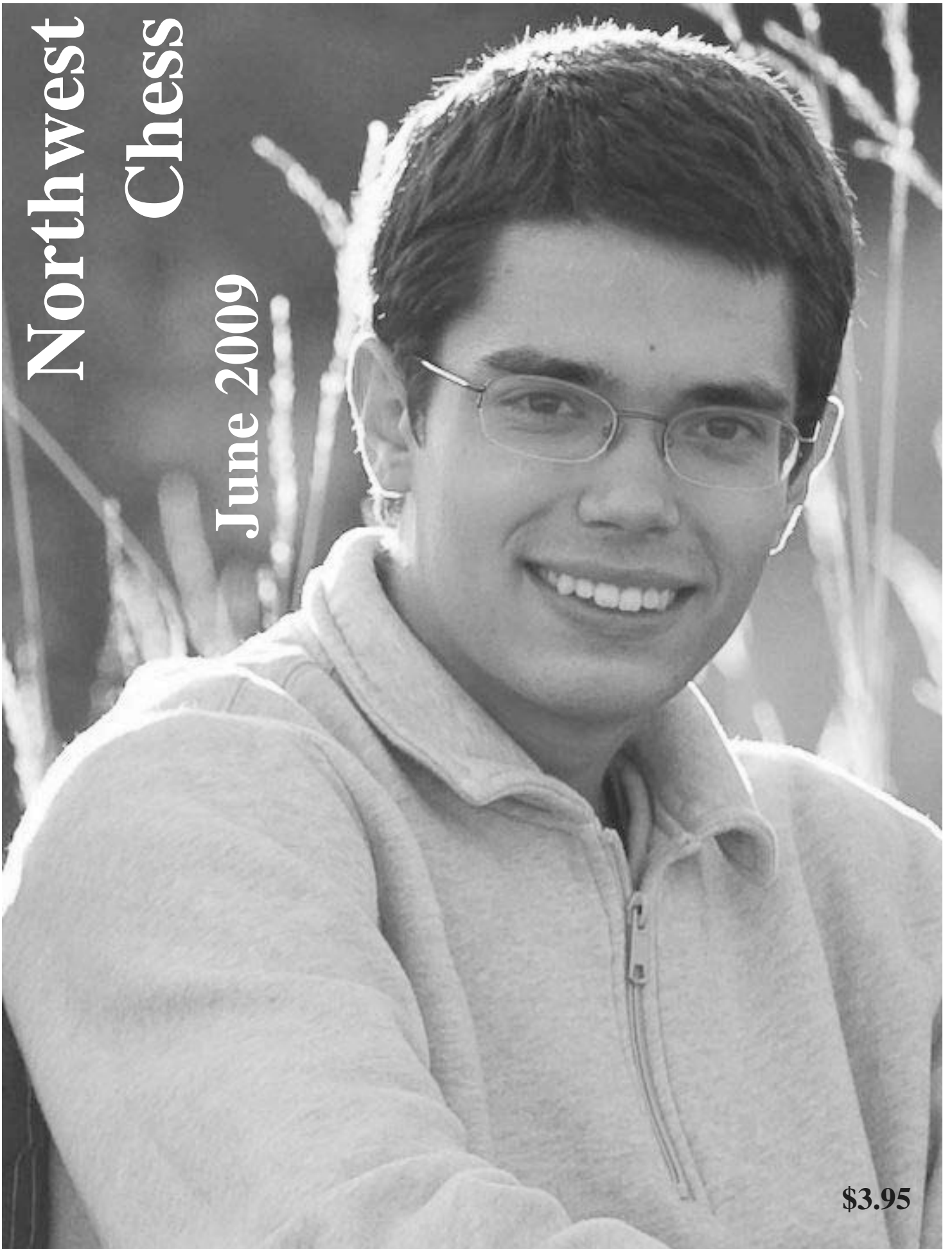


Northwest Chess

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Theoretically Speaking by Bill McGeary

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I've been planning to start a column of book reviews by IM Donaldson. I'm not sure exactly what I was waiting for, since book reviews are popular, John Donaldson is an excellent reviewer, and (perhaps best of all from my perspective) there's very little work required by the editor. The problem seems to be that I tend to fill up the magazine space with games and such. So this month I filled the magazine and had only one page left – the traditional editorial page here. So being a self-sacrificing type (and also lacking much in the way of editorial content to share), I thought this would be an opportunity to get the book reviews started.

So the one big editorial requirement to get out of the way first is Rusty Miller's encouragement to all qualified US Chess members to vote in the governing board elections. You should have your ballots by now. I suggest that you do some research first, then vote. VOTE. Really. Now on to the book reviews.

– Ralph Dubisch

I have seen black panthers and black leopards but I had never heard of a black lion.

That is until **The Black Lion** (New in Chess 2008, www.newinchess.com, 280 pages, paperback, figurine algebraic, \$27.95) appeared in my mail box. The second edition (fully revised and edited) of Jerry Van Rekom and Leo Jansen's bible to the darker version of panthera leo is devoted to playing an aggressive version of the Philidor. Black's problem in the Philidor proper is how to find a way to safely reach the tabiya at move five. The traditional move order, 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nf6, allows White to gain an advantage by 4.dxe5 Nxe4 5.Qd5. To circumvent this Van Rekom and Jansen propose two alternatives. The Lion's Den commences with 3...Nbd7 and the Lion's Yawn with 3. ...e5. The latter is well-known and tested in many GM games, the former the property of Leo Jansen. The authors spend much time trying to prove the viability of Black's setup after 3. ...Nbd7 4. f4., which must be the critical test.

Besides extensively analyzing 1. e4 d6 2. d4 Nf6 3. Nc3 e5 4. dxe5 and 3. ...Nbd7 4. f4, much attention is focused on the important Philidor sidelines arising after 3. ...Nbd7 4. Nf3 e5 5. Bc4 Be7 and now 6. Bxf7+, 6. dxe5 and 6. Ng5 followed by 7. Bxf7+. Though these lines do not occur as frequently as 6. 0-0 they are essential to know for anyone who wants to play the Philidor. Jansen and Van Rekom suggest that after 6. 0-0 Black play 6. ...h6 in the style of Major Hanham intending ...Nf8, ...g5 and ...Ng6 but deferring these committal moves until after ...c6 and ...Qc7 have been played.

The subtitle of **The Black Lion** is "The Chess Predator's Choice Against Both 1. e4 and 1. d4." This may be so (perhaps an Old Indian against the latter or 1. d4 d6 2. c4 e5!), but the prospective purchaser of this volume should understand that this book is about 1. e4 d6 2. d4 and not 1. d4 d6 2. c4.

The Black Lion is aimed at aggressive players from 1600-2200 who like to go their own way and don't want to have to learn tons of theory.

I Never Met A Book... IM John Donaldson



John Nunn's Chess Puzzle Book

Chess training is unlike that for other sports. Want to be a better runner? Not a problem. You will find detailed guides that explain exactly the sort of workouts you should do tailored to your current fitness. Such is not the case with chess. There has been a deluge of "improvement" books that have hit the market the past decade but while many of them are quite worthwhile none of them are as systematic as the guides to running a better 10 K – not even close. Fortunately there is one area of chess training that everyone agrees is both important and helpful for all.

The study of tactics is useful from many perspectives. Solving exercises improves ones tactical ability, increases calculating skills and broadens ones perspective on how pieces interact with each other. Players from club level to grandmaster unquestionably benefit from a daily regimen of 30 minutes to one hour of tactical training.

A new edition of **John Nunn's Chess Puzzle Book** (Gambit 2009, www.gambitbooks.com), 336 pages, paperback, figurine algebraic, and \$24.95) meets all the criteria one is looking for in a good tactics book. It features 300 well chosen examples, accurate and complete solutions and clear diagrams to solve from. One nice extra touch, which accounts for most of the additional size for the present edition, is including small diagrams by each solution which are given at the back of the book. This avoids two problems that many tactical exercise books suffer from – the tendency to look too quickly for the solution if it is on the following page or the need to flip back and forth between the front and back of the book to compare the exercise and solution. One other nice feature is the hints that offer a transition stage between trying to solve the exercise and giving up.

Tactics solvers who like their exercises arranged by theme (think **Encyclopedia of Middlegame Combinations**) will find **John Nunn's Chess Puzzle Book** a change of pace as the exercises are arranged by difficulty. Nunn also offers readers a chance to keep track of their scores and compare the results with others. I found the greatest difference between the present work and many others of its kind to be the author's direct involvement. This is a book of tactical exercises and positions to solve. Accordingly solutions make up the bulk of **John Nunn's Chess Puzzle Book**. That said there is still a great deal of prose by Dr. Nunn which both adds to the book's educational value and also entertains the reader.

Highly Recommended

Landon Brownell 1989-2009

by
Roger
Brownell



I was asked by Ralph Dubisch if there was someone who knew Landon Brownell (November 20, 1989-April 21, 2009) that could write a tribute to him for *Northwest Chess*. I told Ralph I couldn't think of anyone who knew him better than I did, or loved him greater, and it would be an honor to share with *Northwest Chess* readers some of his story.

Those who have computers can Google his name, and find some of the details of his life, his USCF National High School Chess Championship in 2006, or his 6 time consecutive Oregon State Scholastic Championships (beginning the first year he learned to play chess), or his National Go Championship (and 1st place in the US Go Open at 6 Dan level in 2007.) He held National Individuals titles in both Chess and Go at the same time. You might learn of his unicycle skills as the top rider in the Corvallis Unicycle Hockey team. Or, that he skipped college and went directly to law school, earning the top grade in his class at the Oak Brook College of Law.

But, you would learn these things not from him, but from others. He was the most humble, yet accomplished, most talented, yet gracious person I have had the pleasure to love. A co-worker at a law firm he worked at wrote, "Landon shared an office with me here in Bakersfield, CA. We talked about many different things during the three months that I spent with him; but the great thing about Landon was that he never ever would brag about his chess abilities; or any of his many talents. I found out he was a chess master the day he passed away."

You might even find him reciting pi to 500 places at his Facebook page. Whatever he put his mind to, and it was a wonderful mind, he accomplished with grace and joy. A chess coach of his, Robby Adamson, shared with me this week that Landon never gave a thought to protecting his USCF rating. He played because he loved the game and the challenge, and even in defeat, he took losses in stride. However, there have been many players, both in Go and in chess, that were certain they had the better of him during a game, only to find themselves the recipient of a "Landon Mate" or an endgame tesuji that he was famous for.

But, there were qualities of his life that never would be found on the 'net. These were his internal values, his sense of right



and wrong, of his love of his creator, and his quiet and gentle response in every situation. I was a stay-at-home dad, and Landon has home schooled, never having set foot in a classroom other than meeting for chess or juggling or ping pong at the schools he lived near. I was truly blessed with more than a lifetime of closeness to him. I and his brothers and sisters can never recall Landon losing his temper, and from early childhood he was sensitive, kind, gentle, and peace loving. He spent each morning reading a section of the Bible, and lived out his faith in love.

He started his life just as efficiently as he mastered any activity. His labor delivery was so quick that the entire bill from the hospital was less than \$500.00! We were home in less than four hours from entering the hospital.

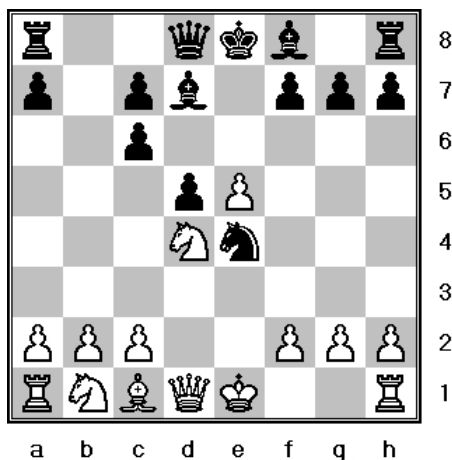
He was the only unicycle rider in the Corvallis club that had perfected the "glide", where both feet come off the pedals at the same time. Learning unicycle tricks takes a lot of practice, and he made impressions on even those that never spoke to him, but only observed him. A woman who lived down the street from his home in Bakersfield only saw him through her kitchen window as he practiced, and was overcome to hear of his death.

Perhaps in the telling of Landon's life, it will come to pass as his older brother Jonathan spoke of at his memorial service, that the double question marks will be removed from his untimely death, and replaced by exclamation marks!

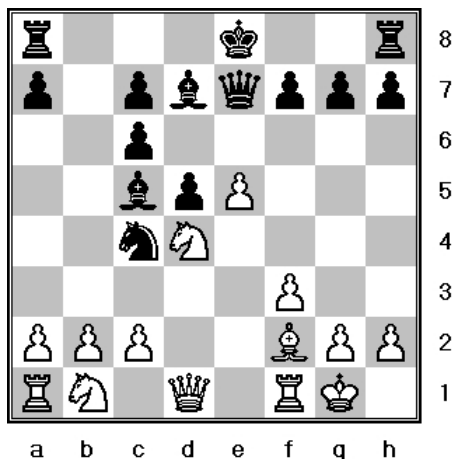
Thank you, Ralph, for this opportunity. I spoke at his service, as did his brother and sister, and it is an honor to be able to hold Landon's light high.

Landon Brownell – Alex Lenderman
National High School Championships
Nashville, Tennessee, April 2005

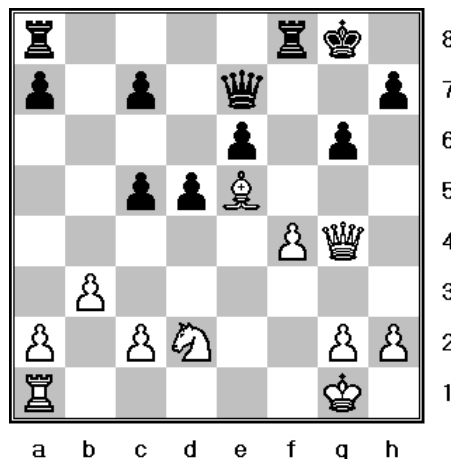
1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 exd4 4. Bc4 Nf6 5. e5 d5 6. Bb5 Ne4 7. Nxd4 Bd7 8. Bxc6 bxc6



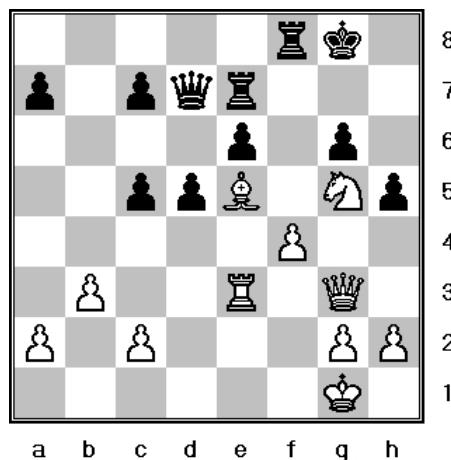
9. 0-0 Bc5 10. Be3 Qe7 11. f3 Nd6 12. Bf2 Nc4



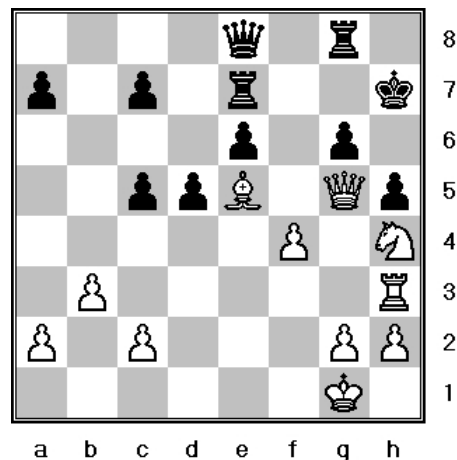
13. b3 Nxe5 14. f4 Ng4 15. Re1 Be6 16. Rxe6 fxe6 17. Qxg4 Bxd4 18. Bxd4 0-0 19. Nd2 c5 20. Be5 g6



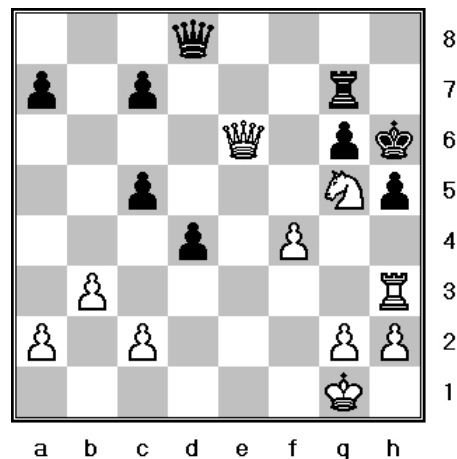
21. Nf3 Rae8 22. Re1 Qf7 23. Ng5 Qd7 24. Re3 h5 25. Qg3 Re7



26. Nf3 Qe8 27. Nh4 Kh7 28. Qg5 Rg8 29. Rh3



29. ...Rgg7 30. Bxg7 Rxd7 31. Qe5 Kg8 32. Re3 Qd8 33. Qxe6+ Kh7 34. Nf3 d4 35. Ng5+ Kh6 36. Rh3



36. ...Qd7 37. Qxd7 Rxd7 38. Rd3 Re7 39. Kf2 1-0

At 3:13 AM on April 21st, I received a call asking if “Roger or Helen Brownell” were there. Since Helen had died of cancer two years ago, I thought it was odd they would be asking about my wife. I said, “This is Roger.”

The voice on the other end was the Kern County Coroner. “I am so sorry to have to tell you this, but your son Landon had an accident and died at the hospital. I found your name and number on a slip of paper in his wallet.”

There is nothing that compares to receiving a phone call like that. Landon had flown back to California after serving as best man to his brother Bryant’s wedding two days earlier. I hugged him when I left him at the Portland airport, and told him I loved him, and he told me he loved me. At 8:55 PM, his cell phone records showed that I was the last one he had talked with; he had called to say that he had landed and was driving home. His accident occurred just 10 minutes from his destination.

Calling his brothers – waking them up to tell them the news – and waking his sisters here at home, was the hardest thing I have ever had to do. There was complete emptiness at that moment. But, God does not leave us in that emptiness. The week before I was next to Landon in church as we sang a song that ended, “Jesus conquered the grave.” If we only give lip service to our faith, what good is that? I know where Landon is, and in that knowledge I have all the strength I need. Another lyric we sang was, “I am trading my pain for the joy of the Lord.”

May those that love Landon and admire him know that his life was for a purpose. That is my joy and comfort.

Victoria Chess Festival

Part One by Richard Golden

The Victoria Chess Festival took place at the five-star Grand Pacific Hotel in Victoria, B.C., from 10-13 April. The hotel is truly excellent, and a bargain for us state-side travelers. I did not stay there, however. My wife and I sailed in on our own boat. I asked the customs guy when I cleared if there was anyone else who came by boat to the tournament. He said that I was "it".

There was plenty of chess for everyone's taste beginning with scholastic, bughouse, speed chess, and finally the Grand Pacific Open. The open attracted 76 players in two sections – open and reserve. The division of the sections was interesting because the open section was for 1400 players on up. This put us lower rated "fish" at a bit of a disadvantage since we would be constantly playing up. The time controls were Game/90 plus a 30 second increment per move. I'm a somewhat older guy who runs at only 2 speeds – slow and stop. I found myself in time trouble in most of my games.

An interesting side bar is that people kept mistaking me for the titled player, Lawrence Day. We do look sort of alike since we both have long white hair and beards. At the beginning of the tournament the higher rated

players were introduced, and the director pointed at me and said, "Lawrence Day FIDE 2322". I waved my hands and told him I'm really me. Mr. Day wound up being one of the co-winners of the Open section. I managed to scrape together 3 points in the tournament. While sailing home, my wife called to check our phone messages and found one from the tournament organizer Brian Raymer. Apparently I had won a prize, but since I didn't attend the awards ceremony they were unable to give it to me. I thought maybe there was a "Lawrence Day Look Alike" prize. As it turned out I had the highest score for an under 1700 rated player, and so won some dough. Who woulda thunk?

I highly recommend this tournament to everyone. Victoria is a delightful place filled with museums, galleries, and tea rooms. It is a bit of London, England here in the Northwest. You can even go whale watching if you have the time. Hopefully there will be more U. S. participants next year.

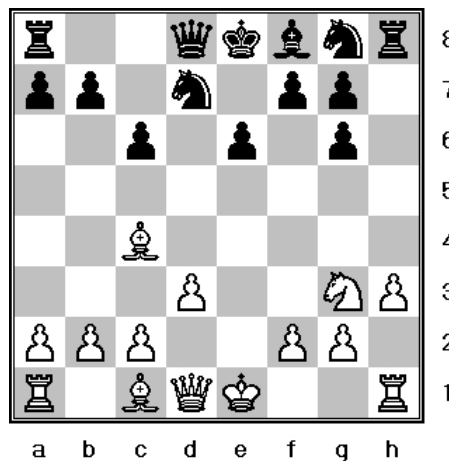
My first game of the tournament was my best, but I lost it to a FIDE 2205 player. Here it is for your perusal:

**Richard Golden – Paul Leblanc
Grand Pacific Open, Round 1
Victoria, B.C., April 10, 2009**

1. e4 c6 2. Nc3 d5 3. Nf3 dxe4 4. Nxe4 Bg4

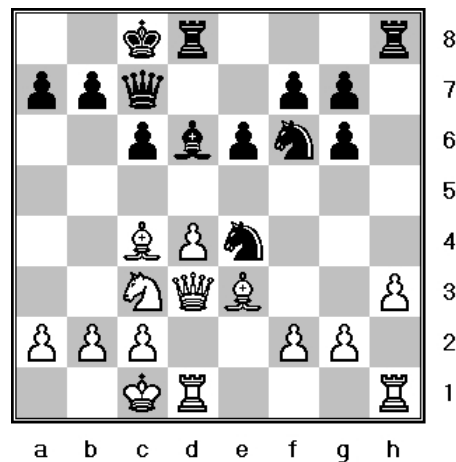
I thought he might go 4. ...Bf5 instead.

5. Bc4 e6 6. h3 Bh5 7. Ng3 Bg6 8. Ne5 Nd7 9. Nxg6 hxg6 10. d3



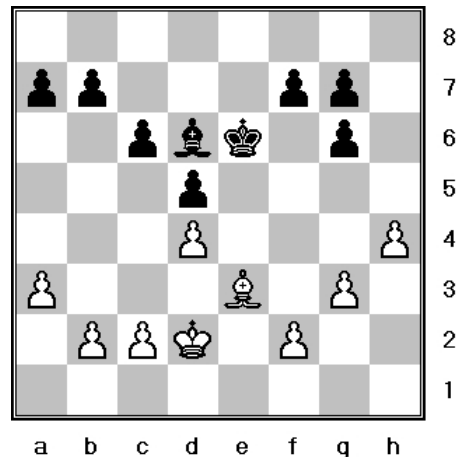
10. d4 looks better to me.

10. ...Qc7 11. Bg5 Qe5+ 12. Be3 Ngf6 13. d4 Qc7 14. Qd2 Bd6 15. Ne2 Ne4 16. Qd3 Ndf6 17. 0-0-0 0-0-0 18. Nc3

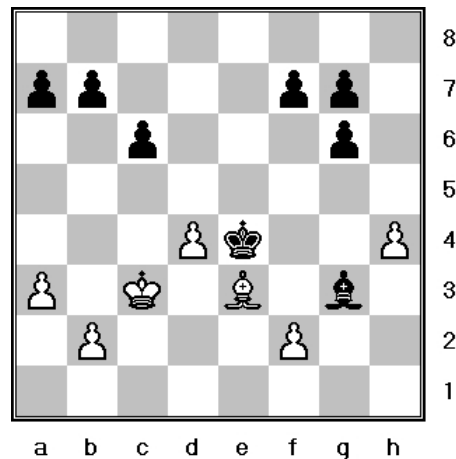


18. ...Nxc3 19. Qxc3 Kb8 20. g3 Nd5 21. Bxd5 exd5 22. h4 Rde8 23. Rde1 Re4 24. Bd2 Rhe8 25. Rxe4 Rxe4 26. Re1 Qe7 27. Rxe4 Qxe4 28. Qe3 Qxe3 29. Bxe3 Kc7 30. a3 Kd7 31. Kd2 Ke6

Here is where I run amuck. I need only to get my king to f3, and the game is drawn.



32. Kd3 Kf5 33. c4?? dxc4+ 34. Kxc4 Ke4 35. Kc3 Bxg3 0-1



My only excuse is that I had less than two minutes on my clock.

Victoria Chess Festival

Part Two

by
H. G.
Pitre

The Grand Pacific Open for 2009 was just simply a wonderful tourney. I had a great room in the hotel. The weather was pleasant or mild most of the time, a little rain crept somewhere during the weekend, but didn't spool the party. There were a couple of chances to go out walking into the city for a meal, and I did so with some of the Canadian friends I've known in chess stretching back over several years. I had meals in the hotel restaurant with others, including Gordon Higbie, of Woodinville, who was a very pleasant conversant. I thought the setting was simply first class all the time.

Easter weekend is not that busy for the hotel, or maybe the current economic times played a role in the relative quiet there this year. I believe that next year we could really have a large group from the Seattle area, and have a terrific time. I traveled by the Victoria Clipper from downtown Seattle directly to within a couple of blocks of the hotel. I was checked in by 12 noon, and I had left my house just a little before 7AM. I had taken the Metro bus, and walked several block to the waterfront and that was how I later returned home. Yes, I pinch pennies in some ways, but I think I know when to spend them. On a great tournament.

The only moments that went wrong were when I did not play a key move or two in a tough spot in round two against WFM Valeriya Gansvind of Estonia (I am thinking about a do-over on move 31). I really enjoyed that game, and regretted that we could not later discuss the game because of language differences. I also blew up a critical favorable position in round five against IM Vicente Lee Jr., (Could I have a do-over on move 19?) These unstated requests are not granted in chess competitions, and in the last round I was a bit disheartened. My compatriot Mike Murray soundly trounced me. Maybe I got lucky in my other games, and so it all balances out.

The organizers have posted many games at the website of the event, and you can see what I was referring to, and enjoy what you find there. The tourney was won by IM's Leon Piasetski, Lawrence Day, Vicente Lee Jr., and WFM Valeriya Gansvind. with 5-1. They each received \$500.

The organizers of the event, mainly Brian Raymer, Paul Leblanc, Roger Patterson, and Greg Churchhill, always work hard to ensure that everything goes well. The tournament directing is by Mark Dutton, IA. This was the third GPO. They deserve our support for the future. Please strongly consider putting this on your calendar next year. It is very suitable for a family or couple's outing if you can get the time off to stretch into a 4 day weekend. One of the features is that with the time control used the rounds are done in about 4 hours and 15 minutes, almost guaranteed. That gives you time to go out and clear your head and relax, and make the event a vacation.

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Victoria Chess Festival

Part Three

by
Mike
Murray

Chess players – bearded geezers hunched over a chessboard on a cracker barrel. Except for the cracker barrel, Sam Hill and I pretty much fit the stereotype as we caught the Black Ball ferry out of Port Angeles to Victoria, BC, to compete in the Grand Pacific Open, starting late afternoon on Good Friday.

Some readers might remember the “good old days”, with six round tournaments in a two-day weekend, time controls like 50/2 with 25/1 secondary and adjournments played out after the last round of the day. I remember the Seafair Open in 1968: Saturday began with two moderately tough wins, then a hundred and nine move draw with Vic Pupols that ended about 4:00 in the morning, followed by exhaustion and total collapse on Sunday.

Not anymore! I’m sixty-four years old. Sam is pushing seventy-five.

One nice thing about the Grand Pacific Open is that its six rounds are spread over 4 days. Another nice thing is that it’s played in the Grand Pacific Hotel, rated by Conde Nast as the best hotel in Canada. Tournament conditions are superb. Food is great. Room

rates for participants are moderate by today’s standards: about a hundred bucks a night after taxes and the favorable exchange rate (cheaper places within walking distance.). Victoria has plenty of interesting activities, most of them walkable with good bus service for those that aren’t, for fellow travelers.

The schedule is one game Friday night, two Saturday and Sunday, one Monday morning. No adjournments. Time Control is Game 90 with 30 second increment. It’s a well-run tournament, FIDE rated.

There are some side events. One is a ten-game blitz tournament, scheduled after the last round on Saturday. Fischer Random and Bughouse tournaments bracket the main event.

This year’s Grand Pacific Open included three International Masters, six National Masters, one Woman’s FIDE Master (the current Estonian Woman’s Champion), and seven Experts. A strong enough field that, for Sam and me, winning it was clearly a Walter Mitty fantasy. We did have a chance at a class prize.

Sixty-two players competed in the Open. A concurrent tournament, restricted to

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players rated 1400 and below, drew 14.

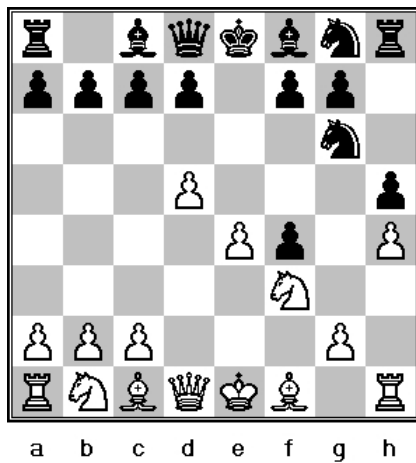
The Open ended in a four-way tie for first at 5-1, with WFM Gansvind, IM Vincente Lee, IM Laurence Day of Toronto and Leon Piasetski, an IM who has just moved back to Canada after several years teaching in Japan. They each got \$500, Piasetski taking the trophy on tiebreaks.

I ended up in a ten-way tie for seventh with 4-2, out of the overall money. Three of us, Vancouver's Jack (Kun) Cheng, Blaine's Alexandra Botez, and I, split the Under 2000 prizes and picked up \$233 each. Almost paid for the hotel room! Cheng is an eighth grader; Botez is 13 and FIDE awarded her the title of Woman's Candidate Master.

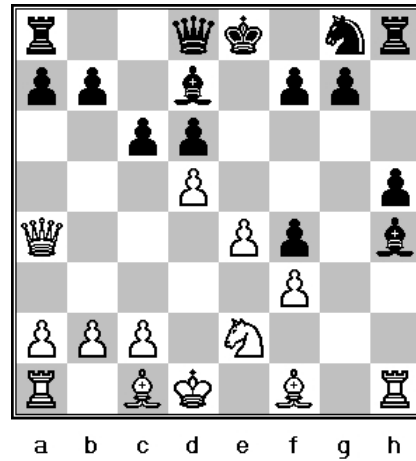
I had to beat Hanniegn Pitre in the last round to get some money. I've known Hanniegn for over thirty years and this is the first time we've ever met OTB. He tried to treat the Nimzovich Defense as if it were a variation of his favorite King's Gambit. It didn't work out too well for him.

Hanniegn Pitre – Mike Murray
Grand Pacific Open, Round 6
Victoria, B.C., April 13, 2009

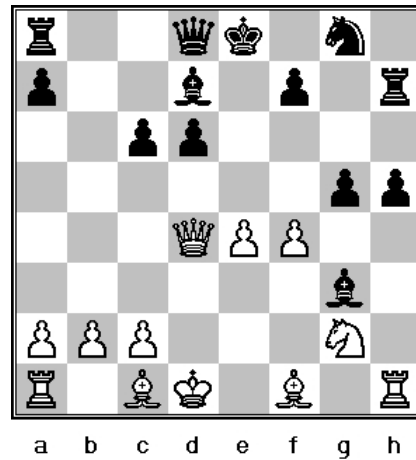
1. e4 Nc6 2. d4 e5 3. d5 Nce7 4. f4 Ng6 5. Nf3 exf4 6. h4 h5



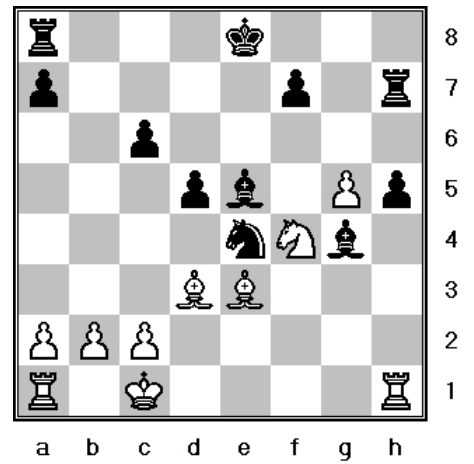
7. Nc3 Be7 8. Qd3 d6 9. Ne2 Ne5 10. Qb5+ c6 11. Qa4 Nxf3+ 12. gxf3 Bxh4+ 13. Kd1 Bd7



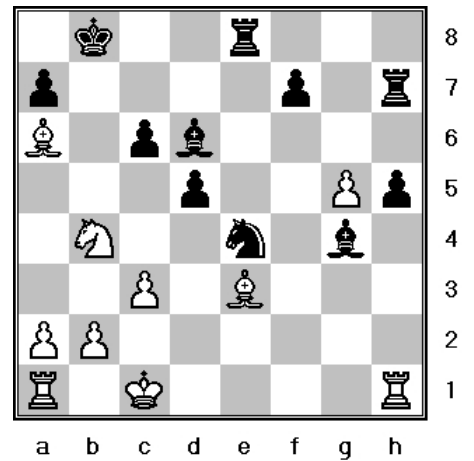
14. Nxf4 g5 15. dxc6 bxc6 16. Qd4 Rh7 17. Ng2 Bg3 18. f4



18. ...Qf6 19. Qxf6 (19. Qe3)
 19. ...Nxf6 20. fxc6 Nxe4 21. Be3 Be5 (21. ...h4!)
 22. Bd3 Bg4+ 23. Kc1 d5 24. Nf4



24. ...0-0-0 25. Ba6+ Kb8 26. Nd3 Bd6 27. c3 Re8 28. Nb4



28. ...Nxc3!?
 (28. ...Ng3!)
 29. Nxc6+ Kc7 30. Nxa7 Rxe3 31. bxc3 Kb6 32. Nc8+ Bxc8 33. Bxc8 Rxc3+ 34. Kd2 Rxc8 35. Rab1+ Ka5 36. Rh4 Rc4 0-1

It took us all of five minutes to clear Customs in Port Angeles and we were on the road back to Port Townsend, wondering why more Americans don't come up to compete in this great event.

Washington Players at the Grand Pacific Open:

Hanniegn Pitre, Mike Murray (\$233, tied for 1st U2000, 4.5/6), Gordon Higbie, Howard Chen, and Richard Golden (\$300, 1st U1700, 3/6).

Although he did not finish in the money, Hanniegn Pitre had a good tournament losing to two of the eventual winners (and to Mike Murray). Hanniegn's loss to Estonian women's champion Valeriya Gansvind was featured by Jonathan Berry in his chess column in Toronto's *The Globe and Mail*. More games and information:

<http://victoriachessclub.pbwiki.com/Victoria+Chess+Festival+2009>.

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2009 Washington State Elementary Championship

Congratulations to the Washington State Elementary Chess Champions:

Naomi Bashkansky, kindergarten;

Jeffrey Yan and **Allistair Yu**, first grade;

Roland Feng and **Benjamin Brusniak**, second grade;

Kyle Haining, **Jason Lowry**, **Chandler Moy**, **Andrew Osborn**, and **Noah Fields**, third grade;

Daniel He, **Joshua Feener**, **Patrick Wang**, and **Jesse Bickley**, fourth grade;

Ethan Bashkansky and **Samuel Meisner**, fifth grade;

Nicolo Gelb and **Jack Sather**, sixth grade.

The Team champions were **Evergreen** (Shoreline) in grades 1-3 and **Stevenson** (Bellevue) in 4-6.

999 players competed in the seven grade level sections of the championships held in the Group Health Exhibit Halls of the Spokane Convention Center. Another 67 played in the third annual I Love Chess 2. The Friday Bughouse at the Red Lion River Inn had 76 teams in three sections.

The organizers had high expectations for the facility, which proved easily able to accommodate more than one thousand players and their entourage numbering perhaps another 2500. Without any ticketing system for parents, coaches, and others present to support the players, organizers have only crude guesses as to how many were in attendance. We do know that they purchased \$20,593 worth of hamburgers, pizza, soda, and water and other food and beverages.

This was the first time the state championship has been in Spokane, but not the last. Businesses that contracted with the Gary Younker Foundation to put on this event are already anticipating and hoping to see chess on this scale returning to Spokane.

– James Stripes

This was easily the largest chess tournament ever played in Spokane and also a very exciting experience for all who took part.

James Stripes spearheaded the efforts to land the event and is owed a huge debt of thanks for handling all of the details, little

and big, that go into putting on a major event. Without the organizing skills of James and his wife Terri, the event could not have run as smoothly as it did.

A huge thank you also goes to the dozens of volunteers who made the event work. Adam Attwood, an island of calm even in the face of an occasionally angry parent, organized the many floor judges who smoothly ensured that the rounds ran smoothly. Dr. John Cambareri and son Michael joined our team of pairing directors who had to get the pairings and crosstables out for eight events as fast as possible each round. The Deer Park contingent, headed by Gloria Hartley and Naureen Kummert, ran the registration and hospitality sections smoothly, bringing order to the chaos created by 1,000 kids and their parents. Ted Baker successfully championed a top notch crew of volunteers who set up the facility and also showed amazing skill as a scrounger who turned up whatever equipment the volunteers needed. Chris Copeland and friends put on a great awards ceremony.

Many, many other area chess players, assisted by others from across the state, stepped up to do whatever was needed to ensure the event went well and ascertain that the kids had a great experience. The work of all these volunteers reflected well on our community.

THANK YOU!!!

– David Griffin



Left: fourth grade. Above: bughouse.



Photo credits: Adam Attwood and James Stripes..



Games Corner: Harmon Memorial

by Charles Schulien



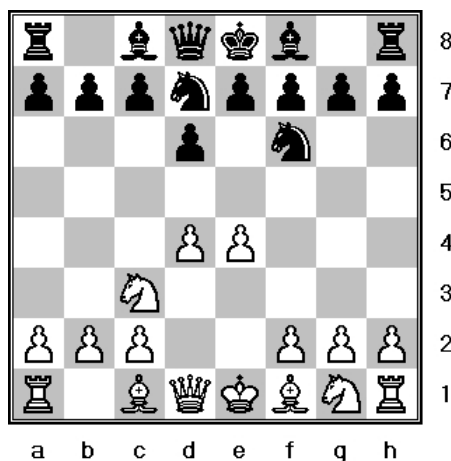
38 players met at the Portland Chess Club for the 2009 version of the Clark Harmon Memorial. By winning his last round game against Radu Roua, Steve Breckenridge ended tied for first with Nick Raptis at 4.5/5.

Steve's notes are marked by (SB).

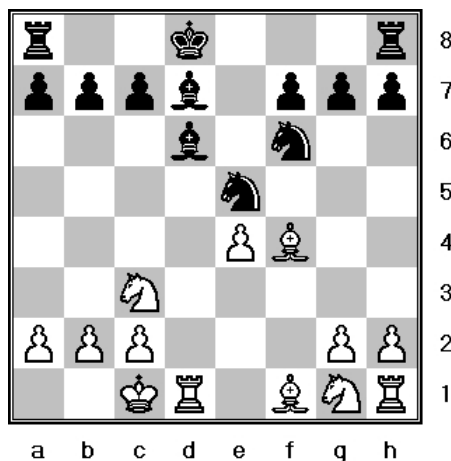
Steven Breckenridge – Radu Roua
2009 Harmon Memorial, Round 5
Portland, Oregon, April 2009

1. e4 d6 2. d4 Nf6 3. Nc3 Nbd7

This move order is designed to reach a sort of Philidor or Pirc Defense, while avoiding known sharp or troublesome variations. New In Chess (NIC) recently published a book on the topic, titled **The Black Lion**.



4. f4 e5 5. dxe5 dxe5 6. fxe5 Nxe5 7. Qxd8+ Kxd8 8. Bf4 Bd6 9. 0-0-0 Bd7



Now White has to deal with the threat of ...Nd3+. Also valid is 9. ...Ke7 10. Bg5 c6 11. Nf3 h6 12. Rxd6?! (12. Be3 Be6=) 12. ...Kxd6 13. Bf4 Nfd7 14. Bc4 f6 15. Nh4 Nf8 16. Nf5+ Bxf5 17. exf5. White's sacrifice failed, and he duly lost: 0-1, Kovar, V (2235)-Krapivin, V (2385)/Pardubice CZE 2008.})

10. Kb1 Nh5

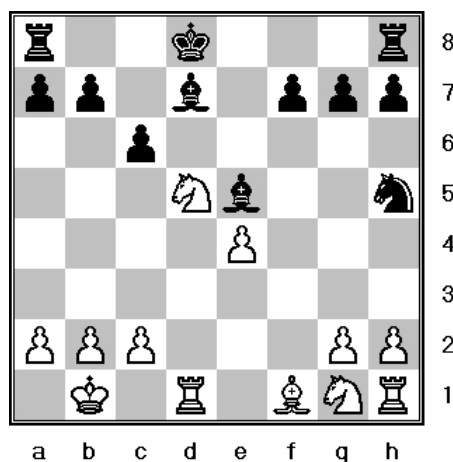
This is not the best way to release White's pressure. The knight on h5 is poorly placed and a target. Black should simply continue developing pieces, securing e5: 10. ...Re8 11. h3 (11. Be2=) 11. ...Kc8 12. Nge2?! Nc4. Black already gained the advantage, albeit in a very unequal pairing: 0-1, Strygin, A (1814)-Belivsky, A (2641)/Alushta UKR 2008.

11. Bxe5!?

Concrete play. White parts with a valuable bishop in order to seize the initiative. White could also keep his dark squared bishop on the board; for instance: 11. Be3 Ng4 12. Bd4.

11. ...Bxe5 12. Nd5 c6?!

Careless move. 12. ...Re8.



13. Be2!

White wins material, based on the d-file pin.

13. ...cxd5 14. Bxh5 f6

Another possibility is 14. ...Kc7 15. exd5 g6 16. Bf3 Kd6, with a coordinated Black position, making it difficult for White to exploit his extra pawn.

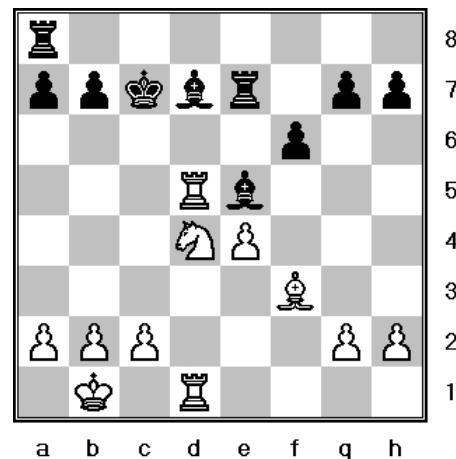
15. Nf3

Now was the time for 15. exd5 if White wished to play that structure.

15. ...Bf4 16. Rxd5

16. exd5? g6 traps White's bishop.

16. ... Kc7 17. Nd4 Be5 18. Bf3 Rhe8 19. Rd1 Re7



20. Rc5+

White begins to drift without a clear plan. Better was 20. Nf5 (SB) Bxf5 (or passive defense: 20. ... Rf7 21. Nd6 Re7) 21. exf5, which cleans up White's pawn structure, and opens up the main diagonal for his bishop. On the other hand, opposite colored bishops are the last minor pieces in the endgame. White keeps decent chances as Black cannot easily oppose the rooks here.

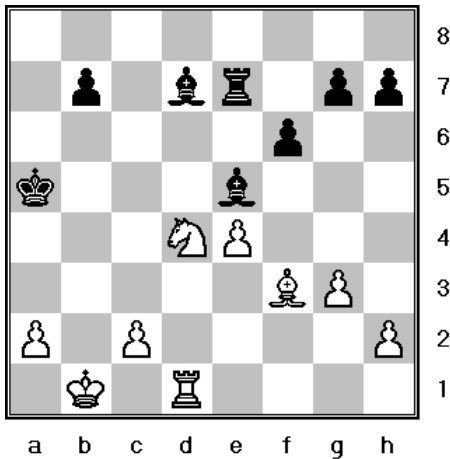
20. ...Kb6 21. b4?!

21. Rc3 Bxh2 (a solid 21. ...g6 avoids the following tactical sequence.) 22. Rcd3 (not yet 22. Rh1 Be5) 22. ...Be5 23. Nf5 Bxf5 24. Rb3+ Kc7 and White keeps some advantage only through the combination 25. Rxb7+ Kxb7 26. exf5+ Kb6 (26... K8 27. Rd8+) 27. Bxa8, though Black can force the rook exchange with 27. ...Bg3 28. c3 Re1 29. Rxe1 Bxe1 +/-)

21. ... a5

21. ...Bxh2 was certainly possible.

22. Rxa5 Rxa5 23. bxa5+ Kxa5 24. g3



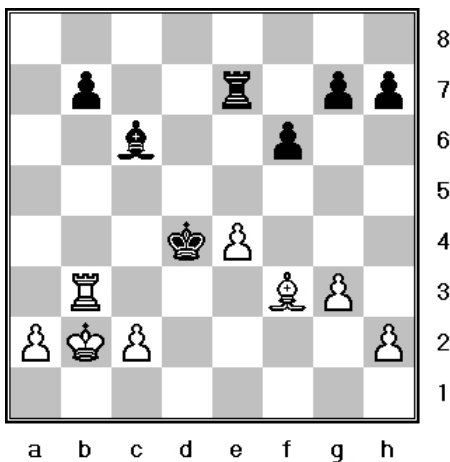
24. ...Bxd4

While this is sufficient, I don't believe the white knight was stronger than, or equal to, Black's dark squared bishop. 24. ...Ba4!? takes the bishop off line with White's rook. That frees all of Black's pieces to pick on weak white pawns, with dynamic equality. In fact, White can get into trouble here if he is not careful.

25. Rxd4 Bc6 26. Rd3 Kb6

Not 26. ...Bxe4? 27. Bxe4 Rxe4 28. Rd7.

27. Re3 Kc5 28. Kb2 Kd4 29. Rb3



29. ...Kc5

Black still cannot win back the pawn with 29. ...Bxe4 30. Rb4+ Kd5 31. Bxe4+ Rxe4 32. Rxb7. Better is 29. ...Ke5 (SB) and I agree. Black's king is well centralized, attacks a weak pawn, and frees the rook.

30. Kc1 Bb5

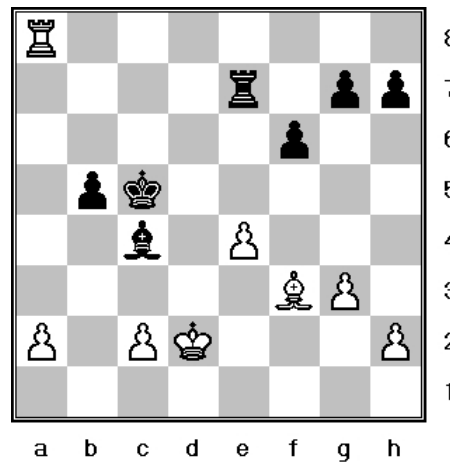
30. ...b5 (SB) renews the threat to

White's e4 pawn.

31. Kd2 Bc4 32. Ra3 b5?

32. ...Kb4 33. Ra7 Rd7+ 34. Kc1 Kc3 looks better.

33. Ra8



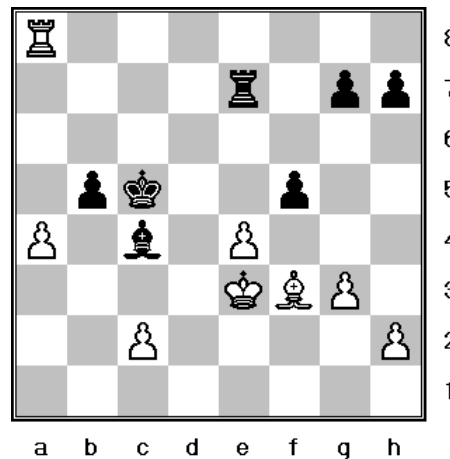
Finally getting some active play. (SB)

33. ...Rd7+ 34. Ke3 Re7

After 34. ...Kb4 White has 35. Bg4! Rd6 (35. ...Rc7 36. Kd4; White threatens checkmate.) 36. Ra7 +/- (SB)

35. a4 f5!?

Now the game gets very complicated. Steven notes that he calculated deeply here, but neither player saw all of the possibilities which are present. Simpler is 35. ...bxa4 36. Rxa4 Bb5.



36. e5?!

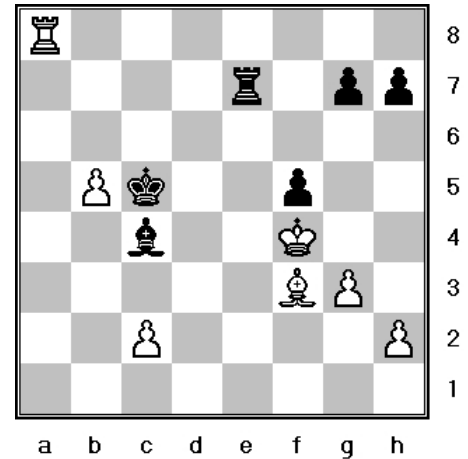
It is better to displace Black's king with 36. Rc8+ Kb4. White may not stay a pawn ahead, but he keeps a definite positional advantage. For instance, 37. axb5 fxe4 38. Bg2 Kxb5 39. Bxe4 Bd5 40. c4+ Bxc4 41. Kd4 Rd7+ 42. Kc3, and White wins the h7

pawn. With reduced material, a draw is likely but not certain, since Black's king is cut off from the kingside.

36. ...Rxe5+

Black should exchange pawns, displacing White's rook. 36. ...bxa4 37. Rxa4 (37. Kf4 Kb5 38. Kxf5 Kb4 White will have to exchange pawns to eliminate the strong passer on a4: 39. c3+ Kxc3 40. Rxa4 Rf7+ 41. Ke4 Bb5 menaces a check on c6.) 37. ...Rxe5+ 38. Kf4 Re7=.

37. Kf4 Re7 38. axb5



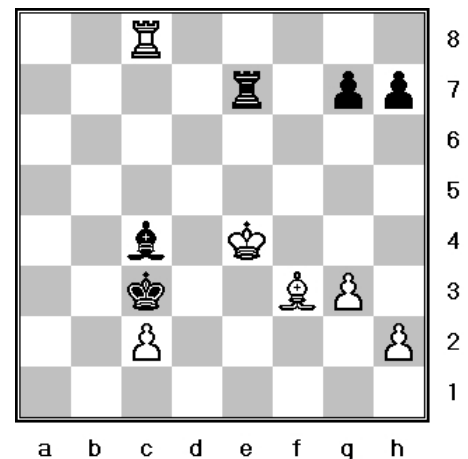
38. ...Kxb5

38. ...g6! is a nice intermezzo, as White cannot save his b-pawn.

39. Kxf5 Rf7+ 40. Ke4 Kb4

Not 40. ...Rxf3 41. Rb8+! (41. Kxf3 Bd5+).

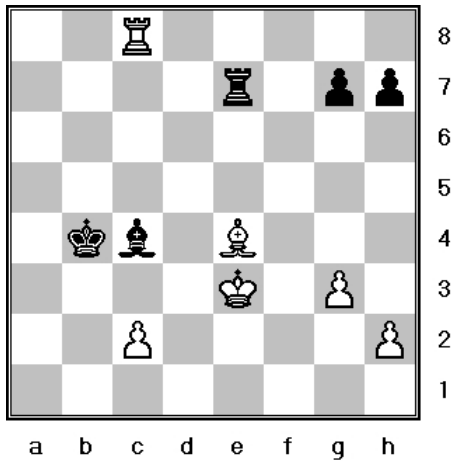
41. Rb8+ Kc3 42. Rc8 Re7+



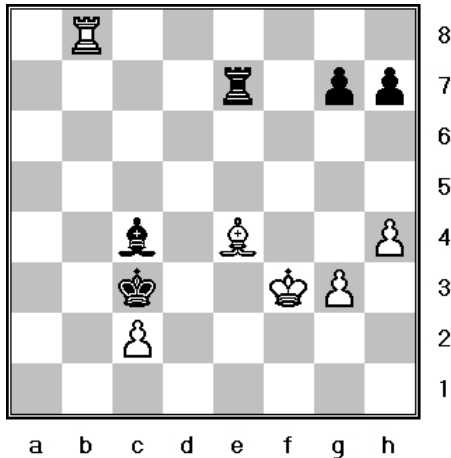
43. Kf4 Rf7+ 44. Ke3 Re7+ 45. Be4 Kb4 46. Kf3 Rf7+ 47. Ke3

47. Kg2 Bf1+ 48. Kg1 Bh3, and White is not making progress.

47. ...Re7



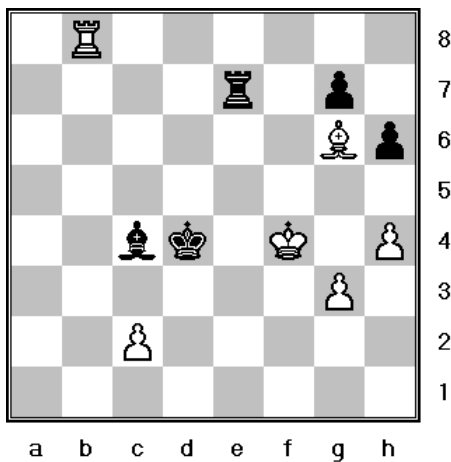
48. Rd8 Kc3 49. h4 Ba6 50. Rb8 Bc4 51. Kf3



51. ...h6

51. ...Rf7+ 52. Kg2 is now playable as White's king has h2 available, and will not get trapped. (SB) Still, it is a good idea to drive White's king back.

52. Bg6 Kd4 53. Kf4

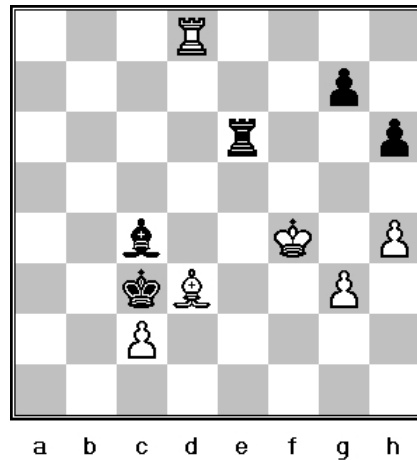


53. ...Re6

53. ...Re2 seeks counterplay.

54. Rd8+ Kc3 55. Bd3

55. h5; Steve didn't want to fix pawns on light squares, considering the color of the bishops.



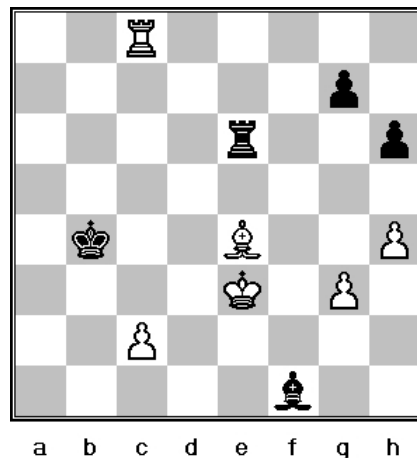
55. ...Rf6+

55. ...Bxd3 56. cxd3 is winning for White, due to his passed pawn and active king. Black's king remains cut off. A sample line continues 56. ...Rf6+ 57. Ke5 Rg6 58. d4 Rxd3 59. Rc8+ and White's pawn advances.

56. Ke3 Re6+ 57. Be4 Bf1

57. ...g5 (SB) is possible, exchanging a pair of pawns.

58. Rc8+ Kb4?



This is a serious mistake, and for the first time, White gains a decisive advantage. 58. ...Bc4 maintains a good defensive position. White would switch to kingside play with 59. Rc7 g6 60. g4.

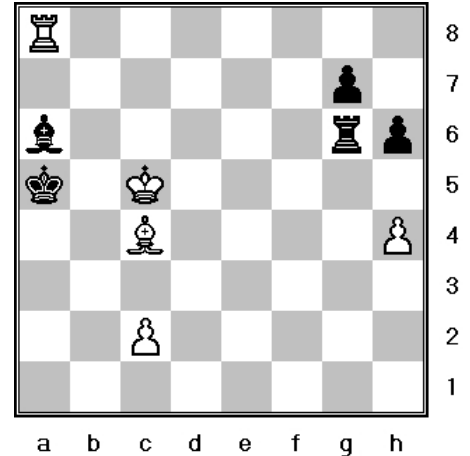
59. Kd4 Rd6+ 60. Bd5

White centralized his pieces and can safely advance his passed pawn.

60. ...Rg6

Not helpful is 60. ...Bg2 61. Rb8+ Ka5 62. c4.

61. Rb8+ Ka5 62. Kc5 Rxd3 63. Ra8+ Ba6 64. Bc4 Rg6



65. c3?

Now the game should end with 65. Bxa6 Rxa6 66. Rxa6+ Kxa6 67. h5! White's h-pawn freezes Black's two kingside pawns. Steve saw the idea, but imagined that Black could get in ...g5 first.

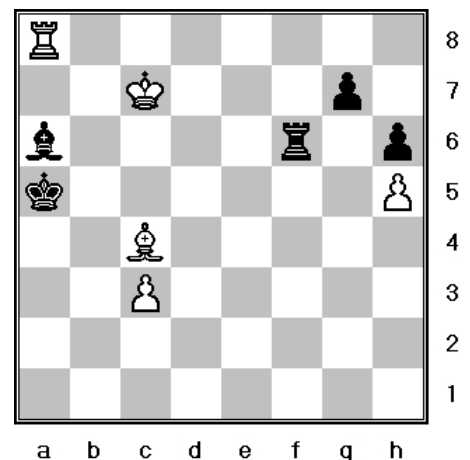
65. ...Rf6 66. h5 Rf5+

66. ...g5! is already strong. Radu picked up on this idea shortly.

67. Kc6

67. Kd6! is much better. 67. ...Rf6+ 68. Ke7 and Black's g-pawn cannot advance.

67. ...Rf6+ 68. Kc7



68. ...g5!

Black gets a passed pawn, so White

cannot automatically transpose to a winning king and pawn ending.

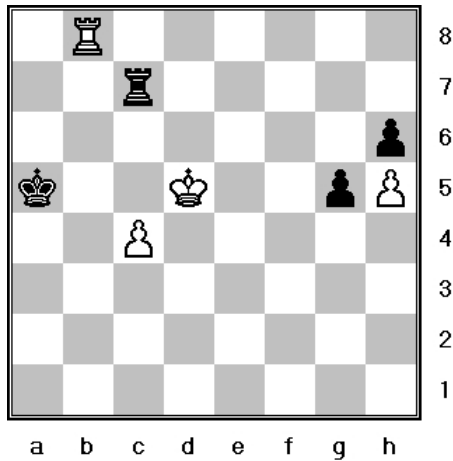
69. Bxa6 Rxa6 70. Rb8

White holds the advantage into a rook and pawn ending, since Black's king is caught on the edge of the board. Black's main priority is to activate his rook.

70. ...Ra7+

70. ...Rf6 immediately gains counterplay. 71. c4 (71. Rg8 Rf3=) 71. ...g4 72. Rg8 Rf4 73. c5 Kb5 with a likely draw.

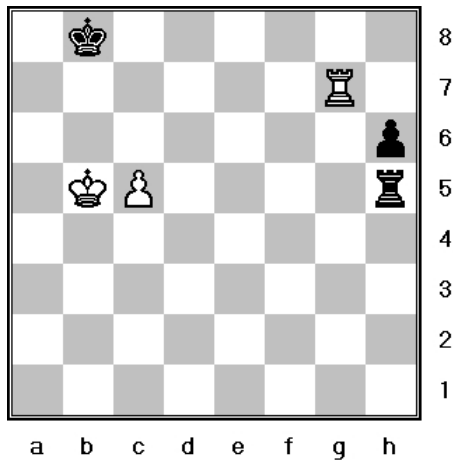
71. Kc6 Ra6+ 72. Kc5 Ra7 73. c4 Rc7+ 74. Kd5



74. ...Rg7

Another try is 74. ...Rd7+ 75. Kc6, and Black must decide where to place his rook. 75. ...Rg7 (75. ...Rd3 76. c5 g4 77. Ra8+ Kb4 78. Kb6, White is winning.) 76. c5 g4 77. Rb2 g3 78. Rg2 Black's rook lacks the square g6 for checking purposes, which allows White to advance his pawn.

75. c5 g4 76. Kc4! Ka6 77. Rb6+ Ka7 78. Rg6 +- Rf7 79. Rxc4 Rf5 80. Kb5 Rxc5 81. Rg7+ Kb8



82. Kc6?

White has a simple win with 82. Kb6 Rg5 as White cannot trade rooks, but 83. Rf7 Rg8 84. c6 +- Black's pawn plays no role, and this is in textbooks of basic rook endings. White's rook goes to a7, after a check on b7.

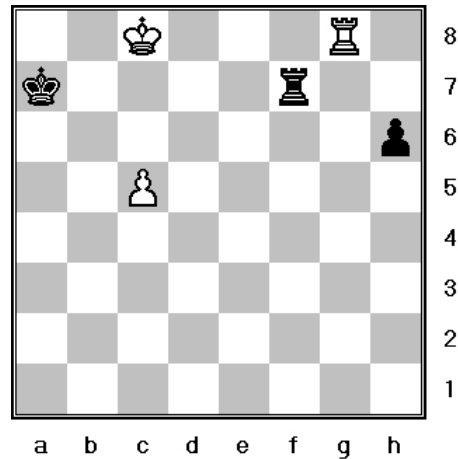
82. ...Rf5

Black cannot exchange rooks, as now 82. ...Rg5 83. Rxc5 hxc5 84. Kd7, and White promotes his pawn first. After 82. ...Rh4 83. Rg8+ Ka7 84. Kc7 Rf4 85. c6, Black's rook lacks the necessary three empty files to maintain "checking distance" from the white king. We see this theme in the game as well. 85. ...h5 86. Kc8 Rg4 87. Rd8 h4 88. c7 h3 89. Kd7 Black is one tempo behind in the race, and if both players promote queens, the Black king will be mated.

83. Rg8+?

83. Kb6 was still available (SB).

83. ...Ka7 84. Kd6 Rf6+ 85. Kc7 Rf7+ 86. Kc8



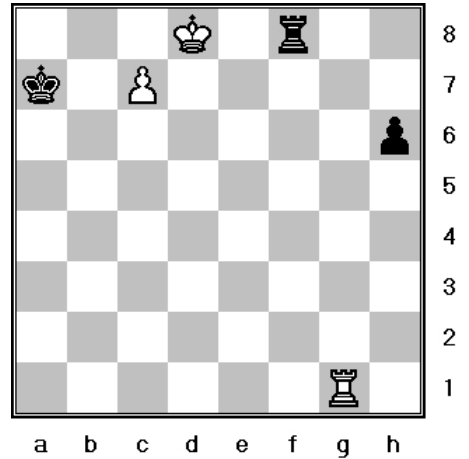
86. ...Ka6?

Better is 86. ...Rf6 (SB), and indeed, White has no win. 87. Kd7 Kb7=.

87. Rg6+ Kb5?

This is the last mistake, at the end of a long, eventful game. Black's king should retreat: 87. ...Ka7 88. Rd6 (88. Rxh6 Rf5 89. Rc6 (89. c6 Rf8+ 90. Kd7 Rf7+ 91. Kd8 Rf8+ 92. Ke7 Rf1=) 89. ... Rg5=) 88. ...Rf8+ 89. Rd8 Rf6 90. Rd7+ Ka8 91. Rd6 Rf8+ 92. Kc7 Ka7 93. Rxh6 Rf7+ 94. Kc6 Rg7 with a draw.

88. c6 Kb6 89. c7+ Ka7 90. Rg1 Rf8+ 91. Kd7 Rf7+ 92. Kd8 Rf8+



93. Ke7 Rh8 94. Kd7 Rh7+ 95. Kc6

The h6 pawn is in the way again, preventing a saving check on h6.

1-0



Steve Breckenridge
Photo credit: Russell Miller

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Opening Arguments by Harley Greninger



1	GM	Aronian Levon	2754	ARM	8½
2	GM	Leko Peter	2751	HUN	7½
3	GM	Akopian Vladimir	2696	ARM	7½
4	GM	Grischuk Alexander	2748	RUS	7
5	GM	Bacrot Etienne	2728	FRA	7
6	GM	Alekseev Evgeny	2716	RUS	6½
7	GM	Gelfand Boris	2733	ISR	6½
8	GM	Kamsky Gata	2720	USA	6
9	GM	Svidler Peter	2726	RUS	6
10	GM	Karjakin Sergey	2721	UKR	6
11	GM	Mamedyarov Shakhriyar	2725	AZE	6
12	GM	Ivanchuk Vassily	2746	UKR	5½
13	GM	Kasimdzhanov Rustam	2695	UZB	5½
14	GM	Eljanov Pavel	2693	UKR	5½

Lev Aronian of Armenia has done it again! Shortly after emerging atop a very strong field in the 2009 Amber Rapid/Blindfold, he finished a full point ahead of the competition in the Nalchik Grand Prix! Fourteen of the top 20 players in the world vied in this round-robin and much to the delight of the chess world, the final round paired the leaders Aronian and Peter Leko. With Aronian playing White and having a +2 -0 =8 lifetime score (as White) versus Leko, he had every hope of taking home at least a share of first prize.

Keep your eye on Aronian. At a ripe young age of 27, he is now ranked number 6 in the world and gaining on the leaders very quickly!

Levon Aronian – Peter Leko Nalchik Grand Prix, Round 13 Nalchik, Russia, April 2009

1. d4

Aronian has a well-rounded repertoire. It seems that he feels equally at home whether he plays 1.e4, 1.d4, 1.c4 or 1.Nf3.

1. ...Nf6 2. c4 e6

Leko, on the other hand, has a narrow repertoire. Against 1.d4, you can expect either this Indian complex or a Grunfeld.

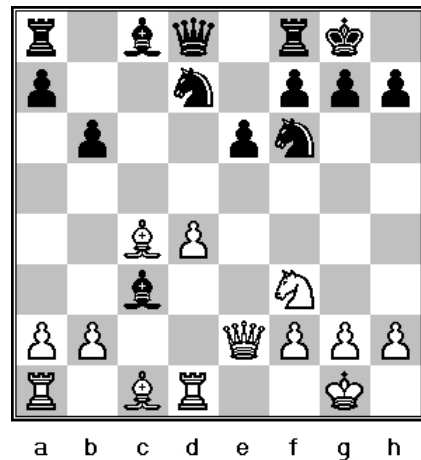
3. Nc3

Previously these two players had debated the Queen's Indian four times and the Catalan three times. This is their first Nimzo-Indian encounter.

3. ...Bb4 4. e3 0-0 5. Bd3 d5 6. Nf3 c5 7. 0-0 dxc4 8. Bxc4 Nbd7 9. Qe2 b6 10. Rd1 cxd4 11. exd4 Bxc3!?

Relinquishing the Bishop pair in exchange for the creation of hanging pawns. Also seen here was the immediate 11. ...Qc7 12. Bg5 (An interesting novelty in this position would be 12. d5! with the idea 12. ...Bxc3 13. d6! and White has lasting initiative as well as a nice passed pawn, e.g. 13. ...Qc5 14. Be3 Qa5 15. bxc3 Qxc3 16. Rac1 Qa5 17. Bb5 etc., with advantage.) 12.

...Bxc3 13. bxc3 Bb7 14. Bd3! Qxc3 15. Ne5 Qa5 16. Qe3 Qd5. White has enough compensation for the pawn. Azmaiparashvili,Z (2450)-Farago,I (2520)/Albena 1984 (1-0 in 29 moves).



12. bxc3 Bb7 13. Bb3!?

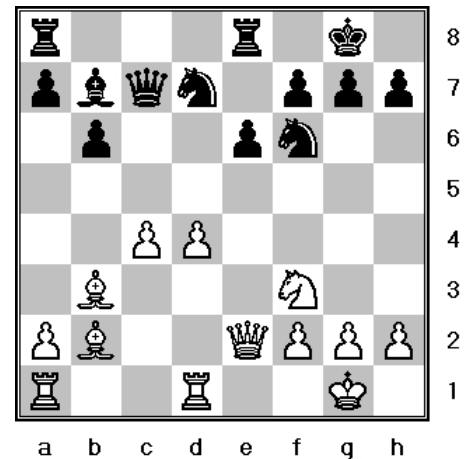
More usual is 13. Bd3. A quick draw resulted in Schoeneberg v. Fuchs after 13. ...Qc7 14. c4 Rfe8 15. Bb2 Rac8 16. Ne5 Nxe5 17. dxe5 Nd7 18. Bxh7+ Kxh7 19. Qd3+ Kg8 20. Qxd7 Red8 1/2-1/2.

13. ...Qc7 14. c4 Rfe8

Technically the first new move, although

this idea of discouraging White from playing d4-d5 is known (see the note after White's 13th). Byrne, R-Silva, Nazzari 1961, continued with 14. ...Rfd8 15. Bb2 Qf4 16. Rd3 Nf8 17. Ne5 Ng6 18. Nxc6 hxc6 19. Rad1 Rd7 20. Qe5, and White retained better chances (1-0 in 56).

15. Bb2



15. ...Qf4

Not to be feared is 15. ...Ng4?! 16. h3 Bxf3 17. Qxf3 Qh2+ 18. Kf1 Ngf6, and Black has parted with his beloved Bishop for naught.

16. Qe3 Qf5 17. Ne1

The pseudo-active 17. Ne5 seems to peter out after 17. ...Nxe5 18. dxe5 Qe4! 19. Qxe4 (19. Qg3? Nh5 is good for Black.) 19. ...Nxe4 20. f3 Nc5 21. Rd6 and Black should hold, although here too White has some pull.

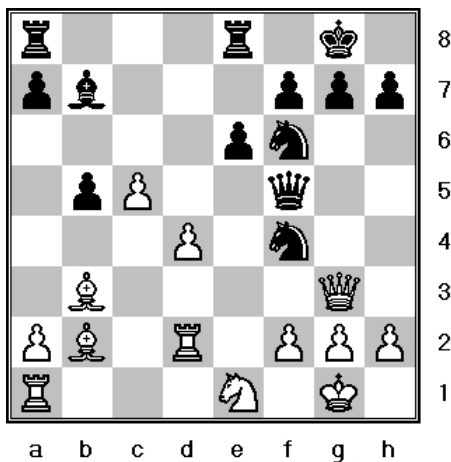
17. ...b5!?

A bold move! Played to create a 'jumping-off' point at d5.

18. c5 Nd5 19. Qg3

It would be safer to play for the exchange of Queens with 19. Qd3 Qxd3 20. Nxd3.

19. ...Nf4 20. Rd2 Nf6



21. f3!

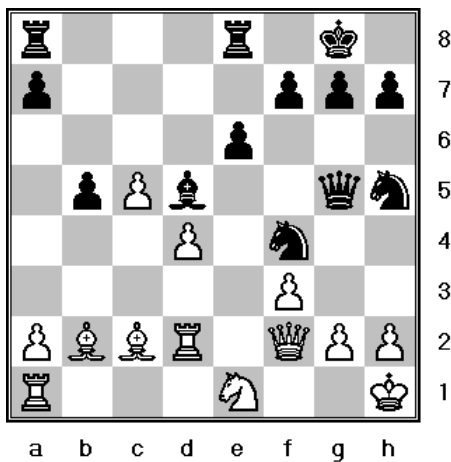
With all Black's horses and most of his men converging on the Kingside, one might get nervous. Aronian, however, plays with a cool head.

21. ...N6h5 22. Qf2 Bd5 23. Bc2 Qg5

Threatening a nasty check on h3.

24. Kh1

"Here I think is the critical position. And I now lost control." – Leko



24. ...Bc4?!

After the game, Leko suggested the improvement 24. ...a5.

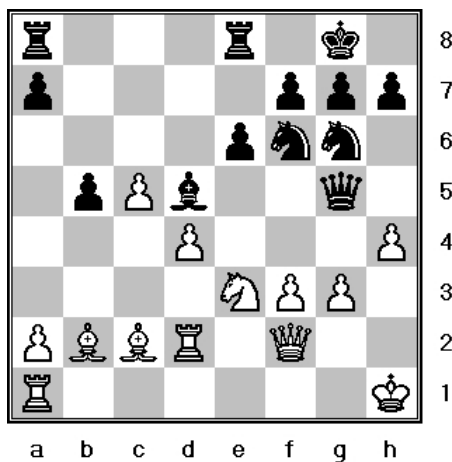
25. g3!

With this, White contains and restrains all Black's pieces.

25. ...Ng6?!

After the game, both players agreed that 25. ...Nd5 is the better way to play, although objectively after 26. Nd3 Ne3 27. Bb3 White is just fine.

26. Ng2 Bd5 27. Ne3 Nf6 28. h4!?

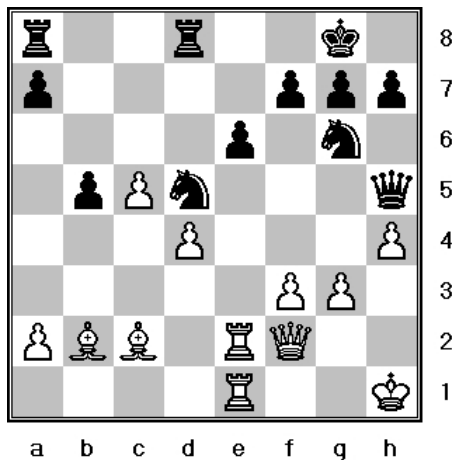


Emphasizing the limited mobility of the black queen.

28. ...Qh5 29. Nxd5 Nxd5 30. Re1 Red8

31. Rde2

"After this, Black's queen will either become trapped or Black will have to make some big concession." – Leko

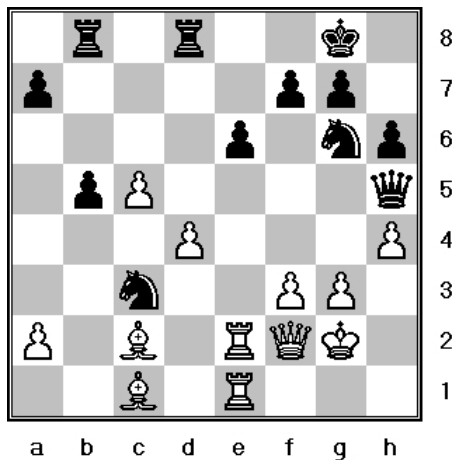


31. ...Rab8 32. Bc1

Threatening Bg5 followed by g3-g4.

32. ...h6 33. Kg2 Nc3?

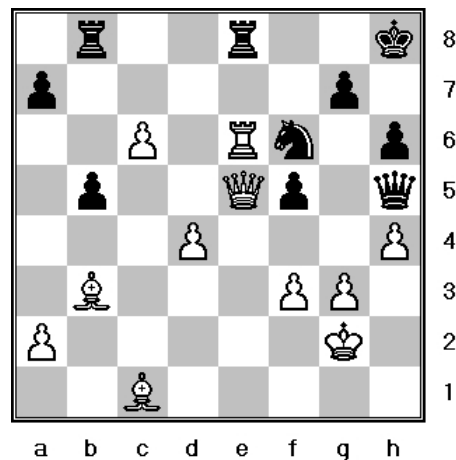
Better is 33. ...b4.



34. Re5!

A beautiful and decisive combination.

34. ...Nxe5 35. Rxe5 f5 36. Bb3 Nd5 37. Rxe6 Kh8 38. Qe1 Nf6 39. Qe5 Re8 40. c6!

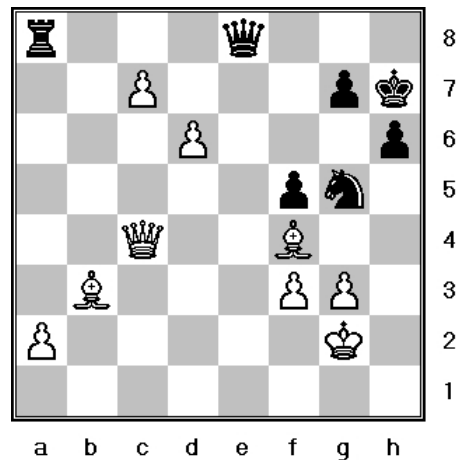


It is now apparent that Leko is like the fly in a web, struggling with all his might but only tightening the noose.

40. ...Rbc8 41. Qxb5 Qg6 42. h5

Not allowing Black to create counterplay with the intended ...Rxe6 followed by ...Nh5.

42. ...Qxh5 43. Bf4 a6 44. Qxa6 Nh7 45. c7 Ng5 46. Rxe8+ Qxe8 47. d5 Ra8 48. Qc4 Kh7 49. d6



The hanging pawns re-unite!

49. ...Qe1 50. Qf1 Qe8 51. Qd3 Qd7 52. Qc4 Qe8 53. Bxg5 hxg5 54. Qg8+!
1-0

2009 Washington State Championship, February 2009

Washington
State
Championship

More
Annotated
Games

	Name	Rtg	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	T	Place
1	Lee, Michael	2374	x	½	½	1	½	1	1	1	0	1	6.5	2-3
2	Sinanan, Joshua	2227	½	x	0	1	½	1	½	1	1	½	6.0	4-5
3	Collyer, Curt	2241	½	1	x	1	0	1	1	1	½	½	6.5	2-3
4	May, Andy	2153	0	0	0	x	0	0	0	½	½	0	1.0	10
5	Cozianu, Costin	2566	½	½	1	1	x	1	0	1	1	1	7.0	1
6	Schill, William	2246	0	0	0	1	0	x	½	½	0	0	2.0	8
7	Greninger, Harley	2236	0	½	0	1	1	½	x	½	0	0	3.5	7
8	Perez, Ignacio	2311	0	0	0	½	0	½	½	x	0	0	1.5	9
9	Rohonyan, Katerine	2335	1	0	½	½	0	1	1	1	x	0	5.0	6
10	Chen, Howard	2039	0	½	½	1	0	1	1	1	1	x	6.0	4-5

The Washington Championship was not determined until the final round. In fact, the concluding round was one of the most dramatic in State Championship history. 14-year-old Michael Lee was leading by half a point at 6.5, and Costin Cozianu and Howard Chen were close behind with 6.0. Cozianu, by far the highest-rated player in the field, was paired with Chen, by far the lowest-rated player (and the youngest by a few months). Lee was paired with WGM Rohonyan, who at that point had an even score for the tournament.

If Lee won, or if he drew and the Cozianu – Chen game was a draw, Michael would break GM Yasser Seirawan’s record as the youngest-ever Washington Champion. If Lee lost and Chen won, Howard would be the youngest Champion. There were even permutations where the two became the youngest co-Champions.

In the end, however, experience came through against youth, and Yasser’s record from 1975 is safe – probably for quite awhile.

Washington Championship (L-R): Josh Sinanan, Michael Lee, Harley Greninger, Andy May, Howard Chen (front), William Schill (back; photoshopped in), Curt Collyer, Ignacio Perez, Katerine Rohonyan, Costin Cozianu. Photo credit: Philip Peterson.



Every prize winner in the Washington Championship, Premier, and Invitational annotated a game from the tournament.

The following game, annotated by Josh Sinanan, was played in the first round, and was relayed (broadcast) on the Free Internet Chess Server (FICS). David Bragg and I were quite impressed with Josh's middle game queen sacrifice, and we discussed several interesting arrangements for the white pieces – there is plenty of room for experimentation here. Later in the game there were subtle attacking maneuvers, piece domination themes, fortresses, and exciting blunders. Quite a start to the event!

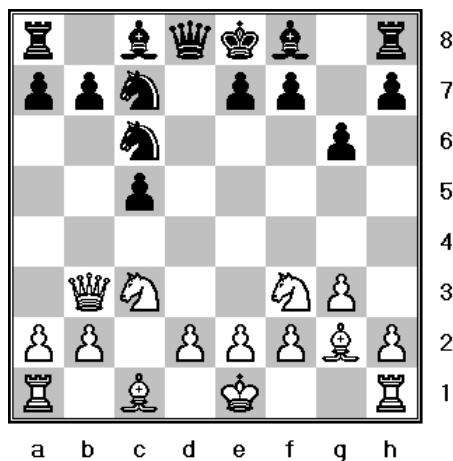
– editor

**Josh Sinanan – Katerine Rohonyan
Washington Championship, Round 1
Redmond, February 7, 2009**

1. Nf3 c5 2. c4 Nf6 3. Nc3 g6 4. g3 d5

Katerina goes for a Gruenfeld set-up. In my preparation before the game, I had expected a Benoni or Benko, her main weapons of choice at the 2008 Olympiad in Germany. After only four moves we have reached a position that was relatively unfamiliar to me.

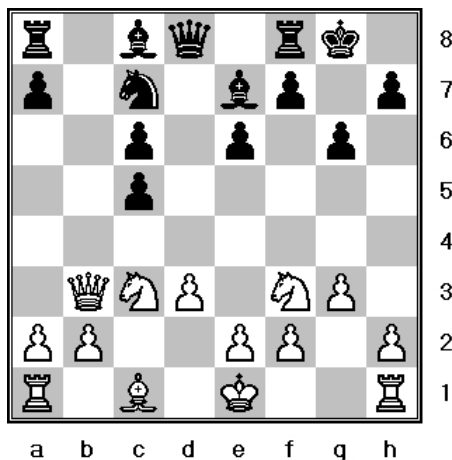
5. cxd5 Nxd5 6. Bg2 Nc6 7. Qb3 Nc7



8. Ng5!

After 15 minutes of thought, I found this idea to leave Black with doubled isolated c-pawns, a significant positional concession. As compensation, Black obtains the two bishops and has the more dynamic position with open d- and b-files.

8. ...e6 9. Bxc6+ bxc6 10. d3 Be7 11. Nf3 0-0



11. ...Nd5 12. Bh6 +=. GM Khenkin, Igor - GM Gupta, Abhijeet [A34] Andorra op 24th, Andorra (5), 07. 08.2006 continued 11. ...Nd5 12. Bh6 Qb6 13. 0-0 Qxb3 14. axb3 f6 15. Be3 e5 16. Rfc1 Nxe3 17. fxe3 Be6 18. Nd2 Kd7 19. Nce4 Rhb8 20. Nxc5+Bxc5 21. Rxc5 Bxb3 22. Rca5 Bd5 23. Rxa7+ Rxa7 24. Rxa7+ Kd6 25. b3 h5 (1/2-1/2, 69)

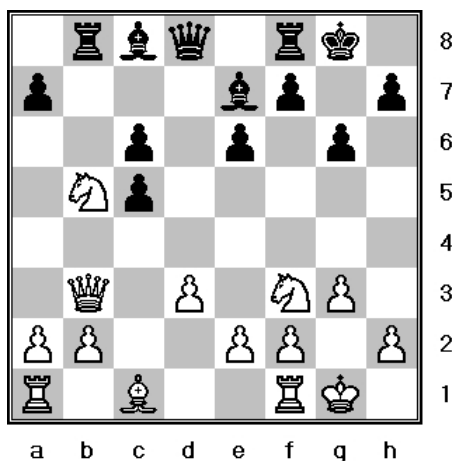
12. 0-0

More critical was 12. Ne5 Bf6 13. Nxc6 Qd7 14. Ne4 Bg7 15. Na5 with a small edge for white. 12. ...Nd5.

12. ...Nb5

The knight is heading for d4, where it will influence both the kingside and queenside. I eagerly captured and awaited my opponent's response.

13. Nxb5 Rb8



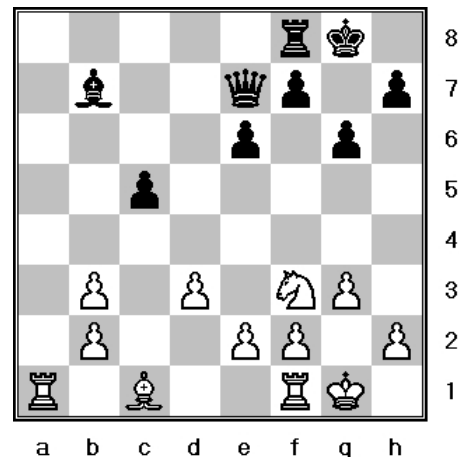
14. Nxa7!?

This leads to an interesting material imbalance: two pawns, rook, and knight for the queen.

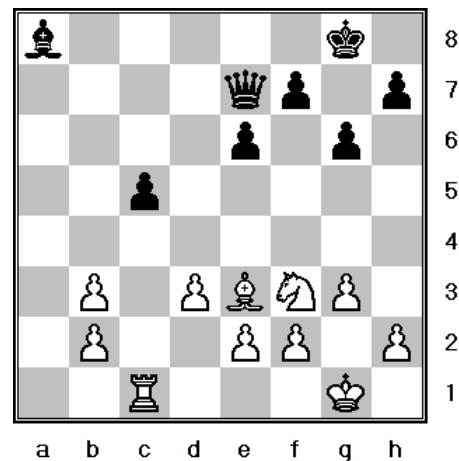
14. ...Rxb3 15. Nxc6 Qc7 16. Nxe7+

Qxe7 17. axb3 Bb7 =

The tactical sequence has ended, and the resulting position is roughly equal. White has plans to target the c5 pawn and start advancing the b-pawns. I expected that Black would play on the kingside by putting pawns on dark squares like f6 and e5, blunting my bishop and increasing the scope of hers.



18. Be3 Ra8 19. Rxa8+ Bxa8 20. Rc1!?



Playing for a draw instead of a win. A more ambitious try was 20. Nd2 Bd5 21. Rc1 Qf6 22. Rc3 Qe5 23. Kf1 Qh5 24. h4 Qg4 25. Ke1 Qh3 26. Nc4 Qh1+ 27. Kd2 with a Petrosianesque king march to the queenside!

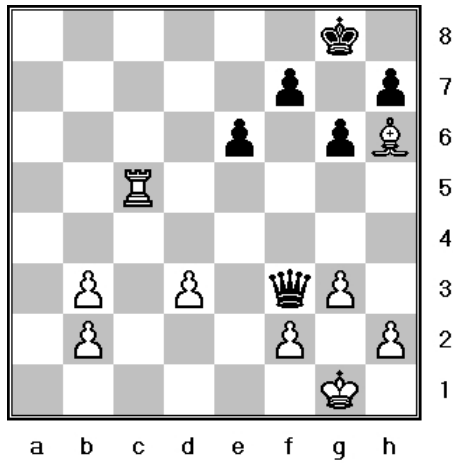
20. ...Bxf3= 21. exf3

With three pawn islands, two sets of doubled pawns, and weaknesses on b3, d3, and f3, I realized that playing for a win would be much more difficult. At this point in the game, a draw seemed like the most likely result.

21. ...Qb7 22. Rxc5 Qxf3 23. Bh6?

A misguided attempt to take advantage of the weak dark squares around Black's

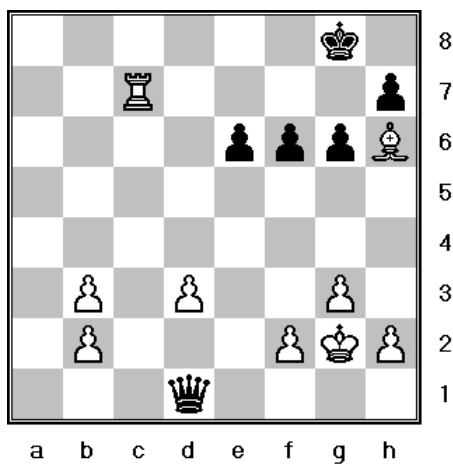
king. A much better plan was to simply start advancing on the queenside with 23. b4 Qd1+ 24. Kg2 Qxd3= 25. b5 Qe4+ 26. Kg1, where the rook and bishop coordinate well to escort the passed b-pawn.



23. ...f6 24. Rc7

Threatening Rg7 Kh8 Rf7 with a mating attack or Kf8 Rxg6, but simply overlooking Black's strong response.

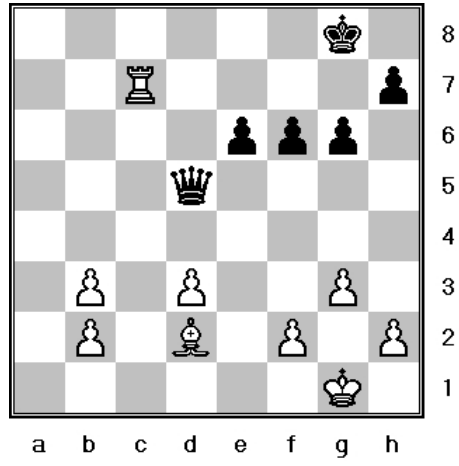
24. ...Qd1+ 25. Kg2



25. ...Qh5!

Uh-oh! After this move was played, I realized that I was worse and would have to play carefully to escape with a draw. My poorly planned attack has backfired; I am forced to endure a tough endgame. In the next phase of the game, Black consolidates her position, centralizes her king, and scoops up my weak pawns. As time pressure kicked in, I saw my position deteriorate from slightly worse to clearly worse around the 40th move.

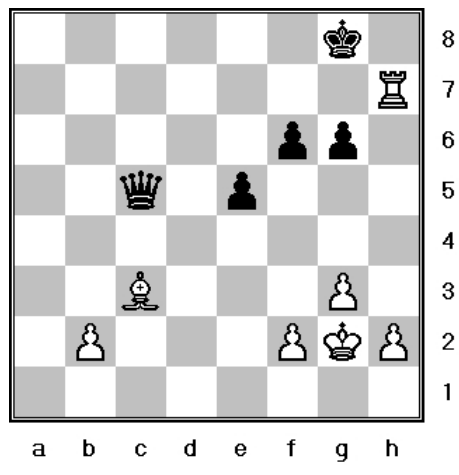
26. Bd2 Qd5+ 27. Kg1



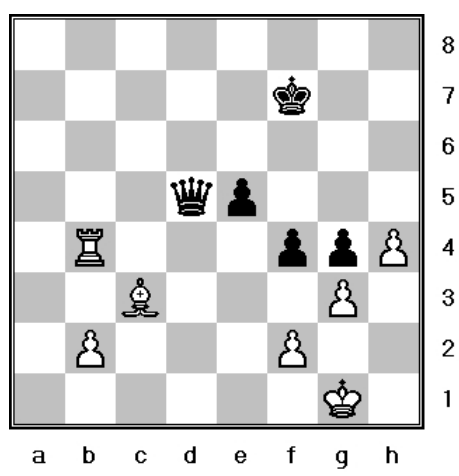
27. ...Qxb3

Perhaps even stronger was 27... Qxd3 28. Rc8+ Kf7 29. Rc7+ Kf8 30. Bb4+ Kg8 31. Rc8+ Kg7 32. Rc7+ Kh6 33. Be7 +/-.

28. Bc3 e5 29. Rd7 Kf8 30. Rxx7 Qd1+ 31. Kg2 Qxd3 32. Rc7 Qd6 33. Ra7 Qc5 34. Rh7 Kg8



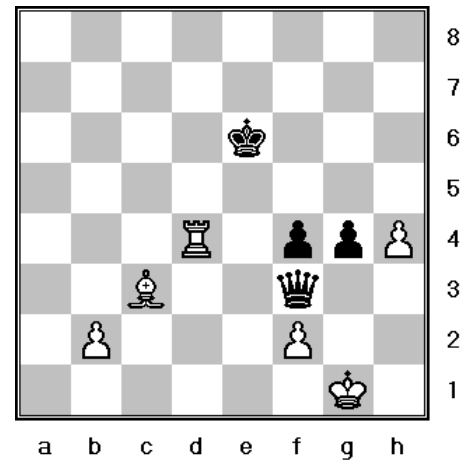
35. Rh4 g5 36. Rb4 Qd5+ 37. Kg1 Kf7 38. h4 g4 39. Kf1 f5 40. Kg1 f4



41. gxf4

Having made time control with fewer than five seconds left on my clock, I finally had some more time to calculate. I briefly considered the sacrifice 41. Bxe5 with the following variation: 41. Bxe5 f3 42. Rxg4 Qd1+ 43. Kh2 Qf1 44. Rf4+ Ke6 45. Rxf3 Kxe5, where White's kingside pawns and rook form a fortress. Then I noticed that Black can play 43.Ke6! first and White is getting mated or losing the bishop, so I rejected the variation.

41. ...Qd1+ 42. Kg2 Qf3+ 43. Kg1 exf4 44. Rd4 Ke6



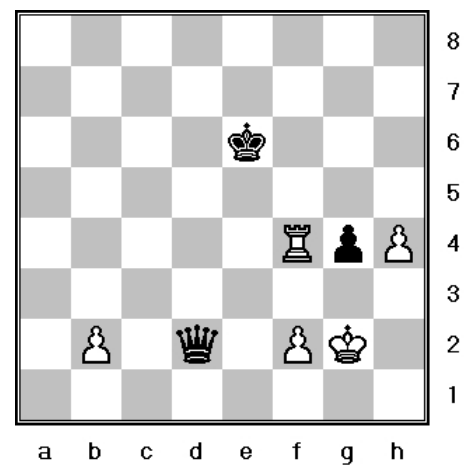
45. Be1?

You know you're in trouble when you have to play a move like Be1 to prevent intrusion on the kingside!

45. ...Qe2

Better was 45...g3 46. fxg3 fxg3 47. Rd2 Qe4 48. Kf1 Qh1+ 49. Ke2 g2 50. Bf2 g1=Q 51. Bxg1 Qxg1 +/-.

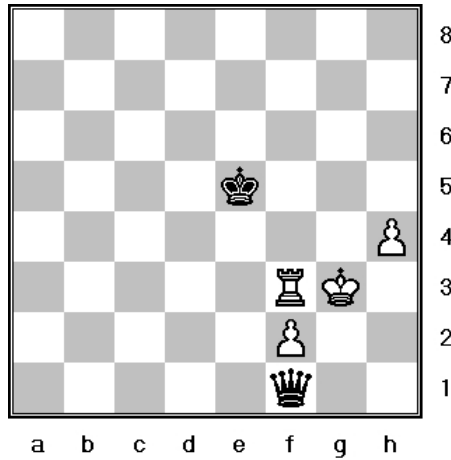
46. Rxf4 Qxe1+ 47. Kg2 Qd2



48. Kg3?

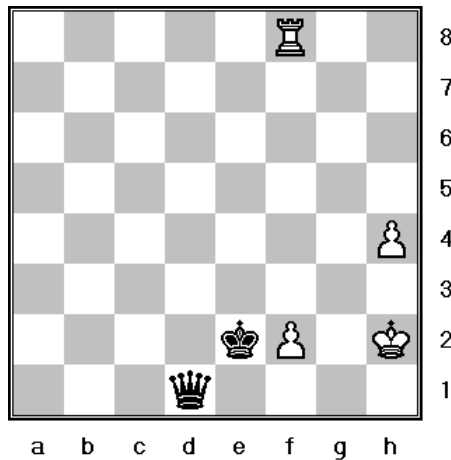
Missing my last chance to set up a fortress with 48. Rxb2 49. Rg3.

48. ...Qxb2 49. Kxg4 Qe2+ 50. Rf3 Ke5 51. Kg3 Qf1!

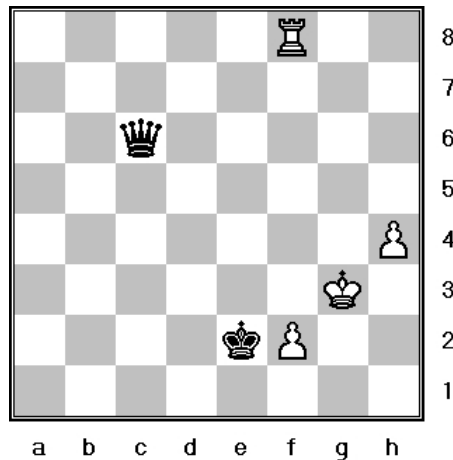


With the king unable to reside on g2, White cannot prevent eventual intrusion by Black's king and queen.

52. Kh2 Ke4 53. Rf8 Qd1 54. Rg8 Kf3 55. Rf8+ Ke2



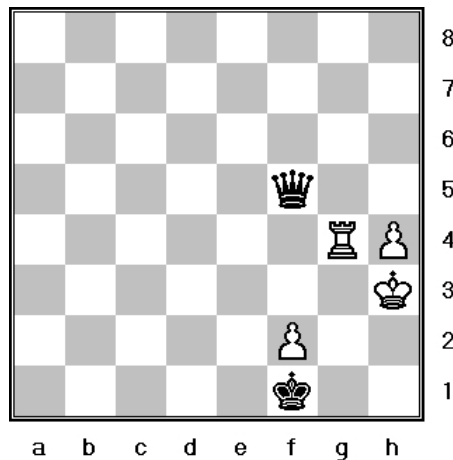
56. Kg2 Qf1+ 57. Kh2 Qc1 58. Kg2 Qc6+ 59. Kg3



59. ...Qd6+

Much stronger was 59. ...Qc3+, winning at once: 60. Kh2 Qc7+ 61. Kh3 Qd7+ 62. Kg3 Qg7+ -+.

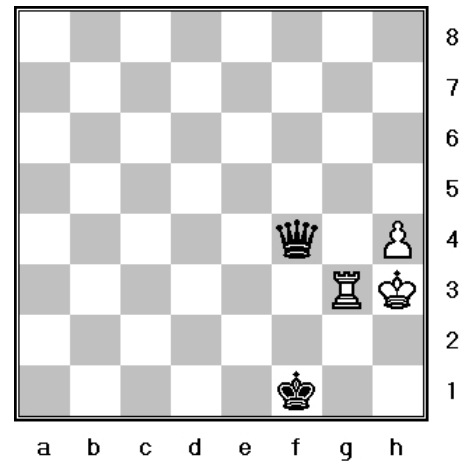
60. Rf4 Qg6+ 61. Kh3 Kf1 62. Rg4 Qf5



63. Kg3 Qxf2+ 64. Kh3

I had only a few minutes left on my clock at this point, but chose to play on out of momentum. Black had more than 90 minutes left, but began to play quickly, likely sensing that victory was not far off.

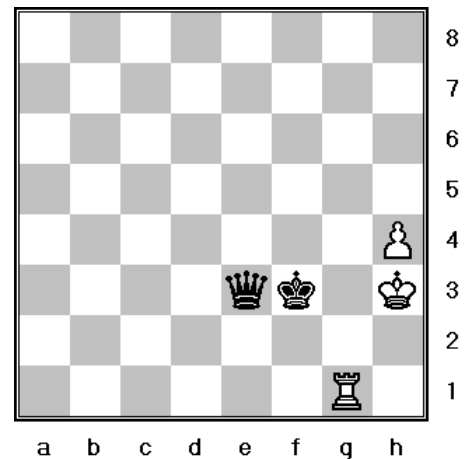
64. ...Qf3+ 65. Rg3 Qf5+ 66. Kh2 Qf4 67. Kh3



67. ...Kf2 68. Rg2+ Kf3 69. Rg1

Going for some last minute cheapos on the f-file.

69. ...Qe3??



70. Rg3+

A tragic end for Katerine, and a very lucky escape for me!

1-0

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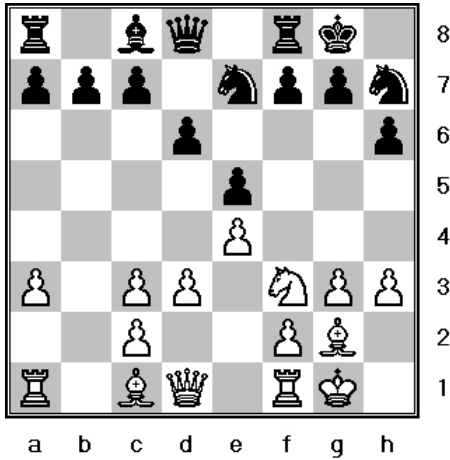
State Champion Costin Cozianu chose to annotate his fourth round win against WGM Rohonyan

Responding to an inquiry by Rusty Miller, former Romanian junior champion Cozianu writes, "I was very impressed with the performance of the two juniors in the tournament, and I think they deserve more mention than me."

**Katerine Rohonyan – Costin Cozianu
Washington Championship, Round 4
Redmond, February 8, 2009**

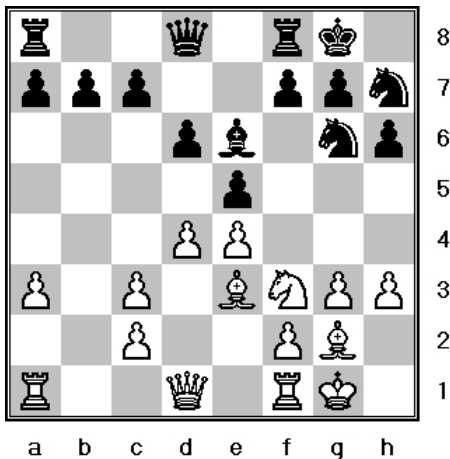
1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. g3 Bb4 5. Bg2 d6 6. d3 h6 7. 0-0 0-0 8. h3 Ne7 9. a3?!

White waste a tempo to force a decision.
9. ...Bxc3 10. bxc3 Nh7



It is Black's turn to force White to move in the center. The threat of f5 practically forces White to advance d4, which makes the c2,c3 doubled pawns weak and immobile.

11. d4 Ng6 12. Be3 Be6



13. Qd3

The previous move (13... Be6) is very annoying for White, because the black bishop wants to support the blowup of White's powerful center with d6-d5. In spite of White having the bishop-pair, an opening of the center will be advantageous for Black because of White's weak pawns on the queenside and also after the likely exchange of the white-square bishop, White's castle will be severely weakened. At the same time, the bishop on e6 is teasing White to play d4-d5, but of course this would be a disaster as it would render the doubled pawns hopeless: 13. d5 Bd7 14. c4 b6 15. Nd2 f5.

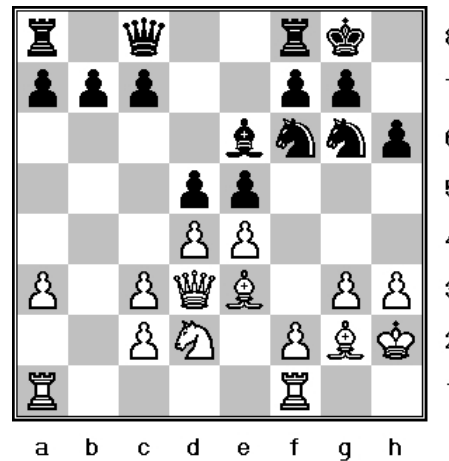
13. ...Qc8 14. Kh2 Nf6

White has to find an active plan, and the only possible idea is to push f4 trying to achieve a dominant center. In the meantime Black threatened a strategical combination with 15. ...Nxe4.

15. Nd2

15. Rab1 Nxe4 16. Qxe4 d5 17. Qd3 e4 18. Qd1 exf3 19. Qxf3 c6 =+.

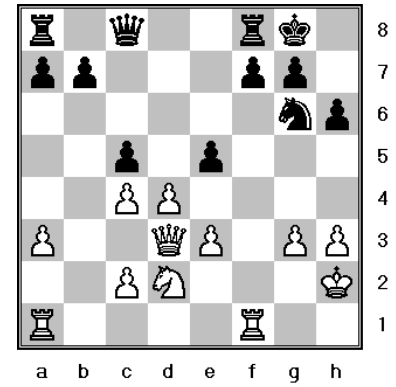
15. ...d5



Just in time, Black cancels White hopes for supremacy in the center. It is possible that White hoped she could win a pawn with the center exchanges but that was not the case so she changed her mind.

16. Rab1

It was risky to open the center because the exchange of white-colored bishops combined with the weakness in the pawn structure would make it very tough for White: 16. exd5 Bxd5 17. Bxd5 Nxd5 18. c4 (can't win the e5 pawn in view of 18. dxe5 Rd8! 19. Qe4 Nxe3 20. Qxe3 Nxe5 =+) 18. ...Nxe3 19. fxe3 c5

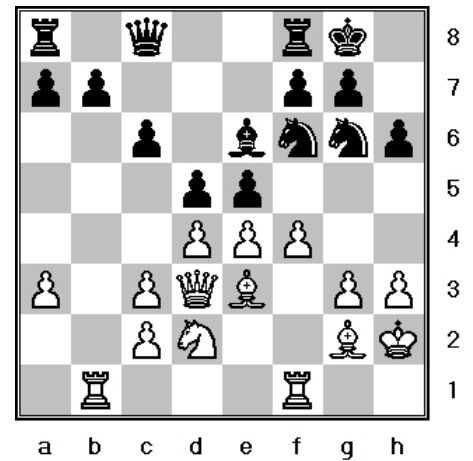


20. c3 f5 21. dxe5 Rd8.

16. ...c6

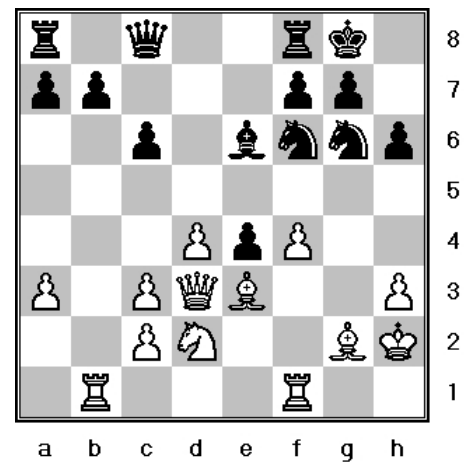
Consolidates the center and stops White's pressure on the long diagonal.

17. f4!?



This is a risky move because after the exchanges in the center the pawn structure around the castle is compromised and White remains with a weak and immobile pawn structure on the queenside.

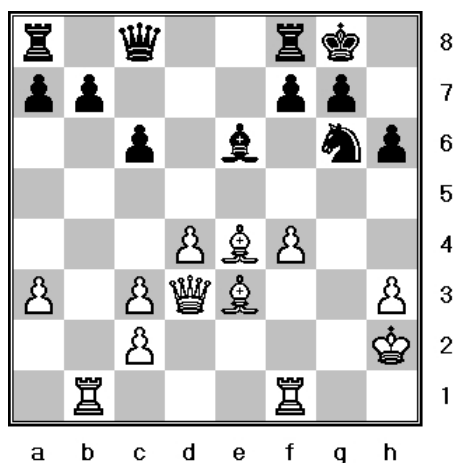
17. ...exf4 18. gxf4 dxe4?!



A pretty weak move, probably due to the tension accumulated in the position so far and the fact that I had calculated this position in advance.

Here there's a nice exception to the rule that you should always start exchanges with the weakest piece. My mission was to exchange as many pieces as possible and permanently compromise White's pawn structure, but this could have been achieved easier with 18. ...Nxe4 19. Nxe4 Bf5 20. Nf6+ gxf6 21. Qe2 (Threatening Qh5, trying to take advantage of the bad blocker on f5) 21. ...Re8 22. Rbe1. Although Black has a few problems unraveling his pieces because of the awkward position of the bishop and the knight, in the long run it's only Black who presses for a win here.

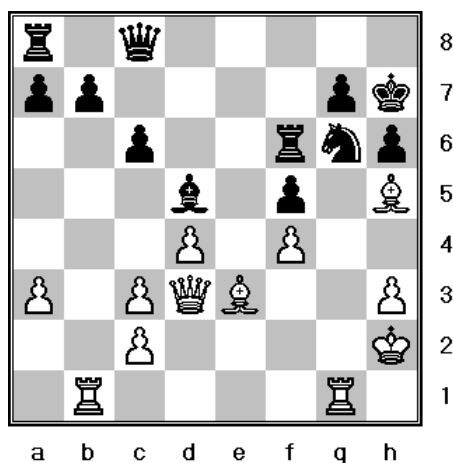
19. Nxe4 Nxe4 20. Bxe4



20. ...f5!

Of course, Black cannot afford to let White unravel the power of her two bishops against his castle for meager material gains – that is unless Black is a computer. 20. ...Bxh3 21. f5 Bxf1 22. Rxf1 with attack.

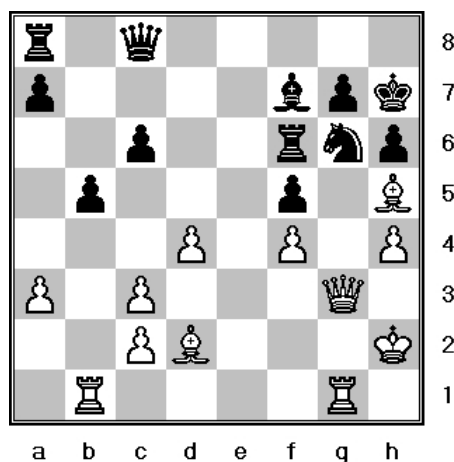
21. Bf3 Bd5 22. Bh5 Kh7 23. Rg1 Rf6



24. Bd2?

White should have tried to push c4 at all costs, to avoid getting a fixed pawn structure that condemns the black-squared bishop. 24. c4 Bf7 25. Qb3 b6 26. Rg3 Qc7=.

24. ...b5 25. Qg3 Bf7 26. h4?

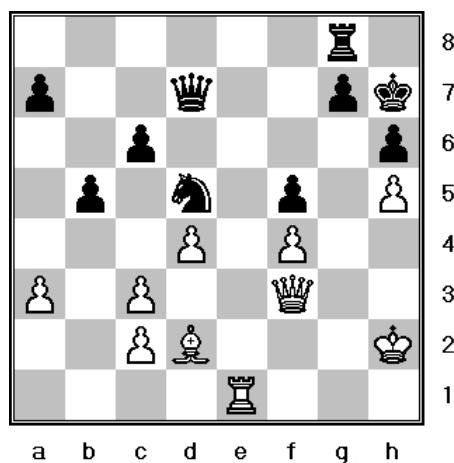


The pressure on the g file turns out to be illusory as Black has just enough time to defend. White should have tried to free up the bad d2 bishop even with the cost of two pawns by sacrificing on c4 and d5, and getting a tremendous pressure against the critical square g7. 26. c4 bxc4 27. Bc3 Re6 28. Rbe1 Qd7 29. Re5 Rg8 30. Rxf5 Re2+ 31. Bxe2 Qxf5 =+.

26. ...Qd7 27. Bf3 Rg8 28. Rbe1 Ne7

Now Black will exchange the white-square bishops, and White's black square bishop will never see the light of day.

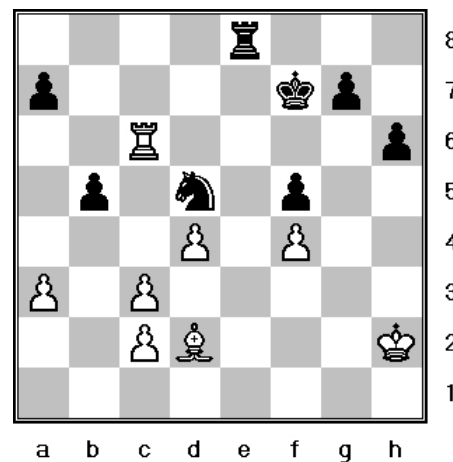
29. Rg2 Rg6 30. Qf2 Rxc2+ 31. Qxc2 Bd5 32. h5 Bxf3 33. Qxf3 Nd5 -/+



Black has achieved complete strategic domination, a typical position of good blocking knight in the center against bad

bishop. White's king is awfully unprotected; that's why White tried to exchange the queens and get some activity for her rook. White is forced to try desperate measures.

34. Qg2 Qf7 35. Qg6+ Qxg6 36. hxc6+ Kxg6 37. Re6+ Kf7 38. Rxc6 Re8



The position was calculated in advance. White's rook is active, but unfortunately the bishop remains trapped behind the pawns and is in danger of being simply lost.

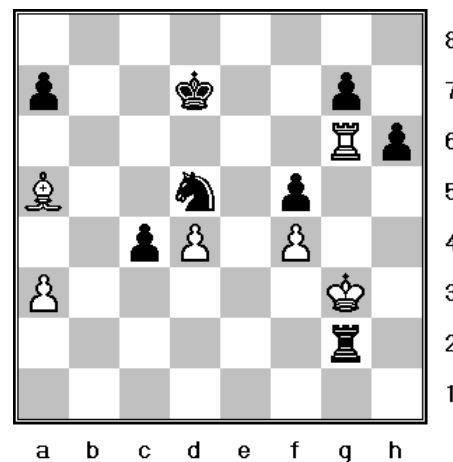
39. c4

39. Rc5 Re2+ 40. Kh3 Nf6 41. Bc1 Rxc2 42. Be3 Ke6 43. Rxb5 Rxc3 44. Re5+ Kd6. Threats like Nd5 or Ne4 win the game.

39. ...bxc4 40. Kg3 Re2 41. Ba5 Rxc2 42. Rc5 Ke6 43. Rc6+

Last hope for White to activate the rook or chase away the annoying knight on d5.

43. ...Kd7 44. Rg6 Rg2+



A little combination that wins yet another pawn and proves the power of the knight in the center against the pitiful bishop.

0-1

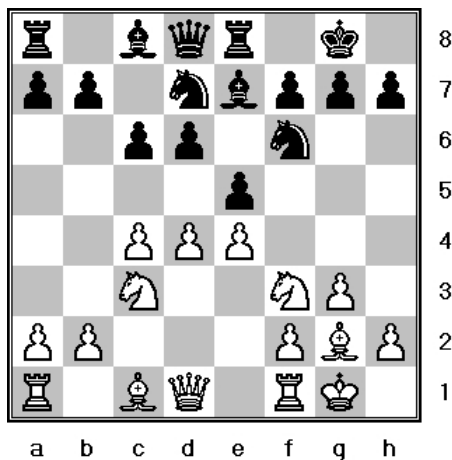
Michael Lee submits his penultimate-round victory against 2007 Champion Ignacio Perez.

**Michael Lee – Ignacio Perez
Washington Championship, Round 8
Bellevue, February 15, 2009**

1. c4 e5 2. Nc3 Nf6 3. g3 c6 4. Nf3 d6 5. d4 Nbd7

Transposing into an Old Indian.

6. Bg2 Be7 7. 0-0 0-0 8. e4 Re8



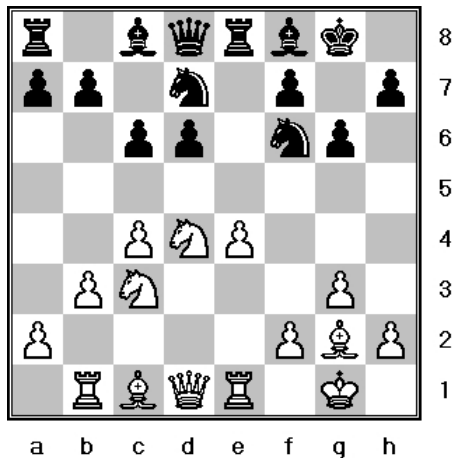
9. Re1

9. h3 is the main line: 9. ...Bf8 10. Be3 +/- . A good game to see is Matamoros-Aderito, 2008, illustrating White's aggressive intentions. White usually tries to play Nh4, f4, and attack on the kingside.

9. ...Bf8 10. Rb1!? exd4 11. Nxd4 g6

Ignacio plans to transpose into more of a King's Indian set-up against a fianchetto system. However, he has lost a little time (Be7-f8-g7).

12. b3



With the idea of Bb2, Qd2, Rbd1 with a

slight edge.

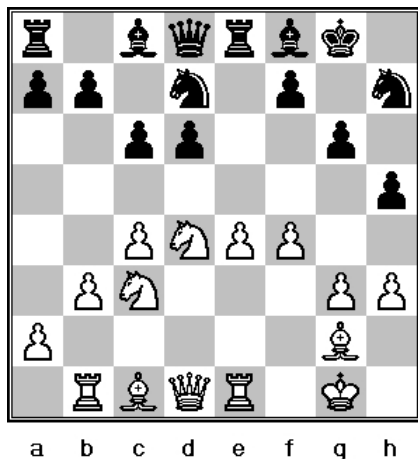
12. ...h5!?

A little too aggressive. 12. ...Bg7.

13. h3 Nh7

Planning 14. ...h4 15. g4 g5 or ...Ng5-e6.

14. f4



14. ...Bg7

14. ...h4?! 15. g4 g5 16. Nf5! gxf4 17. Nxd6 Bxd6 18. Qxd6 +/-.

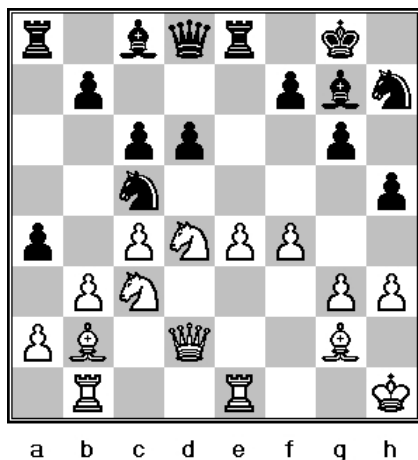
15. Bb2 a5

With the idea of ...Nc5, Qb6, and a4. 15. ...h4 is again premature due to 16. g4 g5 17. Nf5!

16. Kh1

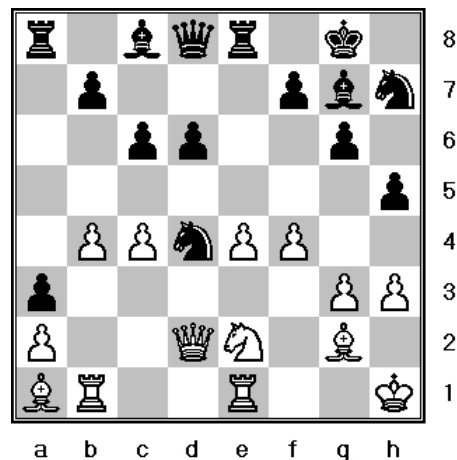
16. Na4! +/- Stops ...Nc5 and ...Qb6.

16. ...Nc5 17. Qd2 a4?!



Premature. 17. ...Qb6 18. Nf3 +/-, with the threat of 19. Qxd6 Rd8 20. Nd5!

18. b4! a3 19. Ba1 Ne6 20. Nce2 Nxd4



21. Bxd4

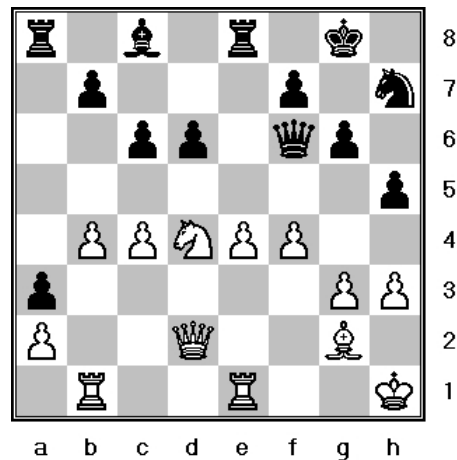
White wants to trade off Black's active bishop.

21. ...Bxd4?!

21. ...Nf6 22. Nc3 Be6 23. Qd3 Qc7 +/-.

22. Nxd4 Qf6!?

22. ...h4 23. g4 g5 24. Nf5 Bxf5 25. exf5 Rxe1+ 26. Rxe1 Qf6 +/-.

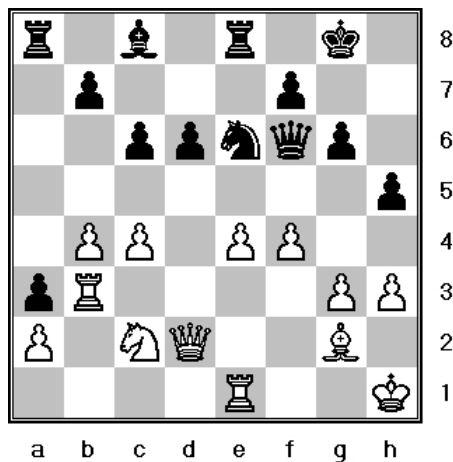


23. Rb3

With the idea of Nc2, Rxa3.

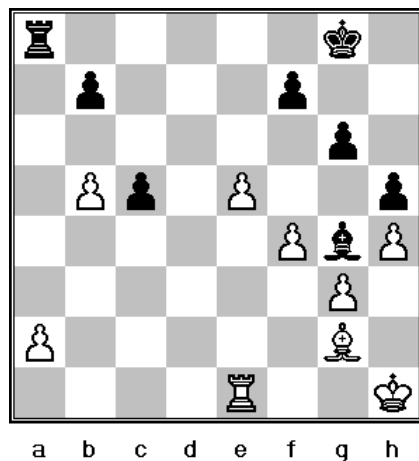
23. ...Nf8 24. Nc2 Ne6?!

24. ...h4 25. g4 g5! (25. ...Ne6) 26. f5 Nd7 27. Rxa3 Rxa3 28. Nxa3 Ne5 +/-, with a little counterplay,

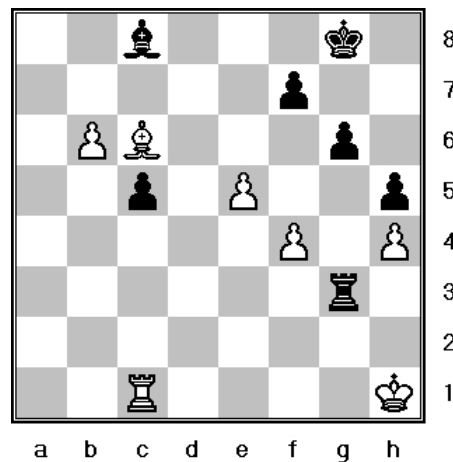


25. h4! +/- c5 26. Rxa3 Rxa3 27. Nxa3 Bg4!

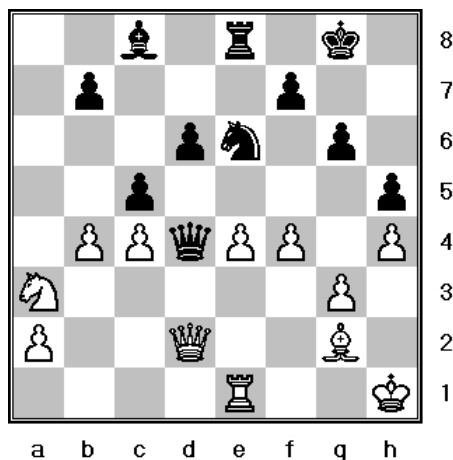
Black is lost, and this move provides little resistance 32. ...b6 33. a4 Rb8 34. Kg1. Black is paralyzed.



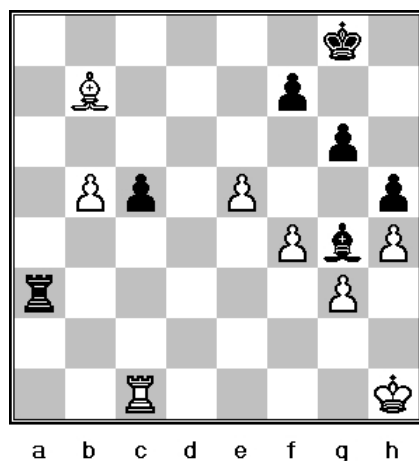
33. Bxb7 Rxa2 34. Rc1 Ra3



37. Ra1 Rb3 38. Ra8 Rxb6 39. Rxc8+ Kg7 40. Bd5 Rb4



28. Qxd4 Nxd4 29. bxc5 dxc5 30. e5 Bg4



35. Bc6!

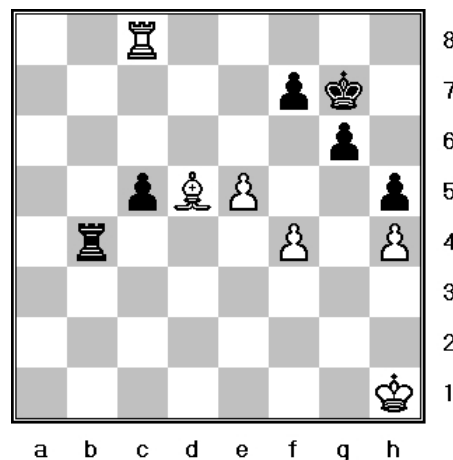
35. Rxc5!? Rxc3 36. Bc6 (36. Bd5?! Bf3+ 37. Bxf3 Rxf3 38. b6 Rb3 39. Rc6 is winning, but more difficult) 36. ...Rb3; a more difficult win.

35. ...Rxc3!?

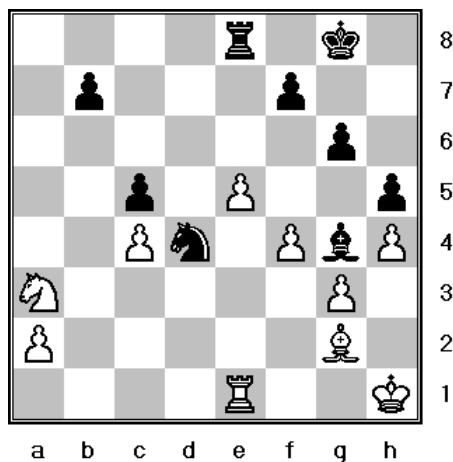
35. ...Rb3 36. Rxc5 +.

36. b6! Bc8

36. ...Bf3+ 37. Bxf3 Rxf3 38. Rb1 +.

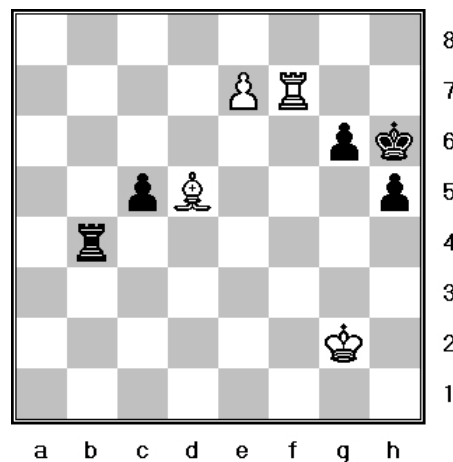


41. Rc7! Rxf4 42. e6 Rxh4+ 43. Kg2 Rb4 44. Rxf7+ Kh6 45. e7



Black's best shot at counterplay. 30. ...Be6 31. Nb5! Nxb5 32. cxb5 b6 33. a4 +/-, with the idea of Ra1, a5.

31. Nb5! Nxb5 32. cxb5 Ra8?



1-0

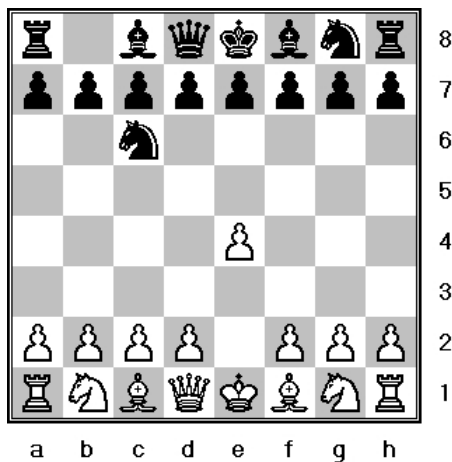
Pazderic, Nickola – Hosford, Michael
Washington Invitational, Round 3
Redmond, February 8, 2009

I arrived at my table awake just enough to notice that Michael seemed a bit edgy, perhaps because he woke up to two losses and last place after two rounds. I thought I would try to unbalance the game immediately to cross him up. How does one do this? Well, I suppose most chess players who followed Fischer would agree:

1. e4!

Michael didn't think too long and replied:

1. ...Nc6!?

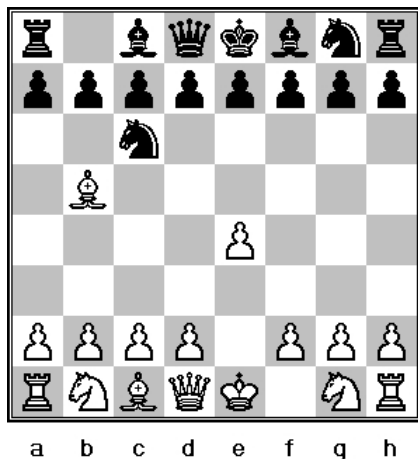


I was a bit relieved; for I was bleary eyed and, thus, not so sure I could handle one of the trickier black defenses any better than my opponent. (Is not, as Lasker said, "the threat stronger than the execution"?—of course, one must still be able to execute...) I thought for a couple of seconds and rejected 2. d4, knowing Black would be very happy to advance d5 or e5 and either develop his king bishop early or maneuver his knight (after 3. d5) to g6 via e7—when he could test my center with f6 and c5. I also considered 2. Nc3, when White invites Black into a classical set up. In any case, the Nimzowitsch defense is a little passive and, thus, a little dubious. To provoke the opponent into advancing too far too fast is one goal of this defense. I thought I might catch Black off guard if I reversed the strategy by playing:

2. Bb5

With this move, White invites Black to advance his pawns against the bishop but without any claim to the center, as in the Ruy Lopez. I also thought that should Black venture 2. ...d5, I could always chop the knight and play my queen to the weakened

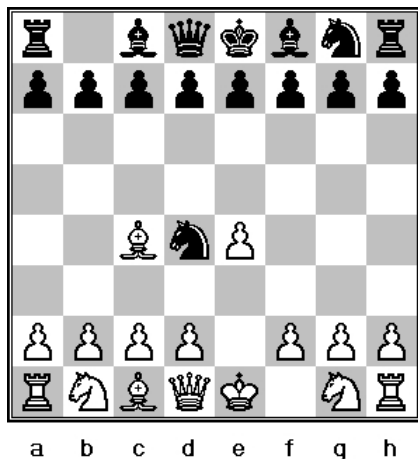
white squares via e2 for a slight edge. 2. ...e5 leads to the Ruy Lopez, and I doubted that any Nimzowitsch player would want that. 2. ...Nf6 is given by my chess engine as the main line; I'm sure I would have attempted 3. Nc3 in reply.



2. ...Nd4

Bam! The question is put to the bishop immediately. But also instantly I began to scheme of ways to push his knight back into weird positions with a timely c3. The first choice was the natural 3. Ba4, and after 3. ...b5, I thought White could try at once 4. c3! Then I had a brain wave, reasoning "If I play Bc4 and Black plays the audacious 3...b5, I can probably sac the bishop on f7." That seemed even more off kilter than the solid 3. Ba4, 4. c3 plan. So,

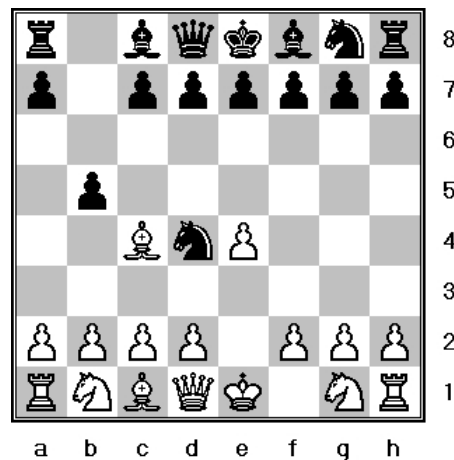
3. Bc4



3. ...b5

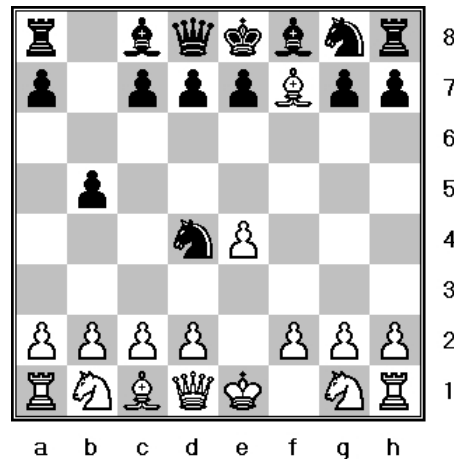
Michael played this quickly and, as I thought, audaciously. I didn't really calculate much at this point. I simply saw that black must capture, expose his king to check via h5, and either put his king on f6 or open up his white squares (and the juicy targets on

a8 and d4) with a dreary g6. So, merrily I played



4. Bxf7+!

At this point Michael said something, which I do not recall, and tipped over his king. In disbelief, I quickly wrote 1-0 on my score sheet, turned and handed it to Fred Kleist, the Tournament Director, and left the commotion.



1-0

Michael should not have resigned, as he told me the next day. The best plan is to play 5. ...g6 and to force White to take on d4 or a8 after 6. Qd5+. White has material, but Black can generate some counterplay against the queen. I had my engine play the position three times; each time White won in 40-55 moves, as I recall. But in practical play, this is no guarantee.

I'm not really proud of this game. But I did use a little counter-psychology, as expressible within the 64 squares, to take advantage of a perceived *temporary* weakness in my opponent's psychological armor. I am not sure that this is a good way to play generally, but it worked in this case.

And In The End

by Dana Muller

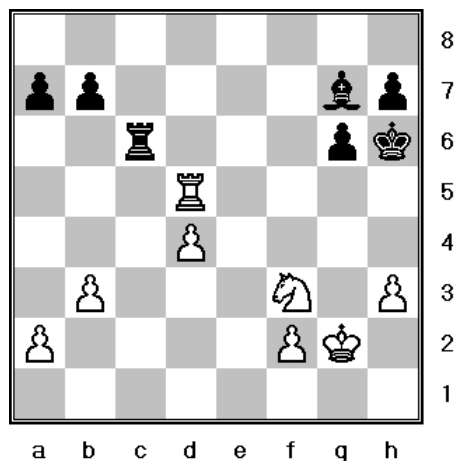


There are certain theoretical endgames that are oddities in the sense they seem to contradict what force is necessary to win. One example is rook plus pawn versus bishop; normally this is an easy win for the rook side, but there are certain positions that allow the bishop side to draw.

In this class of endgames is rook plus bishop-pawn and rook-pawn vs rook. Normally two extra pawns wins (even in rook endings), but this particular set of pawns results in a draw in most normal starting positions. A player could go through his entire playing career and not have to deal with one of these oddities, but I had the good fortune to see R+BP+RP vs R firsthand. This is a game with bittersweet memories. On one hand I played reasonably well and gained a large advantage against a very strong player. On the other hand, after building a strong position, I proceeded to miss one opportunity after another to capitalize.

I'm going to do something a little different with this column. This month we will look at how the game went downhill (for me) up to the point that the R+BP+RP vs R is reached. Next month we will look at the theory of R+BP+RP vs R, and finally two months from now we will continue with the game after the R+BP+RP vs R phase is reached and critique the play.

Dana Muller – Bruce Harper
Keres Memorial
Vancouver, B.C., May 1980



White is much better, probably winning.

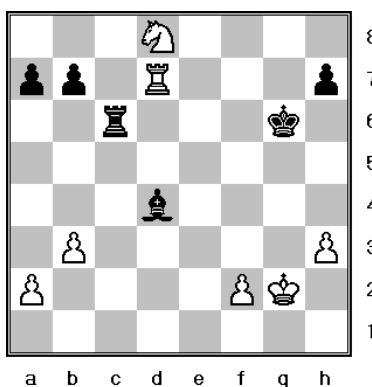
The pawn plus is obvious, but note the awkward alignment of the black king and bishop, this factor allows White to start an attack that is difficult to meet. In the game White fails to appreciate the strength of the attack and instead allows an exchange of bishop for knight. This is the first of several questionable decisions that lead from a near decisive edge to problematic winning chances.

37. Ne5(?)

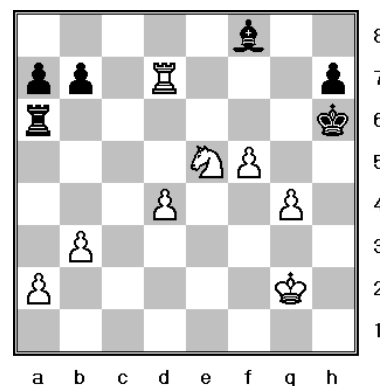
This is the first sign that White is losing the thread of the game. I believe my reasoning was that the black bishop was the better minor piece and exchanging was the logical path to take. This is wrong; the bishop lacks scope and is a target more than anything. Also, by exchanging, Black opens up more breathing room for the king. White should have started an attack with 37. Rd7, the plan being to use the h (or f) pawn, the king and knight along with the rook in an attack on the black king. This involves playing h4 (or f4 in some cases), Kg3, Ng5 (or Nh2-g4 or Ne5) in some order. Black is in danger of either being mated or losing the bishop.

I'll give some sample lines:

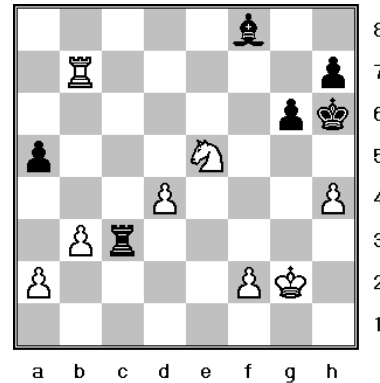
(a) 37. ...g5 (to free the king) 38. Nxc5 Bxd4 39. Nf7+ Kg6 40. Nd8



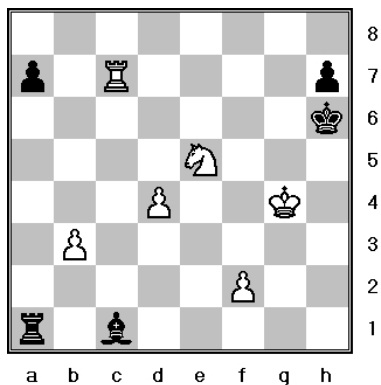
(b) 37. ...Bf8 38. Ne5 (Moving the Knight to the most active square since the bishop no longer controls e5) 38. ...Ra6 39. f4 g5 (forced) 40. f5 g4 (forced) 41. hxg4 winning.



(c) 37. ...Bf8 38. Ne5 Rc3 (to hold back the white king if White plays f4) 39. Rxb7 a5 40. h4 (idea f3, Ng4+).



(d) 37. ...Ra6 38. h4 Bf6 (38. ...Rxa2 39. Kg3 Bf6 40. Nh2 g5 41. Ng4+ Kg6 42. h5+) 39. Kg3 g5 40. hxg5+ Bxg5 41. Kg4 (the bishop still lacks good squares) 41. ...Bc1 (41. ...Bf6 42. Kf5) 42. Rxb7 Rxa2 43. Rc7 Ra1 44. Ne5 wins.



There are mating threats (Kf5, Ng4) and the d-pawn is ready to run.

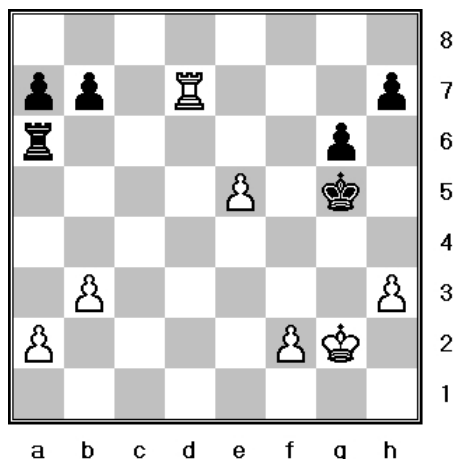
37. ...Bxe5

Gets rid of a problem piece and simplifies into a rook and pawn endgame. The rook and pawn endgame offers some drawing chances (as usual?), the best drawing chance being the liquidation of the queenside pawns.

38. dxe5 Kg5

Activating the king

39. Rd7 Ra6(?)



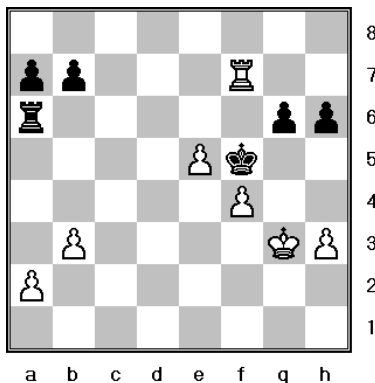
I think the immediate ...Kf5 is better. 40. Rxh7 Ra6 or 40. Rxb7 Ra6 are similar to the game continuation and black avoids continuations with White being able to defend the e-pawn with Kg3, f4.

40. Rxh7(?)

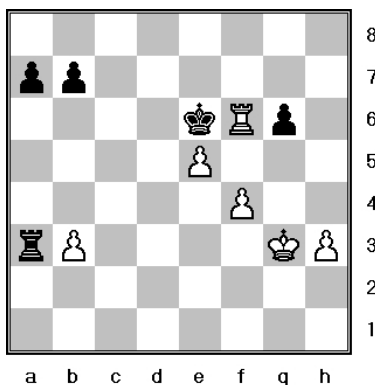
There goes another chance: 40. Kg3 is a better winning try. The idea is to continue with f4 solidifying the e5 pawn, then try and eliminate the g6 pawn. White would then have connected passed pawns and decent winning chances.

Some sample lines:

(a) 40. Kg3 Kf5 41. f4 h6 (or h5) 42. Rf7+ followed by Rf6



(b) 40. Kg3 Rxa2 41. f4+ Kf5 42. Rxh7 Ra3 (42. ...g5 43. Rh5) 43. Rf7+ Ke6 (43. ...Ke4 44. Rxb7 a5 45. e6) 44. Rf6+ picks up the g-pawn (44. Rxb7 is also strong).



Black can pick up the white b-pawn, but in a race to queen White is well ahead.

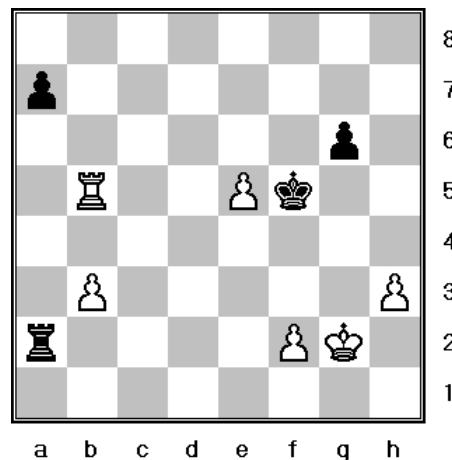
40. ...Kf5

There follows a general pawn slaughter. The outline of Black's defensive plan has already taken shape: The king will swallow the e-pawn and the rook will trade off the queenside pawns. Even if Black loses the g-pawn, we are left with the R+BP+RP vs. R ending.

41. Rxb7 Rxa2

Once the black rook has hacked the a2 pawn, it's hard to find a plan that will stop the exchange of black a-pawn for white b-pawn.

42. Rb5

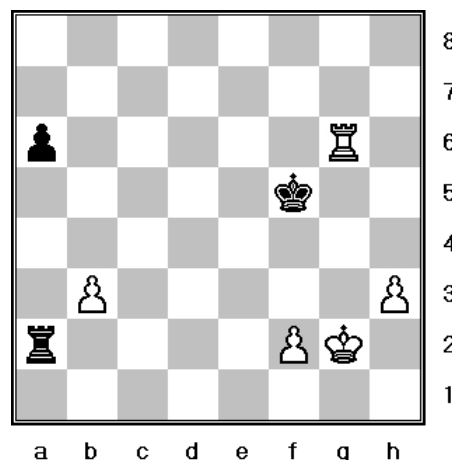


Hoping for a chance to play Kg3 and f4. Of course Black is having none of that.

42. ...a6 43. Rb6

43. Rc5 (still with the idea Kg3, f4) Ra3 44. Kg3 Rxb3+ is no help.

43. ...Kxe5 44. Rxc6 Kf5



45. Rg4(?)

In the long run the queenside pawns will be traded and the R+BP+RP vs R will appear. White does have several moves before this happens; the question is can he build a favorable version of that endgame before the queenside pawns are exchanged?

45. Rg3 is an attempt to do just that: 45. ...a5 46. h4 (trying for a favorable Keres vs. Sokolsky [discussed next month] type position) a4 47. bxa4 Rxa4 49. Rh3 Ra6 50. h5 Rh6 51. Kg3 and white has achieved his goal. While this is not all forced, the h-pawn march is dangerous for Black, mainly because the king is cut off from the h-pawn. Black needs to give up the plan of exchanging queenside pawns and withdraw his rook in order to deal the rapid h-pawn

advance. White then will be able to either win the black a-pawn or at least indirectly exchange white h-pawn for black a-pawn.

45. ...Ra3

For some reason I was expecting 45. ...Rb2(?) when 46. Rb4 does hold the queenside for awhile.

46. Ra4?

Giving in to the exchange of the queenside pawns rather easily. Also of no help is 46. Rb4 because 46. ...a5 47. Rb5+ Kg6 idea 48. ...a4 liquidates the queenside. Of course the best move is still 46. Rg3, but having not played it the prior move it never entered my radar.

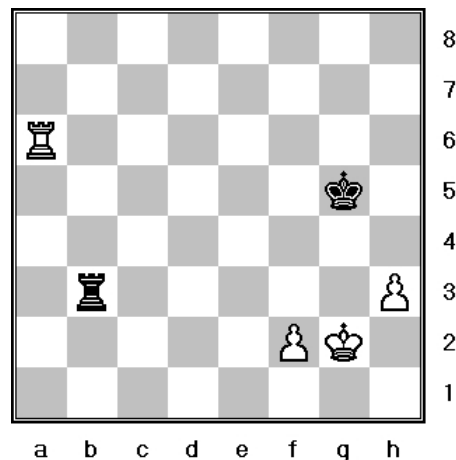
At this point I was getting that awful feeling that I had let the game get away, in my muddled state I thought the game was fated to go the R+BP+RP vs R ending and it didn't matter much what I did.

One of my muddled thoughts was to do nothing committal until adjournment (ah, the good old days?!) and look up the endgame in the appropriate literature.

The problem with this is that Black was always going to gain more by the game being adjourned than White. Any chances at pressuring Black into a mistake surely lie prior to adjournment In interests of full disclosure, I had looked at the R+BP+RP ending prior to this game; two summers earlier I had gone through "Practical Chess Endgames," by Paul Keres, page by page. Among those pages are a synopsis of how to play R+BP+RP along with Keres – Sokolsky, so the plan of Rg3 with the idea of advancing the h-pawn should have occurred to me.

46. ...Rxb3 47. Rxa6 Kg5

The adjourned position.



We have reached the infamous R+BP+RP vs R ending. Blacks pieces are well enough placed and a draw is the correct outcome. Next month we will delve into the theory of R+BP+RP vs R.

CHESS NIGHT

2009 Oregon Chess Champion **Carl Haessler** of Lake Oswego, Oregon (pictured below) will throw out the first pitch at the baseball game between the Portland Beavers and Las Vegas 51s on July 28, 2009. The game starts at 7:05pm. Get your tickets at <http://www.portlandbeavers.com/> or call Jen Manlig, Account Exec, 503-553-5443.

Come out and cheer for Carl and the Beavers.



There will be some tables setup before the game for some skittles chess play at the ball park.

Event organizer is Russell (Rusty) Miller, phone 360-834-2102 or russellmiller22@comcast.net.



<http://www.nwchess.com> also <http://www.cafepress.com/ChessNight> for a T-Shirt.

Seattle Chess Club Tournaments

Address ↙
17517 15 Ave NE ↙
Seattle WA 98155
Infoline ↙
206-417-5405
www.seattlechessclub.info
kleistcf@aol.com

♣June 13, July 18 **Saturday Quads**♣
Format: 3-RR, 4-ply sections by rating. TC: G/120. EF: \$7 (+\$5 fee for non-SCC). Prizes: Free entry for future quad. Reg: 9:00-9:45 a.m. Rds: 10:00-2:15-ASAP. Misc: USCF, WCF/OCF memb. req'd, OSA. NS, NC.

♣May 31, July 5 **Sunday Tornado**♣
Format: 4-SS. TC: G/64. EF: \$17 (+\$5 fee for non-SCC). Prizes: 1st 35%, 2nd 27%, Bottom Half 1st 22%, 2nd 16% (\$10 from each EF goes to prize fund). Reg: 10:30-11:15 a.m. Rds: 11:30-1:50-4:10-6:30. Misc: USCF, WCF/OCF memb. req'd, OSA. NS, NC.

August 16 **SCC Novice**
Format: 4-SS. Open to U1200 and unrated. TC: G/75. EF: \$11 by 1/28, \$16 at site. (\$2 disc. for SCC mem., \$1 for mem. of other dues-req'd CCs in WA, OR, & BC). Prizes: Memberships (SCC, WCF, USCF). Reg: 9-9:45a.m. Rds: 10-12:45-3:30-6. Byes: 1 (Rd 3 or 4-commit at reg.). Misc: USCF memb. req'd. NS, NC.

-
- Attendance at this year's previous tournaments**
- Novice (1/31)-5, (5/2)-8; Quads (1/10)-10, (2/21)-20, (3/14)-17, (4/25)-14; Tornados (1/4)-12, (2/1)-12, (3/1)-16, (4/5)-14, (5/3)-18;
 - Seattle City Championship (1/16-18)-21; Seattle Spring Open (3/27-29)-36.
-

Watch this space for information about a potential move of the SCC to the Northgate area.

Emerald City Open

June 19-21

A two-section, five-round Swiss with a time control of 40/2 & SD/1 (Rd 1 of 2-day schedule - G/64). The prize fund of \$800 is based on forty paid entries.

a Harmon Memorial Grand Prix event

Open		Reserve (U1700)	
First	\$200	First	\$140
Second	\$130	Second	\$90
U1950	\$95	U1450	\$65
		Unr	\$20

Upset (rds 1-4) \$15

Entry Fees: \$33 if rec'd by 6/17, \$42 at site. **SCC members**-subtract \$9. Members of other dues-required CCs in BC, OR, and WA-subtract \$4. **Unr**-free with purchase of 1-year USCF and WCF. **Add \$1** to any EF for 2-day schedule.

Registration: Fri. 7-7:45 p.m., Sat. 9-9:45 a.m.

Rounds: Fri. 8, Sat. (10 @ G/64)-12:30-6:45, Sun. 11-5.

Byes: 2 (Sunday rounds, commit at registration).

Miscellaneous: USCF & WCF membership req'd. No smoking. No computers.

Future Events

♣ indicates a NW Grand Prix event ♣

For free scholastic tournament listings, please visit www.nwchess.com.

♣ June 20 – 21

Newport June Open ♣

Site: Central Lincoln PUD Building, 2129 N. Coast Highway (south of Wal-Mart), Newport, Oregon. **Format:** 5-SS. **TC:** 40/90, G30. **Rds:** Sat 10, 2:30, 7. Sun 9:30, 2(or ASAP). **EF:** \$35 if received by June 18, \$40 the day of tournament. **Prizes:** \$1,000 b/35, Overall 1st Place- \$150; 2nd Place- \$90, Under 2000- 1st \$90; 2nd \$60; Under 1800- 1st \$90; 2nd \$60; Under 1600- 1st \$90; 2nd \$60; Under 1400- 1st \$90; 2nd \$60; Under 1200- 1st \$60; Under 1000- 1st \$60; Unrated- 1st \$40; Trophy to the top scholastic player. **Reg:** Sat. June 20, 8:45-9:30am. **Bye:** (1) 1/2 point bye in any round if requested before registration closes. **Misc:** USCF membership required. **Info:** Bill Barrese, (541) 563-7033; blbrs2020@yahoo.com. Bill Barrese, 3599 E. Alsea Hwy., Waldport, OR. 97394 or email: centralcoastchess@yahoo.com.

♣ June 27

Qualchan Quads ♣

Site: Spokane Valley Library, 12004 E. Main Spokane, WA 99206 (downstairs). **Format:** 3-RR. **TC:** G/2hrs. **EF:** \$16. **Prizes:** \$50 first each quad. **Reg:** Sat. June 20, 9:00-9:45am. **Misc:** USCF membership required. Coffee and snacks provided. **Info:** Dave Griffin, (509)928-3260, dbgrffn@hotmail.com.

♣ June 27

PCC Game-in-60 ♣

Site: Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave, Portland OR 97219. **Format:** 4-SS **TC:** G/60. May switch to 5-SS and G/45 if entries > 25. **EF:** \$20, \$5 disc for PCC memb. No adv ent. **Prizes:** \$\$200 b/20. \$60-40-30, U1800 35, U1500 35. **Reg:** 9-9:30 am. **Byes:** 1 HPB if req at reg. **Misc:** USCF & OCF/WCF memb req, OSA. **Info:** portlandchessclub@gmail.com, 503-246-2978, www.pdxchess.org.

♣ June 27 – 28

N. W. Open Economy Only ♣

Site: Tacoma Chess Club, 409 Puyallup Ave E, 2nd floor, room 11. In the OTI Soccer Store bldg, across the street from Alfred's Cafe, two blocks down the hill from the Tacoma Dome. **Format:** 5-SS. **TC:** Rd 1, G/60; Rd 2, G/90; Rds 3-5, G/120. **Rds:** Sat 10, 1, 4. Sun 10, 3 (or ASAP). **EF:** \$15. Unrated players free with purchase of USCF and WCF memberships. **Prizes:** Fun! Excitement! Ratings! Grand Prix points! Two days of entertainment! **Reg:** Sat. June 20, 8:45-9:30am. **Bye:** Two 1/2 point byes okay. Steve Buck acts as house player, so no unwanted byes given. **Misc:** USCF membership required. **Info/Entries:** Gary J. Dorfner, 8423 E. B St. Tacoma, WA 98445 or call (253)535-2536 or (253)306-7137 (club), e-mail ggarychess@aol.com.

June 2009

2	PCC Tuesday Quads begin	Portland CC, www.pdxchess.org , 503-246-2978	Portland, OR
4-7	Las Vegas Chess Festival, National Open	www.vegaschessfestival.com	Las Vegas, NV
5-7/3	TCC City Championship	Tacoma CC, www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com , 253-535-2536	Tacoma, WA
6	PCC Saturday Quads	Portland CC, www.pdxchess.org , 503-246-2978	Portland, OR
7	TCC Sunday Quads (G/30)	Tacoma CC, www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com , 253-535-2536	Tacoma, WA
10	TCC Wednesday Night Quads (G/15)	Tacoma CC, www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com , 253-535-2536	Tacoma, WA
13	♣ SCC Saturday Quads	Seattle CC, www.seattlechessclub.info , 206-417-5405	Seattle, WA
19-21	♣ SCC Emerald City Open	Seattle CC, www.seattlechessclub.info , 206-417-5405	Seattle, WA
20-21	♣ Newport June Open	Bill Barrese, centralcoastchess@yahoo.com , 541-563-7033	Newport, OR
27	♣ PCC G/60	Portland CC, www.pdxchess.org , 503-246-2978	Portland, OR
27	♣ Qualchan Quads	Spokane CC, www.spokanechessclub.org , 509-928-3260	Spokane, WA
27-28	♣ TCC Economy Tourney	Tacoma CC, www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com , 253-535-2536	Tacoma, WA

July 2009

5	♣ SCC Sunday Tornado	Seattle CC, www.seattlechessclub.info , 206-417-5405	Seattle, WA
5	TCC Sunday Quads (G/30)	Tacoma CC, www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com , 253-535-2536	Tacoma, WA
8	TCC Wednesday Night Quads (G/15)	Tacoma CC, www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com , 253-535-2536	Tacoma, WA
10-24	TCC Firecracker Swiss	Tacoma CC, www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com , 253-535-2536	Tacoma, WA
11-12	TCC Evergreen Empire Open	Tacoma CC, www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com , 253-535-2536	Tacoma, WA
11-12	♣ PCC Summer Open	Portland CC, www.pdxchess.org , 503-246-2978	Portland, OR
18	♣ SCC Saturday Quads	Seattle CC, www.seattlechessclub.info , 206-417-5405	Seattle, WA
18	PCC Saturday Quads	Portland CC, www.pdxchess.org , 503-246-2978	Portland, OR
24-26	♣ SCC Seattle Seafair	Seattle CC, www.seattlechessclub.info , 206-417-5405	Seattle, WA
24-26	BC Open	www.bcopenchess.pbwiki.com	Victoria, B.C.
25	♣ PCC G/60	Portland CC, www.pdxchess.org , 503-246-2978	Portland, OR
28	Carl Haessler First Pitch! 7:05 PM	Portland Beavers vs Las Vegas 51s	Portland, OR
31	TCC Quads (G/15)	Tacoma CC, www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com , 253-535-2536	Tacoma, WA

August 2009

1-9	110th U.S. Open Championship	USCF, www.uschess.org , 800-903-8723	Indianapolis, IN
2	TCC Sunday Quads (G/30)	Tacoma CC, www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com , 253-535-2536	Tacoma, WA
2	♣ SCC Sunday Tornado	Seattle CC, www.seattlechessclub.info , 206-417-5405	Seattle, WA
7-28	TCC Summer Championship	Tacoma CC, www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com , 253-535-2536	Tacoma, WA
8	Washington Blitz Championships	Crossroads Shopping Center	Bellevue, WA
8-9	TCC Tacoma Open	Tacoma CC, www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com , 253-535-2536	Tacoma, WA
12	TCC Wednesday Night Quads (G/15)	Tacoma CC, www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com , 253-535-2536	Tacoma, WA
15	♣ SCC Saturday Quads	Seattle CC, www.seattlechessclub.info , 206-417-5405	Seattle, WA
16	♣ SCC Novice	Seattle CC, www.seattlechessclub.info , 206-417-5405	Seattle, WA
22-23	Washington Senior Adult and Women's Ch. ...	Tacoma CC, www.tacomachessclub.netfirms.com , 253-535-2536	Tacoma, WA
25	♣ PCC G/60	Portland CC, www.pdxchess.org , 503-246-2978	Portland, OR
30	♣ SCC Sunday Tornado	Seattle CC, www.seattlechessclub.info , 206-417-5405	Seattle, WA