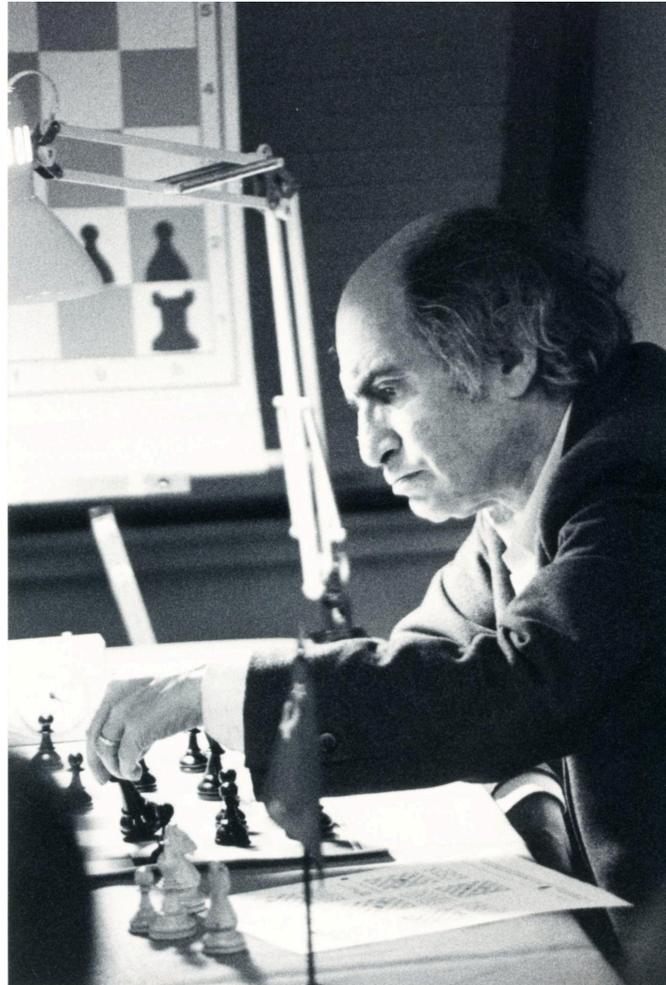


Chess Room Newsletter



Mikhail Tal at the 1991 Pan-Pacific Grandmaster Invitational
Issue #1069 | March 14th, 2026 | Gens Una Sumus!

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Recent Tournaments at the Mechanics' Institute

By Alex Robins

Our first tournament of the month was our **February Scholastic Swiss** and we had another strong turnout with 40 players total. The top section featured a strong field, but longtime Mechanics' player and afterschool program alumnus **Thomas Moore** (1162) rose above the pack with a perfect score, securing 1st place. Close behind, **Maxim Dennis** (1035) took 2nd place with 3.0 points, followed by **Jacobo Salas** (852) in 3rd, also with 3.0. **Rishaan Nair** (1127) matched their scores to take 4th place, while **Dylan Skurow** (966) rounded out the top five with 2.5 points after a series of hard-fought games. In the 500–799 rating group, **Julian Liang** (648) delivered a standout performance, finishing with 3.5 points to earn 1st place. **Keshav Mehta** (754) followed in 2nd place, and **Cruz Mehta** (576) tied with Keshav but took 3rd place after tiebreaks. **Os Von Brockdorff** (632) took 4th place with 2.5 points, while **Rafi Petlin-Teisch** (761) claimed 5th on tiebreaks.

The u500 section showcased some of our most rapidly improving players. **Jack Abrams** (451) captured 1st place with an undefeated 3.5 points. Three players — **Greyson Chai** (397), **Iksha Nair** (341), and **Oliver Wallace** (367) — each finished with 3 points, earning 2nd, 3rd, and 4th place respectively after tiebreaks were applied. **Nathaniel Vasquez** (467) completed the top five with a well-earned 2.5 points.

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

This tournament was directed by Senior TD Arthur Liou.

The **23rd Fink Memorial Tournament** was our next tournament of the month. If you're not aware, Fink was an active player in the early 1900s who can be seen on our walls in the photo next to Capablanca!

In the tournament, the top section featured strong master-level play, and **NM Austin Mei** (2315) delivered a standout performance, finishing with a perfect score and taking a clear first. Behind him, **NM Vladysl Shevkunov** (2258) and **Abhishek Mallela** (2120) each scored 3.0, splitting second place. In the 1600–1999 group **Jesse Ning Dill** (1720) and **Wes Pereira** (1678) both scored 3.5 splitting first place. They were followed by a six-way(!) tie for third between **Liri ("gogo") Dancig-Perlman** (1750), **Arnav Bhosale** (1720),

Aashv Rangamreddy (1631), **Rayna Yan** (1611), **Andrew Yu** (1566), and **Raymond Shao** (1424).

The u1600 section saw a commanding performance from **Rosalyn Chu** (1314), who finished with a perfect score to take first place. Behind her there was a 5-way(!) tie between **Cameron Lee Troy** (1213), **Ryan Banerjee** (1154), **Zane Chu** (1103), **Perry Cate** (1073), and **Anagha Gautham** (745).

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

This tournament was directed by Senior TD Arthur Liou.

Following our Fink Memorial, we held our **2026 President's Day Weekend Scholastic Championship**. This was our second time holding a scholastic tournament on a holiday Monday and these have been a great time!

The top section featured a tight race from start to finish, with several players trading wins on the top boards. **Dylan Skurow** (966) emerged as the clear standout, taking 1st place with a strong performance. Right behind him, **Harrison Lin** (1127) matched the winning score but finished in 2nd place on tiebreaks after a day of sharp, competitive games. A trio of players followed at 3 points: **Dallas Pak** (970) secured 3rd place, while **Maxim Dennis** (1035) and **Aiden Smuckler** (1003) claimed 4th and 5th place respectively. Their identical scores reflected just how balanced and competitive the section was throughout the event.

The u500 section saw a commanding performance from **Mixtli Carter** (unr.) who swept the field with a perfect score to take 1st place. In 2nd place, **Nikolai Dennis** (397) delivered an excellent result, showing both consistency and strong tactical awareness. A cluster of players followed at 3.0 points, including **Soham Parikh-Rayman** (201) in 3rd place, along with **Sevan Goorjian** (unr.) and **Parker Firmage** (346), who earned 4th and 5th place.

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

This tournament was directed by Senior TD Arthur Liou.

Our next tournament of the month was our **3rd Fischer Memorial**, as an aside don't miss IM John Donaldson's talk about his latest book on Fischer this coming Thursday at 6pm!

The top section featured a commanding performance from **GM Christopher Yoo** (2662), who swept the field with a perfect score. Behind him, **Theodore Biyiasas** (2183) and **William Nobles** (1953) each finished

with 3.0 points, sharing the second-place prize.

The 1600–1999 section produced another standout performance, with **Jesse Ning Dill** (1720) also getting a perfect score. A three-way tie followed at 3.0 points, featuring **Elena Hingyi Pang** (1711), **Austin Bo Chen** (1689), and **Youting Long** (1686). Their shared score highlighted the competitive balance of the section, with many games decided only in the final rounds. The ul600 section saw a dramatic finish at the top, with **Craig Yamamoto** (1500) and **Shivam Patel** (1294) both scoring 3.5 points to share first-place honors. A large group followed at 3.0 points, with a five-way tie between **Albert Starr** (3.0/1523), **Laksh Sharma** (1467), **Emilio Berkley** (1054), **Gerard La Donahue** (unr.), and **Gannon Clarkson** (unr.).

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

This tournament was directed by Senior TD Arthur Liou.

The next day we had our monthly Sunday of fast chess - come and join in on the fun this next month! For the **Mechanics' Institute Monthly Rapid**, the top section saw a commanding performance from **NM Daniel Cremisi** (2353), who took first with a near-perfect score. Close behind, **NM Sricharan Pullela** (2222) secured second place after a strong showing on the top boards. Matching his score, **Chase Wang** (1904) claimed third place. The ul800 section featured its own standout run, with **Samuel Lancaster** (unr.) taking first place after an excellent performance. In second place, **Dan Blike** (1606) delivered a solid and consistent result, finishing just half a point behind the leader. Mechanics' regular and quickly rising scholastic player, **Dylan Asher Skurow** (966), followed in third place.

Later that same afternoon in the **Mechanics' Institute Monthly Blitz**, **GM Christopher Woojin Yoo** (2662) put on a dominant performance, taking clear first with a powerful 8.5 score. A large group followed at 6.0 points, including **NM Sebastian Suarez** (2320), **NM Vladyslav Shevkunov** (2258), **FM Tanuj Vasudeva** (2183), and **Beckett Spence** (1889). Their shared score reflected a fiercely competitive chase pack, with many of their games decided in the final seconds.

In the ul800 section, **Boaz Telem** (1766) and **David Siegel** (1587) both finished with 5.0 points, sharing top honors. A large group followed at 4.5 points splitting the 3rd place and ul800 prizes to a whopping \$2 each, this

included **Kassem Hamideh** (unr.), **Sujan K. Rachuri** (1754), **Conor McAvity** (1713), **Ansh Doshi** (1654), **Dan Blike** (1606), **Maksim Manakov** (1391), **Neel Gore** (1356), and **Fadi Arodaki** (1283).

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

These tournaments were directed by FA/ANTD Scott Mason.

Just a few days later we held our **2026 February FIDE Blitz** and this time we had two GMs duking it out for first place. **GM Christopher Woojin Yoo** (2662) and **GM Fidel Corrales Jimenez** (2593) both finished with 8.5 points with their only draw coming from each other. Just behind them, **NM Daniel Cremisi** (2353) secured third place with a strong 7.0 finish, rounding out a formidable top section.

The u1800 section ended with a four way tie between **Elliott Shindo** (1793), **Christopher Powers** (1774), **Aaron Ingber** (1143), and **Robert Berry** (1691). Congrats to all players - who performed well in a tough tournament!

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

This tournament was directed by FA/ANTD Scott Mason.

Our last tournament of the month was our **4th Falconer Memorial** in honor of Neil Falconer, a longtime trustee and supporter of the chess club. As you may know, Neil started an award for the highest rated scholastic player in Northern California which has since supported quite a few future GMs, including **GM Vinay Bhat**, **GM Sam Shankland**, **GM Daniel Naroditsky**, and **GM Christopher Yoo**. This year's award is going to **FM Shawnak Shivakumar** this coming Tuesday so please come and help us celebrate and learn from Shawnak's lecture!

In the top section of the Falconer Memorial **WIM Laurie Qiu** (2158) won clear first with a perfect score. **Neil Chalissery** (2073) was in a close second going undefeated with one draw. A large group followed with **Theodore Biyiasas** (2156), **NM Jimmy Heiserman** (2254), **Abhishek Mallela** (2144), and **Reyansh Paragiri** (2112) all shared third.

In the 1600-1999 section, **Albert Ziatdinov** (1903) and **Max Katkin Meacham** (1695) shared top honors with scores of 3.5. On 3 points, **Samarth Ram Bharadwaj** (1544) claimed the best U1600 result, while a five-player group—**Ansh Ankit Doshi** (1709), **Vidyuth Harish** (1814), **Youting Long** (1687), **Necip Sayiner** (1663), and **Dev Isak Kosuri** (1639)— tied for third

place.

In the under section, **Sawyer Stults (1521)** nailed a perfect score. **Albert Martin Starr (1500)**, **Timurlane Alexander Busygin (1487)**, and **Sandesh Aher (1471)** shared second and third with 3 points each.

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

This tournament was directed by FA/ANTD Scott Mason.

The Chess Archives Part 2: The 1987 Pan Pacific Grandmaster Invitational

By Christian Brickhouse

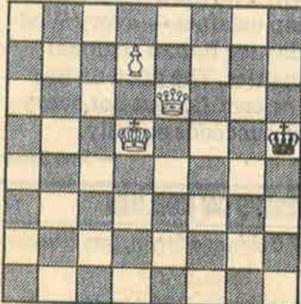
This month we're looking into a recent donation to the archives regarding the 1987 Pan Pacific Grandmaster Invitational. The 1987 Pan Pacific was part of a series of three tournaments—held in 1987, 1991, and 1995—inviting grandmasters from around the Pacific rim to San Francisco for “the strongest such event in San Francisco history” according to the *New York Times* (Dec 20, 1987). The series brought the likes of Viktor Korchnoi, Susan Polgar, Xie Jun, Eugenio Torre, and Utut Adianto—to name just a few. Last month we explored the archival materials from the 1991 tournament, and afterwards we got a generous gift from Karen Puechner of her father's papers from the 1987 Pan Pacific Invitational to supplement our archives.

Joe Puechner was a major supporter of chess in the Bay Area and a friend of George Koltanowski. He came to San Francisco from Europe in 1955 and in 1967 founded the San Francisco Financial Chess League. A follower of Koltanowski and an occasional player at the Mechanics' Institute, over his life he collected a trove of ephemera related to chess. Following up on last month's coverage of the 1991 Pan Pacific Grandmaster Invitational, we'll go through his collection to learn about this first edition of the tournament, how it developed, and how it set the stage for the trilogy.

The documents show that the list of players changed substantially in the last month before the tournament. We have 4 documents listing 21 unique

players, 2 of these documents have definitive publication dates about a month apart. George Koltanowski announced the prospective players in his August 7, 1987 column in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, "Players Named for Pan-Pacific Tourney". And the tournament program, published September 3, 1987, lists the players who actually competed. In total, only 4 players from the Koltanowski announcement appeared in the tournament: Larry Christiansen, Walter Browne, Guillermo Rey, and Nick DeFirmian.

CHESS/KOLTANOWSKI



PROBLEM
By Dr. P. Orik, Germany
White to play and mate in three moves.

SHORTCUT
Played by Mail
White: Purins
Black: Englitis

1.P-K4	P-K4	10.N-B3	N-B3
2.N-KB3	P-KB4	11.Q-R4	B-K2
3.B-B4	PxP	12.B-N5!	QxR
4.NxP	Q-N4	13.BxN	BxB
5.P-Q4!	QxP	14.QxBch	K-B3
6.Q-R5ch	P-N3	15.N-B4	P-N3
7.B-B7ch	K-Q1	16.Q-K5ch	P-Q3
8.BxP	QxRch	17.N-N5ch!	Rsgn
9.K-K2	P-B3		

After 17. . .PxN; 18.QxPch,K-N2; 19.BxPch,K-R3; 20.Q-R3 mate; or 17. . .K-N2; 18.N4xQPch,K-R3; 19.N-B7 mate.

PLAYERS NAMED FOR PAN-PACIFIC TOURNEY

Organizers of the Pan-Pacific championship, to be played September 3-17 at the Veterans Memorial Building in San Francisco, have announced that the following grandmasters will be participating:

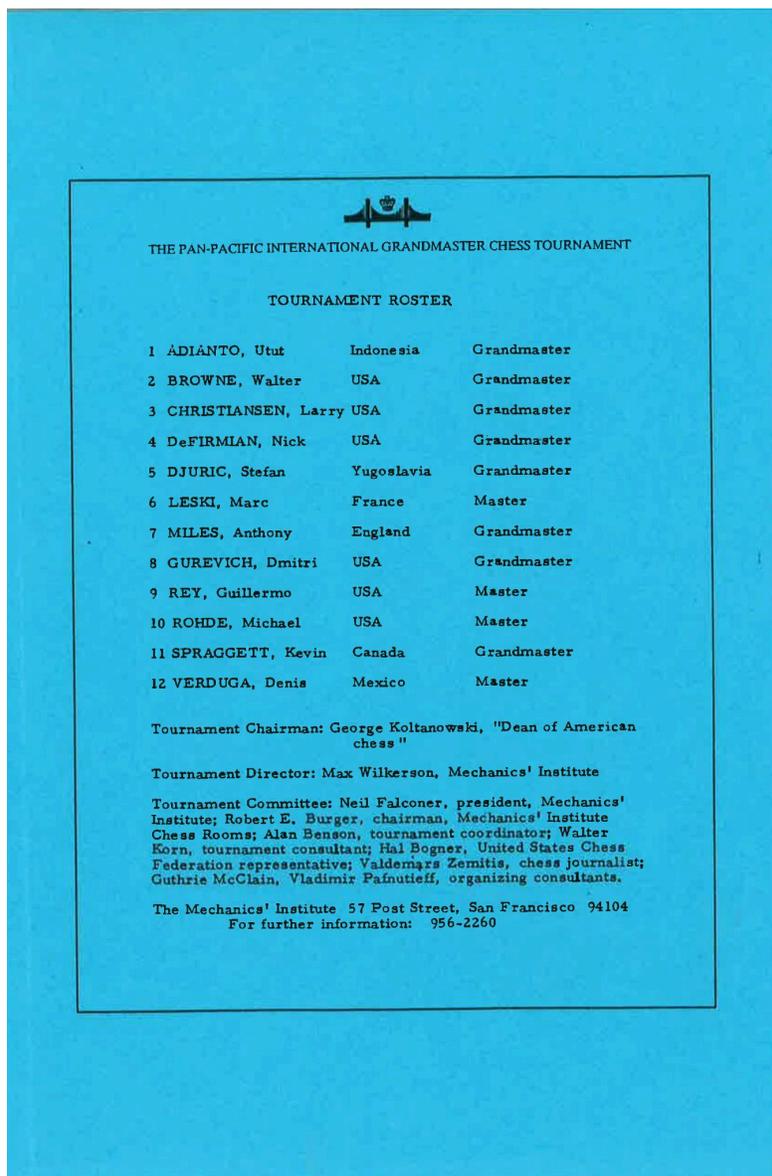
Larry Christiansen, Nick DeFirmian, Walter Browne and Joel Benjamin, all of the United States; Zsuzu Polgar of Hungary; Armand Arias of Chile; Eugenio Torre of the Philippines; and international master Guillermo Rey of Cuba.

■

Solution to Problem: 1.P-Q8-Rook,K-N4; 2.R-N8ch, etc.

August 7, 1987

A newspaper clipping from the August 7, 1987 edition of the *San Francisco Chronicle*



Player list from the inside of the tournament program dated to September 3, 1987. Like The 1991 Pan Pacific, we also have copies of the program in multiple colors. The blue version is shown here, but multiple versions on white printer paper also exist in the donation.

The other 2 undated documents can only be dated relatively. The first is a 3 page document that looks like a press release and has a preliminary player list substantially similar to Koltanowski's announcement in the *Chronicle*. The second is a 1 page flyer with a printed player list substantially similar to

the final program and including hand-written notes about the two replaced players. I would guess that these were produced in that order based on the dated lists they are similar to.



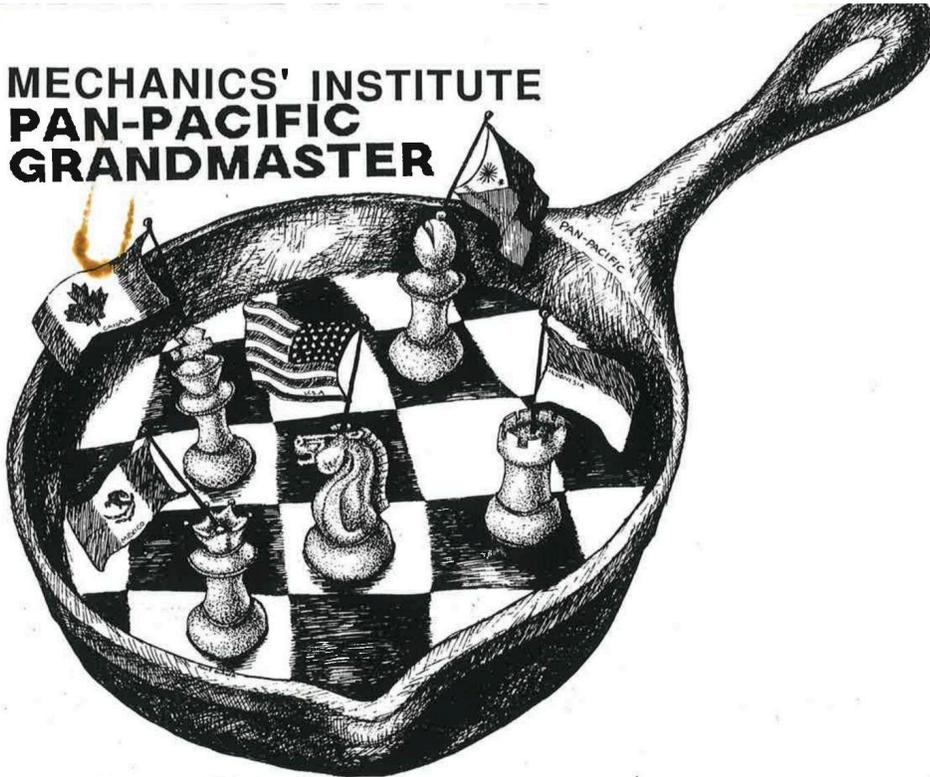
THE PAN-PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL GRANDMASTER CHESS TOURNAMENT
San Francisco, 1987 ■ Sponsored by The Mechanics' Institute ■ 57 Post Street, 94104

Preliminary Player List

1. Eugenio Torre (Philippines)
The leading grandmaster of the Pacific, potential world championship contender, sponsored for a world championship match with Bobby Fischer in the late '70s.
 2. Jaan Ehvest (Soviet Union)
The new talent from Latvia, 3rd in the most recent USSR championship, the most promising new Soviet player since Kasparov (present world champion). Clearance still needed from Soviet Sports Committee
 3. Attila Groszpeter (Hungary)
Young grandmaster who, like the above, is creating excitement in chess circles around the world.
 4. Zsuzsu Polgar (Hungary)
The highest ranked woman player in the world, and at eighteen years of age rightly touted as the "female Bobby Fischer." In her only appearance in New York thus far she was featured on the front page of the New York Times -- a first since Fischer.
 5. Larry Christensen (U. S. A.)
Current U. S. candidate for the world championship series, now being played in Hungary. Twice U. S. champion, author, and columnist.
 6. Walter Browne (U. S. A.)
The most successful American player since Bobby Fischer, having won the U. S. championship six times and distinguished himself abroad in Olympic tourneys and other major events
 7. Joel Benjamin (U. S. A.)
The youngest player to achieve top ranking in U. S. chess since Bobby Fischer. Former U. S. and world junior champion.
 8. Victor Frias (Chile)
A leading representative of Latin America, with many tournament victories to his credit, ranked as International Master
 9. Guillermo Rey (Cuba)
Now residing in San Francisco, Mr. Rey has achieved International Master rating outside his native country.
 10. Nicholas DeFirmian (U. S. A.)
The San Francisco and Mechanics' Institute representative in the tourney. A California native, Mr. DeFirmian achieved the rank of International Grandmaster over the last six years; he is also a major organizer of chess professionals under "Pro Chess."
- The remaining two places will be filled with representatives from Japan, China, Hong Kong, or Thailand.

Prospective player list from an undated press release. Likely from around
August 7, 1987

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE PAN-PACIFIC GRANDMASTER



THIS IS THE MAIN EVENT! The first International Grandmaster tournament to be held in San Francisco, and one of the strongest ever in the United States. Six U.S. Grandmasters and Masters take on the champions or leading players in six other countries, from Indonesia to Yugoslavia. The playing site is the beautiful Green Room of the Veterans' Memorial Building, looking out on San Francisco's City Hall. Opening ceremonies, at 2 p. m. Thursday, September 3, feature John Molinari, President of the Board of Supervisors, extending greetings to the players and George Koltanowski, Tournament Chairman. Refreshments! First Round at 3 p. m. and succeeding rounds 3 p. m. on September 4, 5/8, 9, 10, 11/13, 14, 15 with final round at 2 p. m. on the 17th. Donation at door: \$3, or reserved seats front row (\$100, incl. autographed set of bulletins) or second row (\$50) for the full eleven rounds. Reserve at Mechanics' Institute, 57 Post Street, SF 94104. Send check or money order and tickets will be held at door, or call: 956-2260.

The Pan-Pacific theme is evident from the tournament roster:

1 Utut Adianto (Indonesia) GM 2 Walter Browne (former U.S. Champion) GM
3 Larry Christiansen (former U.S. Champion) GM 4 Nick de Firmian (U.S.) GM
5 Stefan Djuric (Yugoslavia) GM 6 Anthony Miles (England) GM - 7 John Peters
(U.S.) IM 8 Cris Ramayrat (Philippines) IM 9 Guillermo Rey (U.S.) IM
10 Michael Rohde (U.S.) IM 11 Kevin Spraggett (Canada) GM, Canadian Champion
12 Denis Verduga (Mexico) IM (6 and 7 subject to final confirmation)

Don't miss this event! Full book stall, expert analysis of games in progress, more!

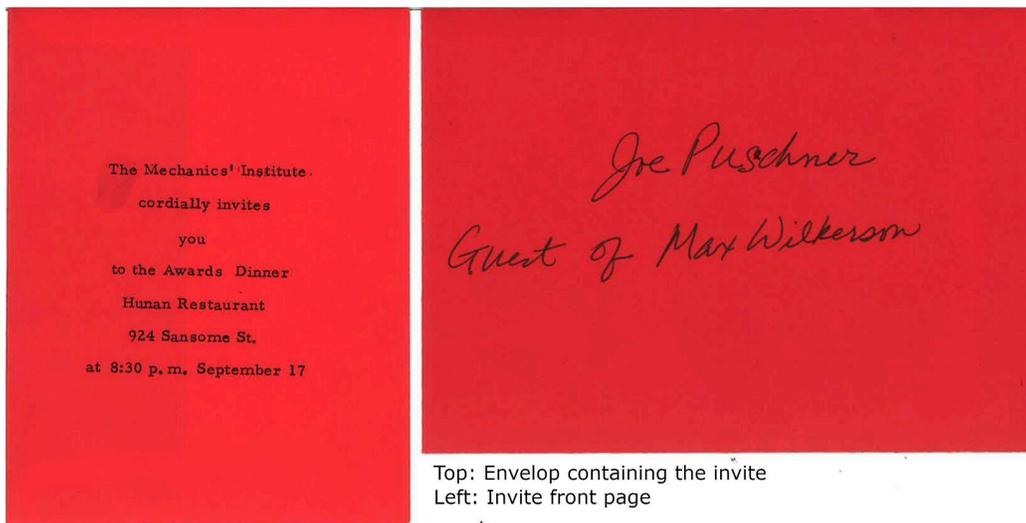
#7 replaced - GM Dmitry Gurevich (USA)
#8 " - IM Marc Leski (France)

An undated flyer advertising the Pan-Pacific tournament from around
September 3, 1987

Exactly why these player lists changed, I don't know. Three players listed by Koltanowski played in later Pan Pacific tournaments: Zsuzu Polgar (played

in 1991), Eugenio Torre (played in 1991), and Joel Benjamin (played in 1995). I would assume these were late schedule changes and they took a rain check for a future tournament. Jaan Ehlevest, listed only on the prospective player list, is noted as needing clearance from the Soviet Sports Committee—given his absence from other lists I suspect he never got that clearance. I've reached out to Guillermo Rey, a player and early organizer of the 1987 tournament for any memories he has, but email us if you have stories!

We also received Joe Puechner's invitation to the awards dinner which closed out the tournament. The envelope is a bright red with "Joe Pus(e)chner/Gues of Max Wilkerson" written on the front—his last name misspelled with an "s" and an "e" inserted later in a different pen. Inside the envelope is the invitation: a piece of red cardstock, 8 ½ by 11 inches folded in quarters to create a small booklet. The front of the booklet invites you to the dinner at Hunan Restaurant on Sansome St. which no longer operates. Inside, the menu for the event is listed.



Top: Envelop containing the invite
Left: Invite front page

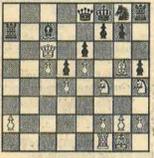
The invite to the awards dinner that was sent to Joe Puechner.



The menu on the inside of the awards dinner invite.

The donation also includes a collection of newspaper clippings from Koltanowski's column in the *San Francisco Chronicle*. You can see the progression of the advertising in the August columns, and Koltanowski provided ongoing coverage in the September columns. There are a few other clippings I've not included here for space. The collection may not be exhaustive, but I haven't gone through the *Chronicle* archive to see.

CHESS/KOLTANOWSKI



7.B-R3 P-Q3 17.R-Q5 Q-N3
8.P-Q4 P-P 18.B-B1 Q-NP
9.P-Q B-N3 19.Q-Q3 R-N1
10.P-P N-N1

(1) 10... N-N4 is better. (2) Too soon, First N-B3 was needed. (3) 17... Q-Q2; 18.Q-KN3, P-KN3; 19.Q-Q3 decides too. (4) After 19... P-KB3; follows 20.R-K5ch.

SAN FRANCISCO INTERNATIONAL
The first ever International Grandmaster Tournament will take place in San Francisco from September 3-6/September 17 at the Veterans Memorial Building, 401 Van Ness Avenue. Special reserved seats are available for the 14 days of play with prices ranging from \$50 for the second reserved row to \$100 for the first reserved row. Special autographed programs will be available and all the games played will be shown on chess demonstration boards. Order your tickets from Max Wilkerson, Chess Room No. 407, Mechanics' Institute, 57 Post Street, San Francisco 94104.

IT'S YOUR MOVE
White to move.

SHORTCUT
Played in the **Rohmert Park Tourney**
White: Will Rogers
Black: John Hampton

1.P-K4	P-K4	11.N-N	B-N
2.N-H3	N-Q3	12.N-B3	B-N
3.B-B1	B-B4	13.Q-B	Q-N4
4.P-Q4	B-NP	14.Q-Q3	N-R3
5.P-B3	B-R4	15.B-Q2	Q-N4
6.Q-N3	Q-R2	16.Q-R1	Q-Q

It's Your Move Continued: Keller-Karpov, U.S.S.R. Championship, 1976. 1.QxP;P-Q2; 2.NB4-Nch;Q-N3; 3.NGch;K-K1; 4.N-R, Resigns.

White: V. Kasimirov, U.S.S.R.
Black: W. Beikman, U.S.A.

August 17, 1987

CHESS/KOLTANOWSKI



5.Q-Q2 P-QN1 10.B-P R-N1
6.B-Q3 P-QN1 11.Q-A2 N-B4
7.P-B1 N-Q2 12.B-N P-B
8.P-Q5 P-P 13.R-Q1 Q-N3
9.N-NP P-P 14.R-QB1 R-N1

(1) 11.P-QB4 is best. (2) This surprising Rook sacrifice was based on the following idea of Kasimirov: if 14... P-R; 15.B-B6 d.ch;K-B1; 16.Q-Q8 mate. If 14... Q-N; 15.B-B6ch wins the Queen. (3) But let's look at the refutation of the combinations: 14... B-Bch1; 15.P-B P-R; 16.B-Bch;K-B1; 17.Q-KBch;K-N2; 18.N-P;K-C1; and the White Queen is lost. If 16.B-Nch;K-B1; 17.B-Q;B-Q2; and threatens...S-K1.

CURRENT LEADERS IN THE PAN-PACIFIC TOURNAMENT
The top standings after the third round in this tournament being held currently in San Francisco are: Nick Defarman of San Francisco, Uthi Adianta of Indonesia and Denis Verdugo of Mexico are tied with 2 1/2 points each.

IT'S YOUR MOVE
Black to play.

BECKMAN RESIGNS IN A WON POSITION!
Grandmaster Dr. Sorley Tortakower once said, "You cannot win games by resigning." He must have been thinking of the following correspondence game played in 1974-1975.

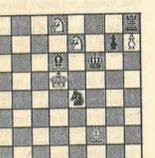
White: V. Kasimirov, U.S.S.R.
Black: W. Beikman, U.S.A.

1.P-K4	P-N2	3.N-Q3	P-Q3
2.P-Q4	B-N2	4.B-K3	P-QB3

White resigns.

Sept 10, 1987

CHESS/KOLTANOWSKI



It will take place September 3-17 at the Veterans Memorial Building, 401 Van Ness Avenue, in the Green Room.

The contest is sponsored by the Mechanics' Institute Chess Club, in cooperation with the U.S. Chess Federation, the American Chess Foundation and various corporate sponsors.

Also, an exhibition of chess sets from around the world and rare chess books will be held September 5 and 6 at the tournament site.

Among the players expected to compete are the leading grandmasters of such Pacific Rim countries as China, Australia, the Philippines and Chile.

They will compete against top-ranked American and European grandmasters — including the world's highest-rated woman player, Susan Polgar of Hungary.

Grandmaster Nick defarman of San Francisco will lead the American contingent. The Soviet Union will be represented by a former world champion, either Boris Spassky or Vasily Smyslov.

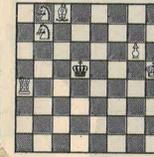
STUDY
By C.M. Bent
White to play and draw.

1.B-R4ch;P-N4; 2.BxPch;N-B; 3.N-Nch;K-N2; 4.Kx8;NxP; 5.N-Kxch;KxN; 6.K-K7; Draw.

UPCOMING TOURNAMENT FOR THE PAN-PACIFIC CHAMPION
Twelve of the world's top-ranked chess players will vie for \$10,000 in prizes and the title of Pan-Pacific Champion at the first International Grandmaster chess tournament ever to be held in San Francisco.

August 3, 1987 (More on the tournament tomorrow.)

CHESS/KOLTANOWSKI



1.P-K4 P-QB4 9.P-P D-D
2.N-H3 P-K3 10.N-B3 Q-Q3
3.P-B3 P-Q4 11.R-B1 P-QN3
4.P-P Q-P 12.N-K4 Q-Q4
5.P-Q4 N-QB3 13.N-Q3 B-N2
6.B-Q3 N-B3 14.N-Nch P-N
7.Q-Q B-R2 15.Q-R5 P-P

(1) Better is 12... N-N; 13.B-N;B-N2.

ANSWER TO YESTERDAY'S CHESS TRIVIA
Boris Spassky won the 2nd Piatigorsky Cup, scoring 11 1/2 points. Bobby Fischer, after a slow start, came on with a tremendous surge in the second half of the double round robin event, ending up in second place with 11 points.

PROBLEM
By W. Bentley, U.S.A.
White to play and mate in three moves.

SHORT-CUT
Moscow, 1978
White: Bojkov
Black: Monakov

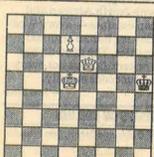
OPENING OF THE PAN-PACIFIC TOURNAMENT
The first round of the Pan-Pacific International Grandmaster Chess Tournament starts at 3 p.m. today in the Green Room of the Veterans Memorial Building at 401 Van Ness Avenue in San Francisco. Spectators are requested to contribute \$3 for tickets. Time control is 7 p.m. and adjourned games will be continued at 9 p.m.

The Pan-Pacific theme is evident from the tournament roster. Grandmasters participating are Walter Browne of Berkeley, Larry Christiansen of Pasadena, Anthony Miles of England, Nick defarman of San Francisco, Stefan Djuric of Yugoslavia, Dmitry Gurevich of New York, Uthi Adianta of Indonesia and Kevin Spraggett of Canada. International Masters include Michael Rohde of New Jersey, Denis Verdugo of Mexico, Guillermo Rey of San Francisco and Marc Leski of Berkeley.

Solution to Problem: 1.N-Q7;K-B3; 2.R-R5;K-B2; 3.R-R5 mate. If 1.N-Q7;K-K3; 2.R-R5;K-K2; 3.R-K5 mate.

September 3, 1987

CHESS/KOLTANOWSKI



SHORTCUT
Played by Mail
White: Purins
Black: Englis

1.P-K4	P-K4	10.N-B3	N-B3
2.N-H3	P-QB4	11.Q-R4	B-K2
3.B-B4	P-P	12.B-N5	Q-R
4.N-P	Q-N4	13.N	B-B
5.P-Q4	Q-P	14.Q-Bch	K-B3
6.R-Fch	P-N3	15.N-B4	P-Q3
7.B-Bch	K-Q1	16.Q-N5ch	P-Q3
8.B-P	Q-Rch	17.N-N5ch	Rgn
9.K-K2	P-B3		

After 17... P-N; 18.QxPch;K-N2; 19.BxPch;K-R3; 20.Q-R3 mate; or 17... K-N2; 18.NxQch;K-R3; 19.N-B7 mate.

PROBLEM
By Dr. P. Ork, Germany
White to play and mate in three moves.

August 7, 1987

PLAYERS NAMED FOR PAN-PACIFIC TOURNAMENT
Organizers of the Pan-Pacific championship, to be played September 3-17 at the Veterans Memorial Building in San Francisco, have announced that the following grandmasters will be participating:
Larry Christiansen, Nick Defarman, Walter Browne and Joel Benjamin, all of the United States; Zsuzsa Polgar of Hungary; Armand Aris of Chile; Eugenio Torre of the Philippines; and international master Guillermo Rey of Cuba.

Solution to Problem: 1.P-QB-Rook;K-N4; 2.R-N8ch, etc.

Koltanowski columns from September and August 1987 mentioning the Pan Pacific.

The collection is a real treasure trove of documents that fills in a gap in our archives. As the first edition of the tournament, it seems like not as much got saved institutionally, so it's great to see what got saved. It also provides interesting leads for further exploration. We didn't have any of Koltanowski's columns in the archive, and I didn't know he wrote about it so often. A lead for future work would be to look through archives of Koltanowski's columns in 1991 and 1995. For now, it's interesting to get a glimpse of the 1987 tournament knowing what it became, and we're incredibly grateful to Karen Puechner and her father Joe Puechner for this wonderful donation!

New Book Reviews

By IM John Donaldson

Today, with consolidation in the chess publishing world the norm and the giants New in Chess, Everyman Chess and Quality Chess one entity, it's easy to overlook the many fine books published by smaller companies. One of the more prolific outfits is the one-man show put on by the Danish FIDE Master Carsten Hansen. Possibly best known for the long running book review column he writes for the *American Chess Magazine*; Carsten has authored over sixty books on all aspects of the game. More recently he has focused on putting out new, greatly enlarged editions of older books.

The British amateur Reginald Pryce Michell is a name that is likely unfamiliar to most chess players today, but he was one of England's best players in the first half of the 20th century, sharing second place with Alekhine and Bogoljubow at Margate 1923.

During his career Michell drew World Champions Alekhine, Botvinnik, Capablanca, and Euwe, and yet strangely enough none of these games were included in Julius du Mont's 1947 book *R.P. Michell: A Master of British Chess*. That slender volume contained 37 games within its 108 pages. The present work by Carsten Hansen is over three times the size at 365 pages and not only includes 35 new games, but thoroughly reworked modern annotations to those selected by du Mont. Hansen has converted all the older material from descriptive notation to algebraic and included 36 positions from Michell's games as training exercises. This handsome hardback, which sells for \$28 on Amazon, also has player and opening indexes.

Lasker-Capablanca, World Chess Championship Match 1921, sees Hansen take a similar approach to his work on Michell. The original book by José Raúl Capablanca has been converted to algebraic notation and greatly expanded. Capa's work, first published in 1921, contained the fourteen games of the match. Hansen has not only examined the notes to the games with modern engines but has also included the ten other games the two all-time greats played against each other with detailed annotations. The latter include material from tournament books of the time, once again double checked with contemporary engines.

Hansen has drawn heavily from historical documents to paint a complete picture of this historic match which witnessed a monumental changing of the guard (Lasker had been World Champion since 1894). This was both one of the most one-sided title matches in the history of chess (4-0 with 10 games drawn) and one which featured a large age differential between the competitors with Lasker age 52 when it was played and Capa age 32.

One small tidbit that stood out to this reviewer is that Lasker was guaranteed to win more prize money than Capablanca, whether he won, lost or drew the match. The original contract stipulated that Lasker would receive \$11,000 and Capablanca \$9000, regardless of the result. During the match an additional \$5000 was added to the purse with \$3000 to the winner and \$2000 to the loser. I wonder how many times the loser has been awarded more than the winner. The entire prize fund, in 2026 dollars, was the equivalent of over \$400,000 today.

This oversize 164-page hardback, which includes crosstables and an opening index, is neatly and attractively laid out. *Lasker-Capablanca, World Chess Championship Match 1921* sell for \$27 on Amazon.

A third new edition by FIDE Master Hansen is different from the previous two books. Co-authored with elite Grandmaster Peter Heine Nielsen, *The Sicilian Accelerated Dragon*, is one of the best books ever written on this opening. The first edition was published back in 1998. The 20th edition which came out in 2018, updates the earlier work and includes a bonus chapter that all those who play this defense will appreciate – 104 games played by Bent Larsen on both sides of this opening with light annotations. Larsen was a great master of the Accelerated Dragon who played it throughout his over forty-year game. His games are a great guide to this opening.

This 365-page paperback is available through Amazon for \$19.95.

Oklahoma has hosted a U.S. Open (Oklahoma City 1956) and two U.S. Championships (Stillwater 2007 and Tulsa 2008), but it has yet to produce a home-grown grandmaster. That said, it has produced several a number of interesting players. These include several who were quite promising and

might have gone much further if offered the opportunities available today. They provide the subject matter for Oklahoma Master Tom Braunlich's *Oklahoma Chess History: A Unique Tradition*. This attractively produced 220-page hardback, which retails for \$25 on Amazon, covers the chess careers of over a dozen Oklahomans. Some, like Jerry Spann, who served as the President of the U.S. Chess Federation from 1957 to 1960, are well known. Others are not, even to residents of the Sooner State.

One story this reviewer found particularly compelling was that of Albert Roddy Jr. The Tulsa native started playing in the mid-1930s and while still in high school became one of the best players in the state, but it was at the U.S. Open in Dallas in 1940 that he achieved nation-wide acclaim when he drew the mighty Reuben Fine in their preliminary qualifying section.

Queen's Gambit Declined Ragozin D38 Albert Roddy - Reuben Fine

US Open (prelim 2) Dallas 1940

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.Qb3 c5 6.Bg5 Nc6 7.dxc5 0-0 8.e3 h6 9.Bh4 g5 10.Bg3 Ne4 11.Be2 Qf6 12.Rc1 h5 13.h4 g4 14.Nd4 Nxd4 15.Qxb4 Nxg3 16.fxg3 Nf5 17.cxd5 Nxg3 18.Rg1 exd5 19.Nxd5 Qxh4 20.Qf4 Be6 21.Ne7+ Kh7 22.Bd3+ f5 23.Kd2 Rae8



The play up to this point has been spirited but the form charts look like they are coming true. The unknown Okie is going to lose to one of the very best players in the world, but Roddy spots a chance for an upset.

24.Rh1!?

This sacrifice is White's best practical chance.

24...Nxh1?

Tempting...but wrong! 24...Qxe7 25.Qxg3 Kg6 left Black on top.

25.Rxh1 Qxh1



26.Qg5!

Did Fine miss this in between move?

26...Qxg2+ 27.Kc3 Rxe7 28.Qxe7+ Rf7 29.Qxe6 Kg7 30.Bc4 Rf6 ½-½

It's a draw by perpetual check after 30...Rf6 31.Qg8+ Kh6 32.Qh8+ Kg5 33.Qg7+ Rg6 34.Qe7+ Kh6 35.Qf8+ .

Roddy never realized his potential as a player, but he did lead an eventful life which included serving as a navigator on a B-17 Flying Fortress and as a prisoner of war in Germany during World War Two.

Anyone with an interest in chess history will enjoy *Oklahoma Chess: A Unique Tradition*.

The Art of Noticing

By Renate Otterbach

Noticing is a very common thing; we notice things all the time, then how can it be the core of creativity, as Perkins 1 asserts? Isn't creativity an unusual ability, given to only a few? In this article, I will explore these ideas as they relate to chess.

What Do We Mean by Noticing?

What is noticing? It is the sudden awareness of something. It goes beyond seeing, as we see many things without these things gaining our attention. In chess, we may see a knight, but not notice the potential of a knight fork, such.

It also differs from deliberately looking for something, such as searching the chessboard for a possible knight fork. Deliberate search often requires calculation. Calculation is energy-consuming, and if we focus on the wrong idea, as often is the case, it turns out to be a waste of energy. One of the great assets of grandmasters is the ability to know when and where to expand their calculation energy. 2 A part of their secret is to recognize critical positions and threats intuitively. But what helps them notice a critical position? Part of their secret is that they have mastered the art of noticing.

Chess and the Power of Noticing

There are different aspects of a situation that encourage us to either notice something or not notice something. In chess, failing to notice something relevant to the position is often referred to as chess blindness and results in blunders. Thus, while noticing enables us to explore chess creatively, the absence of noticing may seriously hinder our game.

So, the solution to all our chess problems is to notice, notice, notice! Right? Not quite, as every chess player knows, chess is not that simple.

Excessive noticing overloads your cognitive resources; it's like throwing a huge number of puzzle pieces in front of someone and asking them to put them all together without providing them with a picture. The challenge of sorting them by color and shape makes the task unwieldy and very time-consuming.

The key is to notice the things relevant to a particular position. Not noticing the relevant features can lead to a lost game. For example, you may have a great plan for a mating attack, but your opponent may have defenses you did not notice.

First, observe or notice, let the features of the position sink into your mind. Calculate only after you spend the time "noticing." Not consciously searching for a solution, but observing and noticing. Often, you notice something that makes calculation unnecessary. For example, you may notice that moving a certain piece allows a detrimental knight fork down the road. You did not calculate it; you just noticed it as your eyes scanned the board.

That is what grandmasters do. They save their calculation energy for the time when it is needed, reducing the chances of blundering.

The Art of Noticing

Before discussing the art of noticing, I would like to tell the story of Alexander Fleming, which illustrates the creative power of noticing. The story is well-known, but generally, the focus is on the importance of discovery and the related creative aspects. I want to revisit this story in terms of noticing.

I will focus on the anecdotal version, which attributes the contamination of the bacteria culture to an open window, which Fleming forgot to close. Taking a creative license, I'll pretend that Fleming worked for a company and was not lucky enough to be an independent researcher, which allowed him to follow his interest. Here is a possible scenario.

Hypothetical Conversation:

Boss: How can you be so careless and leave the window open? You contaminated the culture! All the work and money wasted.

Flemming: But, Sir, please notice, there are rings around the mucus, and the bacteria are dead.

Boss: That is the point, the bacteria are dead, and you were supposed to grow healthy bacteria.

Flemming: But isn't the reason for the experiment to learn how to reduce infections by killing the bacteria?

Boss: That may be so, but there are procedures, there is protocol, there are procedures, and the first procedure is to grow healthy bacteria, and you failed miserably in this task. Learn to follow procedures first before going off half-cooked ideas.

Flemming: But, but –

Boss: There are no buts. Remember, there are no shortcuts. Now, go and start over again, and this time close the window!!

One sometimes finds what one is not looking for.

When I woke up just after dawn on September 28, 1928, I certainly didn't plan to revolutionize all medicine by discovering the world's first antibiotic, or bacteria killer. But I suppose that was exactly what I did.

—Alexander Fleming

And as chess players, we do not have any bosses who tell us how to play. So, we are free to follow any idea that fascinates us. Chess is an entrepreneurial enterprise. But be careful, don't let the computer become the boss. Computers, like the boss in Fleming's story, are programmed to find the "best" move based on current knowledge.

Looking at the story above, what was the difference between Fleming's focus and that of his boss? Why did Flemming "see" the potential of the "unexpected" dead bacteria, and his boss did not? The simple answer is Flemming was a genius, and his boss was not.

But:

There is always an easy solution to every human problem—neat, plausible, and wrong.

H.L. Mencken

Flemming may have been a genius, but maybe the reason he was a genius was that he perfected the art of noticing in terms of a specific goal, and the choice to follow the path, until he found a contradiction that clearly indicated that this was the wrong direction.

In mathematics, this is called proof by contradiction, in science, hypothesis testing, and in chess, selecting the best move from candidate moves. In chess, highly trained "noticing skills" enable grandmasters first to identify critical positions, identify viable candidate moves, and select the best move through the process of elimination. Often, in chess, we differentiate between intuitive players and calculators.

Maybe intuitive players are players who have developed noticing an art form. *How do you develop and/or discipline your noticing skills?* The subject of a future article!

Annotated Games from the TNM

By 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 here, and games from previous TNMs are in the [Tournament Archive](#).

□ Winslow, Elliott

E12

■ Lewis, Edward

2200

1946

2026 New Year TNM: 2000+ (6.1) 10.2.26

[Winslow, Elliott]

To recap: I was half a point ahead of Heiserman, who was half a point ahead of Diller and Cawthon. But I'd played them all, so I should be having an easier time. In fact I finished 2-0, as did Cawthon, thus 1st and 2nd. **1.d4 47 Nf6 16 2.Nf3 12 e6 1:06 3.c4 14 b6 10** Ed has had such a rough time with me! I started out 9-0, then after a couple draws, now I've returned to winning again, 3-0. He's had his chances. In this game we both just thought I was rolling him up -- but Stockfish shows how fishy it was. The magic spell held yet again.

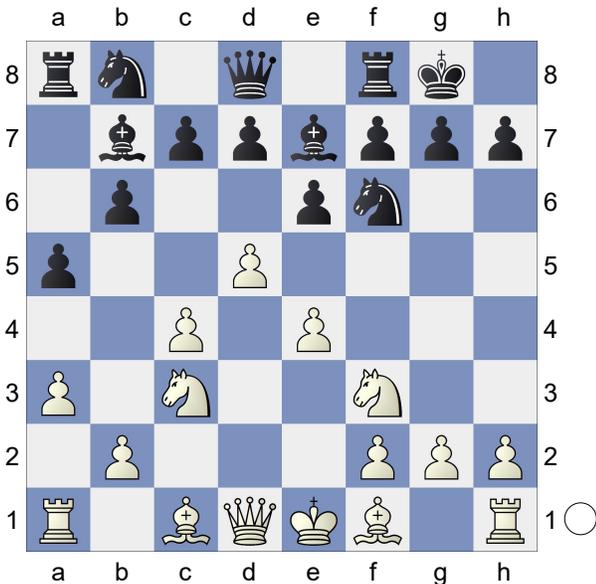
4.Nc3 2:12 Bb7 9 5.a3 2:00 Be7?! 10

[5...Ne4]

[5...d5! is far and away the main move!]

6.d5 1:24 0-0 3 7.e4 24 a5?! 4:12

[7...d6 8.Be2 (8.Bd3; 8.Nd4!?)]



8.Bd3 3:23

[8.e5! Ne8 9.Bd3 d6 (9...f5 10.0-0 g5 11.Re1 Ng7 12.Nd4 Na6 13.f4

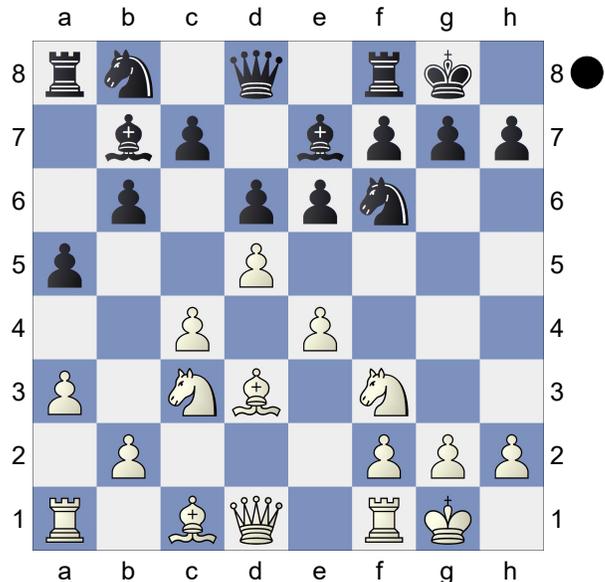
g4 14.Be3 h5 15.Bc2 Rc8 16.Qe2 Qe8 17.Ndb5 Qf7 18.Rad1 Bc5 19.d6 Bxe3+ 20.Qxe3 c5 21.Na4 Rb8 22.Nxb6 Bxg2 23.Nxd7 Qxd7 24.Kxg2 h4 25.Kg1 h3 26.Ba4 Qb7 27.Rd2 Rbd8 28.Qf2 Qf7 29.Nc3 Nh5 30.Ne2 Qb7 31.Ng3 Ng7 32.d7 Rf7 33.Red1 Nb8 34.Qxc5 Kh7 35.Qf2 Qc7 36.Bb5 Kg6 37.Rd6 Qb7 38.R1d2 Nxd7 39.a4 Nxe5 40.fxe5 Rxd6 41.exd6 f4 42.Nf1 Nh5 43.Be8 1-0 (43) Mikhalchishin,A (2491)-Brinovec,D (2224) Slovenia 2016) 10.h4! dxe5 11.Ng5 Nf6 12.dxe6 e4 13.exf7+ Rxf7 14.Nxf7 Qxd3 15.Qxd3 exd3 16.Ne5 Bxg2 17.Rg1 Nc6 18.f4 d2+ 19.Bxd2 Nd4 20.0-0-0+-]

8...d6 3

[8...Na6 9.e5]

9.0-0 1:27

[9.Nd4!]



9...e5 1:08

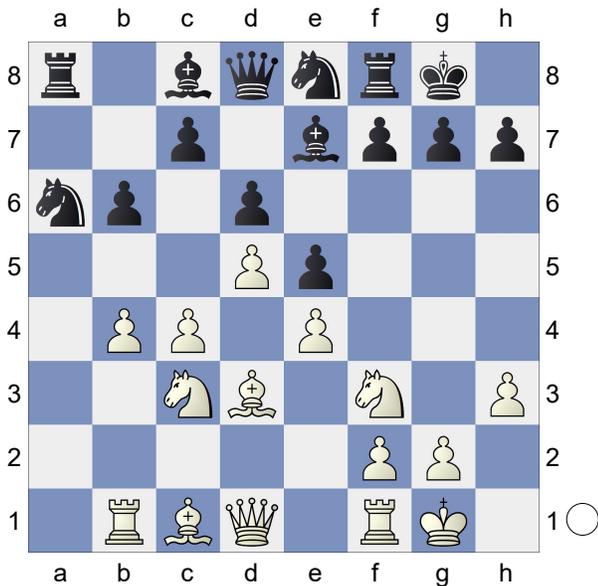
[9...Nbd7 10.Re1 Nc5 11.Bc2 Nfd7 12.Bd2 Ne5 13.Nxe5 dxe5 14.Be3 Na6 15.Qh5 Bf6 16.Rad1 Qe7 17.Ba4 Rad8 18.h3 Nc5 19.Bc2 Na6 20.Nb5 g6 21.Qh6 Nc5 22.Nc3 Nd7 23.Nb5 Nc5 24.Nc3 Bc8

25.Bc1 Nb7 26.Qe3 Bg7 27.Qg3
Nd6 28.b3 Rde8 29.dxe6 fxe6
30.Bg5 Bf6 31.h4 Bxg5 32.Qxg5
Qxg5 33.hxg5 Nf7± 0-1 (76)
Theodorou,N (2611)-Niemann,H
(2734) Chessable Masters Play In,
Chess.com, 17 Feb 2025]

10.Rb1 1:47 Na6 4:58 11.b4 27
White is clearly better. **11...axb4 30**
[Δ11...Nb8]

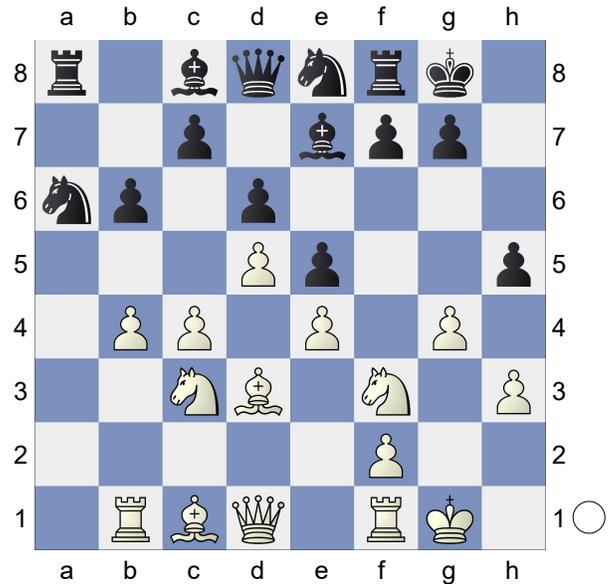
12.axb4 3 Bc8N 3:51
[12...Ne8 13.Ne1 Nb8 14.f4 exf4
15.Bxf4 Nd7 16.Nf3 Bf6 17.Qc2 g6
18.Nb5 Ng7 1-0 (49) Andonovski,L
(2317)-Jankov,D (2221) Struga 2011]

13.h3 1:46 Ne8+- 8:41
[Δ13...Nb8 14.Be3 c5 15.dxc6
Nxc6]



14.g4?! 3:35
[14.Be3+- Nb8 15.Ra1 Rxa1
16.Qxa1 Ba6 (16...g6 17.Bh6 Ng7
18.Qa8 Nd7 19.Ra1 f5 20.Ra7 Nf6
21.Qb8 Nfe8 22.Ra8 Nf6 23.Qa7)]
[14.Ra1+-]
[14.Re1+-]
[14.Qe2+-]
[14.Bd2+-]

14...h5± 3:41
(Diagram)



White has space advantage and is better (although not as well off as a move ago) **15.Nh2?! 1:02**

[15.gxh5? Bxh3 16.Re1 Bg4=
[15.Kg2!± hxg4 16.hxg4 Bxg4
17.Rh1± Qd7 18.Be2 f5 19.Rb3]

15...hxg4?! 1:12

[15...Bg5]

16.hxg4 15 Bg5 2:24 17.Ne2 1:41

[17.f3± is superior.]

[or 17.Kg2±]

17...g6? 3:12

[Black should try 17...Nb8= 0.00]

[or 17...Bxc1 18.Qxc1 Nf6= 0.00]

18.f4 3:51

[18.Ra1!±]

18...exf4= 19

(Diagram)

19.Bxf4?! 48

[Δ19.Ra1]

19...Bxf4 3:39 20.Rxf4 3:35

[20.Nxf4 Nb8 21.Be2 Nd7=]

20...Qe7 4:38

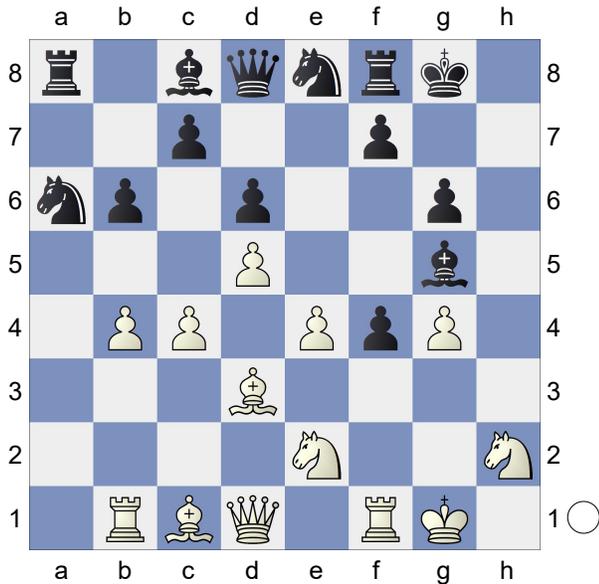
[20...Nb8!±]

21.Nd4? 2:55

[21.Ra1!±]

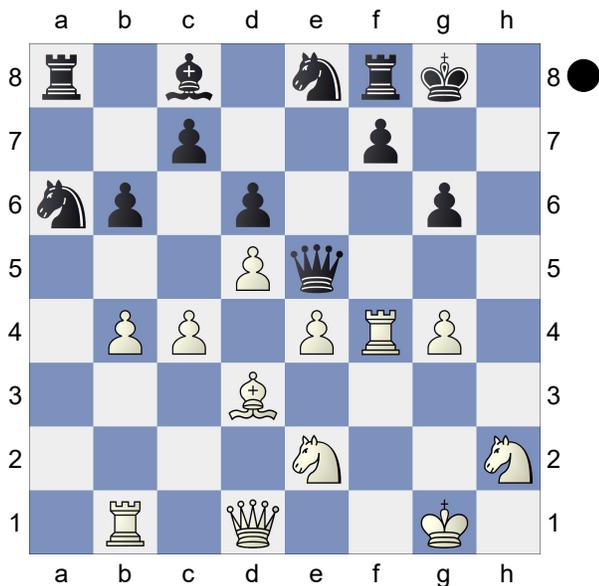
21...Qe5 1:57

[21...c5!? 22.Nc6 (22.dxc6?? Qe5



23.Ne2 Nxb4 24.Rxb4 Qc5+)
 22...Qh4 23.Qe1 Qxe1+ 24.Rxe1
 cxb4 25.Ra1 Bb7 26.Nd4 Nc5
 27.Rxa8 Bxa8 28.Bb1 Bb7

22.Ne2 9



Kg7? 3:22

[22...c5 B 23.Ra1 (23.dxc6? Nxb4
 24.Nf3 Qc5+ 25.Kg2 Ra3+)
 23...cxb4 24.Nf3 Qg7 25.g5]

23.Qd2 3:31

[23.Nf3+-]

23...f6 5:35

[D23...Kg8 24.Nf3 Qg7]
 [23...f5? 24.Nf3 Qf6 25.g5 Qd8
 26.Rh4]

24.Nf3+- 2:38

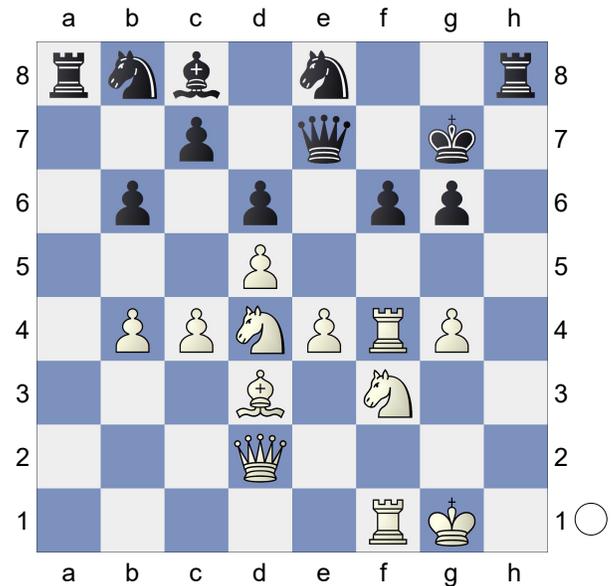
[D24.Rf2]

24...Qe7 2 25.Ned4 1:25 Nb8 5:18

26.Rf1 1:49

[26.Nh4+- is more deadly. Qe5
 27.Ndf3]

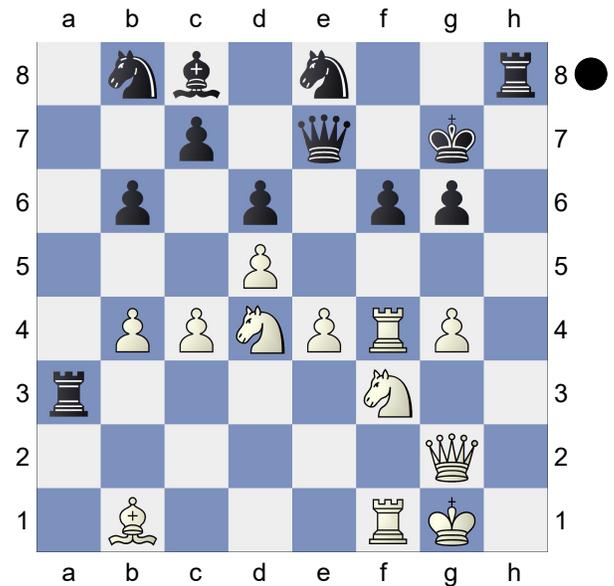
26...Rh8± 1:58



27.Qg2? 8:59 White is more active.

[Better is 27.Re1!±]

27...Ra3± 2:35 28.Bb1 2:05



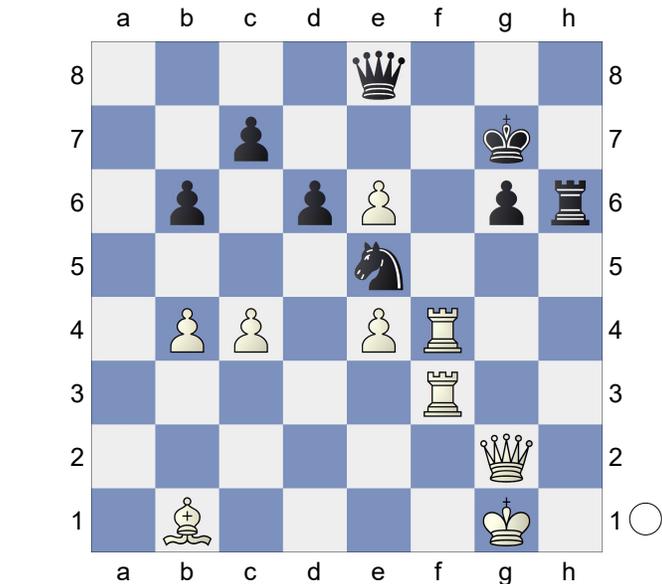
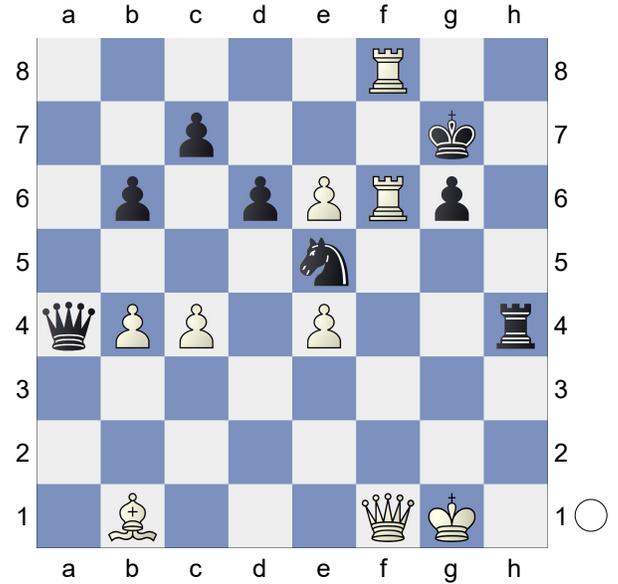
Nd7? 4:05 losing.

[28...g5!= and Black stays safe.

A) 29.Nf5+ Bxf5 30.Rxf5 Kg8!
 (30...Nd7 31.Nxg5±);

B) 29.Rf5 Kg8! 30.Qb2 Re3

31.Qd2 Ra3=]
 Now I just roll it up. **29.Nc6+- 1:27**
 [29.Ne6+!+-]
 [29.g5+-]
29...Qf8 1:08
 [29...Qf7 30.Ng5]
30.g5! 1:25 Rxf3 15:18
 [30...Kg8 31.Nh4! (31.e5! dxe5
 32.Rh4) 31...Rhx4 32.Rhx4 Qg7
 33.Rh3]
31.R1xf3 3:06 Ne5 3:09 32.gxf6+ 2:39
Kf7 6:38
 [32...Nxf6 33.Rxf6 Qxf6 34.Rxf6
 Kxf6 35.Nxe5 dxe5 36.Qf2+ Ke7
 37.Qg3 Kf6 38.Bd3]
33.Nd8+! 1:11 Kg8 1 34.f7+ 31 Kg7 2
35.Ne6+! 6:43 Bxe6 18 36.dxe6 6 Rh6
4:52 37.fxe8N+ 46 White mates.
 [37.e7 faster mate]
37...Qxe8



38.Rf7+! 2:02 Kg8 34
 [38...Nxf7 39.Rxf7+ Qxf7 (39...Kg8
 40.Qg5) 40.exf7 Kxf7 41.e5!]
39.R3f6 26
 [39.Qg5!?!]
39...Qa4 37 40.Rf8+ 3:27 Kg7 20
41.Qf1! 1:57 Rh4 46
 [41...Rh5 42.Rxg6+]

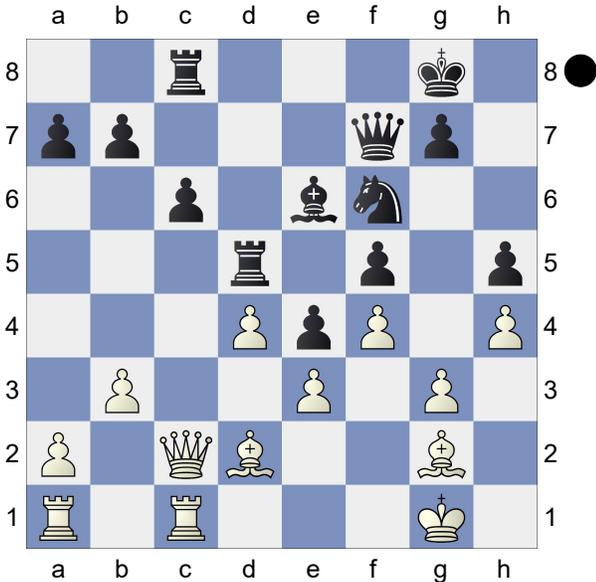
(Diagram)

42.R6f7+! 2:24
 [42.Rxg6+!]
42...Kh6 1:12
 [42...Nxf7 43.Qxf7+]
43.Rh8+ 25 Kg5 1:01 44.Qf6+ 14
 "Artfully played by Winslow." (TA) Well,
 it was fun at the end! Weighted Error
 Value: White=0.27 (precise) /Black=1.10
1-0

A20
 □ Diller,Bradley R **2123**
 ■ Heiserman,Jimmy **2280**
 2026 New Year TNM: 2000+ (6.2) 10.2.26
 [Winslow,Elliott]

Poor Heiserman! He stayed as close as
 he could after losing to me in Round 3,
 beating Brad Diller this round with this
 system against Brad's English that really
 ought to have a name. In an up-and-
 down game Heiserman showed more
 sustain, and thus was still just half a
 point behind going into the final round.
 But poor Diller as well -- he was
 completely won after Heiserman's
 unsound sacrifice but couldn't find a
 winning defense. **1.c4 e5 8 2.g3 8 c6**
11 3.Nf3 7 e4 8 4.Nd4 1 d5 13 5.cxd5

6 Qxd5 7 6.e3 16 Bc5 1:05 7.Nc3 1:11
 Qe5 46 8.f4 1:03 Qe7 9:54 9.Nb3 4:21
 Bb6 27 10.Bg2 2:42 f5 22 11.0-0 6:56
 Nf6 17 12.Na4 6:43 0-0 5:55 13.d4
 2:51 Na6 11:41 14.Bd2 3:32 Be6 2:54
 15.Qc2 1:35 Qf7 12:46 16.Nbc5 16:56
 Bxc5 1:39 17.Nxc5 15 Nxc5 32
 18.Qxc5 17 Rfd8 9:39 19.b3 3:17 Rd5
 19:30 20.Qc2 1:47 Rc8 11 21.Rfc1
 6:07 h5 7:08 22.h4 5:52



Qd7?! 1:53

[22...c5!±]

23.Bf1 2:56 c5?! 2:31

[23...Kh7!±]

[23...a5±]

24.b4 5:14 b6 8:08

[24...c4± 25.Bxc4 b5 26.Bxd5 Rxc2

27.Bxe6+ Qxe6 28.Rxc2 Qb6=]

25.Ba6 2:45 Rc7?! 5

[25...Re8±]

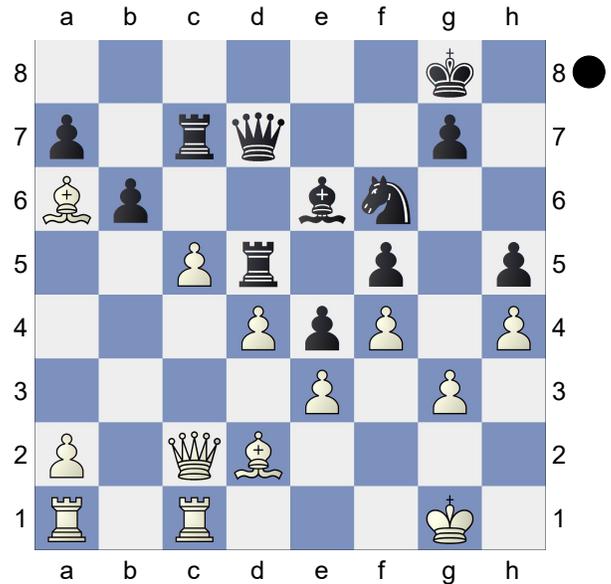
26.bxc5 29

(Diagram)

Rxd4? 1:31 Jimmy goes wild, which certainly must have had an effect on Brad's equilibrium. But it's unsound! Queen moves or even 26...Rd6 are all ±

[and 26...Qf7 isn't even that -- =]

27.exd4 3:52 Qxd4+- 7 28.Kf1? 12

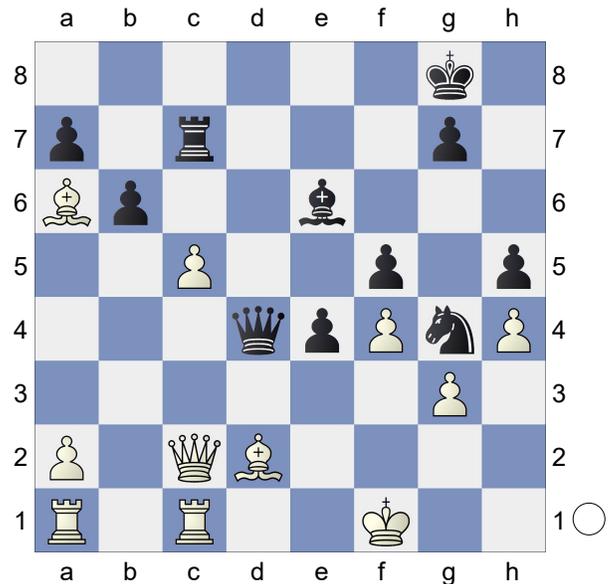


[28.Kh1 Rxc5=]

[28.Kg2+-]

28...Ng4? 49

[28...Rxc5=]



29.Ke1?? 2:13

[29.Bc3!+-]

29...Qf2+ 37 30.Kd1 19 Rd7 8 31.Qc3
 45 Ne3+ 12

0-1

B12

□ Chen,Quincy

2099

■ Cawthon,Jeremy David

2098

2026 New Year TNM: 2000+ (6.3) 10.2.26

[Winslow,Elliott]

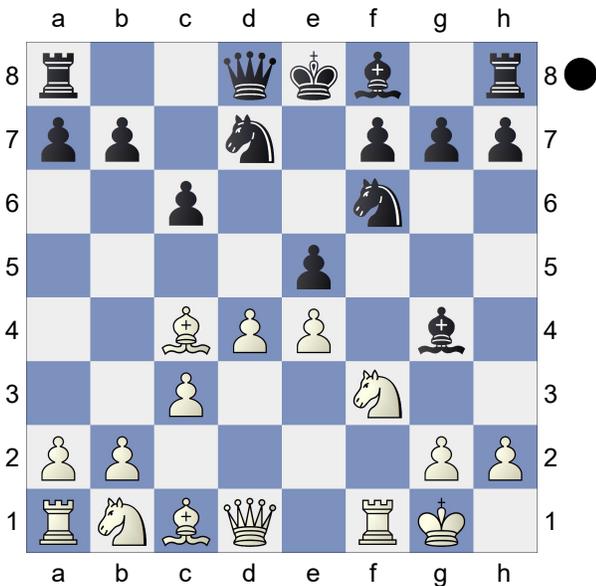
Meanwhile Jeremy brought the Fantasy Variation of the Caro Kann back to cold reality, dodging the gambit and launching a sparkling attack of his own after a sharp and hard to play opening for both sides. 1.e4 2 c6 1 2.d4 8 d5 2 3.f3 10 dxe4 12 4.fxe4 8 e5 3 5.Nf3 5 Bg4 5 6.Bc4 9

[6.c3]

6...Nd7! 11 7.0-0 17

[7.dxe5 Bxf3 8.Qxf3 Nxe5 ♣]

7...Ngf6 7 8.c3 25



Be7 1:56

[8...Bd6]

9.Qb3?! 9:12

[9.dxe5 Bxf3 10.gxf3 Nxe5 ♣]

[Better is 9.Kh1=]

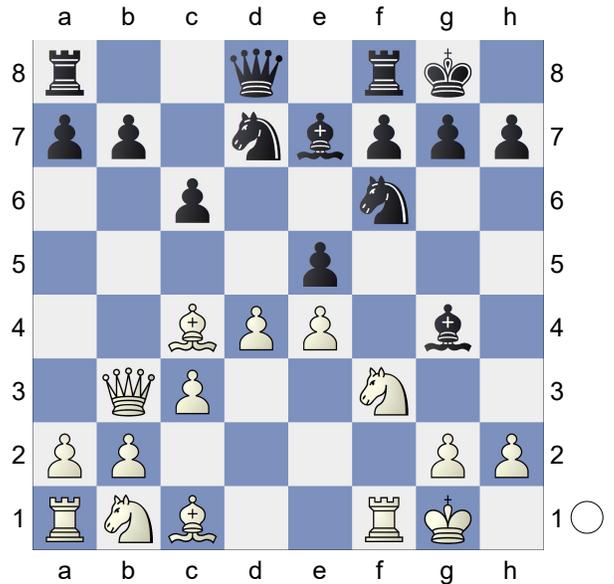
9...0-0! ♣ 37

(Diagram)

10.Be3?!N 13:24

[10.Qc2 ♣]

[Predecessor: 10.Qxb7 Bxf3 11.Rxf3



Nb6 12.Bd3 exd4 13.Qxc6 Rc8

14.Qb5 Bc5 15.Kh1 Ng4 16.Bf4

0-1 (30) Narva,M (2276)-Li,X (2328)

Chess.com INT 2021]

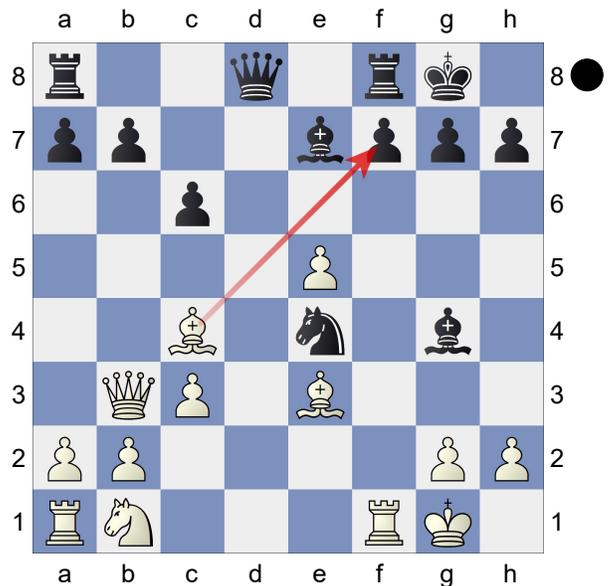
10...Nxe4?! 5:56

[Black should play 10...Bxf3 ♣ 11.gxf3 Nh5!]

[or 10...exd4 11.cxd4 Nxe4 ♣ 12.Nc3 Nd6]

[or 10...b5 11.Be2 exd4 12.Bxd4 Nxe4 ♣]

11.Nxe5 ♣ 2:42 Nxe5 24 "A sharp opening" says "AI" 12.dxe5 9



Ng5? 5:12

[12...Bg5= 13.Bd4 Bh5 (13...c5

14.Qxb7 Ng3≠ (=) 14.Qxb7 Rc8
 15.e6 Nd6 16.exf7+ Kh8=]
 [12...Bc5 13.Bxc5 Nxc5 14.Bxf7+
 Kh8 15.Qc4 Qg5!≠ 16.Nd2! Qe3+
 17.Kh1 Be2 18.Qf4 Qd3 19.Rfe1
 Bh5≠]

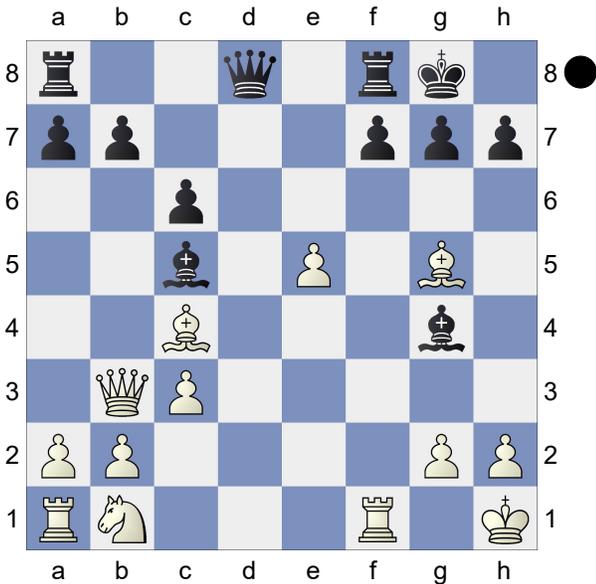
13.Bxg5? 5:13

[13.Qxb7± Strongly threatening Nd2!
 Rb8 14.Qxa7]

13...Bc5+ 22

[13...Bxg5 14.Bxf7+ Kh8 15.Na3]

14.Kh1! 33



Qxg5 5 15.Bxf7+ 9:52 Kh8 1:37

16.e6? 53 This move loses the game for White.

[16.Qc4=]

16...Rad8 1:27 White is weak on the

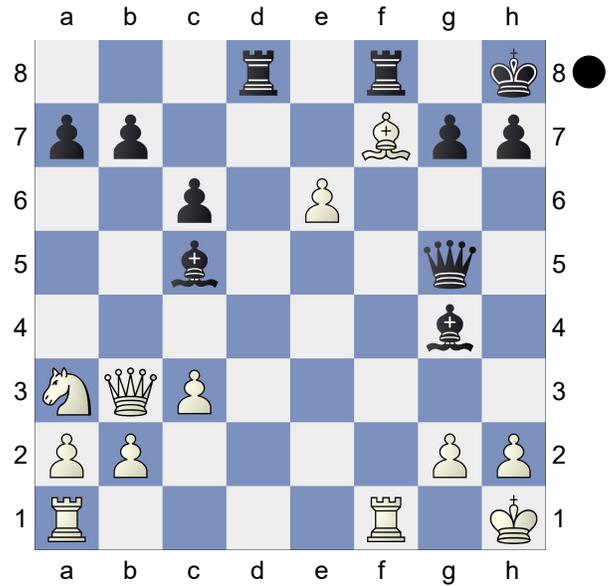
dark squares **17.Na3 8:52**

[17.Qc4+ Bd6 18.g3 (18.Nd2?
 Qh6-+)]

(Diagram)

17...Rd2 2:48

[17...Bh3 18.Qc2 Rd2 19.Qxd2
 Qxd2 20.Rg1 Bxg1 (20...Qxb2?
 21.gxh3 Bxg1 22.Rxg1-+) 21.Rxg1
 Bxg2+ Back Rank (21...Qxb2?
 22.e7-+) 22.Rxg2 Qd1+ 23.Rg1

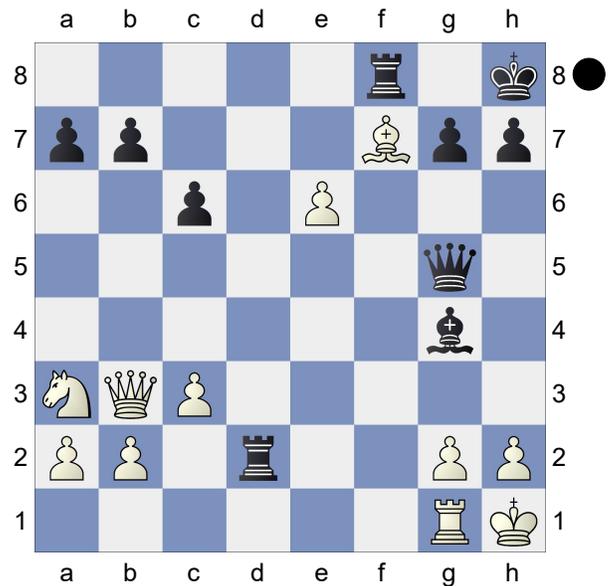


Qf3+ 24.Rg2 Rd8 25.h3 Rd2 26.h4
 Qxg2#]

18.Rg1 21 Bxg1 7:53

[18...Bh3 19.gxh3 Qf4 (19...Bxg1
 is a self mate. 20.Rxg1 Qe5 21.Rg2
 Qe1+ 22.Rg1 Qe4+ 23.Rg2 Qxg2#)
 20.Rg2 Rxg2 21.Kxg2 Qf2+ 22.Kh1
 Qf3#]

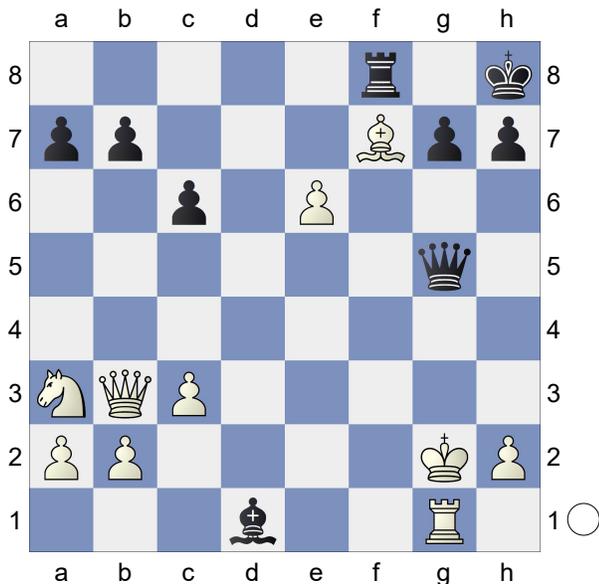
19.Rxg1 5



Rxg2 4:48 Decoy. Black mates. **20.Kxg2
 1:05 Bd1+ 6**

(Diagram)

Discovered Attack (Check) **21.Kf1 2:05**



Qf4+ 18 22.Ke1 24 Bxb3 12
 Weighted Error Value: White=1.45/
 Black=0.77
0-1

□ **Heiserman, Jimmy** **D55** **2280**
 ■ **Cawthon, Jeremy David** **2098**
 2026 New Year TNM: 2000+ (7.2) 17.2.26
 [Winslow, Elliott]

Thus the final round. I frankly can't remember which game finished first, but I think it was this one, so I'll give it first. I was wondering if Jeremy would play solid as Black, thus assuring me a clear tournament win with a draw. It looked to be so after eight or so moves, and then -- he went for the always uncompromising Stonewall Attack! The pawns got weird, and he launched a pseudo-sacrifice of his rook to f3, setting up dangerous tension, while abandoning his queenside. His concept wasn't as unsound as Heiserman's in the previous round, but it did mean that sooner or later he'd just have to retreat the rook (which could someday be taken). Just as Jimmy seemed to have

succeeded in defense, and Jeremy was compelled to back off with his rook, he (Heiserman) completely lost his way, permitting Cawthon to find a brilliant liquidation to a won pawn ending. **1.d4 2 Nf6 2 Bg5 8 d5 6 3.e3 5 e6 10 4.c4 46 Be7 13 5.Nc3 1:42** Not your usual move order to get to the classical Queen's Gambit Declined. **5...0-0 21 6.Nf3 1:56 Ne4 4:11** Lasker's Defense -- usually here Black tosses in ...h6 and Bh4, but if the intention is a Stonewall formation it's better left on h7. Maybe. I'm not a Stonewall aficionado.

[6...h6 7.Bh4 (7.Bxf6 is quite plausible, when Bxf6 and White has many developments available.)

A) 7...b6 is the other Big Line, the Bondarevsky/Makogonov System. A lot of World Championship games!;

B) Oh, and 7...Nbd7 seems to have found a foothold in GM play (Kramnik!), where it used to be thought the pawn better on h7. The mini-note(s) to this game amused me: 8.Qc2 c6

B1) 9.a3;

B2) There is also 9.cxd5;

B3) and 9.Bd3;

B4) But I especially like the off-the-wall 9.g4!? Nxc4

B4a) 10.Bxe7 Qxe7 11.Rg1 Ngf6 12.0-0-0 c5 13.Be2 cxd4 14.Rxd4 Kh8 15.Rh4 Ne8?? (15...dxc4?) 16.cxd5± (16.Qd2!?) 16...Ne5!

1-0 (37) Musallam Salim,A (1688)-Al Darwashi,U (1493) OMA-ch 10th Muscat 2023 (2) which continued: 17.Qe4?

(17.Ng5! Nf6 18.f4±) 17...Nxf3 18.Bxf3 f5 19.Qf4 Rf6 20.Qe5 Qd6 21.Qd4 e5 22.Qd2 Bd7 23.Kb1 b5

24.Bd1 a5 25.e4 b4 26.Ne2 f4 27.Nc1 Nc7 28.Bg4 Nb5 29.Bxd7 Qxd7 30.Rhg4 Rf7 31.Nd3 Qe7 32.Rg6 Nd4 33.Qd1 b3 34.axb3 a4 35.bxa4 Qe8 36.Qh5 Rxa4 37.Rxh6+ 1-0 (37) Musallam Salim,A (1688)-Al Darwashi,U (1493) Muscat 2023;

B4b) 10.Bg3N dxc4 11.Rg1 Ngf6 12.0-0-0 Nd5 13.Bxc4 b5 14.Nxd5 cxd5 15.Bd3 Ba6 16.Kb1 Rc8 17.Qe2 Kh8 18.Ne5 Nf6 19.Bf4 Qe8 20.Qf3 Rg8 21.Bxh6 gxh6 22.Qf4 Rg5 23.Rxg5 hxg5 24.Qxg5 Nh7 25.Qh5 1-0 (25) Erigaisi,A (2775)-Giri, A (2760) Mumbai 2025;

B5) 9.Rd1 (And here what was probably ChessBase's "Opening Report" AI came up with "9.a3 is more advanced technology." I'm getting nostalgic already...) 9...Ne8 10.Bxe7 Qxe7 11.Bd3 dxc4 12.Bxc4 Nd6 13.Be2 e5 14.0-0 e4 15.Nd2 Nf6 1/2-1/2 (37) Fressinet,L (2590)-Cornette,M (2519) Bordeaux 2026.;

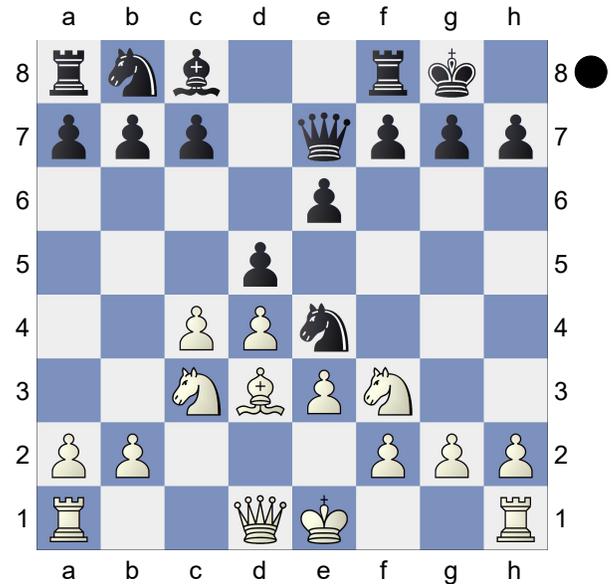
C) 7...Ne4 8.Bxe7 Qxe7 is thousands of games, vs. hundreds w/o ...h6 in.]

[As mentioned above, there's also the Orthodox System back a hundred years ago. 6...Nbd7]

7.Bxe7 2:26 Qxe7 36 8.Bd3 13

(Diagram)

f5? 1:58 The Stonewall, albeit missing the dark-squared bishops already. I was sitting next to this game and wasn't sure what to think. For *me* on Board 1 I was preferring a quiet game, since a draw



meant that'd have draw odds for clear first. Cawthon's overplaying and Heiserman winning was thus not perfect (again, for me). What I *really* wanted was a quick result, so I'd know where it stood!

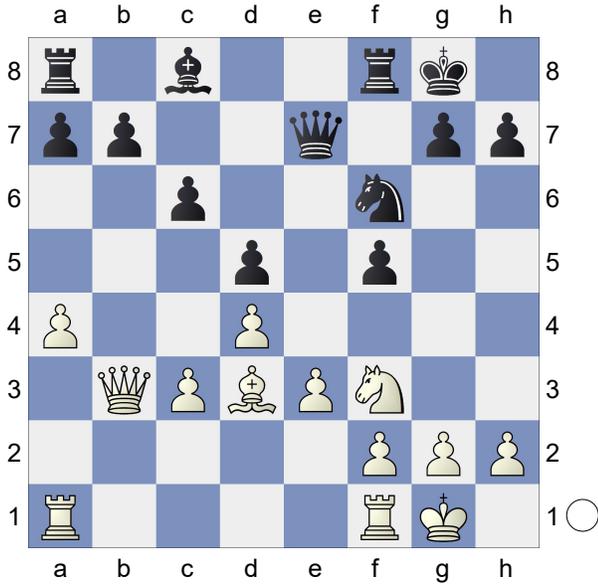
[8...Nxc3 9.bxc3 dxc4 10.Bxc4 b6 if that ubiquitous "bad bishop" really bugs you (nothing too wrong with 10...c5; or 10...Nd7 first) 11.0-0 Bb7 is the relaxed game the Lasker is all about; give White a little space but the trades have diluted its value. Well, that's the idea.]

9.cxd5!± 2:15 Solid, and engine-preferred (+1.26/26), but helps Black's bishop find a way out.

[9.0-0 is most seen, but White probably is right to clear it up now. c6 is a lot of transpositions.]

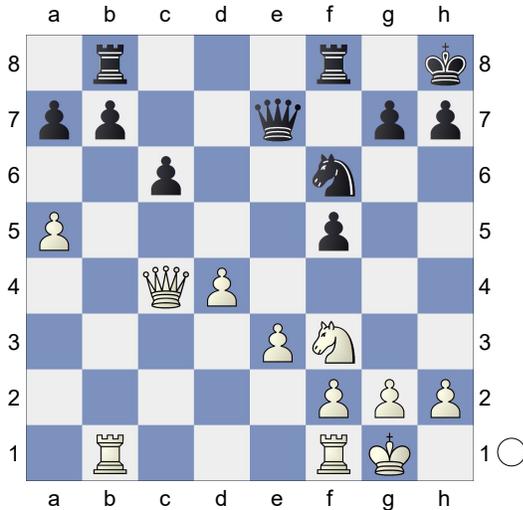
9...Nxc3 11 (necessary) 10.bxc3 6 exd5 12 11.Qb3! 2:12 Playing to pacify Black on the queenside: Stockfish's best. **11...c6 1:30 12.0-0 8:23** Very few games have made it this far, master play well behind us. **12...Nd7 1:22 13.a4! 2:28** Again, Heiserman and Stockfish are in accord. So far. **13...Nf6 3:40**

(Diagram)



14.Ne5 2:07 Now strange things start to happen.

[Continuing to clamp would be 14.a5!? and in fact there's an old game here. Kh8 (14...Be6 15.Rab1 Rab8 16.c4 is SF thinking White is doing well at +1.47/d25: what are White's plusses? dxc4 17.Bxc4 Bxc4 18.Qxc4+ Kh8



Pressure on b7, the f5-pawn weak, what?) 15.Rfe1 From here this old game is less convincing, but it's all I've got. Oh, Schuster is over 2200! Ne4 16.Ne5 Rf6 17.f3 Ng5 18.Rab1 Nf7 19.f4 Nxe5 20.fxe5 Rh6 21.Qb4 Qe8 22.Rf1 Be6 23.Qxb7 Rd8 24.Rf2 Qh5 25.g3 Qg5 26.Rf4 c5 27.dxc5 d4 28.cxd4 Bd5 29.Qb2

Rh3 30.Qf2 Qh6 31.Bxf5 Rh5 32.Bg4 g5 33.Bxh5 gxf4 34.Qxf4 Qxf4 35.exf4 Be4 36.Rb4 Kg7 37.Kf2 Bd5 38.f5 Kh6 39.Bf3 1-0 (39) Schuster,C (2270)-Morito,H Buenos Aires 1985]

14...Ng4!? 1:35 Slightly worse than development, but the shock value!

[14...Be6]

15.Nxg4N 21

[Computers are always ready to "admit when they're wrong": 15.Nf3!±] [15.f4!? Nxe5 16.fxe5 Be6 17.a5 (17.c4!? There's a lesson here about bad bishops...) 17...Qg5?! (17...c5) 18.Rf4 Rab8 19.Qa3 Qh5? 20.Raf1+- Rf7 (20...g5?! 21.Bxf5!?

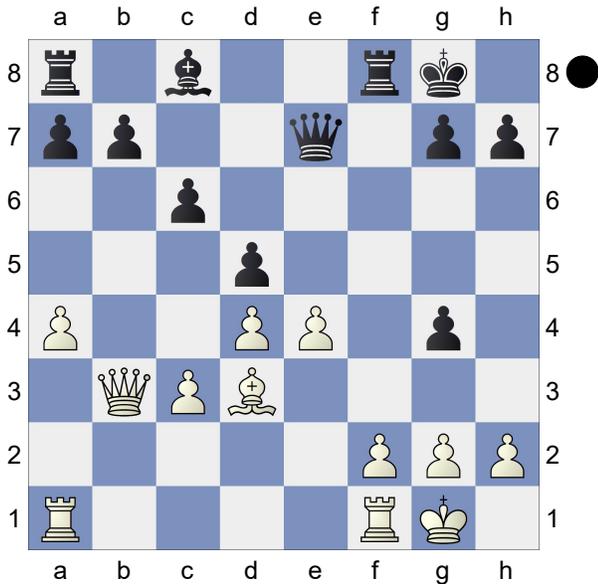
gxf4 22.Bxe6+ Kh8 23.exf4) 21.Qc5 (21.Qd6+-) 21...a6 22.Qb4 (22.c4!) 22...Rbf8 23.Qd6 (23.h4!) 23...Re8! 24.g3 Qg5 25.Qb4 g6 26.Kh1 h5 27.Qb2 Ree7 28.Qf2 Rh7 29.h4 Qh6 30.Kh2 Ref7 A successful blockade! The engine gives White a clear plus, but like the player, it just moves around with no progress.

31.Qc2 Qf8 32.Qb2 Qd8 33.Qb6 Qe7 34.Qb4 Qd8 35.R1f3 Kh8 36.Rf2 Kg8 37.R4f3 Kh8 38.Kg2 Rhg7 39.Kf1 Kg8 40.Ke1 Kh8 41.Kd2 Kh7 42.Kc1 Rc7 43.Qc5 Qc8 44.Kb1 Qd7 45.Ka2 Rg8 46.Rb2 Rg7 47.Ka1 Rc8 48.Kb1 Qe7 49.Qxe7 Rxe7 50.Rff2 Kg7 51.Ka2 Kf8 52.Rb6 Rb8 53.Ka3 Rf7 54.Kb4 Bc8 55.Kc5 Ke7 56.Bb1 Rg7 57.Bd3 Kd8 58.Rfb2 Be6 59.Rf2 Bc8 60.Rfb2 Re7 1/2-1/2 (60) Dlhhy,J (2041)-Kubica,V (1979) Slovakia 2016]

15...fxg4± 2 16.e4!? 17

(Diagram)

Be6 14 FINALLY! 17.e5 4:13



[17.exd5 Bxd5 18.Qc2 h6 19.Rae1= isn't much]

[17.Rae1!? dxe4 18.Rxe4 Bxb3 19.Rxe7 b6!= Nor is this much.]

17...Bf5 1:14

[17...h5!]

18.Rad1 3:30 Rad8?! 1:30

[18...b6]

[18...h5]

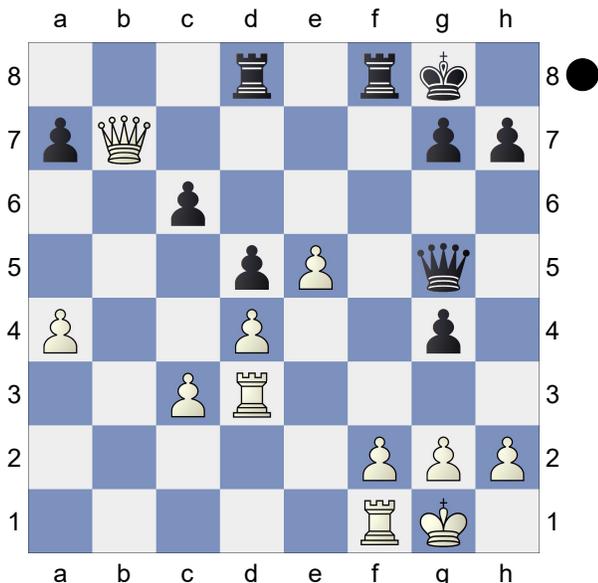
19.Qb1± 3:19 White is pushing.

19...Bxd3 4:23 20.Rxd3 12 Qg5? 1:45

Jeremy has this all-out plan in mind...

[20...Rf7=]

21.Qxb7+- 2:18



Black has weak pawns **21...Rf3!? 1:12**

There must be some psychological value to this!

[21...Qg6 might work better. 22.Rg3 Rf7]

[21...c5]

22.Qb1 9:04

[Of course 22.gxf3?? gxf3+ 23.Kh1 Qg2#]

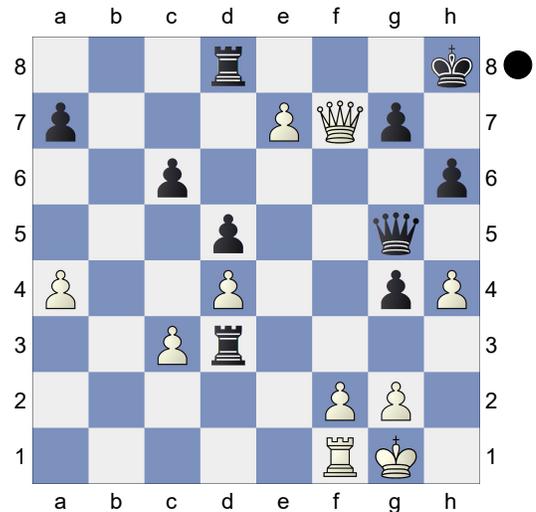
[22.Rdd1 Rxc3 23.Qxa7+-

with two passed pawns, is quite strong.]

[But best? Δ22.e6!

A) 22...Rxd3?! 23.Qf7+ Kh8

24.e7+- h6 25.h4! (25.exd8Q+ Qxd8 26.Re1+-)



25...gxh3 26.exd8Q+ Qxd8

27.Re1 will win Black's queen (how nice there's no ...Rd1#!).;

B) 22...Qg6 23.Rdd1 (23.gxf3? gxf3+ 24.Kh1 Qg2#)]

22...Rdf8 44 23.Qd1? 3:57

[23.c4+-]

[23.g3+-]

23...R8f5? 21:56

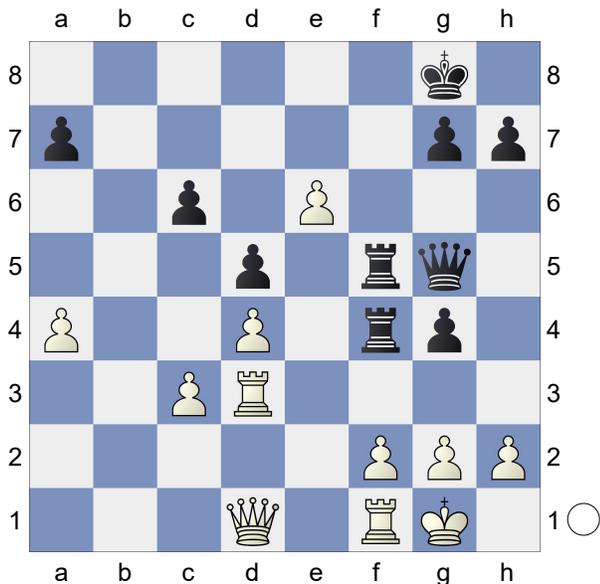
[23...Qg6!= 24.Rxf3?? (24.Re3=; 24.Rd2=) 24...gxf3 25.g3 Qg4 26.Kh1 Rf5!-+]

24.e6! 8:12 And now e7 would win.

[24.gxf3? is a self mate. gxf3+ 25.Kh1 Qg2#]

24...R3f4 9:06

(Diagram)



25.Re3?? 3:45 Just as Black finally steps back from his "sacrifice" White loses his head. Clock times weren't a factor (White had 42 minutes vs. 44 for Black). So many moves are still excellent for White, mainly starring

[One of the best is 25.Re1+- reminding Black what the *real* threat is. Qe7 26.Rde3]

[and, equally strong, is 25.Qe2+- Rf8 (25...Qe7) 26.Re3]

[even 25.Qe1+-]

[and 25.Rd2+-]

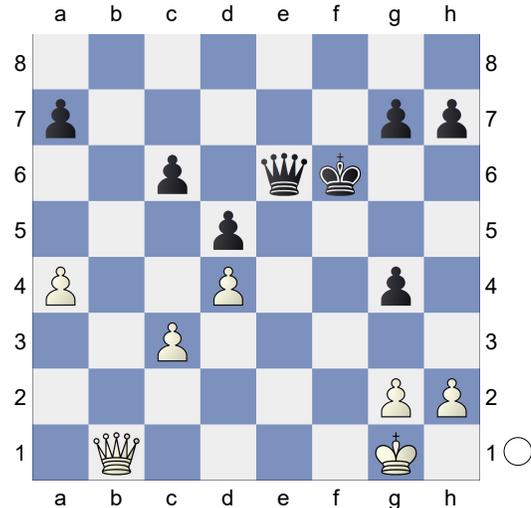
25...Rxf2! 2:12 26.Rxf2? 8:54

[It might not have been fatal had Heiserman continued 26.Rfe1 27.Rf1+ Deflection 27.Rxf1 Qxe3+ 28.Kh1 Rxf1+ (28...Qxe6 29.Re1 29.Qxf1 Qxe6 30.Qb1!? Kf7! 31.Kg1! Kf6!

(Diagram)

but it's going to be hard to make that particular extra pawn matter.]

26...Qxe3+- 21 27.Qd2 27 Again, I was watching this game, wondering, has one of them lost his way, or maybe both!? But before I could make sense of which endgame Black was heading for, Jeremy played:



27...Qxf2+!! 5:16 The pawn ending! Both the queen and the rook endgames are unpromising, drawish:

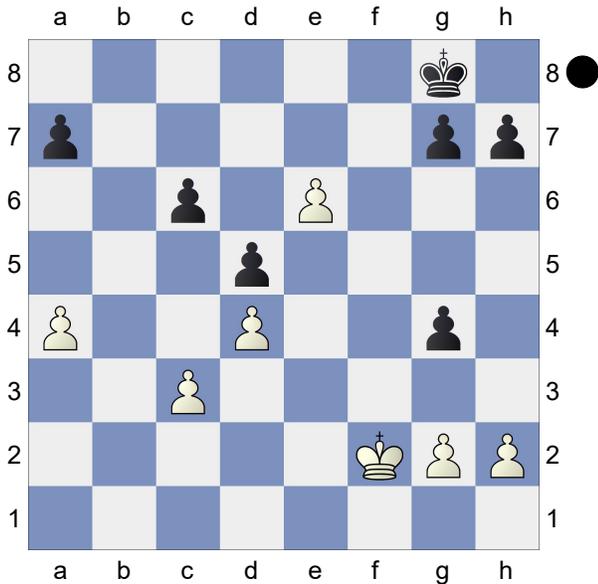
[27...Qxe6 28.Rxf5 Qxf5 29.Qb2 27]

[27...Qxd2 28.Rxd2 Rf6 29.Re2 Kf8 30.Rb2 Rxe6 31.Kf2=]

28.Qxf2 6 Rxf2 2 29.Kxf2 5

(Diagram)

Here are some convenient liquidation to endgame proverbs: (1) Rook endgames are drawish (2) Queen endgames are worth avoiding, if only to be able to get some sleep (i.e. they can take a long time to win) (3) if you go into a pawn endgame (sometimes called a King and



Pawn endgame, which doesn't make for consistency, not to mention that kings are obviously there), you better have it worked out *very* well! Forward:
29...g5!!-+ 22 Jeremy had calculated this all the way!

[Without thinking too hard about it, I noticed 29...Kf8? 30.Kg3 h5?? (30...Ke7! 31.Kxg4 Kxe6=) 31.Kh4 g6 32.Kg5+- and *White* wins. Jeremy had self-interest pushing him harder, though!]

[I have to say: I am stumped why 29...h5? doesn't work. After 30.Ke3 g5 is drawn. 31.g3 seals it up, but also drawn are (31.Kd3=; 31.Kd2=; and even 31.c4=)]

30.Ke3 6:29 Kf8 1:25

[30...Kg7-+ is just as good]

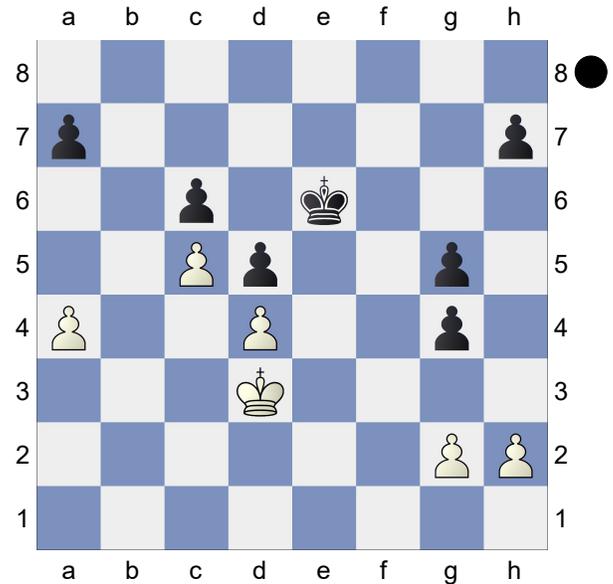
31.Kd3 11 Ke7 7 32.c4 9 Kxe6! 35

33.c5 52

[33.g3 dxc4+ 34.Kxc4 Kd6]
 [33.cxd5+ Kxd5! 34.g3 a5 35.Ke3 h6 36.Kd3 c5 37.dxc5 Kxc5 38.Kc3 h5]

(Diagram)

33...g3!! 47 The only move! 34.h3 1:34



[34.hxg3 Kf5]

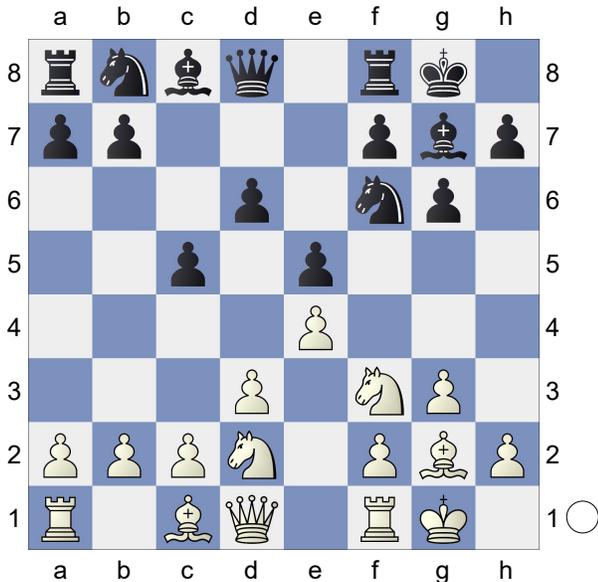
34...Kf5 14 35.Ke3 6 h5 4:14 36.a5 6:09 a6 51 37.Kf3 1:12 h4 4 38.Ke3 1:54 g4 15 "Beautiful play by Cawthon!" (TA) and for a change I really agree. Weighted Error Value: White=0.88/ Black=0.27 (precise)

0-1

A05
 □ **Parsons, Stephen** **1989**
 ■ **Winslow, Elliott** **2200**
 2026 New Year TNM: 2000+ (7.1) 17.2.26
 [Winslow, Elliott]

Last round: half a point ahead of Heiserman, who is White on Board 2 vs. Cawthon. Jeremy can be hard to beat. I lost to Parsons last time we played, but I was rather won. The difference between clear 1st and 1st-2nd is significantly less than the difference between 1st-2nd and 2nd-3rd or 2nd-4th. In short: don't try *too* hard... **1.Nf3 8 Nf6 18 2.g3 19 g6 15 3.Bg2 17 Bg7 6 4.0-0 41 0-0 7 5.d3 1:50 d6 3:00** I'm waiting for a chance to unbalance the position. **6.Nbd2 2:48** Okay, there's an opportunity: **6...e5 3:29 7.e4 2:40 c5!**

2:09



So now I'll get ...d5 in, unless he plays 8. c4, when the N/d2 would rather be on c3 (heading to d5). **8.a4 1:07 Nc6 18 9.c3 17 h6 2:17 10.Nc4 2:54 Be6 1:07 11.b3 3:39 Qc7?! 3:35** This cautious preparation for ...d5 costs Black a large part of his advantage. There were more tactics involved than I was up to work through. And I'm not so sure of those evaluations by Stockfish, either!

[11...d5!♣ right away is SF's play.

- A) 12.Ncd2** Re8 13.Re1 b6 14.Ba3 Rc8-+ -0.81/38;
- B) 12.Ncxe5** dxe4! 13.Nxc6 bxc6 14.Ne5 Qc7 15.d4 cxd4 16.cxd4 c5 17.Bf4 (17.Qc2 Rac8) 17...g5-+ 18.Be3 cxd4 19.Bxd4 Rad8 20.Rc1 Qb7 -- really?;
- C) 12.exd5** Nxd5 13.Bb2 e4 14.dxe4 Nxc3 15.Bxc3 Bxc3 16.Rc1 Qxd1 17.Rfxd1 Bb4♣ -0.65/26 -0.50/d34 -- going down (towards zero) -- maybe a trend, suggesting that it's not like White's lost or anything.]

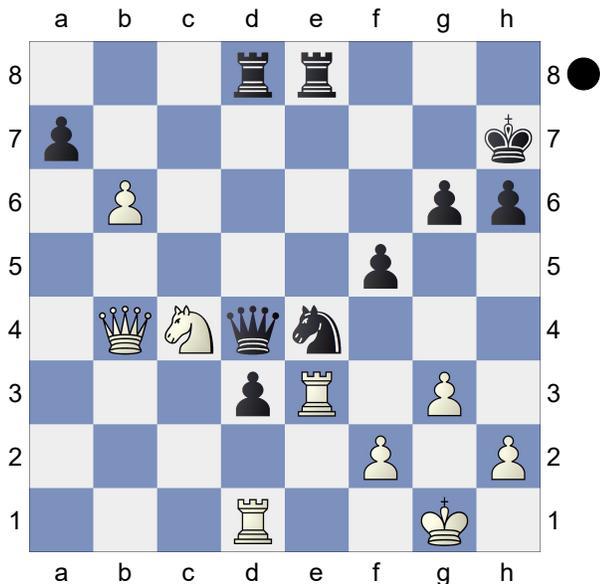
12.Bb2?!N 3:21 I could only hope for this! (I expected better.) But I did have to complete d3-d4 by him.

[12.Ne3♣ a6 13.Bb2 b5 14.axb5

axb5 15.c4 Rxa1 16.Qxa1 Qb7 17.cxb5 Qxb5 18.Nc4 Rd8 0-1 (32) Raimondi,M-Banet,J France 1989]

- 12...d5♣ 2:02 13.exd5 57 Nxd5 6:35 14.Qc2?! 5:14** Another passive move. [14.Re1] [14.Qe2]
- 14...Rad8 1:16 15.Rad1 52 Rfe8 4:46** Black is more active. **16.Rfe1 47 f5 4:08 17.Qc1 11:24 Kh7 1:38** [Better is 17...Nb6♣]
- 18.Kh1 8:01** [18.b4!=]
- 18...Bf7 2:15 19.d4 7:22 cxd4 3:19** [19...e4-+ 20.Nfe5 Nxe5 21.Nxe5 Bg8]
- 20.cxd4 23 e4 46** Black has a king side majority **21.Nfe5 3:13 Ndb4 1:24 22.Nxf7 5:56** [22.Bf1♣ was worth a try.]
- 22...Qxf7-+ 20 23.Bf1 5:49 Bxd4 5:40** [23...Nxd4 24.Bxd4 Bxd4 25.Ne3-+]
- 24.Bxd4 2:51 Nxd4 4:31 25.Ne3 1:21 Nxb3? 5:20** Excellent horsemanship. [Inferior is 25...Qxb3 26.Qc7+ Kh8 27.Rb1 Qxa4 28.Qf7=] [25...b6-+ aiming for ...Nd3!. 26.a5 bxa5]
- 26.Qa3? 9:23** White does not recover from this. [26.Qc3♣ Nd3 27.Bxd3 exd3 (27...Rxd3 28.Rxd3 exd3 29.Qxd3♣) 28.Rxd3 Rxd3 29.Qxd3]
- 26...Nd3 1:19** Black is clearly winning.
- 27.Bxd3 1:00 exd3 3:22 28.Qb4 2:25 b6 2:16 29.Nc4 3:09** [♠29.Ng2 Rxe1+ 30.Qxe1]
- 29...Qd5+ 5:23 30.Kg1 9 Nc5 4:54 31.a5 3:05 Qd4 7:57 32.axb6 4:53 Ne4 3:13 33.Re3 3:01** [♠33.Rf1 axb6 34.Qb3]

(Diagram)



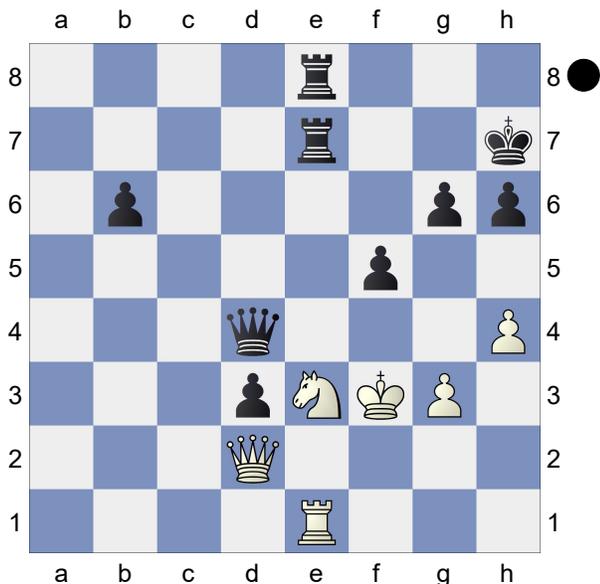
Black=3
 Inaccurate: White=2

 OK: White=5
 Black=6
 Best: ---
 Black=1
 Brilliant: ---
 Black=1
0-1

A03
 1801
 1730
 2026 New Year TNM: 1600-1999 (6.14)
[Winslow, Elliott]

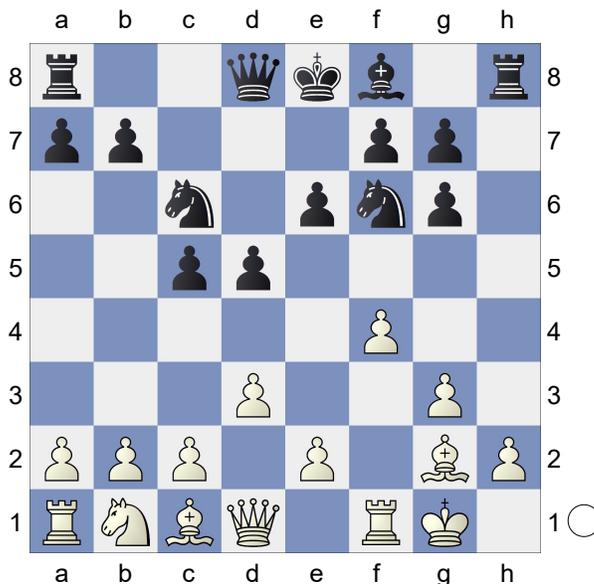
1.f4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.g3 Bf5 4.Bg2 e6
 5.0-0 c5 6.d3 Nc6 7.Nh4 Bg6 8.Nxg6
 hxg6=

33...Nxf2! 1:27 Remove Defender
34.Rde1 5:33
 [34.Re7+ Kg8]
34...Ng4 1:01 Pin 35.Qd2 30 axb6 2:53
36.Kg2 18 Nxe3+ 1:02 37.Nxe3 5 Rd7
2:35 38.h4 51 Rde7 24 39.Kf3 24



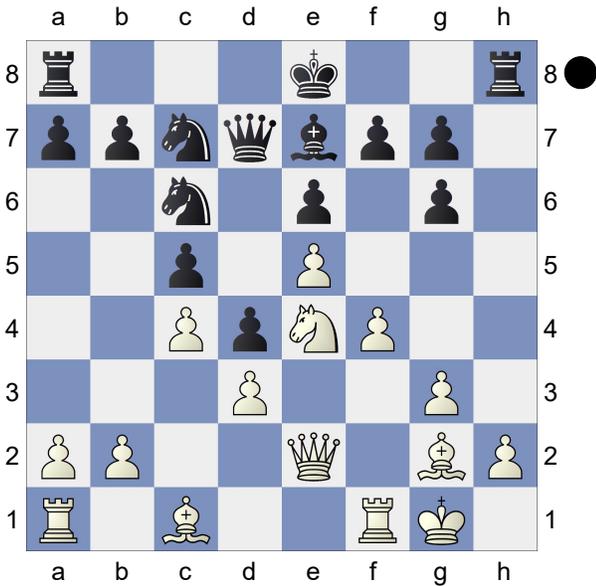
Rxe3+! 29 40.Rxe3 10 Rxe3+ 5
41.Qxe3 6 Qxe3+
 Weighted Error Value: White=1.48/
 Black=0.26 (precise)
 Loses game: White=1

 Missed win: ---
 Black=1
 Mistake: White=5

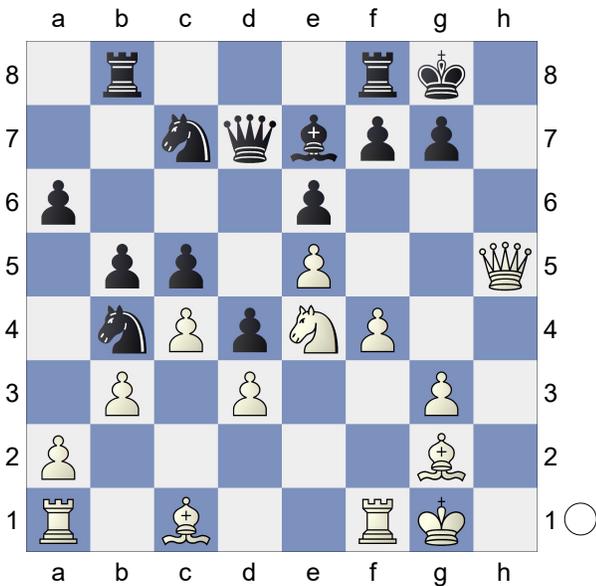


9.e4?
 [9.Nd2]
 [9.c3]
9...d4?±
 [9...dxe4 10.dxe4 Qd4+! 11.Qxd4
 (11.Kh1? Qxd1 12.Rxd1 Ng4-+)
 11...Nxd4 12.Na3 Ng4!±]
10.e5?!
 [10.Nd2]

[10.a4]
10...Nd5± 11.Qe2 Be7 12.c4 Nc7?
 [12...dxc3 13.bxc3 Rb8=]
13.Nd2± Qd7 14.Ne4

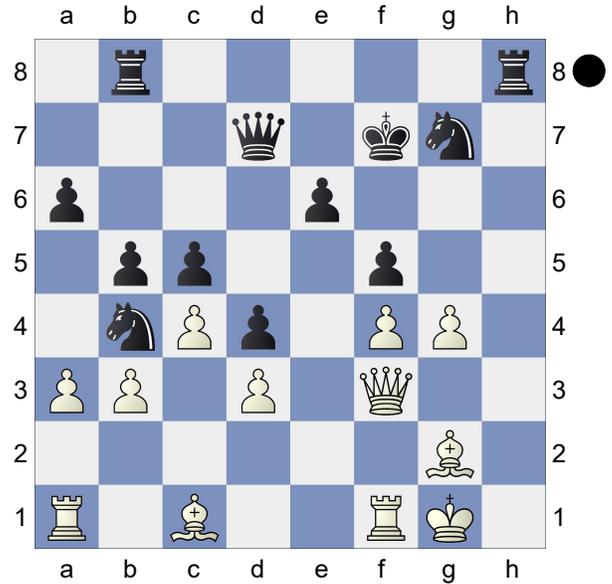


0-0?+- 15.Qg4
 [15.g4!]
15...a6 16.h4 b5 17.b3 Rab8 18.h5 gxf5
 [18...bxc4 19.bxc4 Nb4 20.hxg6 fxc6 21.Nd2! (21.Qxg6+-)]
19.Qxh5 Nb4



20.Nf6+?
 [20.g4 Nxd3 21.Bd2 bxc4 22.bxc4 Rb2 23.Rf3]
 [20.Bd2]

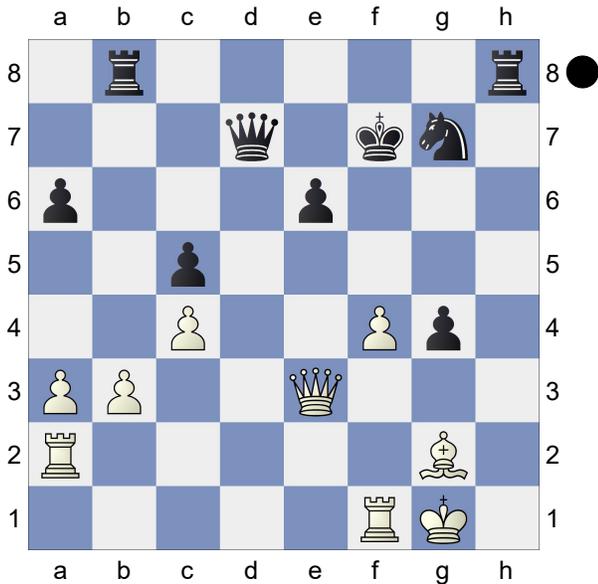
[20.Rf3]
 [20.Bf3 Nxd3 21.Kg2]
20...Bxf6
 [20...gxf6? 21.Qg4+ Kh8 22.Kf2 Nxd3+ 23.Ke2]
21.exf6 Ne8!± 22.fxc7 Nxc7 23.Qh3?
 [23.Qe2±]
23...f5± 24.g4 Kf7 25.a3?!
 [25.g5= (±)]
25...Rh8 26.Qf3



fxg4?
 [26...Nc2 27.Ra2 Ne3 28.Bxe3 fxc4+-]
27.Qe4?
 [27.Qxg4?? Nf5 28.axb4 Rbg8+-]
 [27.Qe2! Nc6! 28.f5! exf5 (28...Nxf5 29.Bf4 Rbc8=) 29.Bd5+ (29.Qxg4=) 29...Kg6 30.Rxf5!! Qxf5□ 31.Be4 Kf6! 32.Bxf5 Nxf5 33.Bf4! Rbe8 34.Qg2 Ne5=]
27...Nc2!± 28.Ra2 Ne3 29.Bxe3 dxe3 30.Qxe3 bxc4 31.dxc4

(Diagram)

Qd4?
 [31...Nf5+- 32.Qe5 Qd4+ 33.Qxd4 cxd4 That "free" move, getting the knight into the game, changes the result. 34.b4 Ne3 35.Rc1 (35.Rb1



g3) 35...g3 36.Re2 Rh4+]
32.Qxd4 cxd4 33.b4!= Nf5 34.Rc1

[34.c5]
34...g3 35.Be4
 [35.c5!=]

35...Kf6
 [35...Ne3 36.c5 Ke7 37.Rd2]
 [35...Rh4!? 36.c5! Rxf4 37.Bxf5
 Rxf5 38.c6=]

36.Rd2
 [36.c5 e5 37.fxe5+ Kxe5 38.Bxf5
 Kxf5=]

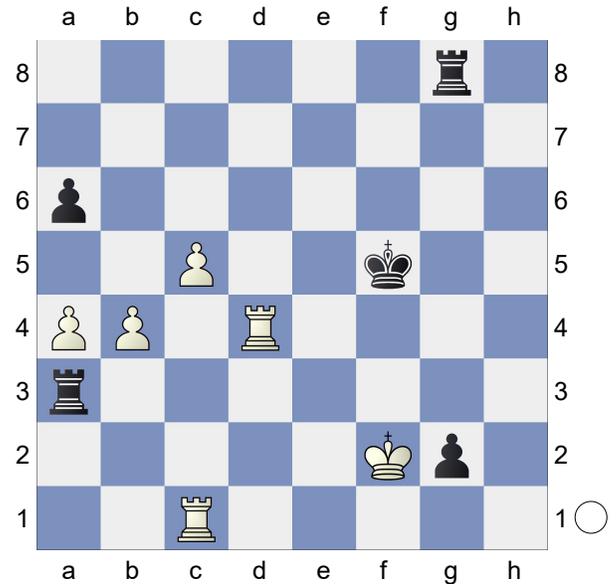
36...Rbg8 37.c5
 [37.b5]
 [37.Bxf5 Kxf5 38.Rxd4 g2 39.Kf2]

37...e5 38.fxe5+ Kxe5 39.Bxf5 Kxf5
40.Rxd4 g2 41.Kf2= Slipping away
41...Rh3 (all zeroes) 42.a4 Ra3

(Diagram)

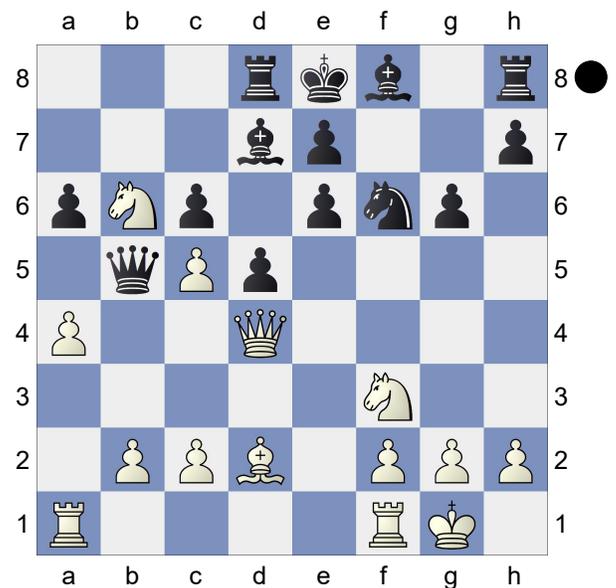
43.Rh4??
 [43.Kg1= is simplest Rxa4?? 44.c6+-
 and *White* wins!]

43...g1Q+
0-1



□ **Dees, Calvin** **B02**
 1730
 ■ **Dutter, Frederic** **1900**
 2026 New Year TNM: 1600-1999 (7.13)
[Winslow, Elliott]

1.e4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.e5 Nfd7 4.e6
 fxe6 5.d4 c5 6.dxc5 Nf6 7.Nf3 Nc6
 8.Bb5 a6 9.Bxc6+ bxc6 10.0-0 Qa5
 11.Qd4 g6 12.Na4 Bd7 13.Nb6 Rd8
 14.Bd2 Qb5 15.a4



e5 16.axb5 exd4 17.bxa6 Bc8
 18.Nxd4 Bg7 19.Nxc6 0-0 20.Nxe7+

Kh8 21.Nexc8 Rxc8 22.Nxc8 Rxc8
 23.a7 Ra8 24.c6
 1-0

□ Dutter, Frederic 1900
 ■ Powers, Christopher 1774
 2026 New Year TNM: 1600-1999 (6.5)
 [Winslow, Elliott]

1.e4 49 e5 3 2.Nf3 13 Nc6 8 3.Bb5 2
 a6 6 4.Bxc6 6 dxc6 5 5.0-0 33 Qd6 41
 6.d4 32 exd4 2:03 7.Qxd4 2:49

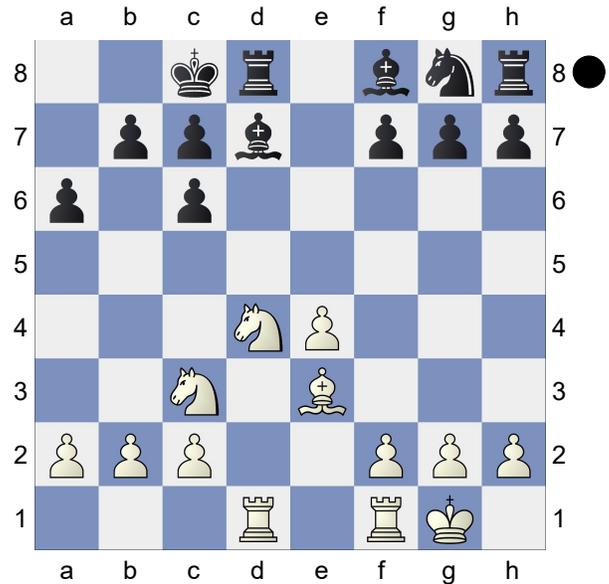
[7.Nxd4 Bd7 8.Nc3 0-0-0 9.Be3
 Nh6 10.Nf3 Ng4 11.Qxd6 Bxd6
 12.Bd2 Rhe8 13.Rad1 b5 14.h3
 Ne5 15.Nxe5 Bxe5 16.b3 h6 17.f3
 f5 18.Rfe1 c5 19.Nd5 fxe4 20.fxe4
 Be6 21.Ne3 Rd7 22.Bc1 Bd4
 23.Kh1 Rde7 24.Rf1 Bg8 25.Nf5
 Rxe4 26.Ba3 Re2 27.Nxd4 cxd4
 28.Rxd4 Rxc2 29.Rf8 Rxf8 30.Bxf8
 Rxa2 31.b4 h5 32.Bxg7 a5 33.bxa5
 Rxa5 34.g4 hxg4 35.hxg4 c5
 36.Rd6 b4 Xu,X (2623)-Yu,Y (2720)
 Shenzhen 2024 0-1 (Shortest names
 ever)]

7...Be6 8:01 8.Nc3 8:03 Qxd4 7:24
 9.Nxd4 3 Bd7 5:29 10.Be3 5:52 0-0-0
 1:59 11.Rad1 3:18

(Diagram)

Ne7N 1:59

[11...b6 12.a3 Nf6 13.Rd2 Be7
 14.f3 Kb7 15.Rfd1 Bc8 16.Nf5 Rxd2
 17.Rxd2 Bxf5 18.exf5 Bd6 19.Bd4
 Rd8 20.Rd1 Ne8 21.g4 Bf4 22.Kg2
 Kc8 23.h4 c5 24.Bf2 Rd2 25.Rxd2
 Bxd2 26.Nd1 Kd7 27.Be3 Bxe3
 28.Nxe3 Kd6 29.f4 Kc6 30.Kf3 Nd6
 31.g5 f6 32.a4 c4 33.c3 Kc5 34.h5
 h6 35.gxh6 ½-½ (35) Daus,P (2113)-
 Rosenheim,K (2151) GER email



2011]
 12.Nf3 2:37 Ng6 5:22 13.Ng5 3:02 Be8
 2:52 14.Rxd8+ 42 Kxd8 7 15.Rd1+ 1
 Kc8 1:20 16.f4 1:37 h6 9:45 17.Nf3 12
 f6 2:08 18.g3 21:35 Bd6 7:18 19.h4
 9:13 Bd7 2:26 20.Kf2 7:14 Re8 2:13
 21.h5 1:07 Nh8 6:13 22.f5 2:24 Nf7
 1:21 23.Re1 3:05 Bb4 4:45 24.Bf4 4:13
 Nd6 1:30 25.Bxd6 2:17 cxd6 46 26.g4
 1:07 Kc7 52 27.Re2 4:01 Re7 1:23
 28.Nd1 18 Be8 2:26 29.c3 1:25 Bc5+
 2:08 30.Nd4 1:19 Bf7 1:31 31.b3 45
 b5 1:52 32.b4 38 Bb6 49 33.Kf3 1:07
 Bc4 1:05 34.Rd2 32 d5 4:16 35.Ne6+
 59 Kc8 1:30 36.e5 3:00 fxe5 49
 37.Ne3 Bd3 5:17 38.Nc5 1:57 Bxc5 30
 39.bxc5 4 Be4+ 2:10 40.Kg3 10 Rd7
 34 41.Rf2 46 d4 1:27 42.cxd4 25 exd4
 30 43.Nd1 58 Rf7 2:19 44.Kf4 17 Bd5
 41 45.Rd2 9 Kc7 50 46.a3 13 Re7
 1:35 47.Rxd4 11 Re2 24 48.Nc3 51
 Rc2 1:26
 ½-½

☐ Powers, Christopher
■ Babayan, Gagik

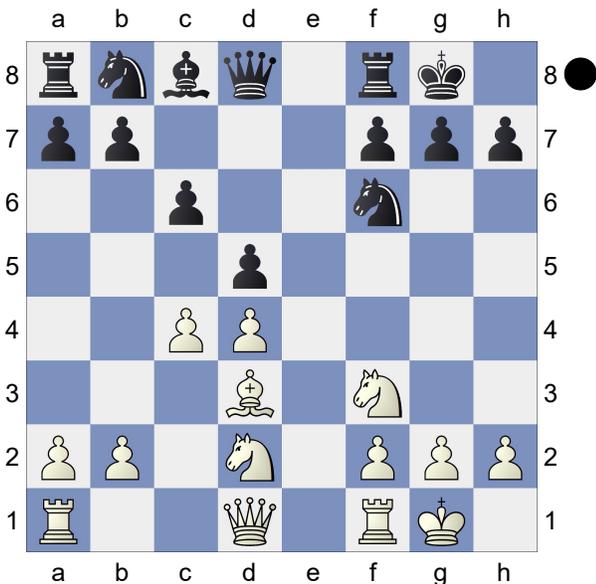
C01
1774
1650

2026 New Year TNM: 1600-1999 (7.5)
[Winslow, Elliott]

1.e4 6 e6 9 2.d4 7 d5 5 3.exd5 5
exd5 9 4.c4 7 c6 20 5.Nf3 1:35

[Relevant: 5.Nc3 Nf6 6.Bd3 Bd6
7.Nge2 0-0 8.Bg5 Re8 9.Qc2 h6
10.Bh4 dxc4 11.Bxc4 Be6 12.Bd3
Nbd7 13.f3 Qa5 14.0-0 Nd5
15.Nxd5 Qxd5 16.Bf2 Nb6 17.Rfe1
Rad8 18.b3 Qa5 19.a3 Nd5 20.b4
Qc7 21.Bg3 Nf4 22.Nxf4 Bxf4
23.Bxf4 Qxf4 24.Re4 Qf6 25.Qc3
Re7 26.Rd1 Red7 27.Bc4 Bf5
28.Ree1 Bg6 29.Bf1 a6 30.Rd2
Rxd4 31.Re8+ Rxe8 32.Qxd4 Qg5
33.h4 Qg3 34.Qf2 Qe5 Rakhmanov,
A (2645)-Donchenko, A (2646)
Playchess.com INT 2020 0-1 (63)]

5...Bb4+ 1:06 6.Bd2 1:01 Bxd2+ 47
7.Nbxd2 1:22 Nf6 11 8.Bd3 3:30 0-0
31 9.0-0 7



Bg4N 12

[Predecessor: 9...Nbd7 10.Qc2 h6
11.h3 dxc4 12.Nxc4 Nb6 13.Rfd1
Be6 14.Rac1 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Bxc4
16.Qxc4 Qd5 17.b3 Rad8 18.Qa4

a6 19.Rc5 Qd6 20.Re1 Rfe8
21.Rce5 Kf8 22.Qa5 Nd7 23.Rxe8+
Rxe8 24.Rxe8+ Kxe8 25.Qe1+ Qe7
26.Qc3 Nf6 27.Ne5 Nd5 28.Qg3
Qg5 29.Qxg5 hxg5 30.Nd3 Kd7
31.Ne5+ Ke7 32.Nd3 Kd7 33.Nc5+
Kc7 34.Ne4 f6 35.Nc5 Nf4 36.Kf1
g6 37.f3 a5 1-0 (37) Porras Castro, E-
Gadea, F (1878) Medellin 2024]

10.Qb3 2:14 Qc7 4:28 11.Rac1 3:09
dxc4 1:47 12.Bxc4 1:10 Nbd7 4:35
13.Rfe1 8:27 Nb6 2:04 14.d5 6:10
Nxc4 3:28 15.Rxc4 2:04 Rfe8 5:45
16.Rec1 4:06 Bxf3 2:13 17.Qxf3 2:12
Qa5 17 18.Nf1 9:21 Nxd5 44 19.a3 55
g6 22 20.h4 1:38 Qd8 3:21 21.h5 5:45
Kg7 1:35 22.b4 6:37 a6 17 23.Nh2 47
f5 2:56 24.Qg3 3:31 Qc7 7:25 25.Qd3
3:52 Qe5 2:27 26.Nf3 50 Qf6 1:13
27.Nd4 10:26 Re7 4:21 28.Nb3 5:20
Rae8 37 29.Nc5 55 Re1+ 1:03 30.Rxe1
46 Rxe1+ 12 31.Kh2 5 Re7 4:06
32.Qg3 1:23 f4 53 33.Qg4 1:47 g5 3:39
34.Ne4 1:40 Qe5 2:58 35.Qxg5+ 5:32
Qxg5 7 36.Nxg5 3 Kh6 15 37.Ne4 37
Kxh5 15 38.Kh3 1:12 Kg6 2:33 39.Kg4
34 h5+ 8 40.Kf3 1:47 Rd7 4:02 41.Nc5
29 Rf7 3:41 42.Ne4 59 Rd7 3:49
43.Nc5 25 Rf7 56 44.Ne4 12 Re7 5:20
45.Nc5 48 Kf5 1:45 46.Rd4 1:43 h4
8:15 47.Nd3 19 Kg5 35 48.Nc5 1:38
b6 5:47 49.Ne4+ 1:52 Kf5 39 50.Rc4
47 Re6 35 51.Nc3 46 Nxc3 48
52.Rxc3 5 Ke5 3:20 53.Rc4 45 Rf6 15
54.Re4+ 8 Kd5 31 55.Re7 2:27 c5 21
56.bxc5 42 bxc5 8 57.Rh7 28 c4 19
58.Rxh4 15 Kd4 6 59.g4 1:01 Kd3 14
60.g5 45 Rf8 13 61.Rh6 1:37 c3 32
62.Rd6+ 8 Kc2 14 63.Rxa6 19 Kc1 16
64.Rf6 56 Ra8 34 65.g6 18 c2 7 66.g7
17 Rg8 5 67.Rf7 34 Kb2 56 68.Rb7+
11 Kxa3 10 69.Rc7 31 Kb2 59
70.Rb7+ 7 Kc3 2:18 71.Rc7+ 19 Kd2 5
72.Rd7+ 13 Ke1 51

1/2-1/2

C54

☐ Solomon, Ethan

■ Golas, Jacob

2026 New Year TNM: u1600 (7.6) 17.2.26

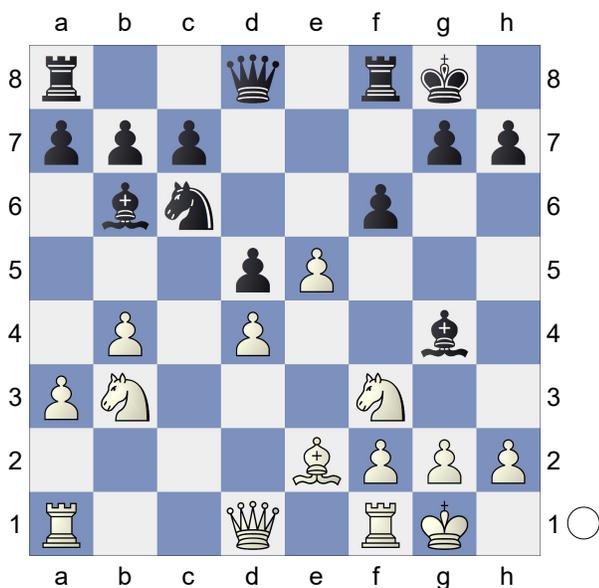
[Winslow, Elliott]

Two unrated players were fighting for first place in the Under-1600 section.

1.e4 e5 4 2.Nf3 22 Nc6 7 3.Bc4 20
Bc5 14 4.c3 42 Nf6 12 5.d4 44 exd4
19 6.e5 46 d5 3:03 7.Bb5 1:04 Ne4
1:55 8.cxd4 1:00 Bb4+ 1:14 9.Bd2 47
Nxd2 2:21 10.Nbxd2 47 0-0 3:35
11.0-0 4:16 Bd7 6:58 12.Be2 14:27
Bg4 9:25 13.a3 4:05

[Relevant: 13.h3 Bh5 14.Rc1 f6
15.Nb3 Kh8 16.a3 Be7 17.Re1 fxe5
18.dxe5 Rf4 19.Nc5 Bxc5 20.Rxc5
d4 21.e6 Bg6 22.Bd3 Be8 23.Qc1
Rf6 24.b4 a6 25.Ng5 h6 26.Nh7
Rg6 27.e7 Nxe7 28.Nf8 Rc6 29.Qf4
Rxc5 30.Ne6 Ng6 31.Nxd8
1-0 Jobava, B (2603)-Zilka, S (2577)
Lezajsk 2021]

13...Ba5 1:58 14.b4 9:26 Bb6 2 15.Nb3
11 f6 9:15



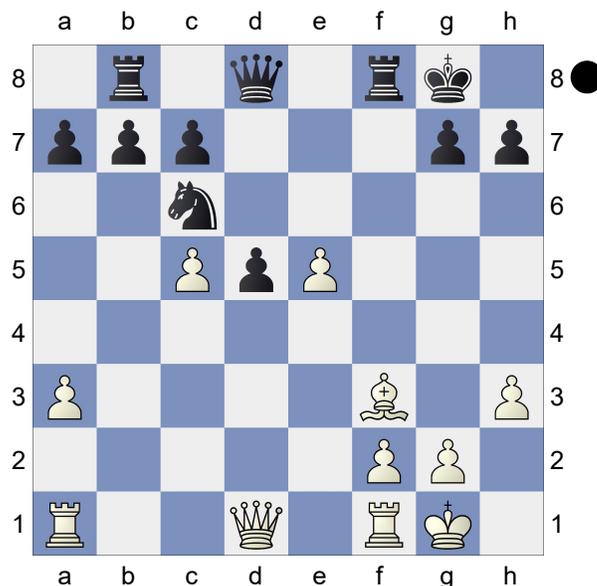
16.Nc5N 6:35

[Predecessor: 16.Rc1 fxe5 17.dxe5
Kh8 18.Nc5 Bxc5 19.Rxc5 Bxf3
20.Bxf3 Nxe5 21.Bxd5 c6 22.Be4

Nd7 23.Rc1 Nf6 24.Bf3 Qxd1
25.Rfxd1 Rad8 26.a4 Nd7 27.b5
Ne5 28.Be4 Rxd1+ 29.Rxd1 cxb5
30.axb5 a6 31.b6 Nc4 32.Bxb7 a5
33.h3 Rb8 34.Rd4 Nxb6 35.Rd6
Nc4 36.Ra6 g6 37.Bd5 Nb6 38.Be4
Nc4 39.Bd5 Nb6 40.Rxa5 Nxd5
41.Rxd5 Rb1+ 42.Kh2 Rb7 43.g4
Rf7 44.Kg3 Kg7 45.h4 h6
Calonge Fabregat, M (1943)-Castro
Estrella, J (1784) Barcelona 2022 1-0
(68)]

16...Rb8 3:10 17.h3 2:22 Bxc5 9:02

18.bxc5 6:39 Bxf3 3:45 19.Bxf3 44
fxe5 7 20.dxe5 1:15



Ne7 21

[Black should have traded e- for d-
pawn with 20...Nxe5]

21.Bg4 2:34 c6 1:41 22.f4 3:39

Now White gets pawns rolling on the
kingside, while Black's passed d-pawn
never really amounts to anything.

22...Ng6 5:36 23.Qa4 4:30 a6 4:34

Black is wasting time and burning
bridges -- now there are no effective
queenside breaks. 24.g3 1:29 Qe7 39

25.Qd4 1:20 Rfe8 6:04 26.Rae1 3:50

Nf8 4:32 27.e6 3:23 Qf6 1:47 28.Qxf6
4:25 gxf6 2 29.f5 20 Re7 1:37 30.Bh5
3:21 b6 4:52 31.Rb1 1:44 b5 55

32.Rf4 2:26 a5 2:17 33.h4 4:57 Rbb7
 1:20 34.Bf7+ 11 Rxf7 3:26 35.exf7+ 4
 Kxf7 13 36.Re1 43 Nd7 27 37.Rc1
 4:26 Ne5 9 38.Rc3 37 h5 47 39.Kf2 53
 b4 4:47 40.axb4 1:58 axb4 2 41.Rb3
 30 Rb5 1:42 42.Ke2 51 Rxc5 50
 43.Rfxb4 13 Rc2+ 32 44.Kd1 1:10 Rf2
 53 45.Rb7+ 46 Ke8 1:59 46.Ra3 1:23
 Nd7 1:01 47.Raa7 1:02 Rxf5 1:30
 48.Rxd7 13 Re5 13 49.Rh7 22
 1-0

D35

2254

□ Heiserman, Jimmy

■ Clemens, Kristian

1993

2026 Spring TNM: 2000+ (1.1) 03.03.26

[Winslow, Elliott]

1.d4 3 d5 6 2.c4 5 e6 35 3.Nc3 6 Be7
 15 4.cxd5 10 exd5 18 5.Bf4 7 Nf6 50
 6.e3 16 c6 48 7.Bd3± 27 Stockfish 18
 must have some new vitamins or
 something -- it's evaluating this already
 +0.55/d29. Ah, it just dropped to +0.54,
 and changed its mind to 7...Nbd7 1:40
 8.h3 42

[from 8.h4!?

8...Nf8 1:42 9.Nf3 1:33 Ne6 59 10.Be5

3:16 0-0 3:28 11.Qc2 1:45 g6 1:49

12.g4 14:41

[12.h4!?

12...b6?! 7:36

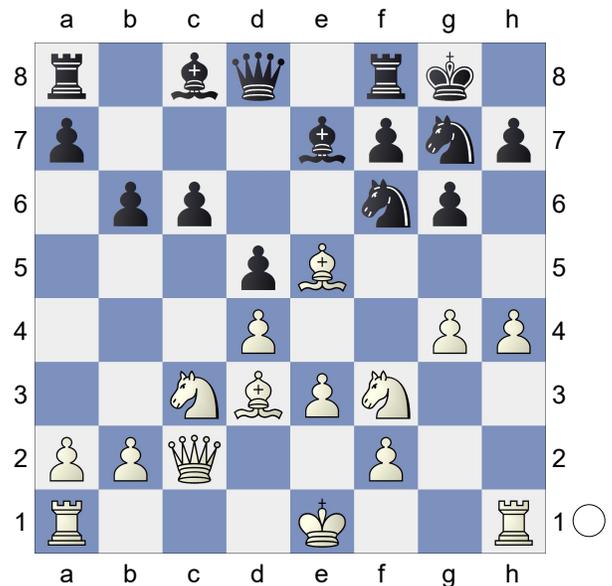
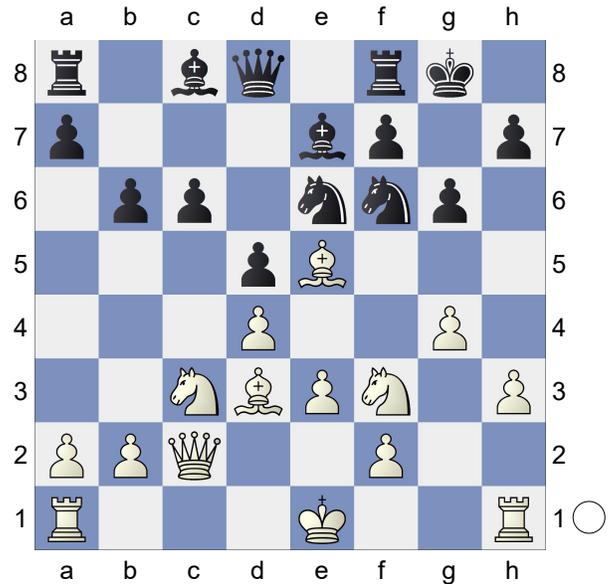
[12...c5!± Even at d46, White has a
 little bit (0.08 -- a *very* little).]

(Diagram)

13.h4? 6:01 Ng7? 13:48

[13...Nxc4?]

(Diagram)



14.Bxf6! 3:21 Bxf6 35 15.g5! 19 Be7

54 16.Ne5!+- 49 Bb7?! 15:53

[16...Bd7]

17.h5! 13:20 Nxc5 12:48 18.0-0-0 1:08

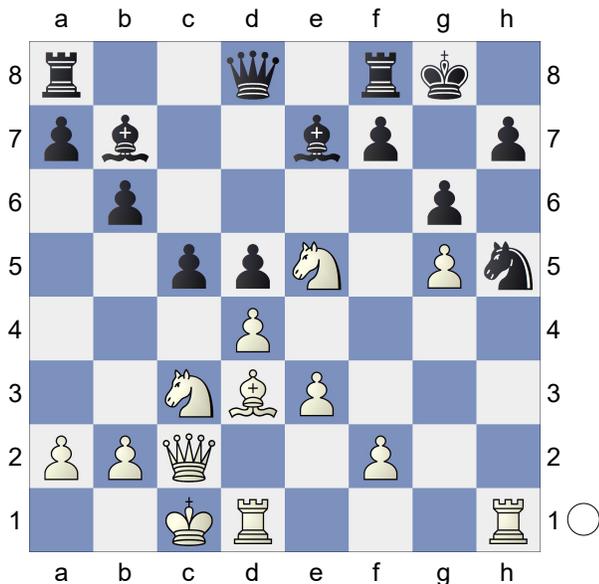
[18.Rxc5!]

18...c5?! 4:20

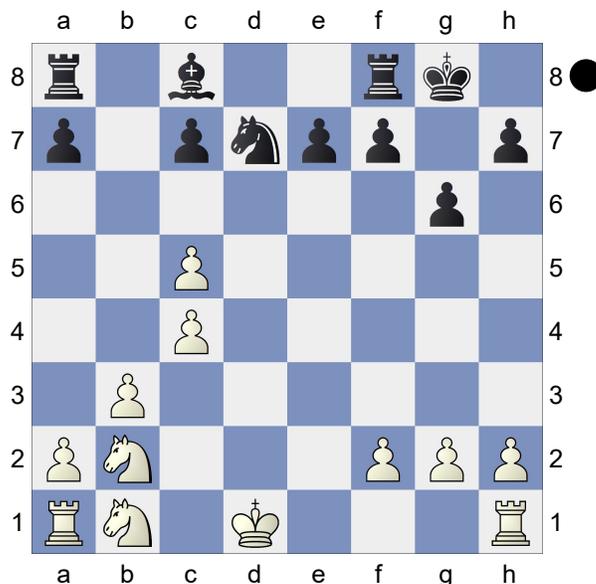
[18...Bxc5 19.Rxc5! gxc5 20.f4]

(Diagram)

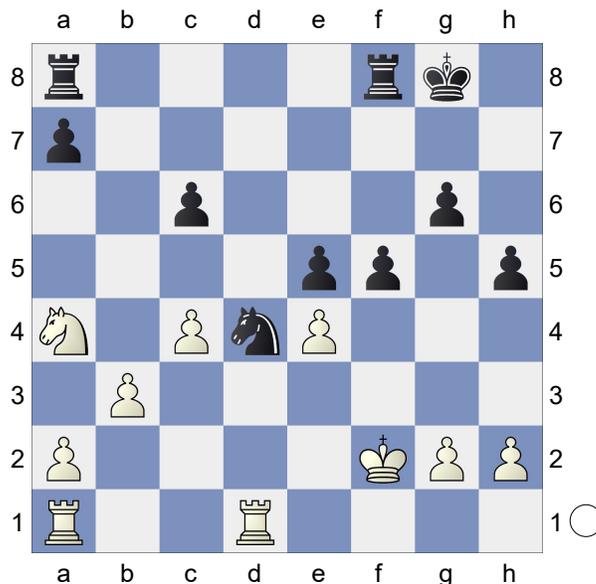
19.Nxc6! 2:04 It's games like this that
 make you think the Exchange Variation
 with 0-0-0 is the refutation of the
 Queen's Gambit Declined. Just kidding!



14.Nd3 1:40 Bxb2 2:49 15.Nxb2 2



Nxc5 20 16.Nc3 37 c6 2:26 17.Ke2 1:50 Bf5 3:33 18.Rhd1 2:09 e5 3:07 19.Nba4 1:59 Ne6 2:44 20.f3 3:22 h5 3:32 21.Ne4 2:49 Nd4+ 57 22.Kf2 2:22 Bxe4 2:38 23.fxe4 1 f5 34



24.Rac1 2:00 f4 3:15 25.Nc5 53 Rad8 4:13 26.Rd2 4:19 Kf7 2:40 27.Rcd1 59 Kf6 1:36 [27...g5] 28.Nb7 3:40 [28.b4] 28...Rd7 4:38 29.Nc5 14 Rg7 58 30.b4 1:11 g5= 4:30 [30...Rb8]

But Black has to be extra careful to avoid such disasters. +5 and increasing...

[19.Rxh5! ain't bad either]
 19...cxd4 5:30 20.Nxe7+ 3:59 Qxe7 46
 21.Bxh7+ 40 Kg7 1:19 22.Rxh5 47
 dxc3 5:03 23.Qxc3+ 23 How nice of
 Black to clear the long diagonal... 23...f6
 39 24.Bf5 3:25 Rh8 4:31 25.gxf6+ 1:57
 Qxf6 1:39 26.Rg1+ 10 Kf7 47
 27.Qc7+! 8 From an unexpected
 direction! 27...Kf8 1:31 28.Rxh8+ 11
 Qxh8 5 29.Qd6+ 31 Kf7 1:09 30.Be6+
 29 Kf6 54 31.Bxd5+ 30
 1-0

A05
 1959
 2245

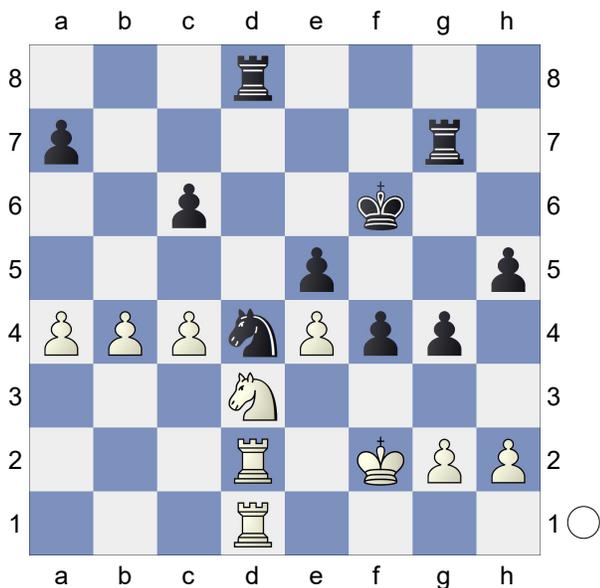
□ Viadiu-Illaraza, Hector
 ■ Tsodikova, Natalya
 2026 Spring TNM: 2000+ (1.2) 03.03.26
 [Winslow, Elliott]

1.Nf3 1:49 Nf6 13 2.b3 48 g6 24
 3.Bb2 9 Bg7 10 4.e4 1:03 0-0 42 5.e5
 14 Nd5 3:56 6.c4 4:17 Nb6 26 7.d4
 2:45 d6 1:37 8.Bd3 4:51 Nc6 1:58
 9.Be4 21:34 dxe5 9:18 10.Bxc6 47
 bxc6 3 11.Nxe5 46 c5 3:40 12.dxc5
 31:17 Qxd1+ 1:08 13.Kxd1 2 Nd7 49

31.Nd3? 2:49

[31.Nb3 Rd8 32.g3]

31...Rd8 2:30 32.a4 ♠ 57 g4? 9:38



33.Nxf4 2 exf4 8 34.Rxd4 4 Rxd4 7

35.Rxd4 8 Ke5 4 36.Rd8 11 Kxe4 21

37.Rd6 1:08 Rb7 2:18

[37...g3+!? 38.Kg1!= Rc7]

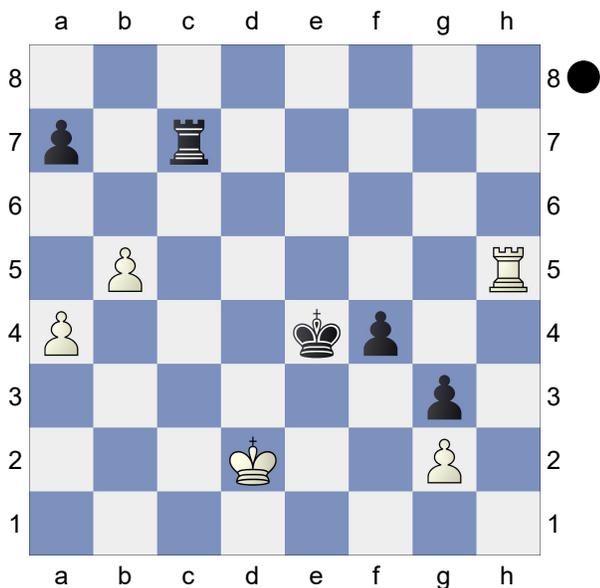
38.b5 48 cxb5 31 39.cxb5 49 h4 2:44

40.Rh6 1:48 g3+ 42 41.hxg3 1 hxg3+

13 42.Ke2 6 Rd7 2:17 43.Rh8 36 Re7

1:09 44.Rh5 40 Rc7 1:29 45.Kd2? 53

[45.Rh8 ♠]



45...Rc4?? 1:14

[45...f3-+ 46.Rh4+ Kf5 47.gxf3 Rg7

48.Rh1 g2 49.Rg1 Kf4 50.Ke2 Kg3]

46.a5= 7 Ra4 1:25 47.b6 6 axb6 58

48.axb6 1 Rb4 52 49.Rh6 17 Kd4 54

50.Ke2 1:06 Rb3 1:28 51.Rd6+ 41 Ke5

1:05 52.Rh6 1:04 Rb2+ 1:18 53.Kf1 52

Rf2+ 3:20 54.Kg1 Kd4 1:03 55.Rf6 35

Ke5 1:09 56.Rh6 15 Rb2 31 57.Kf1 2

Kf5 51 58.Rc6 23 Rb1+ 2:30 59.Ke2

10 Ke5 3:31 60.Rh6 1:38 Rb2+ 1:22

61.Kf1 17 Kd5 1:14 62.Rf6 37 Rf2+

1:02 63.Kg1 2 Ke4 40 64.Re6+ 27 Kf5

21 65.Rc6 9 Rb2 1:41 66.Kf1 6 Ke5

45 67.Rh6 13 Kd4 36 68.Rf6 46 Rf2+

37 69.Kg1 2 Ke5 38 70.Rh6 11 Rc2

18 71.Kf1 7

1/2-1/2

E66

□ Winslow, Elliott

2237

■ Kulkarni, Neil

1952

2026 Spring TNM: 2000+ (1.3) 03.03.26

[Winslow, Elliott]

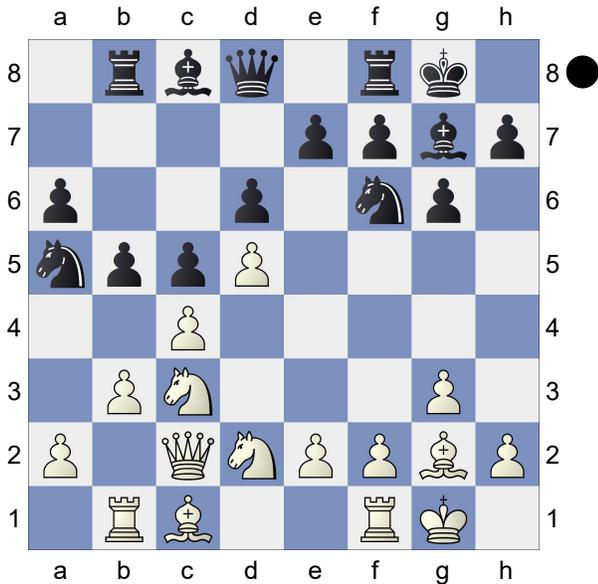
The Panno Variation is hard to fathom, and leads to all sorts of complicated positions. I missed wins, and then draws as well, thought I was saving myself in a bishop vs. rook ending. My optimism must have been contagious, in that he also thought I was okay; in fact he missed a classic shot in the race to queen pawns at the end. Time pressure played its part. 1.d4 12 Nf6 51 2.c4 11 g6 35 3.g3 21 Bg7 57 4.Bg2 7 d6 10 5.Nf3 18 0-0 17 6.0-0 7 c5 27 7.Nc3 37 Nc6 30 8.d5 16 Na5 13 9.Nd2 24 a6 2:04 10.Qc2 21 Rb8 21 11.b3 11 b5 30 12.Rb1 10

(Diagram)

e6 3:23

[12...e5 13.e4 (13.e3) 13...Bh6

14.Nd1 (14.Re1; 14.Ne2)]

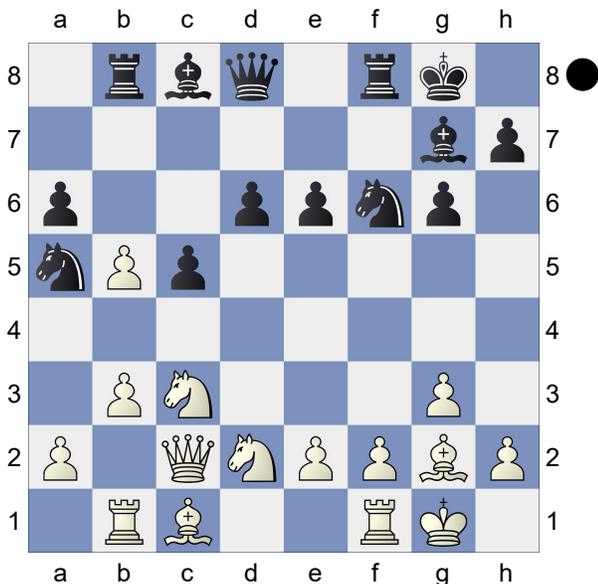


13.dxe6?! 3:16 fxe6?! 1:56

[13...Bxe6 14.Nd5 Bf5=]

14.cxb5 2:35

[14.Nde4! bxc4 15.Nxf6+ Qxf6
(15...Bxf6 16.bxc4 Rxb1 17.Nxb1±)
16.Ne4 Qf5 17.Bf4! Rb6 18.bxc4
Rxb1 19.Qxb1±]



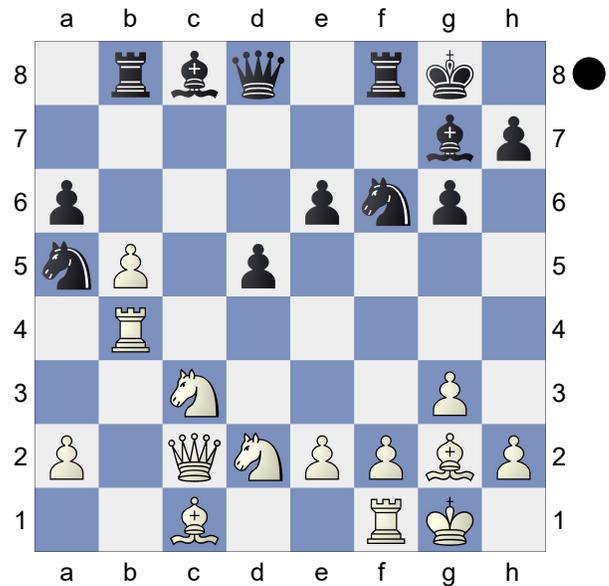
14...d5? 7:04

[14...axb5 15.Nde4 b4 16.Nxf6+
Bxf6 17.Ne4 Bb7 18.Bf4 Bxe4
19.Qxe4 Qe7± (0.73/d24)]

15.b4? 4:58

[15.a4+-]
[15.Ba3+-]

15...cxb4 1:54 16.Rxb4 13



Nc6? 1:49

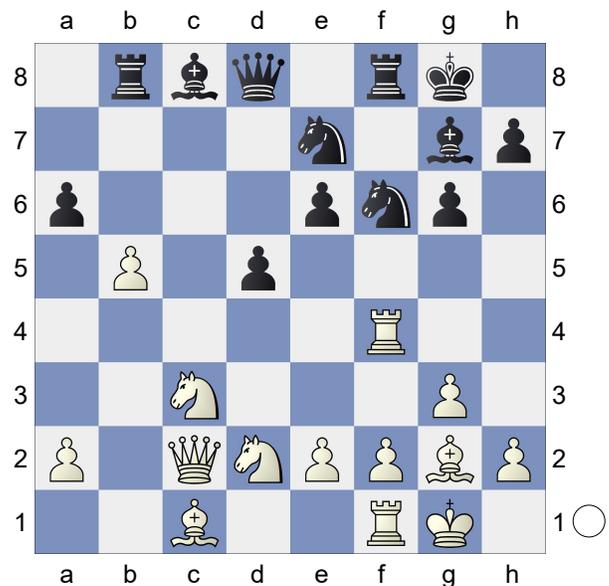
[16...d4 17.Nce4 Nd5 18.Ba3! axb5!
19.Rb2 Rf7 20.Bd6 Rb6 21.Bc5
Rc6 22.Rxb5 Ba6 23.a4!±]

17.Rf4!? 2:48

[17.bxc6! Rxb4 18.Ba3 Rb6! 19.Na4
Rb5 20.Bxf8 Bxf8 21.Nb3±]

17...Ne7 10:16

[17...axb5 18.Nxd5!±]

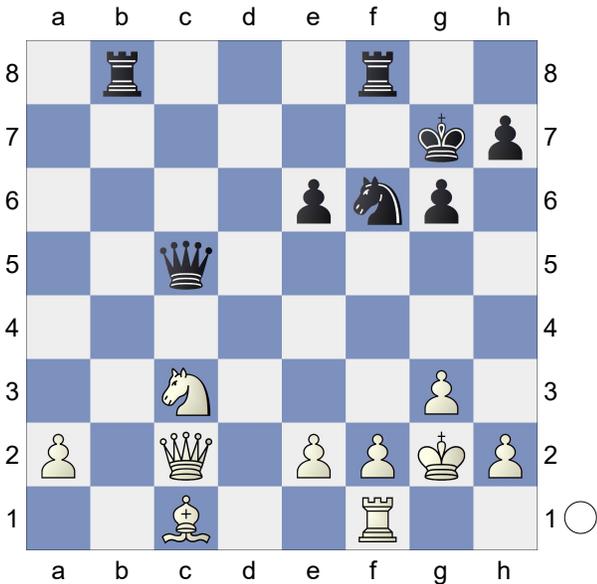


18.bxa6?! 4:18

[18.a4!± (1.15/d36) Nf5 (18...e5?!
19.Rb4) 19.Nf3]

18...Bxa6 1:44 19.Ra4± 2:17 Bb7? 2:12

[19...Qc8 20.Nb3 Bb5 21.Ra7±]
20.Nf3?! 1:48
 [20.Ba3!±]
20...Bc6 1:03 21.Ra7!± 2:05 d4?! 2:45
22.Nxd4 6:16 Qxd4 2:54 23.Rxe7 4:22
Bxg2 22 24.Kxg2= 3:56 Qc5?! 6:01
 [24...Rbc8 25.Bb2 (25.Rxg7+!/?
 Kxg7 26.Bb2= e5 27.Qd3)]
25.Rxg7+?! 5:56
 [25.Rxe6! Qc4 (25...Ng4 26.Bf4!±)
 26.Re7=]
25...Kxg7 12

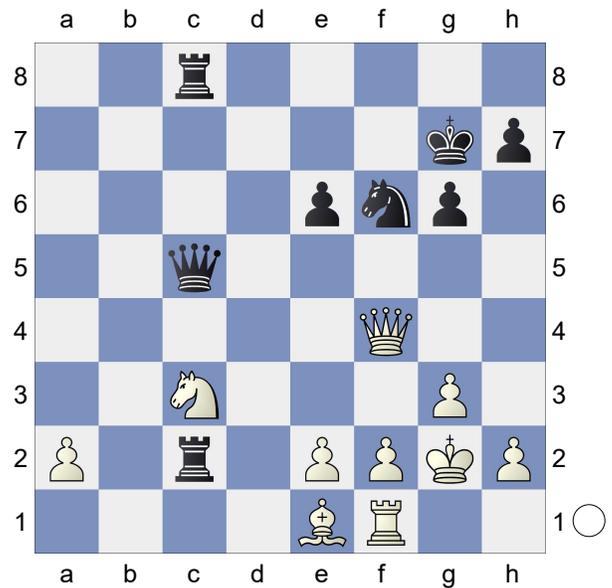
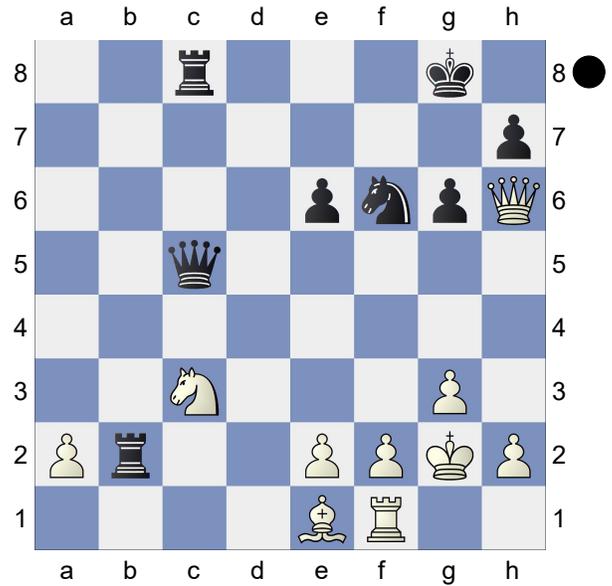


26.Qd2? 6:33 Rfc8! 1:46 27.Qh6+ 2:14
Kg8! 57
 [27...Kf7? 28.Ne4! Nxe4 29.Qxh7+
 Kf6 30.Qh4+ Ng5=]
28.Bd2 2:07 Rb2-+ 5:20 29.Be1 4:26

(Diagram)

Rc2?! 1:42
 [29...Nd5-+]
30.Qf4! 13:08 Kg7?! 2:58
 [30...Nh5!/?]
 [30...Nd7!/? 31.Ne4 Qc6 32.Qf3
 Rf8±]

(Diagram)

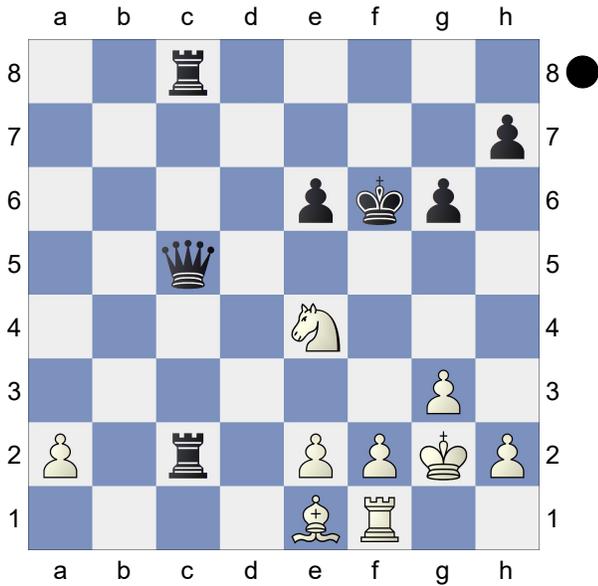


31.Qxf6+ 2:10
 [31.Ne4!/? Nxe4 32.Qxe4 Qd5
 33.Qxd5 exd5 34.e3 Rxa2 35.Bb4
 Kf6±]

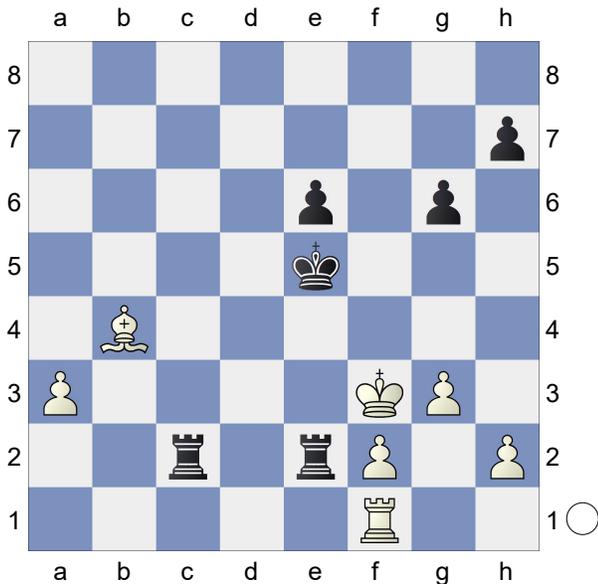
31...Kxf6 18 32.Ne4+ 2

(Diagram)

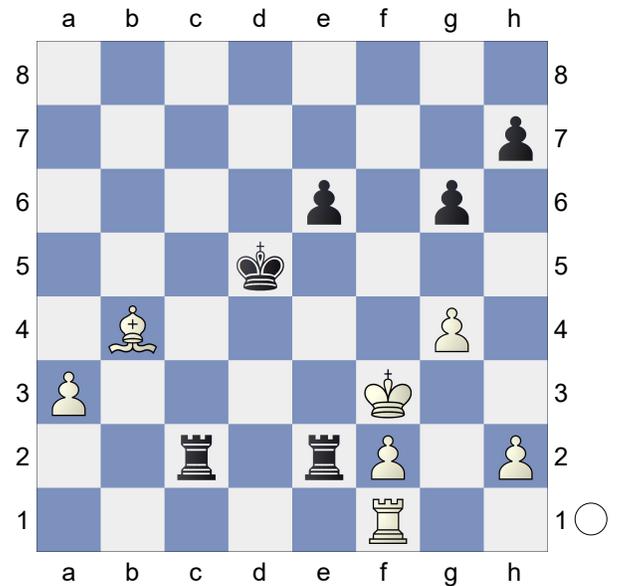
Ke5? 1:20
 [32...Kf5 33.Nxc5 R8xc5-+]
33.Nxc5 10 R8xc5 17 34.Bb4! 36
R5c4 57 35.a3? 5
 [35.Rb1 Rxe2±]
 [35.Bf8±]
 [35.Ba5! =]



[35.Be7! Rxe2 36.Bg5= Rcc2?!
 (36...Kf5) 37.Kf3= (37.a4=)]
35...Rxe2 36 36.Kf3 39 Rcc2? 1:19
 [36...Rb2!-+]
 [36...Ra2!-+]

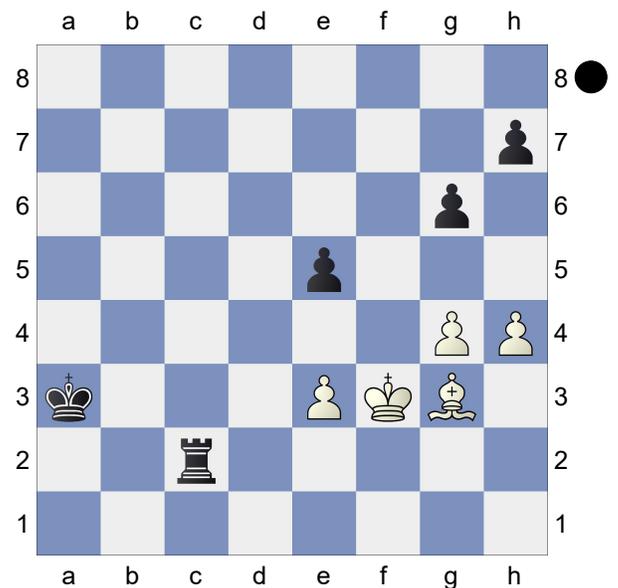


37.g4? 1:04
 [37.Bc5! Re4! 38.Be3 Ra4
 39.Rb1=]
37...Kd5?! 1:10
 [37...Re4!? 38.h3 h5 39.Kg3 hxg4
 40.hxg4 Rcc4 41.f3 Re3 42.Rd1
 Rd4 43.Rc1 Rdd3 44.Kh4 Rxf3
 45.Kg5 Rg3 46.a4! Kd5 47.a5 Rd4
 48.Rc5+ Ke4 49.Be1 49]



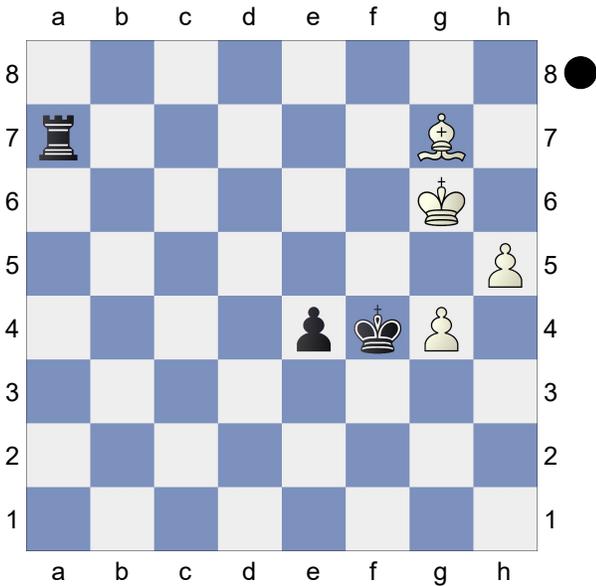
38.h4? 3:51
 [38.Be7 4]
 [38.Bf8 4]
 [38.Ba5 4]
38...e5 57 39.Rd1+ 7:25 Kc4 19
40.Be1 10 Kb3 3:07 41.Rd3+ 1:43 Ka4
42 42.Re3 43 Rxe3+ 1:08 43.fxe3 11
 [43.Kxe3 Kb5! (43...Kxa3? 44.f3
 Rg2 45.Bc3 Rh2 46.h5 gxh5
 47.Bxe5 Rh3 48.gxh5=) 44.Bb4
 Kc4 (44...Rc4; 44...Kc6)]

43...Kxa3 41 44.Bg3 5



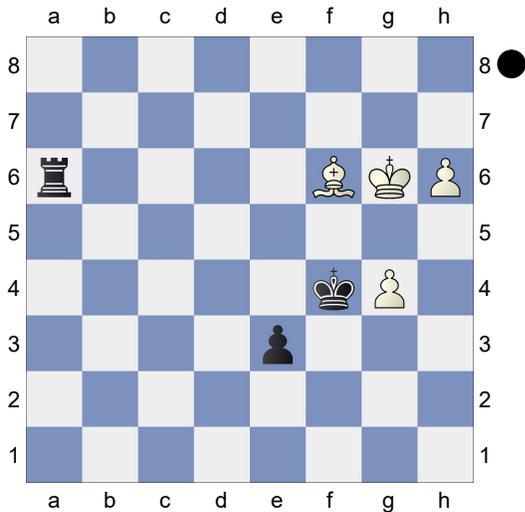
Rc5 56 45.Ke4 10 Rc4+ 18 46.Kf3 5
e4+ 1:12 47.Kf4 5 Kb3 3:45 48.Kg5

2:09 Ra4 14:55 49.Kh6 1:08 Ra7 8
 50.Be5 8 Kc4 53 51.Bg7 10 Kd3 3:30
 52.Kxh7 1:13 Kxe3 47 53.Kxg6 13 Kf4
 3:18 54.h5 1:01



e3?? 1:23

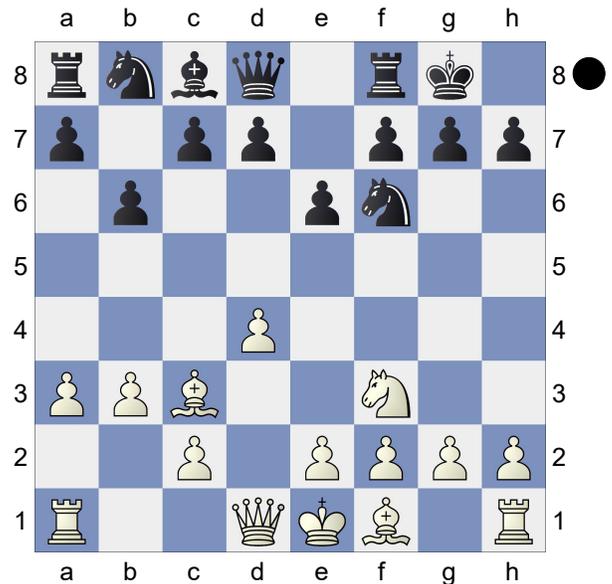
[54...Ra6+! when White has a choice of blocking the passed pawn (55.Kh7), leaving it unprotected in a moment (55.Kf7) or walking into: 55.Bf6 e3 56.h6



Rxf6+! 57.Kxf6 e2 58.h7 e1Q
 59.h8Q Qe5+ Endgame tactics!]
55.h6 4:25 e2 35 56.Bc3 10 Kxg4 51
57.h7 11 Rxh7 5
 1/2-1/2

A46
 1927
 2122
 2026 Spring TNM: 2000+ (1.4) 03.03.26
 [Diller,Bradley R]

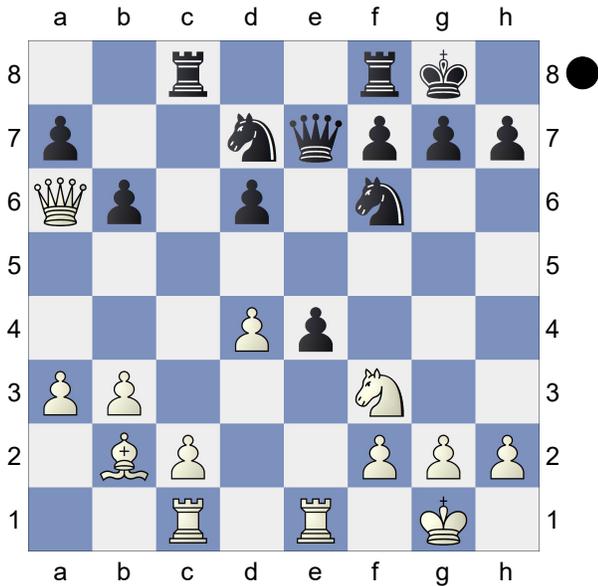
This was a hard-fought game. I outplayed Ed in the opening and obtained a decisive advantage, but then I misplayed the attack and allowed Ed to equalize after resourceful play. In time pressure, my 41st move was a decisive mistake, which should have cost me the game. However, my tenacity paid off: Ed lost his way, a piece dropped, then a rook sac for his remaining passed pawns liquidated to a won rook vs. bishop ending. **1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Bd2 0-0 5.a3 Bxc3 6.Bxc3 b6 7.b3**



Bb7

[Better was activating my bishop on a6 to apply pressure on c4 and prevent the natural e3 followed by development of his light squared bishop to d3. \triangleleft 7...Ba6 8.Bb2 (8.g3 d5 9.Bg2 c5 \bar{r}) 8...d5 9.g3 c5 \bar{r}]
8.e3 d6 9.Bd3 Nbd7 10.Bb2 Qe7
11.Qe2 e5 12.Ba6 Bxa6 13.Qxa6 c5
 [Better was the immediate \triangleleft 13...e4

14.Nd2 Rfe8
14.0-0 cxd4 15.exd4 e4 16.Rfe1 Rac8 17.Rac1



Rec7

[Δ17...Nh5 18.Qxa7 Nf4 19.d5 Rfe8 20.Qa4 f5 21.Nh4 Qf7 22.Qb4 Ne5]

18.Nd2 Rfc8 19.c3 d5 20.a4?

A serious error allowing me to get a crushing king-side attack

[Δ20.f3=]

20...Nh5! 21.Qb5 Nf4 22.g3 a6!

23.Qf1

[23.Qxa6 Qg5 24.Re3 Nf6 25.Qf1 h5+-]

23...Qg5 24.Re3 Nd3?! This was an inaccuracy which throws away a significant part of my advantage.

[Instead, I should have strengthened my attack by Δ24...Nf6 followed by h5 and h4, as follows.

A) 25.c4 h5 26.Rce1 (26.Kh1 Nd3 27.Rxd3 exd3 28.Qxd3 h4) 26...h4+- My attack is overwhelming.;

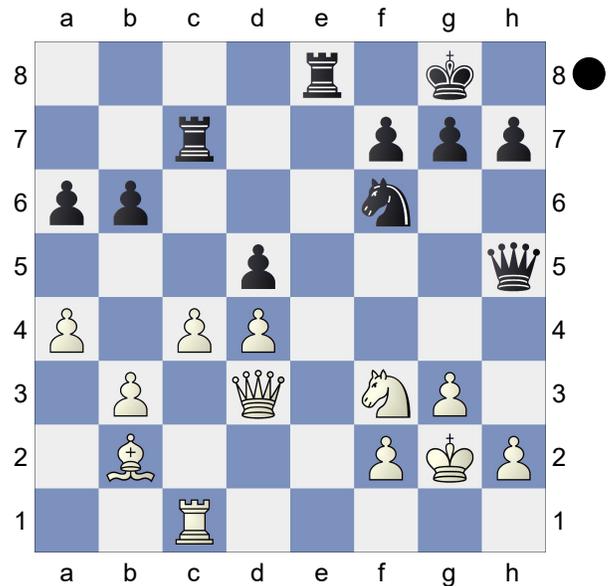
B) 25.Ba3 Rc6 26.c4 h5 27.a5 (27.Be7 h4+-) 27...bxa5 28.Be7 h4]

25.Rxd3! The exchange sac is Ed's best chance of warding off my attack.

25...exd3 26.Qxd3 Re8 27.c4 Nf6 28.Nf3 Qh5?!

[Δ28...Qg6 29.Qxg6 hxg6 30.Ne5 Ne4+- I have significant pressure on his weakened pawn structure and my pieces are more active.]

29.Kg2



Rec8? This was hastily played to prevent c5 but it surrenders most of my advantage.

[Δ29...Ne4 30.Re1 Rcc8 31.Re3 f6+-]

30.c5! Anyway! Excellent find by Ed.

30...b5?! I decided to go for the pawn sacrifice to activate my rook along the third rank and keep his bishop temporarily hemmed in by the pawns on d4 and c5. However, the inactivity is temporary because his passed b and c pawns can become quite dangerous, especially after further misplay by me. The position is roughly equal.

[30...bxc5 This was objectively the better continuation but I did not like liberating his dark-squared bishop. 31.dxc5 Ne4 32.Qxa6 Nxc5 33.Qb5=]

31.axb5 axb5 32.Qxb5 Ne4?

This was another error. It was essential to keep the e-file open so that I can

counter b4 with Re7 and Rce8.

[Δ32...Qf5 33.b4 Re7 34.Bc3 Rce8
35.Rd1 Re2= White has to avoid 36...
R8e3!]

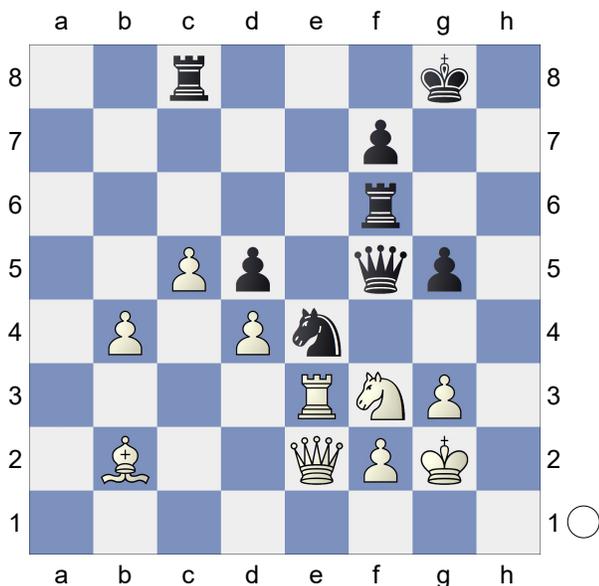
33.Re1

[Δ33.b4 Qf5 34.Qe2 Re7 35.b5±]

**33...Qf5 34.h4 Rc6 35.Re3 h6 36.Qe2
Rf6?!**

[36...Rb8 preventing b4 was better.
37.Ne5 Re6=]

37.b4 g5 38.hxg5 hxg5

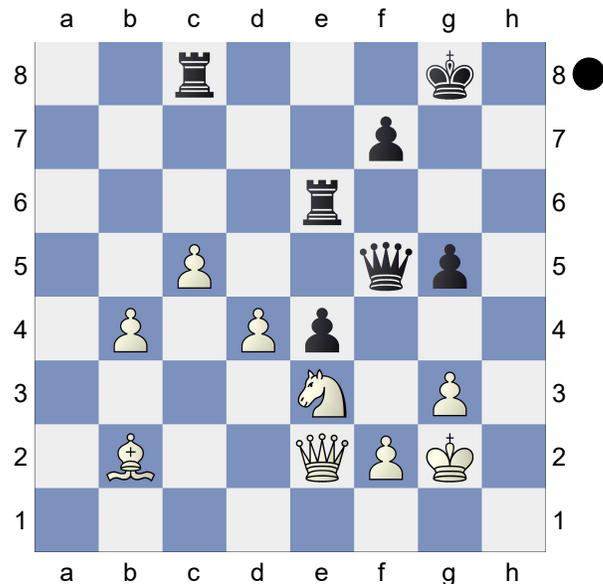


**39.Rxe4! Excellent exchange sacrifice
by Ed. 39...dxe4 40.Ne5 Rh6 41.Ng4
Re6?? This was a serious error in time
pressure.**

[The surprising but difficult to find
41...Kh7! , returning one of my
exchanges, preserves equality. 42.b5
Everything is equal now; (Well, not
everything: he cannot activate his
knight to e3 to support the d5 push
because of 42.Ne3?? Qh3+
followed by mate.; 42.Nxh6 Kxh6
43.d5 Qxd5=) 42...f6 43.b6=]
[41...Rh7 42.d5 Kf8 43.d6 e3
44.Qxe3 Re8 45.d7 Qxd7 46.Qf3
Qe6]

42.Ne3+-

(Diagram)



Qf3+ This is in practice forced because
the alternatives quickly lose to 43.d5. I
am lost because I cannot stop the
advance of his three connected passed
pawns despite being a double exchange
up! So, I resorted to unorthodox tactics
by moving quickly and harassed his
dark-squared bishop with my rook to
tempt Ed to make mistakes which, to his
chagrin, happened.

[≤42...Qg6 43.d5 Ree8 44.g4+-]
**43.Qxf3 exf3+ 44.Kxf3 Rb8 45.Bc3
Ra6 46.d5 Ra3 47.Bd2 Ra2 48.Ke2
Rxb4 49.Kd3?**

[The loss of the b-pawn was not
equalizing as we originally thought.
Ed played too quickly and missed a
clear win: 49.c6!+-]

**49...Rb3+= 50.Bc3?? This blunders a
piece.**

[The only move at this point is 50.Kc4!
Rb1 51.Bc3 Ra4+ 52.Kd3 Kf8=]

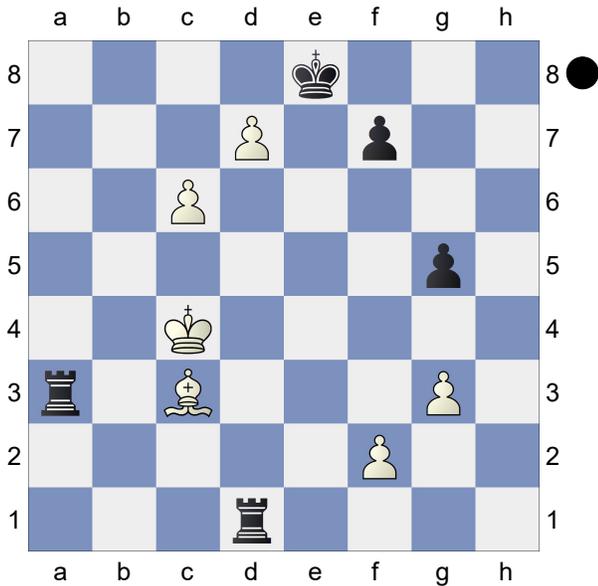
50...Raa3 51.Nd1 Kf8?±

[In time pressure, I missed the
zwischenzug to force the king to the
fourth rank. Δ51...Rb5 52.Kd4
(52.Kc4 Rb1+-) 52...Ra4+ 53.Ke5
Rxc5+-]

52.Kc4?? This simply loses a piece.

[Δ52.c6 Ke8 53.Kd4 Rb1 54.Ne3

Kd8=]
52...Rb1+ 53.c6 Ke8 54.d6 Rxd1
55.d7+



Rxd7

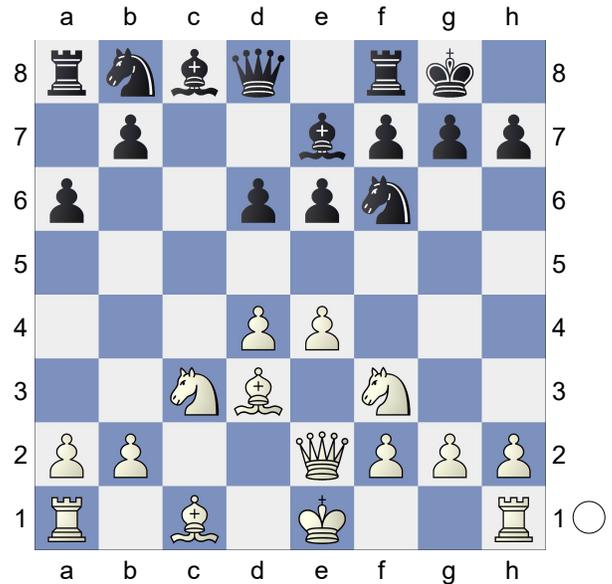
[55...Kd8!? 56.Bf6+ Kc7 57.Bxg5 Ra8]
56.cxd7+ Kxd7 57.Bd2 g4 58.Kd4 Ke6 59.Ke4 Ra4+ 60.Kd3 Kd5 61.Ke3 f5 62.Bc1 Rb4 63.Bd2 Rb3+ 64.Ke2 Ke4 65.Bc1 Rc3 66.Bd2 Rc2 67.Kd1 Ra2 68.Ke2 Rb2 69.Ke1 Kf3 70.Be3 Re2+ 71.Kf1 Rxe3 72.fxe3 Kxe3 73.Kg1 Kf3
0-1

B22
 □ Cawthon,Jeremy David **2105**
 ■ Horowitz,Phineas F **1925**
 2026 Spring TNM: 2000+ (1.7) 03.03.26
 [Winslow,Elliott]

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.cxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e6 6.Nf3 a6 7.Bd3 Be7 8.Qe2 0-0

(Diagram)

9.h4
 [9.0-0±]



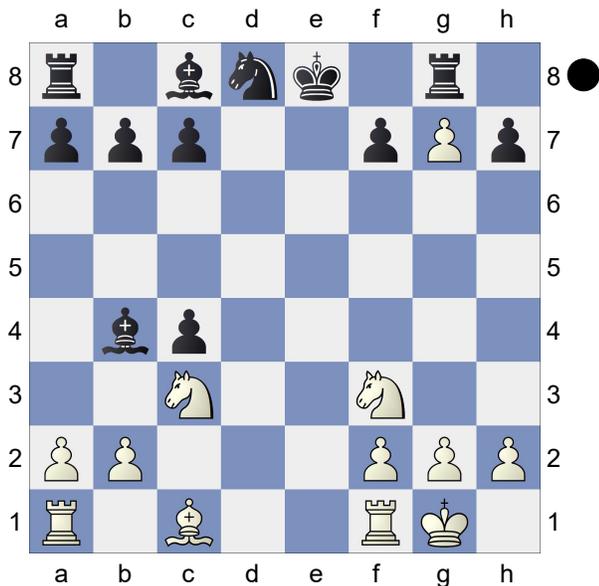
9...e5! 10.dxe5 dxe5 11.Nxe5 Qc7?!
 [11...Bd6!± 12.Nc4 Bg4 13.Qd2! (13.f3 Bg3+ 14.Kf1 Be6=) 13...Bc7 14.Be2±]
12.Nf3± Bg4?! 13.e5+- Bb4
 [13...Bxf3 14.gxf3 Bb4 15.0-0]
14.exf6 Bxc3+ 15.Kf1 Bxf6 16.Qe4 Rd8 17.Bf4 Qd7 18.Qxh7+ Kf8 19.Bc2 Qb5+ 20.Kg1 Qh5 21.Qxh5 Bxh5 22.Ng5 Bxg5 23.hxg5 Bg4 24.Re1 Be6 25.Bc7 Rd7 26.Bxb8 Rd2 27.Bd6+ Kg8 28.Bh7+ Kh8 29.Be5 Rad8 30.Bc3 R2d6 31.Bc2+ Kg8 32.Rh7
1-0

C44
 □ Wang,Chase **1898**
 ■ Chen,Quincy **2097**
 2026 Spring TNM: 2000+ (1.8) 03.03.26
 [Winslow,Elliott]

Quincy Chen had a pretty good previous TNM; he's back, a sharp opening (not quite the Max Lange!) and some Matrix-like contortions to work a win. (The score broke on Black's move 31, but it's over by then) **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Bc4 Bb4+ 5.c3 dxc3 6.0-0**

Nf6 7.e5 7.e5 scores better than 7.bxc3.

7...d5 8.exf6 dxc4 9.fxg7 Rg8
10.Qxd8+ Nxd8 11.Nxc3

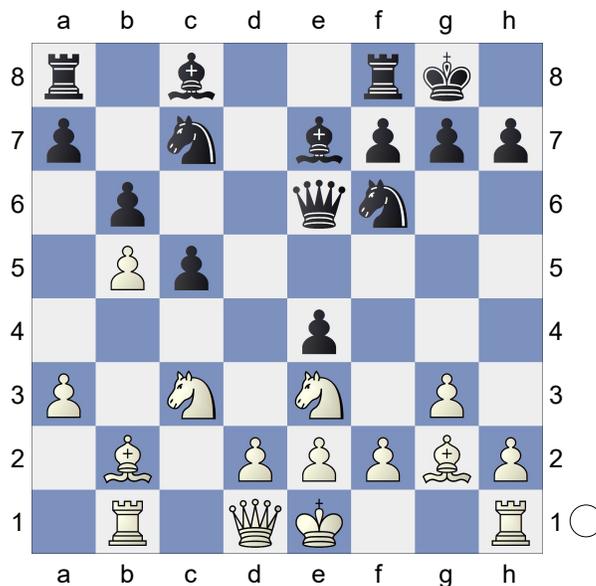


Be6N

[Relevant: 11...Bxc3 12.bxc3 f6
13.Bh6 Kf7 14.Nd4 Kg6 15.Bf4
Rxf7 16.Rfe1 a6 17.Re8 Bd7
18.Rf8 Rf7 19.Rg8+ Rg7 20.Rf8
Rf7 21.Rg8+ ½-½ (21) Mastrovasilis,
D (2587)-Vidit,S (2719) Baku 2023]
12.Bh6 Nc6 13.Rad1 f6 14.Ne4 Kf7
15.Nh4 Rad8 16.a3 Be7 17.f4 Rd3
18.f5 Bd5 19.Nf2 Bc5 20.g3 Ne5
21.h3 Rxd1 22.Rxd1 Nd3 23.Rd2
Re8 24.Ng2 Bxf2+ 25.Rxf2 Nxf2
26.Kxf2 Bxg2 27.Kxg2 Re2+ 28.Kf3
Rxb2 29.Ke3 Rb3+ 30.Kd4 Rxa3
31.Kxc4 -- 32.Kd4 Rxf3 33.h4 Rg4+
34.Kc3 Rxf4 35.Be3 Rh3 36.g8Q+
Kxg8 37.Kc4 Rxe3 38.Kd5 h5
39.Kd4 Re5 40.Kd3 h4 41.Kd4 h3
42.Kd3 h2 43.Kd4 h1Q 44.Kc4 Qf3
45.Kb4 Re4+ 46.Ka5 Qxf5#
0-1

A20
□ **Zavgorodniy,Andrew** 2042
■ **Heiserman,Jimmy** 2254
 2026 Spring TNM: 2000+ (2.1) 10.03.26
[Winslow,Elliott]

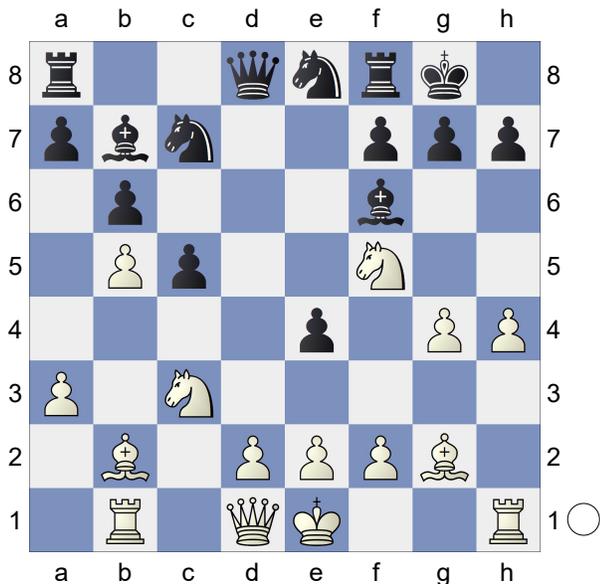
And, a brief sample of games from
 Round 2. 1.c4 11 e5 7 2.g3 16 c6 19
 3.Nf3 40 e4 12 4.Nd4 13 d5 9 5.cxd5
 24 Qxd5 8 6.Nc2 30 Nf6 13 7.Nc3 20
 Qe5 7 8.Bg2 26 Na6 13 9.Rb1 32 Be7
 5:47 10.b4 2:12 0-0 5:45 11.Bb2 1:17
 Qe6 46 12.a3 39 c5 7:00 13.b5 1:54
 Nc7 26 14.Ne3 36 b6 11:59



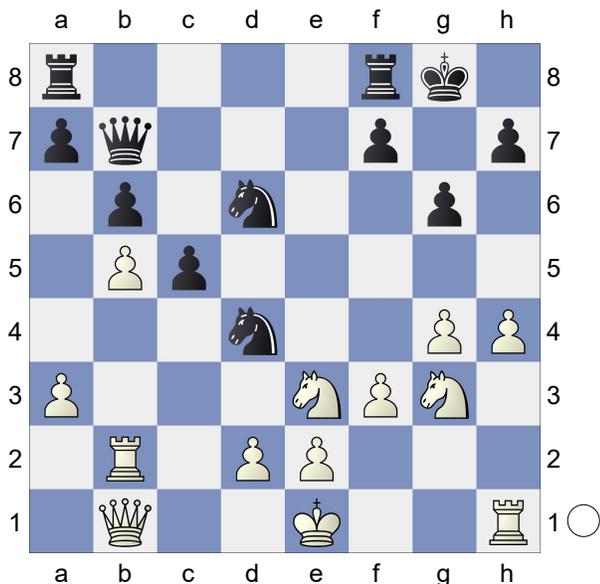
15.h4 3:00 Bb7± 9:58
 [15...h5=]
 16.Bh3 2:04 Qd6 12 17.Nf5 56 Qd8 11
 18.g4 1:06 Nfe8 14:37
 [18...e3]
 19.Bg2 4:31 Bf6?! 8:38

(Diagram)

20.Nxe4? 7:45
 [20.Qc2!±]
 20...Bxb2 35 21.Rxb2 26 g6 2:56
 [21...Nf6 22.Nxf6+ Qxf6 23.Bxb7
 Qxb2 24.Bxa8 Rxa8=]
 22.Ne3 9:37
 [22.Nh6+ Kg7 23.g5 f5 24.Qa1!]

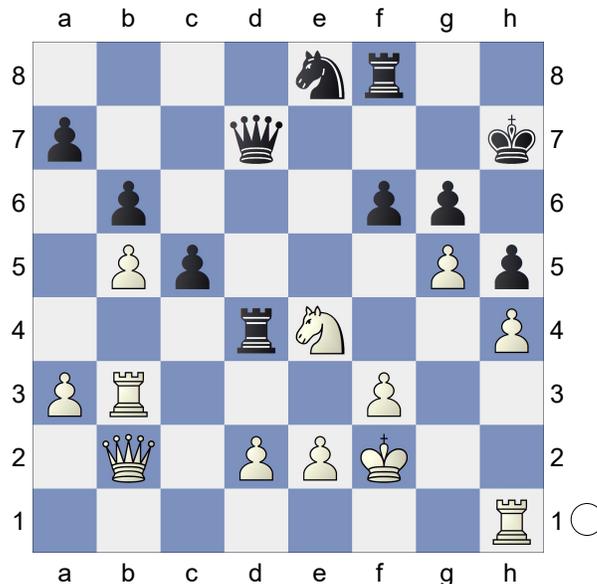


22...Qe7 5:55 23.Qb1 6:26 Ne6 5:34
 [23...Rd8 \bar{f}]
24.Ng3 10:36 Nd6 2:25
 [24...Bxg2 25.Nxg2 Rd8]
25.Bxb7 4:58 Qxb7 5 26.f3 56 Nd4=
6:31



27.Ne4?! 3:59 Ne8? 4:15
 [27...Nxe4 28.Qxe4 Qc7 \bar{f}]
28.g5 \pm 5:51
 [28.h5!]
28...h5 1:27
 [28...f5]
 [28...Qe7]
29.Qa2? 3:59
 [29.gxh6 \pm]

29...Rd8 17 30.Kf2 1:20 Kg7= 33
 [30...Kh7]
31.Nc2 7:49 f6 2:29 32.Nxd4 2:39
Rxd4 5 33.Rb3 2:08
 [33.Qe6!/?]
33...Qd7 1:37 34.Qb2 2:15 Kh7= 57



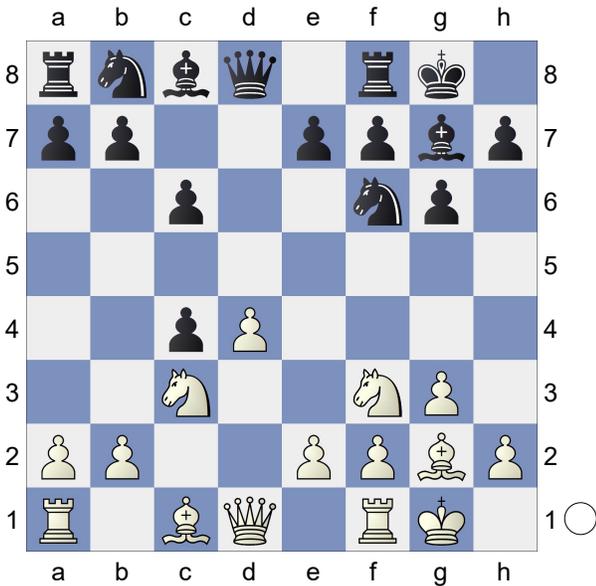
0.00 after five moves... 35.e3?? 1:21
 ... but not after this one!
 [35.gxf6]
 [35.Kg2]
 [35.Rd3]
 [35.d3]
 [35.Kf1]
35...Rxe4!+ 13 36.fxe4 31 fxg5+ 3
 Hard to resist a pawn capture
 discovered check! But...
 [36...Qg4+ is "actually" (Stockfish
 synthetically speaking) better!]
 [even 36...c4+]
37.Ke2 2:29 c4 7:45
0-1

□ **Diller,Bradley R** **D78**
2122
■ **Seshadri,Sudarshan** **2000**
 2026 Spring TNM: 2000+ (2.2) 10.03.26
[Winslow,Elliott]

1.c4 Nf6 37 2.g3 7 g6 22 3.Bg2 6
Bg7 6 4.Nc3 24 c6 1:37 5.Nf3 1:25 d5
55 6.d4 26

[6.cxd5 cxd5 7.d4 is famous, or infamous, for many Korchnoi-Karpov world championship games.]

6...0-0 25
 [6...dxc4!/?]
7.0-0 12 dxc4 3:50



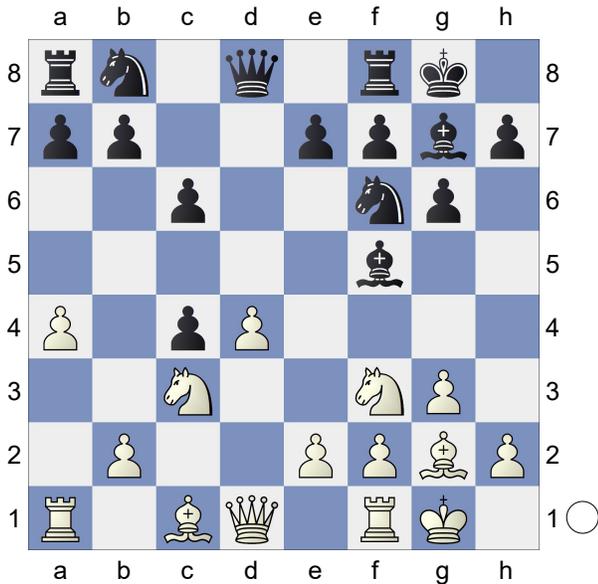
From this point on, the engine is going to be looking through quite a different lens than our players! Value lost on almost every move. **8.a4 2:42**
 Popular, but note that Stockfish thinks *Black* already has a pretty nice plus (-0.52/d25).

[8.e4!/? b5 9.Qe2 is balanced in its way, after b4= (or 9...a5=)]

8...Bf5 7:11
 [Here are a couple blitz games by the best (or maybe not so best!): 8...a5 9.e4 Na6 10.Qe2 Nb4 11.Qxc4 Bg4 12.Rd1 Nd7 13.h3 Bxf3 14.Bxf3 e6 15.h4 Qe7 16.Qe2 Rfd8 17.e5 h6

18.Bf4 Nb6 19.Kg2 N6d5 20.Bc1 c5 21.Nxd5 Nxd5 22.dxc5 Qxc5 23.Ra3 Rd7 24.Bxd5 Rxd5 25.Rc3 Rxe5 26.Rxc5 Rxe2 27.Rb5 Rc8 28.Rxb7 Rcc2 29.Rd8+ Kh7 30.Rxf7 h5 31.Rdd7 Kh8 32.Bg5 Rxb2 33.Rxg7 Rxf2+ 34.Kg1 Rg2+ 35.Kf1 Rgf2+ 36.Ke1 Rh2 37.Rh7+ Kg8 38.Rdg7+ Kf8 39.Be7+ Ke8 40.Rh8+ Kd7 41.Bf6+ 1-0 (41) Carlsen,M (2832)-Le, T (2568) Chess.com (blitz) 2024]
 [8...Na6 9.a5 (9.h3!/?) 9...Bg4 10.Ne5 Be6 11.e3 Nd7 12.Nf3 b5 13.axb6 axb6 14.e4 Bg4 15.Be3 e5 16.d5 Nb4 17.dxc6 Rxa1 18.Qxa1 Nxc6 19.Nd2 Nd4 20.Nxc4 Nc5 21.Nd5 Be2 22.Ncxb6 Nf3+ 23.Bxf3 Bxf3 24.Bxc5 Re8 25.Qb1 Qg5 26.Qd3 Qh5 27.Re1 f5 28.Nd7 Re6 29.Re3 fxe4 30.Rxe4 Qf5 31.Nc3 Kh8 32.Qe3 Bxe4 33.Qxe4 Ra6 34.Qxf5 gxf5 35.b4 e4 36.Nd5 Ra1+ 37.Kg2 Rd1 38.N7b6 h5 39.Ne3 Rb1 40.Nxf5 Bc3 41.Nd5 Bd2 42.Nfe3 Kh7 43.Nf6+ Kg6 44.Nxe4 Bxb4 45.Bxb4 Rxb4 46.Nd2 Rd4 47.Nf3 Ra4 48.h4 Kf6 49.Nd2 Kg6 50.Ndf1 Kf6 51.Nd5+ Kg6 52.Nf4+ Kh6 53.Ne3 Ra5 54.Kf3 Re5 55.Nc4 Rc5 56.Nd2 Rc3+ 57.Kg2 Rc2 58.Ne4 Rc6 59.Kf3 Ra6 60.Ke3 Ra3+ 61.Kd4 Rf3 62.Ke5 Ra3 63.Nd6 Ra5+ 64.Ke6 Ra6 65.Ke5 Ra5+ 66.Ke4 Ra4+ 67.Ke3 Ra5 68.Nd3 Rd5 69.Ne4 Ra5 70.Kf4 Ra3 71.Ne5 Ra7 72.Nd6 Ra4+ 73.Kf5 Ra5 74.Ndf7+ Kg7 75.f4 Ra3 76.Kg5 Rxc3+ 77.Kxh5 Rg1 78.Ng5 Kf6 79.Ngf3 1-0 (79) Piesik,P (2426)-Kramnik,V (2753) Titled Tuesday (blitz) 1 Aug 2023]

(Diagram)



(About the only move that White has a great score against.) **9.Ne5** 9:45

[Only 9.a5! gets a plus via SF]

9...Ng4 2:47 Black has already equalized and then some.

[9...Be6 10.e4! Nfd7 11.Nf3 Bg4 12.h3 Bxf3 13.Bxf3 e5= (13...Na6=)]

10.e4?! 6:40 Nxe5! 37 11.dxe5 24

Be6 2:39 **12.f4 8 Qb6+?** 1:09

[12...Na6 13.Be3 Nb4 14.Qxd8 Rfxd8 15.Bc5 Nd3 16.Bxe7 Re8 17.Bf6 a5 (17...Bf8)]

13.Kh1 4 **f5?! 10:29 14.Qe2 3:03**

[14.exf5 is at least as good]
[14.a5 also]

14...Na6 4:43 15.Be3?! 12:24

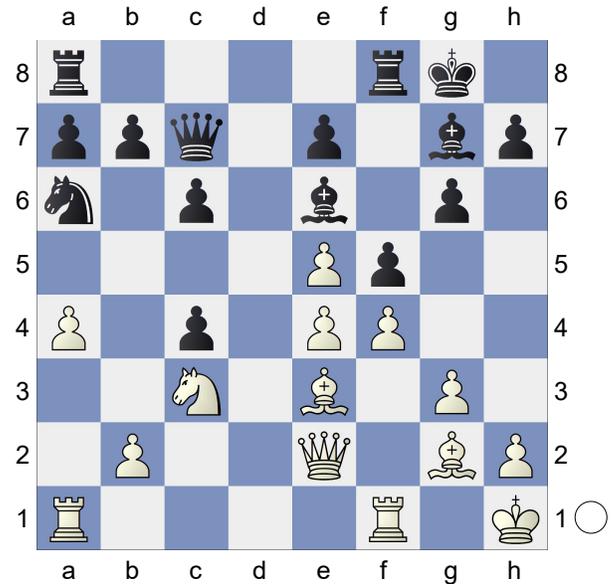
[15.a5! and]
[15.exf5! gxf5 (15...Bxf5 16.Ne4) 16.a5! are both at +0.60/d48.]

15...Qc7?! 37

[15...Qa5± if that.]

(Diagram)

Now there is a strange mutual aversion to resolving the pawn on f5, for quite a few moves. **16.h3?! 2:44** White can be more direct.



[16.Rad1]

[16.exf5 gxf5 17.Qf2 b6 18.Ne2 c5!? 19.Bxa8 Rxa8 20.h3]

16...Kh8 4:56 17.g4? 1:20

[17.exf5 gxf5 18.Nb1 Nb4 19.Nd2 Nc2 (19...Nd3 20.b3) 20.Rac1 Nxe3 21.Qxe3 Qa5 22.b3±]

17...Nb4?!= 1:03

[17...fxg4 18.hxg4 Bg8 19.g5 Nb4 20.Bh3 Nd3]

18.Rad1? 9:39

[18.exf5=]

[18.exf5=]

18...Rad8 15:53

[18...fxg4]

19.exf5 3:45 gxf5 58 20.gxf5 17 Bxf5

1:21 21.Qxc4 12 a5 3:24 22.Ne4 4:22

Rxd1 2:29 23.Rxd1 3 Qc8 1:24 24.Kh2

1:00 Nd5 28 25.Bc1 34 Be6 5:13

(Diagram)

26.Qc5! 20:39 Nxf4?! 5:50

[26...Bh6!? 27.Ng5! Bxg5 (27...Nxf4 28.Bxf4 Rxf4 29.Qxe7 Bg8) 28.fxg5 Qe8 29.Rf1 Rxf1 30.Bxf1 Qf7 31.Bg2 Qf5=]

27.Bxf4 18 Rxf4 6 28.Qxe7 7

(Diagram)

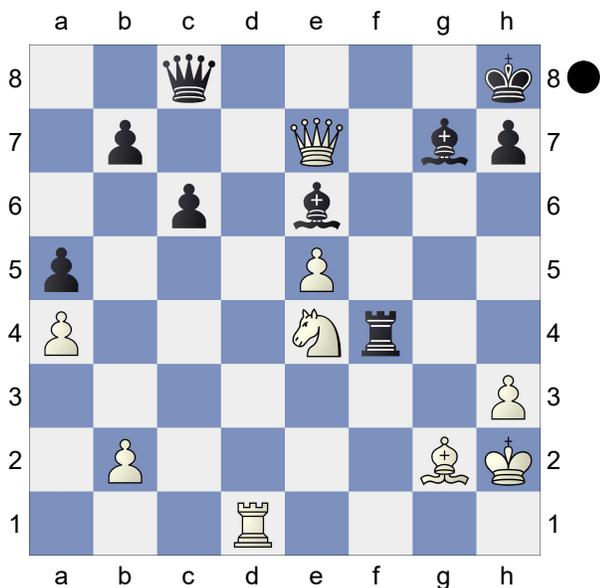
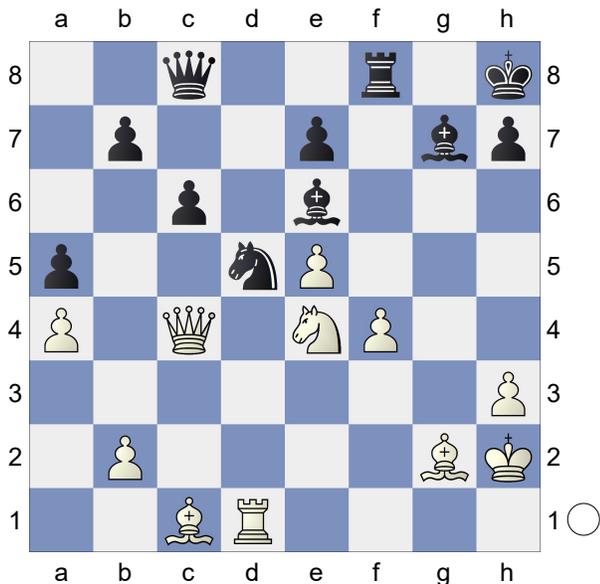
□ Clemens, Kristian

1993

■ Melville, Cailen Jeremiah

1868

2026 Spring TNM: 2000+ (2.13) 10.03.26
[Winslow, Elliott]



Cailen once again succeeds with his ... b6/...f5 system (well, it's not *his*, I think English players were making it work in the 1980s or so). There is a lot of logic to this essentially positional approach, seen in a number of openings, of locking down the light central squares. One sees it in lines of the Nimzoindian, where Black inverts things a bit by playing ...Ne4 and then ...f5. In this game Black gets White to fix a lot of the pawns (that's "fix" as in immobilize), and turn White's bishop into a "bad good" bishop, meaning White's pawns are on the other color but even so the bishop has no meaningful scope. A surprisingly easy concept to understand and implement. Perhaps the game shouldn't have taken so long, but Melville kept control and took the point eventually.

1.d4 e6 2.c4 b6 3.Nf3 Bb7 4.a3 f5
5.Nc3 Nf6 6.g3 Be7 7.Bg2 Ne4
8.Qc2 Nxc3 9.Qxc3 Bf6 10.Qd2 Be4
11.b3 0-0 12.0-0 d6 13.Bb2 Qe8
14.Rac1 Nd7 15.Rfd1

(Diagram)

Stockfish makes Black with a slight edge; still, it's hard to find effective breaks for either side. 15...h6 16.b4

[Perhaps 16.Ne1 and just admit it: Black's light squared bishop is doing better than White's.]

16...Qf7 17.c5 (This looks like progress and may well be; Black's reaction is not at all highly regarded by the computer (not even in the top 6), but it made sense, having the advantage of keeping files

Bxe5?? 33 With a big threat! But of course White just steps out of it, and 30. Rd8+ is still crushing. 29.Kh1+- 1:35

[or 29.Kg1+-]

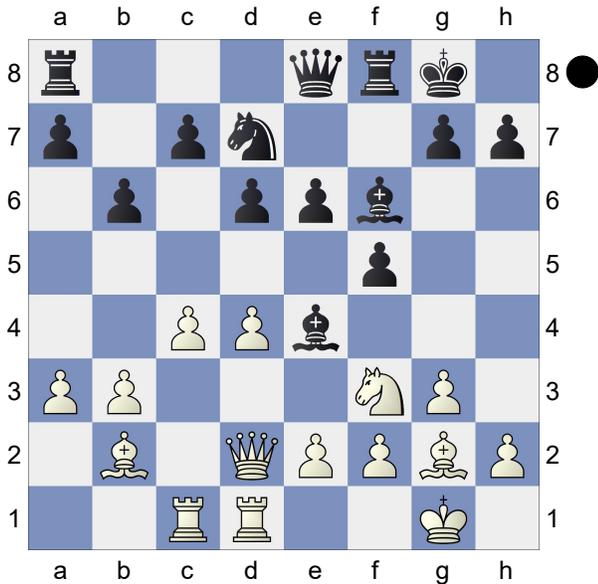
29...Bc7 5:37 It's hard to give any "?" or "?!" to this since White was completely winning. 30.Ng5 4:48 Same for this,

[since 30.Nf6! is "even stronger": Bg8 (30...Rh4 31.Ne8 Be5 32.Qxh4 Qxe8 33.Rd8) 31.Rd7 demands ... QxR anyway.]

30...Bg8 56 31.Rd7 24 Qf8 2:44

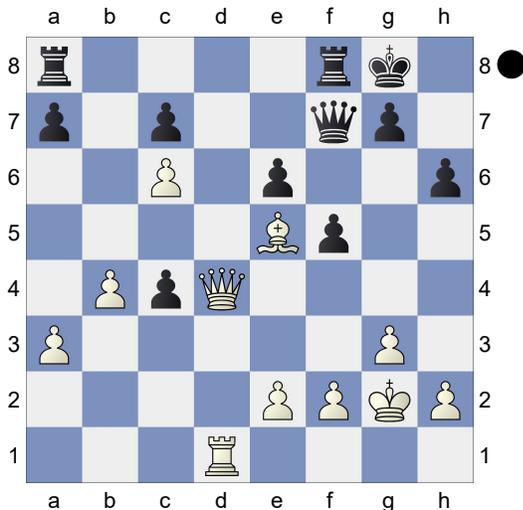
32.Qxf8 13 with a mundane win of a piece (and the game).

1-0



closed. **17...bxc5** "?!" (Stockfish)
18.dxc5 d5 (also pooh-poo'hed; now White can't bring himself to commit...)
19.Bxf6

[19.c6!? Nb6 20.Ne5! Bxe5
 (else f2-f3 +/-) 21.Bxe5
**A) 21...Bxg2 22.Kxg2 Nc4?!
 23.Rxc4! dxc4 24.Qd4±**



White gets a superlative bishop, pawn, and dangerous queenside majority for a rook. **Qe7 25.Qd7!+-** (25.Qxc4+- is good; that is better);

B) 21...Nc4!]
19...Qxf6± 20.Qc3
 [20.Nd4!?]
 [20.b5!]

20...Bxf3

[20...Qxc3 21.Rxc3 Bxf3 22.Bxf3]

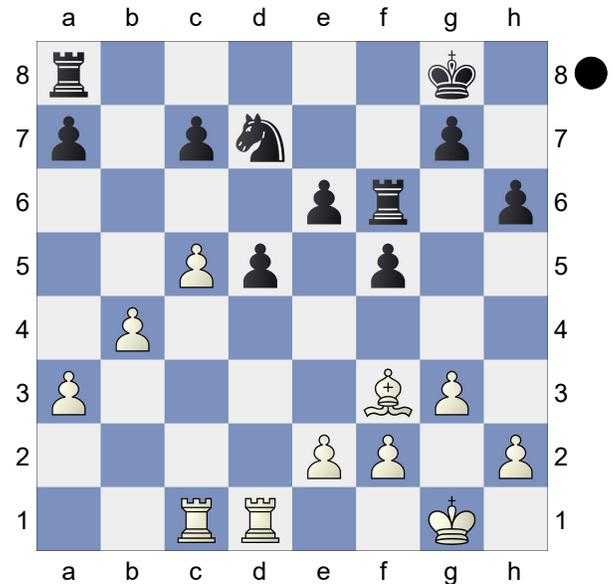
21.Qxf6?!

[21.Qxf3 The queen could well escort queenside pawns]

21...Rxf6

[21...Nxf6! 22.exf3 (22.Bxf3 c6 23.a4 a6) 22...a6]

22.Bxf3



c6 23.e3 Rc8 24.Be2 g5 25.f4 Rf7 26.Kf2 Nf6 27.Bf3 a5 White will have weak pawns on the queenside, and the bishop is too far afield to help right themselves (with some b4-b5 break for example). **28.Rb1 axb4 29.Rxb4**

[29.axb4 g4 30.Bg2 (30.Be2 Ne4+ 31.Ke1 Nc3) 30...Ra7-+]

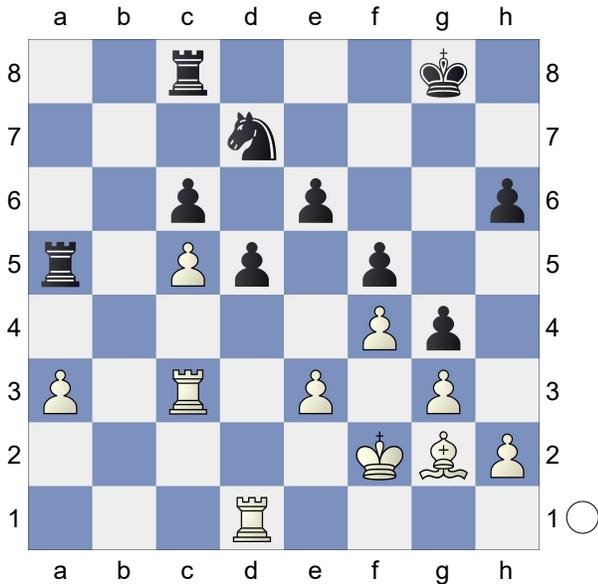
29...g4 30.Bg2

[30.Be2!]

30...Ra7 31.Rb3 Nd7 32.Rc3 Ra5

(Diagram)

Black nabs a pawn. White gets to play an "impossible" move, but it doesn't help.
33.e4 Rxc5 34.Rxc5 Nxc5 35.exf5 exf5 36.Ke3 Re8+ 37.Kd4 Nb3+ 38.Kd3 Kf7 39.Rb1 Na5 40.Rb6 Re6 41.Ra6 Nc4 42.a4 Ne3 43.Ra7+ Ke8 44.Ra8+ Kd7 45.Rf8 Nxf6 46.Rxf5



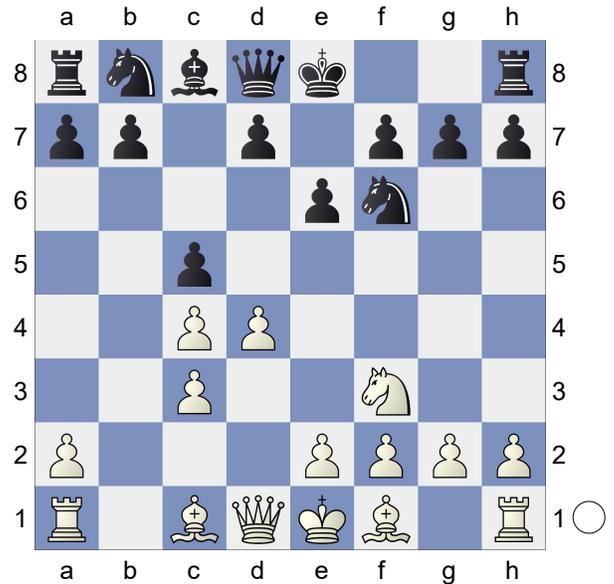
Ne1+ 47.Kc3 Kc7 48.Rf7+ Kb6
49.Rg7 Nf3 50.Rxg4 Nxf2 51.Rg8 c5
52.f5 Rf6 53.g4 Nxf4 54.Rxg4 Rxf5
55.Rg6+ Ka5 56.Rc6 Rf3+ 57.Kd2
Kb4 58.a5 Kb5 59.Rd6 Kxa5
60.Rxd5 Kb4 61.Rh5 Rf6 62.Kc2 Rd6
63.Rf5 Kc4 64.Rh5 Re6 65.Rh4+ Kd5
66.Rh5+ Kd4 67.Rh4+ Ke3 68.Rh5
Rc6 69.Kc3 Kf4 70.Kc4 Kg4 71.Rh1
h5 72.Rg1+ Kf3 73.Rh1 Rh6 74.Kxc5
h4 75.Rd1 h3 76.Kc4 Re6 77.Rd8
Re4+ 78.Kc3 h2 79.Rh8 Kg3 80.Kc2
Rh4 81.Rg8+ Kh3 82.Rd8 h1Q
83.Rd3+ Kg4 84.Rd4+ Kf5
0-1

Siegel, David **E21**
 Chernobilskiy, Mikhail **1653**
 2026 Spring TNM: 1600-1999 (2.16) **1775**
[Siegel, David / (Winslow, Elliott / Stockfish ...

1.c4 Nf6 2.d4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Nf3
Bxc3+ 5.bxc3 c5

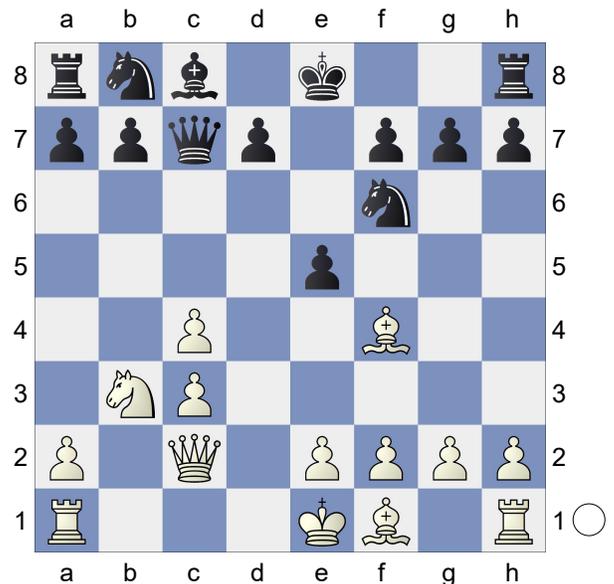
(Diagram)

I spent a long time here. Knowing that 6... Qa5 was probably coming I thought



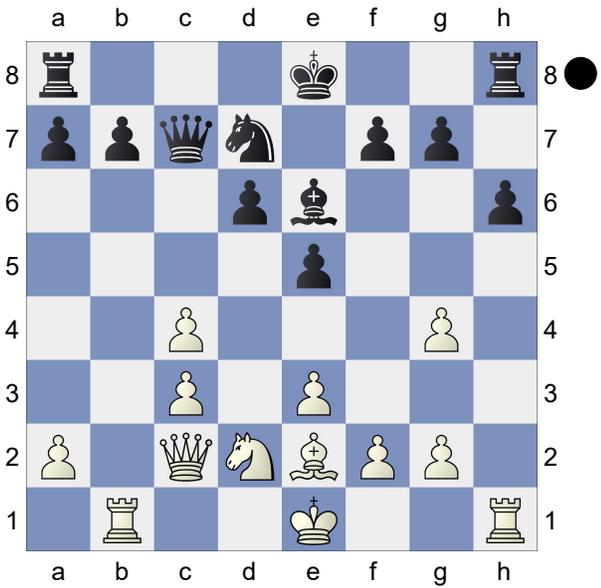
about 6. Qa4, 6. Qc2, etc. But I thought I had time so I went for the bishop move first. I saw that my doubled pawns would get isolated but that didn't seem like the worst thing in the world at the time. **6.Bf4**

[6.Qc2±]
6...Qa5 7.Qc2?!
 [7.Nd2! Qxc3 8.dxc5±]
7...cxd4 8.Nxd4 e5! 9.Nb3 Qc7



10.Bg3
 [10.Bg5!? d6 (10...Qxc4 11.Bxf6 gxf6 12.e4±) 11.Bxf6 gxf6 12.Nd2]
10...Nh5
 [10...d6±]
11.e3 Nxf3

[11...d6! 12.Bh4!]
12.hxg3 h6 The computer claims equality here but apparently developing the bishop is not the best move right now. **13.Be2?!**
 [13.c5! d5 14.cxd6 Qxd6 15.Qe4=]
13...d6 14.g4!? **Be6 15.Nd2 Nd7 16.Rb1**

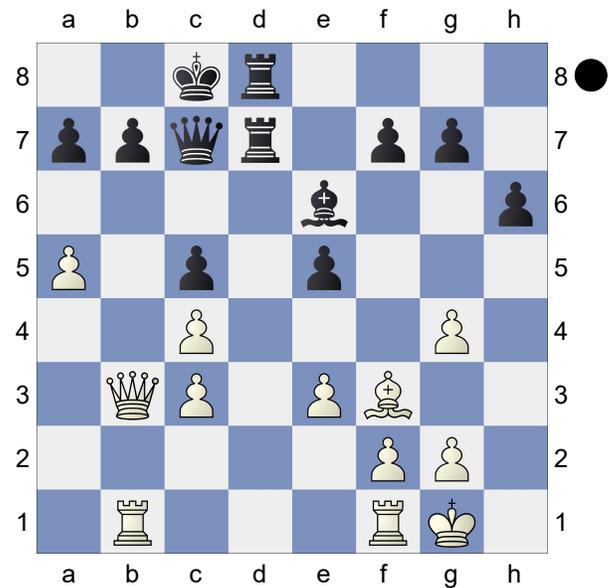


Nb6 I'm actually feeling pretty good about my position at the moment and I thought I might have been winning. I have pressure on both sides of the board and I thought it would be hard for my opponent to castle. Over the long term the c4 pawn is going to fall, but I'm hoping to get my a-pawn up the board and target Black's b-pawn before that happens.

[16...Nc5]
17.Qb3 0-0-0
 [17...0-0]

18.a4 Nd7 I didn't love that the Black knight could come to c5 and of course I liked the chance at a Nxd6 tactic. After the game Mikhail was very nice and explained how the knight on c5 would have been a better move earlier on (move 16) and realized his mistake later. Sometimes it's better to block the doubled pawns than to attack them.

19.Ne4 Nc5 20.Nxc5 dxc5 21.Bf3 Rd7 22.a5 Rhd8 23.0-0

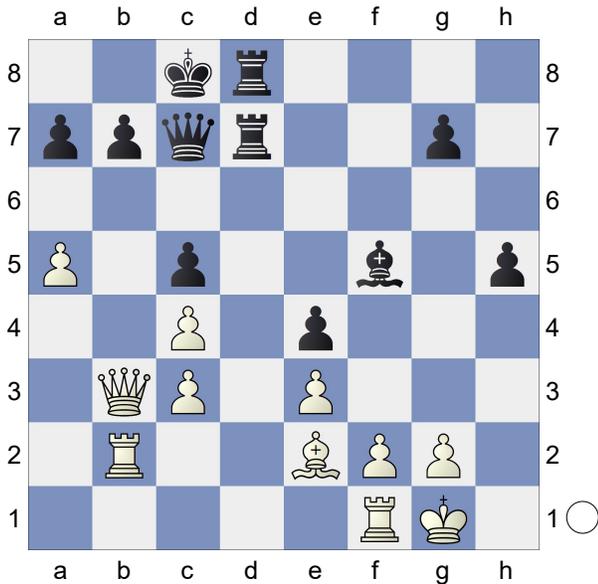


f5 I made what I think is my biggest mistake here. A momentary lapse of concentration -- I took the pawn without even thinking. I remember barely looking up at the board after my opponent made the move -- and then immediately realized my bishop was about to get boxed out of position after letting go of the piece. The computer suggestions a6 and Bd5 would have been much better.

24.gxf5
 [24.Bd5=]
 [24.a6=]
24...Bxf5 25.Rb2
 [25.Rbd1]
25...e4! 26.Be2 h5

(Diagram)

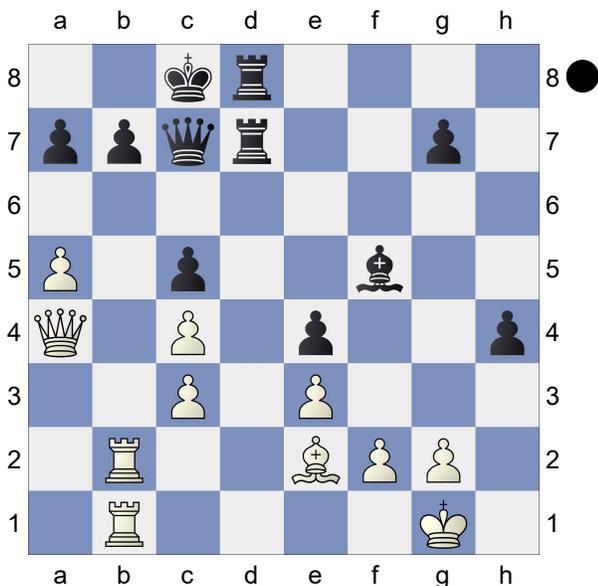
I'm feeling like I'm probably about to get squeezed out of the game and low on time, so I decide to go for it and hope my opponent makes a mistake. For the next few moves I'm spending all my time trying to calculate how to sac a rook and promote the a-pawn or find a checkmate.
27.Rfb1?!
 [27.Qa4 Bg4! 28.a6 b6 29.f4 g6



27...h4

[27...Bg4!-+]

28.Qa4



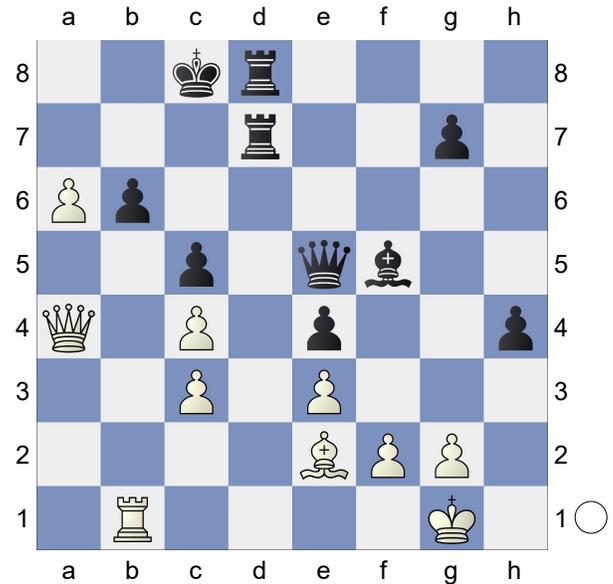
Qe5?

[28...Qd6 29.Rd1 Qg6#]

29.a6! b6! 30.Rxb6! axb6

(Diagram)

I just didn't have enough time to calculate it (I got down to seconds at some point) but 31. Rxb6 is actually the best move. In the game I pushed a7 thinking Black would have to sac a rook back to capture; I somehow missed 31...



Kb7. Everything else is better for White. Sigh. 31.a7???

[The critical line is something like

31.Rxb6!= Ra7 32.Rc6+ Kb8

33.Qb5+ Ka8 34.Rxc5 Qe6 35.Rxf5

Qxa6 and White has doubled pawns and a bishop for a rook and king safety.]

31...Kb7-+ Now I'm just down a rook. It was clear that I was losing, but my opponent also had under a minute on his clock at some point, so I fought on.

32.Ra1 Ra8 33.Qa6+ Kc7 34.Rb1 Rd6 35.Bh5 g6 36.Be2 g5 37.Bh5 g4 38.Bf7 Be6 39.Be8 g3 40.Bg6 gxf2+ 41.Kxf2 Bc8 42.Qb5 Rxc6 43.Rb2 Qg3+ 44.Kg1 Qxe3+ 45.Kh1 Bd7 46.Qa6 Rf8 47.a8N+ Kd8 48.Nxb6 Rf1+ 49.Kh2 Qg3#

0-1

□ **Latourette, Nicholas James**

C01

1676

■ **Quinn, Dahlia**

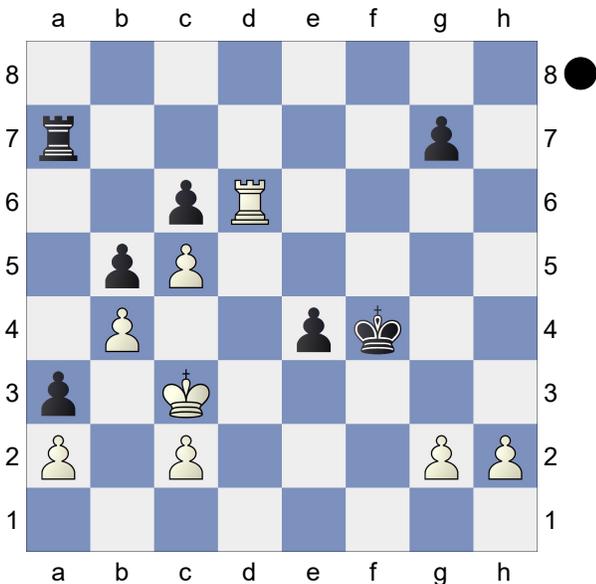
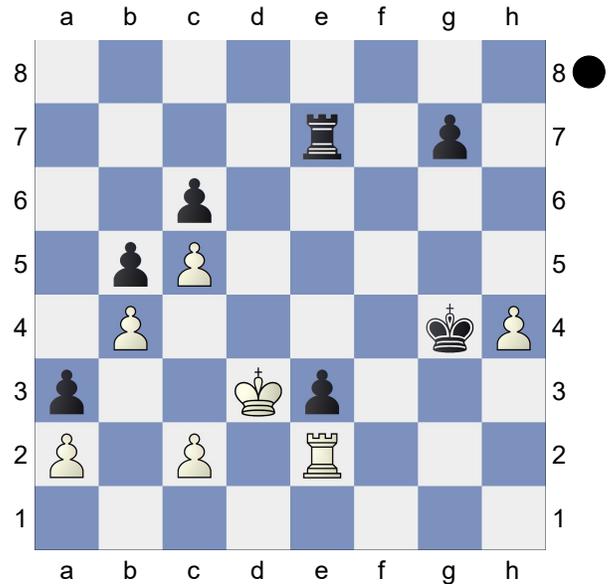
1522

2026 Spring TNM: 1600-1999 (2.21)

[Winslow, Elliott]

Escorting pawns to queening (and preventing it): there should be a (thick)

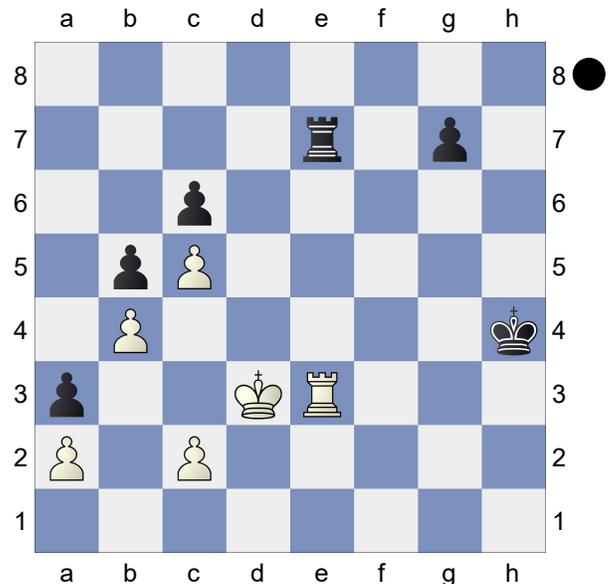
chapter on this in endgame books. 1.e4
 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.Nf3 Bd6
 5.Nc3 Nf6 6.Bg5 c6 7.Qd2 0-0
 8.0-0-0 a5 9.Bd3 Na6 10.Bxa6 Rxa6
 11.Na4 h6 12.Bh4 Qc7 13.Bg3 Ne4
 14.Bxd6 Qxd6 15.Qe1 Qf4+ 16.Nd2
 b5 17.Nc5 Nxc5 18.dxc5 Bf5 19.Qe3
 Qxe3 20.fxe3 Re8 21.Rde1 a4
 22.Rhf1 Bg6 23.Rf4 a3 24.b4 Be4
 25.Nxe4 Rxe4 26.Rxe4 dxe4 27.Rd1
 h5 28.Rd8+ Kh7 29.Kd2 h4 30.Kc3
 Kg6 31.Rh8 f5 32.Rxh4 Ra7 33.Rf4
 Kf6 34.Rf2 Ke5 35.Rd2 f4 36.exf4+
 Kxf4 37.Rd6



Ke3!= (only move) 38.h4??
 [38.Re6!=]
 [38.Rxc6 Re7 39.Rd6 Kf2 40.Rd2+
 Ke1 41.c6=]
38...Re7-+
 [38...Kf2-+]
 [38...Ke2-+]
39.g4 Kf2 40.Rd2+ Ke1-+
 [40...Kf1]
 [40...Kf3]
41.Rh2 e3 42.Rh1+
 [42.h5!?]
42...Kf2 43.Rh2+?! Kg3 44.Re2 Kxg4
 [44...Kf3!]
45.Kd3

(Diagram)

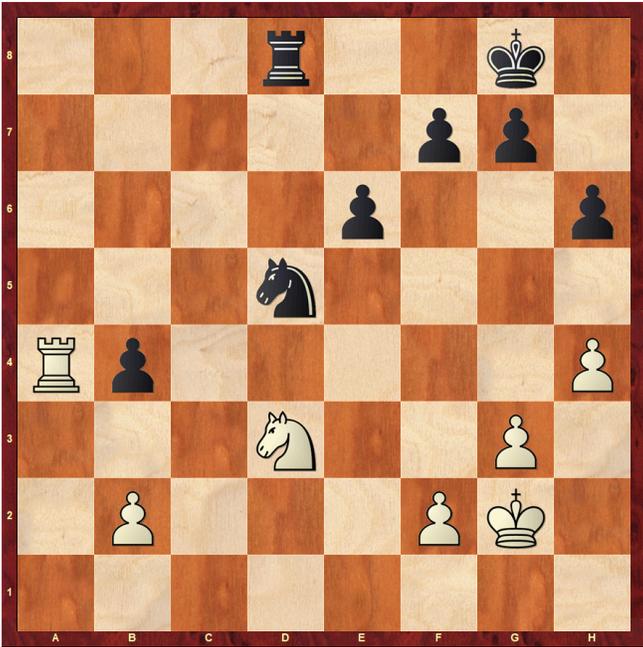
Kxh4??
 [45...Kf3]
46.Rxe3=



Rxe3+??
 [46...Rd7+=]
47.Kxe3 Kg3 48.c4 bxc4 49.b5 c3
50.b6 g5 51.b7 Kh3 52.b8Q c2
53.Kd2 g4 54.Qh8+ Kg2 55.Kxc2 g3
56.Kd2 Kf2 57.Qd4+ Kf1 58.Ke3 Kg2
59.Qd2+ Kh3 60.Kf3
1-0

Tony's Teasers

Black to play. What's the best move and what's the result?
From Round 2 of this TNM



Solution

1. Ne^{3+} ! And black has a slight advantage - it's far from over!

Contact Us

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