

**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...???

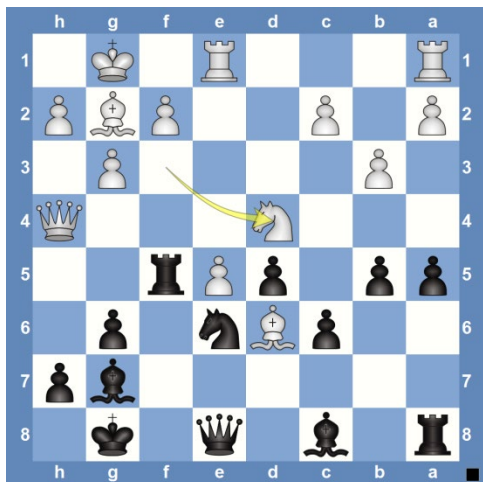


Nah! Apparently Zheng believed it so and played **20...Nxb2? 21.Bh6! Nxd1 22.Ncd5 Qd8 23.Nxe7+ Qxe7 24.Bg5 a5?** (However, here Black has the fine resource 24...Ne3! 25.Bxf6 Qxf6 26.Qxf6 Nxf1 with some chances to survive.) **25.Bxf6 Qc7 26.Qd2 1-0**

**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...???

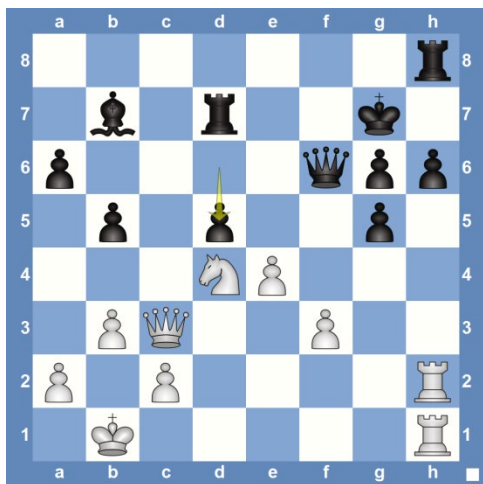


I played **21...Rh5?** (Trying to mix things up, but perhaps Black shouldn't. This helps the White Q escape. We both overlooked the amazing positional sacrifice **21...Rf4!!** **22.gxf4 Nxd4** **23.f5 Nxf5** **24.Qf4 Bh6** **25.Qf3 Nh4** with some chances to save the game.) **22.Qg4** and White won.

**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+ Rxxh6** **34.Rxxh6 d4** **35.Rxxg6+.**)

**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.

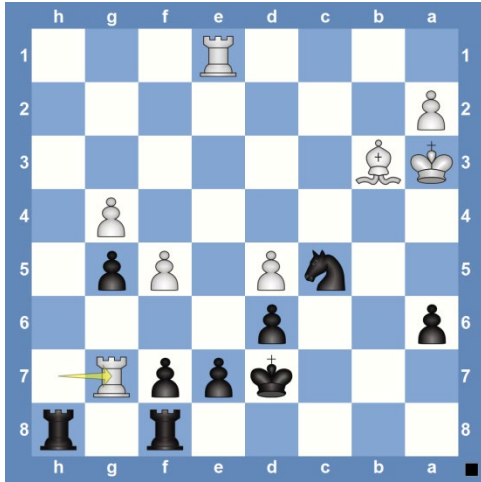
**Just Another Boring Endgame?:** Daniel Lowinger (2226) - Andy Samuelson (2312) (4)

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...???**



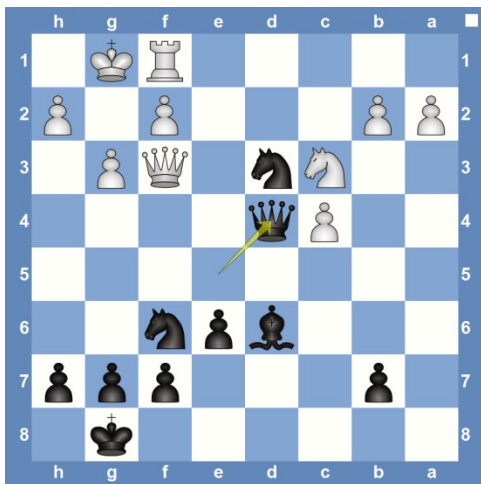
**33...Rh3! 34.Rxg5?** (Desperate, but after the better 34.Re2 a5 35.Kb2 Nd3+ 36.Ka3 Rb8! 37.Rxf7 Ne5 38.Rxe5 {else 38...Nc4+ and 39...Rb4#}, Black still wins.) **34...a5 35.Rc1** (35.Rh5 Rg3.) **35...a4 36.Rxc5 dxc5 37.Kxa4 f6** (Or 37...Kd6.) **38.Rg7 Kd6 39.Rg6** (The White R and B make a sorry pair!)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

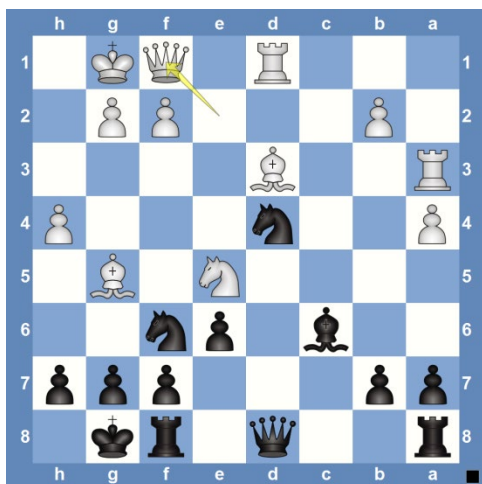
**In the Footnotes:** GM Alexander Shabalov (2622) - GM Sergey Erenburg (2653) (4)

Comments are by the tournament winner.

White has just played **21.Qf1** although **21.Qe3** would have been stronger.

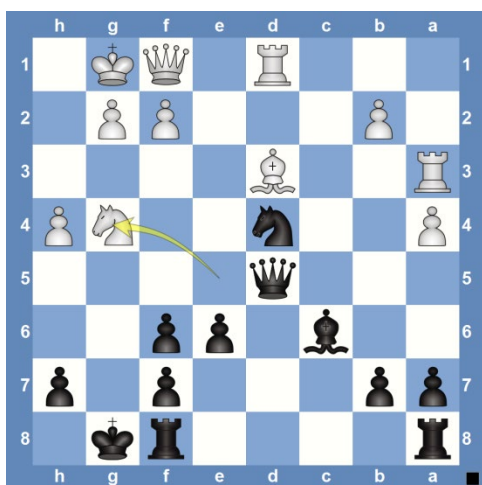
How did Black respond?

**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.