

The 42nd Eastern Open Tournament Bulletin

GM Sergey Erenburg Dominates the 42nd Eastern Open

by Tom Beckman

Tournament Results: 157 players came ready to fight in the 5-section, 7-round Eastern Open, held in Bethesda MD over December 26-29, 2015. This year, 4 GMs and 2 IMs participated. GM Sergey Erenburg dominated the 42nd Eastern Open by winning his first five rounds, and scoring 6½ points out of 7. Along the way, Erenburg beat 2 GMs: Alex Shabalov and Larry Kaufman, and 2 IMs: Ray Kaufman and Oladapo Adu. Erenburg drew his 6th round game with GM Alex Ivanov. GM Alex Shabalov finished second with 5½ points by beating all other opponents except for a quick draw in round 7 with GM Alex Ivanov.

Section winners were:

Section	Winners	Score
Open	GM Sergey Erenburg	6½
U2200	Sean Senft	6
U1900	Alfred Hurd Jr. and Susheel Vishwa	6
U1600	James Merickel	5½
U1300	Xiaofeng Ou, Christian Miles, Abhinav Vonteru, and Noah Brauner	5

The Organizer's Perspective: This year, more than one-half of the entrants were scholastic players, and nearly one-half of the entrants were first-timers in the Eastern Open. 30% of the players played in a section above what was required. More than 25% of the entrants were from out of the area, with players traveling from as far away as Texas and Wisconsin. The tournament was smoothly directed by TD's Anand Dommalapati and Andy Rea and garnered many compliments from the players.

Innovations Made This Year:

1. Added a one-day U1000 section. This drew only 10 players and will not be repeated.
2. Added a one-day Scholastic tournament with 3 sections. This was quite successful with 26 players and will be repeated.
3. Moved the Blitz tournament to the afternoon before round 1. This drew 25 players and will be repeated.

Improvements for Next Year: Yes, there are more improvements ahead!

1. On-line entry: Entry fees will be \$5 higher to cover the costs of PayPal.
2. For U1600 and U1300 sections, there will be a 2-day 6-round G90, d10 format.
3. The U1000 section will be reincorporated as part of the U1300 section with a \$75 entry fee for players U1000 and unrated.
4. Reintroduce the 4-round Partay On Open warmup tournament on the first day with TC G45, d10. Rds: 10am, 12pm, 2, 4

Eastern Open Special Prize Awards

Best Fighting Spirit and Best Played Game Prizes:

- 1st: Sergey Erenburg for Sergey Erenburg vs. Larry Kaufman, Rd. 3
2nd: Andy Samuelson for Daniel Lowinger vs. Andy Samuelson, Rd. 4

Brilliance Prizes: 3-way tie for 1st

- 1st: Alex Shabalov for Alex Shabalov-Andrew Zheng, Rd. 2
1st: Paul Yavari for Paul Yavari-Dang Minh Nguyen, Rd. 4
1st: Tom Beckman for Peter Giannatos-Tom Beckman, Rd. 1

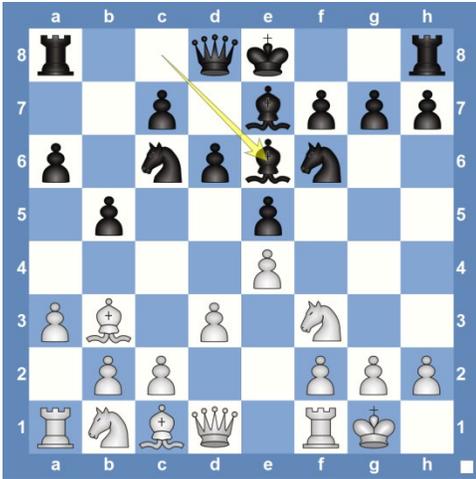
Opening Innovation Prizes: 3-way tie for 1st

- 1st: Sergey Erenburg for Sergey Erenburg-Larry Kaufman, Rd. 3; Ruy Lopez Closed
1st: Andy Samuelson for Daniel Lowinger vs. Andy Samuelson, Rd. 4; Sicilian Najdorf
1st: Tom Beckman for Peter Giannatos-Tom Beckman, Rd. 1; French Steinitz 2Ns

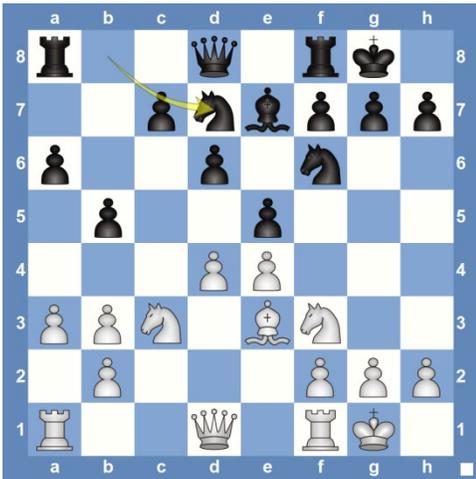
Featured Games from the 2015 Eastern Open:

This game won the 1st Prize for Best Played Game and won a prize for Opening Innovation.

C84/4, Sergey Erenburg (2582) - Larry Kaufman (2298), Eastern Open (Rd.3, Bd.1), 27.12.2015 [Annotations by Sergey Erenburg]:
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.d3 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.a3 Be6!? (Black tries to force White to decide what to do with his bishop. A more common continuation is 8...0-0.)

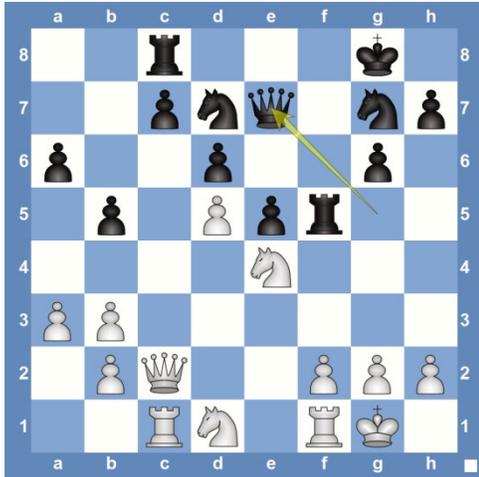


9.Nc3 (Opening Innovation! According to my database, this has not been played before. The struggle in the centre is critical, so White is bringing his queenside knight to the battle. I allowed Black to take on b3, because I was hoping to get pressure along the "c" file. Black's knight on c6 is awkward and dark-squared bishop is constrained by its own pawns. Normally White takes on e6: 9.Bxe6 fxe6 10.Be3 0-0 11.Nbd2 Ng4 12.c4 Nxe3 13.fxe3 Qd7 14.b4 Rfb8 15.Qc2 Nd8 16.Rfc1 c6 17.Nb3 Rc8 18.c5 Nf7 19.cxd6 Bxd6 20.Qd2 Bc7 21.Rc2 Bb6 22.Rac1 Rc7 23.Kh1 Rd8 24.Rc3 Qe8 25.h3 h6 26.Qe2 Rd6 27.R1c2 Qa8 28.d4 exd4 29.exd4 Qe8 30.e5 Rd5 31.Qe3 Nh8 32.Qc1 Ng6 33.Rxc6 Rb7 34.Rc8 Bd8 35.Nc5 Rf7 36.Ne4 Rf8 37.Ra8 Nf4 38.Nd6 Qg6 39.Qd2 Qg3 40.Rcc8 Be7 41.Rxf8+ Bxf8 42.Ne4 1-0 Leko,P (2737)-Eljanov,P (2707)/Kiev UKR 2013/The Week in Chess 970) **9...Bxb3 10.cxb3 0-0 11.Be3** (Preparing the c1 square for the rook and covering the d4 spot.) **11...Nb8** (With a Breyer-variation-like idea. Black is transferring his knight to d7 and hopes to cover the d5 square with c7-c6.) **12.d4 Nbd7**

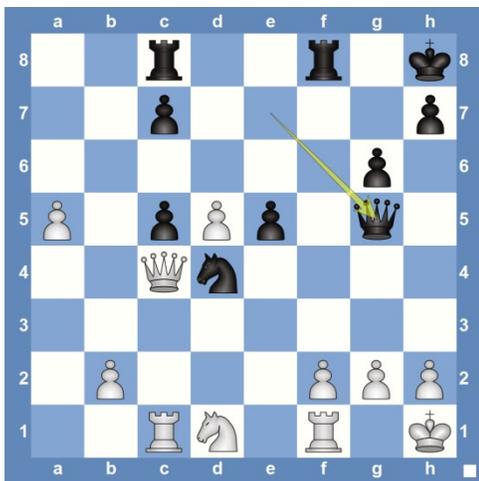


13.d5! (Part of the opening plan! I wanted to disallow Black to play c7-c6, so that I will be able to attack the c7 pawn. Strategically, it is pretty risky decision, because if Black carries out f7-f5, white's center may collapse. That's why I spent a lot of time thinking about 13.d5. After 13.Rc1 c6 Black would be close to equality.) **13...Ne8** (The most logical reply. Black is preparing the f7-f5 advance.) **14.Rc1 g6** (It is necessary to prepare the capture on f5 with pawn. Otherwise, after 14...f5 15.exf5 Rxf5 16.Ne4 Black has to spend two extra tempos on h7-h6 and retreating his rook. 16...h6 {if 16...Rf8 17.Neg5; if 16...Nef6 17.Ng3} 17.Qd3 and White is better.) **15.Bh6** (Forcing black's knight to move to g7, which makes the c7 pawn more vulnerable.) **15...Ng7 16.Qc2** (I planned to play this when considering my 13.d5 move. The purpose is to attack the c7 and f5 pawns.) **16...Rc8** (After 16...f5 I planned 17.exf5 gxf5 18.Bxg7 Kxg7 19.Nd1!. The whole point! The knight moves to e3 and takes the f5 stronghold. Then 19...Rc8 20.Ne3 f4 {20...e4 21.Nd4} 21.Nf5+ Kh8 22.g4 fxg3 23.fxg3 Qe8 24.g4 with a decent edge.) **17.Nd1** (Still intending to move the knight to e3. Also interesting is 17.Na2 f5 18.Nb4 fxe4 19.Nd2.) **17...f5** (It is now or never.) **18.exf5 Rxf5** (If 18...gxf5 19.Ne3. See 16...f5.) **19.Nd2** (Moving the

knight to e4. Although Black managed to isolate white's d5 pawn, white's pieces are taking excellent positions!) **19...Bg5 20.Bxg5 Qxg5 21.Ne4 Qe7** (Otherwise 22.Nxd6.)



22.Qc6 Nb6 (White is also better after 22...Nb8 23.Qb7 Rff8 24.b4 Nf5 25.Re1 Nd4 26.f3.) **23.a4!** (White's initiative on the queenside bring him obvious advantage.) **23...bxa4 24.bxa4 Rff8?** (GM Kaufman decides to activate his g7 knight at the expense of a6 pawn. Perhaps he had more chances after 24...a5 25.b4 Ra8 26.Qb5±.) **25.a5 Nd7 26.Qxa6** (White is a pawn up and completely winning.) **26...Nf5 27.Qb7** (Or 27.Qd3.) **27...Nc5 28.Nxc5 dxc5 29.Qb5 Nd4 30.Qc4 Kh8 31.Kh1** (A good prophylactic move.) **31...Qg5**



32.Rc3 (White has too many resource to suppress black's initiative on the kingside.) **32...Rf4 33.Qxc5 Rh4 34.d6 Ne2** (Or 34...Ne6 35.Qd5 Nf4 36.Qb7+-.) **35.d7 Rg8 36.Re3** (The rest needs no comment.) **36...Nf4 37.Qxe5+ Qxe5 38.Rxe5 Nh5 39.Nc3 Rd4 40.Rd5 Rxd5 41.Nxd5 Rd8 42.a6 Rxd7 43.a7 Rd8 44.Nxc7 1-0**

This game won the 2nd prize for Best Played Game and won a prize for Opening Innovation. Annotations are by Andrew Samuelson.

B94/1, Daniel Lowinger (2226) - Andrew Samuelson (2312), Eastern Open, Rd.4, 12-28-15:

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 Nbd7 (This has become more popular in recent years, partially supplanting the lines with e6. I personally have far more experience with e6. This was only my second rated game with 6...Nbd7.) **7.f4** (This is the most popular move, but White has some serious alternatives. For example:

1) **7.Bc4** This is the main alternative:

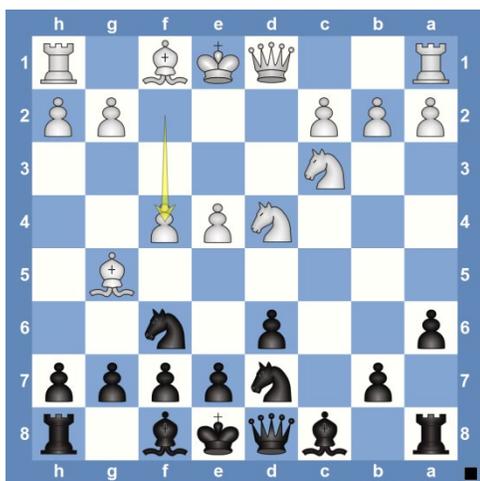
a) **7...Qb6 8.Bb3 e6 9. Qd2 Be7 10.O-O-O Nc5** Black overprotects e6 and blocks the e-file, preparing to castle while avoiding sacrifices. This should be okay for Black.

b) **7...Qa5** This is also played **8.Qd2 e6 9.O-O-O b5** and now either:

i) **10.Bb3 Bb7 11.Rhe1 O-O-O** White may be objectively better here, but Black has done reasonably well in practice.

ii) **10.Bd5 b4 11.Bxa8 bxc3 12.bxc3 Qxa2 13.Qe2.** This was the course of Giri-Gashimov at Tata Steel 2012. Black won the game, but White may have a small edge with an extra exchange.

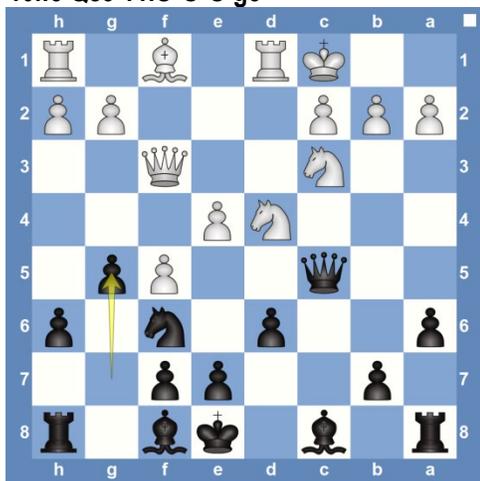
- 2) 7.Be2 This move is less ambitious. White simply develops and lets Black do the same 7...e6 8.O-O Be7.
- 3) 7.Qe2 This is another sharp move and Black has to be careful. 7...h6 8.Bh4 g6 9.f4 e5 reveals one of the points of Nbd7, Black is able to play e5 in one move. After 10.fxe5 dxe5 11.O-O-O Qc7 12.Nb3 b5, White may be a little better here, but the game is complicated and Black has plenty of chances for counterplay.)



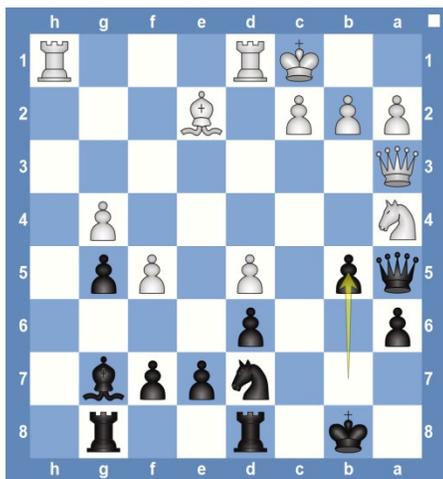
7...Qc7 (This is directed against e5. I like this move the best, but Black has some alternatives here.

- 1) 7... e5 8.Nf5 Qb6 9.Qd2 Qxb2 10.Rb1 Qa3 11.Be2 h6 12.Bh4 exf4 This sharp line led to a draw in Radjabov-Nakamura, Bazna Kings 2011. This does seem pretty dangerous for Black, although he is up two pawns.
- 2) 7... Qb6 8 Qd2 Qxb2 9.Rb1 Qa3 10.Bxf6 {This is similar to a Poisoned Pawn Najdorf, but with Nbd7 instead of e6. The d6pawn is not as weak as in the Poisoned Pawn. However, the knight on d7 often goes to c6 instead, so I'm not sure which line is better. The lines with e6 and Qxb2 are better established. Black lost quickly in Nakamura-Van Wely Amsterdam NH Hotels 2010 and no high level player has taken up the Black side since, according to my database.)

8.Qf3 (This is by far the most popular move, but Qe2 has been played here by Radjabov and Naiditsch.) **8...h6 9.Bxf6 Nxf6 10.f5 Qc5 11.O-O-O g5**

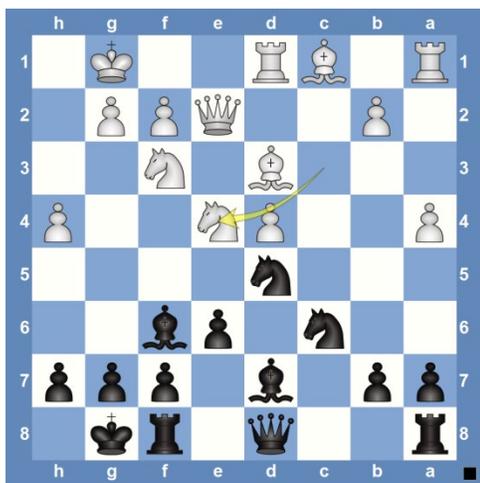


12.Nb3 (This move doesn't seem to meet the needs of the position. White retreats the active d4-knight and doesn't take the opportunity to take on g6. On the other hand, Black still lacks development, so White may actually be a little better. After 12.fxg6 Bg4 13.gxf7+ Kxf7 14.Qd3 Bxd1 15.Nxd1 Bg7, White may be able to claim a small edge with precise play, having invested a small amount of material for attacking chances.) **12...Qc7** (After 12...Qe5 13.Nd5 Nxd5 14.Rxd5 Qf4+ 15.Qxf4 gxf4, this is about equal. Black will be able to hold onto the f4 pawn, but needs some time to finish development.) **13.g4 Bd7 14.h4 Rg8** (14...gxh4 may be a better way to resolve the tension. After 15.Rxh4 Bg7 16.Qe3 O-O-O 17.Qa7 Qb8 18.Qd4 Qc7, this seems to be more or less okay for Black.) **15.Nd2?!** (This seems to be a mistake which gives Black good chances of full equality. After 15.hxg5 hxg5 16.Nd5 Nxd5 17.exd5 Bg7 18.Re1 Be5 19.Rh7 Ba4 20.c3 White seems to have a bit of an edge here with the more active pieces.) **15...Bc6 16.Nc4 Bg7 17.hxg5 hxg5 18.Ne3 Qb6 19.Bd3** (After 19.Nc4 Qc5 20.Rh3 Rc8, Black may even be better now as White's pieces are a bit awkwardly placed.) **19...O-O-O 20.Ned5?!** (This allows Black to make a favorable exchange of minor pieces. White will be forced to put a pawn rather than a piece on d5. Somewhat better is 20.Nc4 Qc5 21.a3 Kb8 22.Kb1 Rh8, and Black is somewhat better thanks to the bishop pair, favorable kingside pawn structure, and active pieces. The unopposed Bishop on g7 is especially powerful.) **20...Bxd5 21.exd5** (After 21.Nxd5? Nxd5 22.exd5 Qxb2+ 23.Kd2 Qxa2 Black is two pawns up with an attack.) **21...Nd7 22.Be2 Kb8 23.Na4 Qa5 24.Qa3 b5**



25.Nc5 (The only move, which I actually missed in my calculations. Thankfully, my position remains rather favorable. Weaker is 25.Nc3?? Qxa3 26.bxa3 Bxc3 as Black wins a piece.) **25...Bxb2+!** (This wins a Pawn, though I hated to part with that wonderful Bishop! An option was 25...Qxa3 26.Nxd7+ Rxd7 27.bxa3 although this is only a little better for Black, who must try to overcome the drawing tendencies of the opposite-colored bishops.) **26.Kxb2 Qxa3+ 27.Kxa3 Nxc5** (The capture with 27...dxc5 was somewhat stronger, but I was a bit worried about d6. After 28.Rh6 f6 29.Rh7 Rge8 Black has a clear edge with an extra Pawn and the superior minor piece. And 28.d6 Rge8 29.dxe7 Rxe7 is also good for Black.) **28.Rh7 Rdf8 29.c4 bxc4 30.Bxc4 Kc7 31.Re1 Kd7 32.Bb3?** (32.Re3 would have kept White's disadvantage to a fairly manageable level after 32...Rh8 33.Rg7 Rh2 34.Rxg5 Rf2 35.Rg7 Rf4 36.Bb3 and White has reasonable chances as it's hard for Black to make progress.) **32...Rh8 33.Rg7** (Somewhat better is 33.Reh1.) **33...Rh3** (Threatening a5-a4, winning the Bishop.) **34.Rxg5?!** (Apparently missing Black's idea, but the position was difficult now that Black's rook is active.) **34...a5! 35. Rc1** (No better is 35. Kb2 Nd3+ winning the rook.) **35...a4 36.Rxc5 dxc5 37.Kxa4** (With a Bishop and a Pawn for a Rook, White is almost OK materially. However, his King is doomed.) **37...f6** (37... Ra8+ 38. Kb5 Kd6 39. f6 Re3 40. fxe7 Re4 forces mate a bit faster.) **38. Rg7 Kd6 39. Rg6 Ra8+ 40. Kb5 Rb8+ 41. Ka4 c4!** (Now my King joins in the final attack!) **42. Bxc4 Kc5** (Mate is imminent after 43.Ba6 Rb4+ 44.Ka5 Ra3# or 43.Bb3 Ra8#, so White resigned.) **0-1**

D16/1 n1b, Alexander Shabalov (2512) - Sergey Erenburg (2582), Eastern Open (4.1), 28.12.2015, [Annotations by Sergey Erenburg]: **1.c4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 dxc4 5.a4 e6 6.e3 c5 7.Bxc4 cxd4 8.exd4 Be7 9.0-0 Nc6 10.Qe2 0-0 11.Rd1 Nd5** (An alternative is 11...Nb4.) **12.Qe4 Nf6 13.Qe2 Nd5 14.Bd3 Bf6!?** (Beginning of the opening plan to bring the c6 knight to e7. Normally, Black put his c6 knight to b4 and kept the f6 square for possible retreat of his knight in the center.) **15.h4** (A Logical reaction. White is preparing to storm the black monarch with Ng5, Bg5 or h5-h6.) **15...Bd7** (I wanted to keep both options of playing Nc6-e7 and Nc6-b4 open.) **16.Ne4** (Alexander keeps bringing his forces to the kingside. 16.Qe4 gives nothing to White after 16...g6 17.Nxd5 exd5 18.Qxd5 Be6= 19.Qxd8 Rfxd8 20.Be3 Bb3. However, 16.h4 first looks more challenging after 16...Ncb4 17.Bb1 Be7 18.Nxd5 Nxd5 19.Qd3 f5 {not 19...g6 20.Bh6} 20.h6 Bd6 21.Ne5 Bxe5 22.dxe5 +=)

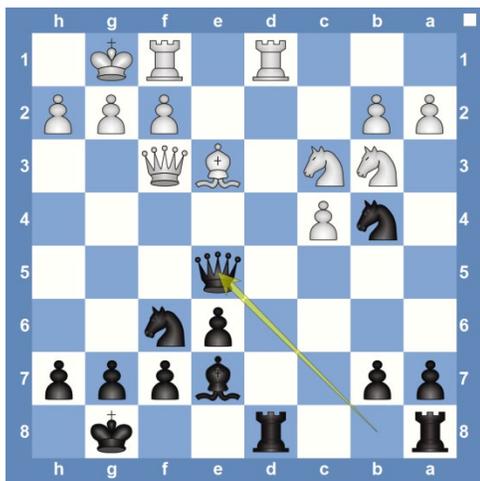


16...Nce7 (I felt that with knight on e7, I can often block the b1-h7 diagonal with Nf5, and sometimes even play Ng6, in case White plays g2-g4. On top of that, the light-squared bishop is set to be transferred to c6.) **17.Ne5 Bc6 18.Ra3!** (Bringing the rook to attack via the third rank. 18.b4 is an interesting alternative.) **18...Nf5!** (Black has to create immediate counterplay. Of course, I had to calculate all the variations with all sorts of captures to ensure that I'm not collapsing anywhere. If 18...h6 19.Bb1.) **19.Nxf6+!** (Forcing to take with the knight. 19.Bb1 is met by 19...Nxd4! 20.Nxf6+ Nxf6 21.Qe1 Qd5.) **19...Nxf6** (Of course not 19...Qxf6?? 20.Bg5 Nxd4 21.Qe1)



20.Bg5! (Creating a very unpleasant pin. If 20.Bxf5 exf5 21.Bg5 Qd5 22.Nxc6 Qxc6 and Black should be able to hold.) **20...Nxd4** (The point of white's 20th move is seen in the variation 20...h6? 21.Bxf5! exf5 22.d5 Be8 23.Bxf6 Qxf6 24.d6; 20...Re8? 21.Bxf5 exf5 22.d5!! Bxd5 23.Re3!) **21.Qf1?!** (Defending the g2 pawn in advance. Although this move looks logical, White has a better continuation. There was a way {not obvious at all; only seen by computer} to get a slight edge for White after: 21.Qe3 Nf5 22.Qc1!! These moves back are often overlooked by humans, but for computer it is a piece of cake to find them! 22...Qd5 23.Nxc6 Qxc6 24.Qxc6 bxc6 25.Bxf6 gxf6 26.Bxf5 exf5 27.Rg3+/- . After 21.Qe1 h6 22.Be3 Qd5 23.Nxc6 Nxc6 24.Bh7+ Kxh7 25.Rxd5 Nxd5 with dynamic equality.) **21...Qd5!** (Although it seems like White can take on f6 and play Ng4, Black has a solid plan against that! 21...h6 loses because of 22.Be3.) **22.Nxc6** (If 22.Bxf6 gxf6 23.Ng4 Kh8!! 24.Nxf6 Nf3+!! 25.gxf3 {25.Kh1 Qe5! 26.Ng4 Qh5!-+} 25...Qxf3 26.Be4 Qxf6 27.Bxc6 bxc6 with big advantage.) **22...bxc6 23.Bc4** (If 23.Bb1 Rfd8-/-.) **23...Qd6! 24.Rad3** (Probably, it was better to double black's pawns with 24.Bxf6 gxf6 25.Rad3 e5.) **24...e5** (Black is a pawn up and White has no compensation.) **25.f4?!** (Alexander tried to create counterplay, but objectively the better chance was to get rid of his dark-squared bishop and play a Pawn down after 25.Bxf6 Qxf6-/-) **25...Ng4! 26.Rg3 h5-+** (Black is pawn up. His knights can never be driven away from d4 and g4. In addition, white's king is very vulnerable and the g5 bishop is at risk to be captured. Therefore, Black is winning here.) **27.Kh1 e4 28.Qe1 Rae8 29.Rc3 e3 30.Kg1 Kh8 31.Rcd3 c5 32.b4 e2 33.R1d2 f6 34.bxc5 Qxc5 35.Rxd4 Re4 0-1**

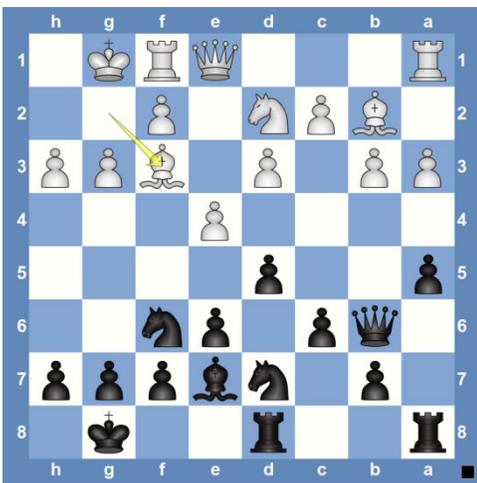
C07/6 n32, Sergey Erenburg (2582) - Raymond Kaufman (2295), Eastern Open (5.1), 28.12.2015 [Game annotations by Sergey Erenburg; opening annotations by Tom Beckman]: **1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 c5** (I used to play 3...Nf6, but it doesn't quite equalize.) **4.Ngf3** (More common is first 4.exd5 Qxd5.) **4...cxd4** (After 4...Nf6, White can try either the Korchnoi Gambit with 5.e5 Nfd7 6.c3 Nc6 7.Bd3 Be7 and unclear consequences, or the slightly better 5.exd5! exd5 6.Bb5+ Bd7 7.Bxd7+ Nbx7 8.0-0 Be7 9.dxc5 Nxc5 10.Nb3 with a nagging little edge.) **5.Nxd4** (More common is the long variation with 5.exd5 Qxd5 6.Bc4 Qd6 7.0-0 Nf6 8.Nb3 Nc6 9.Nbx4 Nxd4 10.Nxd4 a6 11.Re1 Qc7 = etc.) **5...Nf6** (I prefer 5...Nc6 6.Bb5 Bd7 7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.Bd3 Bd6 9.Qe2 Ne7! =. After examining this game, it looks like this variation also equalizes.) **6.exd5 Qxd5 7.Nb5 Na6 8.c4 Qf5 9.Be2 Be7 10.0-0 0-0 11.Nd4 Qc5 12.N2b3 Qc7 13.Nb5 Qb8 14.Be3 Bd7 15.Nc3 Rd8 16.Bf3 Bc6 17.Qe2 Bxf3 18.Qxf3 Nb4 19.Rad1 Qe5?!** (Black hoped to get some counterplay, but his decision turned out to be too optimistic. Better was 19...Qc7! 20.Qe2 =. 20.Nb5?! seemed to be problematic for Black during the game, but after 20...Qxc4 21.Qxb7 Nfd5! This move was missed. After 22.Bxa7 Nxa2 Black is even slightly better.)



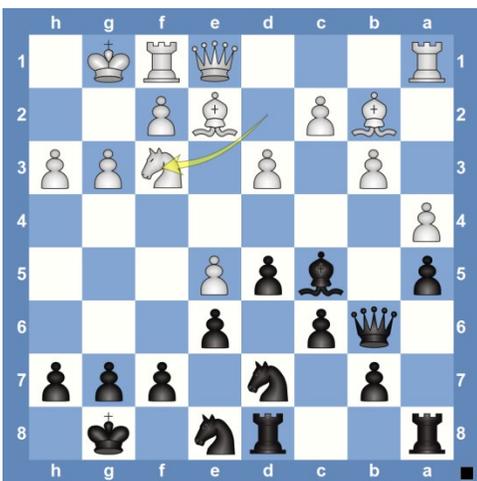
20.Rxd8+ (20.Qxb7 gave Black counter chances after 20...Ng4. However, 20.Bf4 Qf5 21.Qxb7 was a good alternative.) **20...Rxd8 21.Bxa7 Nd3?** (It was not too late to go back. However, White would still be slightly better after 21...Qc7 22.Bd4. The attempt 21...Rd3 would be parried rather easily: 22.Qxb7 Ng4 23.Bb8+-.) **22.Bd4! Rxd4** (22...Qf5 23.Qxb7+-) **23.Nxd4 Bd6** (If 23...Qxd4 24.Rd1+-) **24.g3 Qxd4 25.Nb5!** (But not 25.Rd1? Ng4!! with the idea 26.Rxd3 26...Ne5 -+. Better 26.Nb5 Qxf2+ {26...Qxb2 27.Nxd6 Nde5 28.Qf4 Qe2 29.Rf1 Nxb2 30.Kxh2 Qxf1 31.Qxe5 Qxf2+ 32.Kh3 Qf1+=} 27.Qxf2 Nxf2 28.Rxd3 Nxd3 29.Nxd6 Nxb2=). Black resigned in view of the following variation: 25.Nb5 Qe4 26.Qxe4 Nxe4 27.Nxd6 Nxd6 28.Rd1+-) **1-0**

GM Sergey Erenburg dominated the 42nd Eastern Open by winning his first five rounds, and beating 2 GMs: Alex Shabalov and Larry Kaufman. Erenburg drew his 6th round with GM Alex Ivanov. This setup a final round game with IM Oladapo Adu. Despite being a point ahead of the field, if Adu could beat Erenburg, there would be a 3-way tie for first place. IM Adu played his patented King's Indian Attack, a rather unusual hypermodern opening with which Ola has had great success.

A07/30 n174b: IM Oladapo Adu (2318) - GM Sergey Erenburg (2654), Rd. 7, Bd. 1 [Annotations by Erenburg]: **1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 c6** (Another good variation for Black is 2...Nf6 3.Bg2 Nbd7 4.0-0 e5 =.) **3.Bg2 Bg4 4.O-O e6 5.d3 Nf6 6.Nbd2 Be7 7.b3 O-O 8.Bb2 a5 9. a3 Nbd7 10.e4 Qb6 11.Qe1** (Until here, these are considered the best moves in this strategic variation, and the game is nearly level. Slightly better is 11.h3 Bh5 12.Re1.) **11...Rfd8 12.h3** (Another try is 12.e5 Ne8 =.) **12...Bxf3 13.Bxf3**

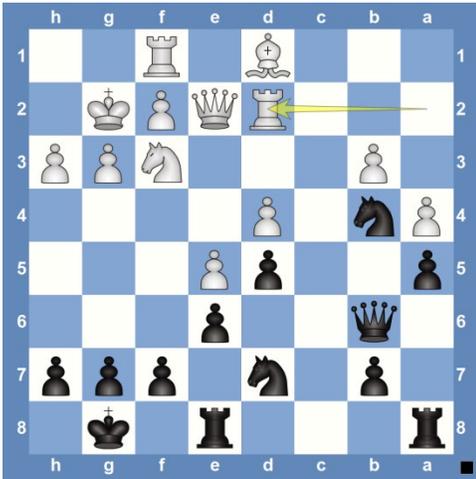


13...Qa6?! (13...e5 was probably better. If White takes the e5 pawn, Black gets very strong compensation: 14.exd5 cxd5 15.Bxe5 Nxe5 16.Qxe5 Bd6 17.Qg5 h6 18.Qh4 Be5 with heavy pressure along the "c" file and complete domination on dark squares) **14.e5 Ne8 15.Be2** (More active is 15.Qe3 Nc7 16.a4, but after 16...c5 Black's position is solid. Although White has a pair of bishops, the position is closed, and position is about equal) **15...Qb6 16.a4 Bc5 17.Nf3**

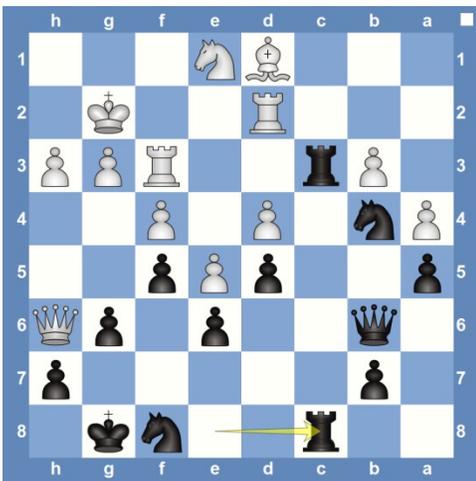


17...Nc7 (An interesting alternative was 17...d4. But I thought that my winning chances are not significant after 18.Bd1 Nc7 19.Qe4 Nd5 20.Nxd4 N5f6! 21.exf6 Nxf6 22.Qf3.) **18.Bd1** (After 18.d4 Be7, Black would develop counter play by putting pressure on white's center with c6-c5 and opening up the "c" file.) **18...Bb4** (Again, 18...d4 deserved attention, leading to the 17...d4 line.) **19.Qe2** (19.c3 Be7 20.Bc2 looked more logical, but

after 20...c5, White would have to play d3-d4 at some point to open up the b1-h7 diagonal, which would again enable Black to develop counter play on the queenside.) **19...Be7 20. Kg2 Rf8?!** I tried to provoke White to play d3-d4, so that I'll have a clear plan on the queenside. The last black's move creates a potential threat of f7-f6. However, that might be a loss of tempo, and a straightforward 20...c5 (with potential transfer of the d7 knight to c6 via b8) was better. **21.d4 c5 22.Ba3?!** (White should try to avoid the trade of dark-squared bishops, and the last move does not help with that. More logical was 22.dxc5 Nxc5 23.Qe3 N7a6 24.Nd4 Nb4 25.c3 Nc6 26.Nb5 with slight edge.) **22...Rfe8 23.c3 cxd4 24.cxd4?!** (White was better off after 24.Bxe7 first. IM Adu was concerned that after 24...d3 (I planned to play 24... Rxe7 25.Nxd4 Na6 with slightly worse, but solid position) 25.Qxd3 Rxe7, he would not be able to capture on d4 with the pawn, but after 26.Bc2 g6 (26...Nf8 deserves attention) 27.h4, White's initiative on the kingside gives him a slight edge.) **24...Bxa3** (Now Black has a slight advantage.) **25.Rxa3 Na6 26.Ra2** (Another inaccuracy. Better was 26.Qd2 trying to coordinate the rooks along the first rank.) **26...Nb4 27.Rd2**



27...Rac8 28.Ne1 Rc3 (Black seizes the c3 square.) **29.f4 f5!** (A nice move that stalls White's attacking chances.) **30.Qh5 g6 31.Qh6 Nf8 32.Rf3 Rec8**



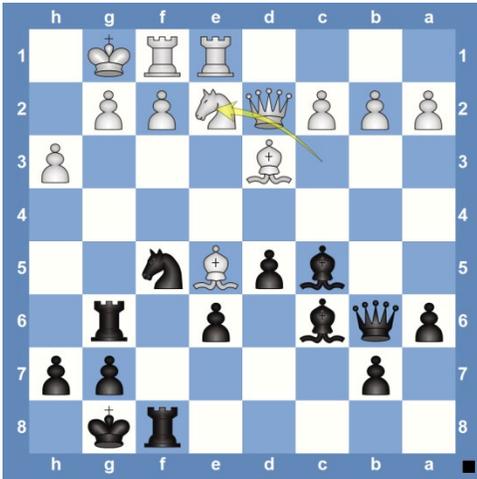
33.h4 (White is trying to create attacking chances on the K-side, while Black is dominating the Q-side. I was not too concerned about 33.g4, because the capture on f5 would allow Black to take on f5 with the "e" pawn and transfer his kingside knight to e5.) **33...Qc7** (Tripling on the c-file, but Black's next move reveals his true intention: kill White's attack.) **34.h5 Qg7! 35.Qg5?** (Bad as it was, White needed to trade Qs.) **35...h6 36.Qh4 g5 37.Qh2** (White's Q is buried, and there is no attack to be seen. Black is winning.) **37...Rxf3?!** (Even better was 37...gxf4 38.Rxf4 Nh7! with following Ng5.) **38.Kxf3 g4+** (Slightly better was 38...Rc3.) **39.Kf2 Qc7 40.Kf1 Qc3 41.Qf2 Nd7** (Black brings up the reserves. There isn't much that White can do.) **42.Kg2 Nb8 43.Kf1 Qa1!** (Black will double on the first rank.) **44.Kg2** (White could try 44.Qe2, but after Rc1 (44...N8c6 is good too, which what I planned to play. 45.Qb5 is met by Qc3) 45.Qb5 N8c6 46.Qe2 (If 46.Qxb7 Rxd1 47.Rxd1 Qxd1 48.Qd7 Kf8!! 49.Qxe6 Qxe2! winning the game) 46...Na2 47.Qb7 Nc3+ 48.Kf1 Ne4 49.Rd3 Kf8! -+.) **44...Rc1 45.Nc2 Nxc2 46.Bxc2 Nc6 47.Kh2 Kf7** (Black brings the king to the center to disallow any chances for perpetual checks. Objectively speaking, 47...Rh1 was even stronger.) **48.Kg2 Ke7 49.Kh2 Nb4** (Again 47...Rh1 48.Kh2 Nb4 is crushing.) **50.Kg2 Kd8 51.Kh2** (51.Bd3 extends the game, but doesn't change the outcome.) **51...Nxc2 52.Rxc2 Rh1+ 53.Kg2 Rh3 0-1** A smooth victory by the new Eastern Open champion.

Tactical Fun from the 42nd Eastern Open by Tom Beckman

Boom! Boom! Boom!: Peter Giannatos (2254) - Tom Beckman (2076) (1)

I'm sure Peter wasn't too happy with this pairing since I also beat him last year in the first round.
This is my best moment from the Eastern Open. After **22.Ne2**, Black realizes his superiority on the K-side:

22...???



22.Ne2? (In retrospect, White needs to guard f3 better with 22.Qe2 Qa5, although Black is much better.)

22...Rxc2+!! (Also winning is 22...Bxf2+!! and now either: 23.Kh1 Be3 24.Bd4 Bxd4 or 23.Rxf2 Rxc2+! 24.Kxc2 Nh4+ 25.Kh1 Qxf2.) **23.Kxc2 Nh4+ 24.Kg3?** (White misses a fascinating defense with 24.Kh1! Nf3 25.Rg1! {not 25.Qc3 d4} 25...Nxe5 26.Rxc7+! Kxc7 27.Qg5+ Ng6 28.Bxc6 Qd8! although Black should still win.) **24...Bxf2+ 25.Kg4 Nf3?!** (Even better is 25...h5+ 26.Kxh5 Nf3 27.Qc3 Rf5+! 28.Bxf5 exf5 and # in 4.) **26.Qc3 Bxe1 27.Rxe1 Qf2! 28.Bxh7+** (Or 28.Bg3 h5+ 29.Kxh5 Be8+ 30.Bg6 Qg2 31.Kg4 Bxc6 32.Nf4 Bf5 with # in 5.) **28...Kxh7 29.Qd3+ g6 30.Bg3 Nxe1 0-1** An opening round upset finished with a nice sac.

Shaba Gifts a Pawn?: GM Alex Shabalov (2622) - Andrew Zheng (2282), (2)

After **20.Qd4**, should Black take the b2 P, or play more solidly?
Put another way, would Shaba really gift a P?

20...???



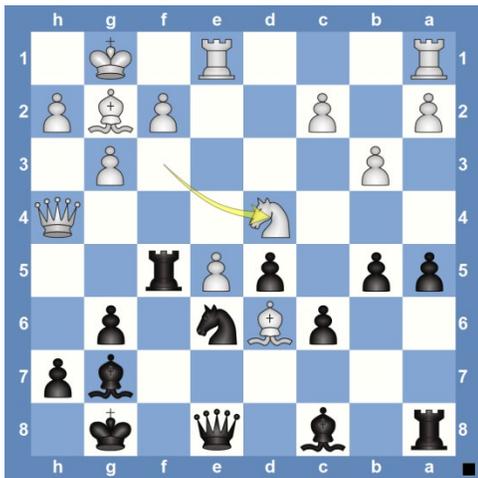
Nah! Apparently Zheng believed it so and played **20...Nxb2? 21.Bh6! Nxd1 22.Ncd5 Qd8 23.Nxe7+ Qxe7 24.Bg5 a5?** (However, here Black has the fine resource 24...Ne3! 25.Bxf6 Qxf6 26.Qxf6 Nxf1 with some chances to survive.) **25.Bxf6 Qc7 26.Qd2 1-0**

A Move Only a Computer Could Love: IM Oladapo Adu (2314) - Tom Beckman (2076) (2)

On the way to being crushed, the computer uncovered a fine resource for Black that might hold.

I played **21...Rh5** to mix things up, but there is a better move...

21...???



I played **21...Rh5?** (Trying to mix things up, but perhaps Black shouldn't. This helps the White Q escape. We both overlooked the amazing positional sacrifice **21...Rf4!!** 22.gxf4 Nxd4 23.f5 Nxf5 24.Qf4 Bh6 25.Qf3 Nh4 with some chances to save the game.) **22.Qg4** and White won.

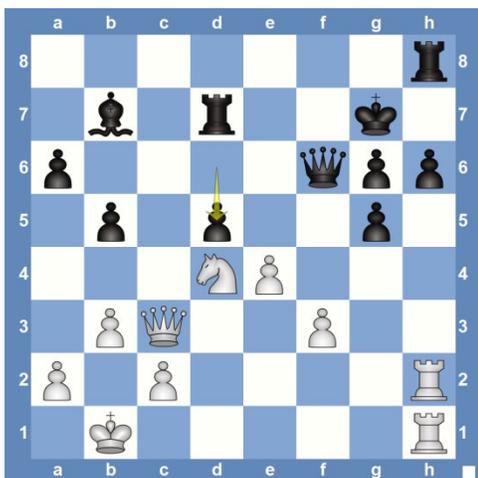
Could You Please Spell Your First Name Again?: Paul Yavari (2032) - Dang Minh Nguyen (1935) (4)

With 6 Nguyen's playing in the tournament coming from 2 different families, it got a bit confusing!

Paul loves to attack and his opponent has just played **28...d5**.

How should he continue? Maybe open up the position?

29.???

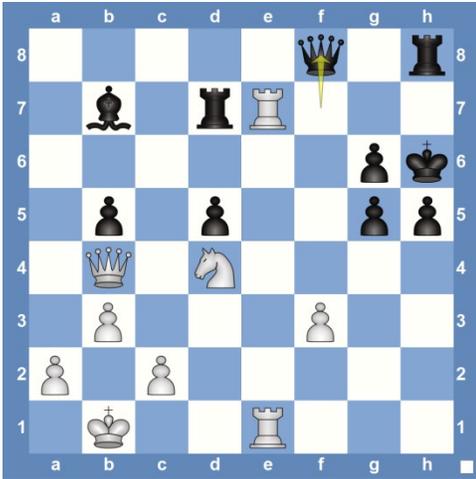


29.e5! (Slightly fooled you? Paul's comment: "At the expense of a Pawn, I get the e-file for both Rooks, the B at b7 is dulled, and will be buried if the Pawn at e5 is not accepted and rolls on to e6.") **29...Qxe5 30.Re2 Qf6 31.Re6 Qf7 32.Rhe1?** (But now White should have continued with 32.Nf5+! Kg8 33.Nxh6+ Rxh6 34.Rxh6 d4 35.Rexg6+.)

Finish with a Flourish: Paul Yavari (2032) - Dang Minh Nguyen (1935) (4)

OK, now for an easy one following from the previous game position!
After **36.Re7**, Black responded with **36...Qf7-f8**, pinning the R.
How did Paul finish the game?

37.???

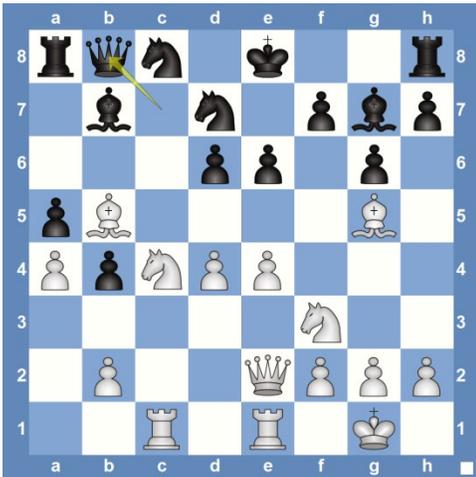


37.Rxd7! Qxb4 38.Nf5+! gxf5 39.Re6 #

Big Guns vs. King in the Center: Ernest Colding (2200) - Tan D Nguyen (2035) (4)

After shredding Tan Nguyen's Modern Defense, Ernest finds a great way to decide the game.

17.???



And now there are 2 ways to win:

- 1) Simpler is **17.Bxd7+! Kf8** (if 17... Kxd7 18.Nb6+ Nxb6 19 Qb5+ Bc6 20 Qxc6#) **18.Qd2 h6 19.Bf4 Kg8 20.Bxc8 Qxc8 21.Nxd6**
- 2) The game went **17.Nfe5! dxe5 18.Bxd7+ Kf8 19.Qf3** (19.d5? was played in the game and Colding eventually won) **19...Kg8 20.dxe5 Ba6 21.Be8** (or 21.Bxc8) **21...Ra7 22.Nxa5 Qxe5 23.Be3 Nd6** (or 23...Qxa5 24.Bxa7) **24.Nc6 Qf6 25.Qxf6** is much more complicated.

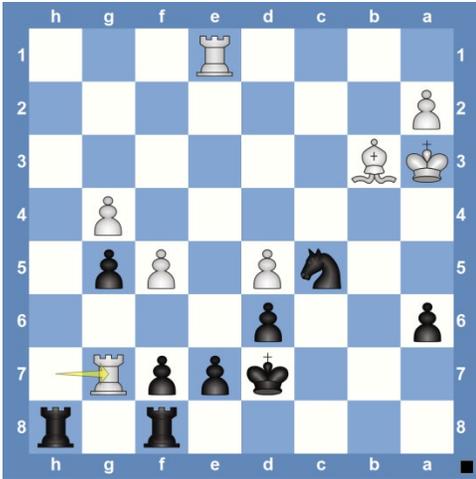
Just Another Boring Endgame?: Daniel Lowinger (2226) - Andy Samuelson (2312) (4)

Andy has played a fine game until here and now finishes with some tactics.

Daniel has just played **33.Rg7** although **33.Reh1** would have been the lesser evil.

Black's Knight is much better than White's big Pawn. What are Black's potential threats in this position?

33...???



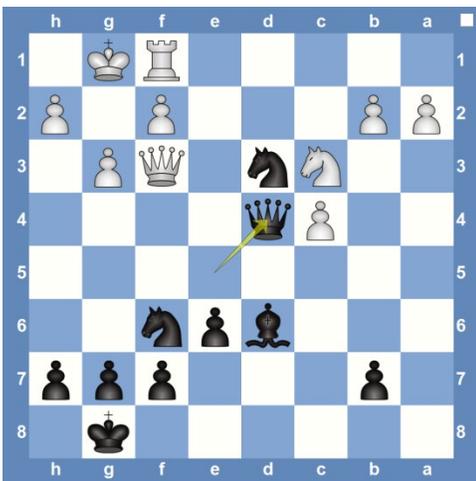
33...Rh3! 34.Rxg5? (Desperate, but after the better **34.Re2 a5 35.Kb2 Nd3+ 36.Ka3 Rb8! 37.Rxf7 Ne5 38.Rxe5** {else **38...Nc4+** and **39...Rb4#**}, Black still wins.) **34...a5 35.Rc1** (35.Rh5 Rg3.) **35...a4 36.Rxc5 dxc5 37.Kxa4 f6** (Or **37...Kd6.**) **38.Rg7 Kd6 39.Rg6** (The White R and B make a sorry pair!) **39...Ra8+ 40.Kb5 Rb8+ 41.Ka4 c4 42.Bxc4 Kc5 0-1**

It's Just Mop Up, Right?: GM Sergey Erenburg (2653) - IM Raymond Kaufman (2337) (5)

So what are the candidate moves, here?

25.Rd1; 25.Nb5; 25.Qxb7; 25.Ne2

25.???



White must be vigilant to the bitter end. Comments are by the tournament winner, GM Erenburg, and the author:

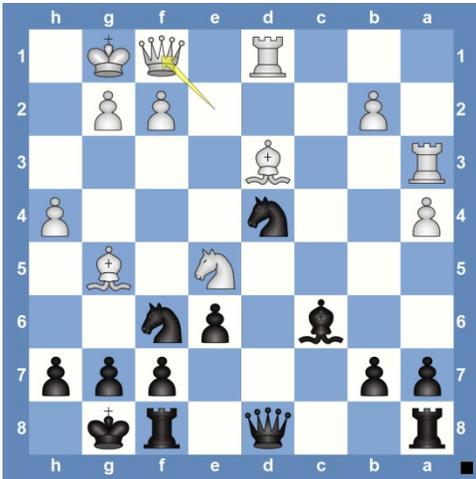
- 1) **25.Nb5!** Black resigned in view of the following variation **25...Qe4** (or **25...Qxb2 26.Nxd6 26.Qxe4 Nxe4 27.Nxd6 Nxd6 28.Rd1+-**.)
- 2) But not **25.Rd1?! Ng4!!** with the idea **26.Rxd3 26...Ne5 +-.** Better is **26.Nb5 Qxf2+** (26...Qxb2 27.Nxd6 Nde5 28.Qf4 Qe2 29.Rf1 Nxb2 30.Kxh2 Qxf1 31.Qxe5 Qxf2+ 32.Kh3 Qf1+=) **27.Qxf2 Ngxf2 28.Rxd3 Nxd3 29.Nxd6 Nxb2=.**
- 3) **25.Qxb7? Bc5** (less impressive is **25...Bb4 26.a3**.) **26.Na4** (neither **26.Ne2 Qe5** nor **26.Qb8+ Bf8** help much.) **26...Bf8 27.Qf3 Nxb2-/+.**
- 4) **25.Ne2? Qxc4 26.Qxb7 h6+-.**

In the Footnotes: GM Alexander Shabalov (2622) - GM Sergey Erenburg (2653) (4)

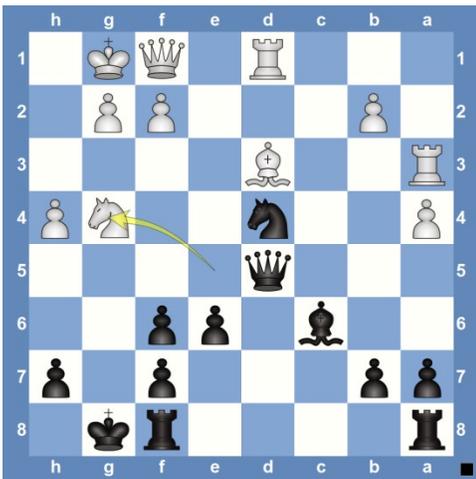
Comments are by the tournament winner.

White has just played **21.Qf1** although **21.Qe3** would have been stronger.
How did Black respond?

21...???



After **21...Qd5!** the tables have been turned on White.
But what happens after **22.Bxf6 gxf6 23.Ng4**? Isn't Black in trouble?

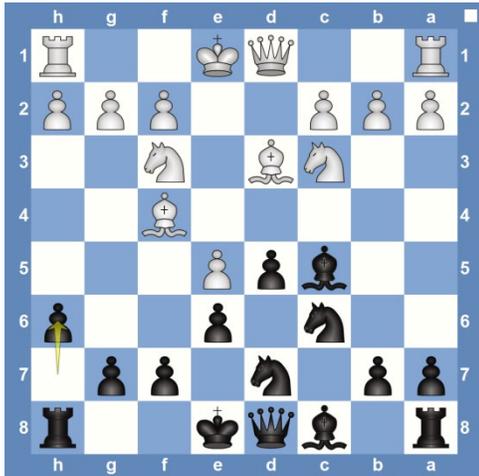


Black has the beautiful **23...Kh8!! 24.Nxf6** (Another try is 24.Bb5 Bxb5 25.axb5 Rfd8 26.Rad3 Qe4 +/-.) **24...Nf3+!!** (Winning but less elegant is 24...Qd8! 25.Ne4 {not 25.Nxh7? Nf3+! 26.gxf3 Qxh4} 25...Qxh4+.) **25.gxf3** (if 25.Kh1 Qe5! 26.Ng4 Qh5!-+) **25...Qxf3 26.Be4 Qxf6 27.Bxc6 bxc6** with big advantage.

Additional Annotated Games from the Eastern Open:

This game won prizes for Brilliancy and Opening Innovation.

C11/5, Peter Giannatos (2254) - Tom Beckman (2076), Eastern Open, Rd 1, Bd 13, Bethesda MD, 12/26/2015: **1.e4 e6 2.Nf3 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.d4 c5 6.dxc5 Bxc5** (More usual is 6...Nc6, but it doesn't seem to matter much.) **7.Bd3 Nc6 8.Bf4 a6** (I like this useful move that waits to see which side White intends to castle before choosing h6 or f6. Most popular is 8...f6 9.exf6 Nxf6 10.0-0 0-0 and 11.Ne5 Bd7 12.Nxc6 Bxc6 13.Qe2 Qe7 14.Rae1 Rae8 is the famous Spassky-Petrosian game won by Spassky from the 1966 WCM. By the way, the opening was not the problem for Black. Likely best is 8...h6! {but now Black must remove White's QB before 0-0} followed by the waiting move, 9...a6. After 8...h6 there are several alternatives:



- 1) 9.h3 a6
 - a) 10.0-0 g5 11.Bd2 Ncxe5 12.Nxe5 Nxe5 13.Qh5 Nxd3 14.cxd3 Qf6 15.Rae1 0-0 16.h4 Qg6 17.Qxg6 fxd6 18.hxg5 hxg5 19.Bxg5 Bd7 20.Be3 Bd6 21.Bd4 Rf5 22.f3 Raf8 23.Rc1 Bf4 -.44/25
 - b) 10.Qd2 b5 11.0-0 Bb7
 - i) 12.Ne2 Qc7 13.Rae1 Ndx5 14.Nxe5 Nxe5 15.Nc3 f6 16.Bg6+ Kf8 17.Qe2 Bd6 18.Bxe5 Bxe5 19.f4 Bxc3 20.bxc3 Bc8 -.38/24
 - ii) 12.Rfe1 g5! 13.Bg3 Bb6 14.Ne2 Nc5 15.Rad1 Rc8! 16.c3 Ne4 17.Qc1 Qc7 18.a3 f5! 19.exf6 Nxd3 20.Nxd3 Qxd3 21.Rxe6+ Kf7 -1.08/25
 - 2) 9.Qe2 a6 10.h3 b5 11.0-0 Bb7 (11...0-0 12.Rae1 Be7 13.Ne4) 12.Rfe1 Be7! 13.Qd2 Rc8 14.Ne2 Na5 15.Qc1 Nc4 16.Rd1 Nc5 17.c3 -.44/22
 - 3) 9.h4
 - a) 9...a6 10.Qd2 b5 11.0-0 Bb7 12.Kb1 Rc8 13.Rh3 Bb4 14.Be2 Qa5 -.72/27
 - b) 9...0-0 10.Qe2 a6 11.0-0 f6 12.exf6 Nxf6 13.Ne5 Bd4 14.f3 Nh5 15.Nxc6 bxc6 16.Be5 Nf4 17.Bxf4 Rxf4 18.g3 Rf8 19.Bh7+ Kxh7 20.Rxd4 Qg6 21.Rhd1 Ra7 22.Na4 Qc7 23.f4 c5 24.R4d3 Bd7 25.Ra3 -.36/23)
- 9.0-0** (Given Black's next move option, perhaps White should delay castling K-side and play 9.Qe2 h6)
- 1) 10.0-0-0 doesn't seem to work after 10...Bb4! 11.Nb1
 - a) 11...Qa5 12.c3 Be7 13.a3 b5 14.h4 Rb8 15.Rh3
 - i) 15...Qc7 16.Kd2 f6 17.Nd4 Nxd4 18.cxd4 fxe5 19.Bg6+ Kd8 20.Bg3 b4 21.Ke1 bxa3 {or 21...Rf8 22.Kf1} 22.bxa3 Rb6 -1.13/23
 - ii) 15...Nc5 16.Bc2 Qc7 17.Nd4 {17.b4} 17...b5 18.b4 Nxd4 19.Rxd4 Nd7 -.27/34
 - b) 11...Be7 {the Moor has done his duty, the Moor can go home} {also decent is 11...Nc5 12.Nbd2 -.64/23} 12.Nbd2 Nb4 13.c3 Nxd3 14.Qxd3 Nc5 15.Qe3 Bd7 16.Kb1 a5 17.h4 -.52/23
 - 2) 10.a3 b5 11.0-0 g5 12.Bg3 Bb7 13.Rfd1 Qe7 14.Qd2 Bb6 15.h3 Rc8 16.Re1 Nc5 -.65/25.)
- 9...f6?!** (Surprisingly, this is not best.)
- 1) Stronger is 9...h6 {keeping in mind that Black shouldn't castle K-side until the QB is traded off} 10.Re1 b5 11.Be3 Bxe3 12.Rxe3 0-0 13.Re1 Bb7 14.a3 Qc7 15.Qe2 f6 16.exf6 Rxf6 17.Rad1 Raf8 18.Qe3 R8f7 19.Bf1 Ne7 20.Ne2 Ng6 -.77/40. Not too bad after 9 moves!
 - 2) 9...Be7 10.Qd2
 - a) 10...h6 again is best 11.g3 g5 12.Bg3 -.42/29
 - b) 10...0-0 11.a3 Nc5 12.b4 Nxd3 13.Qxd3 b5 14.Rfc1 Bb7 15.Rab1 Qd7 16.Bg5 f6 17.exf6 gxf6 18.Bh6 Rf7 19.d4 e5 20.dxe5 Nxe5 -.09/23.)
- 10.exf6 Nxf6 11.Ne5** (Or 11.Ne2 0-0 12.c4 Nb4 -.07/22.) **11...0-0** (Or 11...Nxe5 12.Bxe5 0-0 13.Qf3 g6 14.Qh3 Nh5 15.Qg4 Qe7 +.00/25.) **12.Bg3** (Slightly better is 12.Nxc6 bxc6 13.Qe2 Qe7 14.Na4 Ba7 15.c4 e5! 16.Qxe5 Qb4 17.b3 Ng4 18.Qh5 Rxf4 19.Qxh7+ Kf8 20.Qh8+ Kf7 21.Qh5+ perp.) **12...Bd7** (Or 12...Nxe5 13.Bxe5 Bd7 14.a3 {14.Qe2} 14...g6 15.Qe2 Qb6 16.Kh1 Rae8 17.Nd1 Ba4 18.Ne3 Bd6 -.23/23.) **13.Qd2?!** (White overlooks Black's continuation. Somewhat better is 13.Nxd7 Qxd7 14.Na4 Ba7 15.c4 Rad8 16.c5 Qe7 17.Re1 Bb8 -.24/30.) **13...Nxe5 14.Bxe5 Ng4! 15.Bg3 Qb6** (I considered several moves here: the risky 15...h5!?, the solid 15...Qe7, and 15...Qb6 where I thought I would win the bP. However, it never was good to take. One should ask, where is Black's play? But it is not so clear where it is. Stockfish finally

prefers my move, but gives a nod to 15...h5 16.Be2 Rc8 17.Bf3 Rf5 -.32/24.) **16.Rae1!** (Best. Weaker is 16.Nd1 Rae8 17.c4 e5 18.Rb1 Bd4 -.54/23.) **16...Rf6** (There are several other interesting tries:

- 1) 16...Rac8 17.Nd1 Nf6 18.a3 Kh8 19.Be5 Bb5 20.Qg5 Rf7 21.b4 Bd6 22.Bxd6 Qxd6 23.Qe3 Re7 -.19/25
- 2) 16...Rf7 17.Qe2 Nh6 18.Nd1 Raf8 19.a3 Nf5 20.Be5 Qd8 21.Qg4 Qe7 22.c4 dxc4 23.Bxc4 b5 -.06/22.)

17.h3 (Needlessly weakening the K-side, but maybe it's not so bad. Somewhat better is 17.Qe2 Nh6 18.Be5 Rf7 19.Nd1 Bb5 20.c4 +.00/24.)

17...Nh6 (Up to here, these were the moves I expected.) **18.Re5?!** (Bizzarro, maybe the R will go to h5 after 18...Raf8 19.Rh5 Be8 20.Rg5 Nf7 -.65/24? Better is 18.Nd1! Rf7 19.Be5 Nf5 20.c4 -.08/22. White needs to shore up f2 and prepare for c4.) **18...Raf8 19.Re2** (White must defend f2 better.) **19...Nf5** (Slightly better is 19...Nd4 20.Bxf6 {or 20.Re3} 20...Nxe2+ 21.Bxe2 Rxf6 -.56/24.) **20.Be5 Rg6!?** (I still thought that the game was close to equal.) **21.Ree1?!** (Another waste of time. Better is 21.Rfe1 or 21.Kh1 with good chances to hang on.) **21...Bc6! 22.Ne2?** (In retrospect, White needs to guard f3 better with 22.Qe2 Qa5 -.86/23.) **22...Rxxg2+!!** (Even better is 22...Bxf2+!! and now either:

- 1) 23.Kh1 Be3 24.Bd4 Bxd4 25.Bxf5 Be6 26.Bxe6+ Rxe6 27.Rxf8+ Kxf8 -5.61/24
- 2) 23.Rxf2 Rxxg2+! 24.Kxxg2 Nh4+ 25.Kh1 Qxf2 26.Nd4 Qxd2 -18.32/34.)

23.Kxxg2 Nh4+ 24.Kg3? (White misses a fascinating defense with 24.Kh1! Nf3 25.Rg1! {not 25.Qc3 d4} 25...Nxe5 26.Rxxg7+! Kxxg7 27.Qg5+ Ng6 28.Bxxg6 Qd8! {weaker is 28...hxxg6 29.Nf4 Rxf4 30.Re6} 29.Qxd8 Rxd8 30.Nf4 Rf8 31.Nxe6+ Kxxg6 32.Nxc5 Rxf2 -1.45/23.) **24...Bxf2+ 25.Kg4 Nf3?!** (Even better is 25...h5+ 26.Kxxh5 Nf3 27.Qc3 Rf5+! 28.Bxf5 exf5 29.Qxc6 # in 4.) **26.Qc3?!** (Hopeless but better is 26.Bxxh7+ Kxxh7 27.Qd3+ Rf5 28.Bg3 Qb4+ 29.Nd4 Nxd4 30.c3 Qe7 -9.25/28.) **26...Bxe1?!** (Again, 26...h5+ leads to mate.) **27.Rxe1** (Better 27.Rxf3 h5+ 28.Kxxh5 Bxc3 -8.97/26, or 27.Bxxh7+ Kxxh7 28.Qd3+ Rf5 29.Rxf3 Qd8 30.Rxf5 Qh4+ # in 3.) **27...Qf2!** (27...Qd8 28.Nf4 d4 also wins.) **28.Bxxh7+ (Or 28.Bg3 h5+ 29.Kxxh5 Be8+ 30.Bg6 Qg2 31.Kg4 Bxxg6 32.Nf4 Bf5 # in 5.) 28...Kxxh7 29.Qd3+ g6 (Better 29...Rf5.) 30.Bg3 Nxe1 (Even better is 30...Qg2 31.Nf4 Nh2+ 32.Kg5 Rf5+, but White has seen enough.) 0-1**

A07/16, Oladapo Adu (2314) - Tom Beckman (2076), Eastern Open, Rd 2, Bd 7, Bethesda MD, 12/27/2015: **1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 d5 3.Bg2 Nbd7** (An almost novelty. The idea is to follow up with e5, Bd6, c6, Nbd7, etc. Previously I had prepared 3...Bf5, the London System, that Ola also plays as Black, and I vaguely remembered this fact!) **4.d3 g6** (Then, because I thought that setup might be over-reaching, I changed my mind. However, somewhat better is 4...e5 5.0-0 Bd6 6.c4 c6 7.cxd5 cxd5 8.e4 d4 9.Na3 and now either:

- 1) 9...Bxa3 10.bxa3 0-0 11.a4 Qe7 12.Nh4 Nc5 13.f4 exf4 14.Rxf4 Be6 15.Bb2 Rad8 16.Rb1 Nfd7 17.Ba3 b6 -.23/22
- 2) 9...0-0 10.Nc4 Bc7 11.a4 Re8 12.a5 h6 13.Bd2 Nb8 14.b4 a6 15.Rb1 Bd7 16.Nh4 Nc6 17.Nf5 Be6 +.27/25.)

5.Nbd2 (An alternative is 5.c4 {when Black can't push to d4} 5...dxc4 6.cxd4 Bg7 7.0-0 0-0 8.Nc3 c6 9.Qc2 Nc5 10.Rd1 Qa5 11.e4 Bg4 12.Bd2 Rad8 13.h3 Bxf3 14.Bxf3 Qa6 15.Be3 Nfd7 +.00/24.) **5...Bg7 6.O-O O-O 7.e4 c6** (So, this setup is the Schlechter Slav vs. KIA. Slightly better is 7...dxe4 8.dxe4 e5 9.Qe2 b6 10.b3 Bb7 11.Bb2 Qe7 12.a4 Ne8 13.Nc4 Nd6 14.Nfd2 Ba6 15.Rfd1 Rad8 16.Ba3 c5! 17.Qe1 Nxc4 18.Nxc4 Bxc4 19.bxc4 Nb8 20.Rd5 Na6 21.a5 Nc7 +.00/25 with near symmetry.) **8.e5** (Both Adu and Erenburg thought that White was much better after 8.e5. However, Stockfish isn't so sure...) **8...Ne8 9.d4 f6 10.Re1** (Or 10.exf6 exf6 11.Re1 Nc7 +.10/23.) **10...fxe5 11.dxe5**



11...Nc5?! (And now there are options:

- 1) 11...Rf5 {for some reason, neither of us generated this move} 12.Bh3 Rf8 13.e6 Ndf6 14.c3 Qb6 15.a4 a5 +.18/24
- 2) 11...Nc7 12.b3 Ne6 13.Bb2 Ndc5 14.Qe2 a5 15.a4 b6 16.Nd4 Nxd4 17.Bxd4 Bf5 18.Nf1 Qd7 +.29/29
- 3) 11...c5? 12.c4 d4 13.b4 +.96/30.)

12.Nb3 (Both Ola and I thought that this is strong, but even better may be 12.b4 Ne6 13.Nb3 N8c7 14.a4 Qe8 +.56/39.) **12...Na4?** (The losing move! I hadn't played aggressively until here, and thought this was no worse than 12...Ne6. Much better is 12...Ne6 13.a4 Rf5 14.c3 N8c7 15.Be3 Rf7 16.Nbd4 Nxd4 17.cxd4 Bg4 +.44/24.) **13.Qd4!** (Oops! How did I fail to generate this move?) **13...b5?!** (And this move doesn't help. Black should admit his mistake and play 13...Nb6 14.Qh4 Nc7 15.Nbd4 Qe8 +1.02/27.) **14.Qh4 Nc7 15.Nbd4** (Slightly better is 15.Bg5 Qe8 +1.52/25.) **15...Qe8!** (Black's best chance.) **16.b3** (Another strong move is 16.Bh6 Bxxh6 17.Qxxh6 e6 +1.20/24.) **16...Nc5 17.Ba3 N7e6** (No better are either 17...N7a6 or 17...N5e6.) **18.Nxe6** (Even better is 18.c4! Ne4 19.Nxc6 Qxc6 20.cxd5 Qxd5 21.Rad1 Qc6 22.Rxe4 +1.59/26.) **18...Nxe6 19.Bxe7**

Rf5 20.Bd6 (Slightly better is 20.Bf6 Qf8 21.Bxg7 Kxg7 22.Nd4 +1.31/22.) **20...a5?!** (Black's position is worse than he thinks it is. This is too slow. Ola suggested the somewhat better 20...Qf7 21.Nd4 g5 22.Qg4 Rxf2 +1.15/28.) **21.Nd4?** (Much stronger is 21.c4! bxc4 22.bxc4 Qf7 23.cxd5 cxd5 +2.27/24.) **21...Rh5?** (Trying to mix things up, but perhaps Black shouldn't. This helps the White Q escape. We both overlooked the amazing positional sacrifice 21...Rf4!! 22.gxf4 Nxd4 23.f5 Nxf5 24.Qf4 Bh6 25.Qf3 Nh4 +.78/25.) **22.Qg4 Ng5** (Or 22...Nd4.) **23.Qe2?!** (And here stronger is 23.Qd1 Nh3+ 24.Bxh3 Bxh3 25.f4 Rc8 +1.73/24.) **23...Nf7 24.Qd3** (Slightly better is 24.Qd2 Bd7 +1.27/22.) **24...Nxe5?** (After 24...Bd7! 25.e6 Nxd6 26.exd7 Qxd7 27.Bf3 Ne4 +1.15/24 and Black is almost back in the game.) **25.Nxc6!** (Whoops.) **25...Nxd3** (Or 25...Qxc6 26.Qxd5+ Qxd5 27.Bxd5+ Be6 28.Bxa8 +5.38/24.) **26.Rxe8+ Kf7 27. Re7+ Kf6 28. cxd3 Bf8 29. Be5+ Rxe5 30. Rxe5 Bd7 31. Bxd5 Rc8 32. Rc1 Rxc6 33. Bxc6 Bxc6 34. Rxc6+ Kxe5 35. Kf1 1-0**

E91/1 n1b, Thomas Beckman (2076) - Daniel Lowinger (2228), 42nd Eastern Open, Rd 3.9, Bethesda Maryland, 2015.12.27: **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 O-O** (Normal is 4...d6.) **5.Nf3** (I couldn't remember or figure out the lines after 5.e5, and anyway White gets a good game with 5.Nf3. After 5.e5 Ne8 6.f4 d6 7.Nf3 dxe5 8.fxe5 c5 -.33/25 there is no trace of White's center.) **5...d6 6.Be2 Nbd7** (Normal is 6...e5 7.0-0. Other tries are:

- 1) **6...Bg4** 7.Be3 Nfd7 8.Rc1 e5 9.d5 a5 10.0-0 Na6 11.b3 Nac5 12.Ng5 Bxe2 13.Qxe2 Qe7 14.Rcd1 f5 15.exf5 gxf5 16.f3 Bf6 17.Nh3 Kh8 +.27/23
- 2) **6...c5** 7.d5 Bg4 8.0-0 +.55/24.)

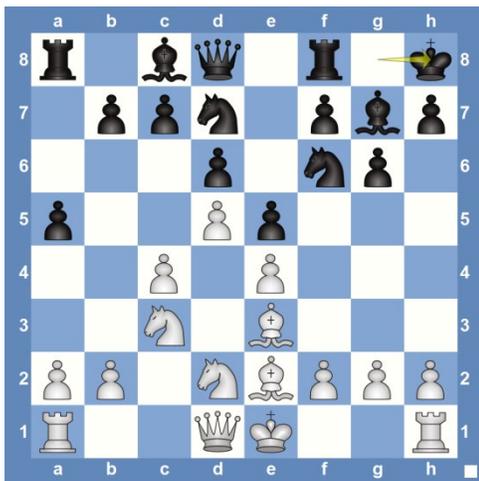
7.Be3 (Or 7.0-0 e5

- 1) **8.Be3** Ng4 9.Bg5 f6

- a) 10.Bd2 Nh6 11.Qc2 Nf7 12.Be3 b6 13.a3 Bh6 14.Bxh6 Nxh6 15.b4 Bb7 16.Rfd1 Nf7 17.d5 a5 18.Rdb1 Qe7 19.Nd2 Kg7 20.Nb3 Rfb8 21.Qd3 c6 22.Qh3 +.60/30
- b) 10.Bc1 Re8 11.d5 Nh6 12.Qc2 Nf7 13.Be3 a5 14.a3 b6 15.b4 Bh6 16.Bxh6 Nxh6 17.Qd2 Nf7 18.Bd3 Bb7 19.Qe3 c5 20.dxc6 Bxc6 21.Rfc1 Kg7 22.Nd5 {or weirdly 22.h4 I guess to stop Ng5} 22...Ra7 23.Nd2 Ng5 24.Nb3 Ra8 25.g3 Ne6 26.Rf1 Bb7 27.f4 exf4 28.gxf4
 - i) 28...Nc7 29.Nxb6 Nxb6 30.Qxb6 Bxe4 31.Bxe4 Rxe4 32.Nxa5 {or 32.Qc6 d5} 32...Qd7 33.f5 d5 34.fxg6 Ra6 35.Qf2 hxg6 36.c5 Rae6 37.Rad1 +.21/25
 - ii) 28...Kh8 29.Nd4 Nxd4 30.Qxd4 Bxd5 31.cxd5 axb4 32.axb4 Rxa1 33.Qxa1 g5 34.Bb5 gxf4 35.Bxd7 Qxd7 36.Qxf6+ Qg7 +.70/31
- c) 10.Bh4 Nh6 11.Qd2 Nf7 12.Rfd1 exd4 13.Nxd4 Nc5 14.f4 Re8 15.Qc2 a5 16.Bf2 Bd7 17.Rd2 c6 18.Rad1 Qc8 19.Nb3 Ne6 20.Be3 a4 21.Nc1 c5 22.Bf3 Bc6 23.Nd5 Ra7 24.Ne2 Nc7 25.Nxc7 Qxc7 26.Bf2 g5 27.Nc3 gxf4 28.Nd5 Bxd5 29.Rxd5 Re5 30.Be1 Rxd5 31.exd5 Ne5 32.Qf5 +.44/25

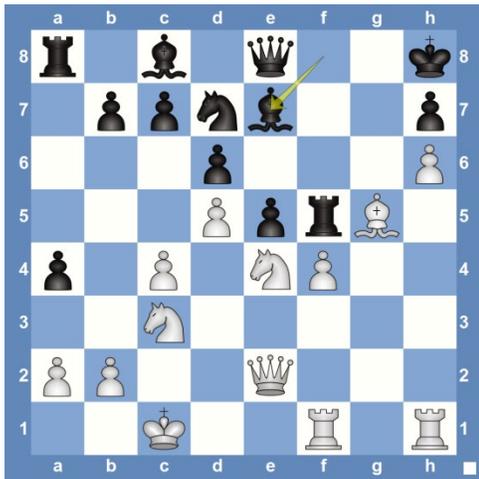
- 2) **8.dxe5** dxe5 9.Qc2 c6 10.Be3 Ng4 11.Bg5 f6 12.Bd2 Nc5 13.h3 Nh6 14.Rad1 Nf7 15.Be3 Qe7 16.b4 Ne6 17.c5 Nc7 +.29/24.)

7...e5 (Complex is 7...Ng4 8.Bg5 h6 9.Bc1 e5 10.0-0 a5 {10...b6 11.d5} 11.dxe5 Ngxe5 12.Nd4 Nc5 13.Be3 b6 14.f3 Bb7 15.Ndb5 Ned7 16.Qd2 Kh7 17.Rad1 Re8 18.Nd5 Rc8 19.g3 Re6 20.Ndc3 h5 21.b3 Be5 +.47/22.) **8.d5 a5** (Or 8...Nh5 9.g3 Ndf6 10.0-0 a6 +.60/23.) **9.Nd2 Kh8** (Slightly better is 9...Ne8 10.0-0 f5 11.f3 Nef6 12.exf5 gxf5 13.Qc2 Nh5 14.Rfe1 b6 15.a3 Nf4 16.Bf1 Rf7 17.g3 Ng6 18.Bf2 e4 19.f4 Nf6 20.Bh3 h5 21.Nb3 Ng4 22.Bxg4 hxg4 23.Nd4 Be7 24.b3 +.41/24.)



10.g4? (Better is 10.a3 b6 11.0-0 Bb7 12.b4 Qe7 13.Nb3 axb4 14.axb4 Rxa1 15.Nxa1 +.74/24.) **10...Ng8?** (Too passive. Neither of us saw 10...Nxc4! 11.Bxg4 f5 12.exf5 gxf5 13.Bxf5 Rxf5 14.Rg1 Nf6 15.Qe2 Nh5 +.00/25.) **11.h4 f5 12.gxf5?!** (For some reason, I wanted to open files on the K-side for attacking, as in the Makogonov. However, even better is 12.f3 f4 13.Bf2 Nh6 14.Qc2 b6 15.0-0-0 Bb7 16.Nb5 Nc5 17.Nb1 Nf7 18.N1c3 +.78/25 or 18.g5 +.68/24.) **12...gxf5 13.exf5 Ne7?!** (Somewhat better is 13...Nc5 14.Bxc5 dxc5 15.Bd3 c6 16.Qe2 {16.Rg1 e4} a4 17.a3 +.23/24.) **14.Bg5?!** (And White's advantage is gone. White should try and hold the f5P and the e4 square with 14.Bd3 Nf6 15.Qf3 Bxf5 16.Bxf5 Nfg8 17.Bg5 Nh6 18.h5 Rxf5 19.Qg2 Nf7 20.Be3 Bh6 21.0-0-0 +.43/25.) **14...Nf6 15.Nf1** (Slightly better is 15.Nde4 Nxf5 16.Qd2 Qe8 17.Nxf6 Bxf6 18.Ne4 Bxg5 19.hxg5 +.12/39.) **15...Nxf5 16.Qd2?!** (Somewhat better is to activate the N with 16.Ng3 Qd7 17.Qd2 Nd4 18.f3 Nxe2 19.Qxe2 +.00/25.) **16...Nd4?!** (Black should continue developing with 16...Qe8 17.0-0-0 Nd4 18.h5 Nxe2+ 19.Qxe2 Bg4 20.f3 Bxh5 21.Ng3 Bg6 22.Rh3 Qf7 -.34/25.) **17.O-O-O?!** (Somewhat better is 17.h5 Nxe2 18.Qxe2 h6 19.Qd2 hxg5 +.11/24, as the move played transposes into the previous note.) **17...Qe8! 18.Ng3?!** (This is worse than 18.h5.) **18...Ng4?** (Black should take advantage of the weak squares with 18...Nxe2+ 19.Qxe2 Bg4 20.f3

Nh5! 21.Nxh5 Bxh5 -.79/25.) **19.Rdf1 a4?** (Too slow! Black should limit the damage with 19...Nf3 20.Bxf3 Rxf3 21.Qe2 Qf7 +.25/24.) **20.f3!** (White finally makes a couple of good moves.) **20...Nf6 21.h5! Nd7?** (Needlessly complex. Here Black should give up his beautiful N with 21...Nxe2+ 22.Nxe2 Ng8 23.h6 Bf6 24.Rfg1 +.68/24 with good chances to hold.) **22.Nge4!** (And this should have clinched the victory.) **22...Rf5** (And here another try is 22...Bf6 23.f4 Be7 24.Rhg1 a3 25.b3 Qd8 26.Bd3 +2.55/24.) **23.h6 Bf8 24.f4?!** (I considered the better 24.Bd3 a3 25.b3 Qg6 26.f4 exf4 27.Bxf4 Ne5 28.Ng3 +2.62/24.) **24...Nxe2+ 25.Qxe2 Be7?** (However, here Black has 25...exf4 26.Bf4 Ne5 27.Ng3 Rxf4 28.Rxf4 +2.07/25.)



26.Qg4?? (In time trouble, White misses the crunchy 26.Nb5! Bd8 27.Bxd8 Qxd8 28.Qg2 Qf8 29.Nxc7 +8.03/28.) **26...Qg6 27.Ng3??** (And White collapses, missing 27.Qh4! Rxc5 28.fxc5 Nc5 29.Kd1 Nd3 30.Rf3 +1.07/23 with good chances to win.) **27...Rxf4! 28.Rxf4 exf4?** (Much stronger is 28...Bxc5! 29.Kd1 Nf6 30.Rf5 Nxc4 -5.92/23.) **29.Nce4??** (At least 29.Nge4 Ne5 30.Qh5 Bxc5 31.Qxc6 hxc6 32.Nxc5 Bg4 -1.77/22 makes Black work a little bit.) **29...fxg3 30. Rf1 Ne5 31. Qxg3 Bxg5+ 32. Nxc5 Bg4 0-1**

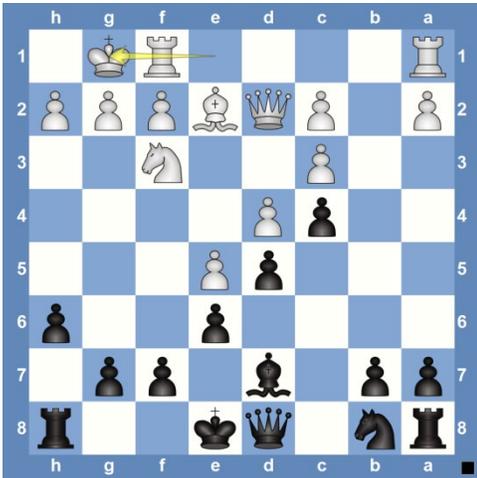
A53/1 n2b, Tom Beckman (2076) - David Sherman (2203), Eastern Open, Rd 4, Bd 13, Bethesda MD, 12/28/2015: **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 d6** (Perhaps leading to novel or Old Indian positions. David wants to avoid my book knowledge.) **3.Nf3** (It seemed that letting Black get in e5 would be too lenient. I decided against 3.Nc3 e5 4.Nf3 exd4 5.Nxd4 Nc6 6.e4 Be7 +.34/24 with an Old Indian.) **3...c6** (Other moves are 3...g6 leading to a KID, 3...Nbd7 leading to an Old Indian, 3...Bg4, 3...Bf5, and 3...b6 preferred by Stockfish. 3...c6 has over 500 adherents in the DB. I expected 3...Bf5 4.Nc3 g6 5.h3 Bg7 6.g4 Be4 {better 6...Bd7} 7.g5 Bxf3 8.gxf6 Bxh1 9.fxc7 Rg8 10.f3 Nc6 11.Kf2! e5 12.dxe5 Qh4+ 13.Kg1 0-0-0 14.Kxh1 dxe5 15.Nd5 +.93/25.) **4.g3** (Slightly better is 4.Nc3 Bf5 5.Nh4 g6 6.Nxf5 gxf5 7.e3 e6 8.Bd3 d5 +.60/24.) **4...Bf5** (The main alternative is 4...Bg4 5.Nc3 Nbd7 6.h3 Bxf3 7.Bxf3 e5 8.0-0 Be7 9.Nc3 0-0 10.b3 exd4 11.Qxd4 +.51/24.) **5.Nc3 Ne4?!** (Somewhat better is continuing development with 5...g6 6.Bg2 Bg7 7.0-0 0-0 8.Re1 d5 9.Ne5 Be6 10.cxd5 exd5 11.Bg5 Nc6 12.Rc1 +.39/24.) **6.Qb3** (6.Bg2 Nd7 7.Nd2 Nxd2 8.Bxd2 Qb6 9.e4 Bg6 10.h4 h6 11.d5 e5 12.Qe2 Be7 13.Be3 Qb4 14.a3 Qb3 +.72/27.) **6...Qb6** (Given that David wanted to get me out of my comfort zone, why not try 6...Qc7 and then 7.Nh4 Nxc3 8.Nxf5 Ne4 9.Bg2 Nf6 10.d5 g6 +.71/24.) **7.Bg2!** (I decided to keep developing and rejected on this move the alternative 7.Nh4 Nxc3 8.Qxc3 Bd7 9.Bg2 Na6 10.0-0 g6 +.64/23.) **7...Nxc3** (Slightly better is either:

- 1) **7...e6** 8.Nh4 Qxb3 9.axb3 Nxc3 10.Nxf5 Nxe2 11.Nxd6+ Bxd6 12.Kxe2 Nd7 13.Bd2 +.68/23
- 2) **7...Qxb3** 8.axb3 Nxc3 9.bxc3 {it was hard to visualize the P configuration!} 9...g6 10.0-0 Bg7 11.Ne1 +.66/24.)

8.Qxc3 Be4 (Slightly better is 8...Nd7 9.Nh4 Bg4 10.h3 Bh5 11.g4 Bg6 12.d5 Rc8 13.Be3 Qa6 14.dxc6 +1.01/29.) **9.O-O?!** (Enough development already. Somewhat better is 9.c5 Qd8 10.0-0 Nd7 11.Qb3 e6 12.Qxb7 dxc6 13.Ne5 Bxc2 14.Kxc2 Qc8 15.Qxc6 cxd4 16.Rd1 Bc5 17.a4 +1.01/25.) **9...Nd7** (Slightly better is 9...e6 10.Bh3 Na6 11.Nd2 Bg6 12.d5 Qb4 13.Qf3 cxd5 14.cxd5 e5 15.a3 +.66/25.) **10.Bh3!?** (Correctly targeting the N at d7, but an even better move order is 10.Be3 Qa6 11.Bh3 Nf6 +.80/22.) **10...Nf6** (A better move order is 10...e6 11.Ng5 Nf6 12.Nxe4 Nxe4 13.Qd2 d5 +.67/23.) **11.Nd2?!** (Somewhat better is 11.Bg5 +.82/23. Also good is 11.Nh4 e6 12.f3 Bg6 13.e4 Be7 +.77/25.) **11...e6?!** (Black should avoid giving up the QB with 11...Bg6! 12.e4 e6 13.d5 +.56/23.) **12.Nxe4 Nxe4 13.Qd3 d5 14.f3** (Other decent candidate moves are 14.c5 and 14.Bg2.) **14...Nf6 15.c5 Qb5?!** (Better is 15...Qd8 16.b4 +.68/25.) **16.Qxb5 cxb5 17.a4!** (White takes advantage of Black's sluggish development to open the Q-side for an endgame attack.) **17...bxa4** (Alternatives are worse.) **18.Rxa4 Kd7?!** (Somewhat better alternatives are 18...Be7 and 18...a6 19.b4 Be7 20.Bd2 {or 20.Bf4} 20...Kd7 21.Rfa1 Ne8 22.b5 Nc7 23.b6 Nb5 24.e3 Kc6 25.Rc1 h5 26.Bf1 Bf6 27.Bd3 h4 28.g4 h3 29.Kf2 +1.18/24.) **19.Bf4!** (+1.42/23. White is almost winning. 19.Bd2 was the other alternative I thought about.) **19...Be7** (Or 19...a6 20.Rfa1 Be7 21.Bf1 +1.43/23.) **20.Rfa1 a6 21.b4** (It is hard to find the best sequence of moves to victory. The right way seems to be 21.Bf1 Rhg8 22.b4 g5 23.Bd2 Rab8 24.e3 g4 25.b5 gxf3 26.bxa6 bxa6 27.Rxa6 Rgc8 28.Ra7+ Ke8 29.Ba6 Rd8 30.Bb7 Ne4 31.Ba5 Rxb7 32.Rxb7 Ra8 33.Ra3 f2+ 34.Kf1 Nd2+ 35.Bxd2 Rxa3 36.Kxf2 Ra2 37.Ke1 +1.58/24.) **21...Rac8** (Slightly better is 21...Ne8 22.b5 g5 23.Be5! f6 24.c6+! bxc6 25.bxc6+ Kd8 {25...Kxc6 26.Rxa6+} 26.c7+ Nxc7 {26...Kd7? 27.Bxe6+!} 27.Bxc7+ Kxc7 28.Bxe6 Rhd8 +1.34/25.) **22.Bf1?!** (Still preparing, but this was the moment for breakthrough with 22.b5! axb5 23.Ra5 Kc6 24.Rb1 Nd7 25.e4 Bf6 26.exd5 exd5 27.Bf1 Bxd4+ 28.Kg2 Ne5 29.Bxb5+ Kxc5 30.Bd7+ Kc7 31.Bxc8 Rxc8 32.Rxb7 h5 +1.96/25.) **22...Bd8?!** (This is rather slow and doesn't address the issue of a6. Better is 22...Ne8 23.e4 Nc7 24.Ra5 +.97/24.) **23.g4?!** (I was too worried about 23...Nh5, forcing the B off the diagonal. Again, 23.b5! axb5 24.Ra7 +1.93/30 breaks through.) **23...Bc7** (Black could also try to distract and challenge with 23...h5 24.g5 Nh7 25.h4 Bc7 26.Bd2 Nf8 +1.37/25.) **24.Bd2!** (The B needed to be redeployed.) **24...h5** (Slightly better

is 24...Rb8 25.e3 g5 26.b5 h5 27.h3 +1.31/23.) **25.g5 Ng8 26.e4?! (Now my aggressiveness is not as warranted. Somewhat better is 26.e3 Ne7 27.b5 axb5 28.Bxb5+ Nc6 29.Ra7 +1.34/28.) 26...Ne7 27.b5 axb5 28.Bxb5+ Nc6 29.Ra7 Rb8 30.Bxc6+?! (I couldn't see how to break through now and so tried a last cheapo. White's best seemed to be 30.Rb1 Rhc8 31.Be3 Kd8 32.Raa1 Ra8 33.Kh1 g6 +.93/24.) 30...Kxc6! 31.e5 (And now Black can either play fortress, or try the active 31...f6 32.f4 fxe5 33.fxe5 Rhf8 +.49/24 and all White really has now is his space advantage, which is worthless.) 1/2-1/2**

C12/6 n34, Andy Huang(2220) - Tom Beckman(2076), Eastern Open, Rd5, Bd 12, Bethesda MD, 12/29/2015: **1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Bb4 (The MacCutcheon Variation is the best line.) 5.e5 h6 6.Bd2 (Slightly better is the 6.Be3, the Janowski Variation.) 6...Bxc3 7.bxc3 (Fischer once played 7.Bxc3 against Petrosian.) 7...Ne4 8.Nf3 (Safe and passive, but Black is now already slightly better. 8.Qg4 is the critical mainline.) 8...c5 9.Bd3 Nxd2 10.Qxd2 c4 (Another possibility is 10...Qa5 11.dxc5 Nd7 12.0-0 Nxc5 13.c4 N Qxd2 14.Nxd2 Bd7 15.cxd5 exd5 unclear, Hatanbaatar-I. Almasi, Koszeg 1998, 75/274). However, in the notes, Almasi suggested 10...c4!) 11.Be2 Bd7!? (Aagaard recommends 11...Nd7-b6-a4, but this doesn't seem to lead to an advantage.) 12.O-O**



12...Ba4 (And this is the novelty. Is the B strong or marooned? In retrospect, it is closer to marooned!) 13.Rab1 b5 (Slightly better is 13...b6.) 14.g3! (White knows or figured out the best redeployment of forces.) 14...Qe7 15.Nh4 Nc6 16.f4 g6 17.Ng2 (Here White could consider 17.Bf3 first.) 17...h5 18.Ne3 a5 (The Black Q should stay close to home. Weaker is 18...Qa3 19.Bf3 Rd8 20.f5! gxf5 21.Bxd5! Rxd5 22.Nxd5 exd5 23.Rxf5 h4 +.00/25.) 19.Bf3 O-O-O?! (Whisk the K out of danger or leave it in the center? Naturally I picked the weaker of the 2 options! Somewhat better is 19...Rd8

1) 20.a3 Qxa3 21.Ra1 Qe7 22.Qg2 Kf8 23.Qh3 Kg8 24.Rf2 Rh7 25.Qg2 Kh8 26.Qh3 Rb8 27.Rff1 Qd8 28.Rf2 Rc8 -.46/30
 2) 20.f5 gxf5 21.Bxd5 Rxd5 22.Nxd5 exd5 23.Rxf5 h4 24.Rf6 b4 25.gxh5 Rg8+ 26.Kh1 Qd7 27.Re1 Qg4 28.e6 fxe6 29.Rfxe6 Kd7 30.Qf2 -.81/27.)
20.Nd1?! (Somewhat better is 20.Qg2 h4 21.Nxd5 exd5 22.Bxd5 Rxd5 23.Qxd5 Qd7 24.Rxb5 Bxb5 25.Qxb5 hxg3 26.hxg3 Rh1+ 27.Kxh1 Qh3+ perp.) 20...Qa3! 21.Nb2 (Other tries are:

1) 21.Ne3 h4 22.g4 h3 23.Rfc1 Rh4 24.Kf2 Kd7 25.Nd1 Rb8
 a) 26.Ne3 Rbh8 27.Rg1 Kc8 28.Nd1 Rf8 29.Kg3 Rhh8 30.Re1 Kc7 31.Kf2 Rb8 32.Rb2 Rh7 -.50/26
 b) 26.f5 gxf5 27.gxf5 Rg8 28.Nb2 b4 29.Nxa4 Qxa4 -1.10/24
 2) 21.Rb2 b4 22.Rfc1 Bb5 23.Nd1 Kd7 24.Qe3 Rb8 25.Kf2 Ra8 26.Rb2 Ke7 27.Rcb1 Kf8 -.67/27.)

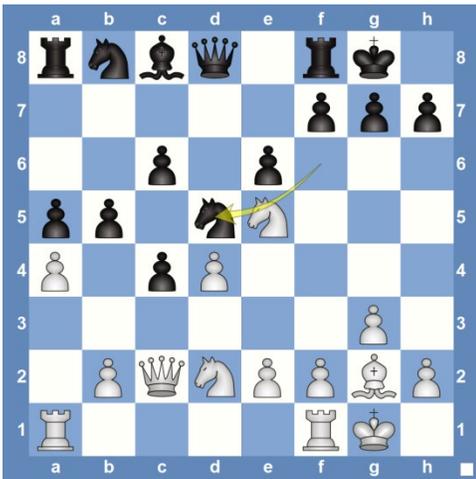
21...Kc7 (The start of the hallucinations. I didn't notice that the N would be defended after 21...b4! 22.Nxc4 dxc4. So, best is 21...b4 22.Rfc1 Bb5 23.Nd1 Kd7 24.Qe3 Rb8 25.Kf2 Ra8 26.Rb2 Ke7 27.Rcb1 Kf8 -.67/27.) 22.Rfc1 b4 23.Nd1 (Or 23.Qf2 Rb8 24.cxb4 axb4 25.Nd1 h4 -.71/25.) 23...Rb8 24.Kg2 (Or 24.Qe3 Kd8 25.Kf2 Ke7 26.Rb2 Bb5 27.Kg1 Kf8 -.67/25.) 24...Rb6?! (Surprisingly, somewhat better is 24...Kd7 25.Qe3 Ke7 -.67/25.) 25.Kf2 (25.cxb4 axb4 26.Ne3 Rb5 -.58/23.) 25...Rhb8 (Or 25...Rb7 26.Qe3 -.49/25.) 26.Ke3 (Or 26.Ra1 Kd7.) 26...bxc3 27.Qxc3 Qxc3+ 28.Nxc3 Rxb1 29.Rxb1 Rxb1 30.Nxb1 Bxc2 31.Nc3 Ne7 (Another try is 31...Kb6 32.Be2 Na7 {or 32...Nb4 33.a3} 33.Kd2 Bf5 34.Bd1 Nb5 35.Nxb5 Kxb5 36.a3 -.96/24 but there is no point of entry to win.) 32.Kd2 Bd3 33.Nb5+ Kc6 34.Nd6 Nf5 35.Nxf5 Bxf5 36.Bd1 Kb5 37.Kc3 a4 38.a3 1/2-1/2

Tom Beckman (2076) - Sahil Sinha (2234), Eastern Open, Rd 6, Bd 12, Bethesda MD, 12/29/2015: **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Bb4+ (While I am not a fan of the Bogo-Indian, it does have quite a following amongst masters. Options are 3...d5 with a Semi-Slav and 3...b6 with a QID.) 4.Bd2 a5 (This seems to be the most challenging of the options that include 4...Bxd2+, 4...Qe7, 4...c5, and 4...Be7.) 5.g3 (While this is the main move, other moves of interest are: 5.a3, 5.e3, and 5.Nc3:**

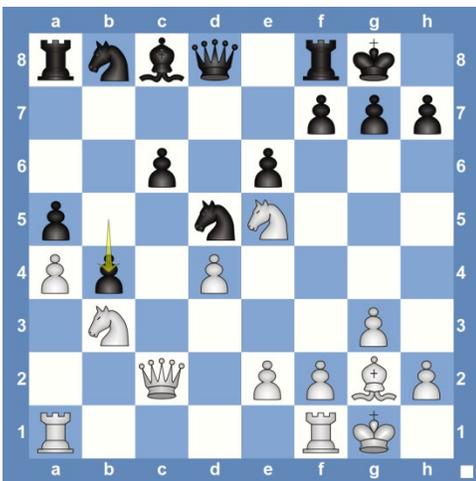
1) 5.a3 {Kaufman's recommendation} 5...Bxd2+
 a) 6.Nbd2! {not considered by Kaufman} 6...d6 7.e3 0-0 8.Bd3 b6 9.Qc2 g6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.e4 c5 12.d5 Re8 13.Rae1 Nbd7 14.Nb1 exd5 15.cxd5 c4 16.Bxc4 Rc8 17.Nd4 Ne5 18.b3 a4 {18...Nfg4 19.Nd2} 19.Qb2 2 Nxc4 20.bxc4 Nxe4 {20...Rxc4 21.Nd2 +.68/25} 21.Qb5 Ra8 22.Ra3 Qf6 +.51/27

- b) 6.Nfxd2 0-0 7.Nc3 d5 8.e3 b6 9.Rc1 Bb7 10.cxd5 exd5 11.Nf3 Nbd7 12.Bd3 c6 13.0-0 Re8 14.Qc2 g6 15.Rfe1 Qc7 16.h3 Qd6 +.20/24
- c) 6.Qxd2 b6 {Kaufman only considers 6...d6} 7.Nc3 Bb7 8.Qc2 Bxf3 9.gxf3 0-0 10.e3 Nc6 11.Be2 Ne7 12.0-0 c6 13.f4 d5 14.cxd5 cxd5 15.Rac1 +.13/25
- 2) 5.e3 0-0 6.Bd3 d5 7.0-0 b6 8.Nc3 Nbd7 9.cxd5 exd5 10.a3 Bxc3 11.Bxc3 Ne4 12.Qe2 Re8 13.Rfd1 Bb7 14.Rac1 Qe7 15.a4 Qf6 +.23/27
- 3) 5.Nc3 0-0 6.e3 b6 7.Bd3 d5 8.0-0 Nbd7 9.cxd5 exd5 10.Rc1 Bb7 11.Qc2 c5 12.Bb5 Ne4 13.dxc5 Bxc5 14.Rfd1 Nd6 +.15/23)
- 5...d5** (Or 5...0-0 6.Bg2 d5 7.0-0 dxc4 8.e3 Nd5 9.Qc2 b5 10.a4 bxa4 11.Nc3 Nd7 12.Nxa4 Ba6 13.Nc3 c5 14.e4 Ne7 +.17/26.) **6.Bg2 dxc4 7.0-0** (Or 7.Qc2 Bxd2+ 8.Nbxd2 b5 9.0-0 0-0 10.b3 {for 10.a4 c6, see the game} 10...cxb3 11.axb3 Bb7 12.Rfc1 c6 13.e3 Na6 14.Ne5 Nb4 15.Qd1 Qd6! 16.h4 Rfd8 17.Ne4 Nxe4 18.Bxe4 +.00/24.) **7...0-0 8.Qc2 Bxd2 9.Nbxd2 b5** (Where is the play for both players?) **10.a4** (Perhaps White should try 10.b3 cxb3 11.axb3 Bb7 12.Rfc1 c6 13.e3 Na6 14.Ne5 Nb4 15.Qb1 Qc7 +.00/25.) **10...c6 11.Ne5?!** (Also interesting is 11.Rfb1 S
- 1) 11...Nd5 12.e4 Nb4 {12...Ne7} 13.Qc3 Nd7 14.b3 Nb6 15.Bf1
- a) 15...f5 16.bxc4 Nxa4 17.Qb3 -.18/23
- b) 15...Bb7 16.bxc4 Nxa4 17.Qb3 Ba6 18.Rc1 Qe7 19.Qa3 Rfb8 20.c5 Qd8 +.20/23
- 2) 11...Bb7 12.b3 cxb3 13.Nxb3 b4 14.Ne5 Qc7 15.Rc1 Rc8 16.Qb2 Nd5 17.Nc5 Na6 18.e4 Nf6 19.Nb3 Nb8 20.d5 Re8 21.dxc6 Bxc6 22.Nxc6 Nxc6 23.Nd4 Ra6 24.Qc2 Rc8 25.Qc4 Qa7 26.e5 Nd5 27.Bxd5 exd5 28.Qxd5 Qa8 29.Nb5 Rd8 30.Qc5 Rd8 31.Qe3 h6 32.Nd6 Rf8 33.Rc4 Ne7 34.Rc5 +.00/23.)

11...Nd5



12.b3?! (Wrong move order! I forgot that I needed to avoid a weak isolated aP, and Black's passed bP. Therefore, best is 12.axb5! cxb5 13.b3 cxb3 14.Nxb3 f6 15.Nd3 a4 16.Nbc5 Na6 17.Rfb1 Rb8 18.Nxa6 Bxa6 19.e3 Qd6 20.Nc5 Rfc8 21.Qb2 g6 22.Bf1 Nc7 23.h4 f5 +.00/25 with adequate positional comp.) **12...cxb3?!** (Better is 12...f6! first and then 13.Nef3 cxb3 14.Nxb3 b4 15.e3 Nd7 16.Nfd2 -.25/26.) **13.Nxb3 b4**



14.Nxc6? (I was too materialistic, and failed to see how much this unleashed Black's pieces. White almost has sufficient positional comp after 14.Be4 g6 15.Rfc1 Nc3 16.Bf3 Qe7 17.Nc5 f6 18.Ned3 Rd8! {18...Ba6 19.Qb3 Bxd3 20.exd3 Nd7 21.Nxe6 =} 19.e3 Ba6 20.Qb3 Bxd3 21.Nxd3 Na6 -.33/24.) **14...Nxc6 15.Qxc6 Ra6! 16.Qb5?** (Blowing a tempo and misplacing the Q. Better, but not good, is 16.Qc4 Nc3 17.e3 e5 18.Rfc1 Qd6 19.Rxc3 bxc3 20.Qxc3 exd4 21.Nxd4 -.54/25.) **16...Nc3 17.Qe5 f6 18.Qe3 Rd6?!** (Now Black is winning, but even better is 18...e5! -1.40/23.) **19.Bf3?** (Too slow. Better is 19.Rac1 Ba6 20.Rfe1 e5 21.d5 Nxa4 -.98/23.) **19...Re8** (Again, 19...e5 -1.84/36 is crushing.) **20.Rfe1** (20.Rfc1 is somewhat better.) **20...Qb6** (20...e5 again.) **21.Qd2** (Or 21.d5 Qxe3 22.fxe3 exd5 23.Nxa5 -1.72/22.) **21...e5** (Or 21...Bd7, winning the aP.) **22.e3**

Bd7 23.Rec1 (Somewhat better is 23.Qc2.) **23...Bxa4** (And the rest is just mopup.) **24.Qb2 Bxb3 25.Qxb3+ Kf8 26.dxe5 Rxe5 27.Rxc3 bxc3 28.Qxc3 Rc5 29.Qa3 Qb4 30.Qxb4 axb4 31.Ra8+ Kf7 32.Rb8 Rc1+ 33.Kg2 Rb1 34.Be4 Rb2 35.Bxb7 Rdd2 36.Rb7+ Kf8 37.h4 Rxf2+ 38.Kh3 f5 0-1** Two of my opponents at the Eastern Open managed to find holes in my opening preparation. Partly this is because I haven't played enough games to encounter many standard situations.

C00/15 n88, Phil Collier(2200) - Tom Beckman(2076), Eastern Open, Rd7, Bd 55, Bethesda MD, 12/29/2015: **1.e4 e6 2.d3 d5 3.Nd2 c5 4.g3** (An interesting move order. White defers the normal 4.Ngf3 in favor of an early f4.) **4...Bd6** (Black wants to play the Karpov System in the KIA, one of Black's best setups.) **5.Bg2** (Likely best is ECO's suggestion of 5.Qg4 g6! N 6.Qe2 Nc6 7.Ngf3 Nge7 8.Nb3 h6 9.Bg2 b6 10.0-0 Kf8 11.d4 a5 12.dxc5 bxc5 13.c4 Bd6 14.Nbd2 Kg7 15.b3 Qb6 16.exd5 exd5 17.Bb2 d4 18.Ne4 Rad8 19.Rfe1 Bc8 +.12/25. Also of interest is 5.f4 Ne7 6.Ngf3 0-0 7.Bg2 Nbc6 8.0-0 f6 9.Qe2 Bc7 10.b3 Nb4 11.Qd1 Bd7! 12.a3 Nbc6 13.Bb2 b5 14.c4 a6 15.Re1 bxc4 16.bxc4 d4 17.Nb3 Rb8 18.Rb1 Bb6 19.e5 Nf5 20.Bc1 Qc7 +.00/23) **5...Ne7 6.Qe2?!** (The idea behind this move should fail tactically. Better are either:

1) 6.c4 dxc4 7.Nxc4 Nbc6 8.Ne2 0-0 9.0-0 Bc7 -.01/27

2) 6.f4 0-0 7.Bg2 Nbc6 8.0-0 f6 9.Qe2 Bc7 10.b3 b6 11.Bb2 d4 12.Nc4 b5 13.Ncd2 Rb8 14.a4 a6 15.Ba3 Bb6 16.Rf2 Bd7 -.31/20.)

6...0-0 (Even better is ignoring White's threat on the dP with 6...Nbc6! 7.f4 {7.exd5? exd5 8.Bxd5? Nd4} 7...0-0 8.Ngf3 b5 9.c4 bxc4 10.dxc4 Nd4 11.Qd3 Nec6 12.0-0 Rb8 13.Nxd4 cxd4 14.a3 dxc4 15.Qxc4 Na5 16.Qd3 Bd7 17.e5 Bb5 -.47/24.) **7.e5?!** (White is neglecting his development with his innovative play. Somewhat better is 7.f4 a5 8.Ngf3 Nbc6 9.0-0 a4 10.c3 b6 11.Nb1 dxe4 12.Qxe4 h6 13.Na3 Bb7 14.Qe2 Qd7 15.Be3 Na6 -.08/23.) **7...Bc7** (OK, where is White's play? Where is Black's play?) **8.f4 Nbc6 9.c3** (Or 9.Ngf3 Nf5 10.Nb3 b6 11.0-0 a5 12.a4 Ba6 13.Bd2 Qd7 14.Bh3 Rfe8 -.50/22.) **9...b6** (As 9.c3 does present a point of attack, Black should play 9...b5 {also with the idea of redeploying the KB to b6} 10.Ngf3 Nf5 {this is playable with the Q still at d8 so on 11.g4 Na4} 11.Nb3 Bb6 12.Be3 Nxe3 13.Qxe3 b4 14.c4 a5 15.Nbd2 a4 16.a3 b3 17.0-0 Qc7 -.52/24.) **10.Ngf3 Ba6** (I thought about inserting 10...a5 first before Ba6. However, after 10...a5 11.a4 Ba6 12.0-0 Qd7 13.b3 Nf5 14.Bb2 Rad8 -.30/26. Stockfish prefers 10...Bb7 11.0-0 Nf5 12.Nb1 b5 13.Na3 b4 14.Nc2 Bb6 15.Ne3 Nfe7 16.Bd2 Qd7 17.Rac1 a5 18.c4 a4 19.cxd5 exd5 20.a3 b3 21.Kh1 Rad8 22.Rfe1 Bc8 -.23/23.) **11.0-0 Qd7** (So far so good. Black has completed his development while White hasn't. Only the blocked/closed position is saving White. Preferable is 11...Nf5 12.Re1 Bb7 -.26/22.) **12.Re1** (Also interesting is playing on the Q-side with 12.a3 Nf5 13.b4 f6 +.06/23.) **12...Rae8** (For some odd reason, I wanted to open the center with f6. This is completely counter to the position. Black's play is on the Q-side, not the center. If Black opens the center, it only helps White's pieces and allows him to pound on e6 with Bh3 and Ng5. Slightly better options are 12...Bb7 13.a3 a5 -.18/24 or 12...Nf5 13.a3 Bb7 -.27/22.) **13.Bf1?!** (The B was fine on g2. Here White should get his K-side play rolling with 13.Nh4! Rc8 14.a3 b5 15.Ndf3 Bb6 16.Be3 h6 17.Nd2 Bb7 18.Bf2 -.05/23.) **13...d4** (I have had success with d4 in similar positions, but this allows White into e4 with his N. Curiously, my plan to open the center works here after the somewhat better is 13...Nf5 14.Bh3 {logical, White preps f5} 14...f6 15.exf6 gxf6 16.Nh4 Ng7 17.Ndf3 d4 18.c4 Bb7 19.a3 Bd6 -.20/24.) **14.c4** (Although this is OK, White shouldn't wait to play 14.Ne4 Bb7 15.Bd2 Nf5 +.00/24.) **14...b5?!** (Losing. I told myself that I needed to play faster earlier, but this is ridiculous. I was so tired that I didn't even generate the obvious 15.Ne4. Since the tactics don't work, Black should redeploy his QB with 14...Bb7 15.Ne4 Nf5 -.04/23.) **15.Ne4?!** (Oddly, even better is 15.Nb3 Bb6?! 16.cxb5 Bxb5 17.a4 Ba6 18.a5 Nb4 19.axb6 axb6 +1.50/24.) **15...Bb6 16.cxb5 Bxb5 17.Nd6?!** (Seduced by the win of an exchange, neither of us saw the best move: 17.a4! Ba6 18.Bd2 Rc8 19.a5 Bd8 20.Nxc5 Qc8 +1.14/24.) **17...Nb4!** (Upset with myself for missing Ne4, at least I found the saving move here.) **18.Qd1?!** (Better is the complex 18.Nxe8 and now Black has two good alternatives:

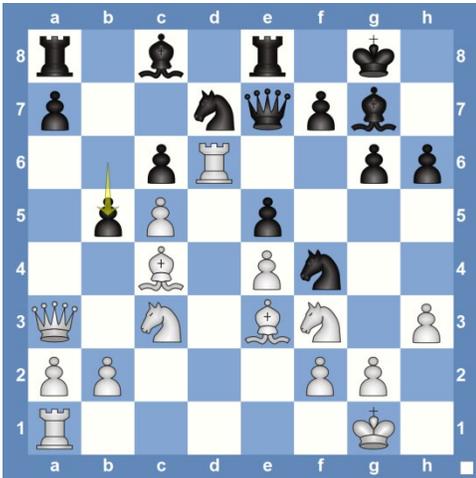
1) 18...Rxe8 19.Qd1 Bc6 20.Bd2 {20.Ng5 h6} 20...Bxf3 21.Qxf3 Nc2 22.b3 Nxa1 23.Rxa1 Qb5 24.Qb7 Nd5 25.f5 Re7 +.00/24

2) 18...Bxd3 19.Qd2 Bxf1 20.Nxg7 Kxg7 21.Rxf1 Qc6 22.a3 {for 22.b3} 22...Nbd5 23.Qd3 c4 24.Qe4 c3 25.bxc3 dxc3 26.Kh1 Rc8 27.Re1 Qc4 =.)

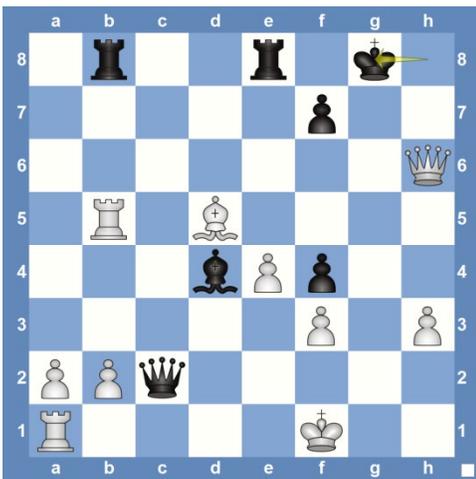
18...Rd8?! (Why not to the half-open file with 18...Rb8 19.Ng5 Nf5 20.Nxb5 Qxb5 21.b3 Nd5 22.Bd2 Nde3 23.Qb1 Ba5 24.Bxa5 Qxa5 -.17/39.) **19.Ng5! Nf5** (I considered 19...h6, but didn't see White's threat. However, 19...h6 20.Nge4 Bc6 21.a3 Nbd5 22.Qc2 Nc8 +.27/25 isn't very different from the game.) **20.Nxf5 exf5 21.e6!** (Oops.) **21...fxe6 22.Nxe6 Rfe8?** (This is the real culprit! Why move the R, wasting a valuable tempo? Just improve the activity of the pieces with 22...Bc6 and now either: 23.Re3 c4 24.Bd2 c3 25.Nxd8 +.18/28, or 23.Nxf8 Kxf8 24.Re5 c4 25.Qh5 g6 26.Qh4 Re8 27.Rxe8+ Kxe8 +.00/25.) **23.Nxd8 Rxe1** (Slightly better is 23...Rxd8 24.a3 Nd5 25.a4 Ba6 26.a5 Bc7 +1.05/26.) **24.Qxe1 Nc2** (Slightly better is 24...Bxd8 25.Qd2 g6 26.b3 Nd5 +1.21/27.) **25.Qe2?** (This passive move accomplishes very little and lets Black back in game. Winning is 25.Qe5 Bxd8 26.Rb1 h6 27.b3 +1.42/31.) **25...Nxa1 26.Ne6 c4?** (Black ignores White's threat of Qe5 again. Equal is 26...Qd6! 27.b3 +.05/26.) **27.Qe5 cxd3?!** (I'm looking at 28.Qc8+ Qe8 29.Qxe8+ Bxe8 +.30/25 thinking I can survive. I TOTALLY overlooked the crushing 28.Qxf5. Clearly I was exhausted! Somewhat better is 27...c3 28.Bg2 Bc4 29.dxc4 +2.89/27.) **28.Qxf5 Qf7** (Or 28...Qc8 +4.09/22.) **29.Qxb5 Qxe6 30.Qxd3?** (The Q was stronger on b5 and the B more active on d3. Winning easily is 30.Bxd3 a6 31.Qxa6 Qc6 +4.53/23.) **30...Qd5?** (Trying for a cheapo...move the Q, darn it! Better is 30...Nc2 +1.27/22.) **31.b3?!** (31.Bg2 would have decided the game after 31...Qc5 32.Bd2 Nc2 33.b4 Qh5 34.Bf3 Qe8 +2.17/26.) **31...Nc2** (Black finally sees the best move. Or 31...g6 32.Bd2.) **32.Bg2??** (Oh no, not on this move! Winning is 32.Bd2 g6 33.a4 Bc5 +1.87/27.) **32...Qc5??** (Tactical rules 1 & 2!) **33.Be4?** (This really doesn't threaten much, although it looked scary. Much better is 33.Bd2 Nb4 34.Bxb4 Qxb4 +1.27/27.) **33...Nb4 34.Qc4+ Qxc4 35.bxc4 Nxa2** (The smoke has cleared and Black is still on the board.) **36.Ba3** (Slightly better is 36.Bd5+ Kh8 37.Ba3 Nc3 +.36/23.) **36...Nc3 37.Bd3 Na4 38.Kf1 Nc5?!** (I couldn't decide whether 38...Nc5 or 38...Bc5 was better. If I play 38...Bc5, I get rid of my bad B but the position remaining is B vs. N on an open board. My move may be more static, but if White takes, it is opposite color Bs and drawable. However, my thinking ignored the most important feature of the position: Black's aP! After 38...Bc5!, White shouldn't play 39.Bxc5? Nxc5 40.Ke2 a5 -1.15/25, due to the aP runner. So {not Wesley}, White would avoid the exchange with 39.Bc1 Nc3 +.18/22.) **39.Ke2 g6 40.Bb2** (Slightly better is 40.Bc2 Kg7 41.Bb2 Na6 42.Kf3 Nb4 +.62/32.) **40...Na4 41.Ba1!?** (Weird. I thought this move was poor as it buries the B. However, Stockfish loved it! I prefer 41.Bc1 Nc3+ 42.Kd2 Bc5 43.Kc2 Kf7 +.34/25. And I thought that Phil's move prevented 41...Nc3.) **41...Kf7** (Stockfish prefers 41...Nc3+ 42.Kd2 Kg7 43.Kc2 Na2 +.36/32.) **42.f5** (Or 42.h3 a5 +.42/23.) **42...g5** (Slightly better is 42...gxf5 43.Bxf5 h6 +.47/23, but I was worried about the weak hP.) **43.Kf3?** (Better is 44.g4 Kf3 45.Bc2 Nc3 +.55/23, and White has the protected passed fP

for insurance.) **43...h5?!** (Black is equal after 43...Kf6 44.Bc2 Nc3 =.) **44.h3?!** (Somewhat better is 44.Bc2 Nc3 45.g4 hxg4 46.Kxg4 +.33/36.) **44...Kf6 45.g4** (Weaker is 45.Bc2 Nc3 46.Bb2 =.) **45...h4?!** (OK, I don't know endgames! Apparently 45...hxg4 46.hxg4 is equal.) **46.Ke4??** (Honest, I didn't think Phil would play this! Much better is 46.Bc2 Nc3 47.Bb2 Bd5 +.62/24.) **46...Nc5+ 47.Kxd4 Nb3+ 48.Kd5** (Or 48.Kc3 Nxa1 49.Be2 Ke5 -2.01/23.) **48...Nxa1 49.c5 Bc7 50.Kc4** (Or 50.Kc6 Bf4.) **50...Ke5 51.Kb4** (Or 51.Be4 Bd8 52.Bd3 a5 -2.48/23.) **51...a5+ 52.Ka4 Kd5 53.f6** (Or 53.Kb5 Bd8.) **53...Kxc5 54.f7 Bd6 55.Ka3? Kd4+ 56.Ka2 Kxd3 57.Kxa1 Ke3 0-1** Punch drunk in Round 7.

E90/5 n34f Larry Gilden-Alex Wang, Eastern Open Rd1, 12-26-15: **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 O-O 6.Be3** (Normal is 6.Be2 and then either 7.0-0 or 7.Be3.) **6...Nbd7 7.h3** (Another plan reverts to the classical KID with 7.Be2.) **7...e5 8.dxe5 dxe5 9.c5?!** (Sorry, but the P looks weak here. 9.Be2 appears better with a normal KID Exchange variation.) **9...c6?!** (But what if Black plays 9...Qe7! 10.b4 {10.Rc1 c6} 10...a5 11.a3 b6! 12.c6 axb4! 13.cxd7 Bxd7 14.Nd5 Nxd5 15.Qxd5 Rxa3 16.Rc1 b3! 17.Be2 Be6 18.Qb5 Ra5 19.Qc6 Ra2 -.24/24.) **10.Qa4 Qe7 11.Qa5 Re8 12.Bc4 h6** (Not much better is 12...Nf8 13.0-0 Be6 14.Bxe6 Nxe6 15.Nxe5 Ng5 16.Bxg5 Qxe5 +.24/25.) **13.O-O Nh5 14.Rfd1 Nf4 15.Rd6 b6 16.Qa3 b5**



17.Bxf4? (This almost loses because it gives up a good B, and opens up too many lines for Black's pieces. Much better is 17.Bf1 +.25/22.) **17...exf4 18.Nxb5 cxb5 19.Bd5 Rb8 20.Qxa7 Bb7?** (Stronger is either 20...Kh7 21.Bxf7 Qxf7 22.c6 Ne5 23.Qxb8 Nxf3+ 24.gxf3 Bxb2 25.Rad1 Be5 26.Qxb5 Bxd6 27.Rxd6 Bxh3 24.a4 Qe7 -.94/25 or 20...Ne5 21.Qxb8 Nxf3+ 22.Kh1! Ng5 23.Rxg6 Bf5 24.Rxg7+ Kxg7 25.Qxf4 Bxe4 -.87/26.) **21.Bxb7?** (21.Rd1 Nxc5 22.Qxc5 Bxd5 23.Qxd5 Qxe4 24.Qxe4 Rxe4 25.b4 -.25/25.) **21...Ne5 22.Rb6?!** (Somewhat better is 22.Nxe5 Bxe5 23.Qa3 Rxb7 24.Qxf3 Rxb6 25.cxb3Rxb6 25.cxb6 -2.65/22. Or 22.Qa6 Rxb7 23.Rad1 Nxf3+ 24.gxf3 Reb8 -3.02/27.) **22...Nxf3+ 23.gxf3 Qxc5?** (23...Bd4! is crushing after 24.Rxg6+ {24.Rxb5? Qh4 # in 9} 24...fxg6 25.Bd5+ Kf8 26.Qxe7+ -3.26/24.) **24.Qa6?** (Better is 24.Bc6! or 24.Rd1 -21/22.) **24...Bd4?** (Strong is 24...Re5! 25.h4 Qc7 -2.02/24.) **25.Rxb5 Bxf2+ 26.Kf1 Qc2 27.Bd5 Bd4 28.Qxg6+ Kh8 29.Qxh6+ Kg8**



30.Qg6+? (As Larry pointed out, 30.Bxf7+ wins.) **30...Kh8 31.Qh5+ Kg7 32.Qxf7+ Kh8 33.Qh5+ Kg7 34.Qg5+ Kh7 35.Qh4+ Kg7 36.Qg5+ Kh7 37.Qh4+ Kg7 38.Qg4+ Kh8 39.Qh5+ Kg7 40.Qg5+ 1/2-1/2** A game with some very crazy, misleading tactics!