
Rxa3 13 **28.Rc1** 4:27 Repels Bc3
28...Ra2 10:55 **29.Qe3** 1:05 **Qd7** 7.98/22 4:32
[29...Ra3= 0.00/40 30.Qf4 Ra1 31.Nxd6 Ba8]



Prevents Rc7 -- or does it? **30.Rc7!!+-** 1:42 Deflection, Back Rank. I don't know why "TA" gives it "!!" **30...Qa4** 6:27
[30...Qe6 31.Rxb7]
31.Rxb7 33 **h5** 7 **32.Nxd6** 6:53 Rb8+ would kill now. **32...Qd1+** 57
33.Kh2 25 **Rxe2** 10 **34.Qf4** 13.00/30 40
[⌓34.Qf3 #9/18 Qe1 35.Rb8+ Re8 36.Nxe8 Bd8 37.Rxd8 Qh1+ 38.Kxh1 Kf8 39.Qf4 f6 40.Bxd5 g6 41.Qxf6#]
34...Qc2 1:26 **35.Rb8+** 2:57 **Kh7** 5



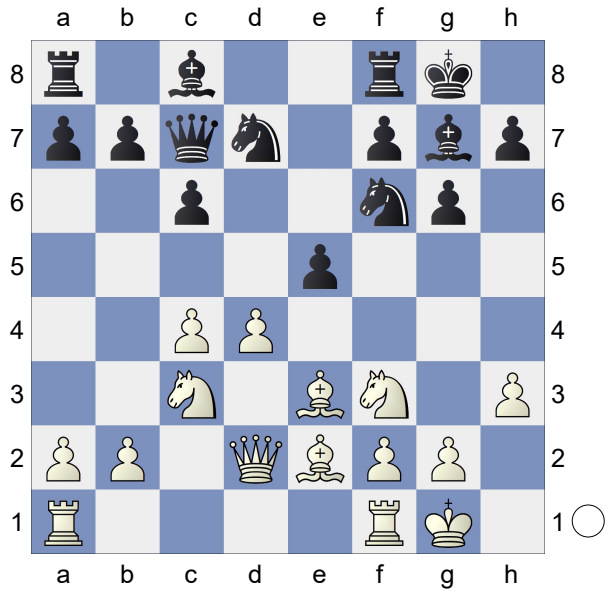
36.Ne4! 18.54/31 1:01 **Kg6** 2:10
37.Nxf6 2:36 Discovered Attack
37...gxf6 5 **38.Rh8** 42 **Rxf2** 21
39.Qh6+ 9 Deflection, Double Attack
39...Kf5 4 **40.Qxh5+** 15 **Ke6** 9
41.Qxd5+ 14 **Ke7** 5 **42.Qd8+** 59 **Ke6** 4
43.Qd5+ 56 **Ke7** 4 **44.Qb7+** 15 **Ke6** 17
45.Re8+ 14 **Kf5** 7 **46.Qd5+** 12.12/34 1:01
[⌓46.Qd7+ #15/28 Kg6 47.Qg4+ Kh6 48.Rh8+ Qh7 49.Rxh7+ Kxh7 50.Qd7 Kh8 51.Qxa7]
46...Kg6 6 **47.Qe4+** 46 **Qxe4** 54
48.Rxe4 4 Endgame KRB-KR **48...f5** 3
49.Rd4 34 **Rb2** 16 **50.Kh3** 21 **a5** 14
51.Rd6+ 23 **f6** 4 **52.bxa5** 26 **bxa5** 4
53.Ra6 7 **Ra2** 9 **54.Bc6** 16 **f4** 43
55.Be4+ 38 **Kg7** 22 **56.gxf4** 33 **Ra4** 13
57.Re6 1:15 Threatens to win with Kg4.
57...f5 4 **58.Bxf5** 28 **Rxf4** 5 **59.Bc2** 44
Rc4 29 **60.Rg6+** 41 **Kf7** 1:03 **61.Bb3?** 1.32/18 28
[61.Bf5+- 6.53/37 and White stays clearly on top.]
61...Kxg6± 27 **62.Bxc4** 4 KB-KP **62...a4** 5 **63.Kg4** 7 **a3** 2 **64.Ba2** 4 **Kh6** 4

65.h5 0.00/63 21
[65.Bb1± 1.08/18 Kg7 66.Kg5]
65...Kg7= 6 The position is equal.
66.Kg5 22 **Kh8** 7 **67.h6** 1:31 **Kh7** 5
68.Kh5 7 **Kh8** 5 **69.Kg6** 27
An interesting game. Weighted Error Value: White=0.41/Black=0.88
½-½

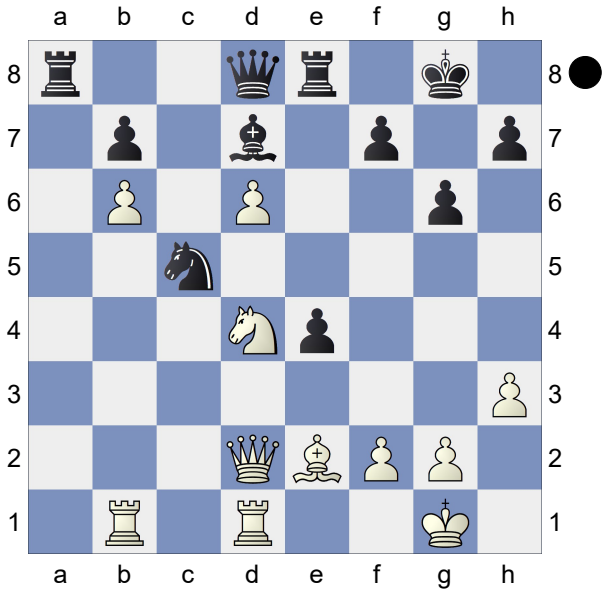
B01

□ **Chen,Quincy** **2124**
■ **Horowitz,Phineas F** **1992**
2026 Winter TNM: 2000+ (1.6) 03.11.26
[TA]

Winning for White! No, winning for Black! No, White won. **1.e4** 3 **d5** 25 **2.exd5** 10 **Qxd5** 2 **3.Nf3** 33 **Nf6** 24 **4.d4** 46 **g6** 8:15 **5.c4** 3:36 **Qd8** 53 **6.Be2** 26 **Bg7** 1:09 **7.0-0** 40 **0-0** 1:16 **8.Nc3** 24 **c6** 4:00 **9.h3** 6:45 Inhibits Bg4. **9...Nbd7** 1:46 **10.Be3** 21 **Qc7?** 2.04/17 3:14
[10...b5± 1.31/26 was necessary.]
11.Qd2+- 8:18 **e5** 3:51

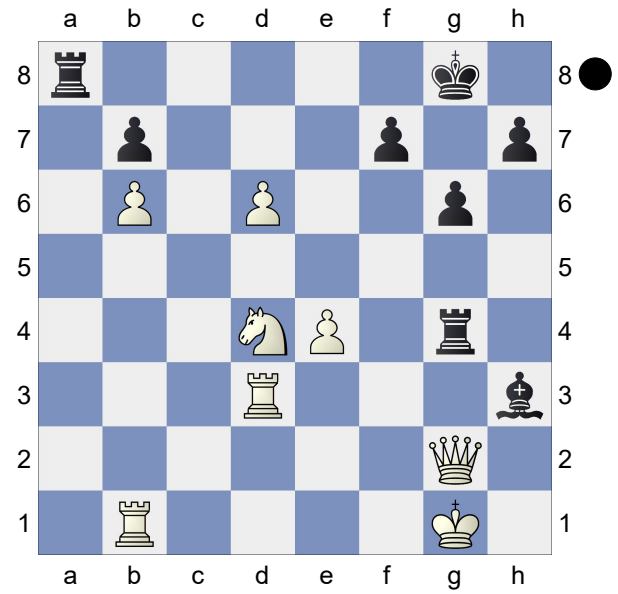


12.d5 3:50 **Rd8?!N** 3.42/19 16:33
[12...b6 1.89/25 13.d6 Qd8]
[12...a6 13.d6 Qd8 14.c5 a5 15.a3 a4 16.Bd1 e4 17.Ng5 Re8 18.Bc2 b6 19.Ngxe4 Nxe4 20.Nxe4 bxc5 21.Nxc5 Nxc5 22.Bxc5 1-0 (63) Meszaros,M (2373)-Kantorik,M (2345) Slovakia 2008]
13.d6 4:05 **Qa5** 3:50 **14.a3** 2:04 **Re8** 5:20 **15.b4** 4:10 **Qd8** 24 **16.c5** 1:48 **Nf8** 4:57 **17.Rfd1** 32:25 **e4** 5:08 **18.Nd4** 2:15 **a6** 13:58 **19.a4** 1:54 **Nd5** 6.00/13 1:10
[⌓19...a5 4.15/23 20.b5 Bd7]
20.Nxd5 1:58 **cxd5** 4 **21.Rab1** 1:31 **Ne6** 2:16 **22.Nb3** 4:49 **Bd7** 5:14 **23.b5** 8:24 **axb5** 1:46 **24.axb5** 16
[24.Qxd5 Bc6 25.Qd2 Rxa4∓]
24...d4 1:27 **25.Bxd4?** 0.25/23 1:06
[25.Nxd4+- 2.04/23 Nxc5 26.Bc4]
25...Bxd4= 58 **26.Nxd4** 1:09 **Nxc5** 18 **27.b6** -0.11/30 3:02
[27.Qf4 0.26/24]



27...e3! 5:23 **28.fxe3** 33 **Ne4** 11 **29.Qb4** -2.38/18 2:47
[29.Qe1= -0.07/30]
29...Qg5-+ 1:51 **30.Rd3** 4:53 **Bxh3?** -0.32/25 5:42
[30...Nc5-+ -2.04/24 31.Rc3 Ne4]
31.Bf3∓ 5 **Qg3** 2:50 **32.Bxe4?** -9.53/35 1:04
[32.Qe1= 0.00/28 Qxd6 *(32...Qg5 33.Rb5=)* 33.gxh3]
32...Rxe4 24 **33.Qd2** 9 **Rg4!** 36 **34.e4**

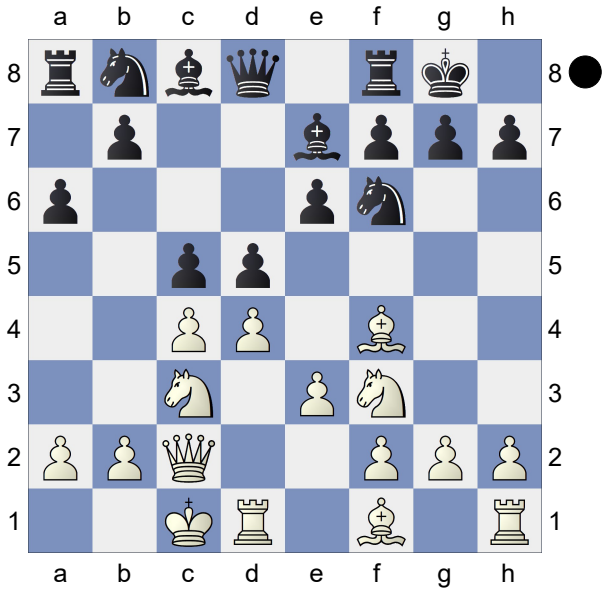
52 **Qxg2+** 46 **35.Qxg2** 5



Rxg2+?? 6.00/15 14
[35...Bxg2-+ -5.48/17 36.Rbb3 Bxe4+ 37.Rg3 *(37.Kf2 Rd8)* 37...Rxg3+ 38.Rxg3 Rd8]
36.Kh1+- 6 Black is on the road to losing. **36...Rd8** 55 **37.Rxh3** 14 **Rd2** 9 **38.Nb5** 10 **h5** 23 **39.Rh2** 53 **Rd3** 20 **40.Rc2** 21 **g5** 38 **41.Rc5** 25 **f6** 18 **42.e5** 28 **Kf7** 1:09 **43.Rf1** 7 **Ra8** 32 **44.Rxf6+** 21 **Kg8** 25 **45.Na7** 1:28 **Rd1+** 34 **46.Kg2** 6 Black must now prevent Rc8+. **46...g4** 11 **47.Rc7** 17 White wants to mate with Nc8!. **47...Re8** 22 **48.Rg6+** 30 White mates. **48...Kh8** 24 **49.Rh6+** 13 **Kg8** 3 **50.Rxh5** 15 **Rf8** 37 **51.Rg5+** 1:15 **Kh8** 2 **52.Rc8** 22 **Rd2+** 17 **53.Kg3** 5 **Rd3+** 9 **54.Kxg4** 7 **Rd4+** 43 **55.Kh5** 7 **Kh7** 1:45 **56.Rxf8** 8 **Rxd6** 10 **57.Rf7+** 16 **Kh8** 2 **58.Rgf5** 8
Weighted Error Value: White=0.52/ Black=0.63
1-0

D37
□ **Garrett,Tyler** **1318**
■ **Eaves,Isaac** **1046**
2026 Winter TNM: U1600 (1.31) 03.11.26
[Winslow,Elliott]

Isaac Eaves came up with some outstanding moves and was doing well! But it got away from him against Tyler Garrett, rated 270 rating points above him. **1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 Be7 5.Bf4 a6 6.e3 0-0 7.Qc2 c5 8.0-0-0**

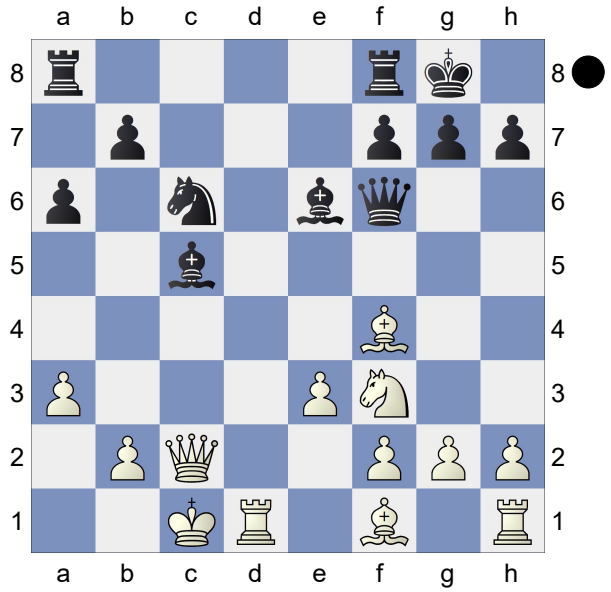


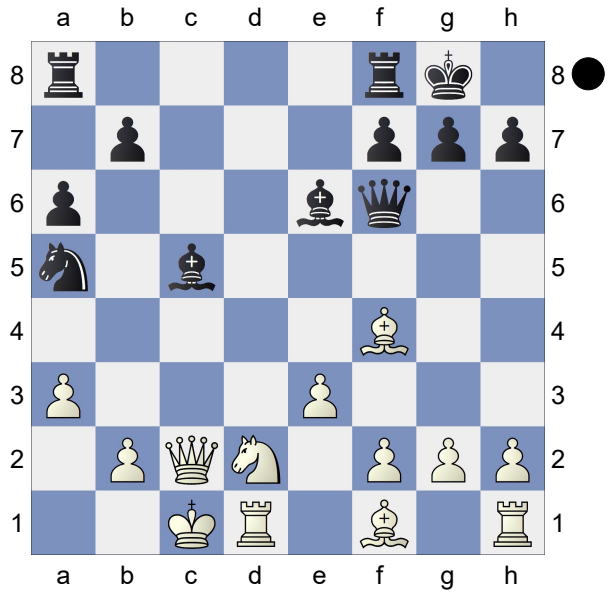
Nc6 9.cxd5 Nb4 10.Qb3 exd5 11.dxc5 Bxc5 12.a3 Nc6 13.Nxd5 Be6 14.Nxf6+ Qxf6 15.Qc2

(Diagram)

Na5?
[15...Rac8]
[15...Nd4! 16.Nxd4 *(16.exd4 Qxf4+ 17.Kb1 Bd6)* 16...Bxd4 17.Rxd4 Rac8 18.Bc7 Qe7 19.Kb1! Rxc7 20.Qd2=]
16.Nd2??
[16.Kb1!±]
[16.Bg5!?]

(Diagram)

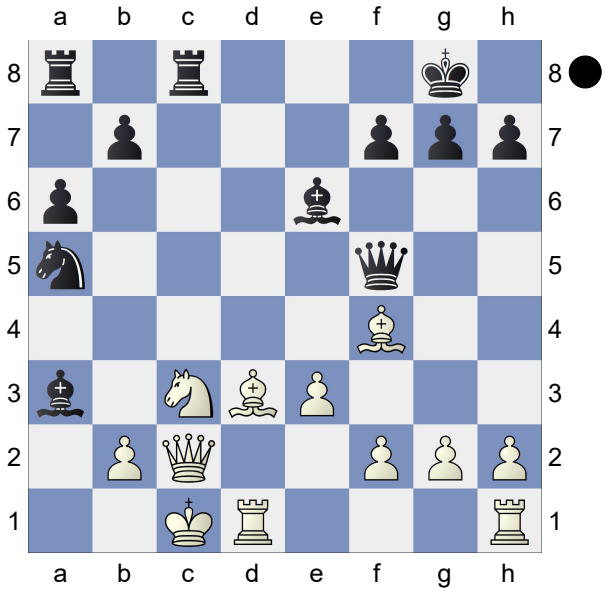




16...Bxa3!-+ 17.Ne4 Qf5
[17...Qe7! 18.Nc3 Bb3]
18.Bd3 Rfc8 19.Nc3

(Diagram)

Rxc3??
[19...Qf6-+]
[19...Qc5 20.bxa3 Bb3-+]
20.Qxc3+- Rc8 21.Qxc8+ Bxc8 22.Bxf5 Nb3+
[22...Bxf5 23.Rd8+ Bf8 24.Bd6]
23.Kc2 Bxf5+ 24.Kxb3 Be7 25.Rc1 Be6+ 26.Kc2 h6 27.Rhd1 Bb4 28.Bd6 Bf5+ 29.Kb3 Ba5 30.Rd5 Be6

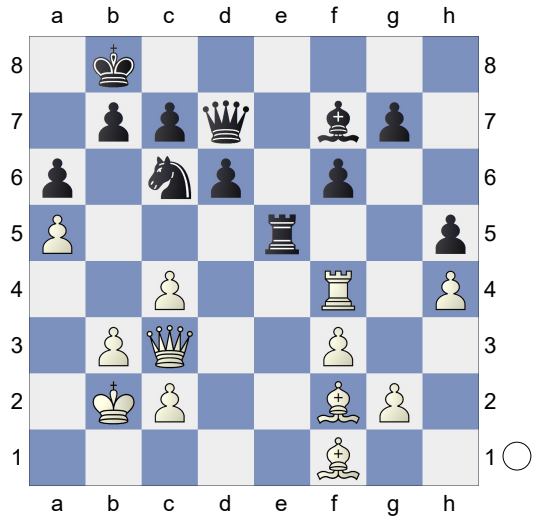


31.Ka4
[31.e4]
31...Bxd5 32.Kxa5 Bxg2 33.Kb6 g6 34.Be5 Bc6 35.Rxc6 bxc6 36.Bf6 c5 37.Kxa6 Kf8 38.Kb6 c4 39.Kc6 Ke8 40.Kd6 h5 41.f4 Kf8 42.Kd7 Kg8 43.Ke8 g5 44.Bxg5 Kg7 45.h4 Kg6 46.e4 f5 47.e5 Kh7 48.Kf8 c3 49.bxc3 Kg6 50.e6 Kh7 51.e7 Kh8 52.e8Q Kh7 53.Qf7+
1-0

C42
□ **Weaver,Kyle** **1190**
■ **Starr,Albert Martin** **1500**
2026 Winter TNM: U1600 (1.26) 03.11.26
[Winslow,Elliott]

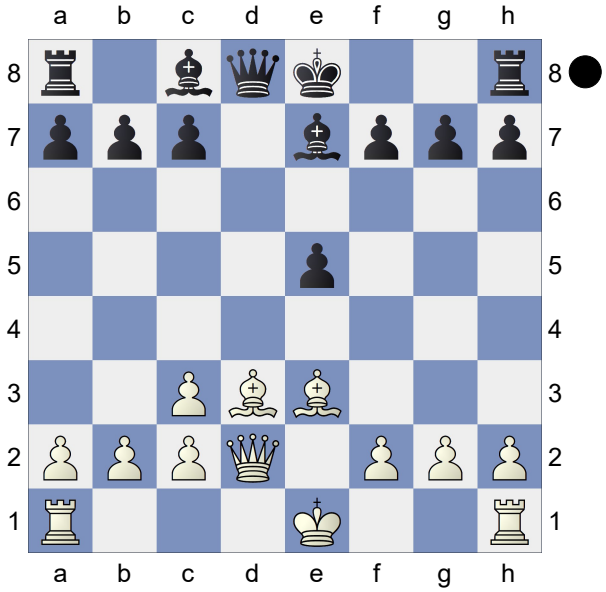
An upset! It went back and forth from better for White to about even -- and then Albert traded queens into a lost bishop ending! Good one Kyle! **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.Nc3 Nxc3 6.dxc3 Be7 7.Be3 Nc6 8.Qd2 Ne5**
[8...Be6 9.0-0-0 Qd7 10.Kb1 Bf6 11.Ng5 Bxg5 12.Bxg5 f6 13.Be3± /= 0-0-0 14.f3 a6 15.b3 Rhe8 16.Kb2 Kb8 17.h4 h5 18.Bf2 Bf5 19.a4

Re7 20.Bc4 Be6 21.Be2 Rde8 22.Rhe1 Bf5 23.Bf1 Rxe1 24.Bxe1 Bg6 25.Bf2 Ne5 26.a5 *(26.c4±; 26.Bg3±)* 26...Qf5 27.Ra1 Bf7 28.Ra4 *(28.f4 Ng4 29.Bg1)* 28...Re7 29.Rf4 Qd7 30.c4?!= 0.00 Nc6 31.Qc3 Re5



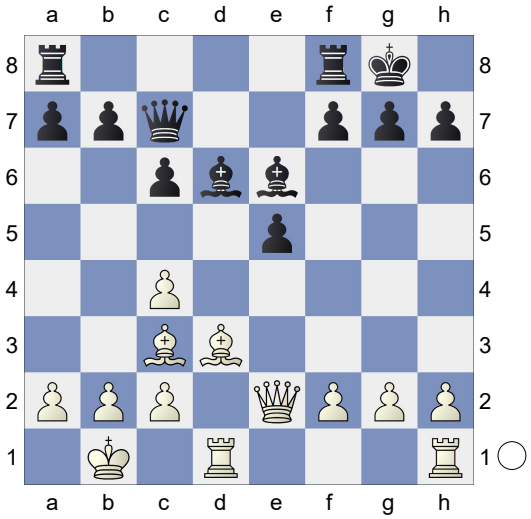
32.b4 Qe6 33.c5 g5 34.hxg5 fxg5 35.Re4?! Rxe4 36.fxe4 Qxe4 37.cxd6 cxd6 38.Qh8+? Nepomniachtchi,I (2729)-Duda,J (2739) Chess.com op playoffs 23 Apr 2026 0-1 *(38.Be3=)*]

9.Nxe5 dxe5 10.Bd3

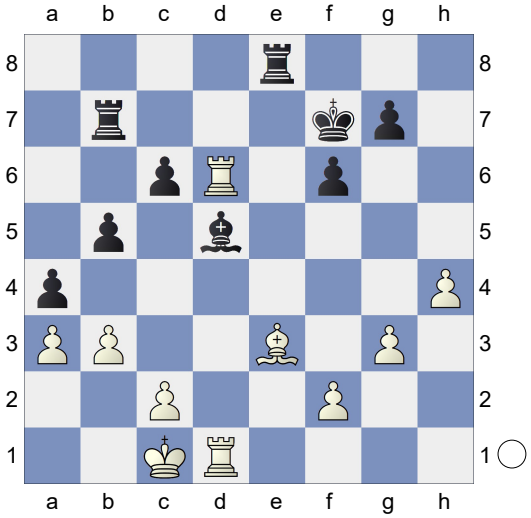


Qd6?!N

[10...Be6 11.0-0-0 c6 12.Qe2 Qd5 13.c4 Qa5 14.Kb1 0-0 15.Bd2 Qc7 16.Bc3 Bd6



17.Bxh7+ Kxh7 18.Qd3+ Kg8 19.Qxd6 Qxd6 20.Rxd6 Bxc4 21.Bxe5 Rfe8 22.Bd4 Bd5 23.Kc1 a5 24.a3 Re7 25.Rg1 Rae8 26.Be3 b5 27.g3 f6 28.Rd1 Kf7 29.h4 Rb7 30.b3 a4

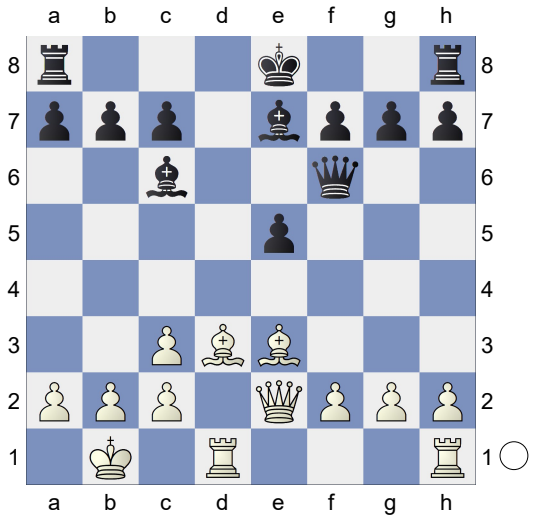


31.b4? *(31.bxa4 bxa4 32.Rd4 Ke7 33.Bf4+-)* 31...Ke7 32.Bc5 Kf7 33.Rd2 Rbe7 34.Kb2 Rb7 35.Kc3 Kg8 36.Rd3 Re2 37.Rd8+ Kh7 38.Rd2 Re1 39.Kb2 Kg6 40.Rh8 Andriasian,Z (2547)-Rakhmatullaev,A (2407) Kuwait City 2025 ½-½ (65)]

11.0-0-0± Bd7 12.Rhe1?!

[12.Qe2 Bc6 13.Kb1 Qf6

(Diagram)

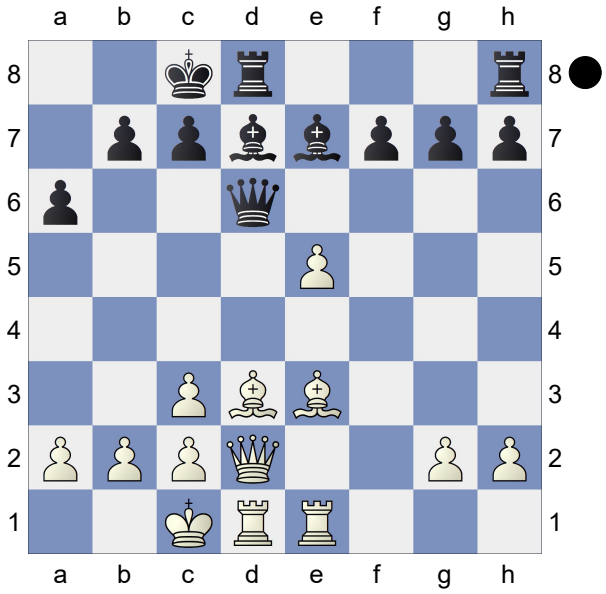


14.f4! exf4? *(14...0-0; 14...0-0-0)*
15.Bd4+- Qe6 16.Qd2+-]

12...a6?!

[12...0-0-0= (0.20/20)]

13.f4± /± 13...0-0-0 14.fxe5



Qe6?

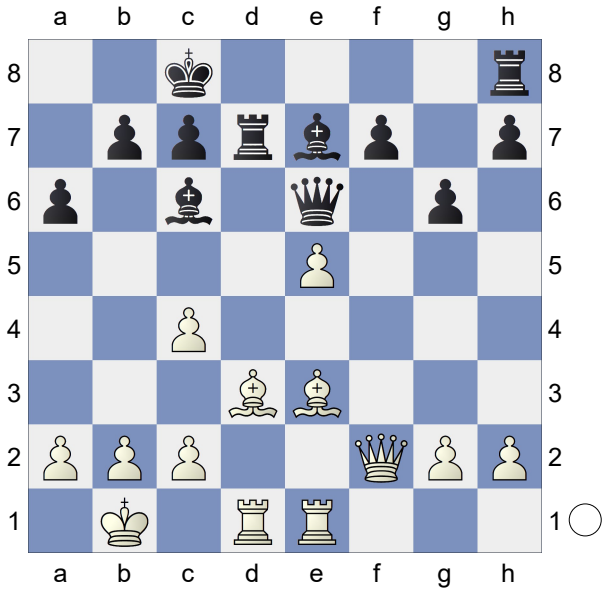
[14...Qd5]
[14...Qxe5!? 15.Bh6!± Qc5! 16.b4! Qd6 17.Bf4! Qf6 18.Kb2 Bg4!± 19.Ra1!? (can't say I understand *that* one!)]

15.Kb1!+- ("just") 15...Bc6 16.Qf2 g6
17.c4?!

[17.b3]

17...Rd7?!

[17...f5! 18.exf6 Qxf6 19.Qxf6 Bxf6 20.Rf1±]



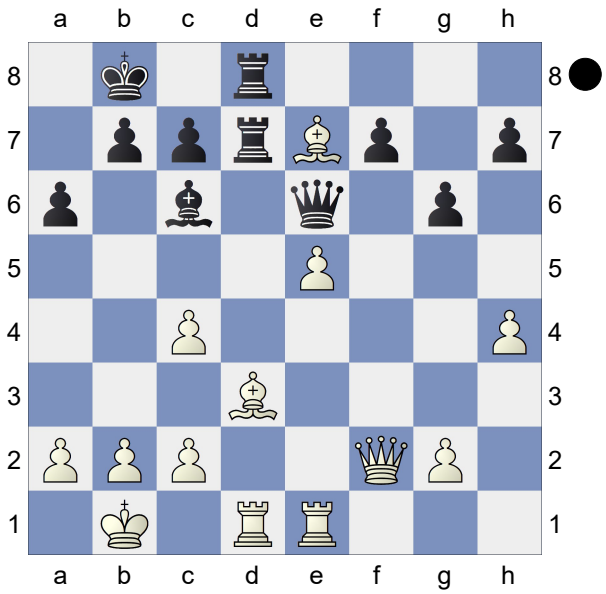
18.h4? Rhd8?

[18...Qxe5=]

19.Bg5?! Kb8?

[19...Bxg5 20.hxg5 Kb8=]

20.Bxe7



Rxe7?

[20...Qxe7 21.g3 Rd4±]

21.Bf1?

[21.Bf5! Rxd1+ 22.Rxd1 Qxf5 23.Rd8+ Qc8 24.Rxc8+ Kxc8 25.Qf6]

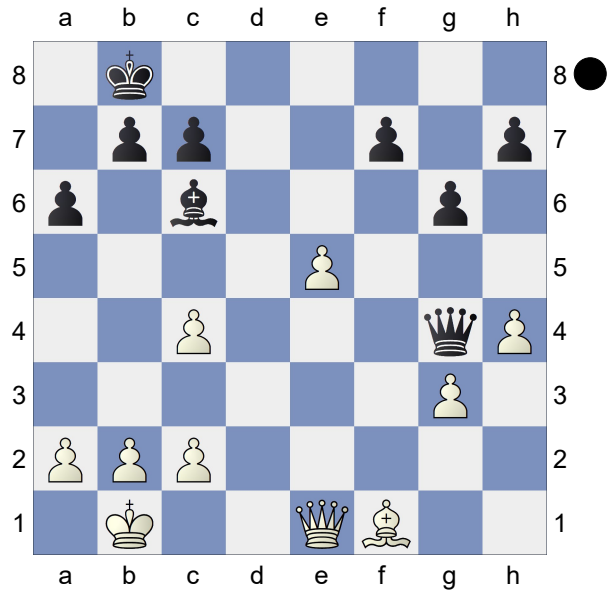
21...Rxd1+ 22.Rxd1 Rd7?!±

[22...Bd7 23.Re1 f6=]

23.Rxd7 Qxd7 24.Qe1

[24.a3 Be4 25.Kc1 Bf5 26.c3 Qa4 27.Qe2]

24...Qg4 25.g3



Qe4?? 26.Qxe4 Bxe4 27.Bd3+- (sf19: +3.29/13)

[27.c5! (sf19: +4.68/13)]

27...Bf3 28.Kc1 Kc8 29.Kd2 Kd7 30.Ke3 Bg4 31.Kf4 h5 32.Be4 b6 33.Bd5 Be6 34.Kg5 c6 35.Bxe6+ Kxe6 36.Kf4 a5 37.a3 b5 38.cxb5 cxb5 39.b3 Kd5 40.c3 a4 41.bxa4 bxa4 42.c4+ Kxc4 43.Kg5 Kb3 44.Kf6 Kxa3 45.Kxf7 Kb3 46.e6 a3 47.e7 a2 48.e8Q a1Q 49.Qe6+ Kb4 50.Kxg6 Qd1 51.Qe4+ Kc5 52.Qe5+ Kc6 53.Qe8+ Kc7 54.Kg5 Qg4+ 55.Kh6 Qxg3 56.Qxh5 Kd7 57.Qf7+ Kd8 58.Qf8+ Kd7 59.Qg7+ Qxg7+ 60.Kxg7

1-0

B10

□ **Ossa,Julian Patricio** **1662**

■ **Chan,John** **1500**

2026 Winter TNM: 1600-1999 (1.24)

[Winslow,Elliott]

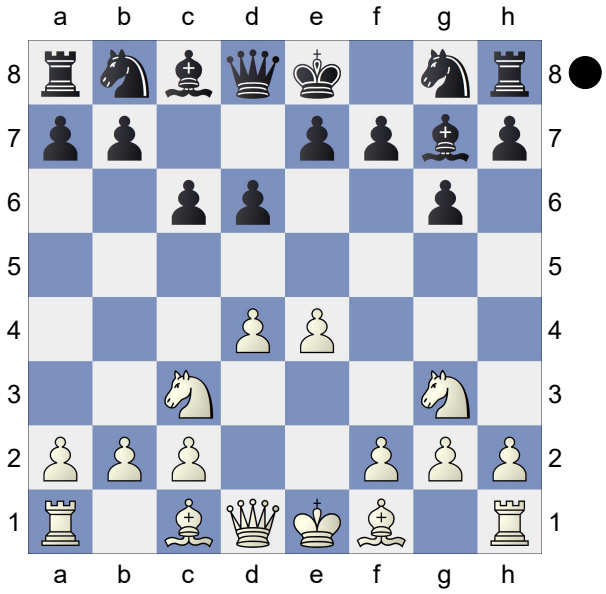
Julian Ossa had a spectacular debut last TNM. I haven't met him so I don't know, is he a late-coming new player, or from somewhere else in the world? In any case, this game with John Chan was madness. If Chan's unorthodox openings threw Ossa for a loop, it didn't work too well, in fact Ossa beat Chan to the strange opening punch with 2.Ne2; the more I look at this game the less I understand. How Ossa won, Chan (up a rook) is still probably scratching his head.

1.e4 c6 2.Ne2 (Not so orthodox either! I didn't notice that aspect in Ossa's play from last TNM) **2...g6 3.Nbc3 Bg7 4.Ng3**

[4.d4]

[4.h4!?]

4...d6 5.d4



Be6?

[5...Qb6! when 6.Nge2 could well be best.]

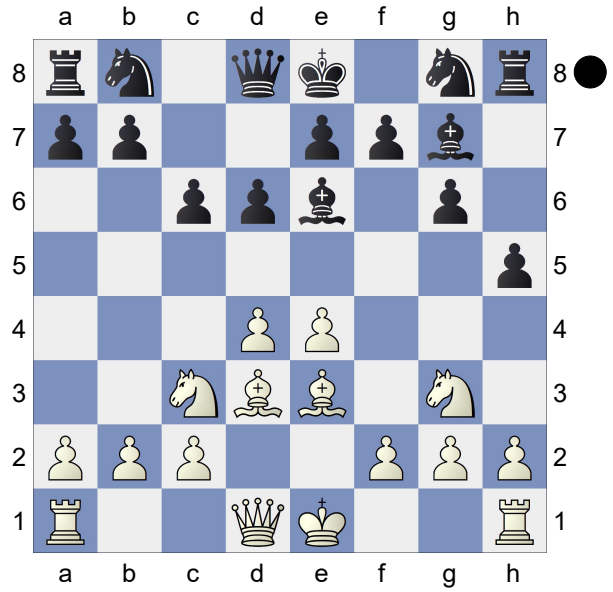
6.Be3± h5! 7.Bd3

[7.h4!]

(Diagram)

7...Nf6?!

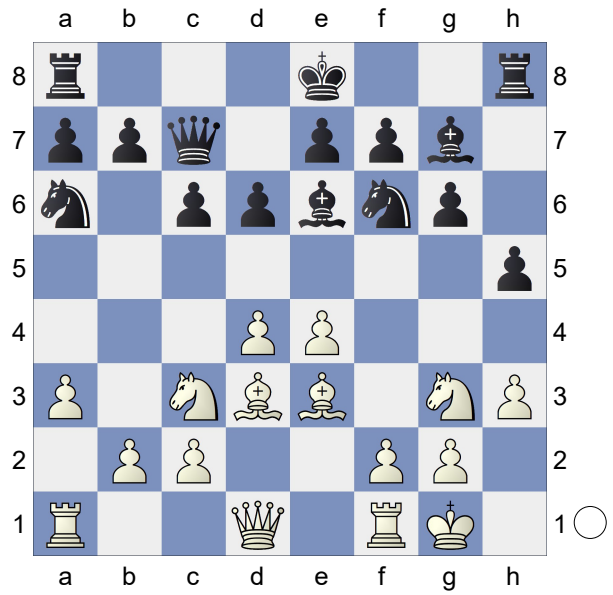
[7...h4! 8.Nge2 h3! 9.Rg1!± hxg2 10.Rxg2 Bh3 11.Rg3 Bd7



12.Qd2!±]

8.h3! Qa5?! 9.0-0+- Na6 10.a3 Qc7

[10...h4 11.Nge2 Qd8]



11.d5?!

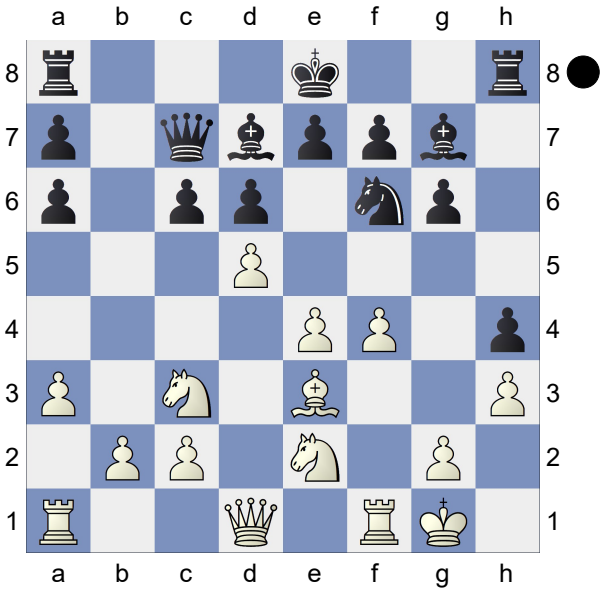
[11.f4]

11...Bd7 12.Bxa6?! bxa6± 13.f4? h4 14.Nge2

(Diagram)

c5?

[14...cxd5 15.exd5 Qb7 16.Bd4 0-0 Black is doing fine, weird a-pawns notwithstanding.]



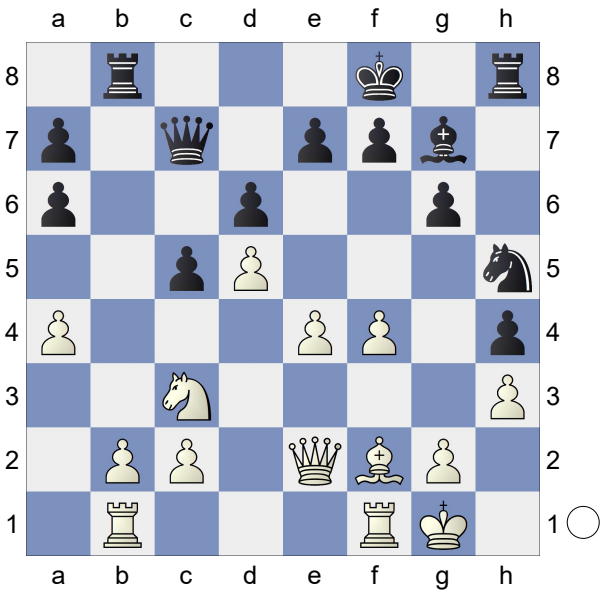
15.Bf2

[15.Qe1! Bb5 16.f5+-]

15...Rb8± 16.Rb1 Bb5 17.Qe1

[17.Qd2!?]

17...Kf8 18.a4 Bxe2 19.Qxe2 Nh5



20.Bxh4?!

[20.Qf3!]

20...Rb4?

[20...Nxf4! 21.Rxf4 Bxc3=]

21.f5?=

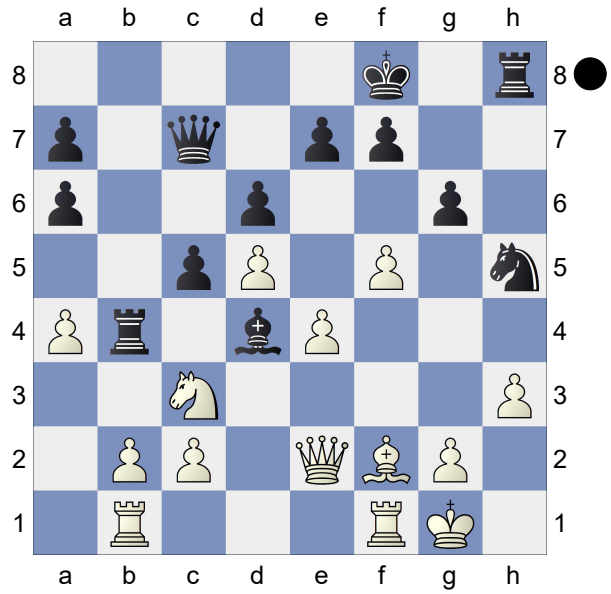
[21.Qf3!+-]

21...Bd4+

[21...g5!? 22.Bxg5 Bd4+ 23.Be3 Ng3 24.Qf3 Nxf1 25.Rxf1 Rxb2 26.Bxd4 cxd4 27.f6!= Curious that

it's "all 0.00s" in this position!]

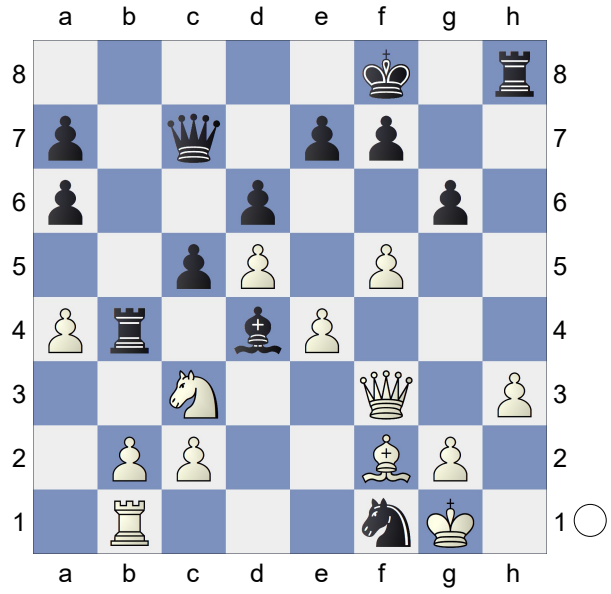
22.Bf2



Ng3?

[22...g5!= 23.Qxa6 Be5!]

23.Qf3+- Nxf1



24.Bxd4??

[24.fxg6! Bxf2+ 25.Kxf2!+-]

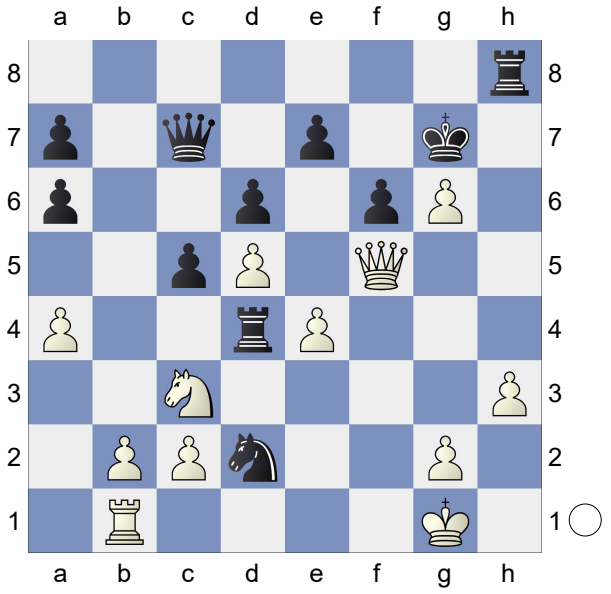
24...Nd2-+ 25.Qf2 Rxd4

[25...cxd4!]

26.fxg6 f6 27.Qf5 Kg7

(Diagram)

28.Re1 Qc8 29.Qf4 Rh6 30.Ne2 Rxe4?

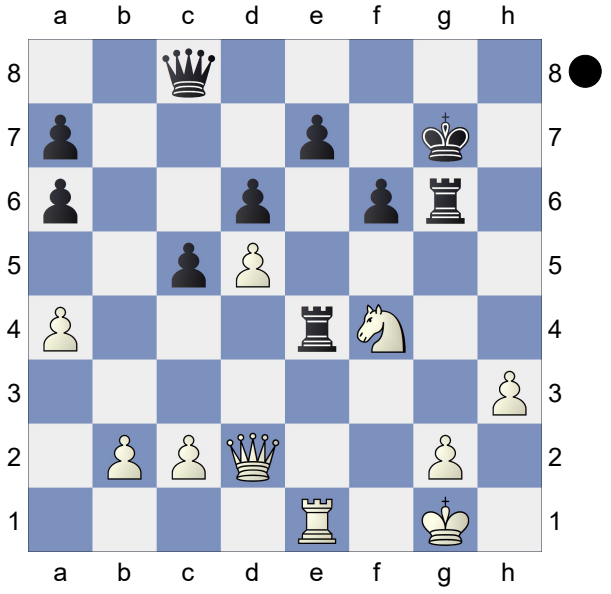


[30...Nc4! Forget the extra rook -- now Black will have an extra knight on e5.]

31.Qxd2 Rxg6

[31...Qf5!∓]

32.Nf4



Rxe1+?!

[32...Qf5! 33.Nxg6 Kxg6=]

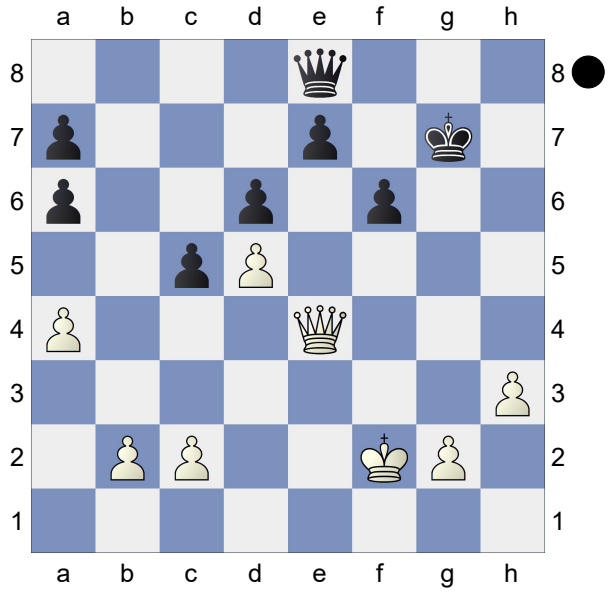
33.Qxe1± Qe8?

[33...Rh6? 34.Qxe7+ Kg8 35.Ne6 Rh7 36.Qxd6!+-]

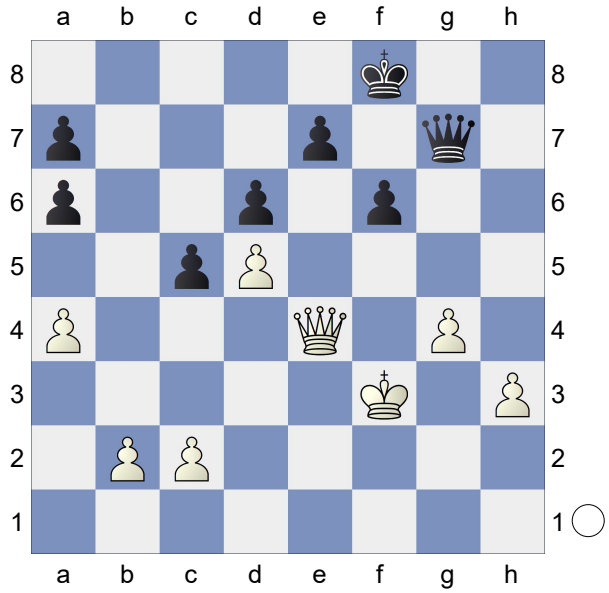
[33...Qd7! 34.Nxg6 Kxg6 35.Qe4+ Kf7! 36.b3 c4! 37.Qxc4 Qf5=]

34.Nxg6 Kxg6 35.Qe4+ Kg7 36.Kf2+-

(Diagram)



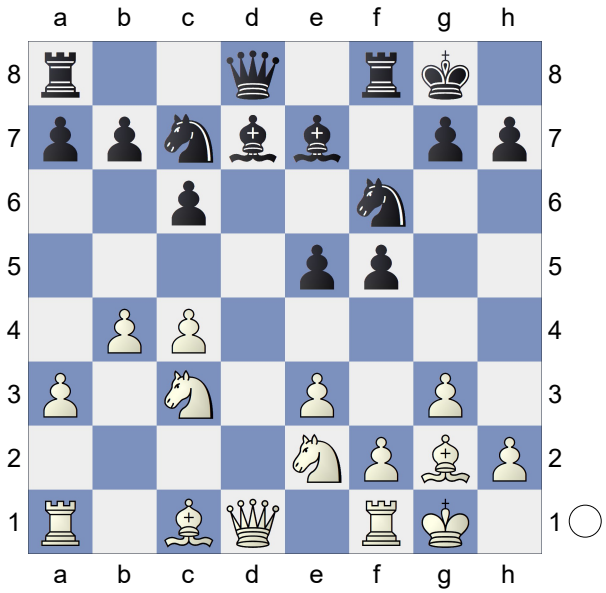
It's "simplfied" into a won queen ending
36...Qf7 37.g4 Kf8 38.Kf3 Qg7



39.Qf5!+- The only move but not that hard to notice. **39...Qh6 40.g5 Qh5+ 41.Qg4 Qg6 42.gxf6 Qxg4+**
[42...Qxf6+ 43.Qf4 pawn ending, outside passed pawn. Nicely done!]
43.Kxg4! exf6 44.Kf5 Kf7 45.h4 c4 46.h5
[46.a5]
46...Ke7 47.h6 Kf7 48.h7 Kg7 49.h8Q+ Kxh8 50.Kxf6 Kh7 51.Ke6 Kg6 52.Kxd6 Kf6 53.Kc7
1-0

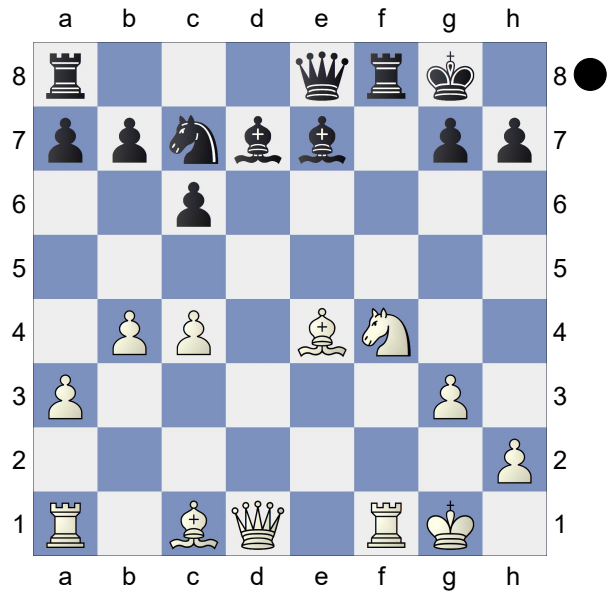
A21
□ **Babayan,Gagik** **1699**
■ **Le,Thu Anh** **1514**
2026 Winter TNM: 1600-1999 (1.22)
[Le,Thu Anh/Winslow,Elliott]

Both players missed big chances in this game! It was incredible that there was no checkmate on the dark squares by Black's king. And then Black was winning the ending, but just couldn't find a liquidation that suited her. They were difficult to work out! As for the last 60 or so moves, let's be glad the scoresheets weren't decipherable! **1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 d6 3.g3 f5 4.Bg2 Nf6 5.e3 Be7 6.Nge2 0-0 7.0-0 c6 8.d4 Na6**
[8...e4 9.d5 Nbd7 10.Nd4 *(10.Nf4 Ne5 11.f3 exf3 12.Bxf3 Nxf3+ 13.Qxf3∓* Black is happy here.)
10...Ne5 11.f4 exf3 12.Nxf3 Nxf3+ 13.Qxf3 Bd7=]
9.a3 Bd7 10.b4 Nc7 11.dxe5 dxe5



12.e4?!∓
[12.Qc2=]
12...Qe8
[12...Be6 13.exf5 Bxc4 14.Re1 a5 15.bxa5 Rxa5 16.Bb2]
13.f4
[13.Bg5]

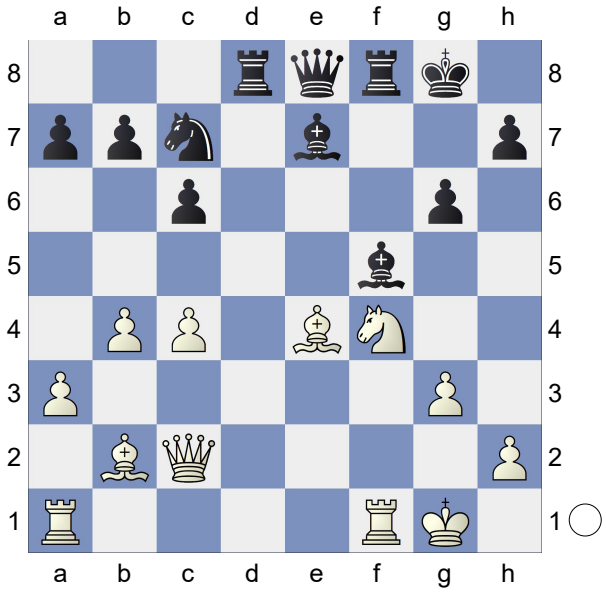
13...exf4
[13...Nxe4 14.Nxe4 fxe4 15.Bb2 exf4 16.Nxf4 Bg5]
[13...a5!?]
14.Nxf4
[14.Bxf4=]
14...fxe4 15.Nxe4 Nxe4 16.Bxe4



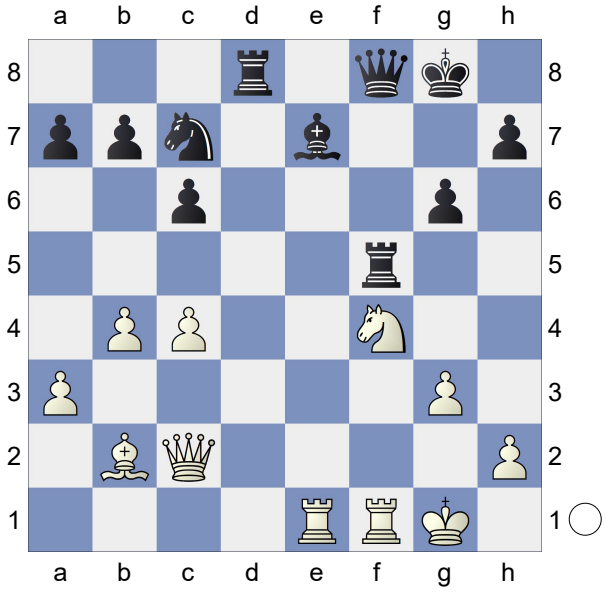
Rd8?
[16...Ne6 Develop and prevent White's attacking ideas. 17.Qc2 Ng5]
[16...Bf6 17.Qc2 g6 18.Rb1 Rd8]
17.Qc2!+- g6 18.Bb2!
[18.Nxg6 Looks scary, but sacking on g6 doesn't work here for White. Rxf1+ 19.Kxf1]
[18.Bxg6 hxg6 19.Nxg6 *(19.Bb2 Bf5* just in time *)* 19...Rxf1+ 20.Kxf1]
18...Bf5

(Diagram)

19.Bxf5?!
[19.Nh5! Both of us missed this very nice resource. Black's position would collapse here.
A) 19...Ne6 20.Bxf5 gxf5 *(20...Rxf5 21.Rxf5 gxf5 22.Qxf5)* 21.Rae1! *(21.Rxf5+-)* 21...Qf7 22.Re5;
B) 19...Bxe4 20.Qc3! is going to



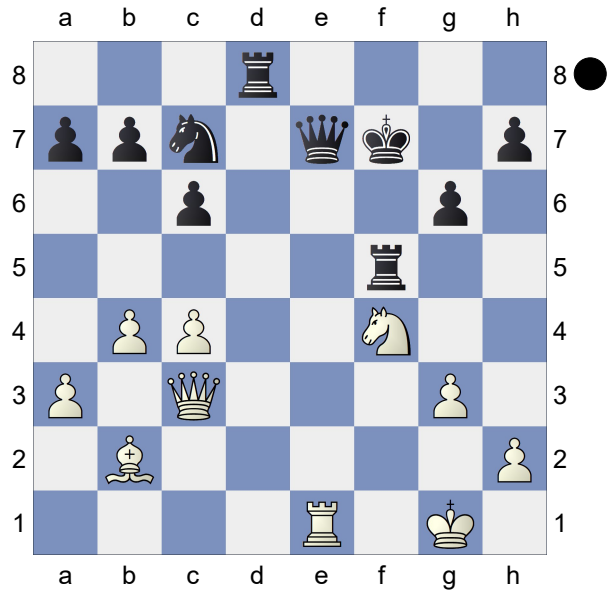
be mate: Rf6 21.Nxf6+ Bxf6 *(21...Kf7 22.Nd5+)* 22.Qxf6]
19...Rxf5 20.Rae1± Qf8?!
[20...Qd7 21.Rf2 Bg5 22.Nh3 Rxf2 23.Nxf2 Ne6 24.Qe4 Re8 25.Qf3 Rf8 26.Qg4 Re8 27.h4+-]



21.Rxe7?
[21.Nh5! Rxf1+ 22.Rxf1 Black has to give up her queen but even then: king trouble.]
21...Qxe7= 22.Qc3 Kf7
[22...h5! 23.Qh8+ Kf7 24.Qh7+ Ke8 25.Qxg6+ Qf7 26.Re1+ Kd7 27.Qxf7+ Rxf7 28.Nxh5 Re8=

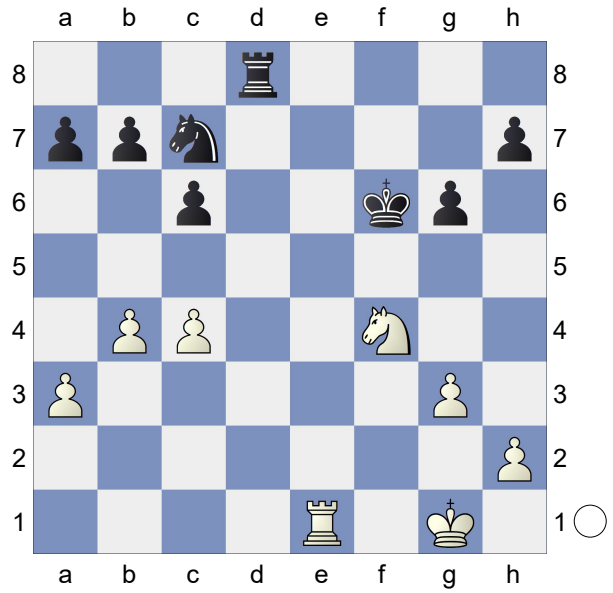
but anything could happen]

23.Re1



Qf6!= (sf19: 0.00s) **24.Qxf6+**
[24.Qe3!? Re8! One way or another, White wins back a rook but for the scary bishop, and with queens off it's just balanced.]

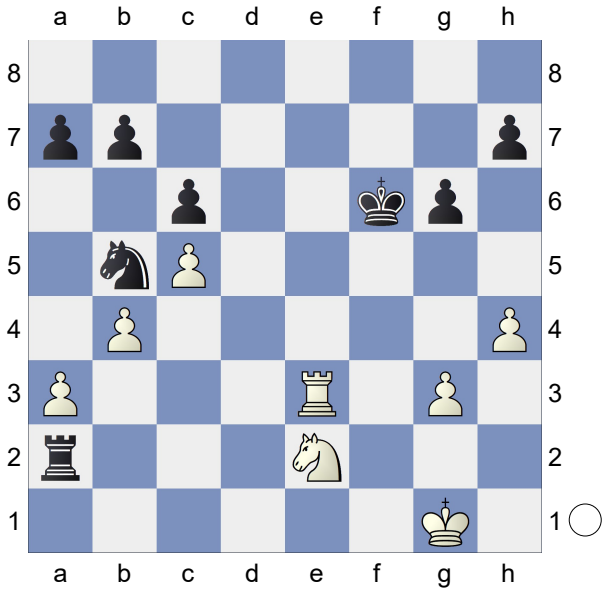
24...Rxf6 25.Bxf6 Kxf6



26.h4 Rd2 27.Re3 Rc2 28.c5 Nb5 29.Ne2 Ra2

(Diagram)

30.a4? And just like that: Black is winning!



[30.Rf3+ Kg7 31.Re3 Nxa3 32.Kf1=]

30...Rxa4-+ 31.Rb3 Ra2 It's all good;
[31...Ra3 32.Rb2 *(32.Rxa3* Black ideally wants to trade rooks. I wasn't sure if being up a pawn in a knight endgame was enough to win here *Nxa3 33.Nd4 Ke5 34.Nf3+ Kd5 35.Ng5 h5 36.Kf2 Nc2 37.Ke2 Nxb4; 32.Nc1 Ra1)* 32...Nc3 *(32...Ke5; 32...Kf5)* 33.Nxc3 *(33.Nf4 Ra1+ 34.Kg2 Ra2)* 33...Rxc3-+ 34.Rf2+ Ke6 35.Re2+ Kd5 36.Re7 Rxg3+ 37.Kf2 Rg4 38.Rxb7 Rxh4 39.Rxa7 Rxb4 40.Rxh7 Kxc5-+]
[31...Ke5 32.Re3+ Kd5 33.Re7 Rxb4 34.Rxb7 a5 Once the a-pawn starts moving it's over.]
[31...Kf5-+]
[31...Ke6-+]

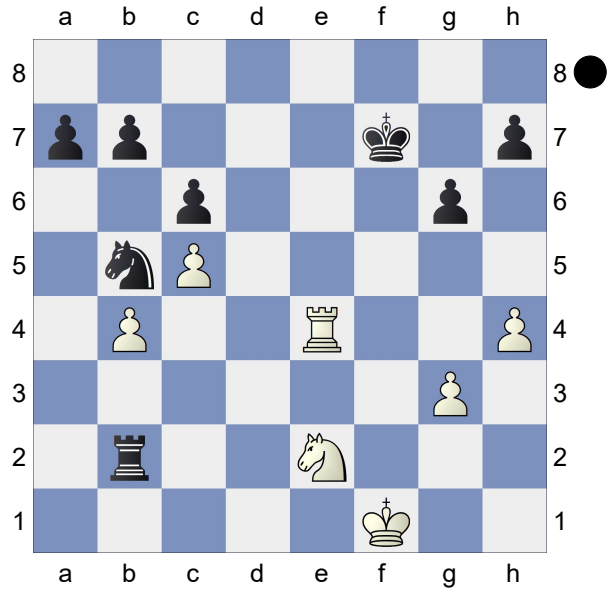
32.Re3 Rb2 33.Re4 Kf7
[33...Nc7!]

34.Kf1

(Diagram)

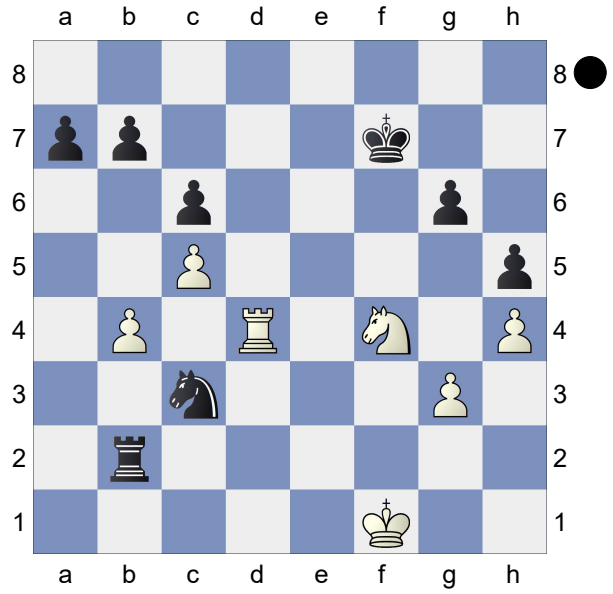
h5 Not bad, but it could have led to counterplay as it went.
[34...Nc7!]

35.Nf4



[35.g4!? hxg4 36.Rf4+ Kg7 37.Rxg4 Kf6 38.Rf4+ Ke5-+]

35...Nc3! 36.Rd4



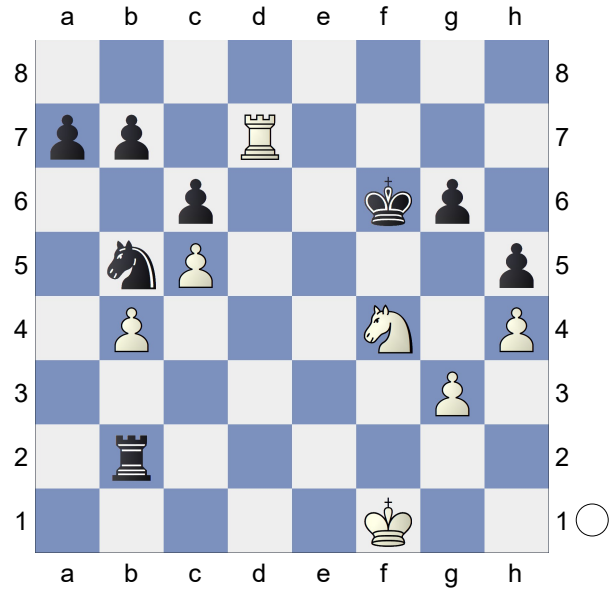
Nb5? This misstep puts the win in jeopardy!

[36...Nd5! Black can't be afraid of liquidations if they lead to won endings (which aren't so easy to evaluate!). 37.Nxd5 cxd5 38.Rxd5 Rxb4 39.Rd7+ Ke6

A) 40.Rd6+ Kf5 41.Rd5+ Ke4-+ *(41...Kg4 42.Rg5+ Kf3* (mate!) *43.Ke1 Rg4)*;

B) 40.Rc7]

37.Rd7+ Kf6

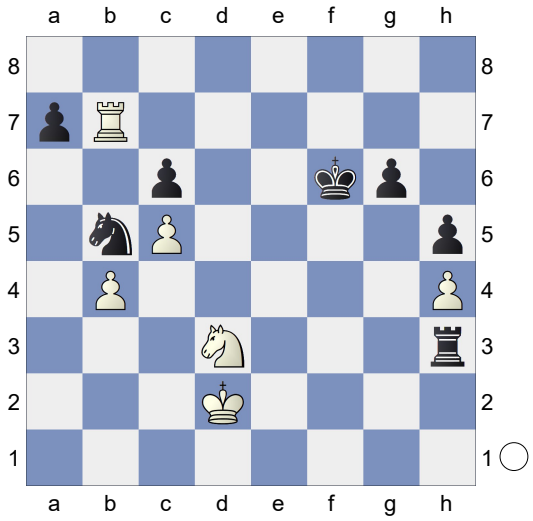


38.Nd3? Back to Black -- winning that is.

[38.Rxb7! Rxb4 39.Rb8!= Kf5 40.Rf8+ Ke4! necessary or Black *loses!* 41.Nxg6 a5 42.Kg2 Black has to make another preparatory move, as a4?? 43.Rf4+]

38...Rb3?!-+ Borderline won

[More convincing was 38...Rd2! 39.Rd8 *(39.Ke1 Rg2)* 39...Ke7! 40.Ke1 Rg2 41.Rb8 Rxg3 42.Rxb7+ Kf6 43.Kd2 Rh3-+



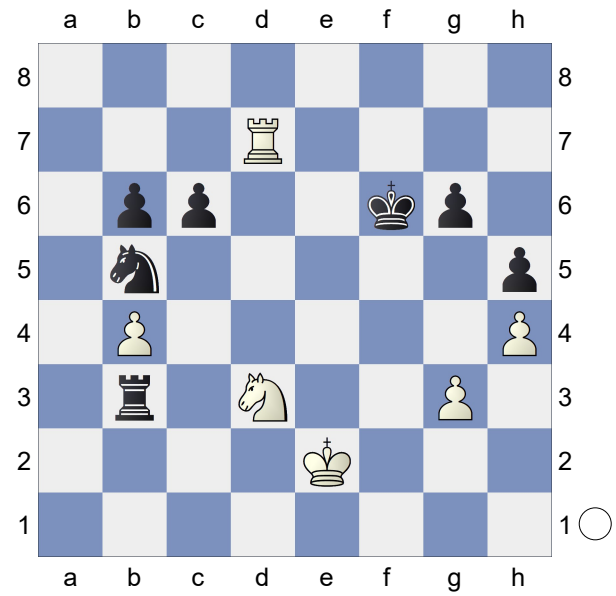
and ...Rxh4; that ...h7-h5 looks pretty good now!]

39.Ke2 b6?!

[Some slithery knight moves win nicely: 39...Nc3+! 40.Kd2 *(40.Ke3 Nd5+ 41.Ke4 Nxb4)* 40...Ne4+

41.Kc2 Rc3+ 42.Kb2 Kf5]

40.cxb6 axb6



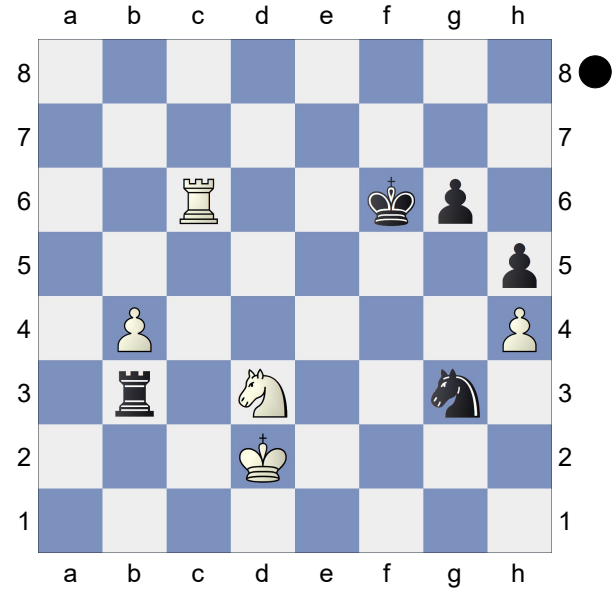
41.Rb7?

[41.Kd2! Kf5 42.Rf7+ *(42.Rd8=)* 42...Ke4 *(42...Kg4 43.Rf6 Kxg3 44.Rxg6+ Kxh4 45.Rxc6=)* 43.Re7+ Kd5 44.Rd7+ Kc4 45.Ne5+ Kxb4 46.Nxc6+!=]

41...Nd4+?

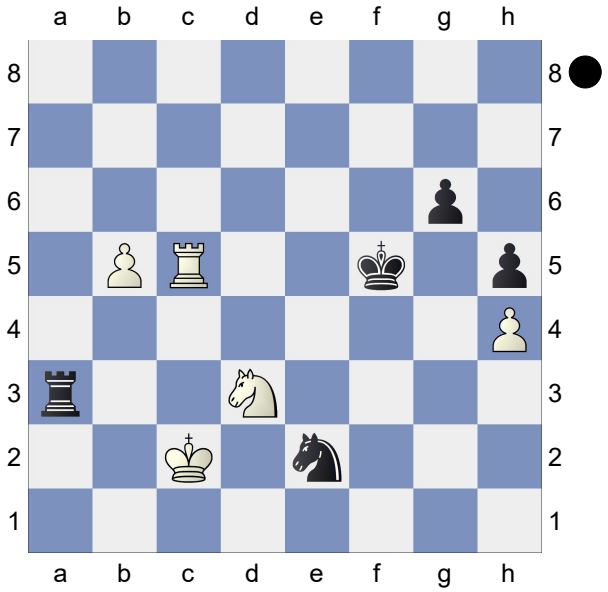
[41...Nc3+!-+ and ...Nd5 and ... Nxb4.]

42.Kd2 Nf5 43.Rxb6 Nxg3 44.Rxc6+



Kf5 45.Kc2 Ra3 46.b5 Ne2 47.Rc5+

(Diagram)

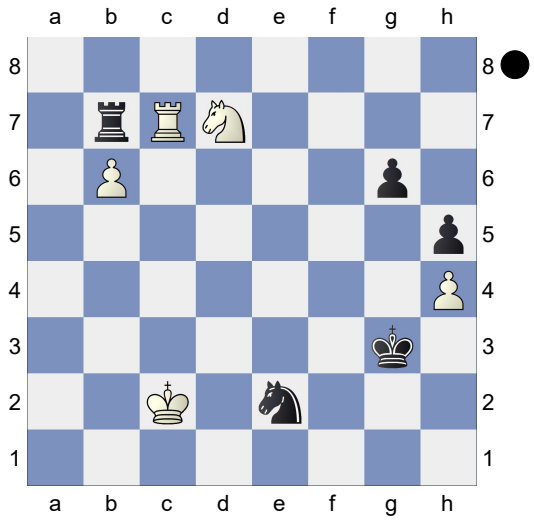


Kg4?

[47...Ke4 48.Re5+ Kf3= *(48...Kd4 49.Rxe2 Rxd3= 50.b6 Rc3+)* 49.b6 Nd4+ 50.Kd2!=]

48.Rg5+?

[48.Rc4+! and 49.b6: White has an ideal situation, with the rook both defending and supporting the passed pawn. Kg3 49.b6 Ra8 50.Ne5 Rb8 51.Nd7 Rb7 52.Rc7+-

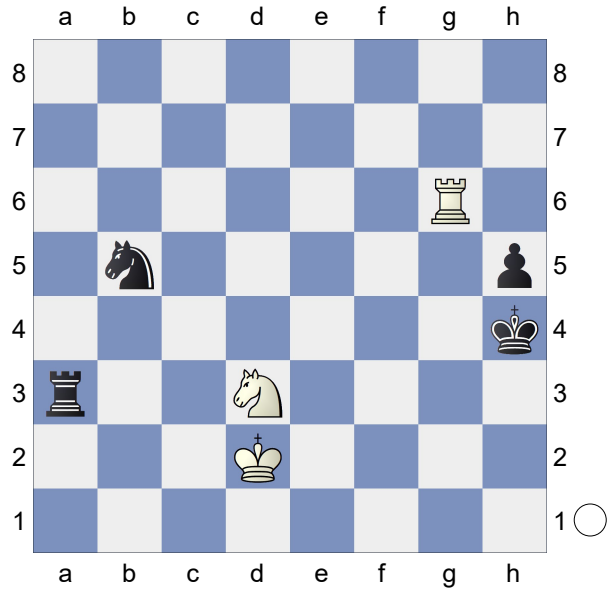


]

48...Kxh4 49.Rxg6= Nd4+ 50.Kd2 Nxb5

(Diagram)

51.Nf4 Ra2+



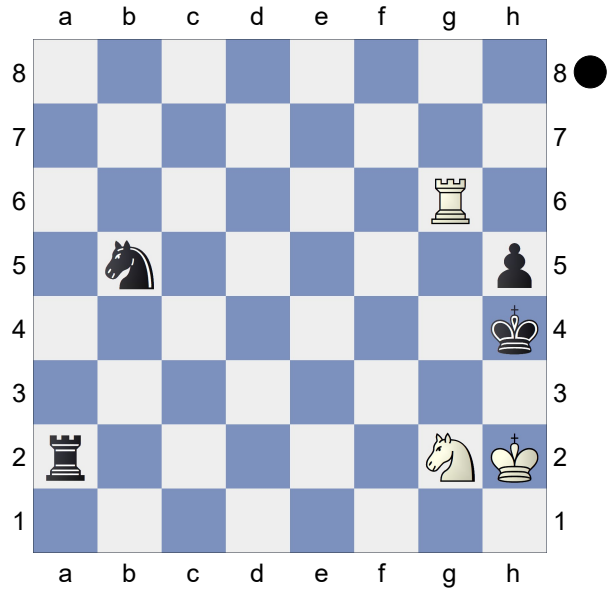
[51...Ra4 52.Ng2+ Kh3 53.Rg5 Nd4 54.Nf4+ Kh4 55.Rd5 Nf3+ 56.Ke3]

52.Ke3 Ra3+ 53.Kf2 Ra2+ 54.Kg1 Ra1+?! Enough with the checks already!

[54...Ra4 55.Ng2+ Kh3 56.Rg5 h4 57.Rxb5 Ra1+ 58.Kf2 Ra2+ 59.Kf3 Rxg2]

[54...Nd4 White's king might not be so happy either! But it's drawn. All 0.00s.]

55.Kh2 Ra2+ 56.Ng2+



Rxg2+ 57.Rxg2 Nd4 58.Ra2

Both sides played until about 120 moves. (EW: Babayan has 113 moves! :-)) I was low on time and couldn't make sense of my notation. Hope my opponent had the rest. **58...Nf3+ 59.Kg2 Ng5** Babayan's score fails here, too. [.....] ½-½ 113.

½-½

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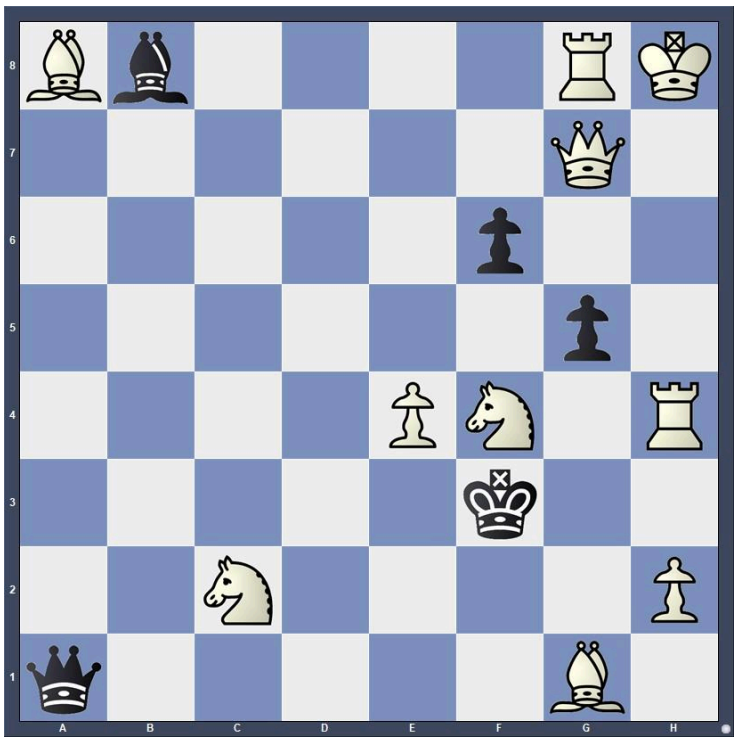
Tony's Teasers

White to Play and Mate in 2





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Solution

1. Qa7!

If 1...Bxa7 2.e5#

If 1...gxh4 2.Qe3#

If 1...Qxa7 2.Ne1#

If 1...Qxg1 2.e5#

If 1...Bxg4 2.Qf2#

If 1...Qd4 2.Nxd4#

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