

GM Alexander Shabalov Blitzes the Opposition at the 44th Eastern Open

by Tom Beckman

Tournament Results: The move to Tyson's Corner VA increased the turnout to 205 players in the 6-section, 7-round Eastern Open over December 27-30, 2017. GM Alexander Shabalov scored a perfect 7 wins. The decisive game came in round 4 when GM Shabalov downed GM Aleksandr Lenderman (last year's winner) to take a full-point lead over the field. GM Alexander Lenderman took 2nd with 5½ points. Section winners were:

Section	Winners	Score
Open	GM Alexander Shabalov	7
U2200	Ali Mirafzali	6
U1900	Matthew Orye & Arnav Tamna Gupta	5½
U1600	Carson Collier & Andrew Guo	5½
U1300	Sherlock Grigsby II	5
U1000	Ryan Ho	6

In addition to the main tournament, a day-long Scholastic tourney drew 57 players in 3 sections, and the Blitz tourney consisted of 38 entrants. A lecture by Alex Lenderman on active and defensive prophylaxis showcased the event.

Due to the number of fine submissions, it was quite difficult to settle on the winners of the special prizes, the source for this article. The number of special prizes were increased in the 3 categories: Best Played Game/Best Fighting Spirit, Brilliancy, and Opening Innovation. A tournament e-booklet was sent out to all participants containing over 50 annotated and raw game scores, as well as brilliancies, puzzles, and an opening survey.

Featured Games from the 2017 Eastern Open:

All In: Both Alexs had perfect scores going into round 4, and it was likely that this game would determine the eventual tournament winner. This game won the 2nd prize for Best Played Game.

QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED (D30)

GM Alexander Shabalov (2629)

GM Aleksandr Lenderman (2687)

44th Annual Eastern Open (4)

Tyson's Corner, Virginia, 12.29.17

Notes by GM Alexander Shabalov (AS), GM Aleksandr Lenderman (AL), and Tom Beckman (TB)

1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. Nf3 a6!?

(AS) Wait a minute, this is exactly what I played against Lenderman a year ago at the same tournament with the colors reversed! While it is not a bad move itself, Alex lamented his choice after the game saying that inclusion of 3...Nf6 4.Nc3 is necessary if black intends to play this line. This is a little extreme statement, no doubt influenced by game result, and a lot of strong players, including Mamedyarov, would disagree. An out of form (and out of luck) Magnus Carlsen playing Black lost against his own second and good friend, Jon Ludwig Hammer, in the last round at Stavanger 2015. An unenviable situation for the Champion. It is therefore not a surprise that Carlsen now chooses to play something slightly different... 3... Nf6 4. g3 leads to a standard Catalan after 4... a6 5. Bg2 dxc4, and 4. Nc3 a6 is the move order Black is looking for.

(AL) Black should wait for White to play Nc3 before venturing a6. Thus, if 3. Nc3, then 3...a6 is OK; or if 3...Nf6 4. Nc3, then 4...a6 is OK.

4. Nbd2!?

(AS) Played after 20 minutes thinking. I seriously considered active options like:

1) 4. cxd5 exd5 5. Nc3 c6 6. e4 ((TB) 6. Bf4 may be better) 6 ...dxe4 7. Ng5 Nh6 8. Bc4 Be7 9. Ncxe4 Bf5 10. d5 O-O 11. O-O cxd5 12. Bxd5 Nc6 13. h3 Nb4 14. Bb3 Qd3 {1/2-1/2 (14)

Hammer,J (2630)-Andreikin,D (2734) chess.com INT 2017, or

2) 4. Bg5 1-0 (34) Hammer,J (2677)-Carlsen,M (2876) Stavanger 2015.

But in the end, I decided to stick with pregame plan: to check out how Alex's defense to the Catalan is doing.

4... Nf6?!

(AS) And this is already a misstep. However, 4... c5 deserved serious attention. It is hard to believe but the game can quickly stir into uncharted territory as early as move 6 in major 1.d4 opening! After 5. cxd5

- 1) 5... exd5 6. e4!? (Or 6. g3 Nc6 7. Bg2 Nf6 8. O-O Be6 with a kind of Tarrash setup) and now either:
 - a) 6... cxd4 7. exd5 with a totally original and fresh position, or
 - b) 6... Nf6 7. exd5 cxd4 8. Bc4 b5 9. Bd3 Be7 10. Nb3 Qxd5 11. Nbx4
- 2) (TB) 5... cxd4 6. Qa4+ b5 7. Qxd4 exd5 =
(AL) Weaker is 4... dxc4 5. Nxc4 b5 6. Nce5 f6 (6... Bb7 7. a4) 7. Nd3 ±

5. g3!

(AS) That's the point. While Nbd2 is a program move for White, a6 without taking on c4 first is does not look smart for Black.

(AL) This setup with Nbd2 and g3 is probably just good for White. That's why it's more accurate if you want to play the systems with a6, to play it only once White's knight is already on c3.

5... dxc4

(AS) 5... c5 now is a bit too late as after 6. Bg2 Nc6 7. O-O cxd4 8. cxd5 Nxd5 9. Nb3 White has a pleasant advantage.

(AL) 5... c5 6. Bg2 Nc6 7. O-O cxd4 8. cxd5 Nxd5 9. Nb3 Be7 10. Nbx4 Nxd4 11. Qxd4 +/-

6. Nxc4 b5

(AS) There are 2 additional options:

- 1) 6... b6 7. Bg2 Bb7 8. Nce5 Ra7 9. O-O Bd6 10. Bg5 O-O
 - a) 11.Qc1 and 1-0 (37) Istratescu,A (2589)-Secheres,A (2332) Corund 2017
 - b) (TB) Slightly better is 11. Rc1 Be7 12. Qa4 h6 13. Bxf6 gxf6 14. Ng4 f5 15. Nge5 Be4 16. Qb3 Qd5 17. Qe3 with a nice edge
- 2) 6... c5 led to a famous masterpiece in 7. Bg2 Nc6
 - a) 8. Nfe5 Nxe5 9. dxe5 Qxd1+ 10. Kxd1 Nd7 11. a4 Rb8 12. a5 ((TB) Slightly better is 12. Kc2 b6 13. Rd1 Bb7 14. Bxb7 Rxb7 15. Be3 ±) and 1-0 (36) Andersson,U (2640)-Lautier,J (2620) Biel 1996, or
 - b) 8. O-O!? cxd4 9. Bf4 Nd5? 10. Nxd4 Nxd4 11. Qxd4 winning.

7. Nce5 Bb7

(AS) Knowing how the game went, it is easy to recommend 7... Bb4+ 8. Bd2 Bxd2+ 9. Qxd2 Bb7 10. Bg2 O-O 11. Rc1 Qd6 12. O-O +/- but then Black has to forever abandon any ambitions of playing c5.

8. Bg2 Qc8

(AS) 8... Qc8 is an unfortunate necessity as Nxf7 followed by Ne5+ was already in the air. 8... Bd5 9. O-O Be7 10. Bg5 h6 11. Bxf6 Bxf6 12. Qc2 ±

(AL) Alternatives are:

- 1) 8... Bd5 9. O-O h6 (9... Nbd7 10. Bg5 or 10. Nxd7) 10. Bf4 (10. a4) ±
- 2) 8... Be7 9. Nxf7 Kxf7 10. Ng5+ +-

9. O-O Be7 10. Bf4 O-O 11. Rc1 Ra7

(AS) With simple moves, White achieved almost a decisive advantage and now has to choose from bunch of good plans.

(TB) Or 11... Be4 12. Ng5 Bxg2 13. Kxg2 Qb7+ 14. Kg1 Nd5 15. e4 Nxf4 16. gxf4 ±

12. Bh3

(AS) The Computer also likes to prepare for e4, but does it more precisely with 12. Nd3! Bd5 13. Re1 ±.

12... Bd5 13. Nd2 Qd8 14. Qc2 Nh5

(AS) After 14... Ba8 15. e4 Qxd4 16. Nxf7 Kxf7 17. Be3, White is winning.

15. Be3 f5 16. f3

(TB) Here White has several more promising options:

- 1) 16. Bg2 Nf6 17. Rfd1 a5 18. Bxd5 Nxd5 ±
- 2) 16. Nb3 ± stops c5 and puts Black in a permanent bind
- 3) 16. g4 fxg4 17. Bxg4 Nf6 18. Bf3 ±



16... Bd6?!

(AS) About 40 years ago, Mark Dvoretzky was giving a lecture on methods to change the course of poorly developing games during an annual Russian junior camp in the Armenian mountains. Had Alex Lenderman been at the camp, he would definitely choose to play c5 now or on the next move. After 16... c5!? 17. dxc5, Black can reach a reasonable position with either:

- 1) 17...Bf6 18. Bd4 Nd7 19. f4 g5 20. c6 Rc7
 - a) 21. Qd3 Bxe5 22. fxe5 Rxc6 23. Rxc6 Bxc6 24. Rc1 Bb7 +/-
 - b) 21. Qd1 Bxe5 22.fxe5 Bxc6 23.e4 g4 24. Bg2 +/- (TB), or
- 2) 17... f4 18. Bd4 fxg3 19. e3 gxh2+ 20. Kxh2 Qe8 21. f4 Bf6 +/- (TB)

17. Bf2 Qg5?

(AS) Better is 17... c5 18. e4 Ba8 19. Rce1 (or 19. f4 cxd4 20. Qb3 ±) 19... Rc7 20. exf5 cxd4 21. Qb1 ±

(AL) For better or worse, 17... c5 18. e4 Ba8 had to be tried here to get the rook from a7 into the game. Since I didn't play c5, I didn't have real chances after that.

18. Bg2

(AS) Now it is all over. Like in countless games before this one a well prepared e2-e4 wins in a 1.d4 opening.

18... Qh6 19. e4 Bb7 20. exf5 Rxf5 21. Ng4

(AL) 21. g4 also wins easily of course.

21... Qg6 22. d5 Ra8 23. dxe6 Qxe6 24. Rfe1 Qf7

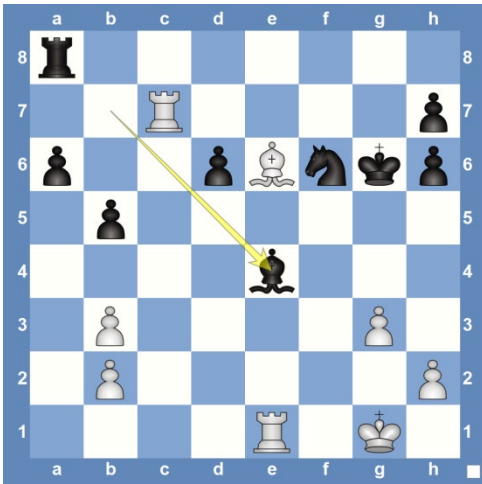


25. Bh3!

(AS) The key move that forces Black to sacrifice an exchange without a compensation.

25... Rxf3 26. Nxf3 Qxf3 27. Qb3+ Qxb3 28. axb3 Nd7 29. Nh6+! gxh6 30. Bxd7 Nf6 31. Be6+ Kg7 32. Bc5 Kg6 33. Bxd6 cxd6 34. Rc7 Be4

(AS) Here comes a thematic finish that reminds me of the famous Reti-Alekhine Baden-Baden 1925 finale.



35. Rxe4! Nxe4 36. Bd5 Re8 37. Bf7+, Black resigned.

Shabba's Secret Sauce: Alex had four games with Black in the tournament, and he was very consistent in his treatment of the opening. However, it was a very obscure variation, and to this author's skeptical eye, it seemed dubious at best. So, I asked Shabba about it, and was floored by his response:

1. e4 Nc6 2. d4 d6!

I must explain a little about this move order which New in Chess called a Pirc-Nimzo hybrid, which I believe is accurate. My personal journey into this line began in August 2017, when James Schuyler played it against me in the last round, I reacted with my standard three pawn's attack and quickly was worse.

3. Nc3 Nf6 4. f4 e5 5. d5 Ne7 6. Nf3 exf4 7. Bxf4 Ng6 8. Bg3 Be7 9. Bb5+ Bd7 10. Bxd7+ Qxd7?!

The first step in a wrong direction. After 10... Nxd7 11. O-O Bf6, Black is already better.

11. h3 O-O 12. Nd4 c6?!

And this is another false step as Black helps White to get rid of his e4 weakness.

13. O-O cxd5 14. exd5 Rfe8 15. Nf5 Rac8 16. Qd4 Bd8 17. Kh1 Ne5 18. Rae1 Rc4 19. Qxa7! +- 1-0 (35) Shabalov,A-Schuyler,J Norfolk (US Open) 2017

Everyone in Virginia knows that James plays this opening pretty much all of his life and in 2013 published a wonderful book (Everyman Chess) on the subject. But because not too many people know James outside of the state - nobody paid attention. Recently there were two events that hopefully will change that.

First there was an article by Jeroen Bosch in #6 New in Chess magazine of 2017 that drew attention of few players (including myself. and I went 4-0 with it at the Eastern Open! Thanks Jeroen!) My biggest surprise came when I started analyze my games from Tyson's Corner and realized that I was not the only one who took a note of Bosch's suggestions.

There were a few other guys, and that's right, one of them was Magnus Carlsen, who employed it with a great success at the World Rapid and Blitz, occurring at the same time as the Eastern Open. Anand and Bortnyk escaped after being seriously worse and Movsesian lost badly. What is the main attraction of this line? In my opinion, what Black does is to draw opponents into a King's Indian structure, which is a challenge for many 1.e4 players.

The following game is an nice illustration of this concept. My opponent had a great tournament, beating a bunch of higher-rated players, but in this game he just could not get around without his dark square bishop.

**PIRC-NIMZO HYBRID,
SCHUYLER'S DARK KNIGHT SYSTEM (B00)**

Missaka Warusawitharana (2190)
GM Alexander Shabalov (2629)
44th Annual Eastern Open (7)
Tyson's Corner, Virginia, 12.30.17
Notes by GM Alexander Shabalov

1. e4 Nc6 2. d4 d6! 3. c4 e5 4. d5 Nb8 5. Nc3 g6 6. Be3 Bh6

Slightly better was 6...h5! 7. Qd2 Bh6 8. Nf3 Nd7.

7. Qd2 Bxe3 8. Qxe3 Kf8 9. Bd3

Or 9. c5 Nd7 10. cxd6 cxd6 11. Be2.
(TB) 9. h4 h5 10. 0-0-0 Nf6 11. Be2 Kg7 12. Rf1 is also interesting.

9... Kg7 10. Nge2 Nh6 11. h3 c6 12. O-O-O

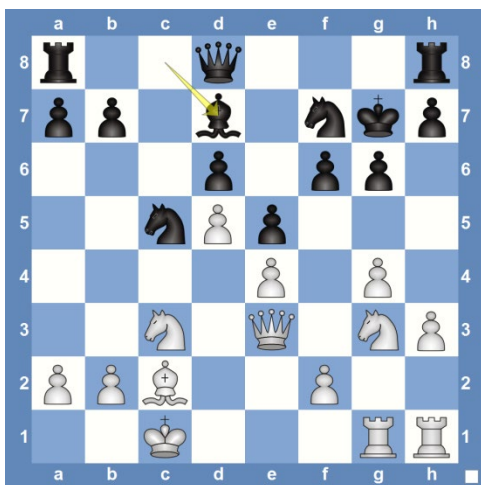
It seems that the idea to castle long is a mistake in this structure. White is unable to open files on the king-side, while Black has all the time in the world on the opposite side.

12. ... cxd5 13. cxd5 Nd7 14. g4 f6 15. Rdg1

Weaker was 15. f4 Nc5 16. Kb1 Nxd3.

15... Nf7 16. Ng3 Nc5 17. Bc2 Bd7

Somewhat better was 17... b5! 18. Nxb5 Qb6 19. Nc3 Rb8 20. Nd1 Ba6.



18. Kb1

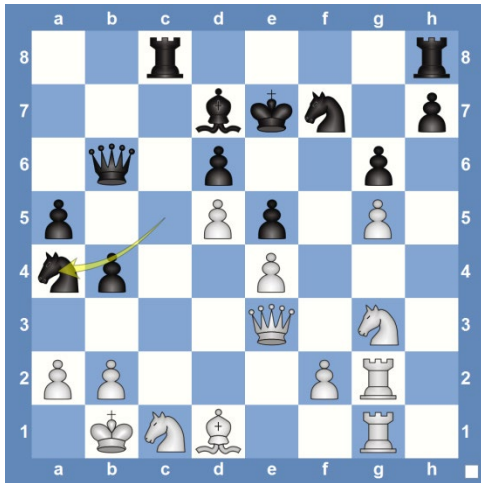
Or 18. b4 Na6 19. a3 Nc7 20. Bd3 Rc8 21. Kb2 Na8.

(TB) White's last chance for counter-play was 18. h4!? Bxg4 19. f3 Bc8! 20. Nf5+ Kf8 21. Nh6 Qb6 22. Qd2 with mutual chances.

18... a5 19. Rh2 b5 20. Bd1 Qb6 21. Rhg2 b4 22. Nce2 Rac8 23. Nc1 Kf8 24. h4 Ke7 25. g5?!

Another misstep. White creates a weakness which will decide any endgames in Black's favor. He should have started bringing his pieces to defend his king.

25...fxg5 26. hxg5 Na4



27. Qd2? (27. Nf1! +/-) **27... Nc3+ 28. Ka1 Nxd1 29. Rxd1 Rc4 30. Qe1 Rhc8 31. Nf1 Bh3 32. Rh2** (32. Rg3 Qxf2 -+) **32... Bg4 33. f3** (33. Ne3 Bxd1 34. Nxc4 Qd4 -+) **33... Bxf3 34. Nd2 Bxd1 35. Nxc4 Rxc4 36. Qxd1 Nxg5 37. Qd2 Qg1 38. Kb1 Ke8! 0-1**

Chess Pirates: This amazing game won the 1st prize for Best Fighting Spirit, an Opening Innovation prize, and it was the first time that a player outside of the Open section has won a special prize.

FRENCH DEFENSE, WINAWER GAMBIT, EUWE VARIATION (C18)

Stephen Jablon (1980)

Konstantin Molodtsov (1984)

44th Annual Eastern Open (5)

Tysons Corner, Virginia, 12.29.17

Notes by Stephen Jablon

Konstantin Molodtsov and I have faced each other many times as we are both regulars at the National Institutes of Health Chess Club. During this rivalry, he has opted for a French Winawer whenever he had the black pieces, and I have always responded with the rare Euwe Variation. But while the same position keeps arising after White's tenth move, we try to outfox each other by coming up with new ideas later on.

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. e5 c5 5. a3 Bxc3+ 6. bxc3 Ne7 7. Qg4 cxd4 8. Qxg7 Rg8 9. Qxh7 Qc7 10. Kd1

This move initiates the Euwe Variation. He was threatening both 10. ... Qxc3+ followed by 11. ... Qxa1, and 10. ... Qxe5+ followed by 11. ... dxc3. The most common way of answering both threats is 10. Ne2, but 10. Kd1 ensured that my knight could quickly go to g5 via f3 and that my light-squared bishop's development wasn't hampered.

10. ... Nbc6 11.Nf3 dxc3 12.Ng5 Qxe5

This move was suggested by Viktor Korchnoi, abandoning the defense of f7 for active piece play. Molodtsov had played this tricky move twice before against me, winning once and losing once, and I had a feeling he was waiting for an opportunity to play it against me a third time.

13. Qxf7+ Kd7

Molodtsov had to block in his bishop because 13. ... Kd8 is met by 14. Qxg8+ Nxg8 15. Nf7+ followed by 16. Nxe5.

14. h4

I had played 14. f4 and 14. Bf4 against Molodtsov in previous encounters, so I wanted to surprise him with something he hadn't seen before. Lev Psakhis gave 14. Bf4 as the main move back in 2003 and mentioned 14. h4 as an interesting possibility without giving any analysis. In 2012, John Watson went so far as to recommend the move as favoring White and gave the sample line 14. h4 Qxd4+ 15. Bd3 e5 16. Be3 Qg4+ 17. Kd1, the same moves that were played in this game. There's only one previously recorded example of 14. h4, when Robert Schuermans employed it in 2013 to defeat Hansjuergen Kreschke at the European Union Team Championship in Dresden.

14. ... Qd4+

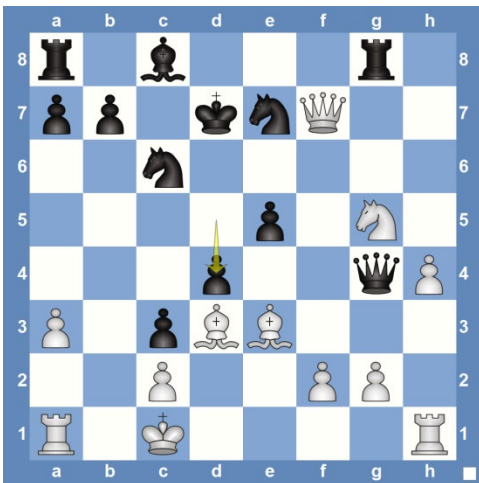
In the game mentioned in the previous note, Kreschke played 14. ... Rg7. Molodtsov was evidently surprised by 14. h4 as he thought for a long time before replying.

15. Bd3 e5 16. Be3 Qg4+ 17. Kc1

I paused before playing this, considering whether to play 17. Be2 or the move suggested by Watson. Had I played 17. Be2, Molodtsov wouldn't have been able to take the g2-pawn as 18. Bf3 would have trapped his queen, and after 17. ... Qf5 18. Qxf5+ Nxf5, I would have had the better endgame due to the connected outside passed pawns. With my king in the center, it was certainly tempting to play an endgame. But Molodtsov's king was also in the center, so I chose the trickier option.

17. ... d4

Molodtsov was at a crossroads here. He could have patiently prepared development of his bishop with 17. ... Kc7 or 17. ... b6, or pursued my precariously placed dark-squared bishop with 17. ... d4. Grabbing a pawn with 17. ... Qxg2 wouldn't have been good for him as after 18. Rd1, I would have been threatening 19. Bh7 followed by 20. Rxd5+.



18. Ne4

My opening preparation with the 14. h4 move consisted of a quick cram session with the fourth edition of John Watson's *Play the French* during the half hour between when the pairings were posted and the clocks were started. As this was the first move where I needed to think for myself, and my dark-squared bishop is hanging without any visible escape squares, I played 18. Ne4 to threaten a fork on f6 and free up g5 for my attacked bishop. But this gave Molodtsov the opportunity to double my pawns had he played 19. ... Be6 on his nineteenth move.

The alternative 18. Be4 is attractive, but Molodtsov had resources:

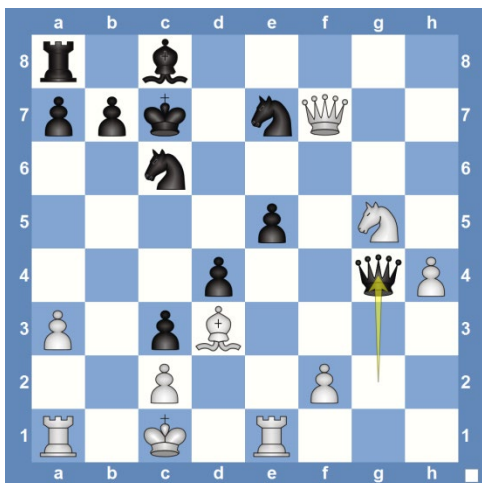
- 1) 18. ... dxe3 19. Bxc6+ Kxc6 20. Qxe7 b6 and now either:
 - a) 21. Nf7 Qe6 22. Nxe5+ Kd5 23. Qc7 Qxe5 24. Rd1+ Ke6 25. Qc4+ Ke7 26. Qxg8 exf2 27. g3 Rb8 28. Qh7+ Ke8 29. Qg6+ Ke7 30. Qh7+, and I would have been forced to give perpetual check.
 - b) 21. fxe3 Qxg2 22. Rd1 Bg4 23. Rd6+ Kb5 24. Qxe5+ Ka6 25. Qxc3 Rac8 26. Qd3+ Kb7 27. Kb2 would have left me with two extra pawns, but Molodtsov's pieces would have been so active that it is hard to see how the extra material matters.
- 2) Although 18. ... Kd8 would have freed his light-squared bishop, and then 19. ... Rxg5 would be possible as 20. Bxc6 no longer comes with check, declining the piece sacrifice still would not have worked. White had the fine intermezzo 19. Rd1! Rxg5 (19... Qxh4? 20. Bxc6 Rxg5 21. Qf6) 20. Bxc6 Rg7 (20. ... Rg8 21. Bf3 was also winning) 21. Qf8+ Kc7 22. Bf3 Qg6 23. Bf4!! exf4 24. Rxd4 Qh6 25. Qd8+ Kb8 26. Rd7 Qb6 27. Rxb7+ winning.

18. ... Kc7 19. Bg5 Qxg2

While Molodtsov received compensation for the forthcoming exchange sacrifice, a more solid alternative was 19. ... Be6 20. Qf3 Qxf3 21. gxf3.

20. Re1 Rxg5 21. Nxc5 Qg4

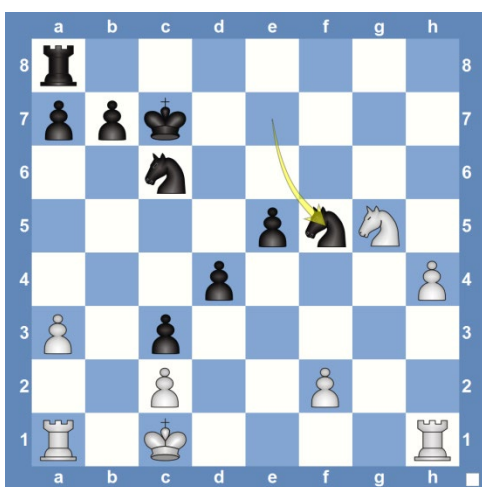
If Molodtsov could have reached an endgame before my king and a1-rook became active, then I wouldn't have been able to secure my h-pawn. Had he succeeded in trading my h-pawn for one of his other pawns (or won my h-pawn outright), I wouldn't have won the endgame. Molodtsov therefore prepared to liquidate pieces with 22. ... Bf5. However, the immediate 21. ... Bf5, with the idea of forking my bishop and rook after 22. Bxf5 Qxf2, would have gained a tempo, allowing my h-pawn to be more easily mopped up.



22. Rh1

This move defended my pawn on h4 and would have allowed me to take the seventh rank had he played 25. ... Rg8 later. Alternatives were 22. Nf3 and 22. Kb1.

22. ... Bf5 23. Bxf5 Qxf5 24. Qxf5 Nxf5



25. Kd1

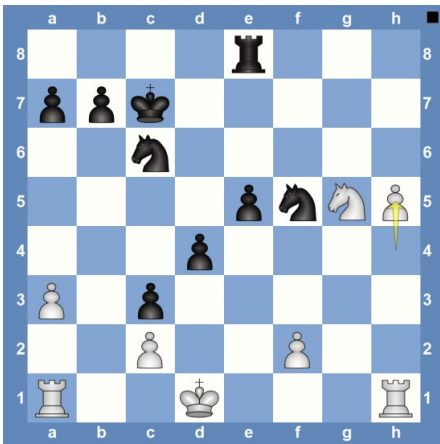
The immediate 25. h5 was insufficient to win. For example, 25. h5 Rg8 26. Nf7 Rg2 27. h6 Rxf2 28. h7 d3 29. cxd3 Ncd4 30. h8=Q Rc2+ 31. Kb1 Rb2+ 32. Kc1, etc. As I couldn't hold on to the h-pawn, I focused on activating my king.

25. ... Re8

Molodtsov tried to mobilize his own pawn mass, but as my lone h-pawn was faster, he should have preferred 25. ... Rg8 because I couldn't have

stopped 26. ... Nxh4. My intention was to meet 25. ... Rg8 with 26. Ke2. After 26. ... Nxh4 27. Rxh4 Rxg5 28. Rh7+ Kd6 29. Rxb7, I would still have been playing for a win, but I shouldn't have been able to achieve it.

26. h5



26. ... e4?!

Even though he could no longer win my h-pawn, he could have made my task much more difficult by preventing my pawn from getting to h6. Both 26. ... Nh6 and 26. ... Rh8 come to mind.

27. h6 e3 28. Ke2 Ne5 29. h7 Ng6 30. Rag1

This move threatened 31. Ne6+ Rxe6 32. Rxg6. Preparing this move with the prophylactic 30. Rh2 was possible but not necessary.

30. ... Nf4+

Molodtsov could have tried to take advantage of my unguarded f-pawn with 30. ... d3+ 31. Kxd3 exf2 32. Rf1 Ng3 33. h8=Q Rxh8 34. Rxh8 Nxf1 35. Rh7+, but I could have rapidly mopped up his advanced pawns and won the game.

31. Kf3 exf2 32. Kxf2 d3 33. h8=Q 33. Rxh8 34. Rxh8 dxc2 35. Rhh1 Nd3+ 36. Kf3 Nb2 37. Ke4 Nd1

The most testing response, 37. ... Ng3+, wouldn't have saved Molodtsov due to 38. Rxc3 Nd1 39. Rxc3+ Nxc3+ 40. Kd3.

38. Rxd1 Ng3+ 39. Kd3 cxd1=Q+ 40. Rxd1, Black resigned.

Old School: Please note that all of Larry's post-game calculations and analyses were done without benefit of a computer to check the lines. In the search for truth, sometimes the computer can take the mystery out of the game. This game won 1st prize for Best Played Game.

KING'S INDIAN DEFENSE (E90)

FM Larry C Gilden (2243)

IM Prav Balakrishnan (2522)

44th Annual Eastern Open (2)

Tyson's Corner, Virginia, 12.28.17

Notes by FM Larry C Gilden and Tom Beckman (TB)

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. e4 d6 5. Nf3 O-O 6. Be3

I have consistently played this move from 2013 to the present. 6. Be3 serves the purpose of restricting Black's normal King's Indian plans. Now Black has the choice of several responses:

- 1) 6... e5 is the usual response when there follows 7. dxe5 dxe5 8. Qxd8 (8. Qc2 +/-) 8... Rxd8 9. Nd5 Nxd5?! (9... Rd7! =) 10. cxd5 c6 11. Bc4 cxd5 (11... Bd7 is possible) 12. Bxd5 Nc6 13. 0-0-0 or 13. Ng5 +/-.
- 2) 6... Nbd7 avoiding the exchange of queens allows 7. h3 when 7... e5 8. dxe5 dxe5 9. c5 has occurred in my games.
- 3) 6... Ng4 played by Prav in chasing the bishop creates play somewhat like T. Petrosian-Ya Yukhtman, 26th USSR Championship 1959. Later, Petrosian played 14. Bg4 to exchange off his bad bishop, and I played 18. Bg4 with similar effect.

- 4) 6...c5 (TB) is recommended by Stockfish and then:
7. d5 a6 8. a4 Ng4 9. Bg5 Nd7 10. Be2 +/-
 7. dxc5 Qa5 8. Qd2 (8. Bd3 is also possible) 8... dxc5 9. Nd5 Qxd2+ 10. Nxd2 Nxd5 11. cxd5 Bxb2 12. Rb1 Ba3 13. Nc4 =
- 5) 6...Na6 (TB) is recommended by Nunn and Burgess in *The New Classical King's Indian* to avoid the Exchange Variation, and then:
7. Be2 e5 (or 7... Ng4) 8. 0-0 transposes to the Gligoric System
 7. h3 e5 8. d5 is the main line of the Makogonov System
 - Other ideas are 7. Qd2 or 7. Bd3

6...Ng4 7. Bg5 c5

In a game 45 tourney from March 2015, Trung Nguyen tried 7... h6 8. Bh4 Nf6! and no refutation was forthcoming from me. (TB) Also possible was 8. Bd2 e5 9. d5 f5 10. Bd3 Nf6 11. 0-0 fxe4 12. Nxe4 Bf5 with a slight edge for White.

8. d5

I considered 8. dxc5, but Black's 8... h6 chases White's bishop from attacking e7 (if 9. Bh4, then 9... g5), and allows either 9... Qa5 or 9... dxc5 depending on where the bishop goes.

8... h6

(TB) And here Black has a somewhat better alternative: 8... Bxc3+ 9. bxc3 f6 10. Bd2 Nd7 11. Be2 Nge5 +/-

9. Bh4

(TB) Of course, which way to retreat the Bishop is always the question in this variation. Here 9. Bd2 may be the better choice after 9... Nd7 10. Be2 Nge5 11. Nxe5 Nxe5 12. 0-0 b6 13. Qc2 ±

9...Nd7 10. Qd2

(TB) The non-committal 10. Be2 +/- may be slightly better.

10... a6 11. a4 Ngf6 12. Be2 Qb6?!

(TB) Here Black has two decent options:

- 12... g5 13. Bg3 Nh5 14. 0-0 =
- 12... Qa5 13. Bxf6 Nxf6 14. 0-0 Bg4 =

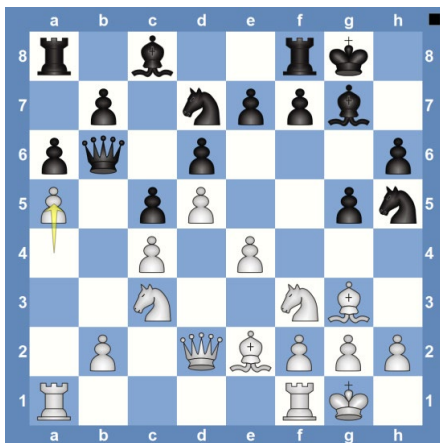
13. O-O

(TB) Here White should flick in 13. a5! +/- driving the Black queen back now.

g5 14. Bg3 Nh5 15. a5

I had several other possibilities that I didn't consider during the game:

15. h4 Nxc3 16. fxc3 g4 17. Nh2 Ne5 18. Nd1 with complicated play.
15. Qc2 Qb4 16. a5 b5! and Black stands well.



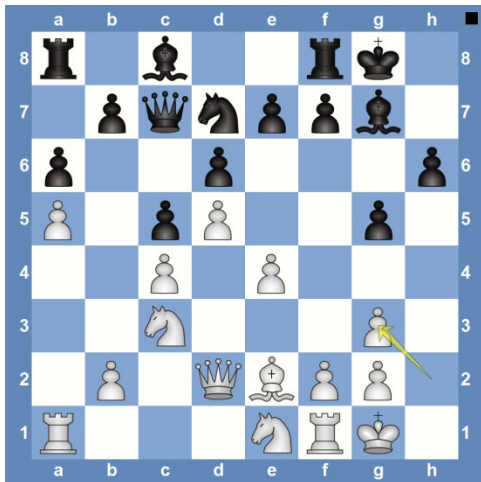
15... Qc7!

(TB) Larry thought that Prav could successfully play 15... Qb4!? as 16. Nxc3 Nxc3 17. hxc3 b5(!!) works, but the following sequence would have been much better for White: 18. Nf3 cxb4 19. Rfb1! Rb8 and now a rope-a-dope with 20. Ra4 Qb3 21. Ra3 Qb4 22. Qc1! guarding the Rook and 22... Qb7 23. Bxc4 ±. Black would have had to settle for 17... Ne5 18. Nf3 Nxc4 19. Bxc4 Qxc4 20. Na4 Rb8 21. Rfe1 Qb4 22. e5 +/- . So, the computer helps to demonstrate that Prav played the best move after all!

16. Ne1

(TB) An interesting alternative is 16. h4 Nxc3 17. fxg3.

Nxc3 17. hxc3



17. ... e5?

This move doesn't look right, but it is correct at this point. Evidently Prav properly feared the buildup with f4 and later e5. Besides the fortress created is difficult to breach.

(TB) Burying the King Bishop looks wrong, and is wrong. Black should have played on the Q-side with 17... b6! 18. f4 gxf4 19. gxf4 bxa5 20. Rf3 Rb8 21. Rg3 Kh8 22. f5 Qb6 with mutual chances.

18. Bg4!

Trading off the bad Bishop in blocked positions is correct as usual.

18... b6 19. Nc2

I think that 19. axb6 was more straightforward.

19... bxa5 20. Ne3 Nb6 21. Bxc8 Nxc8 22. Ne2

White now engages in a bit of unnecessary shuffling back and forth. But eventually I got the idea that my play was on the queen-side.

Ne7 23. g4

(TB) Also good was 23. Qxa5 Qxa5 24. Rxa5 Rfb8 25. Rb1 f5 26. exf5 e4 27. g4 ±

23... Rfb8



24. Ng3?!

This move allows Black play on the queen-side. White should prefer 24. Nc1 ±

24...Rb4 25. Ne2 Rab8 26. Ra2 Qb6 27. Rb1 Ng6 28. g3 Ne7 29. Nc1 Qc7 30. Rba1

Black is without counterplay as White slowly makes progress. Note how White makes use of the principle of two weaknesses over the next ten moves.

30...Qc8 31. Nd3 R4b6 32. Rxa5 Kh7 33. Qc2 f6?!

(TB) Defensive fatigue sets in. 33... Bf8 is somewhat better, as 33... f6 makes more holes in Black's king-side.

34. R1a3

(TB) It is safer to play 34. Kg2 to cover the h3 square, so Larry doesn't have to worry about h5 and Qh3.

34... Kg6

(TB) To avoid being smothered to death, the urge to do something active kicks in. However, other moves aren't much better.

35. Qa4! Ra8 36. b4!

The culmination of White's play. The further opening of the queen-side will expose Black's lack of piece activity.

36... cxb4 37. Nxb4 h5 38. gxh5+ Kxh5 39. Kg2 Kg6 40. Nd3

(TB) 40. c5 dxc5 41. Nd3 is more efficient.

40... Qh8 41. Ra1 Qh5 42. g4

(TB) Safest, but stronger is 42. c5! dxc5 43. Rh1 Qe2 Larry was worried about this Queen intrusion, but after 44. Qc4 Rb2 45. Nxb2 Qxb2 46. d6 Nc6 47. Rxc5 White wins handily.

42... Qh8 43. Nf5 Qd8 44. Rc1 Kf7 45. c5 dxc5 46. Raxc5 Ra7 47. Qd1

(TB) Crushing is 47. Qc4 Kg6 48. Rh1.

47... a5 48. Qh1 Nxf5 49. gxf5, Black resigned after 35 more moves.

Errant Knights: White has a good position until his knights go astray. After that, Black's knights go crazy. This game won the 1st Brilliancy Prize.

**SICILIAN DEFENSE,
ACCELERATED DRAGON (B38)**

Dominique Myers (2115)

FM Nathan Resika (2246)

44th Annual Eastern Open (4)

Tysons Corner, Virginia, 12.29.17

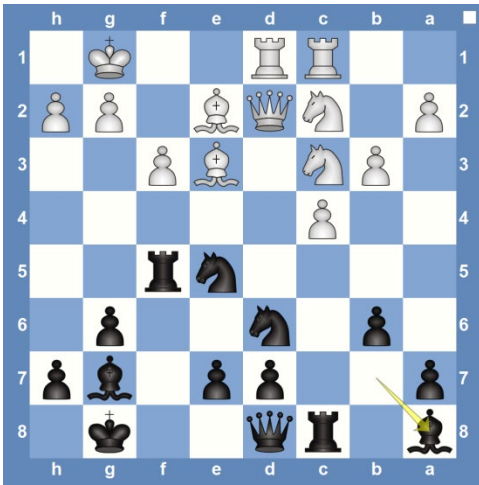
Notes by FM Nathan Resika and Tom Beckman (TB)

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 g6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Bg7 5. c4 Nc6 6. Nc2 Nf6 7. Nc3 O-O 8. Be2 b6!?

(TB) I once had this position as Black in a simul against Karpov shortly after he won the World Championship. The move 8. ... b6 was topical at the time. He thought for more than a minute before following the course of the game. Due to his handlers and my lack of Russian, I never had the chance to ask him why he took so long to select his move.

9. O-O Bb7 10. Be3 Rc8 11. f3 Ne8! 12. Qd2 Nd6 13. Rfd1 f5 14. exf5 Rxf5 15. Rac1 Ne5 16. b3 Ba8

(TB) White has built a very nice position, and Black is rather passive and cramped, but watch what happens now.



17. Nb4?!

(TB) White's first errant knight move. White has four knight moves, but he finds the worst one. Black's knight on d6 is holding his position together, so White should exchange it. Better was 17. Nd4! Rf6 18. Ndb5 Nxb5 19. Nxb5 a6 20. Nc3 Rd6 21. Qe1 Rxd1 22. Rxd1 d6 ±

17...Rf8 18. Nbd5?!

After being in a worse position for awhile, I was being very vigilant should my opponent go wrong in this full-bodied position, with so many pieces on the board. My opponent had just relieved the pressure on my backward center by playing the "normal" centralizing move Nb4 to d5?!, which allowed my pieces to start their migration toward the black king.

(TB) Now the position is equal. Again, White should have played 18. Ncb5 Nxb5 19.cxb5 e6 20. Rxc8 Qxc8 21. Rc1 Qb7 22. Bf4 d5 23. Nc6 Nf7 24. Bg3 +/-.

18. ... Nf5 19. Bg5 h6 20. Be3?!

20. Bf2 allows 20. ... Bh6 21. f4 e6!. Myers suggested 20. Bf4.

(TB) Better is 20. Bf4 e6 21. Ne3 Nh4 22. Bg3 Rxf3! 23. Bxh4 Qxh4 24. gxf3 Bxf3 25. Rf1 Qg5+ 26. Kf2 Qh4+ 27. Kg1 with a perp

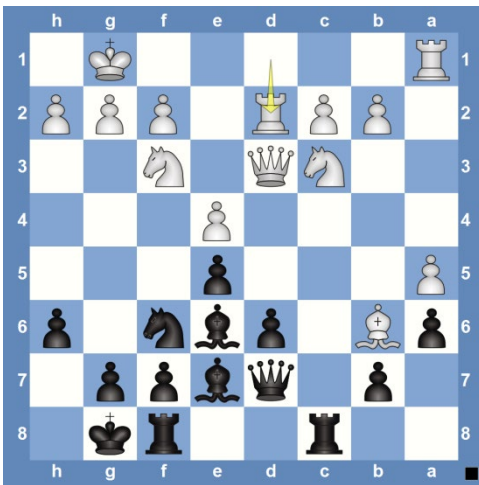
20... e6!

Better than snatching the Bishop right away.

B23/4 n19b, Gawain Attack: Alexander Shabalov (2629)-Nathan Resika(2246), 44th Annual Eastern Open, Rd 2.2, Tyson's Corner, Virginia, 2017.12.28: **1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nd4 4.Nf3** (This is known as the Gawain attack in Daniel King's excellent DVD from Chessbase on the Anti-Sicilians.) **4...Nxb5!** (Unlike in the Grand Prix Attack, it's fine here for Black to snatch the bishop; as long as he takes care for the next few moves.) **5.Nxb5 d6 6.d4 a6!?** (I think this is the novelty the game Rogul- Kovacevic, Pula, 2011 continued 6...Nf6; but I didn't see anything wrong with this natural Sicilian move.) **7.Nc3 cxd4 8.Qxd4 e5 9.Qd3**



9...h6! (Black still has not developed a piece after 9 moves! So hear me, all Paul Morphyites, sometimes you should only move pawns. It is essential to not allow Bg5, preventing Nd5. So, hence h6 before Nf6. Though White has 3 strong pieces developed and black zero, Black has two bishops and a very flexible structure.) **10.a4 Nf6** (Finally!) **11.O-O Be6 12.Be3 Rc8 13.Rfd1 Be7** (Black's position almost plays itself. Perhaps Shabalov would have played most of my moves here, had he been Black.) **14.a5 O-O 15.Bb6** (Shabalov and I agreed that this move didn't do much to deter Black from the normal Sicilian plans.) **15...Qd7 16.Rd2?** (16.Nd2 was better.)



16...Rc4! (A good move, but an almost winning move was 16...Rxc3!! because if 17.bxc3 then 17...Qc6 wins the e-pawn with a beautiful Black position because 18.Re1? allows 18...Bc4 19.Qe3 Ng4!) **17.Re1 Rfc8 18.Qe3** (Threatening 19.Nxe5) **18...Qc6 19.Rd3 Nd7 20.Ba7 Qc7?!** (Here 20...f5 was just begging to be played, and would have given Black a great game after 21.Nd2 fxe4. Or perhaps even the idea of perhaps 21...f4. I was getting in time pressure here and started maneuvering for too long and was finally outmaneuvered by a great player and lost.) **21.Ra1 Qd8 22.Qe1 Qe8 23.Nd2 R4c6 24.Nf1 f5 25.f3 fxe4 26. fxe4 Nf6 27. Bf2 Qf7 28. Bh4 Nh5 29. Rf3 Nf4 30. Bg3 g5 31. Ne3 g4 32. Rf1 Bg5 33. Ncd5 Bxd5 34. exd5 Rxc2 35. Bxf4 exf4 36. Nxc2 Rxc2 37. Rc1 Rxc1 38. Qxc1 Qxd5 39. Qc8+ Kf7 40. Qxg4 Qd4+ 41. Kh1 Qc4 42. Qd7+ Kg6 43. Qxd6+ Kh5 44. Qd1+ Kg6 45. Rf3 Bf6 46. h3 Be5 47. Qd3+ Qxd3 48. Rxd3 Bxb2 49. Rb3 Bd4 50. Rxb7 1-0**

7 Games by Lenderman: Alex was so gracious to annotate all his games for us, that I awarded him a special prize. Please load each game into a .pgn reader.

[Event "Eastern Open"]
 [Date "2017.12.31"]
 [Round "1"]

[White "Lenderman, Alex"]
[Black "Kobla, Vishal"]
[Result "1-0"]
[ECO "E05"]
[Annotator "Aleksandr"]
[PlyCount "65"]
[SourceDate "2018.01.01"]
[SourceVersionDate "2018.01.01"]

1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. g3 Nf6 4. Bg2 Be7 5. Nf3 O-O 6. O-O dxc4 7. Ne5 Nc6 8. Nxc6 \$5 bxc6 9. Na3 {This was featured in the game between So-Nakamura in 2016 Sinquifield Cup round 1. After that game this interesting line got some more followers. Black is fine objectively of course but white gets interesting play here.} Bxa3 {My opponent thought for a long time here, so he clearly wasn't familiar with this line, so I guessed right with my opening choice.} 10. bxa3 Rb8 (10... Ba6 {Is the main line and probably the most critical continuation.}) 11. Qa4 Qxd4 12. Be3 Qe5 13. Qxc4 Nd5 {Here I was on my own, as I couldn't recall my preparation anymore. Seems like I found the right idea though after 10 minutes of thought.} 14. Bc5 \$1 {I was very happy with finding this improvement over the board. This seems to be the only move that creates problems for black.} (14. Bd4 {Yielded white nothing because of} Ba6 \$1 15. Bxe5 Bxc4 16. Bf3 f6 17. Bd4 a5 \$11 {And black was fine in: 1/2 (35) Shevchenko,K (2550)-Lobanov,S (2435) Tarvisio ITA 2017}) (14. Bxa7 Nb6 {Is probably stronger.} (14... Ra8 15. Bd4 Ba6 {Felt also not so clear to me though maybe white can have a slight advantage here.} 16. Qxa6 Qxd4 17. Qxc6 Rxa3 18. Rad1 Qe5 19. Bxd5 exd5 20. Rd2 \$14) 15. Qxc6 Bb7 \$11) 14... Nb6 (14... Rd8 15. Rfd1 {Would be very unpleasant for black.}) (14... Re8 15. Bxa7) 15. Qc2 Rd8 16. Bxc6 {This move, according to my database is a novelty. In the only other game I saw from this position, Rad1 was played and it seems less accurate.} (16. Rad1 Ba6 17. Bf3 Bb5 \$11 {And again, black is fine here, since he got the bishop from a6-b5 where it's active and also defends c6 comfortably. Rogers Ian played white against Keca all the way back in 1983 :)) 16... Bb7 (16... Ba6 17. Rfe1 \$14 {Now doesn't seem to help black all that much.}) (16... Bd7 {Was also mentioned by my opponent but here too, white should probably be slightly better.} 17. f4 \$1 {Is a strong move, which to my opponent's credit, he saw this move and that's why he didn't play it.} Qf6 18. Bf3 Ba4 19. Qe4 \$14 {And white retains still some advantage. Though Bd7 might've been a better practical try for black anyway since I have a more difficult choice to make. I personally didn't want to play f4 so early to not create weaknesses.}) 17. Bxb7 Rxb7 18. Rfd1 Rbb8 19. Rac1 h6 20. a4 a5 21. e4 (21. f4 {I also considered this but I didn't want to potentially weaken my kingside.} Qf6 \$11) 21... Rxd1+ (21... f5 \$5 {Was interesting. I didn't consider this. White might be still marginally better but black is close to equalizing.}) 22. Rxd1 Nxa4 23. Bd4 Qb5 24. Qxc7 {I saw this line and thought it's still unpleasant for him to play this since his knight is off-side and he still has some problems to solve. Besides, the question of whether to play the Nxa4 line took some time for him to decide and he only had about 10 minutes left after about 20 moves.} Rb7 25. Qc2 e5 \$4 {And now with about a minute left on his clock he blundered in a still playable holdable position. My opponent had to solve a lot of difficult problems right out of the opening and he used up a lot of time and energy and eventually that took its toll.} (25... Rd7 \$1 26. Rb1 Rc7 \$1 27. Rxb5 Rxc2 28. Rxa5 Rc4 29. Ra8+ Kh7 30. Rd8 Rc2 {With excellent drawing chances for black.}) 26. Bxe5 \$6 (26. Qc8+ Kh7 27. Qf5+ g6 28. Qxe5 Qxe5 29. Bxe5 Re7 30. f4 \$18 {Was marginally better according to the computer.}) 26... Qxe5 \$2 {In huge time pressure my opponent only expected Qxa4?? Rb4 with equality.} (26... Qc5 \$16 {Keeps the game going.}) 27. Qc8+ Kh7 28. Qxb7 Nc3 29. Qb2 Qc5 30. Qc2 Qb4 31. e5+ g6 32. Rd7 Kg8 33. e6 {I was happy with this relative smooth win and happy that I was able to pose enough problems in this game to keep the tension and eventually get my opponent to time pressure and get him to crack.} 1-0

[Event "Eastern Open"]
[Date "2018.01.01"]

[Round "2"]
[White "Quirke, Jeff"]
[Black "Lenderman, Alex"]
[Result "0-1"]
[ECO "E32"]
[Annotator "Aleksandr"]
[PlyCount "70"]

1. d4 e6 2. c4 Nf6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. Qc2 b6 \$5 5. e4 c5 6. d5 Qe7 7. Be2 exd5 8. exd5 Qe4 \$6 {This was a bad gamble, hoping my opponent wouldn't play Qd2, following Onischuk-Chandra from 2016 US Champs. But after a long thought my opponent found it. Objectively I should bite the bullet and play a slightly worse position.} (8... O-O 9. Nf3 d6 10. O-O Bxc3 11. bxc3) 9. Qd2 \$1 Qxg2 10. Bf3 Qg6 11. Qe3+ \$6 {I was happy when I saw this move. This gave me hope that the game isn't so clear.} (11. Nge2 {This simple straightforward move would probably give me a lot of grief.} O-O (11... d6 {Is probably lesser of the evil, but then Rg1, followed by Qe3 is just good for white, a much better version.}) 12. Rg1 Qf5 13. Qg5 \$16) 11... Kd8 12. Nge2 Re8 13. Qf4 Ne4 {I spent 12 minutes here, this was a very critical position for me, since there were many options I considered here.} (13... Bxc3+ 14. bxc3 Ba6 15. Be3 {And here I thought it's dangerous for me in all lines, but I missed a nice defensive resource.} Qh6 \$1 16. Qd6 Ne4 \$5 {And it's still not so clear.}) 14. Bd2 \$6 {He played it after a long thought. I definitely didn't expect it, I expected more Be3, and thought it's the most critical. It turned out after we analyzed the game there were other interesting options my opponent considered which I didn't even see.} (14. Be3 Bxc3+ {I was most likely going to go for this.} (14... Ba6 15. O-O-O \$5 Bxc3 16. Nxc3 Nxc3 17. bxc3 d6 18. Rhg1 Qf6 19. Qxf6+ gxf6 20. Rg7 Nd7 21. Rxf7 Ne5 22. Rxf6 Nxf3 23. Rxf3 Kd7 {With a likely draw.}) 15. bxc3 Qf6 16. Qxf6+ gxf6 {But here white seems to be doing well after} 17. Ng3 \$1 \$36) (14. Kf1 \$5 {Was the move my opponent mentioned.} Bxc3 {Almost forced.} (14... d6 \$2 {My opponent was afraid of this, but this is just good for white in fact.} 15. Rg1 Bh3+ 16. Bg2 \$18) 15. bxc3 Ba6 16. Rg1 Qf6 17. Bxe4 Qxf4 18. Nxf4 Rxe4 19. Rxc7 Bxc4+ 20. Kg2 \$44 {Black is fine but white of course has probably enough counterplay.}) 14... Bxc3 15. bxc3 Ba6 (15... Qf6 {Maybe this was more precise.}) 16. Rg1 Qf6 17. Qxf6+ (17. Bxe4 Qxf4 18. Bxf4 Rxe4 19. Rxc7 Bxc4 20. Rg8+ Ke7 21. d6+ Ke6 22. Be3 {Would lead to very sharp play.}) (17. Qxe4 Rxe4 18. Bg5 {Is also roughly equal.}) 17... gxf6 18. Rg7 Bxc4 19. Nf4 Ng5+ 20. Be2 Bxe2 (20... Ke7 {I thought about this but then I allow Be3 followed by Nh5, defending the rook on g7.}) 21. Nxe2 Ke7 {This seems accurate. Threatening Kf8.} 22. Bxc5 fxc5 23. Rxc5 d6 24. Rh5 Nd7 25. Rxh7 \$6 {This makes it easier for me.} (25. Kd2 {And white still has decent compensation due to the piece activity and the knight coming to f5. In fact this is still close to equal.}) 25... Rh8 26. Rxh8 Rxh8 27. Ng3 Rxh2 28. Kf1 Ne5 29. Re1 Kd7 30. Re3 Rh4 {The rest was a matter of technique.} 31. Kg2 Ra4 32. Re2 Ra3 33. f4 Ng6 34. Kf3 Rxc3+ 35. Kg4 Ne7 {I felt lucky I was able to get away with this shaky opening.} 0-1

[Event "Eastern Open"]
[Site "?"]
[Date "2017.12.31"]
[Round "3"]
[White "Lenderman, Alex"]
[Black "Shibut, Macon"]
[Result "1-0"]
[ECO "E91"]
[Annotator "Aleksandr"]
[PlyCount "83"]
[SourceDate "2018.01.01"]
[SourceVersionDate "2018.01.01"]

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 d6 3. Nf3 g6 4. Nc3 Bg7 5. e4 Bg4 6. Be2 O-O 7. Be3 Nfd7 8. Rc1 e5 9. d5 f5 \$5 {After the game Macon told me he's played this move in

countless games including against grandmasters, around 20 years ago. I didn't know about this move though.) (9... a5 {In the past one GM played this move against me.}) 10. h3 (10. Ng5 {This of course is the critical move but I wasn't so sure about how good it is.} f4 (10... Bxe2 11. Qxe2 Nc5 {This was not my opponent's intension though. I thought it's interesting, but computer says white is just much better here.} 12. exf5 gxf5 13. b4 f4 (13... h6) 14. h4 {But here comp says I'm much better after all these complications.}) 11. Bxg4 Qxg5 12. Bd2 Nc5 13. h4 {And now Macon told me that this is the most critical move according to his older analysis, which Ftacnik analyzed around 20 years ago in the Chess Informants.}) 10... Bxf3 11. Bxf3 f4 12. Bd2 Nc5 13. Qe2 (13. O-O \$5) 13... a5 14. O-O (14. h4 {Maybe I should play here, but I'm not sure.}) 14... Nbd7 (14... h5 \$5 {Maybe it was worth starting with h5.}) 15. b3 Nf6 16. g4 {Here finally I decided to play g4, since I didn't want my opponent to play h5, Nh7, and Ng5. Maybe I was wrong though. I didn't feel like I understood the position very well.} (16. Rb1 h5 (16... h6 17. a3) 17. a3 a4 {I was afraid of playing a3 because of a4, but maybe I was wrong to do so.} 18. Nxa4 Nxa4 19. bxa4 Rxa4 20. Rxb7 Rxa3 21. c5 {And I'm probably doing well.}) 16... Nfd7 (16... h6) 17. Kg2 Bf6 18. Rfd1 Bh4 19. Kh2 (19. Rb1) 19... Nf6 20. Rb1 h6 21. Be1 Nh7 22. a3 a4 (22... Ng5 23. b4 Nd7 {And apparently black is just better here. Nf6-h7-Nxf3 and Ng5 is coming.} 24. c5 (24. Rd3 Nf6 25. c5 axb4 26. axb4 Rf7 {[%csl Gh6][%cal Gh6h5] I just can't do much here.}) 24... axb4 25. axb4 dxc5 26. bxc5 Nxc5) 23. b4 Nb3 24. Nb5 Nd4 \$6 {And here I thought this was unnecessary.} (24... Ng5 25. Bc3 Rf6 {And it's not clear how easily I'm getting c5 in, while black seems to have a nice attack going here.}) 25. Nxd4 exd4 26. Rxd4 Bf6 27. Rd3 Be5 28. Kg2 Qh4 29. Bc3 Rae8 30. c5 Ng5 31. Rh1 Rf7 32. b5 (32. Bxe5 Rxe5 33. Rc3 {Was probably simpler.} Rfe7 34. Rc4) 32... Rfe7 \$6 (32... dxc5 {Was more critical.} 33. b6 (33. Bxe5 Rxe5 34. b6 {I would've played this but it's still not so clear.} cxb6 35. Qb2 Nxf3 36. Kxf3 Qf6 37. Rb1 Kh7)) 33. cxd6 (33. Bxe5 Rxe5 34. b6) 33... cxd6 34. Bxe5 Rxe5 35. Rd4 Rc8 36. Rc4 Ree8 37. b6 h5 \$2 (37... Rxc4 \$1 {Good or bad, this was a must. Black could've still drawn here.} 38. Qxc4 Nxf3 \$1 39. Kxf3 h5 \$1 {With counterplay.}) 38. Rc7 {Now I'm winning cleanly.} Rxc7 39. bxc7 Rc8 40. e5 Rxc7 41. exd6 Rc1 42. d7 {I won the game in the end but it was not a very convincing game for me by any means.} 1-0

[Event "Eastern Open"]

[Site "?"]

[Date "2017.12.31"]

[Round "4"]

[White "Shabalov, Alex"]

[Black "Lenderman, Alex"]

[Result "1-0"]

[ECO "D30"]

[Annotator "Aleksandr"]

[PlyCount "73"]

[EventDate "2017.???.?"]

[SourceDate "2017.12.31"]

[SourceVersionDate "2017.12.31"]

1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. Nf3 (3. Nc3 a6) 3... a6 (3... Nf6 4. Nc3 a6) 4. Nbd2 Nf6 (4... dxc4 5. Nxc4 b5 6. Nce5 f6 (6... Bb7 7. a4) 7. Nd3) 5. g3 {This setup with Nbd2 and g3 is probably just good for white. That's why it's more accurate if you want to play the systems with a6, to play it only once white's knight is already on c3.} dxc4 (5... c5 6. Bg2 Nc6 7. O-O cxd4 8. cxd5 Nxd5 9. Nb3 Be7 10. Nbx4 Nxd4 11. Qxd4 \$14) 6. Nxc4 b5 7. Nce5 Bb7 8. Bg2 Qc8 (8... Bd5 9. O-O h6 (9... Nbd7 10. Bg5) 10. Bf4) (8... Be7 9. Nxf7 Kxf7 10. Ng5+ \$18) 9. O-O Be7 10. Bf4 O-O 11. Rc1 Ra7 12. Bh3 Bd5 13. Nd2 Qd8 14. Qc2 Nh5 15. Be3 f5 16. f3 Bd6 (16... c5 17. dxc5 Bf6) 17. Bf2 Qg5 (17... c5 {Shabalov and computer both agree that c5, good or bad had to be tried here to get the rook from a7 in the game. After I didn't play c5, I didn't have real chances after that.} 18. e4 Ba8) 18. Bg2 Qh6 19. e4 Bb7 20. exf5 Rxf5 21. Ng4 (21. g4 {Also wins easily of course.}) 21... Qg6 22. d5 Ra8 23. dxe6 (23. Ne3) 23...

Qxe6 24. Rfe1 Qf7 25. Bh3 Rxf3 26. Nxf3 Qxf3 27. Qb3+ Qxb3 28. axb3 Nd7 29. Nh6+ \$1 gxh6 30. Bxd7 Nf6 31. Be6+ Kg7 32. Bc5 Kg6 33. Bxd6 cxd6 34. Rc7 Be4 35. Rxe4 Nxe4 36. Bd5 Re8 37. Bf7+ 1-0

[Event "Eastern Open"]
[Site "?"]
[Date "2017.12.31"]
[Round "5"]
[White "Lenderman, Alex"]
[Black "Feliachi, Nabil"]
[Result "1-0"]
[ECO "E11"]
[Annotator "Aleksandr"]
[PlyCount "77"]
[SourceDate "2018.01.01"]
[SourceVersionDate "2018.01.01"]

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. Qc2 Nc6 5. Nf3 d6 6. Bd2 O-O 7. a3 Bxc3 8. Bxc3 a5 9. g3 Qe7 10. Bg2 a4 11. O-O e5 12. h3 (12. d5 Nb8 13. e4) 12... h5 (12... e4) 13. Rad1 (13. e4) (13. d5) 13... Re8 (13... e4) 14. d5 Nb8 15. c5 Nbd7 16. cxd6 cxd6 17. Bb4 (17. e4 Nc5 18. Ng5) 17... Nb6 \$6 (17... e4 18. Nd4 Nc5) 18. e4 \$16 Bd7 19. Qc7 Nc8 20. Rfe1 Bb5 21. Qxe7 Rxe7 22. Rc1 Ne8 23. Nh4 Rd7 24. f4 f6 25. f5 (25. Bf3 g5 26. Nf5 Rh7 27. fxg5 fxg5 28. Bd2 \$18) 25... Nc7 26. Bf3 (26. Rc3 Na6 27. Rec1) 26... Na6 27. Rc3 (27. Bc3) 27... Rc7 28. Rxc7 Nxc7 29. Bxh5 Na6 30. Bc3 Nc5 31. Nf3 Nb6 32. Nd2 Rc8 33. Bd1 Nd3 34. Re3 Nc1 35. Ba5 Nc4 \$6 {Speeds up the finish. My opponent was in severe time pressure here.} (35... Nd7) 36. Rc3 Na2 37. Rc2 b6 38. Be2 bxa5 39. Bxc4 { And here in this lost position, my opponent lost on time.} 1-0

[Event "Eastern Open"]
[Site "?"]
[Date "2017.12.31"]
[Round "6"]
[White "Huang, Andy"]
[Black "Lenderman, Alex"]
[Result "0-1"]
[ECO "B13"]
[Annotator "Aleksandr"]
[PlyCount "72"]
[SourceDate "2018.01.01"]
[SourceVersionDate "2018.01.01"]

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. exd5 cxd5 4. Bd3 Nc6 5. c3 Qc7 6. h3 g6 \$5 {This might not seem like a big deal, but this is actually an idea I found when I analyzed this line for a 2000 level friend. In my opinion it's actually quite important here to play g6 on move 6 rather than move 7 because of the following line} (6... Nf6 7. Nf3 g6 8. Qc2 \$5 {Stopping Bf5.} Bg7 9. O-O O-O 10. Re1 \$14 {And white is slightly better and it's hard for black to find an active plan which is good.}) 7. Nf3 (7. Qc2 {Now this isn't as accurate, since because I didn't commit my knight on g8 yet, I have a very nice idea here.}) f6 \$1 {And suddenly I get e5 in and I get a very good position.}) 7... Bf5 { Now of course I get Bf5 in safely, and black probably gets a decent position.} 8. Bxf5 gxf5 9. Bg5 e6 10. Nbd2 h6 11. Bh4 Be7 12. Bxe7 Ngxe7 13. Nh4 {Trying to stop Ng6.} O-O-O 14. Qe2 Ng8 15. Qe3 (15. g4 \$6 {I looked at this move for white here, but it's probably not so good.}) Nf6 \$1 16. gxf5 e5 \$1 \$36 {I saw this during the game, but I wasn't sure exactly how good this is for black.}) 15... f4 16. Qd3 Nf6 17. O-O-O Rhg8 18. Rhg1 Rg7 19. Kb1 Rdg8 20. Qf3 Nb8 \$6 { Probably just too deep. I'm trying to play Nbd7 to discourage g3, but perhaps I'm just allowing too much play with c4 then.} (20... Nh7 21. Qh5 Ng5 22. Rgf1 Qd8 23. Nhf3) 21. g4 \$2 {And here to my surprise my opponent blundered h5, and it seemed to affect my young opponent from this point on. Also he was getting somewhat low on time.} (21. Rc1 {But after this simple move, I would have

nothing better but to go back with Nc6.) Nc6) 21... h5 22. Qe2 (22. Rg2) 22...
hxg4 23. hxg4 Nxg4 (23... Rxg4 24. Rxg4 Rxg4 25. Nhf3) 24. Nhf3 Nc6 25. Nb3 Nf6
26. Rxg7 Rxg7 27. Nc5 b6 28. Nd3 (28. Nxe6 fxe6 29. Qxe6+ Nd7 30. Qxd5 Nd8 \$15
{I thought this isn't quite sufficient enough compensation for him, but I
wanted him to spend some time on it, to get him lower on time.}) 28... Kb7 29.
Rh1 Ne4 30. Rh4 (30. Nd2 \$5 \$11) 30... Ne7 31. Rxf4 Nf5 \$15 {Amazingly, his
pieces are still a bit clumsy, and such a position is a nightmare to play with
huge time pressure.} (31... Ng6 32. Rg4 f5 \$6 33. Rg1 Qxc3 \$2 {Completely
fails for several reasons, but mainly,} 34. Qxe4 dxe4 35. bxc3 exd3 36. Ne5 \$18
) 32. Nfe1 (32. Qe1 {Seems to be the best move according to the computer.})
32... Rg1 33. Rg4 Rh1 {Important to keep the rooks on.} 34. Nb4 \$2 {And now,
also my opponent fell for my trap. usually it's very easy to miss backwards
defensive knight moves when we look for attacks.} Nf6 \$1 {And amazingly I'm
just winning now, since white has no attack whatsoever, and the white knight
on e1 is in big trouble.} 35. Rg2 Qc4 36. Qe5 Nd7 {I was overall quite happy
with this game. This was a very important win for me, since it clinched me a
prize, and almost certainly clinched me clear 2nd place, bearing a loss with
white in the last round.} 0-1

[Event "Eastern Open"]
[Site "?"]
[Date "2017.12.31"]
[Round "7"]
[White "Lenderman, Alex"]
[Black "Karamsetty, Jeevan"]
[Result "1/2-1/2"]
[ECO "D13"]
[Annotator "Aleksandr"]
[PlyCount "54"]
[SourceDate "2018.01.01"]
[SourceVersionDate "2018.01.01"]

1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. cxd5 cxd5 4. Nf3 Nf6 5. Nc3 Nc6 6. Bf4 e6 7. e3 a6 8. Bd3
Bd6 9. Bxd6 (9. Bg3) (9. O-O) 9... Qxd6 10. O-O O-O 11. Rc1 e5 (11... Rd8) 12.
dxe5 Nxe5 13. Be2 Nxf3+ 14. Bxf3 Be6 15. Qd4 Rac8 16. Ne2 (16. Rfd1 {Maybe
this was a little bit more accurate.}) 16... Rfd8 17. Nf4 (17. Rfd1 \$14 {
After the game both me and my opponent agreed that this was probably a bit
more accurate to keep the knight on e2 flexible for now.}) 17... b5 \$5 {
A very interesting move which I didn't see coming. But now black has annoying
practical counterplay suddenly out of nowhere.} 18. Be2 \$6 {Not a pretty move.
Bishop isn't good on e2.} (18. Rfd1 Rc4 19. Rxc4 bxc4 20. g3 \$1 {I probably
should play this position threatening e4. It looks like it's not so easy for
him to liquidate all the queenside pawns to get into a 4 versus 3 Rook endgame.
But I had to see the key move, g3, which makes a loft and also prepares e4.})
Rb8 21. Nxd5 Nxd5 22. Bxd5 Qxd5 23. Qxd5 Bxd5 24. Rxd5 Kf8 25. Rd2 \$16 {
And white has excellent winning chances here.}) 18... Bf5 19. Rfd1 h6 20. h3
Bc2 21. Rd2 Bf5 22. Rxc8 Rxc8 23. g4 \$6 (23. Bf1 {Comp says this was a bit
better, but already my advantage here isn't nearly as much as before.}) 23...
Bb1 24. a3 g5 \$5 {And now I didn't see anything besides going for an equal
position.} 25. Nh5 (25. Nxd5 Qxd5 (25... Nxd5 26. Bf3 \$1 {This was the move I
missed.} (26. Qxd5 Rc1+ 27. Bf1 Qxd5 28. Rxd5 Be4 29. Rd8+ Kg7 \$11)) 26. Qxd5
Nxd5 27. Rxd5 Be4 28. Rd4 Rc1+ 29. Rd1 Rc2 30. Bd3 Bxd3 31. Rxd3 Rxb2 32. Rd8+
Kg7 33. Ra8 Ra2 34. Rxa6 b4 35. a4 b3 \$11 {With a likely draw. But at least
this line would pose some more practical difficulty for black.}) 25... Nxh5
26. gxh5 Bf5 27. Bf1 Rc1 {And here my opponent offered me a draw, which I took
because if anyone is better, it can only be black, and besides a draw was
almost certainly clinching me clear 2nd anyway, while I likely couldn't have
caught Shabalov even with a win, unless Shabalov would lose in the last round.
That's why I tried to play a risk free position and try to press as much as I
can. But unfortunately that last game I just played very sluggishly and
practically missed many details. The only 2 games I'm somewhat happy with in
this tournament are rounds 1 and 6.} 1/2-1/2

Lenderman's Opening Innovations:

[Event "44th Annual Eastern Open"]

[Site "Tyson's Corner, Virginia"]

[Date "2017.12.27"]

[Round "1.2"]

[White "Lenderman, Alex"]

[Black "Kobla, Vishal"]

[Result "1-0"]

[ECO "E05"]

[Opening "Catalan Opening"]

[Variation "6...dxc4"]

[WhiteFideld ""]

[BlackFideld ""]

[WhiteElo ""]

[BlackElo ""]

[PlyCount "65"]

[EventDate "2017.12.27"]

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nf3 d5 4. g3 Be7 5. Bg2 O-O 6. O-O dxc4 7. Ne5 Nc6 8. Nxc6 bxc6 9. Na3 {Me and Giorgi called this line the Chinese Variation because in the beginning, it was mostly played by Chinese top GMS.} Bxa3 10. bxa3 Ba6 (10... Rb8 11. Qa4 Qxd4 12. Be3 Qe5 13. Qxc4 Qa5 (13... Nd5 {Was my game against Vishal}) 14. Rfc1 \$14) (10... a5 {I think this was played by Bruzon against Kramnik} 11. Bxc6 Rb8 (11... Ra6 12. Bf3 Rd6 13. Qa4) 12. Qc2 Qxd4 (12... Ba6 13. Rd1 Qe7 (13... Nd5 14. e4 Ne7 15. Ba4 f5 16. d5 exd5 17. exd5 Ng6 18. f4 Qf6 (18... Qd6 19. Bb2 Rfd8 20. Qf2) 19. Be3 \$14) (13... h6 14. Bg2) 14. Bg2 c5 15. dxc5 (15. Qc3 cxd4 16. Rxd4 Nd5 17. Qxa5 Ra8 18. e4 Qf6 19. Bb2 c3 20. Bxc3 Bf1 21. Rxd5 Rxa5 22. Bxf6 exd5 23. Bc3 Bxg2 24. Bxa5 Bxe4 25. Kf1 \$14) 15... Qxc5 16. Bb2) 13. Be3 Rb2 14. Qc1 Qe5 15. f4 Qd6 16. Bf3 Rb8 17. Qxc4) (10... Nd5 11. Qa4 Nb6 12. Qa5 Qxd4 13. Be3 Qf6 14. Bc5 Rd8 15. Bxc6 Rb8 16. Qxa7 Bd7 17. Bxb6 Rxb6 18. Bxd7 Rxd7 19. Rad1) 11. Qd2 (11. Qa4 Bb5 12. Qa5 Qxd4 13. Be3 Qd6 14. a4 (14. Bf4 e5 15. Rfd1 Qe6 16. Bd2 (16. Bg5 c3 17. Bxf6 gxf6)) 14... Qa3) (11. a4 \$5 Qd6 (11... c3 12. Ba3) (11... Qe7 12. Qd2 Qd6 (12... Rfb8 13. Qa5 (13. Bxc6 Bb7 14. Bxb7 Rxb7 15. Qc2 Rab8 16. Rd1 (16. Bg5)) 13... Rb6 14. Qc5) (12... e5 13. Qa5) (12... Rfd8 13. Qa5) 13. Qa5 (13. Rd1 Rfb8 (13... Rab8 14. e4) 14. e4 Qb4 15. Qc2 Rb6 (15... Rd8 16. Rb1) 16. Bd2 Qb2 17. Qxb2 Rxb2 18. Bc3 Rc2 19. Rdc1 Rxc1+ 20. Rxc1)) (11... Rb8 12. Ba3) (11... c5 12. Bxa8 Qxa8 13. Ba3 cxd4 (13... Rd8 14. Bxc5 e5 (14... Ne4 15. Qc2) 15. Be7 \$1 {Important move} Rxd4 16. Qc2 Nd7 17. Bb4) (13... Ne4 14. Bxc5) 14. Bxf8) (11... Qd7 12. Qd2 c3 13. Qxc3 Bxe2 (13... Nd5 14. Qc2) 14. Re1) (11... Nd5 12. Ba3 Re8 13. Qc2 e5 14. dxe5 Rxe5 15. e3) 12. Qd2 Rfb8 (12... Rfd8 13. Qa5) (12... e5 13. Qa5) (12... c3 13. Qxc3 Bxe2 14. Re1) (12... Rab8 13. Qa5 (13. Rd1 Nd5) 13... Rb6 14. e4 Qb4 15. Qxb4 Rxb4 16. Ba3 Rxa4 17. Bxf8 Kxf8 18. a3) 13. Rd1 h6 (13... Rb6 14. e4 Qb4 (14... Nd7 15. a5 Rb5 16. e5) 15. Qc2 c3 (15... Rd8 16. Bd2 (16. Bf4 Qe7 17. Bd2 Rxd4 18. Be3 Rxd1+ 19. Rxd1) 16... Qb2 17. Qxb2 Rxb2 18. Ba5 (18. Bc3 Rc2 19. Rdc1 Rxc1+ 20. Rxc1) 18... Rc8 (18... Ng4 19. Rdc1 Nxf2 (19... Rxf2 20. Bh3) 20. Bc3) (18... Rd7 19. Bc3) 19. Bc3) 16. Bf4 Rc8 17. Rac1) (13... Nd5 14. e4 Nb4 (14... c3 15. Qc2) 15. Ba3 c5 (15... e5 16. Qc3 exd4 17. Rxd4 Qe7 18. Bxb4 Rxb4 19. Rad1 Rxa4 20. Rd7) 16. e5) 14. Qa5 (14. e4 Qb4 15. Qc2 c3 16. Bf4 Qb2 17. Rac1 c5 18. dxc5 Ng4) 14... Rb6 15. e4 Qb4 16. Bd2 Qa3 17. Bc1 Qb4) 11... Rb8 (11... c3 12. Qxc3 Bxe2 13. Re1 Bb5 (13... Bg4 14. a4 Rb8 (14... Nd5 15. Qxc6 Qd6 16. Qxd6 cxd6 17. Ba3 Rfd8 18. Rac1 h5 19. Rc6 \$14) 15. Ba3) 14. a4 Bxa4 15. Qb4 Bb5 16. a4) (11... Qc8 12. Qa5 Rd8 13. Rb1 Rxd4 (13... Nd5 14. a4 Nb6 (14... c3 15. Re1) 15. Bb2) 14. Bxc6) 12. Qa5 (12. Rd1) (12. a4 c5) 12... Qc8 (12... Rb6 13. a4 Qe7 14. Qc3) 13. a4 (13. Rd1 Bb5 14. e4 Qa6) 13... Rd8 14. Ba3 Rxd4 (14... Rb6 15. Bc5) (14... Rd5 15. Bc5) (14... c3 15. Qxc3 Bxe2 16. Rfe1 Qa6) 15. Rfb1 \$5 {Wesley So. I think your move bc5 can also be interesting.} (15. Rab1 Rb6) (15. Bc5 \$5 Rd5 (15... Rd6 16. Rab1 (16. Rfd1) 16... Rxb1 (16... Ra8 17. Rfd1 Rd5 18. e4 Rd3 19. Be7) 17. Rxb1 h6 18. Bxd6 cxd6 19. Qb4 d5 20. Qb8 Nd7 21. Qxa7 c3 22. Rc1 Bxe2 23. Bf1 (23. Rxc3 c5 24. Rb3) 23... Bxf1 24. Kxf1 c5) (15... Rd7 16.

Bxc6) (15... Rd8 16. Rab1 Rxb1 17. Rxb1 Nd5 18. Bxa7 c3 19. Bf1 Bc4 20. Rb8 Qd7 21. Rxd8+ Qxd8 22. Qc5 Qa8) 16. Rab1 \$5 (16. Bxd5 cxd5) 16... Nd7 (16... Ra8 17. e4 Rd3 18. Rfc1 \$44) 17. Rxb8 Nxb8 18. Rb1 Re5 19. Qb4 (19. f4 {Seems to be a forced draw.} Rxe2 20. Bxa7 Nd7 21. Bxc6 h6 22. Bxd7 Qxd7 23. Qxa6 Qd5 24. Bf2 Rxf2 25. Rb8+ Kh7 26. Kxf2 Qd2+) 19... Nd7 20. Be3 Rd5 \$1 {Far from easy move.} (20... Qf8 21. Qc3) (20... c5 21. Qd2 c6 22. Qd6 Bb7 23. a5) 21. Bxa7 c5 22. Qa5 Rd6 23. Bf3 \$11) 15... Rb6 \$6 {Not sure about this move, even though it's a popular move but this move is probably only good if the other rook comes to b1.} (15... Rxb1+ \$5 {I think this is the strongest move.} 16. Rxb1 h6 (16... Nd7 \$1 {This might equalize, though I still think it might be playable for white.} 17. Bxc6 (17. Bc5 Rd5) 17... h6 18. Qc3 e5 19. Qc2 Nf8 20. Bc5 Ne6 21. Bxa7 Rd6 22. Bb5 (22. Rb8 Qxb8 23. Bxb8 Nd4) 22... c3 23. Qxc3 Bxb5 24. axb5 Qa8 25. Qe3 Nf4 26. f3 Nxe2+ 27. Qxe2 Qxa7+ 28. Kg2 \$11) 17. Bc5) 16. Bc5 Rd7 (16... Rd5 17. Bxd5 cxd5 18. Bxb6 axb6 19. Qd2 \$5 (19. Qc3 Nd7 {Isn't as effective for white.}) 19... e5 (19... Ne4 20. Qe3) 20. a5 b5 21. a4 c6 22. Qe3 Nd7 23. f4 {This maybe still has to be worked out. Even though black's position looks menacing, two exchanges are still two exchanges}) (16... Rd6 17. Bxd6 cxd6 18. Rxb6) 17. Rd1 \$1 {The point. That's why rfb1 was played instead of rab1.} Nd5 (17... h6 18. Rxd7 Nxd7 19. Bxb6 cxb6 20. Qc3 (20. Qb4 c5 21. Qc3) 20... Nc5) 18. e4 Nf6 19. Bxb6 cxb6 20. Qe5 \$14 h6 (20... Rd3 21. Bf1 Nd7 22. Qb2 c5 23. a5 Qc6 (23... f6) (23... bxa5 24. Bxd3 cxd3 25. Qa3) 24. axb6 axb6 25. Bxd3 cxd3 26. Qa3) 21. a5 Qc7 22. Qxc7 Rxc7 23. axb6 axb6 24. Rd8+ Kh7 25. Ra8 Bb7 26. Ra7 Nd7 27. a4 Nc5 28. a5 bxa5 29. Rb1 *

[Event "44th Annual Eastern Open"]

[Site "Tyson's Corner, Virginia"]

[Date "2017.12.30"]

[Round "6.2"]

[White "Huang, Andy"]

[Black "Lenderman, Alex"]

[Result "0-1"]

[ECO "B13"]

[Opening "Caro-Kann Defense"]

[Variation "Panov-Botvinnik Variation"]

[PlyCount "72"]

[EventDate "2017.12.27"]

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. exd5 cxd5 4. Bd3 Nc6 5. c3 Qc7 6. h3 \$5 g6 \$5 {Maybe this move before Nf6?} (6... e5 {Seems strategically risky.} 7. dxe5 Nxe5 8. Bb5+ (8. Bc2) 8... Nc6 9. Qxd5 Nf6 10. Qf3) (6... e6 {Has been played by Ni Hua but seems also not so reliable maybe.} 7. Nf3 Bd6 8. O-O Nge7 9. Re1 Bd7 10. Nbd2 (10. b3 \$14 {[%cal Gc3c4]}) 10... Ng6 11. Nf1 (11. b3) (11. c4) 11... Nf4 12. Ne5 Nxd3 13. Nxd3 O-O-O 14. Qf3 f6 \$132 {1/2 (43) Lin Chen (2450)-Ni Hua (2677) China CHN 2017}) (6... h6 7. Nf3 (7. Ne2) 7... e6 {Also seems a bit strange.}) (6... Nf6 7. Nf3 g6 (7... h6 {Seems like a rather strange computer suggestion.}) 8. Qc2 \$5 {This interesting move indeed seems like a problem.} (8. O-O Bg7 9. Re1 O-O 10. Na3 Bf5 11. Bf1 a6 12. Nc2 Bxc2 13. Qxc2 b5 14. a4 Qb7 15. Qb3 Na5 16. Qb4 Nc6 17. Qc5 bxa4 18. Qa3 e6 19. Qxa4 \$16 {1-0 (42) Artemiev,V (2682) -Rozum,I (2606) Sochi RUS 2017}) (8. Na3 a6 9. Qe2 Bf5 10. Bxf5 gxf5 11. Nc2 e6 12. Ne3 Ne4 13. Nd2 h5 14. O-O Bd6 (14... O-O-O \$1 \$17) 15. Nxd5 \$132 {1-0 (35) Fedoseev,V (2731)-Bacallao Alonso,Y (2573) Tbilisi GEO 2017}) 8... Bg7 (8... Nh5 \$5) 9. O-O O-O 10. Re1 Bd7 11. Ne5 \$14) 7. Ne2 {This seems critical. Yet in the 2 computer games, black scored 1.5-0.5 from this position. This seems like a good sign to me.} (7. Qc2 f6 \$3 \$132 {[%cal Ge7e5] That's why not commit Nf6.}) (7. Nf3 Bf5 \$1 {Now you have time for this.}) 7... Bf5 \$1 8. Bxf5 gxf5 9. Bf4 {Now just analyze this position for about 30 minutes and you should be good to go. I think black should be fine here in the long run.} Qb6 (9... Qd7 \$5 10. O-O e6 11. Re1 Nge7 12. Ng3 O-O-O 13. Bg5 Rg8 14. Bf6 Bh6 15. Nd2 Rdf8 16. Nf3 Ng6 17. Qb3 Nf4 18. Qa3 Kb8 \$15 {1/2 (94) Stockfish 1.9.1 64-bit 4CPU (3118)-Zappa Mexico II 64-bit 4CPU (2975) CCRL 2010}) 10. b4 Nf6 11. a4 e6 12. a5 Qd8 13. a6 b6 14. Na3 Bd6 15. Qa4 Qd7 16. Bxd6 Qxd6 17. Nb5 Qd7 18. O-O Kf8 19. Rfc1 Ne7 20. Nf4 Ng6 21. Nd3 Rg8 22. Rc2 Nh4 23. g3 Ne4 24.

Ne5 Qe7 25. c4 Nxg3 26. fxg3 Rxc3+ 27. Kf1 Qg5 28. Re1 Rxh3 29. Ke2 Ng2 30. Rf1 dxc4 31. Nd7+ Kg7 32. Ne5 Ne3 33. Nf3 Qf4 34. Qa1 Nxc2 35. Qc3 Rg8 {0-1 (35) Zappa Mexico II 64-bit 4CPU (2975)-Stockfish 1.9.1 64-bit 4CPU (3118) CCRL 2010 } *

7 Games by Tom Beckman:

D91-4 Tom Beckman(2035)-Andy Applebaum(2259), 44th Annual Eastern Open, Rd 1.12, Tyson's Corner, Virginia, 2017.12.27:

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.c4 Bg7 4.Nc3 d5 5.Bg5 Ne4 6.Bf4! Nxc3 7.bxc3 c5 8.cxd5 Qxd5 9.e3 cxd4 10.cxd4 Nc6 (This is my third outing with this line. I had two draws with expert Simon Steele in DCCL play where I was always somewhat better. This is a great way to neutralize the Gruenfeld.) **11. Be2** (Other ideas are:

1) **11.Qd2** Bg4 12.Be2 e5 13.dxe5 Bxf3 14.Bxf3 Qxd2+ 15.Kxd2 0-0-0+ 16.Ke2 Bxe5 17.Bxc6 Bxf4 18.Bf3 Be5 19.Rac1+ TB Kb8 20.h4 Rd6 21.h5 Rhd8 22.Rd2 f5 23.hxg6 hxg6 24.a4 R8d7 25.Rb1 b6 26.Rb5 Re7 27.a5 f4 28.axb6 Rxb6 29.Rbc5 Rc7 30.Be4 Bd6 31.Rg5 fxe3 32.fxe3 Rxc2 33.Bxc2 Be7 34.Rxg6 Rxg6 35.Bxg6 Kc7 +.32/38

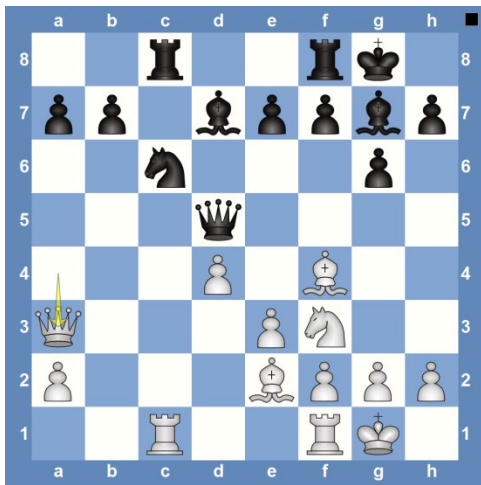
2) **11.Rc1** and then either:

a) **11...0-0** 12.Qd2 Bf5 13.Rc5 Qe4 14.Ng5 Qb1+ 15.Rc1 Qb6 16.e4 e5 +.00/26

b) **11...Qxa2** 12.d5! Qa5+ 13.Qd2 Nb4 14.Bc4 Bf5 15.0-0 0-0 16.Nd4 Nc6 17.Qxa5 Nxa5 18.Nxf5 gxf5 19.Ba2 Rfc8 +.05/25.)

11...0-O (Or 11...Qa5+ 12.Qd2 Qxd2+ 13.Kxd2 Bf5 14.Bd3 Bxd3 15.Kxd3 Nb4+ 16.Ke2 Nd5 17.Bg3 Rc8 18.Rhc1 0-0 19.e4 Nf6 20.Kd3 Nd7 21.Bf4 Nc5+ 22.dxc5 Bxa1 23.Rxa1 Rxc5 24.a4 Rd8+ 25.Ke2 f6 +.42/27.) **12.O-O Bf5** (Considered best. Steele played 12...Rd8 13.Qa4.)

13.Qa4! (Or 13.h3 Rac8 +.36/23 first.) **13...Rac8 14.Rac1!** (Or 14.Rfc1 e6 15.Qa3 Rfd8 +.35/25, or 14.h3.) **14...Bd7** (Slightly better is 14...Qa5 15.Qxa5 Nxa5 16.Rfd1 +.28/25.) **15.Qa3**

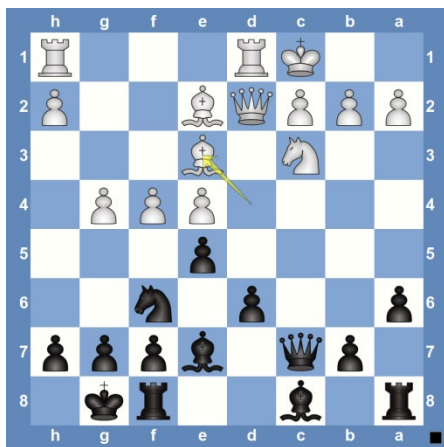


15...b5?? (Indicated is 15...Qa5 16.Qxa5 Nxa5 17.Rc7 Rxc7 18.Bxc7 +.42/24.) **16.Rc5 Qe4** (Or 16...Qe6 17.d5 +.04/23.) **17.Ng5 b4 18.Qa6 Nb8 19.Qxc8! Qa8 20.Qc7 Na6 21.Qxd7 Nxc5 22.dxc5 h6 23.Nf3 1-0**

I guess this opening is a keeper.

B48 or B82: Tom Beckman(2039)-Andy Huang(2269), 44th Annual Eastern Open, Rd2.8, Tyson's Corner, Virginia, 2017.12.28:

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 Qc7 (After Tari-Lenderman from the World Cup, I'm now a proponent of the Taimanov.) **6.f4 a6 7.Be3 d6?!** (There were just too many variations to learn! 7...b5 is best played when f4 has been played. See below for details.) **8.Qd2?!** (Black would already have been in trouble had White played 8.g4! h6 9.Nxc6 bxc6 10.Qf3 Nf6 11.0-0-0 Rb8 12.Kb1 d5 13.Bd4 Rb4 +.74/25.) **8...Nf6 9.O-O-O** (Or 9.Be2 Be7 10.0-0-0 0-0 11.g4 Nxd4 12.Bxd4 e5 13.Be3 b5 14.Kb1 Re8 15.fxe5 dxe5 16.g5 b4 17.Nd5 +.22/24.) **9...Be7 10.Be2 O-O 11.g4 Nxd4 12.Bxd4 e5 13.Be3**

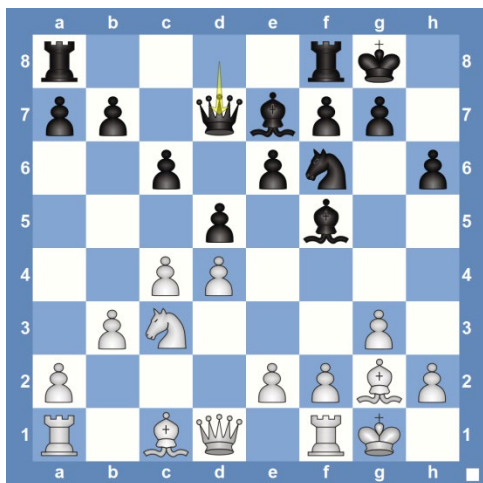


13...exf4?! (Black is OK until here. Normally Black exchanges here to clear the square at e5 for his N, but not in this position. Again, Black should play 13...b5! 14.Nd5 Nxd5 15.exd5 exf4 16.Bxf4 Bh4! 17.Bg3 +.16/27.) **14.Bxf4 Be6?!** (Again, 14...b5 is best and then 15.g5 b4 16.gxf6 bxc3 +.73/26. Black must get some play going against White's K and his Q-side.) **15.g5 Ne8?!** (Black was on the precipice of losing, and again I chose the weaker move. Somewhat better is 15...Nd7 16.h4 {or 16.Bxd6 Bxd6 17.Qxd6 Qa6 +.91/30} 16...Ne5 17.h5 Rac8 18.Kb1 +.98/25.) **16.h4 b5?!** (Now this is too late! Somewhat better is 16...Qa5 17.Kb1 +1.49/23.) **17.Nd5** (Or 17.h5 +1.86/24 is ominous.) **17...Bxd5 18.exd5 f6** (My reasoning was, if I don't do something, I'll be run over on the K-side. I thought I could keep most lines closed by pushing by the advancing Ps. Well, nothing else, like 18...Qd7 or 18...Bd8 is much better.) **19.g6?!** (And it sort of works! Better is 19.Bd3 Qd7 20.Kb1 Bd8 +2.18/25.) **19...hxg6?** (But Black has to forego winning a P and push past with 19...f5! 20.Bd3 Nf6 21.Bxf5 Nh5 22.Be6+ Kh8 +1.63/23.) **20.Bd3! f5 21.h5 g5** (This keeps the lines somewhat closed, but isn't good enough.) **22.Bxg5 Bxg5 23.Qxg5 Qf7** (23...Qd8 +2.34/24 is somewhat better.) **24.Rdf1! f4?** (24...Qf6 +3.07/24.) **25.h6 g6 26.Bxg6?!** (Better 26.Rh4.) **26...Qf6 27.Qg4 Kh8 28.Bd3 Ra7?!** (Better 28...f3.) **29.Rh5?!** (Better is 29.Rfg1.) **29...f3 30.Rf5 Qxh6+ 31.Kb1 Rxf5 32.Qxf5 Re7 33.Qxf3 Kg8** (33...Re5.) **34.a3 Qg7 35.Rh1?!** (Better 35.Bg6.) **35...Nf6?!** (Better 35...Qg5.) **36.Bf5 Kf8 37.Be6 Ke8 38.Qf4 Rc7 39.Qxd6 Ne4 40.Rh8+ Qxh8 41.Qxc7 1-0**

Tai.1115 – 7.f4 [B47]: 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.Be3 a6 7.f4 b5!

- **8.Bd3 Bb7 9.Nb3 Nf6 10.a3 d6 11.0-0 Be7 12.Qf3 Rb8 13.Rac1 b4 14.axb4 Nxb4 15.Qg3 0-0 16.Nd2 Rfd8 17.Kh1 Bc6 18.Be2 Qb7 19.f5 e5 20.Bh6 Bf8 21.Bg5 Be7 22.Bh6** rep draw
- **8.Nxc6 Qxc6 9.a3 Nf6 10.e5 Ne4 11.Nxe4 Qxe4 12.Qd4 Bb7 13.Qxe4 Bxe4 14.a4 bxa4 15.Rxa4 Bxc2 16.Rxa6 Rb8 17.Rb6 Bb4+ 18.Kf2 Rxb6 19.Bxb6 f6 20.Be2 0-0 21.exf6 Rxf6 22.Rc1 Bb3** +.07/24
- **8.a3 Bb7 9.Be2 Nf6 10.e5 Nxd4 11.Qxd4 Nd5 12.Nxd5 Bxd5 13.0-0 Be7 14.c3 0-0 15.Rad1 Rfd8 16.Qb6 Qc6 17.Bf3 Bxf3 18.Rxf3 Qc8 19.Rd2 Rb8 20.Qa7 Ra8 21.Qb6 Rb8** rep draw
- **8.Qf3 Bb7 9.Bd3 Nf6 10.Nb3 d5 11.exd5 Nb4 12.0-0 Nfxd5 13.Nxd5 Bxd5 14.Be4 Bd6 15.c3 Bxe4 16.Qxe4 Nd5 17.g3 0-0** -.10/27
- **8.Be2 Bb7 9.Bf3 Na5! 10.0-0 Nc4 11.Bc1Bc5 12.Kh1 Ne7 13.Qd3** (13.b3) **13...Qb6 14.Nb3 Be3 15.Bxe3 Nxe3 16.Rfb1** (16.Rfe1 Nc4) **16...0-0 17.a4** (17.Qxd7 Ng6; 17.Nd4 Nc4) **17...d5 18.e5 b4 19.a5 Qa7 20.Ne2 Nc4 21.Ned4 Rab8 22.g3 Nc6 23.Kg2 Rfc8 24.c3 Ba8 25.Be2 bxc3 26.bxc3 Qc7 27.Ra2 Ne7** -.24/24

D02 Tom Beckman(2039)-Vishal Kobla(2153), 44th Annual Eastern Open, Rd 3.14, Tyson's Corner, Virginia, 2017.12.28: **1.d4 d5 2.Nf3** (With this move order, I should really play 2.c4 and a regular QGD.) **2...Nf6 3.g3 Bf5** (Perhaps Black's best response.) **4.Bg2 h6** (Or 4...e6 first.) **5.O-O e6 6.c4 c6 7.Nc3** (Typical is 7.Qb3 Qb6 8.c5 Qxb3 9.axb3 =. 7.Nfd2 Nbd7 8.Nc3 is interesting.) **7...Be7** (Or 7...Nbd7 8.Nd2 Be7 9.b3 0-0 10.Bb2 b5! 11.e4 Nxe4 12.Ncxe4 dxe4 13.Nxe4 bxc4 14.bxc4 Rb8 15.Qe2 Qa5 16.Bc3 Qa6 17.Rfe1 Rfd8 18.c5 Qxe2 19.Rxe2 Nf6 20.Nxf6 Bxf6 21.Rd2 +.00/25. Despite doing everything "right," White gets nada.) **8.b3 O-O 9.Ne5** (Other tries are 9.Nd2, 9.Bb2, or 9.Re1.) **9...Nbd7 10.Nxd7** (And White has nothing and should prefer 10.Bb2 =.) **10...Qxd7**



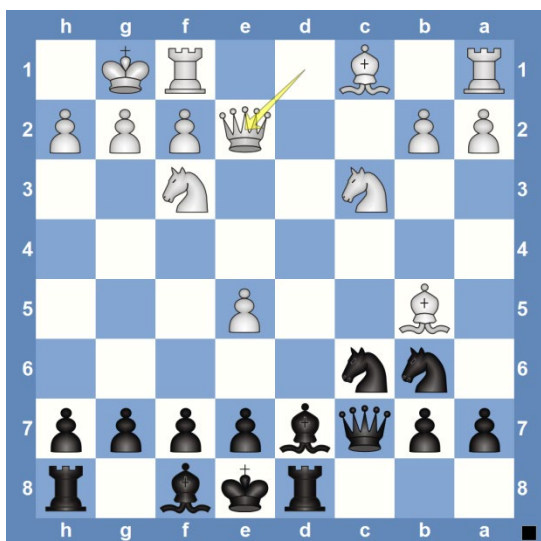
11.f3?! (White is trying too hard and should settle for 11.e3 -.06/25.) **11...Bg6?!** (Black missed 11...c5! and now either:

- 1) 12.dxc5 Bxc5+ 13.Kh1 Rfd8 14.Na4 Bb4 15.cxd5 Qxd5 -.60/25
- 2) 12.Ba3 cxd4 13.Bxe7 Qxe7 14.Qxd4 dxc4 15.e4 Rfd8 16.Qf2 -.68/25
- 3) 12.e3? dxc4 13.dxc5 Qxd1 14.Rxd1 Bxc5 15.Na4 -1.17/25.)

12.Be3 (Slightly better is 12.Bb2 c5 13.cxd5 exd5 14.Na4 b6 15.Rc1 cxd4 16.Qxd4 Rfe8 17.Rfe1 Bd6 {17...Rac8} 18.e3 -.12/27.) **12...Rfd8** (Or 12...Rad8 -.41/24.) **13.c5 b6 14.Na4** (Slightly better is 14.b4.) **14...bxc5 15.Nxc5 Bxc5 16.dxc5 d4?!** -.08/25 (16...e5 -.45/24 is slightly better.) **17.Bf2** (17.Bf4 -.14/24.) **17...e5 18.e4 dxe3 19.Bxe3 Nd5 20.Bd2 Qe7 21.Qc1! f5?!** (21...a5! -.40/24 is the way forward.) **22.Qc4?!** (-.27/25 Somewhat better is 22.Rf2 +.15/25.) **1/2-1/2**

B22/41 n248 Neo Zhu(2142)-Tom Beckman(2039), Eastern Open, Rd5 Bd16, Tyson's Corner VA, 12-29-17: **1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.cxd4** (Most testing is 6.Bc4 Nb6 7.Bb3 etc.) **6...d6 7.Bc4 Nb6 8.Bb5 Bd7** (I thought that 8...dxe5 was correct but didn't play it. Play continues 8...dxe5 9.Nxe5 Bd7 {and now there are "only" 4 moves: 10.Bxc6, 10.Nxc6, 10.Nxd7, and 10.Nc3} 10.Bxc6 Bxc6 11.0-0 e6 12.Nc3 Be7 13.Qg4 Bf6 14.Nxc6 bxc6 15.Be3 0-0 16.b3 Nd5 17.Ne4 Qc7 18.Rac1 Rfd8 +.12/28. It turns out that both moves are fine, but I now prefer 8...Bd7.) **9.Nc3 dxe5 10.dxe5** (10.d5 is risky after 10...Nb4! -.32/25.) **10...Qc7?!** (I was going to play the natural and best 10...g6!, but I saw this funny move and got sucked in. Play should have gone: 10...g6 11.0-0 Bg7 12.Qe2 0-0 13.Rd1 Qb8 14.Bg5 Nxe5 15.Bxe7 Re8 16.Bd6 Nxf3+ 17.Qxf3 Qc8 18.Bxd7 Qxd7 19.Bf8 Qc7 20.Bxg7 Kxg7 +.10/29.) **11.O-O!** (Of course it is too dangerous to take the P, but I had planned my next move anyway.) **11...Rd8** (Not 11...Nxe5?? 12.Bf4 or 11...g6? 12.a4. My original intention was 11...0-0-0?!, but 12.Be3 +1.37/25 is strong. No better is 11...e6 12.Re1 Be7 13.a3 0-0 14.Bf4 Na5 15.Bd3 Nac4 16.Qe2 +.97/25.) **12.Qe2**

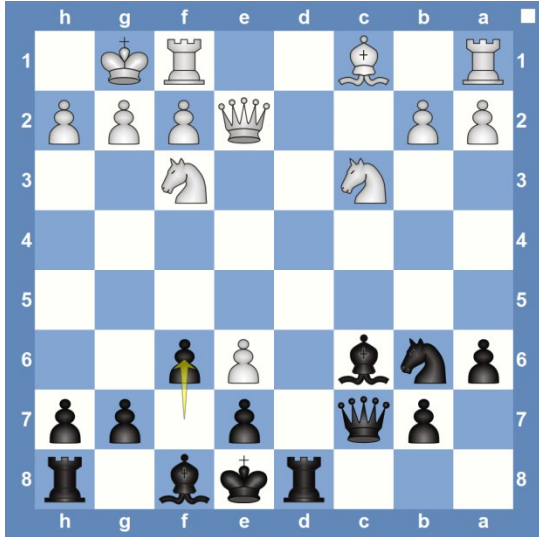
12...???



1. Does White have a threat?
2. How should Black prevent it?

12...a6?! (I crossed my moves up, but Black can ill afford the luxury of this time-wasting move. Best is the prophylactic 12...e6! 13.a3 Be7 +.75/25.)
 13.Bxc6 Bxc6 14.e6! (Somehow I forgot this obvious and winning retort!) 14...f6

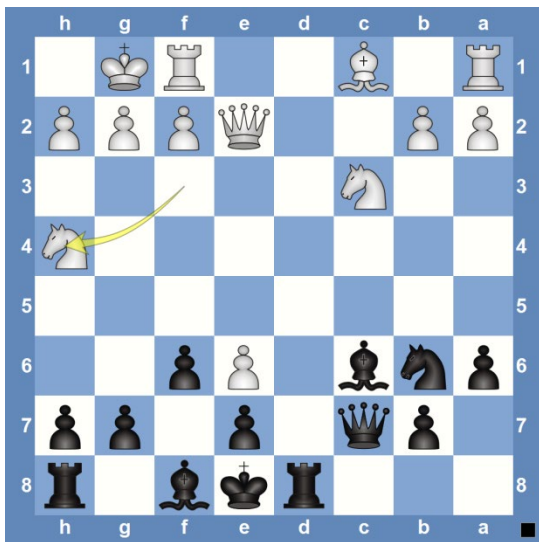
15.???



1. Now Black's K has no escape squares.
2. How should White take advantage of this?

15.Nh4? (This is what I was afraid of, but White wins by simply building with 15.Be3 Nd5 16.Rac1 g6 17.Nxd5 +1.26/24.)

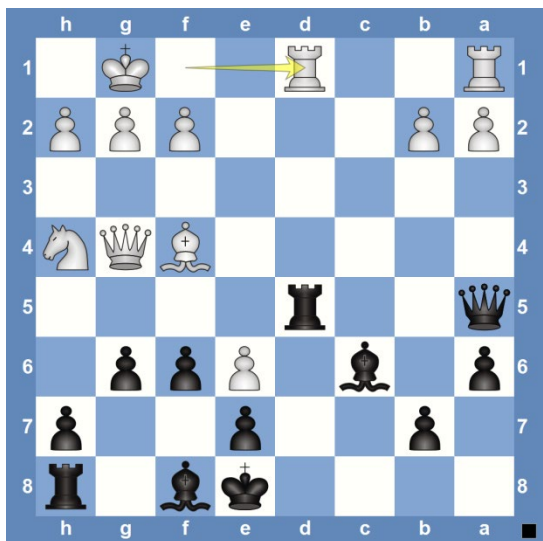
15...???



1. What is White's threat?
2. Can Black prevent it?

15...g6! (Perhaps White overlooked this move.) 16.Qg4 Nd5 17.Nxd5?! (Somewhat better is 17.Ne4 a5 18.Re1 or 17.Re1 Nxc3 =.) 17...Rxd5?
 (I'm somewhat embarrassed that I didn't see any danger and White's mate threats. I was trying for too much, and in retrospect should have played
 17...Bxd5 18.Re1 Qc4! -.39/25.) 18.Bf4 (Only now did I see the danger after Rd1 and Bc7.) 18...Qa5 19. Rfd1

19...???



1. Now how should Black proceed?
2. Does White have any threats?
3. What must Black do?

19...Rg8? (A waste of time as $Nxg6 Rg8$ saves the day. Necessary was $19...f5!$ $20.Qg3 Rg8$ $21.Nf3 Bg7$ +.76/25, but I didn't want to weaken the dark squares. A typical example of general considerations clouding concrete analysis!) **20.Rxd5 Qxd5** (No better was $20...Bxd5$, but I saw that $21.Rc1 Bc6$ $22.Qd1$ +2.62/25 was winning.)

1. The next four half moves are the most amazing that I have ever encountered.
2. Good luck finding them!

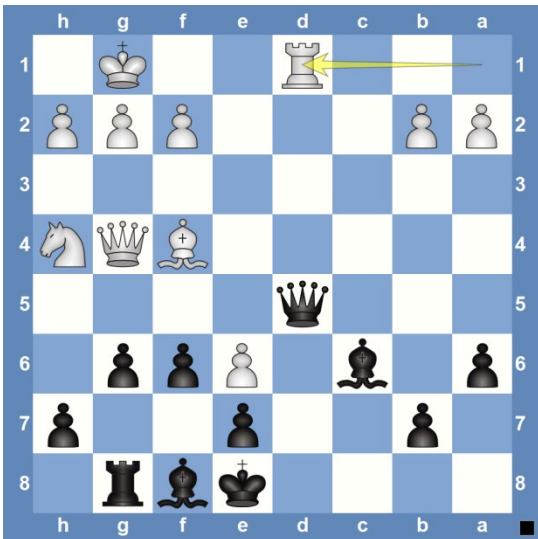
21.???



1. What is White's winning plan?
2. What is the correct move order?

21.Rd1?! (Amazingly, this move loses for White in some variations. However, he is to be excused for missing $21.Bc7!!$ first, and then $21...f5$ $22.Qe2 Qc5$ $23.Rd1 Bd5$ $24.Qe5$ +2.55/26.)

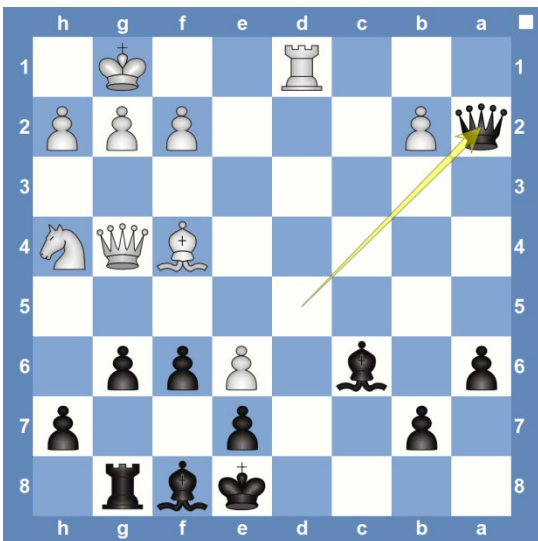
21...???



1. It looks like Black is totally busted.
2. What is White's threat sequence?
3. Believe it or not, I thought that I had found a defense!

21...Qxa2!? (Now I thought I was winning, as I saw that 22.Bc7 didn't work. Objectively, White is winning, but neither of us saw White's true brilliancy. Somewhat better is 21...Qa5, but that loses to 22.b3!! Bg7 23.Qg3 Qb5 24.Qe3! Bd5 25.Nf3 Kf8 26.Nd4 Qe8 27.Nc2! Qc6 28.Nb4! +3.67/23 and the defense finally fails.)

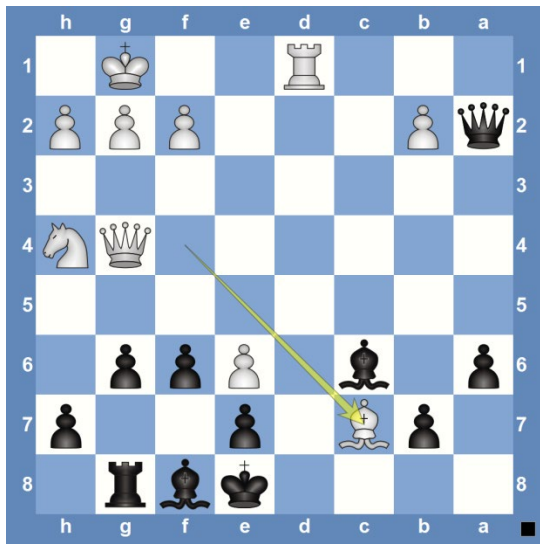
22.???



1. What is White's plan to mate Black?
2. Why was I so (overly) confident?

22.Bc7? (The losing move!! Both of us missed 22.Nf5!! Bd5 23.Nd4 h5 24.Qe2 Bc4 25.Rc1 b5 26.Bd2 +5.71/26. 21...Qa5 prevents this beautiful move.)

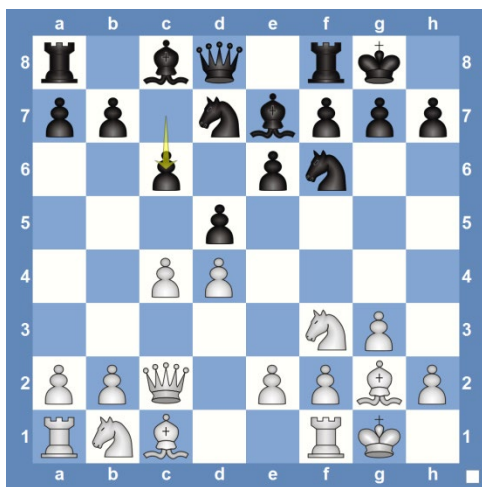
22...???



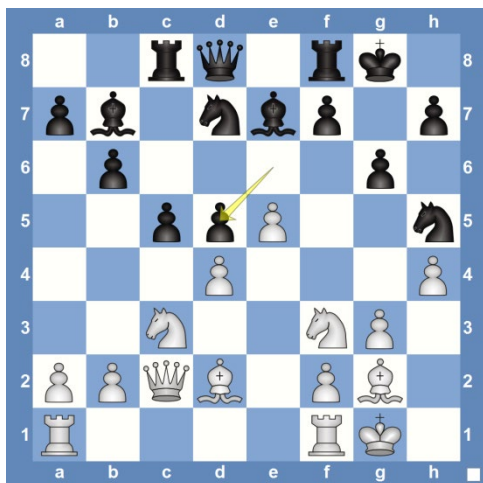
1. White expected me to resign here. Why?
2. Why did 22.Nf5!! work instead of 22.Bc7?

22...Bd5!! (Black turns the tables.) **23.Qf3** (White tries to confuse me. 23.Nf3 is slightly better.) **23...Bxe6 24.Qxb7 Kf7! 25.Re1** (Or 25.g3 - 1.53/22.) **25...Bh6?!** (Somewhat better is 25...Bd5 first.) **26.Nf3** (Or 26.Bd6.) **26...Bd5 27.Qb4 Re8** (Black unwinds the bind to his position with development.) **28.Nd4?!** (In time trouble, White makes the win easy. 28.Qh4 Kg7 makes winning a little harder, but the outcome is not in doubt.) **28...e5 29.Nf3 Bf8?!** (More accurate is 29...e4-e3, but I wanted simple.) **30.Qh4?** (White's last vague chance was 30.Bd6.) **30...Kg7 31.h3 Qxb2 32.Rd1?!** (Somewhat better is 32.Ba5.) **32...Qb3 33.Rc1 Ba3 34.Re1 Bxf3** (Or 34...Bc5 -4.46/23.) **35.gxf3 Qc3 36.Re3?** (36.Rd1 Qxf3 is better.) **36...Qxc7 37.Qa4 Qc1+?!** (Even better is 37...Rd8 -6.64/23 first.) **38.Kg2 Rb8** (38...Bc5 is simpler.) **39.Rxa3?** (White must play 39.Qxa3 Rb1 40.Qxc1 Rxc1 -2.43/22.) **39...Rb1 40.Qd7+ Kh6 41.f4 exf4 42.Kf3 Qxa3+ 43.Kxf4 Rb4+ 0-1**

E08 Tom Beckman(2039)-Jeffrey Quirke(2268), 44th Annual Eastern Open, Rd 6.9, Tyson's Corner VA, 2017.12.30: **1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.g3** (This is my almost patented Catalan Slow Play move order that avoids both 4...Bb4+ and 4...dxc4.) **3...d5 4.Bg2 Be7 5.O-O O-O 6.c4 Nbd7** (6...dxc4 is the Open Variation.) **7.Qc2 c6 8.Bf4!?** (I must have played 10 games on one side or the other of the Catalan. So, I tried a new idea...rope-a-dope. Slightly better is 8.Nbd2 b6 9.e4 Bb7 10.e5 Ne8 11.b3 c5 12.Bb2 Rc8 13.dxc5 Bxc5 14.Qd3 Nc7 15.Qe2 Qd7 +.32/25.)



8...Nh5 9.Bd2 b6 (9...f5 is interesting.) **10.Nc3** (Or 10.Ne5 =.) **10...Bb7** (Or 10...Nhf6 =.) **11.e4 Rc8?!** (Black should have taken 11...dxc4 12.e5 c5 13.dxc5 Qc8 14.cxb6 axb6 +.12/24.) **12.e5** (Or 12.cxd5 cxd5 13.e5 +.49/24.) **12...g6** (12...g5 is hard to play.) **13.h4?!** (Best but very counterintuitive is 13.cxd5 cxd5 14.Bh6 Ng7 15.Rfe1 b5 16.a3 +.40/27.) **13...c5!** (Or 13...Ba6, and Black is doing well.) **14.cxd5 exd5?!** (14...cxd4 15.Nxd4 Nxe5 unclear.)



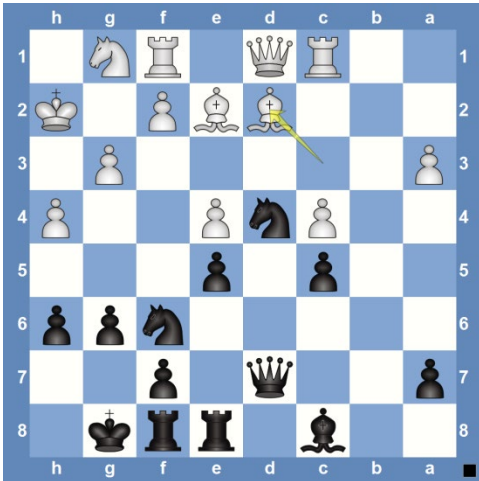
15.Bh6?! (Somewhat better is 15.Rfe1! Re8 16.Bh3 Ng7 17.h5! {17.Qd1 Ne6 18.Nb5 +.20/25} 17...Nxb5 18.e6 fxe6 19.Bxe6+ Kh8 20.Bxd5 +.55/24.) **15...Re8 16.Rfe1 cxd4 17.Nxd4 Bc5 18.Bg5! Qc7 19.Rad1?** (Much better is 19.Ncb5! Qb8 20.e6! Ne5 21.exf7+ Nxf7 +.21/23.) **19...Rxe5?** (Better is 19...Nxe5 20.Re2 -.1.00/25.) **20.Ndb5?** (20.Rxe5 Qxe5 -.34/23.) **20...Qb8?** (How did we both miss the forcing 20...Rxe1+ 21.Rxe1 Qxg3 -.1.62/26.) **21.Kh2?** (21.Rxe5 Nxe5 -.82/23.) **21...Rxe1** (Now Black is crushing White.) **22.Rxe1 a6 23.Bh3? Ne5! 24.Qe2? Re8! 25.Bd2 axb5?! 26. f4 d4 27. fxe5 dxc3 28. Bxc3 b4 29. Bd2 Bd4 0-1**

A46 Colle-Zuckertort: Andrew Miller(1981)-Tom Beckman(2039), 44th Annual Eastern Open, Rd 7.12, Tyson's Corner, Virginia, 2017.12.30: **1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.e3 b6 4.Bd3 Bb7 5.Nbd2 Be7** (I played this White setup for awhile, and it is very solid. However, Black's move order is not the most effective against this setup. Perhaps I should have played 5...c5 first.) **6.O-O** (Stockfish prefers 6.e4 d5 7.e5 Nfd7 =, transposing into an odd almost Tarrasch French.) **6...c5 7.b3** (Again, Stockfish prefers 7.e4, or 7.c4 0-0 8.b3 d5 9.Bb2 Nc6 =.) **7...Nc6** (Most books and engines prefer this move even though it blocks the QB. I spent some time convincing myself not to play Nbd7 after 7...0-0 8.Bb2 d6 9.c4 Nbd7 10.Rc1 Rc8 11.Qe2 Qc7 12.Ng5 {I didn't see this move, but did see the expected 12.Rfd1 +.08/25} 12...h6 13.Nge4 Rfe8 {13...Nh7 14.Nc3 f5 15.d5 +1.12/25} 14.Nc3 {14.f4 Nxe4} 14...cxd4 15.exd4 Qb8 16.f4 d5 +.22/26.) **8.a3** (Tempos are traded after 8.Bb2 Nb4 9.Bb1 0-0 10.a3 Nc6.) **8...O-O 9.Bb2 Qc7** (Or 9...d5.) **10.Qe2** (Or 10.c4.) **10...d6** (I wanted a more complex, fighting game then would occur after 10...d5. Black intends to play Pe5.) **11.c4 Rae8** (My vague intention was to play f5 and so I wanted the Rs positioned just so. Alternative R placements are at 11...Rfe8 and 11...Rfd8.) **12.Rac1** (White has completed the Colle-Zuckertort setup with perhaps a tiny edge.) **12...h6?!** (Where is White's play? Black's play? Stockfish prefers either 12...g6 or 12...Rd8.) **13.Bc3** (White should prefer 13.Bb1! g6 14.b4! +.42/25.) **13...Bd8!?** (Black intends Pe5-e4. However, despite weakening his Q-side Ps, perhaps Black should prevent White's Q-side play and 14.b4 with 13...a5 14.Bb2 Rd8 15.Rfd1 Rfe8 +.20/24.) **14.dxc5** (White releases the tension, when he should again play 14.b4 Nd7 +.25/22.) **14...dxc5 15.b4?!** (Chess is so fickle. Now this recommended move is too late to prevent trouble. Somewhat better is 15.Rfe1 Be7 16.Bc2 Rd8 17.Rb1 =.)

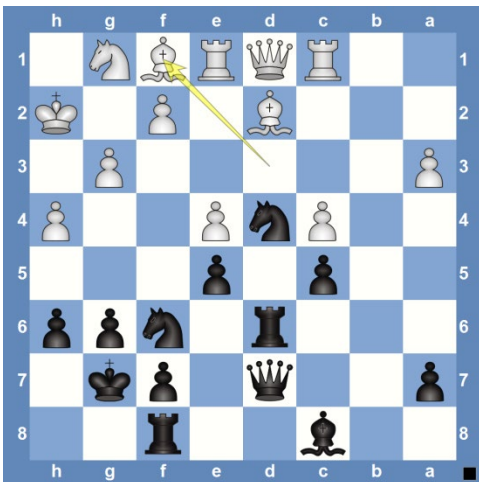


15...e5! (Finally Black gets some play. Black is aware that he threatens Pe4 and if 16.e4, then his N reaches the weakened d4 square much more quickly than his opponent.) **16.e4?!** (Perhaps White should prefer the odd 16.Nh4 e4 17.Bc2 Bc8 18.h3 cxb4 19.axb4 Be7 20.b5 Nb4 21.Bb1 -.47/26.) **16...Nd4** (Or first 16...Be7 17.Rb1 Nd4 -.68/25.) **17.Qd1 Bc8?!** (Black should reorganize his pieces and try to resolve the Q-side first with 17...Be7! 18.Re1 Rd8 19.Rb1 Rfe8 -.77/23.) **18.bxc5!** (Or 18.Re1 Be7 19.Bxd5 cxd5 20.c5 -.46/24.) **18...bxc5 19.h3** (This unnecessary weakening causes problems later on. White should continue with 19.Ne1 Bg4 20.f3 Be6 -.44/25.) **19...g6?!** (Black's plan to play Nh5-f4 is too slow,

and easy to prevent. Stockfish prefers 19...Bd7 20.Re1 -.63/23.) **20.Kh2?!** (White misses the moment for 20.Nb3 and play on the Q-side.) **20...Nh5 21.g3?!** (Now White is tied up and losing. Stockfish prefers 21.Re1 -.88/23, but it looks scary to allow the N into f4.) **21...Qd7 22.Ng1 Bg5** (This seemed logical to prepare to trade off one of Black's inactive pieces, his bad B. However, Black's attack on the K-side has been stopped, and so he should shift/alternate to the Q-side with 22...Re6-a6 -1.08/23.) **23.Be2** (Slightly better is 23.Rb1 Qe6 -.77/24.) **23...Nf6** (I intended to play 23...Ng7! 24.Rb1 f5 25.Bf3 Bxd2 26.Qxd2 f4 27.Bxd4 exd4 28.g4 Qd6 29.Qa5 Rf7 30.Rb5 Rc7 -1.07/30, but I thought the resulting blocked position would allow White to defend. I underestimated Black's advantage.) **24.h4?!** (This created a point for attack. Preferable was 24.Bxd4 cxd4 25.Bd3 Re6 26.Kg2 h5 27.c5 Bh6 -1.33/29.) **24...Bxd2 25.Bxd2**



25...Kg7?! (I didn't even consider opening lines with 25...g5! 26.f3 {26.hxg4 Nxe4} 26...gxh4 27.g5 Nh7 28.Qe1 f6 29.g6 -1.54/23.) **26.Bd3?!** (Somewhat better was 26.f3.) **26...Re6!** (Black plans on winning something on the d-file.) **27.Re1?** (Options are:
 1) 27.Bc3 Rd6 28.Qe1 g5 29.f4 gxf4 30.gxf4 Kh7 -2.49/23
 2) 27.Rc3 Rd6 28.f3 g5 29.Bc1 Rd8 30.Qe1 Nh5 31.g4 Nf4 32.Bxf4 exf4 33.e5 Rb6 -2.81/26
 3) 27.f3 Rd6 28.Rc3 g5 29.Be3 g4 30.Qc1 Rd8 31.Bxh7+ Kh7 32.Bg5 gxf3 33.Qb2 Qg4 34.Qf2 Qxg5 35.hxg5 Ng4+ 36.Kh1 Nxf2+ -3.21/23.)
27...Rd6 28.Bf1? (28.Rc3 Rd8 29.f3 Nxf3+ -3.01/24.)

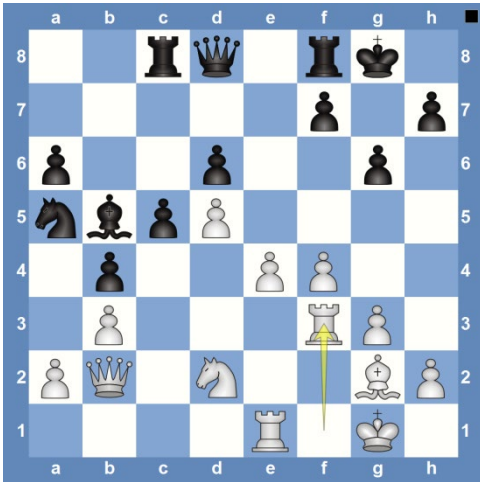


28...Rd8? (Tactics Checklist anyone? 28...Ng4+ 29.Kg2 f5 30.Be3 fxe4 31.Rb1 Nf5 -7.52/24.) **29.Ba5 Rg8?** (C'mon, 29...Ng4+ 30.Kg2 Nc6 31.Bxd8 Rxd1 32.Rcxd1 Nd4 33.Ba5 Qa4 -2.55/23.) **30.Bh3** (Slightly better is 30.f3.) **30...Ne6?** (Time trouble, and the win is gone. Winning is 30...Qc6 31.Bxc8 Rxc8 32.f3 Qd7 -1.86/23.) **31.Qc2 Ra6?!** (Somewhat better is 31...Qe8 32.Nf3 -.68/23.) **32.Bc3 Qc7 33.Bxe6 Rxe6** (Slightly better is 33...Bxe6.) **34.Nf3 Ng4+ 35.Kg2 Rf8 36.Qb2** (36.Rcd1 +.20/23.) **36...f6?!** (36...Rd8 =.) **37.Rcd1** (37.h5 f5 +.28/22.) **37...Bb7?** (37...Rd6 =.) **38.Qb5?** (38.h5 +.78/23.) **38...Rf7 39.Ba5?!** (39.h5 =.) **39...Qc6?!** (No time. 39...a6! -.36/25.) **1/2-1/2**

KID Smoothie: Gary De Fotis makes this win look easy, but was it really? Follow the game's twists and turns.

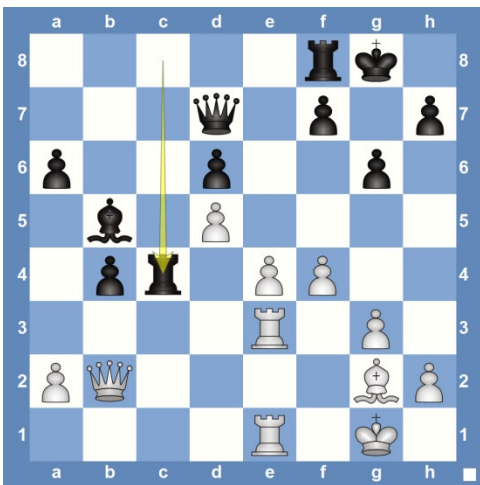
E66/9: Gary De Fotis(2127)-R. Luo(2005), 44th Annual Eastern Open, Rd 4.19, Tyson's Corner, Virginia, 2017.12.29: **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 O-O 5.Nc3 d6 6.Nf3 c5** (GDF: Black selects an older but solid system from among a multitude of choices. TB: The Yugoslav KID has as good a chance of equalizing as anything else.) **7.O-O** (TB: In *Wojo's Weapons*, Vol. 2, Dean Ippolito recommends the Anti-Yugoslav with 7.dxc5 dxc5 8.Ne5 Nfd7 to avoid the complexities of the mainline Yugo.) **7...Nc6 8.d5 Na5 9.Nd2 a6 10.Qc2 Rb8 11.b3 b5 12.Bb2 e6** (GDF: Black's 12th move was also a choice among many possibilities. TB: Here Black has the following options: 12...Bh6, 12...bxc4, 12...e6, 12...e5, 12...Bf5, and 12...Re8.) **13.e4** (GDF: White's 13th is found in some but not all reference works.) **13...exd5** (TB: In addition, ECO mentions 13...Re8 and 13...bxc4.) **14.cxd5 Bd7 15. Nd1 Rc8** (GDF: While this offers tactical advantages later, it looks time-wasting so soon after ...Rb8.) **16.Ne3 Ng4 17.Nxg4 Bxg4 18.Bxg7 Kxg7 19.Qc3+ Kg8 20.Rae1** (GDF: Thanks to Black's nonstandard sequence, White has saved time towards a central build-up and King-side attack.) **20...Bd7 21.f4 b4 22.Qb2 Bb5 23.Rf3**

TB: Where is Black's play? Where is White's play? Should Black prevent White's play or carry on with his own?



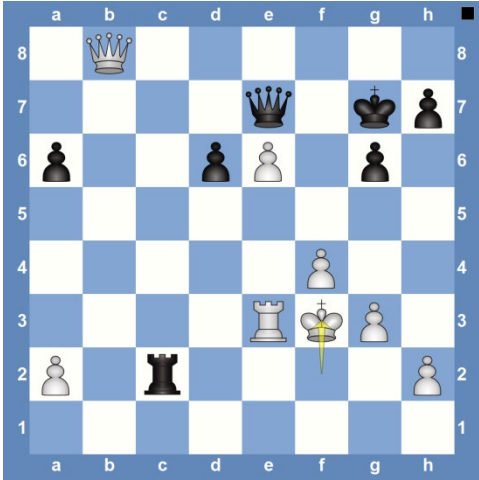
23...Qd7 24.Rfe3 c4 25.bxc4 Nxc4 26.Nxc4 Rxc4

TB: 27.e5 looks very strong...but is it?



27.e5 Rfc8 28.e6 fxe6? (TB: Black should avoid opening lines at all costs and play 28...Qa7! 29.exf7+ Kxf7 30.Bh3 Qxe3+! 31.Rxe3 Rc1+ 32.Bf1 R8c2 =. Fascinating!) **29.dxe6?** (GDF: Too routine! The known theme of 29.Bh3, as Black pointed out, leads to a quick win.) **29...Qe7 30.Bd5 R4c5 31.Qd4 Bc4 32.Bxc4 Rxc4 33.Qb6 R8c6 34.Qa5 Rc3 35.Qxb4 Rxe3** (GDF: 35...Qa7 improves, stopping the b8 check and subsequent potential mating sequence. I planned 36.Qe4, and if 36...Rxe3, 37.Rxe3 maintaining the threats to advance the e-pawn. If 36...d5, 37.Qe5 d4, 38.e7.) **36.Qb8+?!** (TB: 36.Rxe3 appears to be winning.) **36...Kg7?** (GDF: 36...Qf8 presented White with greater problems. Probably Black did not yet see (nor did White) that 39...Rxa2 permits 40.Rb3! Whether or not Black takes on e6, White's coming Rb7 will lead to mate or catastrophic material loss.) **37.Rxe3 Rc1+ 38.Kf2 Rc2+ 39.Kf3**

TB: So, how does Black best defend this position? Actively or hunker down? Can Black chop a P maybe? Can White make any real progress?



39...Rc7 40.Qb6 Ra7 41.Rd3 Rb7 42.Qxd6 Qe8 43.Qxa6 Re7 44.Re3 Kf6 45.Qa5 (GDF: Easiest, both threatening and inviting liquidation to a trivially won position.) **45...Rxe6 46.Rxe6+ Qxe6 47.Qe5+ Qxe5 48.fxe5+ Kxe5 49.a4 Kd6 50.Kf4 h6 51.a5 1-0**