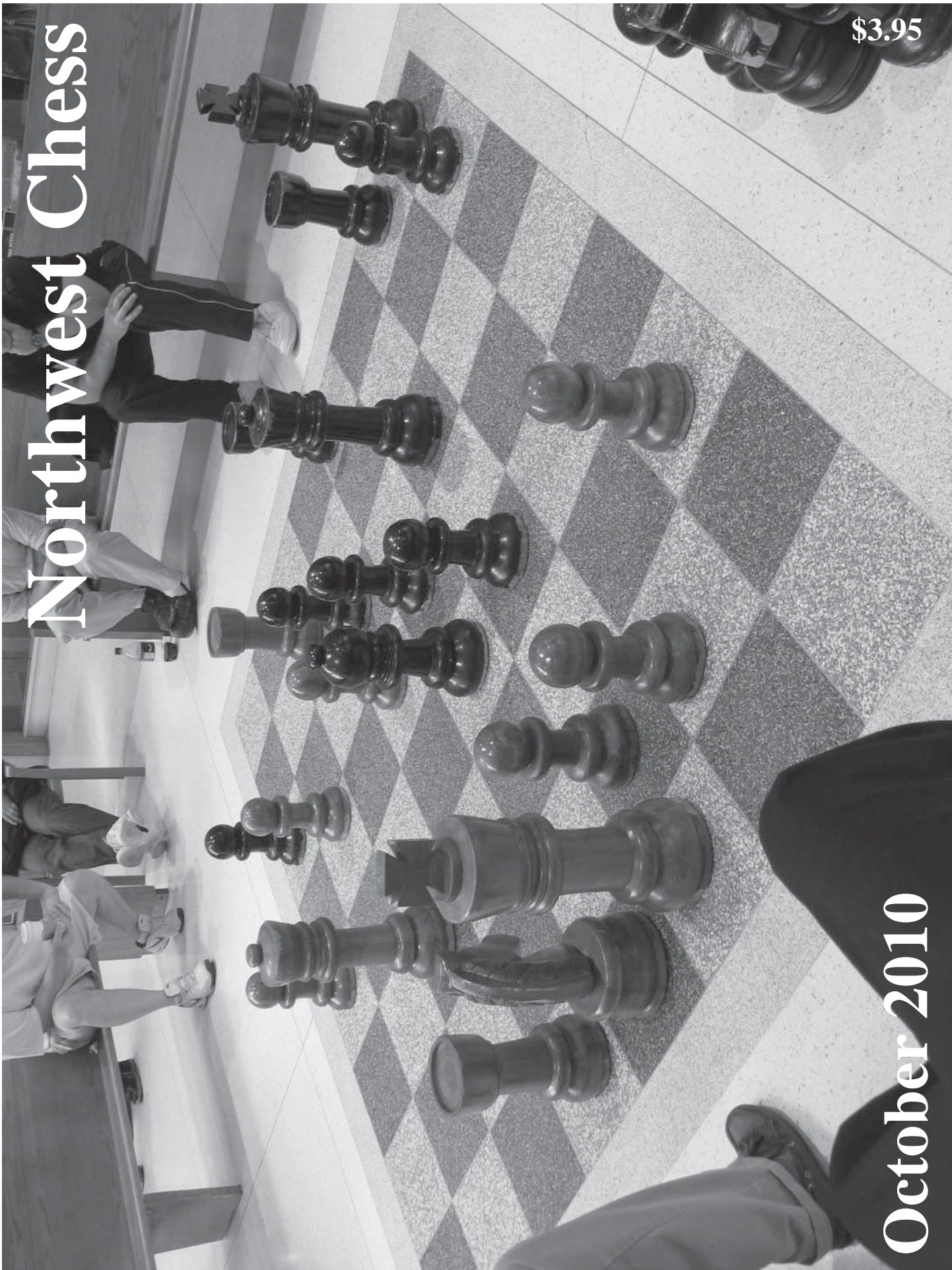


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Photo credit: Russell Miller

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Editor's Desk Ralph Dubisch



I have to admit I was torn about the front cover. No, no. The front cover wasn't torn (though sometimes the post office isn't especially careful when delivering to my box, and the front cover is torn, but that's not what I'm talking about here). I had to choose between the front cover you see – well, you would see, if you were looking at the front cover instead of page three, if you see what I mean – and the alternate version in roughly one-quarter size here on page three. I think my final choice was based more on my lack of confidence in my own ability to make a collage work than anything else. That, and the fact that the big set looked pretty cool.

The collage in question would be the giant set at Bellevue's Crossroads Shopping Center, a 50th birthday cake, Slava Mikhailuk, Michael Lee, and Josh Sinanan playing for the Seattle Sluggers, and Duane Polich and Yasser Seirawan teaming up in a game of bughouse chess.

What do all of these disparate elements have in common? Well, Russell Miller going to Bellevue to attend Yasser's surprise 50th birthday party at the Chess4Life center, where the Seattle Sluggers were, not coincidentally, playing their first round U.S. Chess League match via the Internet Chess Club. Since Rusty was taking the pictures, he's the glue that makes it all hang together.

Was the party really a surprise? I imagine so, since it was held in August, and Yasser's birthday was in March. Can't get much more surprising than that.

Another surprise will be found in next month's issue – GM Seirawan not only writes superb, award-winning chess books, but he is also capable of writing fiction. Inspired by "Unkle Vik," and dedicated to Fred and Carol Kleist, Yasser's "A Forgotten Chess Tale: Hapley's Project," started as a short story. In Yasser's words, "just a kernel... a really small seed... as I'm typing it just sort of grows and grows... how did this get so big? My short story managed to blow up, as in inflate." Look for it in November.

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Oregon Open 2010

by Neil Dale, Charles Schulien, and Harley Greninger

Report by Neil Dale, followed by annotated games courtesy Charles Schulien and Harley Greninger.

Nick Raptis, Michael Macgregor, and Josh Sinanan shared first place with five points apiece at the 2010 Oregon Open.

The theme of this Open might be “no Master goes unscathed.” Mike Schemm defeated Raptis in round one, but after that Nick posted a perfect score. Josh Sinanan and Michael Macgregor did go undefeated, but each had two draws. Thus the three of them shared the top three prize monies equally, each pocketing \$350.

Carl Haessler won the first four rounds, but the last day spoiled his chances. He drew Sinanan in round five, then lost to Raptis in the last round. The \$200 bonus prize for a perfect record went unclaimed. Wait until next year, I guess. Brian Esler was first in the under-2000 prize category with 3½ points.

It was a different story in the reserve section: Jerry Sherrard finished with a perfect six score to claim sole first prize of \$370. Leonardo Sotaridona and Aaron Nicoski claimed second and third with five points apiece. First place in the under-1600 category was split between Adam Culbreth and Jason Hill with 4½ each. Walt Spink won the under-1400 prize with 3½. First in the under-1200 group went to Jonathan Gamble with three points.

We had a good turnout, 50 in the Open, 61 in the Reserve, considering the economy and competition from Internet chess. Once again the site was Mt. Hood Community College in Gresham.

The Portland Chess Club was the sponsor of this tournament, and would like to thank all of the players who came to compete, and also many thanks to the College for providing this nice site.

The PCC and the Oregon Chess Federation also thank especially all of the players who traveled from Washington to play. They have made a \$200 donation to *Northwest Chess* again this year in appreciation of the Washington players who support the premier Oregon tournament held every year on Labor Day weekend.

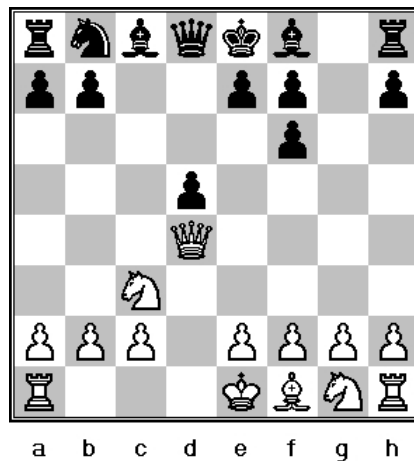
– Neil Dale

Game commentary in the next section is by Charles Schulien.

Mike Schemm – Nick Raptis Oregon Open, Round 1 Gresham, Oregon, September 4, 2010

Mike Schemm opened up the tournament by upsetting the highest-rated player, FM Nick Raptis.

1. Nc3 d5 2. d4 Nf6 3. Qd3!? c5 4. Bg5 cxd4 5. Bxf6 gxf6 6. Qxd4



White lost a tempo, transposing to the Chigorin Defense of Queen’s Gambit, which he plays with Black. We saw how Matt Edwards successfully plays the Dutch/Bird openings, *Northwest Chess* September 2010, pp. 9-10.

6. ...e6 7. e3

7. e4 Nc6 8. Bb5 is the more popular way to play in the reverse position. Then 8. ...Bd7 9. Bxc6 bxc6.

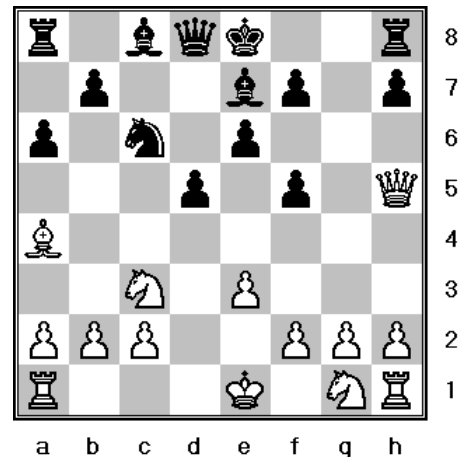
7. ...Nc6 8. Qh4 Be7

Not such a useful developing move. 8. ...Bd7 prefers queenside development. 8. ...f5 goes for endgame, with a small advantage to Black. For examples of these ideas, look up the following games: Karpov–Miles, Bugojno 1986; Kasparov–Smyslov, Vilnius 1984; El Gindy–Eid, Damascus 2003; and Sturua–Chatalbashev, Ohrd 2001.

9. Bb5

Not so good here. White’s queen may as well stay in the center if White means to pin the c6-knight.

9. ...f5 10. Qh5 a6 11. Ba4?!



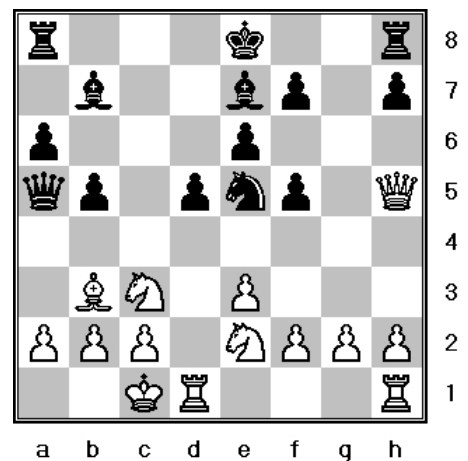
11. ...Qa5?

This natural move is already a serious error, underestimating White’s attacking chances. 11. ...b5 12. Bb3 Bf6 discourages queenside castling, while focusing the black pieces on the center.

12. Nge2 b5 13. Bb3 Bb7

13. ...b4 14. Nxd5 exd5 15. Nf4 is still not easy for Black – even greedy computer programs approve of this sacrifice.

14. 0-0-0 Ne5



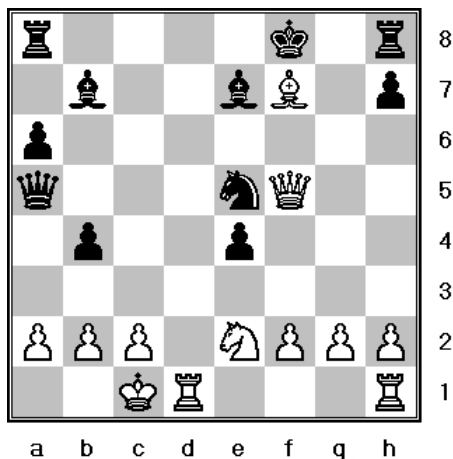
15. e4!?

15. Nd4 is another good move.

15. ...b4 16. Nxd5 exd5 17. Qxf5 dxe4??

17. ...Ng6 18. Rxd5! and White has powerful compensation, but Black is not yet losing.

18. Bxf7+ Kf8



19. Bd5+

The move Nick missed; now knight on e5 is free.

19. ...Ke8 20. Qxe5 Bxd5 21. Rxd5 Qxa2 22. Qxh8+ Kf7 23. Qxh7+ Kf8 24. Qh8+ Kf7 25. Rf5+ Kg6 26. Qh5+ Kg7 27. Qg4+ Kh6 28. Rh5#

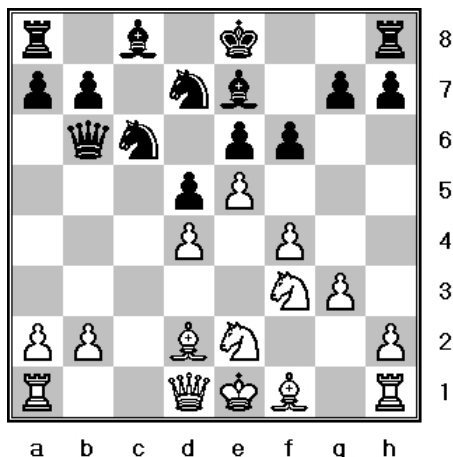
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Quentin Chi – Nick Raptis
Oregon Open, Round 2

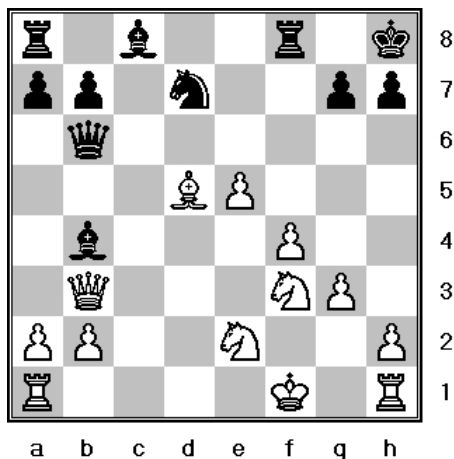
Gresham, Oregon, September 4, 2010

Raptis nearly started the tournament with an 0/2 score. Sometimes the difference between first place and no prize involves some good fortune.

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nd2 Nf6 4. e5 Nfd7 5. f4 c5 6. c3 Nc6 7. Ndf3 Qb6 8. Ne2 f6 9. g3 cxd4 10. cxd4 Bb4+ 11. Bd2 Be7



12. Bh3 0-0 13. Bxe6+ Kh8 14. Bxd5 fxe5 15. dxe5 Bc5 16. Qb3 Nb4 17. Bxb4 Bxb4+ 18. Kf1



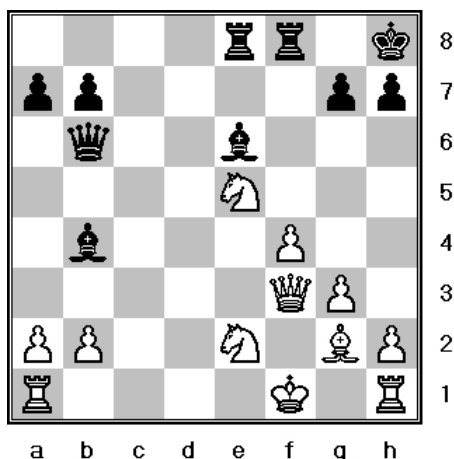
18. ...Nxe5?

18. ...Nc5 is good enough.

19. Nxe5 Bh3+

Nick had thought this was mate.

20. Bg2 Be6 21. Qf3 Rae8



22. Nd3?

22. Qxb7 is very strong for White.

22. ...Bc4 23. b3 Re3 24. bxc4 Rxf3+ 25. Bxf3 Qe3 26. Ne5 Bd6 27. Ng1 Bxe5 28. fxe5 g5 29. g4 h5 30. h3 Qxe5 31. Rd1 Qb2 32. Re1 Qxa2 33. Re2 Qxc4 34. Kg2 h4 35. Bxb7 Qc7 36. Bf3 Qg3+ 37. Kf1 Rxf3+

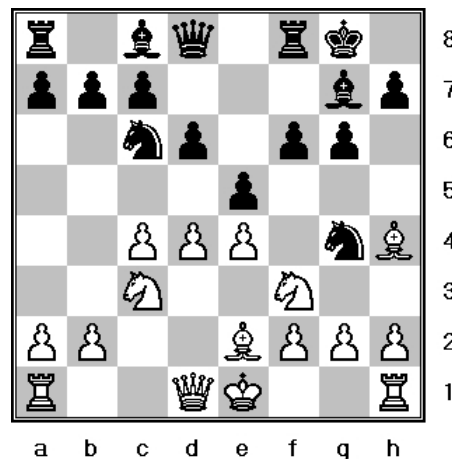
0-1

Nick Raptis – Mikeal Davis
Oregon Open, Round 3

Gresham, Oregon, September 5, 2010

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. e4 d6 5. Be2 0-0 6. Nf3 e5 7. Be3 Ng4 8. Bg5 f6 9. Bh4 Nc6

Nick recalled that earlier this year, Mike Morris played 9. ...g5 10. Bg3 Nh6 11. d5 Raptis,N-Morris,M/Oregon Invitational 2010/(1-0, 33 moves) [*Northwest Chess*, June/July 2010, p. 23]

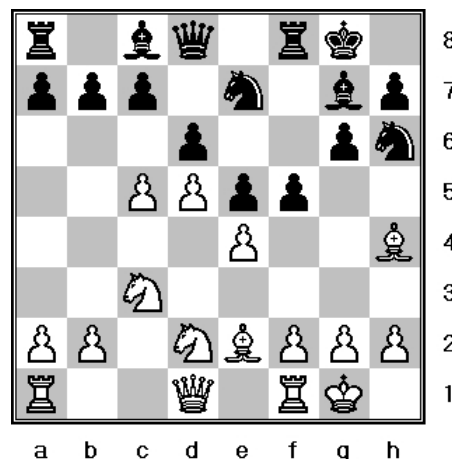


10. d5 Ne7 11. Nd2 Nh6 12. 0-0 f5

12. ...g5 13. Bg3 f5 is still possible, similar to Raptis-Morris, but here White's castling has not especially helped his cause.

13. c5!?

13. f3 would be the standard reply to ...f5.

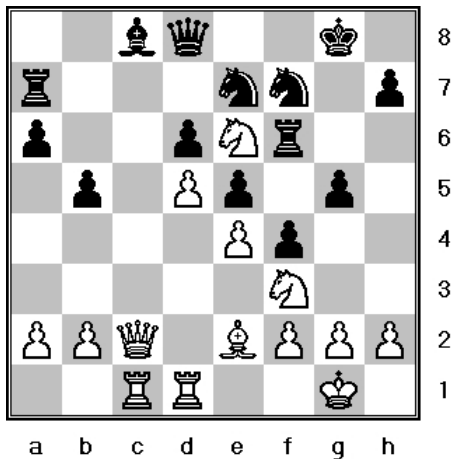


13. ...Bf6?

This is a poor exchanging decision. It's true that Black exchanges his 'bad' bishop, and that he is the more cramped side, but after this Black has a very difficult time generating meaningful counterplay, and his eventual attacking chances suffer. White, on the other hand, can proceed with his queenside attack quite normally. Better 13. ...fxe4 14. Ndx4 Nhf5.

14. Bxf6 Rxf6 15. cxd6 cxd6 16. Rc1 f4 17. Nb5 a6 18. Nc7 Ra7 19. Nf3 b5 20. Qc2 Nf7 21. Rfd1 g5 22. Ne6!?

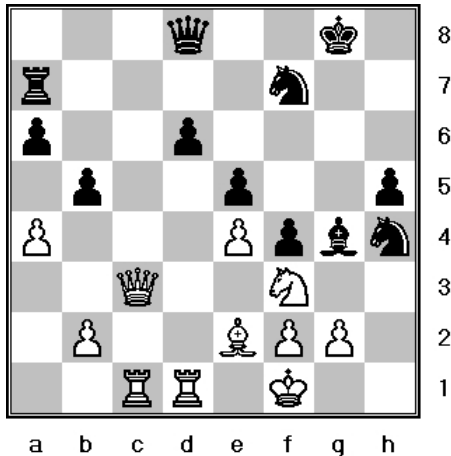
This is not really bad, but why sacrifice a pawn here without either a clear need or certain return on the investment? White could restrain the black counterplay, then strengthen his own pressure by 22. h3 h5 23. Nh2 and if ...Rh6 then 24. Rd3 intending Rc3.



22. ...Rxe6?!

Since there is no clear refutation, Black might as well just accept the sacrifice here: 22. ...Bxe6 23. dxe6 Rxe6.

23. dxe6 Bxe6 24. Qc3 Ng6 25. h3 g4 26. hxg4 Bxg4 27. Kf1 h5 28. a4 Nh4



29. Nxe5 Bxe2+ 30. Kxe2 Qe7 31. Nf3 Qxe4+ 32. Kf1 Nxf3 33. gxf3 Qg6 34. Qd4 Re7 35. Qxf4 Qe6 36. Qg3+ Kh7 37. Re1 Ne5 38. Qh4 Qf7 39. f4 Ng6 40. Rxe7 Nxe7 41. Rc7

1-0

Carl Koontz – Nick Raptis
Oregon Open, Round 4

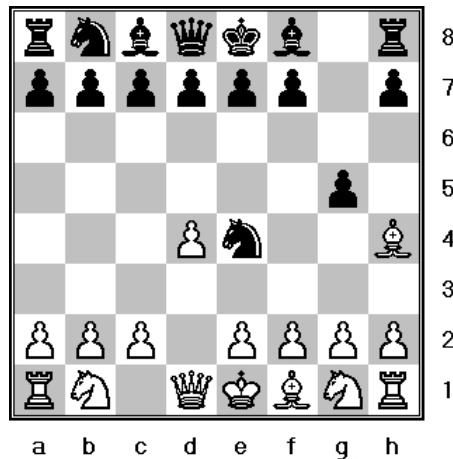
Gresham, Oregon, September 5, 2010

1. d4 Nf6 2. Bg5 Ne4 3. Bh4?!

3. Bf4 is best, and the only real way for White to fight normally. This is a main position for Trompowski.

3. h4?! is the other aggressive but positionally dubious option.

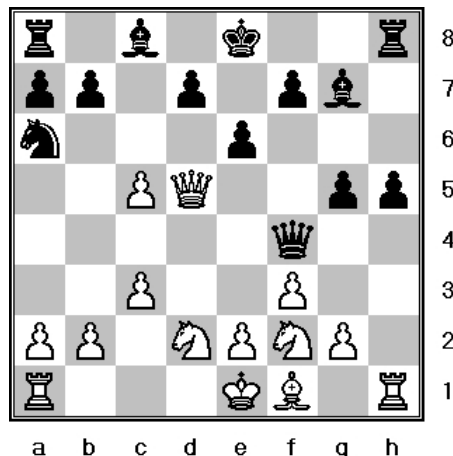
3. ...g5



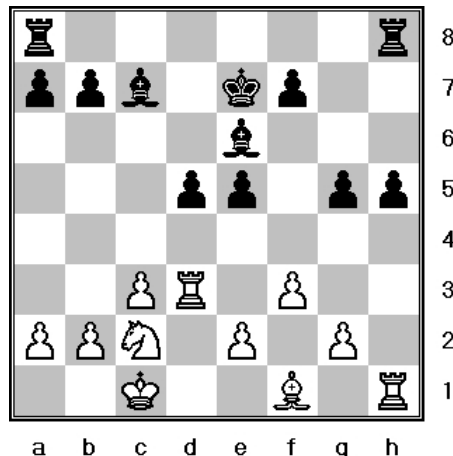
4. Bg3

4. f3 is critical. 4. ...gxh4 5. fxe4. The weak dark squares in White's camp are both a short and long term problem.

4. ...h5 5. f3 Nxc3 6. hxg3 c5 7. dxc5 Bg7 8. c3 Qc7 9. Nh3 Qxc3+ 10. Nf2 Na6 11. Qd5 Qf4 12. Nd2 e6



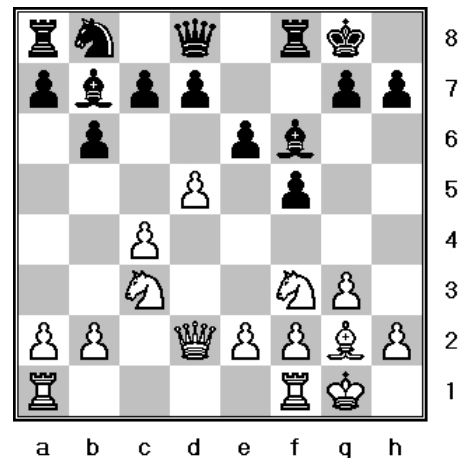
13. Qc4 Qxc4 14. Nxc4 Nxc5 15. Nd6+ Ke7 16. 0-0-0 Be5 17. Nc4 Bg3 18. Nd3 Nxd3+ 19. Rxd3 d5 20. Na5 Bc7 21. Nb3 Bd7 22. Nd4 e5 23. Nc2 Be6



Black duly converted his advantage.
0-1

Nick Raptis – Carl Haessler
Oregon Open, Round 6
Gresham, Oregon, September 6, 2010

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 e6 3. g3 b6 4. Bg2 Bb7 5. c4 Be7 6. Nc3 Ne4 7. Bd2 0-0 8. Qc2 f5 9. d5 Nxd2 10. Qxd2 Bf6 11. 0-0



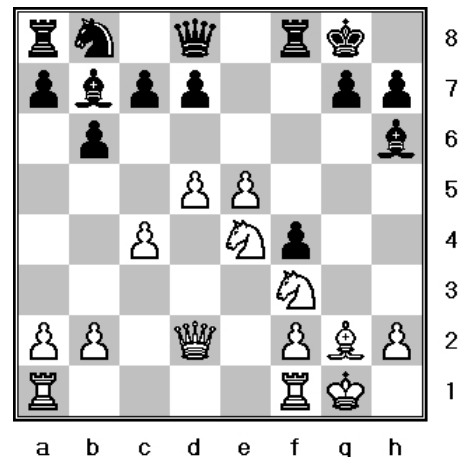
11. ...e5?!

Black incorrectly closes the position, where White has two knights and more central space. 11. ...Na6 was better.

12. e4 f4

The only consistent move, otherwise White gains the e4-square for his pieces.

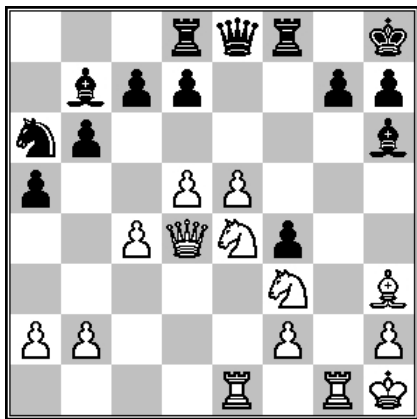
13. gxf4 exf4 14. e5 Bg5 15. Ne4 Bh6



16. Kh1?!

Nick prepares an attack on the g-file, though g7 is well defended. White could more simply play 16. b4 Qe7 (16. ...a5 17. b5 +/-) 17. a3 followed by centralizing his rooks, and eventually pushing the central pawns.

16. ...a5 17. Rae1 Na6 18. Bh3 Qe8 19. Rg1 Kh8 20. Qd4 Rd8



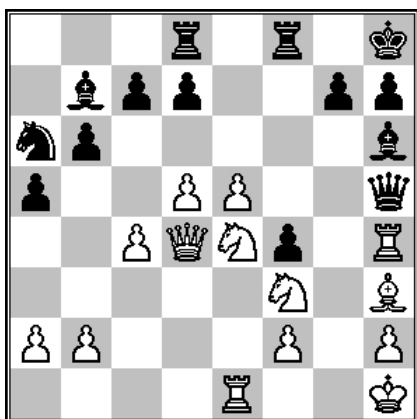
a b c d e f g h

21. Rg4

21. e6 dxe6 22. Neg5 was a powerful breakthrough.

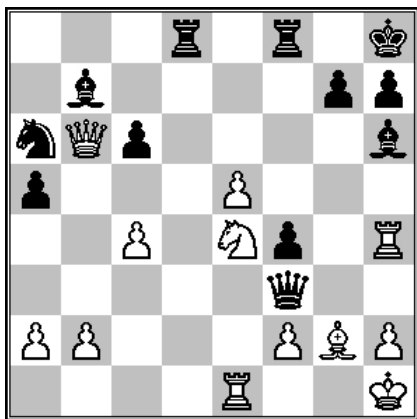
21. ...Qh5 22. Rh4!

Leads to a tactical melee, but all of the lines favor White.



a b c d e f g h

22. ...Qxf3+ 23. Bg2 c5 24. dxc6 dxc6 25. Qxb6



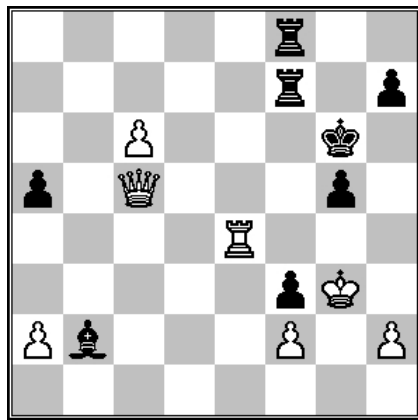
a b c d e f g h

25. ...Qd1

25. ...Qd3 26. Qxb7 Qxc4 looks sounder, but 27. e6! Qxe6 28. Qxa6 wins a piece. Black could then try 28. ...f3 29. Bf1 Qxa2

keeping some swindling chances.

26. Rxd1 Rxd1+ 27. Bf1 Rxf1+ 28. Kg2 Re1 29. Qxb7 Rxe4 30. Qxa6 f3+ 31. Kg3 Rxe5 32. Qxc6 Bc1 33. Qd6 Ref5 34. Qd4 Kg8 35. c5 g5 36. Qc4+ Kg7 37. Re4 Bxb2 38. c6 R5f7 39. Qc5 Kg6

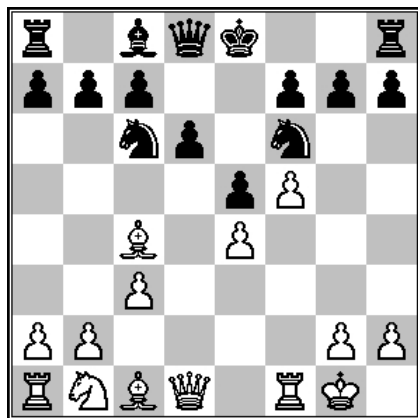


a b c d e f g h

40. Qc2 Bf6 41. Rh4+ Kg7 42. Qxh7# 1-0

Carl Haessler – Ethan Gottlieb
Oregon Open, Round 1
Gresham, Oregon, September 4, 2010

1. e4 e5 2. Bc4 Bc5 3. Nf3 Nc6 4. 0-0 Nf6 5. d4!? Bxd4 6. Nxd4 Nxd4 7. f4 d6 8. c3 Nc6 9. f5



a b c d e f g h

White's plan was laid out by George Kotanowski in an old monograph on the Max Lange Attack. In this game, Black avoided the tactical traps, but that is only half of the battle.

9. ...h6

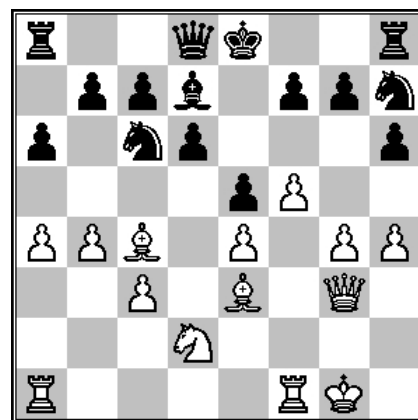
More active is 9. ...Ne7 preparing central counterplay. In the game Black gradually loses, as he has no plan and White can advance on both flanks. 10. Qf3 (10. Bg5 Nxe4 -/+) 10. ...d5 11. exd5 Bxf5 Black frees his pieces. For example, 12. Bg5 Qd6 13.

Na3 a6 =+.

10. Qf3 Qe7

Now 10. ...Ne7 11. Qg3 fails to solve all of Black's problems.

11. b4 a6 12. a4 Bd7 13. Be3 Nh7 14. Nd2 Qf6 15. g4 Ng5 16. Qg3 Qd8 17. h4 Nh7



a b c d e f g h

18. g5 hxg5 19. hxg5 f6 20. g6 Ng5 21. Bxg5 fxg5 22. Bf7+ Kf8 23. Nf3 Be8 24. Bb3 Rh5 25. Kg2 Qf6 26. Rh1 Rxh1 27. Rxh1 Ke7 28. Nxc5 Kd8 29. Rh8 Ne7 30. Nh7 Nxf5 31. Nxf6 Nxc3 32. Rxe8#

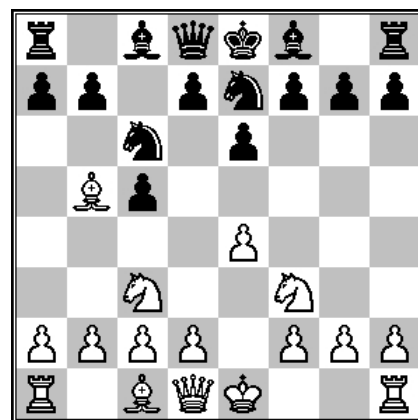
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Carl Haessler – Josh Sinanan
Oregon Open, Round 5
Gresham, Oregon, September 6, 2010

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. Nc3 Nc6 4. Bb5

This is not the most flexible type of Rossolimo (Bb5) variation, since White cannot build a pawn center with c2-c3 and d2-d4. Still, White should not stand worse.

4. ...Nge7



a b c d e f g h

5. d3

Most players castle here, 5. 0-0, but 5. ...Nd4 is a bit awkward for White.

5. ...a6 6. Ba4 b5 7. Bb3 d6

7. ...Ng6?! tries to save a tempo for ...d7-d5 in one go, after castling.

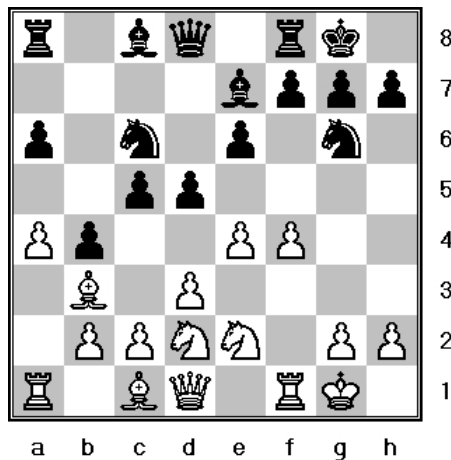
8. 0-0 Ng6 9. a4

Clearly White's best plan, attacking the advanced pawns before Black completes his development.

9. ...b4 10. Ne2 Be7 11. Nd2

11. d4 cxd4 12. Nxd4 with a transposition to open lines of Sicilian was not what Carl had in mind. This push always bears watching though.

11. ...0-0 12. f4 d5



13. Nf3

13. f5!? would be interesting, 13. ...Nge5 14. exd5 exd5 15. Nf4 and Black cannot defend the d5-pawn. 15. ...Bxf5 (15. ...d4? 16. Nd5 gifts White with the e4 and c4 squares for his pieces, in addition to the d5-knight.) 16. Nxd5 Be6 17. Nxe7+ Nxe7 18. Qe2 looks about equal.

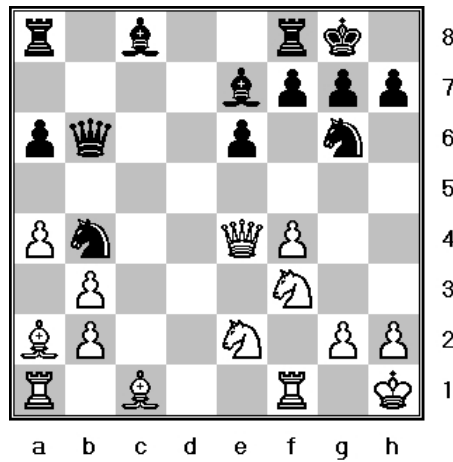
13. ...c4!?

Josh is first to try seizing the initiative with a pawn advance. 13. ...dxe4 was a good alternative. After 14. dxe4 Qc7, the white knights lack good squares, and Black completes development quite comfortably with ...Bb7 and ...Rad8.)

14. Ba2

14. exd5 Qb6+! (move order matters: 14. ...cxb3 15. dxc6 Qb6+ 16. Nfd4!) 15. Kh1 cxb3 16. dxc6 Qxc6 17. cxb3 Bb7 White has won a pawn, but he cannot feel too proud of his accomplishments.

14. ...b3! 15. cxb3 cxd3 16. Qxd3 Nb4 17. Qb1 Qb6+ 18. Kh1 dxe4 19. Qxe4



19. ...Bb7

One hates to exchange a captive piece, but 19. ...Nxa2!? was worth considering: 20. Rxa2 (20. Qxa8 Bb7 21. Be3!? Qxe3 22. Qxb7 Qxe2 White's queen escaped the trap, but again, he should not be happy about the overall state of affairs. At least the imbalances are potentially interesting here.) 20. ...Bb7 and White lacks the resource Be3 seen in the game.

20. Be3 Bxe4

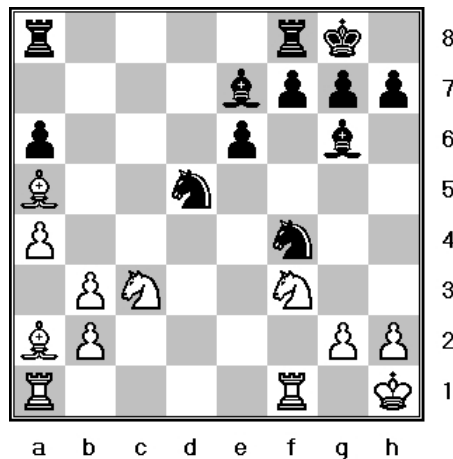
This is a key exchanging decision. There is no doubt that Black obtains the better ending, but the more difficult question is comparing the prospects in middle and endgame. 20. ...Qc7! looks stronger, thanks to the knight fork on c2: 21. Qb1 (not 21. Qc4 Qxc4 22. bxc4 Nc2) 21. ...Rac8 +/-.

21. Bxb6 Nd5

21. ...Nxa2 22. Rxa2 a5 is another option.

22. Ba5 Ngxf4 23. Nc3 Bg6?

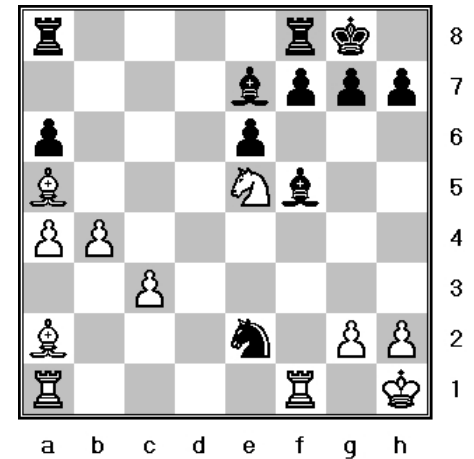
23. ...Bd3 must be better. 23. ...f5!? is murkier, but Black keeps chances for advantage.



24. Ne5

White's pieces take up good squares, and just like that, the chances are balanced again.

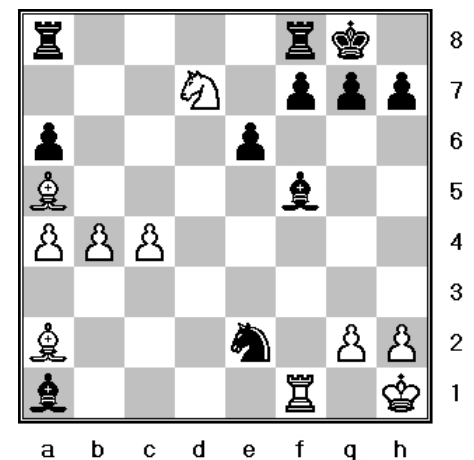
24. ...Bf5 25. b4 Nxc3 26. bxc3 Ne2



27. c4?!

27. Rf3 leaves open the bishop's diagonal, which had been blocked. Now Black must watch for Bc4, among other things. 27. ...Bf6 (27. ...Rfc8 28. Rxf5 exf5 29. Bxf7+ Kh8 30. Bd5 is the sort of accident Black can fall into.) 28. Re1 Bxe5 29. Rxe2 Bf6 30. h3 and White has more than equal chances.

27. ...Bf6 28. Nd7 Bxa1



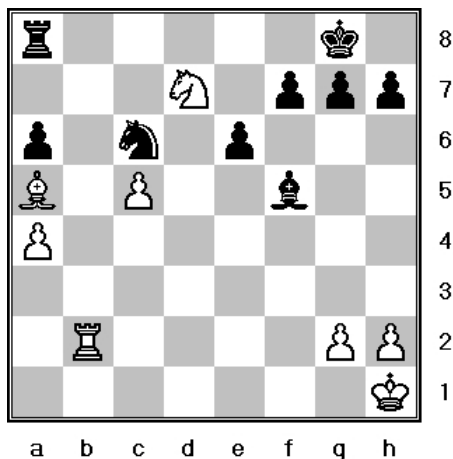
29. Nxf8

Carl suggested 29. Rxa1!? After 29. ...Rfe8 30. c5 the white pieces have strong squares on b6 and d6. One possible line continues 30. ...Nd4 31. Nb6 Ra7 32. Nc4 Rb8 33. Bb6 Raa8 34. Nd6 and White's position is easier to play at least.

29. ...Bb2 30. Nd7

30. Rf2 immediately improves on the game.

30. ...Nc1 31. c5 Nxa2 32. Rf2 Nxb4 33. Rxb2 Nc6



34. Bc7?

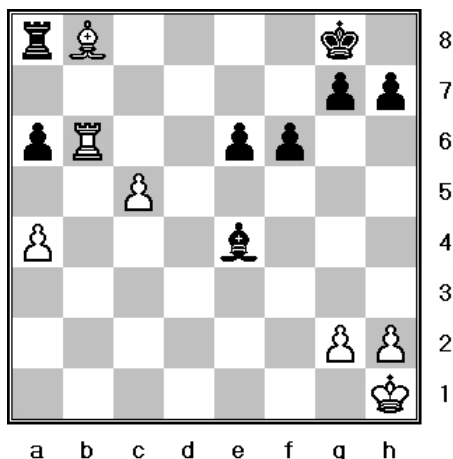
34. Nb6 Rd8 +/- was necessary.

34. ...f6

A missed opportunity. 34. ...Ra7 35. Ne5! Rxc7 36. Nxc6 was White's trick, based on back-rank mate. But we still need to evaluate the position: 36. ...g5, and although the knight escapes, Black picks up the c-pawn and should easily win the endgame.

35. Nb8 Be4 36. Rb6 Nxb8 37. Bxb8

The opposite colored bishops, combined with an advanced passed pawn, give White good chances to hold the draw.



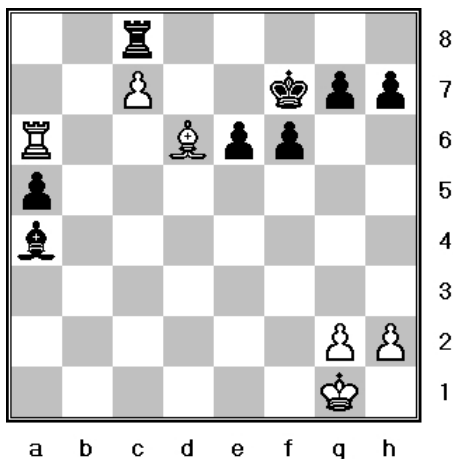
37. ...a5 38. Kg1 Kf7 39. Bd6 Rc8 40. Ra6 Ra8 41. Rb6 Bc2

Black could try 41. ...Ke8 keeping the white pawn on c5.

42. c6 Bxa4 43. c7

White should insert the check at this time, as the black king must turn back: 43. Rb7+ Kg6 44. c7.

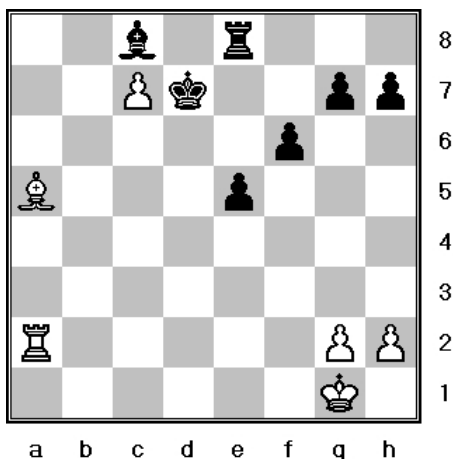
43. ...Rc8 44. Ra6



44. ...Bd7

Why not 44. ...Ke8 45. Rxa5 Bc6 46. Ra7 (nor does 46. Ra2 Kd7 47. Rd2 help, due to 47. ...Bd5 48. Bg3 Ra8 and I don't think that White can maintain his c-pawn.) 46. ...Kd7, when Black picks off the c7 pawn, with good winning chances.

45. Rxa5 e5 46. Ra6 Re8 47. Ra7 Bc8 48. Bb4 Ke6 49. Ra2 Kd7 50. Ba5



Black cannot easily break down this construction.

50. ...Re6 51. Kf2 h5 52. g3 Rd6 53. Ke3 Bb7 54. Rb2 Kc8 55. Rc2

55. Rd2 forces the rook exchange.

55. ...Ra6

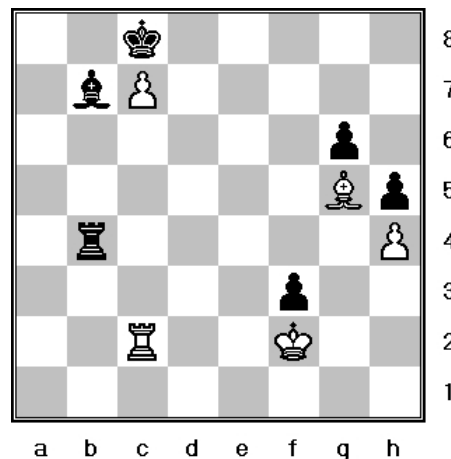
55. ...Rd5 56. Ra2 Rb5 57. Ra3 g5 and at least White is under pressure. He cannot easily simplify the position.

56. Bb4 Rb6 57. Bf8 g6 58. Be7 Rb3+ 59. Ke2 f5 60. Bf6 f4

60. ...Rb5 61. h4 and it is difficult to see how Black makes progress.

61. gxf4 exf4 62. Bg5 f3+ 63. Kf2 Rb4 64. h4

White creates a fortress.



64. ...Rg4

64. ...Be4 65. Bd2 Ra4 66. Rb2 Kxc7 67. Rb4 reaches a clearly drawn position.

65. Ke3 Re4+ 66. Kf2 Rg4 67. Ke3 Rg2 68. Rxc7 fxc7 69. Kf2 Kxc7 70. Kg1

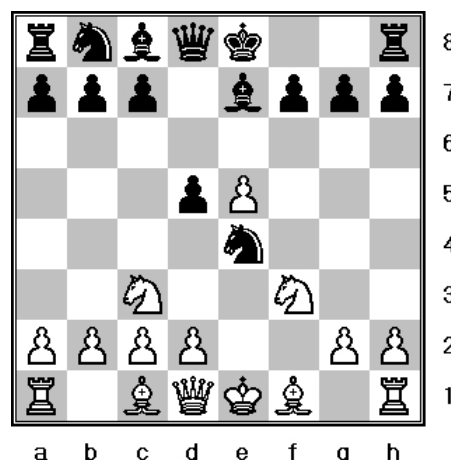
Black cannot break through. This was a hard fought game!

1/2-1/2

Carl Haessler – Bill Heywood
Oregon Open, Round 3
Gresham, Oregon, September 5, 2010

The following game is an excellent illustration of Carl Haessler's style. This led him into the lead through the first 5 rounds of play. It might be easy to click a few buttons on a computer and show how to defend, but doing so for an extended period over the board is a much different story. Only Nick Raptis managed to firmly wrest the initiative from him in the final game.

1. e4 e5 2. Nc3 Nf6 3. f4 d5 4. fxe5 Nxe4 5. Nf3 Be7



6. Be2

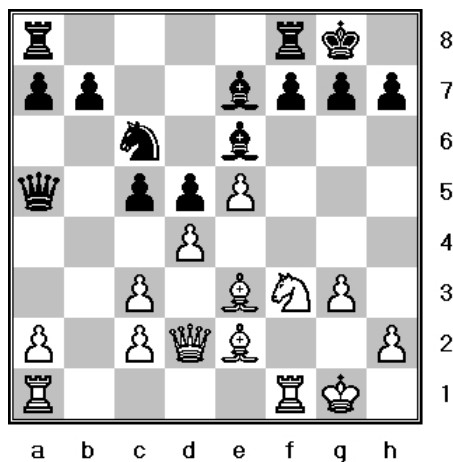
6. Qe2!? is an interesting way to fight for initiative. Most people play 6. d3 Nxc3

7. bxc3.

6. ...Bh4+

Black has the time for this, if he wishes. I would prefer castling, and pawn moves to fight for the center.

7. g3 Be7 8. 0-0 0-0 9. d3 Nxc3 10. bxc3 c5 11. Be3 Nc6 12. d4 Be6 13. Qd2 Qa5

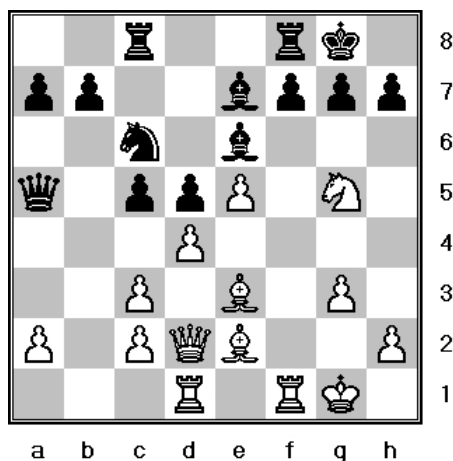


I think that Black emerged from the opening with a perfectly good position. He has easy play against the weak queenside pawns and along the c-file. White's chances are on the kingside, but Black has no real weaknesses there.

14. Rad1

Carl has developed his last piece to the center, and he will go for his kingside attack, regardless of the cost. A less committal plan is 14. Rab1 aiming for the pawn on b7, and b5 also.

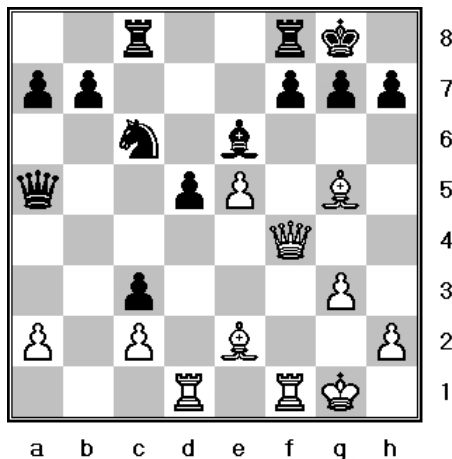
14. ...Rac8 15. Ng5



15. ...Bxg5

The simplest move, but now White has a dark-squared bishop which cannot be opposed. Carl bases his attack around this factor. Black could try 15. ...Bd7!?, retaining both bishops, and if 16. Qd3 g6.

16. Bxg5 exd4 17. Qf4 dxc3



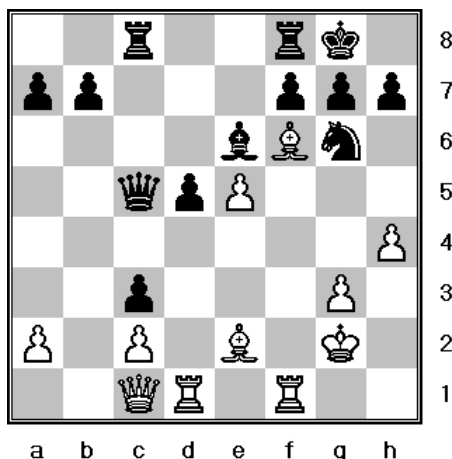
18. Bf6

Very consistent. Carl doesn't think about the material, if the move aids in the plan.

18. ...Qc5+ 19. Kg2 Ne7

19. ...Qb4!? with the idea 20. Qg5 Qe4+ 21. Kg1 Qg6 is a wonderful and not at all obvious queen maneuver. Carl was looking at 19. ...Rfe8 20. Bd3 (20. Bxg7 Kxg7 needs consideration, but evidently Black's king can run from the danger zone.) 20. ...Qf8 Now the play is not at all forced. White might rescind his piece offer, or try to maneuver either rooks or pawns into attacking position. We should first of all check the piece sacrifice: 19. ...gxf6 20. exf6 Rfd8 (20. ...Kh8 21. Qh6 Rg8 22. Bd3 and White mates) 21. Qg5+ Kf8 22. Bg4 is very dangerous though.

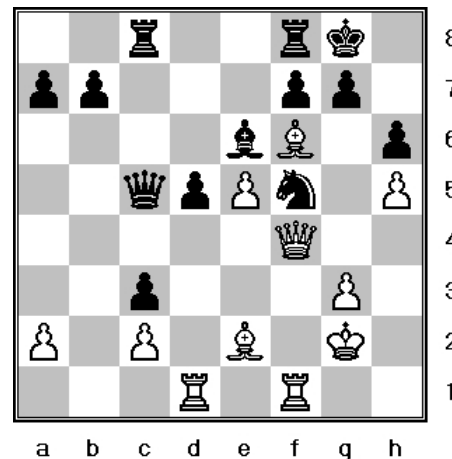
20. h4 Ng6 21. Qc1



21. ...h6?!

This weakness gives White more chances. Now Black could capture the bishop: 21. ...gxf6 22. exf6 Kh8 (or 22. ...Rfe8 23. h5 d4!) 23. Qh6 Rg8 with a sufficient defense.

22. h5 Ne7 23. Qf4 Nf5



24. Rd3 gxf6 25. exf6 Kh7 26. Bg4 Nd6

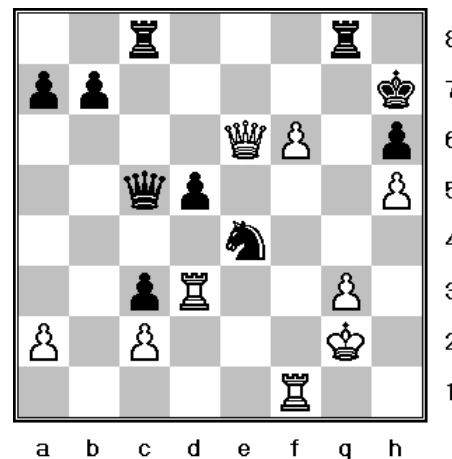
Black could 'bail out' into a safe endgame, where he is on the only one with any winning chances, though a draw is the most likely outcome: 26. ...d4 27. Bxf5+ Bxf5 28. Qxf5+ Qxf5 29. Rxf5 =+.

27. Bxe6 fxe6 28. Qg4 Rg8?

Sometimes the obvious move is not the best, and this is the case here. After many good defensive moves, Black finally makes a wrong choice, and the attacker is rewarded. Correct is 28. ...Rf7 29. Qxe6 Re8 -+.

29. Qxe6 Ne4

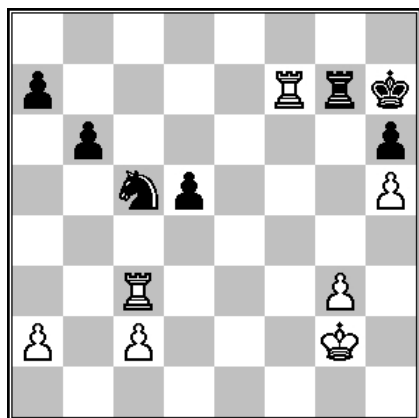
Consistent move, but the plan is based on a miscalculation. Black had to settle for 29. ...Rg5 immediately; then 30. Qe7+ Kh8 31. f7 Nxf7 32. Qxf7 Qc7 33. Qe6 Qc6 and the black queen can defend where needed.



30. f7

Now White is winning. The endgame was long and eventful, but essentially the game should be decided.

30. ...Rg5 31. Qxc8 Qxc8 32. f8=Q Qxf8 33. Rxf8 Nc5 34. Rxc3 b6 35. Rf7+ Rg7



a b c d e f g h

36. Rcf3 Kg8 37. Rf8+ Kh7 38. Rd8 Re7 39. Rxd5 Rc7 40. Rdf5 Kg7 41. Rf6 Ne4 42. Rg6+ Kh7 43. c4 Ng5 44. Rf4 Nf7 45. Rff6 Re7 46. Kf2 Rc7 47. a3 Rd7 48. Ke2 Re7+ 49. Kd2 Rc7 50. Kc3 Rd7 51. Kb4 Re7 52. a4 Rc7 53. a5 bxa5+ 54. Kxa5 Rc5+ 55. Ka6 Rxb5 56. Rg4 Ne5 57. Re4 Kg7 58. Rd6 Nf7 59. Rd7 Kg6 60. Re6+ Kf5 61. Rd5+ Kxe6 62. Rxb5 Kd7 63. Kxa7 Nd6 64. Rd5

1-0

Bill Gagnon – Stephen Pettengill
Oregon Open Reserve, Round 1
Gresham, Oregon, September 4, 2010

1. e4 c5 2. Nc3 Nc6 3. f4 g6 4. Nf3 Bg7 5. Bb5 e6 6. 0-0 Nge7 7. d3 a6 8. Bxc6 Nxc6 9. Be3 d6 10. Qd2 0-0 11. Rad1 e5 12. fxe5 Nxe5 13. Nxe5 Bxe5 14. d4 cxd4 15. Bxd4 Bg4! 16. Bxe5 dxe5 17. Qxd8 Raxd8 18. Rxd8

18. Rd5.

18. ...Rxd8 19. Nd5 Kg7 20. Kf2 Be6 21. Rd1 f5 22. Ke3 f4+

22. ...g5!?

23. Kf2 g5 24. c4 h5 25. b4 g4 26. g3 fxg3+

26. ...Kh6!?! 27. a4 Kg5 28. c5 fxg3+ 29. hxg3 Rf8+.

27. hxg3 Rf8+ 28. Kg2 Rf3 29. Rf1 Rxf1

29. ...Ra3 30. Rf2.

30. Kxf1 Bf7 31. c5 Bg6 32. Nc3 Kf6 33. a4 Kg5 34. b5 axb5 35. axb5 Be8 36. Kg2 h4 37. gxh4+ Kxh4 38. b6 Bc6 39. Kh2

39. Nd5.

39. ...g3+ 40. Kg1 Kh3

40. ...Kg4 41. Kg2 Kf4.

41. Nd5 g2 42. Ne7 Bxe4 43. c6 Bxc6 44. Nxc6 e4 45. Nd4 Kg3 46. Nc2 Kf3 47. Ne1+ Ke3 48. Kxg2 Kd4 49. Kf2 Kc5 50. Ke3

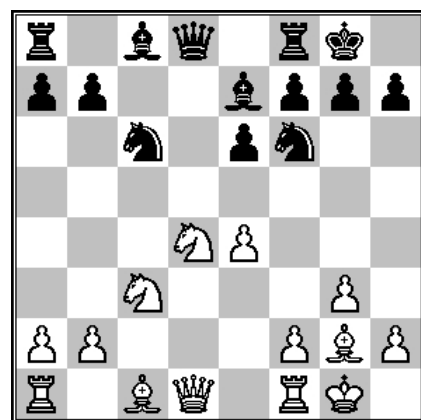
1/2-1/2

Nick Raptis – Radu Roua
Oregon Open, Round 5
Gresham, Oregon, September 6, 2010

1. Nf3 c5 2. g3 Nf6 3. Bg2 d5 4. c4 e6 5. 0-0 Be7 6. d4 0-0 7. cxd5 Nxd5 8. e4

Tal and others played 8. dxc5, while modern theoreticians such as Boris Avrukh and PH Nielsen prefer 8. Nc3, which is a variation of the Semi-Tarrasch defense.

8. ...Nf6 9. Nc3 cxd4 10. Nxd4 Nc6!



a b c d e f g h

11. Be3

More popular, but giving Black counterplay, is 11. Nxc6 bxc6, for example, 12. Qc2 Ba6 13. Rd1 Qa5 led to a draw in Keres,P-Stahlberg,G/Gothenburg 1938/HCL (49).

11. ...Ne5 12. h3

Prevents ...Ng4, but this is a slow move. Better is 12. Nf3, and if ...Nfg4 (12. ...Nc4 13. Bd4 and Black cannot safely capture the b2-pawn) 13. Nxe5 Nxe5 14. Qb3 when White maintains his opening advantage.

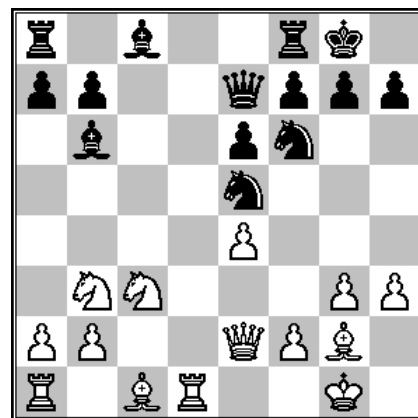
12. ...Nc4 13. Bc1

Now Black has a free move, and must decide how best to arrange his pieces. Radu's choice is most natural, but it allows White to gain a lot space and bind Black's position.

13. ...Bc5?!

13. ...Qb6 is the other logical developing move, and it is better: Black plans a quick ...Rd8 before the opponent has his pieces organized.

14. Nb3 Bb6 15. Qe2 Ne5 16. Rd1 Qe7

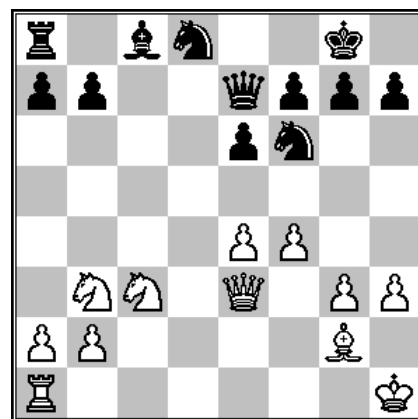


a b c d e f g h

17. Kh1

Simply 17. Bf4 is strong.

17. ...Nc6 18. f4 Rd8 19. Be3 Bxe3 20. Rxd8+ Nxd8 21. Qxe3



a b c d e f g h

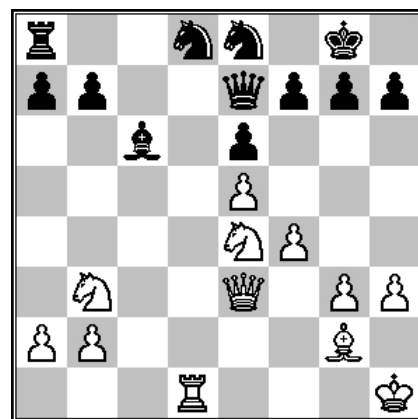
21. ...Bd7

21. ...e5!?! must be a better chance. Black has to stop the white advance.

22. e5 +/-

Now Black gets crushed.

22. ...Ne8 23. Rd1 Bc6 24. Ne4



a b c d e f g h

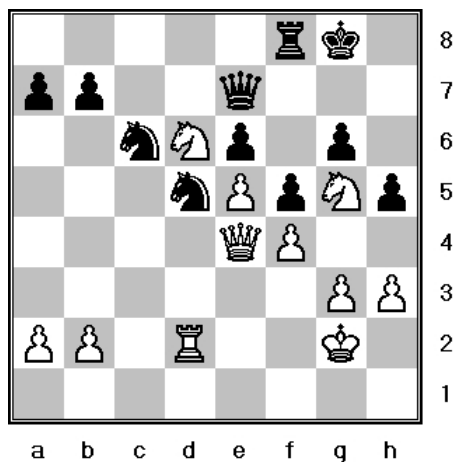
Cedes the d5-square to black pieces. 24.

Nc5 b6 25. N5e4 is more solid.

24. ...Nc7

24. ...Bd5 25. Nd4 Nc6 += is a better use of available squares for the black pieces.

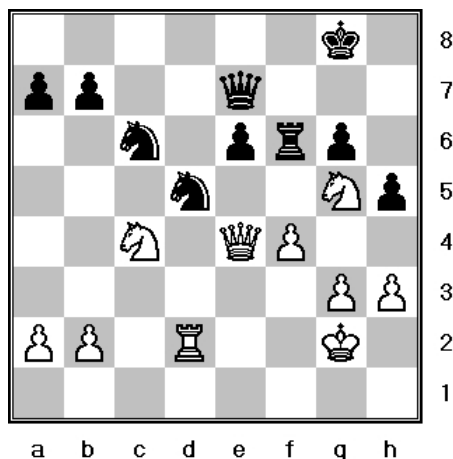
25. Nd6 Bxg2+ 26. Kxg2 Nd5 27. Qe4 h5 28. Nd4 Nc6 29. Nf3! g6 30. Ng5 Rf8 31. Rd2 f5



32. exf6!?

32. Qe2 maintains the bind, though Nick wanted to break through the defenses immediately. It is very important to be ready for action when you open lines for your attack, else the opponent's pieces may spring to life.

32. ...Rxf6 33. Nc4



33. ...Qb4

33. ...h4! Black creates real counterplay.

34. Re2 b5 35. Ne5

Now White has everything totally under control.

35. ...Nd4 36. a3 Qa4 37. Nd7 Rf5 38. Rd2 Nc2 39. Qxe6+ Kg7 40. Rxd5

1-0

The last three annotated games are

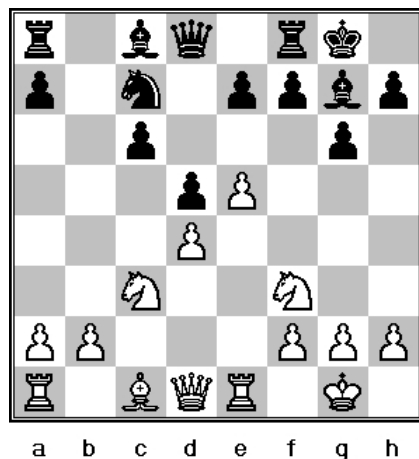
supplied by Harley Greninger.

**Michael Hosford – Harley Greninger
Oregon Open, Round 3
Gresham, Oregon, September 5, 2010**

1. e4 c5

Lately I've noticed a "calcification" of my play – a certain dullness attributable to too narrow a repertoire. Therefore I have decided to incorporate new openings occasionally in order to breathe new life into my game. This is the first time I have played the Sicilian in a serious game!

2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 g6 4. 0-0 Bg7 5. c3 Nf6 6. Re1 0-0 7. d4 cxd4 8. cxd4 d5 9. e5 Ne8 10. Nc3 Nc7 11. Bxc6 bxc6



12. Bf4

New move. 12. Be3 Bg4 13. h3 Bxf3 14. Qxf3 c5 15. dxc5 Bxe5 16. Bh6 Bg7 17. Bxg7 Kxg7 18. b4 Rb8 19. Rad1 e6 (An improvement would be 19. ...d4 20. a3 f6 21. Ne4 e5 with approximate equality.) 20. a3 and White had a distinct advantage in Wenzel,J-Volf,R/Germany 1992/GER-CHT2 (1/2-1/2 in 44)

12. ...Ne6 13. Be3 Rb8 14. Qd2 f5 15. exf6

15. Ng5? f4 16. Nxe6 fxe3 17. Nxd8 exd2 -+.

15. ...exf6 16. b3 Re8 17. Bh6

17. Na4 Bf8!

17. ...Bxh6

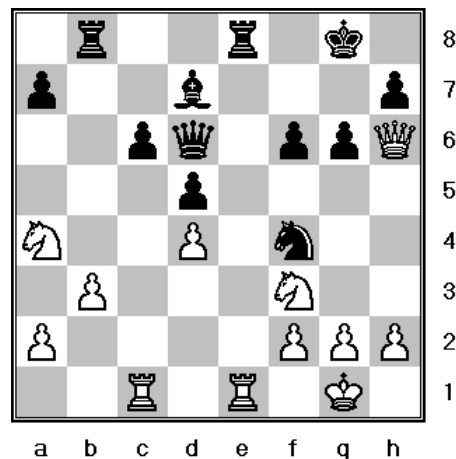
And not 17. ...Qd6?? immediately due to 18. Bf4.

18. Qxh6 Qd6 19. Na4

Better 19. g3.

19. ...Bd7 20. Rac1 Nf4 +=

The Knight's arrival on f4 signals an advantage to Black.



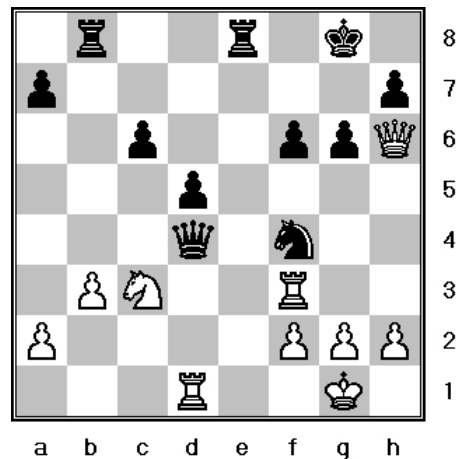
21. Rcd1 Bg4 22. Re3! Bxf3 23. Rxf3

If colors were reversed, I'd be very tempted to play the "ugly" 23. gxf3!? The point is that with this recapture, the e3 square will be a great place for the Rook to camp!

23. ...Qb4!?

I saw nothing for Black after the alternative 23. ...Re4 24. Nc3 Ne2+ 25. Nxe2 Rxe2 26. Re3 Rxa2 27. Rde1 =.

24. Nc3 Qxd4?!



The question mark is for this move being a losing one. The exclamation point is that White was now in time pressure and the saving move was difficult to find (I must say that I too missed it during the game!)

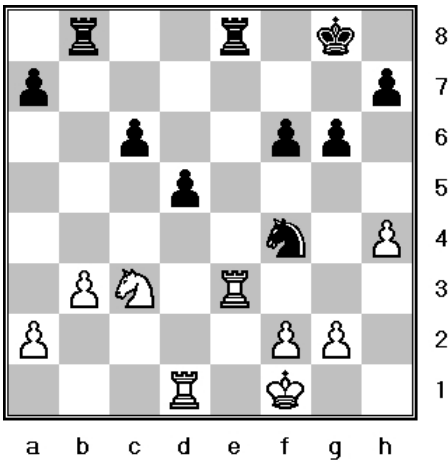
25. h4?

During the game, I believed this or 25. h3 to be forced. The winning move here is the counter-intuitive 25. Kf1!!, and now that White's king was brave enough to move towards the convergence-zone of the black pieces, White will be able to win the knight at f4. (25. Qxf4?? Qxd1+ 26. Nxd1 Re1#) (25. Rxd4?? Re1#)

25. ...Ne2+ 26. Kf1 Qe5 27. Re3

27. Re1? Ng3+.

27. ...Qf4! 28. Qxf4 Nxf4

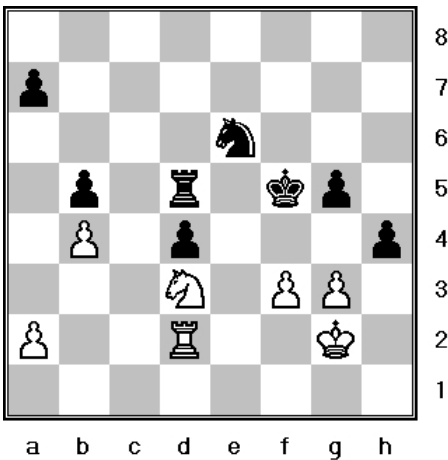


Black has now emerged with a clear pawn to the good.

29. Rf3 g5 30. hxg5 fxg5 31. g3 Ne6 32. Na4 d4 33. Rf5 Rb5 34. Rxb5 cxb5 35. Nb2 Rc8 36. Rd2 Rc1+ 37. Kg2 Kg7 38. Nd3 Rc3 39. Ne5 Rc5 40. Nf3 Rd5 41. b4 Kf6 42. Ne1 Kf5 43. f3

43. Nd3 Ke4 44. Re2+ Kxd3 45. Rxe6 Kc3 46. Kf1 d3 47. Rc6+ Kxb4 48. Ke1 d2+ 49. Kd1 a5, Black wins.

43. ...h5 44. Nd3 h4



45. g4+

Alternatively 45. gxh4 gxh4 46. Kh3 Ng5+ is also winning for Black. 47. Kg2 Rd6 48. Re2 (48. Nc5 Kf4 etc. (49. Kf2 Nxf3 50. Nd3+ Kg4) 48. ...Re6 And any N+P ending is winning for Black.

45. ...Kf6 46. Kh3 Re5! 47. Kg2

Accepting the gift leads to quick defeat, eg. 47. Nxe5 Nf4+ 48. Kh2 Kxe5 49. Kg1 d3 50. Kf2 Kd4 -+.

47. ...Re3

Intending ...Rxd3.

48. Kf2 h3 49. Nc5

Against 49. Kg3 I had intended 49. ...Rxd3 50. Rxd3 Ke5 51. Rd1 Nf4 52. Re1+ Kd5 -+.

49. ...h2 50. Kg2

50. Rd1 Nxc5 51. bxc5 Ra3 52. Ke2 Rxa2+ 53. Kd3 Ke5 54. Re1+ Kd5 -+.

50. ...Nxc5 51. bxc5 d3

0-1

Robert Herrera – Harley Greninger
Oregon Open, Round 5
Gresham, Oregon, September 6, 2010

1. c4 c6 2. Nf3 d5 3. g3 Nf6 4. Bg2 g6

Alternatively, 4. ...Bf5 5. cxd5 cxd5 6. Qb3 Qb6!? (6. ...Nc6!? An interesting TN, suggested by Fritz 11. 7. Qxb7 Bd7 8. Qb3 e5 9. d3 Rb8 10. Qd1 Bb4+ 11. Bd2 Qa5 12. 0-0 0-0 13. Nc3 d4 14. Ne4 Nxe4 15. dxe4 Bxd2 16. Nxd2 Be6 and it appears that Black has sufficient compensation for the pawn.) 7. Qxb6 axb6 8. Nc3 Bd7 9. d3 e6 10. 0-0 b5 11. Nd4 b4 12. Ncb5 Ra5 13. Bf4 Bxb5 14. Bc7 Ra6 15. Nxb5 Nc6 16. a3 =, Kastanieda (2413) – Protaziuk (2385)/Warsaw 1999/EXT 2002.

4. ...dxc4 is critical, and quite interesting – perhaps the topic of a future article.

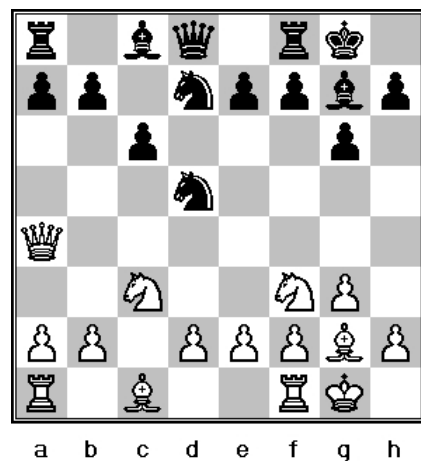
5. Qa4!?

Main line runs 5. b3 Bg7 6. Bb2 0-0 7. 0-0 Nbd7 8. d3 Re8 9. Nbd2 e5 10. cxd5 cxd5 11. e4 d4 12. Nc4 Bf8 13. a4 b6, with perhaps a slight pull for White. Hansen, L (2586)-Trisic, A (2316)/Germany 2001.

5. ...Bg7 6. cxd5 Nxd5

White has succeeded in his aim to remove the Black pawn from the central square d5, however it is difficult to determine how important this really is.

7. 0-0 0-0 8. Nc3 Nd7



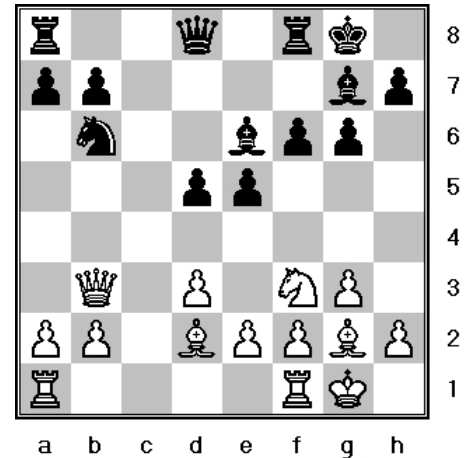
9. Nxd5

This seems inconsistent to me; perhaps White is aiming for a “liquidation draw.”

9. ...cxd5 10. d3 e5

First new move, however a similar line was played in 1986, eg. 10. ...Nb6 11. Qa3 e5 12. Bg5 f6 13. Bd2 Be6 = Kuporosov, V (2445)-Malisauskas, V (2385)/Tallinn 1986.

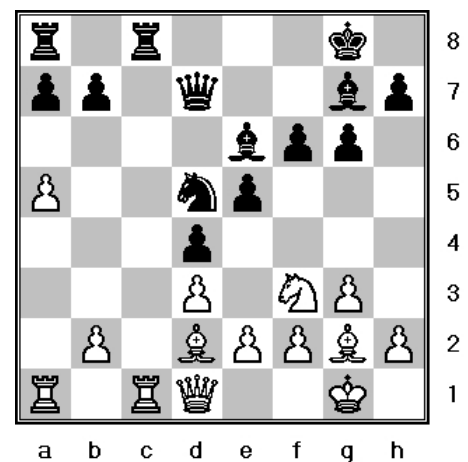
11. Bg5 f6 12. Bd2 Nb6 13. Qb3 Be6



14. a4

I obtain a slight advantage after this. Better is the immediate 14. Rfc1. I was expecting 14. Ba5 which would lend itself to the liquidation concept. 14. ...Re8 15. Rfc1 Qd6 16. Bxb6 axb6 17. a3 Bh6! and Black, with the Bishop pair and great activity, emerges with the advantage.

14. ...Qd7 15. Rfc1 Rfc8 16. a5 d4 17. Qd1 Nd5



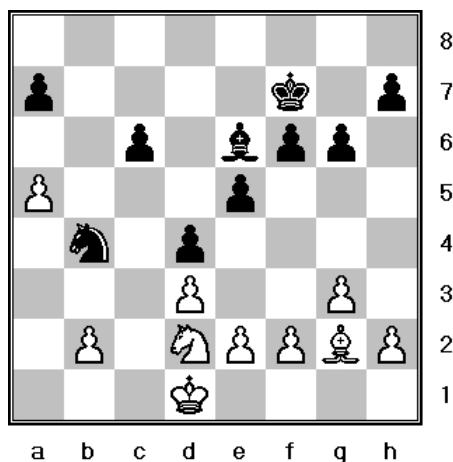
18. Rxc8+ Rxc8 19. Rc1 Bf8 20. Rxc8 Qxc8 21. Qa4 Qc6!

Since the minor-piece endgame is quite favorable for Black.

22. Qxc6 bxc6 23. Kf1 Kf7

And not the immediate 23. ...Bb4? due to 24. Nxd4 = Bxd2 (24. ...exd4 25. Bxd5!) 25. Nxe6 Bxa5 26. Nc5 with dead equality.

24. Ke1 Bb4 25. Kd1 Bxd2 26. Nxd2 Nb4



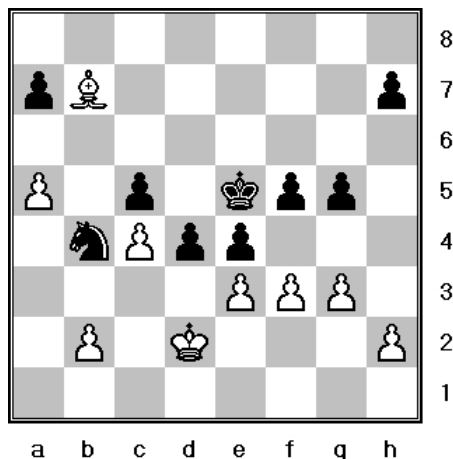
27. Nc4?

An improvement is 27. b3 Ke7 28. Nc4 Bd5 29. Bxd5 cxd5 30. Na3 Although Black is still much better, White has drawing chances.

27. ...Bxc4 28. dxc4 f5!

The black knight rules the position.

29. Kd2 Ke6 30. e3 c5 31. Bb7 Kd6 32. Ba8 e4 33. f3 Ke5 34. Bb7 g5



35. g4

White can no longer save the game, eg. 35. f4+ gxf4 36. gxf4+ Ke6 37. Bc8+ Kf6 38. Bb7 Nd3 39. b3 dxe3+ 40. Kxe3 Nc1 -+

35. ...dxe3+ 36. Kxe3 f4+ 37. Kd2 e3+ 38. Kc3 Na2+ 39. Kd3 Nc1+ 40. Kc2 Nb3! 0-1

Harley Greninger – Viktors Pupols
Oregon Open, Round 6
Gresham, Oregon, September 6, 2010

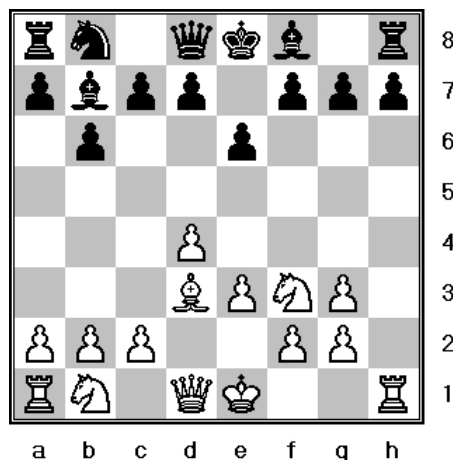
When examining the last-round pairings, I was disappointed to see that I was paired against Vik. First off, we're friends. Not the kind of friendship that agrees to short draws,

but rather a "I'll sharpen your sword with my sword" kind of friendship! My disappointment stemmed from the fact that every time we play it is a 4-6 hour session. It's now 3:00 on the last day, we both have a very long drive to get home. Vic's lovely wife nods with understanding and pulls out her crochet. I call my wife to cancel our dinner arrangements and we both get down to business...

1. d4 e6 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. Bf4 b6 4. e3 Bb7 5. Bd3 Nh5 6. Bg3

6. Bg5 Be7 (6. ...Bxf3? 7. Qxf3 Qxg5 8. Qxa8 +-) 7. Bxe7 Qxe7 =.

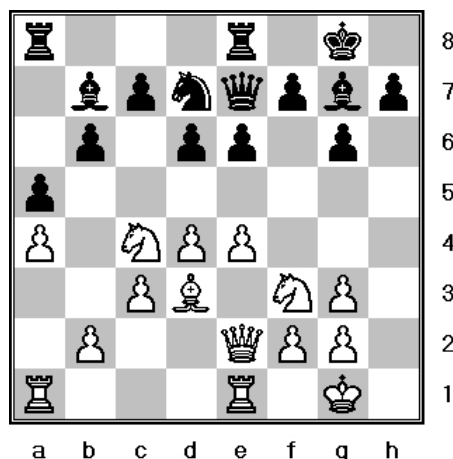
6. ...Nxc3 7. hxc3



7. ...g6

The first new move. 7. ...Qf6 8. Nbd2 d5 9. Ne5 g6 10. Qf3 Qxf3 11. Ndx3 Bg7 12. Bb5+ c6 13. Be2 f6 = Song, A-Gibbons, R (2096)/ Auckland 2003, (0-1 in 75). Vik's move takes away White's KB diagonal, but it creates dark holes in Black's kingside - I'm able to later capitalize on this.

8. Nbd2 Bg7 9. c3 d6 10. Qe2 Nd7 11. 0-0 Qe7 12. e4 0-0 13. Rfe1 Rfe8 14. a4 a5 15. Nc4



15. ...Qf8?!

Black should now stake his claim in the center with 15. ...e5! and it is difficult for White to show any kind of advantage.

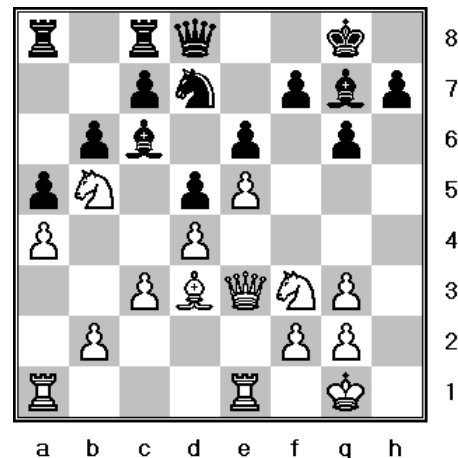
16. e5! d5

Prior to closing the center with 16. ...d6-d5, Black should play 16. ...Bxf3! 17. gxf3 d5 18. Na3 c6 and although White has the better position, it will be a tough go.

17. Na3 Rec8

Perhaps still 17. ...c6 with the idea of transferring the Queen to c8 then ...Ba6.

18. Nb5 Qd8 19. Qe3 Bc6



20. g4!

Now it is apparent that Black really is in trouble. If White is allowed to advance to g5 unhindered, then the h-file will become an obvious inroad for the Rooks.

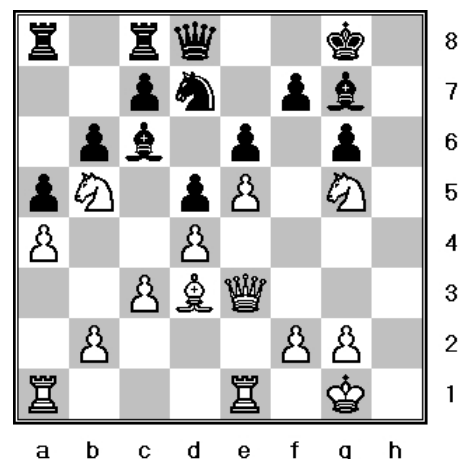
20. ...h6!

The best chance to defend.

21. g5 hxg5

21. ...h5 22. g4! hxg4 23. Nh2 gives Black no relief.

22. Nxc3

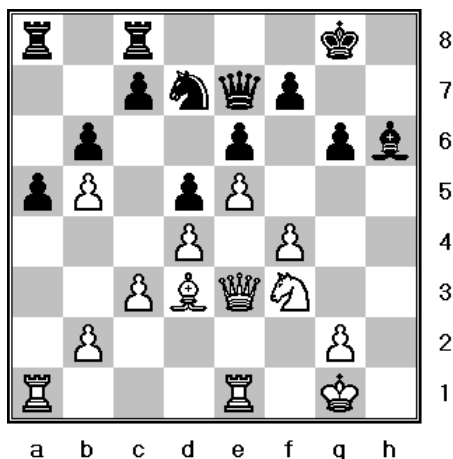


22. ...Qe7

Now if Black could only play 22. ...Bh6

it would seem that he has survived. However, White would then play 23. Nxf7! Bxe3 24. Nxd8 Bxf2+ 25. Kxf2 Rxd8 26. Nxc7 +-. Or, if Black tries to improve with 22. ...Bxb5 23. axb5 Bh6, then still 24. Nxf7!Bxe3 25. Nxd8 Bxf2+ (even worse is 25. ...Rxd8 26. Rxe3) 26. Kxf2 Rxd8 27. Bxg6 +-. After the move played, Black is now threatening to play Bh6.

23. f4! Bxb5 24. axb5 Bh6 25. Nf3!

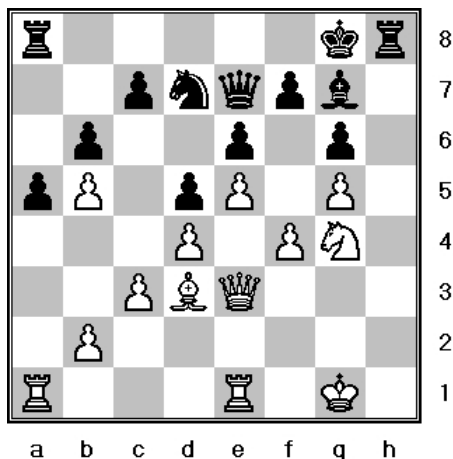


If Black is allowed to exchange on g5, he'll be able to safely locate his king to g7 and utilize the h-file for his Rooks himself. My thought is only to allow the exchange of this bishop for my knight on f6 with a white pawn emerging on f6.

25. ...Kh7!

Vintage Vik! This is an ingenious way to get a rook onto the h-file and then a relocation of his K to the Q-side. Although the best chance Black has, in the long run this is doomed to failure, since White is better on the Q-side as well.

26. g4 Rh8 27. g5 Bg7 28. Nh2 Kg8 29. Ng4



29. ...Kf8

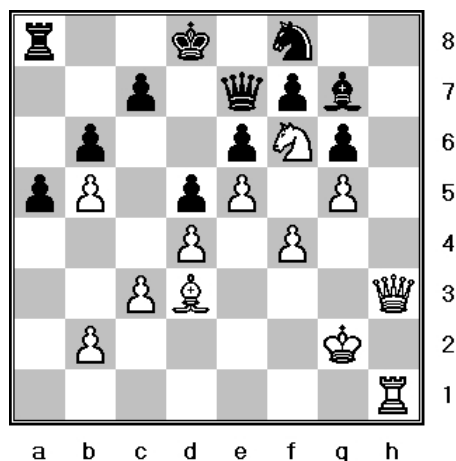
Offering the Exchange doesn't bail

Black out either, eg. 29. ...Rh4 30. Qg3 Rxc4 31. Qxc4 White does have some technical difficulties, since Black has no weaknesses that can easily be exploited. Nevertheless, White will eventually open files via b2-b4 or c3-c4 to infiltrate the Black camp.

30. Kg2 Ke8 31. Rh1 Rxh1 32. Rxh1 Nf8

Black has succeeded in eliminating all h-file inroads, so White is forced to create new opportunities.

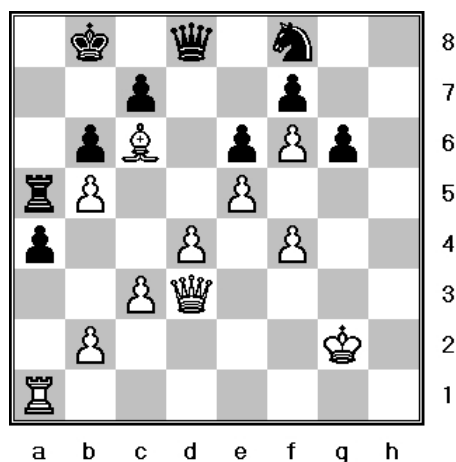
33. Nf6+ Kd8 34. Qh3



34. ...Kc8?

I'm unsure whether Vik was looking to shuttle a pawn in exchange for being able to transfer his king to the queenside, or that he simply overlooked the point of my last move. The world may never know.

35. Nxd5 Qd8 36. Be4 Kb8 37. Nf6 Ra7 38. Bc6 a4 39. Ra1 Ra5 40. Qd3 Bxf6 41. gxf6



41. ...g5! 42. Be4!

Black gets some counterplay after 42. fxc5 Ng6 43. Qe4 (43. Qf3?? Nh4+) 43. ...Qg8 and White's B and Q are not aligned in the right order!

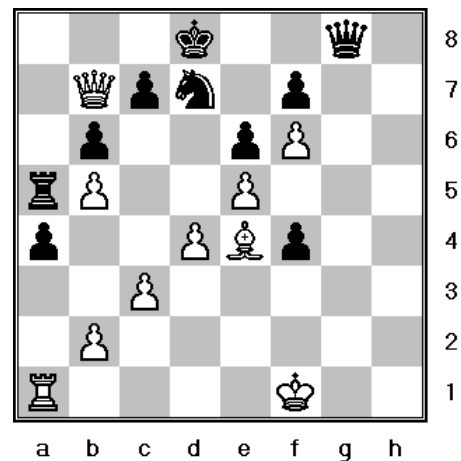
42. ...gxf4 43. Qc4 Nd7

43. ...Qd7 44. Rxa4 Rxa4 (44. ...Rxb5 45. Ra8#) 45. Qxa4.

44. Qc6 Qg8+

44. ...Ra7 45. Rxa4!Qg8+ 46. Kf1 Qg3 47. Qa8+!Rxa8 48. Rxa8#, or 44. ...Qc8 45. Kf3 Ra7 46. Kxf4 Qh8 47. Qxd7 Qh2+ 48. Kg4 and Black is out of checks.

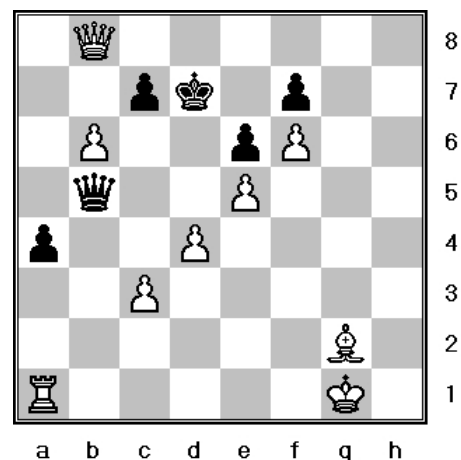
45. Kf1 Kc8 46. Qb7+ Kd8



47. b4! Qg3

(Or 47. ...axb3 48. Rxa5 bxa5 49. Qa8+ Nb8 50. Qxb8+ Kd7 51. Bc6#)

48. bxa5 Qh3+ 49. Bg2 Qd3+ 50. Kg1 f3 51. Qxf3 Qxb5 52. Qa8+ Nb8 53. Qxb8+ Kd7 54. axb6



Black resigns (after only 5½ hours of play!).

1-0

Thanks to Neil, Chuck, and Harley for their published work, and extra thanks also to Alex Grom for taking the pictures I didn't find space for. As usual, great coverage of the Oregon Open!

- editor



Washington Class Championships

A NW Grand Prix Event

November 26-28, 2010

WA Class Championships Entry Fees and Prize Fund

\$6,000 Guaranteed by the
Washington Chess Federation

Entry fees listed as:

By Oct 30 / By Nov 20 / At site

Master (2200+) EF \$70 / \$75 / \$85
Prizes \$500, \$350, \$200, U2300 \$150

Expert (2000-2199) EF \$65 / \$70 / \$80
Prizes \$400, \$300, \$175, U2100 \$125

Class A (1800-1999) EF \$60 / \$65 / \$75
Prizes \$300, \$250, \$150, U1900 \$100

Class B (1600-1799) EF \$60 / \$65 / \$75
Prizes \$300, \$250, \$150, U1700 \$100

Class C (1400-1599) EF \$60 / \$65 / \$75
Prizes \$300, \$250, \$150, U1500 \$100

Class D (1200-1399) EF \$60 / \$65 / \$75
Prizes \$300, \$250, \$150, U1300 \$100

Class E (1199&below) EF \$55/\$60/\$70
Prizes \$150, \$125, \$100, U1000 \$75,
U800 \$75, Unrated \$75

Advance entries must be received by
Nov. 20. Reentry 1/2 of your entry fee.
Add \$25 to play up one class (can't play
up two classes). Free entry to GMs, IMs,
and WGMs. Juniors (U21) may play for
medals only for an advance EF of \$25.
(Medals awarded for top two in each
class.) Canadians may pay C\$ at par (no
coins) for entry fee only.

**ALL PRIZES WILL BE MAILED
starting December 1, 2010.**

Entries/Information:

Send entries to Dan Mathews, WCF
Tournament Coordinator:
107 7th Ave N Apt 100
Edmonds, WA 98020
Cell Phone (425) 218-7529
E-mail: Dthmathews@aol.com
Also see www.nwchess.com.
Make checks payable to
Washington Chess Federation.

Marriott Redmond Town Center, 7401 164th Avenue NE,
Redmond, WA 98052, phone (425) 498-4000

Online Registration at <http://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration>
Pay by credit/debit or PayPal.

Format: Seven class sections as shown at left, six round Swiss system. Sections may be combined if less than 12 players in a section. Late registrations may receive half-point byes for first round.

Rating: USCF rated. Master/Expert sections also FIDE rated. USCF November supplement will be used. Unrated players may only win 1st, 2nd, 3rd prizes in Master section, or unrated prize in class E.

Registration: Friday 8:00-9:00 AM for 3-day schedule, or 3:00-3:30 PM if entering with one half-point bye. Saturday 8:00-9:00 AM for 2-day schedule, or 8:30-9:00 AM if entering 3-day schedule with two half-point byes. Two half-point byes available at registration or before end of round 2. Play any two days, if taking two half-point byes.

Rounds: 3-day schedule: Fri: 10:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Sat 10:00 AM and 5:30 PM, Sun 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM. 2-day schedule: Sat 9:30 AM, 12:00 noon, 2:30 PM, then join 3-day schedule with round 4 at 5:30 PM.

Time Controls: 3-day schedule: 30/90 and SD/1 with 5-second delay. 2-day schedule: G/60 with 5-second delay (rounds 1-3), rounds 4-6 same as 3-day schedule. Please bring tournament chess set, board and digital clock.

Miscellaneous: Current USCF membership and WCF or OCF membership required in all sections. Other States Accepted. Memberships may be paid at time of registration. NW Grand Prix event. National Grand Prix Points: 20. Chess Magnet School JGP. No Smoking. No Computers. Wheelchair accessible.

Entries/Prizes/Info: See left column. Please use entry form (available soon on NWC website) for a list of all discounts and fees, and to indicate schedule, section, side events and byes requested – or use online registration.

Hotel Info/Rates: \$95.00 for single, double, triple or quad. Reservation link is available on Northwest Chess website (www.nwchess.com). The cut-off date for reservations at the discount is November 19th.

Side Events: Blitz and Novice events on Saturday. See page 2 of this flyer (available at www.nwchess.com if not published herein).

Washington Class Scholastic (Nov 26): A separate flyer/entry form/online registration link will be published on the NWC website for this event, or contact: David Hendricks, WCF Scholastic Coordinator, 2439 220th Place NE, Sammamish, WA 98074-6418, phone 425-868-3881, e-mail: DavidCHendricks@comcast.net.

Revised 8/19/2010.



Washington Class Championships

A NW Grand Prix Event

November 26-28, 2010

Marriott Redmond Town Center, 7401 164th Avenue NE,
Redmond, WA 98052, phone (425) 498-4000

Side Events

Saturday 11/27

3:00 pm: Washington Class Blitz Championship

Format: 5 round double Swiss System in one section. (In each round, you play your opponent twice, once with the white pieces and once with the black pieces.)

Registration: 1:30-2:15 PM.

Rounds: 2:30, 3:00, 3:30, 4:00 and 4:30 PM.

TC: G/5 (no delay).

EF: \$25.

Prizes: Based on 19 entries.

1st \$120, 2nd \$80, 1st U2000 \$60, 1st U1700 \$60, 1st U1400 \$60.

Miscellaneous: Not USCF rated. Memberships not required.

Saturday 11/27

10:00 am: Washington Class Novice Championship

Format: 4 round Swiss System in one section, open to U1200 or unrated.

Registration: 9:00-9:30 AM.

Rounds: 10:00, 11:45 AM, 1:30, 3:30 PM. One half-point bye available.

TC: G/45 + 5 sec. delay.

EF: \$12.00 in advance (if rec'd by 11/20), \$16.00 at site.

Prizes: Trophies to 1st, 2nd; 1st, 2nd U1100, U1000, U800, unrated.

Miscellaneous: USCF rated. WCF or OCF membership required, Other States Accepted. Memberships may be paid at time of registration, with option to pay \$5 WCF/OCF tournament membership. No Smoking. No Computers.

Main Events/Hotel Info: See page 1 of this flyer.

All prizes (for all events) will be mailed.

Revised 9/3/2010.

Entries/Information:

Send entries to Dan Mathews, WCF

Tournament Coordinator:

107 7th Ave N Apt 100

Edmonds, WA 98020

Cell Phone (425) 218-7529

E-mail: Dthmathews@aol.com

Also see www.nwchess.com.

Make checks payable to
Washington Chess Federation.

Seattle Sluggers Update

by Alex Guo

For the 2009 season, the Seattle Sluggers, led by Hikaru Nakamura, captured Seattle's first Western Division title, finishing ahead of strong teams such as San Francisco and Arizona.

This year Seattle is at it again, though this time Seattle is admittedly having a much tougher time. In 2010, Seattle lost the H-bomb Nakamura to St. Louis, only because, like New York's baseball team, St. Louis has regurgitated several hundred grand to snap up the star players. I might also add that St. Louis dished out truckloads of dough for the former U.S. Champion Yury Shulman, and in like-manner, acquired a 1770 player (class B-players in Seattle might want to apply for a position on the St. Louis Arch Bishops).

To replace Nakamura, Seattle signed up GM Varuzhan Akobian, who is number three in the league, behind (guess who) St. Louis' GM Nakamura and GM Shulman. Next on the team we have GM Serper, who has been a rock-solid performer for the Sluggers and consistently lives up to his reputation. Another top player for the Sluggers is a relatively high-rated FM Costin Cozianu (2547), who was 2009 Washington State Champion. These top three players give Seattle many ways to construct a high-powered line-up with strength on the upper boards.

Seattle can also create a balanced lineup with more power on the bottom boards, through the use of board 2 candidates FM Slava Mikhailuk and FM Michael Lee. FM Marcel Milat and WGM Katerina Rohonyan and occasionally NM Sinanan, would fill board 3, while board 4 would be played primarily by Alex Guo and Michael Wang, as well as Sinanan. The highest-powered lineup that Seattle could use is GM Akobian, GM Serper, FM Lee, and Wang, which would be a tremendous average rating of 2460. That line up, in terms of average rating, would be one of the highest in the USCL if it weren't for (hem hem) St. Louis, who mustered an average rating of well over 2500.

Despite a great roster, the matches so far in the US Chess League haven't quite gone Seattle's way. For the past five matches, all of them have been extremely close, and almost all could have ended up on Seattle's

side, but the fates decided otherwise.

Week 1: Chicago

Seattle's first match was against Chicago. This year, Chicago's roster has been mostly the same except with the addition of GM Gurevich. The lineups and results were as follows:

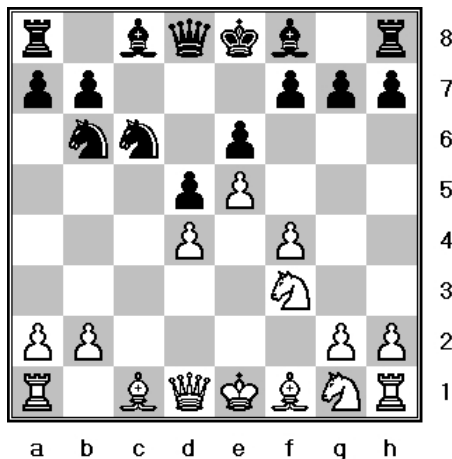
Seattle		Chicago	
White on 1 & 3		White on 2 & 4	
Mikhailuk	0 – 1	Gurevich	
Lee	0 – 1	Felecan	
Sinanan	.5 – .5	Angelo	
Guo	1 – 0	Rosen	
	1.5 – 2.5		

Sinanan and Angelo finished first with an uneventful draw. Next was FM Michael Lee, who lost after failing to recover from a worse position out of the opening. Alex Guo evened up the score with a win against NM Rosen. Lastly, Gurevich managed to come out with a better position in a back-and-forth battle, to pull off the win for Chicago.

Eric Rosen – Alex Guo U.S. Chess League, Round 1 Seattle vs Chicago, Board 4

Internet Chess Club, August 23, 2010

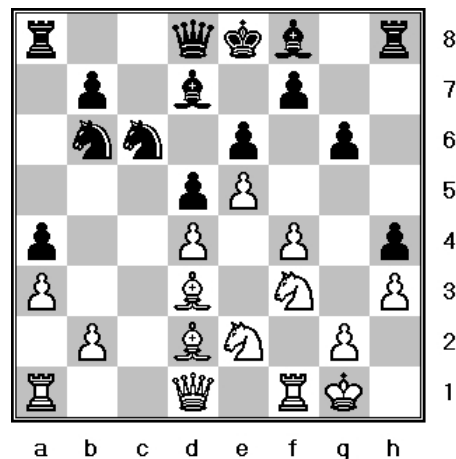
1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nd2 Nf6 4. e5 Nfd7
5. f4 c5 6. c3 cxd4 7. cxd4 Nc6 8. Ndf3 Nb6



The so-called Leningrad Variation (I think...).

9. Bd3 Bd7 10. a3 a5 11. Ne2 a4 12. Bd2 h5 13. 0-0 g6 14. h3 h4

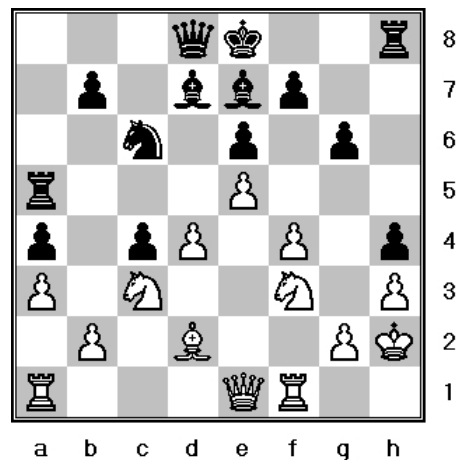
Oh yahhhhhh, side pawns on the fifth rank!



15. Qe1 Be7 16. Kh2

Around here I realized that I was in a bit of trouble since there is no obvious plan. ...Na5 is not possible, ...0-0 is TERRIBLE, ...Na7 is met by Ba5, and I really wanted to keep my knights because they have such great outpost potentials. Initially, I thought Nc4 was terrible simply because of the game variation, but as I hated my chances in every other variation, I just decided to sac the exchange for decent counterchances.

16. ...Nc4 17. Bxc4 dxc4 18. Nc3 Ra5



19. Be3

In the game I also looked at 19. d5 but realized that 19. ...Rxd5 20. Nxd5 (20. Nxa4 Nxe5 21. Nxe5 Bxa4) 20. ...exd5 21. Be3 Bf5, with really great compensation.

19. ...Rd5!?

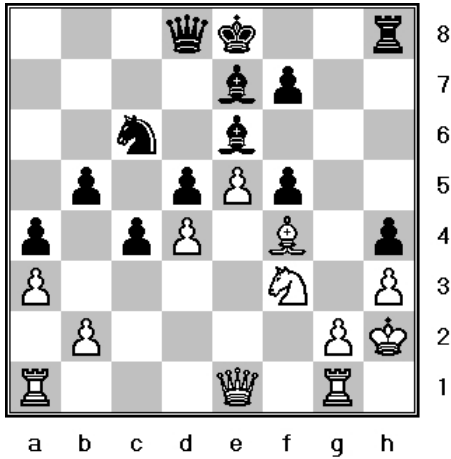
Still have NO IDEA whether this is sound. If you have any thoughts please let me know.

20. f5!

Did not see that coming. I originally planned for my QB to be outside of the pawn chain, but I guess that idea's over. Because of this surprise move, I felt terrible about

my chances, and I could hear Slava express displeasure at my position.

20. ...gxf5 21. Nxd5 exd5 22. Bf4 Be6 23. Rg1 b5

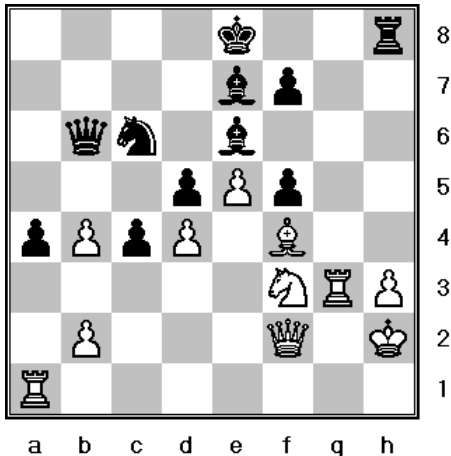


Process of elimination: kingside and center are not possible battlefields for me. As for the queenside, there's only one move that can start any sort of attack.

24. g3?!

While consistent with his previous moves, on another look g3 might not be as sound as I originally thought. The problem is that g3 opens up the h-file and presents the h-pawn as a really juicy target should the diagonal for my QB open up any time soon. But if White can't play on the kingside, then what is he supposed to do? Well, I guess Black's position wasn't so terrible after all.

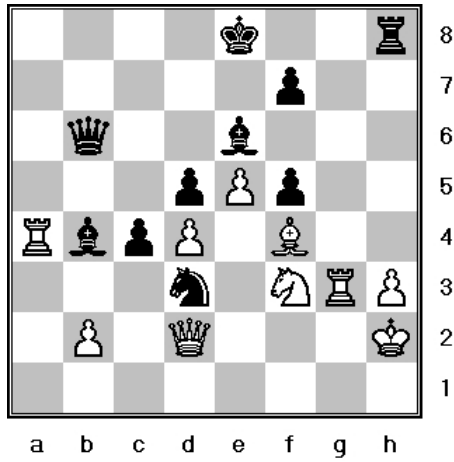
24. ...Qb6 25. Qf2 hxg3+ 26. Rgx3 b4! 27. axb4



27. ...Nxb4!

Sacking another pawn is the right idea. A strong central knight is totally worth a pawn.

28. Rxa4 Nd3 29. Qd2 Bb4



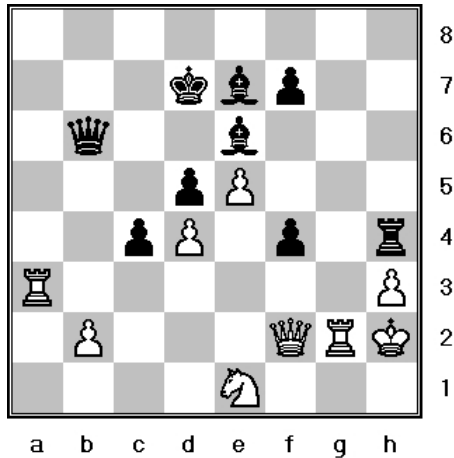
30. Qe3?!

The text move completely hands the initiative over to Black. 30. Rxb4 Qxb4 31. Qxb4 Nxb4 with a probable draw was what I was expecting, though I was willing to play for another 100 moves to go for the win, if the match situation demanded it.

30. ...Kd7 31. Rg2 Be7 32. Ne1?

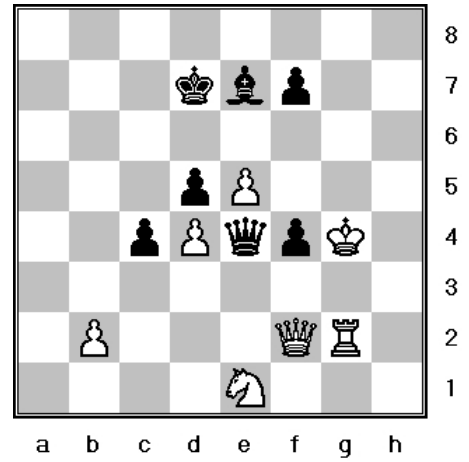
Believe it or not, Ne1 already allows a winning combination.

32. ...Nxf4 33. Qxf4 Rh4 34. Qf2 f4 35. Ra3



Try to find the winning move.

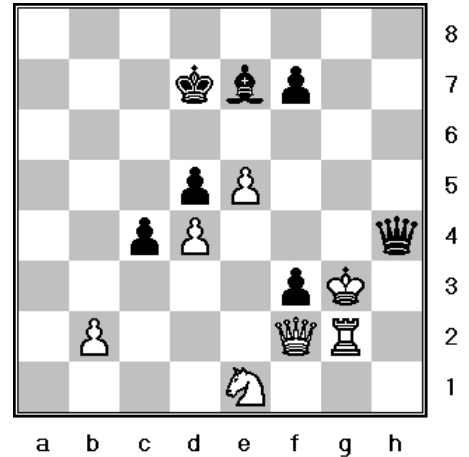
35. ...Bxh3!! 36. Rxh3 Rxh3+ 37. Kxh3 Qh6+ 38. Kg4 Qg6+ 39. Kf3 Qe4+ 40. Kg4



40. ...f3+!!

40. ...f3+ is absolutely critical. Without it, the combination does not work at all. The move is difficult to find because one usually examines the two different scenarios separately: 1) f3+, to take the rook, or 2) Qg6+ and seeing if there is mate. The trick is to sorta mix the ideas.

41. Kh3 Qh7+ 42. Kg4 Qg6+ 43. Kh3 Qh5+ 44. Kg3 Qh4+



45. Kxf3 Qe4+ 46. Kg3 Bh4+ 47. Kh3 Bxf2 48. Rxf2 Qxe1

Thirteen moves later, Black is winning.

49. Rxf7+ Ke8 50. Rf4 Qe2 51. Kh4 Qxb2 52. Kg5 Qd2 53. Kf5 c3 54. Rg4 Qd3+

0-1

As always, fans are cordially invited to attend all Slugger matches. Check out the USCL's website <http://www.uschessleague.com/> and Seattle's page to find our schedule. For weekly updates, become a regular reader of the Slugger blog at <http://seattlesluggers.blogspot.com/> and become a fan of the Seattle Sluggers' Facebook page. We hope to see you over the internet and during our matches.

P.S. There might be free food, so you should come!

Week 2: Arizona

In the second week, the Sluggers faced the Arizona Scorpions, a team that has been off to a perfect 4-0 record before slipping up in the fifth week in their match against Chicago.

Arizona		Seattle	
White on 1 & 3		White on 2 & 4	
Altounian	.5 – .5	Cozianu	
Barcenilla	1 – 0	Mikhailuk	
Adamson	.5 – .5	Rohonyan	
Thompson	1 – 0	Wang	
	3 – 1		

NM Thompson scored a win for Arizona and FM Cozianu managed to draw a rook ending in which he was worse, putting significant pressure on board 2 and 3 to bring the necessary points so that Seattle could at least draw the match. However, both games were headed for a draw, so Slava and Katerina took risk in trying to upset the balance of the game. Slava's game took a turn for the worse while Katerina nearly lost.

Week 3: Miami

Seattle		Miami	
White on 1 & 3		White on 2 & 4	
Akobian	1 – 0	Becerra	
Cozianu	1 – 0	Martinez	
Rohonyan	0 – 1	Galofre	
Guo	1 – 0	Perez	
	3 – 1		

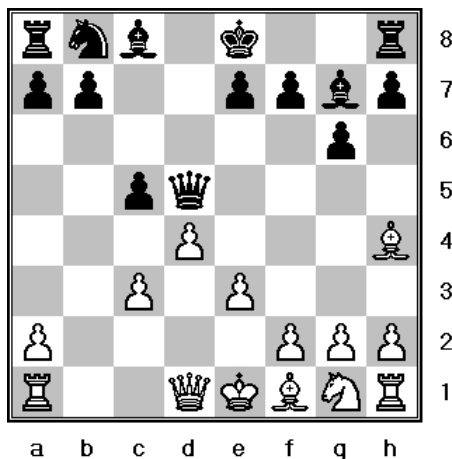
Miami is a team that has just been struggling in the USCL, and with this match, Seattle sends the Miami Sharks off to a shocking 0-3 start (ah...sweet revenge for Miami's hand in knocking Seattle off the postseason for the past two years). GM Akobian had a very successful USCL debut by creaming GM Becerra (2628) in a sparkling win.

Varuzhan Akobian – Julio Becerra
U.S. Chess League, Round 3
Seattle vs Miami, Board 1
Internet Chess Club, September 7, 2010

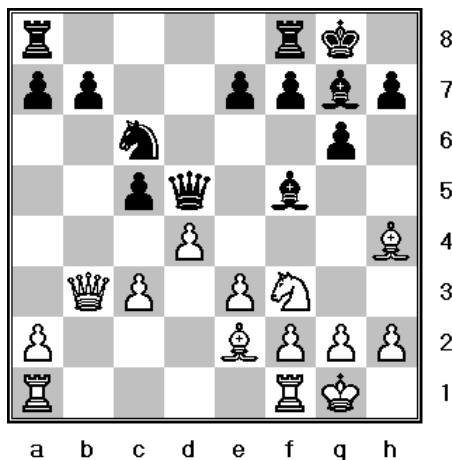
Akobian's great USCL debut:

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 d5 4. Bg5 Ne4 5. Bh4 Nxc3 6. bxc3 Bg7 7. e3 c5 8. cxd5 Qxd5

A rather tame line of the Grunfeld. Akobian opts for a solid center instead of a classical e4+d4 big center, which would be subject to Black counterplay.



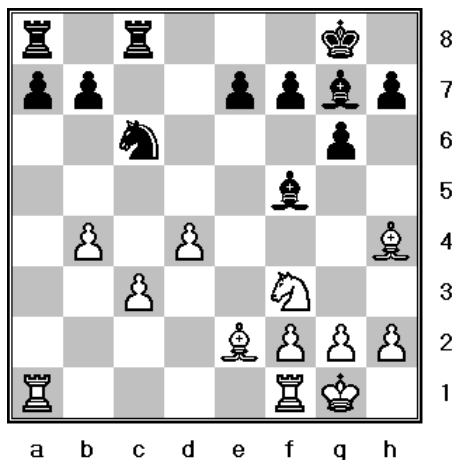
9. Nf3 Nc6 10. Be2 0-0 11. 0-0 Bf5 12. Qb3



12. ...Qxb3?!

The exchange of queens opens up the a-file which is not partially controlled by Black's bishop, thus giving White the better position.

13. axb3 cxd4 14. exd4 Rfc8 15. b4!

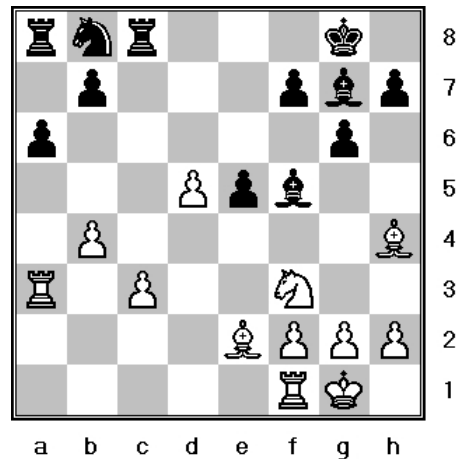


A very subtle positional move that surprisingly shuts down Black's queenside. It is impressive to see how Akobian slides into victory starting from here.

15. ...a6 16. Ra3 e5?

It is surprising that such a move should be regarded as a blunder, but really, it allows White a decisive passed pawn. Normally I wouldn't mark it as a blunder, but as Becerra gets CRUSHED after this move, it must be regarded as a decisive "positional blunder."

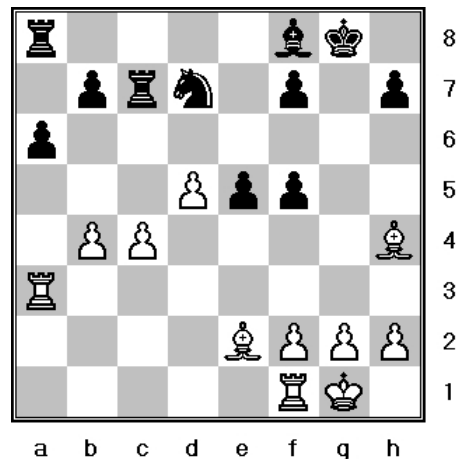
17. d5 Nb8



18. Nd2!

The white knight heads for weak spots b6 and d6. The domineering knight gives White a huge edge.

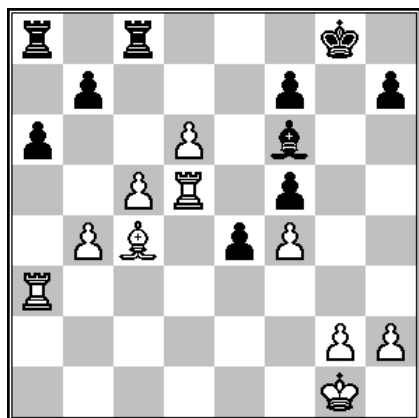
18. ...Bh6 19. Nc4 Nd7 20. Nd6 Rc7 21. c4 Bf8 22. Nxf5 gxf5



Black has weak kingside pawns. Black has immobile Queenside pawns. White has a center passed pawn. White is winning. Funny how it is the pawn structure that is making the major difference in this position.

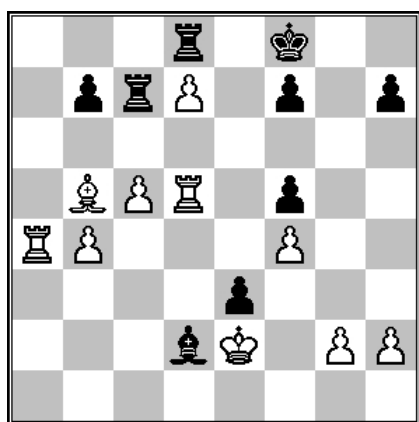
23. c5 e4 24. d6 Rcc8 25. Rd1 Bg7 26. Bg5 Be5 27. f4 Bg7 28. Bc4 Nf6 29. Bxf6 Bxf6 30. Rd5

The beginning of the end. Sit back and watch the destruction.



a b c d e f g h

30. ...a5 31. d7 Rc7 32. Rxa5 Rd8 33. Bb5 Bc3 34. Ra4 e3 35. Kf1 Kf8 36. Ke2 Bd2



a b c d e f g h

37. Rxf5 Rxd7 38. Bxd7 Rxd7 39. b5 Bc1 40. Ra2

Black resigns. Akobian had 20 minutes while Becerra was under 5. Nice work.

1-0

Week 4: San Francisco

San Francisco		Seattle
White on 1 & 3		White on 2 & 4
Friedel	1 - 0	Akobian
Pruess	1 - 0	Cozianu
Zierk	0 - 1	Lee
Yian Liou	.5 - .5	Wang
	2.5 - 1.5	

This match was really close, with all three results possible for most of the match. Boards 2 through 4 were decided relatively early. Pruess bested Cozianu in a French, FM Zierk politely handed over his game to FM Lee, and Wang achieved a drawish rook ending. The key game turned out to be on board 1. After the opening, it appears that Akobian had a better pawn structure. Then Friedel created a wild pawn storm on the

kingside, leading to unclear play and a tactical melee, in which the computer liked Akobian's position, but in the end, Friedel found his way in all the tactics and ended up with a winning rook ending.

Week 5: Miami (again)

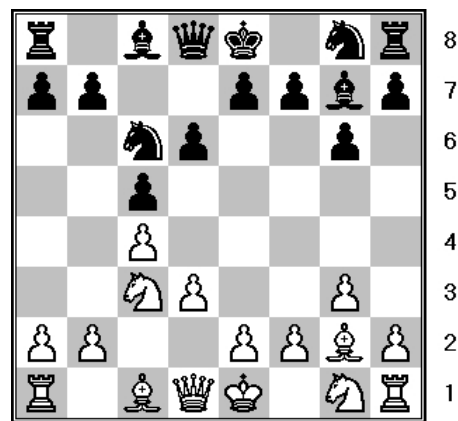
Miami		Seattle
White on 1 & 3		White on 2 & 4
Becerra	1 - 0	Mikhailuk
Gonzalez	0 - 1	Lee
Galofre	1 - 0	Milat
Perez	0 - 1	Sinanan
	2 - 2	

For this match, believe it or not, Seattle was winning on every single board, and despite everybody in the USCL blogosphere predicting an outright win for Miami! Slava had a winning rook ending. FM Lee punished Gonzalez for overextending himself. Milat reached a position where he was objectively better (although the winning continuation was by no means clear). Sinanan had overwhelming pressure on the queenside and successfully defended a kingside attack. Although the fans favored Miami, Miami was in a position to get swept from the get go.

Unfortunately, it seems that the fates were against the Sluggers, for Milat stumbled in a very complicated position and Slava misplayed the rook ending to let Becerra squeeze out the win to save Miami from an embarrassing upset. Nice job to Michael, though, for a big upset over GM Gonzalez, who had beaten GM Finegold in the previous round of matches.

Michael Lee - Renier Gonzalez U.S. Chess League, Round 5 Miami vs Seattle, Board 2 Internet Chess Club, September 22, 2010

1. c4 g6 2. Nc3 Bg7 3. g3 d6 4. Bg2 c5 5. d3 Nc6

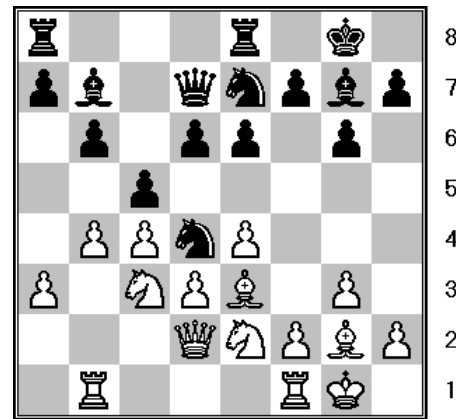


a b c d e f g h

6. e4

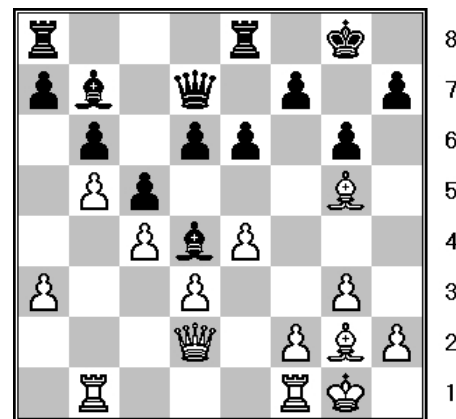
Disrupting the symmetry. Though playable, 6.e4 is not the best version of a Botvinnik as Black's KB has the long diagonal.

6. ...e6 7. Nge2 Nge7 8. 0-0 0-0 9. Rb1 b6 10. a3 Bb7 11. b4 Qd7 12. Be3 Nd4 13. Qd2 Rfe8



a b c d e f g h

14. Bh6 Bh8 15. Bg5 Nec6 16. b5 Nxe2+ 17. Nxe2 Nd4 18. Nxd4 Bxd4



a b c d e f g h

19. Rfe1!?

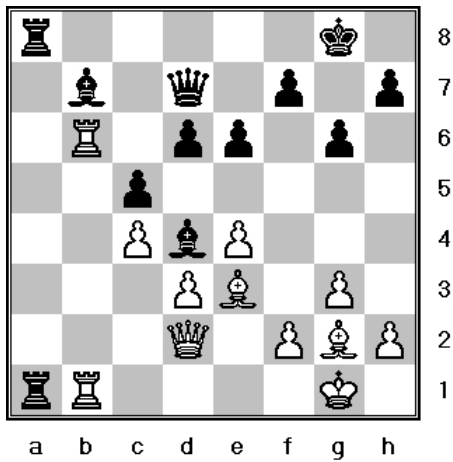
A good prophylactic move against Black's threat to break open the center with ...d5.

19. ...a6 20. a4 axb5 21. Rxb5 Rxa4 22. Rxb6 Rea8 23. Reb1

All the activity is on the queenside.

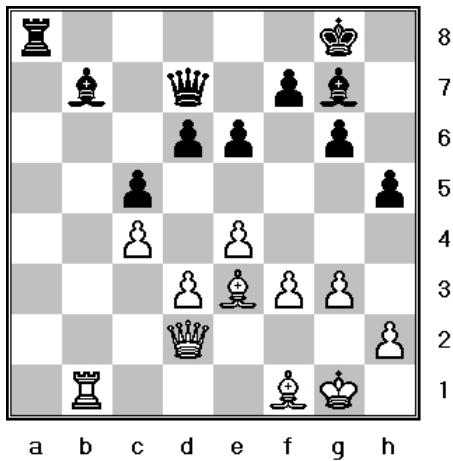
23. ...Ra1 24. Be3!

It is crucial to exchange away the strong bishop. If Black declines, as he does in the game, then White will be ready to launch d3-d4.



24. ...Bg7 25. Bf1 Rxb1 26. Rxb1 h5
27. f3

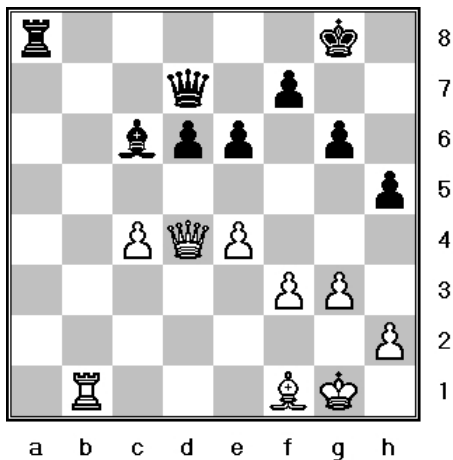
Prepares 28.d4 and helps obstruct the range of Black's QB.



27. ...Bc6?!

Here begins a series of moves as GM Gonzalez presses for the win, but inadvertently saddles himself with numerous weaknesses. Another important detail is the great activity of White's Queen. 27. ...e5 with a definite draw. There is not much that either side can do.

28. d4 cxd4 29. Bxd4 Bxd4+ 30. Qxd4

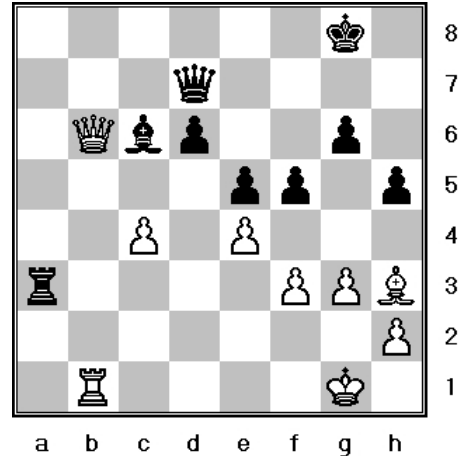


White has the better position, because of a much more active queen and the weak pawn d6.

30. ...e5 31. Qb6 f5?!

A rather loosening pawn move that weakens the seventh rank and presents a nice target for White to attack with his bishop.

32. Bh3 Ra3

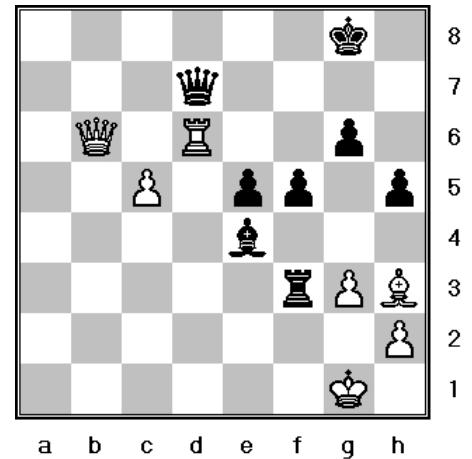


33. Rd1!

Rerouting the rook to penetrate along the d-file. Black's structural weaknesses gives

White the win.

33. ...Rxf3 34. c5 Bxe4 35. Rxd6



35. ...Qf7 36. Qd8+ Kg7 37. Rd7 Rd3
38. Rxf7+ Kxf7 39. Qc7+ Ke6 40. Bf1 Rd1
41. Qb6+ Ke7 42. Kf2 f4 43. c6 Rd2+ 44.
Ke1 Rd6 45. Qa7+ Kf6 46. c7 Rc6 47. gxf4
exf4 48. Qd4+

Black resigns.

1-0



The two youngest members of the Seattle Sluggers, Michael Wang and Alex Guo, pictured at last year's Washington Junior Closed. Photo credit: Philip Peterson.

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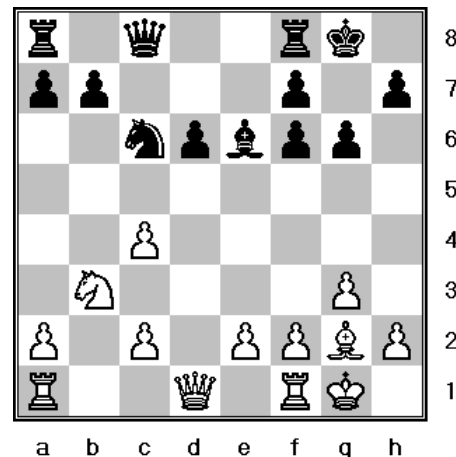
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Theoretically Speaking

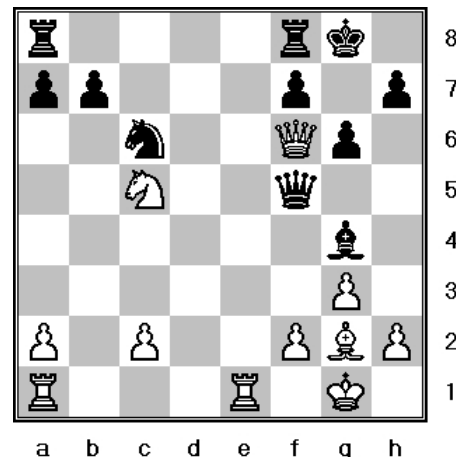
by Bill McGeary



This is it. One simple exchange completely turns the course of the game. Prior to this exchange White would be seeking to control d5, possibly get e4 in to make a capture on d5 opening the e-file and maybe some sort of space gain on the kingside with h3/f4 while Black would be seeking to get a knight to c4 and advance with b5. After the exchange the number one factor for each side is the activity of the White QB. Yeah controlling squares on the c-file is still important and maybe Black would like to exchange white square bishops, but if the Bc1 finds a good role the whole concept is rubbish for Black.



13. Qxd6 Bxc4 14. Qxf6 Bxe2 15. Rfe1 Bg4 16. Nc5 Qf5



17. Ne4

White keeps his foot on the pedal. White's c-pawn has some potential because the b7-pawn is an easy target, yet why give Black a couple of easy defensive moves?

17. ...Rad8 18. c3

Black was threatening to play ...Nd4 with counterplay.

18. ...Na5 19. Qe7 Bf3 20. Nd6

Idea: 20. ...Qd7 21. Nxb7.

20. ...Qd3

Now 21. Nxb7 Rd7!

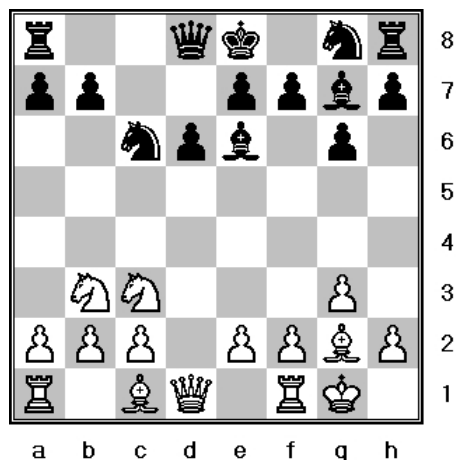
21. Re3

Converting the advantage on the dark squares into a pawn in the endgame.

In order to appreciate the full value of this game, we need a little historical setup. In 1972, ex-World Champion Tigran Petrosian won a game that showed a fresh strategic approach to a common position. Basically, he played Bg2 takes Nc6 in order to play against a weakened queenside pawn structure and to limit Black's dynamic chances. At the time the king bishop in fianchetto was expected to be the beneficiary of strategic ideas and not merely a piece to be exchanged to enhance them. This game drew much attention and the idea appeared in many different instances. Remember, this was simply a strategic device and not an opening variation, yet it took on a life of its own. Our example shows the theme, though with colors reversed.

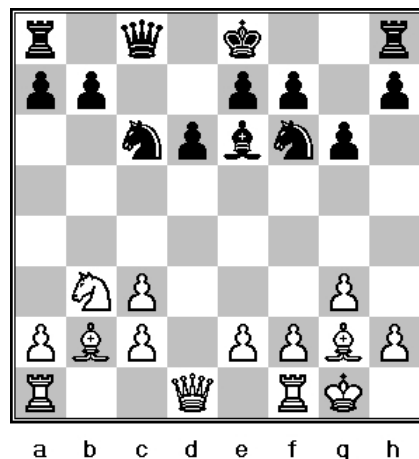
Istvan Csom – Axel Ornstein
Yerevan
1976

1. Nf3 g6 2. g3 Bg7 3. d4 c5 4. Bg2 cxd4 5. Nxd4 Nc6 6. Nb3 d6 7. 0-0 Be6 8. Nc3



8. ...Bxc3

9. bxc3 Qc8 10. Bb2 Nf6?



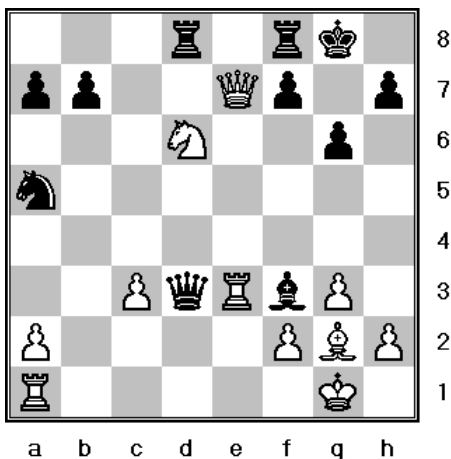
From previous note. Black thinks that taking a pawn on c4 will deter White from activating the Bb2; that is pretty much wrong. Black has to play to limit this one piece as much as possible, so 10. ...Bc4 is indicated. Just watch....

11. c4 0-0 12. Bxf6

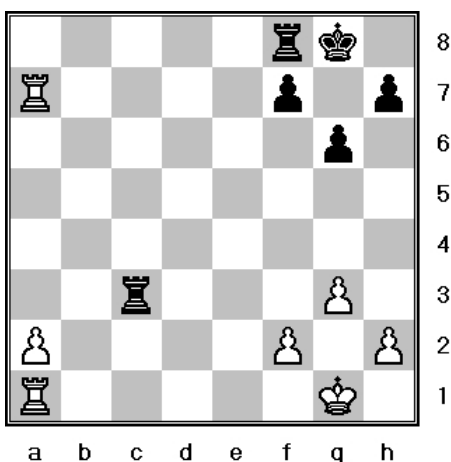
Not hesitating. The difference in pawn structure has some importance, but the real thing to notice is that after the following exchanges how Black is compelled to seek defensive resources and White pushes forward.

The reason? Well, look at the dark squares. Even with neither side have a black-square bishop, the holes on f6, g7 and h6 are a prime factor in events. All of this is traced back to 8. ...Bxc3 and subsequently 10. ...Nf6.

12. ...exf6



21. ...Qxd6 22. Bxf3 Qxe7 23. Rxe7 Rd3 24. Bxb7 Nxb7 25. Rxb7 Rxc3 26. Rxa7



And so the fun ends, or begins? This looks like an ending a lot of us have had and wondered about, so let us pass it over to the the maestro himself....

Thanks Bill. As with last month we have a double rook endgame with White having an extra pawn. At first blush White seems well off: one of his rooks is usefully placed behind the passed pawn, while the other rook appears to be actively placed on the seventh rank. Indeed, if White's initial setup was slightly different, say pawn on a3 and rook on a2, then White would be well on his way to winning.

As it stands, Black can quickly create counterplay against the one weakness in white's position – the f2 square. The plan of Rf8-d8-d2 is just fast enough to prevent White from guarding f2 by via moving a rook to a2; as a result, White is forced along a line of play which compromises his kingside pawn structure in order to stop threats against f2. In the ensuing play Black misses several opportunities for a draw.

26. ...Rd8

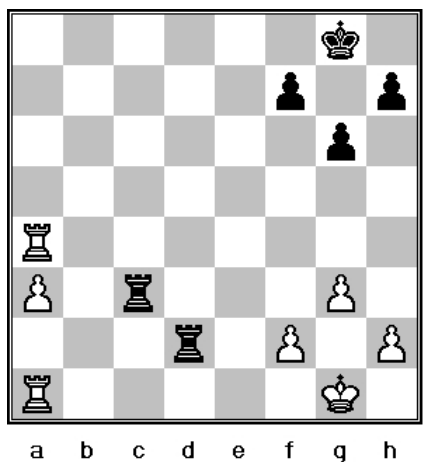
Activating the rook. Black will continue with ...Rd2, planning to develop threats against the f2-pawn via either ...Rcc2 or ...Rf3.

27. Ra4

Planning to guard the f-pawn from f4. There doesn't seem to be much of a choice; he doesn't have time for a3 and Ra2, and guarding the f-pawn by moving Rf1 dooms the a-pawn, e.g. 27. a4 Rd2 28. a5 Rf3 29. Rf1 Ra2 30. a6 Rfa3.

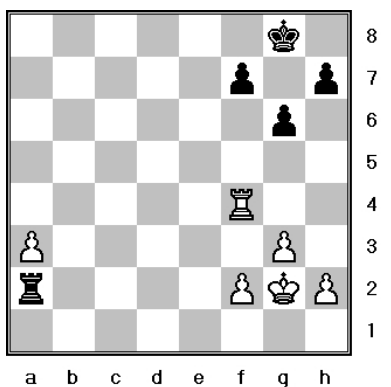
27. ...Rd2 28. a3

Necessary. Black was threatening 28. ...Rcc2, hitting both a2 and f2 twice.



28. ...Rf3

Another good plan is 28. ...Rcc2, with the idea of getting a rook behind the passed a-pawn. Play could continue 29. Rf4 Ra2 30. Rc1 Rdc2! (Not 30. ...Rxa3? as 31. Rc8+ Kg7 32. Rc7 wins the f-pawn immediately and should pick up another kingside pawn within a few moves) 31. Rxc2 (31. Rb1 Rcb2 – White can't avoid the exchange of rooks) 31. ...Rxc2 32. Kg2 Ra2, and White can guard his a-pawn with either 33. Rf3 or 33. Ra4.

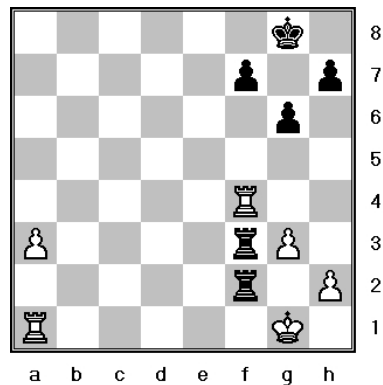


Both give some winning chances, but with accurate play, Black can draw.

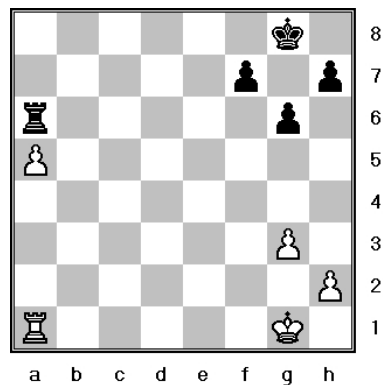
Although this should lead to a theoretical draw with best play, Ornstein's choice is clearly the more practical. There is less of a tightrope to walk; the weak kingside pawns provide Black with easy counterplay. As the game shows, counterplay does not mean a certain draw; attacking the weak pawns the wrong way can still cost Black the game.

29. Rf4 Rxf4

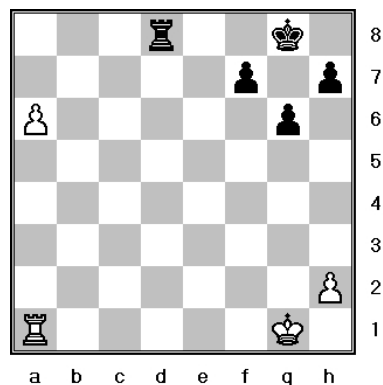
Black can actually regain the lost pawn with 29. ...Rdx2.



Then either 30. Rxf3 Rxf3 31. a4 Rf6 32. a5 Ra6

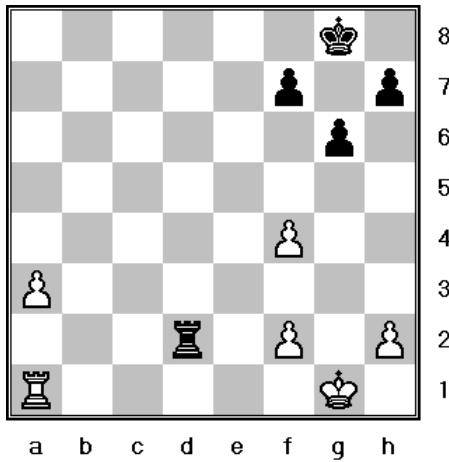


33. Kf2 Kf8 34. Ke3 Ke7 35. Kd4 Kd6 36. Kc4 Kc6 37. Kb4 Kb7 38. Rf2 f5 39. Re2 Rf6 40. Re7+ (40. Kb5 Rf7=) 40. ...Ka6 41. Rxh7 f4, or 30. a4 Rxf4 31. gxf4 Rxf4 32. a5 Rd4 33. a6 Rd8



should lead to a draw, but the latter, especially, requires accuracy from Black.

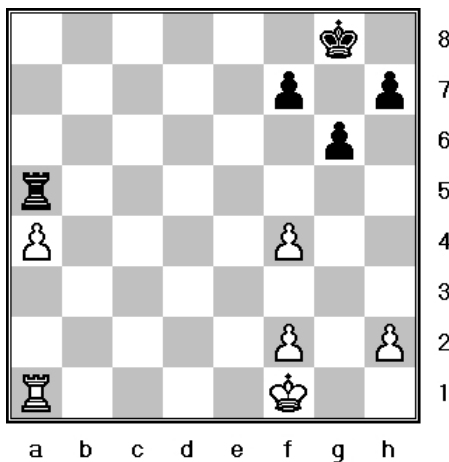
30. gxf4



30. ...Rd5

Black plays to blockade the a-pawn as far back as possible. 30. ...Rd4 is too slow: 31. a4 Rxf4 32. a5 Rc4 33. a6 Rc8 34. Kg2 Kf8 35. Kf3 Ke7 37. Ke4 f6 38. a7 Ra8 39. Ra6, winning.

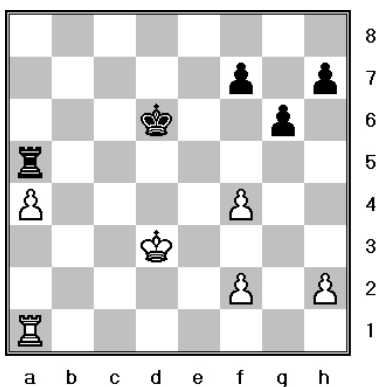
31. a4 Ra5 32. Kf1



The standard plan to transfer the white king to b4 to break the blockade.

32. ...Kg7?!

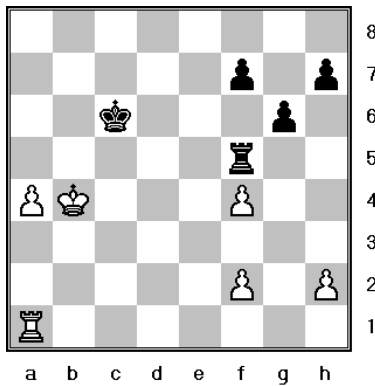
Imprecise, but not fatal. The king should head queenside to releases his rook. 32. ...Kf8 33. Ke2 Ke7 34. Kd3 Kd6,



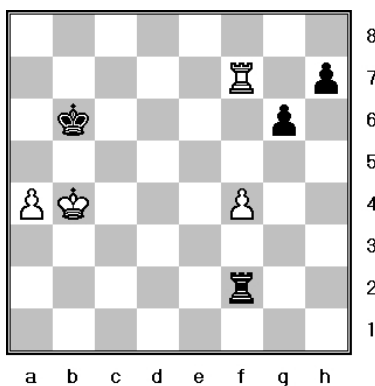
when:

(1) White gets nowhere if he maneuvers his king, because the Ra5 stops any penetration along the fifth rank, e.g. 35. Kd4 Kc6 36. Ke4 Kd6 etc.;

(2) White continues with the main plan: 35. Kc4 Kc6 36. Kb4 Rf5

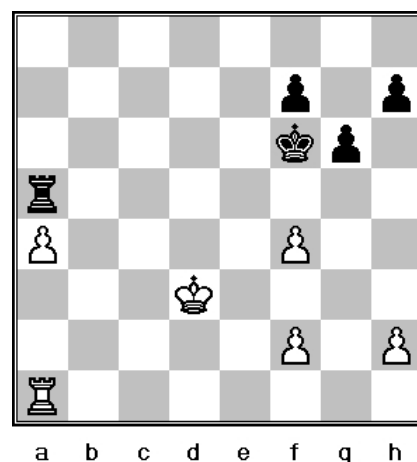


(this is the point; the king can handle the a-pawn while the rook feasts) 37. Rc1+ Kb7 38. Rc4 Rh5 39. Re4 Ka6 40. Rd4 Rxh2 41. Rd6+ Kb7 42. Rd7+ Kb6 43. Rxf7 Rxf2



44. a5+ Ka6 45. Rf6+ Ka7 46. Kb5 Rb2+ 47. Kc5 Ra2 is drawn.

33. Ke2 Kf6 34. Kd3

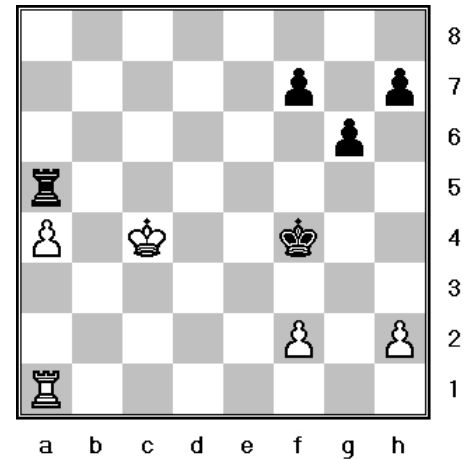


34. ...Kf5?

It's not too late to play the king toward the queenside: 34. ...Ke6 35. Kc4 Kd6 is

similar to the note on Black's 32nd move. After 34. ...Kf5, Black is losing.

35. Kc4 Kxf4

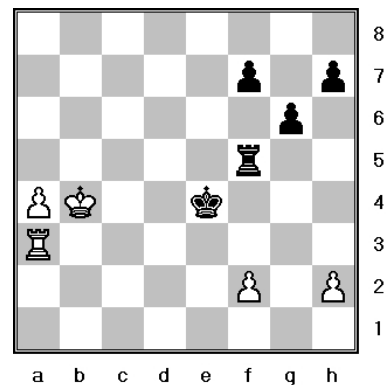


36. Ra3?!

The correct move order is 36. Kb4 Ra8 (36. ...Rh5 is slow: 37. a5 Rxh2 38. a6 Rxf2 39. a7) 37. Ra3, and the rook has been forced to the passive square a8 instead of the active square f5. A typical line would be 37. ...Ke5 38. a5 Kd6 39. a6 Kc6 40. Ka5 h5 41. Rc3+ Kd6 42. Kb6 etc., winning as in the game.

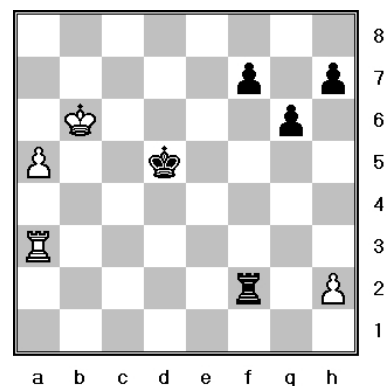
36. ...g5?

The final mistake. 36. ...Ke4! 37. Kb4 Rf5! gives Black drawing chances.

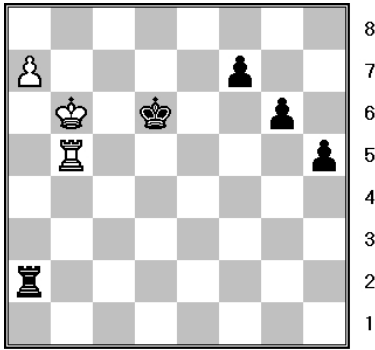


For example:

(1) 38. a5 Kd5 39. Kb5 Rxf2 40. Kb6



40. ...Kd6 (not 40. ...Rb2+ 41. Kc7 Rc2+ 42. Kd8! Kc6 43. a6 Rd2+ 44. Ke8! Kc7 45. a7 Rd8+ 46. Kxf7 Ra8 47. Kg7) 41. Rb3 Rxd2 42. a6 h5 43. a7 Ra2 44. Rb5

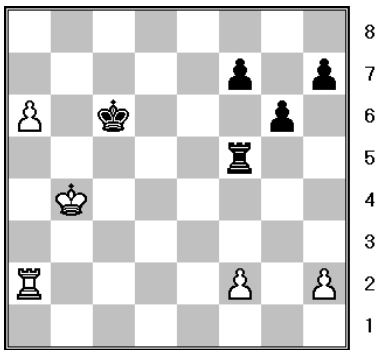


a b c d e f g h

44. ...Rxa7 45. Kxa7, with three connected passers versus the rook;

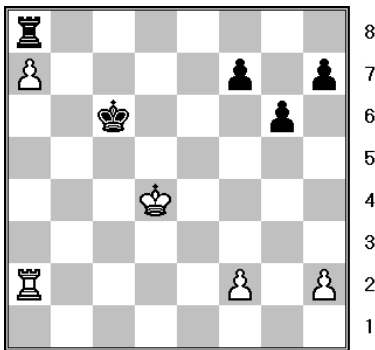
(2) 38. f3+ Kd5 39. Kb5 Kd4+ 40. Kb6 Rf6+ 41. Kb7 Kc5 42. Rb3 Kc4 43. Rb1 Rf5=;

(3) best is 38. a5 Kd5 39. a6 Kc6 40. Ra2 (to answer 40. ...Rf4+ with 41. Kc3)



a b c d e f g h

40. ...Rb5+ 41. Kc4 (41. Ka4 fails tactically to 41. ...Kb6) 41. ...Rb8 42. a7 Ra8 43. Kd4

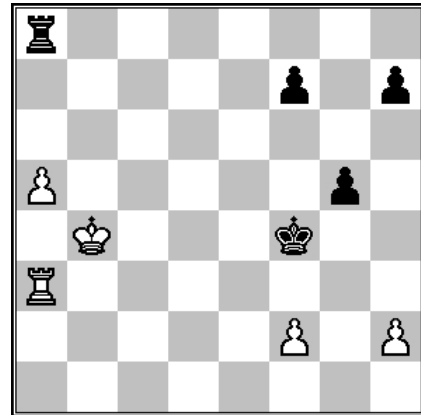


a b c d e f g h

43. ...f6 (43. ...Kd6 44. Ra6+ Kc7 45. Rf6 is very dangerous, perhaps winning) 44. Kc4 Kb7 45. Kd5 Rd8+ 46. Ke6 Ka8 47. Kxf6 Rd4 and Black can hold.

Line (3) does show some promise for White; I'm not absolutely convinced that Black draws, but in the lines I analyzed Black could always scrape through with very accurate play.

37. Kb4 Ra8 38. a5

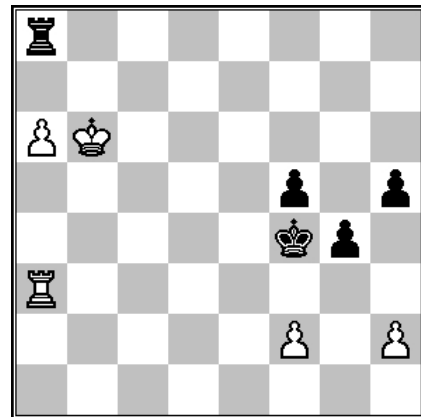


a b c d e f g h

38. ...g4

Black plays to advance his kingside pawns. It's too slow but now there is nothing better.

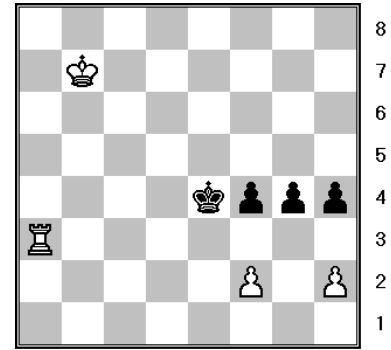
39. a6 f5 40. Kb5 h5 41. Kb6



a b c d e f g h

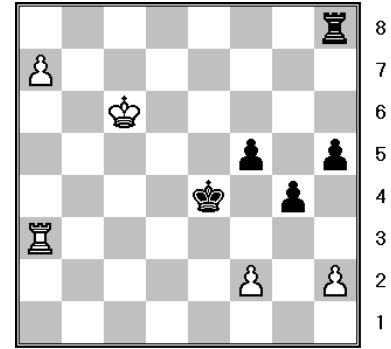
I suspect the game was adjourned (they used to do that, back in the day...) with Black resigning without resuming play. There is still a little to prove, but White does win in all variations. The obvious line is to push the kingside pawns as fast as possible; after

41. ...h4 42. Kb7 Rh8 43. a7 Ke4 44. a8(Q) Rxa8 45. Kxa8 f4 46. Kb7, Black has hit a brick wall since his king can't cross the sixth rank to help his pawns further.



a b c d e f g h

With that in mind, Black can play in more sophisticated fashion: 41. ...Ke4 42. Kb7 Rh8 43. a7 Rh7+ 44. Kc6 Rh8 (Black is playing to force White to use his rook for the potential recapture on a8; this will allow the black king to cross the sixth-rank barrier)



a b c d e f g h

45. a8(Q) Rxa8 46. Rxa8 Kf3 47. Kd5 Kxf2 48. Ke5 Kg1 49. Rh8 Kxh2 50. Rxh5+ Kg1 51. Kf4 and White will pick up the remaining pawns.

1-0



And In The End by Dana Muller

The Robert Karch Memorial Northwest Chess Grand Prix

by Murlin Varner, numerologist

Based on what my unnamed sources have told me, it appears that the Washington and Oregon Chess Federations are pooling their resources to name the 2011 Grand Prix in honor of Robert Karch. We will finish this year with that name as well, though without the usual added sponsorship prizes, and the fund drive continues to generate the added funds for next year. So, if you have said to yourself, "Yeah, I really do want to send a donation for the Robert Karch Memorial fund," but haven't yet put that thought to action, now's the time! Join those who have already made tribute to the long-time chess organizer and player.

There are plenty of changes to the standings this month, due to the prompt rating of the Oregon Open (4x multiplier). Among the leaders most relative positions remained, as eight of the top nine point-earners going into that weekend were in attendance to collect some of those 4x points. I even made it down to the OO for the first time in 13 years, not that I am anywhere near the GP leadership.

Our next multiplier events are the Silverdale Beach Hotel Classic (October 2-3), the Eastern Washington Open (Spokane, October 9-10) and the Washington Class Championships (Redmond, November 26-28). Then, there is the Ernst Rasmussen birthday party and thematic chess tournament on October 23rd in Port Townsend. Although the organizers didn't want it to be a GP event, if know Ernst, you should try to attend anyway.

Four more players passed the 100-point level in the past month: Paul Bartron, Becca Lampman, Frederick Davis, and Jerrold Richards. And a big welcome back goes out to Charles Ditzel after a tournament chess hiatus of more than 19 years (the USCF records on-line only go back to December 1991).

The standings below reflect everything through Labor Day, except the Spokane Falls Open.

Oregon

Washington

Masters

1 Raptis, Nick 162	1 Malugu, Satyajit 88
2 Breckenridge, Steven ... 96.5	2 Sinanan, Joshua C 69
3 Roua, Radu 43.5	3 Pupols, Viktors 66
4 Haessler, Carl A 42.5	4 Selzler, Ricky 54
5 Prochaska, Peter 22	5 Bragg, David R 49
5 Russell, Corey J 22	6 Greninger, Harley 48.5

Experts

1 Davis, Mikeal 62	1 Bartron, Paul R 127.5
2 Morris, Michael J 54.5	2 Ummel, Igor 88.5
3 Heywood, Bill 48	3 Rupel, David 85
4 Gay, Daniel Z 42.5	4 Lessler, Peter 65.5
5 Daroza, Eduardo J 42	5 Schemm, Michael A .. 63
6 Polasek , Preston F 36.5	6 Feng, Roland 62

Class A

1 Grom, Alex 65	1 Ambler, Dennis L 175
2 Bannon, David T 59.5	2 Buck, Stephen J 151
3 Esler, Brian 52	3 Mathews, Daniel R .. 138.5
4 Botez, V Alexandra 44.5	4 Sen , Samir 93
5 Herrera, Robert 28	5 Sotaridona, Leonardo 77.5
6 Pyle, Galen 24.5	6 Two tied 72.5

Class B

1 Skalnes, Erik 56.5	1 Monahan, Darby P .. 128
2 Levin, Scott A 52	2 Hua, Daniel 99.5
3 Witt, Steven A 50.5	3 Gibbon, Brian C 92
4 Waterman, Jeremy 48.5	4 Chang, Austin 88
5 Chu-Kung, Ben 36	5 He, Daniel M 74
6 Brusselback, Lon 36	6 Varner, Murlin E 72.5

Class C

1 Shimada, Masakazu 62	1 Lampman, Becca 108
2 Dalthorp, Dan 43.5	2 Piper, August 107
3 Dietz, Arliss 42.5	3 Davis, Frederick A .. 105
4 Chattopadhyay, Sandip 36.5	4 Kramlich, Dan 96.5
4 Dalthorp, Matt 35	5 Fields, Noah 89
6 Sherrard, Jerry 32	6 Cordero, Rowland 70

Class D and Below

1 Butson, Jeffrey C 46	1 Richards, Jerrold 102.5
2 Chatterjee, Dhruva 35	2 Zhang, Derek 65
3 Winter, Dillon W 30.5	3 Nagase, Toshihiro 55.5
4 Booth, Liam K 26	3 Soetedjo, James C 55.5
5 Spink, Walter S 22	5 Dhingra, Sangeeta 50
6 Cohen, David S 20.5	6 Zhang, Brendan 46

Overall Leaders, by State

1 Raptis, Nick 162	1 Ambler, Dennis L 175
2 Breckenridge, Steven ... 96.5	2 Buck, Stephen J 151
3 Grom, Alex 65	3 Mathews, Daniel R .. 138.5
4 Davis, Mikeal 62	4 Monahan, Darby P .. 128
4 Shimada, Masakazu 62	5 Bartron, Paul R 127.5
6 Bannon, David T 59.5	6 Lampman, Becca 108
7 Skalnes, Erik 56.5	7 Piper, August 107
8 Morris, Michael J 54.5	8 Davis, Frederick A .. 105
9 Esler, Brian 52	9 Richards, Jerrold 102.5
9 Levin, Scott A 52	10 Hua, Daniel 99.5
11 Witt, Steven A 50.5	11 Kramlich, Dan 96.5
12 Waterman, Jeremy 48.5	12 Sen, Samir 93
13 Heywood, Bill 48	13 Gibbon, Brian C 92
14 Butson, Jeffrey C 46	14 Fields, Noah 89
15 Botez, V Alexandra 44.5	15 Ummel, Igor 88.5

Players from Other Places

1 Leslie, Cameron D	ID	1881	52.5
2 Brow, John N	CA	1492	40
3 Havrilla, Mark A	ID	1965	37.5
4 Landingin, Jofrel	CAN	1854	32.5
4 Monkhouse, Neale D	CAN	1787	32.5
4 Xiao, Alice H Y	CAN	1502	32.5
7 Brewster, Robert D	CAN	1951	31.5
8 Caluza, Severo	CAN	1854	27.5
8 Su, Michael	CAN	1263	27.5
8 Vivas, Miguel	CAN	1124	27.5
11 Zarate, Christian	MD	1874	25

Seattle Chess Club Tournaments

Address
2150 N 107 St
Seattle WA 98133

Infoline
206-417-5405
www.seattlechess.org
kleistcf@aol.com

Address for Entries
SCC Tnmt Dir
2420 S 137 St
Seattle WA 98168

Oct. 6; Nov. 3, 17 1st & 3rd Wed. Quick Quads
Format: 3-RR. **TC:** G/20. **EF:** \$5 (+\$3 fee for non-SCC). **Prizes:** Free entry for future quick quad. **Reg:** 5:15-5:45 p.m. **1st Rd:** 6 p.m. **Misc:** USCF memb. req'd. NS. NC.

Oct. 16, Nov. 20 Saturday Quads
Format: 3-RR, 4-plyr 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.

Oct. 10, Nov. 21 NEW DATE 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.

October 23-25 SCC Team in Reno!!
Join the SCC Team(s) in Reno at the **Western States Open**. We will be competing against four or five teams from San Francisco's Mechanics' Institute CC as well as teams from Reno, Sacramento, and elsewhere.

November 13 NEW DATE SCC Novice
Format: 4-SS. Open to U1200 and unrated. **TC:** G/75. **EF:** \$11 by 11/11, \$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.

How to Find the SCC

The SCC is in the Northway Square East Building just across I-5 from Northgate Mall where large signs proclaim "Northwest Kidney Centers" and "City University." The main entrance is reached by turning east on N. 107th St. from Meridian Ave. N. The club is in the basement (B-85), just take the elevator down one floor.

SCC Fridays

SCC Championship (35/100, 25/60): Oct 1, 8, 15, 29 (Make-up Wed. Oct 20)

Autumn Leaves (40/90, 30/60): Oct 1, 8, 15, 22, 29.

Attendance: 2010's previous tournaments

- Novice (1/30)–11, (4/25)–5, (8/1)–5; Quads (1/2)–29, (1/23)–32, (2/27)–34, (3/20)–30, (4/24)–19, (5/15)–20, (6/5)–20, (7/3)–26, (7/31)–10, (8/28)–28; Tornados (1/31)–24, (2/21)–22, (3/14)–28, (4/11)–25, (5/9)–8, (6/26)–20, (7/18)–16, (8/15)–22; Seattle City Championship (1/15-17)–29, Seattle Spring Open (3/26-28)–57, Adult Swiss (5/1-2)–11, Emerald City Open (6/18-20)–33, Seattle Seafair Open–62, Pioneer Square Blitz (8/29)–25.

5th SCC Extravaganza!!

November 5-7, 2010

A two-section, seven-round Swiss with a time control of **G/90** (Two-day option – rounds 1 & 2 @ G/45). The prize fund of **\$1000** is based on 50.

Open: \$200-140, U2200 100, U2000 100

Reserve (U1800): First \$140-100, U1600 70, U1400 70, U1200 60, UNR 20

Entry Fee: \$40 by 11/3 (\$30 for SCC members, \$35 for members of other dues-required CCs in WA, OR, & BC), \$48 at site (\$36 for SCC members, \$42 for members of other dues-required CCs in WA, OR, & BC).

Registration: Friday 7-7:45 p.m. Saturday 9-9:45 a.m. **Rounds:** Friday 8 p.m., Saturday 11-2:30-6, Sunday 11-2:30-6.

Two-Day Option: Rounds 1 & 2 Saturday 10-12. **Byes:** 3 available; 1 for rounds 5-7, must commit before round 3.

Miscellaneous: USCF & W/OCF membership required. OSA. NC, NS.

Entl/Info: SCC Tnmt Dir, 2420 S 137 St, Seattle WA 98168. 206-417-5405 (recorded message); kleistcf@aol.com.

Future Events

♣ indicates a NW Grand Prix event ♣

October 9

Washington State Team Championship

Site: Seattle Chess Club, 2150 N. 107th St., Seattle, WA 98133. Format: 4 round Swiss, 4 player team, 1 day event. TC: G/60. Reg.: 9:00-9:45 AM; Rounds: 10, 12:30, 3, 5:30 or ASAP. EF: \$20.00 per team, \$5.00 per player. Prizes: Trophies 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and Plaques for top boards 1, 2, 3, 4. USCF/WCF Required. Rating limit is not to exceed 1800 (team average). Team champion will play an exhibition match with the Seattle Sluggers. TDs: Fred Kleist and Gary Dorfner. Entries/Info: Gary Dorfner, 8423 E. B St., Tacoma, WA 98445, phone (253) 535-2536, e-mail ggarychess@aol.com. Teams must be listed in the board order they will play.

♣ October 9-10

Eastern Washington Open ♣

Site: Gonzaga University, Schoenberg Building room 201, N. 900 Pearl St. Spokane, WA 99201 (southwest corner of GU campus, one block east of Division/Ruby couplet off DeSmet Ave). Reg: 8:30-9:30. E.F. \$21 rec'd by 10/8; \$26 at site; under 18 \$5 less. USCF rated (NWGP) event. T/C: G/2hr. Rds: Sat: 10:00; 2:30; 7:00, Sun: 9:00; 1:30 or ASAP. \$600 Prize Fund Guaranteed; additional classes and class prizes may be added if more than 30 entries; class prizes based on at least 5 per class. 1st Overall: \$150; 2nd Overall: \$100; Class prizes: \$65/\$35 in classes B, C, and D/E/Unr; Biggest Upset (non-provisional ratings), \$50. Contact: Dave Griffin (509) 994-9739 (cellular), dbgrffin@hotmail.com. Mail entries: David B. Griffin, P.O. Box 631, Spokane Valley, WA 99037.

♣ October 9-10

Microsoft Giving Campaign Event for AF4C ♣

Cost: Early Registration 2 days + Tournament: Minimum \$50.00 donation, Registration 2 days + Tournament: Minimum \$55.00 donation. Registration Sunday only: Minimum: \$25.00 donation. Email early Registration to: gregpre@microsoft.com, put "Chess Event" in subject. Where: Café Redwest F-Whole, 5600 148th Avenue N.E., Redmond, WA 98052. Chess Events Day 1: 8:30 a.m. till 9:30 Registration for USCF Rated Game in 60 min, 9:30 a.m. pairings, 10:00 a.m. Game One, 12:00 p.m. Lunch, 1:00 p.m. Game Two, 3:00 p.m. or as soon as possible Game Three. Chess Events Day 2: 10:00 a.m. Game Four, 12:00 p.m. Lunch, 1:00 p.m. Game Five, 3:00 p.m. Blindfold Chess Exhibition, Bug House Tournament. Game analysis available throughout both days. Silent Auctions and Lectures available throughout both days. Prizes include: Chess equipment, chess lessons, ICC memberships, Leather Pocket chess set and other items. You can also register here: <http://ittybitty.bz/af4creg>.

♣ October 16-17

Portland Fall Open ♣

5SS, 2 sections: Open & Reserve (U1800), TC: 40/90 SD/30 Rds 1-3, 40/2 SD/1 Rds 4-5. Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th, Portland, OR 97219. EF: \$35. \$10 discount for PCC Members. OCF/WCF and USCF memb req'd, OSA. Prizes: (\$650 b/40). Open \$325: 1st \$150, 2nd \$100, U2000 \$75. Reserve \$325: 1st \$100, 2nd \$75, U1600 \$50, U1400 \$50, U1200/Unr \$50. Reg: 9-9:30AM 3/21, Rds: Sat 10-2-ASAP, Sun 10-ASAP. Byes: 1/2 point bye if requested at reg., maximum two. Adv. Ent.: Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave, Portland OR 97219. Info: portlandchessclub@gmail.com, 503-246-2978, website www.pdxchess.com.

October 22-24

Reno Western States Open

Terrible's Sands Regency Casino Hotel, Reno, NV. See display ad on page 24 of this issue of *Northwest Chess*.

October 23

Ernst Rasmussen Blackmar-Diemer

Site: Towne Point Club House, 2240 Towne Point Avenue, Port Townsend, WA. Format: Four-round Swiss. TC: G/1 hr. EF: \$10. This is a non-rated event. Prizes, guaranteed: \$1,000: 1st, \$300; 2nd, \$200; 3rd, \$100; 1st U2000, \$100; 2nd \$75; 1st U1700, \$100; 2nd, \$75. Best game \$50; more prize money possible as entries permit. Refreshments and a catered lunch are included(!). 1 HPB allowed. Reg.: 8:00-8:45 AM. Rds 9:00, 11:30, 2:30, 5:30. All games must start from the position following 1. d4 d5 2. e4 dxe4 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. f3 exf3. Info: Stephen Chase, 11 W. Hayden St., Port Hadlock, WA 98339-9570. Phone: 360-385-3457. Entries: Gary Dorfner, 8423 E. B ST., TACOMA, WA 98445, Phone 253-535-2536, E-mail ggarychess@aol.com.

♣ October 30

Portland Chess Club G/60 ♣

4SS, G/60. TD may switch to 5SS and G/45 if more than 25 entries. Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave., Portland, OR. EF: \$20, \$5 discount for PCC Members. OCF/WCF and USCF memb req'd, OSA. No advance entries. Reg: 9-9:30. Byes: 1/2 point bye if requested at reg. Prizes: (\$200/b20) \$60-\$40-\$30 U1800, U1500 \$35 each. Info: portlandchessclub@gmail.com, 503-246-2978, www.pdxchess.com.

♣ October 30-31

77th Puget Sound Open ♣

Site: Tacoma Chess Club, 409 Puyallup Ave. E., Room 11, 2nd floor. Located in the DTI Soccer Bldg. across the St. from Alfred's Café and two blocks down the hill from the Tacoma Dome. Format: 5 round Swiss, One section. Time Control: 40/90, SD30. Entry Fee: Adults \$35 advance, \$40 at door; Juniors \$20 advance, \$25 at door; Economy \$15. Prizes: \$485 B/20, 1st \$100, 2nd \$85, U2000, U1700, U1400, 1st \$55, 2nd \$45 each. Upset prizes (book) each round. Reg: 9:00-9:45, Rds: Saturday 10, 2:30, 7, Sunday 10, 3 or ASAP. USCF/WCF/OCF required. 2 HPB available. NS, NC, NW. Info/entries: Gary J. Dorfner, 8423 E. B St., Tacoma, WA 98445, phone (253) 535-2536, e-mail ggarychess@aol.com.

♣ November 6

Washington G/60 Championship ♣

Site: Tacoma Chess Club, 409 Puyallup Ave. E., Room 11, 2nd floor. Located in the DTI Soccer Bldg. across the St. from Alfred's Café and two blocks down the hill from the Tacoma Dome. Format: 4 round Swiss. Time Control: G/60. Reg: 9:00-9:45 AM. Rounds: 10, 12:30, 3, 5:30 or ASAP. Entry Fee: (Adults) \$25.00, (Jr.'s) \$15.00. Prize Fund: (B/16) 1st \$100.00, 2nd \$75.00, 1st U2000, U1700 & U1500 \$50.00 each. 1 HPB available. NS, NC, NW. Info/entries: Gary J. Dorfner, 8423 E. B St., Tacoma, WA 98445, phone (253) 535-2536, e-mail ggarychess@aol.com. (Make checks payable to Gary J. Dorfner.)

♣ November 20

Spokane G/10 Championship ♣

Reg: 8:30-9:45. E.F. \$11. Location: Spokane Valley Library, 12004 E. Main, Spokane Valley, WA 99206. Format: double round-robin. Prizes: \$100 guaranteed 1st place prize with at least 10 participants. (Donated) Other prizes depend on participants. USCF quick rated. Contact: David B. Griffin, PO Box 631, Spokane Valley, WA 99216, phone (509) 994-9739 (cell), e-mail dbgrffin@hotmail.com.

♣ November 26-28

Washington Class Championships ♣

Marriott Redmond Town Center, Redmond, WA. See display ad on pages 16-17 of this issue of *Northwest Chess*.