

# Chess Canada

Tacticosaurus





## Chess Canada

*Chess Canada* (CCN) is the electronic newsletter of the Chess Federation of Canada. Opinions expressed in it are those of the credited authors and/or editor, and do not necessarily reflect those of the CFC, its Governors, agents or employees, living, dead, or undead.

### subscriptions

CCN is distributed by email to CFC members who have submitted their email address to the CFC:

[admin@chess.ca](mailto:admin@chess.ca)

### submissions

CCN is looking for contributions: tournament reports, photos, annotated games. For examples, see this issue or read the 2013.06 Appendix for other ideas.

### suggestions

If you have an idea for a story you would like to write, email me:

[cfc\\_newsletter\\_editor@chess.ca](mailto:cfc_newsletter_editor@chess.ca)

- John Upper  
editor *Chess Canada*

# Chess Canada Tacticosaurus

## 145 Critical Positions

..... 4

## Solutions:

### 1912-1979

..... 24

### 1980-2009

..... 42

### 2010-2019

..... 68

### 2020-2022

..... 102

## Player Index

..... 192

### 145 Middlegame Tactics

Positions are sorted chronologically.

Many of the games have been truncated before the Critical Position. The **complete games are in the PGN**, most with full notes. Games 100-139 have not previously appeared in *Chess Canada*, and are (mostly) annotated in full.

Unless stated otherwise, all annotations and post-1985 photos are by the editor. Some uncredited photos are screencaps from online feeds. Pix from social media are clickable.

Special thanks to **Brad Thomson**, who invited me to scan his pix from the 1985 North Bay.

Some of the photos, including most of the ones scanned from *En Passant*, have been cleaned and upgraded with **AI tools** like GFP-GAN. The illustrations and cover were generated by AI using DALLE-2 and Stable Diffusion.

For better or worse, none of the text was generated by AI. But that is what AI would say, isn't it?

### Cover: Tacticosaurus

Explosion in a chess board factory.



### 99% Tactics

This is a sequel to the previous issue, which had 99 Critical Positions from Openings, Endings, and games played by Canadians or by world-class players in Canadian events.

The 145 Critical Positions in this issue are all from middlegames.

#### Where to Start?

You could simply begin on page 4 looking for positions which catch your eye, then going to the game to see the solution. Positions are sorted chronologically, which might help.

But 145 positions is a lot, and it'd be easy to miss some good stuff. If you want a challenge, the **red dot** positions are the most difficult. If you are looking for games by a particular player (your own?) you can see the [Players Index](#) on the last page.

#### TLDR

Here's a minimum list. If you don't like any of the following, then skip the rest:

- 2 1939 Olympiad
- 34 all-in King's Gambit
- 39 Shirov-Bluvshstein, Petroff
- 41 French Tarrasch
- 47 Dragon counterattack
- 114 Women's 2022 Champ
- 117 2022 Zonal Champ
- 127 study-like endgame combo.

### Blitz and Other "Bad Games"

Due to the pandemic stopping OTB tournaments, many of the games between 2020-2022 are from online events, most with rapid or blitz time controls.

There may still be chess players who say that blitz games are not worth analyzing. While they may have been right about this as recently as 25 years ago, these days strong players play remarkably well at fast time controls; and when playing challenging opponents, they play their tournament repertoires, which makes their middlegames strategically sound (e.g. games 111, 122). More importantly, all the games in this issue — *no matter what the time control* — feature positions where one or both of the players is on the brink of a game-changing mistake. Chess games are lost by bad moves, either an accumulation of small errors or by one catastrophic blunder. The time control matters to the players during the game, but it is irrelevant to the tactical and strategic assessments we can reach during

analysis. Analysis is not the same as OTB play: it can and should be better.

This is not only why *Chess Canada* includes blitz games, it's also why it includes games by players far below GM level: the lessons come from distinguishing good moves from bad ones, and there are as many opportunities for that in the games of weak players as there are in GM games.

A long time ago — say, before the mid-1980s — only top-notch players could be relied upon to identify and exploit mistakes. This is why so many older books both feature games where a world-class player beats an amateur, and why so many of them make the mistake of "annotating by result": the authors (very reasonably) believed that the Master understood the game better than they did, and they deferred to the Master's

judgment as embodied in their moves.

But today, anyone with a cellphone can identify errors and their refutations, and anyone with a database and some diligence can compare the opening of any game with the latest theory. In fact, it's so easy that people do it even when they don't have a clue about what's going on in the resulting position (*see*: comments section of any live game). That's a downside. An upside is that we can extract lessons from a much wider range of games than in the past: so long as the analysis is diligently checked against books/databases, analysis engine(s), and tablebases, neither of the players must be world-class. The notes can be excellent, even if the moves were awful.

... which may help explain why five of *my* games are in here. None of them are great — even my favourite (G41) has a big fat blunder in it — but the notes always explain what a *better* player would have done. They were played when I was between 1990 and 2300+ CFC, and show just how confused a player can be OTB and yet *somehow* still be competitive in the higher end of the "Club Player" range. That's another thing you can't find in books from the "Master vs Amateur" tradition.

- John Upper, editor.

### Mask when Moving



PSA from the COVID-haunted past of the 2022 Zonal.



# Critical Positions






selected by the editor

The following diagrams are critical positions from this issue of *Chess Canada*. You can treat them as exercises or as a teaser introduction to what you'll find this month.

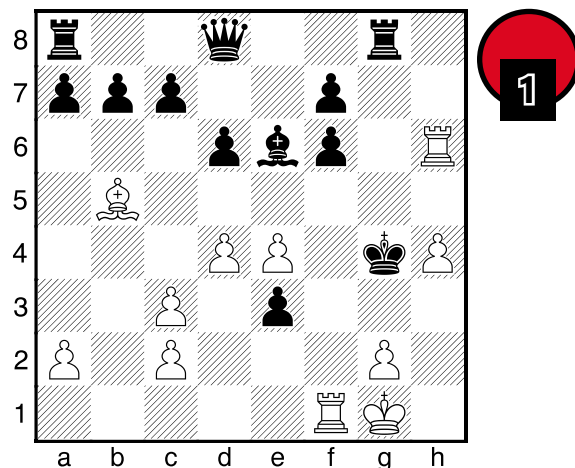
These "critical positions" can be:

- winning combinations
- surprising tactics
- endgames requiring precise play
- simple calculation exercises
- variation-rich middlegames
- moments when one player went badly wrong.

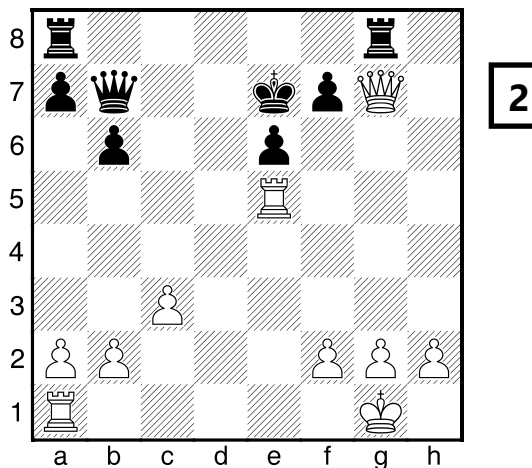
The  and  squares next to each diagram indicate the player to move. Numbers in the square indicate the game.

 Game numbers highlighted by a red circle are either very difficult or feature significantly more analytical commentary.

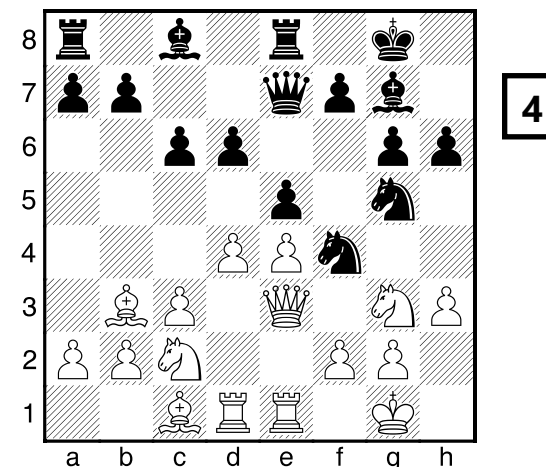
**Solutions** appear in the game analysis below *the red diagrams*.



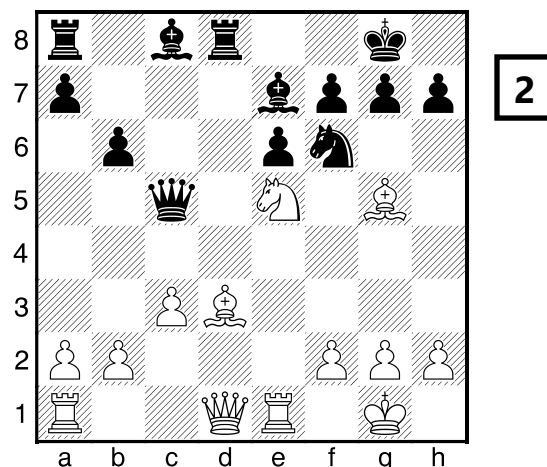
Could you escape Capablanca's attack?



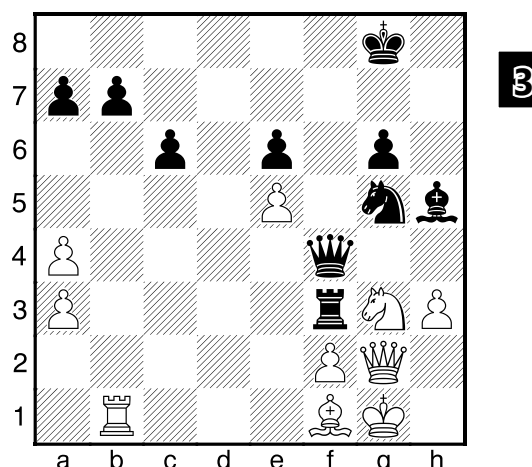
Black is threatening White's queen and mate on g2. Can the 14-year-old Abe Yanofsky get out of it?



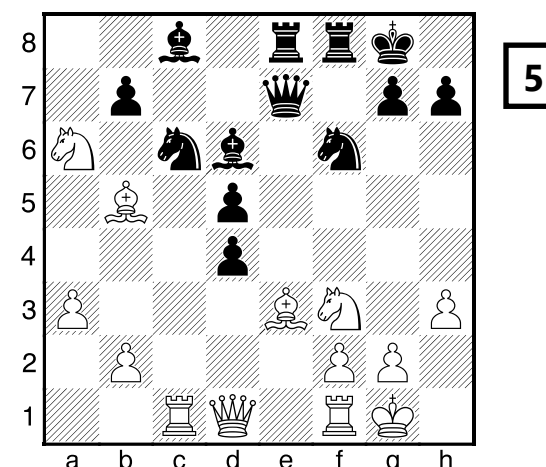
Should White reinforce the center with f3, or try something else?



Think for 30 minutes, then impress Alekhine.



Black's pieces are menacing, but White has just made a threat with ♖e1-b1; what should Black do?

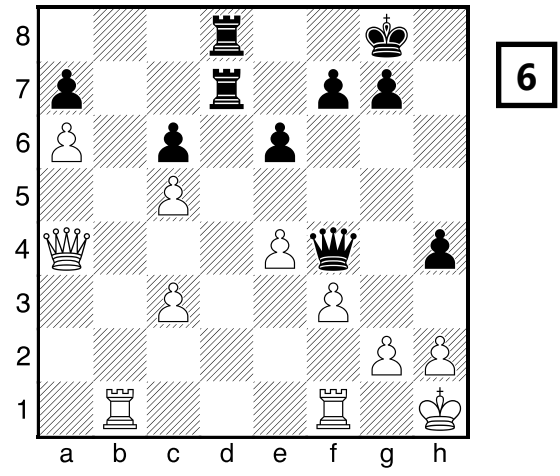


Those pieces on the queenside are not typos. White could take on d4 at any time, but how about immobilizing the ♘f6 first with ♗g5?

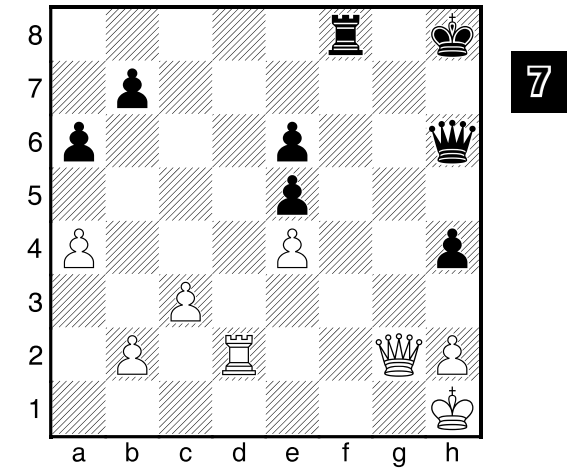




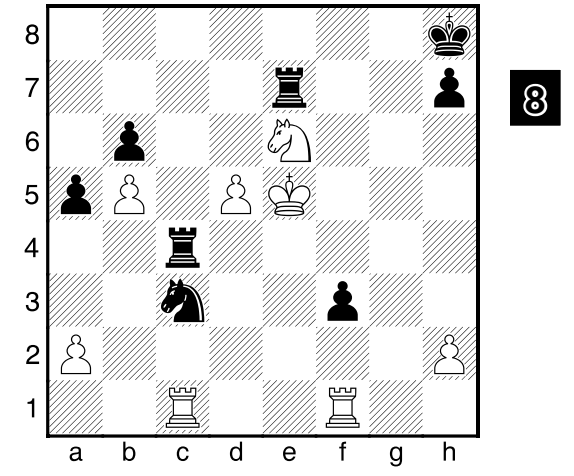
# Chess Canada Tacticsarus



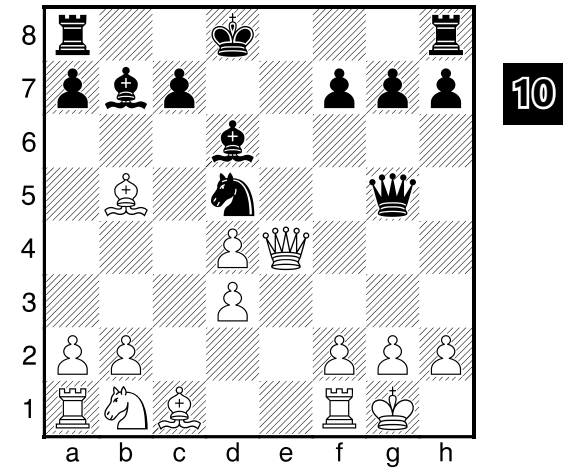
Challenge for the d-file, or stop ...h3?



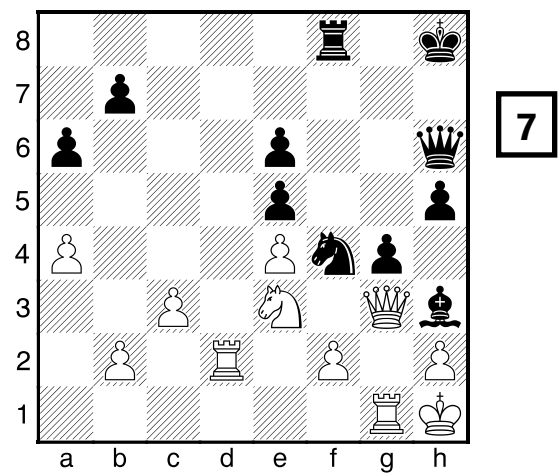
Just when it looks like White has escaped...



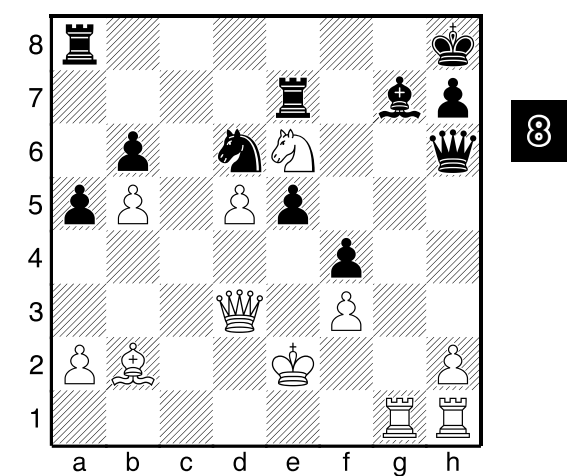
Should Black defend the ♖f3, or use his active pieces against the White ♔?



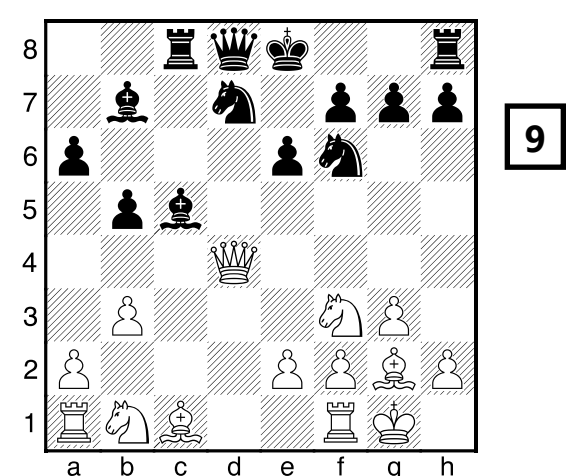
...♘f4 is begging to be played, but should it be? If not, what?



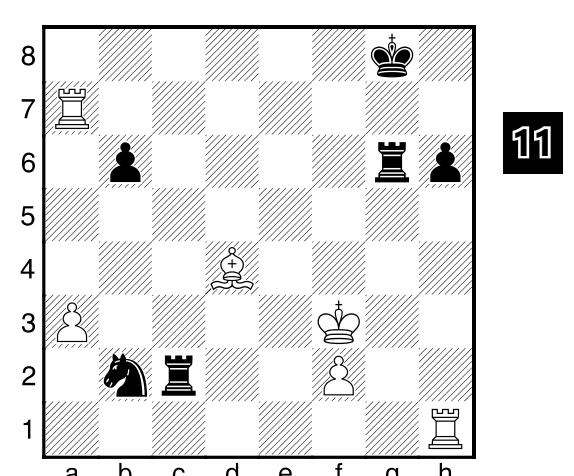
Is Black threatening ...h4, and if so, what should White do about it?



White threatens ♖xg7. So:  
a) take the ♘e6?  
b) counterattack with ...e4?  
c) something else?



A Catalan where White has already made five moves with his ♔. Now where?



Black's ♘ is offside, what should he do about it?

6

7

8

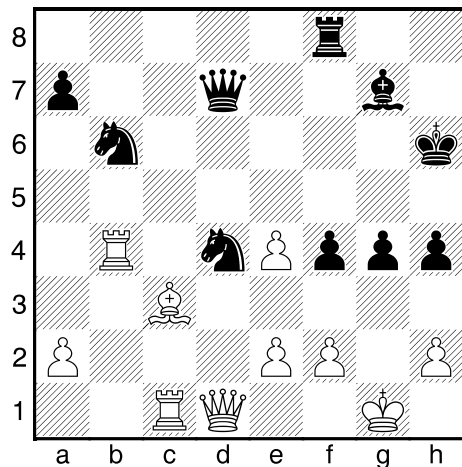
7

8

9

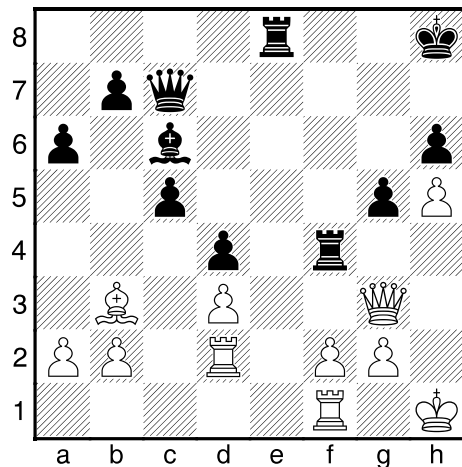
11





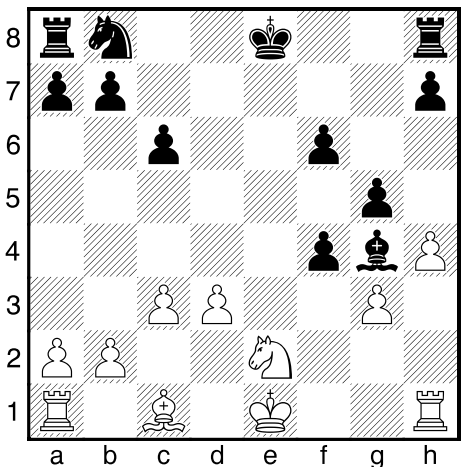
12

Black has a menacing pawn storm, but the  $\text{N}d4$  is hanging...



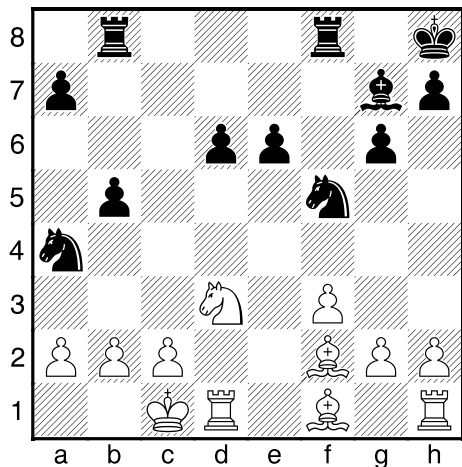
14

What happens if  $\dots\text{Re}3$ ?



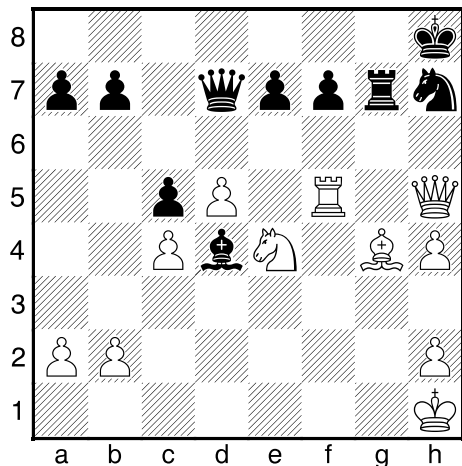
16

$\dots\text{fxg}3$ ,  $\dots\text{f}3$ , or something else?  
(NB: White's  $\text{K}$  has already moved)



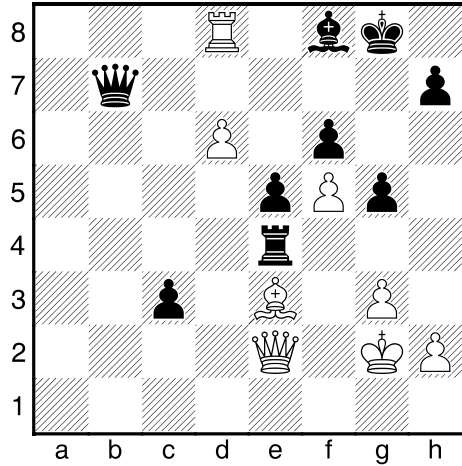
18

$\text{Re}1$  or  $\text{Kxa}7$ ?



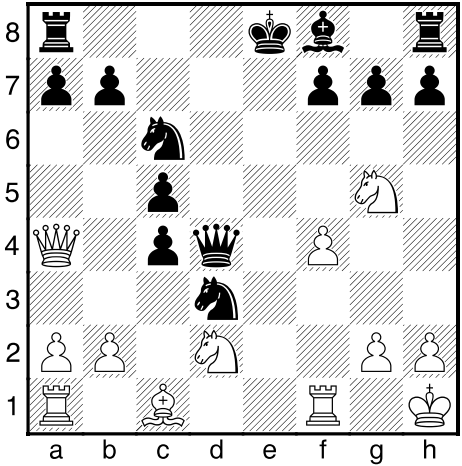
13

$\dots\text{Ka}4$  or  $\dots\text{Kg}8$ ?



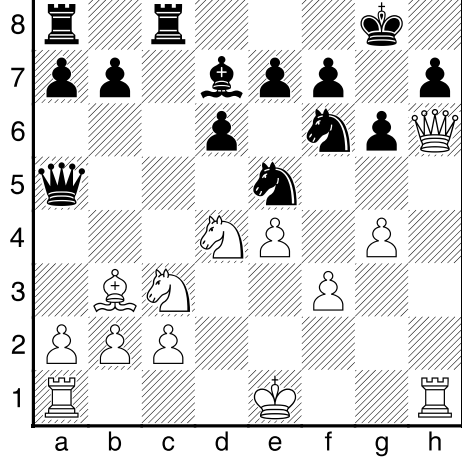
15

It's 50 moves into a 10-board clock simul.



17

Black is behind in development but has two extra pawns. What should White do:  $\text{Kxc}4$ ,  $\text{Nxc}4$ , something else?



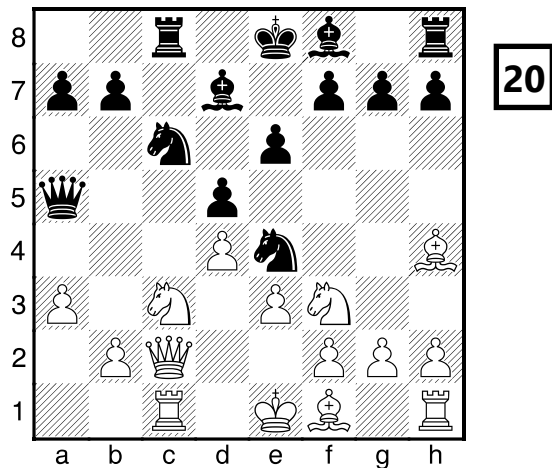
19

Should White connect  $\text{K}$ s with  $\text{O}00$  or  $\text{Kd}2$ , or something else?



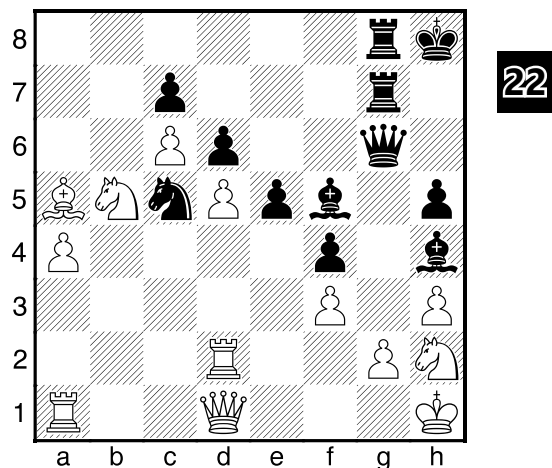


# Chess Canada Tacticosarus



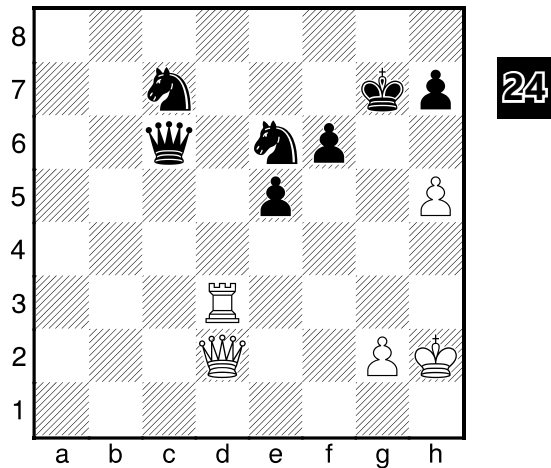
20

♙d3, ♞b5, or something else?



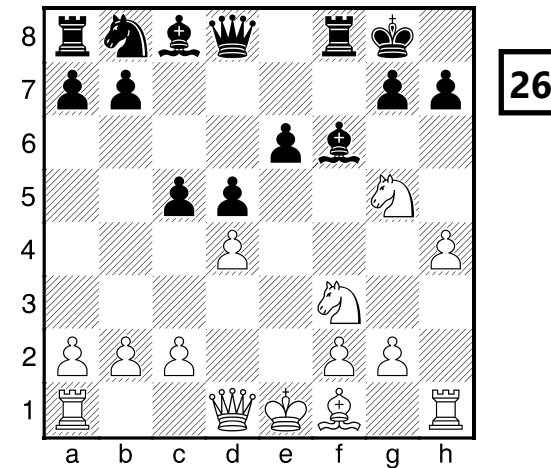
22

Find a pretty way to finish off White.



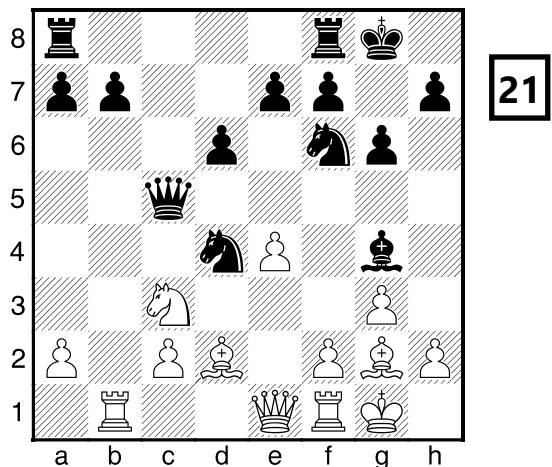
24

How should Black activate his ♞s?



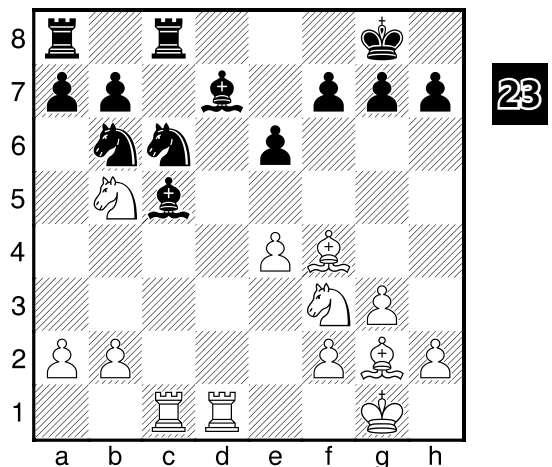
26

♙d3, ♞d3, or something else?



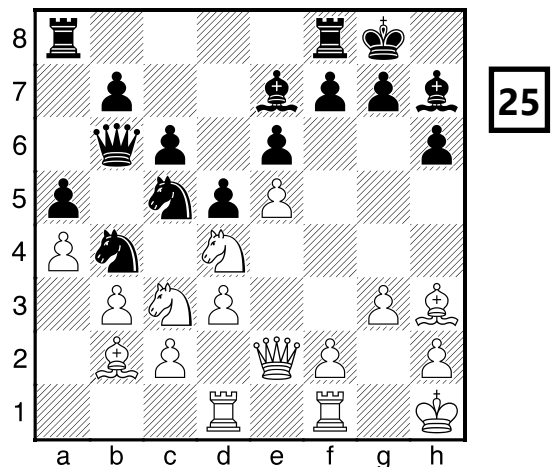
21

White dared Black to give up his DSB for a ♞ and ♖, and Black went for it. What should White do now?



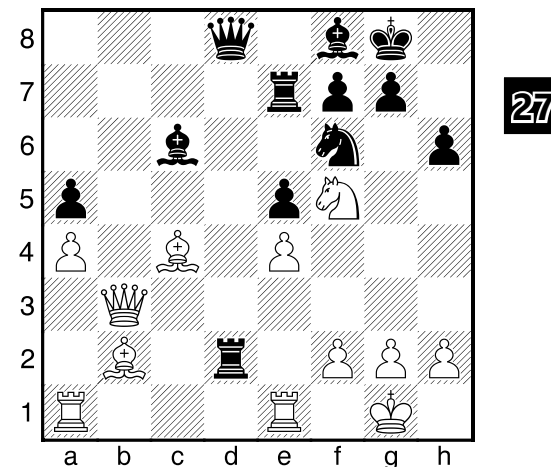
23

Can Black untangle with ...♞e5, or should he just suffer with ...♞f8.



25

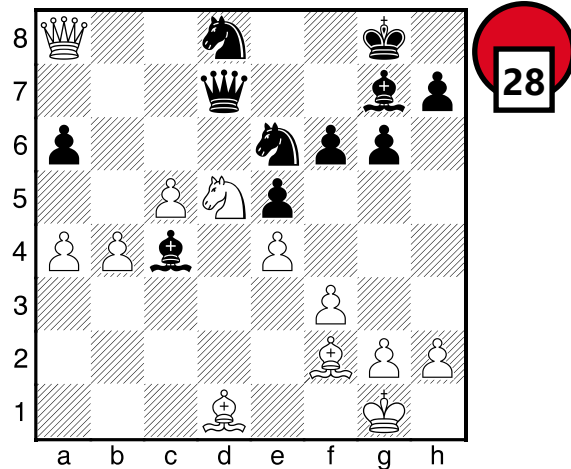
What's the threat? What to do about it?



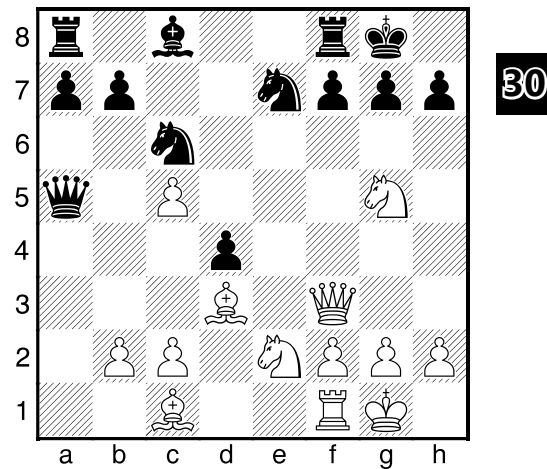
27

Can you out-combo Shirov?

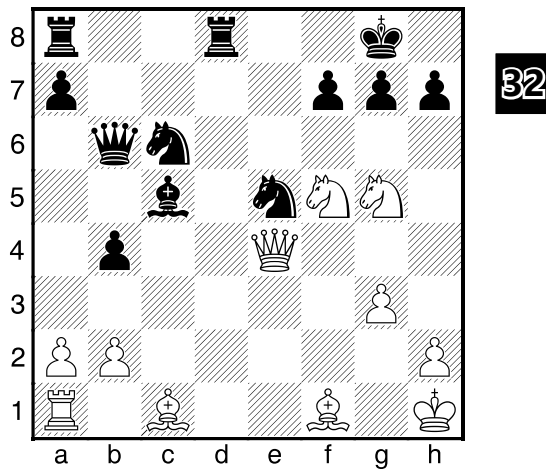




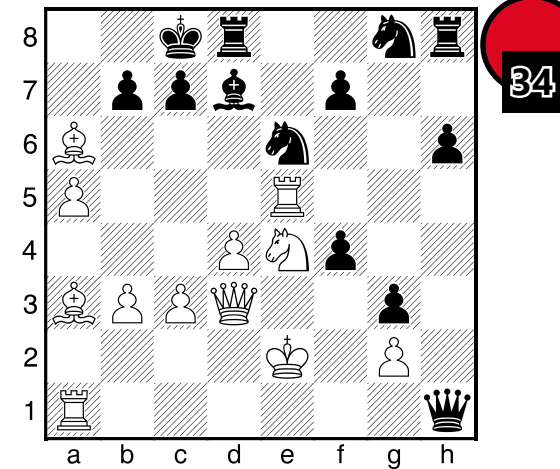
How did Nikoloff make his pawns go?



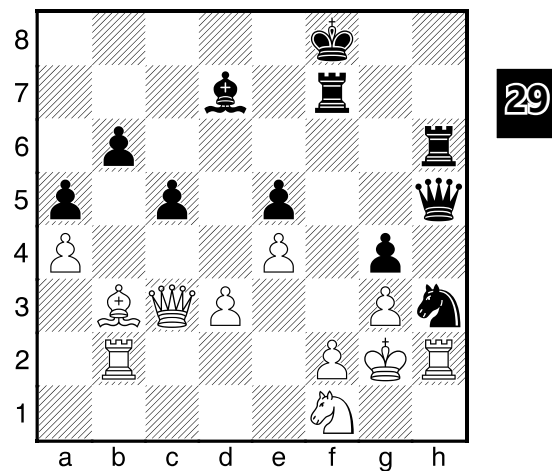
What should Black do about White's threat to h7?



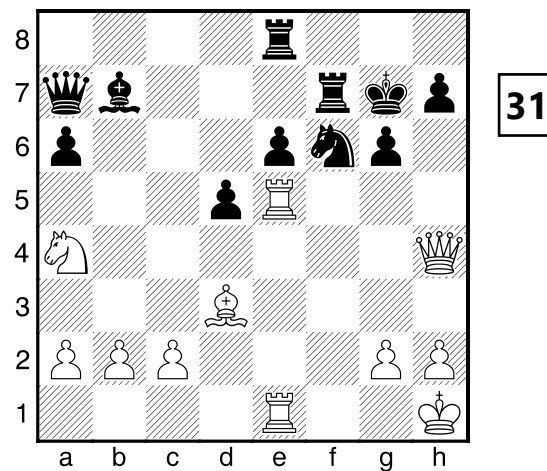
White's  $\text{N}$ s hover over the black king ( $\text{N}h6+!$ ?). Choose between ...g6, ... $\text{N}g6$ , or something else.



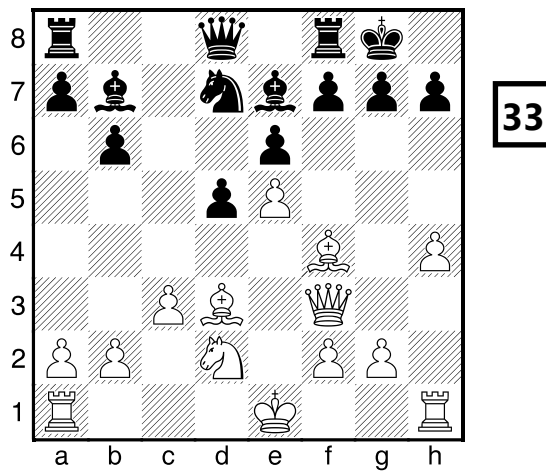
What happens if ... $\text{Q}xa1$ ?



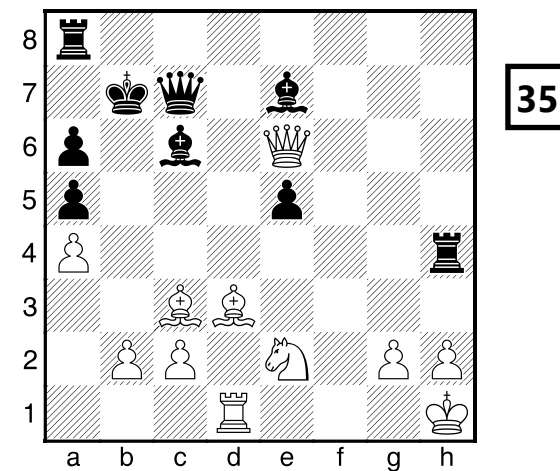
Strong and beautiful.



What happens if  $\text{R}xe6$ ?  
What if 24.  $b4$   $\text{N}e4$ ?



If White had  $\text{N}f3$  and  $\text{Q}d1$  then  $\text{Q}xh7+$  would be a winning "Greek Gift" sacrifice. But what if  $\text{Q}xh7+$  now?

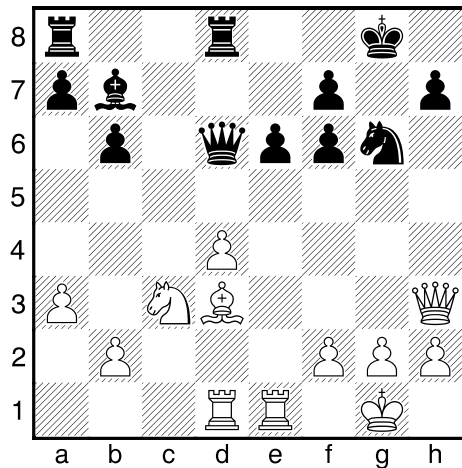


If it were Black's move ... $\text{R}ah8$  would win. Should White play:  $h3$ ,  $\text{Q}xe5$ , or something else?



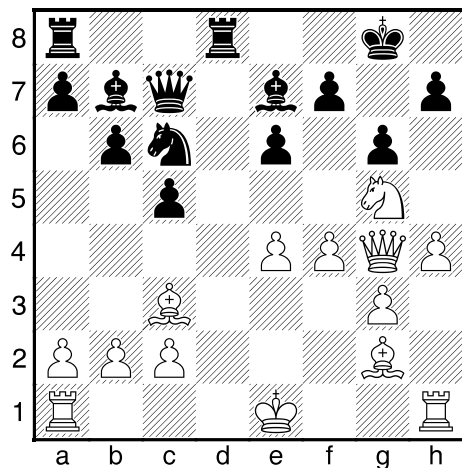


# Chess Canada Tacticosarus



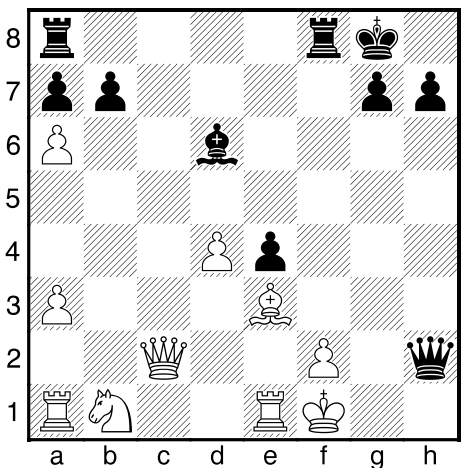
36

How can White activate his pieces?



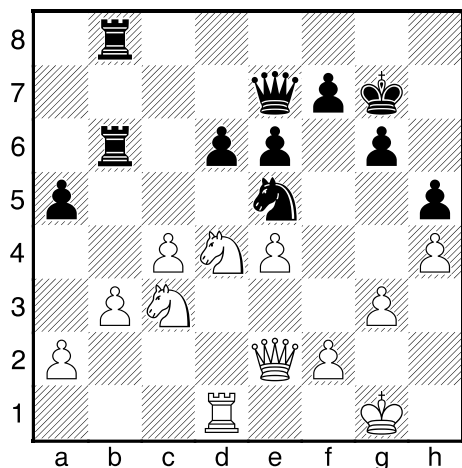
38

Should Black go ...♘d4 or ...h5?



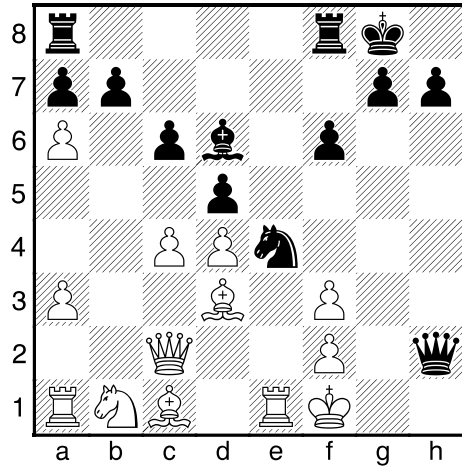
39

Black has sac'ed a piece for a big attack. Now what?



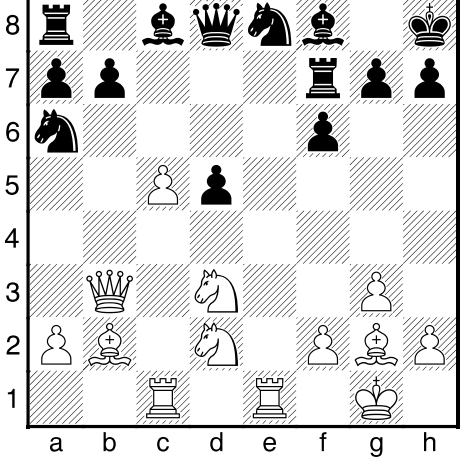
37

Black has an exchange for a pawn, but no open lines for his ♖'s. Is ...g5 to open a file on the kingside worth a try?



39

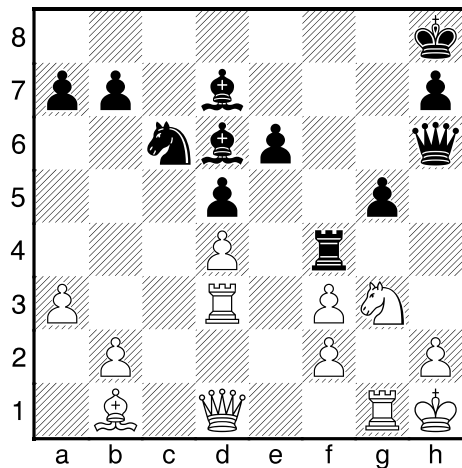
Compare ...f5 with ...♘g5.



40

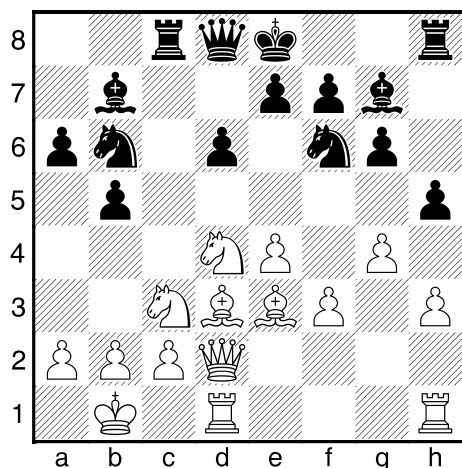
Can White play ♙xd5?





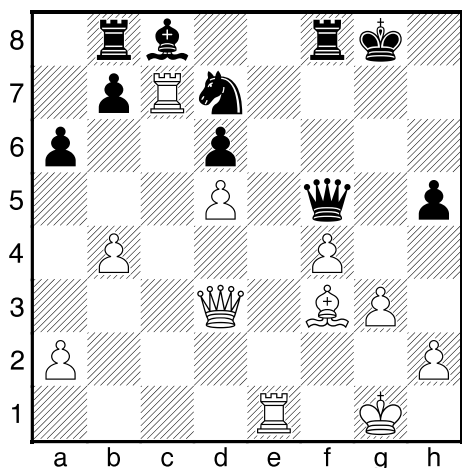
41

Black has pressure on d4 and the kingside, now what?



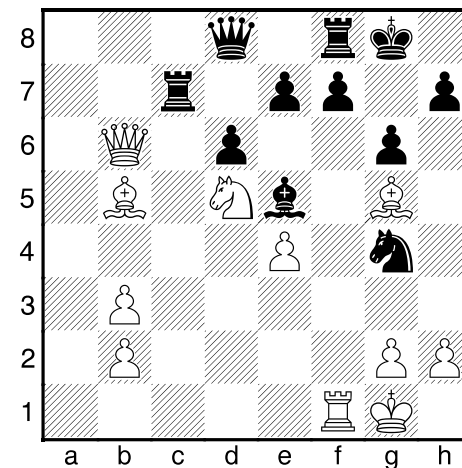
43

What happens if e4-e5?



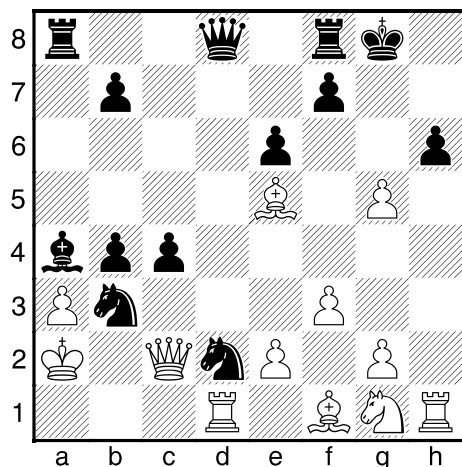
45

White enterprisingly sac'ed a ♖ for ♖♖ and initiative, and is still ahead in development. Now what?



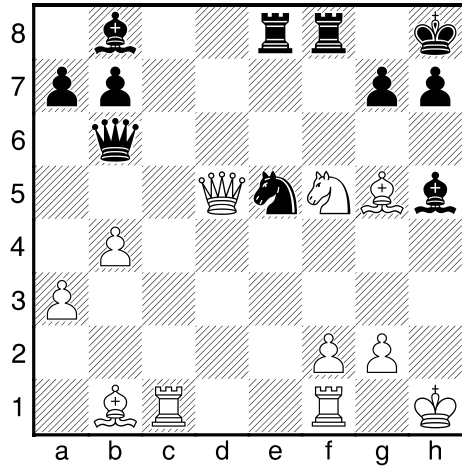
47

Don't play the Dragon unless you love tactics.



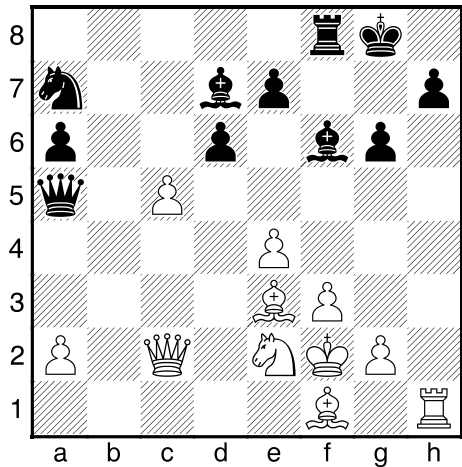
42

A wild position where both sides are attacking ferociously. Does Black have anything better than ...♔d5?



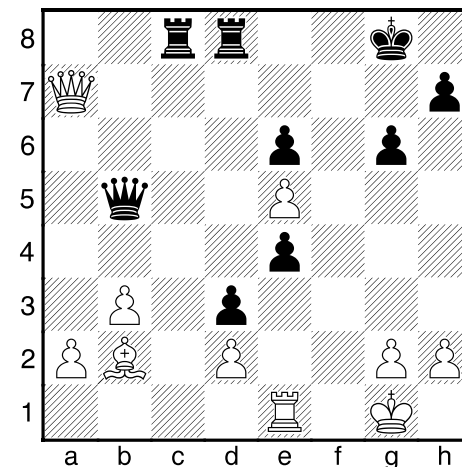
44

♙e7 or something else?



46

19...dxc5, 19...♞c6, or ...?



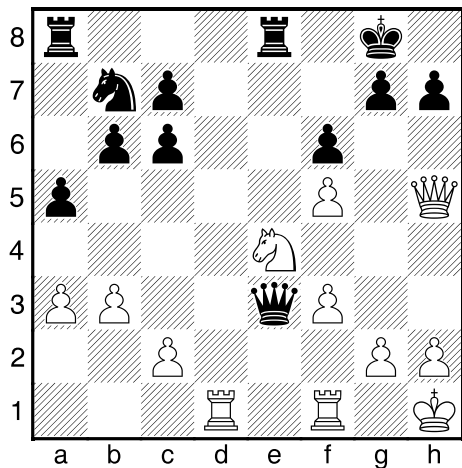
48

Should Black trade the opponent's most dangerous piece with ...♔c5+ or try something else?





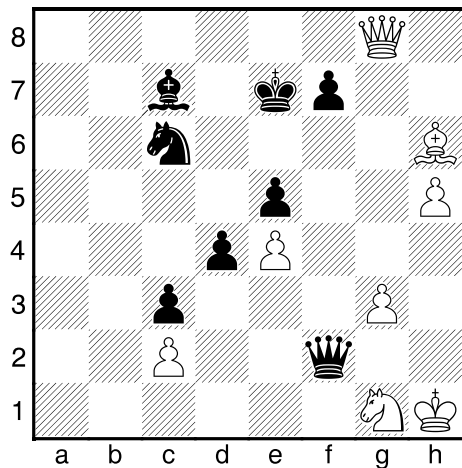
# Chess Canada Tacticsarus



49

White is threatening ♖d1-d7.  
Should Black play:

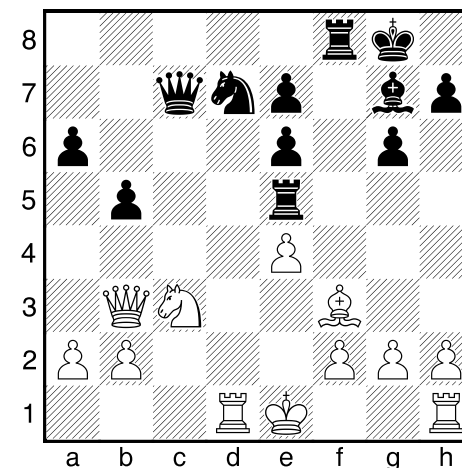
- a) ...♖ad8, b) ...♖ed8, c) ...♖f8.



51

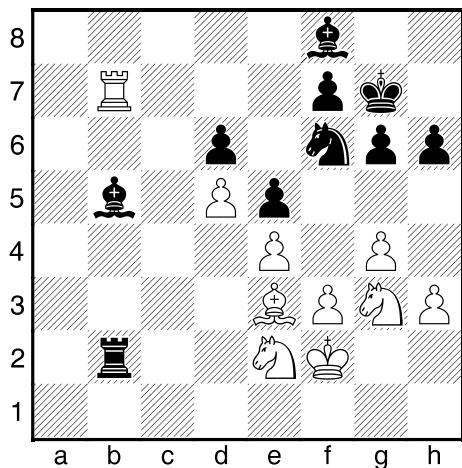
What happens on ...♔xc2? Does  
Black have better?

Which of the three results will it  
be?



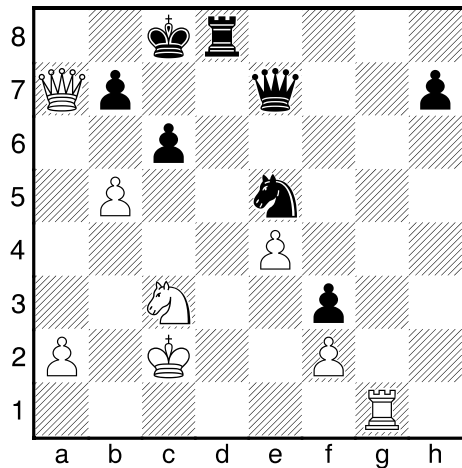
55

00, ♕g4, or something else?



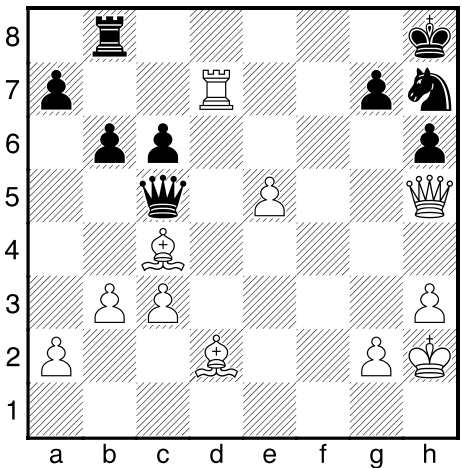
50

What happens after ♕xh6+?



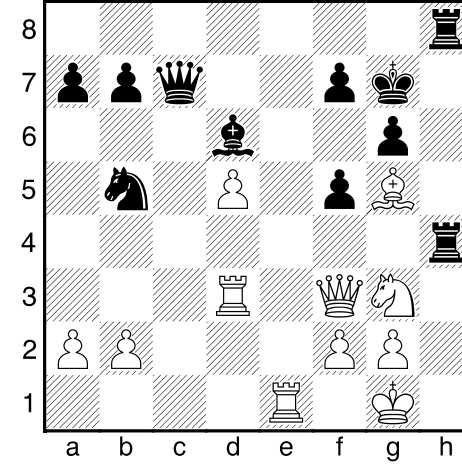
52

How should Black defend:  
...♔b4, ...♔c7, or ...?



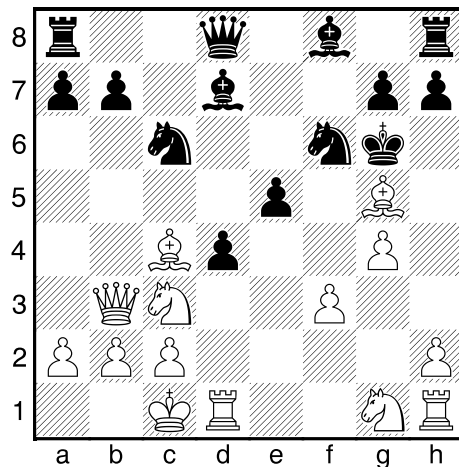
54

White is up a piece and has a  
crushing position. What are the  
quickest crushes?



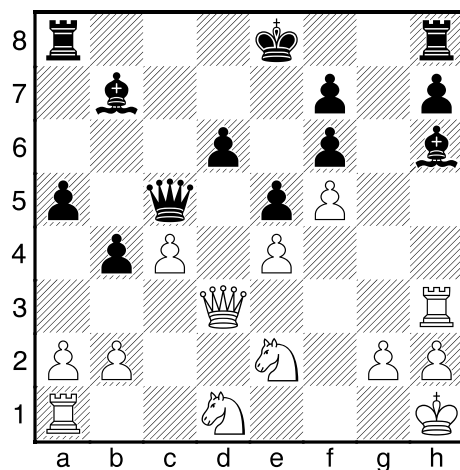
56

How should Black pile up the  
pressure: ...♖g4, ...♖h2, other?



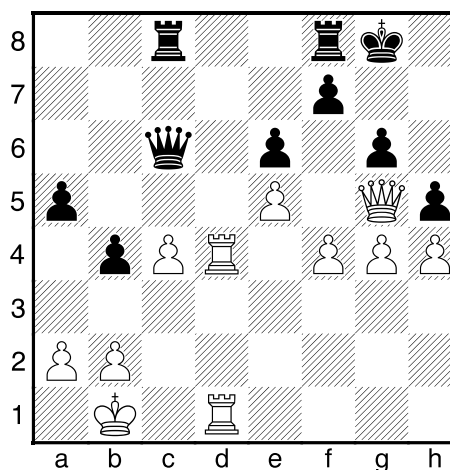
57

White is winning, but calculate the mates on various defences like ...h6 and ... $\text{c}\text{e}8$



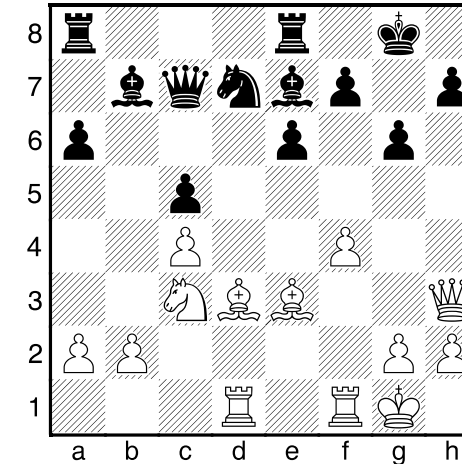
59

Black's  $\text{h}6$  is on a good diagonal, but if ... $\text{g}5$  White might trap it with  $\text{h}5$  and  $\text{h}4$ . Where should the  $\text{g}5$  go?



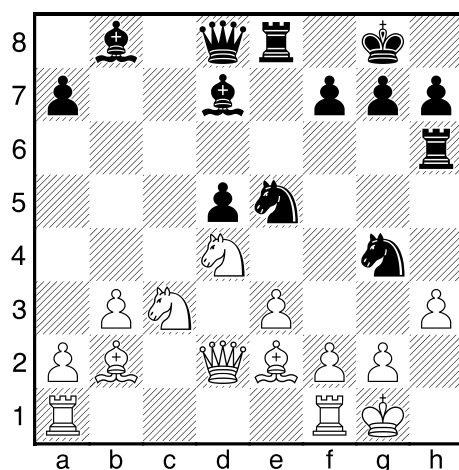
61

White has an extra pawn, control of the only open file, *and* a kingside initiative. Is Black just lost?



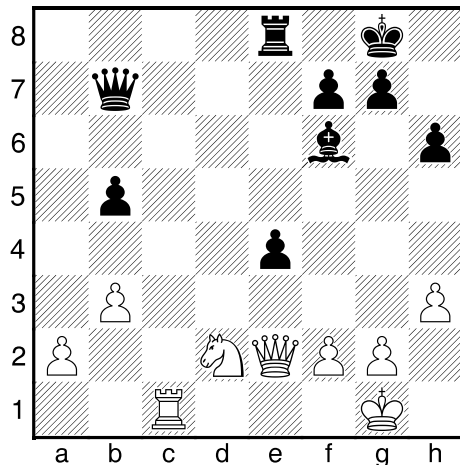
63

What happens if  $\text{f}5$   $\text{exf}5$  and  $\text{g}5$   $\text{xf}5$ ?



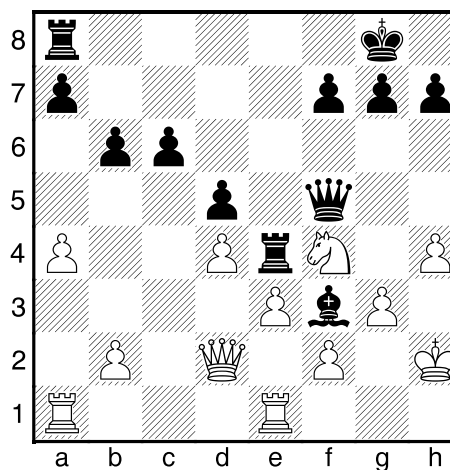
58

Should White try  $\text{c}5$ , hoping Black will go ... $\text{b}4$  to concede the  $\text{c}4$  square, or should White try something else?

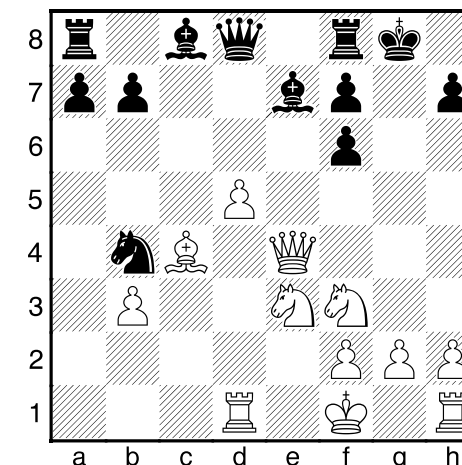


60

White's kingside is porous, can Black exploit it?



62



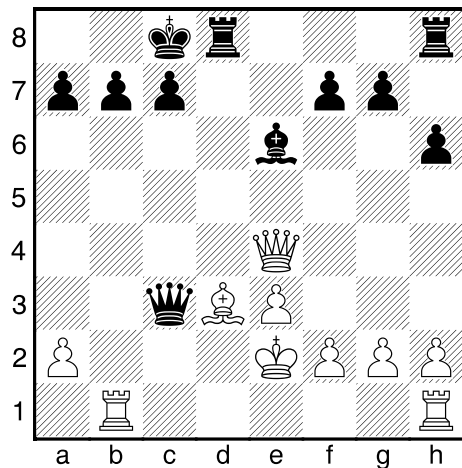
64





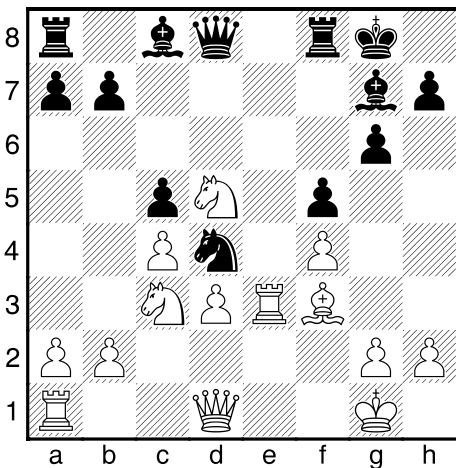


# Chess Canada Tacticosarus



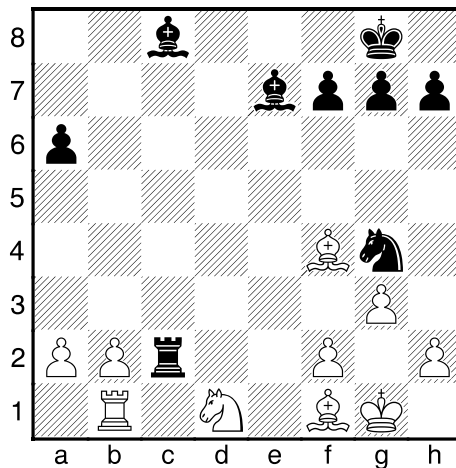
65

It can't be that easy, can it?



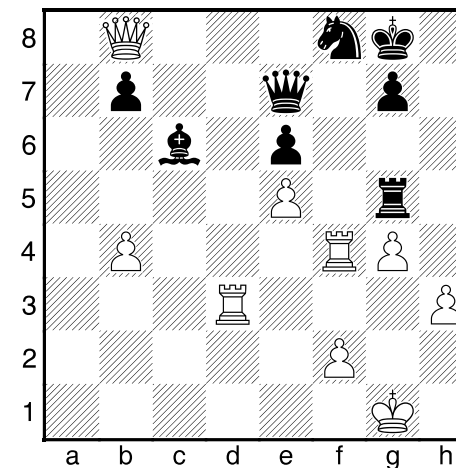
67

What happens if Black takes on f3?



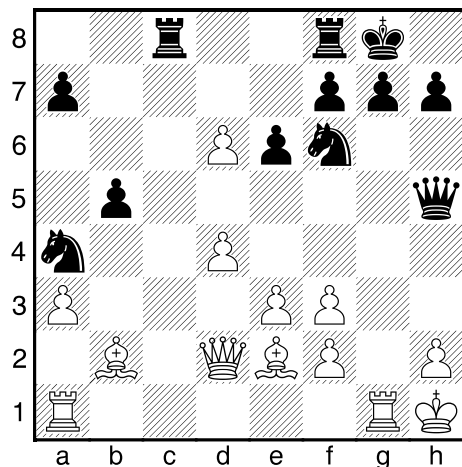
69

White's minors have been discombobulated in an attempt to evict the ♖c2. Can Black keep up the pressure?



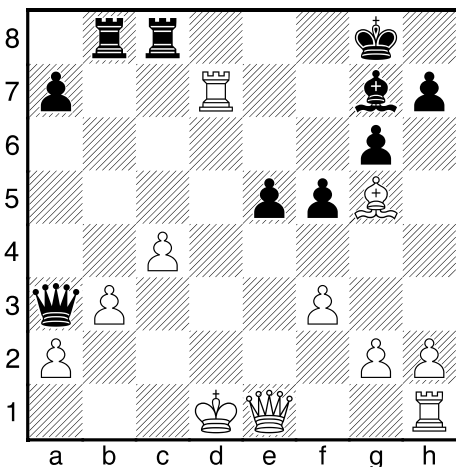
71

White threatens both ♖d8 and ♖xf8+. Can Black do anything about it?



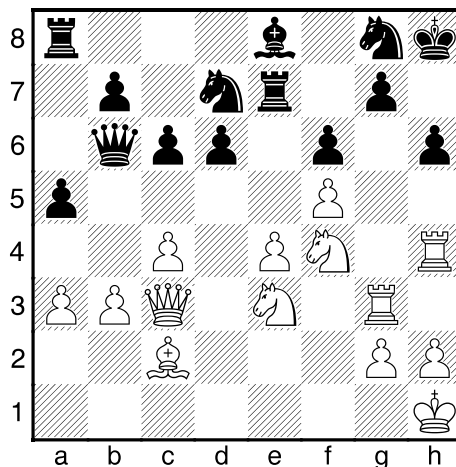
66

Can Black win the d6-pawn with ...♖fd8xd6, or does that maneuver lose a piece to e4-e5?



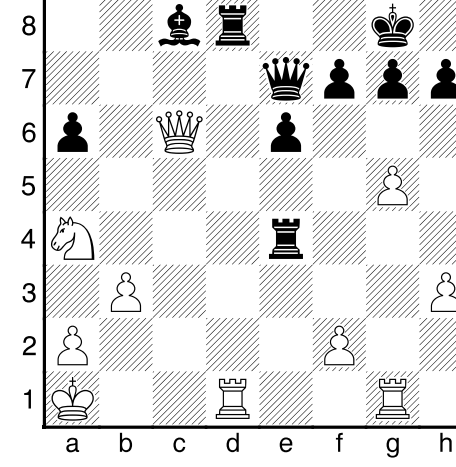
68

No the ♔d1 and ♕e1 are not typos.



70

♘e6 or ♘g6?

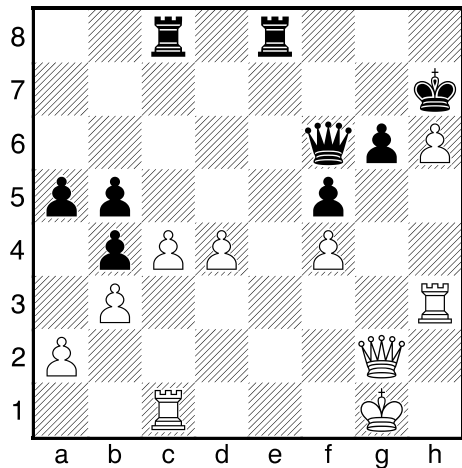


72

Black's ♖e4 is hanging and White threatens ♘b6 winning the ♙. Can Black defend?

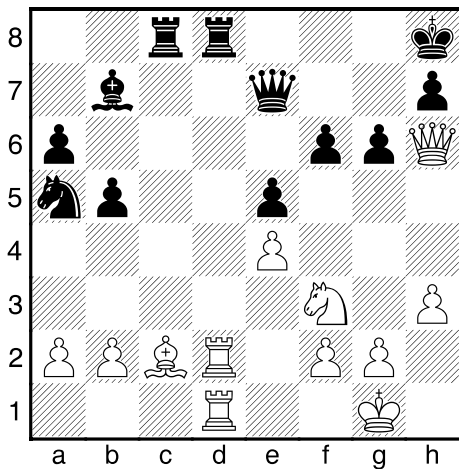


# Chess Canada Tacticosarus



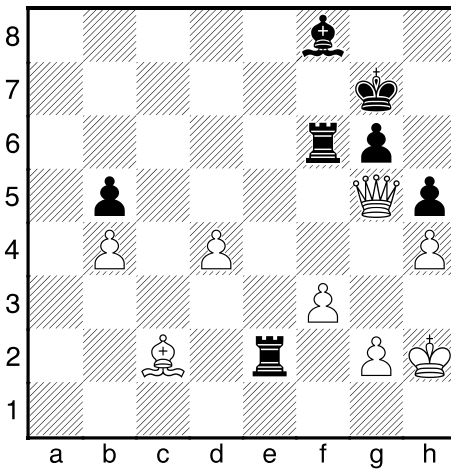
73

White is up a pawn, but Black is attacking d4 (with check) and has the only open file. What to do...



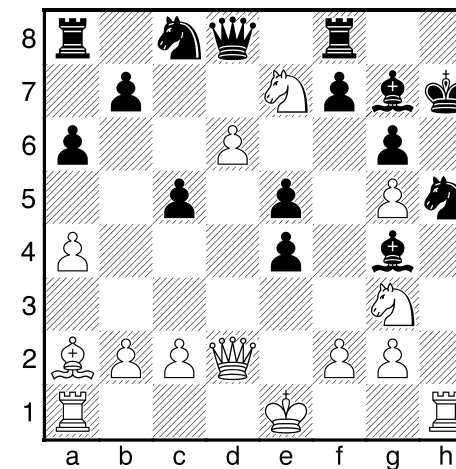
75

...♖xd2 or ...♞c4



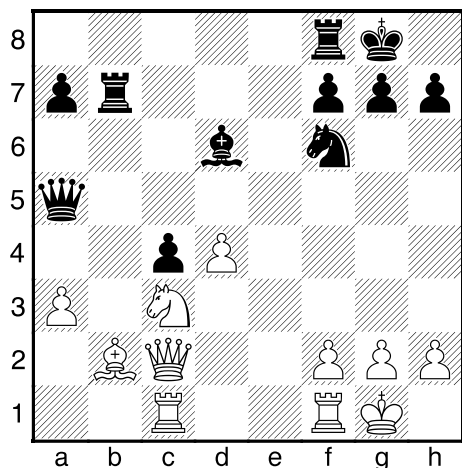
76

Where should the ♕c2 go?



77

White to play and... win or survive?

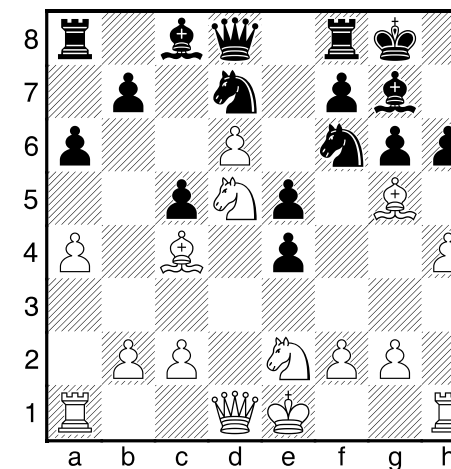


74

What should White play now:  
a) ♖fd1 (support d4)  
b) ♞b1 (attack c4 & defend a3)  
c) ... something else?



## The Fishing Pole Tactic\*



77

Can Black take on g5?  
If not now, when?

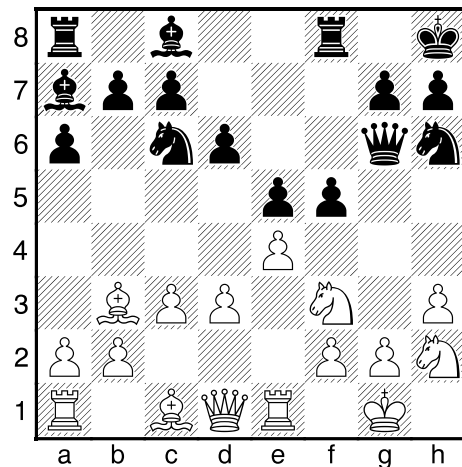
\* *patience is a key.*





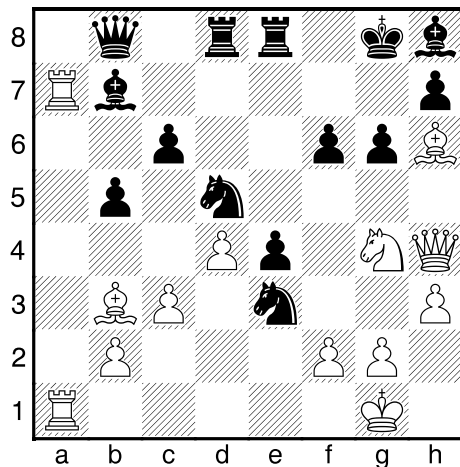


# Chess Canada Tacticosarus



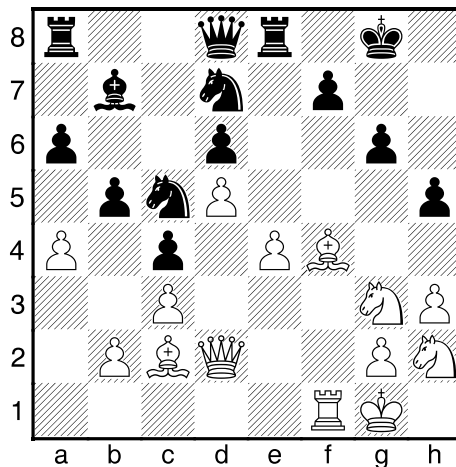
78

Black has a lot of pressure, what should White do?



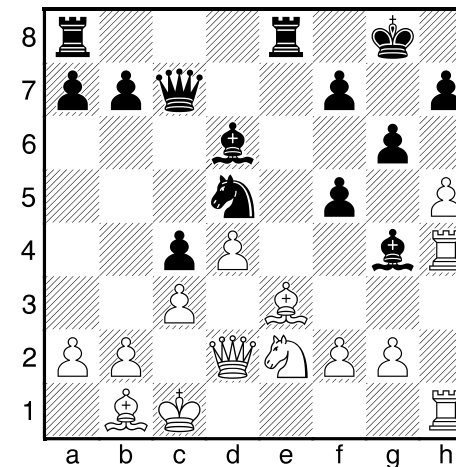
80

What two things did White overlook after 29. ♖xf6+?

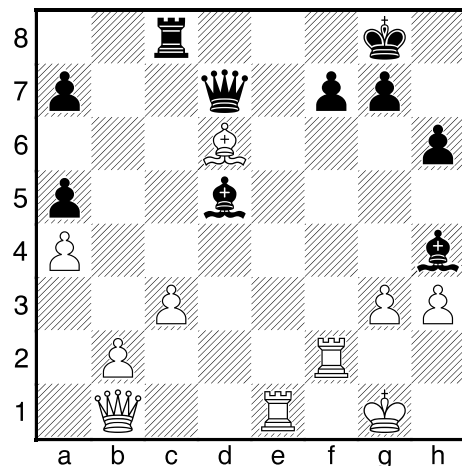


82

...h4 or ... ♔e7

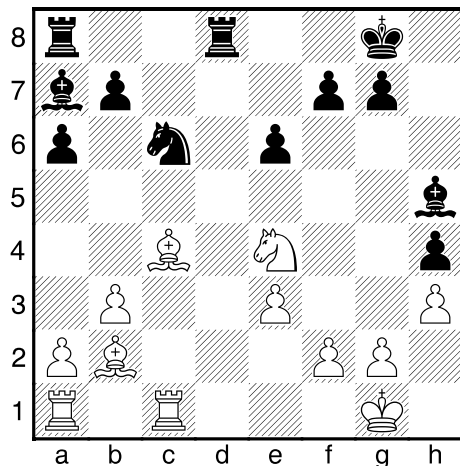


83

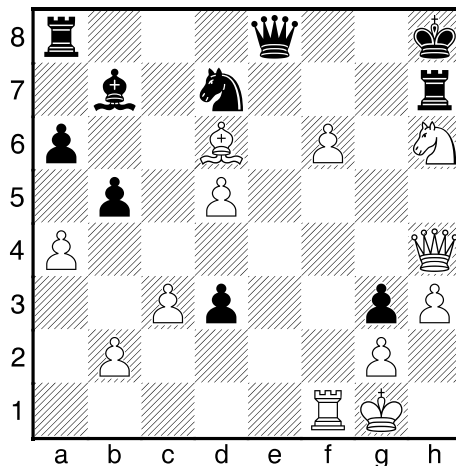


79

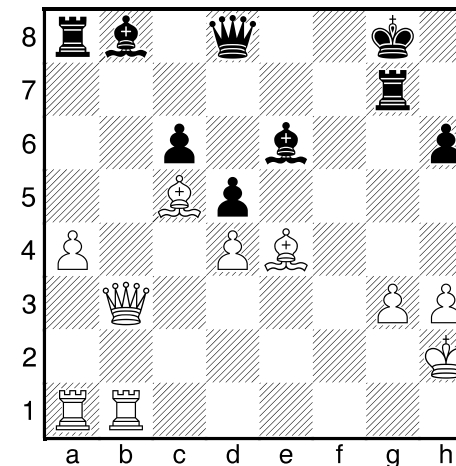
Both players have hanging ♗s; what should White do?



81



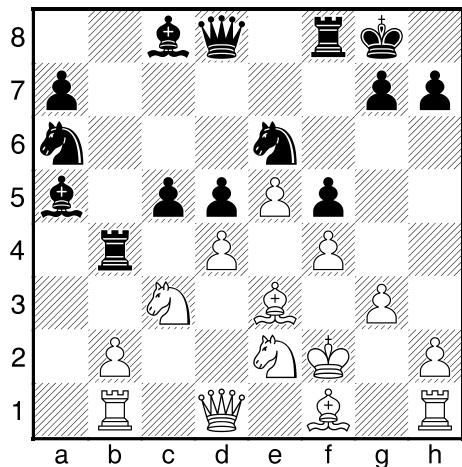
82



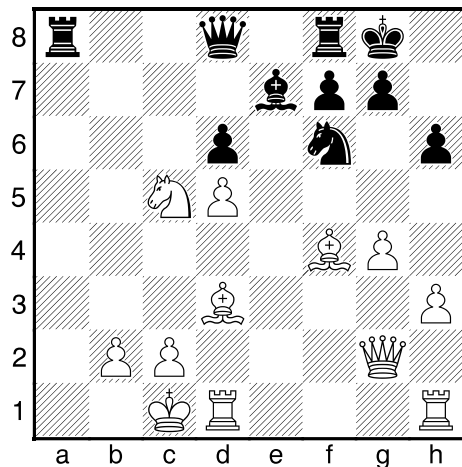
84



# Chess Canada Tacticosarus

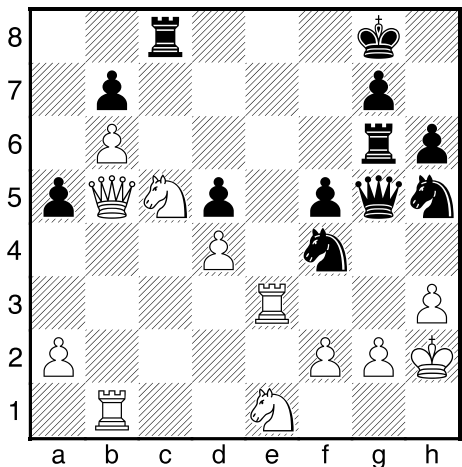


85



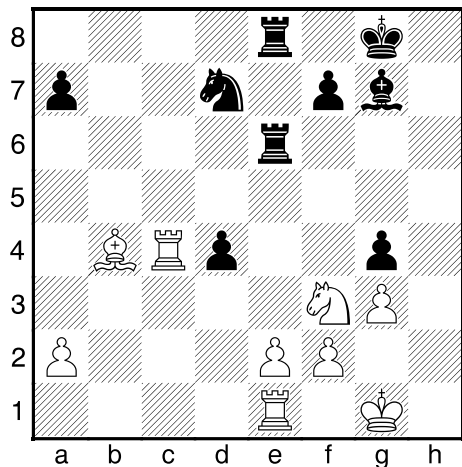
87

What if 21...dxc5?



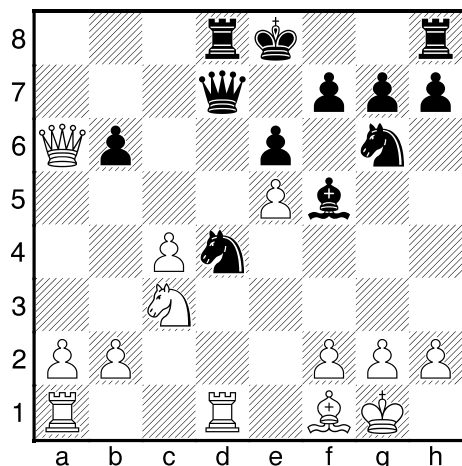
89

Safety first with 33.g3, or something else?



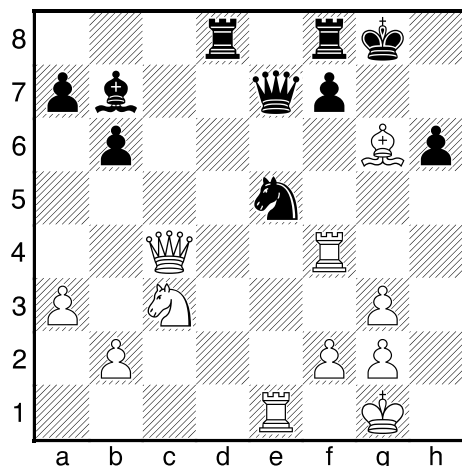
91

Can White play  $\text{dxd4}$ ?

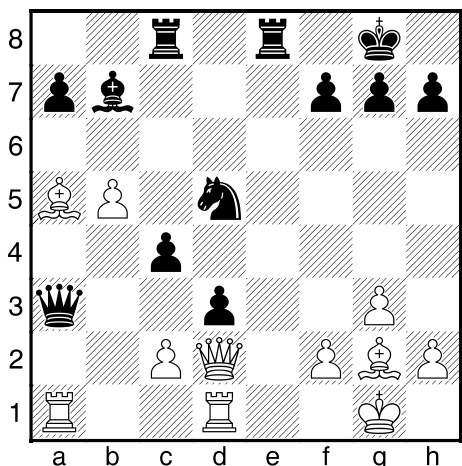


86

Can Black castle, or does it drop a piece?

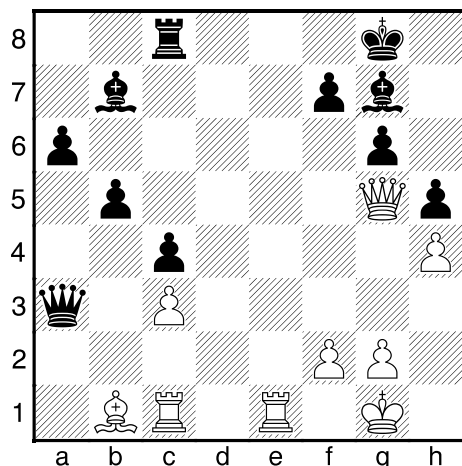


88



90

... $\text{Qb2}$  or ... $\text{Qc5}$ .



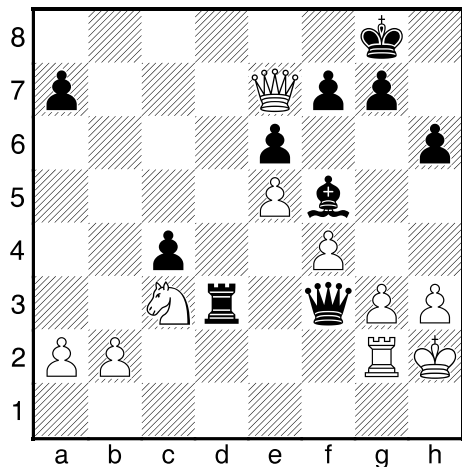
92

28. $\text{Re7}$  or 28. $\text{Qxg6}$

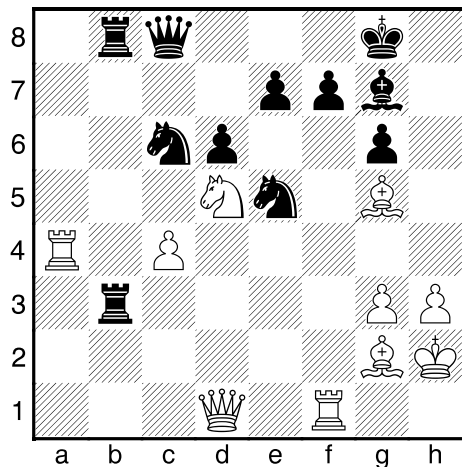




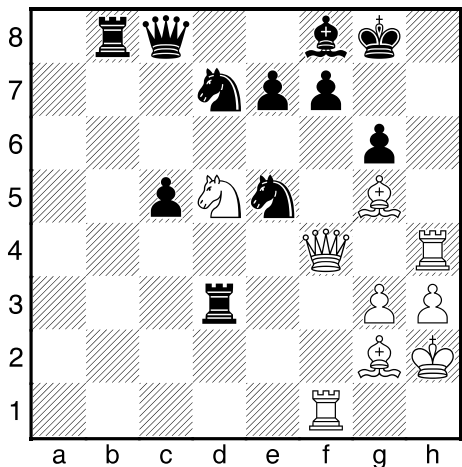
# Chess Canada Tacticosarus



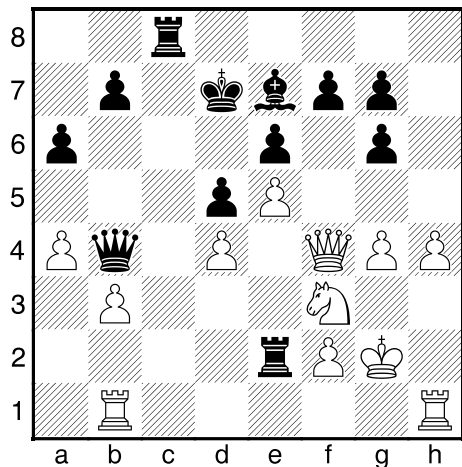
93



94



95

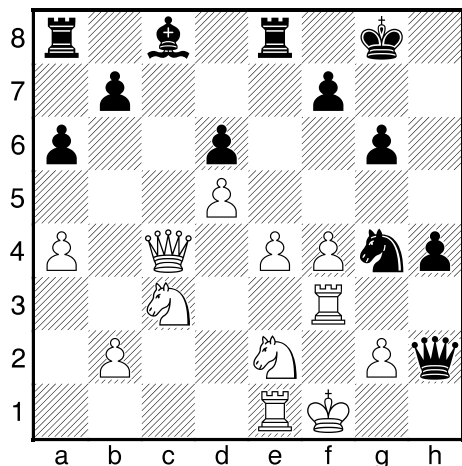


96

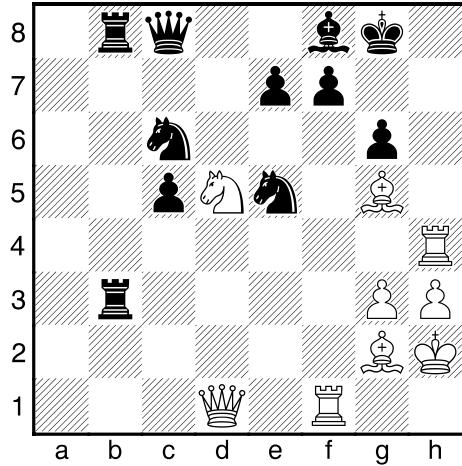
What happens after ...♖b1?

Does White have anything better than ♗xe7?

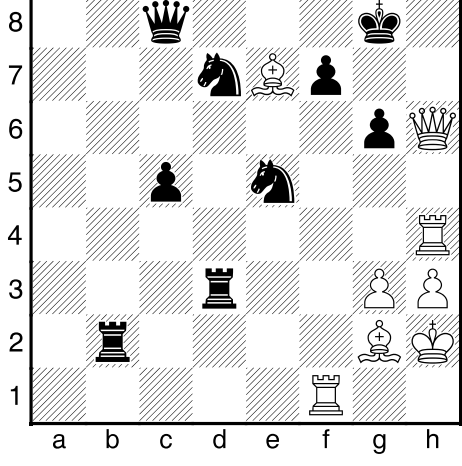
♙xf7, ♖hd1, or ....?



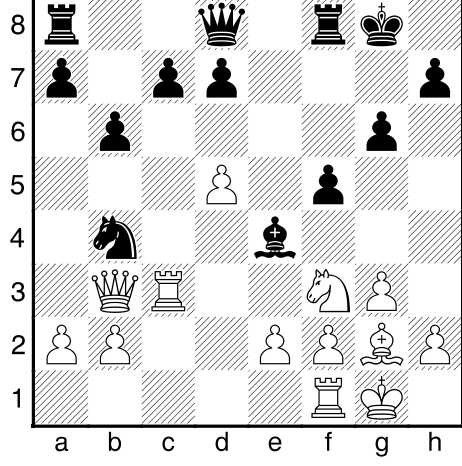
97



98



99



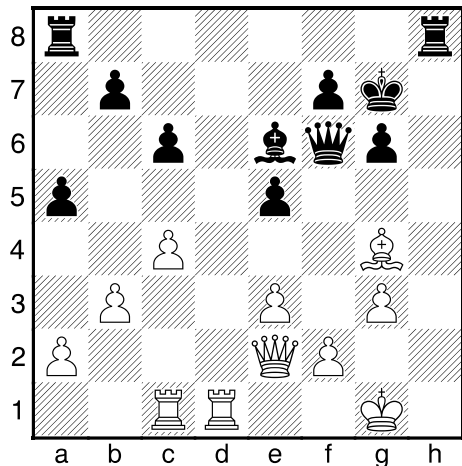
100

What happens after ...♖b1?

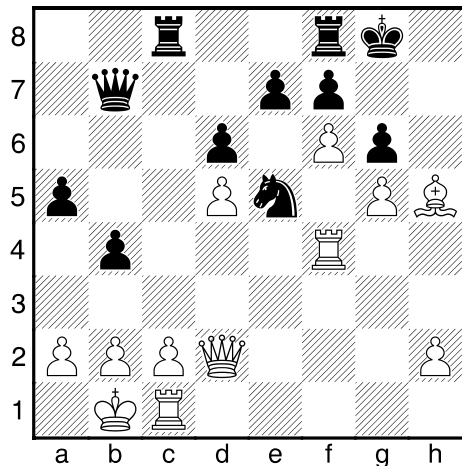
What happens if ...♖xg2?



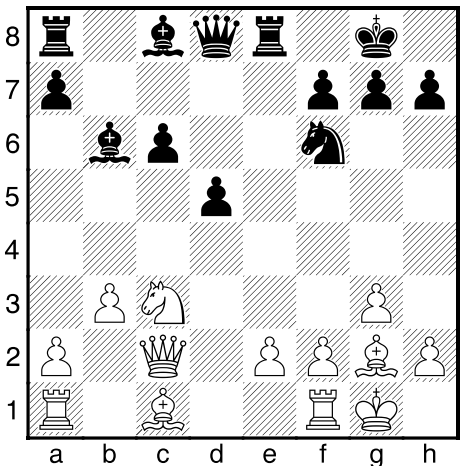
# Chess Canada Tacticosarus



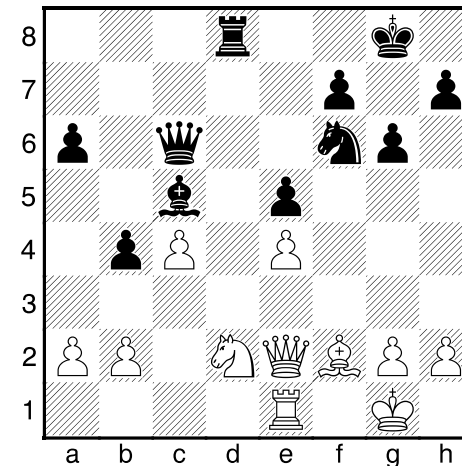
Fight for the h-file with 24. ♔g2, or something else?



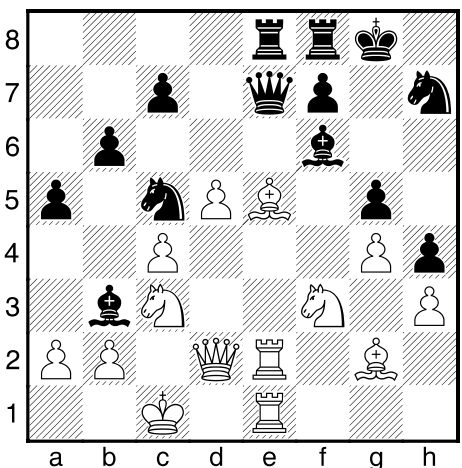
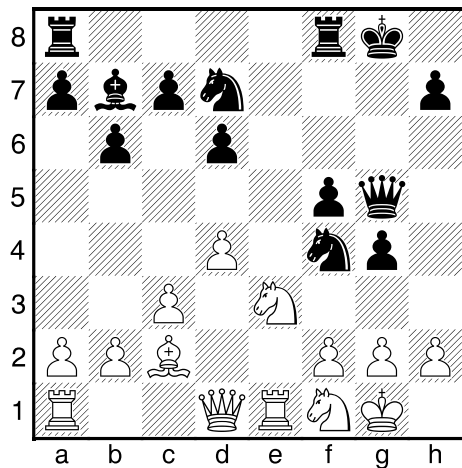
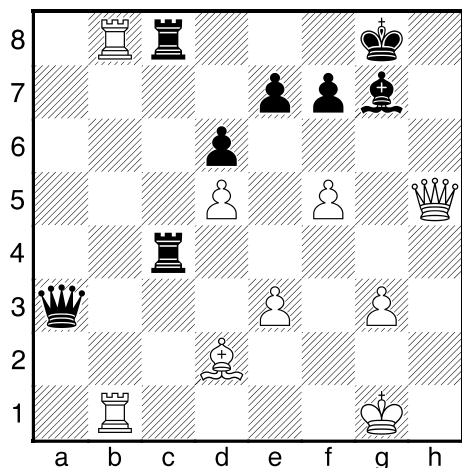
Black has an incredible defence after ...gxh5; can you find it?



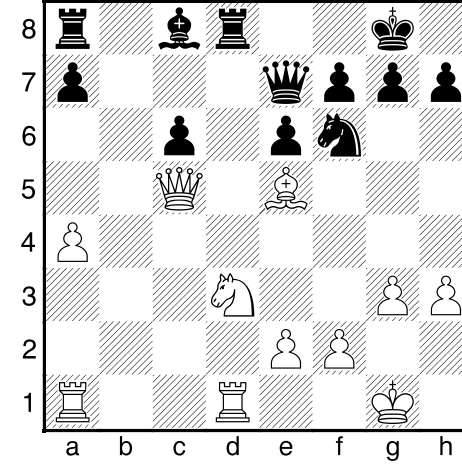
Should White go ♞a4 to fight for c5, or develop the Rs with ♖fd1, ♙b2 and ♖ac1?



♞f3, b3, or something else?

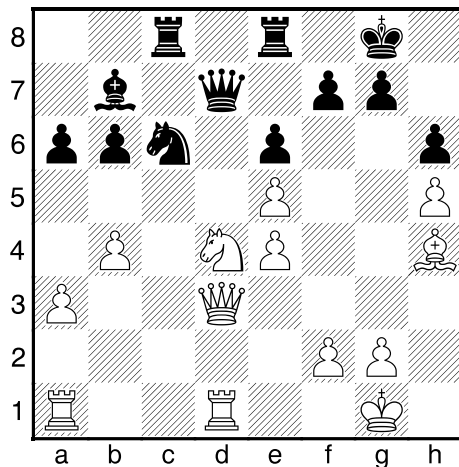


A King's English has turned into a tactics contest. Calculate away!



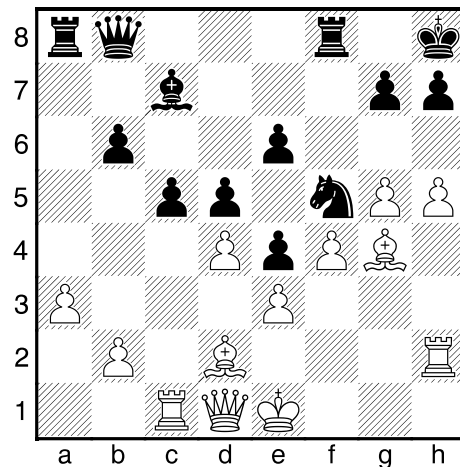
White has sac'ed a pawn for development, dark squares, and pressure on the c-pawn. Find Black's best.





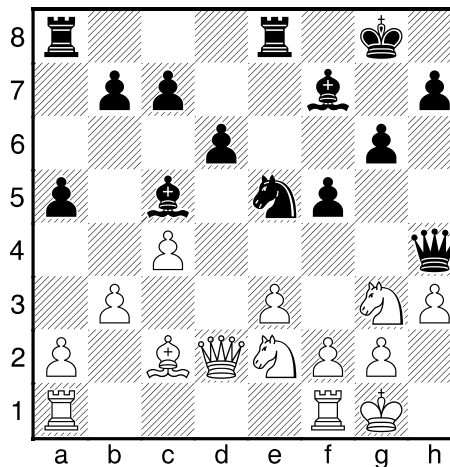
106

From a 3+0 online game.



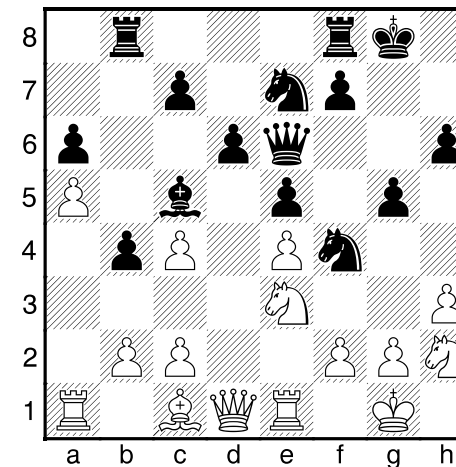
108

Attack the kingside with h6, break the center with dxc5, or bail with ♖xf5?



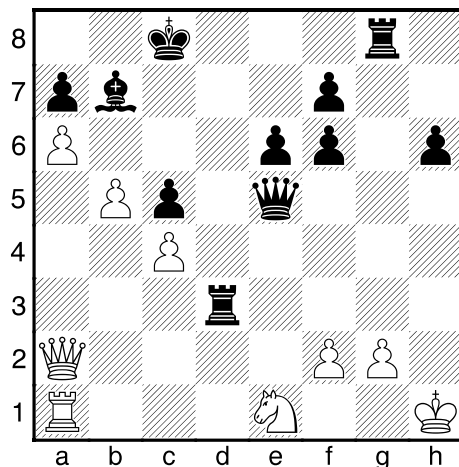
110

Find a good move, then find a *better* move.



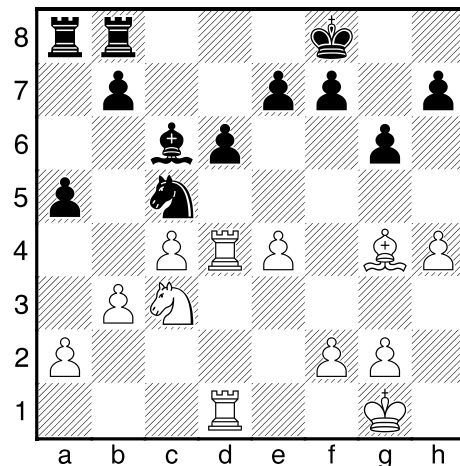
112

Can White stabilize the kingside with g3 ... ♞f4-moves then ♔g2?



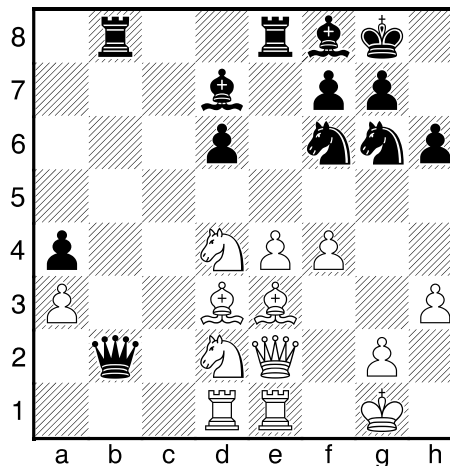
107

Black is up a ♖ and has more than one way to win; find the best.



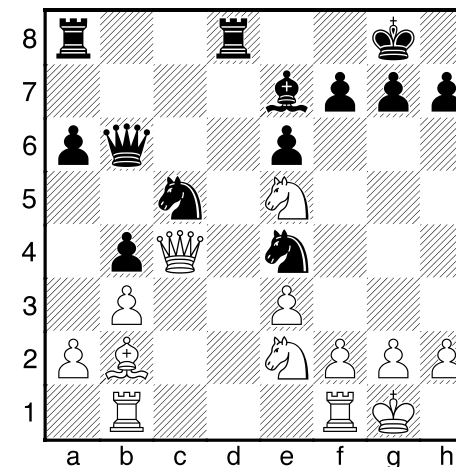
109

Should Black: activate with ...b5 or block with ...h5?



111

White is fantastically centralized, but Black has just played the annoying ... ♞b2.



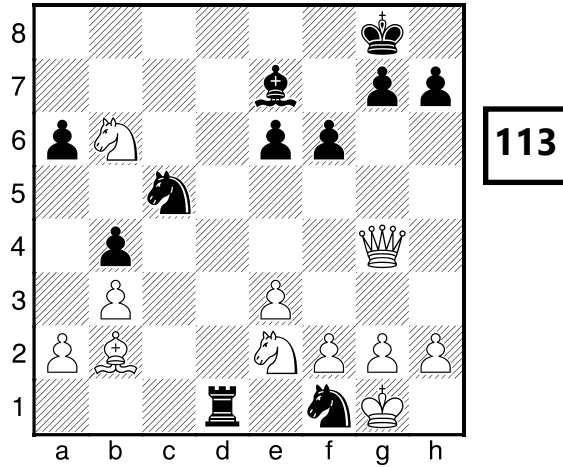
113

Is Black threatening ... ♞d2, and if so, what should White do about it?

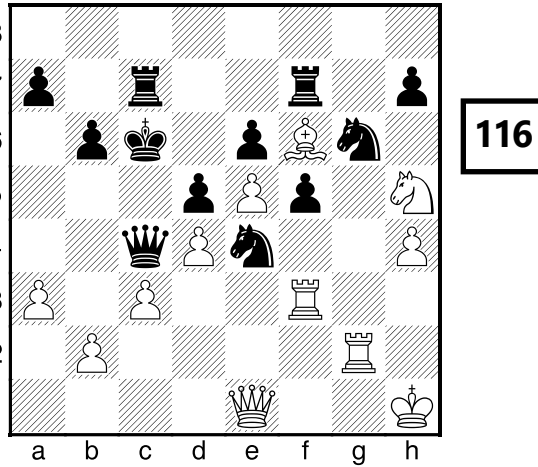
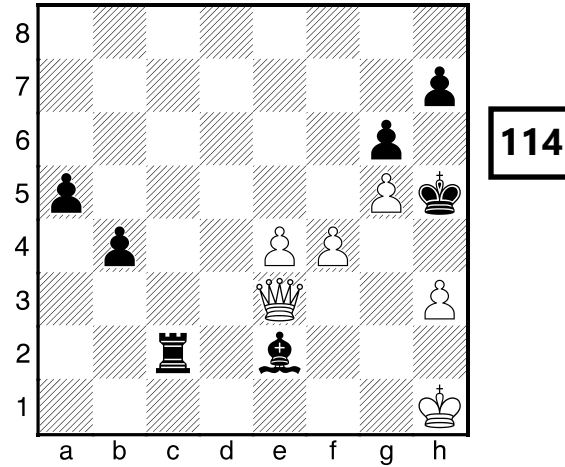




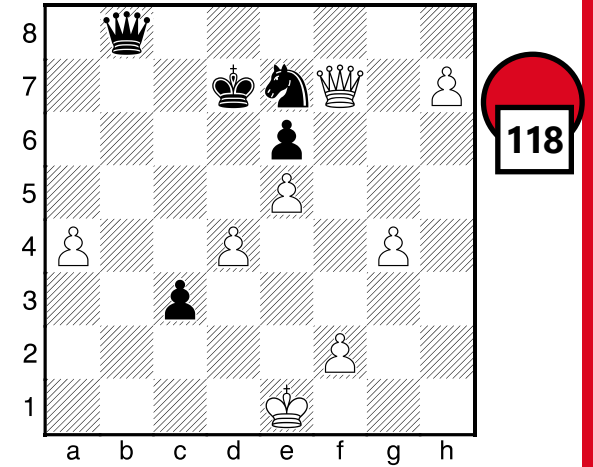
# Chess Canada Tacticosarus



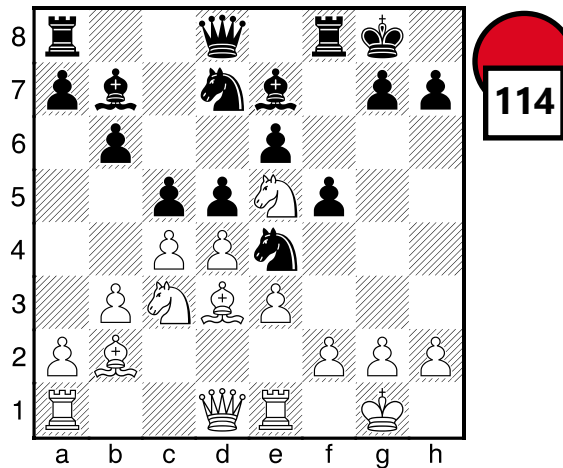
Black threatens both discovered mate and ...Nc3+ winning the ♔.



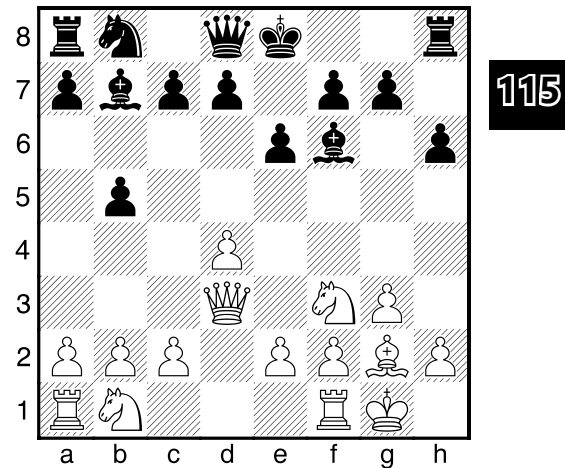
What happens if ...Nc7?



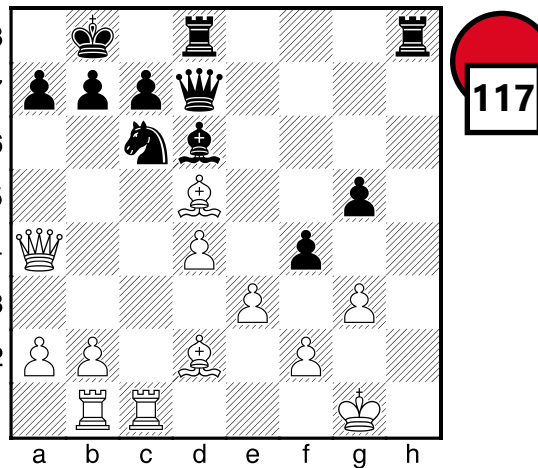
White has a crazy-hard-to-find move, but which is still logical.



Black's best piece is the Nc4. What happens if White kicks it with 12.f3?



...a6, ...b4, or ...00?



Attack with ♔b5, defend with exf4, or something else?



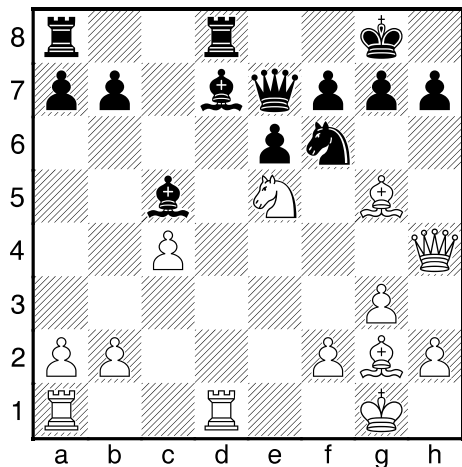
Memento  
Morphy

Remember: don't just sit there. Activity!



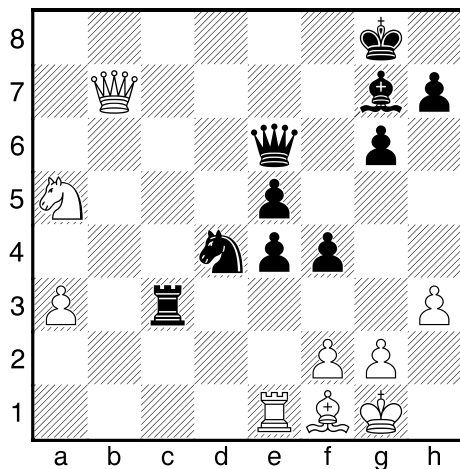


# Chess Canada Tacticsarus



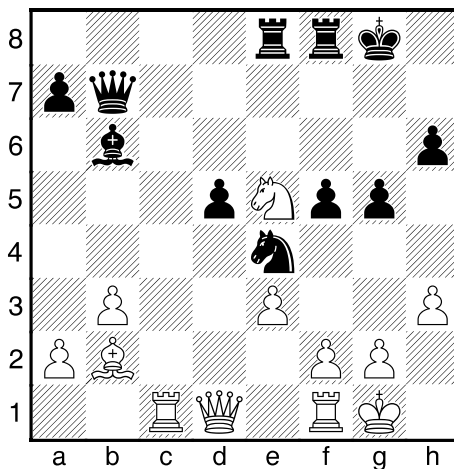
119

...♖e8 to preserve the ♖ pair, or ...h6 moving a pawn in front of the ♔?



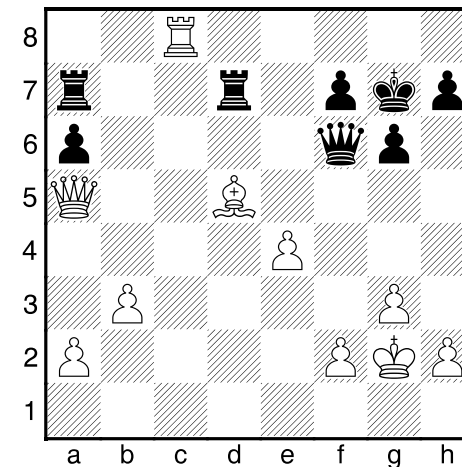
121

What happens if ...e3?



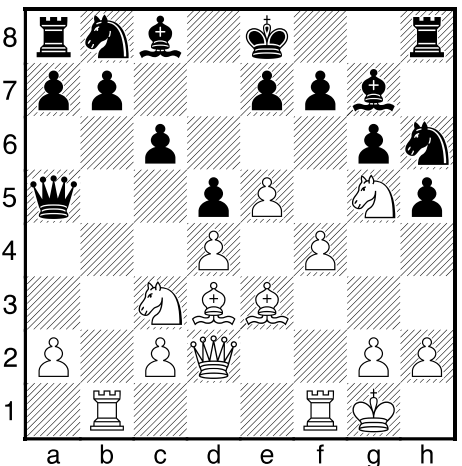
123

Find the most stylish win.



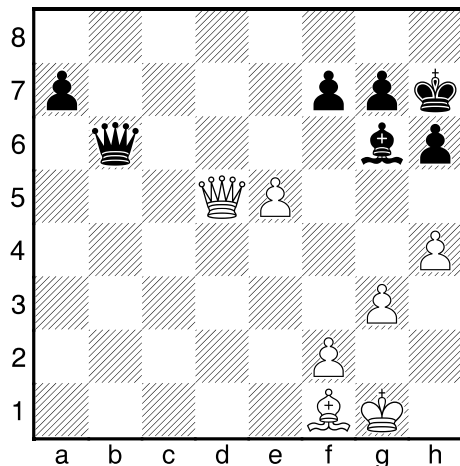
125

Stabilize with ...h5, or centralize with ...♔d4 or ...♔e5?



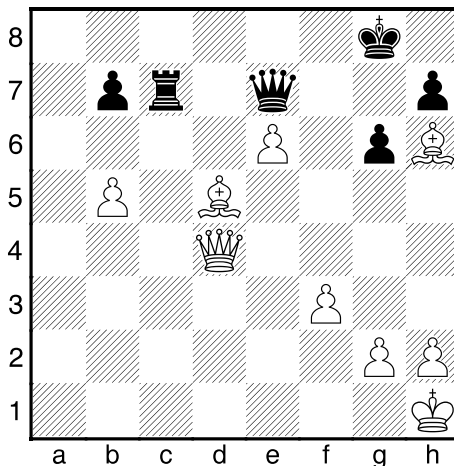
120

White gave a pawn for a huge lead in development. What should Black do?



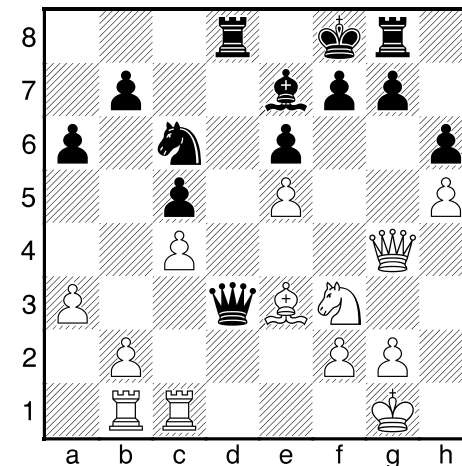
122

Q: What do you do about Magnus Carlsen's outside passed pawn?



124

White has an overwhelming position, but what is White's immediate threat?

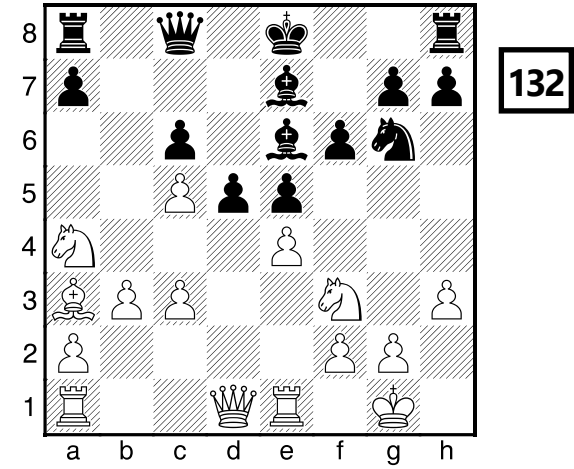
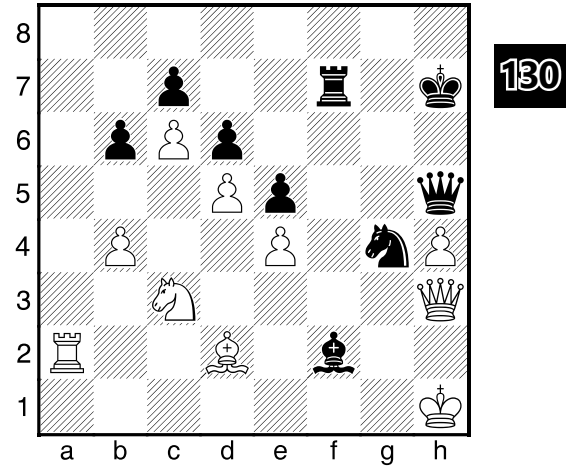
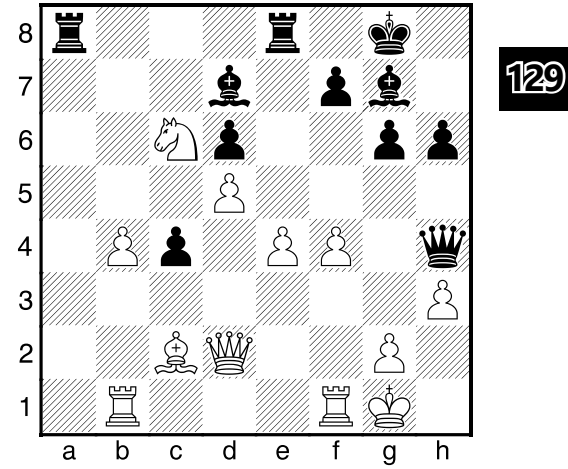
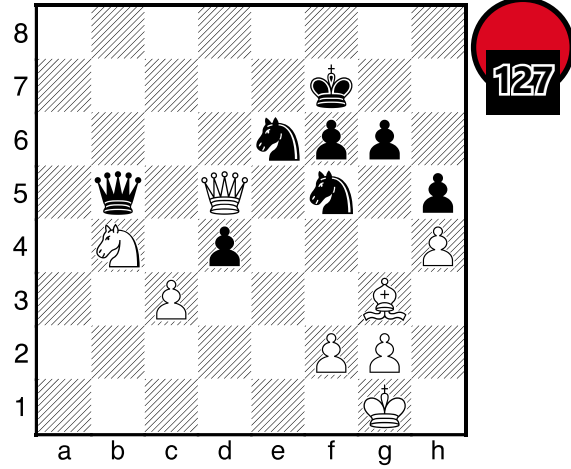


126

White's rooks are lined up for b2-b4; is that worth it as a pawn sac?



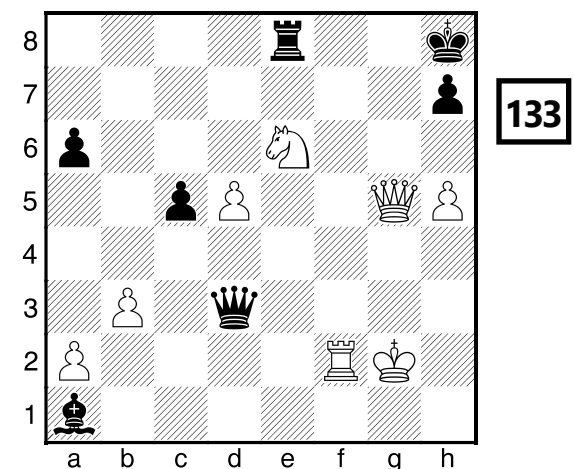
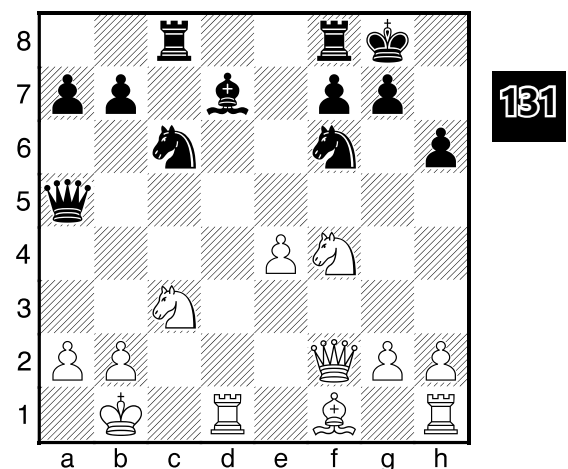
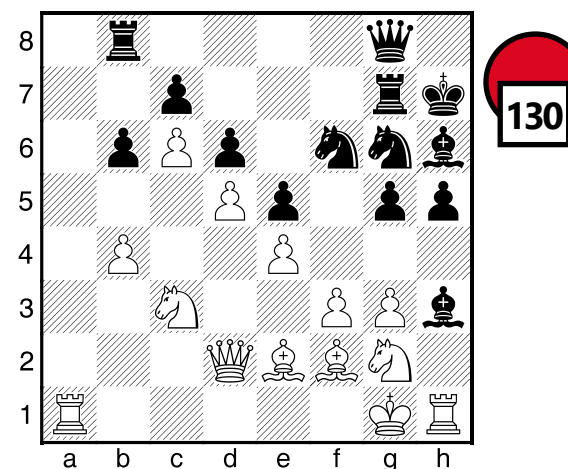
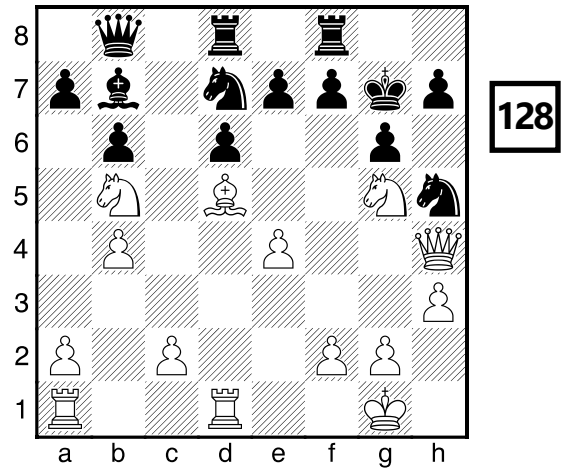
# Chess Canada Tacticosarus



A closed Lopez has turned into a Benoni... so Black should sac something, right? What happens if Black plays ...♗xh3!?

Can Black play ...♗xh4?

Take on d5 or stabilize with ♖c2?



White has flung his pieces forward, but they're a bit loose, and Black threatens ...h6 then ...♘f6 consolidating with targets. What should White do?

Can White take on h3?

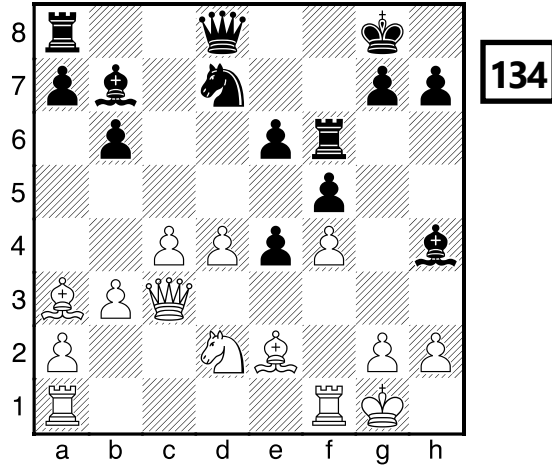
...♘xe4 or ...♘b4?

Time trouble. Both Kings exposed. A perfect recipe for chess nightmares.

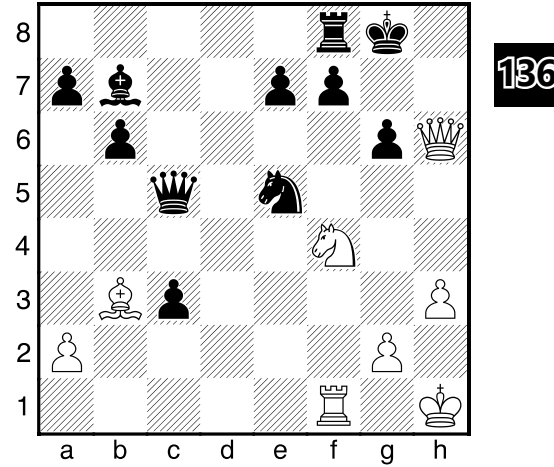




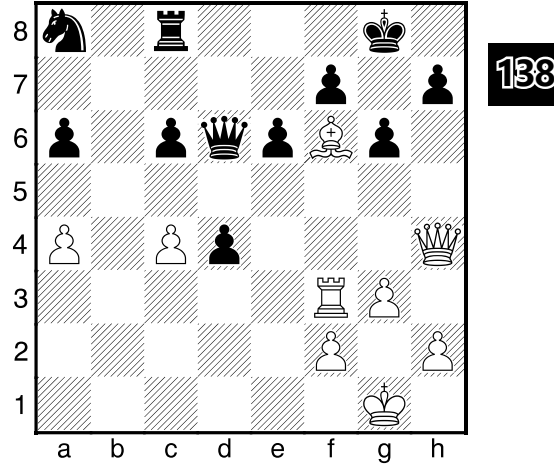
# Chess Canada Tacticosarus



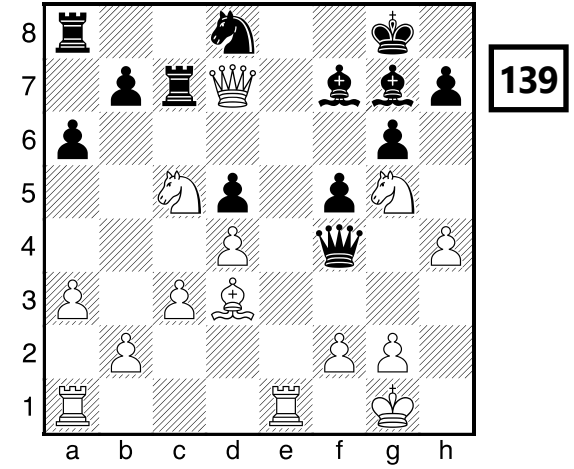
What happens after g3?



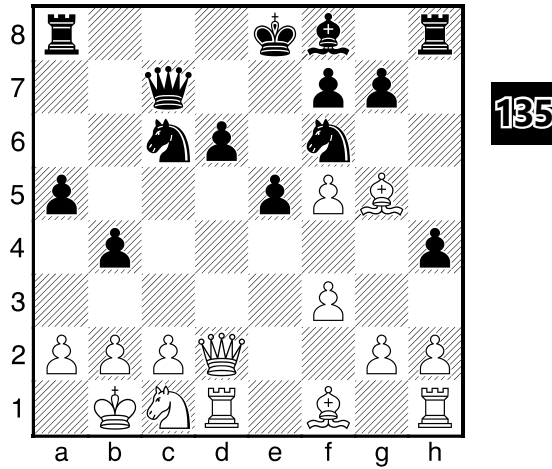
Does Black have anything better than ...♔d6 or ...♔c6?



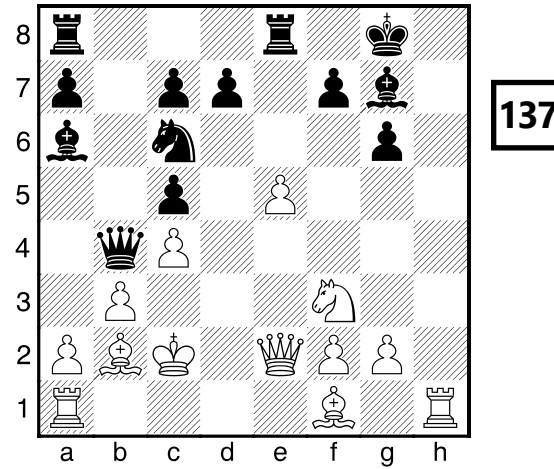
White has pressure, Black has pawns. Should Black go ...d3 or ...♘c7 or ...e5 or ...c5?



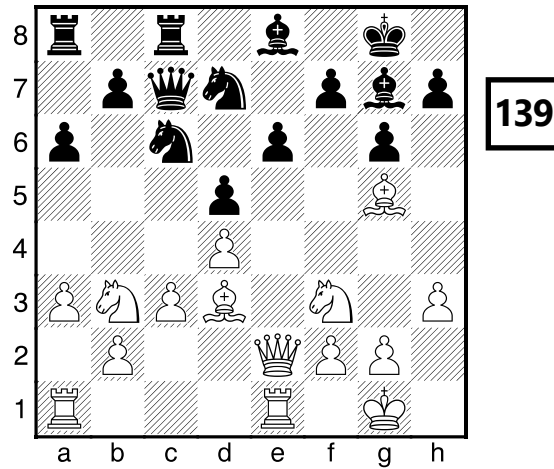
Find something better than ♔a4.



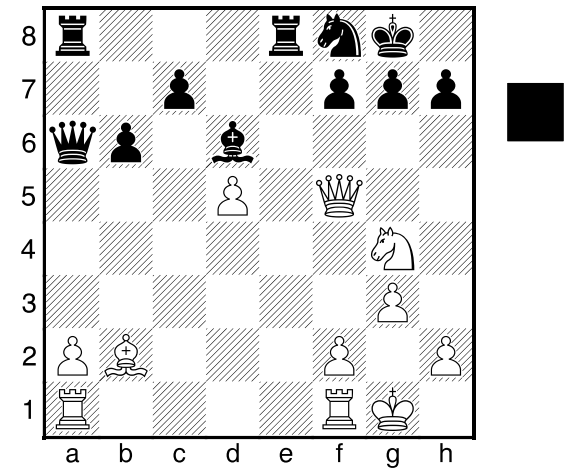
White to play goes ♙xf6 then ♔d5 and ♙c4 with a crushing bind on the light squares. Can Black do anything about this?



Black is ready to break in the center with ...d6 or ...d5 and the White ♔ is a target. Should White go ♔e4, or ♙c3, or something else?



What are the tactics after, say 16.♖ad1 f6 17.♔xe6+?



Should Black improve his ♔ with ...♔b5, or try to trade ♔s with ...♔c8, or go ...♘g6, or something else?

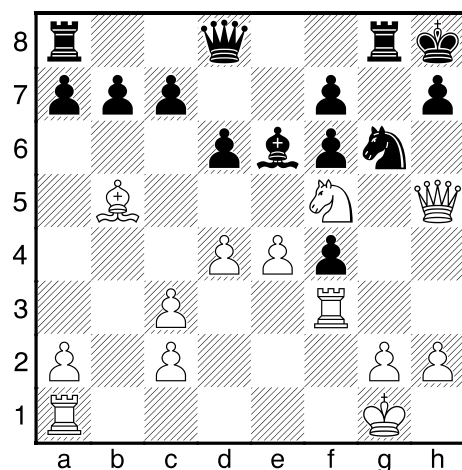
Answer: Next Issue



(1)  
**Capablanca, Jose Raul  
Spencer, RJ**

C49  
*Capablanca sim Winnipeg,  
12.05.1912*

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♘c3  
♘f6 4.♙b5 ♙b4 5.0-0 0-0  
6.d3 d6 7.♙g5 ♙xc3 8.bxc3  
♘e7 9.♘h4 ♖h8 10.f4 exf4  
11.♙xf6 gxf6 12.♚h5 ♘g6  
13.♘f5 ♖g8 14.d4 ♙e6  
15.♖f3



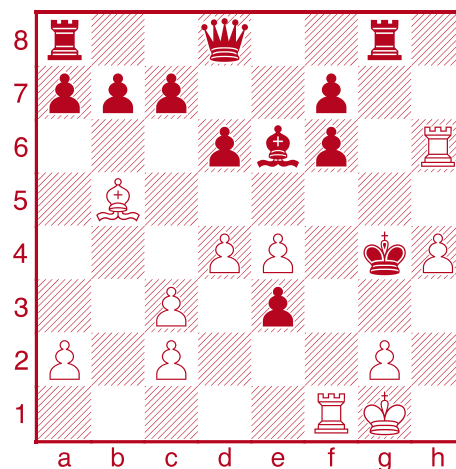
This position appeared in the previous issue, asking readers to spot an error in Capablanca's analysis:

"Threatening mate in 16 with ♙xh7+..." – Capablanca

15...♘f8?  
Black should have tried 15...d5∞.

Here is Capablanca's line, showing the threatened ♙xh7+ sac from the diagram:  
15...— 16.♚xh7+ ♖xh7 17.♖h3+ ♘h4 18.♖xh4+ ♖g6 19.♖h6+ ♖g5 20.h4+ ♖g4 21.♘e3+!! (21.♙e2+? f3 22.♙xf3+ ♖f4 23.♖f1 ♙xf5-) 21...fxe3 (21...♖g3 22.♘f1+□+- ♖g4 23.♙e2+ f3 24.♙xf3+ ♖f4 25.♖f2!+- ♖xg2+! 26.♙xg2 and it won't be Capa's mate-in-sixteen, but Black's horribly exposed ♖ costs too much to save the game.) 22.♖f1:

*Analysis Diagram*



So far, Black has had no choice of moves. But here he does.

a) Capablanca's analysis continued: 22...♙c4 23.♙xc4 d5 24.♙e2+ ♖g3 25.♖f3+ ♖g4 26.♖h2 (26.♖xe3+ is faster, but this isn't the main problem – ed.) 26...♚d6+ 27.♖g3+ ♖f4 28.♖xf6+ ♚xf6 29.♖f3+ ♖g4 30.♖f5+ ♖xh4 31.♖h5# – Capablanca. Translated by Edward Winter; see: CFC NL Jan 2010.

However, it turns out there is an error in Capa's analysis, and so there is a problem with this "problem". Can you find it?

b) From the diagram, three leading Cuban players, Juan Corzo, Rafael Blanco and René Portela, suggested the following variation "which prolongs resistance and would end in mate if Black played weakly":  
22...f5 23.♙e2+

♖g3 24.♖f3+ ♖g4 25.♖xf5+ ♖g3 26.♖f3+ ♖g4 27.g3! (27.♖xf7++-) 27...♖h3 (27...♚xh4 28.gxh4 ♙c4 29.♖f1□+-) 28.♙f1+ ♖g4 29.♖g2+- ♚xh4 30.♙e2 (230.♖xh4+) 30...♚xg3+? 31.♖xg3+ ♖f4 32.♖h4+ ♙g4 33.♖gxg4+ ♖xg4+ 34.♖xg4#.

This is mostly right, but the Cubans' analysis goes wrong on move 22.

c) The problem with the whole ♙ sac is this: 22...♖g3□= getting the ♖ out of ♙e2 coming with check, so that a later double-deflection with ...♙c4 then ...d5 will gain a tempo on the ♙ so as

## Capablanca Simul Prague, 1911



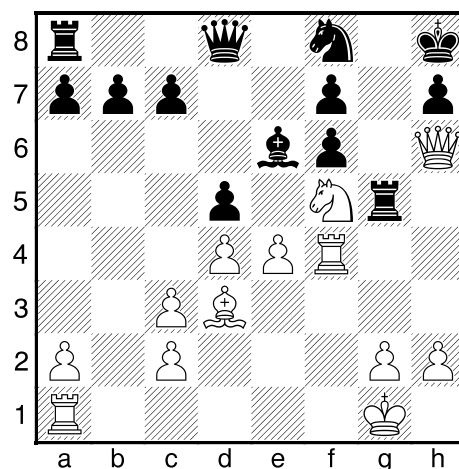


to eliminate the ♖e4 and give the Black ♔ an escape route. After 22...♔g3!!, White has nothing better than forcing a repetition:

**c1)** 23.♖f3+ (23.♙e2? ♙g4-+) 23...♔g4□ and here White should go 24.♖f1□ ♔g3= with a bizarre repetition.

**c2)** If White tries for more at move 24 he loses; e.g. 24.♙e2? ♙c4□ 25.♙xc4 (25.♙d1? e2-+) 25...d5! 26.♙e2 (26.♙xd5 f5! 27.♖xf5 e2 28.♔f2 ♖g6-+) 26...dxe4 27.♖xf6+ ♔g3-+ and there's no repetition.

16.♖xf4 ♖g5 17.♔h6 d5  
18.♙d3



18...c5?

△18...♙xf5 eliminates the ♘ and blocks the diagonal to keep the ♙d3 out of the attack.

19.exd5 ♙xd5 20.♘e3! ♘g6  
21.♖af1 ♖f8 22.♔xf8+ ♖xf8  
23.♙xg6 hxg6 24.h4  
24.h4! ♖h5 25.g4 wins the ♙.

1-0

### Robert John Spencer

*Not just any simul victim, he was the multi-time champion of Winnipeg and Northwestern Canada.*



(2)  
Yanofsky, Daniel Abraham  
Dulanto, Alberto Ismodes

C10

*Olympiad-08 Preliminaries A  
Buenos Aires (7), 30.08.1939*

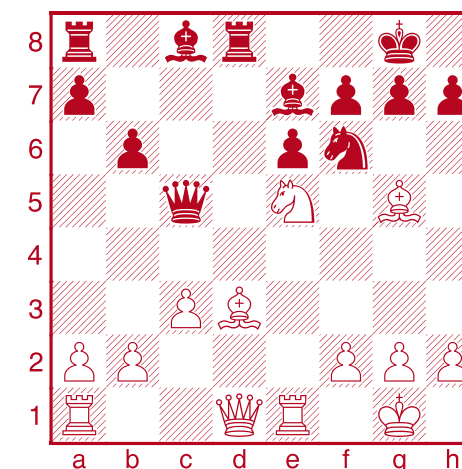
Dr. Tartakower wrote in the Argentine newspaper La Razon: "In all the preceding chess Olympiads new ... talent was discovered. For example, Hamburg 1930 is associated with the names of Flohr and Kashdan. Warsaw (1935) with Keres, Szabo, etc. Actually at Buenos Aires in 1939, the appearance of the very young Canadian, Yanofsky — only fifteen years old! — created a sensation, and his elegant style will lead him to become a great star in chess." This flattering write-up was occasioned by the following game won from Peru's champion on my only appearance at first board for Canada!

– Abe Yanofsky,  
*Chess the Hard Way*, g17

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♘f6

4.♙g5 dxe4 5.♘xe4 ♘bd7  
6.♘f3 ♙e7 7.♘xf6+ ♘xf6  
8.♙d3 c5 9.dxc5 ♖a5+ 10.c3  
♖xc5 11.0-0 0-0 12.♖e1 ♖d8  
13.♘e5 b6

The finale of this game is well known, as it was highlighted in Alekhine's book *107 Great Chess Battles*, but the setup deserves to be seen:



14.♙xf6!+-

"This move was the result of half an hour's study of the position. The rest of the game I was able to play almost rapid transit as I had calculated to after 22.♖xe6+."

– Abe Yanofsky, *CtHW*.

14...♙xf6

14...gxf6 15.♖g4+ (15.♙xh7+

also wins) 15...♔f8 16.♙xh7+- and Black has to play ...♚xf2+ to make a square for his ♔ to run.

**15.♙xh7+! ♔f8**

15...♔xh7 16.♚h5+ ♔g8  
17.♚xf7+ ♔h7 18.♖e3+-.

**16.♚h5! ♙xe5 17.♖xe5 ♚c7**  
17...♖d5 18.♖xd5 ♚xd5 19.♚xd5  
exd5 20.♙c2+- White is up a pawn with a better structure and minor piece.

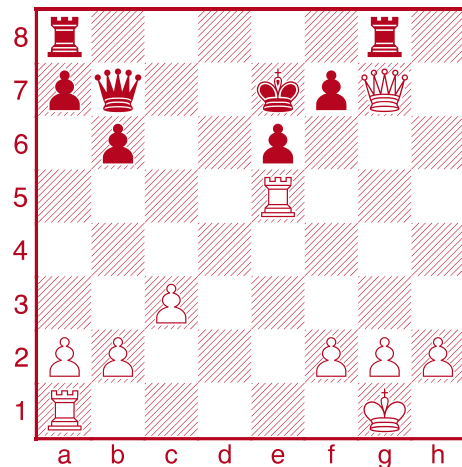
**18.♙e4 ♙b7**

18...f5!? 19.♖xf5+!+-.

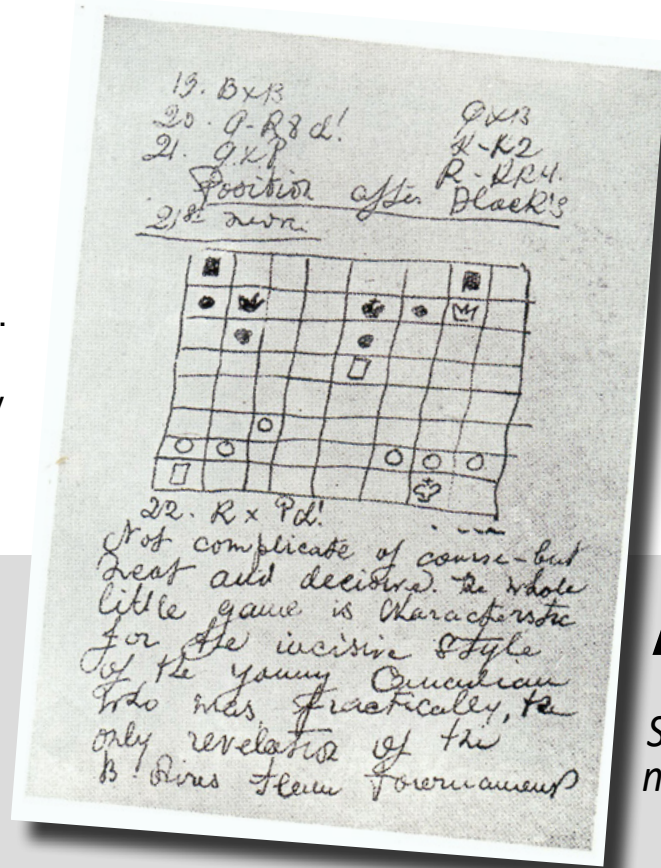
**19.♙xb7 ♚xb7 20.♚h8+ ♔e7 21.♚xg7 ♖g8**

"In the diagrammed position, Dulanto was looking quite happy with White faced with mate or the loss of the Queen. I shall not attempt to describe his facial expressions after my next move."

- Abe Yanofsky, *CtHW*



Black is threatening White's queen and mate on g2. Can the 14 year old Abe Yanofsky get out of it?



**22.♖xe6+□**

Everything else loses.

**22...♔xe6 23.♖e1+□ ♔d6**

**24.♚f6+□ ♔c5**

24...♔c7 25.♚xf7++-.

**25.♖e5+ ♔c4 26.b3+**

♚f4+ and ♚h4+ are equally fast.

**26...♔d3 27.♚d6+□ ♔c2**

**28.♖e2+□**

It's mate in 2.

"This game created a minor sensation and resulted in Alekhine, the world champion, taking a great interest in me to the extent of watching all of my remaining games in the tournament and analyzing them with me after they were over."

- Abe Yanofsky, *CtHW*.

1-0

### Alekhine Manuscript

Shows the third World Champion's notes on the game Yanofsky-Dulanto.

(3)

**Flohr, Salo**

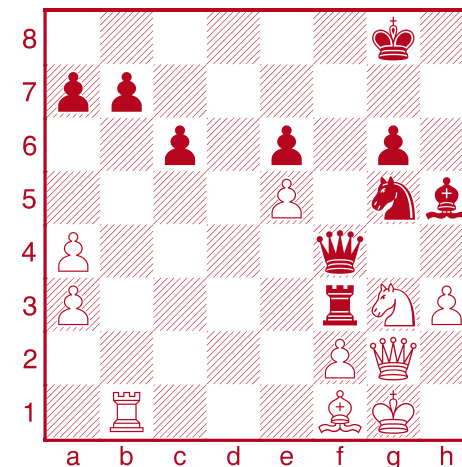
**Yanofsky, Daniel**

D19

*Staunton Memorial Groningen (3), 15.08.1946*

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♘c3 dxc4 ...**

**33.♖b1!**



Black's pieces are menacingly placed, but White has just made a threat with ♖e1-b1; what should Black do?

**33...b6??**

33...♖xa3 is playable, though Black has to tiptoe through a



# Chess Canada Tacticosaurus





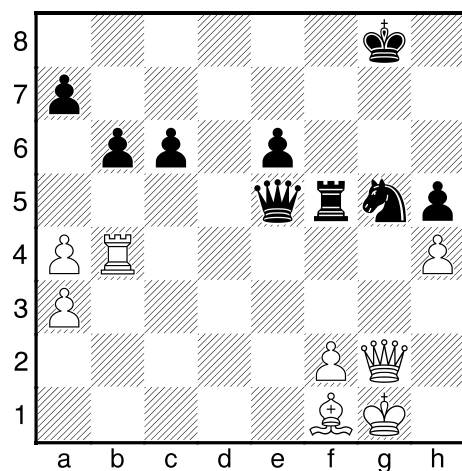
# Chess Canada Tacticosaurus

minefield after: 34. ♖xh5 gxh5 ♘  
35. ♖b4!? (35. ♖xb7 ♖xh3-+)  
35... ♖xb4 36. ♖xg5+ ♔f8  
37. ♖f6+ ♔e8 38. ♖xe6+ ♔d8 ♘-+;

33... a5! takes away b4! White gets to activate his ♖, but his ♖ and ♕ are still tied down. 34. ♖xb7 ♖xa3 (34... ♔f8! unpinning the ♘.) 35. ♖xh5 gxh5 36. ♖b1 (36. ♖xc6? ♘f3+ and White has to give the ♖ to avoid mate.) 36... ♖xh3 winning a ♖ and threatening ... ♖h2 then ... ♘f3!, among other things.

34. ♖xh5! gxh5 35. ♖b4 ♘+  
The real point of ♖b1, which Black must have missed.

35... ♖xe5 36. h4 ♖f5



37. ♕d3

37. ♖b3! immediately also works, to block the g-file after taking the ♘: 37... ♔h8 38. hxg5 ♖xg5 39. ♖g3+-.

37... ♖e1+ 38. ♕f1 ♘d2  
39. ♖b3 ♘+ ♔f8 40. hxg5  
♖xg5 41. ♖g3 ♖xg3 42. ♖xg3  
♖d7 43. ♖f3+ ♔e7 44. ♖xh5  
White plays for mate or a ♖ exchange.

44... ♔d8 45. ♖e5 c5 46. ♕b5  
♖d1+ 47. ♔h2 ♖d2 48. ♔g3  
♖d1 49. ♖f6+ ♔c7 50. ♖e7+  
♔b8 51. ♕c6 ♖d3+ 52. ♔h2

1-0

**Abe Yanofsky**



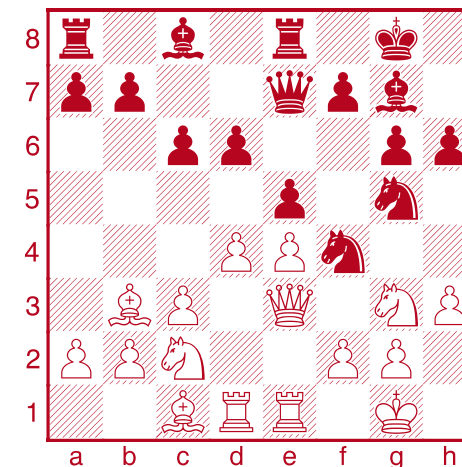
8-time Canadian Champion and first Grandmaster in the Commonwealth.

(4)  
**Hoover, Walter  
Yanofsky, Daniel**

B06

CAN-ch Montreal (1), 1959

1. e4 g6 2. d4 ♕g7 3. ♕c4  
d6 4. ♘e2 ♘f6 5. ♘g3 c6  
6. c3 0-0 7. 0-0 ♘bd7 8. h3  
e5 9. ♕g5 ♖b6 10. ♕b3 ♖e8  
11. ♘a3 ♖c7 12. ♖e1 ♘f8  
13. ♖f3 ♖e7 14. ♘c2 h6  
15. ♕d2 ♘e6 16. ♖ad1 ♘h7  
17. ♕c1 ♘hg5 18. ♖e3 ♘f4



Should White reinforce the center with f3, or try something else?

19. f3??

Anything else is better, but only if Black finds this:

19... ♘gxh3+!!-+

This works in part because f2-f3 left the ♘g3 undefended.

20. ♔f1

20. ♔h2 ♖h4+-.

20. gxh3 ♖h4 ♘+ 21. ♔f2 (21. ♖f2 ♘xh3+-+; 21. ♘f1 ♖g5+ #2)  
21... ♘xh3+ 22. ♔g2 ♘f4+ 23. ♔f2  
♖h2+ 24. ♔f1 ♕h3#.

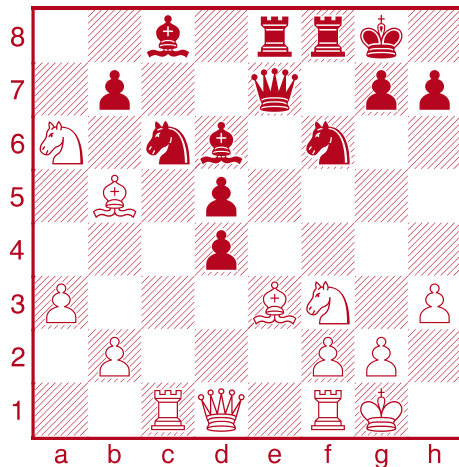
20... ♖g5!

0-1

(5)  
Anderson, Frank  
Yanofsky, Daniel

C06  
CAN-ch Montreal (3),  
26.08.1959

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘d2 ♘f6  
4.e5 ♘fd7 5.♙d3 c5 6.c3  
♘c6 7.♘e2 ♚b6 8.♘f3 cxd4  
9.cxd4 f6 10.exf6 ♘xf6 11.0-0  
♙d6 12.♘c3 0-0 13.♙e3  
♙d7 14.♖c1 ♖ae8 15.a3 a6  
16.♘a4 ♚c7 17.♘c5 ♙c8  
18.h3 ♚e7 19.♘xa6 e5  
20.♙b5 exd4



Those pieces on the queenside are not typos... White could take

on d4 at any time, but how about immobilizing the ♘f6 first with ♙g5?

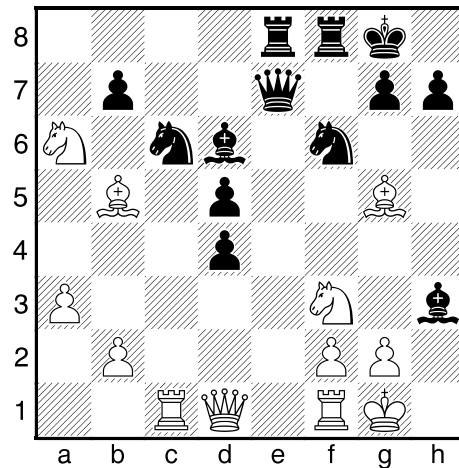
21. ♙g5?

21. ♘xd4!∞;  
21. ♙xd4? ♘xd4 22. ♚xd4 bxa6  
23. ♙xe8 ♚xe8-+.

21... ♙d7=

A good multi-purpose move — defends c6, gives Black extra options if ...bxa6, and threatens ...♘e5! — but it is not nearly the best move, which is 21... ♙xh3!!-+

Analysis Diagram



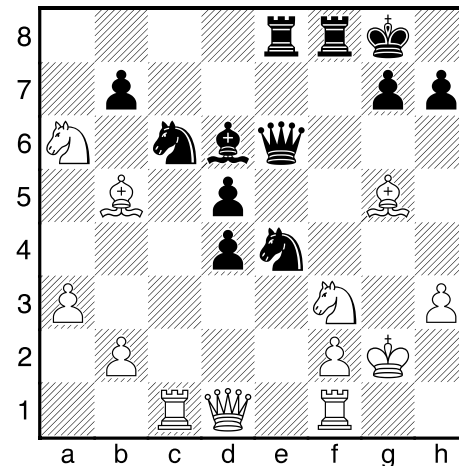
Computers, am I right? This is an obvious candidate (in blitz), but there are several "quiet" moves in the main line that it would be easy to dismiss as leaving White with "too many

options", one of which "has" to work.

22. ♙xc6 bxc6 23. ♖xc6 Material is equal, White has two connected queenside passed pawns and d4 is weak, how could White be in trouble? 23... ♚d7! The key move in all variations: gaining a tempo on the ♖c6 to go ... ♚g4. (23... ♙g4-+ is also good, White needs that ♘a6 to teleport to d2 to stop Black's kingside attack.) 24. ♖xd6 ♚g4! (24... ♚xd6 25.gxh3 ♚xa6-+ also wins, but brings shame to your family.) 25.g3 (25. ♘h4 ♚xg5-+) 25... ♘e4!-+ among other wins.

22.gxh3 ♚e6□

Analysis Diagram



The threat is ... ♚xh3 then ... ♘g4. 23. ♙g2 ♘e4□.

White is up a piece for a pawn, but two of White's pieces are out to lunch on the queenside, and on the side where the action is happening Black has ♚, ♙, ♘, and both ♖s pointed at White's fractured kingside. In fact, Black's attack is so strong that even if we teleport the ♘a6 to d2 Black is still winning!

Black's threats include ... ♘xg5 then ... ♚e5, or ... ♚g6 directly, or piling on f3 with ... ♖f5-♖ef8, and ... ♚g6 to attack along the g-file. 24. ♙h4 (24. ♙xc6 bxc6 25. ♚xd4 (25. ♘xd4 ♚g6□-+) 25... ♖xf3!-+) 24... ♚g6+! 25. ♙h1 ♚h5-+ overloading the ♘f3 to get the piece back with a crushing attack.

22.b4?

22. ♘b4∞.

22... ♘e5!-+

Threatening ♘a6 and ♙b5.

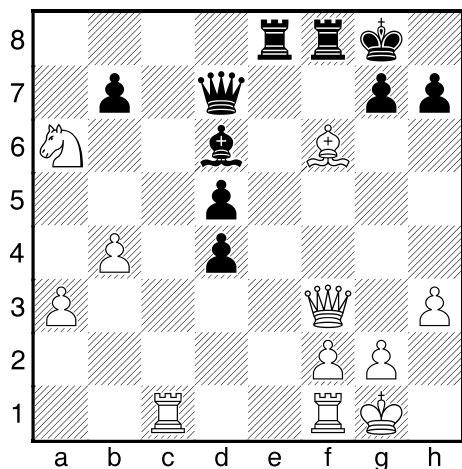
23. ♙xd7 ♘xf3+□ 24. ♚xf3 ♚xd7 25. ♙xf6







# Chess Canada Tacticosaurus



### 25...bxa6

25... $\text{Rxf6}$  also wins the  $\text{Na6}$ , since 26. $\text{Wxd5+}$   $\text{Kh8}$  27. $\text{Nc5?}$   $\text{Rh2+-+}$  wins the  $\text{W}$  for a  $\text{N}$ .

26. $\text{Wxd5+}$   $\text{Rf7}$  27. $\text{Wc4}$   
27. $\text{Rh2+-+}$   $\text{Rh2+-+}$ .

### 27...gxf6 28.Wxa6+-

White has two pawns for the piece... and the choice between losing this to a mating attack on the g-file or losing in an endgame.

28... $\text{Rg7}$  29. $\text{Kh1}$   $\text{We6}$   
 $\text{N29...Kh8}$ .

30. $\text{Wc4}$   $\text{Rc7}$  31. $\text{Wxe6+}$   
 $\text{Rxe6}$  32. $\text{Rxc7}$   $\text{Rxc7}$  33.g3  
 $\text{Re2}$  34. $\text{Rd1}$   $\text{Rb6}$  35. $\text{Kg2}$   
 $\text{Ra2}$  36. $\text{Rd3}$   $\text{Kf7}$  37. $\text{Kf3}$

$\text{Ke6}$  38.g4  $\text{Kd5}$  39.h4  $\text{Kc4}$   
40. $\text{Rd1}$  d3 41.a4  $\text{Rxf2+}$

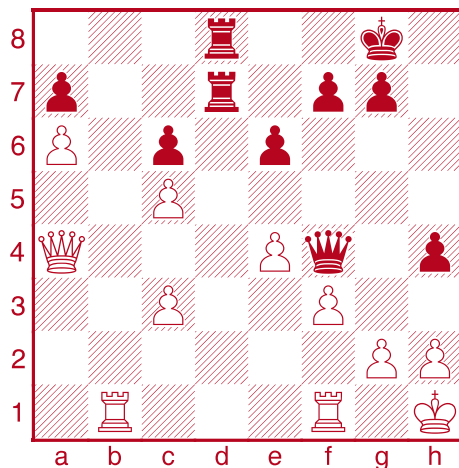
Surely both sides had made the time control here.

0-1

(6)  
Patty, Jack  
Anderson, Frank

E25  
CAN-ch Montreal (6),  
30.08.1959

1.d4  $\text{Nf6}$  2.c4 e6 3. $\text{Nc3}$   $\text{Rb4}$   
4.a3  $\text{Rxc3+}$  ...  
25. $\text{Wa4}$  h4



Challenge for the d-file, or stop ...h3?

### 26.Rbd1?

26.h3 $\square=$   $\text{Rd2}$  27. $\text{Rbd1}$   $\text{Kg3}$   
28. $\text{Rxd2}$   $\text{Rxd2}$  29. $\text{Rg1=}$  Black might force a draw with ...g5-g4 and ... $\text{Rxg2}$ , but not more.

### 26...h3 $\square=$

White is now weak on g2, f3, and h2.

### 27.Rxd7

27.g3?  $\text{Wxf3+-+}$ ;  
27.gxh3  $\text{Rd2+-}$ .

### 27...Rxd7 28.Rd1

28.g3  $\text{Wd2}$  29. $\text{Rg1}$   $\text{Wf2+-}$   $\text{Xf3}$ ;  
28.gxh3  $\text{Rd2+-}$   $\text{Xh2}$ .

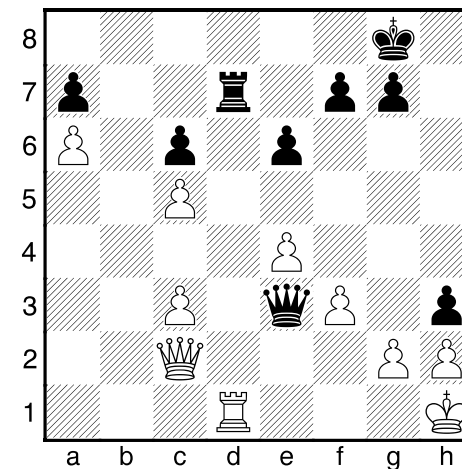
### 28...We3!

Exploiting the weak back rank.  
28... $\text{Rd5}$  is the only other winning move.

### 29.Wc2

**Paul Keres**  
**Hart House**  
**1967 simul**

Keres moves vs William Hicks.  
Jack Patty and Denis Allen wait.



### 29... e5!

Letting White discover that he has no good moves!

### 30.c4

If the  $\text{W}$  leaves the second rank Black tightens the noose further with: 30. $\text{Wc1}$   $\text{We2}$  31. $\text{Rg1}$   $\text{hxg2+}$  32. $\text{Rxc2}$   $\text{Rd1+-+}$ .



photo: Hart House

30...♖d4 31.♜g1 ♖d2 32.♚b1  
♜f2 33.♚b8+ ♔h7 34.♚xe5  
hxg2+

0-1

**Abe Yanofsky**

1961 UBC match  
vs Macskasy.

(7)

**Smolij, Joe**  
**Yanofsky, D.A.**

B90

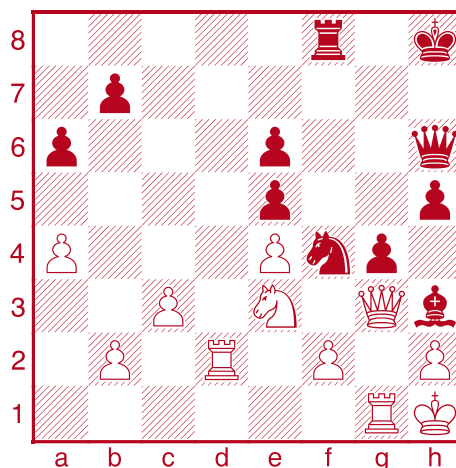
CAN-ch Montreal (8),  
01.09.1959

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4  
4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♙d3 e5!?

Yanofsky was one of the first  
players to try this here. Fedosiev  
and Sasikiran have beaten  
strong GMs with it, but only at  
fast time controls.

6.♘f3 ♘bd7 7.♘c3 ♙e7  
8.♚e2 a6 9.a4 0-0 10.0-0  
♘c5 11.♙c4 ♙g4 12.♖d1  
♘e6 13.♙e3 ♘h5 14.♘d5  
♖c8 15.♙b3 ♙g5 16.c3 ♙xe3  
17.♚xe3 ♘hf4 18.♖d2 ♔h8  
19.♘b6 ♙xf3 20.♘xc8 ♙xg2  
21.♙xe6 fxe6 22.♘xd6 ♚f6

23.♚g3 ♙h3 24.♘c4 h5  
25.♘e3 ♚h6 26.♔h1 g5  
27.♖g1 g4



Is Black threatening ...h4, and if

so, what should White do about  
it?

**28.f3?**

Black really is threatening ...h4,  
since that tactics after ♘xg4  
don't save White:  
28.a5? illustrates Black's  
threat: 28...h4+ 29.♘xg4 hxg3  
(29...♚h5 also wins, but after  
30.♘f6 Black has to go into the  
variation with ...g2+ anyway.)  
30.♘h6 g2+ 31.♖xg2 ♙xg2+-+;

28.♚h4?? delays but does not  
stop ...h4 28...♘g6-+ 29.♚g3

h4 30.♘xg4 hxg3 31.♘h6 gxf2  
32.♖xf2 ♖xf2 33.♖xg6 ♔h7!  
34.♖g3 ♖f1+□ 35.♖g1 ♖xg1+  
36.♔xg1 ♔xh6-+;

So White must make an escape  
for the ♚. The game move is one  
option, but much better was:  
28.♘c4!± threatening e5 and  
making a safe retreat for the ♚  
while also keeping an extra pawn  
defending g3.

**28...h4! 29.♚e1**

29.♘xg4 hxg3 30.♘h6 g2+-+  
leaves Black up at least an  
exchange.

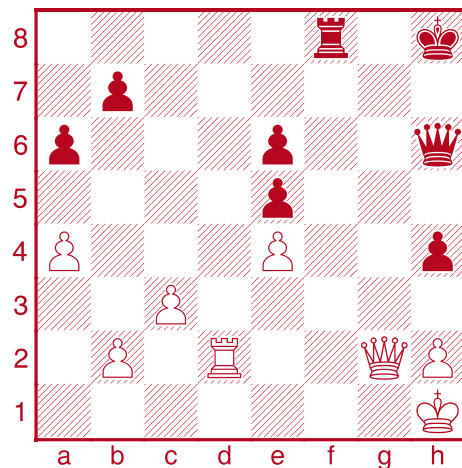
29.♚f2 g3□ (29...gxf3??  
30.♚xf3+- Black's pieces are  
stuck and White can push the  
queenside.) 30.♚e1□ (30.  
hxg3?? hxg3-+ 31.♖xg3 ♙g2+  
32.♔g1 ♚h1#) 30...♖g8→.

**29...gxf3□ 30.♚f2 ♙g2+□-+  
31.♘xg2**  
31.♖xg2 fxg2+ 32.♔g1 ♘h3+-+.

**31...fxg2+ 32.♖xg2 ♘xg2  
33.♚xg2**







Just when it looks like White has escaped...

33...h3□-+ 34.♖e2 ♖xd2□  
35.♗h5+ ♔g7 36.♗xe5+ ♜f6  
37.♗g3+ ♜g6

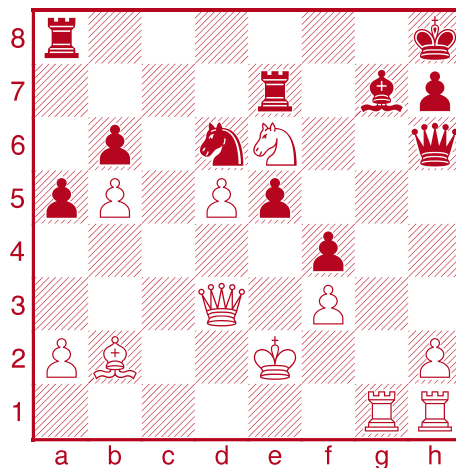
0-1

(8)  
Witt, Laszlo  
Theodorovich, Ivan

B32

Canadian Open Ottawa (6.1),  
31.08.1962

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4  
4.♘xd4 e5 5.♘b5 d6 6.c4 a6  
... 33.♘e6 (logo and diagram)



White threatens ♖xg7. Should Black: a) take the ♘e6; b) counter-attack with ...e4; c) something else?

33...e4?

The game line (b), is definitely wrong, but only if White finds the one and only (and beautiful) refutation.

a) Taking the ♘e6 isn't bad:  
33...♜xe6 34.dxe6 ♖xe6 35.♜d1  
♘c4 (35...♗xa2?! 36.♜d2□  
♗c4!+-) 36.♘c1!±.

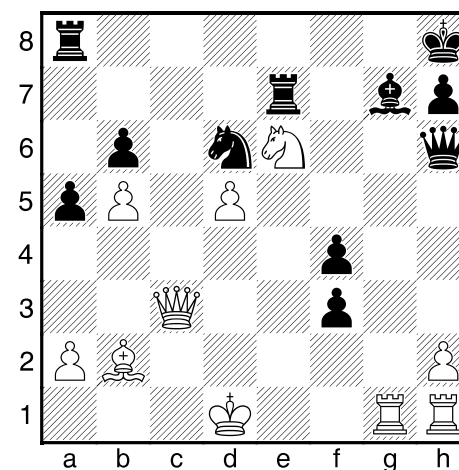
c) The engines' top choice is "something else": 33...♘f6!  
Δ34.♜g2 (34.h4=) 34...e4!  
35.♘xf6+! ♗xf6 36.fxex4 f3+  
37.♗xf3 ♖b2+= Black has a perpetual, since the White ♔

can't go to the f-file without allowing ...♜f7-+

34.♘xg7+?

34.♗c3!! Beautiful, the only move (along with ♗d4) that gives White an advantage, and winning. 34...exf3+ 35.♔d1□ (35.♔d3? going up allows Black a ♗ check from g6 or h3 in critical variations. 35...♘e8□∞ Δ36.♗c6? ♘xb2 37.♗xa8 f2-+)

Analysis Diagram



a) 35...♘xc3 36.♘xc3+- and Black has to give back the ♗ immediately.

b) 35...♘xb5 36.♗xg7+ ♜xg7  
37.♘xg7+- ditto.

c) 35...♘e8 (or ...♘f5) 36.♜xg7

♘xg7 37.♗c6□ Hits the ♜a8 and creates a discovered attack on the ♗h6:

37...♜ea7 38.♘xg7+-;  
37...♜aa7 38.♗c8+ ♜e8  
39.♗xe8#;  
37...♜b8 38.♘xg7 ♗xc6  
39.♘f5+-;  
37...♜f8 38.♘xg7+;  
37...♜g8 38.♘xg7□ ♗xg7  
(38...♜gxg7 39.♗c8+ and mate next.) 39.♘xg7+ ♜exg7  
40.♗xb6+- and Black's advanced pawns are no comp.

d) 35...♜xe6 36.♗xg7+ ♗xg7  
37.♘xg7+ ♔g8 38.dxe6 f2  
39.♘e5+! prettiest 39...fxg1♗+  
40.♜xg1+ ♔f8 41.♘xd6+ ♔e8  
42.♜g8#.



OTTAWA  
JULY 2013 JUILLET



34...♔xg7□

34...♖xg7 35.♔c3! exf3+

36.♔d3+-.

35.fxe4 f3+ 36.♔f2 ♖b2+

♟36...♔e5! 37.♖g4 ♖c8↑

♠38.♖hg1? h5!-+.

37.♔e3 ♖c8 38.♔d4+□

♔xd4+ 39.♔xd4 ♖c4+

40.♔e5 ♖xe4 41.♖c1

41.♖g4! ♖d2□ 42.♖xc4 ♖xc4+

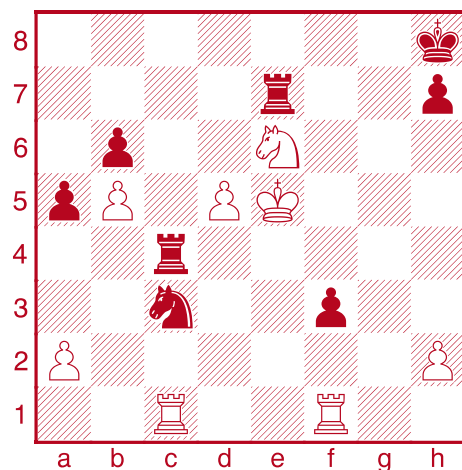
43.♔d4±.

41...♖c3!

41...♖xc1? 42.♖xc1 ♖c5

43.♖f1+-.

42.♖hf1



Should Black defend the ♖f3, or use his active pieces against the

White ♔?

42...♖d7?

42...♖f7□∞ 43.♖g5 ♖e7+

44.♔d6 ♖e3∞.

43.♖xf3□

The problem isn't so much that Black has lost the ♖f3, it's that he will now lose the ♖c3.

43.♖f4?? ♖e4+ 44.♔f5 ♖f7+-+

45.♔g5 ♖exf4 46.♖xc3 ♖7f5+

47.♔h6 ♖h4#.

43...♖xd5+ 44.♔f6 ♖c8

I think Black only now realized that he pays too much to "win" the ♖c1 with the discovered attack: 44...♖e4+ 45.♔e7 ♖xc1 46.♖f8#.

45.♖fxc3 ♖g8 46.♖c8

1-0

(9)

## Macskasy, Elod Fuster, Geza

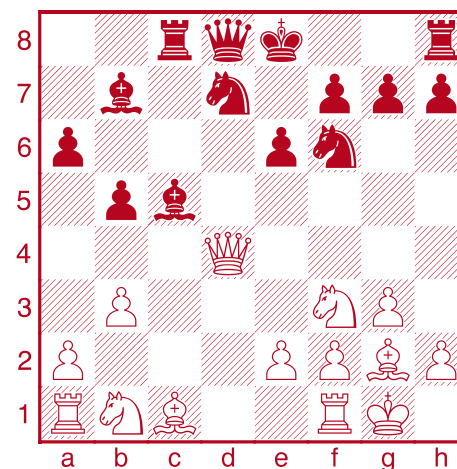
E03

CAN-ch Winnipeg CAN (15),  
1963

1.d4 d5 2.♖f3 ♖f6 3.c4  
dxc4 4.♔a4+ ♖bd7 5.g3 a6  
6.♔xc4 e6 7.♖g2 b5 8.♔c2  
♖b7 9.0-0 c5!♠ 10.b3 ♖c8  
11.♔d1 cxd4 12.♔xd4?!

♟12.♖xd4 ♖xg2 13.♔xg2 h5!♠.

12...♖c5



A Catalan where White has already made five moves with his ♔. Now where?

13.♔h4?

13.♔d3? e5!-+ and the ♔ is exposed to more hits; e.g.

14.♖g5 gets out of the ...e4 fork, but 14...♖xg2 15.♔xg2 ♖d4-+ nets a ♖.

♟13.♖b2 or 13.♔d1♠.

13...♖xf2+! 14.♔xf2

14.♖xf2 ♖xc1+-+.

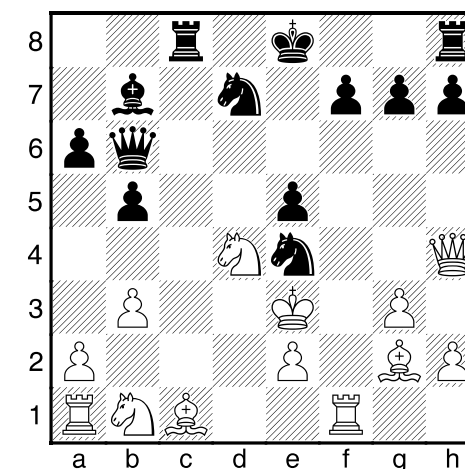
14...♖e4+-+ 15.♔e3

15.♔g1 ♖b6+ 16.e3 (16.♔h1 ♖xc1! and smothered mate if White takes on c1.) 16...♖xc1 17.♖xc1 ♖xe3+ and a smothered mate anyway!

15...♖b6+ 16.♖d4

16.♔d3 ♖dc5+-+.

16...e5





White is busted and Black reels in the point.

17. ♖b2

17. ♖xe4 ♕xd4+-+.

17... ♘ef6

17... ♖c2! 18. ♖xe4 ♖xb2 19. ♖xb7 exd4+ 20. ♕xd4 ♖xe2+!

18. ♖xb7 exd4+ 19. ♖xd4 ♕xb7...

(0-1, 43)

## Fuster vs Fischer

1958  
Portoroz  
Interzonal

Fuster had Fischer busted, but let the future World Champ escape...

...and taught a generation of players the meaning of the world "hapless".



## (10) Fischer, Robert James Allan, Denis

C57

Fischer clock simul Montreal,  
24.02.1964

This game should have been in the VIP section of the previous issue, but Chessbase has Black listed as "NN". Since then, I

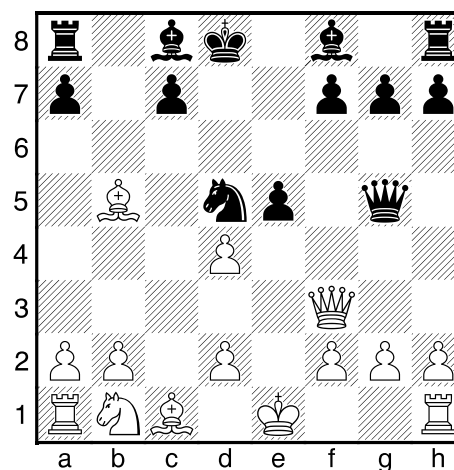
read John Donaldson's book on Fischer's simul tours — *A Legend on the Road* — which identifies NN as Canadian Denis Allan.

The notes here include another Fischer simul game, a couple of recent games, and improvements over earlier analysis.

1.e4 e5 2. ♘f3 ♘c6 3. ♖c4 ♘f6 4. ♘g5

Fischer played this often in his simuls.

4...d5 5.exd5 ♘d4 6.c3 b5 7. ♖f1 ♘xd5 8.cxd4 ♕xg5 9. ♖xb5+ ♔d8 10. ♕f3



10...e4?!

This is a critical move — opening lines for Black's pieces — but it is now thought to be worse than ...exd4. But *is it?*

10... ♖b7 11.0-0 exd4 12. ♕xf7?? ♘f6 □ An extreme example of a multi-purpose move: stops mates on e8 and d7, creates a mate threat on g2, and attacks the hanging ♖b5. Fischer resigned here: 0-1 [Fischer,R-Burger,R.](#) San Francisco (simul), 1964.

□10...exd4 11. ♖c6 ♘f4!  
(11... ♘b4!?) and now:

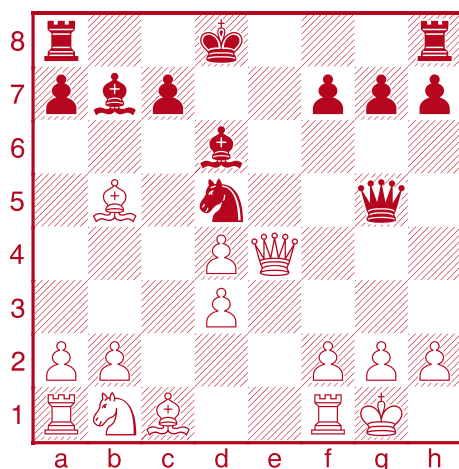
a) 12.h4!N;

b) 12. ♖xa8?? ♖g4 13. ♕e4 (13. ♕g3 ♕e5+-+; 13. ♕b7 ♘d3+ 14. ♖f1 ♖d6-) 13... ♖d6 14. ♖c6 f5-+;

c) 12.0-0 ♖g4 13. ♖e1 ♖d6! 14. ♕e4 ♖d7 (14... ♖e2!?) 15. ♖xe2?? ♘xe2+ 16. ♕xe2 ♕c5-+ forks the ♖s and threatens mate.) 15.d3 ♖xc6 16. ♕xc6 ♕d5 17. ♕xd5 ♘xd5 ♖ (1/2-1/2, 57) [Wei,Y \(2641\)-Duda,J \(2599\)](#) Pune, 2014.



11. ♖xe4 ♔d6 12. 0-0 ♘b7  
13. d3? (⊔13. ♖e1±)



...♘f4 is begging to be played, but should it be? If not, what?

**13...♘f4??**

This is clearly the move Black wants to play, but it's bad.

It is much less obviously bad than 13...♖b8???. 14. ♘g5+ 1-0 Cuevas Araya,W (2120)–Euler,G (2274) Lichess.org, 2021.

John Donaldson's book on Bobby Fischer's simul tours, *A Legend on the Road*, comments about 13...♘f4:

Brilliant! Brilliant!. The only trouble is that it loses! With

13...♘h2+!! Black could have pulled off a neat win, because 14. ♔xh2 (14. ♔h1 ♘f4+) 14...♘f4! 15. ♘xf4 (15. ♖xf4 ♖xg2#; 15. ♖xb7 ♖h4+ 16. ♔g1 ♘e2#) 15...♖h4+ 16. ♔g1 ♘xe4 17. dxe4 leaves White too far down in material.

– Donaldson LR.

That is a correct assessment of the final position, but instead of 17. dxe4, White has a strong intermediate move: 17. ♘g3!! when 17...♖h5 18. ♘c3 is unclear because although White has only ♘♗♖ for the ♖, Black's exposed ♔ and lack of open files for his rooks give White adequate compensation.

Black can slightly improve on this with: 13...♘h2+ 14. ♔xh2 ♘f4 15. ♘xf4 ♖h5+! avoiding the tempo loss to ♘g3 and eyeing ♘b5, but after 16. ♔g1 ♘xe4 17. ♘c3! it's still a game: White has two pieces and pawn for the ♖, and a huge lead in development, and the ♘-pair, and lots of good squares for his minors.

Instead of 13...♘f4?? or

13...♖b8??? or 13...♘h2+!?, Black might also try 13...♖h5!?∞, or 10...exd4!.

**14. ♘xf4 ♖xb5 15. d5!**  
15. ♘c3!

**15...♖xb2**

15...♖e8 16. ♖d4 ♘xf4 17. ♖xf4 ♖xb2 18. ♘d2+-.

**16. ♘xd6 cxd6 17. ♖e1 ♖f6**  
17...♖xa1 18. ♖e7+ ♔c8 19. ♖c1+ mates.

**18. ♘c3 ♖c8 19. ♖b4 ♖e8**  
**20. ♖a5+! ♔d7 21. ♖a4+!**

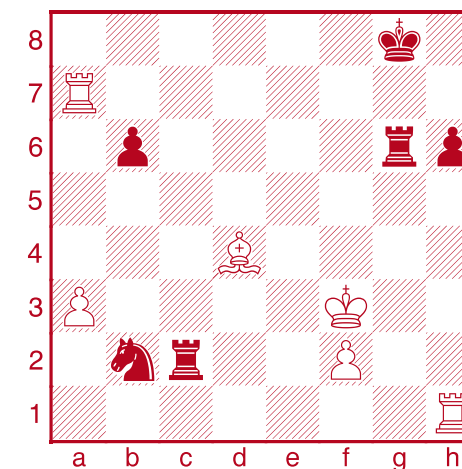
1-0

**(11)**  
**Keres, Paul**  
**Yanofsky, D.A.**

B11  
*Winnipeg GM (6), 1967*

**1. e4 c6 2. ♘c3 d5 3. ♘f3 ♘g4**  
**4. h3 ♘xf3 5. ♖xf3 ...**

**33. ♖xa7**



Black's ♘ is offside, what should he do about it?

**33...♘d3??**

This certainly looks good: centralizing and threatening ...♘xf2; but White has a phenomenal refutation.

33...♘c4⊔ 34. ♖e1 ♘d2+⊔ 35. ♔f4 keeping the e-file free. 35...♖c8 36. ♖ee7 trying to play ♖h7-h8. Black has a study-like way to stop this by harassing the ♘ and ♔ with the ♘: 36...♘b3! 37. ♘e5 (37. ♘b2 ♘d2 threatening ...♖f8+ then ...♘c4+, eliminating the ♘.) 37...♘d2⊔± threatening ...♖f8+ then ...♘c4+, eliminating the ♘. (37...♘c5? 38. ♔e3 preventing ...♘d3+. 38...♖e6 39. ♖g7+ ♔f8 40. f4+-)





**34. ♖h5?!**

This isn't the refutation.

34. ♖d1!! and the only move. A nice way to double ♖'s on the 7th by threatening to trap the ♘. Black has options, but no salvation: 34. ♖d1!!:

a) 34... ♘b2?? 35. ♙xb2 ♖xb2 36. ♖d8#.

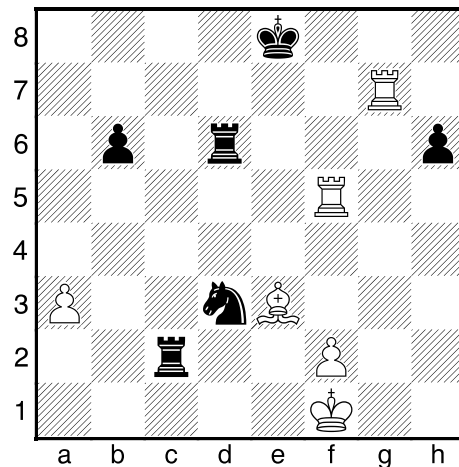
b) 34... ♘c1 35. ♙b2!+- threatening mate and the ♘.

c) 34... ♘xf2 35. ♖e1□ Fantastic!! White has given the f2 pawn so his second ♖ could take the only (now) available open file. (35. ♙xf2? ♖f6+ was Black's "threat" with ... ♘d3: 36. ♙e3 ♖cxf2 37. ♖d8+ ♖f8=) 35... ♙f8 36. ♖ee7! White has too many threats to the ♙ and the ♘. 36... ♘h3 makes the ♘ safe and prevents ♖h7, but 37. ♙g7+□+- and Black has to give the exchange to prevent mate by ♖h8.

**34... ♖d6**

34... ♘xf2? 35. ♖d5+- wins the ♘.

**35. ♖g7+ ♙f8 36. ♖f5+ ♙e8**

**37. ♙e3 ♖cc6 38. ♙e2 ♖c2+ 39. ♙f1****39... ♖cc6??**

Connecting ♖s to make the time control; but losing.

39... ♘c5± is better than the game; but 39... ♖a2!= is the most convincing: activity vs activity. 40. ♖ff7 ♖a1+ 41. ♙e2 ♖a2+ 42. ♙f1□ ♖a1+ 43. ♙g2 ♖g6+!= is the tricky point: breaking up White's ♖ pair.

**40. ♖ff7□+- ♖f6 41. ♖b7 ♖c8**  
41... ♙f8 42. ♖gd7 wins the ♘.

**42. ♙xh6!**

Stylish!

42. ♙xh6! ♖xf2+ 43. ♙g1 the ♙h6

prevents mate on c1! 43... ♖f8 44. ♖ge7+ ♙d8 45. ♖bd7#.

**1-0**

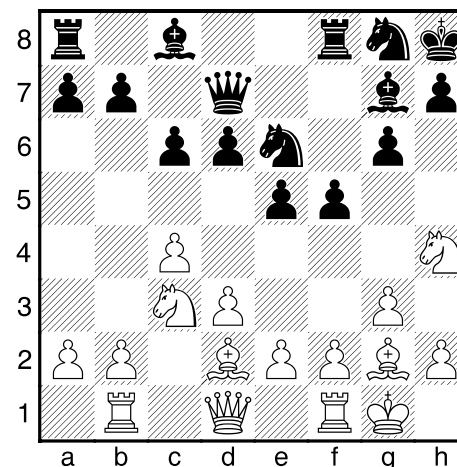
**(12)**

**Van der Laat Ulloa, Jorge Suttles, Duncan**

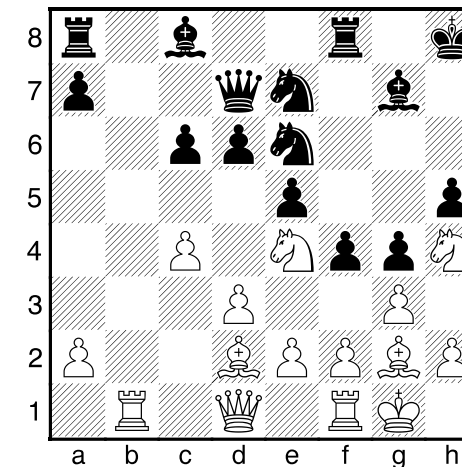
A26

*Olympiad Lugano (3), 20.10.1968*

**1. ♘f3 g6 2. c4 ♙g7 3. ♘c3 d6 4. g3 ♘c6 5. ♙g2 e5 6. d3 ♘h6 7. ♖b1 0-0 8. 0-0 f5 9. ♙g5 ♙d7 10. ♘d5 ♙h8 11. ♙d2 ♘g8 12. ♘h4 ♘d4! 13. ♙d1 c6 14. ♘c3 ♘e6 15. ♙d2**



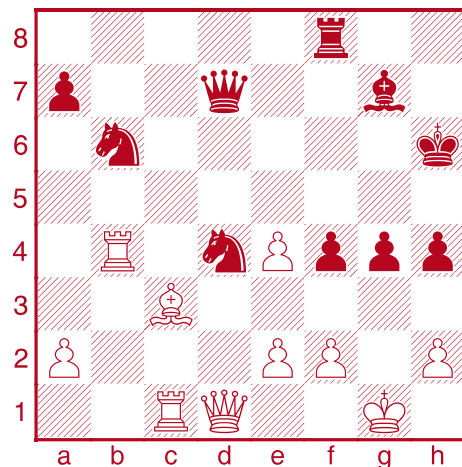
**15... g5! 16. ♘f3 f4 17. b4 ♘e7 18. b5 h5?!** (18... g4!) **19. ♘e4 g4 20. bxc6 bxc6 21. ♘h4**



**21... d5?? 22. cxd5 cxd5 23. ♘c3??**  
23. ♙b4!+- dxe4 24. ♙xe7 ♖e8 (24... ♙xe7 25. ♘g6+-) 25. ♙xe4+-.

**23... ♙a6** (□23... ♙b7) **24. ♘xd5 ♘xd5 25. ♘g6+ ♙h7 26. ♙e4 ♙h6□ 27. ♘xf8 ♖xf8 28. ♙b3 ♘b6∞ 29. ♖fc1 ♘d4 30. ♙d1 ♙b7 31. gxf4? exf4 32. ♖b4 ♙xe4+- 33. dxe4 h4 (33... ♙h7!) 34. ♙c3**





Black has a menacing pawn storm, but the ♘d4 is hanging...

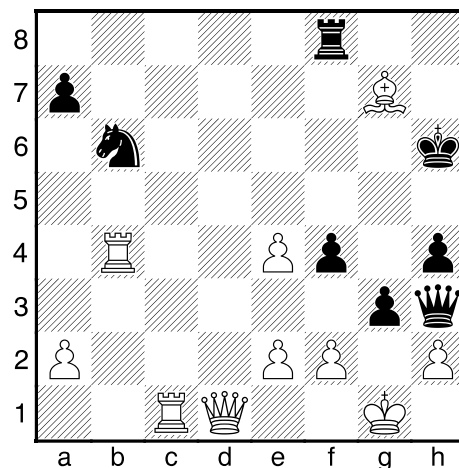
### 34...g3!!-+

34...♖c8! also works, tactically defending the ♘, and threatening ...♖xc3 then ...♘xe2+. 35.♙xd4 ♙xd4 (35...♖xc1?? 36.♙xg7+- with check) 36.♖xd4 (36.♖xc8 ♙xf2+-) 36...♙xd4 -+ 37.♙xd4 ♖xc1+ 38.♙g2 h3#.

### 35.♙xd4

35.hxg3 fxc3 (35...hxg3? 36.♙g2∞) 36.♙xd4 ♙h3! 37.f3 ♙xd4+ 38.♙xd4 ♙h2+ 39.♙f1 g2+-.

### 35...♙h3 36.♙xg7+



### 36...♙h7

Chessbase has 36...♙xg7?? here, which is both unnecessary and very bad: capturing a superfluous piece and allowing a draw with 37.♖c7+! ♙g6 38.♖xb6+! axb6 39.♖c6+=.

### 37.hxg3 fxc3 38.fxc3 hxg3⊕

Black lost on time, but all the time in the world can't stop #2.

## 1969 Canadian Championship

*Biyasas, Kuprejanov, Suttles, Witt, Mathers, Prentice, Haley, Schulman Day, Vranesic, Piasetski, Amos, Tootosis, Litwinczuk, Kerr, Dobrich*

Suttles earned a GM norm in this Olympiad.

0-1

**(13)**  
**Fuster, Geza**  
**Dobrich, Vlad (Walter)**

E64

*Toronto Closed Toronto CAN, 1973*

1.d4 g6 2.♘f3 ♙g7 3.c4 d6  
4.g3 c5 5.d5 ♘f6 6.♙g2 0-0  
7.♘c3 ♘a6 8.0-0 ♘c7 9.e4  
♙g4 10.♙g5 ♘d7 11.♙d2

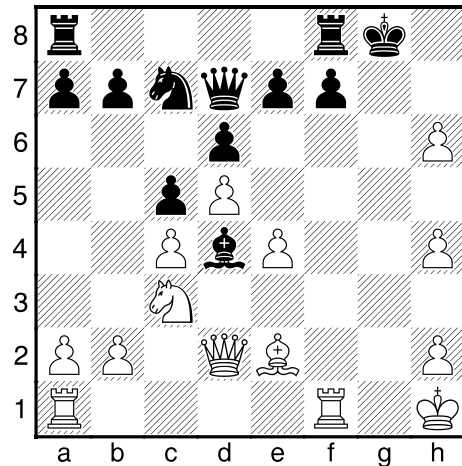






# Chess Canada Tacticosaurus

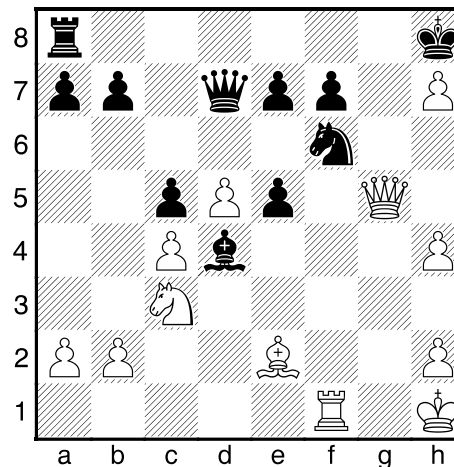
♙xf3 12.♙xf3 ♘e5 13.♙e2  
♚d7?! 14.f4! h6! 15.♙h4 g5  
16.fxg5 ♘g6 17.gxh6 ♙d4+  
18.♖h1 ♘xh4 19.gxh4



An unusual position: three isolated h-pawns, all of them white! In the next phase White seems to struggle to find a plan, and his advantage declines. In the game he tries to attack with the majors *only*, but it might have been better to get his minor pieces into the attack with ♙h5, clearing e2 for the ♘ with a tempo on Black's essential DSB, then maybe ♘e2-g3-f5.

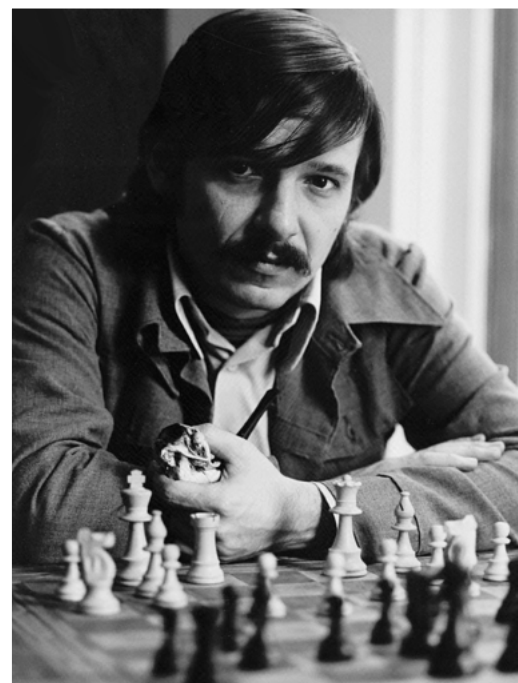
19...♖h8 20.♜f5 ♜g8 21.♚f4  
♘e8 22.♜g5?! ♘f6 23.h7  
♞23.e5! clearing e4 and the b1-h7 diagonal.

23...♜g7 24.♜xg7 ♔xg7  
25.e5 dxe5 26.♚g5+ ♖h8  
27.♜f1



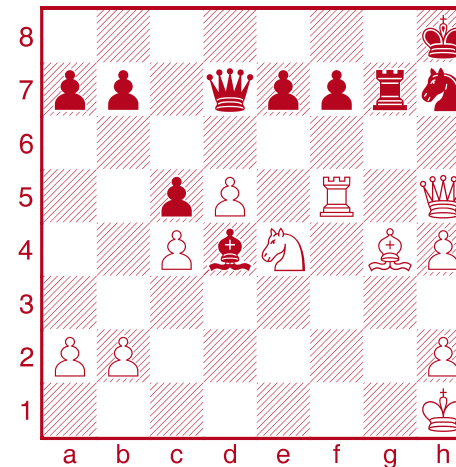
Threatening ♜xf6.

## Vlad Dobrich



27...e4! 28.♜f5?? ♘xh7??±  
♞28...♙e3♠ wins the exchange  
as the ♚ has no safe squares  
to defend the ♜.

29.♚h5 ♜g8 30.♙g4 ♜g7  
31.♘xe4



...♚a4 or ...♖g8?

31...♚a4!?

Black goes for counterplay, which could have cost him, but it's also likely Fuster was in time trouble, and the refutation is not simple.

31...♖g8!± defends f7 and unpins the ♘. There are no clever tactics with discoveries on the ♚d7:



## Geza Fuster Hastings, 1958

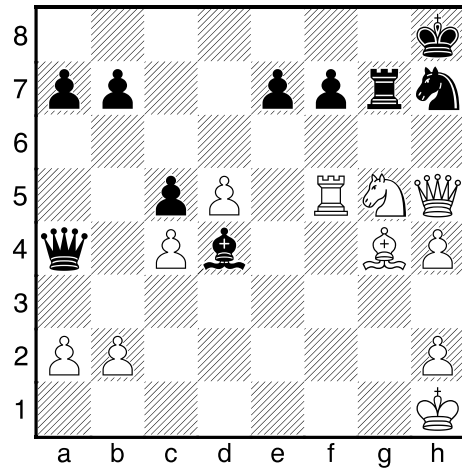
a) 32.♚xh7+?? ♖xh7  
(32...♜xh7?? 33.♜g5+-)  
33.♜h5+ ♖g8 34.♙xd7 ♜g1#;

b) 32.♜g5!? ♘xg5♠-+ 33.♙xd7  
♘xe4 34.♙g4 (34.h3 ♘g3+-+)  
34...♘f2+ (34...♜xg4?? does  
not win with a fork because  
35.♚xg4+ is check!) 35.♖g2  
♘xg4+-+ with a safe ♖, active  
pieces, and a winning material  
advantage.

32.♜xf7??

32.♜g5?? ♚xc4! threatens mate  
on f1, 33.♙e2 ♚xd5! exploiting  
the pin to g1 as in the game.

32.♘g5♠+- Analysis Diagram



Blocking the g-file and attacking f7 is the only winning move, but it leaves the white ♔ open to what might feel like a deadly counterattack; e.g. 32...f6!? (not Black's only move, but it puts the most pressure on White)

a) 33. ♖e6?? ♔d1+!-+;

b) 33. ♖xh7 ♔d1+≠;

c) 33. b3!? ♔xa2 34. ♔e8+ ♖g8 35. ♗f7+ ♔g7 36. ♔xe7 ♔b1+ 37. ♔g2 ♔g1+ 38. ♔h3 ♔e3+ 39. ♔xe3+- with a winning endgame;

d) 33. ♕d1! ♔d7 (33... ♔xc4 34. ♔e8+ ♖g8 35. ♗f7+ ♔g7 36. ♔xe7+- Black has no

checks, and 36... ♔g6 37. ♕h5+! ♔xf5 38. ♗d6+ ♔f4 39. ♔e4#) 34. ♖f1 threatening ♕c2, 34... fxc5 35. ♖f8+ ♖g8 36. ♕c2 e5 37. ♖f7+-;

e) 33. ♗f7+! is the computer move. It's not a crushing sac, it just improves the ♗ and gives White time to make his ♔ safe before going back on the attack. 33... ♔g8 34. ♗h6+ (34. ♖f1 also works, since 34... ♖xf7 35. ♕e6+-) 34... ♔f8 35. ♖f1 ♔xc4 36. ♕e2 and ♗f5 or ♔f5 with a winning attack.

32... ♔d1+!

The main tactical point of ... ♔a5: Black wins the ♕ and forces off the ♔s.

33. ♔g2□

The ♕ is pinned to g1, so 33. ♕xd1? ♖g1#.

33... ♔xg4+ 34. ♔xg4 ♖xg4+ 35. ♔f3 ♖g7! 36. ♖f5 ♔g8 37. b3 ♖g1 38. ♔e2

0-1

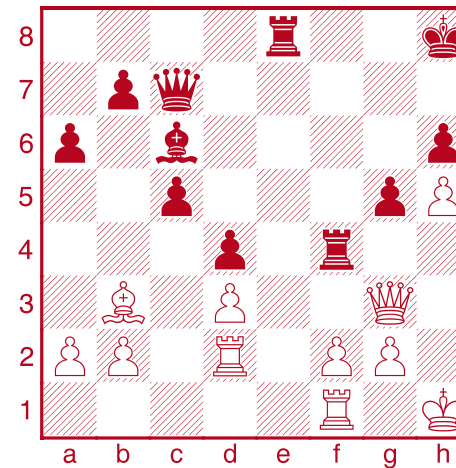
(14)  
McKay, Roderick (2330)  
Biyiasas, Peter (2420)

C71

Olympiad Nice (10), 25.06.1974

1. e4 e5 2. ♗f3 ♗c6 3. ♕b5 a6  
4. ♕a4 d6 5. d3 g6 6. c3...

34. ♔g3



What happens if ... ♖e3?

34... ♖e3!!

A move Alekhine would proud of. White resigns!

If White takes the ♖e3 the win is obvious: 35. fxe3 ♖xf1+ 36. ♔h2 ♖h1+-.

But if White is stubborn:  
35. ♔h2 g4! threatening ... ♖h3 (35... ♖h4? 36. ♔xh4∞) 36. ♔g1 (unpinning the g-pawn) 36... g3! 37. fxc3 ♖xf1+ 38. ♔xf1 ♔e5 39. ♖d1 ♖xg3 40. ♖d2 ♔e3+ Material is equal but White's ♔ is exposed and his majors are in a bind. Black might continue with ... ♖g4-f4.

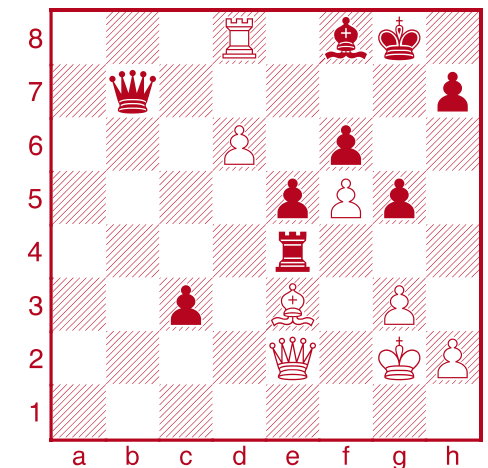
0-1

(15)  
Keres, Paul  
Piasetski, Leon

A22

Montreal simul, 29.05.1975

1. g3 e5... 49... ♔b7





It's 50 moves into a 10-board clock simul.

**50. ♖f2??**

Natural: getting out of the discovered attack and defending the ♙. But losing.

50. ♖a2+! ♔g7 51. ♖a7 ♖xa7 52. ♙xa7 ♗e2+ (52... ♗d4?? 53. ♙xd4 exd4 54. d7 d3 55. ♗xf8+-) 53. ♔f3 c2 (53... ♗xh2!?) 54. ♗c8 ♗xh2 55. d7 ♗d2+.

50... ♗b4!-+ 51. d7 ♗c7??= 51... ♔g7! 52. ♗xf8 ♗xd7 ♖-+ there's no defense to ... ♗b2 and ... ♔xf8; 51... ♗b2? 52. ♗xf8+ ♖=.

**52. ♗c8??**

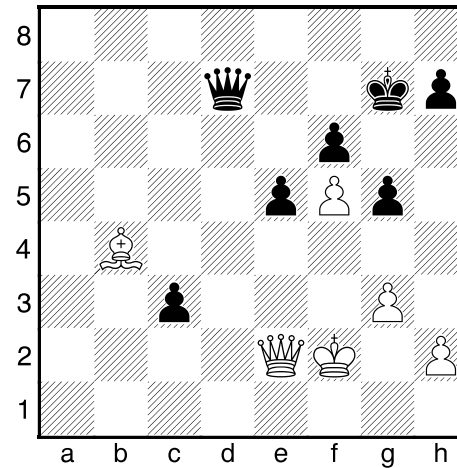
52. ♖a2+ ♖= ♔g7 53. ♗xf8 ♗b2+ ♖ (53... ♗xd7?? 54. ♗g8+- mates) 54. ♔e1 ♗xa2 55. d8 ♗ ♗a1+ 56. ♔f2 ♖ ♗a2+ ♖=.

**52... ♗xd7 53. ♗xf8+**

53. ♗xc3 ♗xf5+ should be an easy win.

**53... ♔xf8 54. ♙c5+ ♔g7**

**55. ♙xb4**



55... ♗d4+ ♖ 56. ♖e3 ♗xb4-+ 57. ♖a7+ ♔h6 58. ♗f7 ♗d4+ 59. ♔f3 ♗d3+ 60. ♔g2 ♗e4+ 61. ♔g1 ♗xf5 62. h3 ♗b1+ 63. ♔f2 ♗c2+ 64. ♔f3 ♗d3+ 65. ♔g2 ♗d6 66. h4 gxh4 67. gxh4 c2

0-1

**Keres Simul**

*Hart House, 1975*



*photo: Hart House*

## (16) Keres, Paul MacKean, Peter

C33

*Montreal simul, 29.05.1975*

**Notes: Peter MacKean**

**1. e4 e5 2. f4 exf4 3. ♙c4**

Paul Keres' suggested innovation, which, after this game, appeared not to be very strong.

**3... d5**

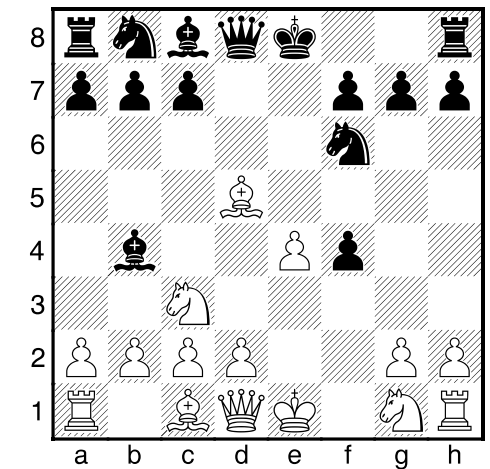
This counter gambit appears

to give Black at least equality. I can't recall whether we had considered this move earlier in the day during Keres' lecture. I believe not.

**4. ♙xd5**

4. exd5? ♗h4+ 5. ♔f1 ♙d6+.

**4... ♖f6 5. ♖c3 ♙b4**



**6. ♖ge2?**

This move is weak. Simply 6. ♖f3 0-0 7. 0-0 ♙xc3 8. dxc3 (8. bxc3 ♖xd5 9. exd5 ♗xd5 10. d4 ♖d7 possibly followed by ...c5, ...b6, ...♙b7 etc. seems OK for Black.) 8...c6 seems to equalize. – PM

*editor:* White still has a development advantage and the ♙ pair, which may be why





Fischer could win this so quickly in an earlier simul game where he tried 3...♙c4: 9.♙c4 ♖b6+ 10.♔h1 ♘xe4 11.♙e1!± ♖e8 (11...♘f6 12.♙xf4♞) 12.♙xf4 ♘d6 13.♙xd6!! ♖xe1 14.♖axe1 ♙d7 (14...♙e6 15.♘g5 or ♖xe6 both win.) 15.♘g5 ♘a6 16.♖xf7 1-0  
Fischer,R–Nyman,W. Cicero, 1964.

### 6...♙xc3 7.dxc3

The alternatives are not any better; e.g.

7.♘xc3 ♙g4 8.♘e2 ♘xd5 9.exd5 ♖xd5-+;

7.bxc3 ♘xd5 8.exd5 ♖h4+-+ 9.g3 (9.♔f1 f3) 9...fxg3 10.♘xg3 ♙g4.

### 7...c6 8.♙b3

8.♙c4 would save a tempo.

### 8...♖xd1+ 9.♔xd1 ♘xe4

This would not be possible if the N was placed on f3 on move six. – PM

*editor* – I don't see why not.

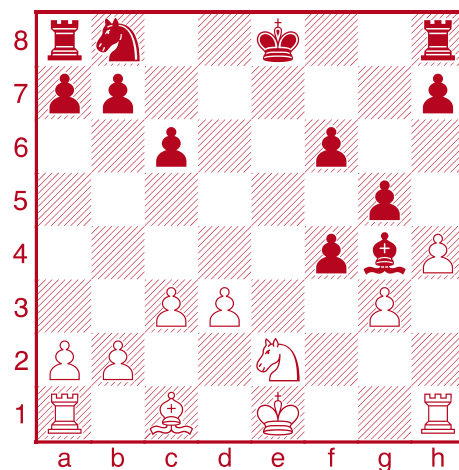
White can pin the ♘ with ♖e1, but after ...♙f5 White has no way to attack the ♘e4 with a lower-

value piece as there are no pawn levers (f4?!); and any threatening ♘ moves can all be met by the annoying ...♙g4+, giving Black time enough to castle.

### 10.♔e1

10.♖e1? ♘f2+ 11.♔d2 0-0-+.

### 10...g5 11.h4 f6 12.♙c4 ♙g4 13.♙d3 ♘c5! 14.g3 ♘xd3+ 15.cxd3



White is looking for endgame activity to make up for the missing pawn in this King's Gambit. What should Black do:... fxg3, ...f3 something else? (NB: White's ♔ has already moved)

### 15...fxg3?!

This keeps an advantage, but isn't nearly best. – ed.

15...gxh4? 16.♖xh4 h5 17.♙xf4∞; 15...f3♣ 16.♘g1 ♘d7 aiming for d3. 17.d4 (17.hxg5 0-0!-+ developing and supporting the ♘f3.) 17...c5 18.hxg5 (18.♙e3 cxd4 19.cxd4 ♖c8-+) 18...0-0♣;

15...♘d7! Black has a winning development advantage, and if White grabs the kingside pawns it opens lines against his ♔; e.g. 16.gxf4 (16.d4 keeping the ♘ away 16...0-0 17.gxf4 ♖ae8 18.♖h2 ♖f7 19.♔f1 ♖fe7-+) 16...0-0-0 17.hxg5 (17.♔f2 ♘c5-+) 17...♖he8 18.♖h2 fxg5 19.fxg5 ♘e5-+; Similarly, 15...0-0! 16.gxf4 ♖e8 17.♖h2 gxh4 18.♔f1 ♘d7 19.d4 keeps the ♘ back, but buries the ♙c1. 19...♖e4♣ or even ...f5.

### 16.♘xg3?!

♞16.hxg5♣ fxg5 17.♙xg5 ♖g8 Black still has winning chances but it's not clear.

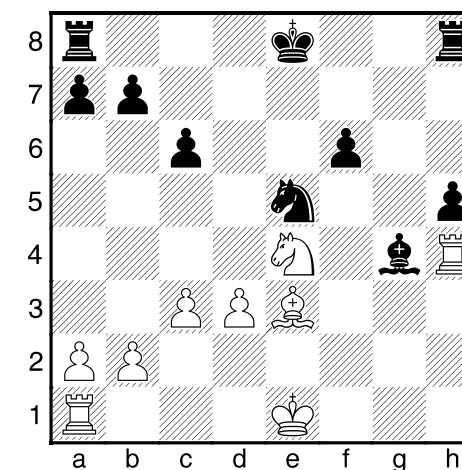
### 16...gxh4 17.♖xh4 h5 18.♙e3

♞18.♙f4 covering e5.

### 18...♘d7 19.♘e4?

19.d4 prevents ...♘e5 but Black should still win on the long-term strength of his kingside passers.

### 19...♘e5!



Keres obviously overlooked this move, and stood at this position for a long time (likely looking at the exchange sac via Nxf6xg4, although it doesn't work). I actually thought that he might resign here as I am winning a second pawn. In fact, his flag fell. Of course, I didn't point it out to him and simply played on! Mr. Keres also played on until move 50, presumably since we had Bs of different colors, and he was now winning the b pawn, thus saddling black with all isolated



pawns, and rendering the Black win slightly more challenging to achieve.

20. ♖f2

20. ♖xf6+ ♔e7 21. ♖xg4 ♘f3+-+.

20... ♘xd3+ 21. ♖g3 f5

22. ♘d6+ ♔d7 23. ♘xb7 ♖hb8

24. ♘c5+ ♘xc5 25. ♕xc5

♖xb2 26. ♖hh1 ♖c2 27. ♕d4

c5 28. ♕e5 ♖e8 29. ♖he1

♔c6 30. a4 ♔d5 31. ♕f6

♖xe1 32. ♖xe1 ♖a2 33. ♖e5+

♔d6 34. ♖e8 ♖xa4 35. ♖d8+

♔c7 36. ♖d5 f4+ 37. ♔h4

♔c6 38. ♖d2 ♖a1 39. ♕e5

♖h1+ 40. ♔g5 f3 41. ♖a2 ♖g1

42. ♔h4 ♖g2 43. ♖a6+ ♔b5

44. ♖f6 ♔c4 45. ♕g3 ♔xc3

46. ♖a6 ♔d3 47. ♖xa7 f2

48. ♖a3+ ♔d4 49. ♖a4+ c4

50. ♖a1 ♕e2

On move 51, Mr. Keres laid down his King, shook my hand and signed my scoresheet. Unfortunately, the signed score sheet was misplaced, but the game was quickly reconstructed with the help of a chess friend. I felt honored to have had such an opportunity to receive a tutorial and engage in a simultaneous game with such a chess legend. I feel that, with Mr. Keres inspiration, we were able to collaboratively refute 3. Bc4 in

the King's Gambit on that day, with the simple 3...d5.

During the simultaneous exhibition, Leon Piasetski was the only other player to defeat Mr. Keres that evening. As is well documented, Mr. Paul Keres died soon after leaving Canada, having just completed the Canadian Tour, and has since been honored in Canada by the hosting of the Annual Keres Memorial Chess Tournament, held in Vancouver since 1975.

– Peter MacKean  
(via Fred McKim)

0-1

(17)

**Gamarra Caceres, Carlos**

**(2335)**

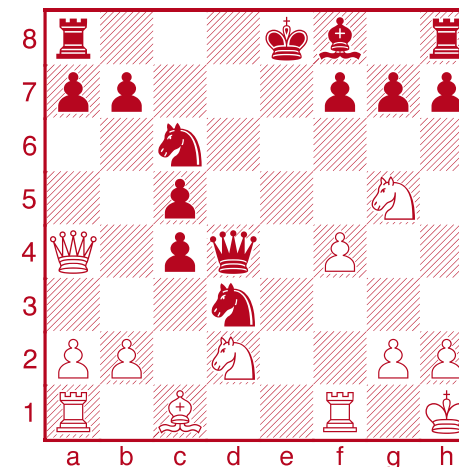
**Piasetski, Leon (2350)**

C02

*Olympiad Buenos Aires (11),  
06.11.1978*

1.e4 c5 2. ♘f3 e6 3. c3 d5  
4. e5 ♕d7 5. d4 ♖b6 6. ♕e2

♕b5 7. c4 ♕xc4 8. ♕xc4 dxc4  
9. d5 ♘e7 10. dxe6 ♖xe6  
11. 0-0 ♘bc6 12. ♘bd2 ♘g6  
13. ♘g5 ♖d5 14. ♖a4 ♘gxe5  
15. f4 ♖d4+ 16. ♔h1 ♘d3



Black is behind in development but has two extra pawns. What should White do: ♖xc4, ♘xc4, something else?

17. ♘xc4?

17. ♖xc4? ♖xc4□ (17... ♘f2+??

18. ♖xf2 ♖xf2 19. ♖xf7+ ♔d8

20. ♘e6+ ♔c8 21. ♖c7#) 18. ♘xc4  
♕e7-+ Black is up a pawn for free.

The answer is "something else", but White is still significantly worse: ♘17. ♘gf3 ♘f2+? (Black should avoid temptation and



# Chess Canada Tacticosaurus



## Keres Simul

RA Centre,  
1975

play 17...♔d7!?) 18.♔g1 ♖h3+  
19.♔h1 ♜f2+ (19...♔g1+??  
20.♜xg1 is not how smothered  
mate works.) 20.♔g1=.

### 17...b5!!

This fork deflects the ♔ from  
defending d1, and is the only  
move that not only keeps an  
advantage, but wins.

17...♜f2+?? 18.♖xf2 ♔xf2  
19.♙e3+- White is down the  
exchange but has a winning  
lead in development: 19...♔h4  
(19...♔e2 20.♔b5+-) 20.♜e5+-.

### 18.♔xb5 ♜f2+

It's either a smothered mate  
(after 19.♔g1 ♜h3+) or a back  
rank mate after 19.♖xf2 ♔d1+).

0-1

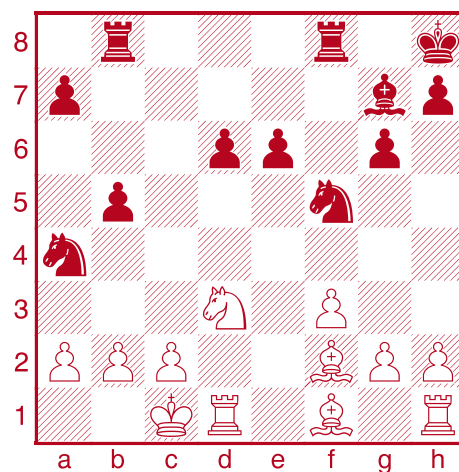
(18)

**Preissmann, Emmanuel**  
**Day, Lawrence**

B06

*Olympiad Buenos Aires (12),*  
*07.11.1978*

1.e4 g6 2.d4 ♙g7 3.♞c3 c5  
4.dxc5 ♔a5 5.♜ge2 ♜f6  
6.♔d3 ♜a6 7.♙e3 0-0 8.f3  
♜xc5 9.♔b5 ♔xb5 10.♜xb5  
d6 11.♜c7 ♖b8 12.e5 ♜e8  
13.♜d5 ♙xe5 14.♜xe7+  
♔h8 15.0-0-0 ♙e6 16.♜d5  
b5 17.♜ef4 ♜g7 18.♜xe6  
fxe6 19.♜b4 ♜f5 20.♙f2 ♜a4  
21.♜d3 ♙g7



♖e1 or ♙xa7?

### 22.♙xa7??

♞22.♖e1± attacking the ♙e6  
gains a tempo to make space for  
the ♔.

22...♖a8 ♞-+ 23.♙f2 ♜xb2!!  
24.♜xb2 ♖xa2 25.g4?  
25.♜d3? ♙c3! #2;

*Lawrence Day v*  
*Milan Vukadinov*

25.♔d2 ♖xb2+.

### 25...♙c3!

25...♙c3! 26.♔b1 ♖fa8 mates.

0-1

(19)

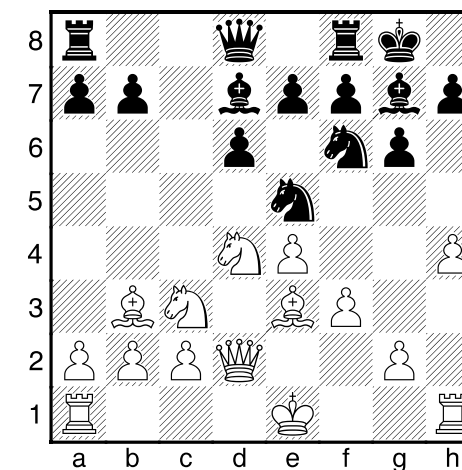
**Brown, Grant (1680)**  
**Pacey, Kevin (1899)**

B77

*Ontario op Hamilton CAN (6),*  
*19.05.1980*

1.♜f3 c5 2.e4 d6 3.d4 cxd4  
4.♜xd4 ♜f6 5.♜c3 g6

6.♙e3 ♙g7 7.f3 0-0 8.♙c4  
♜c6 9.♔d2 ♙d7 10.h4 ♜e5  
11.♙b3



### 11...♔a5

11...h5! is the modern line —  
popularized by English GM Jon  
Mestel, who played it in 1975 —

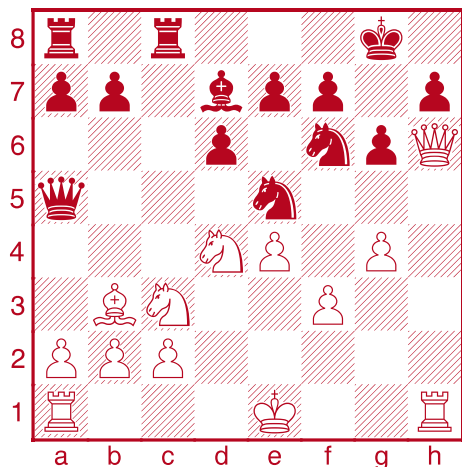




but might not have been known by the players.

12.h5 ♘xh5 13.g4 ♘f6

14.♙h6 ♙xh6 15.♚xh6 ♜fc8



Should White connect ♜s with 000 or ♔d2, or something else?

16.♔d2?

This position would be OK if it were White's move — g5! followed by an exchange sac on h5 — but it isn't, and Black gives him a lesson in the Dragon counterattack:

a) 16.♘de2?? ♘xf3+-.+

b) ♖16.0-0-0?! ♜xc3□ (otherwise ♘d5 wins by removing the guard on f6)

17.bxc3 ♚xc3 18.♔b1 ♜c8  
19.♞hf1? (19.♘f5□ gxf5  
(19...♙xf5 20.gxf5 ♘c4±) 20.gxf5  
♚xf3 21.♞dg1+ ♘eg4 22.♞h4∞)  
19...a5!-+ 20.a4 ♘c4 21.♚c1  
♚b4 22.♔a2 ♙xa4-+ (0-1, 29)  
Golubka,P (2503)–Korol,D  
(2291) Lutsk, 2018.

Retreating the ♚ must feel like an admission that White's mating attack — “sac, sac, mate” — is not going to come; but it's better than getting smashed by Black's attack; so:

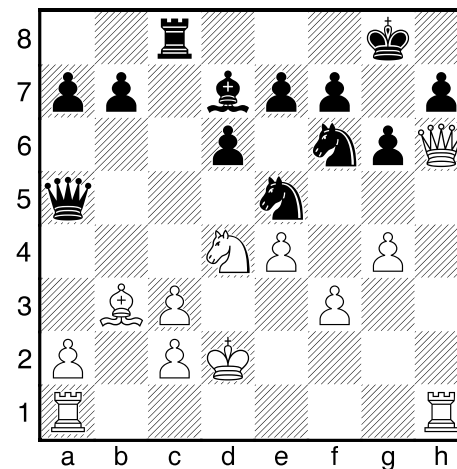
c) ♖16.♚e3:

16...♜xc3!? 17.♚xc3 ♚xc3+  
18.bxc3 ♜c8 (18...g5!/?∞) 19.g5  
♘h5∞ (1-0, 75) Cain,C (2310)–  
Myo,N (2425) Bangkok, 2004.)

16...♘c4 17.♙xc4 ♜xc4 18.0-0-0  
♜xc3!? or 18...♞ac8!?.

d) ♖16.♚d2 and Black has interesting options, like 16...♙e6!? (since the ♘d4 must guard f3) and 16...♜c4!? (a very different kind of exchange sac).

16...♜xc3!-+ 17.bxc3 ♜c8!



18.♚e3

18.♘e2 defends c3, but 18...♘xf3+ and White loses all his kingside pawns.

18...♜xc3!! 19.♚xc3 ♘xf3+□  
20.♔d3  
20.♘xf3 ♘xe4+-.+

20...♘e5+□

Black wins the ♚ with a continuing attack: 20...♘e5+ 21.♔d2 ♘xe4+-.+

Great play by Black: one mistake and White got smashed.

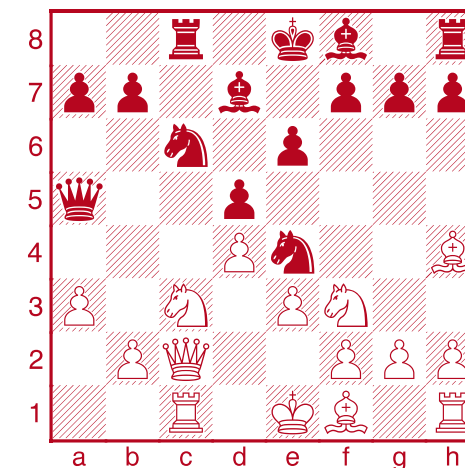
0-1

(20)  
Fuster, Geza (2238)  
Kourkounakis, Ilias (2319)

D13

Toronto Closed Toronto CAN (1),  
05.02.1981

1.d4 c5 2.c3 ♘f6 3.♘f3 d5  
4.♙g5 ♘e4 5.♙h4 cxd4  
6.cxd4 ♘c6 7.♘c3 ♚a5  
8.♚b3 e6 9.e3 ♚b4 10.♚c2  
♚a5 11.♞c1 ♙d7 12.a3 ♜c8



♙d3, ♙b5, or something else.

13.♙d3??

Perfectly natural, but losing!

The game line and variations below show how even an

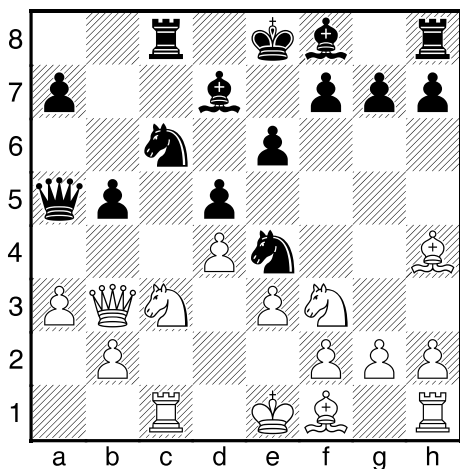


opening with as boring a reputation as the exchange Slav can be a tactical minefield.

a) 13.♔b5?? ♖xc3 14.♔xc6 ♖e4+ 15.b4 ♔xb4+□-+.

b) ♘13.♖d2 ♖xc3 14.♖b3! ♗b6 15.♗xc3 ♖xd4♞ 16.♗xd4 (16.♗xc8+? ♔xc8 17.♗xc8+ ♖d7 18.♗d8+ ♗xd8 19.♔xd8 ♖xb3-+) 16...♗xb3 17.♗xc8+ ♔xc8 18.♗xa7 ♔d6♞.

c) ♘13.♗b3! b5!? *Analysis Diagram*



Development is equal, but Black has a pawn sac!?

c1) 14.♔xb5?? ♖xc3 15.bxc3 (15.♗xc3?? ♗b8 and ...a6 wins the ♔b5.);

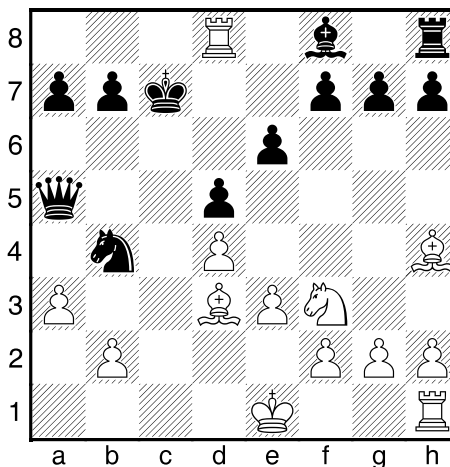
c2) 14.♔d3? b4! 15.♖xe4 bxa3+ 16.♖ed2 ♗b8□-+ with ...axb2 Black already has two pawns for the ♖, but also has too many ways to attack the queenside (...♖b4, ...♔a4);

c3) 14.♔e2 ♖xc3 15.♗xc3□ (15.♗xc3? b4-+) 15...♗xc3+ 16.♗xc3 b4 17.♗d3 to save the a-pawn, 17...♖a5♞ with a queenside initiative;

c4) 14.♗xb5 ♔xa3! 15.♗xa5 ♖xa5 16.bxa3 ♗xc3 17.♗xc3 ♖xc3 White has the ♔s (for now), but after ...f6 his ♖ is worse than Black's. SF15 and Leela both slightly prefer Black.

13...♖xc3-+ 14.♗xc3 14.bxc3 ♔xa3 15.♗a1 ♖b4□-+.

14...♖b4! 15.♗xc8+ ♔xc8 16.♗xc8+ ♖d7 17.♗d8+ ♖c7



18.♔e2 18.axb4 ♔xb4+ and ...♗xd8.

18...♖xd3□ 18...♖c6? 19.♗a8±.

19.♔xd3 ♗b5+ 20.♔c2 ♔xa3! 21.♗xh8 ♗xb2+ 22.♔d3 ♗b5+! 23.♔c2 ♗c4+ 24.♔d2 ♔b4+ 25.♔d1 ♗d3+

0-1

(21) Ivanov, Igor Vasilievich Berry, Jonathan

B06 Fou du Roi final Quebec (4), 13.03.1981

1.e4 d6 2.d4 g6 3.g3 ♔g7 4.♔g2 c5 5.dxc5 ♗a5+ 6.♖c3 ♔xc3+ 7.bxc3 ♗xc3+ 8.♔d2 ♗xc5 9.♖e2 ♖f6 10.0-0 0-0 11.♗b1 ♖c6 12.♖c3 ♔g4! 13.♗e1 ♖d4

## 1980 Pan-Am Champs

University of Toronto Hart House (L2R) I. Kourkounakis, I. Findlay, J. Pajak, M. Buchholz, R. Morenz

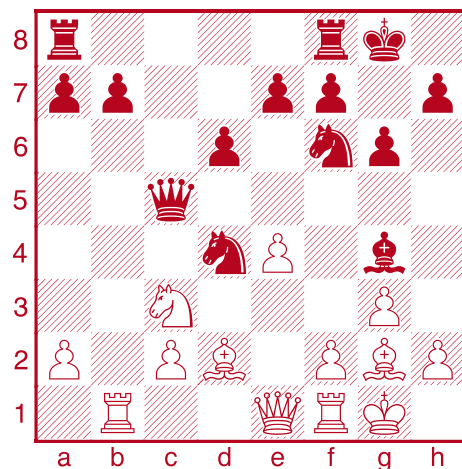


photo: Hart House



# Chess Canada Tacticosaurus

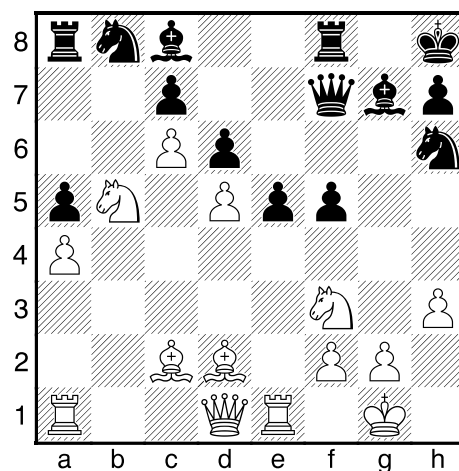




(22)  
Braga, Fernando (2480)  
Day, Lawrence (2375)

C76  
Olympiad Dubai (8), 23.11.1986

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 g6  
4.0-0 ♙g7 5.c3 a6 6.♙a4 d6  
7.d4 ♙d7 8.♞e1 ♚e7 9.♙e3  
♘f6 10.d5 ♘b8 11.♙c2  
♘g4 12.♙d2 b6 13.c4 f6?!  
14.b4 0-0 15.♘c3 f5 16.exf5  
gxf5 17.h3 ♘h6 18.c5  
bxc5 19.bxc5 ♙c8 20.c6 a5  
21.♘b5 ♚h8 22.a4 ♚f7

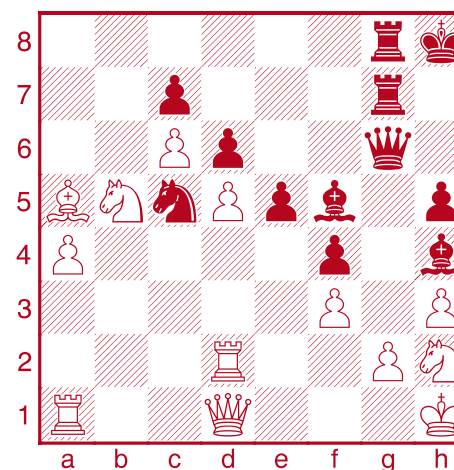


23.♙c3  
23.♘g5!+- and Black is getting  
massacred in a very bad KID.

23...♘a6 24.♙xa5 ♙f6  
25.♞a3 ♞g8 26.♘h2? f4⇌  
27.♚h1 ♙h4 28.♞e2  
28.♘f3 ♙xf2 29.♘e5 dxe5  
30.♞xe5+-.

28...♚g7 29.f3 ♘f5 30.♙xf5  
♙xf5 31.♙c3 ♞ae8 32.♞a1 h5  
33.♙a5 ♙f6 34.♞c1  
34.♙xc7 ♘xc7 35.♘xd6±.

34...♙d8 35.♙c3? ♘c5  
36.♞d2 ♘d3 37.♞cc2 ♚g6!  
38.♞a2 ♘c5?! 39.♙a5 ♞g7  
40.♙c3 ♞eg8 41.♞a1 ♙h4  
42.♙a5



Find a pretty way to finish off  
White.

42...♘d3!

42...♙xh3 is the brute force way,  
43.gxh3 ♘b3 44.♘g4 (44.♚xb3  
♚g1+ 45.♞xg1 ♞xg1#) 44...♘xd2  
45.♙xd2 hxg4-+.

42...e4 also wins, but Black's  
actual continuation is prettier.

43.♚f1 ♙xh3! 44.gxh3  
44.♚xd3 ♚xd3 (taking on g2  
also mates faster, but this is very  
simple) 45.♞xd3 ♙xg2+ 46.♚g1  
♙xf3+-+.

44...♙e1!

Interfering with the defence of g1  
by cutting off the ♞a1. Going 45...  
♘e1 also works, but this move  
also skewers the ♙a5.

45.♞xe1 ♘xe1 46.♘g4 hxg4!  
46...♘xf3-+.

47.hxg4 ♞h7+ 48.♞h2 ♘xf3  
49.♚xf3 ♚b1+  
and Black wins the ♞h2.

Lawrence Day won a Bronze  
Medal at this Olympiad.

0-1

White dared Black to give up his  
DSB for a ♘ and ♙, and Black  
went for it. What should White do  
now?

14.♙e3??

Not one of Igor's better days.

14.♞xb7? ♞fe8 threat ...♙c8-a6  
(14...♙c8 15.♞xe7 ♙a6 16.e5!⇌)  
15.♞b1 ♘xc2 16.♚c1 ♘d4-+;

14.♚e3! b6!± defending the ♚  
and b7 pawn. Now if 15.e5? dxe5  
16.♙xa8 ♞xa8-+ White's kingside  
light squares are hopelessly  
weak.

14...♚xc3!

Since 15.♚xc3 ♘e2+-+.

0-1

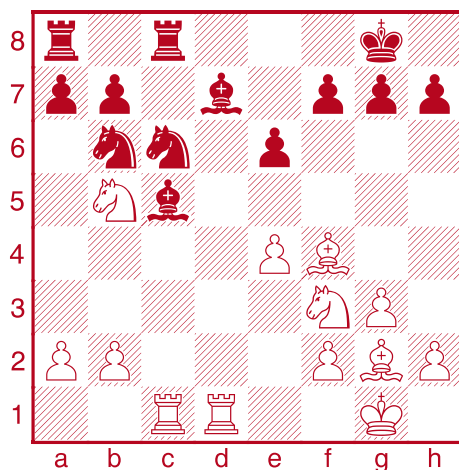
(23)  
Ivanov, Igor (2495)  
Leveille, Francois (2249)

D41

Quebec-ch Montreal (2),  
28.05.1987

1. d4 f6 2. c4 e6 3. g3 d5  
4. g2 e7 5. d4 0-0 6. 0-0  
c5 7. cxd5 xd5 8. e4 b6  
9. dxc5 xd1 10. xd1 xc5  
11. c3 c6 12. f4 d7?  
12...f6 13. ac1 e5 14. b5  
(14. d5± (½-½, 24) Timman, J  
(2605)-Khalifman, A (2688)  
Wijk aan Zee, 2002.) 14...exf4  
15. xc5 ½-½ Portisch, L (2610)-  
Dlugy, M (2520) New York, 1987.

13. ac1 fc8 14. b5



Can Black untangle with ...e5,  
or should he just suffer with  
...f8.

14...e5?

14...f8 15. b3 and Black is  
getting squeezed, but it's not  
over.

15. c7+ xc7

15...xf3+ 16. xf3+-  
with a double attack on  
a8 and c5.

16. xe5

16. xe5? cc8=.

16...a4

16...g5 17. xg5 (or  
17. e3) ;  
16...b5 17. d3+-.

17. b3 b5

18. d3!

18. b4 also wins.

18...xd3 19. xc7

a3 20. c3

1-0

Todd Southam

(24)  
Southam, Todd (2455)  
Foisor, Ovidiu (2495)

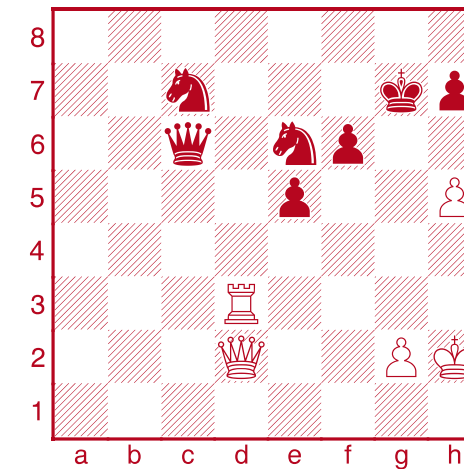
E44

Saint John Open-2, 1988

1. d4 f6 2. c4 e6 3. c3 b4  
4. e3 b6 5. ge2 b7...



68. d2



Black has a winning material  
advantage, but only if he can get  
his s going. Where should he  
move the e6?

68...g5?

68...d4? 69. g3+ f7  
70. h6=;

68...c5? 69. g3+ f7  
70. h6=;

68...f4? 69. c3=;

68...h6? 69. d7+ g8  
70. d3=;

68...f8!+- guarding d7 and h7  
before improving the other s is  
the only good move for the e6.





### 69. ♖d7+?

69. ♖c3□= too simple to see, or over-pressing for the win? This wins the ♖c7, but not the game:

69... ♖e4? 70. ♖xc6 ♖xd2

71. ♖xc7+ ♖h6 72. g4 f5

73. ♖h3□+;

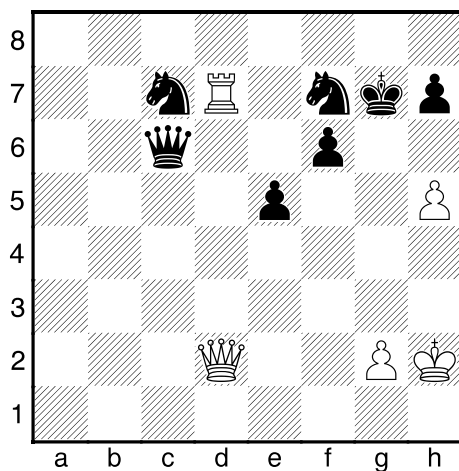
69... ♖b6 70. ♖d7+ ♖h6□

71. ♖xc7 ♖xh5=. Both ♖'s are too exposed to play for a win.

### 69... ♖f7?

69... ♖g8□+ 70. ♖d8+ ♖e8□

71. ♖a2+ ♖f7-+.



### 70. h6+!

Or 70. ♖d3! followed by h6+ 70... ♖e6 (70... e4? 71. ♖g3++- wins c7.) 71. h6+□ ♖g8

72. ♖xf7□ ♖xf7 73. ♖xh7+ ♖f8□

74. ♖h8+ ♖e7□ (74... ♖f7?)

75. h7+-) 75. h7 (or 75. ♖h7+=)

75... ♖e4= and Black forces a repetition.

### 70... ♖g8 71. ♖d3□

Threat ♖g3+ or ♖xf7 as in the previous note.

### 71... f5

71... ♖e6 72. ♖xf7□ ♖xf7

73. ♖xh7+ ♖f8□ 74. ♖h8+=.

### 72. ♖g3+ ♖g6□ 73. ♖xg6+

hxg6 74. h7+ ♖h8□ 75. ♖xf7

♖e6 76. ♖e7 ♖g5

1/2=1/2



### (25)

Day, Lawrence (2473)

Nickoloff, Bryon (2518)

A07

Wentworth Active Ancaster,  
08.1993

1. g3 d5 2. ♖f3 ♖f6 3. ♖g2

c6 4. 0-0 ♖f5 5. d3 e6 6. b3

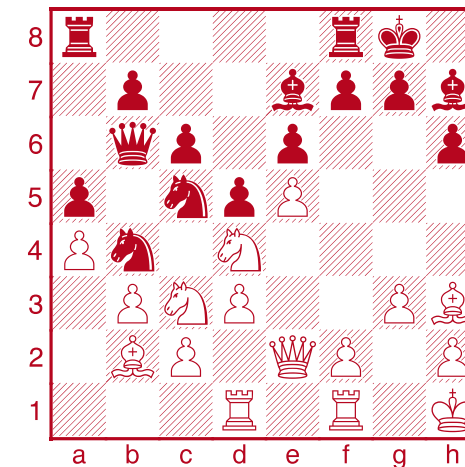
♖e7 7. ♖b2 0-0 8. e3 a5 9. a4

h6 10. ♖e2 ♖h7 11. ♖c3

♖bd7 12. e4 ♖c5 13. e5 ♖e8

14. ♖h3 ♖c7 15. ♖d4 ♖7a6

16. ♖h1 ♖b4 17. ♖ad1 ♖b6



### 18. ♖e3??

Black was threatening ... ♖cxd3 with a discovered attack on the ♖d4. White's move protects the ♖d4, but allows a different tactic, which Black found.

18. ♖d2? ♖cxd3!-+.

△18. ♖f3 is better than the game, but it's hard to see what White is playing for after this.

△18. ♖b1! defending ♖d4, ready to push f4.

18... ♖xc2!!-+ 19. ♖xc2  
♖xb3□ 20. ♖c1

## 1984 Toronto Closed

Bryon Nickoloff, Lawrence Day,  
Robert Morrison, Joseph Polachek

Front: David Southam, Vinny Puri

photo: Erik Malmsten

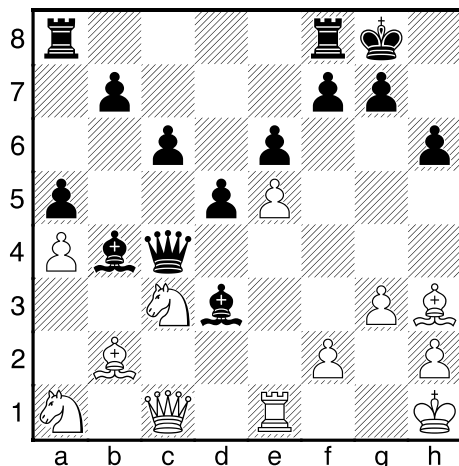
Defending the forked minors, but...

20...♘xd3

Forking c1 and b2.

21.♖xd3 ♜xd3 22.♘a1 ♚c4

23.♖e1 ♜b4



Black is winning with three pawns and a Rook for the two Ns. He converts by ruthlessly pushing his passed d-pawn.

24.♖d1 d4 25.♘b1 ♚xc1

26.♖xc1 c5 27.♜g2 ♖ad8

28.♘a3 ♜e2 29.♜f1 d3

30.♘b3 ♜xf1 31.♖xf1 d2

32.♖d1 ♖d3 33.♘c4 ♖xb3

34.♚g2 ♖d8

0-1

## (26) Hebert, Jean Koliada, Timour

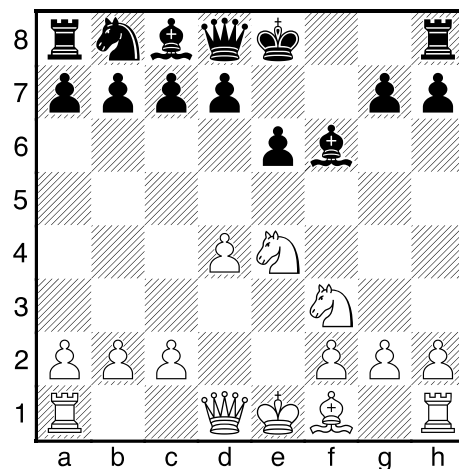
A83

Beloeil (30 min) CAN, 1994

1.d4 f5 2.♜g5 ♘f6 3.♘c3 e6

4.e4 fxe4 5.♘xe4 ♜e7 6.♜xf6

♜xf6 7.♘f3



White has played a dangerous anti-Dutch line: conceding the ♜ pair for a lead in development and an early e4.

7...0-0

7...♘c6!? 8.c3 0-0 9.♜d3 d6

10.♚c2 h6 11.0-0 g5!? 12.♚e2

(12.♖ae1!; 12.♘g3!) 12...♜d7

13.♘fd2?! e5! 14.d5 ♘e7

15.♘xf6+?! ♖xf6 16.♘e4 ♖f7∞

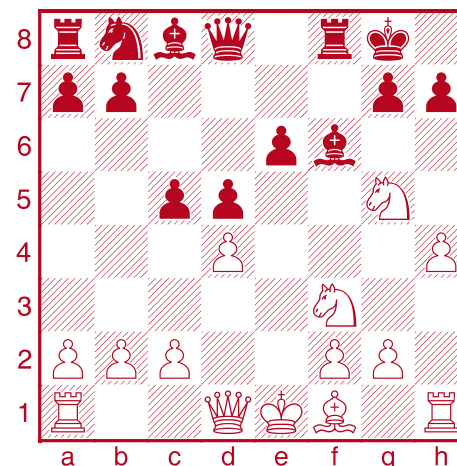
17.♖ad1 a5 18.♜b1 ♚f8 19.♘g3

♚h8 20.c4 b6 21.b3 ♚g7 22.a3

♘g6 23.♜xg6 ♚xg6= and

they've reached a kind of KID middlegame where Black has conceded the e4 square to a ♘, but has traded all of his usually-cramped minors; **Zherebukh, Y (2595)–Kamsky, G (2675)** Las Vegas, 2016 (0-1, 37).

8.h4 d5 9.♘eg5 c5



...♚d3, ♜d3, or something else?

10.♚d3!

White has terrific pressure on the light squares after this or other moves.

a) 10.♜d3?! White's attack

is much stronger with the ♚ in front. 10...h6 (10...g6 11.♘xh7!?∞) 11.♜h7+ ♚h8 12.♚d3±.

White has such a strong attacking position there is no need to put more ammo in the gun. Best is something else:

b) 10.♘xh7!!± ♚xh7 11.♘g5+ ♚g8 (11...♚g6 12.♚d3+ ♚h5 13.g4+- and mate next.)

12.♚h5+- Black has various defensive tries but is so lost that White usually has multiple winning continuations against every defence. Here's an example: 12...♖e8 (12...♜xg5 13.hxg5 and g6 is a common pattern in these attacks.)

13.♚f7+ (the attack is so strong that 000 wins too) 13...♚h8

14.♜d3 ♚d7! 15.♚g6 ♚g8

16.♖h3 going for ♖f3xf6. 16...♚f8

(16...c4 17.♖f3 cxd3 18.♖xf6+-

and ♚h7#) 17.h5 ♜xg5 18.♚xg5

♖e7 19.h6 ♚g8 (19...♚e8

20.h7+-) 20.♜h7+!+-.

10...g6 11.♘xh7!∞ ♚xh7

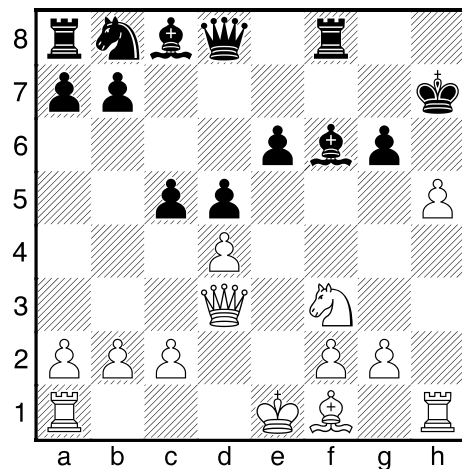
12.h5□







# Chess Canada Tacticosaurus



## 12...Nc6?

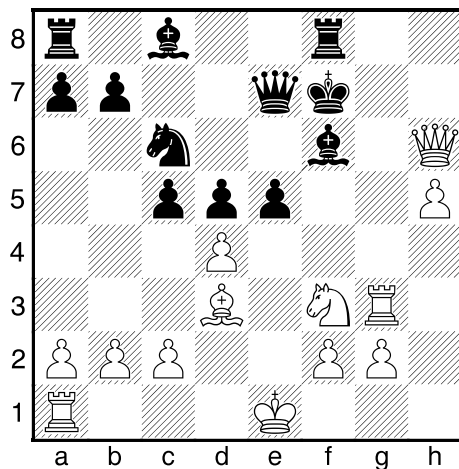
12...Qe7 13. Ne5↑ c4 (13...Nc6 14. Nxc6 c4 15. Nxf8+ Qg7±; 13...Rg8?? 14. hxg6+ Qg7 15. Rh7+-) 14. hxg6+ (14. Qxc6+!? Qh8 15. Qh6+ Qg8 16. Ng6±) 14...Qg8 15. Qg3 or 15. Qh3.

12...Rg8? 13. hxg6+ Qg7  
14. Rh7+ Qf8 15. Ne5 Nc6  
16. Ng4!+- or 16. Qh3!+-.

13. Qxc6+- Qh8 14. Qd3!  
Qe7 15. Qh6+ Qg8

16. Rh3 Qe5  
16...Rf7 17. Rg3+ Rg7 18. Qh7+  
Qf7 19. Rxc7+ Qxc7 20. h6+-.

17. Rg3+ Qf7



All of White's moves since 10. Qd3 have been straightforward, but not here: although it might look crazy with his Q still on e1, White must immediately force open the e-file.

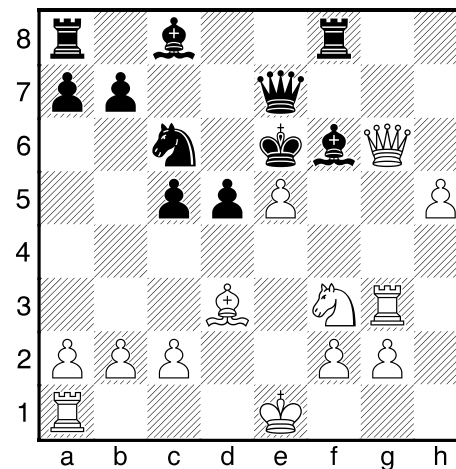
## 18. Qg6+??

18. dxe5+-  
Nxe5 (18...Qh8 19. Qg6#)  
19. Nxe5+  
Qxe5+ 20. Re3  
(20. Qf1 wins too, bringing in the last piece with Re1.) 20...Qg5 21. Qg6+- and

mate next.

18. Nxe5+- Qe8 19. 0-0-0 Qe6 20. Ng6 Qg7 21. Qxc7 Qxc7 22. Nxf8+- White has a R and three connected passed pawns for the two minors. A huge material imbalance is a common result in lines where Black escapes mate.

## 18...Qe6 19. dxe5



## 19...Qd7 Q

19...Nxe5? 20. Nxe5 Qd6 (20...Qxe5 21. Re3+-) 21. Re3+ Qe6 22. Nc4+! dxc4 (22...Qc7 23. Qf5+-) 23. Qxc4+-.

20. Qb5 Qxe5 21. Nxe5+  
Qxe5+ 22. Re3 Qf6

1/2-1/2



## 1985 Toronto Intn'l.

*Victor Kortchnoi* vs  
*Jean Hebert*



(27)  
**Shirov, Alexei (2740)**  
**Nickoloff, Bryon (2390)**

C78

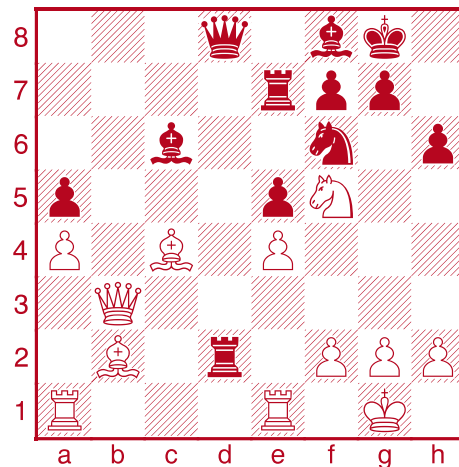
North Bay op (8), 1994

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 a6  
 4.♙a4 ♘f6 5.0-0 b5 6.♙b3  
 ♙b7 7.d3 ♙d6 8.c3 0-0  
 9.♘bd2 h6 10.d4 ♖e8 11.♖e1  
 ♙f8 12.♘f1 d6 13.♘g3

This position is more commonly reached with White to move, having saved a tempo by playing d2-d4 in one move.

13...♘a5 14.♙c2 ♘c4  
 15.b3 ♘b6 16.a4 c5  
 17.dxc5 dxc5 18.♚e2  
 bxa4 19.bxa4 a5  
 20.♘d2 c4 21.♘xc4  
 ♘xc4 22.♚xc4 ♖c8  
 23.♚a2 ♖xc3 24.♙b3  
 ♖e7 25.♙b2 ♖d3 26.♙c4  
 ♖d2 27.♚b3 (27.♘f1 ♖c2  
 28.♚b3 ♙xe4 29.♖xe4  
 ♖xb2) 27...♙c6 28.♘f5?

**1994 North Bay**  
*Alexei Shirov v  
 Bryon Nickoloff*



28...♘xe4?!

Not a bad move — it starts a series of exchanges which result in a balanced endgame — but

not nearly the best.

♞28...♖b7♞-+ skewers the ♙b2. White could save the ♙b2 with 29.♙b5, but Black would be in charge after the simple 29...♙xb5 30.axb5 ♙c5-+.

Instead, White should go 29.♚g3, when Black has tougher choices:

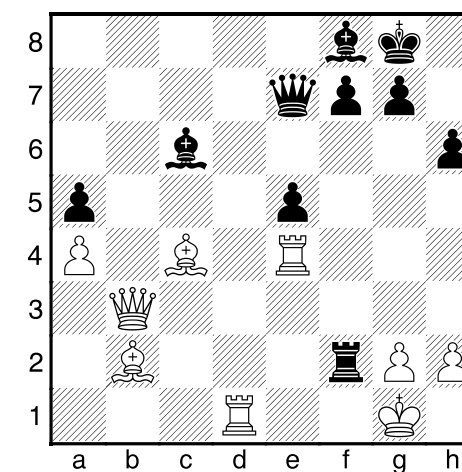
a) 29...♖bxb2?? 30.♘xh6+♞  
 ♚h7 (30...♚h8? 31.♘xf7+-)  
 31.♘xf7+- threatening ♚d8 and  
 ♚-h-file mate.

b) 29...♚h7 suggested by Lawrence Day, in *Nick's Best*, is good, but after 30...♙a3 there is a lot of fight left in White.

c) I would hope that Nick would have time to find the crushing: 29...♘xe4!!, after which White is doomed:

30.♘xh6+ ♚h7 White has too many bits hanging;  
 30.♙xf7+ ♚xf7-+ just makes it worse;  
 30.♖xe4 ♙xe4 31.♘xh6+ ♚h7  
 32.♘xf7 ♖xf7 33.♚h3+ (33.♙xf7  
 ♖d1+-+ mates.) 33...♚g8  
 34.♙xf7+ ♚xf7-+.

29.♘xe7+♞ ♚xe7 30.♖ad1  
 ♖xf2! 31.♖xe4♞



31...♚c5!?

Black had a simpler way to



photo: Brad Thomson

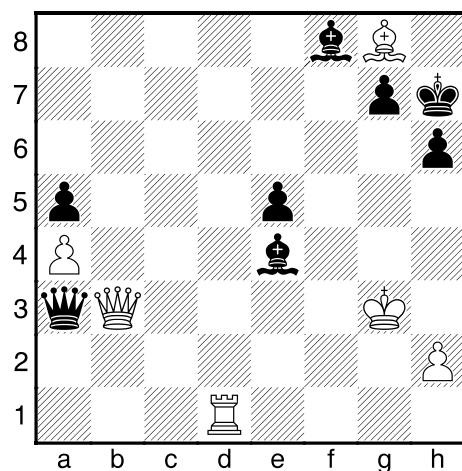




equalize — 31...♖xb2 32.♔xb2  
♙xe4 33.♖b5= — but plays the  
most testing move.

31...♔a7?! gets off the a3-f8  
diagonal, and so avoids White's  
next, but White keeps a plus  
with 32.♖e3! ♙c5!? (32...♖xe3  
33.♖xe3 ♖xg2+ 34.♔f1 ♖xb2∞)  
33.♖d8+! ♔h7 34.♙d4□ exd4□  
(34...♙xd4 35.♖exd4+-) 35.♖xf2  
♙xe4 (35...d3?? 36.♖ed4□+-)  
36.♖xf7± with a pawn-up  
version of what happens in the  
game.

32.♙a3! ♖xg2+□ 33.♔xg2  
♙xe4+□ 34.♔g3 ♖xa3□  
35.♙xf7+ ♔h7 36.♙g8+



36...♔g6□

This would get mated if White's

♔ wasn't pinned along the third  
rank.

36...♔h8?? 37.♖xa3 ♙xa3  
38.♖d8+-.

37.♙f7+ ♔f6 38.♖f1+ ♙f5  
39.♖xa3 ♙xa3 40.♙d5 ♙b4=  
41.h4 h5 42.♙e4 g6 43.♔f3  
♙d7 44.♙c2 ♙h3 45.♖g1  
♙g4+ 46.♖xg4 hxg4+

1/2=1/2

(28)  
Nickoloff, Bryon (2390)  
Baragar, Fletcher  
(2285)

E92

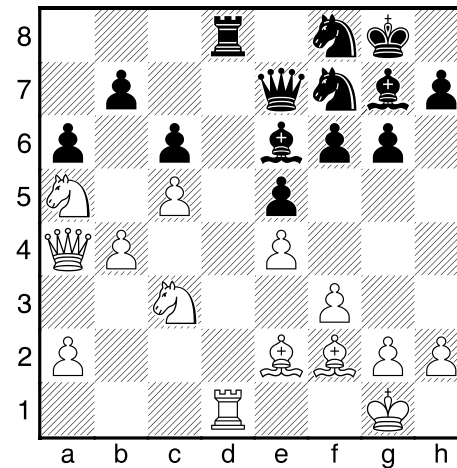
CAN-ch Hamilton (9), 1994

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♙g7  
4.e4 d6 5.♙e2 0-0 6.♘f3  
e5 7.♙e3 ♘g4 8.♙g5 f6  
9.♙h4 ♖e8 10.dxe5 dxe5  
11.c5 c6 12.♘d2 ♘h6 13.f3  
♖e7 14.b4 ♖d8 15.♖a4  
♙e6 16.♘c4 ♘f7 17.♙f2  
♘d7 18.♘a5 ♘f8 19.0-0 a6

**1994 Zonal**

Bryon Nickoloff  
Fletcher Baragar

20.♖ad1 ♖xd1 21.♖xd1 ♖d8



22.♘xc6!! ♖xd1+ 23.♙xd1  
bxc6 24.♖xc6 ♙c4  
Defending a6.

25.a4??

♙25.♘d5!+- ♙xd5 (25...♖d8  
26.♙b3+-) 26.exd5 ♖d7 27.♖xd7  
♘xd7 28.c6+-.

25...♘d8

25...f5!±.

26.♖a8

♙26.♖c8±.

26...♖d7! 27.♘d5! ♘fe6?

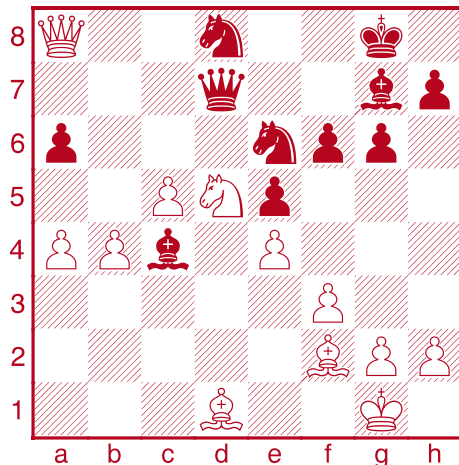
♙27...♔h8 SF15, getting away  
from ♘e7 checks and doesn't  
self-pin the ♘d8, both of which  
help control c6.



photo: Nick's Best



The game move gives White the chance to be brilliant.



**28. ♕e2!!**

A fantastic deflection sacrifice.

28. c6?? ♕xd5+- pins the ♖c6 to the ♔; this shows why the ♕ has to be deflected from d5.

**28... ♕xe2** □

28... ♕b3 29. a5! White wins the a-pawn and his queenside armada sails through.

**29. c6 ♖f7**

29... ♖c7 30. ♖b8 □-+.

**30. ♕b6** □ ♖f8?

30... ♕f8! keeps the ♔ on the 7th, but requires Black to find another fantastic move 31. ♕xd8 ♕c4 □ 32. c7 (32. ♖xf6+!? ♔g7 33. ♖d7

♖f4 34. h4 ♖c1+ 35. ♔h2 ♖f4+=) 32... ♕xd5! 33. ♖xd5 ♖xc7±.

**31. ♕xd8 ♖xd8 32. c7**

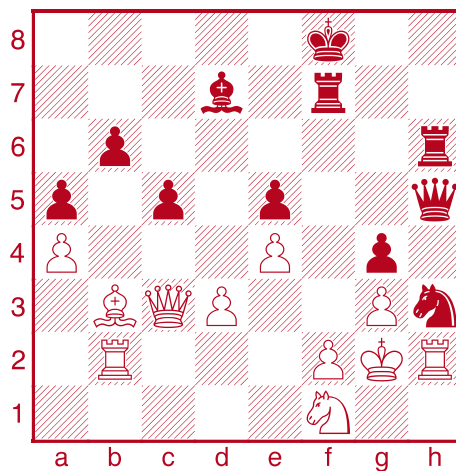
**1-0**

**(29)**  
**Krylov, Sergei (2290)**  
**Spraggett, Kevin (2530)**

*B08*

*Olympiad Moscow (5),*  
*05.12.1994*

**1. e4 g6 2. d4 ♕g7 3. ♖c3 c6**  
**4. ♖f3 d6 ... 43. ♕b3**



**43... ♖f5!!-+**

Not the only winning move, but objectively the strongest and

subjectively the most impressive.

**44. f4**

44. exf5 ♕c6+ 45. f3 ♕xf3#;

44. ♕xf7 ♖f3#;

44. ♕d1 ♖xf2+ 45. ♖xf2 ♖xf2+  
46. ♔h1 ♖xf1+ 47. ♔g2 ♖g1#;

44. ♖e3 ♖xf2+!! 45. ♖xf2 ♖xf2+  
46. ♔h1 ♖xh2+ 47. ♔xh2 ♖f4+  
48. ♔g1 ♖e2+-+ and Black is up  
a ♖.

**44... gxf3+!**

I think the person who keyed it in got confused by the *en passant* capture, since Chessbase Megabase continues with the obviously awful: 44... exf4?! 45. ♔h1 f3?? 46. ♕d1?? (46. exf5+-) 46... ♖f6 47. ♖c4 ♖g5 0-1.

**45. ♔h1 f2! 46. ♕d1**

46. exf5 ♕c6+ 47. ♖g2 ♖f4+  
48. ♖h2 ♕xg2#.

**46... ♖f6 47. ♖c4 ♖g5**

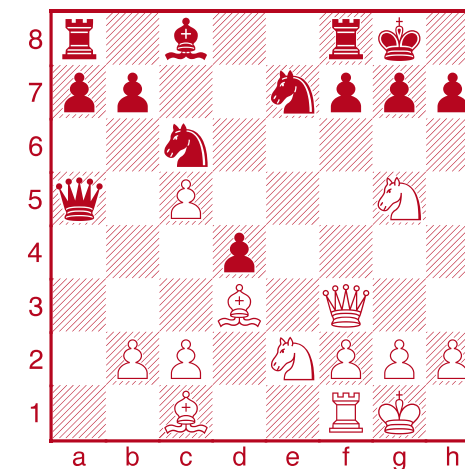
**0-1**

**(30)**  
**Dougherty, Michael**  
**(2225)**  
**Zugic, Igor (2462)**

*C01*

*CAN-op Toronto (10), 1995*

**1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. ♖c3 ♕b4**  
**4. exd5 exd5 5. ♖f3 ♖e7**  
**6. ♕d3 c5 7. dxc5 d4 8. a3**  
**♖a5 9. axb4 ♖xa1 10. ♖ce2**  
**♖bc6 11. ♖h3 ♖xb4**  
**12. ♕b5+ ♖bc6 13. 0-0 0-0**  
**14. ♖g5 ♖a5 15. ♕d3**



What should Black do about White's threat to h7?

**15... f5??**

15... h6! 16. ♖h7! ♖e8?? 17. ♖f6+  
gxf6 18. ♖g3+-.





15...g6 16.♘e4!± White is down an exchange for the DSB, but has a huge initiative against Black's kingside dark squares; e.g. 16...f5 17.♙c4+ ♔g7 18.♘xd4 fxe4 19.♙h6+□+-.

16.♙c4+! ♔h8 17.♘xh7!  
17.♘xh7! ♔xc5 18.♔h5+- ♔xc4  
19.♘f6#.

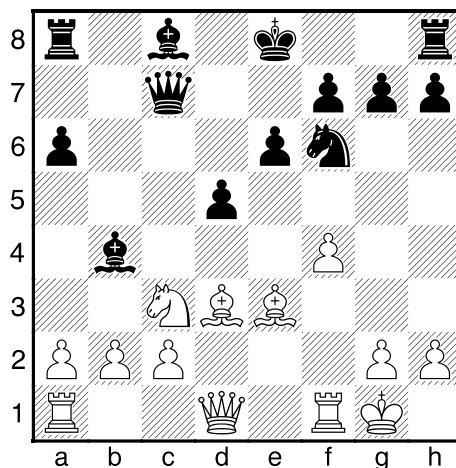
1-0

(31)  
**Goldenberg, Danny (2255)**  
**Hebert, Jean (2450)**

B49

*Masters-Juniors Montreal CAN  
(6), 1997*

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4  
cxd4 4.♘xd4 e6 5.♘c3 a6  
6.♙e2 ♔c7 7.0-0 ♘f6 8.♙e3  
♙b4 9.♘xc6 bxc6 10.♙d3 d5  
11.exd5 cxd5 12.f4



12...♙c5!?±

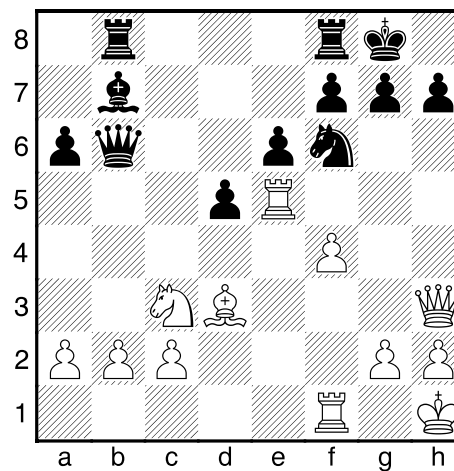
An interesting choice: trading the "good" ♙ and giving White easier access to the central dark squares. Worth remembering when this game gets decided by control of d5 and e5.

12...♙xc3 13.bxc3 ♔xc3 14.♔h1∞ enabling ♙d4 with lots of comp.

13.♙xc5 ♔xc5+ 14.♔h1 0-0  
15.♔f3 ♙b7 16.♖ae1 ♖ab8  
17.♖e5!?

Stops ...d4 and prepares to swing the ♖ to the g- or h-file.

17...♔b6 18.♔h3



If you need yet another Critical Position try this: ...♔xb2 or ...?

18...g6!

18...♔xb2!? leads to interesting complications, but this was a Masters vs Juniors tournament, and the cagey veteran playing Black may have thought it was better not to jump into a calculating battle against a junior.

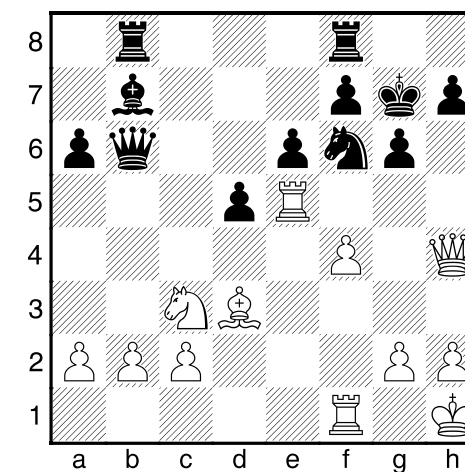
After 18...♔xb2!?:

a) 19.♙xh7+?? ♘xh7 20.♖h5

♔xc2 defending h7 21.f5 interfering with the defence 21...d4! attacking c3 and g2 22.♖xh7 ♔xg2+!-+ and taking the ♖h7 with a winning endgame.

b) 19.♖b1! ♔a3 (19...♔xc3?? 20.♙xh7+-) 20.♙xh7+! ♘xh7 21.♖h5 ♙c8□ (*threatening mate in 2 with ...♖xb1*) 22.♖g1 (22.♖xh7 ♖xb1+ 23.♘xb1 ♔c1#) 22...e5 23.♔h4 f6 24.♖xh7 ♙f5 25.♖h8+ ♔f7 26.♖xf8+ ♖xf8 27.♘d5∞.

19.♔h4 ♔g7



WWW.STRATEGYGAMES.CA



OFFICIAL CFC STORE

TORONTO (416) 486-3395  
701 MT PLEASANT RD (SOUTH OF EGLINTON)

MONTREAL (514) 845-8352  
3423 ST. DENIS ST. (CORNER OF SHERBROOKE)

OTTAWA (613) 565-3662  
250 BANK STREET (NORTH OF SOMERSET)



**20.f5!**

20.g4? d4+ 21.♘e4 ♘xe4  
22.♙xe4 ♙xe4+ 23.♖xe4 ♚b7  
24.♗fe1 f5-+.

**20...♖be8**

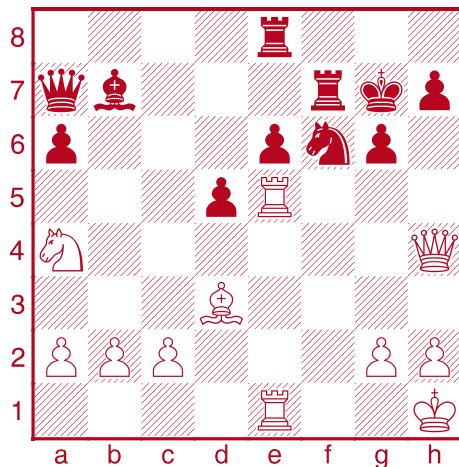
20...exf5 21.♙xf5!? gxf5?  
(21... d4! 22.♘e4♞) 22.♗exf5+  
♘e4 23.♘xe4 dxe4 24.♖g5+  
♙h8 25.♗h5 ♚g6 26.♗f6 ♚g7  
27.♗fh6+-.

**21.fxg6 fxg6** **22.♘a4**

Attacking the ♚b6 and hoping to set up ♚d4.

**22...♚a7!**

22...♚c6?! 23.♚d4! with discovered attacks on the diagonal and pressure on e6 with ♘c5.

**23.♗fe1 ♖f7**

What happens if ♖xe6?

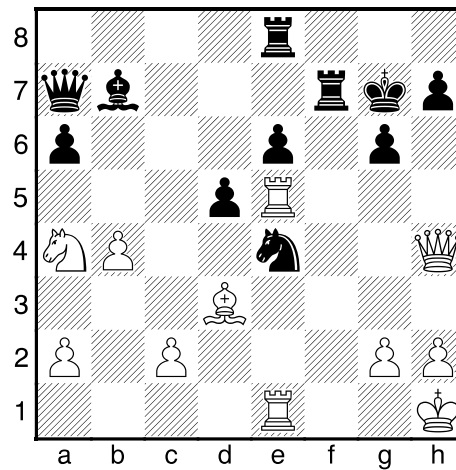
What if 24. b4 ♘e4?

**24.b4**

Supporting ♘c5. The hard-to-consider move ♚b4!± — going after the queenside dark squares — is the computer's choice.

White should definitely not take the pawn:

24.♖xe6? ♖xe6 25.♖xe6 ♘e4□-+ with back rank issues. (Note: if Black's ♖ was still on f8 instead of f7, White would win here with ♖e7+.) 26.h3 (26.♙xe4? ♖f1#) 26...♚d4□-+ again this square! Black threatens ...♘f2+ winning the ♚. 27.♙xe4 ♖f1+ 28.♙h2 ♚g1+ 29.♙g3 ♚f2++- wins the ♚ or mates.

**24...♘e4**

The tactics here are about who can get a ♚ to d4, and both sides have ways to exploit minor pieces getting pinned to their ♚.

**25.♙xe4?**

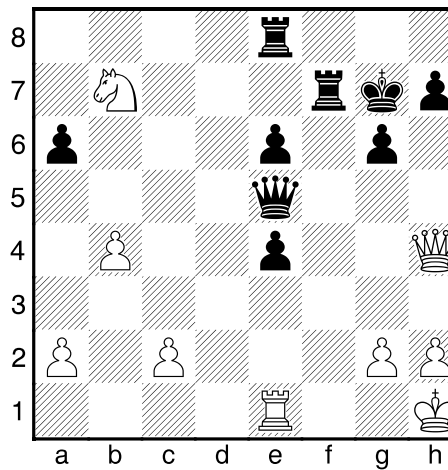
□25.♘c5:

25... ♘xc5? 26.♚d4□+- ♙g8  
(26... ♘xd3 27.♚xa7 ♘xe5  
28.♚d4□+-) 27.♖xe6! ♖xe6  
28.♖xe6 ♘xd3 29.♖e8+□+-;

25...♚b6 26.♙xe4 ♚xb4!? (26... dxe4 27.a3∞) 27.♖xe6 ♖ef8!  
28.♖e7∞.

**25...♚d4! 26.♘c5?**

□26.♚g3 dxe4 27.♚c3 (27.♘c5 ♙d5♞) 27...♚xc3 28.♘xc3 ♖f5!  
29.♖c5 ♖xc5 30.bxc5♞.

**26...♚xe5 27.♘xb7 dxe4**

Black is up an exchange and has a passed pawn and has play against the white ♙. Black uses all of those to win quickly.

28.♘c5 ♖ef8 29.g3 e3  
30.♚h3 ♖f5 31.g4 ♖f3  
32.♚g2 ♚d5 33.♙g1 ♙g8  
34.♘d3 ♚d4 35.♖e2 e5  
36.g5 e4 37.♘e1 ♖f2 38.♚g4  
♖xe2 39.♚xe2 ♚d2 40.♚c4+  
♙h8

0-1

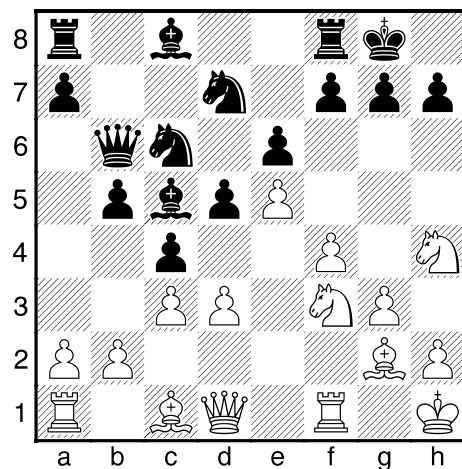
(32)  
Charbonneau, Pascal  
(2126)  
Marineau, Remi (1777)

A08  
Quebec-ch U18 Montreal CAN  
(6), 07.03.1998

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d3 d5  
4.♘bd2 ♘c6 5.g3 ♘f6 6.♙g2  
♙d6 7.0-0 0-0 8.♘h4 b5 9.f4  
c4 10.e5 ♙c5+ 11.♙h1 ♘d7  
12.♘df3 ♚b6 13.c3



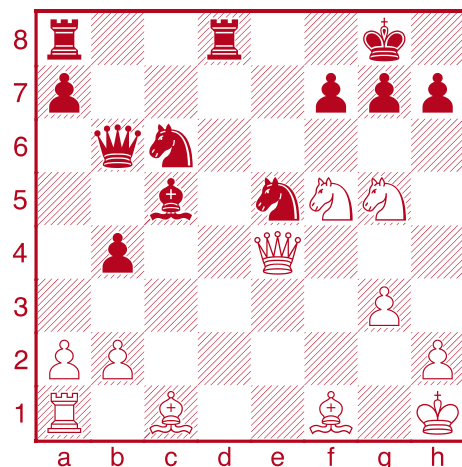




13...cxd3 14.♔xd3 b4!♞  
 15.c4? dxc4 16.♔xc4 ♕a6  
 17.♔e4 ♕xf1 18.♕xf1 ♖fd8  
 19.f5 exf5 20.♗xf5 ♗dxe5!-+  
 20...♗cxe5! also clears the 6th  
 rank and the long diagonal.

21.♗g5

21.♗xe5 ♗xe5 22.♔xe5? ♔b7+  
 23.♕g2 ♖d1!-+.



Black is up an exchange and

a pawn, but White's ♗s hover  
 over the black king (♗h6+!?).  
 Choose between ...g6, ...♗g6, or  
 something else.

21...♗g6??

Weakens f7 (and c4), which  
 White immediately punishes.

a) ♖21...g6 feels wrong to move  
 pawns where the opponent is  
 attacking, but here it works:  
 22.♗h6+ ♔g7-+ 23.♕f4 ♖f8!-+.

b) ♖21...♖d1-+ is best: ties  
 down White's back rank. With  
 the ♗e5 defending f7 the attack  
 with ♗h6+ fails; e.g. 22.♗h6+  
 gxh6 23.♔xh7+ ♔f8 24.♗e6+  
 (24.♔h8+ ♔e7 25.♔xa8  
 ♖xf1!-+ ) 24...♔e8!-+  
 remember that the ♕f1  
 can't join the attack  
 (♕h3+) because it's  
 pinned. (not 24...fxe6??  
 25.♕xh6+!-)

## 1999 Canadian Jr.

J.Henson, P.Charbonneau,  
 L.Hua, T.Reddy, F.Cabanas,  
 M.Voloaca, H.Olson,  
 M.Carlisle, S.Wong  
 Front: A.Pechisker, N.Afrah,  
 Z.Khan, W.Dutton

22.♗xf7!!= ♖d1!

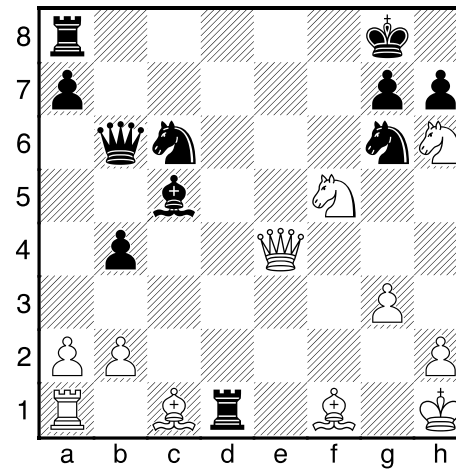
The best defence, but now it only  
 draws.

22...♔xf7?? 23.♕c4+ ♔f8  
 24.♔e6+- with mates on f7 or g8.

22...♖f8?! might be playable,  
 but it is asking for trouble:  
 23.♕c4 ♖xf7 24.♕xf7+ ♔xf7  
 25.♔d5+ ♔f8 26.♕g5 threat: ♖f1  
 26...♖d8 27.♕xd8 ♗xd8 28.♖f1  
 ♕e7 29.♖f1 ♕e7 30.♖f1 ♕e7 31.♖f1 ♕e7 32.♖f1 ♕e7 33.♖f1 ♕e7 34.♖f1 ♕e7 35.♖f1 ♕e7 36.♖f1 ♕e7 37.♖f1 ♕e7 38.♖f1 ♕e7 39.♖f1 ♕e7 40.♖f1 ♕e7 41.♖f1 ♕e7 42.♖f1 ♕e7 43.♖f1 ♕e7 44.♖f1 ♕e7 45.♖f1 ♕e7 46.♖f1 ♕e7 47.♖f1 ♕e7 48.♖f1 ♕e7 49.♖f1 ♕e7 50.♖f1 ♕e7 51.♖f1 ♕e7 52.♖f1 ♕e7 53.♖f1 ♕e7 54.♖f1 ♕e7 55.♖f1 ♕e7 56.♖f1 ♕e7 57.♖f1 ♕e7 58.♖f1 ♕e7 59.♖f1 ♕e7 60.♖f1 ♕e7 61.♖f1 ♕e7 62.♖f1 ♕e7 63.♖f1 ♕e7 64.♖f1 ♕e7 65.♖f1 ♕e7 66.♖f1 ♕e7 67.♖f1 ♕e7 68.♖f1 ♕e7 69.♖f1 ♕e7 70.♖f1 ♕e7 71.♖f1 ♕e7 72.♖f1 ♕e7 73.♖f1 ♕e7 74.♖f1 ♕e7 75.♖f1 ♕e7 76.♖f1 ♕e7 77.♖f1 ♕e7 78.♖f1 ♕e7 79.♖f1 ♕e7 80.♖f1 ♕e7 81.♖f1 ♕e7 82.♖f1 ♕e7 83.♖f1 ♕e7 84.♖f1 ♕e7 85.♖f1 ♕e7 86.♖f1 ♕e7 87.♖f1 ♕e7 88.♖f1 ♕e7 89.♖f1 ♕e7 90.♖f1 ♕e7 91.♖f1 ♕e7 92.♖f1 ♕e7 93.♖f1 ♕e7 94.♖f1 ♕e7 95.♖f1 ♕e7 96.♖f1 ♕e7 97.♖f1 ♕e7 98.♖f1 ♕e7 99.♖f1 ♕e7 100.♖f1 ♕e7

23.♗7h6+!

23.♗5h6+ gxh6 24.♗xh6+ ♔g7  
 25.♕g5! ♖xa1 26.♗f5+= with a  
 perpetual.



23...♔h8 24.♔e6+ ♔h8

(24...♔f8 25.♕xh6#) 25.♔f6+  
 ♔g8 26.♔g7#.

23...♔f8?? 24.♕g5 25.♖xa1  
 25.♔e6+- with mates on f7 or g8.

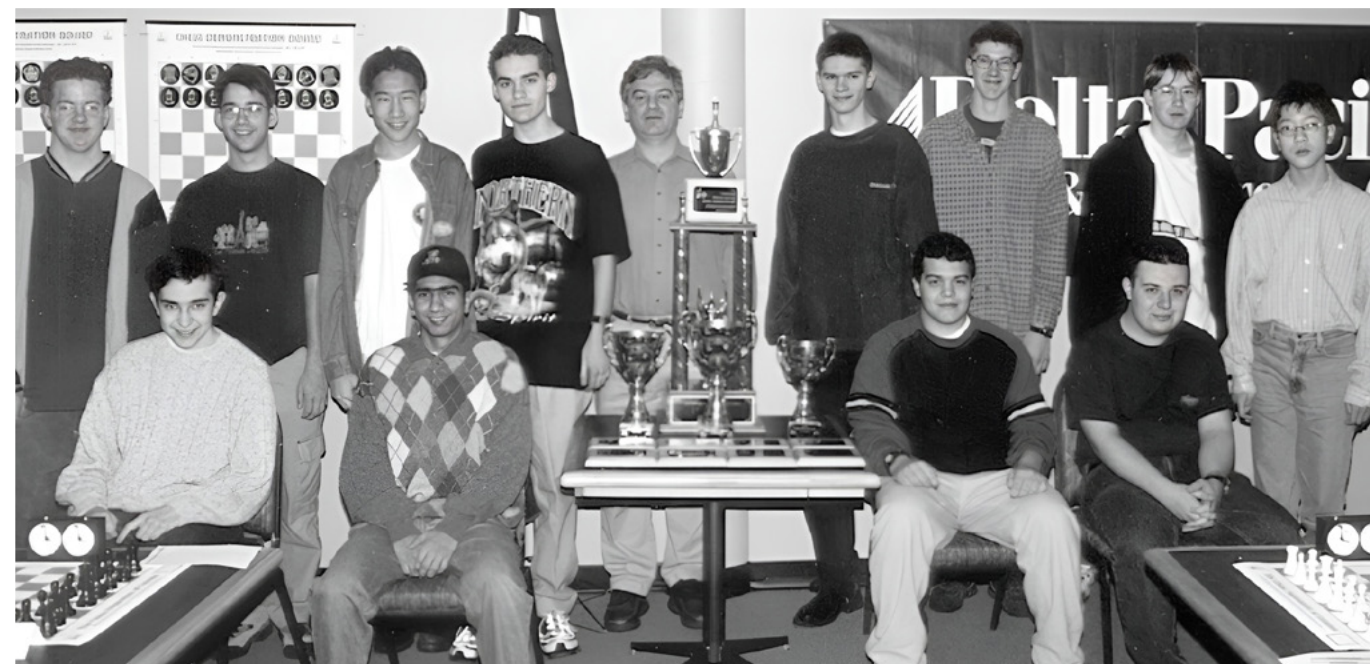


photo: En Passant

24. ♖f7+ ♔g8 25. ♖7h6+

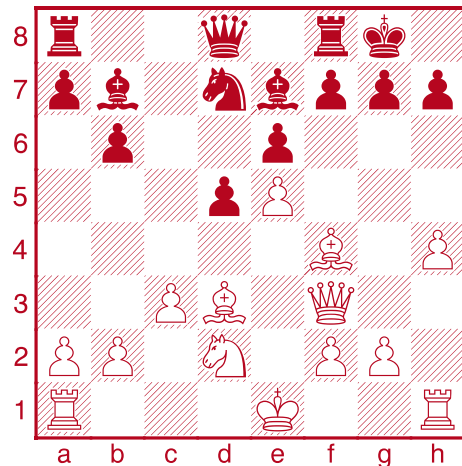
1/2-1/2

(33)  
Harmon, Clark (2283)  
O'Donnell, Tom (2489)

D02

CAN-op Vancouver CAN (2),  
03.07.1999

1. d4 d5 2. ♖f3 e6 3. ♘f4 ♘f6  
4. e3 ♘e7 5. ♘d3 0-0 6. ♖bd2  
c5 7. c3 b6 8. ♘e5 ♘b7 9. ♖f3  
♘bd7 10. h4 cxd4 11. exd4  
♘xe5 12. dxe5 ♘d7

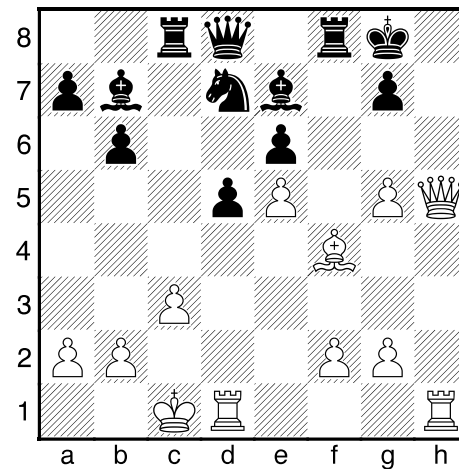


If White had ♘f3 and ♖d1 then ♘xh7+ would be a winning “Greek Gift” sacrifice. What if ♘xh7+ now?

13. ♘xh7+

Good enough for a draw, if Black plays accurately.

13. 0-0-0 ♖c8 14. ♘xh7+?? It's hard to believe that the moves 000 and ... ♖c8 make this attack so much worse for White than it is in the game; but having the ♔ on c1 means Black will get a life-saving tempo with ... ♘xg5+ in one critical line, reversing the evaluation of the position and the sacrifice. 14... ♔xh7 15. ♖h5+ ♔g8 16. ♘f3 f6 17. ♘g5 fxg5 18. hxg5 *Analysis Diagram*

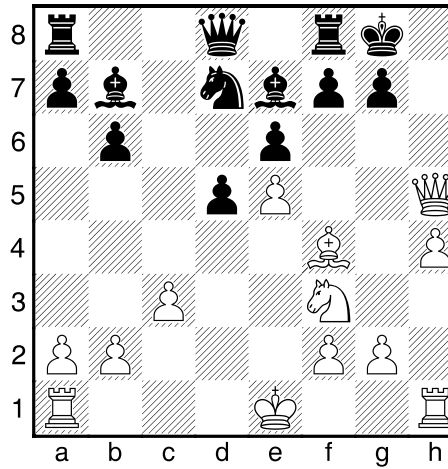


18... ♖xf4?? 19. ♖h8+ ♔f7 20. g6+ 1-0 Tristan, L (2535)–Moreda, L (2266) lichess.org, 2020.

18... ♘xe5 1-+ Black must get rid of the g5 pawn, and defending

g6 and deflecting the ♘f4 guarantees it. 19. ♖h7+ (19. g6 ♘xg6 20. ♖xg6 ♖xf4+) 19... ♔f7 20. ♘xe5 ♘xg5+ 1- without 000 this would not be check and White would win with ♖xg7+ then ♖xb7. 21. ♔b1 ♘f6 1-+. Note that ... ♘xe5 is never a defence to Greek Gift sacs which come from a French where White has pawns on e5 and d4, as White could just reload with dxe5 and then go back to checkmating.

13... ♔xh7 14. ♖h5+ ♔g8  
15. ♘f3



15... ♘a6!?

Aiming for ... ♘d3 defending h7.

15... f6 duplicates the defence we see in the main game:  
16. ♘g5 1- fxg5 17. hxg5 ♖f5

(Here, 17... ♘xe5?? fails because after 18. ♘xe5+ ... ♘xg5 does not come with check.) 18. ♖h8+ ♔f7 19. ♖h5+ (1/2-1/2) Kachanov, V (2165)–Goncharov, A (2220) Dagomys, 2004.

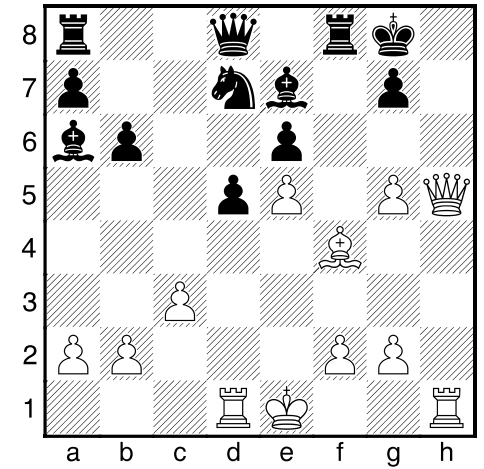
16. ♖d1 1-

16. 0-0-0?? ♘e2 1-+ and Black pins the ♘f3 out of the attack.

16... f6

16... ♖e8 also draws: 17. ♘g5 ♘f8 18. ♖xf7+ ♔h8 19. ♖h5+=.

17. ♘g5 1- fxg5 18. hxg5 1-



18... ♖f5!

One of only two moves that draw.

18... ♘xg5! is the other. 19. ♘xg5 (19. ♖h7+ ♔f7 20. ♖h5+=) 19... ♖c7 (19... ♖e8? 20. ♖h7+





♔f7 21.♖h4+-) 20.♚h7+ ♔f7  
21.♚h5+□=.

18...♖xf4? 19.♚h8+ ♔f7 20.g6+  
♔xg6 21.♚h5# shows why the ♖  
has to be on f5.

19.♚h8+ ♔f7 20.♚h5+  
♔g8□

20...g6?? 21.♚h7+ ♔e8  
22.♚xg6+ ♖f7 23.♖h7□+-.

21.♚h8+ ♔f7 22.♚h5+ ♔g8

1/2-1/2

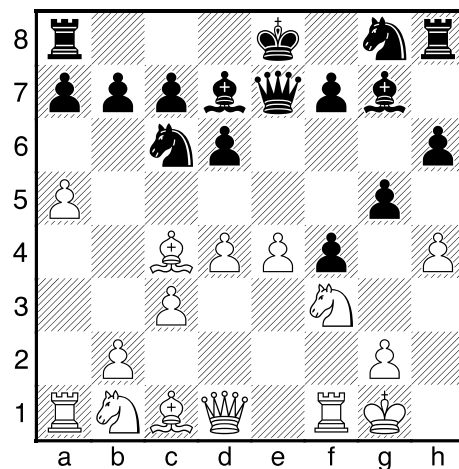
(34)  
Yoos, John (2302)  
Duong, Thanh Nha  
(2332)

C38  
CAN-ch Brantford CAN (3), 1999

We can't have a Tactics issue without at least one King's Gambit from Jack Yoos, and this one is pretty interesting as Black continually rejects drawing lines to play for the win.

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.♘f3 d6  
4.♙c4 h6 5.d4 g5 6.h4 ♙g7

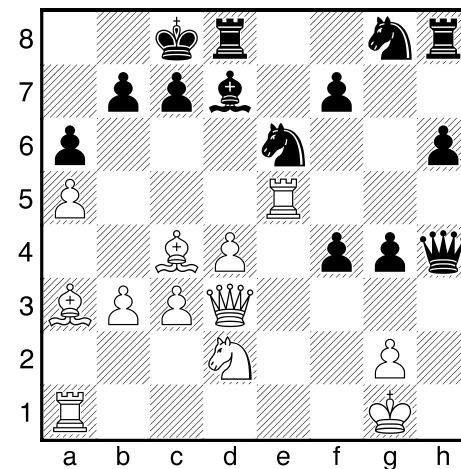
7.0-0 ♘c6 8.c3 ♚e7 9.a4  
♙d7 10.a5



10...a6

10...0-0-0 11.b4 ♘b8? 12.b5 ♘f6  
13.e5± (1-0, 45) Anderssen,A-  
Riemann,F Breslau, 1874.

11.♚d3 ♘d8 12.b3  
♘e6 13.e5 dxe5  
14.♙a3 ♚d8 15.♖e1  
g4! 16.♘xe5 ♚xh4  
17.♘d2 ♙xe5  
18.♖xe5 0-0-0



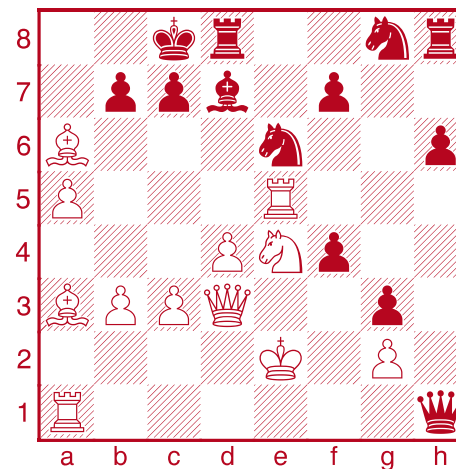
19.♘e4?

□19.♚e4± and if ...g3 White can  
defend with ♘f3.

19...g3!-+ 20.♙xa6 ♚h2+  
21.♔f1 ♚h1+ 22.♔e2



Jack Yoos



What happens if ...♚xa1?

22...♚xa1?!

Black is winning after this, but he  
should have started by taking on  
g2 with check, and then going  
back to threaten the ♖.

□22...♚xg2+ wins the g-pawn  
before going back to take the  
♖a1. 23.♔e1 ♚h1+! 24.♔d2  
(24.♚f1 saves the ♖, but 24...  
g2-+ wins even more.) 24...♚xa1  
is like the game, but Black has  
two passed pawns... and a much  
wider margin for error.

23.♙xb7+□

The only try.

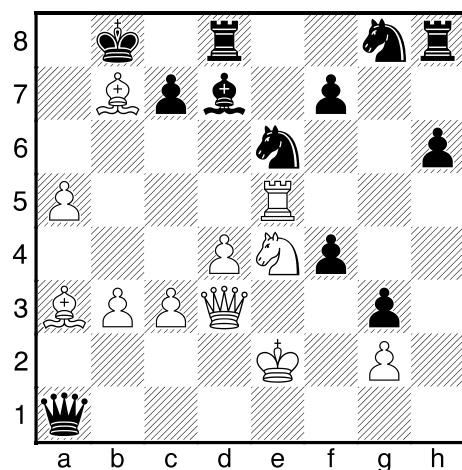
If White passes, Black can  
take on a3 or fortify with ...♙c6,  
but he must avoid taking



the ♕a6, e.g. 23.♔d2 bxa6?  
24.♖xa6+ ♕b8 25.♖xe6 ♓ fxe6  
(25...♗xe6 26.♖b5+= White has  
a perpetual.) 26.♗c5= and Black  
must force a draw.

### 23...♔xb7?

♠23...♔b8-+ Analysis Diagram



It looks like suicide to allow  
♖a6, but Black has a winning  
counterattack against that and  
anything else:

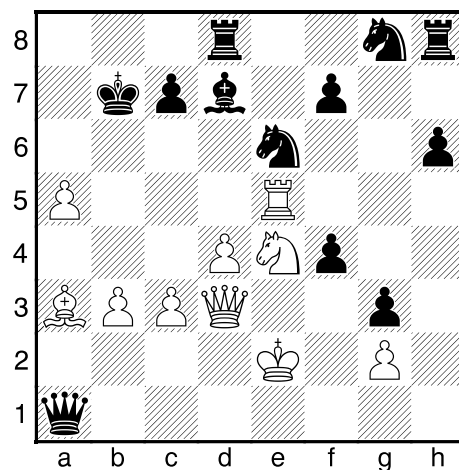
**a)** 24.♖xe6? ♗xe6 ♓ 25.♖a6  
(25.♔f3 ♗d5-+) 25...♗g4+  
26.♔d3 ♖b1+ 27.♔c4 ♗e2+-+  
skewers a6.

**b)** 24.♖b5!? ♕a7 ♓-+ 25.♗d5  
♖b8 26.♗xe6 ♗xb5 (26...fxe6??  
27.♗c5+-) 27.♗c5+ ♕a6 ♓-+  
(27...♕a8 28.♗d5+ c6 29.♗xc6+

♗xc6 30.♖a6#) 28.♗c4 ♖b2+  
29.♔f3 ♖xb3!-+.

**c)** 24.♖a6 ♗xd4+ ♓-+ (24...c5?  
hoping to run to c7 25.♗xc5!  
♖xa3 26.♖d6+ ♗c7 27.♗a6+  
♔xb7 28.♖b6+ ♕a8 29.♗xc7#)  
25.cxd4 (25.♔d3 ♗b5+-)  
25...♗g4+ 26.♔d2 ♖xd4+-+ with  
a winning attack for Black.

Back to the game.  
After 23... ♔xb7 White  
uncorked a beauty:



### 24.♖xe6 ♓

Removes the guard of c5 and  
threatens mate-in-3 with: ♖a6+  
then ♖b6+ then ♗d6#.

Black has draws in hand, but  
playing for more has a paper-  
thin margin for error.

### 24...♖a8??

Margin exceeded.

Taking the rook draws:

♠24...♗xe6 25.♗c5+!? (or  
25.♖b5+=) ♔c6 ♓ 26.♖a6+ ♓  
♔d5 27.♖c4+ ♔d6 28.♗e4+=.

♠24...fxe6 25.♗c5+ ♓ ♕b8 ♓  
26.♗xd7+ ♓ ♔c8 (26...♖xd7  
27.♖b5+ ♔c8 28.♖a6+ ♕b8  
29.♖b5+=) 27.♗b6+ ♓= ♔b7  
(27...cxb6 28.♖a6+ ♓ ♔d7  
29.♖b5+ ♓=) 28.♖b5 ♓ in this  
position, with the additional  
moves ...♖a2+ and ♔-backrank  
Black has a winning defence  
based on a ...♖xd4+ enabling  
the ♖ to defend b6, taking the  
♗ and winning the game (see  
below). 28...c6 29.a6+ ♓ ♔c7  
30.♖e5+ ♔xb6 31.♖c5+ ♔xa6  
32.♖xc6+=.

Black's only way to play for  
more than a draw is with  
the intermediate move:  
24...♖a2+.

This check is an obvious  
move, but seeing why it is  
necessary before playing ...♖a8  
is very hard.

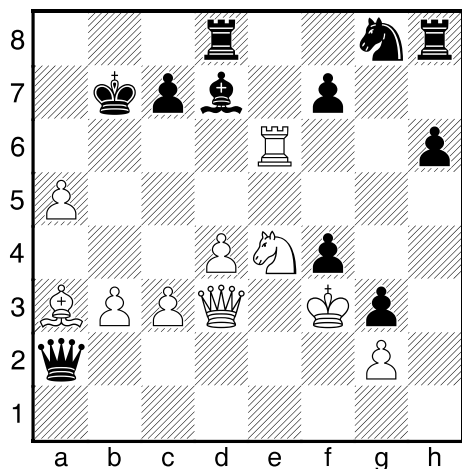
After 24...♖a2+ White has two  
tries: back or going forward.

Going back is the simpler loss:  
25.♔e1? fxe6! (25...♗xe6?  
26.♖b5+=) 26.♗c5+ ♕b8 ♓  
27.♗xd7+ ♔c8 ♓ 28.♗b6+ ♕b7  
Leads to the position mentioned  
in the note above, but here  
Black has a defence to 29.♖b5  
(29.♖e4+ c6-+) 29...♖f2+ ♓  
30.♔d1 ♖xd4+ ♓ 31.cxd4  
♖xd4+ 32.♔c1 cxb6-+. This  
counterattack with ...♖xd4+ is  
why the White ♔ cannot retreat  
after 24...♖a2+, but should go to  
f3.





If White goes forward 25.♔f3!  
*Analysis Diagram*



Black only draws by taking the ♖:

**a)** 25...fxe6 26.♘c5+ ♔b8  
27.♘xd7+ ♔c8 28.♘b6+ ♔b7  
29.♙b5♟= ♙f2+ 30.♔g4 ♙xg2  
(30...♘f6+ 31.♔h3 cxb6♟=)  
31.♘d5+♟= ♔c8 32.♙a6+ ♔d7  
33.♙b5+ ♔c8= blocking with  
...c6 loses the ♙ to a discovered  
♘ check.

**b)** 25...♙xe6 leads to a perpetual  
we have seen: 26.♙b5+ ♔c8  
27.♙a6+ ♔d7 28.♙b5+ ♔c8♟=  
because 28...c6?? 29.♙b7+ ♔e8  
30.♘f6+! ♘xf6 31.♙e7#.

Black has one move which  
avoids the forced draws, but  
depending on the evaluation

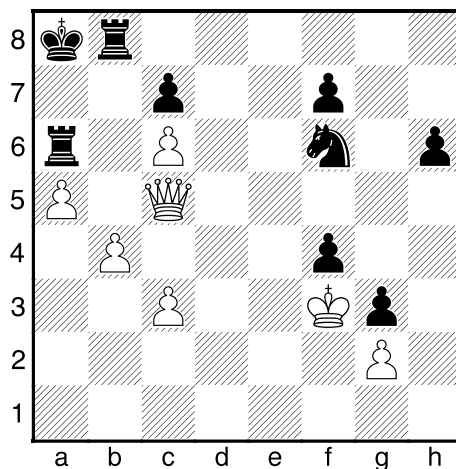
of the final diagram in this line,  
maybe Black *should* go for the  
draw:

**c)** 25...♖a8!?:

**c1)** 26.♘c5+? ♔c8+ with the  
♔ on f3 (instead of e2) White  
cannot win with 27.♙e4 since  
27...♙f2+ 28.♔g4 ♘f6+!-+  
exploits the pin on the ♖ to win  
the ♙ and the game.

**c2)** 26.♖a6!! ♙xa3!?! (26...♖a6  
draws after 27.♘c5+ ♔b8  
28.♘xd7+♟ ♔c8 29.♙xa6+  
♔xd7 30.♙b5+=) 27.♘c5+  
leads to a long forced sequence  
and a very strange position:  
27...♙xc5♟ 28.dxc5 ♖xa6  
29.♙xd7 ♘f6 30.♙b5+ ♔a7  
31.c6 ♖b8 32.♙c5+ ♔a8 33.b4

*Analysis Diagram*

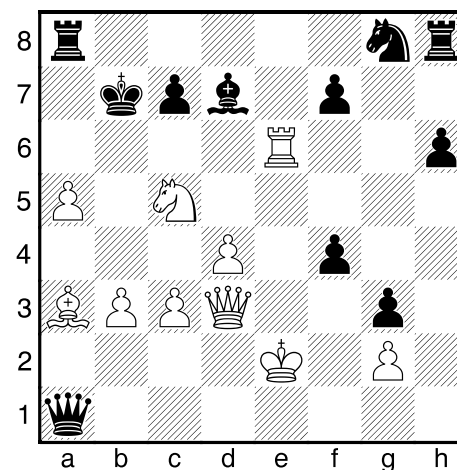


Has Black really been avoiding  
draws to get this??

Leela and SF15 both prefer  
Black here, and if he could get  
♘d6 there would be reason for  
optimism. But Black's pieces are  
so preposterously uncoordinated  
— is the ♖a6 so much better  
than the ♖a5? — that I think  
Black will struggle to hold. Any  
ideas?

Back to the game.

**25.♘c5+♟+-**



After this, all lines lead to mate.

**25...♔b8**

25...♔c8 26.♙e4♟+/- threatening  
mate by taking the ♖a8 and by  
...♖e8+. The white ♔ can escape  
checks by zigzagging to c2 and

blocking with the ♙. If Black had  
pushed the white ♔ to f3 with  
24...♙a2, then this double-  
attack with ♙e4 would lose to  
...♙f2+ and ...♘f6+ winning the  
♙.

**26.♘xd7+ ♔c8 27.♘b6+!  
♔b8 28.♙b5**

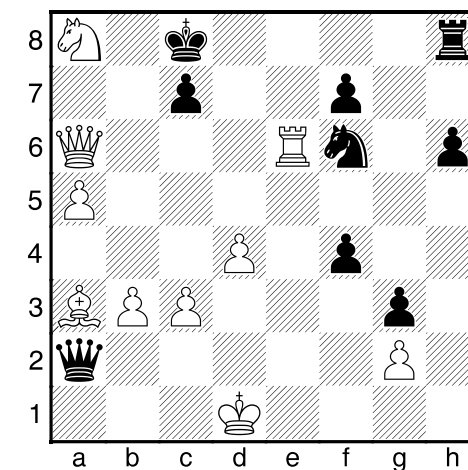
28.♖e8+ ♔b7 29.a6+ ♖xa6  
(29...♔xb6 30.♙c5+-) 30.♙e4+  
c6 31.♖e7+ ♘xe7 32.♙xe7+  
♔xb6 33.♙c5+ ♔a5 34.♙c7+  
♖b6 35.♙xb6#.

**28...♙a2+ 29.♔d1**  
29.♔f3 also wins.

**29...♘f6**

29...fxe6 30.♙e8+ ♔b7  
31.♙xa8#.

**30.♘xa8+ ♔c8 31.♙a6+**



31...♔b8

31...♔d8 32.♙e7+ #2.

32.♖b6+!

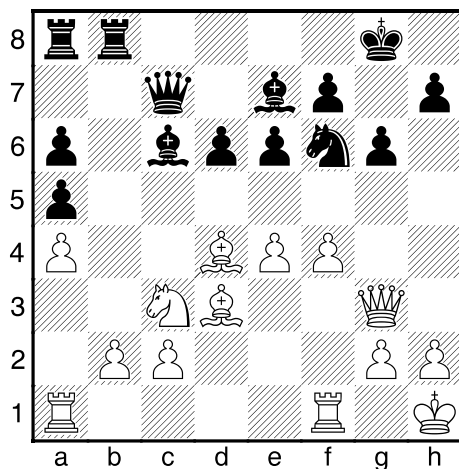
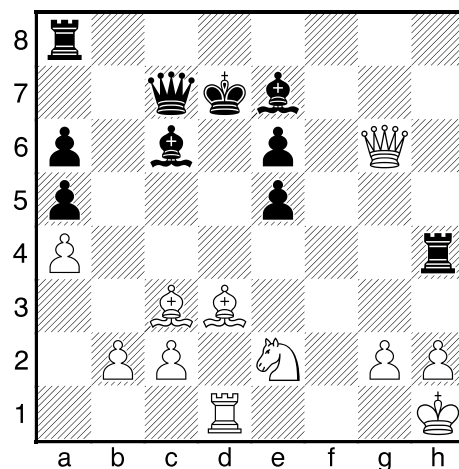
1-0

(35)

Pacey, Kevin (2341)

Voloaca, Mihnea (2239)

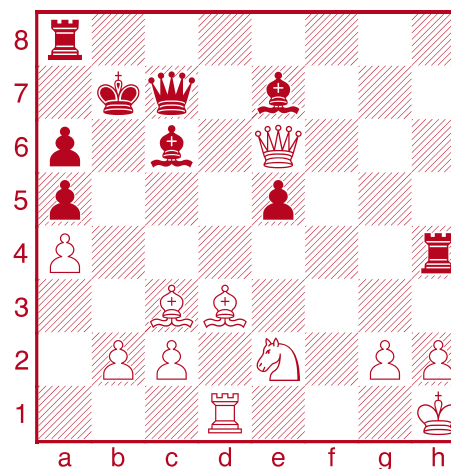
B85

Eastern Ontario op Ottawa CAN  
(2), 10.06.20001.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4...  
17... ♙c6A standard Sicilian middlegame  
where White chooses betweentriggering a piece explosion with  
e4-e5, or a positional battle for  
d5 with f4-f5.18.e5 ♘h5 19.♙h3 ♖b4!  
20.♘e2 ♘xf4 21.♖xf4 dxe5  
22.♖xf7! ♔xf7 23.♙xh7+  
♔e8 24.♙xg6+ ♔d7 25.♙c3  
♖h4 26.♖d1

26...♔c8?!

Black bets everything on  
bringing his ♖s to the kingside,  
but first gets his ♔ out of the  
way.In fact, he could have doubled  
immediately, since there is no  
great discovery on the d-file:  
26...♖ah8!? 27.♙xa6+!? (27.♙f5+  
♔c8 28.♙xe6+ ♔b7 29.h3 ♖8h6  
30.♙b3+∞ and White will have  
to defend against takes twiceon h3.) 27...♙d5□ 28.♖xd5+□  
(28.♙b5+ ♔c8-+) 28...exd5∞.26...♙d6▯ looks like it asks  
for trouble, but the ♖d1 is  
undefended, and Black can  
block the d-file with ...♙d5.

27.♙xe6+ ♔b7?!

White has extra material, but  
Black has threats against the  
white ♔ — if it were Black's  
move ...♖ah8 would win.  
Should White play: h3, ♙xe5,  
or something else?

28.♙xe5□+-

28.♘g3?? ♖xh2+ 29.♔xh2 ♖h8+  
+.28.h3? ♖e8▯ 29.♙xe5 ♖xh3+!  
30.♙xh3 ♙xe5-+.

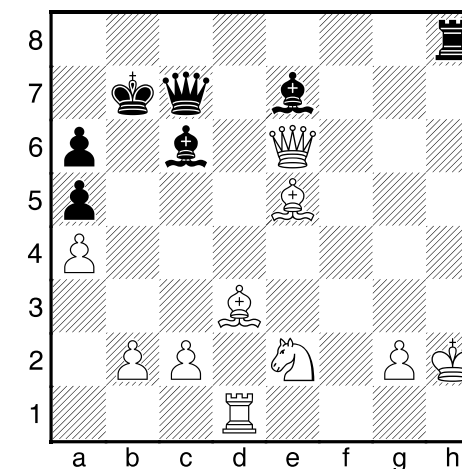
28...♖xh2+!

Black's only try.

29.♔xh2!

29.♙xh2? ♖h8∞ 30.♘g3!  
(30.♙xa6+ ♔xa6 31.♙c4+ ♔b7  
32.♙f4∞; 30.♙b3+?! ♔a7□  
31.♙h7□ ♖xh7 32.♙e3+ ♔b7  
33.♙f4∞) 30...♙xg3□ 31.♙xe7+  
♔a8 32.♙d8+ ♔b7 (32...♖xd8??  
33.♙xg3+-) 33.♙e7+ ♔b6  
34.♙d8+□ ♔b7! 35.♙xa6+!  
♔a7!? 36.♙d4+ ♔xa6 37.♙d3+  
♙xd3 38.♖xd3 ♙xa4± with good  
winning chances, despite the  
opposite ♙s.

29...♖h8+



30.♔g1??

30.♔g3□+ White's ♔ is  
exposed, and Black has some  
checks, but this simple move



basically ends the game; e.g.:

30...♙h4+ 31.♚g4+-; or

30...♖g8+ 31.♙xg8 ♜xe5+

32.♚f2+-.

30...♙c5+□= 31.♚f1

31.♘d4 ♙xd4+ 32.♙xd4 ♜h2+

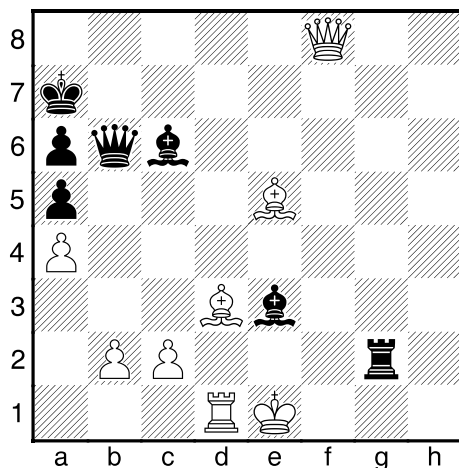
33.♚f2 ♜xg2+=.

31...♖h1+ 32.♘g1 ♖xg1+

33.♚e2 ♖xg2+ 34.♚e1= ♜b6

35.♜f7+□ ♚a8 36.♜f4□ ♙e3

37.♜f8+= ♚a7



Not a fun position to play when you're low on time.

38.♜e7+??

38.♙b8+□ ♜xb8 (38...♚a8??

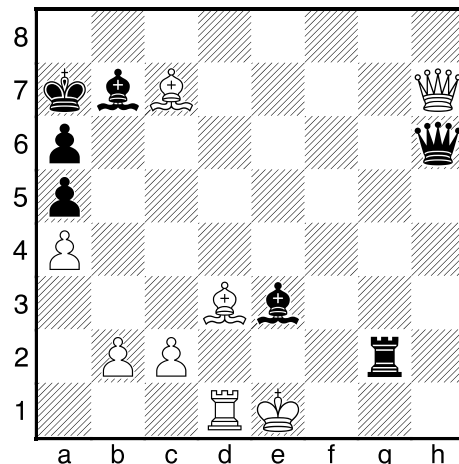
39.♙c7++-) 39.♜e7+ ♚a8

40.♜xe3=.

38...♙b7□-+

Now Black's ♚ is safe and White's is wide open.

39.♙c7 ♜h6! 40.♜h7



40...♙d2+! 41.♚f1 ♖g1+!

42.♚xg1 ♜g5+

and ...♜g2#.

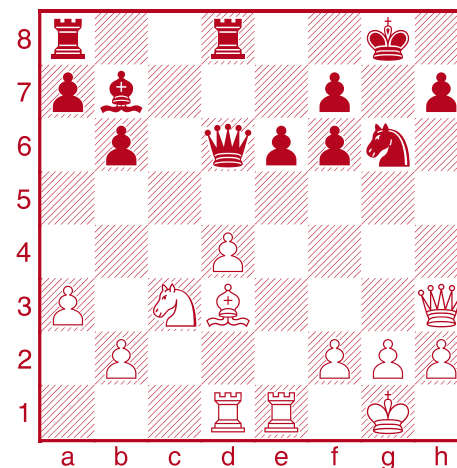
0-1

(36)  
Nickoloff, Bryon (2535)  
Teplitsky, Yan (2576)

E42

Hartman Active RR Ancaster (5),  
23.10.2000

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3  
♙b4 4.e3 c5 5.♘ge2 d5 6.a3  
♙xc3+ 7.♘xc3 cxd4 8.exd4  
dxc4 9.♙xc4 ♘c6 10.♙e3  
0-0 11.0-0 b6 12.♜f3 ♙b7  
13.♙d3 ♜d7 14.♜h3 ♘e7  
15.♙g5 ♘g6□ 16.♙xf6 gxf6  
17.♖ad1 ♜d6 18.♖fe1 ♖fd8



How can White activate his pieces?

19.d5!

Classic positional pawn sac. No matter what Black does, White will end up with at least a good ♘ vs bad ♙.

19.♙xg6? hxg6̄;

19.♙e4!? ♙xe4 20.♘xe4 ♜f4

21.g3 ♜f3 22.♜h5!?±.

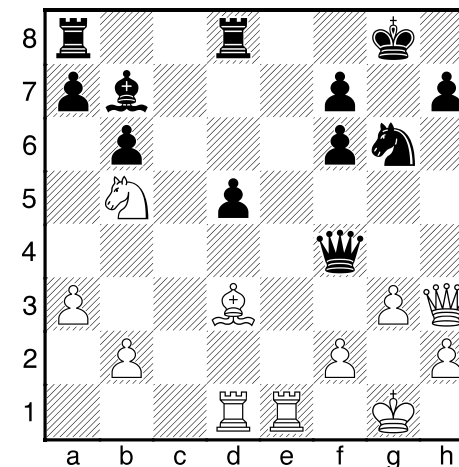
19...exd5

19...e5? 20.♘e4 ♜e7 21.d6+-.  
19...♙xd5 20.♙e4 ♜c6 21.♙xd5  
exd5 22.♖d4± White has more than enough for the pawn, but Black is not doomed.

20.♘b5 ♜f4?

20...♜f8 21.♜f3 ♜g7 22.♘d4  
♘e5 23.♜f4± and ♖e3-g3.

21.g3!



21...♜a4

21...♜f3? 22.♘d4+-.

21...♜g5 22.f4!+- ♘xf4 23.♜xh7+  
♚f8 24.♜h8+- wins the ♘.

22.♘d4 ♙c8

22...♜xd4? 23.♙xg6+- threatening mate and the ♜.



23. ♔h6!

Black has no good defence to White's attack, beginning with h2-h4-h5.

1-0

(37)  
Spraggett, Kevin (2506)  
Ivanisevic, Ivan (2543)

A36

Olympiad Istanbul (9),  
06.11.2000

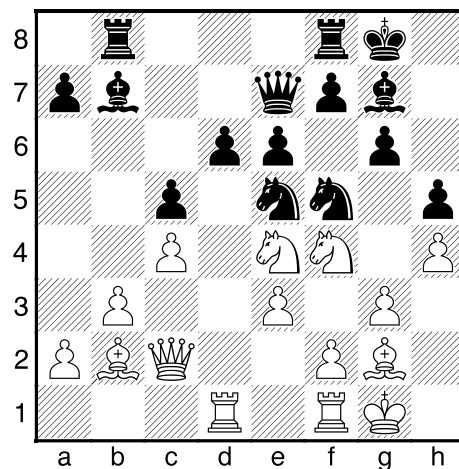
1.c4 c5 2.g3 g6 3.♔g2 ♔g7  
4.♘c3 ♘c6 5.e3 e6 6.♘ge2  
♘ge7 7.♘f4 ♘e5 8.d3 ♘f5  
9.♖c2 h5 10.h3 ♖b8 11.b3  
b5 12.♙b2 bxc4 13.dxc4  
♙a6 14.♞d1 d6 15.0-0 ♚e7



photo: En Passant

16. ♘e4 ♙b7 17.h4 0-0

This is worth a diagram:

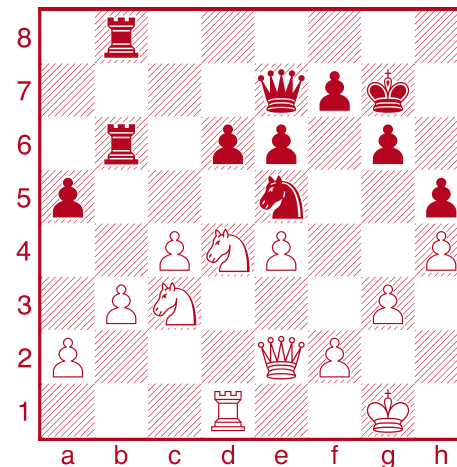


4 fianchettoes and a knight cube.

18. ♖c1 ♞fd8 19. ♖a1 ♘g4  
20. ♙xg7 ♘xg7 21. ♖c3 ♘f5  
22. ♞fe1 ♙a8 23. ♞e2 ♞b6  
24. ♞ed2 ♞db8 25. ♖d3 a5  
26. ♘c3 ♙xg2 27. ♘xg2 ♞b4  
28. ♖e2 ♘e5 29. ♘e1  
♖b7 30.e4 ♘d4  
31. ♞xd4 cxd4 32. ♞xd4  
♖e7 33. ♘c2 ♞4b6  
34. ♞d1 ♔g7 35. ♘d4

2002 Olympiad

Marc Ghannoum  
Yan Teplitsky  
Pascal Charbonneau  
Kevin Spraggett  
Alex LeSiege



Black has an exchange for a pawn, but no open lines for his ♞'s, while White might consider queenside pressure with ♘a4 and ♘b5!? Is ...g5 to open a file on the kingside worth a try?

35...g5??

It's hard to sit still, but Black really doesn't have anything to do.  
35...♘c6!? 36. ♘db5± and Black has to tread water some more.

36. ♘d5!+-

Now that f5 isn't doubly defended.

36. ♖xh5 is good too, but Spraggett's move is crushing.

36...♖d8

36...exd5 37. ♘f5++-.

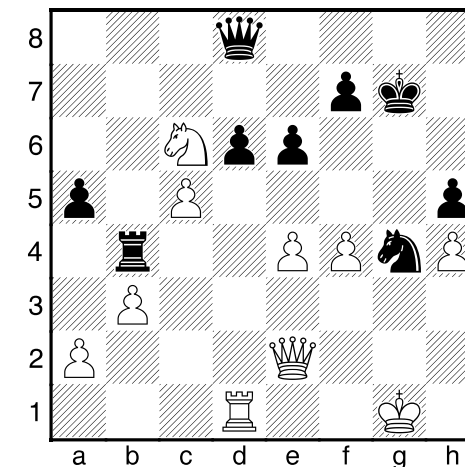
37. ♘xb6 ♞xb6 38.c5!

The rest of the game is fun watching Spraggett keep playing for the initiative, rather than cashing in on his obvious threats.

38...♞b4

38...dxc5? 39. ♘f5++- with a double attack on ♔ and ♚.

39.f4!? gxf4 40.gxf4 ♘g4  
41. ♘c6



Winning an exchange?

41...♖c7

Setting a trap...?

41...♖xh4 42. ♘xb4 ♖g3+  
43. ♖g2 ♖e3+ 44. ♔h1  
(44. ♔f1 ♖xf4+=) 44...axb4  
45.cxd6 the ♘ is pinned so there's no fork on f2. 45...♔h7



(45...♔f8 46.d7!+-) 46.♖f1 ♔d3  
47.e5±.

### 42.♖xd6!

No trap for you! Black was hoping for 42.♘xb4? ♕xc5+ 43.♔g2 ♘e3+ or 43...axb4!? when White is still clearly better, but has work to do.

### 42...e5

42...♖b7 43.♕b2+ ♔h7 44.♕d4+- with two extra pawns and complete domination.

43.♕d3 ♔h7 44.♕d5 ♖b7  
45.♘xe5 ♘e3 46.♕d4

Spraggett won the center, and the Silver Medal.

1-0

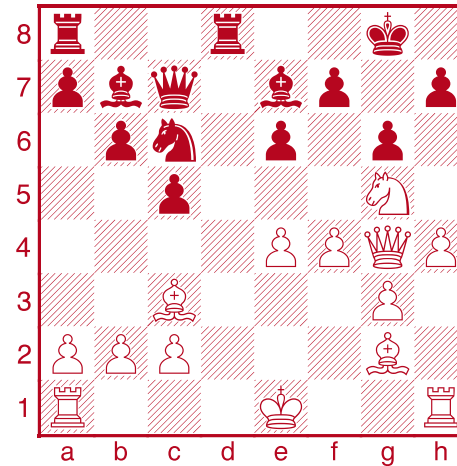
(38)  
Yuan, Yuanling  
Pavlidou, Ekaterini

B21  
Wch U10 Girls Chalkidiki (9),  
31.10.2003

1.e4 c5 2.♘c3 e6 3.f4 d5  
4.♘f3 dxe4 5.♘xe4 ♕e7 6.d3

♘f6 7.♕e2 0-0 8.g3 b6 9.♕g2  
♕b7 10.♕d2 ♘c6 11.h4!?  
♕c7 12.♕c3 ♘xe4! 13.dxe4  
♖fd8 14.♘g5 g6  
14...h6! 15.♕h5 ♕f8 and how can  
White make kingside progress?

### 15.♕g4



Should Black go ...♘d4 or ...h5?

### 15...♘d4

15...h5! Moving a pawn on the side where the opponent has the initiative: the books say "No!", but the computer says it's Black's only move to get an advantage. Who ya gonna trust?  
15...h5! 16.♕e2 (16.♕h3 ♘d4♠;  
16.♘xe6? ♕d7-+) 16...♘d4  
17.♕f2 ♕a6!♠.

### 16.h5!!

16.0-0-0?? h5! 17.♕h3 ♘e2+  
18.♔b1 ♘xc3+-.

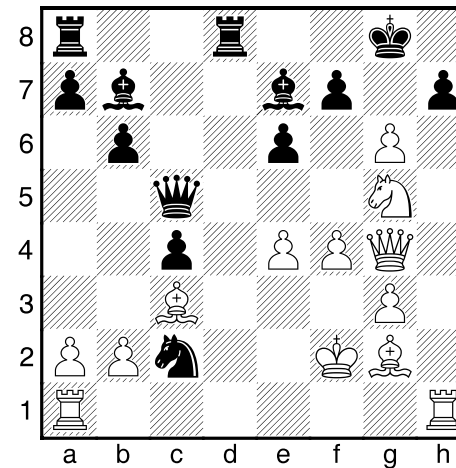
### 16...♘xc2+? 17.♔f2♠+-

17.♔e2? ♕xg5 18.♕xg5 ♘d4+!♠.

### 17...c4

17...♕xg5 18.♕xg5± ♘xa1?  
19.hxg6♠+-.

### 18.hxg6! ♕c5+



### 19.♔f1!!

Stepping into the fork! Not the only winning move, but both objectively and aesthetically strongest.

### 19...♘e3+

19...hxg6 20.♖h8#;  
19...fxg6 20.♕xe6+ ♔f8 21.♕f7#.

### 20.♔e2! ♕f6

Black sees the threat, but it's too late. 20...♘xg4 21.gxh7+ ♔f8  
22.h8♖#.

### 21.gxh7+

Not the only winning move.

21...♔f8 22.♕xf6+-  
22.♘xe6+-.

22...♖d2+ 23.♔xd2 c3+  
24.bxc3 ♘c4+ 25.♔e1! ♕e3+  
26.♕e2♠ ♕xg3+ 27.♕f2  
♕xf2+  
27...♕xc3+ 28.♕xc3 oops.

28.♔xf2 ♘b2 29.h8♕#

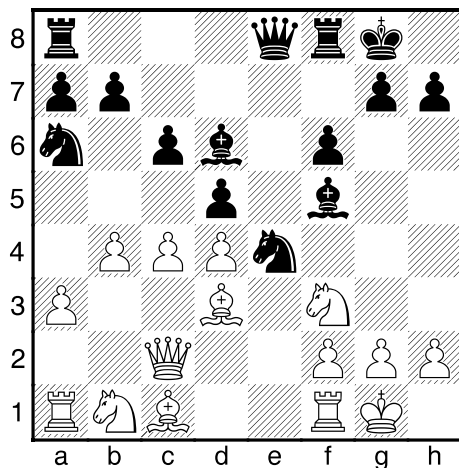
1-0

(39)  
Shirov, Alexei (2705)  
Bluvshstein, Mark (2529)

C42  
Canadian op Edmonton (9),  
16.07.2005

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.♘xe5 d6  
4.♘f3 ♘xe4 5.d4 d5 6.♕d3  
♕d6 7.0-0 0-0 8.c4 c6 9.♕c2  
♘a6 10.a3 ♕g4 11.♘e5 ♕f5  
12.b4 f6 13.♘f3 ♕e8





## 14.b5

Mark had some serious experience in this line when he faced Shirov. Two of his games continued:

14.c5 ♖b8 15.♘c3 ♙g6 16.♘h4 f5 17.♘xg6 ♖xg6:

18.b5 ♘c7 19.bxc6 bxc6  
20.♘e2= (0-1, 34) **Lagno,K (2472)–Bluvshstein,M (2462) Montreal, 2004;**

18.♘e2 ♘c7 19.f3 ♘e6 20.fxe4 fxe4 21.♖xf8+ ♘xf8 22.♙xe4 dxe4 23.♖c4+± (1/2-1/2, 49) **Nataf,I (2553)–Bluvshstein,M (2462) Montreal, 2004.**

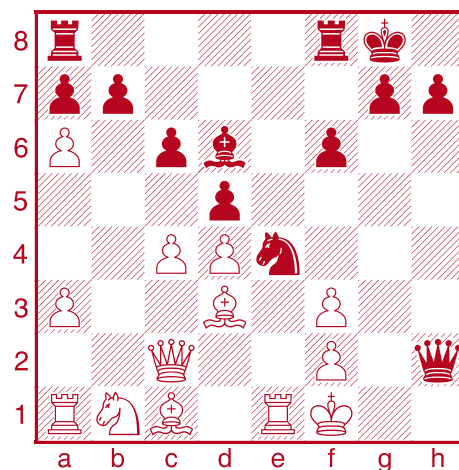
**14...♖h5!?** **15.bxa6 ♙g4**□  
Threatening ...♙xf3 to remove

the guard and ...♖xh2 mate. White makes the most natural move, but had the opportunity for an amazing defence which would surely have shocked Black.

## 16.♖e1?

□16.♘h4!! ♖xh4 17.f4!± White has just returned the piece, but Black's attack has stalled and his queenside is a mess.

**16...♙xf3 17.gxf3 ♖xh2+**  
**18.♙f1**



Compare ...f5 with ...♘g5.

## 18...f5?!

Threat: ...♖ae8 then ...♖h1+ and ...♘c3+. Mark's 18... f5 is spectacular, and it does no worse than draw, so rating it as "dubious" might seem harsh; but

it turns a forced win into what should be a draw, and Shirov comes within one "only move" of holding the game.

18...♘g5□-+ threatens to use the ♘ as an attacking piece — ideally with ...♘xf3-xd4 — and not only as bait to pry open the f-file. After 18...♘g5:

**a)** 19.♙xg5 gets rid of the ♘ but opens the f-file anyway, but (unlike the game) without requiring Black to sac the ♘ for a pawn on e4, and without leaving White the possibility of defending with ♙c1-e3.

**b)** White can finish developing and adding defenders, but Black's nimble ♘ is too strong: 19.♙e3 ♖ae8 20.♘d2 (20.♖e2 ♖xe3+!-+) 20...♘h3-+ threatening ...♖xe3 and mate on f2, and if White defends f2 with 21.♘b3 ♘f4! #4;

**c)** 19.axb7 gives different ways to use the ♘:  
19...♖h3+! 20.♖e2 (20.♖g1?? ♘xf3#) 20...♖ae8+□ 21.♙e3 ♘xf3□ threatens ...♘xd4+ (21...♖xf3+?? 22.♖d2+-) 22.♖d1

♘xe1-+ 23.♖xe1 (23.♙xh7+ ♖xh7!-+ wins on material.) 23...f5!-+;  
19...fxg5 20.♖e2 (20.♙xh7+ ♖h8□-+; 20.♘d2 ♖ae8-+ closes the only exit.; 20.♖e3 building a bridge 20...♖ae8!-+ breaks the bridge.) 20...♖ae8+ 21.♖d1 ♖xe1+ 22.♖xe1 ♖g1+-+.

## 19.cxd5□

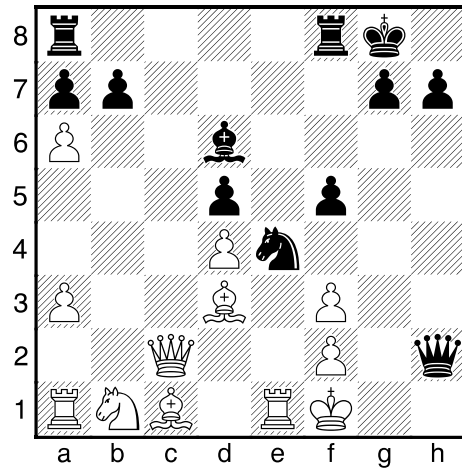
Better than immediately taking on e4 because in some lines White will need a ♖ check on the a2-g8 diagonal (see note to 23.axb7).

19.fxe4?? fxe4 does more than win back the ♙: 20.♖xe4 (20.♙xe4 dxe4 21.♖xe4 ♖h1+ 22.♖e2 ♖xf2+-+ and then ♖ skewers the ♖.) 20...♖h1+ 21.♖e2 ♖f3+ 22.♖e1 (22.♖d2 dxe4 23.♙xe4 ♙f4+-+) 22...dxe4 23.♙f1 ♙g3 24.♖a2 e3 25.♙xe3 ♖xe3+-+.

## 19...cxd5

19...♖ae8! 20.fxe4 ♖h3+ 21.♖e2□ (21.♖g1? ♙h2+-+ #8 as Black gets a free tempo for ...♙g3.) 21...fxe4□ 22.♙xe4□ ♖f3+□∞ 23.♙f1 ♖xe4 24.♖xe4 ♖h1+∞ probably a draw.





20. fxe4□

20. axb7 ♖ae8 21. ♖e3 (21. ♙e3? f4!-+) 21... ♙g3□-+ 22. b8♙ (22. fxg3 ♗xg3+ 23. ♔e1 ♚g1+-+) 22... ♖xb8 23. fxg3 ♚h1+ 24. ♔e2 ♖bc8-+.

20... fxe4

21. ♙xe4□

dx4□

22. ♙e3□

22. ♗c3??

♚h3+ 23. ♔g1

(23. ♔e2 ♖xf2+-+)

23... ♙h2+-+ #4;

22. ♖xe4 ♚h1+

23. ♔e2 ♖xf2+

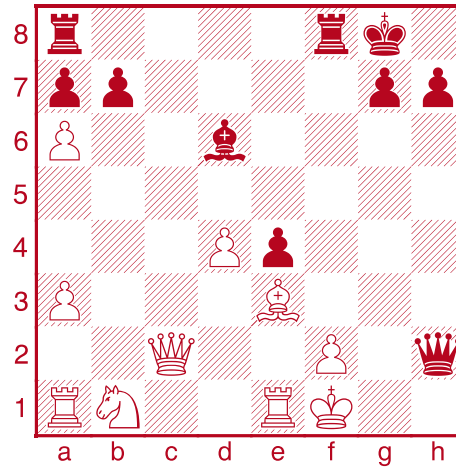
24. ♔xf2 ♚h2+-+.

2005 CO

Alexei Shirov  
Mark Bluvshstein



photo: ??



Black has sac'ed a piece for a big attack. Now what?

22... ♙g3!

Keeps up the pressure and

forces White to find the only game-saving move.

Black has decent alternatives:

He could force a draw with:

22... ♚h3+ 23. ♔e2 ♖xf2+□

24. ♙xf2 ♚f3+ 25. ♔f1 ♚h1+=.

Here's another sac that

(probably) leads to a repetition:

22... ♖xf2+ 23. ♚xf2!? ♖f8□

24. ♚xf8+ ♔xf8 25. ♗c3 (25.

axb7?? ♚h1+ 26. ♔e2 ♚g2+

27. ♔d1 ♚b2-+) 25... ♙f4! 26. ♖a2

(26. ♙xf4 ♚xf4+=) 26... ♚h3+=.

23. ♖a2?

The right idea — defending everything on the 2nd rank — but the wrong move order.

23. ♔e2? ♖xf2+-+ wins the ♚ or mate in 2.

23. ♚c4+? gains a tempo to

put the ♚ on a safer square

(and defend a ♖a2), but not

enough: 23... ♔h8 24. ♖a2 ♚h3+

(24... ♖ac8!?!-+ gains back

the tempo to add the ♖ to the

attack.) 25. ♔e2 ♙xf2 26. ♙xf2

♚f3+ 27. ♔f1 e3-+ threatening

the ♙ and ...e2+ then ...♚h1#;

23. ♚b3+? like ♚c4+ this gains

time to safety the ♚, and it also defends the ♙e3 while not exposing the ♚ to ...♖c8;

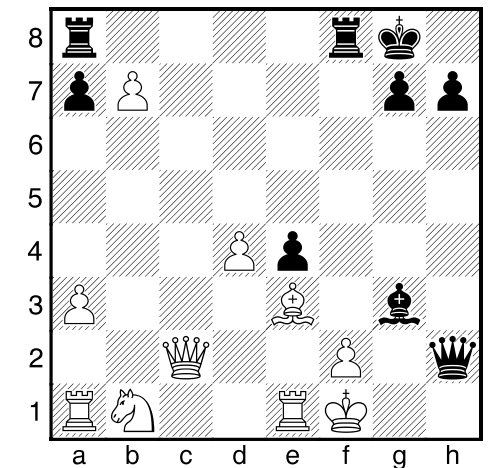
however, it leaves the ♙e3

pinned Black wins after 23... ♔h8

24. ♖a2 ♚h3+ 25. ♔e2 ♙xf2-+.

23. axb7□=

Analysis Diagram



Gains time on the ♖a8, and narrows Black's options by changing endgames which would be unclear into wins for White.

23... ♖xf2+?? 24. ♚xf2□ ♖f8

25. ♚xf8+□ ♔xf8 26. ♗c3□+-

(26. ♗d2? = blocks the ♔s escape route from checks on h1 and h5.)

23... ♖ab8 threatening ...♙xf2 and

then win the ♚ with ...♚h1+ and

... $\text{Rxf2+}$  and a skewer.

24.  $\text{Ra2}$  defends the  $\text{K}$  and f2:

24...  $\text{Kh1?}$  25.  $\text{Ke2 Kh5+}$

26.  $\text{Kd2 Qxf2}$  27.  $\text{Kc4+!+-}$  or

$\text{Kb3+}$  are the only winning moves for White... which is why White needed to exchange on d5 at move 19.

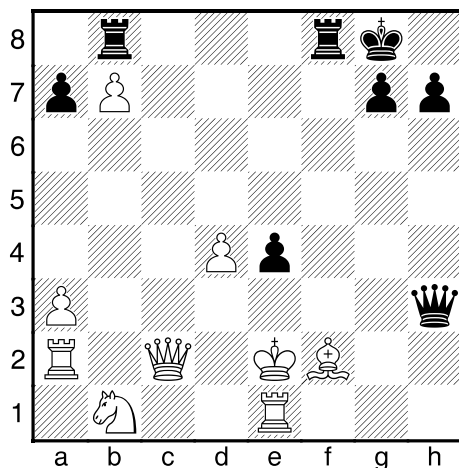
24...  $\text{Kh3+}$ :

25.  $\text{Kg1?? Qh2+}$  26.  $\text{Kh1 Qd6+}$

27.  $\text{Kg1 Rf6-+}$ ;

25.  $\text{Ke2}$   $\text{Qxf2}$   $\text{Qxf2}$

*Analysis Diagram*



26...  $\text{Kf3+}$  27.  $\text{Kd2}$  (27.  $\text{Kf1 Kh1+}$ ) 27...  $\text{Kxf2+}$  28.  $\text{Kd1 Qxd4+}$  is similar to the main line.

26...  $\text{Kh5+}$ :

27.  $\text{Kf1}$  lets Black choose

between a draw or playing for

more: 27...  $\text{Kh1+}$  28.  $\text{Ke2 Kf3+}$

29.  $\text{Kd2}$  (29.  $\text{Kf1=}$ ) 29...  $\text{Kxf2+}$

30.  $\text{Kd1}$  (30.  $\text{Re2?? Kxd4+}$

31.  $\text{Ke1 Kg1+}$  32.  $\text{Kd2 Rfd8-+}$

is mating.) 30...  $\text{Kxd4+}$  31.  $\text{Kd2}$

$\text{Rxb7}$  32.  $\text{Kxe4=}$  Computers rate

this it equal, and I doubt many

strong humans would prefer

White as it's hard to believe there

are any chances for more than a

draw with such an exposed  $\text{K}$ ;

27.  $\text{Ke3!?$  is risky, but some people love tightrope walks...

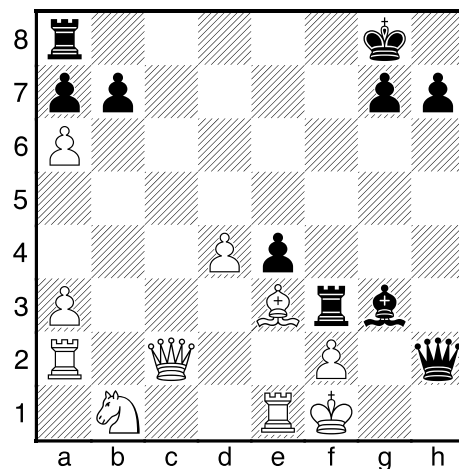
27...  $\text{Rf3+}$  28.  $\text{Ke2}$   $\text{Rc3+!?$

(28...  $\text{Rd3+}$  forces a draw 29.  $\text{Kf1}$

$\text{Kh1+}$  30.  $\text{Ke2 Kf3+}$ ) 29.  $\text{Kd2}$

$\text{Rxc2+}$  30.  $\text{Rxc2 Rxb7}$ .

23...  $\text{Rf3!}$



**White resigned.**

He has a losing position and was playing a GM who had been outplaying him for hours, so that's not surprising...

**but how many of us untitled players would mess up this winning position as Black?**

Work out the win, if you're so sure. To be helpful, I've indicated all of Black's "only moves". The immediate threat is ...  $\text{Kh1}$  then ...  $\text{Rxe3+}$ , when  $\text{fxe3}$  hangs the  $\text{Ke1}$  with mate (as in variation (a)), but different defences require different finishing moves.

a) 24.  $\text{Kc3 Kh1+}$   $\text{Ke2 Rxe3+}$   $\text{K-+}$ .

b) 24.  $\text{Kxe4 Kh1+}$   $\text{Ke2 Rxf2+}$   $\text{K-+}$  with a check, a discovered attack, and a skewer.

c) 24.  $\text{Kb3+ Kh8}$   $\text{axb7 Raf8-+}$  notice that Black has three pieces defending b8... all of which are also attacking f2! White can delay the inevitable with  $\text{b8=K}$ , but after taking it Black will just go back to attacking.

d) 24.  $\text{axb7}$  is too slow now, as

Black can play either ...  $\text{Raf8}$  (making the  $\text{K}$  safe while adding an attacker) or this: 24...  $\text{Kh1+}$  25.  $\text{Ke2 Rxe3+}$   $\text{fxe3}$  26.  $\text{Kxe3}$  (26.  $\text{fxe3? Kxe1#}$ ) 26...  $\text{Kxe1+}$   $\text{Ke2 Qxf2+}$   $\text{Kf4}$  (28.  $\text{Kxe4 Re8+}$  29.  $\text{Kf3 Rf8+}$  transposes.) 28...  $\text{Rf8+}$  29.  $\text{Kxe4 Kxb1+!-+}$ .

e) 24.  $\text{Rc1 Raf8!}$  25.  $\text{Ke2}$  (25.  $\text{Ke1 Rxe3+!-+}$ ) 25...  $\text{Rxf2+! #2}$ .

f) 24.  $\text{Kc4+ Kh8}$  25.  $\text{Kc3 Kh3+}$  Black can also toss in ...  $\text{b5}$  at several points, gaining a tempo on the  $\text{K}$  while preventing any back rank tricks after  $\text{axb7}$ ; this would be a good "safety first" choice in time trouble, but it's not necessary. 26.  $\text{Ke2 Qxf2!}$  27.  $\text{Qxf2 Rxc3}$   $\text{K-+}$  28.  $\text{axb7 Rf8}$  (28...  $\text{Re8??}$  29.  $\text{Kb5=}$ ) 29.  $\text{Kb5 Kf3+}$  30.  $\text{Kd2 Rb3}$   $\text{K-+}$  threatening the  $\text{Kb5}$ , the  $\text{Qf2}$ , and if  $\text{Ke2}$  then ...  $\text{Kc3}$  mates.

This is one of only two classical games between 1995 and 2023 that Shirov has lost as White in under 25 moves. The other was to Karpov, also in 23 moves.

**0-1**



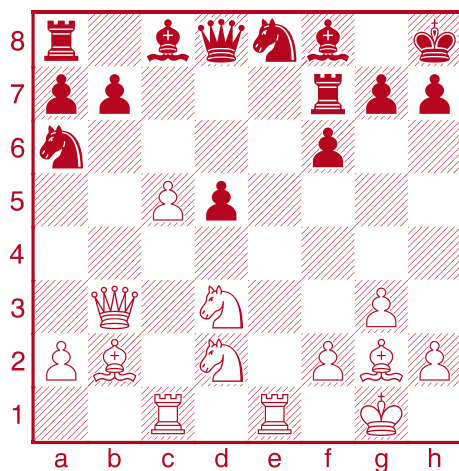


**(40)**  
**Upper, John (1993)**  
**Ramenaden, Matthew**  
**(1778)**

A14

Canadian Open U2000 Kitchener  
 (2), 16.07.2006

1.  $\text{Nf3}$   $\text{Nf6}$  2.  $\text{c4}$   $\text{e6}$  3.  $\text{g3}$   $\text{c6}$   
 4.  $\text{Bg2}$   $\text{d5}$  5.  $\text{b3}$   $\text{Be7}$  6.  $\text{O-O}$   $\text{O-O}$   
 7.  $\text{e3}$   $\text{Na6}$  8.  $\text{Bb2}$   $\text{Nc5}$  9.  $\text{d4}$   
 $\text{Nce4}$  10.  $\text{Ne5}$   $\text{dxc4}$  11.  $\text{bxc4}$   
 $\text{Nd6}$  12.  $\text{c5}$   $\text{Nde8}$  13.  $\text{Nd2}$   
 $\text{Nd5}$  14.  $\text{e4}$   $\text{Ndc7}$  15.  $\text{Qc2}$   $\text{f6}$   
 16.  $\text{Nd3}$   $\text{Kh8}$  17.  $\text{Rfe1}$   $\text{Na6}$   
 18.  $\text{Rac1}$   $\text{Rf7}$  19.  $\text{Qb3}$   $\text{Qf8}$   
 20.  $\text{d5!}$   $\text{exd5}$  (The only testing  
 choice.) 21.  $\text{exd5}$   $\text{cxd5}$



$\text{Qxd5}$  or something else?

**22.  $\text{Qxd5!}$**

22.  $\text{Qxd5?!$  is also winning, but I avoided it... due to a miscalculation; and so "settled for" the stronger game move for the wrong reasons.

22...  $\text{Rd7}$  is the only critical move. Here White is almost spoiled for choice, but I had tunnel vision:

a) 23.  $\text{Qf7?}$  was the only move I considered when thinking about  $\text{Qxd5}$ , and it lets Black escape with 23...  $\text{Rxd3}$  24.  $\text{Rxe8}$  (24.  $\text{Qxd3}$   $\infty$ ) 24...  $\text{Qxe8}$  25.  $\text{Qxe8}$   $\text{Rxb3}$  26.  $\text{Nxb3}$   $\bar{f}$ ;

b) 23.  $\text{Qe4!?}$   $\text{Nxc5}$  24.  $\text{Nxc5}$   $\text{Rxd2}$   $\square\pm$ ;

c) 23.  $\text{Qg2!}$   $\text{Rxd3?!}$  24.  $\text{Qxd3}$   $\square$  is similar to the game 24...  $\text{Qxd3}$  25.  $\text{Rxe8}$   $\square\pm$   $\text{Qe6!?}$  (25...  $\text{Qg8}$  26.  $\text{Qf1}$   $\pm$ -) 26.  $\text{Rxa8}$   $\text{Qxd2}$  27.  $\text{Rxf8}$   $\text{Qg8}$  28.  $\text{Qa3}$   $\square$   $\text{Qxa2}$  29.  $\text{Rd1!}$   $\text{Qxa3}$  30.  $\text{Qd5}$   $\text{h5}$  31.  $\text{Qxg8!}$   $\pm$ -;

d) 23.  $\text{Qc4!}$   $\text{Nxc5}$  24.  $\text{Nxc5}$   $\text{Rxd2}$  25.  $\text{Ne4}$   $\text{Rd7}$  26.  $\text{Qb5}$   $\pm$ - and White's  $\text{Q}$ 's slice Black to shreds.

The interesting thing for me analyzing this with computers 15 years after playing it, is how much wider White's winning margin is than I thought at the time. During the game I thought I played accurately (which the computer confirms) and that once I played  $\text{d4-d5}$  I had a very narrow path to victory (which the computer thoroughly refutes). In fact — as is probably obvious to stronger players than me who look at the diagram above — White is not only clearly winning, but has *many* different ways to convert the space advantage and more active pieces into the win, and that these winning

paths continue to exist even if White plays sub-optimally. Having played maybe 200,000+ tactics exercises since then, I find this easier to believe... but playing into it at the time felt like "hope chess".

**22...  $\text{Rd7}$**

The obviously testing move.

22...  $\text{Qxd5??}$  loses a piece to 23.  $\text{Qxd5}$   $\text{Re7}$  24.  $\text{Rxe7}$   $\text{Qxe7}$  25.  $\text{Re1}$   $\pm$ -.

**23.  $\text{Qh5!}$**

Best, but not as I had long thought, the only move —  $\text{Qf3}$  directly also wins — but it is

the best, since forcing ... $\text{g6}$  creates extra tactics on the long diagonal.

**23...  $\text{g6}$   $\square$**

23...  $\text{Nec7?}$   
 24.  $\text{Qe4}$   $\pm$ -.

**24.  $\text{Qf3!}$**

I'd originally planned 24.  $\text{Qe2}$ , when Black's worse if he



photo: Patrick MacDonald

*John Upper*



tries to fight back: 24...♖xd3?  
25.♚xe8 ♖xd2? 26.♚xd8 ♖xd8  
27.♙xf6+-

The exchange sac was tempting,  
but Black's OK: 24.♖xe8? ♚xe8  
25.♙xf6+ ♙g7! 26.♚f3 ♖f7∞.

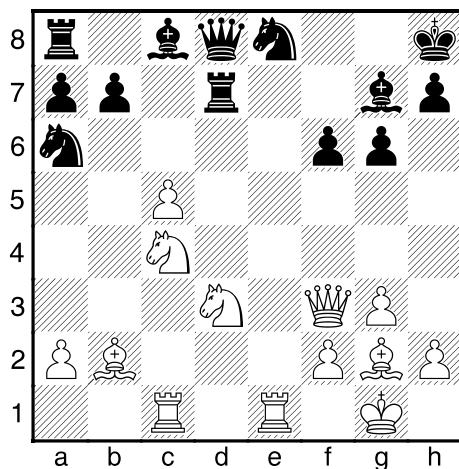
24.♚h4! is also very strong,  
hitting f6.

### 24...♙g7

The ♘d3 can't be taken:  
24...♖xd3? 25.♖xe8 ♚xe8  
26.♚xf6+ ♔g8 27.♚h8+ ♔f7  
28.♚xh7+ and Black is soon  
mated.

24...♘ac7 25.♘e5! the ♖f6 is  
pinned against the back-rank  
mate 25...♖e7 26.♘e4!+-.

### 25.♘c4!



Black's terrible development  
means White can simply  
consolidate with ♙f1 with a huge  
advantage, but this is more fun.

### 25...♘ac7

The critical line, which we  
both saw, was this: 25...♖xd3  
26.♚xd3! (*In fact, 26.♖xe8+ also  
wins, but I don't think I even  
considered it. Not only was a lot  
of my calculation unnecessary  
here, it was embarrassingly  
haphazard.*) 26...♚xd3 27.♖xe8+  
♙f8 28.♖xf8+ ♔g7 29.♖xf6+-  
White's ♘c4, ♙b2 and ♖c1 trio  
leave the Black ♚ with nothing  
to attack, and on ♔g7 moves,  
White can win with ♖xa6 or even  
try to set up a mating net.

25...♘ec7 26.♘d6!+- simply piles  
on the pressure, since Black  
can't hit back with 26...♘xc5?  
27.♖xc5 ♖xd6 28.♖xc7! ♖xd3  
29.♚xd3!+-.

### 26.♘de5!

26.♘b4! is the computer's  
improvement, threatening c5-c6.

### 26...fxe5 27.♘xe5 ♘f6

Of course not 27...♙xe5??  
28.♚f8#.

27...♘e6!? is trickier, which  
makes it the better practical  
choice, but it's no better against  
accurate play. White wins after  
28.♘xd7:

a) 28...♚xd7 29.c6! bxc6  
30.♖cd1 ♚e7 31.♙a3!+- a dream  
position for a ♙g2, ♙b2 opening.

b) 28...♙xb2 29.♖xe6! ♘g7  
30.♖d6! ♙xc1 31.♘e5 +-  
(Δ♘f7+, ♖d8);

c) 28...♙xd7 29.♖cd1! ♙xb2  
(29...♘xc5?? 30.♚f8#) 30.♚xb7!  
♖b8 31.♖xd7!+-.

### 28.♘xd7

I saw White could win the ♚  
and lose the game with this:  
28.♖cd1? ♖xd1 29.♘f7+ ♔g8  
30.♘xd8?? (Δ30.♖xd1 ♚f8!  
31.♘d6 ♙g4⚡) 30...♖xe1+ 31.♙f1  
♙h3 32.♚b3+ ♘cd5-+. Despite  
seeing this, I somehow avoided  
it. :D

28...♙xd7 29.♖cd1 ♘cd5  
30.♙xf6  
Simplest.

30...♘xf6 31.♚xb7 ♖b8  
32.♚xa7 ♚c8 33.c6 ♙f5

### 34.c7 ♖b7 35.♚xb7

I got lucky in round 8 —  
escaping a losing position to win  
— and went on to win the U2000  
section.

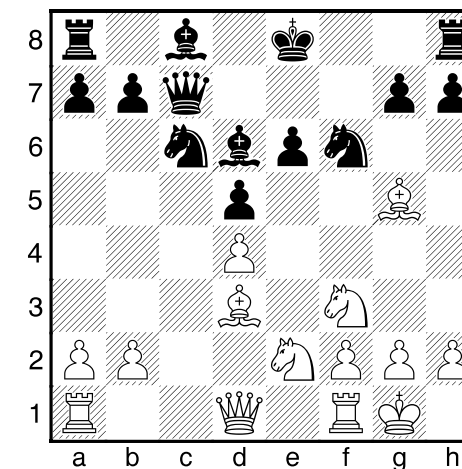
1-0

(41)  
Groleau, Gilles (1992)  
Upper, John (2188)

C06

RA vs Gatineau CC, Ottawa,  
04.07.2010

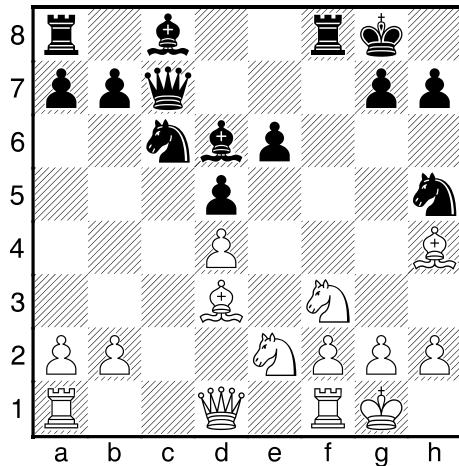
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘d2 ♘f6  
4.e5 ♘fd7 5.♙d3 c5 6.c3  
♘c6 7.♘e2 cxd4 8.cxd4  
f6 9.exf6 ♘xf6 10.0-0 ♙d6  
11.♘f3 ♚c7 12.♙g5





This maneuver —  $\text{♔c1-g5-h4-g3}$  — aims to trade the  $\text{♕d6}$ , which attacks the kingside and defends e5. It makes perfect positional sense, but Black's dynamic play had been well worked out when this game was played.

12...0-0 13.♔h4 ♘h5



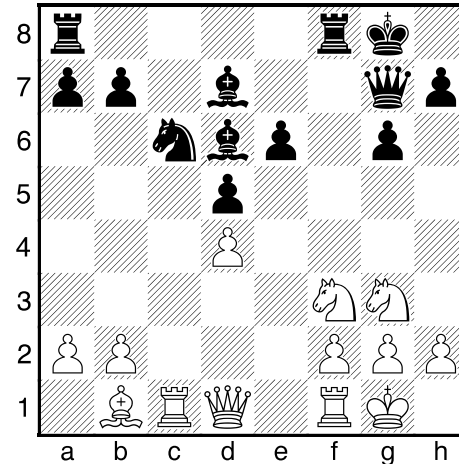
14.♔g3?!

White should go:

14.♔c2 h6 (14...g6?? 15.♔xg6 hxg6 16.♔xg6+ ♘g7 17.♔g5+-) 15.♔h7+ (15.♔g6 ♖xf3 16.gxf3 ♔xh2+ 17.♔h1 ♘f4∞ 1/2-1/2 (39) Ulybin,M (2536)–Berg,E (2531) Santa Cruz de La Palma, 2005) 15...♔h8 16.♔g6 ♖xf3! with nearly 450 games in Megabase 2022. It remains an interesting mess after: 17.gxf3 (17.♔xh5 ♖f8 18.♔g3∞) 17...♔xh2+ 18.♔g2

♘f4+ 19.♔xf4 ♔xf4 20.♔g3 ♔xg3 21.fxg3±.

14...♔xg3 15.♔xg3 g6  
16.♖c1 ♔g7 17.♔b1 ♔d7



Around this time I was playing only the French against 1.e4, and had had positions like this frequently in the 3...♘d2 lines. I learned the ...♔c7-g7 maneuver, which hits d4 and unpins the ♘c6, from a Korchnoi game.

18.a3?

♠18.♖c3♞ so that if 18...♖f4 19.♔e2 defends d4 and guards the ♘f3 so that ...♖xf3 won't shatter White's kingside.

18...♖f4!-+

Tripling up on d4. I thought Black was clearly better here, but I

underestimated it: at 28 ply, SF15 rates the position as -2.

19.♔e2 ♖xf3♠

A stock sacrifice in this line of the Tarrasch French. It smashes White's kingside and removes the best defender of d4 and h2.

20.gxf3 g5??

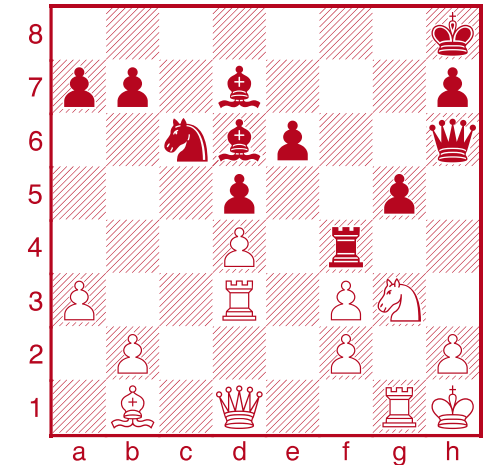
I didn't want to trade the DSB because without it I didn't see any shot at mate; but I should have allowed the trade because Black gets a winning position even without the mating attack: ♠20...♔h6! 21.f4 ♔xf4 22.♔xf4 ♔xf4+- Black is going to win d4 (making it two pawns for the exchange) and have a mobile center, while White is left with a shattered kingside and no open files for his ♖s, as shown in a later game: Hofer,E (2185)–Lyell,M (2313) Budapest, 2015 (0-1, 32).

21.♖c3 ♔h8 22.♔h1!± ♔h6!  
23.♔g3?

♠23.f4! giving the pawn to block Black's attacking lines.

23...♖f8 24.♖g1! ♖f4 25.♖d3  
Defends d4. 25.♔e2? also

defends d4, but weakens the diagonal to h2, so 25...♖xd4+- threatening mate on h2 and ♔ on d1.



Black has played a typical ...♖x♘f3 trade in a Tarrasch French. Now what?

25...e5!!

Clearly best, winning d4 immediately due to a pretty tactic.

♔ moves to g7 or f6 are both decent ways to continue attacking d4:

25...♔g7 26.♔e2 (26.♔h5? ♖h4!!♞) 26...♖h4 27.♖g2∞;

25...♔f6 26.♔e2 (26.♔b3!?) 26...♖xf3 27.♖g2 ♖xf2 28.♖xf2 ♔xf2 29.♖h3±.





## 26.dxe5?

△26.♘f1?! avoids the game line, but White doesn't have much hope after 26...exd4.

△26.♖g2□ ♞xd4 27.♙a2 ♙c6

White's ♖s look ridiculous, but he's hanging tough. The computer says White is only slightly worse after 28.♘f1 but I don't think even Steinitz would choose White here.

26...♙xh2+□ --+

The tactical reason why ...e5 works.

27.♙xh2 ♖h4+

27...♖h4+ 28.♙g2 ♙h3+ 29.♙h2 ♙f1#.

0-1

(42)

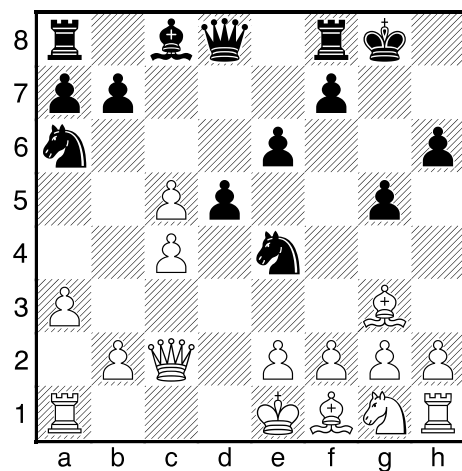
Hambleton, Aman (2315)  
Friedel, Joshua (2586)

E36

CAN-op Toronto (6), 14.07.2010

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3  
♙b4 4.♙c2 0-0 5.a3 ♙xc3+

6.♙xc3 d5 7.♙g5 h6 8.♙h4  
c5 9.dxc5 g5 (9...d4!) 10.♙g3  
♘e4 11.♙c2 ♘a6



## 12.0-0-0??

△12.b4 ♘axc5□ 13.♘f3 (13.  
bxc5?? ♙a5+ 14.♙d1 ♙d7+  
threat ...♙a4 and then Black's ♖s  
get into the attack while White's  
kingside is asleep.) 13...♘g3  
14.hxg3 ♙f6 15.♖d1 ♘e4 16.e3  
g4∞ (1-0, 45) Akobian,V (2619)-  
Friedel,J (2527) ICC INT, 2010.

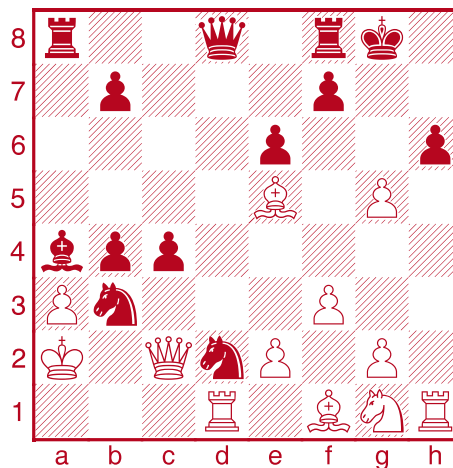
12...♘axc5-+ 13.f3

As in the note above, 13.b4 gets  
smashed after 13...♙d7!! 14.bxc5  
♘xc5 or 14...♙a5-+.

13...♙d7 14.b3 dxc4 15.b4

♘b3+ 16.♙b1 ♘ed2+

17.♙a2 ♙a4 18.♙e5 a5 19.h4  
axb4 20.hxg5



A wild position where both sides  
are attacking ferociously.

Q: Does Black have anything  
better than ...♙d5?

20...♙d5??

A: almost everything was better  
than ...♙d5. Before this, SF15  
rated the position -60, now it is  
dead lost.

△20...♙xg5!-+ keeps out  
the ♖h1.

△20...f5-+ keeps out the  
♙. 21.♖xh6 ♙d5 22.♖g6+  
♙f7 23.♖f6+ ♙e7-+.

△20...♘c1+! is the  
computer's top line  
21.♙xc1 c3 (21...b3+??  
actually gives away the

win 22.♙b2 c3+□ 23.♙xc3□  
♘c4+□ 24.♙xc4 ♙xd1 25.♙d3□  
♙c2+□ 26.♙xc2 bxc2 27.♖xh6  
f6 28.♖g6+ ♙h7 29.♖h6+ =;  
21...♙b3+ is simplest 22.♙a1  
♖xa3+--+) 22.♙xc3 ♙d5+ 23.♙a1  
bxc3-+.

21.♙h7+!!

Only move to not only save the  
game, but force mate: 21.♙h7+  
♙xh7 22.♖xh6+ ♙g8 23.♖h8#.

Aman discusses this, his first  
win over a GM, in his "My Best  
Move" video for chess.com:

[https://www.youtube.com/  
watch?v=EMSCHuAHhkQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EMSCHuAHhkQ)

1-0

**Chessbrahs**  
Lefong Aman Eric

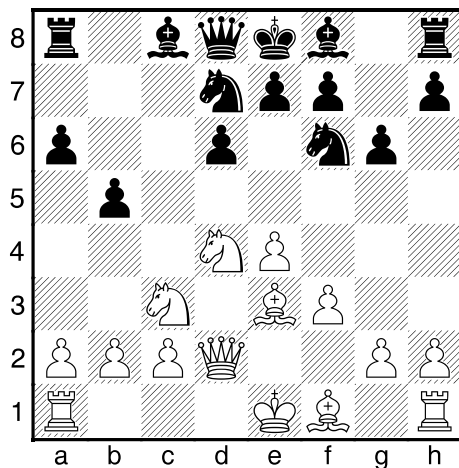




(43)  
**Yoos, Jack (2389)**  
**Barrios, Felix (2207)**

B72  
*Canadian Open Toronto (8),*  
 17.07.2010

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4  
 4.♗xd4 ♘f6 5.♗c3 g6 6.♙e3  
 a6 7.f3 ♘bd7 8.♙d2 b5?!



The Dragadorf was still a relatively unexplored sideline when this game was played. Even so, two of the earliest books to mention it — [Simon Williams'](#) *The New Dragon* (2005), and [Andrew Martin's](#) *Starting Out: The Sicilian Dragon* (Everyman, 2006) — said this was bad:

"WARNING: Black mustn't rush to follow up 7...a6 with ...b7-b5 until White has castled queenside as otherwise a quick a4-counter is just too strong."

Since then, the Dragadorf has been dissected in many games and several books and the current consensus confirms Martin's warning: ...b5 is not good before 000 because after 9... a4!, White's minors will get good squares on the queenside and Black will have trouble finding places for his.

9.a4! b4 10.♘a2 a5 11.c3 bxc3  
 12.♗xc3 "White has a pleasant edge with good prospects on the queenside,"  
 — [Parimarjan Negi](#),  
*GM Repertoire 1.e4 v2: vs Sicilian* (Quality Chess, 2015).

9.a4! bxa4 (9...b4 10.♗d5 ♗xd5  
 11.♗c6 ♖c7 12.exd5± Shaw)  
 10.♗xa4 ♙g7 11.♙e2 ♙b7 (11...  
 d5 12.exd5 ♗xd5 13.♗f5!±)  
 12.c4 0-0 13.0-0 "White has a pleasant position with good chances to exert pressure against Black's weakened

queenside. This is why, as a general rule, Black should wait for White to castle on the queenside before playing ...b5."  
 — [John Shaw](#), *Playing 1.e4* (Quality Chess, 2018).

### 9.0-0-0!?

But White is a go-for-the-throat player, and heads back toward a classical Yugoslav Attack...

### 9...h5!

... which Black immediately blunts.

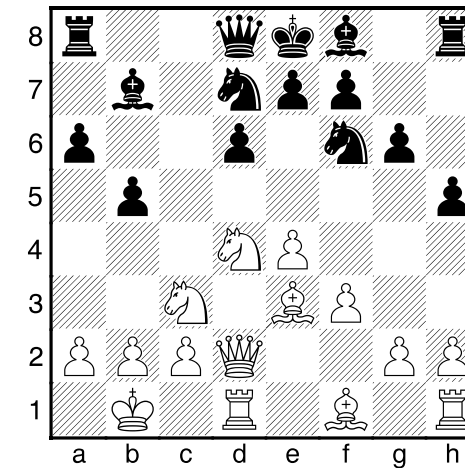
9...♙g7?! 10.g4 b4 and White has a choice of ♗ moves that keep a plus:

11.♗a4N;

11.♗d5 ♗xd5 12.♗c6 ♖c7  
 13.exd5±;

11.♗ce2 ♗e5 12.♗g3 h5 13.g5  
 ♗fd7 14.f4 ♗g4 15.♙g1 h4  
 16.♗gf5! (16.♗ge2 ♙b7 (16...  
 h3!?) 17.♙g2 ♗c5 18.h3! ♙xe4  
 19.♙xe4 ♗xe4 20.♖e1+- (1-0,  
 35) [Ter Sahakyan, S \(2480\)](#)–  
[Zhou, Y \(2259\)](#) *Mersin, 2008.*)  
 16...gxf5 17.♗xf5+- threatening  
 both ♗xg7+ and ♖g2, winning  
 the trapped ♗g4.

### 10.♙b1 ♙b7



Black couldn't ask for much more in a Dragadorf: his minors are mostly out and White's kingside play has no target. Black's King is still in the center, but how could that be a problem?

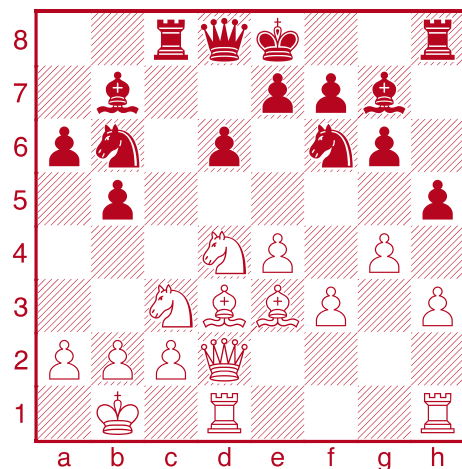
11.h3 11.h4 ♖c8 12.a3 ♙g7  
 13.♙g5 ♖b6= (1-0, 35)  
[Lobanov, S \(2504\)](#)–[Carlsson, P \(2456\)](#) *Moscow, 2019.*

11.♗b3 ♖c8 12.♙d4 ♖c7  
 (12...♙h6!?) 13.♖f2 e5 14.♙e3  
 b4↑ (0-1, 29) [Wei, Y \(2244\)](#)–  
[Wang, H \(2715\)](#) *China, 2010.*

11...♖c8 12.♙d3 ♙g7 13.g4  
 ♗b6?!

...♗e5, ...♗c5, and ...h4 are all about equal.





What happens after e4-e5?

### 14.e5! dxe5??

Of Black's choices, this is clearly worst.

a) 14...d7d7? isn't as bad, but White has huge advantage after 15.e6!↑ or even 15.exd6!.

b) 14...c4! 15.dxc4 dxe5 White is up a piece, but has two hanging:

b1) 16.e2? defends f3, but 16...exd4 17.dxd4 (17.Rxd4? ♖a5-+ 18.d3 hxg4-+ suddenly the open lines all work for Black.) 17...c7 18.d3±;

b2) 16.e6!? ♖xd2 17.dxc4 ♖f8 18.Rxd2 Rxc4 19.g5± the ♘g7 is trapped and

White is down a pawn, but better developed;

b3) 16.e1 ♖xc4 17.f5 ♖c8 18.dxc4 ♖f8 19.dxc4 gxh5 20.Rf1→.

c) 14...d5! 15.dxd5 ♙xd5□∞ (15...d5?? 16.e6□+ -) 16.e6 fxe6 (16...c4±) 17.dxc4 ♙d7□∞ Black's position looks weird, but he threatens both ...c4 and ...xd4 then ...xf3.

### 15.dxe6□+ -

Forking d8 and g7 and exposing an attack on the ♘b6. Black is completely busted at move 15.

### 15...c4

15...fxe6 16.dxc4 ♖f8

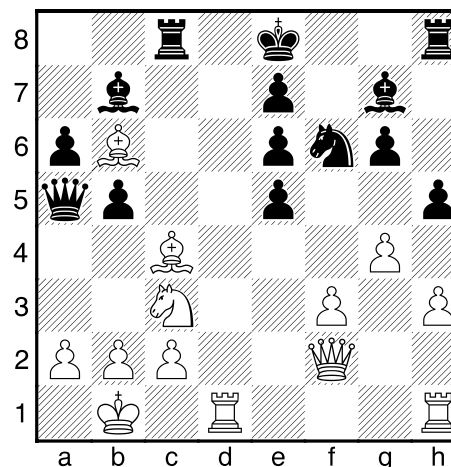
17.dxc4 +-.

15...d7 16.dxc4 ♖f8 traps the ♘, but ♙xb6 or ♘h5 first are both +-.

### 16.e2

16.dxc4 also wins, but requires more precision: 16...f8 17.dxe6+ □ fxe6 18.dxc4+ □ +- and ♖g5 or ♙xc4 win.

16...a5 17.dxc4 fxe6 18.dxc4



### 18...b4

18...c3!? 19.bxc3 bxc4 is the computer's improvement, but it's still two pieces and horrible pawns for a ♖.

### 19.dxe6 ♖b8

Is 19...c3 typical Dragon counterplay? Nope: 20.d8#.

20.g5 ♘h7 21.dxe4 ♘f8

22.a3!

Cute: the ♖ has no escape.

22...xe4 23.d7+! ♖xf7 24.fxe4+ ♖g8 25.Rhf1 ♙xe4 26.Rd8 Rxd8 27.dxc4 ♙f5 28.h4 ♖f7 29.ea7 ♖g8 30.dxe7 ♘e6 31.Rxf5 gxh5 32.g6 Rf6 33.ea8+ ♙f8

1-0



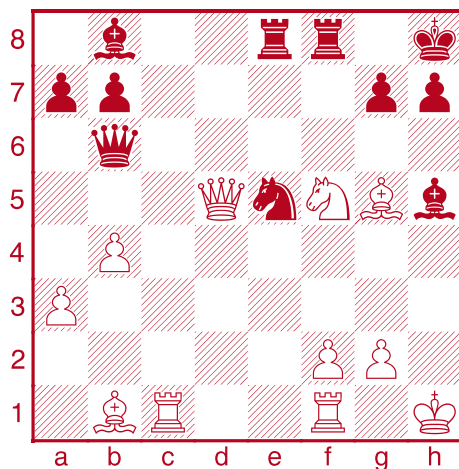
**Strategy**  
GAMES AND ACCESSORIES



(44)  
Tuxanidy Torres, Aleksandr  
(2200)  
Upper, John (2335)

C06  
Eastern Ontario Open Ottawa  
(1), 01.06.2012

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘d2 ♘f6  
4.e5 ♘fd7... 23.♘f5! ♙b8



♙e7 or something else?

24.♙e7??

Looks like it wins an exchange,  
but White has looked one ply too  
short.

24.♘d4?? h6 25.♙e3 ♙f7  
26.♙e4 ♙g6 27.♙h4 ♙xb1  
28.♙xb1 ♙g6-+ aiming for ...♘g4

and a winning attack on the dark  
squares.

24.♙d4 ♙g6 25.♙h4 ♘f3 26.gxf3  
♙xf3+ 27.♙g1 ♙xf5↑.

24.f4□ ♙f7 (24...♘f7 25.♙e7)  
25.♙d1!+- ♘g6 (25...♙g6  
26.♘h4 wins the ♘) 26.♙d7  
Black is running out of moves  
and White can improve, e.g.  
26...♙e6 27.♙d4 ♙g8 28.♙h6+-.

24...♙xe7□-+

24...♙f7?∞.

24...♙xf5? 25.♙xf5 ♙xe7  
(25...♙h6 26.♙h3±) 26.♙c8+ ♙e8  
27.♙fc1□+-; 24...♙g8 25.f4± or  
25.♙d6±.

25.♘xe7 ♙h6□

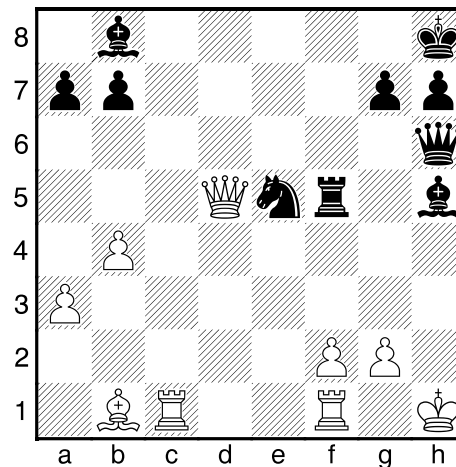
Black threatens a deadly  
discovered check. White had  
expected this, and attacked the  
Queen with...

26.♘f5

26.♙g1? ♘f3+!-+ mates.

26...♙xf5□

26...♙f3+?? 27.♘xh6 ♙xd5  
28.♘f5+-.



The problem with 24.♙e7: White  
has no back rank mate after  
Black blocks the check with  
...♙e8 with a discovered check  
(followed by a Black mating  
attack).

27.f4

27.♙d8+ ♙e8+□ 28.♙g1 ♘f3+  
29.gxf3 ♙h2#.

27.♙xf5 ♙g4+! 28.♙g1 ♘f3+□  
29.♙xf3 ♙h2#.

27.♙d2 g5!-+.

27...♙e8+!

Best, though 27...♘g4 also wins.

28.♙g1 ♘g4! 29.♙fe1 ♙h2+  
White is getting mated.

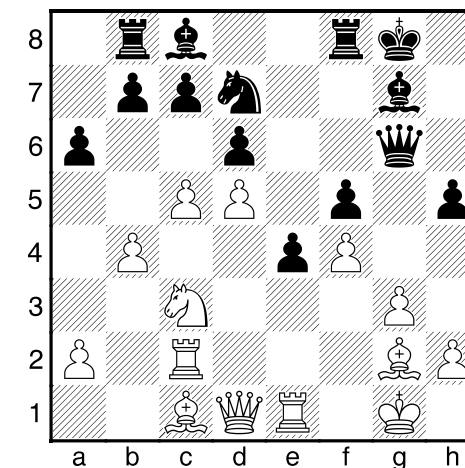
0-1

(45)  
Tonakanian, Stephan (2129)  
Song, Michael (2354)

A49

Toronto Closed (2), 22.04.2013

1.d4 ♘f6 2.♘f3 g6 3.g3 ♙g7  
4.♙g2 0-0 5.0-0 d6 6.b3 ♘c6  
7.♙b2 ♘d7 8.c4 a6 9.♘c3  
♙b8 10.♙c1 e5 11.d5 ♘e7  
12.e4 ♙h6 13.♙c2 f5 14.exf5  
gxf5 15.♙c1 ♙g7 16.b4  
h6 17.♘h4 ♙e8 18.f4 ♘g6  
19.♘xg6 ♙xg6 20.♙e1 h5  
21.c5 e4



22.♘xe4!?

Of course, White doesn't have  
to go all in here; he could  
just continue developing with  
22.♙e3 when an immediate



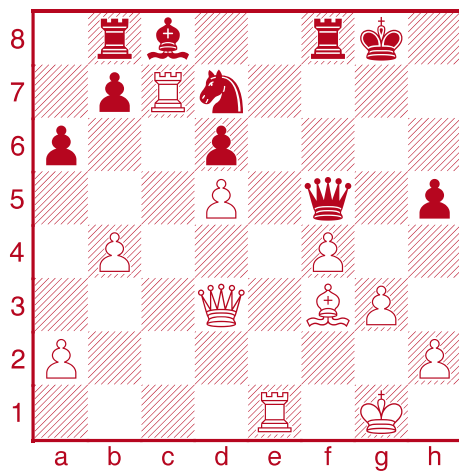
Black Kingside attack with 22... h4 backfires against 23.g4! when White's Rooks and minors are better placed for the newly opening center.

22...fxe4 23.♙xe4 ♖f6  
24.♘b2 ♗h6 25.♙xg7 ♔xg7  
26.cxd6 cxd6  
26...♗xd6.

27.♖c7↑ ♔g8 28.♗d3? ♗f6?!  
♠28...♘f6 29.♙g6 ♙h3♠.

29.♙f3 ♗f5? 30.♙e4?=  
Black might prudently go for the repetition. ♠30.♗xf5, see below.

30...♗f6♠ 31.♙f3 ♗f5?!  
♠31...♗h6.



White enterprisingly sac'ed a ♘ for ♙♙ and initiative, and is

still ahead in development. Now what?

32.♗e3?  
White has three better alternatives.

♠32.♗d4 leads to an extremely long string of "only moves" from both sides: 32...♘f6 33.♖ee7 ♗b1+ 34.♔g2 ♗xa2+ 35.♙e2!? ♙f5 preventing ♖g7+ and ♖h7+ mating and threatening to swap ♖s with ...♖be8. 36.♔g1! ♗b1+ 37.♙f1 ♙g6 38.♖e6 ♗f5 39.♗c3∞;

♠32.♗xf5 ♖xf5 33.♖e6± White will get at least a third pawn for the piece, and I don't see how Black will develop his

Queenside. Certainly not like this: 33...♖f6 34.♖xd7+-, or like this 33...♘f8?? 34.♖e8+-.

♠32.♗c3!?!± is both strong *and* sets a wicked trap:

32...♘e5?? 33.♙e4+-;

32...♗f6! 33.♗e3! is an improvement over the game (where Black's ♗ was on f5): White is threatening ♙xh5, and because Black's ♗ is on f6 the ♘d7 has no squares and so Black is still several moves from developing the queenside;

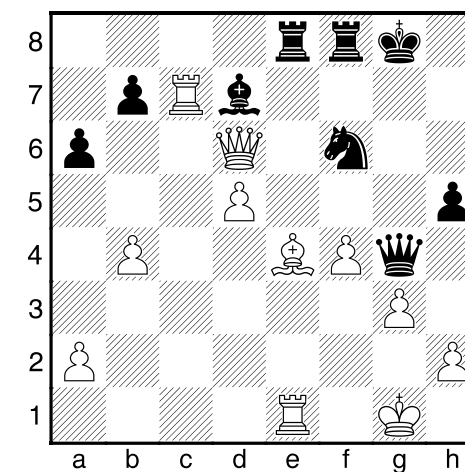
32...♘f6? 33.♙e4!!+- ♗g4 (33...♘xe4?? 34.♗g7#) 34.h3♠ transposes 34...♗xh3 35.♙h7+

♔h8 36.♗xf6+ ♖xf6 37.♖e8+ ♖f8 38.♖xf8#.

32...♘f6♠ 33.♗e7 ♙d7!  
34.♙e4

34.♗xd6 ♖be8+- White got a third pawn, but now Black is fully developed and White's ♔ is in more danger.

34...♗g4 35.♗xd6 ♖be8!+-



Here comes the counterattack.

36.♖c4 ♙b5 37.♖d4 ♘xe4  
38.♖dx4 ♖xe4 39.♖xe4  
♗d1+ 40.♔f2 ♗f1+ 41.♔e3  
♗d3+ 42.♔f2 ♗xe4 43.♗e6+  
♗xe6 44.dxe6 ♙c4

0-1



2013  
CO

Michael  
Song

GM  
Elshan  
Moradi-  
abadi



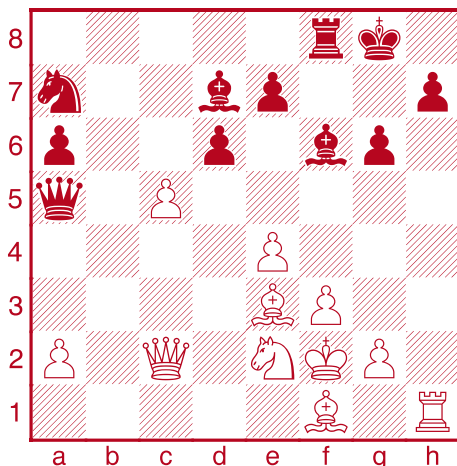


(46)  
Hamilton, Robert (2355)  
Yuan, Yuanling (2336)

E84

Eastern Ontario Open, Ottawa  
(3), 22.06.2013

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♙g7  
4.e4 d6 5.f3 0-0 6.♙e3 ♘c6  
7.♘ge2 a6 8.♚d2 ♜b8 9.♘d5  
b5 10.♘xf6+ ♙xf6 11.♞c1  
bxc4 12.♞xc4 ♙d7 13.h4  
♘a7 14.h5 c5 15.hxg6 fxg6  
16.dxc5 ♞xb2 17.♞c2 ♞xc2  
18.♚xc2 ♚a5+ 19.♙f2±



19...dxc5??

♠19...e6; ♠19...♘c6.

20.♘f4?!±



photo: Egis Zeromskis

Yuanling Yuan

An interesting oversight from two 2300s: both players are so focused on the centre and kingside attacks that they both miss the non-thematic win of a piece on the queenside:  
20.♚b3+! ♙h8 21.♚b7+- wins the ♘ or ♙.

20...♚c3?

♠20...♙d4 21.♙xd4 cxd4

22.♚c4+ (now 22.♚b3+ to b7 leaves the ♘f4 hanging.) 22...♞f7  
(22...e6 23.♘xe6+-) 23.♞xh7□±.

21.♚xc3 ♙xc3 22.♙c4+!+-  
♙g7

22...♙h8 23.♘xg6+-.

23.♘e2□

White threatens ♘xc3 and ♙h6+-.

23...♙d4

23...♙b4 24.♙h6+-.

24.♘xd4

Recapturing loses the ♘ or the ♞.

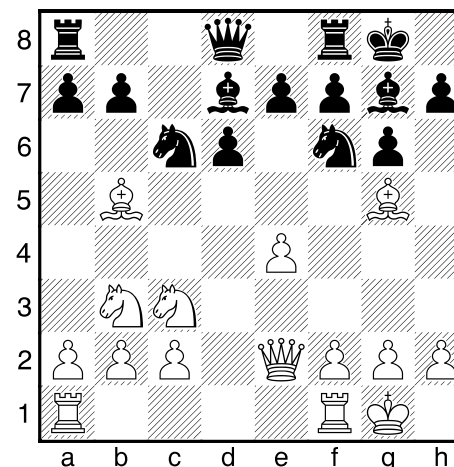
1-0

(47)  
Matsytsyn, Vitaly  
Zhou, Qiyu (2160)

B70

2013 Canadian Open Ottawa  
(9), 20.07.2013

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4  
cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3  
g6 6.♙b5+ ♙d7 7.♙g5 ♙g7  
8.♚e2 0-0 9.0-0 ♘c6 10.♘b3

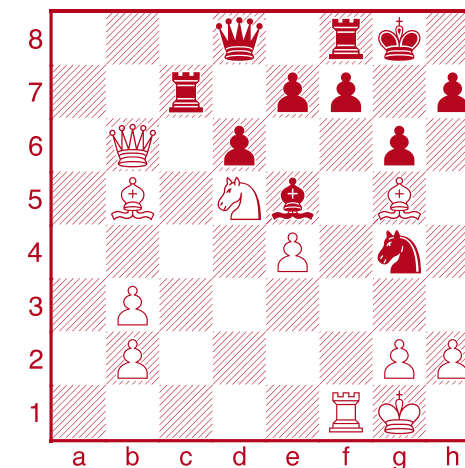


10...♞c8±

10...a6± 11.♙xc6 bxc6 12.e5  
dxe5 13.♞ad1 ♚c7 14.♞fe1  
♙f5± (1-0, 79) Cote,J-Kiviaho,B  
(2230) North Bay, 1996.

11.♞ad1 ♘e5 12.f4 ♙g4  
13.♚e3 ♙xd1 14.fxe5 ♘g4□  
15.♚xa7 ♙xc2 16.♚xb7  
♙xb3 17.axb3 ♞c7  
17...♙xe5! ♠18.♘d5 ♞b8!+-.

18.♚b6 ♙xe5 19.♘d5



Don't play the Dragon unless you  
love tactics.

19...♞c5!+-

Blocks the white Queen's  
defence of the a7-g1 diagonal,  
attacks the undefended ♚b6,  
attacks the ♙b5... and commits  
Black to a Queen sac.





19...♖c8?? 20.♘e7+ and the ♘e7 moves with check allowing ♙xd8.

19...h6 lets Black untangle, but doesn't win: 20.♙xe7 ♖xe7 (Black can toss in ...♙h2+ anywhere here.) 21.♚xd8 ♖xd8 22.♘e7+ ♔g7 (22...♔f8? 23.♘g6+±) 23.h3 ♙d4+ 24.♔h1 ♘f2+.

### 20.♘e7+

20.♚xd8 ♖xd8 21.♙xe7 (21.♙c4 ♖a8 22.♘e7+ ♔h8!-+ both sides have loose pawns, but Black is up an exchange.) 21...♖xb5 22.♙xd8 ♙d4+ 23.♔h1 ♘f2+ 24.♔g1 ♘e4+ and wins the ♘d5.

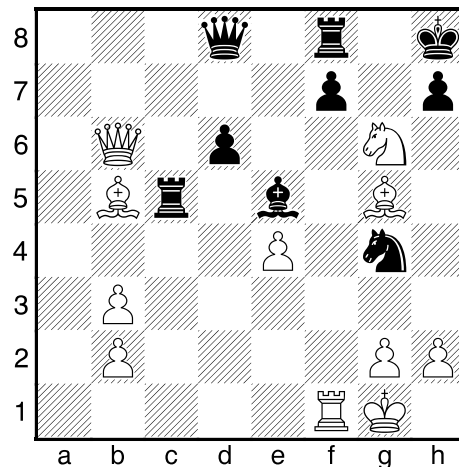
### 20...♔h8□

20...♔g7?? 21.♘f5+□+- winning ♙♙ vs ♖ ending: 21...gxf5 22.♙xd8 ♙d4+ 23.♔h1 ♘f2+ 24.♖xf2 ♖c1+ 25.♖f1 ♖xf1+ 26.♙xf1 ♙xb6 27.♙xb6+-.

20...♚xe7? 21.♙xe7 ♙d4+ 22.♔h1 ♘f2+ 23.♖xf2 ♖c1+ 24.♖f1 ♖xf1+ 25.♙xf1 ♙xb6 26.♙xf8 ♔xf8 and White has the better side of a draw.

### 21.♘g6+

21.♚xd8 ♖xd8 22.♘g6+ fxg6 23.♙xd8 ♖xb5+- the attack on the ♙b5 was essential.



### 21...fxg6□

The attack down the open f-file leaves White's back rank too weak.

### 22.♙xd8 ♙d4+□

The ♖f1 is protected by the ♙b5, otherwise this would win: 22...♙h2+?? 23.♔h1 ♖xf1+ 24.♙xf1+-.

### 23.♔h1

23.♖f2 ♖c1+-+.

### 23...♘f2+ 24.♔g1

24.♖xf2 ♖c1+ 25.♙f1 ♖xf1+ 26.♖xf1 ♖xf1#.

### 24...♘d3+

Blocks the defence of f1 and forces mate. Excellent combo from the 13-year-old future WGM.

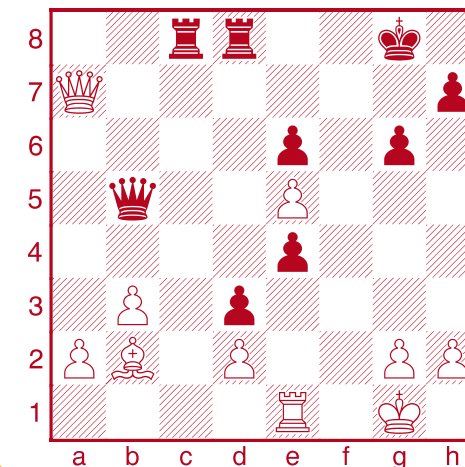
0-1

## (48) Song, Terry (2155) Peng, Jackie (2219)

B23

Canadian Amateur Kitchener (2),  
03.08.2013

1.e4 c5 2.♘c3 d6 3.f4 ♘c6  
4.♘f3 g6 5.♙b5 ♙d7 6.0-0  
♙g7 7.♚e1 ♘d4! 8.♘xd4  
cxd4 9.♙xd7+ ♚xd7 10.♘d5  
e6 11.♘b4 f5 12.♘d3?! ♘f6  
13.e5 ♘e4! 14.c4 dxe5  
15.♘xe5 ♙xe5 16.fxe5 d3  
17.♚e3 0-0 18.b3 ♖fd8  
19.♙b2 ♖ac8 20.♖f4 ♚c6  
(20...b5!-+) 21.♖e1 b5!-+  
22.cxb5 ♚xb5 23.♖xe4 fxe4  
24.♚xa7



Qiyu Zhou  
IM Bindi Cheng

2013 CO



Black's up an exchange, should she trade the opponent's most dangerous piece with ...♙c5+ or try something else?

### 24...♙c5+??

This misunderstands Black's advantage: with Queens off White's ♔ is safe and can consolidate in the center.

♘24...♖a8-+.

♘24...♖c2-+:

25.♙c3? ♖xc3-+;

25.♖f1 ♙d7-+;

25.♙e7 ♙d7-+.

♘24...♖d7-+ 25.♙e3 ♙a5 26.a4 ♖c2 27.♙c3 ♖xc3!-+.

### 25.♙xc5 ♖xc5 26.♔f2□=

As before: 26.♙c3? ♖xc3

27.dxc3 e3□-+;

26.♖xe4 ♖c2 27.♙c3 ♖xc3

28.dxc3 d2-+.

### 26...♖c2 27.♙c3

A rare position here where ...♖xc3 doesn't win now that the white ♔ is close.

27...♖xa2 28.♖xe4 ♖a3

29.♖b4!

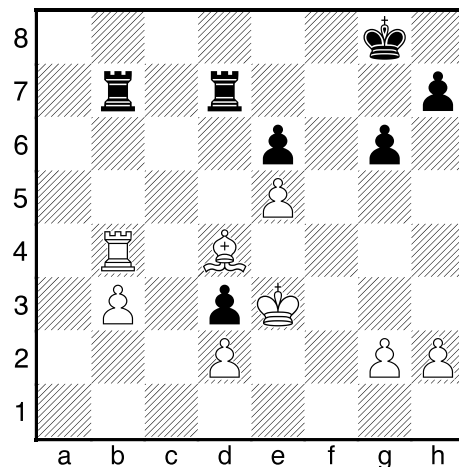
29.b4?? ♖xc3-+.

### 29...♖d7 30.♔e3 ♖aa7

31.♙d4?!

31.♖c4 or ♖b8+ then b3-b4 and it's hard to believe White can be beaten.

### 31...♖ab7



### 32.♖xb7?

White has less counterplay without the ♖, and has to hope for a fortress.

32.♖c4 ♖xb3 33.♖c8+ ♔f7

34.♖h8 Black has to give up either the h pawn or the e pawn, since trying to save them both gives White a perpetual: 34...h5 (34...♔g7 35.♖e8 ♖b4 36.♙c5 ♖c4 37.♙d6 with good drawing chances.) 35.♖h7+ ♔e8 36.♖h8+

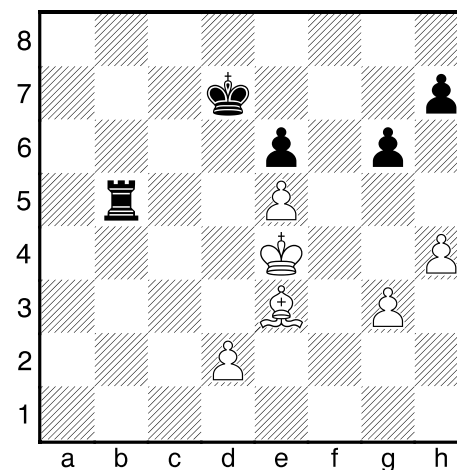
♔e7 37.♙c5+ ♔f7 38.♖h7+

White has a perpetual.

32...♖xb7-+ 33.♔xd3 ♖xb3+

34.♔e4 ♔f7 35.♙e3 ♖b5

36.h4 ♔e7 37.g3 ♔d7



### 38.♙d4

This is a tough position.

Here's one neat line: 38.♔f4 ♔c6? 39.♔g5!! Δ♖xe5+ 40.♔h6 ♖h5+ 41.♔g7= Now Black has to play accurately to draw! The threat of ♙g5 followed by g4 lets White win the kingside pawns.

38...♔c6 39.♙e3 ♖b1 40.♙f2

♖b4+ 41.d4 ♖b2 42.♙e3

♖b1 43.♙d2 ♖g1 44.♙f4 h5

45.♔f3 ♔d5 46.♙e3 ♖f1+

47.♔e2

47.♔g2 ♖f5-+ and the Black ♔ gets in.

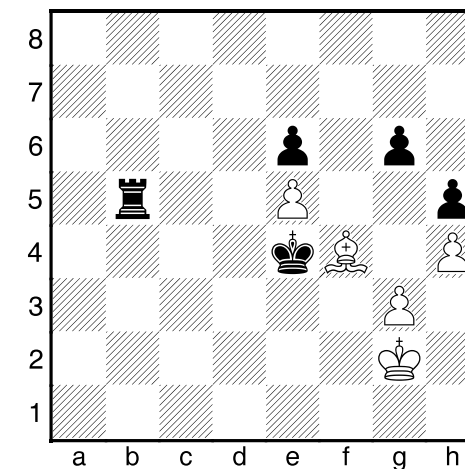
47...♖f7 48.♙f4 ♔xd4 49.♔f3 ♖b7 50.♔g2 ♔e4 51.♔h3 ♖b5

51...♖b2 will be zugzwang.

52.♙h6 ♖c2 53.♙g7 ♔f3 54.♙h6

♖e2 55.♙f4 ♖g2○.

### 52.♔g2



### 52...♖xe5!

Converts to a winning pawn ending. Black is over 2200, and should be expected to know how to win this; and White is over 2100 and should know that.

53.♙xe5 ♔xe5 54.♔f3 ♔f5

55.♔e3 ♔g4 56.♔f2 e5

57.♔g2 e4 58.♔f2 ♔h3

59.♔e3 ♔xg3 60.♔xe4

♔xh4 61.♔f3 g5 62.♔g2

♔g4 63.♔h2 ♔f3 64.♔h3

g4+ 65.♔h2 ♔f2 66.♔h1



♔g3 67.♔g1 ♕h3 68.♔h1 g3  
69.♔g1 g2 70.♔f2 ♕h2

0-1

(49)

Thavandiran, Shiyam

(2357)

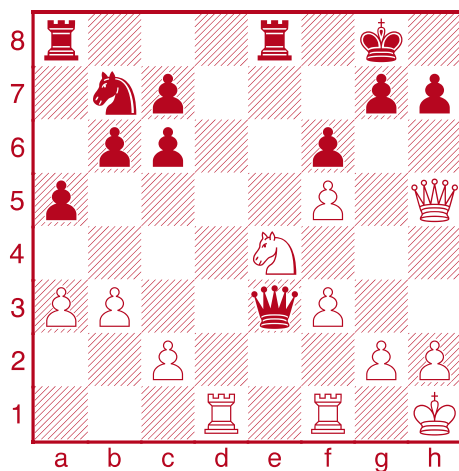
Chirila, Ioan Cristian (2520)

C85

2nd Washington International  
Rockville, MD (2.6), 06.08.2013

*Notes: Vladimir Pechenkin +  
editor*

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 a6  
4.♙a4... 24.♘e4



White is threatening ♖d1-d7.  
Should Black play: a) ...♖ad8, b)  
...♖ed8, c) ...♖f8.

24...♖ad8??

Another example in a notorious  
collection of players picking a  
wrong rook.

Granted, after ♖24...♖ed8  
25.♖de1! ♕d4 White has a  
pleasant position but there is no  
reason for Black to panic.  
♖24...♖f8 25.♖fe1 (25.♖d7  
♘c5∞) 25...♖ad8□=.

25.♖de1□+-

Exploiting the developed but  
exposed ♖e8.

25...♖xe4

Worth a try. The difference from  
the line above is easy to see:  
25...♕d4 or ...♕f4 26.♘xf6+ ♕xf6  
27.♖xe8+ ♖xe8 28.♕xe8+ with  
an extra exchange for White.

26.fxe4! ♕c3 27.e5!

White gives Black no time to  
reorganize and finishes the  
game quickly.

27...fxe5 28.f6 gxf6 29.♖e4  
♖f8 30.♖c4 ♕e3 31.♖g4+  
♔h8 32.♖h4

1-0

(50)

Knox, Christopher (2074)

Qin, Zi Yi (Joey)

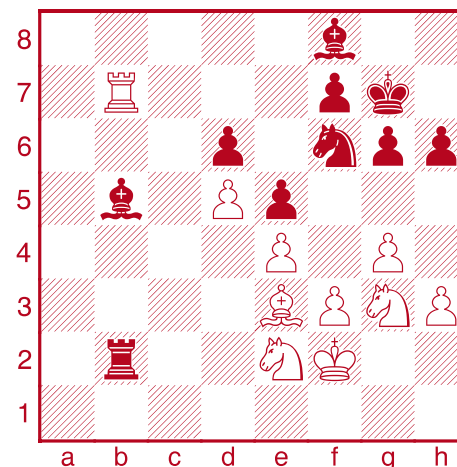
(2286)

E71

NAYCC U18 Toronto (6),

17.08.2013

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♙g7  
4.e4 d6... 38...♘f6



Can White win a pawn with  
♙xh6+?

39.♙xh6+??

This move seems to win a pawn,  
but it loses because of the  
double-attack it allows on move  
43; my guess is that White just  
didn't calculate far enough.  
♖39.♙c1! ♖b3 40.♘f1!±.

39...♔xh6□-+ 40.♖xf7 ♙g7!

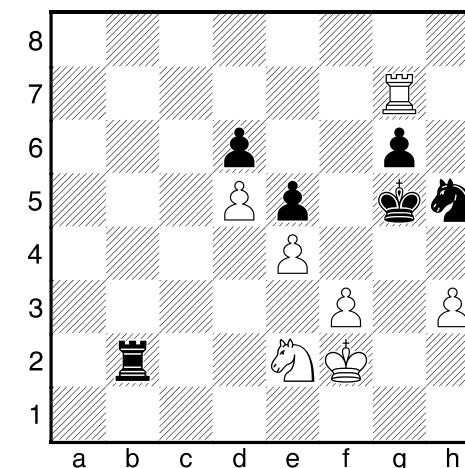
40...♘d7? saves the piece,  
but lets White back into the  
game. 41.h4□ ♙g7□ (41...g5?  
42.h5+-) 42.g5+ ♔h7 43.h5 gxh5  
(43...♔g8 44.hxg6∞) 44.♘f5□  
(44.♘h5?? ♖xe2+ 45.♔g3 ♔g6-  
+) 44...♖xe2+ 45.♔g3∞.

41.g5+

41.h4 ♔h7-+.

41...♔xg5 42.♖xg7 ♙xe2!

43.♘xe2 ♘h5!-+



Here's the double attack: the  
♘h5 threatens the ♖g7 and  
threatens ...♘f4 winning the  
pinned ♘e2; White has no good  
defence.

44.h4+!? ♔f6!-+



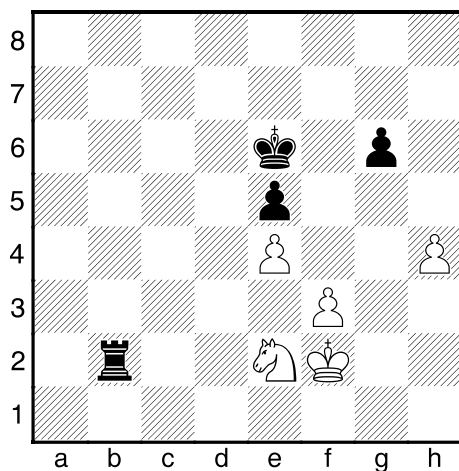


44...♔xh4?? 45.♖h7= and pinning one ♘ saves the other.

45.♖d7 ♘f4 46.♖xd6+ ♔e7  
47.♖e6+ ♘xe6?

♠47...♔f7 wins the ♘ and doesn't drop the e5 pawn because 48.♖xe5 ♘d3+-+ wins the ♖.

48.dxe6 ♔xe6



49.f4??

♠49.♔e3 gives White some real drawing chances.

49...♖b3♠-+ 50.♔g2 ♖e3  
51.♔f2 ♖xe4 52.♔f3 ♖xe2  
53.♔xe2 exf4 54.♔f2 ♔e5  
55.♔e2 ♔e4 56.♔f2 f3  
57.♔f1 ♔f4 58.♔g1 ♔g3  
0-1

(51)

**Pace, Christopher (2126)**  
**Jung, Hans (2292)**

A00

*KW Labour Day Open 2013*  
*Kitchener (5), 03.09.2013*

1.e4 d5 2.♘c3?! d4 3.♘ce2  
e5 4.d3 ♕d6 5.g3 g5!?

Black takes radical steps to discourage a typical King's Indian (reversed) break with the f-pawn. 5...h5!? is similar: anticipating f4 and preparing to soften White's kingside.

6.♕g2 c5 7.h3 h6 8.♘f3 ♕e6  
9.♘d2 ♘c6 10.♘c4 ♕c7  
11.a4 b6 12.h4 g4∞ 13.h5

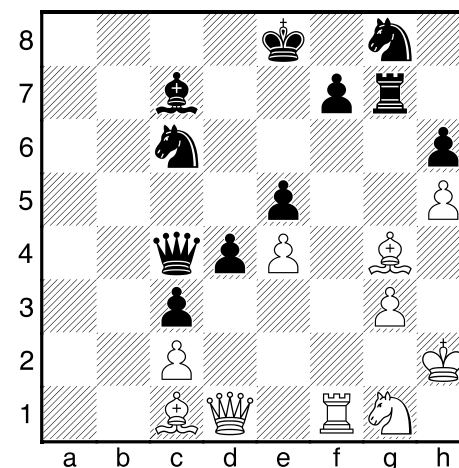
I don't understand this move; it's not as though White can surround and win the ♖g4; maybe White hopes to tie Black to defending h6?

13...a6 14.♕d2 b5 15.axb5  
axb5 16.♖xa8 ♖xa8 17.♘a3  
♖a6 18.f4 gxf3 19.♕xf3 c4!  
20.0-0 c3! 21.♕c1 b4

21...♕d6! (*threatening ...cxb2*)  
22.♘b1 b4!-+ and although

White's ♘b1 won't be playing any more in this game, at least it's already set up for the next one.

22.♘c4 ♕xc4 23.dxc4 ♖xc4  
24.bxc3 bxc3 25.♕g4 ♖h7  
26.♔h2 ♖g7 27.♘g1



In principle, Black ought to be better since he has a space advantage, but it's a difficult position to come up with a plan. Neither side has any weak points which can be attacked more than they can be defended, and I don't see any feasible pawn breaks. Maybe Black can lock the kingside with ...f6 and swing his ♖ to the a-file!?

27...♖xg4!?

I think this move could fairly be

given any of the usual chess punctuation marks: !!, !, !?, ?!, ?, or ??.

It *looks* really strong: Houdini rates it as winning for Black... until it gets up to 20 ply, when it rates it as ♖. But as far as I can tell (not very far, even with computers) White has just enough activity to stay afloat. The down-side is practical: while both sides have to play really precisely to keep the balance, White's moves (♖ checks and forks) are easier to choose than Black's.

**2023:** Ditto. SF15 initially rates it winning, but quickly drops to 0.00.

28.♖xg4 ♖xf1 29.♖xg8+  
♔e7

29...♔d7 30.♖g4+♠∞ (30.♕xh6?  
♖f2+ 31.♔h3 (31.♔h1  
d3-+)) 31...♕d6!-+ 30...f5!?  
(30...♔d6?? 31.♕a3+♠-+;  
30...♔d8 31.♖g8+♠=) 31.exf5∞.

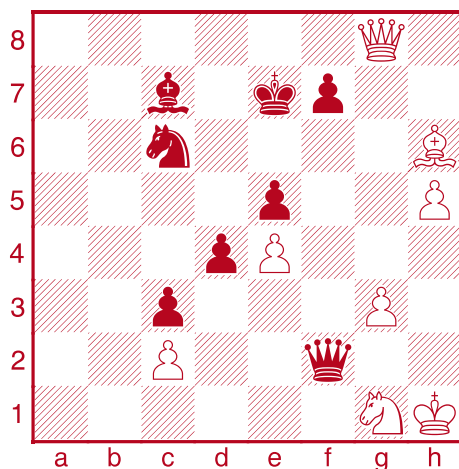
30.♕xh6

30.♖c8! ♖xc1 31.♖xc7+ ♔f8  
32.♖xc6 ♖xc2+ 33.♔h3= Black can try to promote, but can't escape White's checks.



**30...♖f2+**

30...♖b6! allows White a lot of checks, but no good way to deal with ...d3.

**31.♔h1**

What happens on ...♖xc2? Does Black have better?

What follows below is mostly a lot of computer-checked variations with not many words. Personally, I prefer words: a concise verbal summary of the essence of a position is much easier to understand than a mass of variations. If there is a verbal explanation that adequately conveys the truth about this complex position, unfortunately, I haven't found it.

**31...♖xc2?**

The game shows why ...♖xc2 loses.

**A)** 31...d3?! 32.♖c8♠ ♕d8 33.♖b7+♠ (33.♖xc6? d2=) 33...♔d6 34.♕f8+ ♕e7 (34...♖e7 35.♖d5+ ♔c7 36.♖xd3+-) 35.♕xe7+ ♖xe7 36.♖a6+ ♔c7 37.♖xd3 (37.♖c4+!? may be an improvement: trying to force the Black ♔ further away.) 37...♖d2 38.♖e2 ♖xd3 39.cxd3 c2± White is close to winning, but it's a ♖ ending with a passed rook pawn.... :(;

**B)** 31...♖d8 32.♕f8+ ♔d7 33.♖g4+ ♖e6 34.h6♠ d3 35.h7 dxc2 36.♕a3 ♕b6 37.♖e2 ♖f1+ 38.♔h2 ♖f2+ 39.♔h3 ♖f1+ 40.♔h4?? (40.♔h2=) 40...♖h1+ 41.♖h3 ♕d8+ 42.♔g4 ♖xe4+-+;

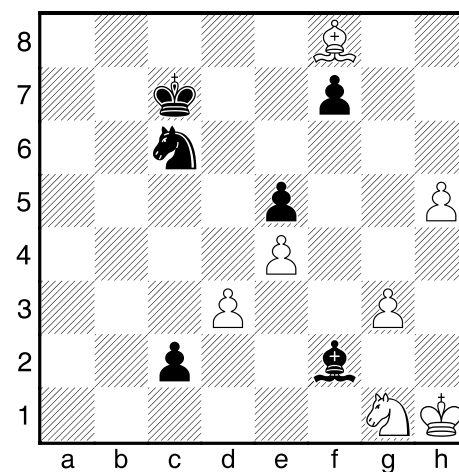
**C)** 31...♕b6! keeps the ♖f7 defended while making space for the ♔e7 to get out of the crossfire, and threatens ...d3. 32.♕f8+ ♔d7 33.♖g4+:

**C1)** 33...♔e8 this cute move tries to avoid the tricky endgame lines below, but it doesn't seem

to work: 34.♖g8 (34.h6 d3 35.♖h3 ♖e1+ 36.♔g2 ♖e2+ 37.♖xe2 dxe2-) 34...♖e7!? 35.♕xe7+ ♔xe7 36.♖b8♠ (36.♖g5+ ♖f6-) 36...♖f6 (36...d3? 37.♖xe5+=) 37.♔g2 d3 38.cxd3 ♖f2+ 39.♔h3 ♕d4 (39...♖f1+ 40.♔g4♠=; 39...♖xg1 40.♖xe5+=) 40.♖c7+ ♔e6 (40...♔f8?? 41.♖d8+ ♔g7 42.♖g5+ ♔f8 43.h6+-) 41.♖c6+=;

**C2)** 33...♔c7 34.♖f3! d3 35.♖xf2 ♕xf2 36.cxd3 c2

*Analysis Diagram*



**a)** 37.♕a3? White needs the ♕ to support ♖h5-h6. 37...♕e3 38.♖e2 ♖d4 39.♖c1 ♔d7 40.♔g2 ♔e6 (or 40...♕h6 41.♔f1 ♔e6 42.♔e1 ♔f6+) 41.♔f1 ♕xc1 42.♕xc1 ♖b3+- the Black ♔ is inside the

square of the ♖.

**b)** 37.♖e2! ♕e3 38.h6= ♖d4 39.h7♠ ♖xe2 40.♕a3♠ ♕c1 41.h8♖♠ ♕xa3 42.♖xe5+=.

**C3)** 33...♔d8:

**C31)** 34.♖d1 d3 35.♖xd3+ ♔e8 36.♖h3 ♖e1+ 37.♔g2 ♖d2+-+;

**C32)** 34.♖g5+ ♔e8 (34...f6) 35.♖g8 ♔d7 36.♖g4+ ♔c7 37.♖f3! =;

**C33)** 34.♖f3 d3 35.♖xf2 ♕xf2 36.cxd3 c2:

**C33a)** 37.♕a3 ♕e3 38.♖e2 ♖d4+-;

**C33b)** 37.♕h6 ♖d4 38.♕c1 ♔e7!+- (38...♕xg3? 39.h6 ♕h4 40.h7 ♕f6 41.♕g5!! =) ;

**C33c)** 37.♖e2 ♖d4 38.♖c1 ♕e3 39.h6 ♕xc1 40.h7 ♕g5♠ (40...♕e3?? 41.♕a3+-) 41.h8♖ c1♖+-+ 42.♔g2 ♖c2+ 43.♔h3 ♖xd3 44.♕h6+ ♔d7 45.♕xg5 ♖f1+ 46.♔g4 ♖f3+ 47.♔h3 ♖h1+-+.

**d)** 34...♖xf3+ (simpler than the

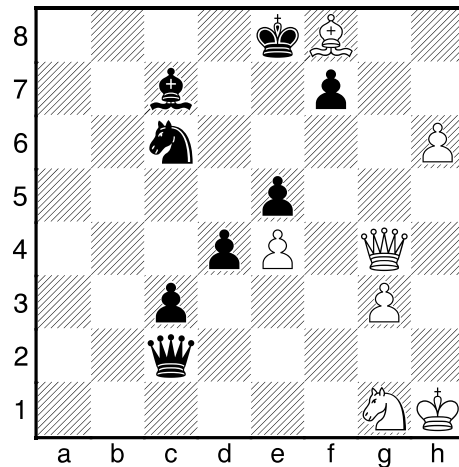




lines above, possibly because pulling the ♖ to f3 makes harder for White to fight for c1.) 35. ♖xf3 ♖e8! 36. ♗g7 (36. ♗a3 d3! 37. cxd3 ♗e3 38. g4 f6!-) 36...d3! 37. cxd3 c2 38. ♗h6 ♗a5 39. ♖g2 (39. ♗c1 ♗c3 40. ♖g2 ♖b4-+) 39...♗c3 40. ♖f2 ♗b2 41. ♖e2 c1♗ 42. ♗xc1 ♗xc1-+.

**32. ♗f8+ ♖+ ♖d7**  
32...♖e6? 33. ♗g4++-.

**33. ♗g4+ ♖ ♖e8 34. h6 ♖**



**34... ♖xf8**

If both sides race to promote, Black gets mated: 34...d3 35. h7 d2 36. h8♗ d1♗ 37. ♗c5#.

34...♗d8 is tougher, but still inadequate:

35. h7? ♗f6 ♖ 36. ♗g7 ♗xg7 37. ♗xg7 ♗xe4+ 38. ♖h2 ♗c2+ ♖ 39. ♖h3 ♗f5+ 40. ♖h4 ♖d7 41. h8♗ ♖e7! ... ♖g6+ will cost White a ♗: not with 42. ♗xe5?? ♖g6#, but after 42. ♖f3! = Black's ♖ is too exposed to win;

35. ♗c5! ♗b1 36. ♗g8+ ♖d7 37. ♗xf7+ ♖c8 38. ♗e6+ ♖b7 39. ♗d7+ ♗c7 40. h7 ♖+ (40. ♗d6? ♗xe4+=) 40...♗xe4+ 41. ♖h2 c2 42. h8♗ c1♗ 43. ♗hc8#.

**35. h7 ♖ d3 36. h8♗+**

White has faster ways to win, but he gets the job done.

**36... ♖e7 37. ♗g5+ ♖d7**  
**38. ♗f5+ ♖d6 39. ♗f8+ ♖e7**  
**40. ♗f6+ ♖c5 41. ♗8xe7+ ♖d4**  
**42. ♗b4+ ♖e3 43. ♗g5+ ♖f2**  
**44. ♗c5+**

1-0

**2015 Zonal**

*FM Hans Jung*  
*FM Andrew Peredun*  
*IM Richard Wang*

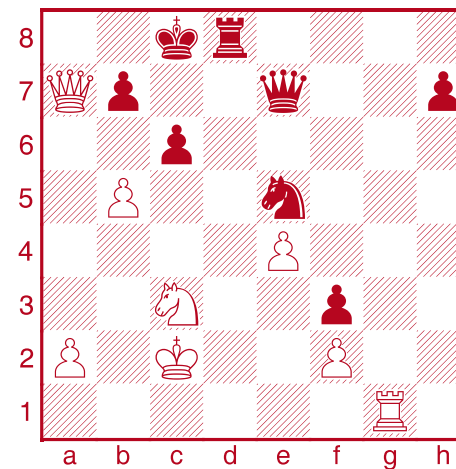


**(52)**  
**Kazmaier, Daniel (2292)**  
**Wang, Richard (2492)**

D23

*2013 Battle of Alberta Red Deer (2.2), 07.09.2013*

**1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. ♖f3 ♖f6**  
**4. ♗b3 dxc4 ... 28. b5**



How should Black defend: ...♗b4, ...♗c7, or something else?

**28... ♗c7?**

This protects against mates, but leaves Black so tied up that White can win material and create new threats before Black can untangle.

28...♗b4? 29. ♖g7 ♖d2+ (29...♖d7 leaves Black with no counterplay, so simply 30. bxc6+-) 30. ♖xd2 ♗b2+ 31. ♖d1 ♖+;

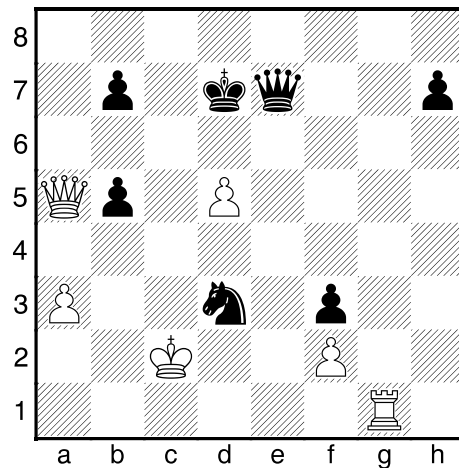
28...♖c7?! Not the best, but there is no clear cut refutation. It gets out of mates, but walking the ♖ into the center leaves Black exposed and blocking the d-file stops counterplay: 29. b6+! ♖d6 30. ♖h1! (30. ♖d1+? wins

a pawn but concedes a perpetual 30...♖e6 31. ♖xd8 ♗xd8 32. ♗xb7 ♗d3+ 33. ♖b3 ♗c4+=) 30...♖g8 31. ♖h6+ ♖g6 32. ♖h5!+- or ♗a3+ is a computer line rated at +3. Material is equal, but Black is more and more tied down to defending.

28...♘d3□ to bring the ♘ to defend via b4. White can stop with 29.b6 ♘b4+ 30.♔b1 ♘a6□∞, but White has a more interesting try which forces Black to prove he can calculate:

29.a3 cxb5□ 30.♞a8+! (30.♞d1 or ♘xb5 30...♞c5= forces off ♞s.) 30...♔c7 31.♘d5+ ♞xd5□ 32.♞a5+ (to block checks from e2) 32...♔d7□ 33.exd5

*Analysis Diagram*



33...♞e2+ 34.♞d2 ♘xf2± with an ending Black might struggle to hold.

33...♞c5+!! 34.♔b1 (34.♔xd3 ♞xd5+□= Black has a perpetual, checking on the light squares even after the ♘f3 drops. An excellent example of how much

stronger a centralized ♞ is than major pieces on the edge of the board!) 34...♞xd5± White is nominally better, but the exposed ♔ and weak ♘f2 give Black excellent drawing chances.

**29.b6□+- ♞b8**

29...♞d6 30.♞d1+- ♘d3  
31.♞a8+! ♔d7 32.♞xd8+! ♔xd8  
33.♞xd3+-.

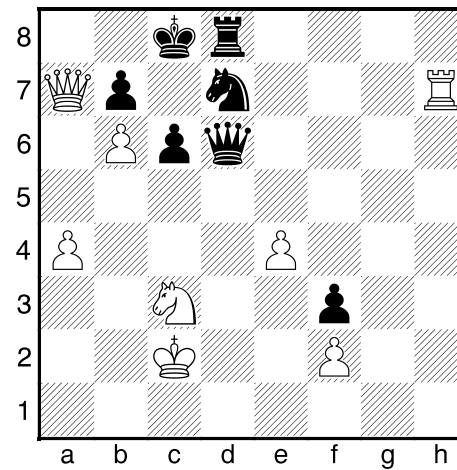
**30.♞g7!**

Threatens ♞c7+.

**30...♘d7**

30...♞xa7 31.bxa7 and the ♘ promotes.

**31.♞xh7 ♞d6 32.a4!**



Black has nothing on the d-file since ♘-moves allow mate on

b7, and there's no good defence to a5-a6.

**32...♞g8 33.a5!**

33.♞a8+ wins too 33...♞b8 (33...♘b8 34.♞xb7+ ♔d8 35.♞c7+-) 34.♞xb8+ ♘xb8 35.♞c7+ ♔d8 36.♞xb7 ♘d7 37.a5+-.

**33...♞g2**

33...♞b8 34.a6+-.

**34.♞h8+ ♘f8 35.♞xf8+**

1-0

(53)

**Ponomarchuk,  
Anastasia (1804)  
Tapp, Ashley (1520)**

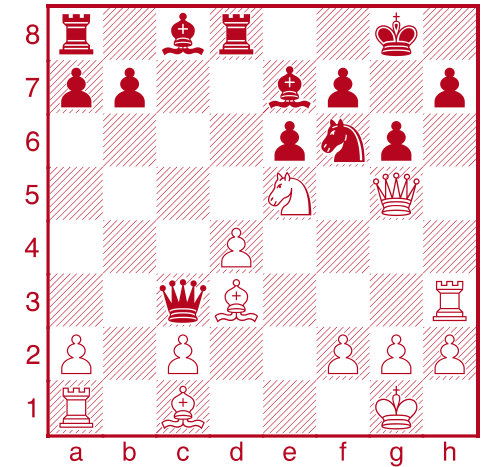
*B02*

*WYCC U14g Durban (8.36),  
24.12.2013*

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♘f6  
4.exd5 ♘xd5 5.♘f3 ♘xc3  
6.bxc3 c5 7.♙d3 ♙e7 8.0-0  
0-0 9.♞e1 ♘d7 10.♘e5  
♘f6?! 11.♞e3 ♞c7 12.♞h3±  
g6! 13.♞d2 ♞d8 14.♞g5!?  
(14.♞f4!) 14...cxd4 15.cxd4??

♙15.♙f4 ♞xc3 16.♞b1+-.  
♙15.♙xg6!+- hxg6 16.♘xg6  
fxg6 (16...♘d5 17.♘xe7+  
♔f8 18.♞h8#) 17.♞xg6+ ♔f8  
18.♙h6#.

**15...♞c3!**



Which of the three results will it be?

**16.♙xg6??**

One move too late.

During the streaming post-mortem (see photo), the interviewer tried to convince Ashley that White would have a strong attack after: 16.♙e3? Ashley politely pointed out that she could win the ♞a1 with 16...♞xa1+ and although she didn't say so, Black would



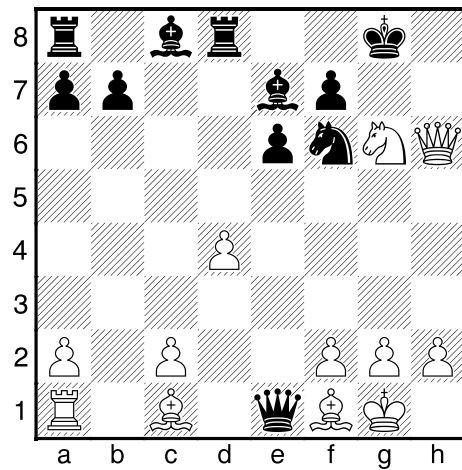


have to be awfully "creative" to find a move that doesn't win.

In the diagram White has only one move to stay in the game: 16. ♖xh7!!

♔e1+□ (16... ♔xa1??)

17. ♖xf7+- it might be useful to think of this as destroying Black's kingside pawns by sac'ing the ♖a1 rather than the ♖h3.) 17. ♕f1 ♔xh7 (17... ♖xh7? 18. ♔xe7 ♖f8 19. ♕h6+-) 18. ♔h6+ (18. ♖xf7? ♔xf2+!! 19. ♔xf2 ♖e4+♣) 18... ♔g8 19. ♖xg6 now Black has to find a saving move, if there is one. *Analysis Diagram*



Not 19... ♖h7?? 20. ♖xe7+ ♔h8 21. ♕g5 ♔xa1 22. ♕f6#.



(54)  
Starr, Nava (2138)  
Hua, Eugene (1900)

C47

Guelph Pro-Am Guelph (4),  
26.01.2014

1.e4 e5 2. ♖f3 ♖c6 3. ♖c3  
♖f6 4.d4 exd4 5. ♖xd4 ♕b4  
6. ♖xc6 bxc6 7. ♕d3 d6  
7...d5 is the mainline, but  
Caruana plays ...d6 too.

8.0-0 h6 9.h3 0-0 10.f4 ♖e8  
11. ♔f3 ♕c5+ 12. ♔h2 ♔e7  
13. ♕d2 ♕d4 14. ♖ae1 ♖b8  
15.b3±

White is beautifully centralized  
and can push in the center and  
kingside whenever she likes.

15... ♕d7 16. ♖d1 ♖h7  
17. ♖e3 ♖f8 18. ♔h5 ♔f6  
19. ♖c4 ♔e7 20.c3 ♕b6  
21. ♖f3 ♖h7 22.e5 dxe5  
23.fxe5 ♔e6?! 24. ♖ef1  
or 24. ♖xb6! axb6 25. ♕c4  
immediately and Black can  
resign.

24... ♖f8 25. ♖xb6 cxb6

Black has two moves to survive.

The simplest is: 19... ♔xf2+!  
20. ♔xf2 ♖g4+ 21. ♔g1 ♖xh6  
22. ♖xe7+ ♔g7∞.

The other is: 19... fxe6! 20. ♔xg6+  
♔h8:

not 21. ♕h6? ♖g8□ 22. ♔xg8+  
♖xg8 23. ♖xe1 ♖xh6+-;

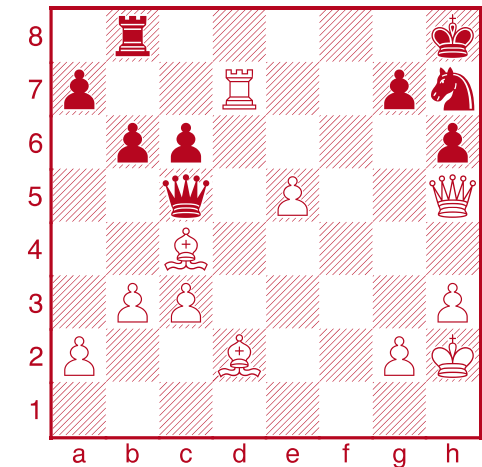
21. ♕g5!? ♔xa1□ 22. ♕xf6+= with  
a different perpetual;

or, 21. ♔h6+ is an immediate  
perpetual, since 21... ♖h7??  
(21... ♔g8=) 22. ♕f4□ threatening  
mate and the ♔, and there is no  
escape after 22... ♕f8 23. ♔g6□+-

16... ♔e1#

You don't see that every day.  
0-1

26. ♕c4 ♔e7 27. ♖xf7 ♖xf7  
28. ♖xf7 ♔c5 29. ♖xd7+ ♔h8



White is up a piece and has a  
crushing position. What are the  
quickest crushes?

30. ♔e2?!

30. ♕xh6! gxh6 31. ♔f5+- #2;  
30. ♔f7! ♔xe5+ 31. ♕f4+-.

30... ♖f8 31.b4 ♔f2 32. ♔xf2  
♖xf2 33. ♕e3 ♖f8 34. ♖xa7

White is up a piece and two  
pawns, and 200+ rating: why  
is Black playing this out? The  
remaining moves are not  
objectively bad, but resigning  
was better.

34...b5 35. ♕f7! ♖b8 36.e6  
♖f6 37. ♕d4 ♖d5 38.e7 ♖xe7  
39. ♖xe7 ♖f8 40. ♕b3 ♖d8



41.♖xg7 ♜xd4 42.♖g8+ ♔h7  
43.cxd4

Black either resigned or flagged.

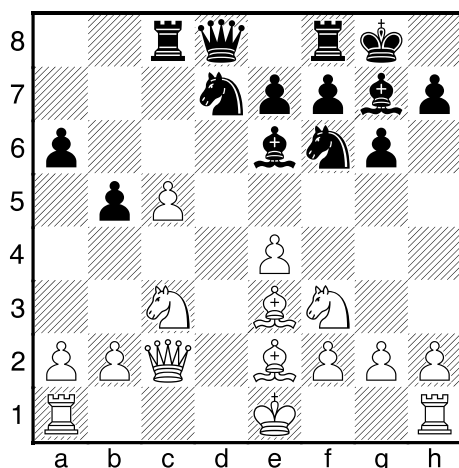
1-0

(55)  
**Sapozhnikov, Roman (2311)**  
**Cheng, Bindi (2425)**

D97

Toronto Crown op Toronto (6),  
20.04.2014

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3  
d5 4.♘f3 ♙g7 5.♖b3 dxc4  
6.♖xc4 0-0 7.e4 a6 8.♙e2  
b5 9.♖b3 c5 10.dxc5 ♙e6  
11.♖c2 ♘bd7 12.♙e3 ♜c8

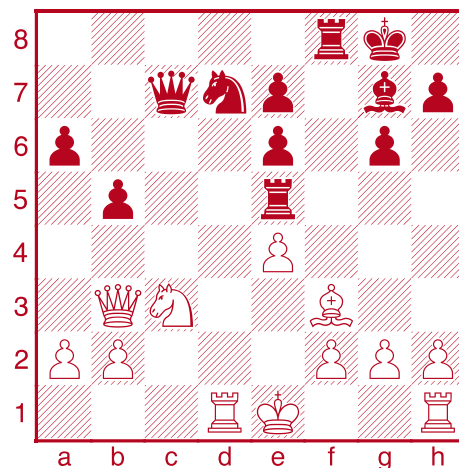


13.♘g5

♙13.♖d1 b4 14.♘d5 ♙xd5  
15.exd5 ♘xc5 16.♙xc5? (♙16.0-0  
♘ce4 17.♖d3± (½-½, 29)

**Matlakov, M (2698)–Svidler, P (2723) Moscow, 2020.** 16...♘d7  
17.0-0 ♘xc5 18.♖d2?! (18.♙c4±)  
18...♖b6 19.♘d4 ♘a4? 20.♘c6!∞  
(½-½, 50+) **Upper, J–Cheng, B Harbourfront Chess Fest, 2014.**

13...♘xc5 14.♙xc5 ♜xc5  
15.♘xe6 fxe6 16.♖b3 ♜e5±  
17.♙f3 ♘d7 18.♖d1 ♖c7



19.0-0??  
19.♙g4?? ♘c5 20.♖c2 ♘xe4-+.

19.a4? ♘c5 20.♖c2 ♘xa4-+.

19.h4!? ♘c5 20.♖c2 ♘xe4??  
(20...♘a4±) 21.♙xe4 b4  
22.♘e2±- unpinning the ♙e4 to  
defend the ♖c2.

19...♘c5!-+

≤19...♖xf3 is also winning, but  
allows the White ♖ to get back  
to defend enough to extend the  
game: 20.♖xd7 (20.gxf3 ♜g5+  
21.♔h1) 20...♖xd7 21.gxf3 ♜g5+  
22.♔h1 ♖d3 (22...♖d6 23.♖d1∞)  
23.♖xe6+? (23.♖d1 ♖c4±)  
23...♔f8□ 24.♖h3 ♜h5 25.♖g2  
♙e5 26.h3 ♜g5! 27.♖d1 ♖xg2  
28.♖xd3 ♖xf2-+.

20.♖b4

20.♖c2 ♖xf3! 21.gxf3 ♜g5+ as in  
the game. 22.♔h1 ♖f4 23.♖e2  
♙e5-+

20...♖xf3□ 21.gxf3 ♜g5+  
22.♔h1 ♖f4

0-1

(56)  
**Yuan, Yuanling (2257)**  
**Muzychuk, Mariya (2520)**

B15

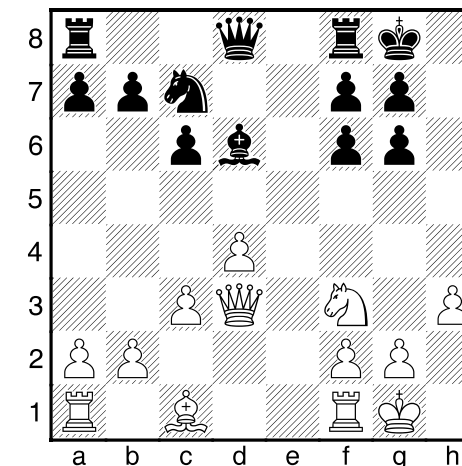
WWCCh 2015 Sochi (1.1),  
17.03.2015

**Notes: WIM Yuanling Yuan**

This was the very first time that

I represented Canada at the  
Women's World Championship  
and naturally I was very excited.  
However, being one of the lowest  
rated players meant that I had  
a really tough round 1 pairing –  
GM Mariya Muzychuk, 8th seed  
player in the entire tournament.  
Nonetheless, I was excited to  
play against a GM!

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 dxe4  
4.♘xe4 ♘f6 5.♘xf6+ exf6  
6.♘f3 ♙d6 7.♙d3 0-0 8.0-0  
♙g4 9.h3 ♙h5 10.♙e4 ♘a6  
11.c3 ♘c7 12.♖d3 ♙g6  
13.♙xg6 hxg6



Black has an interesting pawn  
structure here. She has a pair of  
double pawns next to each other,  
which can be quite deadly if they  
choose to advance concurrently



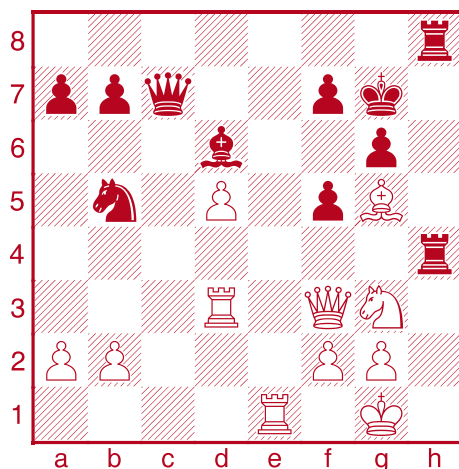




14.c4 ♖d7 15.♙e3 g5  
 16.♘d2 g4 17.hxg4 ♚xg4  
 18.♘e4 ♙e7 19.♘g3 g6  
 20.♚e4 ♚d7 21.♞ad1 ♔g7  
 22.d5 cxd5 23.cxd5 ♘b5  
 24.♚f3 ♞h8 25.♘e4 f5  
 26.♘g3 ♞h4 27.♙f4 ♞ah8  
 28.♞fe1 ♙d6 29.♙g5 ♞g4  
 30.♙c1 ♚c7 31.♞d3?

I remember that at this point in the game I was already scrambling for time.

31...♞gh4 32.♙g5



How should Black pile up the pressure: ...♞g4, ...♞h2, other?

32...♞g4??

Black has so many pieces pointed at White's ♔ that there is more than one way to finish the attack:

♠32...♞h2! making the ♔ safe and renewing the threat of ...♙xg3 then ...♞h1+. 33.a4 ♙xg3 34.fxg3 ♞h1+ 35.♔f2 ♞xe1 36.♔xe1 ♞h1+ 37.♔e2+ ♚c2+ 38.♙d2 ♘d6□-+ Δ ...♘c4.

♠32...♙xg3-+ 33.♙xh4 ♙xh4 34.d6 ♚c5 35.d7 ♘d4 36.♚e3 ♘e6-+ forces the ♚s off while keeping control over d8. (36...♙f6 also wins).

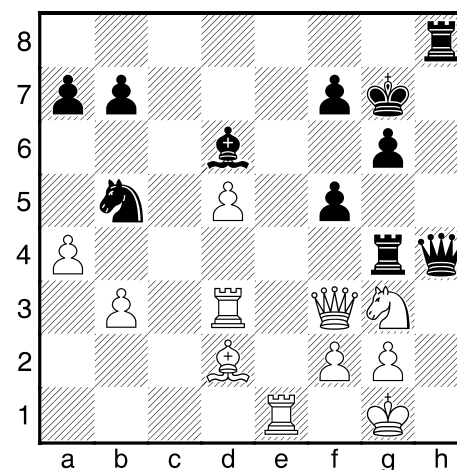
33.♙d2?

editor – 33.♘xf5+□ gxf5!  
 34.♚xf5 ♞xg5 35.♚xg5+ ♔f8  
 36.♞h3±.

33...♚d8?

33...♞gh4 Black should have continued to pursue the plan ...♙xg3 and ...♙h1-♙e1, ...♘d6.

34.b3 ♚h4 35.a4



35...♘c7?

Here we both had less than 2 minutes to make move 40.

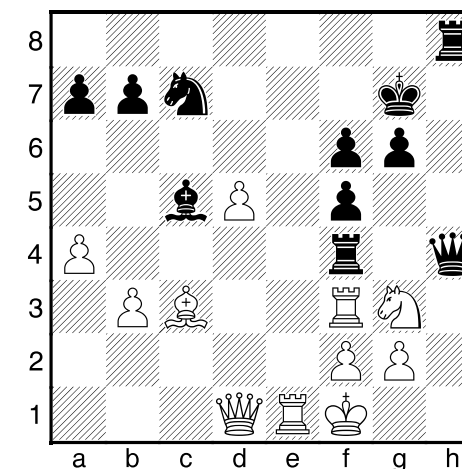
35...♙c5! 36.♔f1 ♘d4 White has to give up the exchange to stop the threats of ...♞h1 mating and ...♘xf3.

36.♙c3+ f6 37.♔f1 ♞f4

38.♚d1

38.♚e3!? prevents ...♙c5.

38...♙c5 39.♞f3



39...♚g4??

This was the fatal mistake.

♠39...♞d8 preventing the advance of the d-pawn while still maintaining pressure on White's kingside.

40.d6!



*editor* – Attacking the ♘, blocking Black's defence of e7, and freeing d5 for White's Q: there is no way for Black to save the game after this multipurpose move.

**40...♖xf3 41.♖e7+!**

41.gxf3?? ♕h3+ 42.♖e2 ♖e8+∞.

**41...♖f8**

*editor* – 41...♖h6 42.gxf3+ ♕h3+ 43.♖e2 ♖xf2 44.♖c1+ g5 45.♖xf6 Black is hanging everywhere.

**42.gxf3 ♕h3+ 43.♖e2 ♖g2**  
**44.♖e1 ♘e8 45.♖d5 ♘xd6**  
**46.♖e6**

Black resigned.

After 40.d6 there was already no cure for the lost position. Although there were many imperfections in my play, I was still very excited about my very first victory against a GM, and especially against the player who eventually went on to win the tournament and earn the title of the 2015 Women's World Champion!

– Yuanling Yuan

1-0

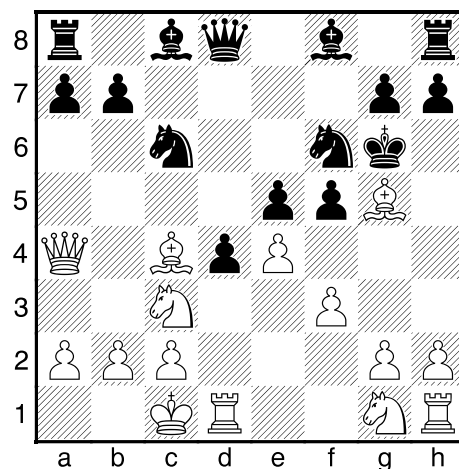
(57)

**Cummings, David H (2337)**  
**Lyell, Mark (2312)**

A80

4NCL England, 02.05.2015

**1.d4 f5 2.♘c3 ♘f6 3.♖g5 d5**  
**4.f3 c5 5.e4 cxd4 6.♖xd4**  
**♘c6 7.♖b5 ♖f7? 8.♖a4 d4**  
**9.0-0-0 e5 10.♖c4+ ♖g6**



**11.exf5+?**

This allows Black a tightrope-like defence.

△11.f4 or h4.; e.g. 11.h4 h6 (11...f4 closing 12.g3! opening 12...h6 13.gxf4 hxg5 14.f5+ ♖xf5 15.exf5+ ♖xf5 16.♖b3+-) 12.exf5+! ♖xf5 13.g4! hxg5 14.gxf5+ ♖xf5 15.♖f7! ♖e7

16.♖c4+-.

**11...♖xf5??**

Here's an example of how much chess engines have improved over the past 8 years. In 2015, Stockfish 6 rated this position as slightly better for White. In 2023, Stockfish 15 immediately rates White as clearly winning on multiple continuations. One result is that its identification of "the losing move" now comes at a much earlier point in the game than it did in 2015, another is that SF is much quicker at finding (and avoiding) losing variations.

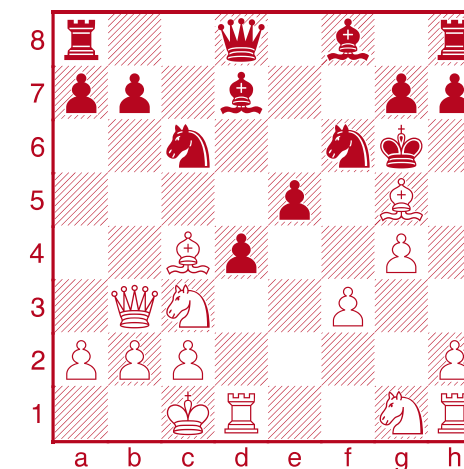
2023 versions of Stockfish and Leela both figure Black can survive after 11...♖xg5! 12.g4



♖h6 13.h4 ♖xf5□:

14.g5+ ♖g6 15.gxf6 gxf6∞;  
14.♖f7? g6-+; 14.gxf5? ♖a5+;  
14.♘h3= ♖d6 15.♘e2 ♘xg4!∞.

**12.g4 ♖d7 13.♖b3!**



White is winning, but calculate the mates on various defences like ...h6 and ...♖e8

**13...♖e8**

13...h6 14.♖d3+!  
e4 15.♘xe4 hxg5  
16.♘d6+ ♖h6  
17.♘f7#.

**IM David Cummings**  
**FM Michael Barron**

**Canadian Senior**  
**Kitchener 2014**







13...♔xg5 14.h4+ ♔h6 (14...♔f4  
15.♖ce2#; 14...♔g6 15.♙f7+ ♔h6  
16.g5#) 15.g5+ ♔h5 16.♙f7+ g6  
17.♖ge2 and ♖g3#.

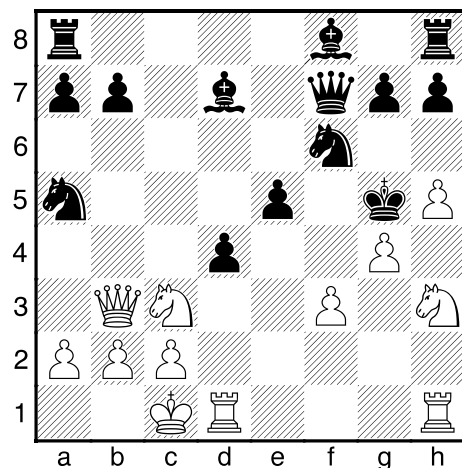
13...h5 14.♙d3+ e4 15.♖xe4 hxg4  
16.♖d6+ ♔xg5 17.f4+ forces mate.  
(17.♖f7+ also obviously wins.).

13...♖a5 14.♙f7+ ♔xg5 15.h4+  
♔h6 16.g5#.

### 14.h4

14.♙d3+ ♔xg5 15.h4+□+- also  
wins.

14...♖a5 15.♙f7+ ♔xf7 16.h5+  
♔xg5 17.♖h3+



### 17...♔h4

17...♔h6 18.g5+ ♔xh5 19.♔xf7+  
also mates quickly.

### 18.♖f2+ ♔g3

Now everything wins of course,  
but White has a nice mate in 3  
with:

19.♖e2+ ♔g2 20.♖dg1+  
♔xf2 21.♖h2#

One of my earliest chess  
books was *The King-Hunt* by  
W.H.Cozens. It was nice to get to  
play one in 19th century style!

- IM David Cummings

1-0

(58)

Shankland, Samuel L

(2656)

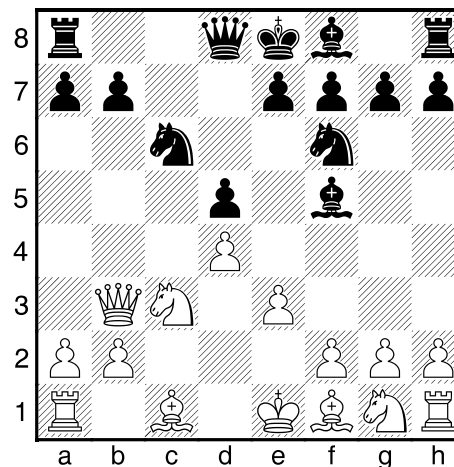
Matras Clement, Agnieszka

(2269)

D10

10th Edmonton International  
(9.3), 28.06.2015

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♖c3 ♖f6  
4.e3 ♙f5 5.cxd5 cxd5 6.♔b3  
♖c6!



### The Glasgow Kiss

This line — which gets its name  
from a Scottish euphemism  
for a head butt — was almost  
unknown before 2012, but by  
2014 Boris Avrukh had a whole  
chapter on it in his book "The  
Classical Slav". That chapter  
concludes:

"a refreshing change and  
provides a relatively untested  
theoretical background... which  
normally leads to an IQP  
structure where Black has a lead  
in development and numerous  
open lines to compensate for  
the missing pawn. Depending  
on how White continues, Black  
may find active play on either  
flank, sometimes linking from  
one to the other, for instance

with a rook switch from b6 to  
the kingside. The theory of the  
line is still in its infancy but,  
after a deep investigation which  
uncovered many new ideas for  
both sides, my conclusion is that  
Black's chances are perfectly  
adequate."

- Avrukh, *The Classical Slav*  
(Quality Chess, 2014).

### 7.♔xb7 ♙d7

**Update:** Between 2016-2023,  
there have been 161 games  
between players rated 2000+  
from this position; White scores  
57% but Elo -2.

### 8.♔b3 ♖b8 9.♔d1 e5!

### 10.dxe5 ♖xe5 11.♙e2

11.♖xd5?! ♖xd5 12.♔xd5 ♙b4+  
13.♙d2 ♙xd2+ 14.♔xd2 ♔f6  
15.♙e2 ♖xb2!#.

### 11...♙d6 12.♖f3 0-0 13.0-0

### ♖e8!N 14.♖d4 ♖b6 15.b3

### ♙b8 16.♙b2 ♖fg4! 17.h3

### ♖h6!∞ 18.♔d2?!

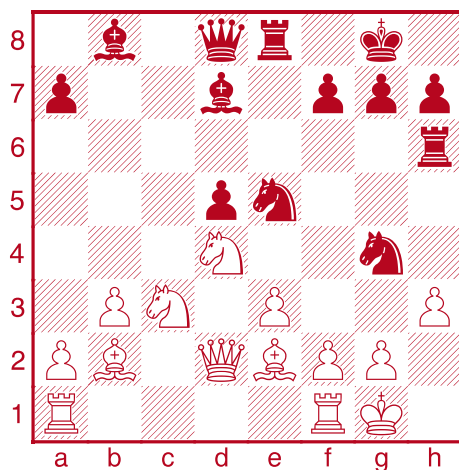
This natural move — connecting  
the ♖s and defending e3 —  
leaves Black with an over-  
abundance of attacking chances.  
18.hxg4? ♖xg4!-+ (18...♔h4?



# Chess Canada Tacticosaurus

19.f4□ is only a draw.) 19.♙xg4 ♙h2+! 20.♖h1 ♙f4+□ preventing f2-f4. (20...♙e5+ 21.♖g1 ♗h4? 22.f4□=) 21.♖g1 (21.♙h3 ♙xh3+ ) 21...♗h4+;

△18.♘xd5 ♘h2! 19.f4 (19.♞e1 ♙xh3♞) 19...♘xf1 20.♙xf1∞.



## 18...♞xh3?

A piece sac on h3 is a key part of any attack, but the ♞ is the wrong piece: Black needs it to attack on the h and g-files.

## a) 18...♗h4!?

Brings another piece into the attack. 19.♘xd5! ♘h2! 20.♘f4 (20.♞fd1? ♙xh3+; 20.♖xh2?? ♘f3+-) 20...♘xf1 21.♖xf1±

with continuing pressure in an explosive position; e.g. 21...♘g4 (21...g5? 22.♘f3! ♘xf3 23.♗xd7□+-) 22.g3 (22.♙xg4 ♙xg4 23.hxg4 ♙xf4∞) 22...♘xe3+□ 23.♗xe3 ♞xe3 24.gxh4 ♞e8± White has ♘♘ for ♞, but all three results are in play.

## b) 18...♘xe3!

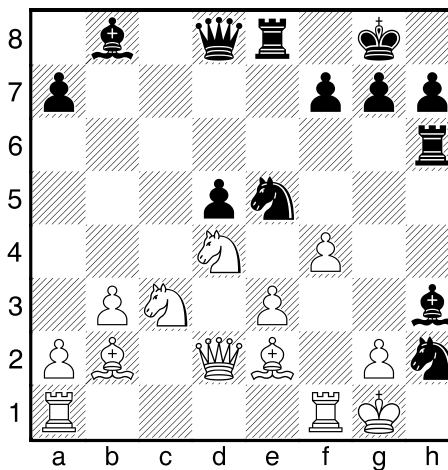
This is a shocking sac, given that White just added a defender on his previous move, but it is very strong, clearing the g-file for Black's majors:

19.♗xe3? ♘g6 20.♗d2 ♘f4 21.g3 (21.♙f3? ♘xh3+ 22.gxh3 ♗c7+-) 21...♘xh3+ 22.♖g2 ♘f4+ 23.♖g1 ♞g6 24.♙d3 ♗h4!!♞;

19.fxe3 ♙xh3 with two pawns and a very strong attack; e.g. 20.♞f2!∞ (20.gxh3?? ♞g6+ or ...♗g5+ 21.♖h1 ♗h4+-).

## c) 18...♘h2!!

Very weird, but best. Black threatens ...♙xh3, and the ♘ forks from f3 add critical tactics. 19.f4□ (19.♖xh2?? ♘f3+-+ exploiting 18.♗d2.; 19.♞fd1 ♙xh3! 20.gxh3 ♗g5+-) 19...♙xh3! *Analysis Diagram*



Black has three pieces hanging, but as Tal said, they can take only one at a time!

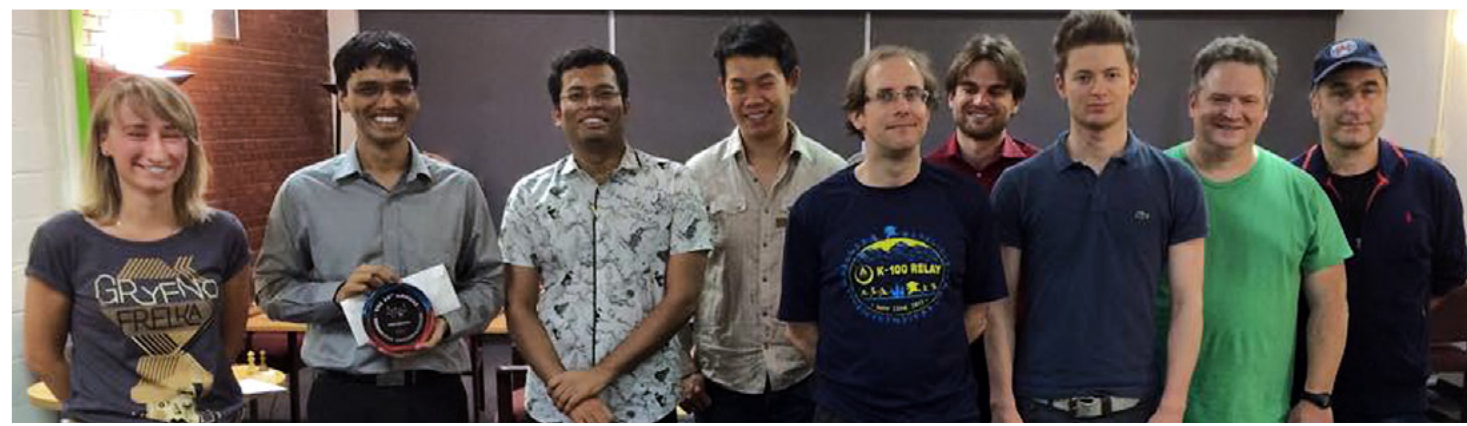
c1) 20.fxe5 ♙xg2! 21.♞f2 ♙h3+; c2) 20.♖xh2 ♙xg2+ 21.♖xg2 ♗h4 22.♞h1 ♞g6+-+;

c3) 20.gxh3□ ♗d7! (20...♗h4?? 21.♘f5+-) 21.♙g4 (21.f5? ♞xh3♞) 21...♘hxg4 (21...♘exg4 22.hxg4 ♘xf1 23.♞xf1 ♗xg4+ 24.♗g2 ♗h5∞) 22.hxg4 ♗xg4+ 23.♗g2∞ ♗xg2+ (23...♗d7!? 24.♘ce2□ ♞g6 25.♘g3∞) 24.♖xg2 ♞g6+= 25.♖h1 ♞h6+□ 26.♖g2 ♞g6+□. The ♖ can't escape checks without giving up a pawn and an exchange: 27.♖f2?! ♘g4+!♞ (27...♘d3+? 28.♖e2 ♘xb2 29.♞f2± the ♘b2 is stuck, and White gets the d5-pawn) 28.♖e2 ♘xe3♞ threatening both ♞s by ...♘xf1 and ...♘c2+.

## 19.gxh3 ♗h4

## Now that's a lineup!

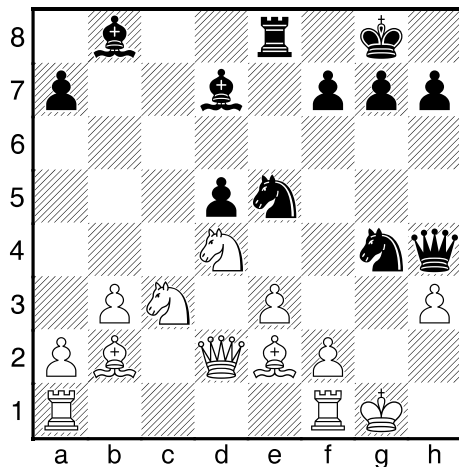
Agnieszka Matras-Clement, Pentala Harikrishna, Surya Ganguly, Wang Hao, Dale Haessel, Sam Shankland, Aman Hambleton, Rob Gardner, Vasyl Ivanchuk.







# Chess Canada Tacticosaurus



White must find a string of only moves to win the game, and he does.

**20. ♖xg4** ♘xg4

20... ♖xg4 21. f4 ♖+.

20... f5 21. ♘xf5 ♖xf5 22. ♖xd5++-

**21. f4!+-**

So the ♖ and ♖f3 defend the squares abandoned by the pawns.

**21... ♘xe3**

21... ♖xe3 22. ♖f3+-.

**22. ♖f3** ♖+ ♖xf4 **23. ♖f2** ♖

♖g5+ **24. ♖h1** ♖d6 **25. ♖e1!**

♘g4 **26. ♖xe8+** ♖xe8 **27. hxg4**

♖xg4 **28. ♘ce2** ♖d7 **29. ♖g3**

1-0

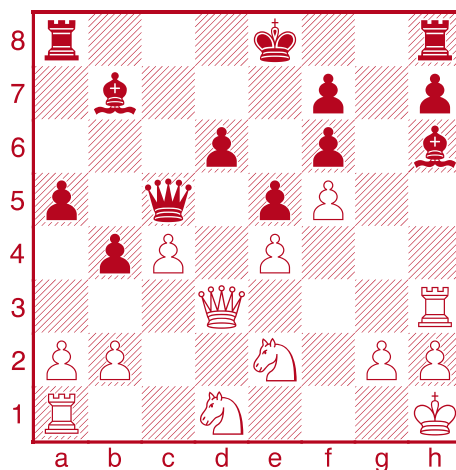
(59)

**Jacobson, Aaron (2214)**  
**Kovalyov, Anton (2613)**

B96

World op 43rd Arlington (1),  
01.07.2015

**1. e4 c5 2. ♘f3 d6 3. d4 cxd4**  
**4. ♘xd4 ♘f6 5. ♘c3 a6 6. ♖g5**  
**e6 7. f4 ♖c7 8. ♖xf6 gxf6**  
**9. ♖f3 b5 10. ♖d3 ♘d7 11. f5**  
**♘c5 12. 0-0 ♘xd3 13. ♖xd3**  
**b4 14. ♘d1 e5 15. ♘e2 a5**  
**16. c4 ♖c5+ 17. ♖h1 ♖h6**  
**18. ♖f3 ♖b7 19. ♖h3**



Black's ♖h6 is on a good diagonal, but if ... ♖g5 White might trap it with ♖h5 and h4. Where should the ♖ go?

**19... ♖g5! 20. ♖h5?**

Now the ♖ has no escape from White's pawns, but...

**20... ♖e7 21. h4?**

Consistent: White plays to trap the ♖.

**21... ♖f4!**

Makes sure White's h-pawn blocks the ♖'s retreat.

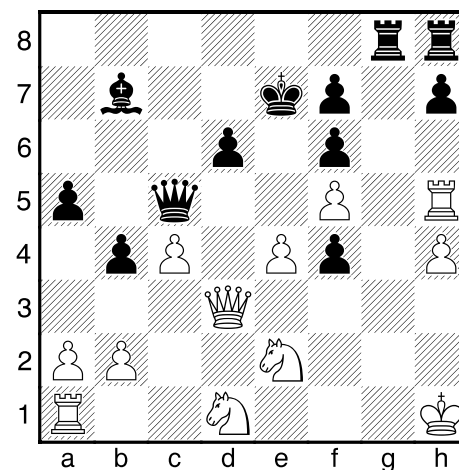
**22. g3 ♖ag8!+- 23. gxf4**

23. ♖h2 ♖xg3 (23... ♖g7+-)

24. ♘xg3 ♖g8+-.

**23... exf4** ♖+-

Preventing ♘e3-d5, and revealing Black's hilarious point:



Black "lost" a ♖, but White's ♖h5 is permanently trapped and his ♖ is a sitting duck. Black has to find a series of only moves to



win, and Kovalyov does play the rest perfectly.

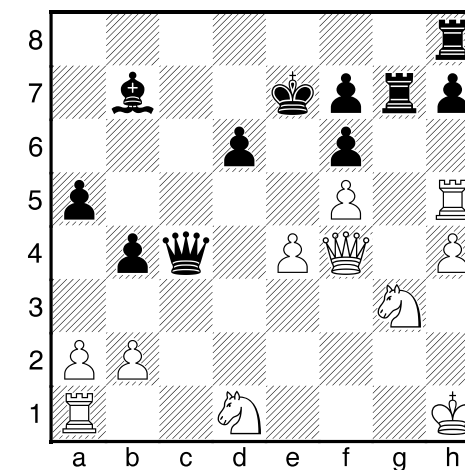
**24. ♖f3**

24. ♘xf4?? ♖g1#.

**24... ♖g7** ♖ **25. ♖xf4**

25. ♖f2 ♖xe4+ 26. ♖h2 ♖g2+-+.

**25... ♖xc4** ♖ **26. ♘g3**



**26... ♖xg3** ♖+-

26... ♖hg8? 27. ♖g5! ffg5 28. f6+∞.



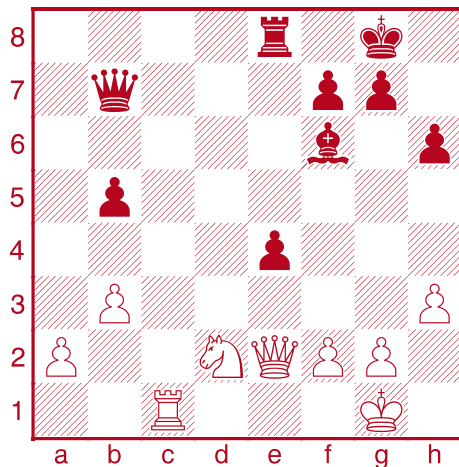
27. ♖xg3 ♕xe4+ 28. ♔g1  
♜g8! 29. ♖xg8 ♕e1+□  
30. ♔h2 ♕h1+ 31. ♔g3 ♖g2+  
and ... ♗f3#. A very nice finish by  
Kovalyov.

0-1

(60)  
**Chen, Richard (2117)**  
**Shevchenko, Kirill (2359)**

B51  
*WYCC U14 Porto Carras (8),  
02.11.2015*

1.e4 c5 2. ♘f3 d6 3. ♗b5+  
♘d7 4.d4 cxd4 5. ♖xd4 a6  
... 27. ♘d2 ♜e8



Material is equal: Black's b and  
e-pawns are possible targets,

but the ♗ is better than the ♘  
which has no useful squares  
supported by pawns. Should  
White go ... ♜c5, hoping Black  
will go ...b4 to concede the c4  
square, or should White try  
something else?

28. ♜c5?

□28. ♘f1=.

28... ♗d4?

28...e3!! This pseudo-pawn sac  
turns the game around.

a) 29. ♜xb5?? exf2+ 30. ♔f1  
(30. ♖xf2 drops the ♜b5.)  
30... ♜xe2 31. ♜xb7 ♜xd2-+;

b) 29. fxe3? ♗d4□-+ this is the  
main tactical point of ...e3. It's  
not hard to find... if you already  
know that ...e3 is a good move.  
30. ♜xb5 ♜xe3□ 31. ♖c4 ♜e2+  
32. ♖xd4 ♖xg2#;

c) 29. ♘f3! exf2+ 30. ♖xf2 b4⚡  
with the better minor piece, pawn  
structure, and king safety.

29. ♜xb5±

29. ♖xb5? ♖xb5 30. ♜xb5 e3!-+  
31. ♘f3 (31. ♘f1 e2-+; 31. fxe3  
♗xe3+ 32. ♔f1 ♗xd2-+) 31...e2

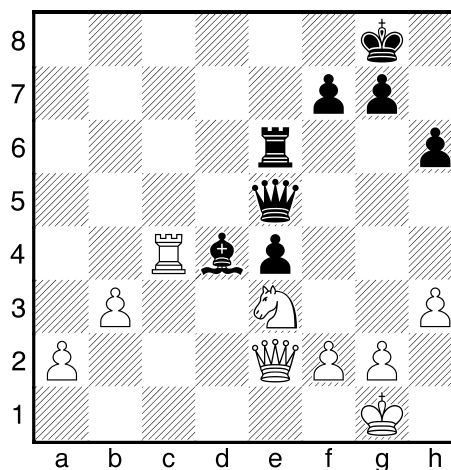


32. ♘e1 ♗c3-+.

29... ♖c6

29... ♖a6 30. ♘f1± and Black  
can't exploit the pin on the ♜b5  
without taking a tempo to avoid  
♜b8+.

30. ♘f1□ ♜e6 31. ♜b4 ♖d6  
32. ♜c4 ♖e5 33. ♘e3



33... ♗c5?

## Richard Chen 2015 WYCC

The general rule is not to trade  
pieces when you're down  
pawns, but here the trade would  
give Black very good drawing  
chances based on the exposed  
White ♔ in a 4 major piece  
ending: 33... ♗xe3! 34. fxe3  
(34. ♖xe3 ♖a1+ 35. ♔h2 ♖xa2±  
*is probably White's best try.*)  
34... ♖a1+ 35. ♔h2 (35. ♖f1 ♖xa2  
36. ♜c8+ ♔h7 37. ♖xf7 ♖xb3=)  
35... ♖e5+ 36. g3 ♜f6= with  
enough activity to draw.

34. b4 ♗d6 35. g3 h5 36. ♜c8+  
♗f8 37. ♖c4 h4 38. ♖c5!

The ♖ exchange leaves Black  
with no chance.

38... ♖xc5 39. bxc5 hxg3  
40. fxg3 ♜a6 41. c6 g6 42. c7  
♜c6 43. ♘d5 ♔g7 44. ♜d8

**Update 2023:** Black got his GM  
title two years after this game,  
and was ranked 51st in the world  
on the FIDE April 2023 list.

1-0

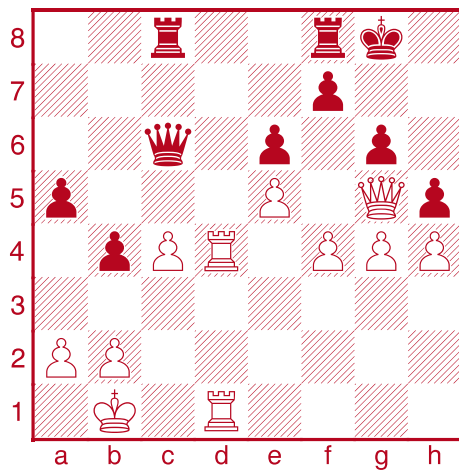


(61)  
**Sambuev, Bator (2599)**  
**Yao, Sammy (2083)**

B41

*Ottawa Winter Open (1),  
 08.01.2016*

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4  
 4.♘xd4 a6 5.f4... 30.g4



White has an extra pawn, control of the only open file and a kingside initiative. Is Black just lost?

30...♙f3□

No, Black is not lost; but this is the only move: defending h5 (of course) but also (amazingly) creating enough counterplay to equalize.

Other attempts show how White wins:  
 30...hxg4? 31.h5 and White has a winning attack.

30...♙g2? pins the g-pawn, but White rips open the kingside without it: 31.f5! exf5 32.e6!+- ♙g7 (32...♙h7 33.♙f6!+- and e7 wins.) 33.e7 ♖fe8 34.gxf5 ♙xg5 35.hxg5 — *FWIW: if White's ♙ was on c1 this position would be ♚, but the difference between ♙c1 and ♙b1 is +9* — 35...gxf5 (35...♖xe7 36.f6++-) 36.♖d8+-.

31.gxh5

31.f5!? exf5  
 32.gxh5 ♖xc4! is similar to the next note.

31...♙xh5?

The rook ending is hopeless, and Black had a miracle save with: 31...♖xc4□, which wins back the pawn and exposes White's king, whose pawn cover is as useless as Black's:

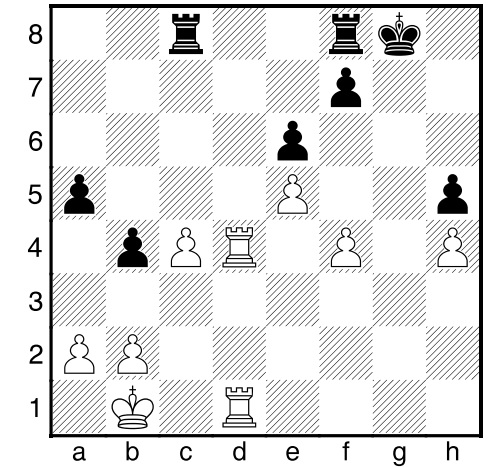
32.♖xc4 ♙xd1+

33.♖c1 ♙xh5=;

32.h6?? ♖xd4□ 33.♖xd4 ♙h7!+- e.g. 34.♙e7 ♙f1+ 35.♙c2 ♖c8+-;

32.hxg6 ♖xd4□ 33.gxf7+ ♙h7□ (33...♙xf7?? 34.♙f6+ ♙e8 35.♙xe6+□+-) 34.♖xd4 ♙f1+ 35.♙c2 ♖c8+ 36.♙d2□ (36.♙b3 ♙f3+-+ and ...♙c6+.) 36...♙f2+= with a perpetual.

32.♙xh5! gxh5

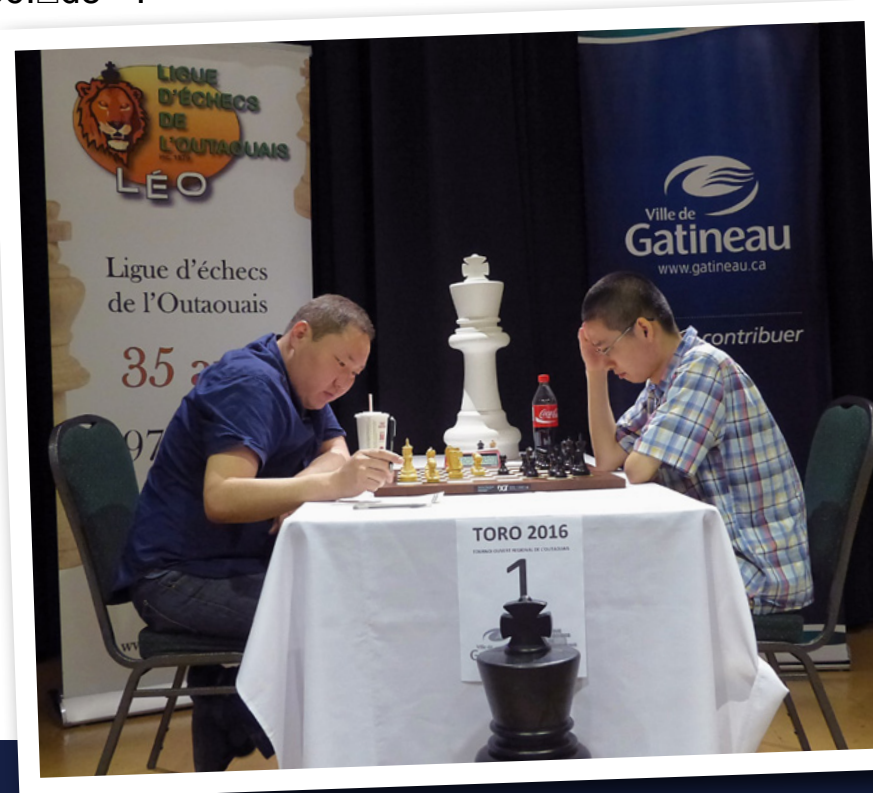


33.♖g1+!

Good technique. This will force Black to either leave his king cut off on the h-file, or (better?) exchange a pair of rooks, when White's centralized king and extra pawn give him a straightforward win.

33...♙h7 34.♙c2 ♖g8  
 35.♖xg8 ♙xg8 36.♙d3+-  
 ♙g7 37.♖d7 ♙g6  
 38.♙d4 a4 39.c5 b3  
 40.axb3 axb3 41.♙c4  
 f6 42.♖d6! ♙f5 43.exf6  
 ♙xf6 44.c6 ♙f5 45.♙c5  
 ♙xf4 46.♖xe6

1-0



*GM Bator Sambuev: Canada's winningest player 2011-2021.*

**Sambuev - Yao**  
**TORO 2016**

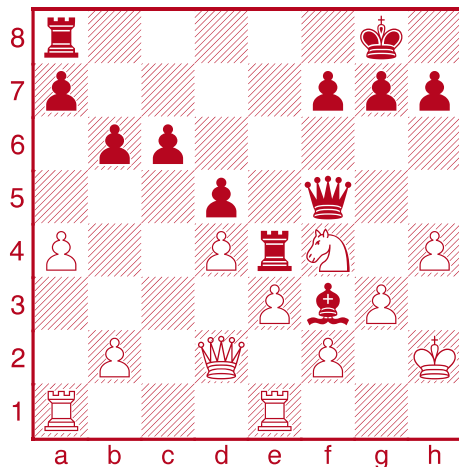


(62)  
**Marcone, Malcom**  
 (1846)  
**Saha, Ananda (1941)**

E18

*Mauricie op U2000 Trois-Rivieres (2), 19.03.2016*

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 ♘f6  
 4.g3 ♕e7 5.♕g2 0-0 6.0-0  
 b6 7.cxd5 exd5 8.♘c3  
 ♕b7 9.♖b3 ♘bd7 10.♘h4  
 ♖e8 11.♘f5 ♘f8 12.♕g5 c6  
 13.e3 ♘e6 14.♘xe7+ ♖xe7  
 15.♕xf6 ♖xf6 16.a4 ♘g5  
 17.♖d1 ♕c8 18.h4 ♘h3+  
 19.♕xh3 ♕xh3 20.♖e1 ♖f5  
 21.♘e2 ♕g4 22.♖d2 ♕f3  
 23.♘f4 ♖e4 24.♔h2



White's kingside is porous, can Black exploit it?

**24...g5!**

Forcing open the g or h-file and the attack crashes through.

FWIW, White's kingside is so compromised that Black could "waste" a move with ...♖ae8 first, before prying open the kingside.

Definitely not 24...♖xf4??

25.exf4♣+- keeping the h-file closed.

**25.hxg5**

25.♘h3 gxh4 26.♖g1 ♔h8♣.

**25...♖xg5**

25...♖xf4! also works, bringing the ♖ to the h-file via g4.

**26.♘h3 ♖h4!!**

...♖h5 also wins, but this is both prettier and more efficient. There's no defence to ...♖xh3 and mate on the h-file.

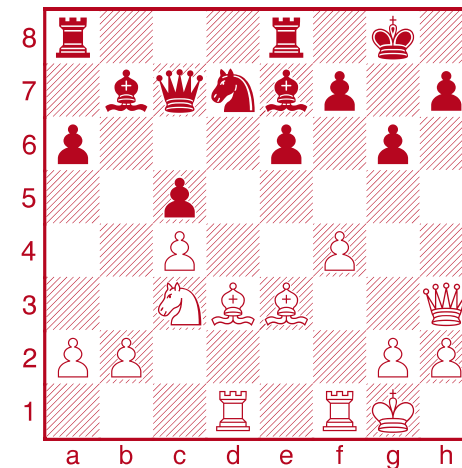
**0-1**

(63)  
**Fier, Alexandr (2620)**  
**Cao, Jason (2367)**

B49

*Grand Pacific Open 10th Victoria (5.1), 27.03.2016*

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4  
 4.♘xd4 ♘c6 5.♘c3 ♖c7  
 6.♕e3 a6 7.♕e2 ♘f6 8.0-0  
 ♕b4 9.♘a4 0-0 10.♘xc6  
 bxc6 11.c4 ♕e7 12.♕d3 c5  
 13.f4 d6 14.♖f3 ♕b7 15.♘c3  
 ♘d7 16.♖h3 ♖fe8 17.e5 g6  
 18.exd6 ♖xd6 19.♖ad1 ♖c7



**20.f5 exf5 21.♕xf5!?**

Objectively bad, but challenging to refute... and (as we'll see) challenging to follow up accurately too!

**21...♘f6?**

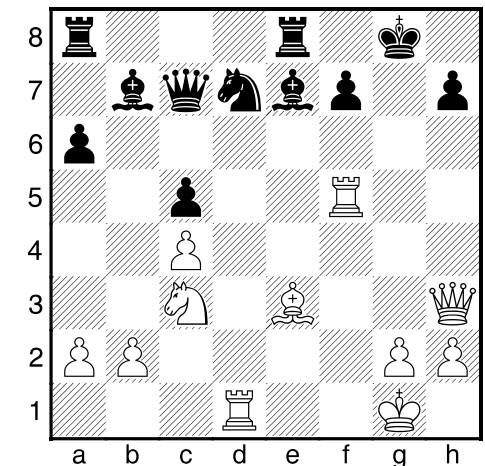
Black has to do something about the triple attack on d7.

If Black is going to decline, then 21...♘f8 was better since it puts the ♘ on a safer square, though White is a bit better after 22.♕e4 (22.♕d7!) 22...♕xe4 23.♘xe4±;

Black's best is to accept.

Of course, defending this OTB is no picnic, but that's life when you play the Sicilian and White sacs.

After 21...gxh4♣+- 22.♖xf5:  
*Analysis Diagram*



Black is up a piece, but the exposed king and potential tricks with ♖xd7 put the position up for grabs.







22...♙f6 23.♙f4□ (23. ♖xd7? gives up too much stuff after ♗xd7 24.♖g5+ ♙xg5 and 25...♙e3+.) 23...♗b6□ (23...♗c6? 24.♖xd7 ♗xd7 25.♖g5+ ♙xg5 26.♗xd7 ♙xf4 27.♗g4+!± with equal material, but Black's ♙ is exposed and his pawns are all isolated.) 24.♖xd7 ♖e1+□ forcing the ♙ onto f2 for counterplay with ...♗xb2 and so an exchange sac on f6 would leave the ♙f4 pinned on the f-file. 25.♙f2 ♖e6∞;

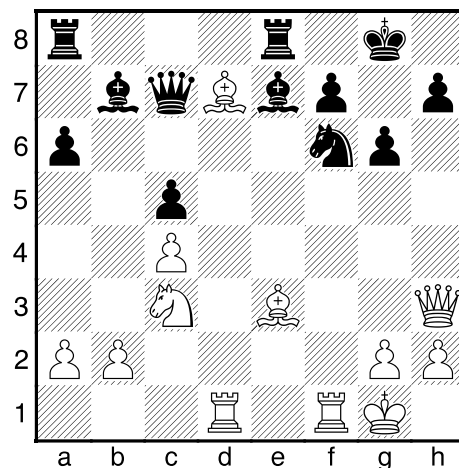
22...♘f8□ 23.♖df1 ♙c8 24.♘d5! ♗d6□ (24...♙xf5? 25.♗xf5 ♗d6□ 26.♗xf7+±) 25.♘xe7+ ♖xe7 26.♖g5+ ♘g6 27.♗f3 ♙b7 28.♗f2 27 White gets a second pawn (c5) for the piece and Black's remaining pawns are all isolated, but when Black's ♖a8 gets to a center file it should be clearly better for Black.

## 22.♙f4?

Both players go wrong in the complications.

The only winning move was: 22.♙d7□+- with complications where White's play on the f-file cashes in.

Analysis Diagram



Note: there are various improvements in White's attack in the following variations, but I have simplified them by choosing the thematic ♖xf7 lines.

a) 22...♘xd7 23.♖xd7 ♗c8 24.♖xf7! (24.♙g5! also wins.) 24...♙xf7 25.♗xh7+ ♙e6 26.♖d1!+- White is down a ♖ but Black's ♙ is going home in a box.

b) 22...♙c8 23.♖xf6! ♙xf6 24.♘d5 ♗d6 25.♗f3□+- unpinning both the ♙d7 and protecting the ♖d1 leaves Black hanging the ♖e8 and ♗d6 (to ♘xf6+).

c) 22...♖ed8 23.♙f4□ ♗b6 (23...♗a5 24.♙e5+-) 24.♘a4□ ♗b4 25.♙e5 ♘xd7 (25...♙g7 26.♗h4+-; 25...♘e4 26.♖xf7!+- again.) 26.♖xd7 ♗xa4 27.♖xf7!!+-.

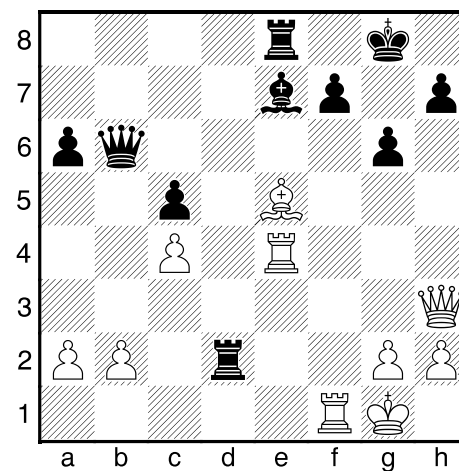
## 22...♗b6!= 23.♙e5

23.♙d7 doesn't win now because the ♙f4 blocks the f-file, so there's no ♖xf7, 23...♘xd7□ 24.♖xd7 ♙c8 (24...♙c6=) 25.♘d5□ ♙xd7=.

## 23...♖ad8

23...gxf5? 24.♗xf5+-.

24.♖de1 ♖d2! 25.♘e4 ♘xe4 26.♙xe4 ♙xe4 27.♖xe4



## 27...♖ed8

27...♗b7!? 28.♙c3 (28.♗e3?! ♖xg2+!) 28...♗xe4 29.♙xd2 ♙f8∞.

## 28.♙c3 ♖2d3□

28...♖2d7? 29.♖xf7□+-.

29.♗xd3!? ♖xd3 30.♖xe7 f5 30...♖xc3 31.bxc3 ♗b2 32.♖xf7 ♗xc3=.

31.♖fe1= ♗d6 32.♖7e6 ♗d7 33.♖e8+ ♙f7 34.♖h8 ♗a4 35.♖xh7+ ♙f8 36.♙f2 ♖d1 37.b3 ♗xa2+ 38.♖e2 ♗b1 39.♖h8+ ♙f7 40.♖h7+ ♙f8 41.♖h8+ ♙f7

1/2-1/2

(64)

Yu, Zong Yang (2342)  
Hirschberg, Valerian (2317)

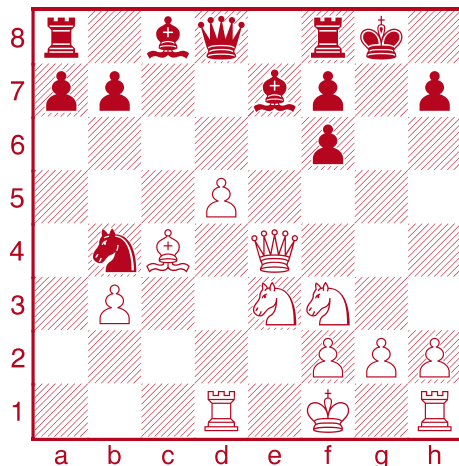
A34

McGill Open Montreal (5.1),  
01.05.2016

**Notes: Keith MacKinnon**

1.♘f3 c5 2.c4 ♘f6 3.♘c3 d5 4.cxd5 ♘xd5 5.e4 ♘b4 6.♙c4 ♘d3+ 7.♙e2 ♘f4+ 8.♙f1 ♘e6 9.b4 cxb4 10.♘d5 ♘c6 11.♙b2 ♘c5? 12.♗c2 (12.♙e5!) 12...e6

13.d4± b3 14.axb3 ♘d7  
15.♘e3 ♙e7 16.d5 exd5  
17.exd5 ♘b4 18.♙e4 ♘f6  
19.♙xf6 gxf6 20.♖d1 0-0



**21.d6!**

White has more than one way to win, but this is best: it adds to White's attacking potential by forcing Black's Bishop to d6, where it will be in trouble once a Knight gets to f5.

21.♘h4 does not quite have the same power due to 21...♙d6 22.♘hf5 ♖h8 and White is clearly better, but the win is further off.

Even 21.h4!? works, threatening ♘g5 to attack

h7; e.g. 21...♙d6 (21...♙d6 22.♘g5! f×g5 23.h×g5 h5 (23...♙g6 24.♙xe7+-) 24.♖xh5 ♙g6 25.♙h4+-) 22.♘f5 ♙xf5 23.♙xf5+- with threats of ♘g5 and/or ♖d4.

**21...♙xd6 22.♘h4**

And again, it is getting a Knight to f5 that matters.

**22...♙c7**

22...♙e7 just puts the ♙ into attack from ♘f5 after 23.♙f3+-.

**23.♘hf5 ♙f4 24.♘e7+□ ♖h8 25.♘7d5**

Winning a full piece. An exemplary display by FM Zong Yang Yu who was the deserving



FM Valerian Hirschberg

champion of the 2016 McGill Open!

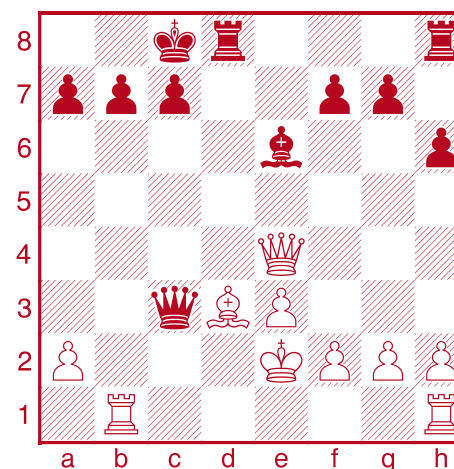
**1-0**

**(65)  
Haessel, Dale R (2234)  
Findlay, Ian (2257)**

**D38**

*11th Edmonton International (2.4), 19.06.2016*

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 d5  
4.♘c3 ♙b4 5.♙g5 h6 6.♙xf6  
♙xf6 7.♙b3 ♘c6 8.cxd5  
♘xd4! 9.♘xd4 ♙xd4  
10.♖d1 ♙xc3+ 11.bxc3 ♙b6  
12.e3 exd5 13.♙xd5 ♙e6  
14.♙e4 ♙a5 15.♙d3 ♙xc3+  
16.♖e2 0-0-0+ 17.♖b1



2016 CHOM

**17...♙d5?**

Defends b7 and keeps a big advantage, but a big miss nevertheless, and maybe a sign that Black was not calculating well that day.

♖17...♖xd3+- is just winning 18.♙xb7+ (18.♙xd3 ♙c4+-; 18.♖hc1 ♖d2+ 19.♖f1 ♙d3+-+) 18...♖d8 19.♙b8+ (19.♖hd1 is nothing: 19...♖xd1 (19...♙c4!; 19...♙c2+ 20.♖e1) 20.♖xd1+ ♖e7+-) 19...♖e7! (19...♙c8 keeps the material and also wins, e.g. 20.♖hc1 ♖d2+ 21.♖f1 ♖c2+-) 20.♙xh8 ♖d2+ 21.♖f1 (21.♖f3 ♙f6+ 22.♖g3 ♙xf2#) 21...♙d3+ 22.♖g1 ♖d1+ mate next.

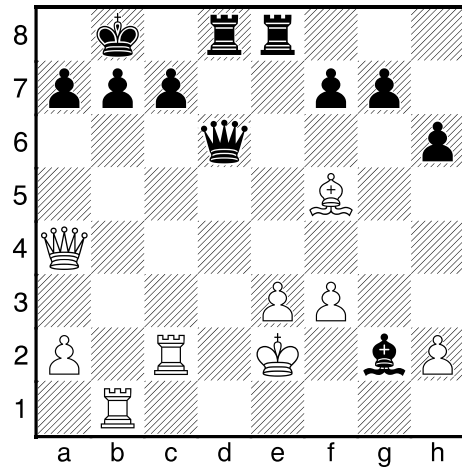
**18.♙f4**

Threatening ♖hc1, skewering the ♙ and c7.

**18...♙f6 19.♙f5+ ♖b8 20.♖hc1 ♙d6 21.♙a4 ♙xg2!**  
21...b6 is good too, but this wins a pawn and threatens mate on d2.

**22.♖c2 ♖he8 23.f3**

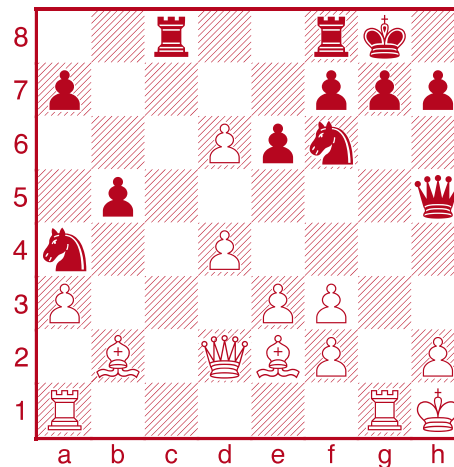




(66)  
Sethuraman, SP (2653)  
Shirov, Alexei (2682)

D46  
11th Edmonton International (5),  
22.06.2016

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘c3 ♘f6  
4.e3 e6 5.♗f3 ♗bd7 6.♙d3  
dxc4 7.♙xc4 b5 8.♙d3 ♙b7  
9.a3 ♙d6 10.0-0 0-0 11.♚c2  
♞c8 12.b4 c5 13.bxc5 ♙xf3  
14.cxd6 ♘d5 15.gxf3 ♚g5+  
16.♙h1 ♚h5 17.♙e2 ♗xc3  
18.♞g1 ♗f6 19.♙b2 ♗a4  
20.♚d2



Can Black win the d6-pawn  
with ...♞fd8xd6, or does that  
maneuver lose a piece to e4-e5?

20...♞fd8  
20...♞c6?? 21.d5+- with a  
double attack on ♞d6 and the  
undefended ♗f6.

21.e4 ♞xd6 22.e5!  
Black resigned, because this  
does win a piece!

The point, which Shirov only now  
noticed, is that after the move he  
had counted on 22...♚xe5! White  
has the even more startling  
23.♚h6!!+- which unpins the  
d-pawn and threatens mate.

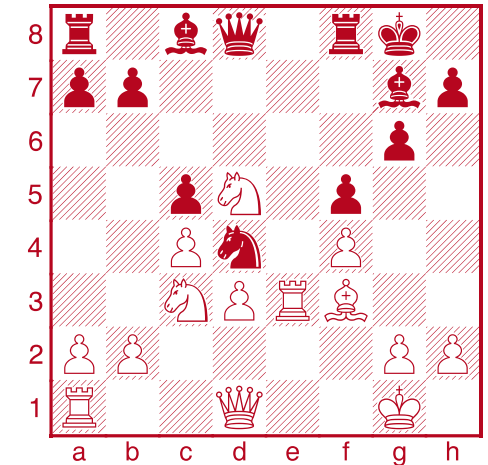
1-0

(67)  
Pantazi, Emanuel (1816)  
Piasetski, Leon (2380)

B06  
2016 Canadian Senior Ch. 65  
Victoria (2), 24.06.2016  
*notes: IM Leon Piasetski*

1.e4 g6 2.f4 d5 3.e5 c5  
4.♗f3 ♗c6 5.c4 d4 6.d3 ♙g7  
7.♙e2 ♗h6 8.0-0 0-0 9.♗g5  
f6 10.exf6 exf6 11.♗e4 ♚e7  
12.♙f3 ♗f5 13.♞e1 ♗e3  
14.♙xe3 dxe3 15.♗bc3 f5

16.♗d5 ♚d8 17.♗ec3 ♗d4  
18.♞xe3



What happens if Black takes on  
f3?

18...♗xf3+?

*This just trades a well-placed  
piece. Better was ... ♙d7 or ...  
♙h8 - ed.*

19.♞xf3?

Here White missed a powerful  
exchange sac. In fact, Black  
must avoid the sac and remain  
a pawn down with the worse  
position ...

19.♚xf3!! ♙d4? (♞19...♙d7  
20.♗e7+ ♙h8 21.♙h1 ♚b6  
22.♞ae1±) 20.♗b5 ♙xe3+  
21.♚xe3 a6 (21...b6? 22.♚e5  
♞f7 23.♗d6+-) 22.♗bc7+-.

Is White trapping the ♙g2?

23...♚xh2??

The ♙ isn't trapped, and Black  
can even "give it up" with  
23...♙h3! Δ24.♙xh3 ♚xh2+-.

23...g6 24.♙e4 b6□+-.

23...b6 24.♙f2 ♚xh2+-.

The move played misses White's  
only good move...

24.♞xb7+□+-

... which is good enough to force  
mate.

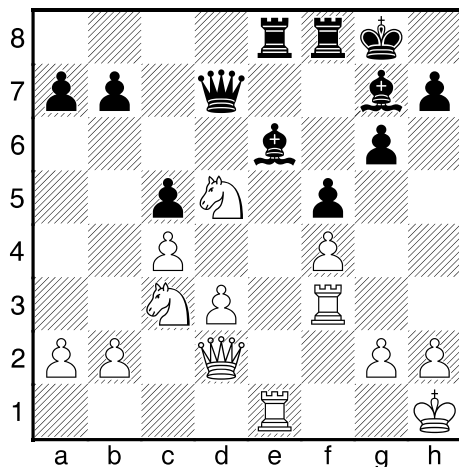
24...♙xb7 25.♚c6+ ♙b8  
26.♞b2#

1-0

**IM Leon Piasetski**

Of course, I was blissfully unaware of these possibilities and still thought I was better! Perhaps fatigue is good for confidence :-)

19...♙e6 20.♚d2!? ♚d7  
21.♖e1 ♜ae8 22.♙h1?! (♘22. b3=)



22...♙d4  
Here I could have exchanged all the minor pieces to win back a pawn, but wanted to maintain the pressure. Another interesting option was ...b5.

22...♙xc3 23.bxc3 (23.♘xc3? ♙xc4) 23...♙xd5 24.cxd5 ♚xd5.

23.b3 ♚g7?! (23...b5) 24.♖ff1 ♙f7?! (24...♚d7!) 25.♘e7+?  
Weird play by both sides! My last

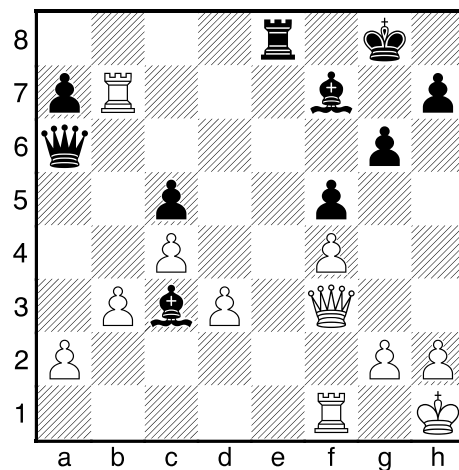
two moves anticipated wholesale rook exchanges on the e-file, but instead White gave up two knights for a rook and pawn plus control of the 7th rank.

25.h3 a6 is better for White but the two bishops offer good chances to resist.

25...♜xe7 26.♖xe7 ♙xc3  
27.♚e2?

♘27.♚e3 b6 28.♖xa7 ♙a5♞.

27...♚f6!♞ 28.♖xb7 ♖e8  
29.♚f3 ♚a6!



30.a4  
30.♖c7 ♚xa2-+ 31.♖xc5 (31.♚b7 ♚f2 32.♚f3♘-+) 31...♚xb3  
32.♖b5 ♙b4 33.♖b7 a5 34.♖a7 ♙d2-+.



30...♙d4 31.h4?-+

White must have been dreaming of attacking motifs but instead unnecessarily weakens his kingside.

31...♚f6?

Much stronger was the immediate 31...♖e3! 32.♖b8+ ♙g7 33.♚a8 ♚f6 and White gets mated before he can play ♖h8, ♚f8.

32.g3 ♖e3 33.♚g2 ♙e8  
34.♖b8 ♙g7 35.♖b7+ ♙h6  
36.♖c7 ♖e6! 37.♙h2 ♙c6  
38.♚d2 ♚d8 39.♖xa7 ♚e8

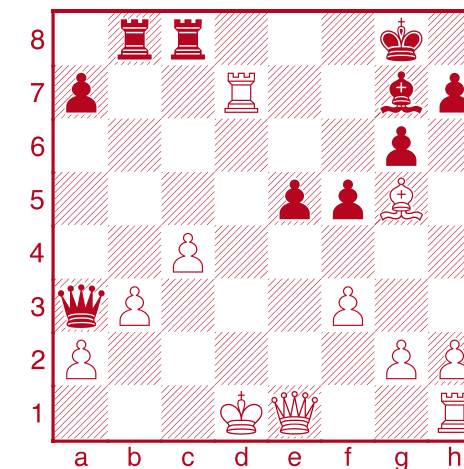
I handled the final phase of the game reasonably well for a sleepwalker :-)

0-1

(68)  
**Ganguly, Surya Shekhar (2654)**  
**Wang, Richard (2341)**

B76  
11th Edmonton International (7), 24.06.2016

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 g6 6.♙e3 ♙g7 7.f3 ♘c6 ...  
23.♖d7?? (23.♚d2+-)



No the ♙d1 and ♚e1 are not typos.

23...h6?  
In his notes to the game for ChessBase, Ganguly said he'd seen the following: 23...♚b2?

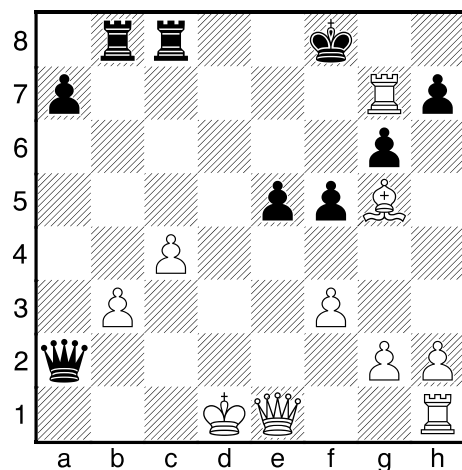




24. ♖d2 ♖b1+ 25. ♔e2 ♖xh1  
26. ♖xg7+ ♖xg7 27. ♖d7+ ♔g8  
28. ♖e6+ ♔g7 29. ♖xe5+ ♔f7  
30. ♖e7+ ♔g8 31. ♖e6+ ♔g7  
32. ♖f6+ ♔h6 33. ♖e3+ ♔h5  
34. ♖g5#;

23... ♖xa2 ♖xg7+ ♔f8= (24... ♔h8 25. ♖f6+-)

Analysis Diagram



White has promising-looking continuations, but actually has to settle for a draw:

a) 25. ♖h6?? ♖xb3+ ♖ (25... ♖d8+?? 26. ♖d7+-) 26. ♔e2 ♖xc4+ ♖ 27. ♔f2 ♖h4+ ♖-+.

b) 25. ♖xe5?? ♖xb3+ 26. ♔e1 ♖b1+ 27. ♔f2 ♖b2+-+ forces off the ♖s with a check and so wins the ♖g7 and the game.

c) 25. ♖e7+! ♔xg7 26. ♖xe5+ ♔f7 27. ♖f6+ ♔e8 28. ♖h8+! with a perpetual: major pieces defend badly from the edges of the board.

d) 25. ♖xh7! also draws after 25... ♖d8+ or ... ♖xb3+.

24. ♖d2!!+-

Suddenly White has a crushing attack.

24... ♖b6?

If Black takes the ♖ then White can push his h-pawn to overload the defence: 24... hxg5 25. ♖d5+ ♔h7 26. h4 g4 (26... ♔h6 27. hxg5+ ♔xg5 28. ♖d2+ ♔f6 29. ♖d6+ ♔f7 30. ♖d5+-) 27. h5! ♔h6 (27... g5 28. h6+-) 28. ♖f7+-.

25. ♖xg7+!

1-0

**50+ Team**

Deen Hergott  
Paul Ross  
Tom O'Donnell  
David Ross  
Jean Hebert



(69)  
**Hergott, Deen (2385)**  
**Nehmert, Uhlrich (2324)**

E02

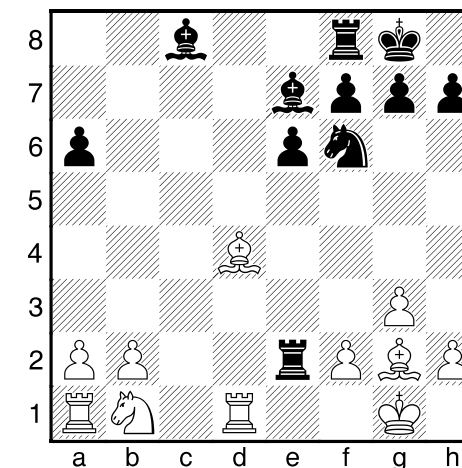
World 50+ Teams Dresden (5.2),  
30.06.2016

Notes: **IM Deen Hergott**

1. d4 d5 2. ♘f3 ♘f6 3. c4 e6  
4. g3 dxc4 5. ♖a4+ ♘bd7  
6. ♖g2 c5 7. 0-0 cxd4 8. ♘xd4  
♖e7 9. ♖d1 0-0 10. ♖xc4  
♖a5 11. ♖b5 ♖xb5 12. ♘xb5  
a6 13. ♘d6 ♖a7 14. ♖e3 b6

15. ♘c4 ♖c7 16. ♘xb6 ♘xb6  
17. ♖xb6 ♖c2 18. ♖d4 ♖xe2

This position I had foreseen and assumed that Black's rook, while active, would have some difficulty escaping to safety. I was right in my thinking, but failed to set the biggest tasks for Black to overcome.



Can White trap the Black ♖?

19. ♘c3

I spent a long time trying to trap Black's rook, and finally hit upon something that I thought was strong. I missed the simplest of all though, controlling the only safe square for Black's rook directly!

19. ♘d2 e5 20. ♖b6 ♖b4!#;  
19. ♘a3 ♖xa3 20. bxa3 ♖c2#;

19. ♖f1 ♜c2 20. ♙c3 ♘e4! ♞; 19. ♜c1! ♙b4 20. ♚f1 e5 21. ♚xe2 exd4± maybe just winning. White has to get developed but he has no real weaknesses.

19... ♜c2

19... ♜xb2? 20. ♘d5!

20. ♜ab1 ♜d8 21. ♙f1 e5

22. ♙xe5 ♜xd1

I had seen up to here in analysis and now another crossroads.

23. ♘xd1!

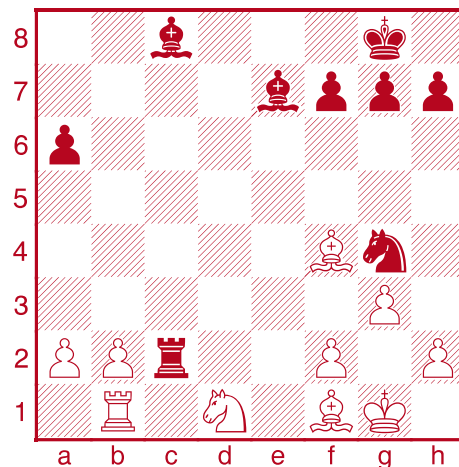
Guards f2 and b2, and intends ♘e3 to chase Black's rook off the 7th. If 23. ♜xd1, b2 will become a problem again before long.

23... ♘g4

23... ♙f5 24. ♘e3 ♜xf2 25. ♜c1!+-.

24. ♙f4?

Ugh. Even though 24. ♙d4 "felt" right, I was seduced by the idea of ♜c1, getting rid of Black's rook once and for all. The tactical refutation of my choice is not a simple one, and that is probably what saved me.

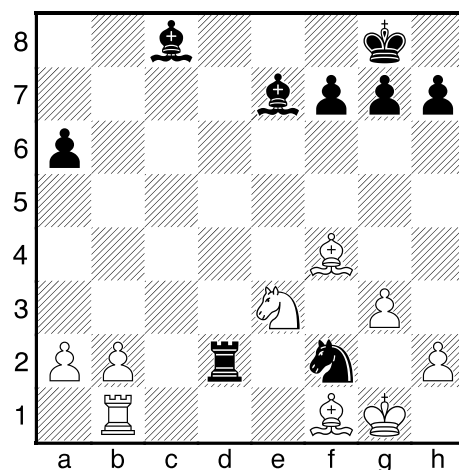


White's minors have been discombobulated in an attempt to evict the ♜c2. Can Black keep up the pressure?

24... ♙g5?

24... ♙c5? 25. ♙d3+-; 24... ♘xf2!! 25. ♘e3! (25. ♘xf2 ♙c5=) 25... ♜d2□

*Analysis Diagram*



and amazingly everything holds for Black. The threat of ... ♘h3+ saves Black in many lines, and there are no good discoveries against Black's floating rook on the 7<sup>th</sup>:

a) 26. ♘c4 ♘h3+ 27. ♙xh3

♙c5+□ 28. ♙e3□ ♙xe3+

29. ♘xe3 ♙xh3=.

b) 26. ♜c1 ♘h3+ 27. ♙xh3 ♙xh3

and c8 is still defended 28. ♘f5? ♜g2+□ 29. ♚h1 ♙f8♞.

c) 26. ♘g4?? ♘xg4+- 27. ♙xd2

♙c5+ 28. ♚g2 (28. ♚h1 ♘f2+

29. ♚g2 ♙b7+-) 28... ♙b7+

29. ♚h3 ♘f2+ 30. ♚h4 ♙e7+

31. ♙g5 f6+- White has to give up the ♙ to avoid being mated.

d) 26. ♘f5! ♙xf5□ 27. ♙xd2 ♘h3+

28. ♚g2 ♙xb1 29. ♚xh3 ♙xa2

30. ♙xa6= and the b-pawn isn't going to be enough.

25. ♜c1□

Phew! Now White is a pawn up in all lines.

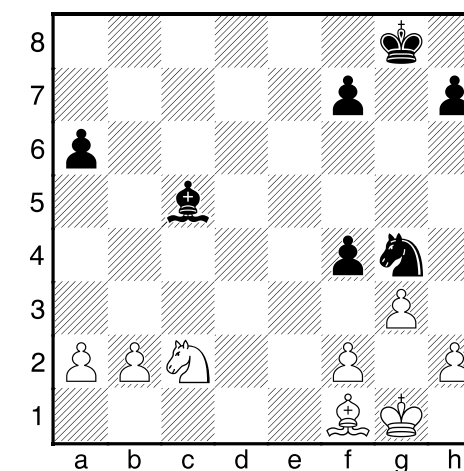
25... ♙f5 26. ♜xc2 ♙xc2

27. ♘e3!

This I had seen, and the rest is

fairly smooth sailing.

27... ♙xf4 28. ♘xc2! ♙c5



29. ♙xf4

29. ♙xa6! is a bit better, setting the Q-side in motion right away. It turns out ...f3 is nothing. 29... f3 30. ♙b7 ♙xf2+ 31. ♚f1 ♙a7 32. ♙xf3 ♘xh2+ 33. ♚g2 ♘xf3 34. ♚xf3 and the pawns clearly carry the day.

29... ♘xf2 (29... a5!) 30. b4! ♙b6 31. ♚g2 ♘d1 32. ♙xa6 ♘c3 33. ♙c4 ♚g7 34. ♚f3 f5 35. ♘e3 ♚g6 36. ♙e6 ♚f6 37. ♙b3 ♚g6 38. a4 ♘e4 39. ♙c2 ♘d6 40. a5 ♙d4 41. ♙d3

Another flawed victory, but it felt good to get my feet wet again after so many years. And





it was great to see my chess colleagues again – all in all a great trip, tournament and reunion!

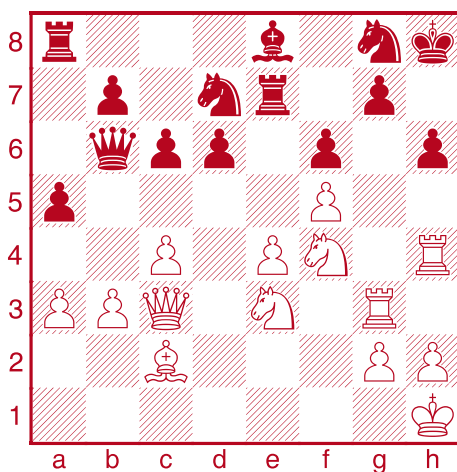
1-0

(70)  
**Ivanov, Mike (2260)**  
**Tarjan, James (2443)**

C45  
 2016 Canadian Open Windsor  
 (6), 16.07.2016

*Notes: FM Mike Ivanov*

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 exd4  
 4.♘xd4 ♙b4+ 5.c3 ...  
 39.♖h4 ♘d7



♘e6 or ♘g6?

40.♘g6+?

40.♘e6! once again should be the way to go, and White can start to look for the final blow such as ♘xg7. After 40.♘e6 we have:

40...♖xe6 41.fxe6 ♘e5 42.♖f4  
 ♖d8 43.♘f5+;-  
 40...♘c5 41.♘xg7 ♖xg7  
 42.♖xh6+ ♘xh6 43.♙xf6 ♙c7  
 44.♙xh6+ ♔g8 45.♘g4+-;  
 40...♘e5 41.c5! dxc5 42.♘c4!  
 ♙a6 (42...♘xc4 43.♖xg7!! ♖xg7  
 44.♖xh6+♠ ♘xh6 45.♙xf6+-)  
 43.♔g1 ♘xc4 44.♖xg7! ♖xg7  
 45.♖xh6+! ♘xh6 46.♙xf6 #2.

40...♙xg6♠= 41.fxg6 ♙c5  
 42.♙d2 ♖e5?  
 ♠42...♘e5=.

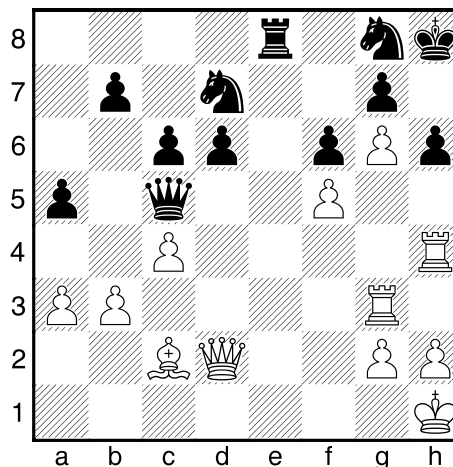
43.♘f5!

My plan when playing ♘g6 was simple: put all the pieces on h6 and sac the knight. Too bad the rook got in the way...

43...♖xf5! 44.exf5 ♖e8

## Future Titlists

*Itkin, Sapozhnikov, Bindi, Ivanov, Preotu*  
 2014 Canadian Open, Montreal



45.h3!

Avoiding many annoying back-rank tricks. Although White is up an exchange, a3 is falling, and the bishop on c2 isn't much of a bishop. The knights can start to dominate the position if White's

not careful: 45.b4 axb4 46.axb4 ♙e5 47.♔g1± (47.♖e4?? ♙a1+-+).

45...♙xa3 46.♖d4 ♘e5  
 47.♔h2 ♖d8 48.♖e3?

Here I missed the last easy win, a neat simplifying tactic: 48.b4! ♙xb4 49.♙xb4 axb4 50.c5+-.

48...♙c5 49.♖e1 ♘e7 50.♖h4

And here we agreed on a draw, partially due to the respect I had for my experienced opponent. Nevertheless, the lesson that can be taken from this game is summed up by a Nigel Short quote:





If your opponent offers you a draw (or a 3-fold repetition!) figure out why he thinks he's worse!

**50...♘g8 51.♞d4**

51.♞d1! d5 52.♞d4 ♞d6 53.♔h1 a4 (53...♞b8 54.♞d2 (54.c5 ♘d7 55.b4 axb4 56.♞xb4 ♞a7 57.♙b3 ♘xc5∞) 54...b6±) 54.cxd5 axb3 55.♙xb3 c5 56.♞a4 With more chances to win than to draw.

**51...♘e7 52.♞h4 ♘g8 53.♞d4 ♘e7 54.♞h4**

1/2-1/2

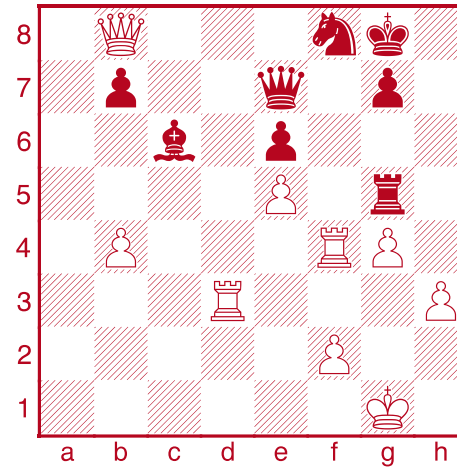
(71)  
**Giblon, Rebecca (1987)**  
**Cao, Claire (1813)**

C06  
2016 SPFGI St. Louis (4),  
27.07.2016

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘d2 ♘f6  
4.e5 ♘fd7 5.♙d3 c5...  
42.♞xd3

**2016 SPFGI**

*Rebecca and her dad with  
uber-promotor GM Susan Polgar*



White threatens both ♞d8 and ♞xf8+. Can Black do anything about it?

**42...♙d5??**

Game-losing, allowing the rook to penetrate on the a-file instead. Black does have a way

to save the game, and if you're desperate enough you might find it:

42...♙d7? 43.♞df3+- or 43.♞xf8+ simplifying to a winning endgame.

42...♙e8? 43.♞d8 ♙f7 44.♞c4+- bringing another major to the back rank.

42...♞f5□ the only hope: it not only creates chaos, it equalizes: 43.gxf5 ♞g5+□ 44.♞g4□ ♞c1+ 45.♔h2 ♞h1+ 46.♔g3 exf5□ (46...♞g2+? 47.♔h4 ♞xf2+ 48.♞dg3□+-) 47.♞c4□ (47.♞d8? ♞f3+ 48.♔h4 ♞xf2+ 49.♞g3

♞f4+ 50.♞g4 fxc4+- defending f8.) 47...♞g1+ 48.♔h4 ♞xf2+, the White ♔ can't step on a light square without losing the ♞d3. 49.♔g5 (49.♔h5? ♞e2+-) 49...♞g2+ 50.♔f4 (50.♔xf5? ♞g6+-) 50...♞f2+ 51.♔g5 ♞g2+=.

**43.♞a3!**

or 43.♞c3 ♙c6 44.b5 ♞e8 45.♞xe8 ♙xe8 46.♞c8+-.

**43...♞g6 44.♞a8 b5 45.♞xf8+ ♞xf8 46.♞xf8+ ♔h7 47.♞h8#**

1-0

(72)  
**Preotu, Razvan (2452)**  
**Popilski, Gil (2542)**

B81  
2016 Calgary International (5),  
30.07.2016

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4  
4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.h3  
e6 7.g4 ♙e7 8.♙g2 ♘fd7  
9.♙e3 0-0 10.♞d2 ♘c6  
11.0-0-0 ♘de5 12.♘xc6

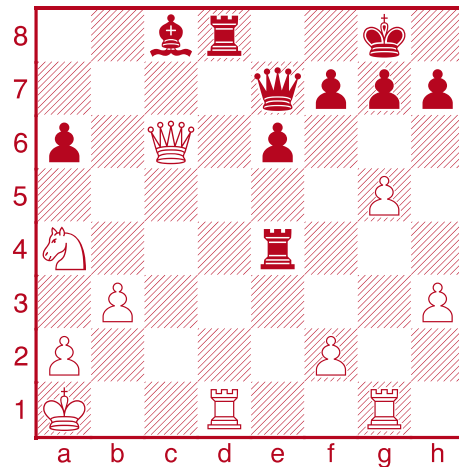






# Chess Canada Tacticosaurus

**bxc6 13.b3 d5 14.♔b1 ♖b8**  
**15.♔a1 ♘b4 16.♚e1 ♚f6**  
**17.♙d2 ♜f3 18.♙xf3 ♚xf3**  
**19.♖g1 ♚f6 20.g5 ♚e7**  
**21.♞a4 ♜d8 22.♙c3 d4**  
**23.♙xb4 ♜xb4 24.c3 dxc3**  
**25.♚xc3 ♜xe4 26.♚xc6**



Black's ♜e4 is hanging and White threatens ♞b6 winning the ♙. Can Black defend?

**26...♜e2?**

Trying to set up some counterplay against the White king, but it doesn't work.

26...f5! was forced, defending e4 and making room for the king, after which:

**a) 27.gxf6? ♚xf6+ 28.♞b2**  
**♜ed4□ 29.♜xd4 ♚xd4□ 30.♜d1**

♚f6 31.♜xd8+ ♚xd8=.

**b) 27.♞b6? ♙b7□ ♚xb7** doesn't work now that ...f5 avoids the back rank mate. 28.♜xd8+ ♚xd8 29.♚xb7 ♚d4+ 30.♔b1 ♚d3+=.

**c) 27.♚c5! ♚f8 28.♚c7**  
**♜e8 (28...♜ed4? 29.♜xd4□**  
**♜xd4 30.♞b6 ♜d8 31.♜c1+-**  
*smothering the ♙ before he even gets out of bed.)* 29.♜d2 ♜e7  
**30.♚c6! (30.♚c3 ♜e8 31.♜gd1±)**  
**30...♙b7 31.♚b6 (threat: ♜d8)**  
**31...♙d5 32.♞c3+-** White will win at least a couple of pawns.

**27.♞c3!+-**

27.♞b6? ♜f8□= 28.♞xc8?  
 ♚a3+- this is Black's idea behind ...♜e2.

**27...♜xf2 28.♜xd8+ ♚xd8**  
**29.♜d1**

Black can't guard the back rank and stop ♚c7 then ♜d8 winning material.

**1-0**

*Shiyam, Olivier-Kenta,  
 Ananda, Sean-Rodrigue*  
**2019 Zonal Postmortem**

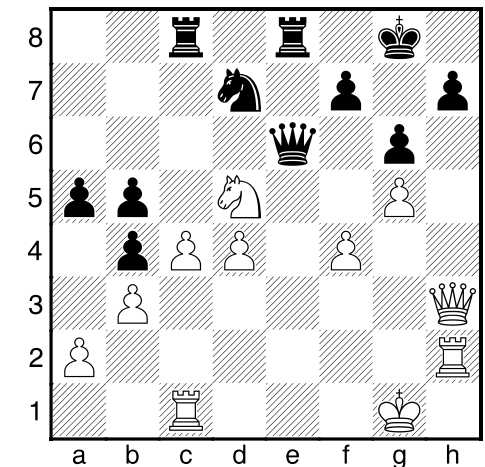


**(73)**  
**Pujari, Rucha (2137)**  
**Thavandiran, Shiyam**  
**(2344)**

*E16*

*2016 Commonwealth Ch. Was-  
 kaduwa (7), 04.08.2016*

**1.d4 e6 2.c4 ♞f6 3.♞f3 ♙b4+**  
**4.♙d2 c5... 28.♚h3**



**28...h5□**

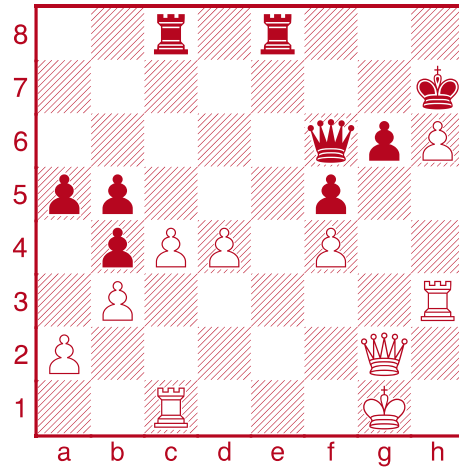
28...♚xh3 29.♜xh3 ♜e2 30.c5+-.

**29.gxh6 f5 30.♚g2 ♔h7**  
**31.♜h3 ♞f6 32.♞xf6+?!**  
**♞32.♜e3 ♞e4 33.♜xe4!! fxe4**  
**34.f5= ♚f7□ (34...♚xf5??**  
**35.♜f1+-) 35.fxc6+ ♚xc6**  
**36.♚xc6+ ♔xc6 37.♔f2=.**



# Chess Canada Tacticosaurus

32...♔xf6



White is up a pawn, but Black is attacking d4 (with check) and has the only open file. What to do...

33.♔b7+??

33.d5? ♖e4-+; ♘33.♔f2̄.

33...♖e7♘-+

Only move to win!

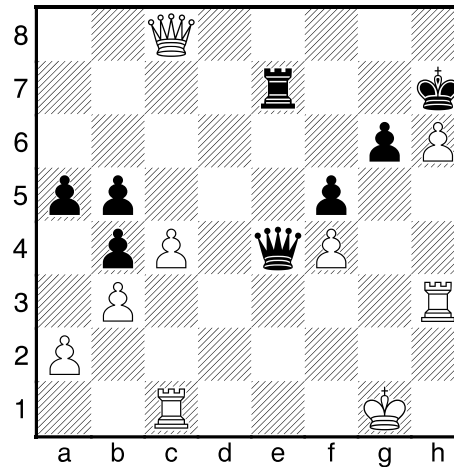
33...♔h8? 34.♔g7+ ♔xg7  
35.hxg7+ ♔xg7 36.♖d3∞.

One hard thing to see in the diagram position is that White's ♔ is more vulnerable than Black's: that ♖h6 keeps out the white pieces, but the other white pawns are AWOL.

34.♔xc8

White can't escape now without handing Black a winning counter attack on the central pawns, after which White's loose ♔ gives Black a winning initiative. e.g. 34.♔d5 bxc4 35.bxc4 ♖cc7! 36.♖d1 ♖cd7 37.♔c5 ♖e4-+ wins a pawn and breaks through.

34...♔xd4+ 35.♔h1 ♔e4+♘  
36.♔g1



36...♔xf4!

Makes way for the ♖e7 while gaining an essential tempo on the ♖c1. If the ♖c1 was on b1, then White could defend and win with ♔c6... but it isn't, so she loses.

37.♖c2

37.♖d1 ♔g4+-+ fork.

37.♖f1 ♔g4+♘ 38.♔h2 (38.♔f2 ♖e2#) 38...♖e2+-+.

37...♖e1+♘ 38.♔g2 ♔f1+  
39.♔g3 ♖e3+ 40.♔h4 ♔f4#

0-1

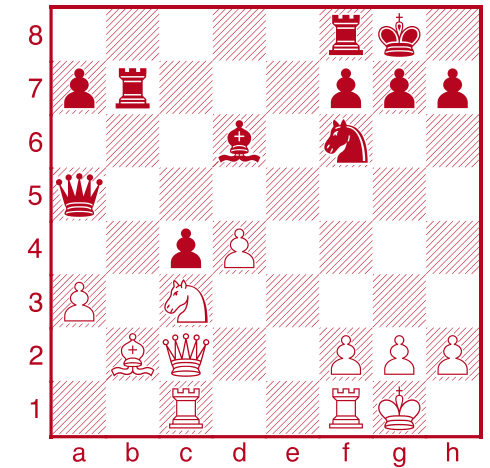
(74)  
Demchenko, Svitlana  
(2031)  
Zhou, Qiyu (2320)

E43

Almonte Open (2), 27.08.2016

1.d4 ♖f6 2.♖f3 e6 3.c4 b6  
4.♖c3 ♖b4 5.e3 ♖b7 6.♖e2  
0-0 7.0-0 d5 8.a3 ♖e7 9.b3  
♖bd7 10.♖b2 ♖c8 11.cxd5  
exd5 12.b4 c5 13.bxc5  
bxc5 14.♖c1 c4 15.♖e5  
♔a5 16.♖f3 ♖d6  
17.♖xd7 ♖xd7 18.e4  
dxe4 19.♖xe4 ♖b8  
20.♔c2 ♖f6 21.♖xb7  
♖xb7

**Qiyu and Svitlana**  
*All smiles at the picnic table...*



White had just pushed e3-e4 and after the exchanges following ...dxe4 both sides are left with isolated pawns. What should White play now:

- ♖fd1 (supporting d4)
- ♖b1 (attacking c4 and defending a3 in anticipation of ...♖fb8)
- something else?







# Chess Canada Tacticosaurus

## 22. ♖b1?

22. ♖fd1 is also bad for the same reason as the game line: 22... ♕xh2+!! (22... ♖b3!?)  
23. ♖xh2 ♖h5+ 24. ♖g1 ♖g4  
25. g3 ♖h2+ 26. ♖f1 ♖e8-+.

"Something else" is best. Either defending with 22. g3! or thinning the attacking hoard with 22. d5 are both better.

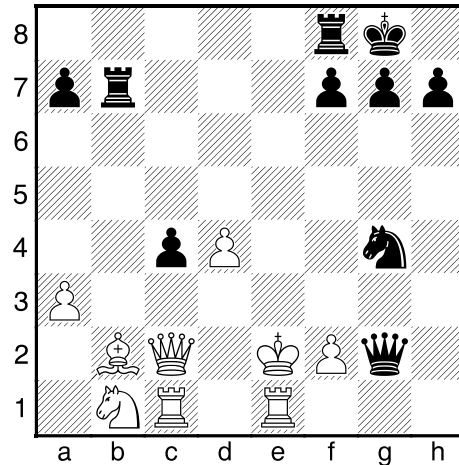
## 22... ♕xh2+!!-+ 23. ♖xh2 ♖h5+

23... ♖g4+!? 24. ♖g3 ♖b6  
also gives Black a huge attack.  
25. ♕c3 (25. f3 ♖e3 26. ♖f2 ♖g5+ 27. ♖h2 ♖h6+ 28. ♖g1 ♖f4-+) 25... ♖d5! 26. f3 ♖e3  
27. ♖e4 ♖g5+ 28. ♖f2 ♖e6-+.

## 24. ♖g1

24. ♖g3 ♖g4+ transposes to the game, but Black also has the spectacular 24... ♖xb2!! 25. ♖xb2 g5! (25... ♖e4+ 26. ♖f4 ♖e8-+) 26. ♖fe1 (26. f3 ♖h4#; 26. ♖b7 ♖h4+ 27. ♖f3 ♖g4+ 28. ♖e3 ♖e8+ 29. ♖d2 ♖xd4+ 30. ♖c2 ♖e2+ mates too.) 26... ♖h4+ 27. ♖f3 ♖g4+ 28. ♖e3 ♖e4+ 29. ♖d2 ♖d3#.

## 24... ♖g4 25. ♖fe1 ♖h2+ 26. ♖f1 ♖h1+ 27. ♖e2 ♖xg2



For the ♕ Black has two pawns and killing initiative.

## 28. ♖d2

28. ♖f1 ♖e8+ 29. ♖d2 ♖xf2-+ and there's no good defence to the threats of ... ♖g5# and ... ♖e4+.

## 28... ♖xf2+ 29. ♖e2 ♖f4+! 30. ♖e1 ♖e3! 31. ♖c3 31. ♖d2? ♖f1#.

## 31... ♖e8 32. ♖d2

32. ♕a1 ♖f3!-+ or 32... ♖b3-+.

## 32... ♖g3+

White would have to give back more than she has just to postpone mate.

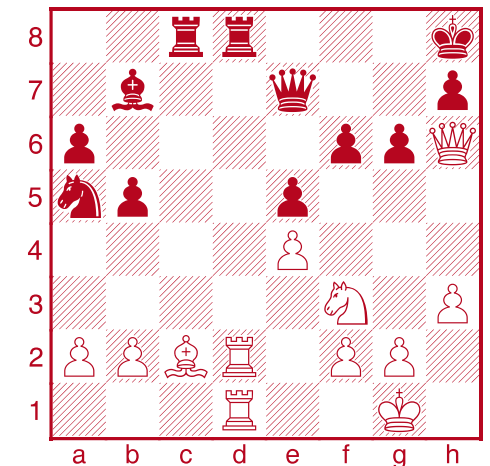
## (75)

Wang, Constance (2033)  
Matras Clement, Agnieszka (2308)

C92

CWCC Zonal 2016 Ottawa (2),  
23.09.2016

1. e4 e5 2. ♖f3 ♖c6 3. ♕b5 a6  
4. ♕a4 ♖f6 5. 0-0 b5 6. ♕b3  
♕e7 7. ♖e1 d6 8. c3 0-0 9. h3  
♕b7 10. d4 ♖e8 11. ♖g5 ♖f8  
12. ♖f3 ♖d7 13. ♖bd2 ♖a5  
14. ♕c2 c5 15. ♖f1 cxd4  
16. cxd4 ♕f6 17. ♖e3 g6  
18. ♖g4 ♕g7 19. ♕h6 ♖c8  
20. ♕xg7 ♖xg7 21. ♖d2 f6  
22. ♖ad1 ♖h8 23. dxe5 ♖xe5  
24. ♖gxe5 dxe5 25. ♖h6 ♖e7  
26. ♖e2 ♖fd8 27. ♖ed2



... ♖xd2 or ... ♖c4



An alert and accurate attack by Black.

0-1

Qiyu and Svitlana OTB

Note. Serious. Faces.

27...♘c4??

Eliminating White's battery on the d-file frees up her ♔ and ♖, so ♖d2...♗xd2:

28.♗xd2? ♘c4 29.♘h4 ♖f7±;

28.♖xd2! ♘c4± 29.♖d7 ♖xd7  
30.♗xd7 ♘xb2 31.♘e1□±.

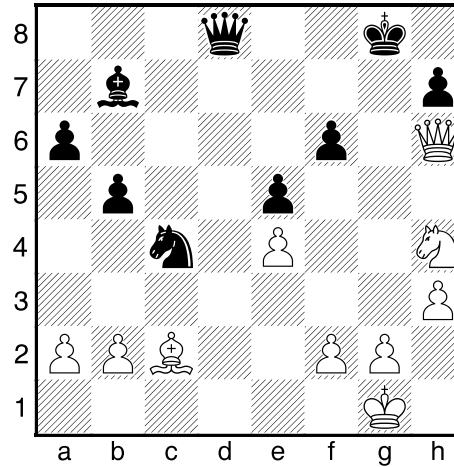
28.♘h4□+- ♔g8!

But after 28...♖e8 we could transpose to the game with 29.♗xd8, but White has better: 29.♘f5!! threatening mate on g7 and Black can resign now, or after 29...gxf5 30.♖xf6+, forking d8.

29.♘xg6! ♖e8

29...hxg6 30.♖xg6+ ♔f8  
31.♖h6+ ♔g8 32.♗d3+-.

30.♗xd8 ♗xd8 31.♗xd8  
♖xd8 32.♘h4



32...♘xb2!?

32...♗c8 is objectively better, but doesn't require White to find any difficult moves to keep her advantage.

33.♘f5 ♖f8 34.♗b3+! ♘c4  
35.♖h4?

35.♖c1!! taking the ♖ out of the attacking zone is a really hard move to see, but the

threat on c4 gives White time to reset: 35...♖c5 (35...♗xe4?? loses the ♗ after 36.♗xc4+ bxc4 37.♖xc4+-) 36.♖d1!+- threatening both ♖g4 and ♖d7.

35...♗c8 36.♘g3 ♖d8  
37.♘h5 ♔f7 38.♖g3 ♖f8□  
39.♗d1 ♖h6 40.♖d3 ♖d2  
41.♖f3 ♖g5 42.♘g3 ♗e6=  
Black's minors are now both doing something and the position is equal.

43.♘f5 ♘d2 44.♘d6+ ♔g6  
45.♖d3 ♘c4 46.♘xc4 ♗xc4  
47.♖c2 h5 48.♗f3 ♔h6  
49.♔h2 ♖f4+ 50.♔g1 ♖g5  
51.♔h2 ♖f4+ 52.♔g1

1/2-1/2

## On Guard!

*Constance Wang &  
WIM Agnieszka Matras Clement*

*2016 Women's Zonal, Ottawa*

*Round 2 in the Fencing Club*



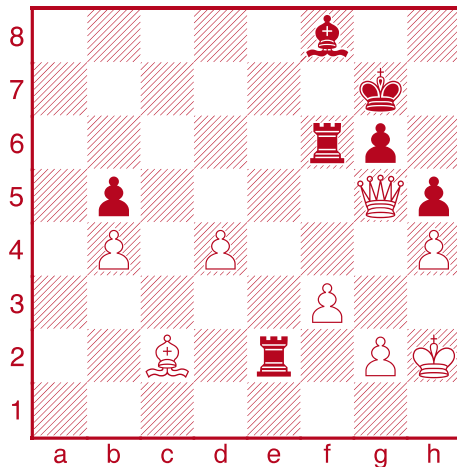


(76)  
**Sambuev, Bator (2619)**  
**Gordon, David (2311)**

D94

RA Fall Open Ottawa (3),  
 23.09.2016

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 ♘f6 3.c4 c6  
 4.d4 cxd5 5.♘c3 g6 6.♘f3  
 ♙g7 7.♙e2 dxc4...  
 37.♚g5+ ♔g7



Where should the ♙c2 go?

38.♙e4??

38.♙d1?? ♙d6+ 39.♔g1 ♖e1+-+  
 and the ♙ drops.

♠38.♙b3 ♙d6+♠ 39.♔g1 ♖b2  
 40.♚d5♠ ♔h6! and computers  
 prefer White, but Black has

perpetual threats, and either side  
 could lose this OTB.

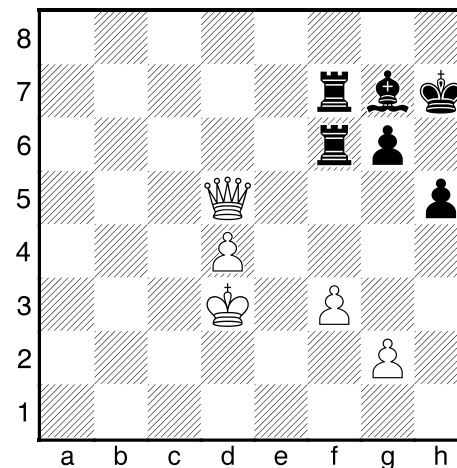
♠38.♙d3! ♙d6+ 39.♔g1♠±  
 (39.♔h3?? ♖xf3+♠-+ 40.gxf3  
 ♖h2#).

38...♙d6+♠-+ 39.♔g1  
 39.♔h3 ♖e1♠ 40.g3 ♖g1♠ 41.f4  
 (41.d5 ♖xg3+-+ Black should  
 have no problem converting  
 the exchange up ending.)  
 41...♙xf4♠-+.

39...♖e1+♠

Black wins a piece.

40.♔f2 ♖xe4-+ 41.♚d5 ♖xh4  
 42.♔e3 ♙xb4 43.♚xb5 ♙f8  
 44.♚e5 ♖hf4 45.♚c7+ ♖f7  
 46.♚e5+ ♖4f6 47.♔d3 ♔h7  
 48.♚d5 ♙g7



White's pawns aren't going  
 anywhere, Black's ♔ is safe in  
 his little fortress, and his pieces  
 are about to run riot.

49.♚d8 ♖f4 50.d5 ♖7f5 51.g4  
 (Desperation.) 51...♖xf3+  
 52.♔e2 ♖f2+ 53.♔d3 ♖5f3+  
 54.♔e4 ♖f4+ 55.♔e3 ♙d4+  
 56.♔d3 ♖xg4 57.d6 ♖f3+  
 58.♔e2 ♖e3+ 59.♔d2 ♖g2+  
 60.♔d1 ♖d3+ 61.♔e1 ♙g7

0-1

(77)  
**Gordon, David (2311)**  
**Valdizon, Armando**  
**(2171)**

D00

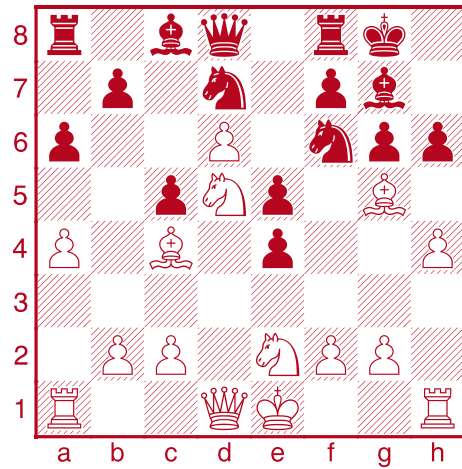
RA Fall Open Ottawa (5),  
 25.09.2016

1.d4 d5 2.♙f4 c5 3.e4 dxe4  
 4.d5 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.a4 g6  
 7.♙c4 ♙g7 8.♘ge2 ♘bd7  
 9.d6 e5 10.♙g5 h6 11.♘d5  
 0-0 12.h4!?



*David Gordon thinks, Bator Sambuev prowls*





Whites h2-h4 is a tactic named "the fishingpole" — g5 is the bait, the h4 pawn is the hook, and the open h-file is the line to reel in the "fish".

Can Black take on g5?  
If not now, when?

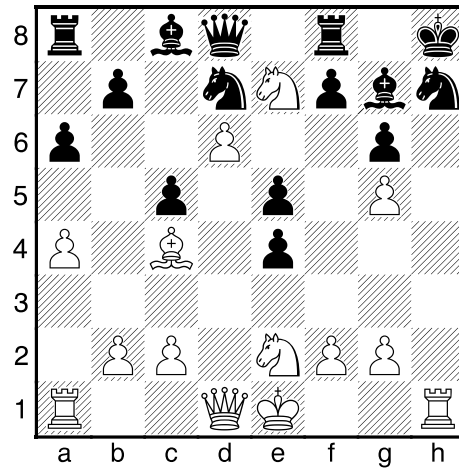
**12...♞b6!**

12...hxg5? 13.♞e7+♠+- ♞h8 14.hxg5+ ♞h7 (14...♞h5 15.♞xh5+ gxh5 16.♞g3+- and Black has to give back too much to prevent ♞xh5 mating.)

*Analysis Diagram*

**Armando  
Valdizon**

*Gatineau 2015*



**a) 15.♞d2?** opening a path for ♞h1 looks crushing, but Black has a hard-to-see move which

saves him: 15...♞df6! this hop is the key resource in many lines: it adds a defender to h7, decoys the g5-pawn, and opens a counterattack on d6. 16.♞c1!∞ (16.gxf6 ♞xd6+? (16...♞xf6!∞) 17.♞c3! ♞xf6 18.♞g1 e3! 19.♞b3!±).

**b) 15.♞xh7+?** ♞xh7 16.♞d5∞ (16.♞d2?? ♞f6! 17.gxf6 ♞xd6+-) 16...♞f6!∞.

**c) 15.♞d5!** is a better way to get the ♞ to the h-file. 15...♞b6 16.♞xe4 ♞xc4 (16...♞xd6 17.♞xh7+-) 17.♞xh7+- #2.

**d) 15.♞g3!** ♞b6 16.♞xh7+ ♞xh7 17.♞e2♠+- ♞g4+ 18.f3 exf3+ 19.gxf3 ♞h5 20.♞h1+-.

**13.♞e7+**

13.♞xf6+ concedes Black a comfortable plus, with no active chances for White: 13...♞xf6 14.♞xf6 ♞xf6 15.♞a2 ♞e6̄.

13.♞xb6 also gives up the attack 13...♞xb6 14.♞xf6 ♞xf6 15.♞c3 (15.d7? ♞b4+ 16.c3 ♞xc4 17.dxc8 ♞axc8+-) 15...♞d8̄.

**13...♞h7!**

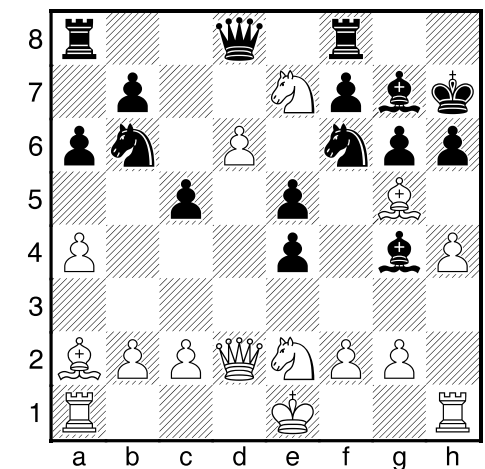
13...♞h8 is not losing, so long as Black doesn't take on g5 anytime soon: 14.♞a2 hxg5?? (♠14...♞g4! 15.♞d2!→) 15.hxg5+ ♞h7 (15...♞h5 16.♞g3+-) 16.♞g3+- with the slow but deadly threats of ♞xe4, ♞f3-g3-h4, and also ♞e2 (clearing the route to the h-file) then ♞xh7+.

**14.♞a2 ♞g4!**

14...hxg5?? 15.hxg5+ ♞h5 16.♞g3+-.

**15.♞d2!**

15.♞xf6? ♞xf6 16.h5 (16.f3? exf3 17.♞g3 f2+-) 16...♞xe7 17.dxe7 ♞xe7 18.hxg6+ fxg6 19.♞d2 h5!+-.



**15...hxg5?**

♠15...♞c8̄.

♠15...♞xe2 16.♞xe2 ♞d7̄.



16.hxg5+ ♖h5□ 17.♖g3!

17.♖h4! is also strong:

a) 17...♖c8 18.♖xg4 ♖xd6 19.0-0-0∞;

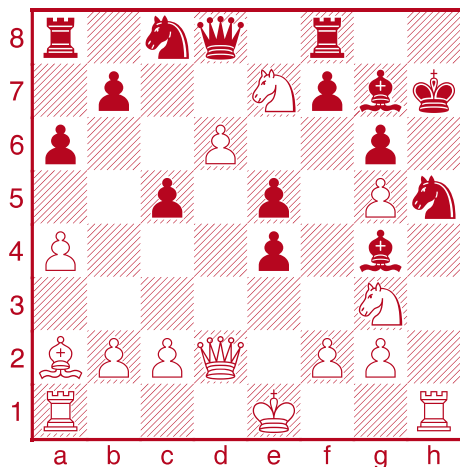
b) 17...♖d7 18.♖g3! ♖c8 (18...e3 19.♖xe3 ♖xd6 20.f3+-) 19.♖xe4□ ♖xe7! 20.dxe7±;

c) 17...♖e6? 18.g4+-;

d) 17...e3! 18.fxe3□ ♖d7 19.♖g3∞.

17...♖c8□

Getting rid of the bone on d6 that's been choking him for so long.



White to play and... win or survive?

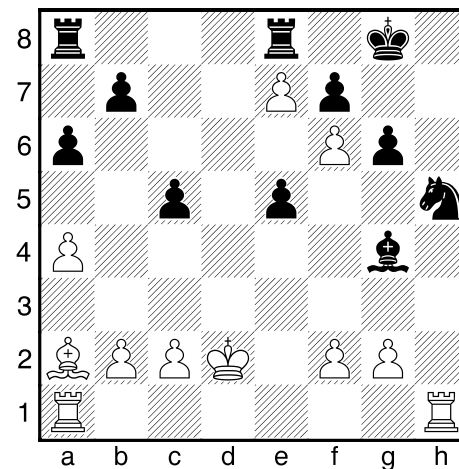
18.♖xh5??

18.f3?! exf3□ 19.♖xh5□ ♖xh5□ (19...fxg2 20.♖f6#) 20.♖d3□ (20.g4? ♖xd6 21.gxh5 ♖xe7 22.hxg6+ ♖xg6□-+) 20...♖xe7! (20...fxg2?? 21.♖xh5++-) 21.♖xh5+ ♖g8 22.dxe7 ♖xd3! (22...♖xe7?? 23.♖xg6+-)

23.exf8♖+♗ Black will have a clear material plus after an intermediate ...fxg2 before taking on h5, but the opposite ♖s may give White some chances.

18.♖xe4! ♖xe7 (18...♖xd6?? 19.♖xd6+-) 19.dxe7 ♖xd2+ (19...♖xe7 20.f3∞ and Black doesn't have time to save both the ♖g4 and the ♖h5.) 20.♖xd2 ♖fe8 21.♖f6+! leads to a fascinatingly sharp ending: (♟21.f3!± and g4 gets the piece back.) 21...♖xf6 22.gxf6 ♖g8! defends f7 and unpins the ♖, threatening ...♖xf6, so

Analysis Diagram



23.♖xh5□ gxh5! keeps the ♖ from getting trapped and opens the f6 pawn to attack from the side. Black is up a ♖ for a ♖, but computers show that this position is on a knife edge.

Black would be clearly winning here if he could play ...a5 then ...♖a6, but it requires accuracy to get at the f6 pawn without conceding too much:



24.♖c4! Otherwise ...♖e6 forces off White's ♖. 24...♖e6 (24...a5? 25.♖a3!± heading for g3.) 25.♖d3! (25.♖e2? ♖h7 26.♖xh5 ♖h6□-+) 25...c4 26.♖e4 threatening ♖h1 winning! 26...a5□ 27.♖h1 ♖g4□ 28.f3 ♖a6□-+.

18...gxh5+-

18...♖xh5?? 19.♖xh5+!! (19.g4±) 19...gxh5 20.♖e2 ♖xd6 21.♖xh5+ ♖h6 22.♖d1! ♖xe7 (22...♖b6 23.♖xf7 ♖xe7 24.♖d7+-) 23.♖xh6+ ♖g8 24.♖e2+-.

19.f3 ♖xd6□-+

19...exf3?? 20.♖d3+ ♖h8 21.gxf3+-.

20.fxg4 ♖xe7 21.0-0-0 ♖ad8

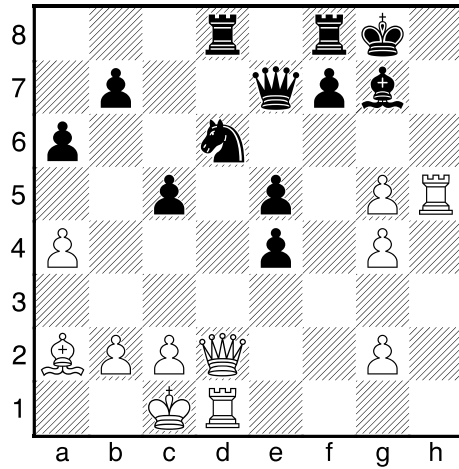
♟21...♖fd8! looks bad since it weakens f7, but it starts an escape route for the ♖ through f8. 22.♖df1 c4-+.

22.♖xh5+!

22.gxh5?? ♖c4 hits ♖d2 and threatens ...♖xg5+, killing White's advanced pawns. 23.g6+ fxg6 24.hxg6+ ♖xg6-+.

22...♖g8

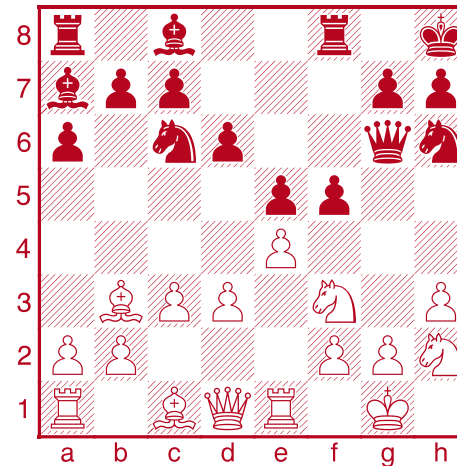




(78)  
**Tan, Kylie (1671)**  
**Matras Clement, Agnieszka (2308)**

C54  
*CWCC Zonal 2016 Ottawa (7),*  
 25.09.2016

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙c4  
 ♙c5 4.c3 ♘f6 5.d3 d6 6.0-0  
 0-0 7.♙b3 a6 8.♘bd2 ♙a7  
 9.♞e1 ♘g4 10.♞e2 ♖h8  
 11.h3 ♘h6 12.♘f1 f5 13.♞e1  
 ♞f6 14.♘1h2? ♞g6



Black has a lot of pressure, what should White do?

**23.g6**

23.♞dh1! demands accuracy:  
 23...c4? 24.g3♣∞ threat ♞h2;  
 23...♘c4? 24.♞e1+-  
 threatening ♞h4 and ♙xc4;  
 23...♞fe8♣ 24.g6 (24.g3 ♞d7  
 25.♞h2 ♖f8♣-+) 24...♞f6♣  
 (24...c4?? 25.♞h8+! ♙xh8  
 26.♞xh8+- #3.) 25.gxf7+  
 ♘xf7-+ White is running out of  
 tricks, but Black still has to play  
 accurately.

**23...c4-+ 24.♞dh1 fxcg6**  
**25.♞h7 b5!**

Shuts out the ♙, leaving Black  
 with two extra functioning pieces.

**26.axb5 axb5 27.♞d5+ ♞f7**  
**28.♞c5 ♞f4+! 29.♖b1 ♘b7!?**  
 29...♞f1+! 30.♞xf1 ♞xf1#.

0-1

**15.♘h4??**

15.♙xh6?! gxh6! with a  
 continuing attack. (15...♞xh6♣);

15.exf5 ♙xf5 and Black threatens  
 ...♙xh3 and ...♙xd3, and 16.d4  
 (16.♘h4? ♞g3-+ is like the  
 game.) 16...♙xh3 17.♘h4 ♞f6♣-  
 +;

15.♙d5!? f4! (Δ15...fxe4?  
 16.♙xe4♣∞) 16.♖f1! ♙d7 is still  
 more fun for Black, but it's not a  
 rout.

**15...♞g3♣-+**  
 Forking h4 and f2.

**16.♘4f3 ♙xf2+ 17.♖h1 ♙xe1**  
**18.♘xe1 fxe4 19.dxe4 ♙xh3!**  
 Forcing open the second rank is  
 the quickest win.

**20.gxh3 ♞f2 21.♙f4 exf4?!**  
 Did someone miss a mate-in-  
 one...?

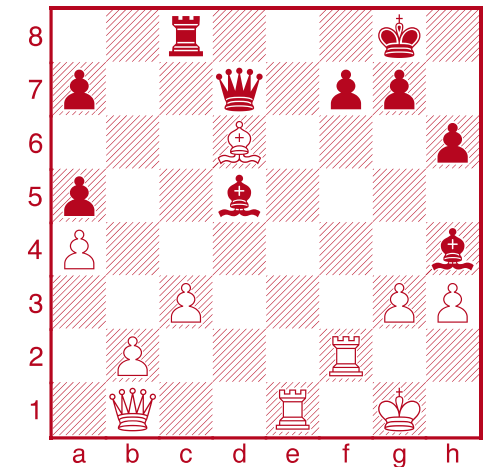
**22.♘hf3 ♞f1+ 23.♘g1 ♞xg1#**

0-1

(79)  
**Shimanov, Aleksandr (2650)**  
**Hambleton, Aman (2436)**

A47  
*Millionaire Chess Open Atlantic*  
*City (7), 09.10.2016*  
**Notes: IM Aman Hambleton**

1.d4 e6 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.♙f4  
 c5 4.e3 ♘c6 5.♘bd2 ♙e7...  
 35.g3 ♞d7!?



Both players have hanging ♙s;  
 what should White do?

**36.♙f4??**

My opponent played too quickly;  
 and surprisingly White is dead  
 lost after this move.

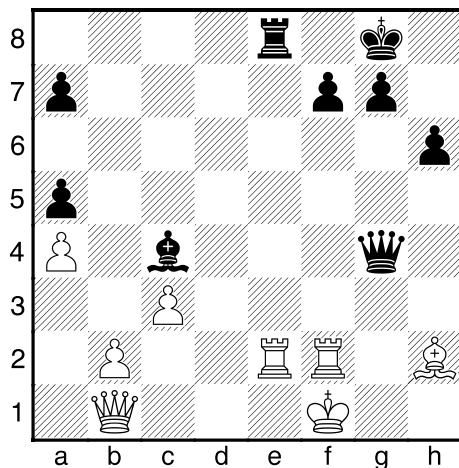


Best was: 36. ♖d3 ♠+- defending g3 and attacking ♗d5. 36... ♖xd6 37. gxh4+- by no means an easy conversion ahead, but White is definitely winning.

*editor* – Also better than the game move was 36. gxh4? which keeps the game going after 36... ♖xh3 ♠= 37. ♖e4!? (37. ♖h2 ♖g4+ ♠ 38. ♖f2 ♖f3+= with a repetition.) 37... ♖d8 ♠ 38. ♖h2 (38. ♗h2?? ♗xe4 39. ♖xe4 ♖d1+-) 38... ♖f3 ♠ 39. ♖ee2 ♖g4+ ♠ (39... ♖xd6?? 40. ♖e8#) 40. ♖f2 ♖f3+ ♠ 41. ♖e1!? ♗c4!∞.

36... ♗xg3 ♠+-  
36... ♖xh3?? 37. ♖h2 ♠+-.

37. ♗xg3 ♖xh3 38. ♗h2 ♖g4+  
39. ♖f1 ♗c4+ 40. ♖ee2 ♖e8



41. ♖c2

41. ♖e1 ♖xe2 42. ♖xe2 ♖f3+  
43. ♖f2 ♗xe2+ 44. ♖e1 ♖xf2+  
45. ♖xf2 ♗d1 with 3 connected passed pawns the opposite B endgame should be easily winning.

41. ♖d1 ♗xe2+ 42. ♖xe2 ♖f3+  
43. ♖e1 ♖h1+ 44. ♖d2 ♖d8+-.

41... ♖xe2 42. ♖xe2 ♖f3+  
43. ♖e1 ♖h1+ 44. ♖d2 ♗xe2  
45. ♗b8 ♗g4 46. ♖b3 ♖g2+  
47. ♖e3 h5 48. ♖b5 ♖f3+  
49. ♖d4 h4 50. ♖xa5 ♖f6+  
51. ♗e5 ♖f2+ 52. ♖c4 ♗e6+  
53. ♖d3 h3 54. ♖d8+ ♖h7  
55. ♖b8 f6 56. ♗g3 ♖f3+  
57. ♖d4 ♖d1+ 58. ♖e3 ♖xa4  
59. ♖d6 ♗f5 60. ♖d5 ♖d7  
61. ♖a8 ♖d3+ 62. ♖f2 ♖d2+  
63. ♖f1 ♖c1+ 64. ♗e1 ♖f4+  
65. ♗f2 h2

0-1

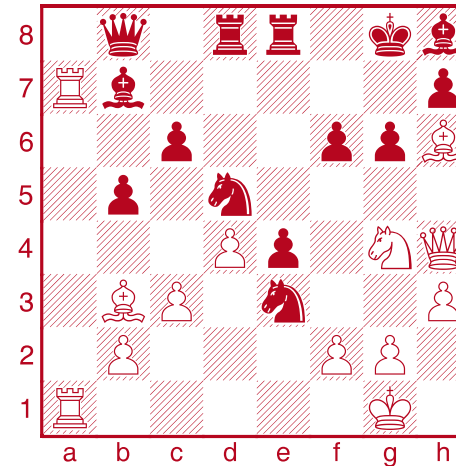
(80)  
Martinez, Ayelen (2238)  
Zhou, Qiyu (2312)

C95  
2016 Continental Colima (6.3),

10.11.2016

Notes: MacKinnon / Upper

1. e4 e5 2. ♖f3 ♗c6 3. ♗b5 a6  
4. ♗a4 ♗f6 ... 28. ♗fe3 ♗cxe3



What two things did White overlook after 29. ♗xf6+?

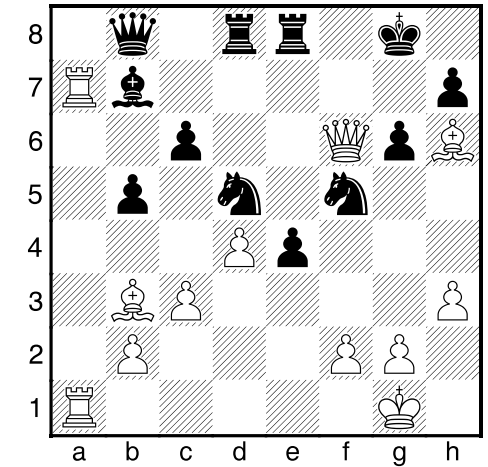
29. ♗xf6+??

Playing for mate, but any of the three recaptures on e3 leaves White with a winning advantage.

29... ♗xf6 30. ♖xf6 ♗f5 ♠

Defending the mate on g7, saving the hanging piece on e3, and threatening to chop the attacker on h6. White resigned.

Analysis Diagram:



White obviously overlooked 30... ♗f5, and the shock caused her to overlook a second thing: despite being down a piece for a pawn, the exposed Black King and the terrible ♗b7 give White big compensation.

In fact, there is actually a forced draw here after: 31. ♗f4! (or ♗xd5 first), and Black would do best to go for the draw after ... ♖xf4: 31... ♖c8 (31... ♖xf4 32. ♖xb7 ♖f8 33. ♗xd5+ cxd5 34. ♖e6+ ♖h8 35. ♖aa7 ♖c1+= with a repetition.) 32. ♗e5 ♖xe5∞ 33. dxe5 ♖f8 34. ♗xd5+ cxd5 35. ♖b6 ♖f7 ♠ (35... ♗c6? 36. ♖c7+-) 36. ♖h2∞ major prophylaxis against ...d4 and ...e3 followed by ... ♖c2.

0-1



(81)

Beaulieu, Eric (2202)

LeSiège, Alexandre (2578)

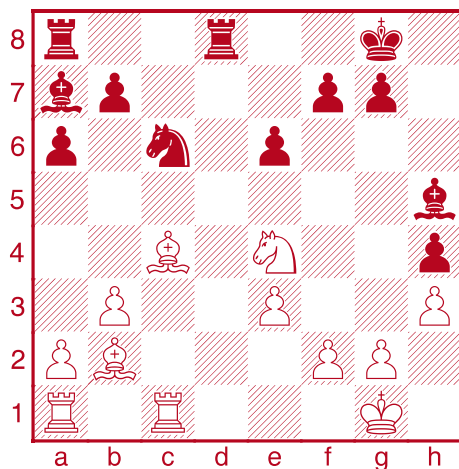
D22

Pere Noel Montreal (2),

27.12.2016

**Notes: IM Alexandre Le Siège**

1.d4 d5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.c4  
 dxc4 4.e3 ♗g4 5.♙xc4 e6  
 6.0-0 a6 7.b3 c5 8.dxc5 ♘c6  
 9.♙a3 ♘e4 10.♘bd2 ♙xc5  
 11.♙b2 ♘xd2 12.♙xd2 ♙xd2  
 13.♘xd2 0-0 14.♘e4 ♙a7  
 15.♘g3 h5 16.h3 h4 17.♘e4  
 ♙h5 18.♖fc1 ♖fd8!?

**19.♙xa6?!**

Tell you the truth, I missed both  
 19. ♙xa6 and 19. ♙f6. I was  
 so concentrated on creating

chances to avoid the  
 draw that I forgot  
 that my opponent  
 had serious threats.  
 I was mainly  
 analysing 19. ♙f1  
 and 19. ♙a3. Eric was  
 more attuned to the  
 truth of the position  
 than me and took a  
 long time deciding  
 between the two very  
 tempting options 19.  
 ♙xa6 and 19. ♙f6. He  
 correctly assessed  
 that the latter would give me  
 nice compensation, but didn't  
 calculate deeply enough the  
 game's continuation.

19. ♙f6! was still indeed the  
 best move 19...gxf6 20. ♘xf6+  
 ♙f8 21. ♘xh5 ♙b8! 22. ♙f1 ♙e5  
 23. ♖ab1 ♖d2 24. a4 ♖ad8 with  
 decent compensation since I will  
 swap the knight coming to f4.

**19...♙xe3!**

Not 19...♘b4? 20. ♙xb7 ♖ab8  
 21. ♘c5!± and the hanging  
 bishop on h5 saves White.

Before Eric played 19. ♙xa6?!  
 I had already worked out the



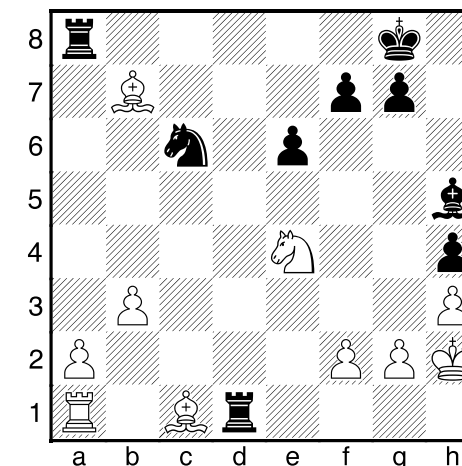
winning continuation that  
 happened in the game. I went  
 from fearing the move once I  
 saw it to actually hoping for it.

**20.♙xb7?**

Played *a tempo*. Perhaps Eric  
 should have recalculated the  
 whole line before committing to it  
 – what an extra move can do for  
 a player's vision! It was still not  
 too late to bail out with: 20.fxe3  
 ♖xa6 21. ♘c5 ♖a7 22. ♘xb7  
 ♖d2=.

**20...♙xc1 21.♙xc1**

21. ♖xc1 ♖xa2.

**21...♖d1+ 22.♙h2****22...♖b8 23.♙xc6 ♖c8□**

Oops, Black regains a piece! My  
 opponent clearly made some  
 kind of inexperienced tactical  
 mistake. When you have a  
 rook pinned on the first rank,  
 this should be a warning sign  
 to calculate more deeply than  
 usual since some unexpected  
 tactics often occur in those  
 circumstances.

**24.♙b5 ♖cxc1-+ 25.♖xc1**  
**♖xc1 26.a4**

The two connected passed  
 pawns look a little scary, but I am  
 in time to stop them.

**26...♙d1 27.b4 ♙c2! 28.♘d2**

28. ♘c5 ♖b1 29. ♘a6 ♙e4-+

White can't move.



28...♖d1 29.♗c4 ♕e4! 30.f3  
♕d5 31.♗e5 ♖d4

The simplest. I just had to make sure I was in time to stop the pawn after the bishop trade.

32.♗d3 ♕c4 33.♕xc4 ♖xc4  
34.b5 ♖xa4 35.b6 ♖a1 36.b7  
♖b1 37.♗c5

White is pinning his hopes on some kind of geometry; the f8, e5 and f6 squares are all mined. However, after Black's next, White will be left only with ♔ moves.

37...♖b2!

The cleanest, White is deprived of g4.

38.♔g1 ♔h7 39.♔f1 ♔g6  
40.♔e1 ♔f5 41.♔d1 e5  
42.♔c1 ♖b6

The rook creates an impenetrable barrier, allowing the Black ♔ to mop up the kingside pawns.

43.♔d2 ♔f4

The critical moment of the game was very strange. It seems that 19.♕xa6 should have worked under normal circumstances, but for some concrete reasons it did n't.

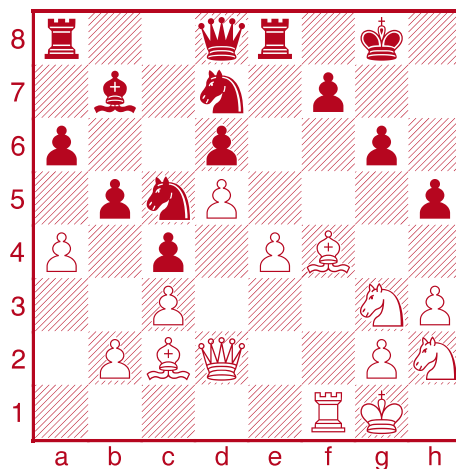
0-1

(82)  
Preotu, Razvan (2495)  
LeSiège, Alexandre  
(2512)

C95

PRO Chess League Chess.com,  
18.01.2017

1.e4 e5 2.♗f3 ♗c6 3.♕b5 a6  
4.♕a4 ♗f6 5.0-0 ♕e7 6.♖e1  
b5 7.♕b3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.h3  
♗b8 10.d4 ♗bd7 11.♗bd2  
♕b7 12.♕c2 ♖e8 13.♗f1 ♕f8  
14.♗g3 g6 15.a4 c5 16.d5  
c4 17.♕g5 ♗c5 18.♖d2  
♕e7 19.♕e3 ♗fd7 20.♗h2  
h5 21.♖f1 ♕f6 22.f4 exf4  
23.♖xf4 ♕e5 24.♖af1 ♕xf4  
25.♕xf4



...h4 or ...♖e7

25...h4?

Natural, since it undermines e4, but ♖25...♖e7 when White has some compensation in dark-square control. The game move lets White bring one more piece into the attack with...

26.♗g4!! → hxg3 27.♕xd6!

White is down a ♖ for a pawn, but Black is busted. The immediate threat is ♗h6+ then takes on f7. White's dark square attack is so strong that even 27.♕xg3 wins!

27...f6

27...♖h4!? lets the ♖ defend, but it's not enough:

28.♕xc5! 28...♗xc5  
29.♗h6+ ♔h8  
30.♖d4+ ♔h7  
31.♖xf7+ ♔xh6  
32.♖g7+ ♔h5  
(32...♔g5 33.♖f5#)  
33.♕d1+- mating;

28.♗h6+ shows another attacking idea: 28...♔h8  
29.♕xg3! ♖xg3

30.♗xf7+ ♔g8 31.♖h6+- and Black has to give up the ♖ to prevent mate on h8.

28.♖h6 ♖e7 29.e5

29.♗xf6+ ♗xf6 30.♖xf6+-.

29...♖h7 30.♖xg6+ ♖g7

31.♗h6+ ♔h8 32.♖h5 ♖e8

33.♗f7+ ♔g8 34.♗h6+ ♔h8

35.♖h4!+- ♗d3 36.♕xd3

cxd3 37.exf6

37.e6! ♖h7 38.♖xf6! (38.exd7??

♖e3+ 39.♔h1 ♖xh6+-) 38...♗xf6

39.♖xf6+ ♖g7 40.♖h4! (40.♗f7+

♔g8 41.♕e5 wins more slowly.)

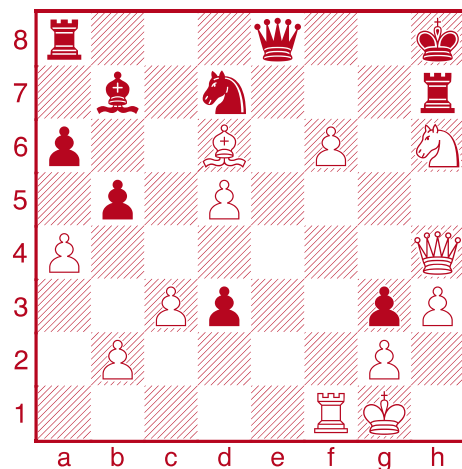
40...♖h7 41.♕e5+- #2.

37...♖h7



LeSiège v Preotu  
Quebec Open 2018





38.f7??

The only mistake... but it could have turned a brilliancy into a loss.

38.♔d4□+- e.g. 38...♖f7 (38...♖xh6 39.f7++-) 39.♘xf7+ ♔xf7 40.♖f4! ♔xd5 41.♖h4+ ♔g8 42.♔g4+ ♔f7 (42...♔g5 43.♔e6#) 43.♖h7+ ♔xf6 44.♔e7+ ♔e5 45.♖h5#.

38...♔d8??

Luckily for White, Black got fixated on trading ♔s, otherwise that blunder would have cost the game: ♘38...♔e3+ 39.♔h1 ♔xh6□-+.

39.♔d4+ ♖g7 40.f8♔+ ♔xf8 41.♔xf8

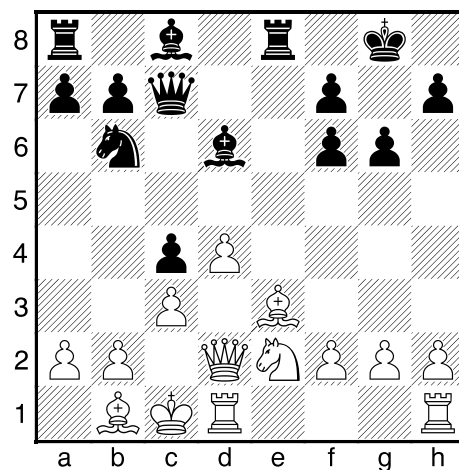
1-0

### (83) Lu, Shanglei (2612) Hansen, Eric (2603)

A00

Tata Steel-B 79th Wijk aan Zee (10), 25.01.2017

1.♘c3 d5 2.e4 dxe4 3.♘xe4 ♘f6 4.♘xf6+ exf6 5.d4 ♔d6 6.♔d3 0-0 7.c3 ♖e8+ 8.♘e2 c5 9.♔e3 ♘d7 10.♔c2 g6 11.0-0-0 ♔c7 12.♔d2 c4 13.♔b1 ♘b6



14.h4?

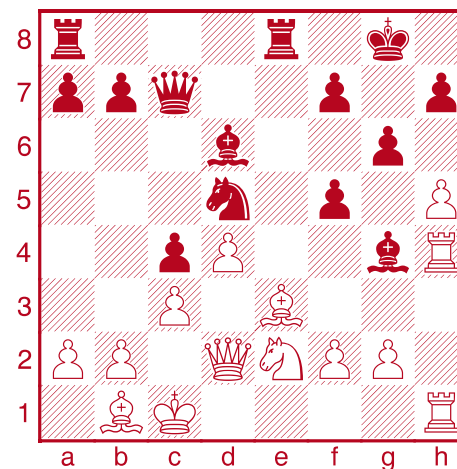
Thematic, but apparently the losing move.

White had to prevent Black's next move with 14.d5!♞.

14...♘d5!

Attacking ♔e3 and supporting ...f5-f4 when Black has material-winning pressure on the e-file.

15.h5 ♔g4! 16.♖h4 f5 17.♖dh1



17...♖e7!-+

Simply doubling on the e-file, with the bonus of protecting along the 7th.

17...♔xe2? 18.hxg6□ (18.♔xe2? g5!-+ (18...f4?? 19.hxg6! fxe3 20.♖xh7+-) ) 18...♘xe3 (18...fxg6? 19.♖xh7±) 19.fxe3 fxe3 (19...hxg6 20.♔xe2 ♔f4 21.♖4h3±) 20.♖xh7! ♔xh7 21.♖xh7 ♔xh7 22.♔xe2 ♔f4 23.♔xc4±.

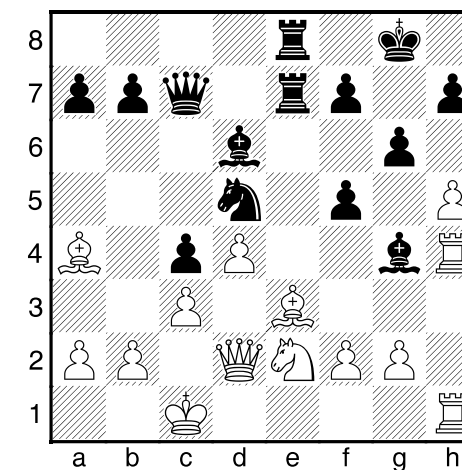
17...♔e7!? is also strong, but less

straight forward: 18.hxg6 (18.♔g5 ♔xg5 19.♔xg5 ♖xe2 20.hxg6 fxe3 21.♖xg4 fxe3 22.♔xd5+ ♔f7-+) 18...♔xh4 19.gxf7+ ♔xf7 20.♖xh4 ♘xe3-+.

18.♔c2

18.f3 doesn't save White, since Black has both the simple 18...♔xh5-+ and the ruthless 18...♖xe3 19.fxe3 ♖xe2 20.♔xe2 ♔f4+ 21.♔d1 ♘e3+-+.

18...♖ae8 19.♔a4



Black could have prevented this with ...b5 on the previous move, but there was no need as he has a crushing continuation:

19...♖xe3

Not the only winning move — 19...♘xe3 20.♔xe8 ♘xg2-+ —





# Chess Canada Tacticosaurus

but the most forcing.

## 20.hxg6

20.fxe3 ♖xe3 with enough material and threats on e2 and the c1-f4 diagonal.

## 20...fxg6

0-1

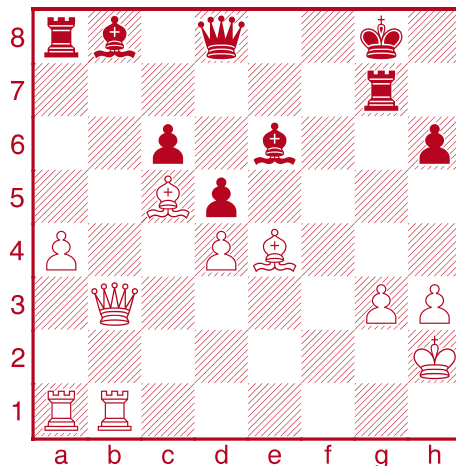
(84)

Hua, Eugene (2303)  
Issani, Nameer (2205)

A29

Hart House Reading Week Open  
Toronto (2), 18.02.2017

1.c4 e5 2.g3 ♘f6 3.♗g2 ♘c6  
4.♘c3 ♗c5 ... 28.fxg3 ♖g7



Black is down a pawn but is threatening g3 and has four pieces pointed at the White K. Tactically, both LSBs might come off the board (if Black chooses) and White's Q is currently forced to keep the pin on the d5-pawn.

## 29.♖g1?

29.♖a3 ♖ a preposterous-looking defensive move, but the best available, and keeps the game alive. 29...♗xg3+ (29...♖xg3??

30.♗xb8 ♖xb8 31.♖xg3+ ♖+; 29...♗c7 30.♗g2!) 30.♗xg3 ♖xg3 31.♖xg3+ ♔h8 ♖∞.

Materially, Black is ahead, but his exposed K and White's active pieces make it a game which would likely end in any number of possible blunders; e.g. 32.♗g2 (32.♗d3 ♖b8?? 33.♗e7+-) 32...♗c7 (32...♖b8? 33.♖e1 ♗d7 34.a5 ♖a8 35.♖e5 ♖xa5 36.♖h5 ♔h7 37.♗f8+-; 32...♖xa4?? 33.♖b7+-) 33.♗b6 ♖ (33.♖e1?? ♖g8 34.♖ee3 ♖xg3



35.♖xg3 h5 36.h4 ♗f4-+)  
33...♗d6 34.♗c5! =.

## 29...♗c8?

Defends the ♗e6 and so threatens ...dxe4. 29...♗h4?? 30.♗xb8++-.

29...♗c7 30.♗c2!± threatens ♗e3 (forking e6 and h6) and with White's ♖a1 coming to the f-file, now White will have more pieces pointed at the Black K than vice

versa.

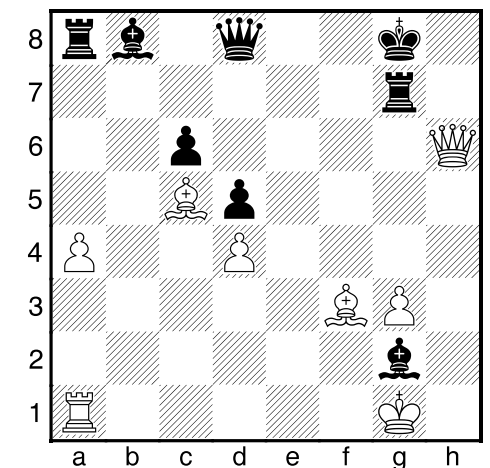
29...♗g5! threatens ...♗xh3 then ...♗g4. 30.♖af1 ♖ threatens ♖f8#, 30...♗c7 ♖ defends f8 and renews the threat to h3.

29...♗c7!!-+ puts the B on a safe square so that ...♗h4 is a killing threat. The game might end like this: 30.♗d3 ♗h4 31.♗f1 ♖b8 ♖ 32.♗c3 ♗xh3 33.♗xh3 ♖b2+! 34.♗xb2 ♗xg3+ 35.♔g2 ♗e4+ 36.♔f1 ♗f3+ 37.♗f2 ♗xf2#.

## 30.♗f3 ♗xh3 ♖ 31.♗e3 ♗f5 32.♖g2 ♗d8 33.♔g1!

Getting off h2 means no check from Black's DSB and no h-file pin after ♗xh6.

## 33...♗h3 34.♗xh6 ♗xg2



35. ♖e6+?

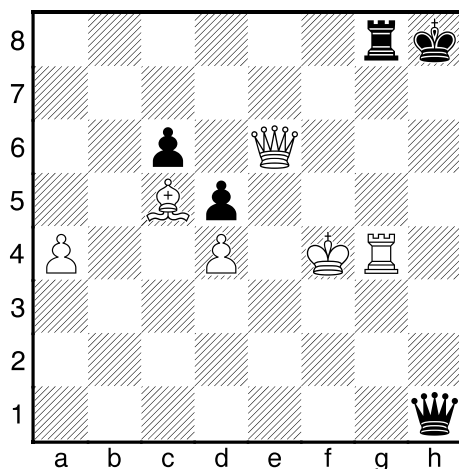
35. ♙xg2? ♖d7□-+ (35... ♙xg3  
36. ♖xc6∞).

35. ♙g4!! ♖xg4 36. ♖e6+∞ ♔h8  
37. ♖xg4 ♙e4 38. ♖f1! threatening  
♖f8 and ♖f7. 38... ♙xg3□  
39. ♖xg3 ♖g8□=.

35... ♔h8-+ 36. ♙xg2  
36. ♔xg2 ♖xg3+ 37. ♔f1 ♖a7-+  
(37... ♖xf3+?? 38. ♔e2=).

36... ♙xg3 37. ♖f1 ♖h4 38. ♖f6  
♙f4 39. ♔f1 ♖xg2??  
39... ♖b8-+ or ... ♖b7 for a winning  
counterattack.

40. ♔xg2= ♖g8+ 41. ♖g6□  
♖h2+ 42. ♔f3 ♖h5+ 43. ♖g4  
♖h1+ 44. ♔xf4



44... ♖f1+??

44... ♖h2+□= 45. ♔e3 ♖h3+□  
46. ♔f2 ♖xg4 (46... ♖xg4??  
47. ♖h6#) 47. ♖f6+ ♔h7  
48. ♖f5+□ and White has a  
perpetual.

45. ♔e5+- ♖e2+ 46. ♔f6□  
46. ♔d6? ♖d8+ 47. ♔c7 (47. ♔e7  
♖e8+-) 47... ♖xe6 48. ♖h4+ ♔g7  
49. ♔xd8 ♖f6+ 50. ♙e7∞.

46... ♖f3+ 47. ♖f5□ ♖xg4  
48. ♖xg4□ ♖xg4 49. a5 ♖g2  
50. a6 ♖f2+ 51. ♔e6 ♔g7  
52. a7 ♖a2 53. ♔d7

1-0

(85)  
Poulin, Mathieu (2165)  
Sambuev, Bator (2584)

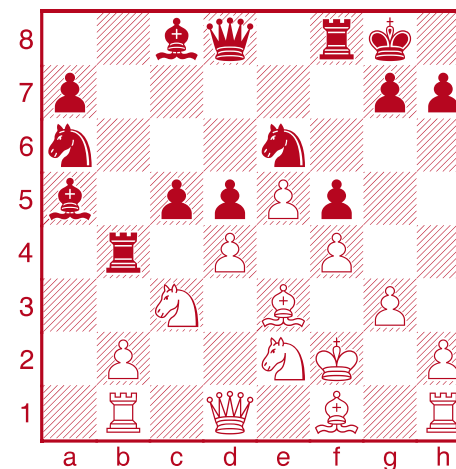
E42  
Carnival Quebec (5), 19.02.2017  
**Notes: GM Bator Sambuev**

1. d4 ♖f6 2. c4 e6 3. ♖c3 ♙b4  
4. e3 c5 5. ♖ge2 b6 6. a3 ♙a5  
7. ♖b1 ♖a6 8. f3 0-0 9. e4 d5  
10. cxd5 exd5 11. e5 ♖e8  
12. ♖g3 ♖ec7 13. ♙e3 f5  
14. f4 ♖e6 15. ♖ge2 ♖b8!!  
"allows me to reach the main

goal: to blow up the centre! It  
took more than 20 minutes to  
find this move." – Sambuev

16. g3 b5 17. ♔f2 b4 18. axb4  
♖xb4

And now the decisive mistake:



19. ♙g2??

editor – 19. dxc5! is the saving  
move because 19... d4 does  
not win a piece: 20. ♖xd4 ♖xd4  
21. ♖a2□ and the ♖b4 has no  
safe square.

Instead of ...d4, Black  
should try 19... ♖axc5 20. ♖xd5  
(20. ♖xd5?? ♖e4+! 21. ♔g2 ♖xc3  
22. ♖xd8 ♙b7+-+ Black will be  
up a piece with both White's Rs  
hanging.) and after 20... ♖e4+  
21. ♔g1 ♖ Black is still down a  
pawn, but White development is  
woeful.

19... cxd4 20. ♖xd4 ♖xd4  
21. ♙xd4 ♖xd4+

Black has a ♙ and ♖ for the ♖♙,  
and the rest is simple.

22. ♖xd5 ♙e6 23. b4

23. ♖xd4 ♙b6-+ and both the ♖  
and ♖ are pinned.

23... ♙b6 24. ♖e3 ♖c7  
25. ♖d3 ♖f7 26. ♖hd1 ♖d7  
27. ♔f1 ♖db5 28. ♖xd7 ♙xd7

For some reason my opponent  
made another several moves,  
but let's say he resigned here.

0-1

(86)  
Preotu, Razvan (2495)  
Kumar, Nikhil (2076)

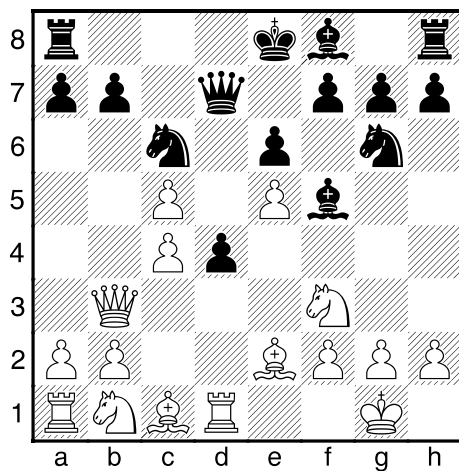
B12  
PRO Chess League:  
Toronto vs Miami, chess.com  
01.03.2017

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. e5 ♙f5  
4. ♖f3 e6 5. ♙e2 ♖e7 6. 0-0 c5  
7. c4 ♖bc6 8. dxc5 d4 9. ♖b3  
♖d7 10. ♖d1 ♖g6



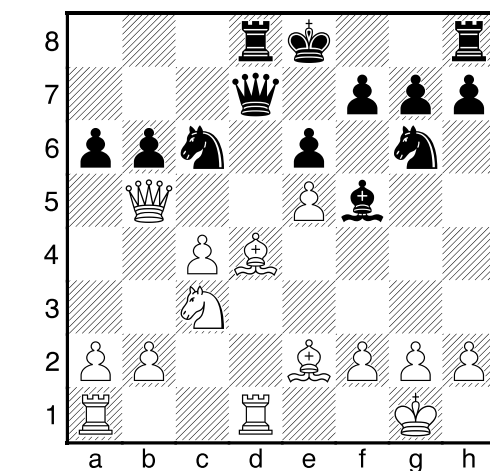


# Chess Canada Tacticosaurus



## 11. ♕e3

It has been years since the Caro could be considered a safe refuge from computer-driven opening prep. Here's an example: 1. ♖11. ♘c3 f6 12. exf6 gxf6 13. ♘d5!? ♔f7! (13... exd5?? 14. cxd5 ♘ce5 15. ♕b5+-) 14. g4! ♕xg4 15. ♘g5+ ♖fxg5 16. ♕xg4 ♘ce5! 17. ♕xg5! ♕xc5! (17... ♘xg4? 18. ♔f3+-) 18. ♘f6



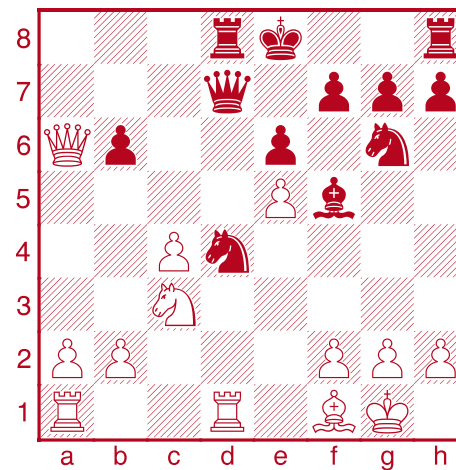
(1. ♖18. ♔g3) 18... ♔c6! = 19. ♕h5 ♖g7 20. ♔g3 ♕af8 21. ♔e1 ♕xf6 22. ♔xe5 ♕f7 23. ♕xg6 hxg6 24. ♕f4 ♕e7 25. ♔e2 ♔xc4 26. ♕ae1 d3∞ (1-0, 45) **Vachier Lagrave, M (2757)–Ding, L (2732) Wijk aan Zee, 2015.**

11... ♕xc5 12. ♔b5 b6  
13. ♘xd4 ♕xd4 14. ♕xd4 ♕d8  
15. ♘c3 ♖a6

## 16. ♔xa6?

16. ♔a4 ♖∞ b5 (16... ♘xd4 17. ♕xd4 ♔xa4 18. ♕xd8+ ♔xd8 19. ♘xa4=; 16... a5) 17. ♔xa6! (17. cxb5? ♘xd4+) 17... ♘xd4 18. ♘b5 ♘xe2+ 19. ♔f1 ♘g3+! (19... ♕d3? 20. ♘d6+ ♔e7 21. ♕xd3+-) 20. ♔e1 ♖ (20. hxg3? ♕d3+ ♖ 21. ♔g1 ♘xe5+- (1/2-1/2, 31) **Zhang, C (2156)–Kumar, N (2014) Indianapolis, 2016.**) 20... ♕d3 ♖ 21. ♘d6+ ♔e7 (21... ♔f8 22. ♕xd3 ♘xe5 23. ♕d2 ♘f5 24. ♕ad1+-) 22. ♕xd3 ♘xe5 23. ♘f5+ ♘xf5 24. ♕xd7+ ♕xd7∞.

16... ♘xd4+ 17. ♕f1  
17. ♔f1 ♘f4!+-.



Can Black castle, or does it drop a piece?

## 17... 0-0!

... ♕c2 is also good.

## 18. ♘b5

Seems to win the piece back, but because it undefends the ♕d1...

18... ♘f3+ ♖-+ 19. gxf3 ♔xd1

## a chess.com mystery

Toronto lost this match by one point. That evening, Toronto captain **Glenn Giffen** was notified by chess.com that Toronto would advance because an unidentified Miami player had violated chess.com's "fair play" rules. Miami protested, and their disqualification was overturned.

On a totally unrelated note, in the last few months of 2016, just before this game was played, Nikhil Kumar's FIDE rating shot up from 2000 to 2479. Suspicions of OTB cheating were expressed, and his FIDE rating spent 2017 dropping the mid-2200s.

Coincidentally, Nikhil Khumar's chess.com account shows very busy use prior to this match, and zero games in the five years immediately after this match. This is consistent with a ban by chess.com for cheating. But — at least prior to Carlsen's accusations against Hans Niemann — chess.com official policy was to not publicly identify titled players caught by their anti-cheating algorithms. Only chosen players who sign an NDA may see the list of chess.com identified cheaters.

Any more would be wild speculation...

The chronically suspicious *might* think it relevant that chess.com ambassador Hikaru Nakamura was top-board on the Miami team, and would have been eliminated from the PRO League play-offs if any of his teammates had been promptly penalized for cheating...

But no one who plays on the world's largest chess server — which recently bought its #2 commercial competitor: Carlsen's chess24 — would dare *publicly* suggest that chess.com bends its rules to suit its star players. That is a case for Niemann's lawyers.

So many mysteries...

[discussion and links](#)

20. ♖xd1 ♖xd1 21. ♘c3 ♖e1  
22. c5

Opening the diagonal for the ♔ stops ...♙d3 and defends f1.

22. ♘e4 hopes to defend f1, but  
22...♙h3 23. ♘g3 h5-+.

22. ♔g2 unpins, but loses to a  
more complex attack: 22...♘f4+  
23. ♔g3 g5!-+ 24. c5 (24. ♙g2  
♖g1 and mate next.) 24...♘h5+  
25. ♔g2 ♙d3-+ 26. ♙xd3  
(26. ♖xd3 ♘f4+-+) 26...♘f4+  
27. ♔g3 ♖g1#.

22...♙h3  
23. cxb6  
♙xf1 24. ♖xf1  
♖xf1+  
25. ♔xf1 ♖b8  
26. b4 ♖xb6  
27. b5 ♘xe5  
28. ♔e2 ♘c4  
29. ♔d3 ♘a3  
Bhonda won by  
resignation.

But see sidebar.

0-1



**WGM  
Qiyu  
Zhou**

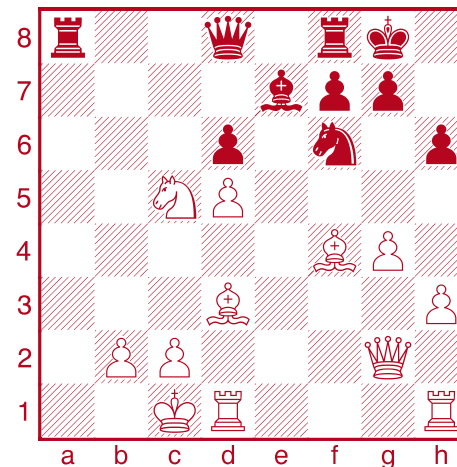
*Blackpool  
2017*

(87)  
**Zhou, Qiyu (2287)**  
**Fallowfield, Jeremy R  
(2069)**

B90

*Blackpool Chess Conference (5),  
12.03.2017*

1. e4 c5 2. ♘f3 d6 3. d4 cxd4  
4. ♘xd4 ♘f6 5. ♘c3 a6 6. ♙e3  
e5 7. ♘b3 ♙e6 8. h3 ♙e7  
9. ♖f3 ♘bd7 10. g4 h6 11. 0-0  
b5 12. ♖g2 b4 13. ♘d5  
♙xd5  
14. exd5 a5  
15. f4 a4  
16. ♘d2 b3  
17. axb3  
axb3  
18. ♘xb3  
exf4 19. ♙xf4  
0-0 20. ♙d3  
♘c5  
21. ♘xc5□



Is White winning a piece after  
21...dxc5 22. d6?

**21...♖a1+?**

This forces White's K to the  
center, but because Black has  
to spend a tempo recapturing  
on c5, ...♖xa1+ has effectively  
trades Black's well-developed  
♖a8 for White's undeveloped  
♖h1.

After 21...dxc5! Black may  
have been worried about 22.d6  
which looks like it wins the ♙e7,  
since 22...♙xd6 23. ♙xd6 ♖xd6?  
24. ♙h7+-+ wins the Q for White.

But Black has better after 21...  
dxc5 22.d6:

a) 22...♙xd6! 23. ♙xd6 ♖a1+  
24. ♔d2 ♖xd1+ and on either

recapture the ♙d3 is pinned to  
the ♔, so Black can safely play  
...♖xd6, after which material  
is equal, but White's K is more  
exposed than Black's;

b) In fact, 22. d6 is a mistake,  
because Black has the even  
better 22...c4!!♠ threatening the  
♙d3 and a huge attack with ...c3:

b1) 23. ♙xc4 ♖a1+□ 24. ♔d2  
♙xd6 25. ♖xa1 ♙xf4+ 26. ♔e1  
♖e8+ 27. ♙e2 (27. ♔f1 ♘e4-+)  
27...♘e4 with a winning check  
coming from either d2 or a5 or  
g3 or h4.

b2) 23. dxe7 ♖xe7 and White is  
up a piece but has to give it back  
immediately with c2-c3 or get  
destroyed by ...c3:

a) 24. ♙xc4 ♖a1+ 25. ♔d2 Black  
regains at least a piece with a  
huge attack with 25...♖b4+-+  
or 25...♘e4+-+;  
b) 24. ♖e2 ♖a1+ 25. ♔d2  
♖b4+□-+ followed soon by  
...♖e8+ snagging the Q.;  
c) 24. ♙e2 c3! 25. bxc3 ♘e4-+;  
d) 24. c3! cxd3 25. ♖xd3 ♘e4!♠.

22. ♔d2 ♖xd1+ 23. ♖xd1  
♖a5+

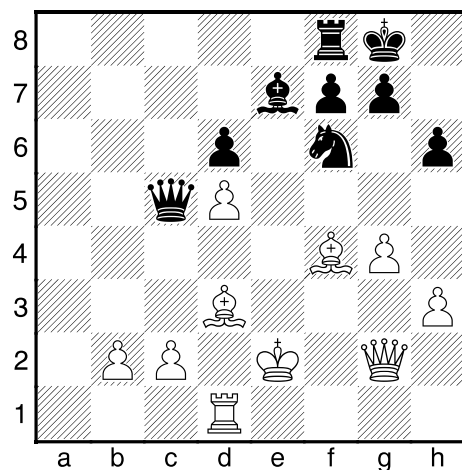


**Chess Canada  
Tacticosaurus**



23...dxc5 24.c4!?±.

24.♔e2 ♚xc5



White is up a pawn with the B-pair, and although her K is in the center, it is her opponent's K that is in danger. White plays the rest forcefully and accurately.

25.♙e3! ♚b4?!

Of course not 25...♚xd5??

26.♙h7++-.

♠25...♚c7 coordinating with the kingside.

26.g5! hxg5 27.♚xg5

And Black has to give up a piece to avoid getting mated.

27...♚b7

27...♖e8 28.♖g1 g6 29.♙xg6

♜xd5 30.♙h7++-.

28.♖g1 ♜e8

and White has a choice of wins, e.g.

29.♚h5 ♜f6 30.♚h6 g6

31.♙xg6

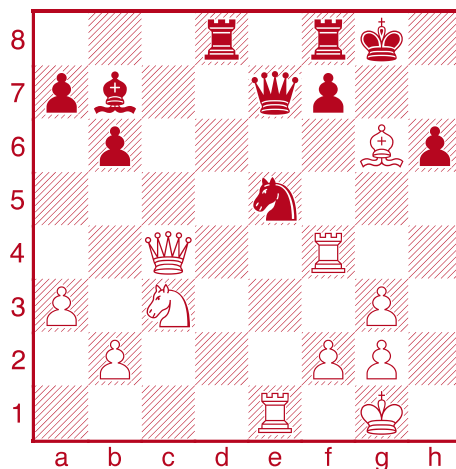
1-0

(88)  
Kleinman, Michael (2289)  
Vigorito, David (2370)

E57

2017 CCCSA IM Norm Charlotte  
(2), 30.03.2017

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5  
4.c4 ♜f6... 25.dxe5 ♜xe5



26.♖xe5??

Giving away most of White's

advantage.

One strong line is: 26.♙xf7+!:

26...♖xf7? 27.♖xe5+-;

26...♚xf7 27.♖xe5 ♚xc4

28.♖xc4 and White is up two

pawns with a much safer king;

26... ♔h8 27.♚e2 ♖xf7 28.♖xf7

♚xf7 29.♚e5+- also with

an extra two pawns and huge initiative.

But even better is: 26.♖xf7!!

putting yet a third piece *en*

*prise* to the ♜ would have

been a worthy finish: 26...♜xc4

27.♖exe7 ♖fe8 (27...♖xf7

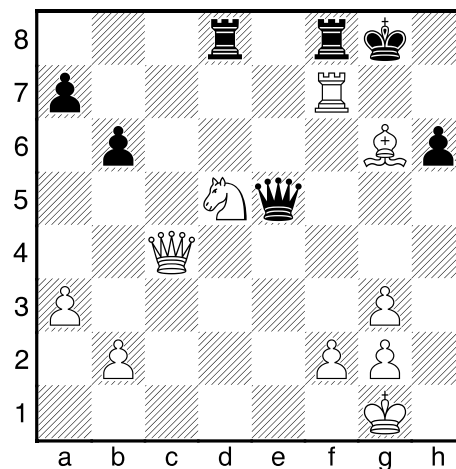
28.♙xf7+ ♔f8 29.♖xb7+-)

28.♖g7+ ♔h8 29.♖h7+ ♔g8

30.♖eg7+ ♔f8 31.♖xb7+-.

26...♚xe5 27.♖xf7 ♙d5□

28.♜xd5



28...♚xd5??

28...♖xf7□ 29.♙xf7+ ♔xf7±

and there are no particularly

useful discovered checks,

though White's extra pawns and

protected K give him the easier

game.

29.♚c7!+- ♖fe8 30.♖g7+ ♔f8

31.♖h7

1-0

(89)  
Upper, John (2142)  
Zhou, Qiyu (2331)

A27

RACC RR Ottawa (5), 13.04.2017

1.c4 e5 2.♜c3 ♜c6 3.e3 ♙c5

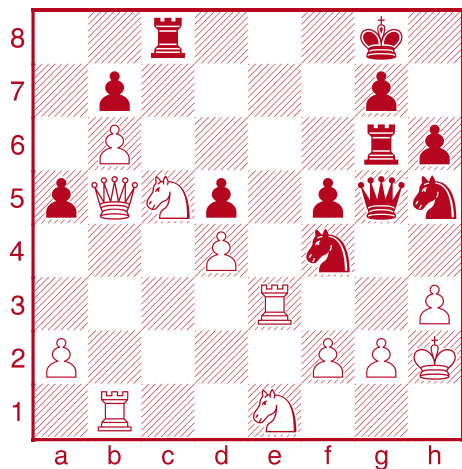
4.♜f3 d6 5.d4 exd4 6.exd4

♙b6 7.b4 a5 8.b5 ♜ce7

9.♜a4 ♙a7 10.♙b2?! ♜f6

32...♖g6





### 33.g3??

Not threatening the ♘ (because of ...♖g1#), but blocking the attack on g2.

#### a) ♖33.♖d7!:

33...♖f8 34.♖xb7 ♘xg2?  
35.♖xd5+- and adding a defender to g2;

33...♖d8 34.♖e7+- forces off the ♖s before mopping up the black pawns;

33... ♘xg2 34.♖xc8+  
(34.♖xd5+- is simpler.)  
34...♖h7 35.♘e6 ♖xe6 36.♖xe6  
♘xe1 37.♖bxe1 ♘f4 threatening mate and the ♖, but 38.♖g1+- and White easily wins the exchange up ending because of the b-pawns.

b) ♖33.♖e8+ one of the main points of ♖b5, here White would win with 33...♖xe8 34.♖xe8+ ♖h7 35.♘d7!+- but I completely missed the ♘ fork on f8.

FWIW, both sides were in time trouble, but there are still an embarrassing number of “?”s here.

### 33...♖h7??

Eliminates some of White's tactics, but not all.

The problem with 33.g3 is that it weakens other parts of the kingside, which Black could have immediately pounced on with 33...♘xh3□=, which I don't think I even saw. Based on her later moves, Black saw it, but too late.

After 33...♘xh3□=:

a) 34.♖xh3?! shows Black's point 34...♖g4+! (34...f4? 35.♖d7□=) 35.♖g2□ (35.♖h2? f4□ with a winning attack.) 35...f4→ 36.♖f3□;

b) 34.♘f3 ♖g4□= 35.♖e8+ (35.♘e5 ♘xf2□ 36.♖d7!∞ ♖h3+ 37.♖g1 ♖xg3+ 38.♖xg3

♖xg3+ 39.♖f1 ♖h3+ and Black should be able to force a draw.) 35...♖h7□ (35...♖xe8?? 36.♖xe8+ ♖h7 37.♘e5+- or 37.♘d7+-) 36.♘e5□ ♖xd4□ 37.♘cd3 ♘xf2 38.♘xg6= with a crazy-looking mess the computer shows is equal: 38...♘g4+ 39.♖h3 ♖c2! 40.♘f8+ ♖g8 41.♘g6+ ♖h7 42.♘f8+= .

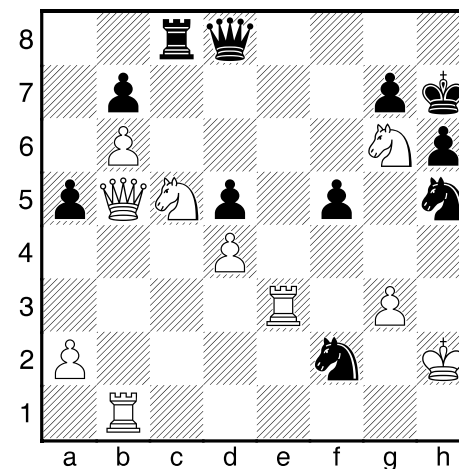
### 34.♘f3!

Now the ♖ has to run and so the ♘f4 is hanging.

34...♖d8 35.♘e5  
35.gxf4 also wins.

35...♘xh3!? 36.♘xg6  
♖36.♖xh3 was both much simpler and objectively better.

### 36...♘xf2



White is up a ♖ but Black threatens both ...♘g4+ and ...♖xg6.

### 37.♘e5?

Makes the ♘ safe and stops the fork on g4, but allows Black into the game. This wasn't White's worst possible move — how about 37.♖f1?? ♘g4+- — but there were plenty of much better options:

not 37.♖e8? ♖xe8 38.♖xe8 ♖xe8 39.♘e5 ♖e7∞; but:  
♖37.♖f3+-, or  
♖37.♖g2 ♘g4 38.♖e6+-, or  
♖37.♘e6 ♘g4+ 38.♖g1 ♖d6 39.♖d7!! that would have been fun to play. 39...♖xd7 40.♘ef8+ ♖g8 41.♘d7 ♖d8 (41...♘xe3 42.♘e7+-) 42.♖e7+-.

### 37...♖g5??

Black misses her last chance: 37...f4□= Black is down a ♖ but gets it all back after 38.gxf4 (38.♖g1 fxe3 39.♖b1+! ♖g8 40.♖f5∞; 38.♖d7= bails out.) 38...♖h4+ 39.♖g1 ♘xf4∞.

38.♖e2!+- f4 39.♖xf2  
39.gxf4 ♖xf4+ (39...♖h4+ 40.♖g1□+-) 40.♖g2 ♖xd4 41.♖xh5! ♖xe3 42.♖f5+- and



takes on c8 with check on this or the next move.

39...fxe3 40.♔g2 ♖f8?  
41.♘e6

1-0

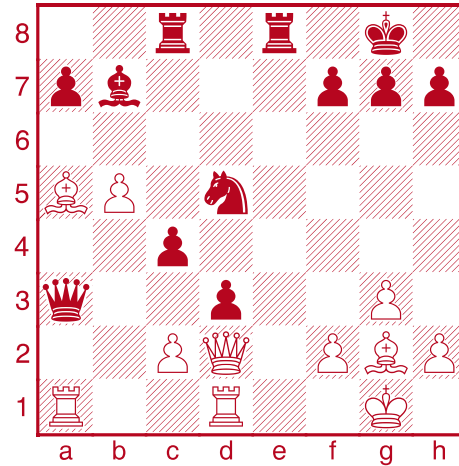
(90)

LeSiège, Alexandre (2525)  
Noritsyn, Nikolay (2473)

A05

Canadian Zonal Montreal (3),  
28.06.2017

1.♘f3 e6 2.g3 d5  
3.♙g2 b5 4.0-0  
♘f6 5.d3 ♙b7  
6.♘bd2 ♙e7 7.e4  
c5 8.♖e1 ♘c6  
9.exd5 ♘xd5 10.a3  
0-0 11.♘e4 ♗b6  
12.♙d2 c4 13.dxc4  
bxc4 14.♖b1 ♖ad8  
15.♗c1 e5 16.♘c3  
♙c5 17.♘e4 ♖fe8  
18.♘xc5 ♗xc5  
19.b4 ♗d6 20.b5  
♘d4 21.♘xd4 exd4  
22.♙a5 ♖c8 23.♗d2  
♗xa3 24.♖ed1 d3  
25.♖a1



Complicated: choose between  
...♗b2 and ...♗c5.

### LeSiège - Noritsyn



25...♗b2?

Making the ♗ safe and forking c2 and b5 is obviously a candidate move, but it's not the best.

25...♗c5! hitting f2 and so threatening ...♖e2. 26.cxd3 c3□ 27.♗c2 ♗xb5± or 27...h5!? to soften up White's kingside when there can be tactics with ...♘e3.

26.cxd3?

26.♙xd5□ gets more than it deserves after 26...♙xd5? 27.♙c3□ ♗xb5 28.♖a5! ♗c6 29.♗g5+- threatening mate on g7 and the ♙d5.

But 26.♙xd5□ ♖e2! leads to a forcing line where White's scattered pieces can somehow look out for each other and stop Black's passers:

27.♗g5 leads to a whole course in tactics: 27...♗d4! forking f2 and d5. 28.♙xf7+ Desperado. 28...♙xf7 29.♗h5+□ Fork. 29...♙g8 30.♗xe2 using the pin to the undefended ♗d4, 30...♗d5□ in-between move, defending the ♗ with a mate threat 31.f3□ dxe2 32.♖xd5 ♙xd5 33.♙f2± White is nominally

better in the ♖ and opposite ♙ ending.

27.♙xb7 ♖xd2 28.♙xd2 looks nightmarish for White, but there's no way to make those passers go:

28...♖b8 29.♙c6 ♗xc2 30.♙e3 c3 31.♙e4! ♖d8 32.b6!+-;

28...dxc2 29.♙xc8 cxd1♗+ 30.♖xd1 ♗xb5± (30...♗c2? 31.♙g4+-).

26...c3□ 27.♗xb2

27.♙xc3 ♗xc3 28.♗xc3 ♘xc3 29.♙xb7 ♘xd1 This would be excellent for White, but the obvious 30.♙xc8 loses an exchange to 30...♖e1+ 31.♙g2 ♘e3+-+.

27...cxb2 28.♖ab1 ♖c2  
29.♙f1 ♖ec8-+

Black has a protected passed pawn on the 2nd and his ♖s have the only open files.

30.♙h3 ♖8c5 31.♖e1 (photo)  
g6 32.♙d7 ♘c3 33.♙xc3  
♖5xc3 34.♙c6 ♖c1!

Bonus exclamation for style.

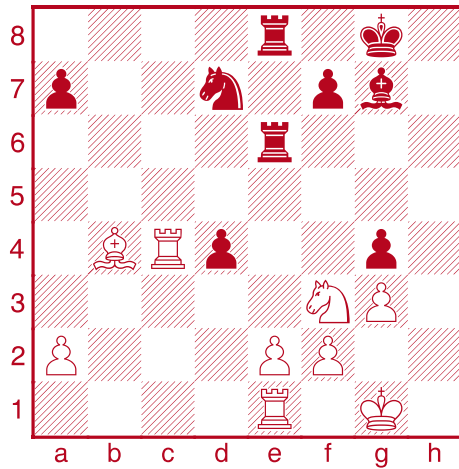
0-1



(91)  
**Oussedik, Elias (2163)**  
**Hambleton, Aman (2471)**

E16  
*Canadian Zonal Montreal (4),  
 28.06.2017*

1.d4 e6 2.c4 ♘f6 3.♘f3 b6  
 4.g3 ♕b7...  
 29.hxg4 hxg4



White has played cautiously but carefully enough to reach an endgame with material equality but where his pieces are a little uncoordinated. Can White now play ♘xd4?

**30.♘xd4!**

Yes, but the tactics are very tricky.

30.♘h2? ♜xe2 31.♞xe2 ♜xe2  
 32.♘xg4 d3+.

**30...♞e4!**

Pinning the ♘d4 to the ♜ is the only move to pose any difficulties for White.

**31.e3**□

Defending the ♘ but weakening f3.

31.♞d1? ♘b6!-+ 32.f3!? the trickiest 32...gx3□ 33.ex3 ♘xc4 34.fxe4 ♞d8□ Incredibly, White can't escape the d-file pin for less than an exchange! 35.♕c5 (35.♕c3 ♘a3! and ♘ goes to c2 or b5.) 35...♞d7 defending a7 and threatening ...♘b2-a4 to remove the ♕ guarding the ♘d4. (35...♘b6 also works by threatening ...♘a4 and ...♞d7.) 36.♙f2 (36.♞c1 ♕xd4+ with check! 37.♕xd4 ♞xd4 and the ♞ defends the ♘.) 36...♘b2 37.♞d2 ♘a4 38.♕xa7 ♞xa7-+.

**31...♘e5**

Hitting the ♞ and setting up forks on f3 and d3.

**32.♞cc1??**

32.♞c7? ♘d3! 33.♞b1 ♕xd4!

34.exd4 ♞b8 35.a3 a5 36.♞d1 axb4□ 37.♞xd3 ♞e1+! controlling the promotion rank with tempo 38.♙g2 b3-+.

32.♞c3? ♘f3+! 33.♘xf3 ♞xb4 and White is hanging on c3 and f3, and 34.♘d4 fails to either capture on d4, exploiting the pin on the e-file.

32.♞c2□ ♘d3 (the ♕b4 defends e1, otherwise Black would win with 32...♞xd4!? 33.exd4 ♘f3+ 34.♙f1 ♘xe1 35.♕xe1 ♕xd4=) 33.♞b1□ ♞b8 34.a3□ ♕xd4 (34...a5? 35.♘c6±) 35.exd4 a5 36.♞d1□=.

**32...♘d3**

Wins a whole piece.

**33.♕c3 ♘xe1**

**34.♕xe1**

34.♞xe1 ♕xd4  
 35.♕xd4 ♞xd4-+ is the same winning tactic as the game.

**34...♕xd4**

0-1

(92)  
**Oussedik, Elias (2163)**  
**Itkin, David (2181)**

A65  
*Canadian Zonal Montreal (9),  
 01.07.2017*

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♕g7  
 4.e4 d6 5.h3 0-0 6.♕g5 c5  
 7.d5 e6 8.♘f3 exd5 9.cxd5  
 ♞e8 10.♕d3 c4 11.♕c2  
 b5 12.a3 ♘bd7 13.0-0 h6  
 14.♕e3 ♘e5 15.♘xe5 ♞xe5  
 16.♞e1 ♞e8 17.♕d4 a6 18.e5  
 dxe5= 19.♕xe5 ♕b7 20.♙d4



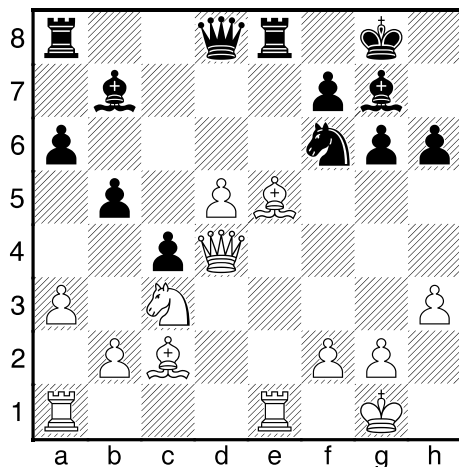
*Dr. Elias Oussedik  
 2018 Zonal*







# Chess Canada Tacticosaurus



**20...♖xe5!!∞**

Nice! Even without the center pawns, Benoni dark-square play is worth a lot.

**21.♔xe5 ♘xd5 22.♔g3 ♘xc3  
23.bxc3 ♔d2 24.♖ac1 ♖c8!**

Preventing ♔c7. Not just a good move, but good judgment: Black played a positional exchange sac, and his comp won't go away if he plays slowly.

**25.♗b1 ♔b2 26.h4 h5**

A reluctant Benoni has turned into a positionally and materially unbalanced mess: Black is collecting on the queenside, but White has serious threats on the kingside.

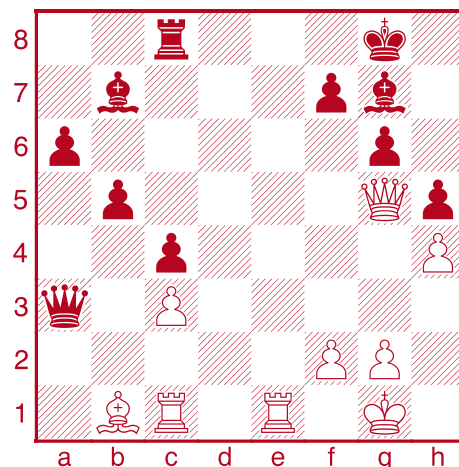
**27.♔g5**

Defending the ♖c1 and preparing ♖e7.

**27.♗xg6! fxc6 28.♔xg6 ♖f8!** threatening f2. **29.♖c2** ♔xa3 ♔∞ preventing ♖e7, with an exciting mess. For instance, White's most obvious try **30.♖ce2?** actually loses to **30...♔c5!** attacking f2 and going to f5 to save the ♔: **31.♖e7 ♔xf2+ ♔ 32.♔h2 ♔xh4+** draws, or gains time on the increment. **33.♔g1 ♔f2+ 34.♔h2 ♔xg2+!-+** forcing off the ♔s for a winning endgame.

**27...♔xa3?**

**27...♖f8!!** indirectly guards against ♗xg6 since ...fxg6 would create a double attack on f2, and **28.♖e7** loses to **28...♗f6!** **29.♔xf6 ♔xc1+ 30.♔h2 ♗xg2!**



**28.♖e7??**

△**28.♗xg6** ♔fxg6 **29.♖e7+- ♗a8** (**29...♔d6 30.♖xb7+-; 29...♗c6 30.♖ce1** ♔xc3 **31.♔xg6+-;** **29...♗h6** doesn't work here because with the f7 pawn gone **30.♔xg6+** is possible and winning.) **30.♖ce1+-** or **30.♖d1+-.**

The move played wins against every defence... except one:

**28...♗h6** ♔-+

The ♔ can't protect both ♖s. Not just the only move to win, but the only move that doesn't lose.

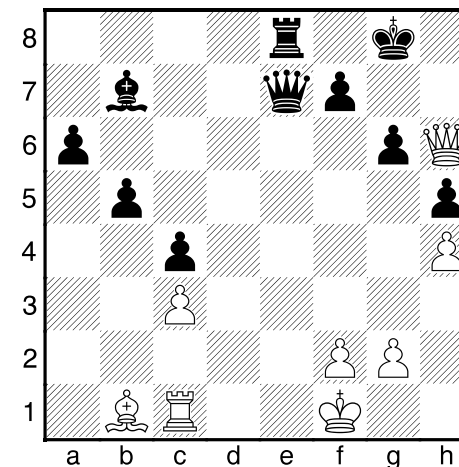
**28...♗f6?** **29.♔xf6 ♔xc1+** **30.♔h2** If Black's ♗ was on d5 or ♖ on f8 this would be winning for Black, but here f7 is insufficiently defended and it is +- **30...♖f8** (**30...♗d5 31.♗xg6!+-**) **31.♗xg6** ♔+-.

**29.♔xh6**

**29.♔g3??** is much worse **29...♔xc1+ 30.♔h2 ♗f4+-.**

**29.♔f6?? ♔xc1+ 30.♔h2 ♗f4+!** and White has to give up the ♔ to stop mate.

**29...♔xe7 30.♔f1 ♖e8**



Threatening ...♔xh4 winning a pawn with mate on h1.

**31.♔g1**

**31.g3?** leads to a familiar pattern **31...♔e2+ 32.♔g1 ♔e1+ 33.♖xe1 ♖xe1+ 34.♔h2 ♖h1#.**

**31.♗xg6 fxc6 32.♔xg6+ ♔f8 33.♔xh5** (**33.♔h6+ ♔g7+-**) **33...♔e4+** there's no perpetual and Black's attack is faster than White's kingside passers.

**31...♔e6**

The price to sac on g6 just went up.

There's always room for blunders: **31...♔xh4??**

**32.♗xg6 fxc6 33.♔xg6+ ♔f8 34.♔h6+ ♔=.**

32.♔f4 ♕e5 33.♖h6 ♖d5  
34.f3 ♜e2 35.♔f1  
35.♙xg6 ♜xg2+-.

35...♖d2 36.♖xd2 ♜xd2  
37.♙c2 ♕f8 38.♔e1 ♜xg2

0-1

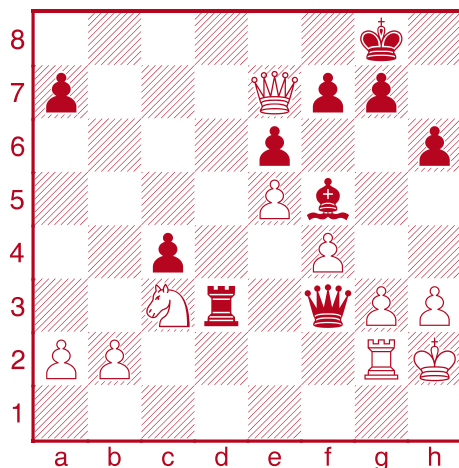
(93)

**Preotu, Razvan (2633)**  
**Itkin, David (2357)**

B12

*CAN-op Sault Ste Marie (1),  
07.07.2017*

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 ♙f5  
4.♘f3 e6 5.♙e2 c5 ...  
37.♜g2



Black's pieces surround White's ♔, all he needs is a move that makes the house of cards collapse.

37...♔h7!!

Not the only winning move, but the one that gets to the heart of the position: spending a tempo (and seemingly giving up a pawn) to prevent a back-rank check deprives White of his only defences!

37...♙xh3? doesn't win when the White ♕ can get back to h4: 38.♔xh3 g5! (38...♖h5+?? 39.♖h4+- a variation which shows why the white ♕ has to be able to move to h4.) 39.♔h2 ♖h5+ 40.♔g1 ♜d1+ Black can and should force a perpetual.

37...♜xc3? doesn't work where there's a back rank check: 38.bxc3 ♙e4 39.♖d8+ ♔h7 40.♖d2 ♖f1± Exchanges on g2 leave White's ♔ in charge in a winning ♔♙ ending. This variation shows that the white ♕ has to be able to get back to defend g2/h1. Seeing that the white ♕ has two jobs explains why ...♔h7 is such a good move.

38.g4

38.♖xa7 ♙xh3!-+.

38.♖xf7 (or a3, or some other "pass" move) 38...♜xc3 39.bxc3 ♙e4-+ and there's no stopping mate on g2 or h1.

38...♖xf4+ 39.♔g1 ♙e4

The big upset of round 1 at the 2017 Canadian Open.

0-1

(94)

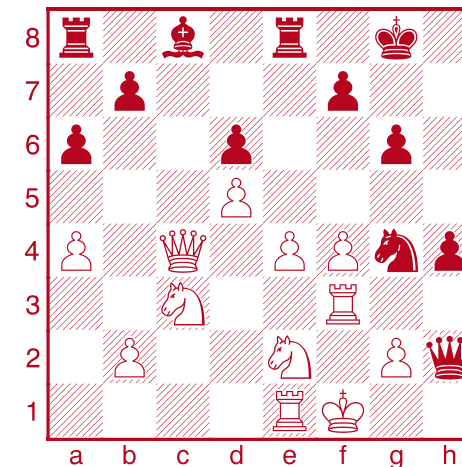
**Petersen, Caleb (2281)**  
**Doknjas, John (2107)**

A65

*2017 CYCC - U18 Sault Ste.  
Marie (5), 08.07.2017*

**Notes: FM John Doknjas**

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 c5 3.d5  
e6 4.♘c3 exd5 ...  
27.♘ge2



27...h3!!

A startling move! I found this idea by seeing two tactical themes, and then just needing a way to use them together. The



**FM John  
Doknjas**  
**2015 WYCC**





two tactical ideas are:

- 1) ...♞e3+, forking the King and Queen. If only ♖f3 wasn't there...
- 2) The second idea is shown in the following variation, where I can win the exchange but my Queen gets trapped:

27...♙h1+? 28.♞g1 ♞h2+  
29.♚f2 ♞xf3 30.♞xf3 I have won the exchange, but my Queen is trapped.

### 28.gxh3

28.♖xh3? Now the first tactical idea comes into play: 28...♙xh3!  
29.gxh3 ♞e3+ 30.♚f2 ♞xc4-+  
White is down a Rook for a pawn.

### 28...♙h1+

*editor* – Black's move is both winning and human, but the computer finds an even stronger, though way more complex, way to win: 28...♞f2!! 29.♖c1 (29.♖xf2? ♞xh3+ mates.)  
29...♞xh3+ 30.♚e1 ♞xe4!  
31.♞xe4 ♙h1+ 32.♚f2 (32.♚d2 ♙xf3 33.♞f6+ ♚f8 34.♞xe8 ♖xe8 35.♖c3-+ Black is up only a pawn, but computers rate it as +5. ) 32...♙g2+ 33.♚e3 ♖ac8!  
(33...♞f5-+) 34.♙d3 ♖xc1

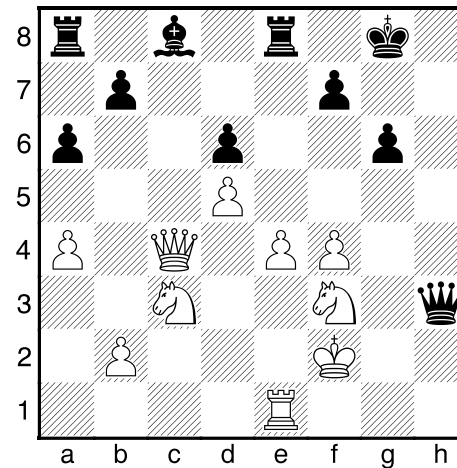
35.♞xc1 ♞f5-+.

Pro Tip: if your opponent plays like this, ask the TD to bring a metal detector.

### 29.♞g1 ♞h2+ 30.♚f2

Obviously better than 30.♚e2 ♞xf3 31.♞xf3 ♙g2-+.

### 30...♞xf3 31.♞xf3 ♙xh3



The point of playing 27...h3 – the Queen is able to escape.

### 32.♖g1

A good move, trying to get counterplay against the Black King.

*editor* – 32.f5! is better, with the same idea as ♖g1, but forcing Black to find some only moves to

keep the advantage: 32...♞xf5□ (32...gxh3? 33.♖g1+ ♚f8 34.e5! ♙h6□∞) 33.exf5 ♖xe1□ 34.♞xe1 ♙xf5+ and White might be able to trick his way out of it.

### 32...♞g4

Not relinquishing my attack. It would have been a mistake to release my pressure and just be content with the extra exchange – White still has dangerous attacking ideas.

### 33.♖g3 ♙h5

The Queen is safe on this square, and it prepares to invade White's camp after the f3-Knight is captured.

### 34.♙c7?

Going for counterplay, but this move allows Black to end things quickly.

34.♙f1 defends the white King, and prepares to start counterplay on the Kingside against Black's King.

### 34...♞xf3 35.♖xf3 ♙h2+

b2 will fall, and White's King lacks a proper defence.

### 36.♚e3 ♙xb2 37.♖f2 ♙b4

Threatening 38...♖ac8. If White's Knight moves from c3, then e4 drops and it is over.

### 38.♞e2 ♙xe4+ 39.♚d2 ♖ac8

### 0-1

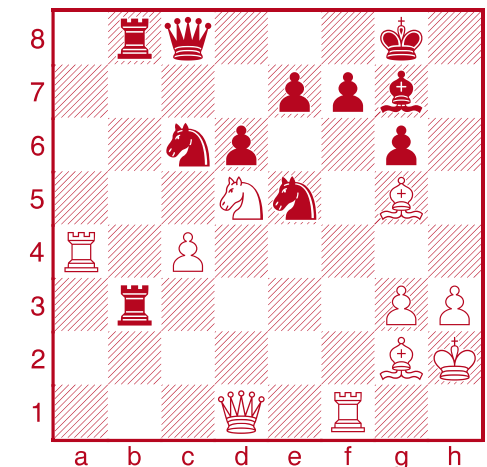
### (95)

**Hambleton, Aman (2522)**  
**Vovk, Andrey (2630)**

B70

CAN-op Sault Ste Marie (6.2),  
13.07.2017

1.e4 c5 2.♞e2 ♞c6 3.♞bc3  
♞f6 4.g3 d6 ... 29.♞g5



What happens after 29...♖b1?



**29...♙f8**

Black keeps a huge advantage after this, but it misses and immediate KO:

♞29...♖b1! wins:

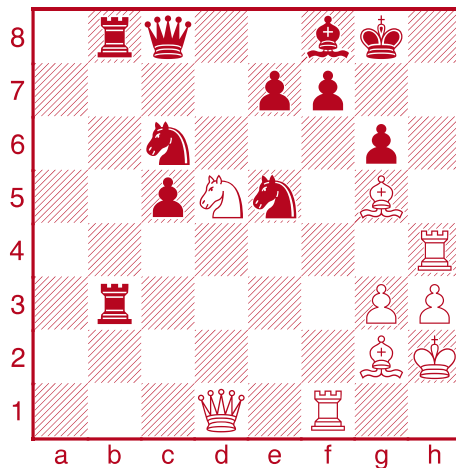
30.♙e2 ♖8b2+;

30.♙xb1 ♖xb1 31.♖xb1 ♙f5-+  
Black's ♙ forks g5 and b1;

30.♙c1 ♙h6 31.♙c2 ♙xc1  
32.♖xc1 ♖8b2! 33.♙xb1 (33.♙d1  
♖xc1 34.♙xc1 ♗f3+!!-+ as in the  
mainline.) 33...♗f3+! 34.♙h1  
♙xh3+! 35.♙xh3 ♖h2#.

**30.c5 dxc5**

♞30...♖b1!

**31.♖h4!**

What happens after 31...♖b1?

**31...♖d3?**

Better is ...♙d7, but I'll leave it to you to figure out why.

31...♖b1 doesn't win for Black anymore, but the refutation is not at all obvious: 32.♙f6♠ threatening mate on h8 (32.♙a4? ♖xf1 33.♙xf1 ♗f3+--+; 32.♙e2 ♖xf1 33.♙xf1 ♙f5-+) 32...♙g7♠ (32...♖xd1?? 33.♖h8#; 32...exf6?? 33.♗xf6+ ♙g7 34.♖h7#) 33.♙xg7 ♖xd1 34.♗f6+♠ ♙xg7♠ (34...exf6 35.♙xf6 and there's no defence to ♖h8#.) 35.♖h7+ ♙f8 36.♖h8+ ♙g7 37.♖h7+♠=.

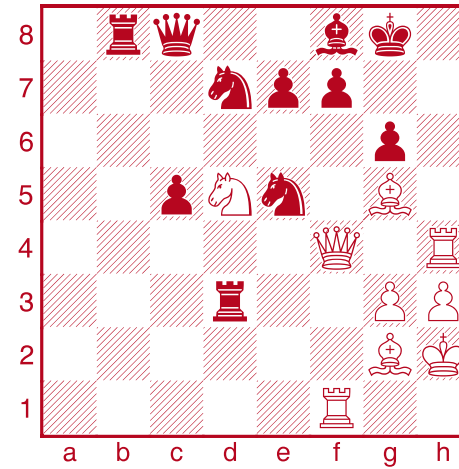
**32.♙c1?**

32.♙f6 draws, as in the variations above after 31...♖b1.

**32...♗d7??**

♞32...♖d4 to trade the ♖h4 while also defending the 4th rank and keeping the ♗e5 where it defends f7.

♞32...♙g7 33.♗xe7+ ♗xe7  
34.♙xe7 ♙d7 35.♙xc5 ♖d2-+  
with a winning attack.

**33.♙f4!+- ♗ce5**

Does White have anything better than ♙xe7?

**34.♗xe7+?**

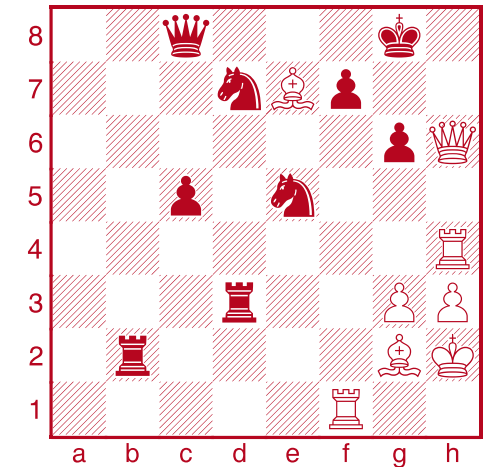
Another mistake in a head-spinning position.

34.♙xe7!? ♖xd5! 35.♙xd5±;

34.♙f6!!+- this wins, but only if you see the follow up 34...♗xf6 (34...♙g7 35.♗xe7+--+) 35.♙xf6♠ would be a wonderful move to play against anyone, but especially so against a 2600+ GM 35...♙g7 (35...exf6 36.♗xf6+ ♙g7 37.♖h7#) 36.♗xe7+ ♙f8 37.♗xg6+ (37.♖h8+ also forces mate.) 37...♙g8 (37...♗xg6 38.♙xf7#) 38.♖h8+! ♙xh8 39.♙xh8#.

**34...♙xe7 35.♙xe7 ♖b2?**

This creates some terrific threats for Black, but if White can walk a tightrope of only moves he'll end up with a winning position. Objectively better was 35...♖d4!±.

**36.♙h6♠**

What happens if ...♖xg2?

**36...♖xg2+!**

A good try, which forces White to play precisely.

**37.♙h1♠**

37.♙xg2? ♙a8+♠ 38.♙h2  
♙a2+♠ 39.♙h1 ♙d5+♠ 40.♙h2  
♖d2+--+.

37...♖g1+ 38.♙xg1♠  
38.♖xg1?? ♙b7+ 39.♖g2







# Chess Canada Tacticosaurus

(39.♔h2 ♖f3+-) 39...♖d1+  
40.♔h2 ♖f3#.

38...♖xg3+ 39.♔h2! ♖xh3+  
40.♔xh3□  
40.♖xh3?? ♖g4+-+.

40...♖f6+  
That's a check!

41.♔g2!  
Five precise moves by the ♔ —  
and the time control passed! —  
and White is safe.

41...♖h5  
41...♖b7+ 42.♔g1+-.

42.♖f6!  
42.♖xh5?? ♖g4+=.

42...♖c6+ 43.♔g1! ♖f3+  
44.♖xf3□  
Getting out of check and  
defending the ♖f6. Black has no  
more checks and no way to stop  
mate on h8 or g7.

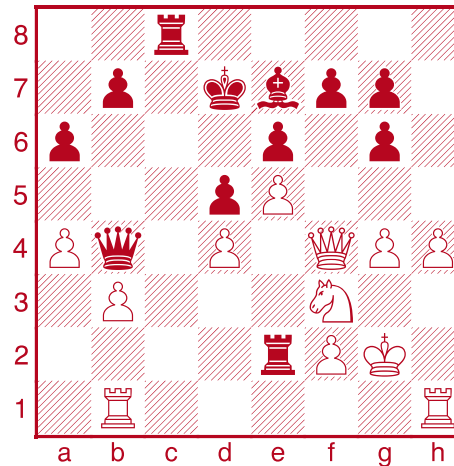
1-0

(96)  
**Blomqvist, Erik (2526)**  
**Kleinman, Michael (2340)**

B11  
*Barcelona Sants Open (3),*  
18.08.2017

*Notes: Michael Kleinman*

1.e4 c6 2.♖f3 d5 ...  
26.h4 ♖e2



♖xf7, ♖hd1, or ....?

27.♖xf7??  
27.♖hd1? ♖e4 28.♖g3 ♖c3+- try  
to find a move for White.

27.♖he1! is necessary, so that  
...♖e4 is not possible. Play might

continue 27...♖xe1 28.♖xe1 ♔e8  
(28...♖xh4? 29.g5±) 29.♖d3  
♖b6#.

27...♖f8 28.♖xg6 ♖xf2+□  
editor – Only move to win, and  
what White must have missed.  
The ♖ and ♖ will force mate.

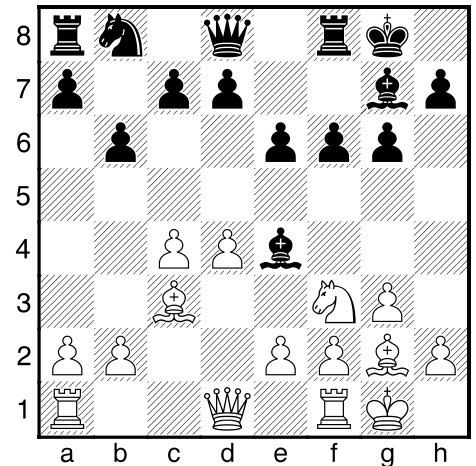
29.♔xf2 ♖d2+

0-1

(97)  
**Chiku-Ratte, Olivier-Kenta**  
**(2311)**  
**Hambleton, Aman (2497)**

E16  
*Calgary International (6.3),*  
17.08.2018

1.d4 ♖f6 2.c4 e6 3.♖f3 b6  
4.g3 ♖b7 5.♖g2 g6 6.0-0  
♖g7 7.♖c3 ♖e4 8.♖xe4  
♖xe4 9.♖g5 f6 10.♖d2 0-0  
11.♖c3



Black could equalize with ...f6-  
f7!, but that's not legal.

11...f5 12.♖c1 ♖c6  
12...d6 13.c5!?



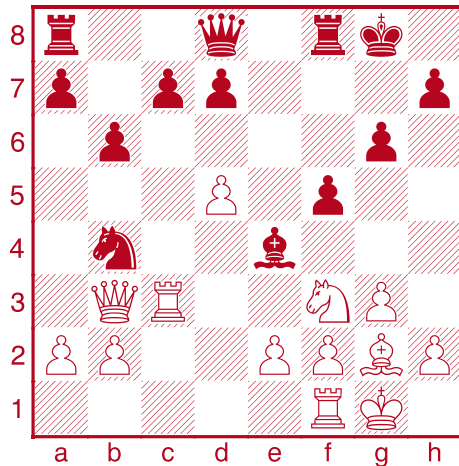
*Michael Kleinman & Olivier-Kenta Chiku-Ratte*  
FM's then, IMs now McGill 2016

13.d5! ♙xc3 14.♖xc3 exd5  
15.cxd5 ♘b4  
15...♘e7 16.♘g5± (16.d6±)  
16...♙xg2 17.♙xg2 ♘c8 18.♚c1±

16.♚b3?

Natural, but Black has a clever tactic to get the advantage.

♠16.♖c4 a5 (16...♘xd5 17.♖xe4 fxe4 18.♚xd5+- with check.)  
17.a3 ♘a6 18.b4!± Black's ♘ is on a bad circuit and his ♚ is exposed.



16...♘xd5♠

16...♘a6 17.d6+ ♚h8 (17...♙g7 18.dxc7 ♘xc7 19.♖d1 d5 20.♘d4 ♙xg2 21.♖xc7+-) 18.dxc7 ♘xc7 19.♘e5 ♙xg2 20.♙xg2.

17.♘e1

17.♖d1 c6♠.  
17.♘g5? ♚xg5 18.♙xe4 fxe4+-

and the ♘d5 is defended.  
17.♘d2 doesn't let the ♘ attack d5, so 17...♙xg2 18.♙xg2 c6♠.

17...♖f7♠

Unpinning the ♘ means ...♘xc3 is now a threat. Everything else leaves White with a big edge.

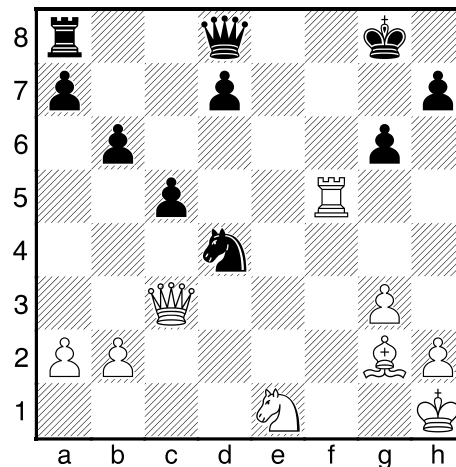
17...♙xg2? 18.♘xg2 c6 19.♘e3±  
White gets the pawn back with a much safer ♚, more active pieces, and a better structure.

18.f3?!

After this Black has to find a few "only moves", after which White is objectively lost.

18.♖c1 ♙xg2 19.♘xg2 c6♠.

18...♘xc3♠ 19.fxe4 ♘xe2+♠  
20.♙h1 ♘d4 21.♚c3 c5!  
22.exf5 ♖xf5 23.♖xf5



23...gxf5♠

White can get the exchange back at any time, but he's two pawns down, so that just transposes into a losing ending.

23...♘xf5?? 24.♙d5+♠ ♙f8  
25.♚h8+ ♙e7 26.♚e5+= is a perpetual.

24.♙d5+ ♙g7 25.♚e3

25.♙xa8 ♚xa8+ 26.♙g1 ♚e4+-  
Black is up two pawns and has better pieces.

25...d6 26.♘d3

26.♙xa8 ♚xa8+ 27.♙g1 ♚e4+-.

26...♖c8 27.♘f4 ♚e8

28.♘e6+ ♙h8!

28...♘xe6+-.

28...♙f6?? 29.♚g5+ ♙e5  
30.♚e3+ ♙xd5 31.♘c7+∞.

29.♚c3 ♚b5

Mate threat on f1.

30.♙c4 ♚c6+ 31.♙g1 ♚e4

32.♘g5 ♚e7 33.h4 ♖e8

34.♙f2 d5 35.♙f1 f4! 36.gxf4 h6!  
37.♘f3 ♚e4 38.♙g2 ♚xf4  
39.♙f1 ♖e3

0-1

(98)

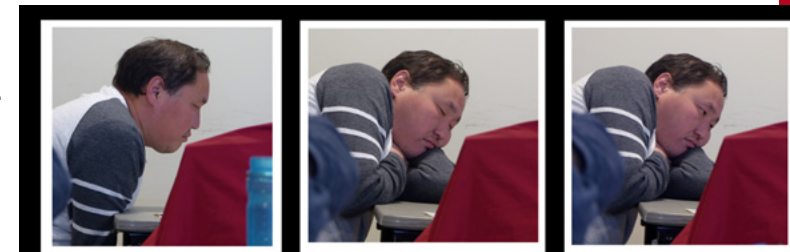
Upper, John (2212)  
Sambuev, Bator (2569)

A25

RA December Open Ottawa (1),  
07.12.2018

1.c4 e5 2.♘c3 ♘c6 3.e3 g6  
4.♘f3 ♙g7 5.d4 d6 6.dxe5  
♘xe5 7.♘xe5 ♙xe5 8.♙d2  
♘e7 9.♙e2 0-0 10.0-0 ♘f5  
11.♖c1 c6 12.b3 ♖e8 13.g3  
h5 14.♙f3 h4

Black is struggling manfully for complications, while White is blithely coasting within sight of equality. Apparently I was hoping to put my GM opponent to sleep.



15.♘e2= hxg3 16.hxg3 ♘g7  
17.♘f4

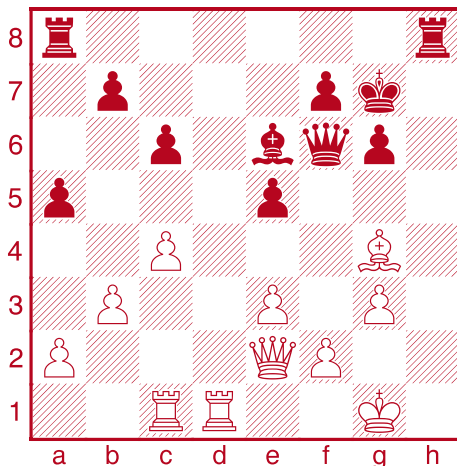
♠17.♙g2 preparing to use the h-file, here or on any of the next few moves...

**Do not rouse sleeping GM !**





17...♘e6 18.♘xe6 ♙xe6  
19.♙c3 ♖f6 20.♙xe5 dxe5  
21.♖e2 a5 22.♜fd1 ♔g7  
23.♙g4? ♜h8!



White to play and not lose.

24.♔g2??

Worse late rather than never: falling to a tactic any 1700 player should spot 1.609 kilometers away.

♱24.♙xe6 ♖xe6 25.e4 ♖h3  
26.♖f3 g5 27.♖g2 (27.♜d6?  
♖h2+ 28.♔f1 ♖h1+ 29.♔e2  
♖xc1 30.♖f6+ ♔g8+) 27...♖g4  
28.f3 ♖e6+-. Material is equal,  
but Black is ready to double on  
the h-file... 29.♔f2 a4!-+ ... or  
break in on the a-file.

24...♙xg4 25.♖xg4 ♜h2+♠-+

26.♔xh2 ♖xf2+ 27.♔h3  
♜h8+ 28.♖h4 ♜xh4+ 29.gxh4  
♖xe3+

0-1

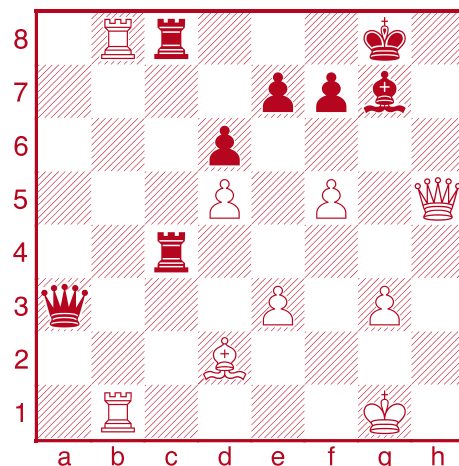
(99)

Abrahams, Daniel (2143)  
Kanarek, Marcel (2505)

A38

GAMMA Reykjavik Open (1.26),  
08.04.2019

1.c4 g6 2.♘c3 ♙g7 3.g3 ♘f6  
4.♙g2 0-0... 34.♜b8 ♜ec4:



35.f6♠+-

Threatening the ♙ (obviously),  
and also prying open the seventh  
rank.

35...exf6

35...♙xf6? 36.♜xc8+ ♜xc8  
37.♖g4+- forks the K and R.

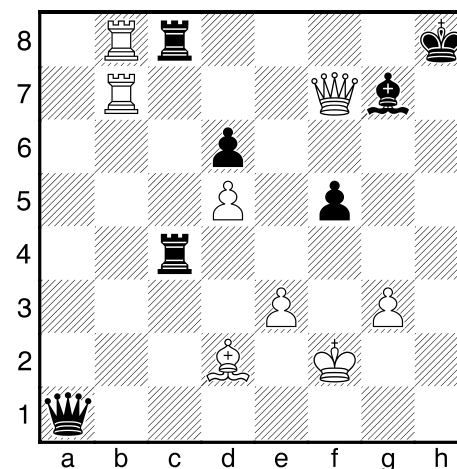
36.♜1b7♠ ♖a1+

36...♜4c7 defends f7 and c8, but  
not for long: but because of the  
pins White can take either rook  
and still have a double attack on  
f7!

37.♔f2 f5

Defending the ♙g7 from a1.

38.♖xf7+ ♔h8



39.♜b1!

Not the only winning move, but  
very nice use of the whole board:  
White threatens both the ♖ and  
♜h1, returning to its starting  
square with mate.

39...♜xb8 40.♜xb8+ ♔h7  
41.♖xf5+

With a discovered mate next.

This was Daniel's second  
excellent start in Reykjavik: in  
2014 he drew in round 1 with  
2700 rated Li Chao. Eventually  
Daniel will get a Black in round  
1 at Reykjavik, but until then, he  
has a round 1 Reykjavik TPR of  
2802!

1-0

(100)

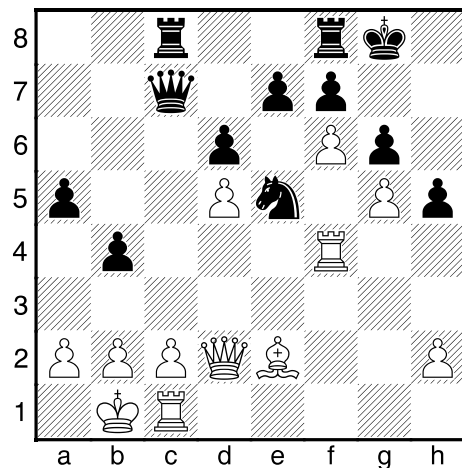
Noritsyn, Nikolay (2489)  
Samsonkin, Artiom (2424)

B92

CAN-ch Kingston CAN (6.1),  
21.04.2019

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4  
4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.♙e2  
g6 7.g4 h5 8.g5 ♘fd7 9.f4  
♙g7 10.f5 ♘c6 11.♙e3  
♘xd4 12.♙xd4 ♙e5 13.♖d2  
b5 14.0-0-0 ♙b7 15.♜hf1  
♖c7 16.♔b1 ♜c8 17.♙xe5  
♘xe5 18.f6 b4 19.♘d5  
♙xd5 20.exd5 0-0 21.♜c1 a5  
22.♜f4





A Very Sicilian middlegame: White is all over the kingside while Black has play on the c-file and against White's mechanically isolated d5-pawn. Can White get enough play if Black goes ... $\text{♔b7}$  to follow up with ... $\text{♖c5}$  and ... $\text{♖fc8}$ .

### 22... $\text{♔b7}$

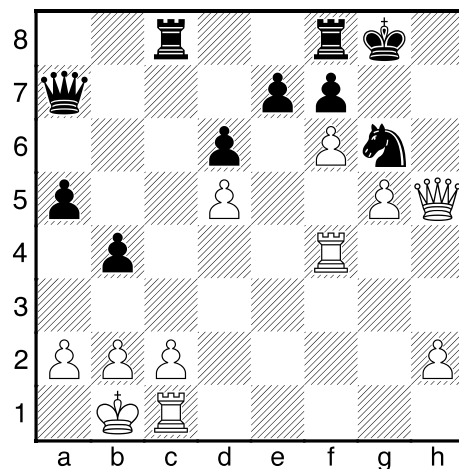
This is a perfectly reasonable move — c2 is well defended, so Black gives up the battery while the  $\text{♔}$  keeps an eye on d5 (stopping  $\text{♗d3}$ ) and unblocks the  $\text{♖c8}$  to allow ... $\text{♖c5}$  and ... $\text{♖fc8}$  — but being on b7 leaves the  $\text{♔}$  one move slower to get to the kingside...

$\triangleleft$  22... $\text{♖fe8}\infty$ ;

$\triangleleft$  22... $\text{♔b6}\bar{7}$ ;

$\triangleleft$  22... $\text{♔d7}\bar{7}$  23.  $\text{♗xh5?}$   $\text{gxh5}$   
 24.  $\text{♔e2}$   $\text{♗g6}$  25.  $\text{♔xh5}$   $\text{♗xf4}$   
 26.  $\text{♔h6}$   $\text{exf6}$  27.  $\text{gxf6}$   $\text{♔g4+-}$ ;  
 $\triangleleft$  22... $\text{♔a7}\bar{7}$  prepares ... $\text{♖c5}$   
 while keeping the  $\text{♔}$  on a more active diagonal, guarding g1 in critical lines. 23.  $\text{♗xh5?}$   $\text{gxh5}$   
 24.  $\text{♔e2}$   $\text{♗g6}$  25.  $\text{♔xh5}$

*Analysis Diagram*



Don't play the Sicilian if you don't enjoy this:

25... $\text{♖xc2}\square+-$  (25... $\text{♗xf4}$  is the only other move that doesn't lose: 26.  $\text{♔h6}$   $\text{exf6}$  27.  $\text{gxf6}$   $\text{♔g1+}$  29.  $\text{♖c1}$   $\text{♔g6+-}$  saving the  $\text{♔}$  and the  $\text{♗}$ .) 26... $\text{♖xc1+}$  27.  $\text{♔xc1}$   $\text{♔e3+}$  28.  $\text{♔d1}$   $\text{exf6}$  29.  $\text{gxf6}$   $\text{♔g1+}$  defends (29... $\text{♔d3+!}$  attacks)

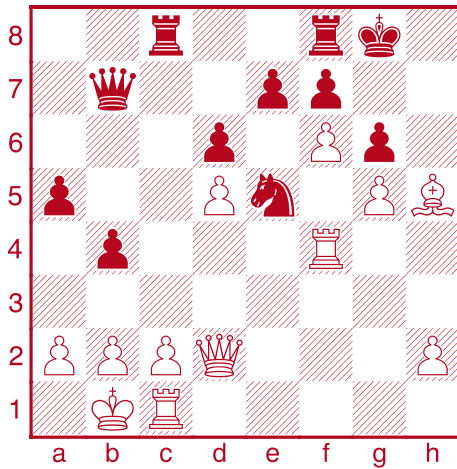




30. ♔d2 ♖xf4-+.

**23. ♕xh5!**

White's advanced pawns look menacing, but how to make progress without this?



Black has an incredible defence after ...gxh5; can you find it?

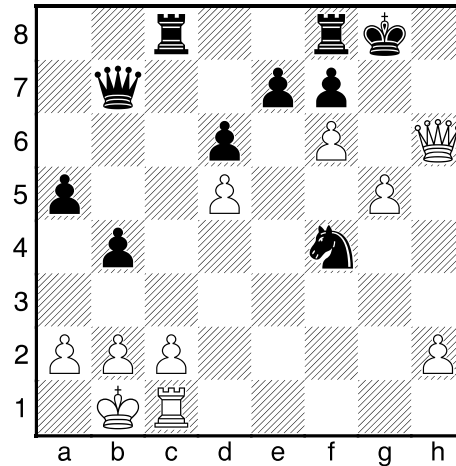
**23... ♖c5?**

23...gxh5! is critical, and should draw with best play, but it is very very hard to see how Black can defend g7 against ♖h5-h6, especially since the normal ways to defend g7 (...♖f8 or ...♖g6, or eliminating the f6-pawn) are clearly not possible. The key in several of these lines is that Black can defend backwards along the g-file after exchanging pawns on f6.

23...gxh5! 24. ♖e2 ♖g6:  
(24... ♖g4? 25.h3+-)

25. ♖f5? ♖d7□ 26. ♖cf1 ♖c7 hitting c2 27. ♖1f2 (27. ♖5f2 keeps c2 and the back rank defended, but 27... ♖c4! 28. ♖xh5 exf6□ 29.gxf6 ♖h4□-+) 27... ♖fe8 28. ♖xh5 a4 29. ♖h6 exf6-+ stops mate and threatens ...♖e1.

25. ♖xh5□ ♖xf4 26. ♖h6  
*Analysis Diagram*

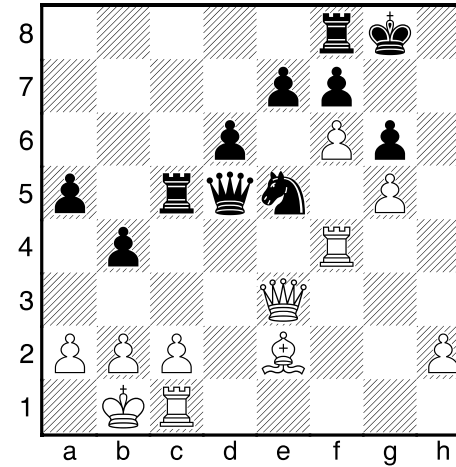


26... ♖h5□

That this move — which is the only way to prevent ♖g7#, since ...exf6 gxf6 creates ♖g1 mates — could do more than postpone mate by a move is probably the hardest part to believe, let alone see from a distance. 27. ♖xh5□

♖xd5 28. ♖h6□ (28. ♖g1? ♖d2-+ hits c2 and prevents g5-g6.) 28...exf6□ 29.g6□ (29.gxf6?? ♖g2-+ defends the whole g-file and wins.) 29...fxg6 30. ♖xg6+= and White can and should force a draw. 30... ♖h8 31. ♖h6+ (31. ♖g1?? ♖g8-+) 31... ♖g8 32. ♖g6+= (32. ♖g1+?! ♖f7 33. ♖g7+ ♖e6 34. ♖e1+ ♖e5□-).

**24. ♕e2! ♖xd5 25. ♖e3!**



Materially, trading Black's h-pawn for White's d-pawn is equal, but the open h-file and terrible dark-squares around the Black K spell doom so long as White keeps the major pieces on.

**25... ♖e6**

25... ♖c6 26. ♕d3 (26. ♖g1 ♖e6 27. ♖f2 exf6 28.gxf6 ♖e8

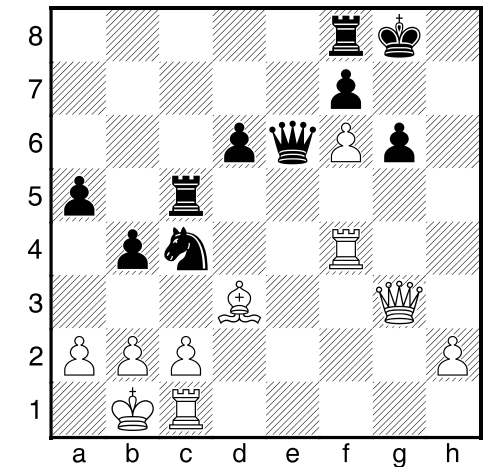
(28... ♖c8? 29. ♕g4±) 29. ♖xg6+ fxg6 30.f7+±) 26... ♖xg5 (26... ♖e5 27. ♖g3 ♖xg5 28. ♖g4 ♖xf6 29. ♕xg6+-) 27. ♖g1 ♖e5 (27... ♖h6 28.fxe7 ♖e8 29. ♕xg6+-) 28. ♖f2 ♖h6 29. ♖fg4+- once again, threatening ♕xg6.

25... ♖c4 26. ♕xc4 ♖xc4 27. ♖xc4 ♖xc4 28.fxe7□-+.

25...exf6 26.gxf6 ♖d7 attacking f6 27. ♕g4□ ♖e5 28. ♕h3+- and attack on the h-file.

**26. ♖g3! exf6 27.gxf6□ ♖c4**  
So Black can defend the h-file with ...♖h5.

**28. ♕d3**



There's no good defence to ♕xg6.



**Chess Canada  
Tacticosaurus**

28...♘a3+

28...♘e5 29.♚h4+-.

28...♚e3 29.♙xc4+- wins a piece.

28...g5 29.♚h4!! mates with bonus style points.

29.bxa3 bxa3 30.♙xg6!

♜b8+ 31.♚a1 ♕f8

31...♚e5+ 32.c3 ♜xc3 33.♙h7+ and mate next.

32.♙h7 ♚e8 33.♞e4

1-0

(101)

Guipi Bopala, Prince

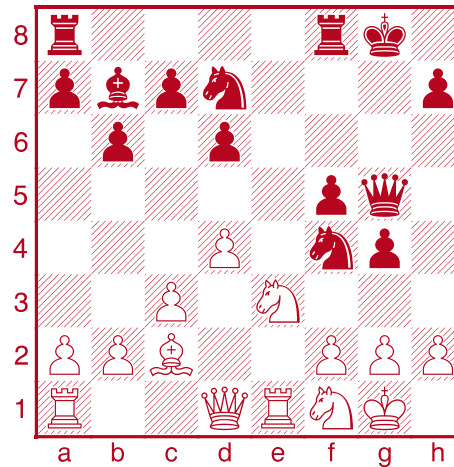
Eric jr (1619)

Saha, Ananda (2059)

A47

Quebec op Longueuil (5.16),  
23.07.2019

1.d4 e6 2.♙f4 ♘f6 3.e3  
b6 4.♘f3 ♘h5 5.♙g5 ♙e7  
6.♙xe7 ♚xe7 7.c3 ♙b7  
8.♙d3 f5 9.♘bd2 0-0 10.0-0  
d6 11.e4 ♘f4 12.♙c2 ♘d7  
13.exf5 exf5 14.♞e1 ♚f6  
15.♘f1 g5! 16.♘e3? g4!  
17.♘d2 ♚g5 18.♘df1



18...♙xg2!

Best. Building up: 18...♞ae8

19.♚d2 ♘f6-+ wins more slowly.

19.♙xf5

19.♘xg2? ♘h3+ 20.♚h1 ♘xf2+-+.

19...♙f3 20.♚b3+

20.♚c2 ♘h3#.

20...♚h8 21.♘g3

21.♙xd7 ♘h3#.

21...♘f6 22.♙c2 ♘h3+

23.♚f1 ♚f4 24.♞e2 ♙xe2+

25.♚xe2 ♚xf2+ 26.♚d3  
♘f4+

0-1

(102)

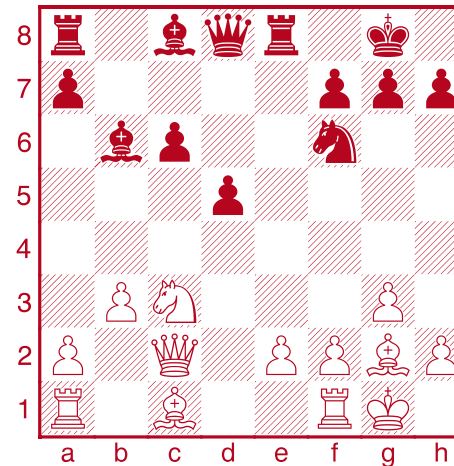
Ajith, Aayush (1862)

Papneja, Arul (1879)

D33

Ontario Jr Championship Missis-  
sauga (2.3), 18.01.2020

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 c5  
4.cxd5 exd5 5.♘f3 ♘f6 6.g3  
♘c6 7.♙g2 cxd4 8.♘xd4  
♙c5 9.♘xc6 bxc6 10.0-0 0-0  
11.♚c2 ♙b6 12.b3 ♞e8



Should White go ♘a4 to fight for  
c5, or develop the Rs with ♞fd1,  
♙b2 and ♞ac1?

13.♞d1??

♠13.♘a4 is slightly better for  
White according to Stockfish 11,  
but equal according to SF 15 and

Leela.

13...♙d7= Aronian,L (2775)-  
Carlsen, M (2872) Moscow, 2019  
(0-1, 41).

13...♙g4?#

13...♙xf2+!! wins. The important  
thing to see is that after: 14.♚xf2  
♚b6+! is winning for Black. White  
has options, but no escape:  
15.♚f1 ♘g4-+.

15.♚f3 ♙g4+ 16.♚f4 ♚c7+ is  
mating too.

15.e3 ♞xe3! 16.♙xe3 (16.♘a4  
♘g4+-+) 16...♘g4+-+.

**Engine Note:** At least since  
version 11, Stockfish instantly  
picks 13...♙xf2+ as the winner.  
Leela had more trouble: two-  
year-old versions of it didn't rate  
it among its top three lines, but  
the current version finds it after a  
few seconds.

Even so, older Leela's  
top choice was 13...♘g4!, and  
it's also good for a winning  
advantage: 14.e3 ♚f6 15.♚b2  
(15.♙b2 ♚h6!-+ and ...♘xf2)  
and now either ...♚h6 or  
15...♘e5 followed by ...♙g4 and





something landing on f3 (or even 15...♙c7!? threatening ...♙e5).

#### 14.♖d2

14.♙f3!? allows Black to turn d5 into a passed pawn, but keeps the K safe and covers e4.

#### 14...♙e7

14...d4!?; 14...♙c8 keeps Black's options open: ...♙f5, ...h5, ...♙h3.

#### 15.♙b2 ♖ad8 16.♘a4?

♞16.e3 ♙e6.

#### 16...♙xf2+!-+ 17.♔xf2 ♙e3+

#### 18.♔f1 ♘e4♞ 19.♙xe4 dxe4♞

There's no good defence to the two threats of ...♙h3+ and ...♖xd2.

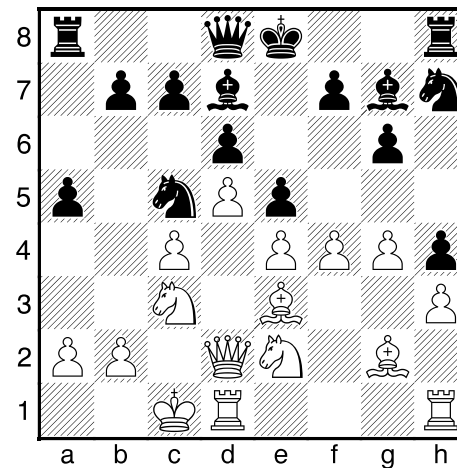
0-1

### (103) Piasetski, Leon (2219) Royset, Pal (2151)

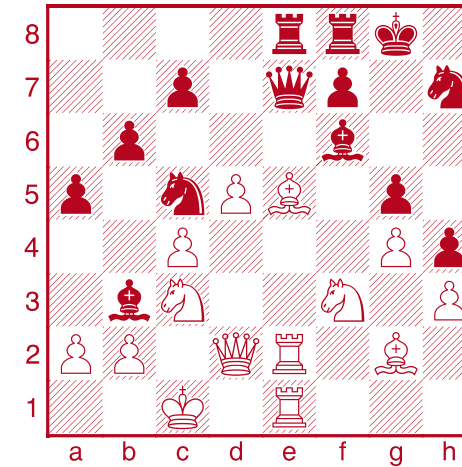
A25

Gibraltar Challengers A (3),  
22.01.2020

1.c4 e5 2.g3 ♘c6 3.♙g2 g6  
4.♘c3 ♙g7 5.e3 d6 6.♘ge2  
h5 7.h3 ♘f6 8.d4 ♙d7 9.d5  
♘b8 10.e4 h4 11.g4 ♘h7  
12.f4!? a5 13.♙e3 ♘a6  
14.♙d2 ♘c5 15.0-0-0



15...b6 16.♖hf1 ♙e7 17.♖f2  
exf4 18.♙xf4 0-0 19.♘d4  
♖ae8 20.♖e2 ♙f6 21.♘f3 g5  
22.♙h2 ♙a4 23.♖de1 ♙b3!  
24.e5 dxe5 25.♙xe5?!



A King's English has turned into a tactics contest. Calculate away!

#### 25...♙xa2!

Makes the ♙ safe and threatens ...♘b3+.

25...♙xc4? 26.♙xf6+-.

25...♙xe5? 26.♖xe5! (26.♘xe5  
♙xa2♞) 26...♙d8 27.♘e4!±  
getting rid of the ♘c5 and  
swinging to the kingside.

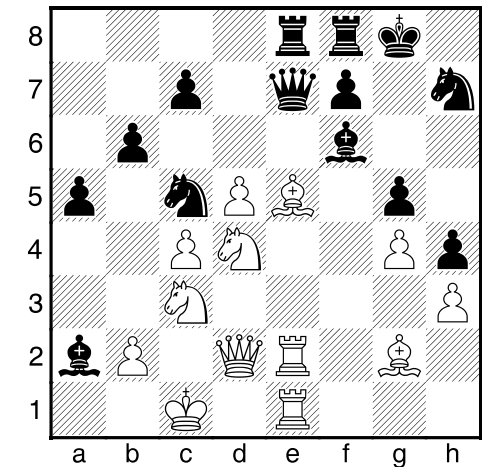
#### 26.♘d4!?

The most obvious move —  
defends b3 and so threatens  
♘xa2 — but not the only one:

26.♘xa2?? ♘b3+-+;

26.♔c2!?∞;

26.♙xf6! ♙xe2 (26...♙xf6  
27.♖xe8 ♘b3+♞ 28.♔c2 ♘xd2  
29.♘d2♞± there's no way to  
save the ♙a2, but the black ♙  
could be dangerous.) 27.♖xe2  
(27.♙xe2 ♖xe2 28.♖xe2  
♙xc4♞) 27...♘b3+ 28.♔c2  
♘xd2 29.♖xd2 ♘xf6 30.♘xa2  
♘e4 31.♘d4!? (31.♖e2 f5↔)  
31...♘xd2 32.♔xd2± with a very  
strange material imbalance  
where White's minors look to  
have the more promising future  
than Black's ♖s.



#### 26...♙xc4??

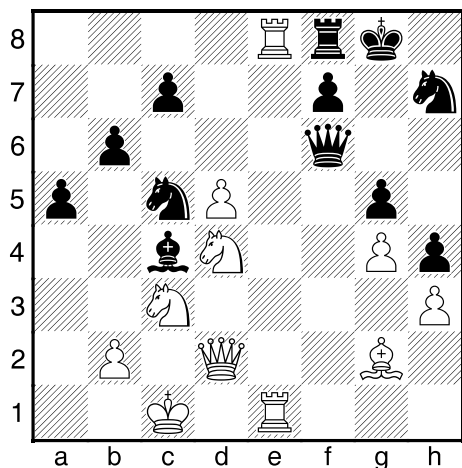
26...♙xe5? 27.♖xe5+-.

26...♙xe5♞ The critical move.  
27.♖xe5 ♖xe5♞ 28.♖xe5  
(28.♘xa2?? ♖xe1+ 29.♙xe1  
♘d3+-+) 28...♙xe5∞ threatening  
both ...♙f4 and ...♙xd4 followed



by ...♘b3+. 29.♔d1 (29.♘xa2?? ♕f4-+; 29.♘ce2 ♕xc4) 29...♕xc4!∞. For the ♔, Black has ♖♗♘♙ and good squares for the minor pieces, but an overextended kingside.

27.♕xf6□+- ♖xf6 28.♖xe8



28...♘d3+

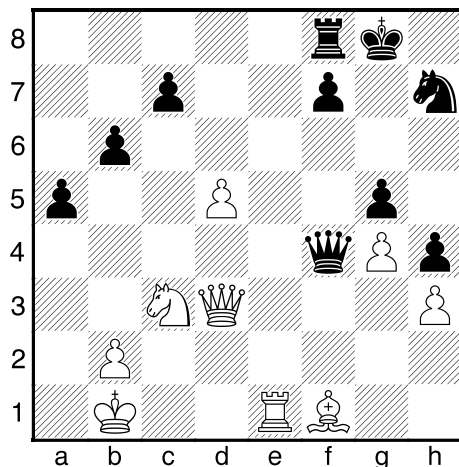
28...♖xd4 29.♖xd4 ♘b3+ 30.♔d1 ♘xd4 31.♖1e7+-

Material is about equal, but now White starts to collect.

29.♔b1□

29.♔d1?? ♖xd4 30.♖xf8+ (30.♖8e4 ♘f2+-+) 30...♔xf8 31.♖e2 ♕b3+-+.

29...♖xd4 30.♖8e4! ♖c5 31.♖xc4! ♖xc4 32.♕f1! ♖f4 33.♖xd3+-



White is up a piece for two pawns, but Black's majorities on both sides of the board have already been stopped.

33...♘f6 34.♕g2 ♘d7 35.♖e3 ♖xe3

36.♖xe3 ♖d8

37.♘b5 ♔f8

38.♘xc7 ♘c5 39.♘b5

f6 40.d6 ♖c8 41.♘c7

0-1

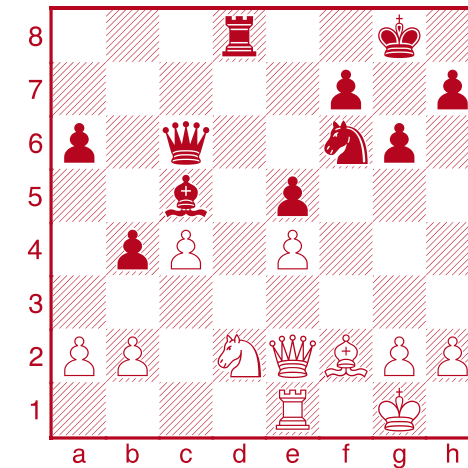
(104) Bengherabi, Khalil (2106) Piasetski, Leon (2219)

B42

Gibraltar Challengers A (4), 23.01.2020

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 a6 5.♕d3 ♕c5 6.♘b3 ♕e7 7.♖g4 g6 8.♘c3 d6 9.♖e2 ♘d7 10.0-0 ♘e5 11.♕e3 ♘f6 12.f4 ♘xd3 13.cxd3 0-0 14.♘a4 b5 15.♘b6 ♖b8 16.♘xc8 ♖xc8 17.♖fc1 ♖d7 18.♕d4 b4 19.♖c4 ♖xc4 20.dxc4 ♖c6 21.♘d2 (♔21.e5) 21...e5! 22.fxe5 dxe5 23.♕f2 ♖d8

24.♖e1 (24.h3 ♘h5) 24...♕c5



♘f3, b3, or something else?

25.♘f3??

25.♕xc5! ♖xc5+ 26.♔h1 ♘h5!;

25.b3? ♕xf2+ 26.♔xf2 (26.♖xf2 ♘g4 27.♖e2 ♖c5+-+) 26...♖c5+ (26...♖xd2?? 27.♖xd2 ♘xe4+ 28.♖xe4 ♖xe4 29.c5∞) 27.♔f1 (27.♖e3? ♘g4+) 27...♘g4 28.♖xg4 ♖xd2 29.♖e2 ♖d1+ 30.♖e1 ♖xe1+ 31.♔xe1 ♖g1+ 32.♔e2 ♖b1+- Black mops up the queenside.

25...♘g4□+- 26.♕xc5 ♖xc5+ 27.♔f1

27.♔h1 ♘f2+ 28.♔g1 ♘xe4+ 29.♔f1 f5+-.

27...♖d3□+-



Hambleton, Piasetski, Kleinman 2017 Reykjavik

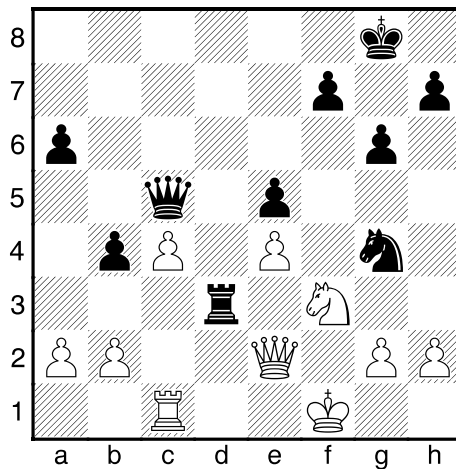


# Chess Canada Tacticosaurus



Exploiting the fact that the ♔ must defend f2 and threatening ...♞e3 and a deadly discovered check.

28.♞c1



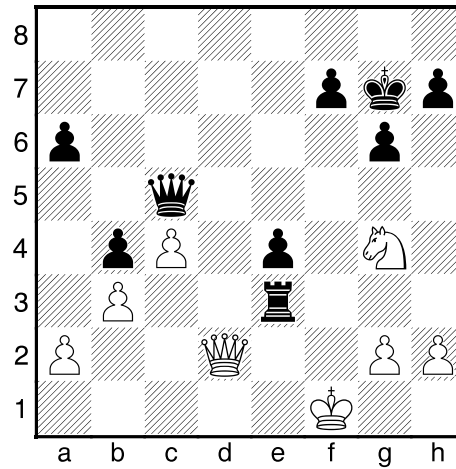
28...♞e3!

28...♞e3+ 29.♔e1 (29.♔f2 ♞g4+ 30.♔g3 ♞e3+-) 29...♞xg2+ 30.♞xg2 ♞e3+-+.

29.♞d2

29.♞c2 ♞xf3+ and fork on e3.

29...♞xe4 30.♞e1 ♞e3+ 31.♞xe3 ♞xe3 32.b3 e4 33.♞e5 ♔g7 34.♞g4



34...♞f5+□ 35.♔g1 ♞d3□-+ 36.♞h6+ ♔g8 37.h3 f6 38.♞h4 g5 39.♞h6+ 39.♞e1 ♔g7-+.

39...♔f8 40.♞h5 ♞d7 41.♞e2 ♞d1+ 42.♔h2 ♞d6+

0-1

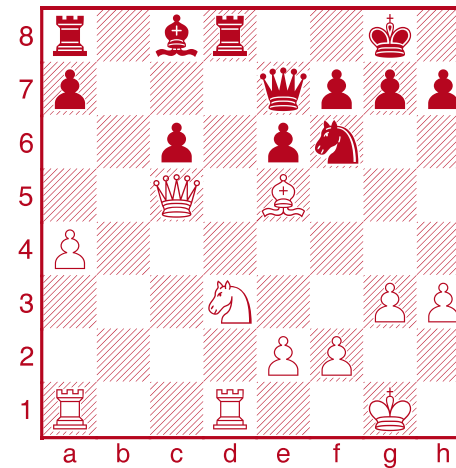
(105)  
Panjwani, Raja (2444)  
Muzychuk, Anna (2539)

A33

*Gibraltar Chess Festival: Masters (9.30), 29.01.2020*

1.♞f3 c5 2.c4 ♞c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♞xd4 ♞f6 5.♞c3 e6 6.a3 ♞c5 7.♞b3 ♞b6 8.c5 ♞c7

9.g3 0-0 10.♞g2 b6 11.0-0 ♞e5 12.a4 ♞b8 13.♞e3 ♞g4 14.♞d2 bxc5 15.♞xc5 ♞xb2 16.♞d3 ♞b8 17.♞xc6 ♞xc3 18.♞xc3 dxc6 19.h3 ♞f6 20.♞e5 ♞a8 21.♞c2 ♞e7 22.♞fd1 ♞d8 23.♞c5! (23.♞xc6±)



White has sac'ed a pawn for a lead in development, dark square control, and pressure on the c-pawn. Find Black's best defence.

23...♞e8?

23...♞b7? is a straightforward way to try to hold the ♖c6, but 24.♞ab1! ♞a6 25.♞b4+- wins the ♞ or mates.

23...♞f8?! 24.♞xf6 gxf6 25.♞xc6±;

23...♞xc5?! this line shows White's main ideas: 24.♞xc5 ♞xd1+ 25.♞xd1 ♔f8□ (25...♞d5 blocking the d-file is dead lost after 26.e4 f6 27.exd5 fxe5 28.d6+-) 26.♞d8+ ♔e7 27.♞h8± it looks like Black can escape with 27...♞b7? but actually White wins with the decoy check 28.♞d6+!! when the ♞b7 falls with check leaving the ♞a8 undefended.

□23...♔f8 24.♞c7!? attacking the ♞ and blocking the defence of b7. 24...♞xc5□ (24...♞d7? 25.♞xc6+- wins an exchange.) 25.♞xc5 ♞xd1+ 26.♞xd1 ♞d5 27.♞d6+ ♔e8 28.♞d4!±.

□23...♞d7 24.♞xe7 (24.♞xc6 ♞b7∞) 24...♞xe7 25.♞xf6!? (or simply 25.♞ac1± to recover the pawn with more active pieces.) 25...gxf6 26.♞c5± when the bind is worth at least a pawn.

24.♞xf6□+- gxf6 25.♞f4□ Now c5 isn't the only critically weak dark square on Black's side of the board.

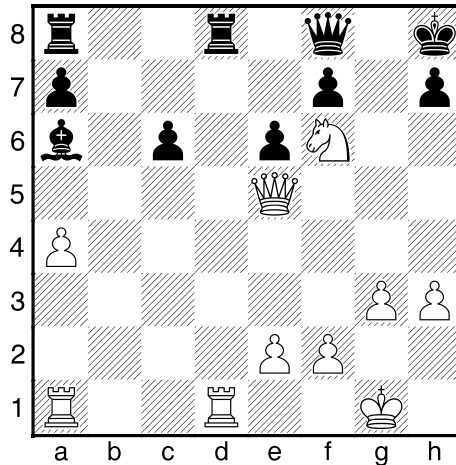
25...♞a6

25...♞f8 26.♞xc6 ♞b8 27.♞h5



♙b7 28.♘xf6+ ♔g7 29.♚c3+-.

26.♘h5 ♔h8 27.♘xf6 ♜f8  
28.♚e5!



White owns the dark squares.

28...h6

28...♚g7 29.♜xd8+ ♜xd8 30.♜b1 h6 31.♜b8 ♙c8 32.g4+- and it's nearly zugzwang.

28...♔g7 29.♘e8+ ♔g8 30.♚g5+ ♔h8 31.♚f6+ ♔g8 32.♜xd8+- is an extra ♜.

29.♘e8+! f6

29...♔h7 30.♘c7+- forking a8 and a6 was the point of the flashy ♘e8.

30.♘xf6 ♚g7 31.♜xd8+ ♜xd8  
32.♜b1 ♚g5 33.♚xe6 ♚g6

34.♜b4 ♙xe2 35.♚e7 ♜c8  
36.♜b7 ♙d3

Defending mate on h7.

37.♚e5

there's no good defence to ♘h5/e8 then ♜g7.

1-0

(106)

Hambleton, Aman (2676)  
FGHSMN (2600)

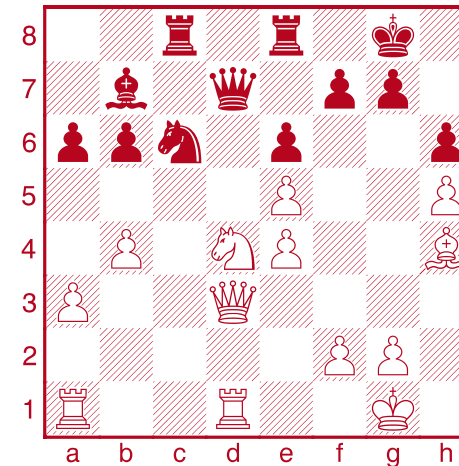
D02

Live Chess Chess.com,  
17.12.2020

An online 3+0 chess.com blitz game between GM Aman Hambleton (KNVB) and Indian IM Harishankkar.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.♙f4 e6  
3.e3 c5 4.c3 d5  
5.♘f3 ♘c6 6.♘bd2  
♙d6 7.♙g3 0-0  
8.♙d3 ♚e7 9.♘e5  
♙xe5 10.dxe5  
♘d7 11.♘f3 b6

12.0-0 ♙b7 13.e4 d4 14.cxd4  
cxd4 15.a3 ♘c5 16.b4 ♘xd3  
17.♚xd3 a6 18.♜fd1 ♚d7  
19.h4 ♜fd8 20.h5 h6 21.♙h4  
♜e8 22.♘xd4 ♜ac8



23.♚g3!!

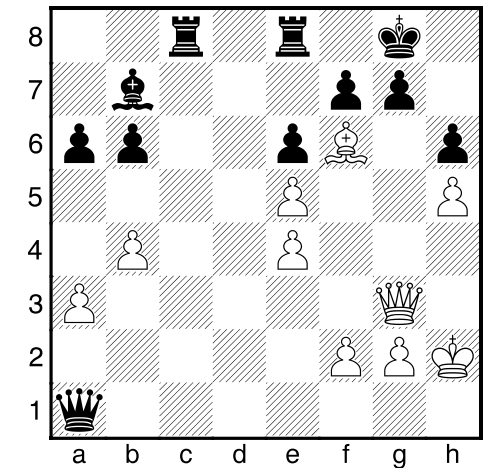
Aman spent 53 seconds (in a 3|0 game) on this move! SF15 needs to get to 28 ply before finding it.

23.♘xc6 ♚xc6 24.f3± with a safe extra pawn and a much better ♙ is good, but no points for this "low T" line.

23...♘xd4 24.♜xd4!

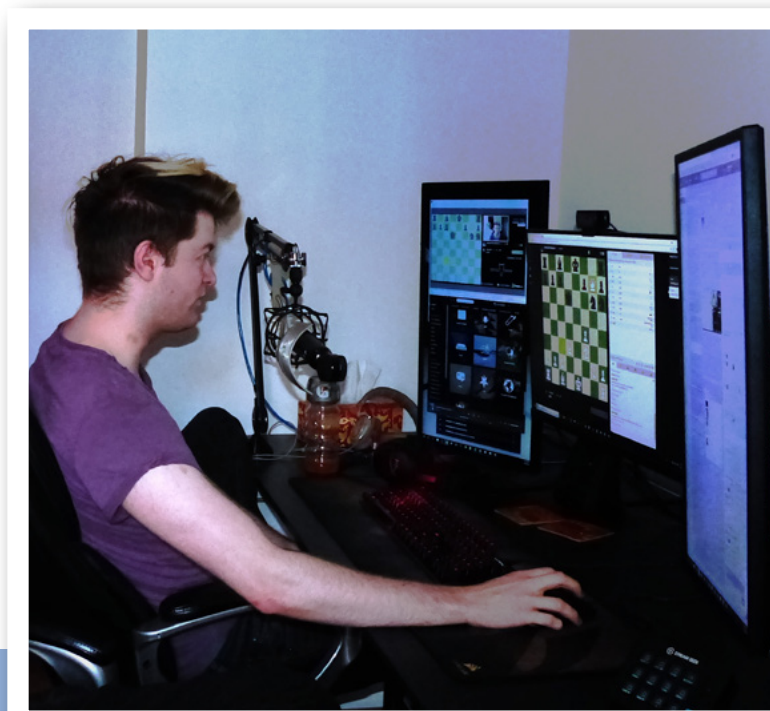
24.♙f6?? ♘e2+-+.

24...♚xd4 25.♙f6! ♚xa1+  
26.♔h2



Yep, it's a double ♜ sac, and Black is toast.

Aman Hambleton  
2018 Chessbrah HQ





26...g5

26...♙xe5 27.♙xe5 f6 28.♙xf6+-  
and Black still has no safe  
squares on the 7th to defend g7.

27.hxg6 ♖f8 28.gxf7 ♖xf7  
29.♙g7#

1-0

(107)

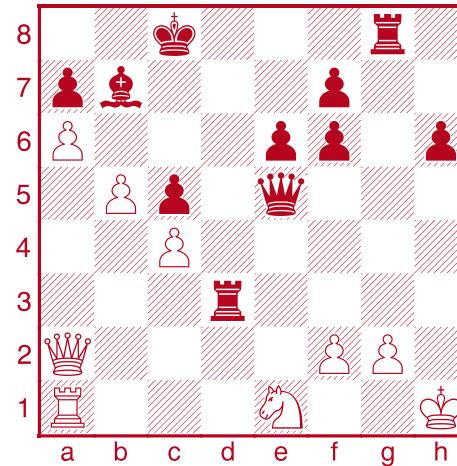
Plotkin, Mark (2572)  
BarryAllenFlash, JoeB  
(2432)

C10

Rated Blitz game lichess.org,  
14.02.2021

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3  
dxe4 4.♘xe4 ♘d7 5.♘f3  
♘gf6 6.♘xf6+ ♘xf6 7.♙d3  
♙d6 8.♙g5 b6 9.♙e2 ♙b7  
10.♙b5+ c6 11.♙d3 ♙c7  
12.0-0 0-0-0 13.c4 h6  
14.♙xf6 gxf6 15.a4 c5 16.b4  
♙hg8 17.dxc5 bxc5 18.b5  
♙xh2+ 19.♖h1 ♙e5 20.a5?  
(Typical blitz error: ...♙h2-e5  
wasn't only a retreat.)

20...♙xa1 21.♙xa1 ♙f4  
22.♘e1 ♙e5 23.♙a2 ♙xd3!  
24.a6  
24.♘xd3 ♙h5+ 25.♖g1 ♙xg2+  
26.♖f1 ♙g1+ 27.♖xg1 ♙h1#.



Black is up a ♖ and has more  
than one way to win; find the  
best.

24...♙h3+!

24...♙xe1+! transposes.

25.♖g1 ♙xe1+!

25...♙xg2+ 26.♘xg2 ♙f3+- is #2.

26.♙xe1 ♙xg2+ 27.♖f1 ♙f3!  
White resigns.

0-1

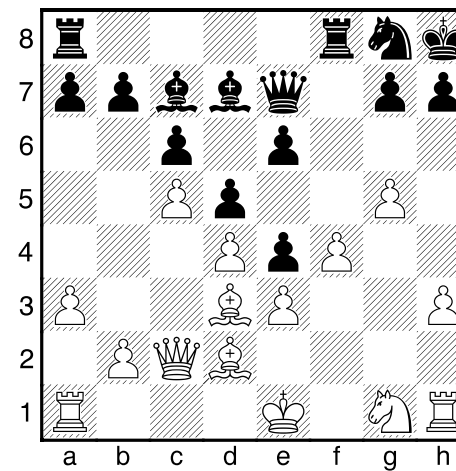
(108)

Bacallao, Yusnel (2590)  
Sambuev, Bator (2514)

A84

American WC Qualification tor-  
nelo.com, 26.05.2021

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 c6  
4.e3 ♙d6 5.♙d3 f5 6.♙c2  
♘h6 7.♘ge2 0-0 8.♙d2 ♖h8  
9.h3 ♙e7 10.a3 ♘d7 11.c5  
♙c7 12.f4 ♘f6 13.g4 ♘e4  
14.g5 ♘g8!? 15.♘g1 ♙d7  
16.♘xe4 fxe4



17.♙e2□

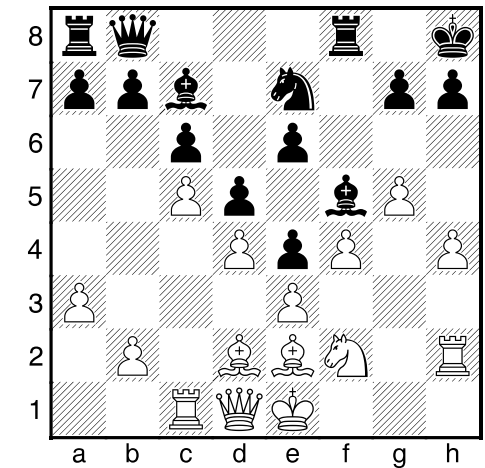
Would you believe ♙f1 loses?  
17.♙f1?? ♙xg5!! 18.fxg5 ♙g3+-  
and the ♙s invade on the f-file.

17...♙e8 18.h4 ♙g6 19.♘h3

♙e8 20.♙d1

20.h5 ♙xh5 21.♙xh5 ♙xh5  
22.♘f2 ♙f3 23.♖f1∞ The threat  
to trap the ♙ with ♙h3 forces  
Black to sac to save the ♙.

20...♘e7 21.♘f2 ♙f5 22.♙h2  
♙b8 23.♙c1



There are still 16 pawns on the  
board, and they make a wall  
between White and Black. I'd  
expect the game would now  
revolve around pawn breaks  
— which it does — but the  
variations below show how  
powerful piece sacs can be.

23...b6

Black wants to peel apart White's  
dark pawn V, and the ♙b8  
attacks in both directions.





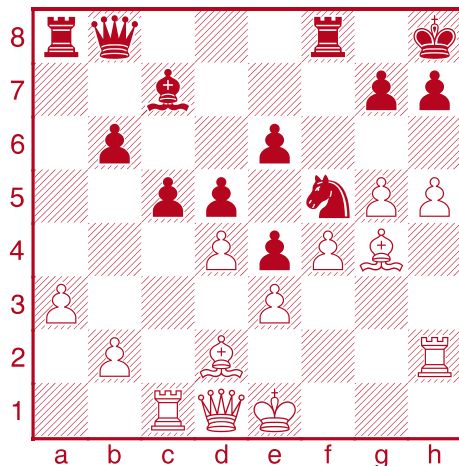
# Chess Canada Tacticosaurus

24. cxb6 axb6 25. ♘g4  
25. h5 c5 26. ♕c3? ♕xf4 ♠-+.

25... ♕xg4?  
♠25... c5 26. dxc5 (26. ♕c3 ♕xf4-+)  
26... d4!-+.

26. ♕xg4 c5 27. h5  
27. ♕xe6 cxd4? (♠27... ♘g6  
28. h5 ♘xf4!-+) 28. h5 ♠ dxe3  
29. ♕c3 ♕xf4 (29... ♖xf4 30. h6  
♕e5 31. hxg7+ ♔xg7 (31... ♕xg7  
32. ♖xh7++-) 32. ♖xh7+! ♔f8  
33. ♖h5+-) 30. h6+- ♕e5  
(30... ♕xh2 31. hxg7#) 31. hxg7+  
♔xg7 32. ♖xh7+ #2.

27... ♘f5!

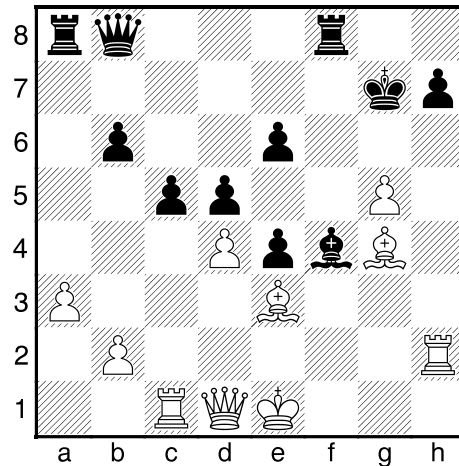


Attack the kingside with h6, break the center with dxc5, or bail with ♕xf5?

28. h6??  
28. dxc5? ♘xe3 ♠-+ (28... bxc5?  
29. ♕xf5 (29. ♖xc5?? ♘xe3-+)  
29... ♖xf5 30. ♖xc5 ♖xg5!∞)  
29. ♕xe3 ♕xf4 30. ♖h3 ♕xe3  
31. ♖xe3 ♖f4 32. ♖e2 d4-+  
skewers the ♖c1.

28. ♕xf5! ♖xf5 ♠ (28... exf5??  
29. dxc5+-) 29. dxc5 ♖xg5∞.

28... ♘xe3 ♠-+ 29. ♕xe3  
♕xf4 ♠ 30. hxg7+ ♔xg7



31. ♖xh7+  
Desperate. White gets checks but Black defends coolly.  
31. ♖h3 ♕xe3 32. ♖xe3 ♖f4  
33. ♖e2 cxd4-+ as above, the pawns crash through and White can't save his ♖s.

31... ♔xh7 32. ♕f5+ ♖xf5

33. ♖h5+ ♔g7 34. ♖h6+  
♔f7 ♠ 35. g6+ ♔f6 36. ♖h4+  
36. g7+?? ♕xh6.

36... ♕g5 37. ♕xg5+ ♖xg5  
38. ♔e2 ♖g3  
Black's ♔ will be safe on d6 and the white ♔ is a sitting duck.

0-1

(109)  
Ivanov, Mike (2195)  
Schwabeneder, Florian  
(2440)

B53  
Chess Festival Innsbruck Group  
A 5th Innsbruck, Austria (7.4),  
26.08.2021

## 2022 Toronto IM Norm

L2R: WGM Maili-Jade Ouellet,  
FM Rohan Talukdar, Koosha Jaferian,  
IM Than Nha Duong, FM Tianqi Wang,  
FM Mike Ivanov

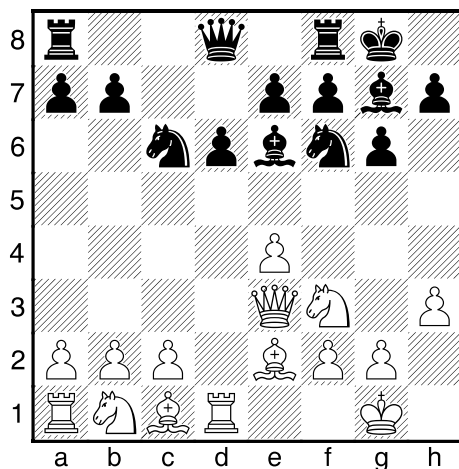
1. e4 c5 2. ♘f3 d6 3. d4 cxd4  
4. ♖xd4 ♘f6 5. ♕e2 g6 6. 0-0  
♕g7 7. ♖d1 0-0 8. h3 ♘c6  
9. ♖e3 ♕e6







# Chess Canada Tacticosaurus



## 10.c4

10.  $\text{Nc3}$   $\text{Qc8}$  11.  $\text{a3}$   $\text{Na5}$  12.  $\text{Nd4}$   
 $\text{Qc4}$  13.  $\text{Qf3}$   $\text{Nc6}$  14.  $\text{Nxc6}$   $\text{bxc6}$   
 15.  $\text{e5?!}$   $\text{dxe5}$  16.  $\text{Qc5}$   $\text{Qd5}$  (1/2-1/2,  
 33) [Carlsen, M \(2862\)–Svidler, P \(2723\)](#) [chess24.com, 2020](#).

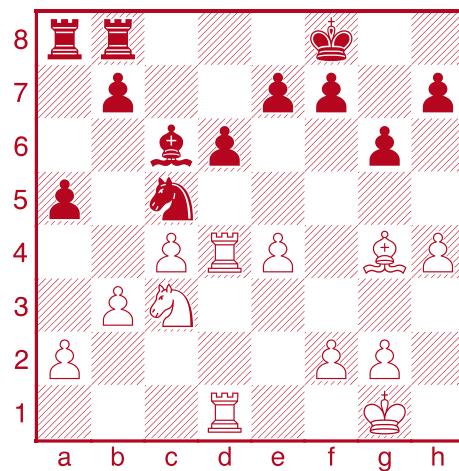
10...  $\text{Qb6}$  11.  $\text{Nc3}$   $\text{Nd7}$

12.  $\text{Nd5}$   $\text{Qxe3}$  13.  $\text{Qxe3}$   $\text{Rfc8=}$   
 13...  $\text{Nc5}$  14.  $\text{e5!?$   $\text{Nxe5}$  15.  $\text{Nxe7+}$   
 $\text{Qh8}$  16.  $\text{Rxd6}$   $\text{b6?}$  ( $\Delta$  16...  $\text{Na4}$   $\Rightarrow$ )  
 17.  $\text{Nxe5!}$   $\text{Qxe5}$  18.  $\text{Qd4}\pm$   
 $\text{Qxd4}$  19.  $\text{Rxd4}$   $\text{Rae8}$  20.  $\text{Nc6}$   
 $\text{Qxh3}$  21.  $\text{Qf3}$   $\square$ +- (1/2-1/2, 53)  
[Zvjaginsev, V \(2614\)–Vitiugov, N \(2715\)](#) [Moscow, 2021](#).

14.  $\text{Nd4}$   $\text{Qxd4}$  15.  $\text{Qxd4}$

$\text{Nxd4}$  16.  $\text{Rxd4}$   $\text{Qf8}$  17.  $\text{b3}$   $\text{a5}$   
 18.  $\text{Nc3}$   $\text{Nb6}$  19.  $\text{Nd5}$   $\text{Nd7}$   
 20.  $\text{Nc3}$   $\text{Nc5}$  21.  $\text{Rc1}$   $\text{Qd7}$   
 22.  $\text{Rcd1}$   $\text{Qc6}$  23.  $\text{Qg4}$   $\text{Rcb8}$

## 24.h4



A typical queenless middlegame in the Maroczy: DSBs have been traded and there are no open files for the  $\text{R}$ s. What should Black do: activate with ... $\text{b5}$  or block with ... $\text{h5}$ ?

## 24...b5?

Strategically good, but tactically bad.

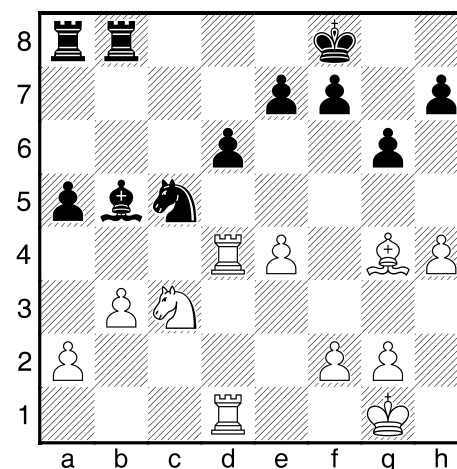
$\Delta$  24... $\text{h5}$  or ... $\text{Na6}$  keeps things even.

24...  $\text{Ne6?!}$  25.  $\text{Qxe6}$   $\text{fxe6}$  26.  $\text{a4}\pm$   
 Black's  $\text{Q}$  has nothing to do, but it's hard to see how White can make much progress without freeing it.

24...  $\text{a4?}$  25.  $\text{b4}$   $\text{Qd7}$  (25...  $\text{Ne6}$

26.  $\text{Qxe6}$   $\text{fxe6}$  27.  $\text{b5}\pm$  and White can go after the a-pawn with  $\text{Rb1-b4}$ .) 26.  $\text{e5!}$  (26.  $\text{bxc5?}$   $\text{Qxg4}$  27.  $\text{f3}$   $\text{dxc5=}$ ) 26...  $\text{Qxg4}$  27.  $\text{Rxc4}\pm$  White breaks through in the center.

## 25.cxb5 Qxb5



## 26.e5!

Without this, Black can retreat the  $\text{Q}$  and hope for queenside pressure with ... $\text{a4}$ . But Black can't take on e5 without losing a piece, and after  $\text{exd6}$  White wins the d-pawn and activates both  $\text{R}$ s in the process.

## 26...Qe8!

26...  $\text{dxe5??}$  27.  $\text{Rd5}$ +- winning is a piece.

## 27.exd6 exd6 28.Qf3!

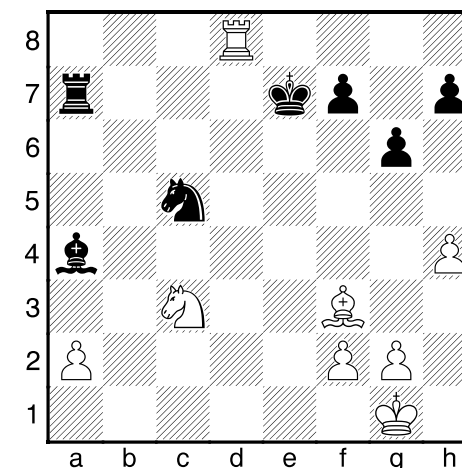
Gains a tempo and weakens Black's back rank while putting the  $\text{Q}$  on a safe square so any later ... $\text{R4}$  won't skewer h4,

## 28...Ra7 29.Rxd6 a4 30.bxa4 Qxa4?

This allows White to force simplifications, killing all potential counterplay.

30...  $\text{Nxa4}$  31.  $\text{Ne4}\pm$  White's up a pawn with more active pieces, but it might not be enough.

## 31.Rd8+! Rxd8 32.Rxd8+ Qe7



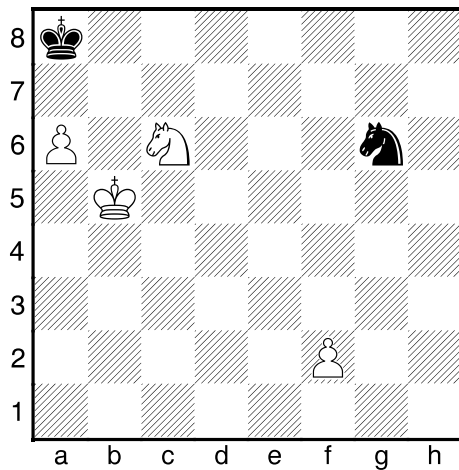
## 33.Ra8!+-

Forcing off Black's  $\text{R}$  kills any counterplay and leaves White with a much easier to convert advantage.



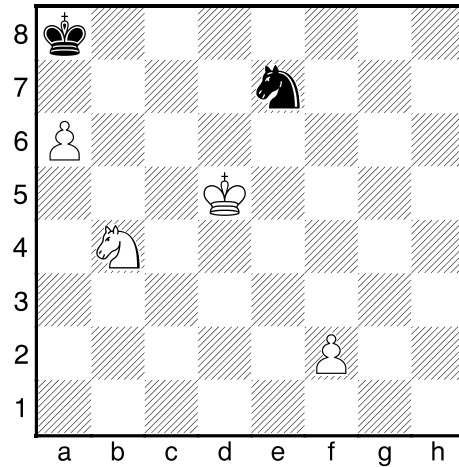
# Chess Canada Tacticosaurus

33...♖xa8 34.♙xa8 ♕d7  
35.♔f1 h6 36.♔e2 g5  
37.hxg5 hxg5 38.♔e3  
f5 39.♔d4 ♔d6 40.♙d5  
♙e8 41.g3 ♙d7 42.a3 ♙e8  
43.♘d1 ♙c6 44.♙xc6 ♘e6+  
45.♔c4 ♔xc6 46.♘c3 ♘f8  
47.♘b5 f4 48.♘d4+ ♔d6  
49.gxf4 gxf4 50.a4 ♘d7  
51.a5 ♔c7 52.♘e6+ ♔c6  
53.♘xf4 ♘e5+ 54.♔b4□  
♔b7 55.♔b5 ♘f3 56.♘e6  
♔a7 57.a6 ♘h4 58.♘d4 ♘g6  
59.♘c6+ ♔a8



**60.♔c4**  
playing to defend the a-pawn from behind with the ♘, and winning on the kingside with the ♔ vs ♘. Black finds a clever stalemate resource to make Mike's job harder.

60...♘f4 61.♘b4 ♘g6  
62.♔d5 ♘e7+



**63.♔e4**  
63.♔e5?? ♘c6+!= since  
64.♘xc6 is stalemate.

63...♘c6! 64.♘d3 ♔a7  
65.♔d5 ♔b6 66.♔d6 ♘d4  
67.♘b4 ♘f3 68.♔d5 ♔a7  
69.♔e4 ♘g5+ 70.♔e3 ♘f7  
71.f4 ♘d6 72.♔d4 ♔b6  
73.♔e5 ♘c4+ 74.♔e6 ♔b5  
75.a7 ♘b6 76.♘d5 ♘a8  
77.♔d6 ♔a6 78.♘c7+!

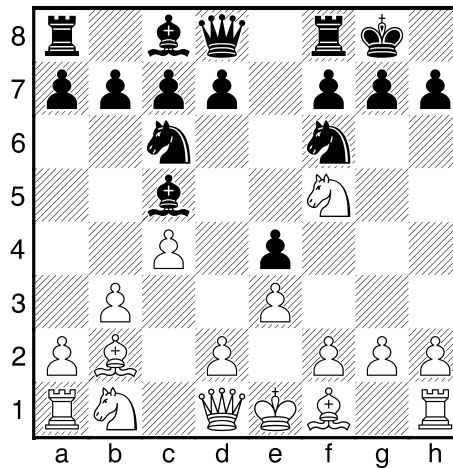
Finally getting rid of the ♘ that's been such a pest for 30 moves!

**1-0**

(110)  
**Hakobyan, Aram (2601)**  
**Hansen, Eric (2606)**

A01  
*Chess.com Rapid (5), 12.02.2022*

1.b3 e5 2.♙b2 ♘c6 3.c4 ♘f6  
4.♘f3 e4 5.♘d4 ♙c5 6.♘f5  
0-0 7.e3

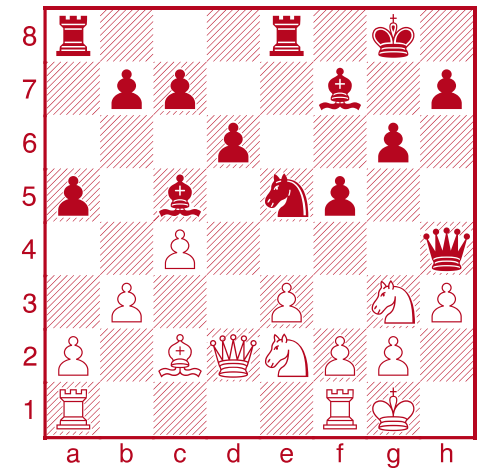


**7...d6!?**  
Far more common is 7...d5 which has been played by Nakamura and So and Svidler:  
8.cxd5 ♘b4= (8...♘xd5?? 9.♙g4 #3) 9.♘g3 ♘bxd5 10.♙c2=.

8.♘g3 ♙e8 9.♙xf6 ♙xf6  
10.♘c3 ♙h4  
10...♙f5?? 11.♘d5+-.

11.♙e2 f5 12.0-0 ♙e6 13.d4  
exd3 14.♙xd3 g6 15.♘ce2?!  
♘e5# 16.h3!  
16.♙c2? ♘g4 17.h3 ♘xf2!  
18.♖xf2□ (18.♔xf2? f4-+)  
18...♙xe3#.

16...a5 17.♙c2 ♙f7 18.♙d2



**18...a4!**  
Avoiding the flashy mistake and continuing to press for queenside squares.

Of course you saw ...♙xh3; but did you see that it gives up Black's advantage? 18...♙xh3? is flashy, but not good: 19.gxh3 ♘f3+ 20.♔g2 ♘xd2 21.♖fd1 ♘e4 (21...♙b4? 22.a3± remember this tactic later.) 22.♘xe4 fxe4 23.♘g3∞ White gets the pawn back and Black will have trouble





# Chess Canada Tacticosaurus

keeping the ♖ pair.

If Alekhine was playing Black there would be the obligatory comment about "playing on both sides of the board", because that's what 18...a4 does: it makes ...♙xh3 a real threat! If White were to pass then: 19.— ♙xh3! 20.gxh3 ♘f3+ 21.♔g2 ♘xd2 22.♖fd1 as above, but now 22...axb3! gaining a tempo on the ♖ as well as eliminating the a2 pawn so Black (if necessary) can safely defend the ♘d2 with ...♙b4. 23.axb3 ♖xa1 24.♖xa1 d5! 25.♖d1 ♙b4+ Black's up a pawn and his ♙s are perpetrating.

### 19.♖ae1??

Possibly a mouse slip.

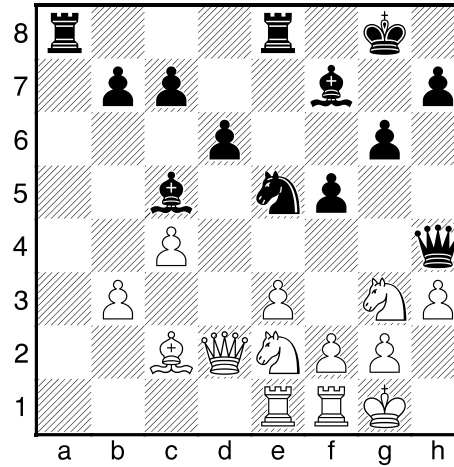
△19.♖ad1 defending the ♙d2 prevents the ...♙xh3 tactic.

19.b4? ♙b6⌘ and c4 is gone.

### 19...axb3 20.axb3

## GM Nights

GMs Eric Hansen and Robin van Kampen showing the less glamorous part of GM life.



### 20...♙xh3!

Now this is crushing. It wins a pawn, but the real point is to remove the defender of g4, making ...♘g4 a winning threat.

### 21.b4!?

White tries to confuse things, but

Eric keeps his wits.

21.gxh3 saves the ♙, but after 21...♘f3+ 22.♔g2 ♘xd2 we see the difference from 18...♙xh3: the ♖f1 can't move with tempo, so Black has time to bring the ♖a8 into the attack. 23.♖g1 ♖a2+ Black is up a pawn and the white queenside is collapsing.

### 21...♙h4! 22.♙xf5!?

22.bxc5 ♘g4 mates.

### 22...♘xc4! 23.♙c3 ♖a3

24.♙c1 ♙xb4 25.♖d1 ♙c5

26.♙d7 ♖exe3!

0-1

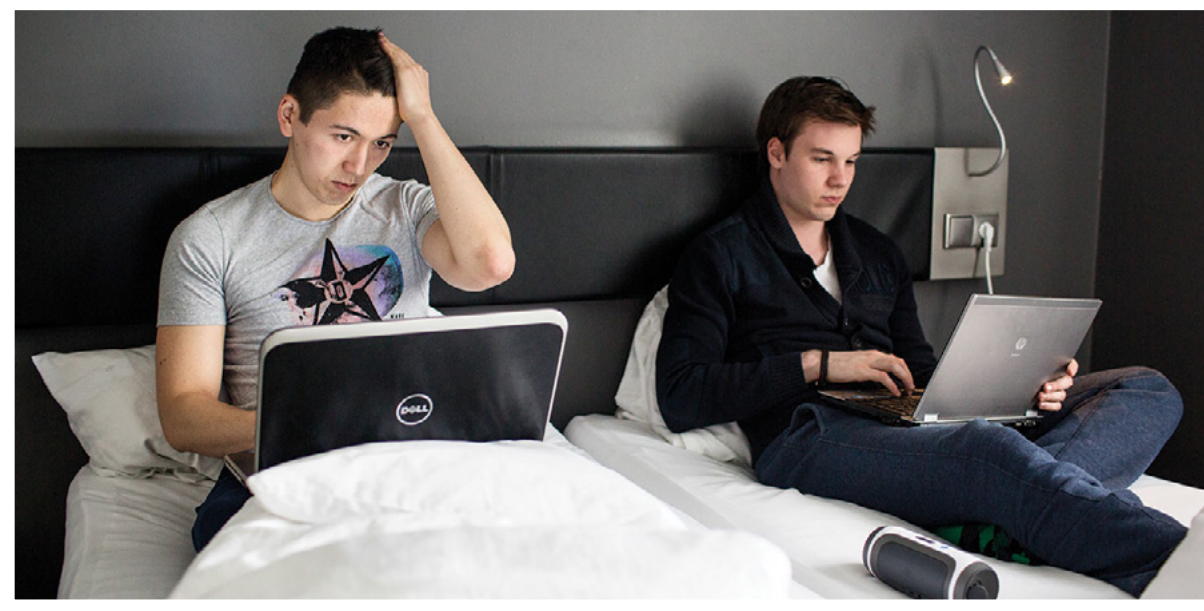


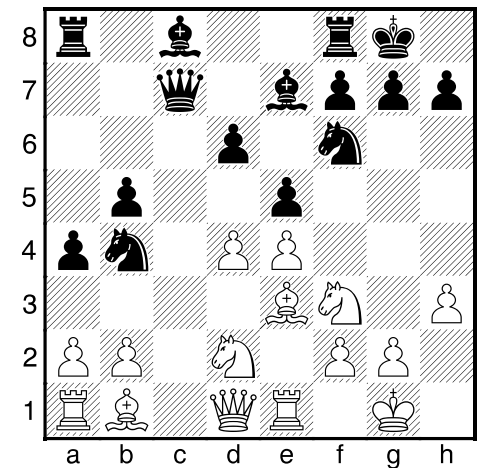
photo: SportsNet

## (111) Carlsen, Magnus (2865) Hansen, Eric (2606)

C99

Airthings Masters Prelim  
chess24.com (10), 21.02.2022

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5  
a6 4.♙a4 ♘f6 5.0-0 ♙e7  
6.♖e1 b5 7.♙b3 d6 8.c3 0-0  
9.h3 ♘a5 10.♙c2 c5 11.d4  
♙c7 12.♘bd2 cxd4 13.cxd4  
♘c6 14.♘b3 a5 15.♙e3 a4  
16.♘bd2 ♘b4 17.♙b1



### 17...♙d7

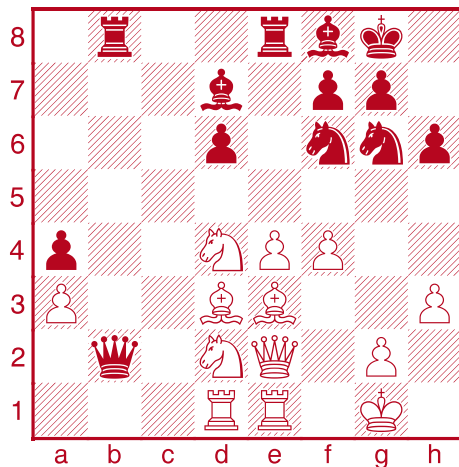
17...a3 18.♙b3 ♙a5 19.bxa3  
♙xa3 20.dxe5 dxe5 21.♘xe5±  
Dominguez Perez,L (2736)–  
Harikrishna,P (2740) Linares,  
2015 (1/2-1/2, 63).



18.a3 ♖c6 19.♔e2  
 19.♙d3 ♗a5 20.♔e2 ♖b8  
 21.♞ec1 ♞e8 22.♞ab1 exd4?!  
 23.♗xd4 b4 (23...d5 24.♙xb5±)  
 24.♙b5 b3 25.♙xd7 ♗xd7  
 26.♗b5± (26.♗f5!) 26...♗c5  
 27.♗xd6 ♙xd6 28.♙xc5± Leko,P  
 (2665)–Adams,M (2715) Tilburg,  
 1998 (1-0, 40).

19...♖b7 20.♙d3 ♞ab8  
 20...♞fe8 21.♞ac1 ♞ab8 22.dxe5  
 dxe5 23.♗b1 ♙d8 (23...b4=)  
 24.♞c5 b4 25.♞b5 ♖a8 Karpov,A  
 (2720)–Hort,V (2590) Luzern Ol.,  
 1982 (1-0, 42).

21.♞ec1?! exd4= 22.♗xd4  
 ♗e5 23.♙c2 ♞fe8 24.♞e1 h6  
 25.♞ad1 ♙f8 26.♙b1 b4 27.f4  
 ♗g6 28.♙d3 bxa3 29.bxa3  
 ♖b2



White is fantastically centralized,  
 but Black has just played the  
 annoying ...♖b2.

30.♞b1?  
 30.♞a1? ♗xf4-+.

30.♗c2 defends a3, but Black  
 has several moves, including  
 30...♙b5 so that if 31.♞b1  
 ♖xc2□=.

30...♗xf4!!  
 30...♖xa3?! 31.♗b5∞.

31.♖f1 ♖c3□  
 Both white pieces attacking ♗f4  
 are busy defending other white  
 pieces.

32.♙b5 ♗g6  
 ♖32...♗4d5!! but who is going to  
 look at such a wild move when  
 they already have the World  
 Champ on the ropes?

33.♙xa4??  
 ♖33.♙xd7 ♗xd7≠ and White  
 might get lucky.

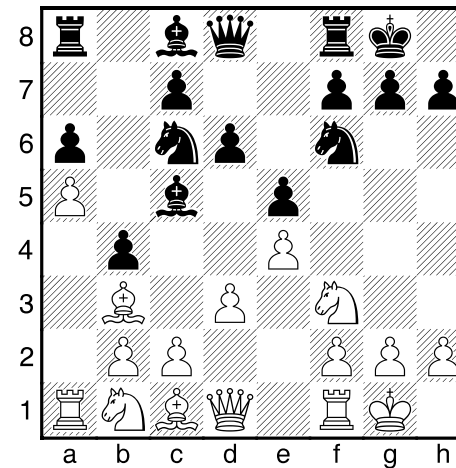
Carlsen's head had melted, and  
 he resigned here.

0-1

(112)  
 Rodrigue Lemieux, Shawn  
 (2342)  
 Barron, Michael (2108)

C78  
 CAN-ch Kingston (1.7),  
 13.04.2022

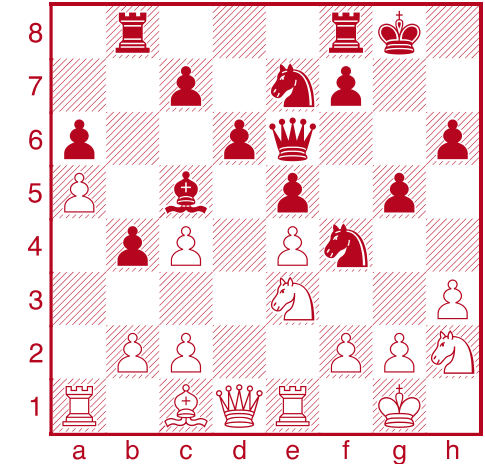
1.e4 e5 2.♗f3 ♗c6 3.♙b5  
 a6 4.♙a4 ♗f6 5.d3 b5 6.♙b3  
 ♙c5 7.0-0 0-0 8.a4 b4 9.a5  
 d6



10.♗bd2  
 10.h3 ♙e6 11.♗bd2 ♞b8 12.♗c4  
 ♗e7 13.♗g5 ♙d7 14.♙e3  
 ♙xe3 15.♗xe3 ♗g6= (1-0, 69)  
 Nakamura,H (2754)–Caruana,F  
 (2819) Paris (blitz), 2019.

10...h6 11.h3 ♞b8 12.♞e1

g5 13.♗h2 ♙e6 14.♙c4 ♖c8  
 15.♗df1 ♙xc4 16.dxc4 ♖e6  
 17.♖d3 ♗h5 18.♗e3 ♗f4  
 19.♖d1 ♗e7



Can White stabilize the kingside  
 with g3 ...♗f4-moves then ♖g2?

20.g3?  
 ♖20.♗d5∞.

20...♗xh3+!  
 White may have counted on  
 the thought that the ♗h3 would  
 get trapped. But there are three  
 problems in this line for White...

First, the ♗f4 isn't hanging yet,  
 since after 20...♖h8! White  
 would get smashed if he takes it:  
 21.gxf4?! gxf4 22.♗d5 (22.♗eg4  
 h5-+) 22...♞g8+ 23.♖h1 ♗xd5  
 24.cxd5 ♖xh3 25.♖f3 (25.♞g1





# Chess Canada Tacticosaurus

♙xf2!-+) 25...♔h4 26.♖f1 ♖g5+-.

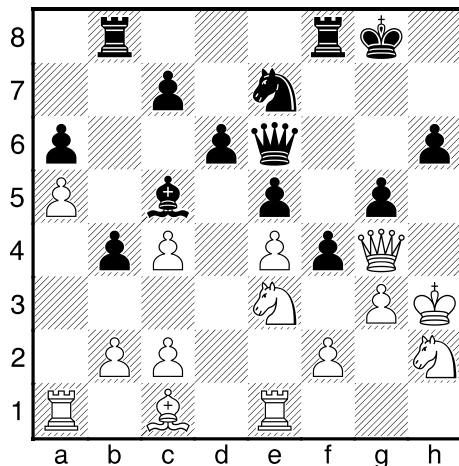
## 21.♔g2 f5!?

The second problem for White is here: ♖21...♘xf2! 22.♔xf2 ♖h3♣-+ two pawns for the ♘ and ...f5 bringing the ♖ into the attack and Black is winning.

## 22.♔xh3 f4+ 23.♖g4

After 23.♘eg4? h5 or ...♙xf2 both win.

23.♔g2 fxe3 24.♙xe3♞.



Blocking the check with a counter-attack on the ♔. This is probably the tactic White counted on to save the piece. It does save the piece, but Black's pawn mass is full compensation.

23...♖xg4+ 24.♘exg4 h5♣  
25.♘h6+ ♔h7 26.gxf4 gxf4!

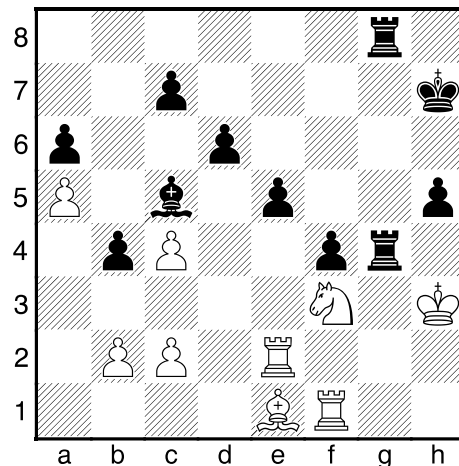
The computer prefers the very inhuman 26...exf4!? which I'm sure most humans would barely consider, as it seems to promise White open lines for both his ♙ and ♖e1.

26...♔xh6 27.fxg5+ ♔g6  
28.♙e3♞.

## 27.♘f5 ♘xf5 28.exf5 ♙xf2♞ 29.♖e2 ♙c5 30.♙d2

There's no bailing out with 30.♙xf4 exf4 31.♖e7+ ♔g8 32.♖xc7 b3 33.c3 ♖f7-+.

## 30...♖xf5 31.♖f1 ♖g8 32.♙e1 ♖fg5 33.♘f3 ♖g4



## 34.♘d2

34.c3 bxc3 (34...b3♞) 35.♙xc3 ♖g3+ 36.♔h2 ♖b8! aiming to trade ♙s and attack the

queenside pawns.

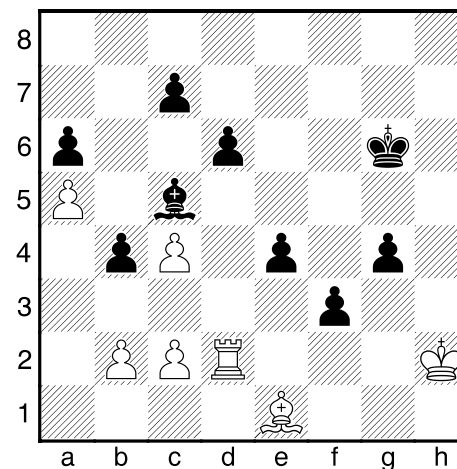
## 34...♖g1 35.♖xg1 ♖xg1 36.♔h2 ♖g4 37.♘e4

Threatening to fork on f6 or trade the ♙c5, which would leave Black without a crucial piece to support the pawns.

## 37...f3?!

♖37...♙g1+ saving the ♙ with tempo: 38.♔h3 ♔g6 39.♖g2 ♔f5-+.

## 38.♘f6+ ♔g6 39.♘xg4 hxg4 40.♖d2 e4? ♖40...♔g5 41.♙g3 ♔f5∞.



## 41.♙h4??

41.♔g3♣ e3:



**IM Shawn Rodrigue-Lemieux**  
2022 Zonal

**a)** 42.♖d5?? c6 43.♖d1 ♔g5  
44.♖d3 d5! (44...f2 45.♙xf2 exf2  
46.♔g2=) 45.cxd5 (45.♔h2 d4-+)  
45...♙d6#;

**b)** 42.♖h2 f2 43.♙xf2 exf2  
44.♔g2 ♙d4=;

**c)** 42.♖d1! 42...♔f5 43.♖d5+  
♔f6 44.♔xg4 f2 45.♙xf2 exf2  
46.♖f5+=.



# Chess Canada Tacticosaurus

## 41...e3??

41...c6-+ prevents ♖d5+ and so allows the Black ♔ to advance, it also prepares ...d5 and ...♙d6+.

42.♙e7 e3 43.♖xd6+:

43... ♔f7 44.♖e6 ♙xe7 45.♖xe3 ♙d6+-+; or

43... ♙xd6+ 44.♙xd6 b3!!

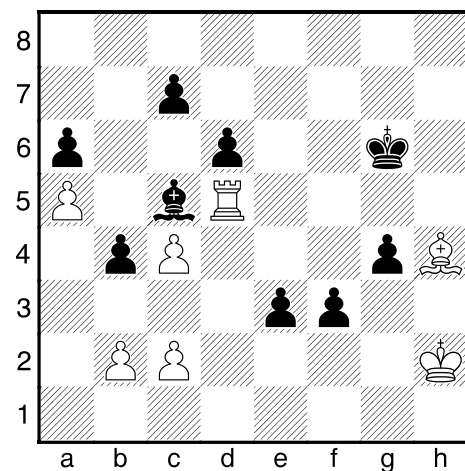
freeing d3 for the Black ♔.

(44... ♔f5?? 45.♙xb4=) 45.cxb3

(45.♙c5 e2 46.♙f2 bxc2-+)

45... ♔f5 46.♔g3 ♔e4-+.

## 42.♖d5!



## 42...e2??

42...f2?? 43.♔g2 and Black loses the light squares.

42...c6 43.♖g5+ ♔h6 44.♖xg4 e2

45.♖e4□+-.

42...♔h6□= 43.♔g3 (43.♖g5?? f2 44.♔g2 e2-+) 43...e2 44.♔xg4 f2 45.♖h5+ ♔g6 46.♖g5+ ♔f7 (46...♔h6=) 47.♖f5+ ♔e8 48.♖xf2□ e1♙ 49.♖f8+ ♔xf8 50.♙xe1=.

43.♖g5+□+- ♔h6 44.♖xc5□ 44.♖xg4 f2-+.

44...dxc5 45.♔g1□ ♔h5 46.♙g3□ ♔g5 47.♔f2□ c6 48.♔e3 ♔f5 49.b3○ ♔g5 50.♔e4

1-0

## (113)

MacKinnon, Keith (2198)  
Rodrigue Lemieux, Shawn (2342)

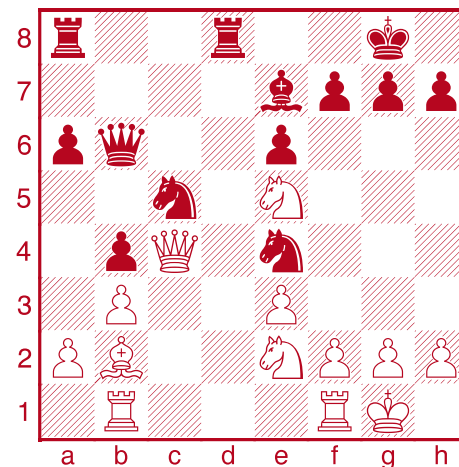
D48

CAN-ch Kingston (2.6),  
14.04.2022

1.c4 e6 2.♘f3 d5 3.e3 ♘f6 4.♘c3 ♙e7 5.b3 0-0 6.♙b2 dxc4 7.♙xc4 a6!?

7...c5 8.d4= is very drawish.  
8.d4 b5 9.♙d3 ♙b7 10.♖c1 ♘bd7 11.0-0 c5 12.dxc5

♘xc5 13.♙b1 ♖b6 14.♘e5 ♖fd8 15.♖c2 b4 16.♘e2 ♙e4 17.♖c4 ♙xb1 18.♖xb1 ♘fe4



Is Black threatening ...♘d2, and if so, what should White do about it?

## 19.♖fd1?

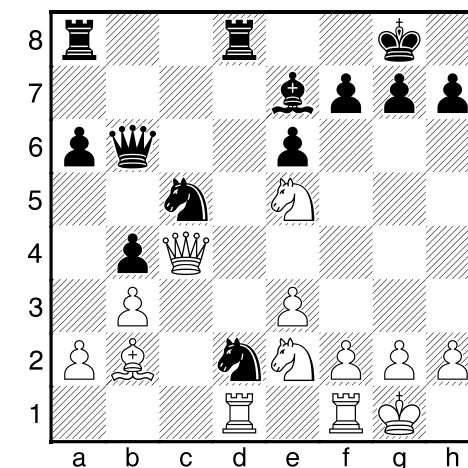
The answer was "no": the move



...♘d2 was not an imminent threat, since White saves the exchange with threats against the Black ♔. But White's last move makes ...♘d2 a winner because it weakens f2, allowing a ...♘d3 fork in some lines. In other words: wrong rook.

○19.♖bc1 ♘d2 20.♖g4 ♙f8 (20...♘xf1?? 21.♘c4+- threatening mate on g7 and the ♖ on b6.) 21.♘f4! (21.♖fd1=) 21...♘xf1 22.♘h5□ ♘e4□ 23.♖xe4□±.

○19.♖bd1 ♘d2  
Analysis Diagram



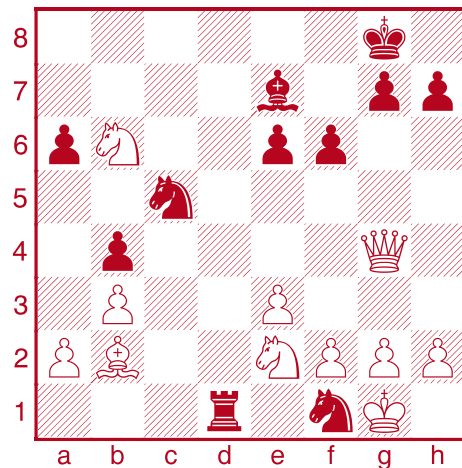
20.♖f4 f6 21.♖xd2 ♖xd2 22.♘c4 ♖d8 23.♘xd2 ♖xd2 24.♖c7∞.

Keith MacKinnon  
2022 Zonal



There are some neat tactics at the end of this line: 20. ♖g4!? 20... ♗xf1 21. ♖xd8+ ♖xd8 22. ♗c4 threatening mate and the ♔. (22. ♔xf1?? ♖d1#) 22... f6 (22... ♗f8 23. ♗xb6 ♖d1 24. ♗c3 more or less transposes, but ...f6 helps Black a little bit in the endgame.) 23. ♗xb6 ♖d1:

Analysis Diagram



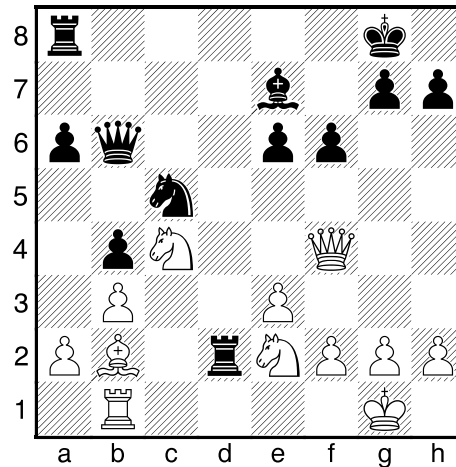
Black threatens both discovered mate and ... ♗e3+ winning the ♔.

24. ♗c3 ♖ with a double-attack on the ♖ so there is no safe discovered check, 24... ♖e1 ♖ (24... ♗xe3+?? 25. ♖xd1+-) 25. ♖e2! (or 25. ♖d1 also trades ♖ for ♖, but leaves the ♗d1 on a worse square.) 25... ♖xe2 26. ♗xe2 ♗d2=.

19... ♗d2! 20. ♖f4 20. ♖g4? ♗xb1 ♖+- and the threat of mate on d1 prevents ♗c4.

20... f6 ♖ 21. ♖xd2 ♖ 21. ♗c4? ♗xb1+- ditto.

21... ♖xd2 ♖ 22. ♗c4



22... ♖ad8??

22... ♖xb2 23. ♖xb2=.

22... ♖d8 ♖ 23. ♗xd2 (23. ♗d4? e5+-) 23... ♖xd2:

24. ♖f3 ♖d8 25. ♗d4 ♗f8! stepping out of ♗c6 and preparing ...e5 and ... ♗d3;

24. ♖c7 ♖xe2 25. ♖xe7 ♗d3+- White would be fine here if his ♖b1 was on f1;

24. ♖c4 ♗d3+- with a double attack on d2 and b2, and White's active ♖ is good for only a couple of checks.

23. ♗d4??

Interfering with the ♖s stops the back rank mate, so White wins back the exchange, but there was a much better way.

Obviously not 23. ♗xb6?? ♖d1+ 24. ♖xd1 ♖xd1#.

♖ 23. ♗d4 ♖xb2! 24. ♖xb2 and the game goes on:

- a) 24... ♗d3? 25. ♖g4!± (25. ♗xb6? ♗xf4∞);
- b) 24... e5?! 25. ♖g4±;
- c) 24... ♖b7∞.

23... ♖b5!

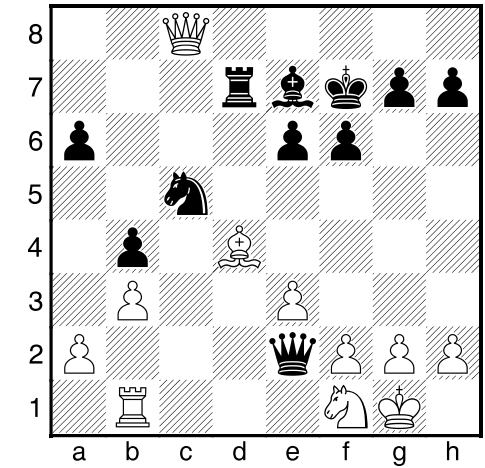
23... ♖2xd4?? gives up more than the exchange since 24. exd4+- leaves the ♖ and ♗ attacked.

23... e5? 24. ♖g4 (24. ♖f3!?) 24... ♖e6 (24... ♖2xd4?!) 25. ♖xe6+ ♗xe6 26. ♗xd2=.

24. ♗xd2 ♖xe2+-

Unlike the line with 23. ♗d4, Black's ♖ is very active here.

25. ♖c7 ♖d7 26. ♖c8+ ♖d8 27. ♖c7 ♖d7 28. ♖c8+ ♔f7 29. ♗f1



29... ♖xd4!

The computer prefers keeping the exchange with 29... ♖d8 30. ♖c6 ♗d3 31. ♖f3 ♖xa2+- but it's easy to see why Black wouldn't want to let White's ♖ get active after 32. ♖a1 ♖xb3 33. ♖xa6+-.

30. exd4 ♗d3 31. d5!?

The computer hates this — rating ♖c4 as clearly best, but still losing — but White is busted no matter what, and this at least forces Black to be wary.

31... ♖xf2+ 32. ♔h1 exd5 ♖ 32... ♖d4? 33. ♖xe6+ ♔f8 34. ♖e3 ♖xd5∞ Black has a pawn for the



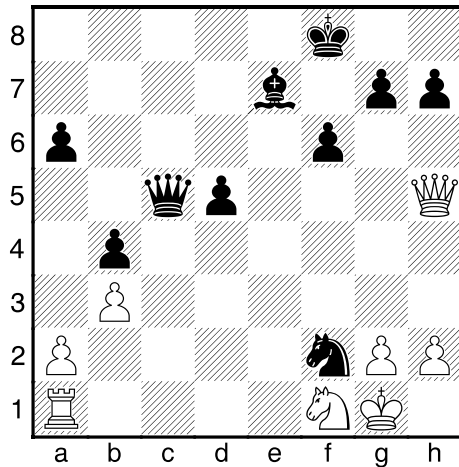
exchange, and threatens ...♙c5 and ...♘f2+ with play against the ♔.

33.♙h3 ♖c2! 34.♙h5+ ♕f8□  
34...g6?? 35.♙xh7+ ♕e6  
36.♙g8+=.

35.♖a1

There's no perpetual after ♙xd5.

35...♘f2+ 36.♔g1 ♖c5



37.g3

Avoiding the smothered mate:  
37.♘g3?? ♘h3+ 38.♔h1 ♙g1+  
39.♖xg1 ♘f2#.

37...♙d4 38.♖e1

Makes the ♖ semi-safe and guards against ...♙e4+.

38...♘g4+ 39.♔h1 ♙f2

40.♖c1

40.♙xg4 ♙xe1 prolongs the game but is obviously hopeless.

40...♙f3+ 41.♔g1 ♙c5+

41...♙c5+ 42.♖xc5 ♙f2+ 43.♔h1  
♙xf1#.

0-1

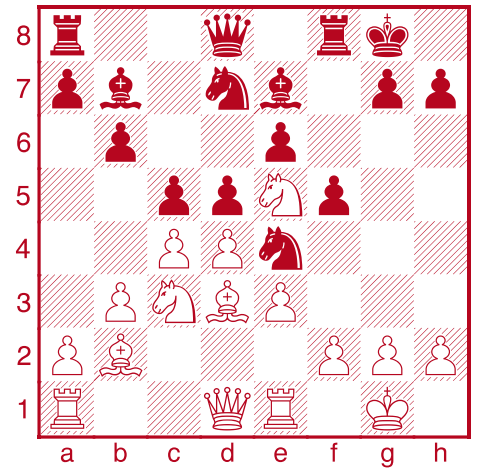
(114)

Baylon, Glenda (1858)  
Ouellet, Maili Jade (2179)

E14

CAN-ch Kingston (2.21),  
14.04.2022

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♘f6  
4.e3 ♙e7 5.♘f3 0-0 6.♙d3  
♘bd7 7.0-0 c5 8.b3 b6  
9.♙b2 ♙b7 10.♖e1 ♘e4  
11.♘e5 f5



Black's best piece is the ♘e4.  
What happens if White kicks it  
with 12.f3?

12.f3??

Natural, but really bad. A well-hidden problem with this move is that Black's ♙ and DSB — which seem out of the game — can suddenly attack the newly weakened dark squares around the white ♔.

♠12.♘xd7 ♙xd7=;

♠12.cxd5?! cxd4 13.exd4 ♘xe5  
14.dxe5 ♘xc3 15.♙xc3 ♙xd5  
16.♙f1 ♖ac8♞.

12...♘xe5?♞

Misses a chance at a big advantage. A good reminder of how positions with so many possible captures can fool even very strong players.

## 2022 Zonal Champs

Shawn Rodrigue-Lemieux =1st  
Maili-Jade Ouellet 9-0 !!





12...cxd4:

a) 13.fxe4 dxc3 14.♙xc3 ♘xe5  
15.♙xe5 dxe4+- Black is up a pawn and White's structure stinks;

b) 13.♘xd7 dxc3 14.♘xf8 cxb2  
15.♘xe6 ♖d6 (15...bxa1??  
16.♖xa1+- White threatens mate on g7 and the ♖d8.) 16.♖b1 ♘c3+-;

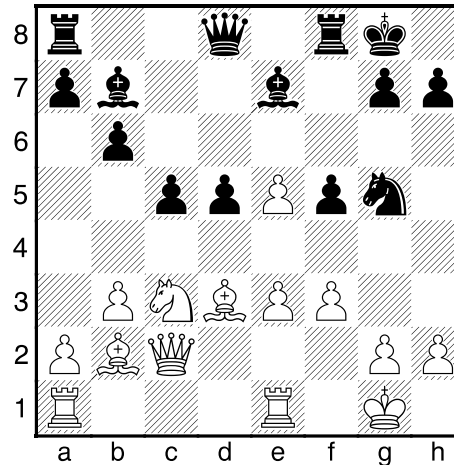
c) 13.exd4 ♘xe5 14.dxe5 ♙c5+ 15.♔f1 ♖h4+- Black has mercilessly exploited the dark-square weaknesses created by 12.f3.

13.dxe5 ♘g5?  
Black, who outrates her opponent by a lot, avoids simplifications — 13...♘xc3 14.♙xc3 d4 — but now White plays a series of strong moves.

Here's an unusual idea that gives Black play but at much

less risk: 13...d4!? 14.♘xe4 fxe4 15.fxe4 ♙h4 16.g3 ♖g5!  
17.♖e2 dxe3 18.♖xe3 ♖ad8  
Black is nominally down a pawn, but has the active pieces.

14.cxd5! exd5 15.♖c2!

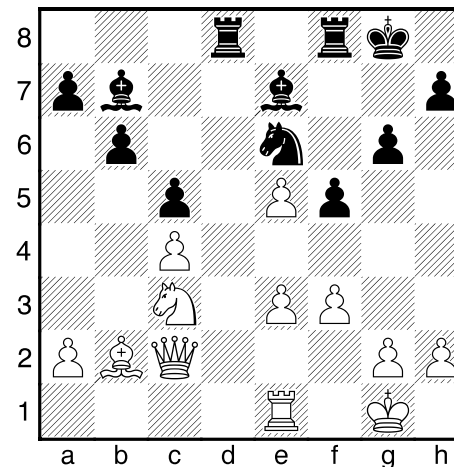


15...g6?  
Those long diagonals spell death for the black ♔. 15...d4 16.♘b5±.

16.♖ad1!+-  
Threatening ♘xd5 then ♙c4.

16...♘e6  
Blocks the c4-g8 diagonal, but White just inverts the move order.

17.♙c4! dxc4!? 18.♖xd8 ♖axd8 19.bxc4+-

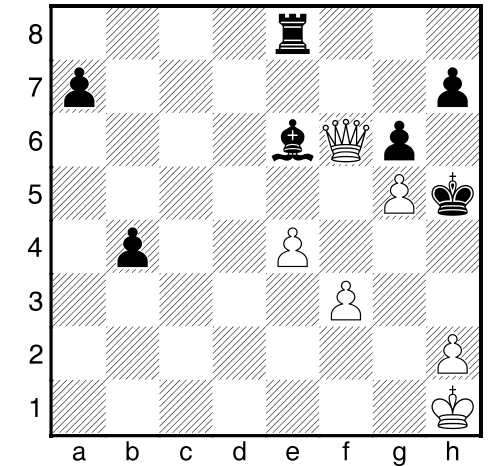


Black doesn't have nearly enough material for the ♖, and White steadily converts her advantage...

19...f4 20.e4 ♘d4 21.♖c1 ♙h4 22.♖d1 ♙a6 23.♔h1 23.♖xd4 ♖xd4 24.♘d5 ♖xc4 25.♖d2+-.

23...♙xc4 24.♘d5 ♙xa2 25.♙xd4 cxd4 26.♖b2 ♙c4

27.♖xd4 b5 28.♘f6+ ♔g7  
29.♖d7+ ♖xd7 30.♘xd7 ♖e8  
31.♖a1 (31.g3! makes the king safer.) 31...♖e7 32.e6+ ♔h6  
33.♖e5 ♙xe6 34.♖xf4+ ♙g5  
35.♖f8+ ♔h5 36.♘f6+ ♙xf6  
37.♖xf6 ♖e8 38.g3 ♔h6  
39.g4 b4 40.g5+ ♔h5



41.f4??  
White's first bad move since 12.f3, but it's a doozy, changing a long but forced mate into a razor-edged calculation contest.

41.♔g2! is #12 if Black throws away all her pieces; more realistically: 41...b3 42.♔g3 h6 (42...b2 43.♖f4 b1♖ 44.♖h4#) 43.h4 b2 44.♖f4 b1♖ 45.♖g4+ ♙xg4 46.fxg4#.

41...♙h3! 42.♖d4



# Chess Canada Tacticosaurus

Baylon - Ouellet  
2022 Zonal





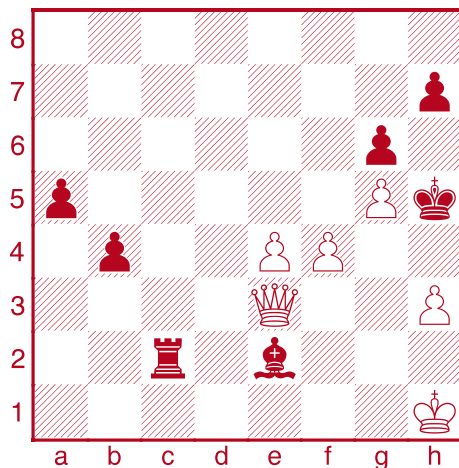
# Chess Canada Tacticosaurus

42.e5?! ♖c8!= 43.♔g1 b3 44.♗f7 b2 45.♗xh7+ ♔g4 46.♗d7+ ♔h4 (46...♔xf4?? 47.♗d4+ ♔xg5 48.♗e3+ ♔g4 49.♗g3+ ♔f5 50.♗xh3+ ♔xe5 51.♗e3+ ♔b2.) 47.♗h7+=.

42...♖c8! 43.♗d1+?  
43.♔g1 ♔+.

43...♙g4 44.♗b3 a5 45.h3!  
♙e2?  
45...♖c1+ ♔ 46.♔h2 ♙d1 47.♗e3 ♖c3∞.

46.♗e3!+- ♖c2



47.♗a7??

Threatening ♗xh7# and stopping Black's a-pawn: what more could you hope to find in time pressure?

47.e5? a4 ♔ 48.♗a7 ♔ (48.e6 b3 49.♗a7) 48...♙f3+ 49.♔g1 ♔h4 50.♗xa4 ♖b2 51.♗a1 ♖e2=.

47.f5 ♔+- creates a passed pawn and opens a diagonal to g3 for checks. 47... a4 48.f6 ♔ a3 49.f7 a2 50.♗a7 (50.f8♗?! should win, but it's a lot more work: 50... a1♗+ 51.♗g1 ♗xg1+ (51...♖c1?? 52.♗h6#) 52.♔xg1 ♔xg5 53.♗xb4+-) 50...♖c1+ 51.♔g2 a1♗ 52.♗xa1 ♖xa1 53.f8♗ ♔xg5 54.♗c5+ and ♗f2+ or ♗e3+ wins the ♙.

47...♙f3+=

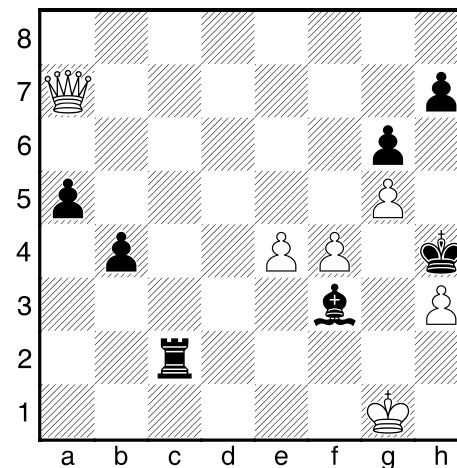
47...♔h4!? creates another mess of options, which also seem to be draws after best play:

48.♗f2+ ♔xh3 49.♗e3+ ♔g4 50.f5 ♙f3+ 51.♔g1 a4 52.f6 a3 53.f7 a2 54.♗a7 (54.♗xf3+?! ♔xf3 55.f8♗+ is precarious, but the computer says White can hold on with all the available checks.) 54...♖c1+ 55.♔f2 a1♗ 56.♗xa1 ♖xa1 57.f8♗=;

48.♔g1 ♙f3 49.f5 creating a passed pawn and opening a diagonal to g3 for checks (49.♗xa5?? ♔g3+- 50.♗a1

♖g2+ 51.♔f1 ♙e2+-+) 49... b3 (49...♔g3?? 50.♗b8+ ♔xh3 51.f6 ♖g2+ 52.♔f1 ♖h2 53.♗xh2+!+-; 49...♔xh3 50.♗xh7+?? ♔g3+-) 50.f6 b2 51.♗b8 ♖c1+ (51...♖g2+!? 52.♔f1 ♔xh3 ♔ 53.f7 ♙e4! 54.♗b3+!? ♔h2 ♔ 55.f8♗ b1♗+ 56.♗xb1 ♙xb1=) 52.♔f2 b1♗ 53.♗g3+ ♔h5 54.♗xf3+ ♔xg5 and White has a choice of perpetuals: 55.h4+ (55.♗g3+ ♔xf6 56.♗d6+=) 55...♔xh4 56.♗g3+ ♔h5 57.♗h2+ ♔g5 58.♗e5+=.

48.♔g1 ♔h4



This was the closest MJ came to losing in her 9–0 run in the 2022 Zonal.

49.♗e3??  
49.♗xh7+?? almost forces Black to make the winning move: 49...♔g3+.

49.f5 ♔:

As above: advancing a passer, and opening a diagonal for checks to g3, though now it only draws.

49...♔g3?? 50.♗b8+- ♔xh3 51.f6 as above; 49...b3! 50.f6 b2 51.♗b8 ♖c1+ 52.♔f2 b1♗ 53.♗f4+=.

49...♔g3 ♔+- 50.♔f1

50.♗e1+ ♔xh3 51.♗f1+ ♖g2+ 52.♔h1 ♔g3+.

50...b3 51.♗e1+

51.♗xb3 ♖c1+ 52.♗d1 ♖xd1#.

51...♔xh3 52.♗b1 a4 53.e5 ♙e4 54.♗e1 b2 55.e6 ♙d3+ 56.♔g1 ♖c1

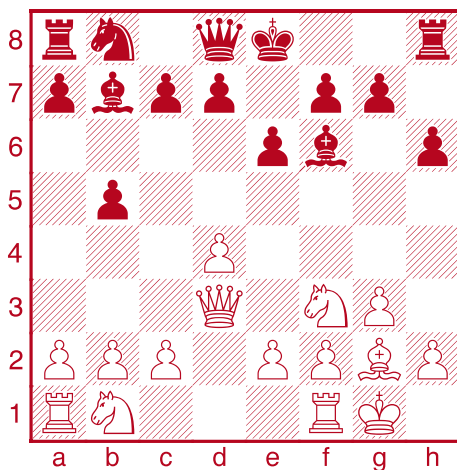
0-1



(115)  
**Nicula, Marius (2186)**  
**Chiku-Ratte, Olivier-Kenta**  
**(2364)**

A46  
 CAN-ch Kingston (3.7),  
 14.04.2022

1.♭f3 ♖f6 2.g3 b5 3.♙g2  
 ♙b7 4.d4 e6 5.0-0 ♙e7 6.♙g5  
 h6 7.♙xf6 ♙xf6 8.♚d3



...a6, ...b4, or ...00?

8...0-0??

Maybe expecting 9.♚xb5? ♙a6 ♚.

First, ♚xb5 isn't much of a threat, e.g. 8...g6 9.♚xb5? ♙a6 and Black trades the b-pawn for White's e-pawn.

8...b4?! just gives White a hook and makes it easier to find squares for the ♖s; e.g. 9.a3 a5 10.♖bd2 c5!? 11.dxc5 ♙xb2? (11...♖a6!) 12.♖c4!±.

♖8...a6 9.c3 and ♖bd2 and a later a4. White has an easy game, and Black's ♙ pair won't last after White moves the ♖f3.

9.♖g5!+-

A stock tactic in g3 vs b6 openings. Olivier is too good to miss this.

9...♙xg5 10.♙xb7 ♖c6  
 11.♙xa8 ♚xa8+-

White is up a full exchange and gave Black absolutely no chances.

12.c3 ♚b7 13.♖d2 d5 14.f4  
 ♙e7 15.e4+- dxe4 16.♚xe4  
 ♚b6 17.♖f3 ♙f6 18.♚f2 ♖e7  
 19.a4 b4 20.♖e5 ♚d8 21.a5  
 ♚b5 22.a6 c6 23.♚d3 ♚b6  
 24.♖g4 ♖d5 25.♖e3 bxc3  
 26.♖xd5 ♚xd5 27.bxc3 c5  
 28.♚b1 ♚c6 29.♚b8+ ♙d8  
 30.♚b5 ♚xb5 31.♚b5 ♙b6  
 32.♚a2 cxd4 33.♚xb6 d3  
 34.♚b8+ ♖h7 35.♚d2

1-0

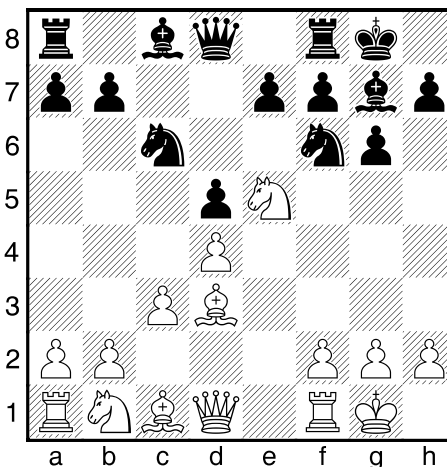
(116)  
**Demchenko, Svitlana**  
**(2079)**  
**Ouellet, Maili Jade (2179)**

B10  
 CAN-ch Kingston (4.21),  
 15.04.2022

1.e4 c6 2.♖f3 d5 3.exd5  
 cxd5 4.♖e5 ♖f6 5.d4 g6  
 6.♙d3

6.♙b5+ ♙d7 7.♙e2!?± keeps the ♚ looking up the d-file, so that if ...♖c6xe5 the d5-pawn hangs.

6...♙g7 7.c3 0-0 8.0-0 ♖c6



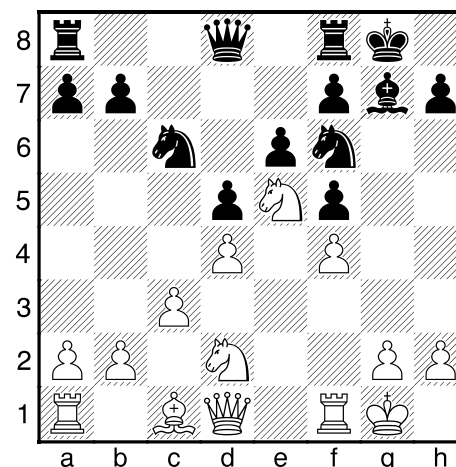
9.f4

Supports the ♖e5, but permanently concedes e4 and prevents pieces from using f4.

9.♚e2 ♖xe5 10.dxe5 ♖d7 11.♙f4 or 11.f4.

9.♚e1 ♖xe5! (9...♙f5 10.♙xf5 gxf5 11.♙f4 e6 12.♖d2 ♖e7 13.♙g5± *Karjakin, S (2752)–Jobava, B (2603) Chess.com, 2020 (1-0, 39)*) 10.dxe5 ♖g4 11.♙f4 (11.e6?! ♙xe6 12.♚xe6 ♖xf2! ♚ N) 12.♚f3 ♖xe5 13.♚xd5 ♚d8 14.♙xe5 ♚xd5 15.♙xc7 ♚xd3 ♚ *Diamant, A (2547)–Tari, A (2635) PRO League (rapid), 2020 (0-1, 55)*.

9...♙f5! 10.♙xf5 gxf5 11.♖d2 e6



Black has an unassailable outpost on e4 and the ♙c1's best hope is to go to h4 and trade itself, which is why Black's

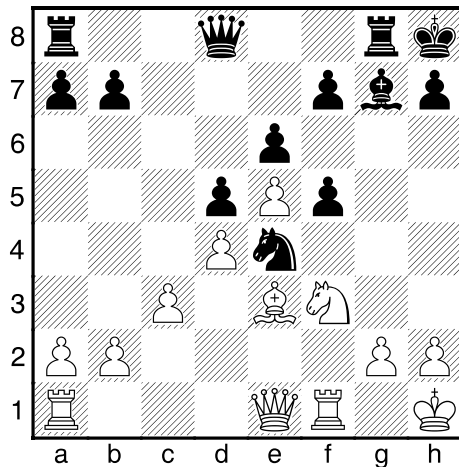


broken pawn structure is nothing to complain about.

But imagine White gets outposts on f6 and g7. 1-0, right?

### 12. ♖f3

12. ♘df3 ♘e4 13. ♕e3 ♔h8  
14. ♖e1 ♘xe5 15. fxe5 ♖g8  
16. ♔h1 *Analysis Diagram*



16...f6= This concedes an outpost on e5, but gets Black more kingside space, and opens the 7th rank for defence of h7, and with the ♘ embedded on e4 there is no way the "half open" e-file can be used by White's majors to attack e6. 17. ♕f4 fxe5 18. ♘xe5 ♖e7 19. ♖f3 ♕f6 20. ♖h3± ♕g5 21. ♖e3 ♕xf4

22. ♖xf4 ♖g5 23. ♖h4 ♖ag8=  
24. ♖g1 ♖g7 (24...♖g4?? does not set up a smothered mate: 25. ♘g4 ♖xh4 26. ♖xh4 the ♘g4 stops the smothered mate 26...♖xg4 27. g3□+)-) 25. ♖f4 ♖g4? 26. ♘g4 fxe4 27. ♖e3 ♖f8 28. ♖xe4□ dxe4?? (28...♖xf4 29. ♖xf4±) 29. ♖xe4 g3 30. ♖e1 gxh2 31. ♖xe6 ♖f6 32. ♖c8+ ♖f8 33. ♖e8 ♔g8 (1-0, 33) Boskovic,D (2453)-Abdrlauf,E (2338) Chess.com Titled Tuesday, 2021.

12... ♘e7 13. ♖h3 ♘g6 14. ♘f1

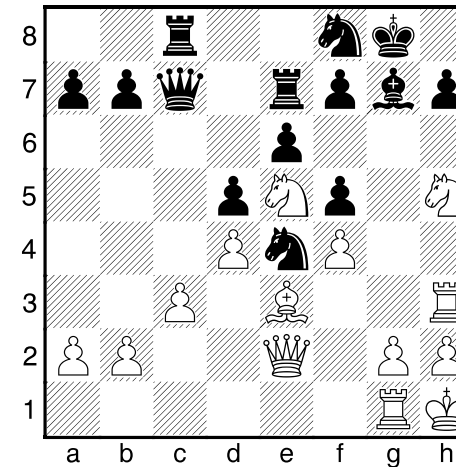


♖c7 15. ♘g3 ♖fe8 16. ♕e3  
16. ♘h5 ♘e4=.

16... ♖ac8 17. ♖e2 ♘f8  
18. ♔h1

18. ♘h5 ♘e4 19. ♘g7 ♔xg7  
20. ♖h5 f6̄.

18... ♖e7 19. ♖g1 ♘e4 20. ♘h5



Threatening ♘xg7 then g4, opening the g-file with a tempo on the ♔.

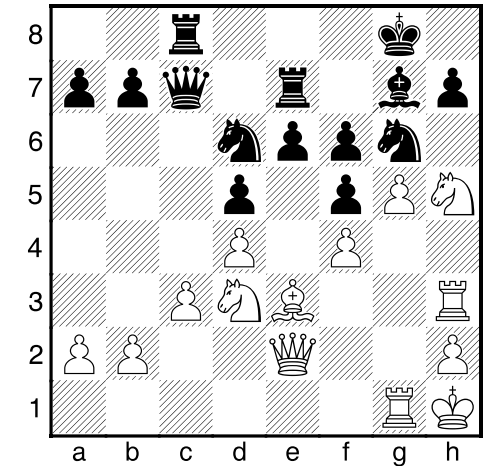
### 20...f6!

Kicks the ♘e5 and puts the ♖ and ♖ in touch with g7 and h7.

21. ♘d3 ♘g6 22. g4 ♘d6?!

22...fxg4 23. ♖xg4 f5 24. ♖g2±.  
□22... ♖c4 23. gxf5 exf5 Black gets worse pawns but play on the e-file.

### 23.g5!±



Black has a choice of evils.

### 23...fxg5!?

23... ♘e4 24. gxf6 ♕xf6 25. ♘e5± is too easy.

The game move gives White more of a chance to go wrong.

### 24. ♖xg5?

□24. fxe5± blocks the g-file, but threatening ♘f6+ and freeing f4 are more than worth it.

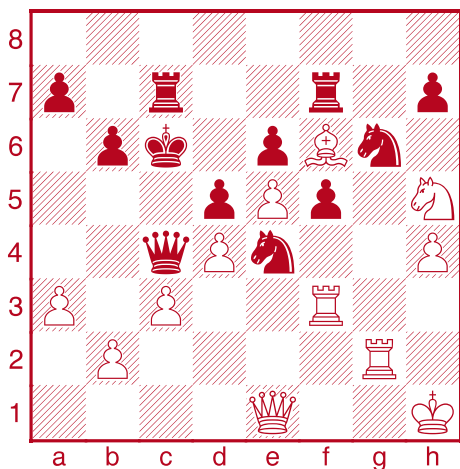
24... ♘e4 25. ♖g2 ♖c4 26. a3 ♖f8 27. ♕f2 ♖ff7 28. ♖e1 ♔f8!  
29. ♕h4 ♖c7 30. ♘e5 ♕xe5  
31. fxe5 ♔e8 32. ♕f6

Please take me! Almost everything Black has is out of the ♕'s reach on light squares.





32...♔d7! 33.♖f3 ♕c6 34.h4 b6



What happens if 35.♘g7?

35.♘g7??

Threatens ♘xe6, winning. But ♘35.♙g5=.

35...♘f8? =

Misses a winning chance.

♘35...♖xg7-+ 36.♙xg7 ♖xg7 37.h5 The pin seems to simply cost Black a piece. This must be

what both players saw — and misevaluated. In fact, Black is better here, both tactically and positionally:

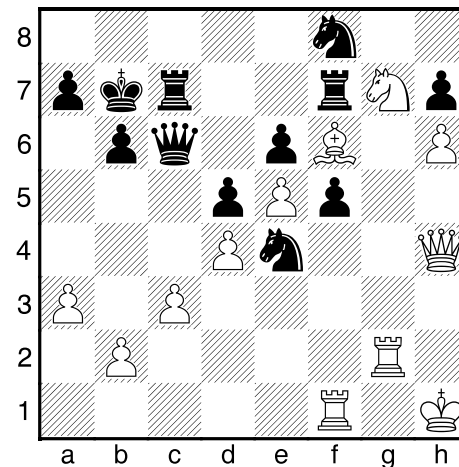
Black's position is good enough that she can give the ♘g6 for a ♙ and still be more than fine: 37...♙a4!? 38.hxg6 hxg6♖ and the ♘e4 and two passed pawns are more than enough comp for the exchange.

37...♘h4 38.♙xh4 (38.♖xg7 ♘xf3-+) 38...♖xg2 39.♔xg2 ♙e2+ 40.♖f2 ♘xf2 41.♙xf2 ♙xh5!♖;

37...♘xe5!? might be better, it is certainly more complicated: 38.dxe5 ♖g5! 39.♖h3 f4!-+.

36.h5 ♕b7 37.♙h4 ♙a4 38.♖f1 ♙c6 39.h6

**MJO & Demchenko**  
2022 Zonal Postmortem



So, White has secured the fabled outposts on f6 and g7, but...

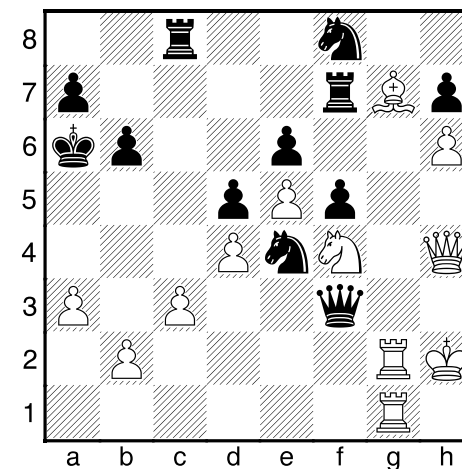
39...♔a6

... the black ♔ is way over on the other edge of the board.

39...♘g6!? 40.♖xg6? hxg6 41.h7 ♖f8 42.h8♙ (42.♖f3 ♖h8 and the ♘g7 can't move without allowing ...♖xh7-+.) 42...♖xh8 43.♙xh8 ♘g3+-+.

40.♖f3 ♙d7 41.♘h5 ♙a4 42.♖f1 ♙b5 43.♖fg1 ♙d3

44.♘f4 ♙f3 45.♔h2 ♖c8 46.♙g7



It looks like White has been trying to duplicate a similar maneuver from a 2015 Anand-Carlsen game, where Carlsen used his ♙ to block the defence of White's a2 pawn. Unlike that game, here the center is closed, making the h7 pawn safer.

46...♖c6?!

46...♘g6!? is the computer suggestion. This looks insane:

# Chess Canada Tacticosaurus



giving White a pawn *and* making the h6 pawn unstoppable. But if Black can trade the ♘f4 then she has such a strong attack that White's h-pawn is barely enough to stay in the game. Here are two ways the game might go after 46...♘g6:

**a)** 47.♖xg6! hxg6 48.♘xe6 f4 49.♘g5 (49.♙f6!?!; 49.h7 ♖f5!-+) 49...♘xg5 50.♖xg5 ♕e4 51.♙f6 The computer prefers Black, but only if you can find this: 51...♖g8!! defending g6 and preparing ...♖h7, so 52.h7 f3□-+ trading ♕s to win White's h-pawn!

**b)** 47.♘xg6 hxg6 48.♖xg6 ♘d2!⇒ for example, if White just pushes Black wins: 49.h7? f4! 50.h8♕ ♖xh8□ 51.♕xh8 the most testing. (51.♙xh8 ♕e2+ 52.♖6g2 ♘f3+ 53.♔h1 (53.♔h3 ♕e3-+) 53...♕e4!-+ *threatening everything and ...♖h7.*) 51...♖f5□ 52.♖6g5 ♖xg5 53.♖xg5 ♕f1! 54.♖g2 Only good defence to ...♘f3#. (Chasing the ♔ doesn't help 54.♕c8+ ♔a5 55.b4+ ♔a4 56.♕d7+ ♔b3 and White still hasn't dealt with his ♔ and the ♖f4.) 54...♘f3+ 55.♔h3 ♘e1-+.

### 47.♖c2?

47.♙xf8! clears the g-file and gets rid of a defender of e6 and h7, at the small cost of a redundant dark square attacker. 47...♖xf8 48.♖g7± ♘d2!?! (48...♘xc3? is nothing: 49.bxc3 ♖xc3 50.♕g3+-) 49.♖xh7? (♞49.♖1g2!±) 49...♖cc8 50.♖gg7 ♖h8 amazingly, Black has enough counterplay for equality!

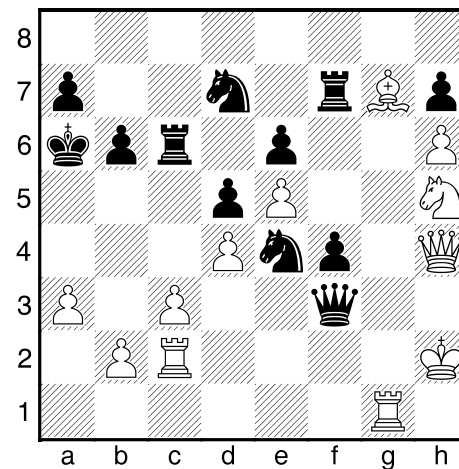
### 47...♘d7 48.♘h5?

The ♘ was well-placed where it was — attacking d6, defending many squares, and blocking the f5 pawn — and risks being stranded here. The notes to move 46 show just how much play Black gets by pushing ...f4 that it's worth sac-ing the h7 pawn. Here, White gives up f4 for free.

♞48.♖cc1 to play ♖cf1, kicking out the ♕ and freeing the white ♕ from defending the ♘.

48.♖cg2 looks natural, but what can White do with the g-file?

### 48...f4!



Black seizes her chance: stranding the ♘h5 and creating threats to the white ♔.

### 49.♕g4??

♞49.♕h3 is White's only good move. It actually does force off the ♕s, but critically improves the white ♔'s position. 49...♕xh3+! (49...♕e3? 50.♕xe3 fxe3 51.♖e2 ♖f2+ 52.♖g2±) 50.♔xh3 ♖f5 51.♔h4□̄.

### 49...♕d3!-+

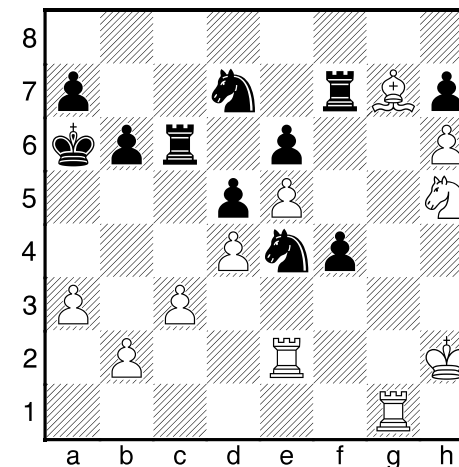
49...♕xg4? 50.♖xg4 f3 51.♔g1=.

### 50.♕e2

50.♖cc1 saves the ♖ and controls the back rank, but after 50...f3 Black's ♕♖ and advanced pawn are too much to cope with; e.g. 51.♖gf1 (51.♘g3? ♕d2+-+)

and a ♘ fork on f2.; 51.♖gd1 ♕e2+-+) 51...♖f5! Threatening ...♖xh5+, which deflects the ♕ from defending g2, so ...♕e2-g2 will be mate. 52.♘f6 ♕d2+ 53.♔h3 (53.♔g1 ♖g5-+) 53...♘g5+-+.

### 50...♕xe2+ 51.♖xe2



### 51...♖f5!-+

This does more than win the pawn that White has to give up to save the ♘h5.

### 52.♘f6 ♘dx6 53.exf6 f3!

Attacking g2 completes the mating net: Black is threatening the ♖e2 and ...♖h5 mate!

### 54.♖xe4

54.♖c2?? ♖h5#.





54...dxe4 55.f7 ♖xf7 56.♔g3 e3 57.♙e5 f2

0-1

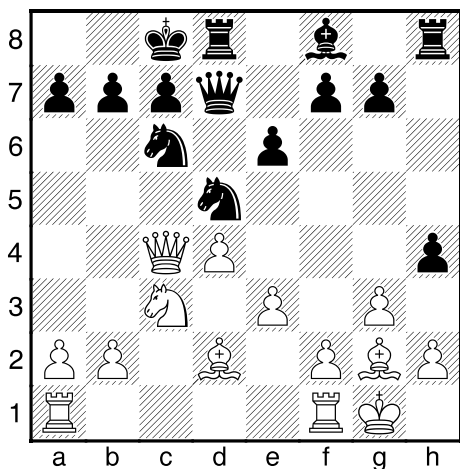
(117)

Dorrance, Adam (2260)  
Zhang, Yuanchen (2330)

E04

CAN-ch Kingston (5.3),  
15.04.2022

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5  
4.♙g2 dxc4 5.♘f3 ♙d7  
6.♘e5 ♙c6 7.♘xc6 ♘xc6  
8.e3 ♖d7 9.0-0 0-0-0 10.♖e2  
♘d5 11.♖xc4 h5 12.♘c3 h4  
13.♙d2



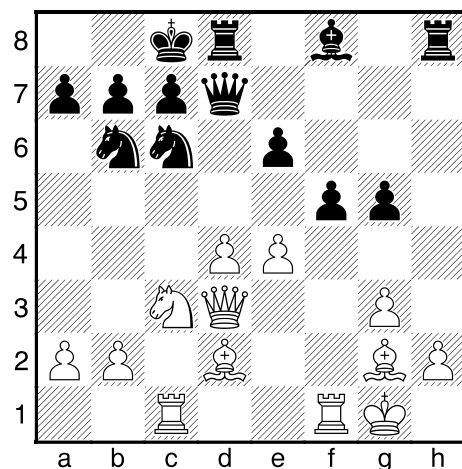
This does *not* look like the kind of position most Catalan players

are hoping for after move 3.g3.

13...hxg3

13...f5 14.♖ac1 g5! 15.e4?! ♘b6  
16.♖d3 hxg3 17.fxg3?!

Analysis Diagram



17...♙c5? 18.♘b5!∞ ♙xd4+  
19.♘xd4 ♖xd4+ 20.♖xd4  
♘xd4 21.♖f2= (0-1,  
40) Xu,X (2571)–  
Erigaisi,A (2681)  
Chess.com Rapid,  
2022.

17...♘e5!-+ 18.♖e2  
(18.♖e3 ♘bc4-+  
or 18...♘g4-+)  
18...♖xd4+ 19.♙e3  
♖xe3+!!-+ 20.♖xe3  
♘g4 21.♖xg5 ♙c5+  
+ Black's ♙ wins a

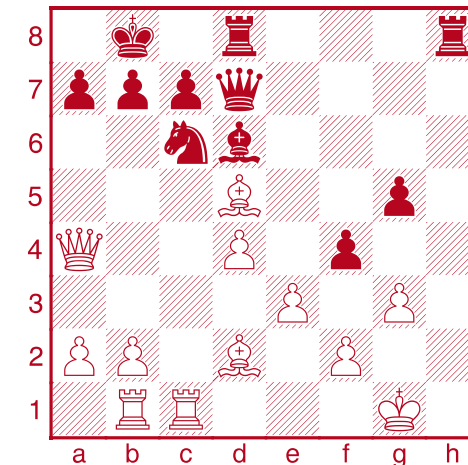
♖ or two by attacking the dark squares.

14.hxg3 f5 15.♖fc1 g5  
16.♖a4 ♔b8 17.♖ab1  
♠17.♘xd5 exd5 18.♖c2∞.

17...♙d6! ?N  
17...♘b6.

17...♙g7 18.b4 ♘xc3? 19.♙xc3  
(♠19.♖xc3+-) 19...♘e7 20.b5  
♘d5 (0-1, 36) Lou,Y (2484)–  
Li,Y (2435) Tianjin, 2018.

18.♘xd5 exd5 19.♙xd5 f4  
That the computer likes  
19...♙xg3! ? 20.♙xc6∞ gives  
some idea of Black's attacking  
chances in this line.



Attack with ♖b5, defend with  
exf4, or something else?

20.♖b5??

This looks like a clean winner:  
the ♘ can't go anywhere safe,  
and if it stays where it is White  
wins it with ♖ takes. But...

♠20.exf4 gxf4 21.♖b3∞ ffg3  
22.♙xc6∞ gxf2+ 23.♔f1∞  
♖c8∞ White is up a piece, but  
SF15 rates it as slightly better for  
Black. White's main problem is  
that Black's f2 pawn is the only  
thing that is keeping him from  
getting mated, but if it stays there  
then ...♖h2 and ...♖g8 will win.  
White's main defence is to give  
the piece back with ♖xb7 before  
Black's counterattack wins.

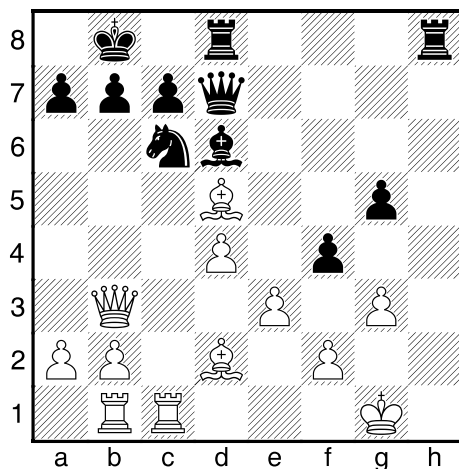


**Adam Dorrance**  
2022 Zonal



20. ♖b3!?

Analysis Diagram



Black *could* step out of the pin on the b-file with ... ♔a8, but who could resist this: 20... ♙b4!!

Blocking the pin on b7 while creating a double attack on the ♙d5. The main point is that it seems to simply lose a piece to 21. ♙xc6? but now Black actually wins with 21... ♗xc6 ♘ 22. ♖xb4+ ♔a8! After which White is up a piece, but gets mated on his hopelessly weak light squares, e.g.

- a) 23. ♗xf4 ♖g4+ and ... ♗h1#.  
 b) 23. ♔f1 f3+ and ... ♗h1 again.  
 c) 23. ♗xf4 ♖d5 24. ♔f1 ♖f3 and mates.  
 d) 23. ♖c4! f3 ♘ 24. ♖xc6+ (White

has no time to plug the h-file with ♙xg5-h4: 24. e4 ♗h1+!-+)  
 24... ♖xc6 25. ♗xc6 ♗d7!-+ and doubles ♗s to mate on the h-file!

Sadly for those Fantastic Tactics, after 20... ♙b4, White can and should trade down with 21. ♙xb4 ♖xd5, and the game goes on.

20... ♗xg3!

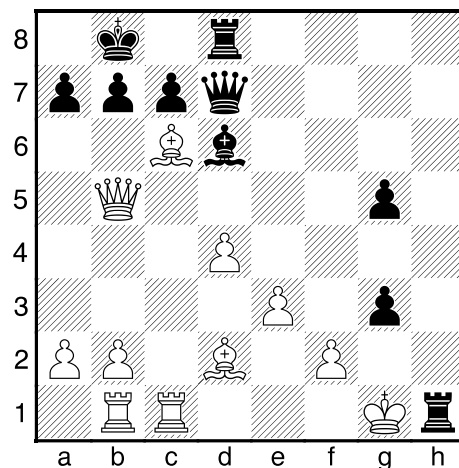
The computer move 20... a6!! apparently also wins after 21. ♖b3 (or 21. ♙xc6 ♗h1+! now that the LSB has been lured into a pin on c6!) 21... ♔a7!.

21. ♙xc6

White wins the piece, but...

21... ♗h1+!!

... the white king has to run!

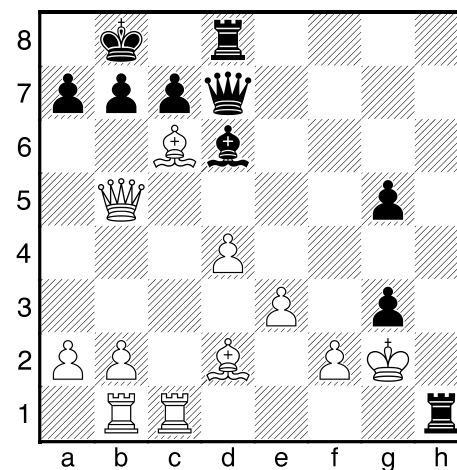


This position was being shown full screen on the DGT projector, and a lot of players in the hall turned to were watching it, rather than their own games. It's much trickier than it looks.

The ♙c6 is pinned to the ♖, so 22. ♙xh1? ♖xb5-+.

22. ♔xh1 shows a standard mating pattern: 22... ♖h3+ 23. ♔g1 ♖h2+ 24. ♔f1 ♖xf2#.

22. ♔g2



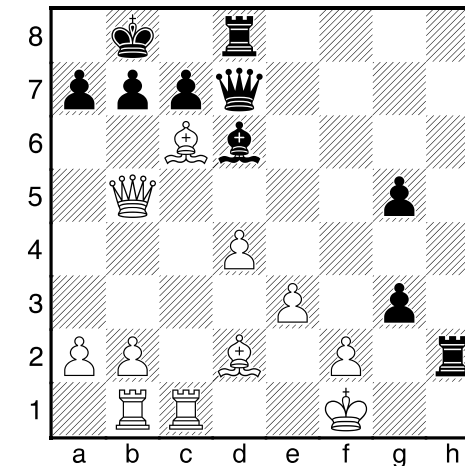
22... ♖h3+?

Second best, but only good enough for a draw.

22... ♗h2+ ♘-+ 23. ♔f1!

The other ♔ runs lose trivially: 23. ♔g1? ♗xf2+! 24. ♔f1 ♖h3+ 25. ♔e2 f1 ♖#;

23. ♔f3? ♗xf2+ 24. ♔e4 ♖h7+ 25. ♔d5 ♗f5+--+ leaves Black up a ♖ for ♗, but with a monster pawn on g3. Analysis Diagram



23. ♔f1! is the best try, and probably what stumped Black.

The direct attacking continuations do not win:

a) 23... ♗g2+?? 24. ♔e2+ ♗g1 ♗+! (24... ♖g4+? 25. ♙f3+-) 25. ♗xg1 ♖xc6 26. ♖xc6 ♗xc6 27. ♗xg5+- with two extra passed pawns.

b) 23... ♖h3+? 24. ♔e2 ♗xf2+ 25. ♔d3 ♖c8! (25... ♖f5+? 26. ♖xf5 ♗xf5 27. ♙e4+- with an extra piece.) 26. ♙e4. White has a piece for two doubled and isolated pawns, that should be enough for a win, though Black





can make things difficult with the g-pawns and the white king still in the center.

**c)** 23...♖xf2+? 24.♔g1 ♕c8□  
25.♕e1♞ is clearly worse than the main line.

But Black has a winner:

**d)** 23...♕c8!!  
A move that retreats to defend in the middle of an attack is something Tal would find, but thinking this might be Black's best move would be enough for most players to stop calculating this variation on the grounds that "White *must* have *some* way out". But the truth is, despite the fact that the ♕ retreat is purely defensive (stopping mate and saving the ♕), White has no way to cope with Black's second rook joining a winning attack from f8 or h8.

After 23...♕c8!!-+ White has no escape:

**d1)** 24.fxg3? ♖xd2-+

**FM Yuanchen Zhang**  
2022 Zonal Winner

regains the piece with more open lines to attack.

**d2)** 24.♕e1 gxf2 25.♕xf2 ♕g3!-+.

**d3)** 24.♕g2! ♖dh8! (*Black has other ways to win, but this is the most direct: threatening ...♖xg2+ then ...♗h3.*) 25.♗d5 ♖xg2!:  
26.♗xg2 ♖h2!-+ White might bail to a materially equalish ending with fxg3, but his exposed ♔ and Black's g-pawn mean 0-1.  
26.♔xg2 ♗h3+ 27.♔f3 ♗h5+□ is similar to the game, but here

it wins now that the king cannot escape to d5: 28.♔e4 ♗h7+  
29.♔f3 ♖f8+ 30.♔e2 ♖xf2+  
31.♔d1 ♗d3 32.♗g8+ ♕f8-+ #2.

**23.♔f3 ♗h5+□ 24.♔e4□**  
White dodges the mines:  
24.♔g2?? ♖h2+-+.

**24...♗h7+ 25.♔d5!**  
25.♔f3?? ♖f8+ forces mate.

**25...♗f7+ 26.♔e4 ♗h7+**  
**27.♔d5 ♗f7+ 28.♔e4 ♗h7+**

1/2-1/2



## 2022 Zonals

April 13-18, Kingston ON.  
9-round Swiss in Open and Women's Zonals.

Pandemic delays made this a rare conjunction of both Open and Women's Zonals.

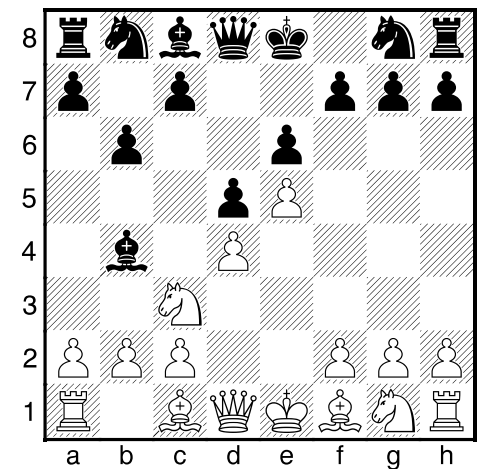
**FM Yuanchen Zhang** lost to **IM Shawn Rodrigue-Lemieux** in Rd.3, but finished strong to take the National Championship *and* IM title on TB over SRL.

**WGM Maili-Jade Ouellet** scored 9-0 (!!) to finish 1.5 points ahead of **WIM Svitlana Demchenko**.

**(118)**  
**Dukic, Zachary (2226)**  
**Sambuev, Bator (2502)**

C16  
CAN-ch Kingston (8.3),  
17.04.2022

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♕b4  
4.e5 b6



Not nearly as popular as the mainline Winawer with ...c5, but it's been played recently a few times with success by US **GM Jeffrey Xiong**, and is a reasonable way to try to get White out of book and into a maneuvering game. One point is to play ...♕a6, trading the bad French LSB for White's good LSB.



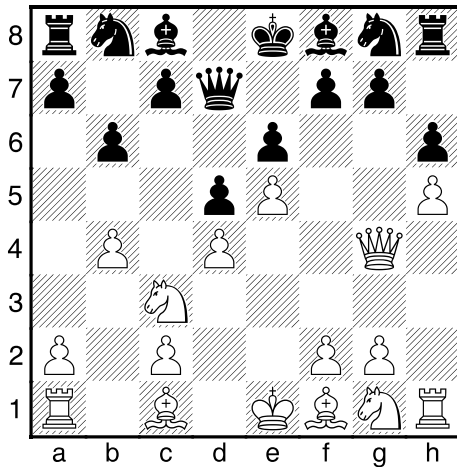
**5.h4**

5.a3 ♘f8 6.♙b5+ c6 7.♙a4

♙a6 8.♘ce2!± h5!?! (½-½, 39)

Tari,A (2654)–Carlsen,M (2864)  
chess24 Rapid, 2022.**5...♙d7**

5...♙a6 6.♙xa6 ♘xa6 7.a3 ♘f8

8.h5 continuing with The Plan  
(see below).**6.h5 h6 7.♙g4 ♙f8 8.b4!**

Using tactics to clamp on the queenside.

**8...♘e7**

8...♙xb4? 9.♙xg7 ♙xc3+ 10.♙d2

♙xa1 11.♙xh8 and Black cannot defend the ♘g8, leaving White with a winning initiative, e.g.

11...♙xd4 (11...♙f8 12.♙xh6+--)

12.♙xg8+ ♙e7 13.♘f3 ♘c6

14.♘xd4 ♘xd4 15.♙xh6+.

8...a6 9.a3?! a waste, since Black is going ...c5 in all lines.

(♞9.♘f3) 9...♘e7 10.♙d3 c5!

11.bxc5 bxc5 12.dxc5 ♙c7

13.♘f3 ♘d7 14.0-0 ♘xc5 15.♘a4

♘xd3 16.cxd3 f5?! 17.♙f4 d4

18.♙d2 ♘d5 19.♙xd4 ♙b7

20.♙fc1+- (1-0, 30) Sheng,J

(2453)–Hevia Alejano,C (2467)

Pan–Am Ch. (online rapid), 2021.

**9.b5?!**

This gives Black something to nibble on, and a bit more space.

Here's an online game between titled Canadians where White follows a similar Alpha Zero–

approved strategy in the main game — **The Plan** — which is proving an existential threat to the French: e5, h5-h6, then

either smashing the kingside with f4-f5 or g4-g5 or a minor piece sac (or both).

9.♘f3 ♘bc6 10.a3 ♙b7 11.♙f4

hitting f7 makes Black pay in

pawn structure if he wants to

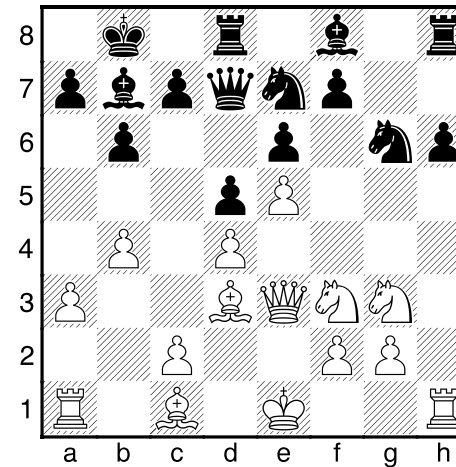
castle long. 11...g5 12.hxg6

♘xg6 13.♙e3 0-0-0 14.♙d3 ♙b8

15.♘e2± Heading for h5. I don't

see a constructive plan for Black.

15...♘ce7 16.♘g3

*Analysis Diagram*

16... f5 17.exf6 ♘f5 18.♘xf5

exf5 19.♘e5+- ♘xe5 20.dxe5 d4

21.♙h3!+- ♙d5 22.♙xf5 ♙xg2

23.♙f1 h5 24.♙f4 h4 25.e6 It's a

race! 25...h3 26.e7 ♙xe7 27.fxg7

♙de8 28.♙d7 h2 29.♙xc7+ ♙a8

30.0-0-0! Move 30, but castling is

still possible! 30...h1 ♙ 31.♙xh1

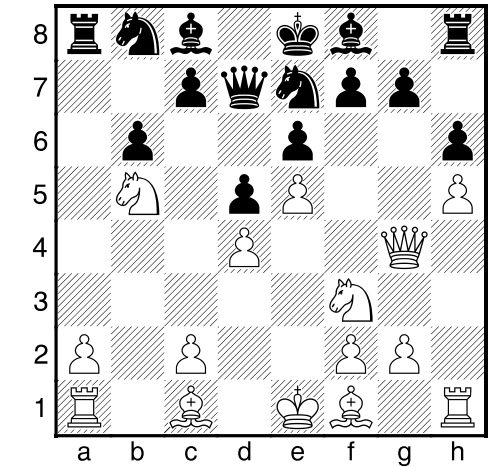
♙xh1 32.♙d8+! ♙c8 33.♙xe8

♙xd1+ 34.♙xd1 ♙g1+ White

can block the checks with a

♙, so there's no perp. 35.♙e2

♙g4+ 36.♙e1 ♙e6+ 37.♙d2

♙b7 38.♙d8 (1-0, 38) **Preotu,R****(2445)–Yang,K (2481) Chess.****com Rapid Qualifier, 2022.****9...a6! 10.♘f3 axb5 11.♘xb5****11...♙a6**

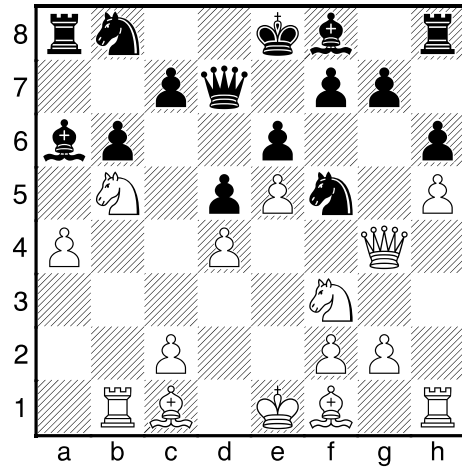
11...♘f5!?! looks like it steps into a tempo loss with an upcoming, g4, but it guards d6 and so allows Black to go ...c6 without allowing a crushing ♘d6+.

**12.a4 ♘f5!**

I would be tempted to bail with 12...♙xb5 13.♙xb5 ♙xb5 14.axb5 ♙xa1 15.0-0 ♙a5 when Black has enough material for the ♙, and a compact structure and... absolutely nothing to do: SF15 says White is completely crushing here with ♘h4 and f4-f5. Even if we ignore Black's undeveloped kingside, it's pathetic how little Black's minors can do.

**13.♙b1**





### 13...c6

13...c6!? playing to trade the LSBs looks like an obvious improvement. Here the top engines have preposterous Alpha Zero-like suggestions: ignore it!!

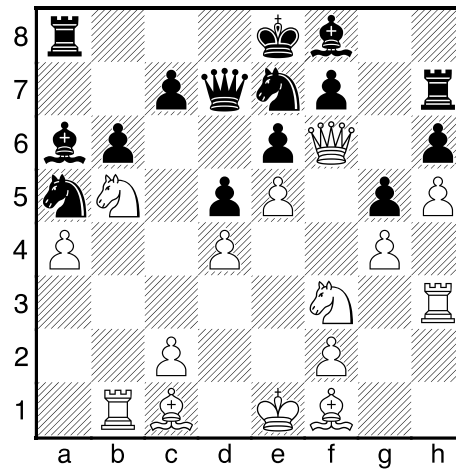
Leela's top choice is 14.♙d3!?, scored at 0.00.

Stockfish 15 chooses: 14.♙d2!? when 14...cxb5 15.axb5 ♘b7 16.♙d3 simply giving up the piece for a giant space advantage!? At 30 ply, SF15 says... 0.00.

It is this sort of eval from the top Neural Net engines — it is about equal when White is a piece down but with loads of

room for improvement — that has convinced top players that White's kingside space advantage may be too big for Black to concede by playing these French lines.

14.♙f4 ♘a5 15.g4 ♘e7  
16.♖h3 g5 17.♙f6 ♖h7  
17...♖g8? 18.♙xg5!± ♙g7 (18...hxg5 19.♘xg5±) 19.♙xe7+±.



White has followed the computer-approved strategy which is proving an existential threat to the French: e5, h5, then either smashing the kingside with f4-f5 or g4-g5 or a minor piece sac (or both).

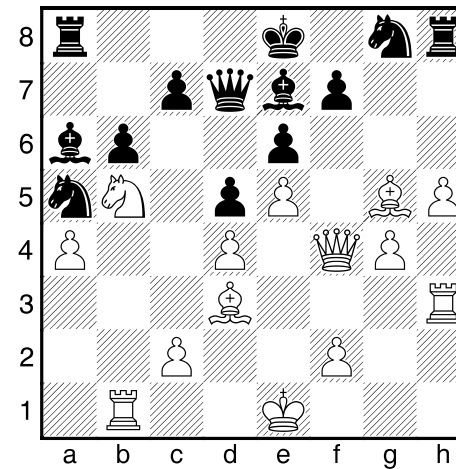
The rest looks like White is in total control, but in the complications both sides make

game-changing blunders.

18.♘xg5! hxg5 19.♙xg5  
♘g8  
19...0-0-0 20.♙d3+-.

20.♙f4 ♙e7  
20...♙h6 21.♙d3+-.

21.♙d3 ♖h8



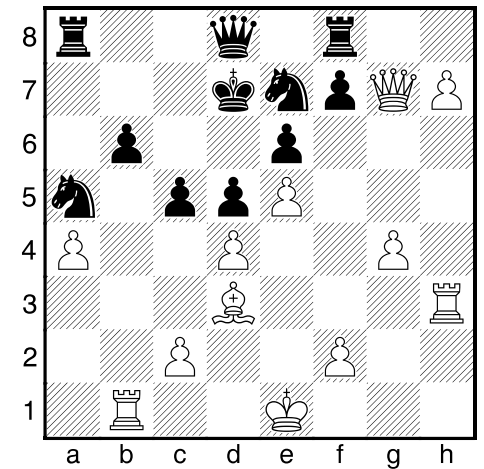
22.h6±  
...h7 isn't quite the threat it appears.

△22.♖f3+- and Black is cracked:  
22...0-0-0 23.♘d6+!+-;  
22...♙f8 23.♙g6+-;  
22...♙xg5 23.♙xg5 ♖f8 24.♙g6  
♘h6 25.♙f6 ♖g8 26.g5+-.

22...♙xb5  
22...♘c4!? 23.h7 trapping the ♘,

but 23...0-0-0! 24.hxg8 ♙dxc8  
25.♖xh8 ♖xh8 26.♙e2 ♙xg5  
27.♙xg5 White has a nice space advantage, but there is a very long way to go to turn this into a full point.

23.♙xb5 c6 24.♙d3 ♙d8  
25.♙xe7 ♘xe7 26.♙f6 ♖f8  
27.h7 ♖d7 28.♙g7 c5

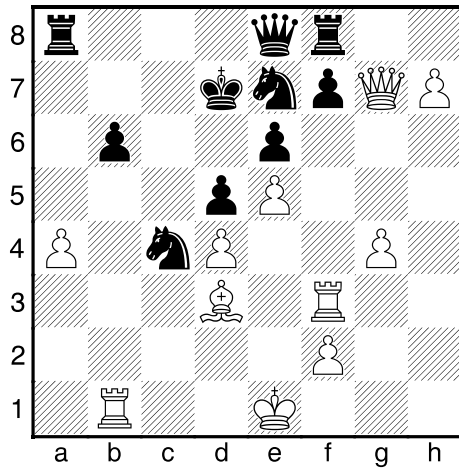


29.c3  
It's totally unnatural to think of trading the ♙ which fights for the kingside light squares, but SF15 shows that it's strong: 29.♙b5+! aiming to double ♖s on the f-file, e.g. 29...♘ac6 30.♖f3 ♙e8 31.♖f6 ♖c7 32.♖b3+-.

29...cxd4 30.cxd4 ♘c4  
31.♖f3 ♙e8



# Chess Canada Tacticosaurus



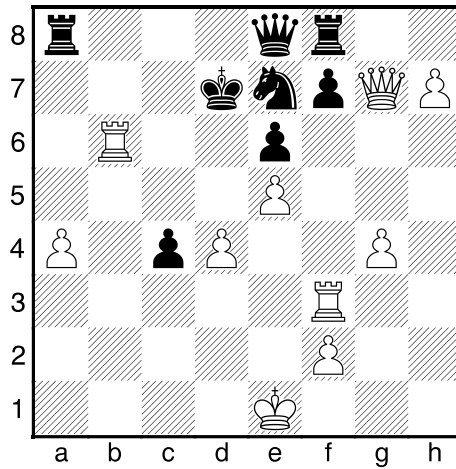
So far White has been in total control — following a good strategy which has left Black in an objectively lost position — but in the time-trouble complications both sides exchange game-changing blunders.

## 32. ♕xc4??

Incredibly, trading off Black's only active piece and winning a pawn actually gives away most of White's advantage! Instead, continuing to press the kingside wins: 32.g5 ♖xa4 33.g6+-.

Question: Can you see how Black might get counterplay now in a way that was impossible before?

32...dxc4 33.♖xb6



## 33...♔c7??

33...♖xa4?? 34.♖d6+ ♔c7  
35.♖xe6+-;

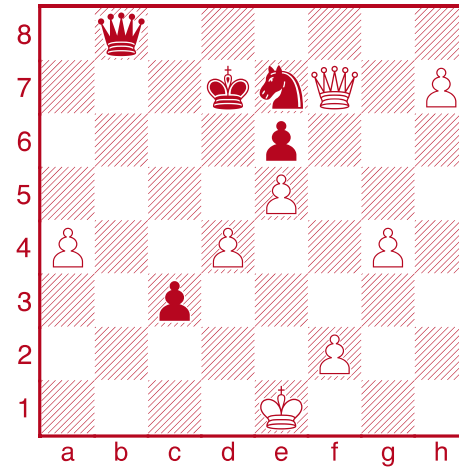
33...♖b8□= It seems ludicrous that Black might get enough play on the queenside to make up for that ♕h7, but it's true!

a) 34.♖a6 ♖b1+□ 35.♔e2 ♖b8!=  
36.♖d6+ the rest are all "only moves" 36...♔c7 37.♖xf7 ♖b2+  
38.♔f3 ♖g1 39.♖xf8 ♖c3+= with a perpetual;

b) 34.♖d6+ ♔c7↗ with serious counterplay via ...♖b1+ and ...♖xa4;

c) 34.♖xb8 ♖xb8 35.♖xf7 ♖xf7  
36.♖xf7 c3

*Analysis Diagram*



White has a crazy-hard-to-find move, but which is still logical: Black has no moves to improve, and White needs to play d5 for tempi on the ♔, and should first prepare his own ♔ to get closer to the ♕c3 in anticipation of ...♖xe5+. So...

37.♔e2!! c2 38.d5□= with a challenging place for a calculation exercise.\*

## 34.♖b5??

This could have cost the game.

34.♖d6?? also loses, because after 34...♖xa4-+ Black has a mating attack.

White had only one winning move: 34.a5□+-, which defends the ♖ and keeps attacking along

the 6th. After this, Black has options, none of them good:

- a) 34...♖xa5 undefends the ♖f8, so 35.♖xe6□+-;
- b) 34...♗g6 35.d5!:  
35...♖xa5 36.♖xe6+-;  
35... exd5 36.♖xg6+-;
- c) 34...♖b8 35.h8♔ ♖xh8  
36.♖xf7+-.

## 34...♗g6??

Black misses his chance and doesn't get another.

The move played makes perfect sense: it defends h8 and the ♖f8 and so frees the ♖a8 to attack the a-pawn. Unfortunately for Black, those factors are less important than the fact that ...dxc4 opens the long diagonal and d-file pressure on d4, as in variations here.

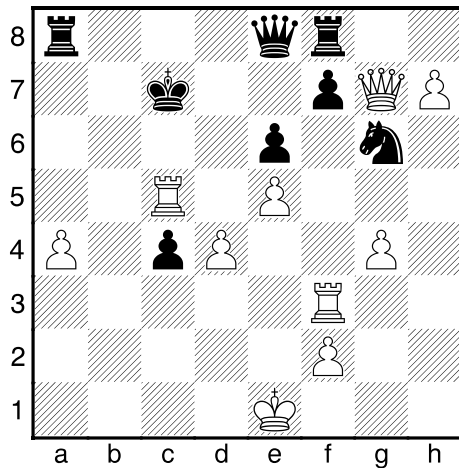
Instead: 34...♖xa4! creates a deadly counterattack:

35.♔f1 ♖a1+ 36.♔g2 ♗g6□-+ threatening ...♖xb5 and ...♗h4+;  
35.♖b1 ♖a8 36.♖h3 ♖g2-+;  
35.♖c5+ ♔b6 36.♔f1 (36.♖c3 ♖a8-+) 36...♖a8 37.♔g2 ♗g6  
38.♔g3 ♖a1-+.

\***SPOILER:** Black gets enough checks to draw, and so does White.



35. ♖c5+



35... ♔d7?!

△35... ♔b6 might not change the result, but it forces White to find more hard moves: 36. ♖xc4 ♜c8! 37. ♖xc8 ♘ (37. ♖fc3? ♖xc4 38. ♖xc4 ♗a8!=.) 37... ♖xc8 and now:

- a) 38. ♖xf7? ♗c1+ is a perp;  
 b) 38. ♔d2? stops the ... ♗c1+ but exposes the ♔ on the d-file, so 38... ♜d8!↑ and White is in trouble.  
 c) 38. ♗h6 ♘± defending c1. Now if Black's ♗ leaves the back rank, ♗xf8 will win; otherwise White is ready to swing the ♗ and ♖ over to the queenside to attack the exposed ♔.

36. ♖xc4 ♜a7

36... ♖c8 37. ♖xc8 ♔xc8 38. ♖f6+-  
 Black has no way out of the bind... and White does have four ♖ for a ♞ which is doing nothing but guarding h8.

37. ♖fc3

Or 37. ♖f6 threatening ♖x♞, and if 37... ♞h8 38. d5+-.

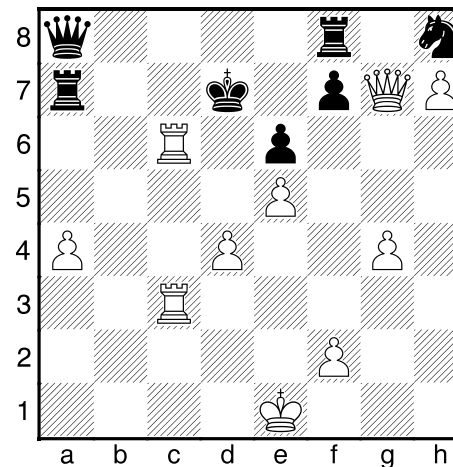
37... ♗a8 38. ♖c6!+-

Blocks the long diagonal.

38... ♞h8

38... ♗xc6 extends the game, but shouldn't change the outcome.

39. ♖xc6 ♔xc6 40. ♗xf8+-.



A funny picture: Black's whole army has been pushed to the edge of the board, with the king his only centralized piece.

39. d5!

Power chess to open lines for the majors!

39... exd5 40. e6+!

40. ♗f6 is faster, but both force mate.

40... ♔e7 41. ♗g5+ f6

42. ♗g7+ ♞f7+- 43. exf7

43. h8♗! is faster and prettier, but they both force mate.

In the game line, White wins like this: 43. exf7 ♜xf7 44. ♖c7+ wins the ♖f7, and White still has the monster on h7.

1-0



FM Zach Dukic  
2022 Zonal



**(119)**  
**Botez, Alexandra (2020)**  
**D'Souza, Carina (1466)**

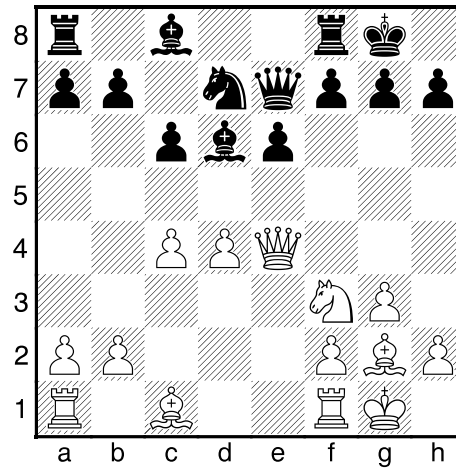
E01  
 CAN-ch Kingston (8.24),  
 17.04.2022

1.d4 d5 2.♘f3 e6 3.c4 c6  
 4.♘bd2 ♘f6 5.g3 ♘bd7  
 6.♙g2 ♙d6 7.♚c2 ♚e7 8.0-0  
 0-0 9.e4

This is too direct for an advantage... if Black reacts correctly.

Objectively better is 9.♖e1, which mobilizes the ♖, prepares e4, and lines up the ♖ with the black ♚ to reduce Black's freedom in the center.

9...dxe4 10.♘xe4 ♘xe4  
 11.♚xe4



11...♘f6?

Developing the ♘ to a natural square while gaining time on



**WFM**  
**Alexandra**  
**Botez**

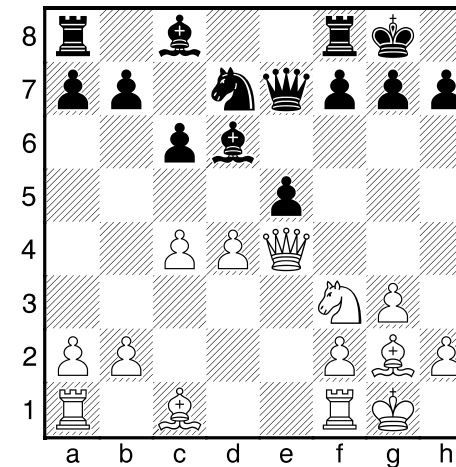
*Streamed her Zonal games live on Twitch and tested a prototype Botez hoodie*

the ♚ is natural, but here it is bad. Black's pieces could free themselves with ...e5, but this becomes impossible once this ♘ stops fighting for e5.

This sort of decision comes up often enough that it is worth a diagram and some attention.

11...e5!

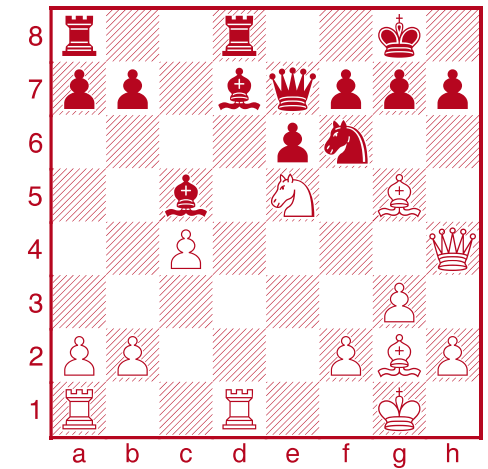
*Analysis Diagram*



Black threatens ...f5!, owning the center and sending White's pieces scrambling. White now has to be careful to equalize:

- a) 12.♖e1?! f5! 13.♚c2 e4!♣;
- b) 12.♙g5 f6! and after the ♙-moves ...f6-f5!♣;
- c) 12.dxe5 ♘xe5! 13.♘g5 g6! or 13...f5!?

12.♚h4 c5 13.dxc5 ♙xc5  
 14.♖d1 ♖d8 15.♙g5 ♙d7  
 16.♘e5

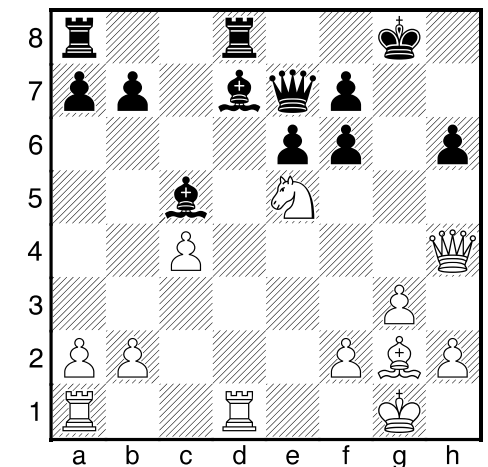


...♙e8 to preserve the ♙ pair, or ...h6 moving a pawn in front of the ♚?

16...♙e8??

♣16...h6 17.♙xf6 gxf6 looks bad, as White can simply win a pawn

*Analysis Diagram*



**Chess Canada**  
**Tacticosaurus**





a) 18. ♖g4 f5 19. ♖f6+  
(19. ♖xh6+? strands the ♖)  
19... ♔g7=;

b) 18. ♖d3! f5? 19. ♖xc5 ♔xc5  
20. ♖d4 with a winning pin on the  
d-file;

c) 18. ♖xd7 ♖xd7 19. ♖xd7 ♔xd7  
but after 20. ♔xf6 (or 20. ♔xh6  
♔d4!) 20... ♔d2 Black has full  
compensation in what  
may well boil down to an  
opposite ♔ ending.

17. ♖g4 ♔+- ♔d4

18. ♖xd4!

Other moves — ♔e4, ♖d2  
— also win, but this is the  
cleanest.

18... ♖xd4 19. ♔xf6! gxf6

20. ♖xf6+ ♔g7

20... ♔xf6 is the only way to  
prevent mate.

21. ♔g5+ ♔h8 22. ♔g8#

1-0

**IM Mark Plotkin**  
2022 Zonal

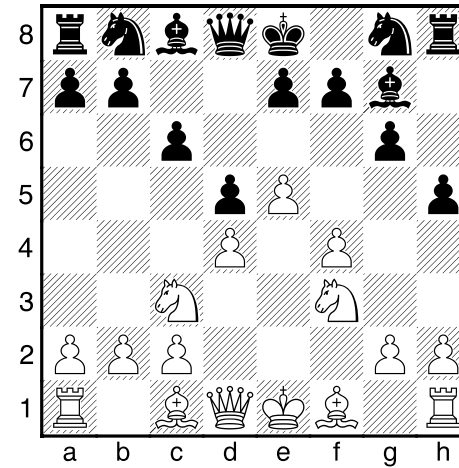


(120)  
**Plotkin, Mark (2354)**  
**Clyde, Jordan (2088)**

B06

CAN-ch Kingston (9.7),  
18.04.2022

1.d4 d6 2.e4 g6 3. ♖c3 ♔g7  
4.f4 c6 5. ♖f3 d5 6.e5 h5



This position is more commonly  
reached by a Caro Kann (1...c6)  
or Modern (1...g6) move order,  
when Black gets ...d7-d5 in one  
move. The closed center may  
mitigate the tempo loss if White  
plays slowly. Black typically  
continues with ...♔g4 and  
...♖h6. White could cross that  
plan here with 7.h3, but Mark is  
more ambitious.

7. ♖g5!?N

Prevents the ♔ for ♖ trade after  
...♔g4, and also starts to create  
threats to Black's light square  
pawn chain.

7... ♖h6

7... ♔g4!? 8. ♔d2 and White  
can get some time back later  
by attacking the ♔ with h3 and  
(maybe) g4.

8. ♔e3 ♔b6 9. ♖a4 ♔b4+  
10. ♖c3?!

White really wanted to give the  
b-pawn; but ♖10.c3.

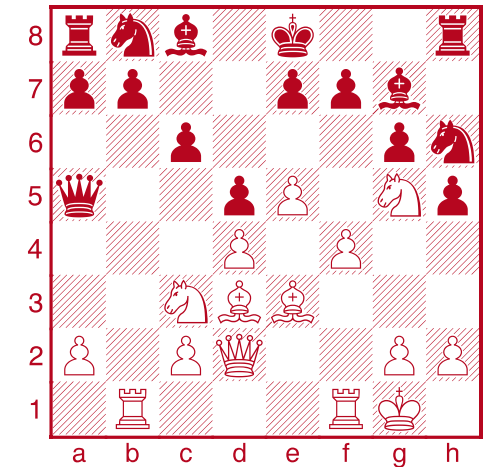
10... ♔b6

♖10... ♔xb2 11. ♖a4 ♔a3 12.c3  
protecting the ♖ and threatening  
to win the ♔ with ♔c1. But Black  
has two ways out:

12...b5! ♖ saves the ♔ and wins  
c3, or 12...e6 frees e7 for the ♔.

11. ♔d2 ♔xb2 12. ♖b1 ♔a3

13. ♔d3 ♔a5 14.0-0



White is down a pawn but much  
further ahead in development.  
In many continuations White  
crashes through with sacs on the  
light squares, the most thematic  
of which is e5-e6. What should  
Black do?

**14...e6??**

Black has several plausible defensive choices, including this game-losing blunder.

**a)** 14...♙f5? 15.♖xb7 ♙xd3 (15...e6 16.♘b5+- as in the game.) 16.♙xd3 ♘d7 (16...♙a6?? 17.♖xb8+-) 17.♙d2 ♙d8 18.e6+-

**b)** ♞14...♘f5 15.h3!? not necessary, but an amusing and strong provocation (15.♙xf5 ♙xf5!? 16.♖xb7 ♘d7± Black has returned the pawn to almost catch up in development.) 15...♘xe3? (♞15...h4 16.♖b3♞) 16.♙xe3 ♙xc3 gives White another way to show how to attack: 17.♘xf7! 0-0 (17...♙xf7? 18.♙xg6+-) 18.♖b3 ♙a5 19.♙xg6+-, e.g. 19...♖xf7 20.♙xf7+ ♙xf7 21.f5+- Black has three minors for the ♖, but his buried queenside pieces will be no match for White's swarming majors.

**c)** ♞14...b6 defends the ♙ and the b-pawn and prepares ♙f5:

**c1)** 15.♙h1 ♙f5 16.♙xf5? ♘xf5! 17.e6 is the obvious kind of continuation that Black might

have feared, but after 17...f6! Black is close to winning; e.g. 18.♘f7 ♖g8+- and White's minors are out of moves, and Black threatens to win the ♘f7 with ...♘a6-c7xe6.

The real question about 14...b6 (and other moves) is whether Black can allow 15.e6!?. He can:

**c2)** 15...f5?! 16.h3 ♘a6 going after e6 17.♘f3! ♘c7 (17...c5 18.♖b5) 18.♘e5 ♙xe5 19.fxe5 ♘g8 (19...♘xe6? 20.♙xh6 ♖xh6 21.♙xh6 ♙xc3 22.♙xg6+ ♙d7 23.♙xf5+-) 20.♙e1 with threats like ♙d2 and ♙g3. Here, and in other lines, the ♙a5 is a long-term liability;

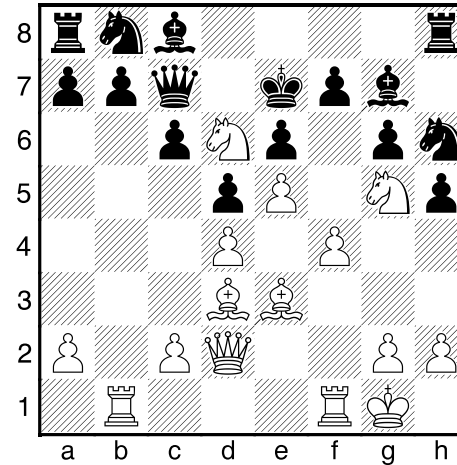
**c3)** 15...♙xe6 16.♘xe6 (16.♙xg6 ♙g4♞) 16...fxe6 17.♙xg6+ ♙d7 18.♙xh5 ♘a6♞ material is equal, Black has a solid clump of center pawns and will get some pressure on the half-open kingside files.

**15.♘ce4!+-**

This tactic was impossible while the e7 pawn defended d6; now it's winning. 15.♘b5! works as well.

**15...♙xd2**

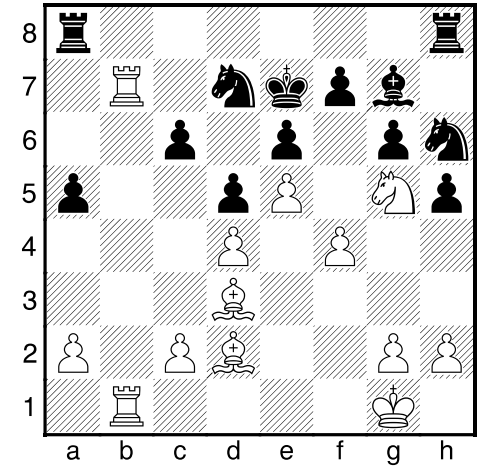
15...♙c7 16.♘d6+ ♙e7

**Analysis Diagram**

Black is playing without his Queenside pieces and without any hope of counterplay, so White has more than one way to win; here's the most brutal: 17.♘dxf7! ♘xf7 18.♙xg6 ♘h6 (18...♘xg5 19.fxg5 ♖f8 20.♖xf8 ♙xf8 21.♙f2+ ♙g8 22.♙h4+-) 19.f5 ♘xf5 (19...exf5 20.♘h7!! ♘g4 21.♙g5+-) 20.♙xf5 (20.♘f7 ♖f8 21.♙g5+ ♙d7 22.♖xf5+-) 20...exf5 21.e6 ♙xe6 22.♖be1+-.

**16.♘d6+ ♙e7 17.♙xd2 a5** 17...b5 18.♙b4+-.  
17...f6 18.♘xc8+ ♖xc8  
19.♖xb7+-.

**18.♘xb7 ♙xb7 19.♖xb7+** ♘d7 20.♖fb1

**20...♖hc8**

20...♖hb8 21.♖xb8 ♖xb8 22.♖xb8 ♘xb8 23.♙xa5+- Black has solved his queenside development problems, but his kingside pieces will be no match for the a-pawn; e.g. 23...♘f5 24.♙c7! chasing the ♘ from the a-file before trading the ♙d3 24...♘d7 25.♙xf5 exf5 26.a4+-.

**21.♙c1!**

21.♙e1 heading to h4 is also strong.

**21...♙e8 22.♘xe6**

or 22.♘xf7 ♘xf7 23.♙xg6 ♖cb8 24.♙xh5+-.

**22...fxe6 23.♙xg6+ ♙e7!**

Weaker is 23...♙d8 when 24.f5 creates threats with ♙g5+.

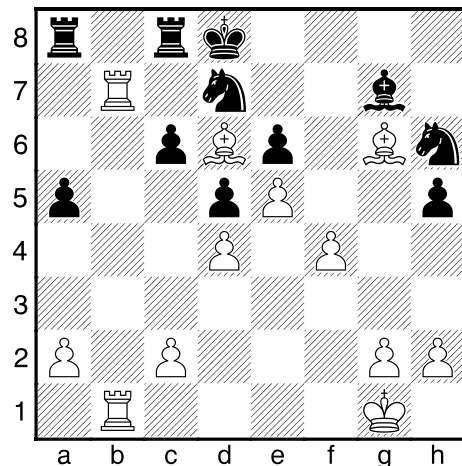






# Chess Canada Tacticosaurus

24. ♖a3+ ♔d8 25. ♕d6



Q: What is White's immediate threat?

25...c5

A: ♖xd7+. 25...♕f8? 26. ♖xd7+ ♔xd7 27. ♖b7+ and there's no ...♔c6 escape.

26. dxc5 ♕f8 27. f5!

White continues his masterclass in initiative play.

27...♕xd6 28. cxd6 ♖f8

29. fxe6! ♖xg6 30. e7+ ♔e8

30...♖xe7 31. dxe7+ ♔e8 32. ♖f1 ♖f7 33. e6 mates.

31. d7+ ♔f7 32. e8♖+

32. d8♖! is faster, but doesn't continue with checks, which

may have been a factor in time trouble.

32...♖xe8 33. d8♖+!

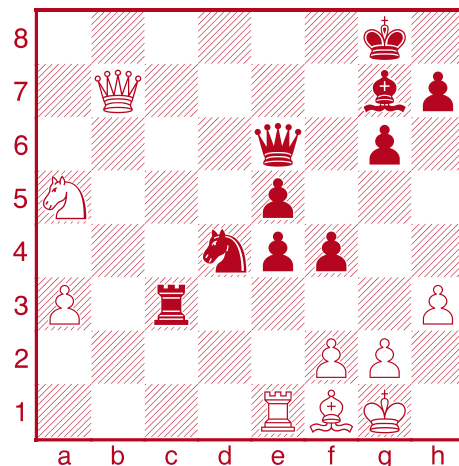
1-0

(121)  
Mamedyarov, Shak (2771)  
Hansen, Eric (2606)

E61

Oslo Esports Cup Oslo (3.1),  
24.04.2022

1. d4 ♖f6 2. c4 g6 3. ♖f3 ♕g7  
4. e3 ... 39. ♖xb7



What happens if ...e3?

39...e3 40. fxe3

40. ♖b4? threatens ♖xc3 and

♖xd4, but 40...  
exf2+ 41. ♔xf2  
♖c2+ 42. ♔g1  
♖c8-+ getting out of both  
♖xd4 and ♕c4.  
Black is up a  
pawn with a  
safer ♔.

40...fxe3??

40...♖c2=

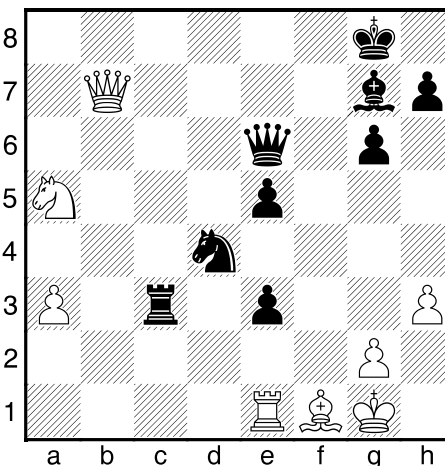
41. ♖c1! fxe3

42. ♖b2 e4=

43. ♖xc2 ♖xc2

44. ♖xc2 e2

45. ♖xe2 ♖b6+= forking the ♔  
and ♖.



41. ♖xe3??

41. ♖b4!+- e2 (41...♖c2 42. ♕c4+-  
leaves White up an exchange  
and the e3 passer under control.)



**GM Eric Hansen**  
Chessbrah #1

42. ♖xc3 exf1♖+ 43. ♔xf1=+-  
White's up an exchange and  
everything is defended.

41...♖c1!

41...♖xe3?? 42. ♕c4+- skewers  
the ♖.

42. ♖b2?

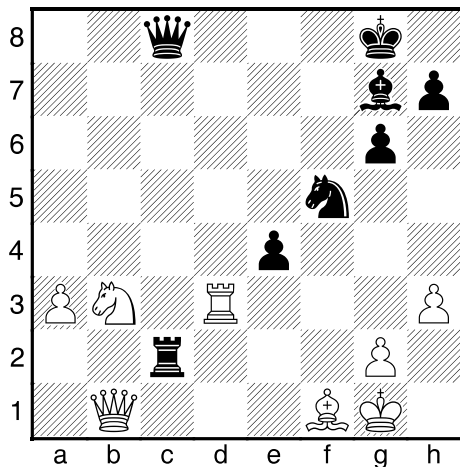
42. ♖b3=.

42...♖c8=+- 43. ♖b3 ♖c2=

44. ♖b1 ♖f5 45. ♖d3 e4!+-



# Chess Canada Tacticosaurus



46. ♖d8+ forces off the ♖s, but leaves White dead on the dark squares: 46... ♗xd8 47. ♗xc2 ♗b6+ □ 48. ♔h2 (48. ♗c5 ♕d4+-) 48... ♕e5++-.

46... ♕h6 47. ♖xf5 gxf5  
48. ♗d1 ♔h8 49. ♔h1 ♖c3  
50. a4 ♗b8 51. ♕b5 ♕g7  
52. ♖c1 h6 53. ♖e2 ♖a3  
54. ♗d7 ♖a1+ 55. ♖g1 ♗e5  
56. ♗c8+ ♔h7 57. ♕c4 h5  
58. h4 ♗f6 59. g3 ♗e5 60. ♔g2  
f4 61. gxf4 ♗xf4 62. ♗g8+  
♔h6 63. ♕e2 ♖a3 64. ♗e6+  
♕f6

0-1

White would be perfectly OK if his h3 pawn was on f2. But here, White's loose ♔ and Black's passer leave him dead lost.

46. ♖d5

## The Champ is Here!

Eric and Co. hosted a Toronto visit from Magnus in Feb'23. Here getting a warm welcome at the Madison on a PubChess night.

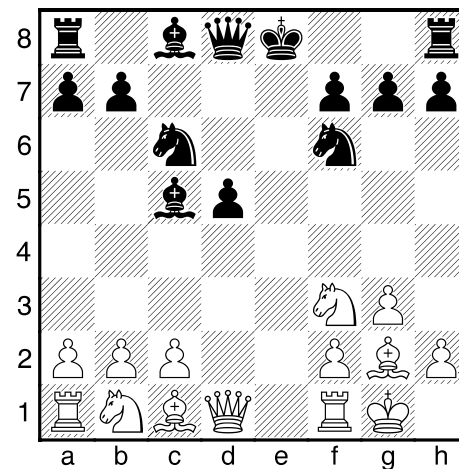


## (122) Hansen, Eric (2606) Carlsen, Magnus (2864)

B40

Oslo Esports Cup Oslo (6.2),  
27.04.2022

1. e4 c5 2. ♖f3 e6 3. g3 d5  
4. exd5 exd5 5. ♕g2 ♖c6 6. 0-0  
♖f6 7. d4 ♕e7 8. dxc5 ♕xc5



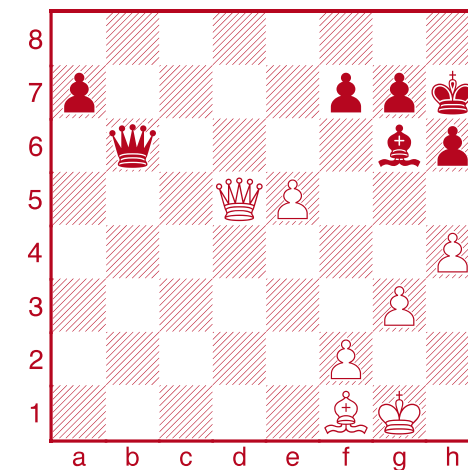
9. ♖c3

9. a3 0-0 10. b4 ♕b6 11. ♕b2 ♖e4  
12. ♖c3 ♕e6 13. ♖a4 ♕c7 14. ♖d4  
♖e8 15. c4± ♖e5 16. ♖xe6 fxe6  
17. cxd5 exd5 18. ♖c3+- (1-0, 41)  
Nakamura, H (2736)–Zubov, A  
(2601) Moscow World Blitz Ch,  
2019.

9... 0-0 10. ♕g5 ♕e6

10... d4 11. ♖e4 ♕e7 12. ♖xf6+  
♕xf6 13. ♕xf6 ♗xf6 14. ♖e1 ♕f5  
15. ♖d3 ♖e5 16. ♖xe5 ♗xe5  
17. ♖e1 ♗c5 18. ♕e4 ♕xe4  
19. ♖xe4= (½-½, 30) Hansen, E  
(2577)–So, W (2701) Calgary,  
2013.

11. ♖d2 ♕d4 12. ♖b3 ♕xc3  
13. bxc3 h6 14. ♕e3 ♖c8  
15. a4 ♖e8 16. h3 ♖e4  
17. ♕d4 ♕f5 18. ♖e1 ♖xd4  
19. cxd4 ♖c3 20. ♗d2 ♖xe1+  
21. ♖xe1 ♖xa4 22. ♗b4 ♖b6  
23. ♖c5 ♕xc2 24. ♖xb7 ♗f6  
25. ♖c5 ♕f5 ♖ 26. ♖e5 ♔h7  
27. ♕f1 ♕g6 28. h4 ♖xc5!?  
29. ♗xc5 ♖d7 30. ♗xd5 ♖xe5  
31. dxe5 □ = ♗b6? (♔31... ♗f5=)



Q: What do you do about Carlsen's outside passed pawn?



**32.♙d3?!**

Good enough to draw, but misses an excellent opportunity.

It is better than 32.♙d6? ♖b1 (32...♙xd6?? 33.exd6 ♙f5 34.♙b5+-) 33.♙a6 ♖e1∞.

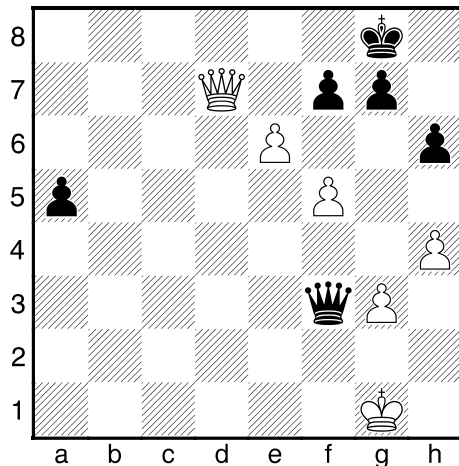
A: Ignore it and create an advanced passed pawn of your own with: 32.h5!±:

a) 32...♙b1? 33.♙xf7+- and push the e-pawn;

b) 32...♙xh5 33.e6 this is the main point of h5: it deflects the ♙ to gain a tempo to create an advanced passer. 33...♙g6 (33...♙xe6 drags it out, but there's no doubt about the result after 34.♙xh5+-) 34.e7 f6 35.♙d3+-;

c) 32...♙f5! definitely the best defence, though the odd ...♙c2 is similar. 33.♙xf7 ♖b1□ (33...♙e6? 34.♙c4□+-) 34.♙h2! avoids ...♙d3+- and threatens ♙c4+-, 34...♙e4□ makes the ♙ safe and pins the ♙f1 to mate on h1, 35.♙c4!± White is safely coordinated and has the more advanced passer and safer ♙.

32...♙xd3 33.♙xd3+ ♙g8  
34.♙d7 ♖b1+ 35.♙g2 ♖e4+  
36.♙g1 ♖e1+ 37.♙g2 ♖e4+  
38.♙g1 ♖a8 39.f4 a5 40.f5  
♙f3 41.e6

**41...♙xg3+**

41...♙xf5 42.♙e8+ ♙h7  
43.♙xf7= and  
Black has  
a variety  
of checks  
which draw.



42.♙f1 ♖f3+ 43.♙e1 ♖e3+  
44.♙d1 ♖f3+ 45.♙e1 ♖e3+  
46.♙d1 ♖f3+ 47.♙e1

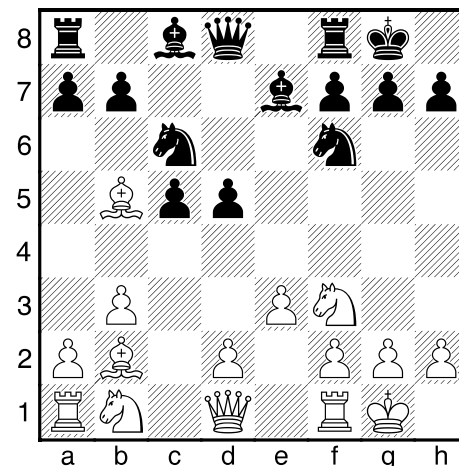
1/2-1/2

(123)  
Hansen, Eric (2606)  
Yang, Kaiqi (2481)

A13

Chess.com Rapid Wk14 Swiss  
(5), 14.05.2022

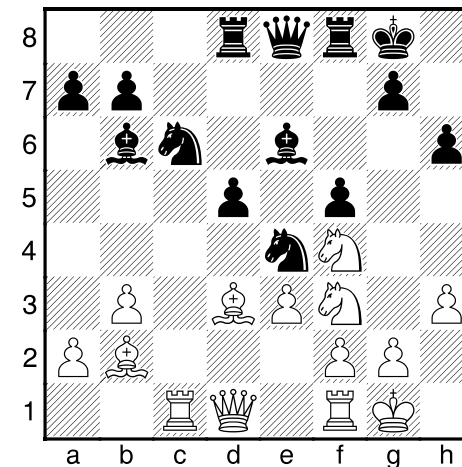
1.c4 e6 2.♘f3 d5 3.e3 ♘f6  
4.b3 c5 5.♙b2 ♘c6 6.cxd5  
exd5 7.♙b5 ♙e7 8.0-0 0-0

**9.h3!?**

9.d4 is more common, but Black

seems fine after 9...♙g4 10.dxc5  
♘e4!

9...h6N 10.d4 ♘e4 11.dxc5  
♙xc5 12.♘c3 ♙e6 13.♙d3  
f5 14.♘e2 ♖e8 15.♖c1 ♙b6  
16.♘f4 ♖d8

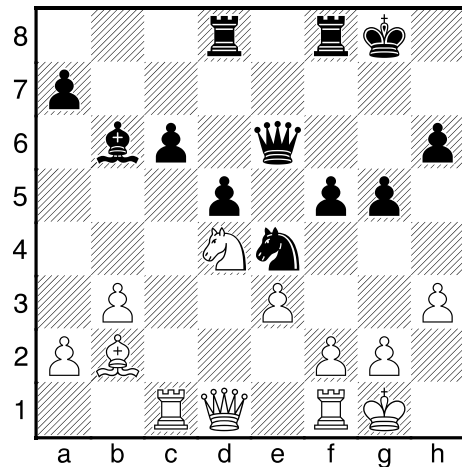
**17.♙b5!**

Moving for the third time to return to its previous square! If you're fixated on Black's IQP you'll be surprised by how strong this move is. Obviously, White threatens to win a pawn by taking twice on c6; less obviously, White can now change the pawn structure in a way that leaves Black with hanging pawns which White's minors and ♖c1 are well placed to fight against.

IM Kaiqi Yang  
2020 Oakville Norm



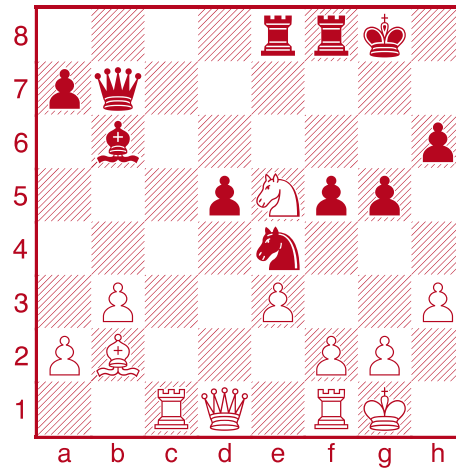
17...g5 18.♘xe6 ♔xe6  
19.♙xc6 bxc6 20.♘d4



20...♔f7

Black can save the c6-pawn, but it is at best temporary: 20...♙xd4 21.♔xd4 looks like death on the dark squares. Black can avoid mate, but cannot save the c-pawn, after which the d-pawn is a target. 21...♖d7 (defends g7 and a7) 22.f3 c5 (22...♘g3 23.♖fe1 ♘h5 24.♖c5 f4 25.♔c3+-) 23.♔h8+ ♔f7 24.♔g7+ ♔e8 25.♔e5 ♔xe5 26.♙xe5+- Black's loose pawns fall.

21.♘xc6+- ♖de8 22.♘e5 ♔b7



Find the most stylish win.

23.♖c6!!

White has other ways to win, but this is both the most incisive, and the prettiest, as it seems to hang a piece:

23...♖xe5 24.♖g6+!

24.♖xb6+-.

24...♔h7

24...♔f7 25.♔h5 (threatening ♖xb6+) 25...♔e7 26.♖g7+.

25.♔h5!

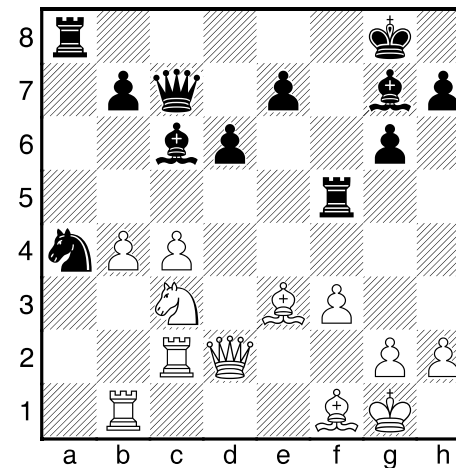
1-0

(124)  
Chen, Rachel (1945)  
Ruchinskaya, Valerie (1612)

B38

CYCC U14 w Hamilton CAN (2.5),  
08.07.2022

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4  
cxd4 4.♘xd4 g6 5.c4 ♙g7  
6.♙e3 ♘f6 7.♘c3 0-0 8.♙e2  
d6 9.0-0 ♙d7 10.♔d2 ♘xd4  
11.♙xd4 ♙c6 12.f3 a5 13.b3  
♘d7 14.♙e3! ♘c5 15.♖ab1  
♔b6 16.♖fc1 ♖fc8 17.♖c2  
♔c7 18.♙f1 ♖f8 19.a3 f5?  
20.exf5 ♖xf5 21.b4 axb4  
22.axb4 ♘a4



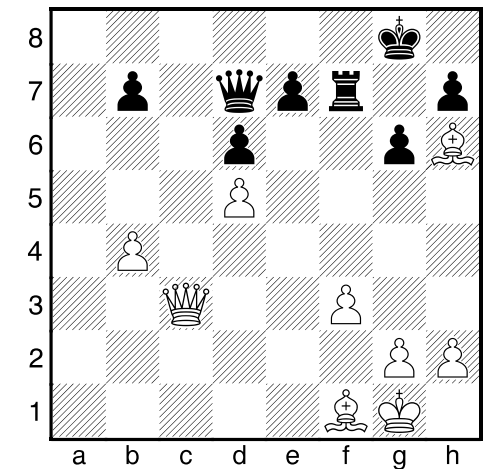
This is a picture of what White wants in a Maroczy: the queenside pawn advance kicks

Black's minors from their few viable squares, and the opening of the c-file and diagonals pointing to the Black ♔ spell 1-0.

23.♘d5!

23.♘b5! ♙xb5 24.cxb5 ♔d8  
(24...♔d7 25.♖bc1+-) 25.♙d3 ♖f8  
26.♙e4+-.

23...♙xd5 24.cxd5 ♔d7  
25.♖bc1+- ♙b2 26.♖xb2!  
♘xb2 27.♔xb2 ♖c8 28.♖c3  
♖xc3 29.♔xc3 ♖f8 30.♙h6  
♖f7



31.b5!

Threatening b6 then ♔c7.

31...♔d8 32.♔h1

Getting out of check threatens b6, since ...♔xb6 is not check White would have ♔c8+ mating.





Pushing the h-pawn is also strong.

**32...e5**

Desperately trying to activate the ♖.

**33.dxe6 ♖c7 34.♙c4! d5  
35.♙d4!**

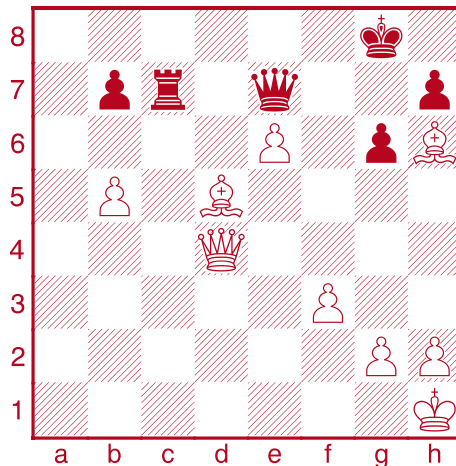
Saves the ♙ by pinning the d-pawn.

**35...♙e7**

35...♖xc4 36.♙g7#.

**36.♙xd5**

Reminder: the ♙h6 guards c1.



White has an overwhelming position, but what is White's immediate threat?

**36...♖c2**

36...♖c2 was the only move to prevent the upcoming combo, but Black remains hopelessly tied down.

**37.♙g7+!**

37.♙g7+♖ ♙xg7 38.e7+ and e8=♖+ mates.

**1-0**

## 2022 Olympiad

July 27-Aug 9, 2022  
Chennai, India

India stepped up on short notice to host the Olympiad after FIDE took it away from Mordor.



**2022 Canadian Olympiad Teams:** IM Raja Panjwani, GM Razvan Preotu, Mills Morgen, WIM Svitlana Demchenko, WGM Maili-Jade Ouellet, Guo Yu Han, IM Nikolay Noritsyn, GM Eric Hansen, IM Artiom Samsonkin.

Captains: IM Shiyam Thavandiran, FM Victor Plotkin

The no-fly zone over the pole and delays getting visas made it much harder than normal to put together teams, and our Women's team ultimately had only four players after two women accepted invitations but withdrew.

**Uzbekistan** — with four players under 21 — won the Open on TB over Armenia; India 2 all-juniors with a 2649 average rating were third. **Ukraine** won the Women's, ahead of Georgia and India 1.

Canadian men were 44<sup>th</sup> ranked, and finished =43-58. The women were ranked 56<sup>th</sup> and finished 54<sup>th</sup> (=53-65).

(125)

**Deac, Bogdan (2692)**  
**Hansen, Eric (2606)**

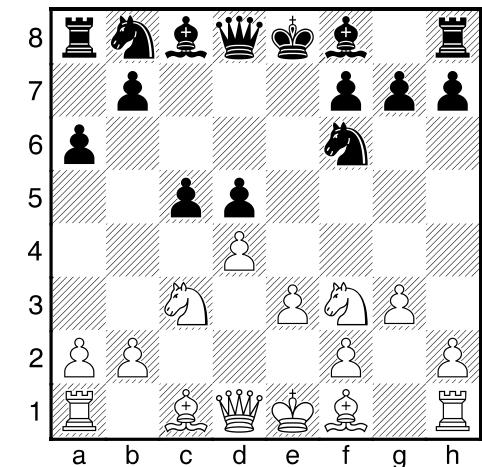
D40

Olympiad Chennai, India (6.18),  
03.08.2022

**1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 d5  
4.♘f3 c5 5.e3**

Eric spent 36 minutes on his next four moves!??

**5...a6 6.cxd5 exd5 7.g3**



Black has a big choice here: push ...c4 or play into an IQP. Both are fine, though ...c4 may push White out of the more familiar IQP patterns.

**7...♘c6**



7...c4!? is reasonable, as White has no immediate way to exploit Black's advanced c-pawn: 8.b3 b5= 9.a4? b4-+, or 8.a4 ♖b4=.

If instead 7...c4!? 8.♔g2 ♕b4:

9.♔d2 0-0 10.♘e5 ♘c6 11.0-0 ♖e8 12.♘xc6 bxc6 13.b3 a5 14.bxc4 ♕a6! 15.♖c2 ♕xc4 16.♖fb1 ♕xc3 17.♕xc3 ♘e4= Artemiev,V (2704)–Carlsen,M (2847) chess24.com (rapid), 2021 (0-1, 35).

9.♖a4+ ♘c6 10.♘e5 0-0 11.♘xc6 ♕xc3+ 12.bxc3 bxc6= 13.0-0 (13.♖xc6?! ♖a5! 14.♔d2 ♕f5=) 13...♕f5 14.♕a3 ♖e8 15.♖xc6 ♖e6 16.♖a4 h5! 17.h3 ♕d3! 18.♖fc1 ♘e4-+ 19.♖d1 ♖g5 20.♖e1 ♖ae8 with huge pressure that far outweighs the single pawn; Keymer,V (2693)–Carlsen,M (2861) chess24.com (rapid), 2022 (0-1, 41).

**8.♔g2 ♕d6 9.0-0**

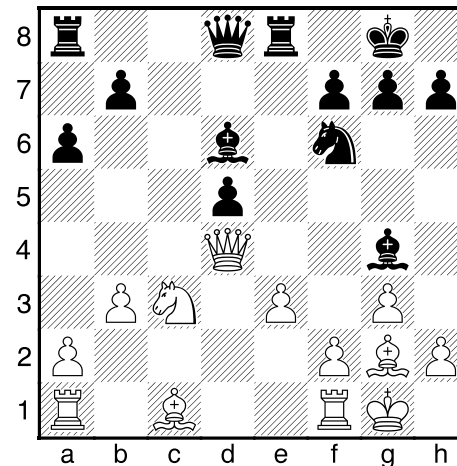
Here's a high-level game showing how Black slowly neutralized White's pressure on the IQP: 9.dxc5 ♕xc5 10.0-0 0-0 11.b3 ♕e6 12.♕b2 ♖e7 13.♖c1 ♖ac8 14.♖d3 ♖fd8 15.♘e2

♕a3 16.♖b1 ♘e4 17.♖a1 ♕g4 18.♘ed4 ♕xf3 19.♘xf3 ♕xb2 20.♖xb2 ♘b4= (1/2-1/2, 39) Kramnik,V (2793)–Sadler,M (2646) London, 2013.

**9...0-0 10.b3 cxd4 11.♘xd4 ♕g4**

11...♕e5 12.♘xc6 bxc6 13.♕b2 ♕b7 (13...h5!? SF15) 14.♖c2 ♖c8 15.♖fd1 ♘d7 16.♘a4 ♖f6 17.♖ac1 ♕xb2 18.♖xb2 ♖xb2 19.♘xb2 f5 20.♘c4!± (1-0, 39) Ringoir,T (2527)–Arribas Lopez,A (2480) Charlotte, 2018.

**12.♖d2 ♘xd4 13.♖xd4 ♖e8**



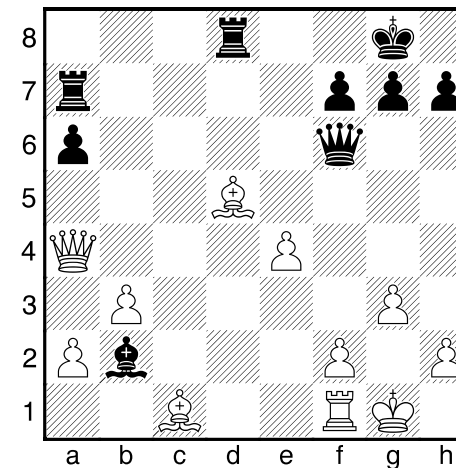
**14.♘xd5!**

The only testing move, which nets White two pawns for an exchange. 14.♕b2 ♕e5 15.♖d3 d4=.

**14...♕e5 15.♘xf6+ ♖xf6 16.♖xg4 ♕xa1 17.♕xb7 ♖a7 18.♕d5 ♕b2**

Eliminating the ♕ pair.

**19.♖a4 ♖d8 20.e4**

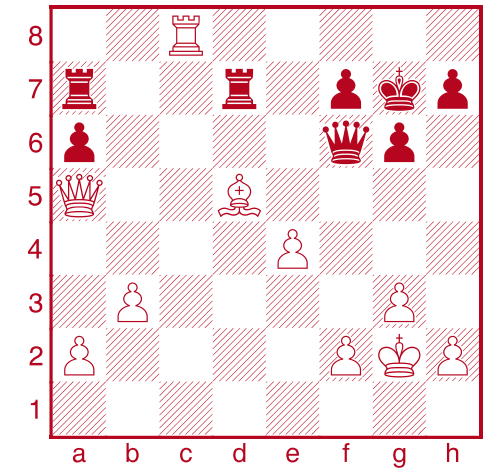


**20...♕xc1**

20...♖c8 doesn't concede the c-file, but leaving White the ♕ pair is asking for trouble; e.g. 21.♕e3 ♖ac7 22.♕c4± ♕d4?? 23.♕xd4 ♖xc4 (23...♖xd4 24.♕xf7+-) 24.♖xc4+-.

**21.♖xc1± g6 22.♖a5 ♔g7 23.♔g2± ♖d6 24.♖c7 ♖d7 25.♖c8±**

Black has no open files for his ♖s, while White has two pawns and a ♕ for the exchange and long-term play creating a passer by pushing the a and b-pawns.



Stabilize with ...h5, or centralize with ...♖d4 or ...♖e5?

**25...♖e5??**

Black's position was more precarious than it seemed, and this is not a safe square.

♘25...h5 26.h4±.

♘25...♖d4 26.a4 f5 (26...♖d6!? creating the possibility of bailing out with ...♖xd5!?) 27.h4! fxe4? 28.♖g8+ ♔h6 29.♕e6+-.

**26.♖g8+!!+-**

Forces the ♔ into the open, and suddenly a maneuvering game turns into a king hunt!

**26...♔f6**

26...♔xg8? 27.♕xf7+ ♖xf7 28.♖xe5+- the ♖s are no match for the ♖ and extra pawns.





26...♔h6 27.♖d2+ g5 (27...♗g5  
28.♖c3 ♖xd5 29.♖g7+ ♔h5  
30.♖xh7+-) 28.♖e3+- and h4 or  
g4.

27.♖b6+ ♔e7

27...♖d6 28.♖e3+- and ♖f3 or  
♖h6.

28.♖c5+ ♔f6

28...♖d6 29.♖c8 ♔f6 (29...♖d8?  
30.♖xd8 ♖xd8 31.♖c5+-)  
30.♖c3+ ♔e7 (30...♖e5  
31.♖f3+-) 31.♖g7 hits f7 and f8.  
31...♖f6 32.♖f8#.

29.f4! ♖b2+ 30.♔f3

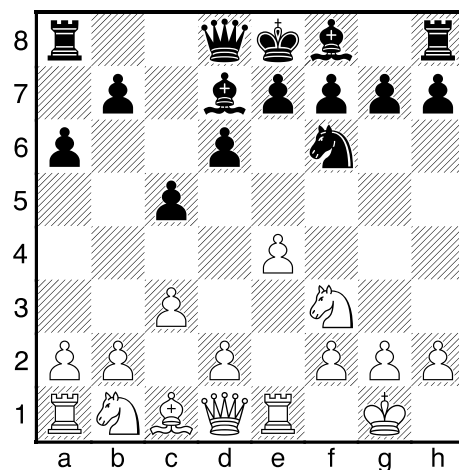
1-0

(126)  
**Hansen, Eric (2606)**  
**Yilmaz, Mustafa (2634)**

B51

Olympiad Chennai, India (8.12),  
06.08.2022

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.♙b5+  
♘d7 4.0-0 a6 5.♙xd7+ ♙xd7  
6.c3 ♘f6 7.♖e1

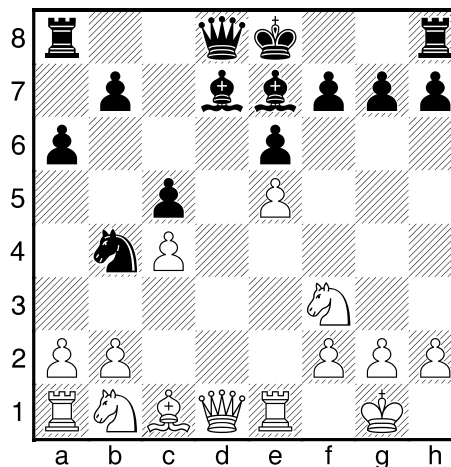


This opening might look like  
White wants to bore Black to  
death, but there are pawn sacs  
for initiative here if White wants;  
and in this game White plays  
the early middlegame in gambit  
style.

7...e6

Here is one pawn sac for White:  
7...♙c6 8.d4 ♙xe4 9.♙g5∞ ♙g6  
10.d5 ♖d7 11.♘bd2 0-0-0 12.b4±  
(0-1, 48) [Dubov,D \(2702\)–  
Vachier Lagrave,M \(2784\)](#)  
[chess24 rapid, 2021.](#)

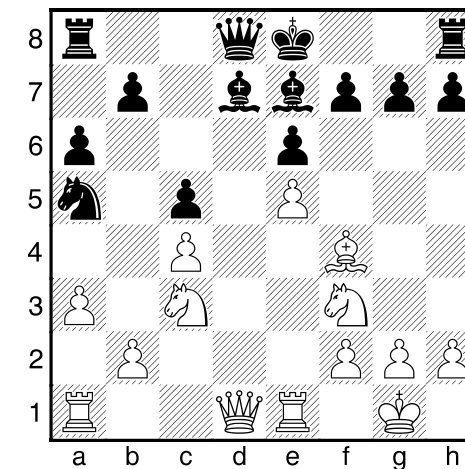
8.d4 ♙e7!? 9.dxc5 dxc5  
10.e5 ♘d5 11.c4 ♘b4



12.a3

12.♖e2 ♙c6 (12...g5!?) 13.♖d1  
♖c7 14.♘c3 0-0 15.♘e1 ♙e8  
16.♙f4 h6 17.♘e4± b5 18.♖g4  
♔h8 19.♖h3 (19.♘f6!±) 19...♙c6  
20.♘d6! bxc4 21.♙xh6! gxh6?  
22.♖xh6+ ♔g8 23.♖ac1!  
♙d5 24.♖c3 ♘d3 25.♘xd3  
♙xd6 26.♘f4 (1-0) [Martinez  
Alcantara,J \(2591\)–Yilmaz,M  
\(2634\) Chess.com, 2022.](#)

12...♙c6 13.♘c3 ♘a5 14.♙f4



14...♙c6

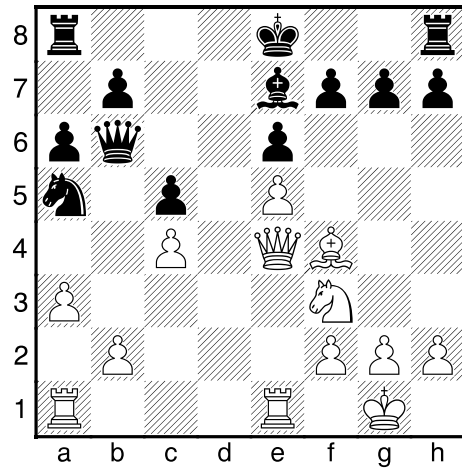
(see photo next page)

Black has made five moves with  
the ♘a5 — it started on g8 —  
and now 14...♘xc4!? would be  
the logical continuation.

But Black seems to have had  
second thoughts about taking  
the pawn. Taking is playable, but  
here's one example of the risks:  
15.♖e2 b5 (15...♙b5?? 16.a4+-)  
16.♖ad1 ♘e.g. 16...♖c7?  
17.♘d5!!± exd5 18.e6 ♙d6  
(18...♖xf4 19.exd7+-) 19.exd7+  
♔xd7 20.♖xd5 ♖ae8 21.♙xd6  
♘xd6 22.♘e5+±.

15.♖e2 ♖b6 16.♘e4 ♙xe4  
17.♖xe4





17...Rd8

17...Qxb2? 18.Qd2+- Qb6  
19.Rab1 Qc7 20.Qxa5 Qxa5  
21.Rxb7+- if Black guards  
against Qc6 White just doubles  
Rs and is effectively up a R.

18.Rab1 Nc6 19.Qe3 Qb3

20.Qg4 Qf8

20...0-0?

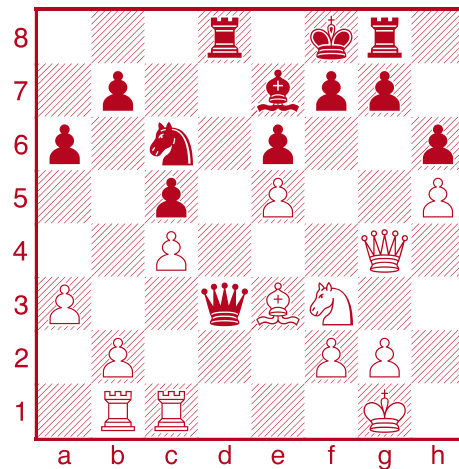
21.Qh6 is a  
free exchange.

21.h4 h6

22.h5 Rg8

23.Rec1 Qd3

**Board 1**  
GM Hansen



White's rooks are lined up for  
b2-b4; is that worth it as a pawn  
sac?

24.b4! cxb4?

24.b2-b4 was a genuine pawn  
sac, but this is the worst way to  
accept.

24...Qxa3 25.bxc5 Rd7 26.Rd1  
(26.Qe4!) 26...Rxd1+ 27.Rxd1  
Qxc5 28.Qxc5+ Qxc5 29.Rd7±  
Black is up a pawn, but his Rg8  
isn't in the game and his Nc6  
can't move without hanging the  
R; e.g. 29...Nxe5? 30.Nxe5  
Qxe5 31.Rd8+-.

24...g5! If White doesn't take  
Black has ...Qg7, connecting  
the Rs. 25.b5 (25.hxg6 Rxc6±)  
25...axb5 26.Rxb5 (26.cxb5 Nd4  
is not possible when Black has  
played ...cxb4. 27.Qxd4 cxd4  
28.a4∞) 26...Qg7 27.Rxb7 Rb8∞.

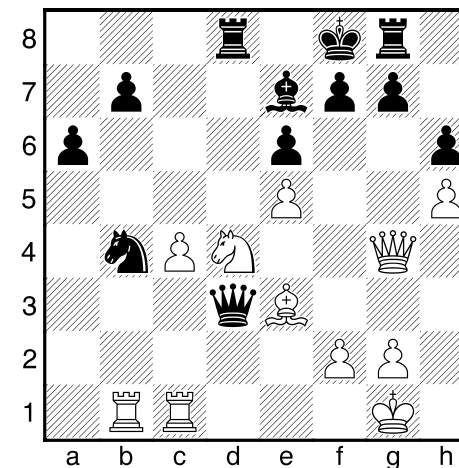
25.axb4 Nxb4

Bad, but best.

25...Qxb4 26.Rxb4 Nxb4

27.Qc5+- exploits the Qf8.

26.Nd4!±



Prevents the Q from escaping  
to d7, adds support to d1 and  
threatens Rd1 then Nxe6+,  
overloading the Qe7. None of  
this was possible when Black  
had a pawn on c5.

26...g5

26...Qa3 gets the Q out of  
the way and defends the N,  
but the Black Q has too few  
defenders of the light squares,  
so: 27.Nxe6+! (27.Rd1! is less  
direct but at least as strong.)  
27...fxe6 28.Qxe6 the immediate  
threat is Qf5+ then e6, but even  
without a minor piece to attack  
the light squares, White would  
have a hard time playing a move  
that doesn't make a serious  
threat; e.g. 28...Rh8 making  
space on g8 for the Q. 29.Qb6  
Re8 30.Re1+- and R up and over  
to the f-file. 30...Nc2 stops Re3  
31.Re4 Qg5 stops Re4 32.Qd5  
Rc8 stops Qc5+ 33.Qxb7+- Re8  
saves the R 34.Qd5 threatening  
Qc5 again and ready to advance  
the c-pawn.

27.Rd1+- Qxc4 28.Rxb4

Deflecting the Q from e6 or the  
R from d8.



28...♖xb4 29.♘xe6+♠+- fxe6  
30.♖xd8+♠

The ♕e7 is overloaded.

30...♔f7

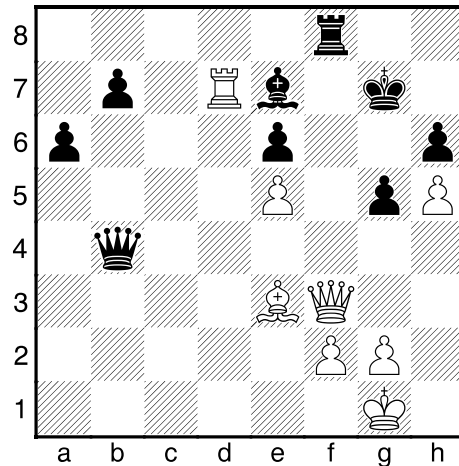
30...♔g7? 31.♖xg8+ ♔xg8

32.♖xe6++-.

31.♖f3+♠ ♔g7 32.♖d7

Threatening ♖f6 mating.

32...♖f8♠



33.♖xb7?!

Gets a pawn back and keeps some initiative, but gives up most of White's advantage.

♠33.♖d1, which has two threats: ♖d6 and ♖c2/d3 to g6; e.g.:

33...♖f7 34.♖d3 ♖f5 35.♖d6!+-;

33...♔h8 34.♖c2 ♖f5 35.♖c7+-.

33...♖f7! 34.♖xa6 ♖b1+  
35.♖f1!

35.♔h2 ♖f5♠±.

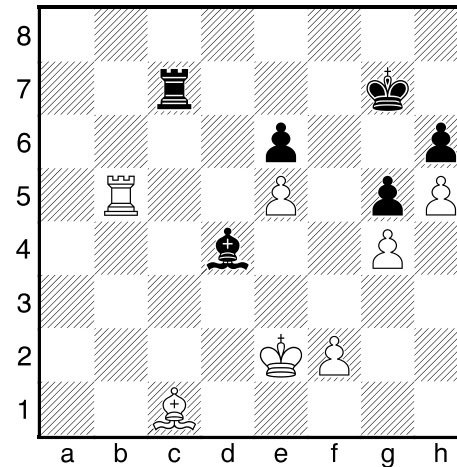
35...♖xf1+ 36.♔xf1 ♔f8♠

37.g4 ♕b4 38.♖d8+ ♔g7

39.♖e8 ♖e7 40.♖b8 ♕c3

41.♖b5 ♖d7 42.♔e2 ♕d4

43.♕c1 ♖c7



44.♕d2

♠44.♕a3! a really tough move to play, allowing Black's ♖ into the backfield. 44...♖c2+ (44...♖c3? 45.♖b7+ ♔g8 46.♕d6+-) 45.♔d3 ♖c3+ 46.♔xd4 ♖xa3 47.♖b7+ ♔g8 48.♔c5+- wins the e6-pawn and promotes e5.

44...♖c5?

♠44...♖c4 creating threats along the 4th rank; e.g. 45.♖b7+ (45.f4 gxf4 46.♕xf4 ♕c5 47.♖b7+

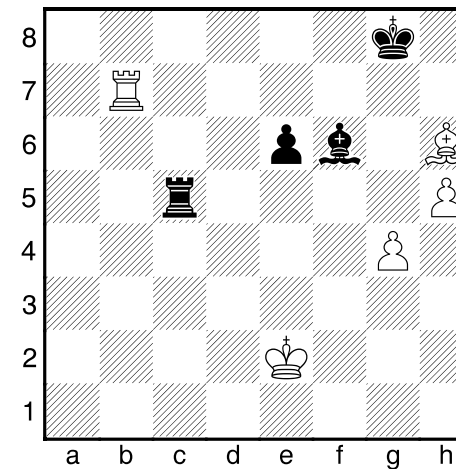
♔g8 48.♕xh6 ♖xg4=) 45...♔g8

46.f4 gxf4 47.♕xf4 ♕xe5 48.♕xh6

(48.♕xe5 ♖e4+=) 48...♖xg4=.

45.♖b7+♠+- ♔g8 46.f4! gxf4

47.♕xf4 ♕xe5 48.♕xh6 ♕f6



49.g5! ♖xg5

49...♕xg5 50.♖g7+ ♔h8 51.♖xg5 ♖xg5 52.♕xg5+- the ♕ covers the promotion corner.

50.♕xg5 ♕xg5 51.♔f3 ♕d2

52.♔e4 ♕c3 53.♔f4 ♔f8

1-0

(127)

Perez Rodriguez, L.M.

(2335)

Sambuev, Bator (2436)

C08

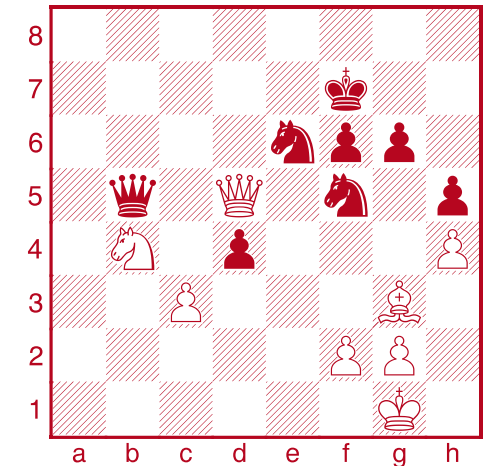
Quebec op Laval (7.1),

05.09.2022

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘d2 c5

4.exd5 exd5 5.♘gf3 ♘f6

6.♕b5+ ... 37.♖d5?



Find Black's forced win.

37...♖xd5♠ 38.♘xd5 ♘xg3♠

38...d3 39.♔f1♠=.

39.fxg3 ♘c7!!-+

The only winning move: deflecting the ♘ from defending against ...dxc3, which also



moves "the square" of the passed pawn out of range of the white king.

40. ♖f4

40.c4 ♗xd5 41.cxd5 f5-+ Black wins the d5-pawn and the game. 40. ♗xc7 dxc3 ♖-+ the ♗ and ♖ can't catch the ♗.

40...dxc3 41. ♖f2 ♗d5

0-1

(128)

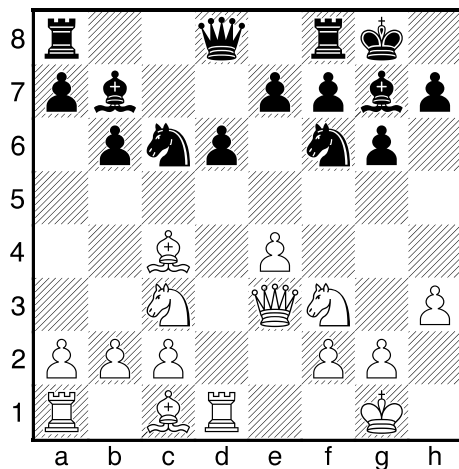
Rodrigue Lemieux, Shawn (2451)

Juhasz, Agoston (2324)

B53

Wch U18 Mamaia (5), 10.09.2022

1.e4 c5 2. ♗f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4. ♖xd4 ♗c6 5. ♖e3 g6 6.h3 ♗g7 7. ♗c4 ♗f6 8.0-0 0-0 9. ♖d1 b6 10. ♗c3 ♗b7



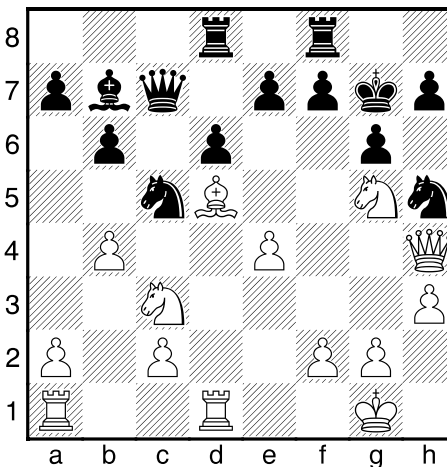
11. ♖g5N

11.e5!? ♗e8 12.e6 f5∞.

11. ♖f4 ♖c8 12. ♗b3 ♗a5! 13. ♖h4 ♖c5 (13... ♖xc3!?) 14. ♗g5 ♖a8 15. ♖e1 ♖e8 16. ♖ad1 ♗xb3 17. cxb3 ♖ Demchenko,A (2654)-

Vokhidov,S (2536) Chess.com, 2022 (1/2-1/2, 65).

11... ♖c7 12. ♖h4 ♗b4 13. ♗b3 ♗a6 14. ♗h6 ♗c5 15. ♗d5 ♖ad8 16. ♗g5 ♗h5 17. ♗xg7 ♖xg7 18.b4!?



18... ♗d7?

♖18... ♗e6:

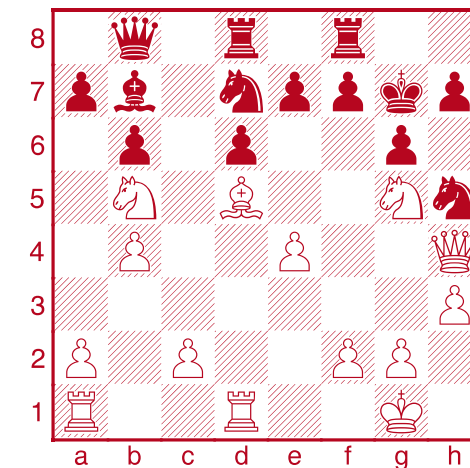
a) 19. ♗b5 ♖d7 ♖ 20. ♗xb7 (20. ♗xe6 ♖xb5 ♖) 20... ♗xg5= or 20... ♖xb7!?=;

b) 19. ♗xb7 ♗xg5=;

c) 19. ♗xe6? ♖xc3 ♖;

d) 19. ♗xe6+ fxe6 20. ♗xe6? (♖20. ♗b5 ♖d7 ♖=) 20... ♖xc3 21. ♖xe7+ ♖h6! 22. ♖xb7 (22. g4 ♖f6-+) 22... ♖f6 ♖-+.

19. ♗b5! ♖b8



White has flung his pieces forward, but they're a bit loose, and Black threatens ...h6 then ... ♗f6 consolidating with targets. What should White do?



# Chess Canada Tacticosaurus

IM SRL  
2022 WYCC





**20. ♖xf7!?**

Bold, and not at all bad, but maybe not the best.

⊔20. ♖xb7 ♔xb7 21. ♘e6+!! fxe6  
22. ♔xe7+ ♕h6⊔ (22... ♖h8  
23. ♘xd6+-) 23. ♘xd6± (23. ♖xd6?  
♖fe8 24. ♔h4 g5!+-).

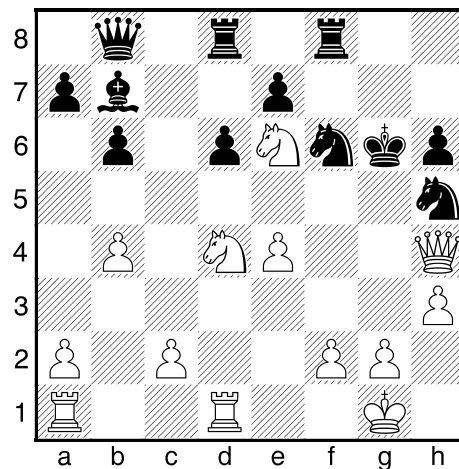
⊔20. ♘d4!? ♖de8 (20...h6??  
21. ♘ge6+ fxe6 22. ♘xe6+ ♖h8  
23. ♖xb7 ♔xb7 24. ♘xd8 ♖xd8  
25. ♖xd6!+-) 21. ♘f5+!! gxf5⊔  
(21... ♖g8 22. ♘h6+) 22. ♔xh5  
♘f6 23. ♔h4 h6 (23...e6?  
24. ♖d3+-) 24. ♖d3! hxg5 25. ♖g3  
♘h7 26. ♖xg5+ ♘xg5 27. ♔xg5+  
♖h7 White is down a ♖, but can  
force a draw or (the computer's  
choice!) play for more with:  
28. ♖e1!

**20...h6⊔**

20... ♖xf7? 21. ♘e6+ ♖g8  
22. ♘xd8 ♔xd8 23. ♘xd6!+-.

**21. ♖xg6 ♕xg6⊔ 22. ♘e6!  
♘df6⊔**

22... ♘hf6? 23. ♔g3+ ♖f7  
24. ♔g7+ ♖xe6 25. ♘d4+ ♖e5  
26. ♔g3+- is mating.

**23. ♘bd4**

Black has defended perfectly so far, but now blunders.

**23... ♖xe4??  
23... ♖g8∞.****24. ♖e1⊔+- ♔b7**

24...d5 25. ♘c6+-.

**25. ♖e3! ♖h7**

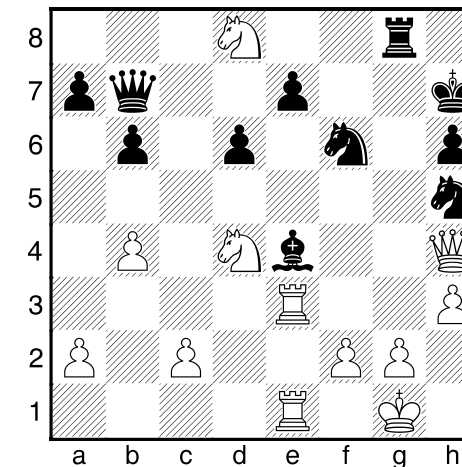
25... ♖xg2 26. ♖g3+! ♘xg3?  
27. ♔xg3+ #4.

**26. ♖ae1!**

Piling up on the ♖ and lining up a fork on e7.

**26... ♖g8**

26...d5 27. ♘xd8 ♖xd8 28. f3+-.

**27. ♘xd8****27... ♖xd8**

27... ♖xg2+ 28. ♖f1+-.

**28. ♖xe4 ♘xe4 29. ♖xe4**

All that for just a pawn? No: Black is shattered.

**29... ♘f6 30. ♘f5**

30. ♘f5 ♘g8 31. ♖xe7+- wins simply, and 31. ♖e6! mates.

1-0

**2022 WYCC CHAMP**

*IM Sean Rodrigue-Lemieux scored +7 =4 -0 to win the U18 WYCC in Romania by a full point.*

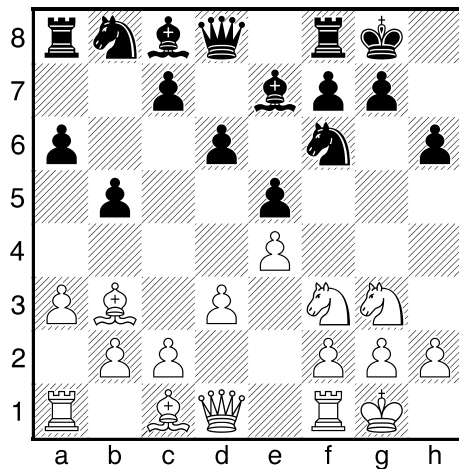
*The title was the high point in a year where he won the CYCC, the Canadian Open, was =1st at the Zonal, and crushed an IM Norm RR in Charlotte with a perfect 9/9.*



(129)  
**Dukic, Zachary (2218)**  
**Panchanathan, Magesh (2470)**

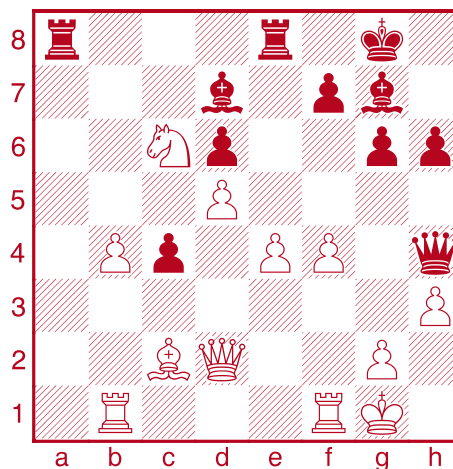
C84  
*Calgary International (1),*  
 21.09.2022

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 a6  
 4.♙a4 ♘f6 5.0-0 ♙e7 6.d3  
 b5 7.♙b3 d6 8.a3 0-0 9.♘c3  
 ♘b8  
 9...h6 10.♙e3 ♖e8 11.h3 ♙f8  
 12.a4?! b4! 13.♘d5 ♘a5∞  
 (½-½, 37) [Navara,D \(2681\)-](#)  
[Wojtaszek,R \(2696\) chess24.](#)  
[com, 2022.](#)  
 10.♘e2 h6 11.♘g3



11...c5N  
 11...♖e8 12.c3 ♙f8 13.♖e1 ♘bd7  
 14.d4 ♙b7 15.♙c2± (½-½, 41)  
[Movsesian,S \(2629\)-Caruana,F \(2828\) Chess.com, 2019.](#)  
 12.c3 ♘c6 13.h3 ♖e8 14.d4  
 ♙f8 15.d5 ♘e7 16.♘h2  
 ♘g6 17.♙c2 c4 18.♘g4 ♘f4  
 19.♘xf6+ ♙xf6 20.♘h5! ♙h4

21.♙xf4 ♖exf4 22.♙f3 g6  
 23.♘xf4 ♙g7 24.♘e2 ♙d7  
 25.♘d4 a5 26.♙d1 (26.♖ad1  
 b4 27.♙e2±.) 26...♙f4 27.♘e2  
 ♙g5 28.f4 ♙h4 29.♙d2 b4  
 30.♖ae1 ♖ab8 31.axb4 axb4  
 32.cxb4 ♙xb2 33.♖b1 ♙g7  
 34.♘d4 ♖a8 35.♘c6

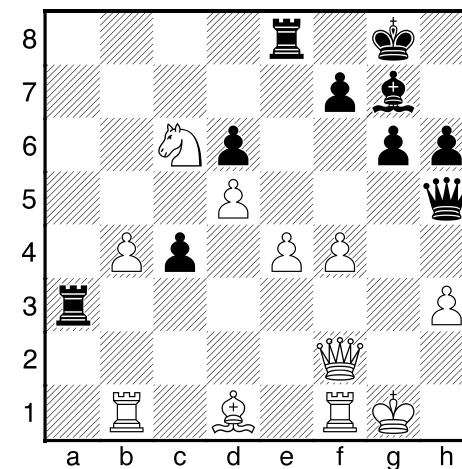


should win any endgame.  
 36.♖f3?! also concedes the  
 pawn, but Black is still kicking  
 after 36...♙g4.

36.gxh3?? loses if Black plays  
 a string of only moves which  
 bring both ♖s into the attack:  
 36...♖a3 ♖+ 37.♖f2 ♖ea8 ♖  
 (37...♖xh3? 38.♖h2 ♙g4+  
 39.♙h1 ♖a8= Black has a  
 perpetual in his pocket.) 38.♖h2  
 ♖g3+ ♖ 39.♙h1 ♖aa3 ♖+ and  
 takes on h3.

36...♙h5??  
 36...♙xf2+ ♖ 37.♖xf2± and b4-  
 b5.

37.gxh3 ♖a3 38.♙d1!+-



White has a tempo to bring the  
 ♙ to defend.

A closed Lopez has turned into  
 a Benoni... so Black should sac  
 something, right? What happens  
 if Black plays ...♙xh3!?

35...♙xh3!?  
 Extremely tempting, but not the  
 best. ♖35...♖a3 36.♙e1! ♙xe1±.

36.♙f2!  
 White is happy to give the  
 h-pawn to secure his ♙: the  
 well-supported passed b-pawn

2022 Calgary International



photo: Calgary CC facebook



Chess Canada  
 Tacticosaurus





# Chess Canada Tacticosaurus

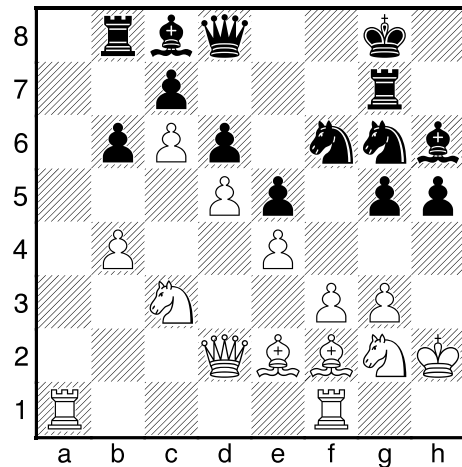
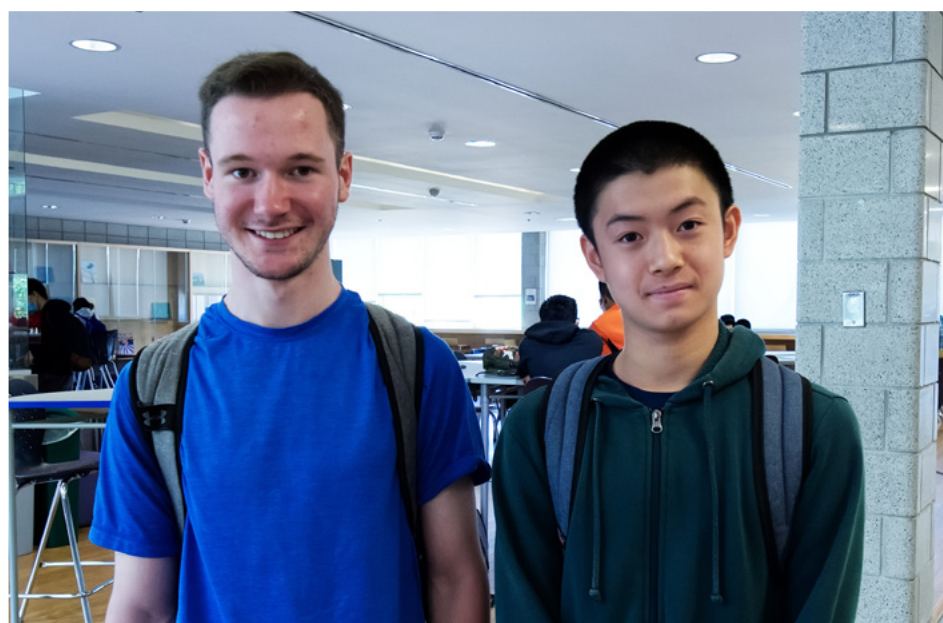
38...♔xh3 39.♕f3♠+- ♖ea8  
40.♔g2 ♔h4 41.♔h2 ♔f6  
42.b5 ♖a2 43.♔g3 ♔c3 44.b6  
♕d4+ 45.♔h1 ♕xb6 46.♖xb6  
♖a1 47.♖bb1 ♖xb1 48.♖xb1  
♔e3 49.♖e1

1-0

(130)  
**Sambuev, Bator (2515)**  
**Xu, Daniel (2299)**

E99  
*National Capital Open Ottawa*  
(5.2), 06.11.2022

1.d4 ♖f6 2.c4 g6 3.♖c3 ♕g7  
4.e4 d6 5.♖f3 0-0 6.♕e2 e5  
7.0-0 ♖c6 8.d5  
♗e7 9.♗e1  
♗d7 10.♕e3 f5  
11.f3 f4 12.♕f2  
g5 13.b4 ♗f6  
14.c5 ♗g6  
15.a4 ♖f7 16.c6  
b6 17.a5 ♖b8  
18.axb6 axb6  
19.g4 fxg3  
20.hxg3 h5  
21.♔d2 ♕h6  
22.♗g2 ♖g7  
23.♔h2

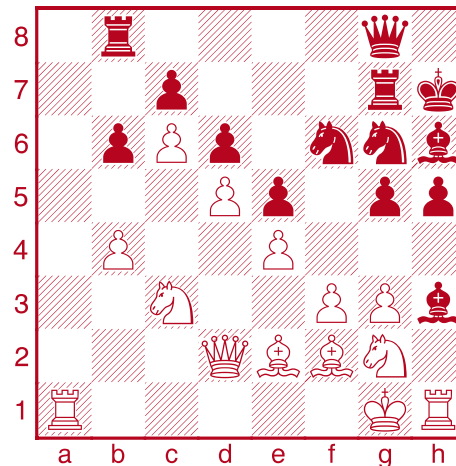


23...♕h3!!  
Threat: ...♕xg2, ...♗f4 or ♗h4.

24.♖h1  
24.♔xh3?? g4+-+.

24...♔h7 25.♔g1 ♔g8?  
This allows a very hard-to-see resource. Instead, 25...♕xg2!

26.♔xg2 ♗h4+ 27.♔f1 g4∞.

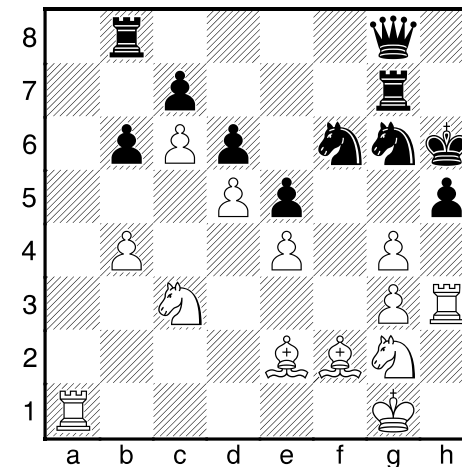


Can White take on h3?

26.♔e1?  
Taking on h3 looks like a blunder, but White gets fantastic play against Black's boxed-in ♔.

♠26.♖xh3! g4 The double-attack on the ♔ and ♖ may be where both players stopped calculating, but there's much more here: 27.♔xh6+!! ♔xh6 28.fxg4  
*Analysis Diagram*

**Winning Smiles**  
Daniel Xu poses with tournament winner SRL and tries to suppress a smile after beating his first GM at the 2022 Canadian Open in Hamilton.



White has two ♕s and a pawn for the ♔; but Black's clumsy pieces and exposed ♔ mean he will have to give up more. The immediate threat is winning a ♗ with g5+ then ♕e3+.

a) 28...♗e7 29.♕e3+ ♔h7 (29...♔g6 30.g5! ♗h7? 31.♕xh5#) 30.♖f1 ♖g6 (30...♗xg4 31.♖xh5+ ♔g6 32.♕xg4+-) 31.g5! ♗e8 (31...♖xg5 32.♖xf6+-) 32.♖xh5+ ♔g7 33.♗h4+-.

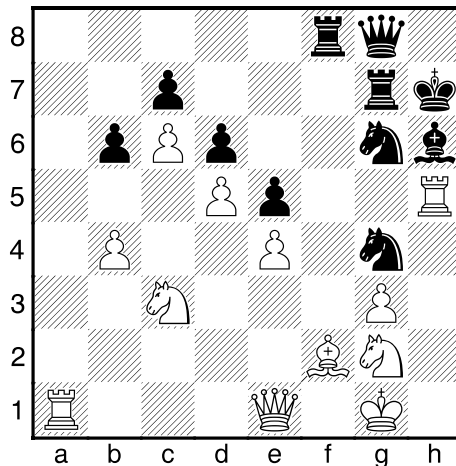
b) 28...♖h7 29.g5+ ♔xg5 30.♕e3+ ♗f4 31.gxf4+-.

c) 28...♗xg4 29.♕xg4 ♗f4 30.♗xf4 ♖xg4 31.♖xh5+ ♔g7 32.♗e6+ ♔g6 33.♖h3+- three pieces are definitely better

than the ♔ here, for example:  
33...♖a8 34.♖f1! ♖a3 35.♙e3!  
♖xc3 36.♖h6#.

d) 28...h4 ♙e3+ ♔h7 30.♖f1 ♖f7  
31.♘h4 ♘h4 32.♖xh4+ ♔g7  
(32...♔g6 33.g5 ♘h7 34.♙h5+-)  
33.♙h6+ ♔h8 (33...♔g6 34.g5+-)  
34.g5 (34.♙f8+?? ♘h7∞)  
34...♘h7 35.♖xf7 ♖xf7 36.♙h5  
Black has no safe squares on  
the f-file! 36...♖e7 37.♙g4+- and  
♙f5 or ♙e6.

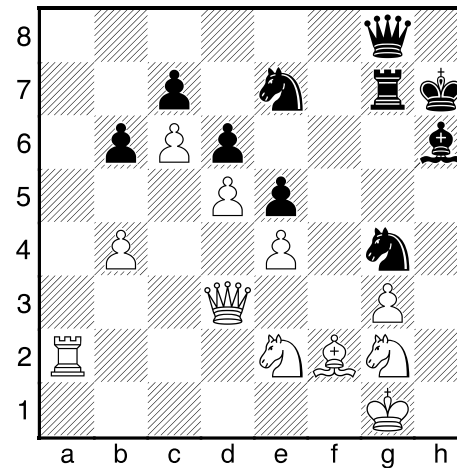
26...g4!∞ 27.fxg4 ♙xg4  
28.♙xg4 ♘xg4 29.♖xh5  
♖f8□



30.♖a2  
30.♙e3 ♘xe3 31.♖xe3 ♘f4□  
32.♖xh6+□ ♔xh6 33.♔f2□ ♖g5∞  
(33...♖xg3?? 34.♖h1+-).

30...♖f3 31.♖f5 ♖d3∞ 32.♘e2  
♘e7! 33.♖b1□  
33.♘h4 ♘xf5 34.♘xf5 ♖f7  
35.♖a7 ♖g6+-.

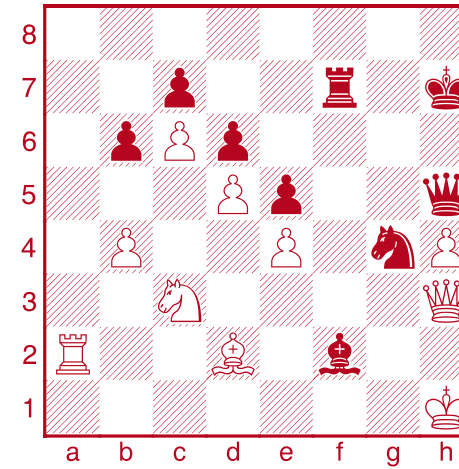
33...♘xf5 34.♖xd3 ♘e7



35.♘h4 ♖f7 36.♘c3 ♖h5  
37.♙e1? ♙e3+-+ 38.♔h1  
38.♔f1 ♘g6+-.

38...♘g6 39.♖f1 ♘xh4+-  
40.gxh4  
40.♖h3 ♘h6! 41.♖xh4 (41.g4;  
41.gxh4 ♖g1+ 42.♔h2 ♘g4+-+)  
41...♖f3+ 42.♖g2 ♖f1+-+.

40...♖f7! 41.♖h3 ♙f2! 42.♙d2  
42.♙xf2 ♘xf2+ 43.♖xf2 ♖xf2  
44.♖d7+ ♖f7+-.



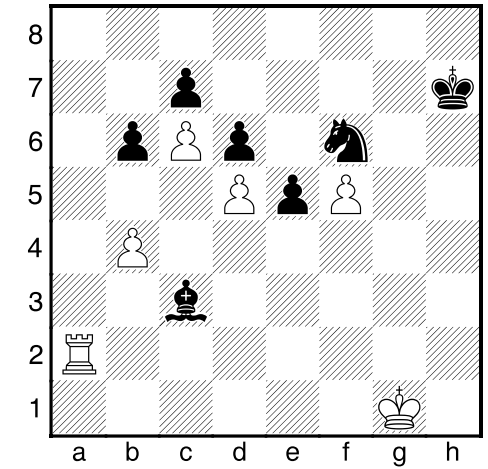
Can Black play ...♙xh4, or does  
it allow ♙e1, saving White?

42...♙xh4!  
42...♖xh4?? 43.♖xh4+ ♙xh4  
44.♔g2±.

43.♙e1 ♖f1+□+-  
Forking the ♔ and ♙ deflects the  
♖.

44.♖xf1 ♙xe1+ 45.♔g1  
♙xc3+-  
Black has two minors for the ♖  
and a strong attack, so White  
must trade queens.

46.♖f5+ ♖xf5 47.exf5 ♘f6!



So ♘xd5 will defend his only  
weakness on c7.

48.b5 ♘xd5 49.♔g2 e4  
50.♖a4 ♙b4 51.♖a8 ♔g7  
52.♖e8 e3 53.♔f3 ♙d2  
54.♖c8 ♔f6 55.♖f8+ ♔e5  
56.♖f7 ♔d4 57.f6 ♔e5!  
58.♔e2 ♔e6 59.♖h7 ♔xf6  
60.♔f3 ♔e5 61.♔e2 ♔d4  
62.♖h4+ ♔c3 63.♖g4 ♔c2

0-1

And that was Daniel's *third* win  
over a GM.





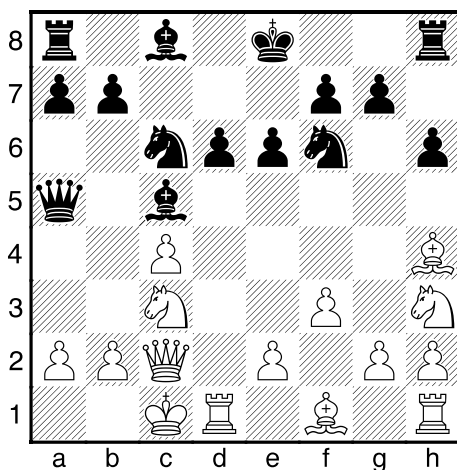
(131)  
**Sethuraman, Sandeep**  
 (2371)  
**Gedajlovic, Max (2317)**

E32  
*Fall 2022 GM/IM Norm Invitational (2), 18.11.2022*

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♘b4  
 4.♙c2 d6 5.f3?! c5!

The standard counter in QP openings when White gets ambitious with f3 and e4.

6.dxc5 ♘xc5 7.♘h3 ♘c6  
 8.♙g5 h6 9.♙h4 ♙a5 10.0-0-0



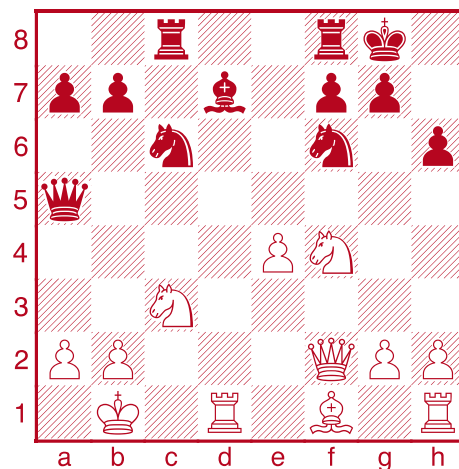
10...♙d7?!  
 10...♘b4! and Black's minors

dance on the center squares  
 White hoped to own:  
 11.♙b3 ♙e3+ 12.♙b1 ♙f5+-+;  
 11.♙b1? ♙e3+-+;  
 11.♙d2 ♘xa2+-+;  
 11.♙a4+ ♙xa4 12.♘xa4 ♙e3+!  
 13.♙b1 e5 (threat: ♙f5+) 14.  
 g4 h5 15.♙g5 ♙xg5 16.♘xg5  
 hxg4-+.

11.♙f2 ♙c8 (11...d5!) 12.♙b1  
 d5 13.♙xc5 ♙xc5 14.cxd5  
 exd5 15.e4 dxe4 16.fxe4  
 16.♘xe4 ♙xc2+ 17.♙xc2 ♘xe4  
 18.fxe4 ♙xh3 19.gxh3 ♙e7♠.

16...0-0  
 Black has more development and a better pawn structure and a slightly safer ♙.

17.♙f2 ♙a5 18.♘f4



What's better: ...♘xe4 or ...♘b4?  
 (tricky)

18...♘xe4?!  
 ◻18...♘b4 19.a3 ♙xc3 ◻ 20.bxc3  
 I'd bet both of them saw this, but the following tactics are very unusual: 20...♘xe4 ◻ 21.♙b2  
 ♘c2 22.♙xd7 (22.♙xc2 ♘xc3+  
 23.♙b2 ♘xd1+ 24.♙xd1 ♙d8  
 25.♘d3 ♙e6-+) 22...♘xa3+  
 23.♙c1 ♙f5 24.♙xa3 ♙xd7  
 25.♙d3 (25.♘d3 ♙c8-+)  
 25...♘f2 ◻ 26.♙h7+! ♙xh7  
 27.♙xf8 ♙f5-+ White's ♙ and ♘  
 are both hanging, so Black will  
 come out ahead in material, but  
 White's ♙ is also fatally exposed.

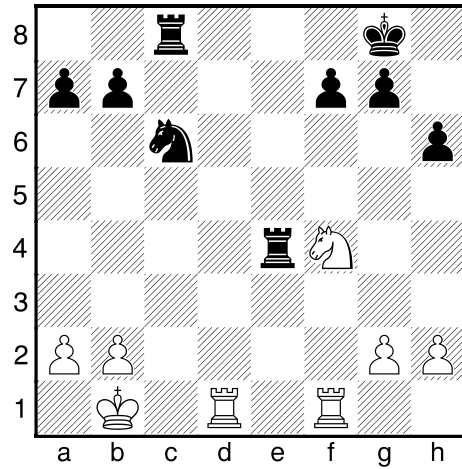
19.♘xe4 ◻ ♙f5 20.♙e1??  
 20.♙d3 ◻ ♘b4 ◻ (20...♙fd8?  
 21.♙e1!+- ♘b4 22.a3 ◻+-)  
 21.♘c3 ◻ ♙xc3?! (21...♙c4!?!  
 21...♙fd8♠) 22.bxc3 the ♙  
 defends a2 22...♘xd3 23.♘xd3  
 ♙d8∞.

20...♙fe8♠  
 ◻20...♙a4!+- 21.♙d3 ♘b4 ◻  
 22.♘c3 ♙xc3 23.♙xc3 (23.  
 bxc3 ♙xd3+ and ♙ mates on  
 c2.) 23...♙xa2+ 24.♙c1 ♘xd3+  
 25.♘xd3 ♙c8-+.

21.♙d3 ♙e5 22.♙f1 ♙xe4  
 23.♙xe4 ♙xe4+ 24.♙xe4  
 ♙xe4



# Chess Canada Tacticosaurus

**25. ♖d3**

25. ♖d7 ♘e5! 26. ♖xb7 leads to a neat winning sequence based on the overloaded ♖f1, which must defend the ♘ and the back rank: 26... ♘c4+ (threat ... ♘d2 fork) 27. ♖d7 (27. ♖f2 ♘d2+ 28. ♖xd2 ♖e1+-) 27... ♘e3 28. ♖f2 (28. ♖e1 ♖xf4 29. ♖xe3? ♖f1+ mates) 28... ♘g4 29. ♖f1 ♘xh2 and the back-rank mate threats win a piece!

**25... ♖d8!?**

Converting the pawn advantage should be easier if White has no chance to coordinate his ♖s, so Black is happier to trade one pair...

**26. ♖g3**

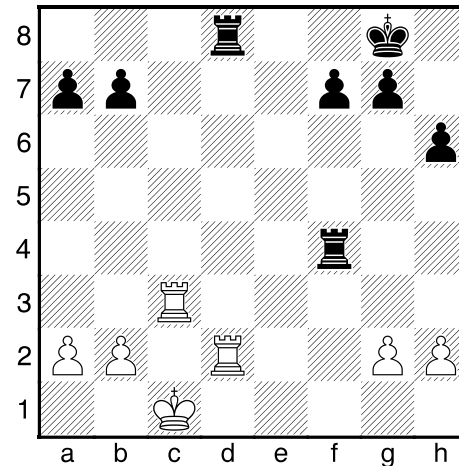
... than White.

**26... ♘e5 27. ♖c3**

27. ♘h5 ♖g4.

**27... ♘c4 28. ♖c1 ♘d2!**

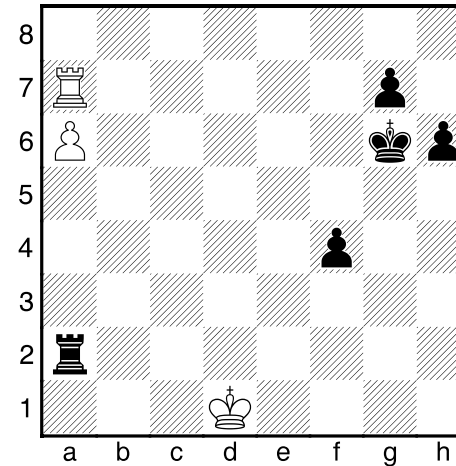
29. ♖d1 ♖xf4 30. ♖xd2

**30... ♖f1+!**

30... ♖xd2 is not the same: it allows White to insert ♖c8+ before taking on d2, and so his ♖ can come up to c3, instead of being cut off on the back rank. 30... ♖xd2 31. ♖c8+ ♖h7 32. ♖xd2 ♖f2+ 33. ♖c3 ♖xg2+- it's still a win, but it's better technique to keep every advantage, even in a winning position.

**31. ♖c2 ♖xd2+ 32. ♖xd2**

♖f2+ 33. ♖c1 ♖xg2 34. ♖c8+ ♖h7 35. ♖c7 f5 36. ♖xb7 ♖g6 37. ♖xa7 f4 38. ♖d1 ♖xb2 39. h4 ♖h2 40. a4 ♖xh4 41. a5

**♖h2 42. a6 ♖a2!**

The rest is completely unnecessary.

**43. ♖a8 ♖h5 44. a7 g5**

45. ♖e1 g4 46. ♖f1 f3 47. ♖e1

g3 48. ♖f8 ♖a1+ (48... g2 is faster, FWIW.) 49. ♖d2 g2

50. ♖g8 f2 51. a8 ♖ ♖xa8

52. ♖xa8 f1 ♖ 53. ♖a5+ ♖g6

54. ♖c5 ♖f2+

I can't imagine a good reason White played on here.

55. ♖d3 ♖xc5 56. ♖e4 ♖f5+

57. ♖d4 g1 ♖+!?

Playing with his food.

58. ♖c4 ♖e4+ ...

(0-1, 68)

(132)

Rodrigue Lemieux, Shawn (2465)

Bosiocic, Marin (2536)

B30

Maplewood Waterloo (8),  
18.11.2022

1. e4 c5 2. ♘f3 ♘c6 3. ♖b5 e6

4. ♖xc6 bxc6 5. b3 f6 6. 0-0

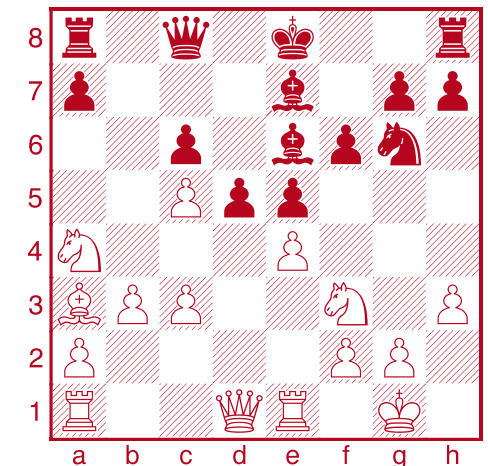
♘e7 7. ♖e1 ♘g6 8. ♖a3 e5

9. ♘c3 ♖e7 10. ♘a4 d6 11. c3

♖g4 12. h3 ♖e6 13. d4 ♖c8

14. dxc5 d5♠

Shutting the ♖ and ♘ on the a-file.



Take on d5 or stabilize with ♖c2?

15. ♖c2?

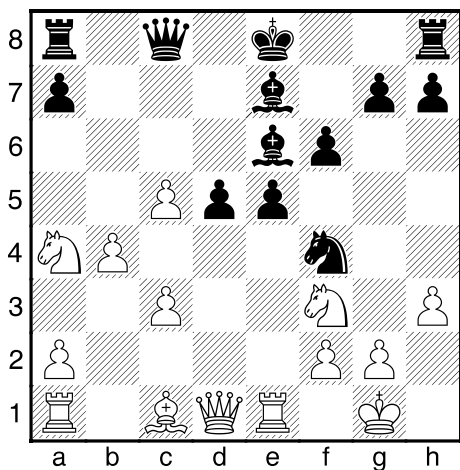
After removing a defender from



the ♖f3 White quickly succumbs to a precisely executed caveman attack.

Even with best play Black has more than enough compensation for the pawn in White's sad-looking queenside minors. ♠15.exd5 cxd5 (15...♙xd5) 16.b4 ♘f4?! (♠16...0-0) 17.♙c1±.

Analysis Diagram



17...♘g2!? This is still good, but here it doesn't win like it

did in the game, because after: 18.♙xg2 ♙xh3+ 19.♙h1 ♚g4 the ♙d1 defends ♖f3, so this is not the double threat (mate on g2 or taking the ♖f3) it was in the game. Here, White escapes with: 20.♙g1 ♙h5? (♠20...♙e4 21.♙g3 ♙g4±) 21.♘h2♠+- this is why the ♙ retreated to h1: to block and coordinate with ♘h2.

15...♘f4 16.♙c1?!

Immediately threatening to take the ♘ forces Black to be accurate, but he is.

♠16.♙e3 (defends ♖f3 and allows ♘e1, guarding g2 if necessary) 16...0-0 ♠17.♘b2? ♙xh3!+-;

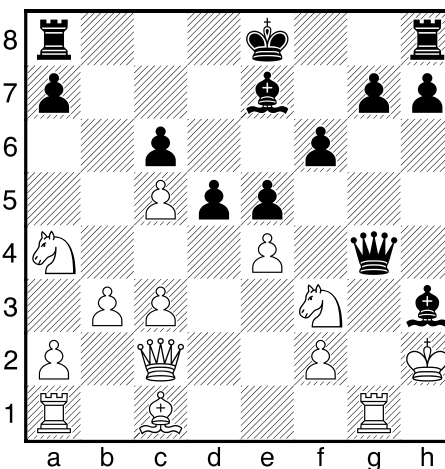
♠16.♘h2 dxe4 17.♙xe4 (17.♙xe4? ♙d5 g2 falls.; 17.♙e3? f5 Black's center rules.) 17...♙f5 ♠ White will have a pawn for the

exchange, but it's not enough. (17...♙d5? 18.♙xf4! followed by c4 and White's a long way from lost.).

16...♘g2♠+-

16...♙xh3?? 17.♙xf4+-.

17.♙xg2 ♙xh3+ 18.♙h2 ♙g4 19.♙g1



19...♙h5♠

19...♙xf3? 20.♙g3 ♙xe4 21.♙xe4 dxe4 22.♙xh3±.

20.♙g3 ♙f5+♠+-

20...♙g4+ 21.♙g2 f5! 22.♘xe5 ♙h4±.

21.♙g1

21.♙g2 guards h3, but loses after 21...♙xe4 22.♙e2 g5♠+- (22...f5 23.♙h3 ♙g4+ 24.♙g3 h5!! followed by another bonkers computer continuation.) 23.♙g1 (23.♙h3 ♙g6) 23...f5! 24.♙xg5 f4+-.

21...♙xe4

Forks ♙c2 and ♖f3.

22.♙e2 f5!

There's no good defence to ...f4, removing the guard on f3.

Shawn's worst loss of 2022; maybe of 2012-2022.

0-1

# Chess Canada Tacticosaurus



WWW.STRATEGYGAMES.CA

TORONTO (416) 486-3395  
701 MT PLEASANT RD (SOUTH OF EGLINTON)



MONTREAL (514) 845-8352  
3423 ST. DENIS ST. (CORNER OF SHERBROOKE)

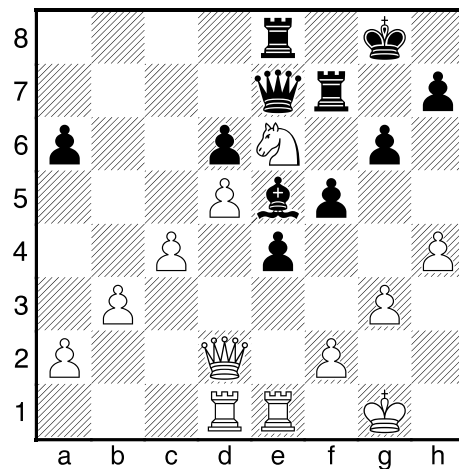
OFFICIAL CFC STORE

OTTAWA (613) 565-3662  
250 BANK STREET (NORTH OF SOMERSET)

(133)  
Montes Orozco, Miguel  
Angel (2068)  
Hua, Eugene (2268)

E18  
NA U20 Championship Mexico  
City (3), 03.12.2022

1.d4 ♘f6 2.♘f3 e6 3.c4 b6  
4.g3 ♕b7 5.♕g2 ♕e7 6.0-0  
0-0 7.♘c3 ♘e4 ...31.♘xe6



31...f4 32.♖xe4! fxg3 33.fxg3  
♕xg3 34.♔g5! ♔a7+  
34...♔xg5 35.hxg5 ♕f2+ 36.♔g2  
♕b6 37.♖f1+-.

35.c5 ♕f2+ 36.♔g2! dxc5  
37.♖f1  
37.h5 ♖f5 38.♔g4 ♖xh5  
39.♔xf2+-.

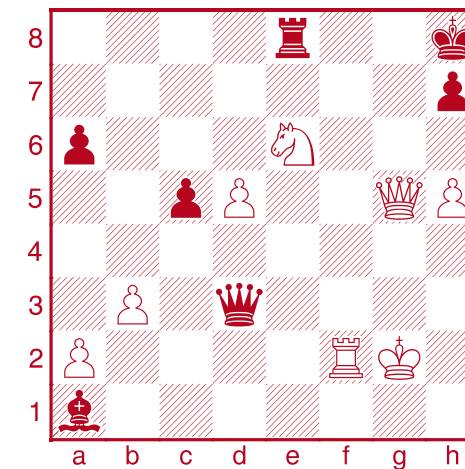
37...♕d4 38.♖xf7 ♔xf7  
39.♖f4 ♔d7  
39...♕e3 40.♖xf7 ♕xg5 41.♖g7+  
♔h8 42.hxg5 ♖xe6 43.♖xh7+-.

40.♖f3 ♔b5?  
40...♔d6±.

41.♔d2  
41.♔f4!+-.

41...♔d7 42.♔f4 ♕g7 43.h5!  
♔e7 44.♔g4 g5 45.♔f5 ♔d7  
46.♔xg5 ♔h8 47.♖g3 ♕a1  
48.♖f3 ♔b5  
48...♖g8?? 49.♔xg8+ ♔xg8  
50.♖f8#.

49.♖f2 ♔d3



Time trouble. Both Kings  
exposed. A perfect recipe for  
chess nightmares.

50.♔h2?  
50.h6□+-:

a) 50... c4? shows White's threat:  
51.♔g7+ ♕xg7 52.hxg7+ ♔g8  
53.♖f8+ ♖xf8 54.gxf8♖#.

b) 50...♖g8? 51.♔xg8+ ♔xg8  
52.♖f8#;

c) 50...♔e4+ 51.♔g1 ♔e5 saves  
the ♔, but (51...♕d4? 52.♔g7+!+-  
as in the main variation.)  
52.♔xe5+ ♕xe5 53.♖f5+- is a  
hopeless endgame;

d) 50...♔g6 51.♔xg6 hxg6  
52.♘g5!+- or even 52.d6+-.



photos: Fenamac Ajedrez

**2022 NA U20**  
Dec.2-6, Mexico City

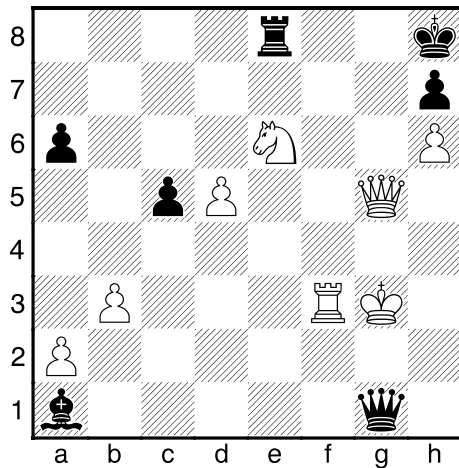
Won by US IM Vyom Vidyarthi.

FM Eugene Hua was clear second  
(after losing to Canadians SRL and  
Johnathan Han in rds 6 & 7). IM  
Shawn Rodgiruge-Lemieux  
was third on TB.



50...♔e4□ 51.♖f5  
51.h6 ♘e5+□ 52.♔g1 ♚e1+  
53.♖f1 ♚c3±.

51...♚c2+□= 52.♔g3 ♚d3+  
53.♖f3 ♚d1! 54.h6 ♚g1+□



55.♔f4  
55.♔h4 ♚h2+ 56.♔g4□  
(56.♖h3?? ♚f2+□ 57.♚g3  
(57.♖g3 ♘f6-+) 57...♘f6+ 58.♔h5  
♚f5+-+) 56...♚g2+=.

55...♚h2+??  
55...♚c1+= or 55...♚e1=.  
56.♔e3□+-  
56.♔e4 ♚c2+=.

56...♚d6  
56...♘d4+ 57.♔d3+- ♚e5  
58.♚xe5+ ♘xe5 59.♘xc5+-.

57.♔f2?

♔57.♖f6 ♖g8 58.♚g7+□+-.

57...♖g8□ 58.♚h5! c4?  
58...♚b8 59.♘g5 ♖g6 60.♔f1+-.

59.bxc4  
59.♘g5□+- ♘d4+ 60.♔f1□.

59...♚b6+ 60.♖e3 ♚b2+  
61.♖e2 ♚f6+ 62.♔e3?  
62.♚f3=.

62...♚c3+! 63.♔f4 ♚xc4+♠  
♔63...♚g3+ 64.♔e4 (64.♔f5  
♖g6□+-) 64...♖g4+-+.

64.♖e4 ♚f1+ 65.♚f3 ♚g1!  
66.♖e2 ♚g6 67.♚h3 ♚f6+  
68.♚f5 ♚h4+ 69.♔e3 ♖g3+  
70.♔d2 ♚b4+ 71.♔d1 ♖g1+

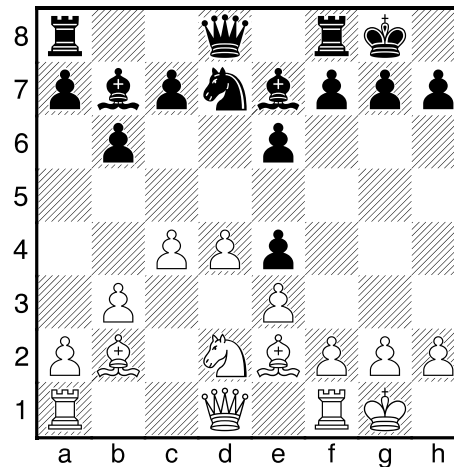
0-1

(134)  
Stearman, Josiah P (2386)  
Hua, Eugene (2264)

E14  
NA U20 Championship Mexico  
City (5), 04.12.2022

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 d5  
4.♘c3 ♘e7 5.e3 0-0 6.b3 b6

7.♘b2 ♘b7 8.♘e2 ♘bd7 9.0-0  
♘e4 10.♘xe4 dxe4 11.♘d2



11...c5

Here's an example of how the best players of 125 years ago struggled with timing the pawn breaks:

11...f5 12.f3 ♘g5 13.f4 ♘f6  
14.♖f2 (♔14.b4=) 14...c5 15.♘f1  
♚c7 16.♚d2 ♖ad8 17.g4?  
cxd4! 18.exd4 (18.♘xd4? e5-+)  
18...♘b8? (♔18...e5!!♠) 19.gxf5?  
♘xd4! 20.♘xd4 ♘c6 21.♘xb6  
axb6 22.♚e3 ♘d4 (22...exf5-+)  
23.♖d1 (23.fxe6!? ♘c2 24.♚c3  
♘xa1 25.f5!♠) 23...♘xe2+?!  
(♔23...♘xf5!) 24.♚xe2 exf5  
25.♘e3♠ (½-½, 50) Lasker,E –  
Pillsbury,H St Petersburg, 1896.

12.♚c2 cxd4 13.exd4?!  
This gives Black simple and

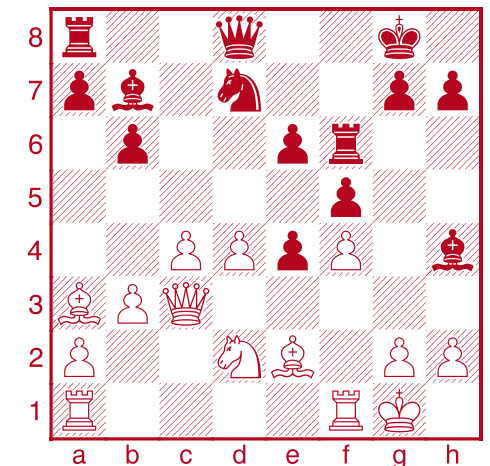
strong play: push the kingside majority until it hits something. White may have wanted to avoid the more sterile option, but objectively better was 13.♘xd4=.

13...f5 14.♚c3 ♘g5 15.♘a3  
15.f3 and if 15...e3 16.f4□ exd2  
17.fxg5 ♚xg5 18.♚g3= and the  
d-pawn is doomed.

15...♖f6

15...♖f7 is a bit more flexible:  
allowing the ♘g4 to retreat  
while still able to get behind the  
g-pawn.

16.f4 ♘h4



What happens after g3?

17.♖fd1

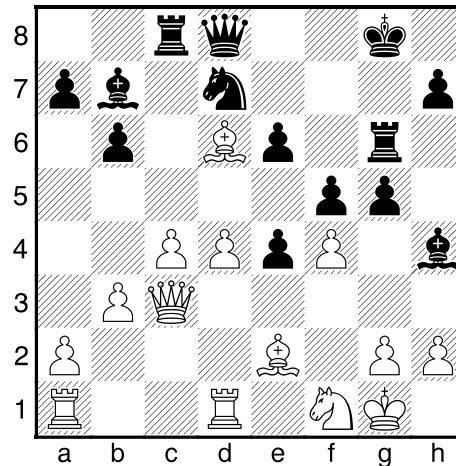
17.g3!? doesn't win the ♘, but





it allows White to force Black to give up an exchange... after which Black has more than enough compensation: 17...♖g6 18.♗h5?! this looks good, but Black has a complex but forced route to a significant advantage: 18...♗f6! creates a series of tactics based on ...♗xd4 forking the ♔ and ♚: (18...♖h6 19.♗e2 ♗f6 is Black's simpler response.; 18...♘c5 19.♗xg6 ♗f6 transposes.) 19.♗xg6 (19.♗d6 helps defend d4, but after 19...♖h6 White has no extra material but has weakened the long diagonal to h1.) 19...♘c5! 20.♗b2 ♘d3 threatening to take on b2 then on d4 21.♘f3! hxg6 (21...♘xb2 22.♘e5□=) 22.♘e5□ ♗xe5 23.fxe5□ (23.dxe5? ♚c7+- (or ...g5!?) and White has no open file for his exchange, and the black ♔ is safe while the white ♔ is in mortal peril.) 23...b5! fighting for d5 and/or pressure on the center pawns; and it's hard to imagine the white ♗ ever doing more than guarding d4.

17...g5 18.♗d6 ♖g6 19.♘f1 ♖c8



20.♚b4?

□20.♘e3 ♘f8 21.♗e5 gxf4 22.♗xf4 ♗g5 is similar to the game, but with the white ♚ and

♘ both doing better defensive duties.

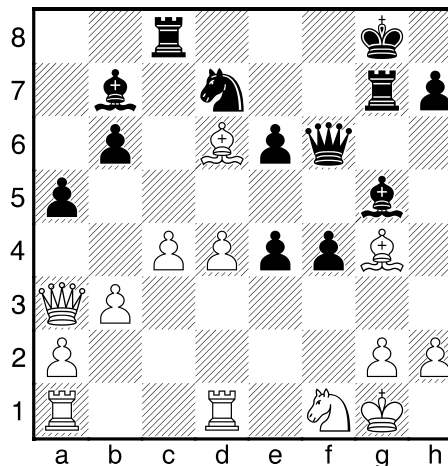
20...a5!-+ 21.♚a3

Other ♚ moves are no better:

21.♚c3 ♘f6 22.♗e5 gxf4 23.♗xf4 ♘d5 24.♚d2 e3!-+ opening the attack on g2.

21.♚d2 e3! 22.♘xe3 ♘f6 23.♗e5 ♘e4 24.♚c1 ♗f2+ 25.♔f1 (25.♔h1? ♘g3+-+ #2) 25...gxf4! 26.♗xf4 ♚h4+- attacking the ♗f4 and threatening (among other things) ...♗e1 and ...♚f2#.

21...gxf4 22.♗xf4 ♗g5 23.♗d6 f4 24.♗h5 ♖g7 25.♗g4 ♚f6



Two pawn breaks open the c and

g-files and White gets mated.

26.d5

Blocks the ♗b7 but opens the c-file. This isn't good for White, but nothing is.

26...exd5 27.cxd5 f3

All three of Black's majors are better than White's.

28.gxf3

28.♗g3 hopes to keep the g-file closed, but Black can just trade away the defenders: 28...fxg2 29.♔xg2 ♖c2+ 30.♔g1 ♗f4-+.

28...h5

Wins the ♗g4. Black also had the fancy: 28...♚xf3! 29.♗xf3 ♗e3+ 30.♔h1□ ♖g1#.

29.♗g3

29.♗xh5 ♗e3+ and ...♖g1#.

29...hxg4 30.fxe4 ♚f3

31.♚d6 ♖c2 32.♚e6+ ♔h8 33.♚e8+ ♔h7 34.♚h5+ ♔g8 35.♚e8+ ♘f8

Very smooth play by Black, making the most of the opportunities afforded by exd4.

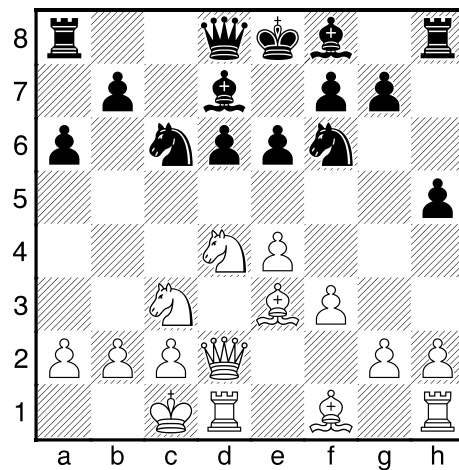
0-1



(135)  
**Tolentino, Patrick Angelo**  
**Mendoza, Aljol Jorajuria**

B80  
 NA U20 Championship Mexico  
 City (9), 06.12.2022

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4  
 4.♗xd4 ♘f6 5.♗c3 ♗c6 6.f3  
 e6 7.♙e3 h5!? 8.♚d2 a6 9.0-0  
 ♙d7



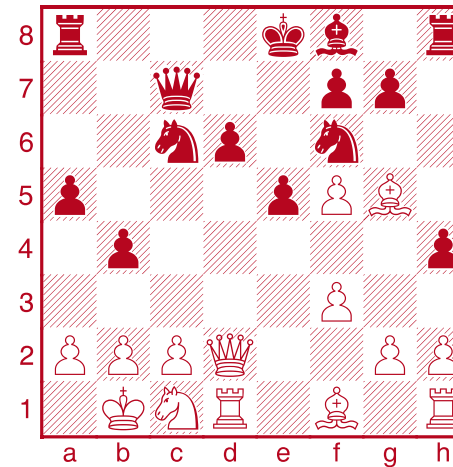
10.♙b1  
 10.♚e1 ♚c7 11.♙d3 ♗e5  
 12.♙b1 b5∞ 13.f4 ♗xd3 14.cxd3  
 b4 15.♗ce2 ♚b7♞ Black can  
 push on the queenside before  
 deciding what to do about his  
 own king; (0-1. 29) **Cornette,D**  
**(2462)–Jumabayev,R (2605)**  
**Douglas, 2018.**

10...♚c7 11.♗b3  
 11.♗xc6 ♙xc6 12.♗e2 d5 13.e5  
 ♗d7♞ (13...♚xe5?? 14.♙f4+-  
 after this the ♚ has to scurry  
 almost all the way off the board.  
 14...♚f5 15.♗d4 ♚h7 16.♗xc6  
 bxc6 17.♚c3 c5 18.♙d3 ♚g8  
 19.♚b3+- and there's nothing  
 guarding the queenside.) 14.f4  
 g5? (14...♗c5 15.♗d4 ♙e7  
 16.g3± "would have been normal  
 play." – **John Shaw, Playing**  
**1.e4, Quality Chess, 2018.**) 15.f5  
 ♗c5 16.fxe6 fxe6 17.♙xc5 ♙xc5  
 18.♚xg5± **Cheparinov,I (2687)–**  
**Al Modiahki,M (2556) Sochi**  
**FIDE GP 2008 (1/2-1/2, 30).**

11...b5 12.♙f4  
 12.♙xb5!? axb5 13.♗xb5 ♚b8  
 14.♗xd6+∞.

12...b4 13.♗e2 e5 14.♙g5 a5  
 15.♗bc1 ♙e6 16.♗g3 h4  
 16...♚b8! stops ♙b5, which is  
 strong in many lines we see  
 below.

17.♗f5 ♙xf5 18.exf5



With the possible exception of  
 the pawns on f5 and h4, this

looks like a Najdorf with no  
 kingside development. If it were  
 White to play, ♙xf6 then ♚d5  
 and ♙c4 would create a crushing  
 bind on the light squares. Can  
 Black do anything about this?

18...♗d4??

Stops ♙b5, which is annoying  
 in so many lines, and blocks  
 White from using d5, but this is a  
 surprisingly bad move — going  
 from slightly worse to lost — the  
 kind of one-move inaccuracy  
 that is so costly in many  
 Sicilians.

18...d5? 19.♙b5!± (White could  
 throw the game away like this:  
 19.♙xf6? gxf6= 20.♚xd5?? ♚d8-  
 +).

♠18...♙e7 19.♙b5± when the  
 computer suggests 19...♚f8,  
 since none of Black's aggressive  
 options help: 19...♚b8 (19...  
 a4? 20.♙xf6 gxf6 21.♚d5+-)  
 20.♙a4!± is a neat way to stop  
 Black's pawns.



photo: Fenamac Ajedrez

**Sicilian Smackdown**  
**Tolentino - Mendoza**  
 NA U20 Mexico 2022

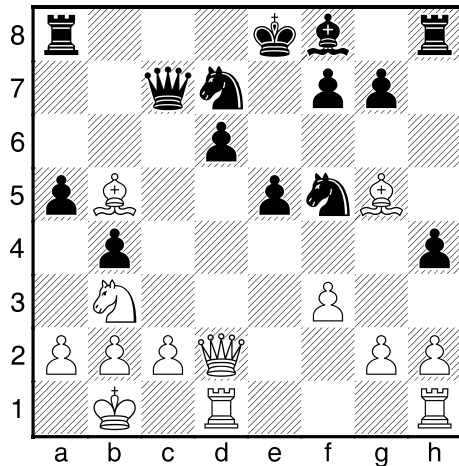


**19. ♖b3**

Immediately challenging the ♖d4. If White were to wait even one move Black's attack on c2 would allow a tactical solution: 19.h3? ♕e7 20. ♖b3 ♖e4! ♗ overloading the ♖d2.

**19... ♖xf5**

19... ♖xb3 20. ♕b5+ ♖d7  
21.cxb3+-.

**20. ♕b5+ ♖d7**

White is fully developed and the Black ♖ is stuck in the center. Does White have more than one way to open the center?

**21.f4!**

Good (and strong) but there's a less obvious way to break the center open which is at least

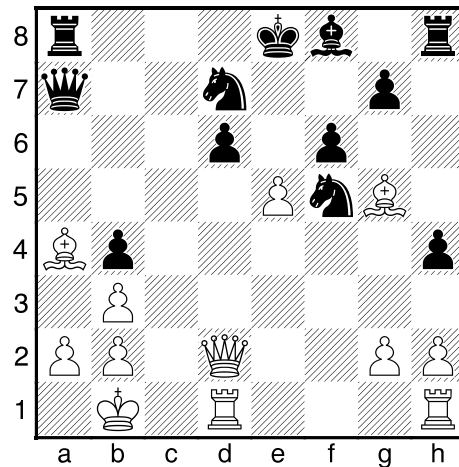
as strong: 21. ♖he1! ♕e7 (21... f6 22. ♖d5 hits a8 and e6.)  
22. ♖xe5!!+-.

**21...a4 22.fxe5 axb3**

Threatening ... ♖xc2+.

**23.cxb3! ♖a7**

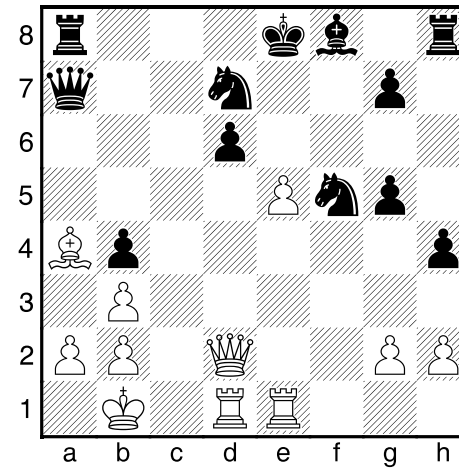
23... ♖a5 24. ♕a4! anyway, though the computer prefers 24.a4!! for reasons I'll leave to the curious and diligent.

**24. ♕a4 f6****25. ♖he1!**

White has more than one way to win, but bonus points for the "quiet" move.

**25...fxg5**

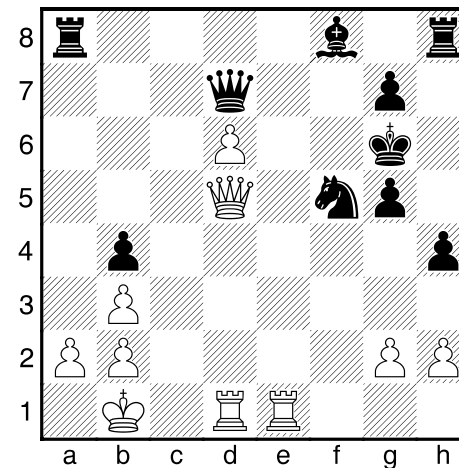
25... ♖d8 26.exd6 fxg5  
27. ♖xg5++-.

**26.exd6+**

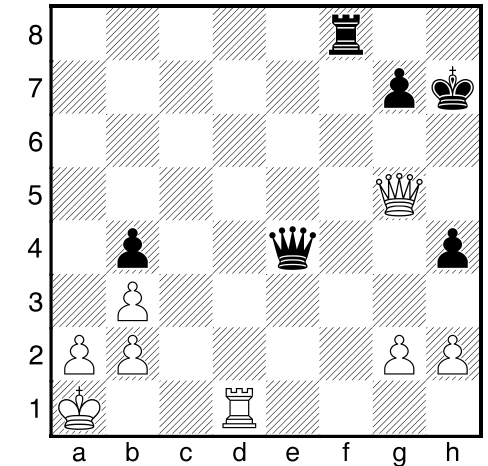
White cashes in. 26. ♖xg5! tortures Black, who has no good moves, by not giving him a forced move.

**26... ♖f7**

26... ♖d8 27. ♖xg5++-.

**27. ♖d5+ ♖g6 28. ♕xd7 ♖xd7****29. ♖e6+ ♖h7 30. ♖xf5+****31. ♖g8 31. ♖d5+- ♖a5!**

32. ♖xa5 ♖xe6 33.d7 ♖e4+  
34. ♖a1 ♕e7 35.d8 ♖+ ♕xd8  
36. ♖xd8+ ♖h7 37. ♖xg5 ♖f8

**38.a4?**

♖38. ♖h5+ ♖g8 39. ♖c5 threatens to trade ♖s and coordinates with the ♖, and 39... ♖xg2 40. ♖c4+ ♖f7 (40... ♖h7 41. ♖xh4+ wins both h and b-pawns.) 41. ♖d8+ ♖h7 42. ♖xh4+ ♖g6 43. ♖d6+- forces off all the pieces.

**38... ♖f5?**

♖38...bxa3 gives much better perpetual chances, for example 39. ♖h5+? ♖g8 40.bxa3 ♖f1!=.

**39. ♖d2 g5 40.h3 ♖g6**

41. ♖e1 ♖f4 42. ♖d3 g4  
43.hxg4 ♖xg4 44. ♖f1 1-0





(136)  
**Sambuev, Bator (2508)**  
**Dukic, Zachary (2399)**

D87  
 RA December Open Ottawa,  
 10.12.2022

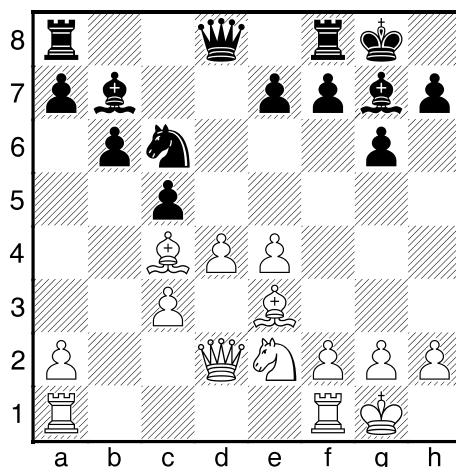
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5  
 4.cxd5 ♘xd5 5.e4 ♘xc3  
 6.bxc3 ♙g7 7.♙c4 c5 8.♘e2  
 ♘c6 9.♙e3 0-0 10.0-0 b6!?

A previously rare but currently popular line in the Grunfeld.

11.♙d2

If 11.dxc5 ♙c7! and Black has loads of compensation playing against White's ragged queenside.

11...♙b7



Here, White typically plays a ♖ to the middle to support the pawns, but Bator risks a sharper line where Black lets White have a serious attack in return for wrecking White's center.

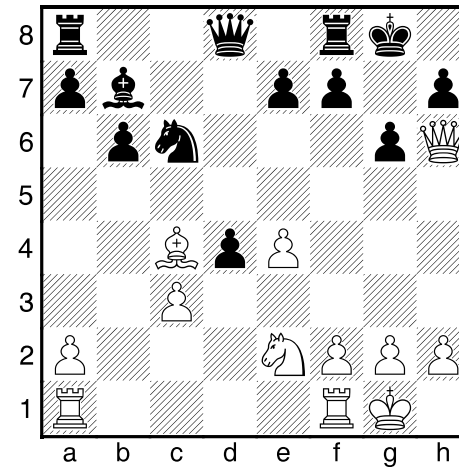
12.♙h6!?

Trading the DSB both weakens Black's kingside and reduces his pressure on the center. The computer doesn't recommend this line, but doesn't rate it much worse than the more usual moves, and humans don't defend nearly as well as computers, so a reasonable practical choice.

12...♙xh6!

Inviting the ♙ to h6 gives White very dangerous attacking chances, but it's the principled move if Black thinks White should have keep his pieces supporting his center pawns.

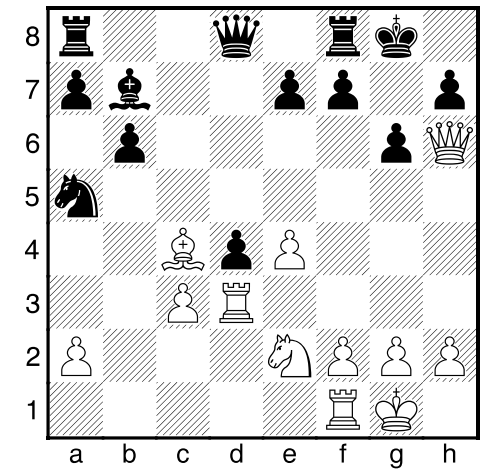
13.♙xh6 cxd4



14.f4

14.♖ad1!? ♘a5? (♙14...♘e5  
 15.♘xd4!∞ if you play this line

you should study this position.)  
 15.♖d3!+- *Analysis Diagram*



Black needs to chuck pieces to avoid mate. Here are some of the unhappy options:

a) 15...♙xe4 16.♖h3 g5

17.♙xg5+ ♔h8 18.♙e5+- wins the ♙ before going back to mate on h7;

b) 15...♙c8!? hoping to take ♖ on h3 and ♙ on c4, but 16.♘xd4! ♙xc4 17.♘f5!+- shows another attacking motif;

c) 15...♙c8 16.♙d5! ♖b8  
 17.♘xd4 (17.♘f4!) 17...e6  
 18.♙b3?? Yipes. Admittedly, it's a blitz game, but a titled player ought to remember the reason he played the ♖ lift and see



GM Bator Sambuev





# Chess Canada Tacticosaurus

that ...e6 blocks the ♔c8 and go 18.♖h3+- 18...♗f6± (0-1, 31) Czerw,D (2386)–Gallego Alcaraz,A (2499) Chess.com Titled Tuesday, 2022.

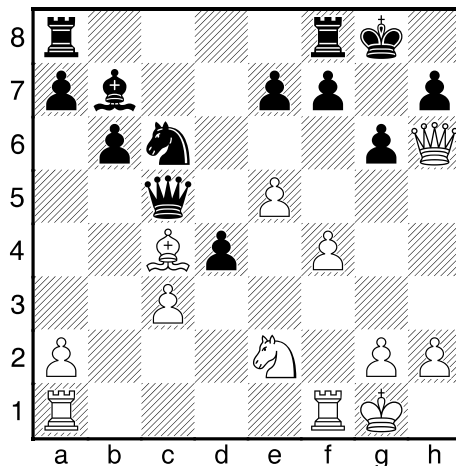
## 14...♗d6!

To scurry over to g7 before White can play ♖f3-h3.

## 15.e5

Gaining time and stopping ♗f5, but opening the long diagonal for the ♔b7 (if Black survives long enough for that to matter).

## 15...♗c5!



## 16.f5?

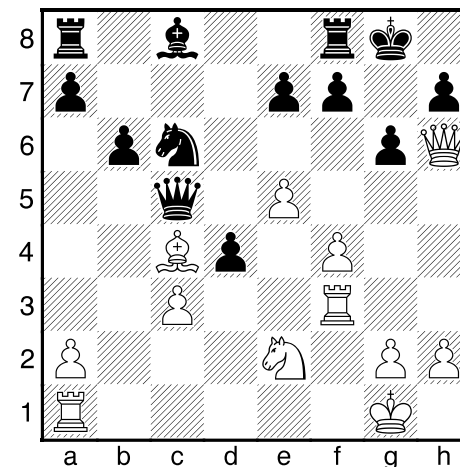
Threatening f6 and mate on g7.

16.cxd4 also fails if Black finds lines where ...♔xg2+ enables

## GM Simon Williams

Black to force off the ♔s with a check; e.g. 16...♗xc4 17.f5 ♖xd4 18.f6 exf6 19.exf6 ♘e6+ (19...♘xe2+! 20.♔h1 ♔xg2+ 21.♔xg2 ♗g4+ 22.♔f2 ♗f4+-) 20.♘f4 ♗d4+ 21.♔h1 ♗xf6 22.♘h5 ♔xg2+! (...♗xa1 wins, but not as cleanly.) 23.♔xg2 ♗g5+-.

We are looking at a Caveman Attack, so who else do we find playing this but **GM Simon Williams**: ♠16.♖f3 ♔c8!  
*Analysis Diagram*



...♔c8 prevents ♖h3 and mate on h7, as we saw in the game above.

17.♘g3? dxc3+? (♠17...♗xc4 18.♘h5 gxh5 19.♖g3+ ♔g4 ♠ 20.♗xh5 ♔h8+- Black can



defend g7 with ...♗g8, and h7 with ...♗d3.) 18.♔h1 ♗xc4 19.f5 ♖xe5 20.♖f4 ♘g4!! It must have been fun to find and play this move! 21.♗xf8+ ♠ (21.♗g5 ♗c6 22.♗xg4 ♔b7+-) 21...♔xf8 22.♖xc4 gxf5 23.♖xc3 ♠ (½-½, 42) **Williams,S (2515)–Melkumyan,H (2649) London, 2012.**

17.♔d3 ♠ dxc3+ 18.♔h1 c2 (18...♔e6? 19.f5!+- interfering with the defence of h3.) 19.e6 (19.f5? ♗xe5 ♠+- and the ♗ saves the game from g7) 19...♔xe6 20.f5 ♔xf5 21.♔xf5 ♠. Given the forcing nature of these lines, the position at move 21 of this line might soon be considered a *tabiya* of the Grunfeld.

police sketch from traumatized eyewitnesses

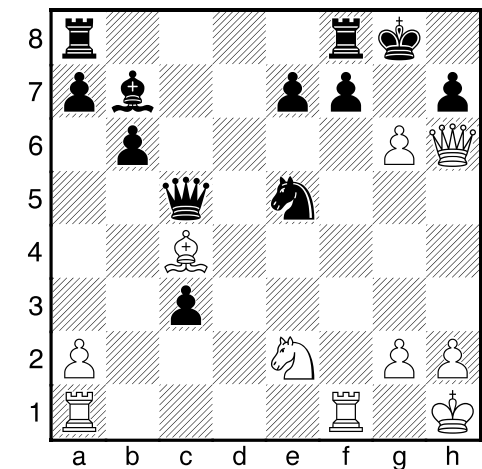
## 16...dxc3+

16...d3+ is also good, and similar to the game after: 17.♔h1 ♘xe5 ♠+- (17...dxe2?? 18.f6+-).

## 17.♔h1 ♘xe5 ♠

Removing White's support for f5-f6 and defending g6.

## 18.fxg6



## 18...hxg6 ♠

18...♘xg6 19.♔xf7+ ♖xf7 20.♖xf7 ♔xf7 21.♗xh7+ ♠ with a wild position where my computer Overlords inform me that White has enough play to draw, but not more; e.g. 21...♔f6 22.♖f1+ ♔g5 23.h4+ ♘xh4 24.♘f4 ♔xg2+! 25.♔h2 ♠= (25.♘xg2?? ♘g6 ♠+-).



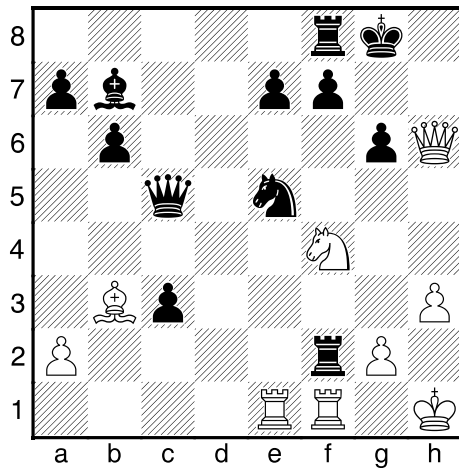
19. ♖b3 ♜ad8 20. ♘f4 ♜d2!

The two ♘s are playing the starring roles in saving their ♔s.

21. ♜ae1

21. ♞xg6?? ♜xg2#.

21... ♜f2?! 22. h3

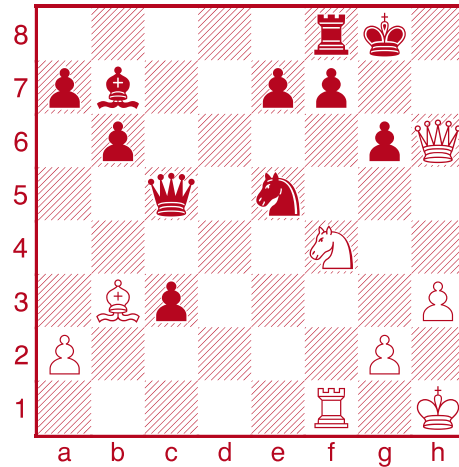


22... ♜xf1+?!

Black is still winning after this, but trading an attacker (which ties the ♘f4 to defending g2) and conceding the f-file greatly reduces the margin for error.

♞22...c2 23. ♞xg6 (23. ♜f2 ♜xf2 24. ♜xe5? c1♔+ #4)  
23... ♜xg2+ ♞-+ 24. ♔h2 ♜xf1+  
25. ♔g3 (25. ♔h1 ♜h2+! #2)  
25... ♜g2+--.

23. ♜xf1



Does Black have anything better than ... ♜d6 or ... ♜c6?

23... ♜d6??

a) Shows some of White's threats: 23... ♜d8?? 24. ♞xg6 ♞xg6 25. ♜xf7#;

b) 23...c2?? 24. ♞e6+-;

c) 23... ♜d4?? allows ♞e6, but also invites 24. ♜xf8+ ♔xf8 25. ♞e6+--;

d) 23... ♜c6? defends g6, hits g2, and supports the c-pawn — all good things, not good enough to win! 24. ♜f2 ♞∞ covering g2 and c2. (24. ♜d5?? ♜b5 ♞25. ♞xg6 (25. ♜xf7+ ♜xf7-+) 25... ♜xf1+ 26. ♔h2 ♜f6 ♞27. ♜xf8+ ♔h7-+) 24... ♜d8 25. ♞h5 ♞gxh5

26. ♜g5+ ♞ ♔f8 (26... ♞g6?  
27. ♜xf7+ ♔h7 ♞∞; 26... ♜g6??  
27. ♜xf7+-) 27. ♜xe5 e6!∞;

e) 23... ♜e3 ♞-+ simply pinning the ♞ to the undefended ♜ stops both ♞xg6 and ♞e6; and without being able to move the ♞ the ♜f1 is also blocked, leaving White only his ♜ and ♞ to make threats. First, there are no perpetuals or deflections: 24. ♜xf7+ ♜xf7 ♞-+, or 24. ♜f3 ♜xf3!-+. Second, if White unpins with 24. ♜h4 there are no more ♜xg6 perpetuals, so Black has a choice of ways to consolidate, including ...e6 or ...♞e4, among other options, e.g. 24...e6 25. ♜e1 ♜d4!-+ simplest (25... ♞f3!?).

Of course, it's anything but easy to find this "simple" defence when you've been calculating dense tactics for 3+ hours...

24. ♞e6 ♞

Ouch. White threatens ♜g7# and if ...fxe6 ♜xg8# exploits the newly created pin on f7.

1-0

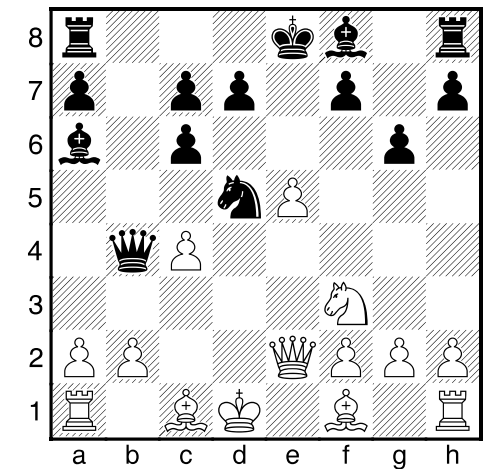
(137)

Han, Johnathan (2250)  
Rodrigue Lemieux, Shawn (2540)

C45

RA December Open Ottawa (3),  
10.12.2022

1. e4 e5 2. ♞f3 ♞c6 3. d4 exd4  
4. ♞xd4 ♞f6 5. ♞xc6 bxc6  
6. e5 ♜e7 7. ♜e2 ♞d5 8. c4  
♞a6 9. ♞d2 g6 10. ♞f3 ♜b4+  
11. ♔d1



11... ♞e7!

This is Black's best-scoring move, but it is almost unmentioned in older opening books since it didn't get played regularly until [Kramnik](#) won with



it in 2017 (below). One point is to get the ♘ to d4.

The older main line goes:

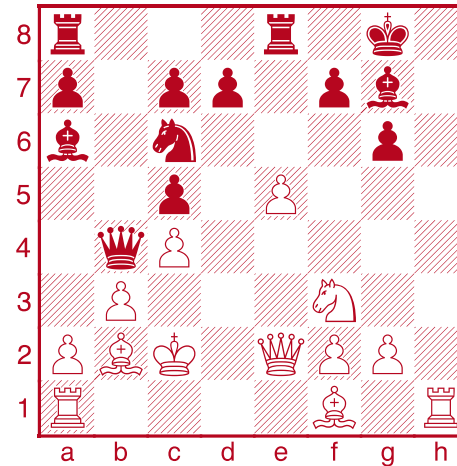
11...♘b6 12.b3 ♘g7 13.♙d2  
♙xd2+ 14.♘xd2 when Black has  
several decent-scoring lines.

## 12.♙c2!?N

White keeps the ♙s on and aims for a kingside attack, which seems like a promising idea, given the weaker dark squares over there and Black's ♘a6 and ♙b4 are not so well placed. White's queen sacs in the variations at move 18 show some of the crazy winning tactics when Black goes ...00. The only question is whether Black can force open the center, when White might regret leaving Black's ♙ on.

12.♙c2 c5! 13.♘d3 ♘g7 14.♖e1  
0-0 15.♙b3 ♘c6 16.♘d2 ♙b6! ♣  
(0-1, 32) [Jones, G \(2668\)–Kramnik, V \(2803\) Isle of Man, 2017.](#)

12...♘g7 13.b3 0-0 14.♘b2  
c5 15.h4 ♖fe8 16.h5 ♘c6  
17.hxg6 hxg6



Black is ready to break in the center with ...d6 or ...d5 and the White ♙ is a target. Should White go ♙e4, or ♘c3, or something else?

## 18.♙e4?!

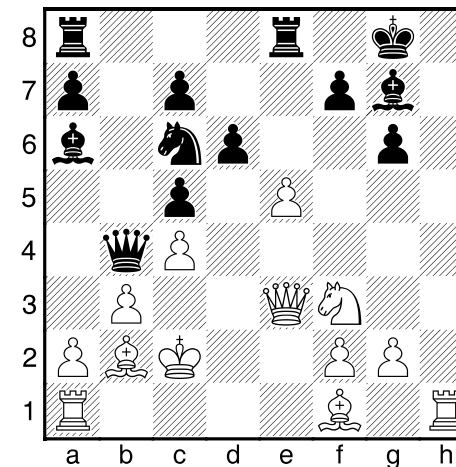
This stops ...d6, which would hang the ♘, but White's c4 pawn is still pinned.

△18.♘c3= ♙a3 19.♘b2 ♙a5  
(Black can't avoid the draw with 19...♘b4+?? 20.♙d1 ♙a5 21.♘g5!+- f6 22.exf6!! ♖xe2 23.♘xe2+-) 20.♘c3= ♘b4+? (20...♙b6 21.♙d2∞) 21.♙b2 ♙b6 (21...d6 22.a3+-) 22.♘g5!+- and ♙f3.

△18.♙e3! prepares to bring the ♙ to the attack (via f4) without

giving Black the tempo he gets after ♙e4. A very hard-to-see point is that Black is not yet ready to break in the center: ...d5 obviously just loses the pawn to cxd5, less obviously ...d6 allows White some tactics to set up a very strong attack: 18...d6? is the critical move — exploiting the pin to break in the center — but it allows White a spectacular sac and a strong attack:

## Analysis Diagram



19.e6!! ♖xe6 (19...fxe6 20.♘g7+-) 20.♘g7! (20.♖h8+?? might work in blitz, hoping for ...♙xh8 ♙h6+ and mate, but 20...♘h8□-+) 20...♙xg7□ (20...♖xe3? 21.♘f6!+- is the big tactic behind e6: Black now has to give back to ♙ on c3 to prevent mate.) 21.♙h6+

♙f6 White has a draw in hand, but should play for more with: 22.♙h4+ ♙g7 23.♘d3 connecting the ♖s and preparing ♙f4 (attacking f7 and defending d2), with threats like ♖h7+ and ♘g5. Black will probably have to bail out with ...♘d4+ as a pawn sac, leaving White with equal material and a strong initiative which SF15 rates as +2.

## 18...d5!!

The c4 pawn is still pinned to the ♙, so 19.cxd5?? ♙xe4+--.

18...♘b7 is worse, since 19.♙f4 gets out of the discovered attack and threatens e5-e6 (trading Black's last kingside defender) while Black is no closer to opening the center.

## 19.♙xd5?

△19.♙h4 dxc4→ 20.♘xc4 ♘xc4 21.♙xc4 ♙xc4+ 22.bxc4 ♘b4+! and Black's initiative should count for something. (22...♘xe5?! lets White escape to a drawable ♖♙ ending.) 23.♙b3 ♘d3♣.

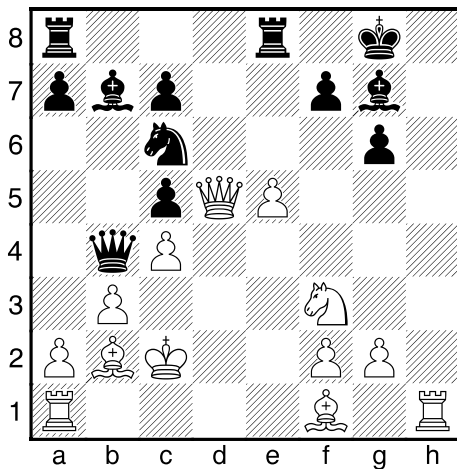
## 19...♘b7♣







# Chess Canada Tacticosaurus



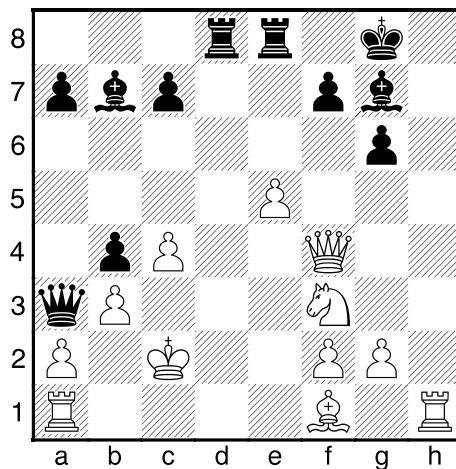
20. ♔c3?!  
20.a3 ♖b6 → (20... ♞d4+??  
21. ♗xd4+-).

20. ♗d3 ♜ad8 21. ♗c3 ♗xc3+  
22. ♕xc3 ♞b4+ and the e-pawn  
falls with Black  
keeping a  
huge lead in  
development.

20. ♗d2 ♗xd2+  
21. ♔xd2 ♜ad8+.

20... ♗a3!-+  
21. ♗d2 ♜ad8  
21... ♞b4+.

22. ♗f4 ♞b4+!  
23. ♕xb4 cxb4



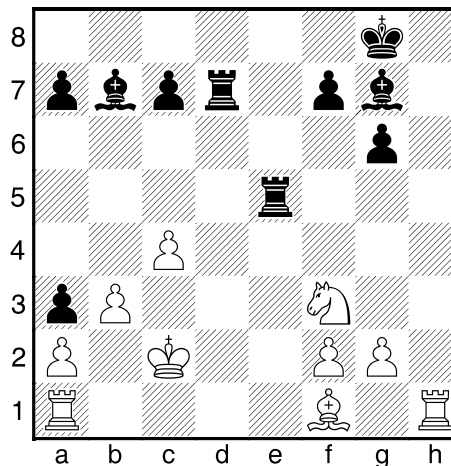
24. ♞g5  
24. ♞h7!? ♔xh7 (24... ♕xf3-+ is  
simpler, and obvious.) 25. ♞g5+  
♔h8 ♖ 26. ♕d3 ♜d7 ♖+.

24... ♜d7 25. ♗c1



25.e6? ♗b2#.

25... ♜xe5 26. ♗xa3 bxa3  
27. ♞f3



Black finds very nice finish.

27... ♕e4+ 28. ♔c1 ♜h5!  
29. ♜xh5  
29. ♜xh5 ♕b2#.

0-1

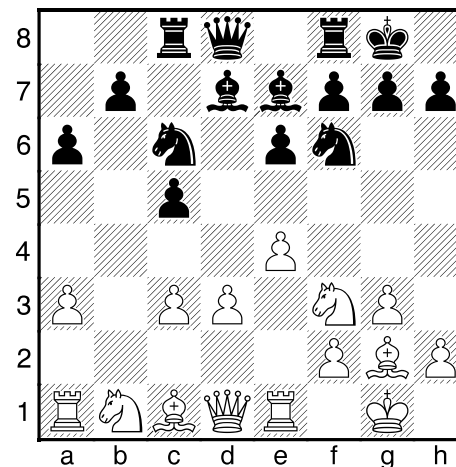
can't win  
'em all?

IM SRL at the 2022 NA  
U20, one of the very  
few 2022 tournaments  
he did not win.

(138)  
Rodrigue Lemieux, Shawn  
(2316)  
Liang, Jason (2500)

B30  
RA December Open Ottawa,  
11.12.2022

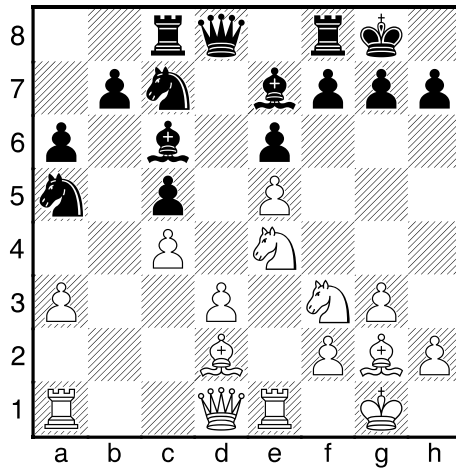
1.e4 c5 2. ♞f3 e6 3.d3 ♞c6  
4.g3 ♞f6 5. ♕g2 d6 6.0-0 ♕e7  
7. ♜e1 0-0 8.c3 ♕d7 9.a3 ♜c8  
10.b4 a6 11.bxc5 dxc5



12.e5! ♞d5  
12... ♞e8 13. ♞bd2 ♞a5 14.c4  
♕c6 15. ♗e2 ♗d7 16. ♕b2  
♜d8 17. ♕c3 b6 18. ♕xa5 bxa5  
19. ♕f1?! (♖19. ♜eb1 ♗xd3  
20. ♗xd3 ♜xd3 21. ♞e1 ♜xd2  
22. ♕xc6±) 19... ♞c7 20. ♜ab1

♞a8± (0-1, 37) Nun,J (2306)–  
Hasangatin,R (2497) Pardubice,  
2018.

13.c4! ♞c7 14.♞c3 ♞a5  
15.♞e4 ♟c6 16.♟d2



16...♞a8

16...♟xe4 17.♞xe4 ♞c6 gives up  
the ♟ pair, but makes better use  
of the ♞s.

17.a4

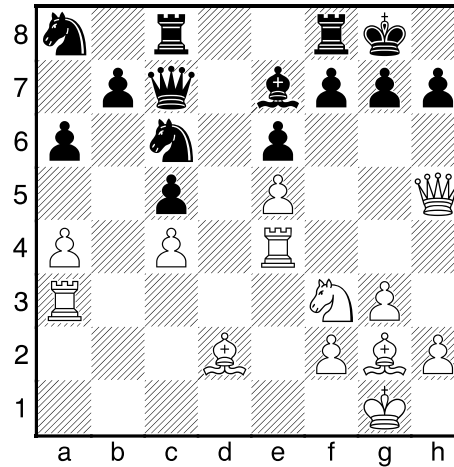
17.♞h4 is Stockfish's Fischer-  
like preference. 17...♟xh4?!  
18.gxh4 ♟xe4 (18...♞xh4??  
19.♟g5+-) 19.♟xe4 ♞c6 20.♞h5  
g6 21.♞g4± with a terrific  
kingside initiative, whether or not  
Black takes on e5.

17...♟xe4

17...♞xd3!? 18.♟f1! ♞d8

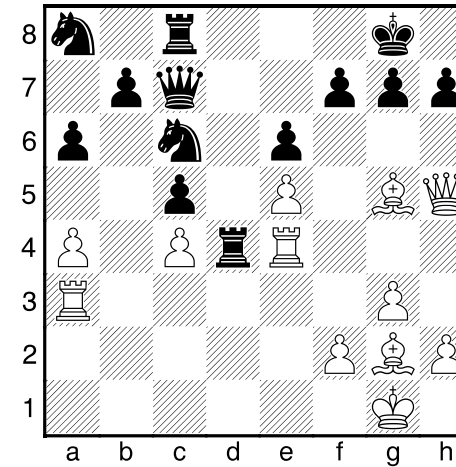
19.♞b1!± White's down a pawn  
but Black still has two ♞s he  
can't move.

18.♞xe4 ♞xd3 19.♞e1 ♞d8  
20.♞a3 ♞c7 21.♞h5 ♞c6  
22.♞f3±



White is  
down a pawn,  
but has a  
lot of pieces  
hovering  
around  
Black's ♞,  
and that ♞a8  
is no bargain.  
The next few  
variations  
show some of  
White's sac  
opportunities.

22...♞fd8 23.♞g5 ♟xg5  
24.♟xg5 ♞d4!



25.♞xd4?!

The passed d-pawn gives Black  
game-saving tactics in many  
lines. White doesn't mind ...♞xe4  
since ♟xe4 adds to the attack, so

an alternative — the computer's  
top choice crazily hard for a  
human to even consider when so  
focused on kingside tactics — is  
to improve the queenside just a  
little with ♞b3 or a5; e.g. 25.a5!?  
♞xe4 (25...♞xe5? 26.♟f4□+;-;  
25...♞xa5? 26.♟f6+-) 26.♟xe4  
g6 (26...♞xe5?? 27.♞xh7+ ♞f8  
28.♞h8#) 27.♞h4 ♞xe5 28.♟f6  
(28.♞f3→) 28...♞h5□ 29.♞f4±.

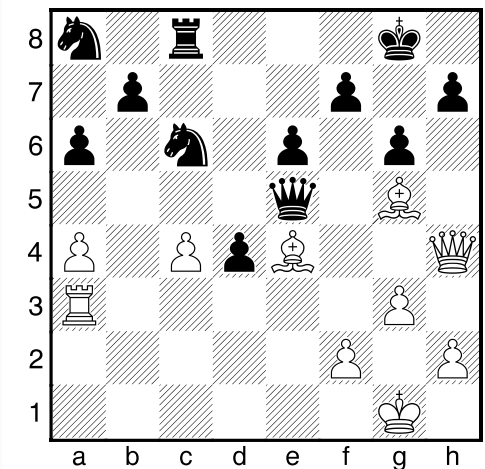
25...cxd4

25...♞xd4 26.♟f6!?! gxh6  
27.exf6∞.

26.♟e4

26.♟f6!?! ♞e7! 27.g4!∞.

26...g6 27.♞h4 ♞xe5



28.♟xc6 bxc6 29.♟f6 ♞d6  
29...♞f5! 30.♞g2 (30.g4 ♞b1+

2022 Canadian Open

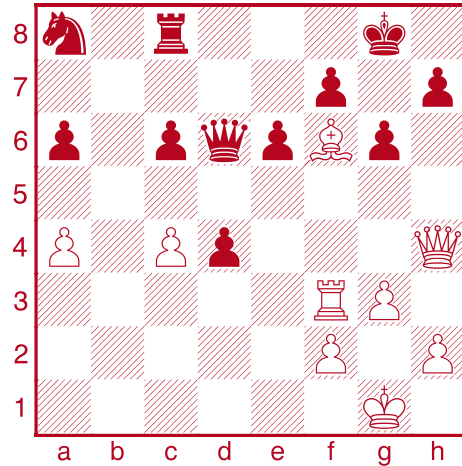
IM Jason Liang





31. ♔g2 ♕e4+ 32. ♖f3 h5∞) 30...  
d3 31. ♖xd3 ♕xd3 32. ♗h6 ♕e4+  
33. ♔g1 ♕e1+=.

30. ♖f3



White has a lot of pressure on Black's kingside dark squares, but Black has two more pawns and one of them is a passed pawn. Should Black go ...d3 or ...♘c7 or ...e5 or ...c5?

30...e5??

a) 30...c5?? loses the same way as ...e5.

b) 30...♘c7?? aiming for e8 is too slow: 31.g4!+-.

c) 30...d3∞ concedes the d-pawn (if White wants it) but is the only way to counter White's

crushing attack. Here are three options after 30...d3:

**c1)** White can take d3 immediately, deflecting the ♕ from the kingside dark squares, but Black has a perp: 31. ♖xd3 ♕xd3 32. ♗h6 ♕b1+∞ 33. ♔g2 ♕e4+ 34. f3 ♕c2+=;

**c2)** 31. ♗h6 forces Black to undefend the d-pawn. 31...♖f8 32. ♕xf8+ (32. ♕f4!? ♘b6 33. ♖xd3 ♘xa4 feels like a three-result game, but the computer prefers White.) 32...♔xf8 33.a5!= White wins the d-pawn and the d-file gives White enough comp;

**c3)** 31.g4!? leads to a long string of only moves from both sides: 31...h5∞ 32. ♗g5∞ (32. gxh5? d2-+ 33.hxg6 d1♕+ 34. ♔g2 ♕xf3+∞ 35. ♔xf3 ♕d3+ and either ...♕xg6+ or ...♕xc4+ wins.) 32...d2 33. ♗h6 d1♕+∞ 34. ♔g2 ♕xf3+∞ 35. ♔xf3 ♕d1+ 36. ♔g2∞ ♕xg4+= with a perpetual.

31.g4∞+-

Black must have missed this. White threatens ♕xh7+, ♖h3-♖h8#, and the only way to avoid

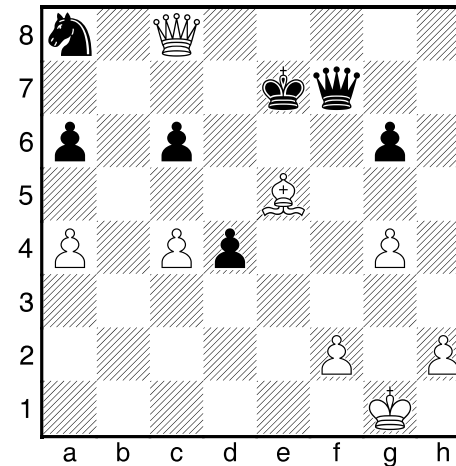
mate is for the ♔ to run while shedding pawns to the attackers.

31...♔f8! 32. ♕xh7 ♔e8

33. ♕xe5! ♕e6

33...♕xe5 34. ♖xf7 will mate.

34. ♕g8+ ♔e7 35. ♖xf7+ ♕xf7  
36. ♕xc8



36...d3

36...♕xc4 37. ♕xa8 d3 38. ♕a7+ ♔e6 39. ♕e3 ♕xg4+ 40. ♕g3++-.

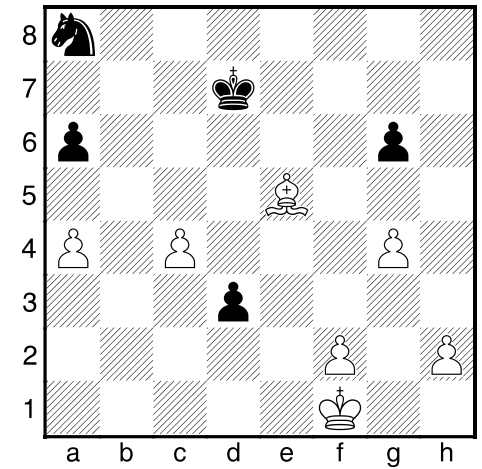
37. ♕xc6 ♕e6 38. ♕b7+!

Exchanging on d7 leaves the black King further back.

38...♕d7 39. ♕xd7+

39. ♕xa8 d2-+.

39...♔xd7 40. ♔f1+-



Now White is up two pawns, has the d3 passer under control, and can create an outside passer on the kingside.

40...♘b6 41.c5!

41.a5?! ♘xc4 42. ♕c3 g5 is winning too, but more trouble than necessary.

41...♘xa4 42. ♕d4 ♔c6 43.h4 ♔d5 44. ♕e3 ♘c3 45.h5 gxh5 46.gxh5 ♘e4 47.h6 ♘f6 48. ♔e1 a5 49. ♔d2 ♔c4 50.c6 ♘e4+ 51. ♔c1

1-0

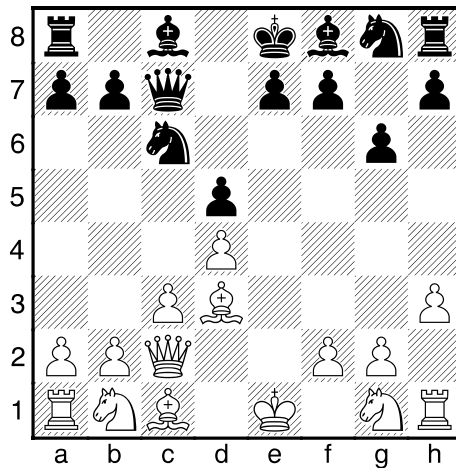


(139)

Rodrigue Lemieux, Shawn  
(2316)

Jaferian, Koosha (2351)

B13

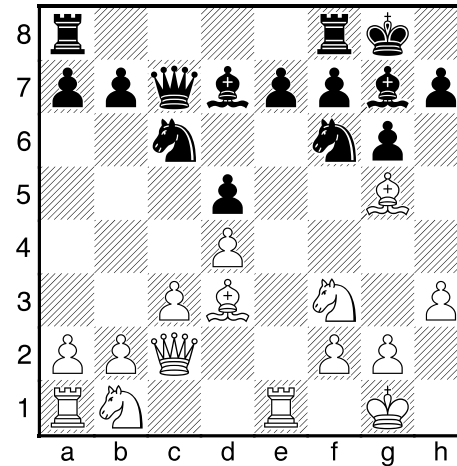
RA December Open Ottawa (4),  
11.12.20221.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5  
4.♔d3 ♘c6 5.c3 ♚c7 6.h3 g6  
7.♚c2

7...♔g7

7...f6!, aiming for ...e5, looks like the kind of mistake that leads to quick checkmates from old instructional books; but has been played successfully by GMs Lenderman and Howell, who beat Aronian with it in a serious

game.

After Black's more normal moves (♔g7, ♘f6, 00) he has trouble generating any play.

8.♘f3 ♘f6 9.0-0 0-0 10.♖e1  
♔d7 11.♔g5

11...♖fc8

Threatens ...♘b4, trading the ♘ for the ♔d3. Using this rook makes some sense if Black is going to play a minority attack by pushing the a- and b-pawns; using the other ♖ makes more sense if Black plans to go for ...f6 and ...e5.

11...e6 12.♘bd2 ♖fc8 13.♚c1  
♔e8 14.♘f1 ♘a5 15.♘1h2  
♘c4 16.♔xf6!? ♔xf6 17.g4! b5  
18.g5! ♔g7 19.♘g4± with a

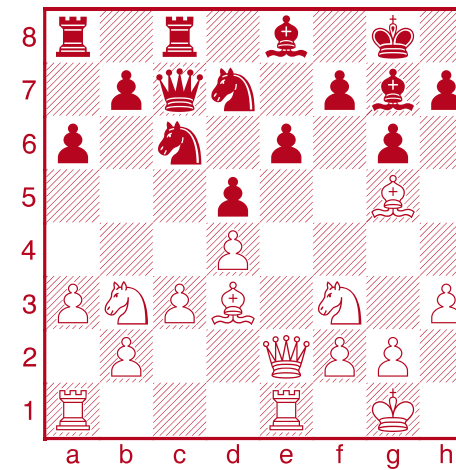
huge initiative against the dark squares; (1-0, 40) Koykka,P (2399)–Ronka,E (2270) Helsinki, 2019.

11...♖ae8 12.♘a3!? h6 13.♔xf6  
(13.♔h4?! going for ♔g3 fails to  
13...♘h5!± covering g3, enabling  
...e5, and possibly going ...♘f4.)  
13...♔xf6 14.♚d2 ♘g7 15.♘c2∞  
(½-½, 55) Nihal,S (2646)–  
Niemann,H (2656) Jermuk,  
2022.

12.a3

Stops ...♘b4 and also useful vs a minority attack.

12...a6 13.♘bd2 e6 14.♘b3  
♔e8 15.♚e2 ♘d7



Black would like to play ...f6, then ...♔f7 when he might

centralize his ♖s and push in the center. What are the tactics after, say 16.♖ad1 f6 17.♚xe6+?

16.h4

This natural move is also tricky, since it does more than just begin to pry apart the fianchetto.

After something like 16.♖ad1 f6 17.♚xe6+!? the tactics are mostly only moves: (17.♔c1 ♔f7=) 17...♔f7□ with a double attack on ♚e6 and ♔g5; but White escapes with 18.♔f4□ ♘ce5! defending ♚c7 and trapping the ♚e6, but... (18...♚xf4? 19.♚xd7± with an extra pawn and targets.) 19.♚g4□ escapes to a defended square and exploits the pin on the ♘e5 19...♘xg4 (19...h5? 20.♚g3+-) 20.♔xc7 ♘xf2=.

16...f6?

Surprisingly, White's pawn move on the h-file turns the tactics in the center of the board upside-down, and this is now a clear mistake.

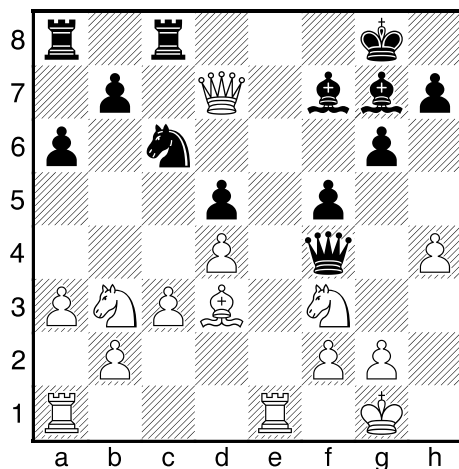
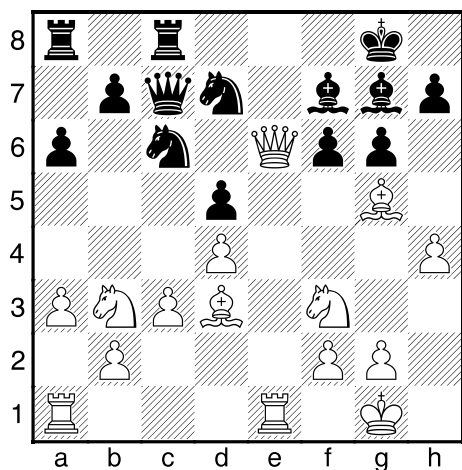
♘16...e5± 17.dxe5 ♘cxe5! (so the other ♘ can go to c5 or f6) Black has an IQP, but White's ♘s





are not well placed to attack it.

17. ♔xe6+! ♕f7



Trying to trap the ♔ with ...♖c7.



20. ♖c5!

20. ♔xb7? ♖ab8 21. ♔xa6 ♖a8= as White would have to give the ♖b3 to escape the perpetual on the ♔.

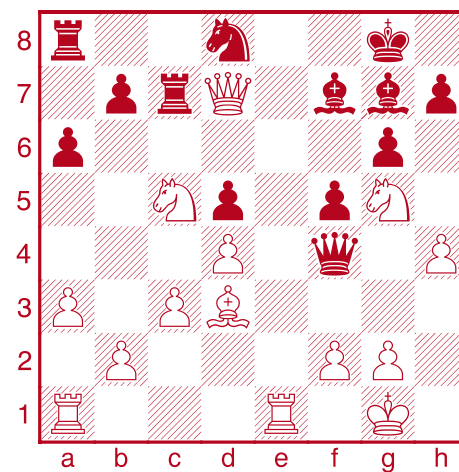
20... ♖d8

20... ♖c7 21. ♖e6+- would be the second time White saved the attacked ♔ by making a counterattack with a minor.

21. ♖g5

21. ♖e7 ♕f8 22. ♖ae1!+-.

21... ♖c7



Find something better than ♔a4.

22. ♖e8+!

22. ♔e8+!? is show-off, 22... ♕xe8 (22... ♕f8 23. ♖xf7 ♖xf7 24. ♕c2+- not only is Black

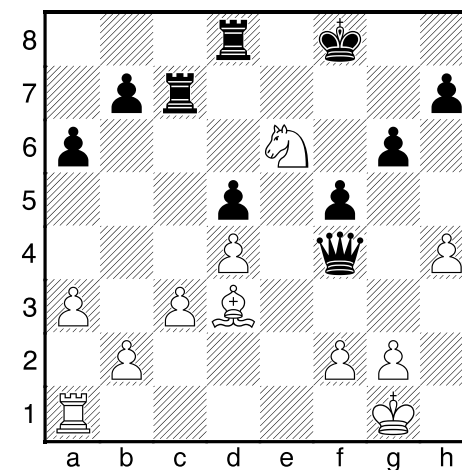
badly tangled, White threatens ♕b3xd5.) 23. ♖xe8+ ♕f8 24. ♖xf8+ ♔xf8 25. ♖ce6+-.

22... ♕f8

22... ♕xe8 23. ♔xe8+ ♕f8 24. ♔xf8+! wins with the same fork as in the game.

23. ♖xf8+! ♔xf8 24. ♔xd8+ or 24. ♔xf7+.

24... ♖xd8 25. ♖ce6+ ♕xe6 26. ♖xe6+



Yep, got 'em all!

26... ♔f7 27. ♖xf4 ♖d6 28. ♖e1 h6 29. ♖e5 ♖cd7 30. ♖xd5!

Capturing loses a whole piece after ♕c4.

1-0



# Chess Canada Tacticosaurus

White has two hanging pieces, but...

18. ♕f4□

saves them both with a deflection.

18... ♔xf4

The difference made by 16.h4 is that after 18... ♖ce5 White can save the ♔ with 19. ♔h3! and now 19... ♖xf3+ 20. ♔xf3 ♖b6 21. ♕c2+- and White is up a clear pawn with a better structure and more active ♕s.

19. ♔xd7 f5!?

**Koosha Jaferian**  
2022 Toronto Norm

Names	Games	Names	Games	Names	Games	Names	Games	Names	Games
Abrahams	D 99	Dorrance	A 117	Jaferian	K 139	Pace	C 51	Song	T 48
Ajith	A 102	Dougherty	M 30	Juhasz	A 128	Pacey	K 19, 35	Southam	T 24
Allan	D 10	Dukic	Z 118, 129, 136	Jung	H 51	Panchanathan	M 129	Spencer	RJ 1
Anderson	F 5, 6	Dulanto	A 2	Kanarek	M 99	Panjwani	R 105	Spraggett	K 29, 37
Bacallao	Y 108	Duong	TN 34	Kazmaier	D 52	Pantazi	E 67	Starr	N 54
Baragar	F 28	Fallowfield	J 87	Keres	P 11, 15, 16	Papneja	A 102	Stearman	JP 134
Barrios	F 43	Fier	A 63	Kleinman	M 88, 96	Patty	J 6	Suttles	D 12
Barron	M 112	Findlay	I 65	Knox	C 50	Pavlidou	E 38	Tan	K 78
BarryAllenFlash	107	<b>Fischer</b>	<b>RJ 10</b>	Koliada	T 26	Peng	J 48	Tapp	A 53
Baylon	G 114	<b>Flohr</b>	<b>S 3</b>	Kourkounakis	I 20	Perez	LM 127	Tarjan	J 70
Beaulieu	E 81	Foisor	O 24	Kovalyov	A 59	Petersen	C 94	Teplitsky	Y 36
Bengherabi	K 104	Friedel	J 42	Krylov	S 29	Piassetski	L 15, 17, 67, 103, 104	Thavandiran	S 49, 73
Berry	J 21	Fuster	G 9, 13, 20	Kumar	N 86	Plotkin	M 107, 120	Theodorovich	I 8
Biyasas	P 14	Gamarra	C 17	LeSiege	A 81, 82, 90	Ponomarchuk	A 53	Tolentino	PA 135
Blomqvist	E 96	Ganguly	SS 68	Leveille	F 23	Popilski	G 72	Tonakanian	S 45
Bluvshstein	M 29	Gedajlovic	M 131	Liang	J 138	Poulin	M 85	Tuxanidy Torres	A 44
Bosiocic	M 132	Giblon	R 71	Lu	S 83	Preissmann	E 18	Upper	J 40, 41, 44, 89, 98
Botez	AI 119	Goldenberg	D 31	Lyell	M 57	Preotu	R 72, 82, 86, 93	Valdizon	A 77
Braga	F 22	Gordon	D 76, 77, 140	MacKean	P 16	Pujari	R 73	Van der Laet	J 12
Brown	G 19	Groleau	G 41	MacKinnon	K 113	Qin	ZY 50	Vigorito	D 88
Cao	C 71	Guipi Bopala	PE 101	Macskay	E 9	Ramenaden	M 40	Voloaca	M 35
Cao	J 63	Haessel	D 65	<b>Mamedyarov</b>	<b>S 121</b>	<b>Rodrigue-Lemieux</b>	<b>S 112, 113, 128, 132, 137, 138, 139, 140</b>	Vovk	A 95
<b>Capablanca</b>	<b>JR 1</b>	Hakobyan	A 110	Marcone	M 62	Royset	P 103	Wang	C 75
<b>Carlsen</b>	<b>M 111, 122</b>	<b>Hambleton</b>	<b>A 42, 79, 91, 95, 97, 106</b>	Marineau	R 32	Ruchinskaya	V 124	Wang	R 52, 68
Charbonneau	P 32	Hamilton	R 46	Martinez	A 80	Saha	A 62, 101	Witt	L 8
Chen	Ra 124	Han	J 137	Matras-Clement	A 58, 75, 78	<b>Sambuev</b>	<b>B 61, 76, 85, 98, 108, 118, 127, 130, 136</b>	Xu	D 130
Chen	Ri 60	<b>Hansen</b>	<b>E 83, 110, 111, 121, 122, 123, 125, 126</b>	Matsytsyn	V 47	Samsonkin	A 100	Yang	K 123
Cheng	B 55	Harmon	C 33	McKay	R 14	Sapozhnikov	R 55	<b>Yanofsky</b>	<b>DA 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 11</b>
Chiku-Ratte	OK 97, 115	Hebert	J 26, 31	Mendoza	AJ 135	Schwabender	F 109	Yao	S 61
Chirila	IC 49	Hergott	D 69	Montes Orozco	MA 133	Sethuraman	SP 66	Yilmaz	M 126
Clyde	J 120	Hirschberg	V 64	Muzychuk	A 105	Sethuraman	Sa 131	Yoos	J 34, 43
Cummings	D 57	Hoover	W 4	<b>Muzychuk</b>	<b>M 56</b>	Shankland	S 58	Yuan	Y 38, 46, 56
D'Souza	C 119	Hua	E 54, 84, 133, 134	Nehmert	U 69	Shevchenko	K 60	Zhang	Y 117
Day	L 18, 22, 25	Issani	N 84	Nickoloff	B 25, 27, 28, 36	Shimanov	A 79	Zhou	Q 47, 74, 80, 87, 89
Deac	B 125	Itkin	D 92, 93	Nicula	M 115	<b>Shirov</b>	<b>A 27, 39, 66</b>	Zugic	I 30
Demchenko	S 74, 116	Ivanisevic	I 37	Noritsyn	N 90, 100	Smolij	J 7		
Dobrich	V 13	Ivanov	II 21, 23	O'Donnell	T 33	Song	M 45		
Doknjas	Jn 94	Jacobson	A 59	Ouellet	MJ 114, 116				
				Oussedik	E 91, 92				