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# AMERICAN CHESS MAGAZINE

ACMCHESS.COM / ISSUE No.9 WINTER 2018/2019

WHERE GREAT MINDS MEET

WORLD TITLE MATCH FROM 1-15

**CARLSEN  
OVERLOOKS  
A WINNING  
SACRIFICE**

MACKENZIE MOLNER

**FABIANO'S  
MISSED MATE  
IN 36 MOVES!**

JOEL BENJAMIN

**MAGNUS SCORES  
HAT TRICK IN  
FINAL SHOOT-OUT**

JOHN BURKE

**CHESS  
OLYMPIAD  
IN BATUMI**

**SILVER  
FOR THE  
US TEAM!**

JENNIFER YU  
BASSEM AMIN  
ROBERT HUNGASKI  
ELSHAN MORADIABADI

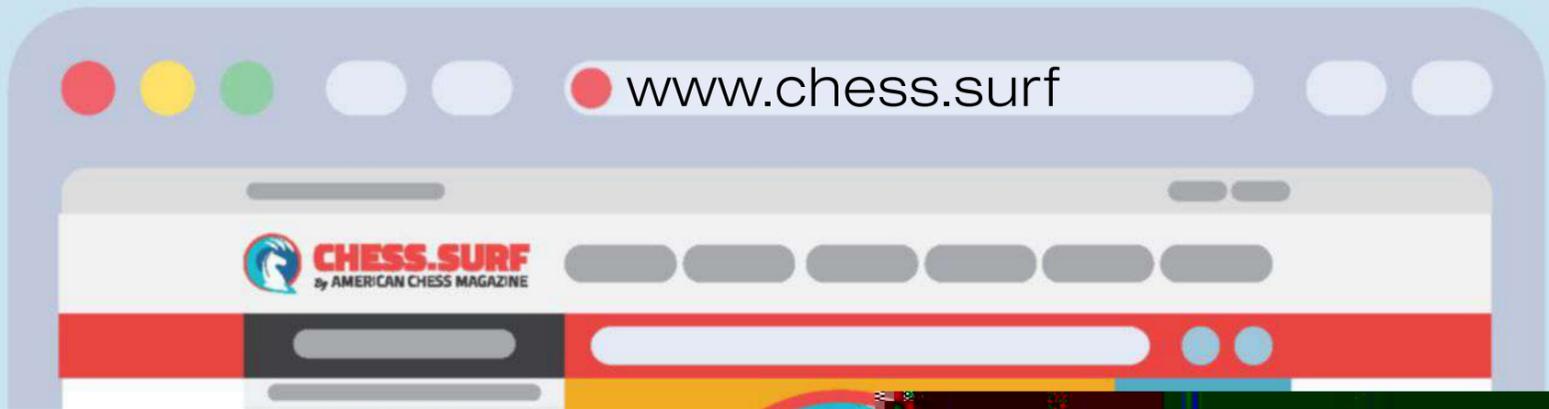
RUI LOPEZ  
**THE BREYER  
LABYRINTH**

OPENING LAB BY  
**ALEX IPATOV**

LONDON ENCOUNTER • ALL 12 GAMES DRAWN IN CLASSICAL CHESS!

# BROTHERS IN ARMS

AMERICAN CHALLENGER TAKES NORWEGIAN CHAMPION TO  
EXTRA TIME BUT IS THEN CRUSHED IN RAPIDPLAY TIE-BREAKER





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**IT'S COOL TO BE SMART**

# AMERICAN CHESS MAGAZINE



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**CLASSICAL EQUALITY  
RAPID SUPREMACY**

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Advise Young  
Players

GM EUGENIO  
TORRE



## FAREWELL TO KIRSAN ENTER ARKADIY DVORKOVICH

the 89<sup>th</sup>



## NICOLAS CHECA – NEW US (TEENAGE!) GRANDMASTER

Nicolas Checa 2495 - Kassa Korley 2453  
*Fall 2018 CCCSA GM Norm Invitational*



1-0

## JU WENJUN – PER ASPERA AD ASTRA

## Internet Chess: NAKAMURA IS FASTEST CLOCK ON THE PLANET!

Hikaru Nakamura defeated Wesley So 15½:12½

	Classical				25m+10s	10m+10s	Score		
JU WENJUN	½	0	½	1	½	½	1	1	5
KATERYNA LAGNO	½	1	½	0	½	½	0	0	3



# LETTER from the EDITOR



## TIE-BREAKS OR NOT TIE-BREAKS?

The last three months could so easily have been a wondrous period for American chess: a time when dreams came true. But the fact that ultimate success was so close at hand, yet just out of reach, has left something of a bittersweet taste.

Caruana has repeatedly shown that he is World Champion material, and this was reinforced yet again by his recent performance in London. Facing one of the greatest players in chess history, Fabi stood his ground, always keeping his cool, and increasing his fan base by the thousands. Magnus, frustrated, was only able to defeat him in the rapid tie-breaks, a specialty in which the Norwegian is clearly superior to anybody else right now, and he is very aware of that. We could argue whether or not a Classical World Championship should ever be decided by a Rapidplay tie-breaker, but those are the present rules and they must be obeyed. Carlsen was a deserved winner, who knew how to take the battle to the ground that favors him most.

“Thanks to my opponent for a great fight. He showed himself to be an extremely strong player, versatile and very, very tough to beat. Obviously, I am very happy with the way the match ended but I don’t think we’ve seen the last from Fabiano in this particular context”. That’s how the World Champion himself summed it all up, and if something distinguishes Carlsen it is the honesty of his statements: he doesn’t say things just to please an audience. As our consulting editor Pete Tamburro wrote, Caruana was the perfect and refreshing model for American chess. He was no “enfant terrible” as Fischer was. He fought hard, never quit and responded to the result as a gentleman. Other than a championship, what more could we ask of him?

As for the members of the US men’s team, they did what had to be done. They were the top seeds, and led by Caruana they tied for first, very much like they did in Baku when they achieved their historic victory. But the same intricate tiebreakers that gave the American players the gold medal in 2016 favored somebody else this time, and they had to content themselves with silver. The women’s team also came very close to making an appearance on the podium, with superb performances by Irina Krush and Jennifer Yu, who won gold and bronze individual medals playing their respective boards.

In the word “bittersweet”, bitter comes first. I am writing this only a few days after Caruana’s defeat, and there is still a slight feeling of disappointment in the air. But I am sure that by the time this magazine reaches its readers, the dust will have settled. And then we will see clearly that apart from the summer of 1972, when Bobby Fischer won the world title, this has been the best three months in the history of American Chess.

As might be expected, the fact that for the second time in a row both the World Championship match and the Chess Olympiad ended in a tie has sparked some debate. Should the format be changed? In one of the press conferences, Carlsen hinted that a 16 or 18 game match might be an improvement, since that would allow for more “experiments”. Some others argue that the time limits have to be shorter, because the quality of modern chess preparation makes the games more prone to end in a draw.

As for the Chess Olympiad, there is general consensus that the tie-break system is too random and complicated, and it should be improved. The moments we lived through in Baku and Batumi, when nobody knew what was going on and who was winning, are incompatible with a modern and commercial sport. With FIDE under a new leadership, I think we can expect some changes to be made. During his two months in office, Arkady Dvorkovich has shown himself to be an accessible President, who listens to opinions on all sides and is not afraid of carrying out reforms.

All in all, I see grounds for optimism about the future of chess, not only at home, but globally.

**David Llada, Editor-in-Chief**

A photograph of Magnus Carlsen, the world chess champion, smiling and holding a large silver trophy aloft in his right hand. He is wearing a light grey suit jacket over a white shirt and a patterned tie. A gold medal hangs from a ribbon around his neck. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

# CLASSICAL EQUALITY RAPID SUPREMACY

LONDON 2018

**CARLSEN VS CARUANA 6:6 3:0**

The world title match between Magnus Carlsen and Fabiano Caruana was quite unusual because it was also one of the few such encounters in chess history that has left more questions unresolved than resolved. Firstly, the question as to who is currently the best classical chess player will probably remain unanswered until the next Elo rating list is published. Secondly, the question arises as to whether a 12-game match is the right format anyway, since even Carlsen suggested that 16 or 18 games might be a better solution to encourage more enterprising chess. Thirdly, although most of the top players in the world agreed that the overall quality of play in the match was extremely high, this is precisely the reason why there has been a 92% draw percentage in the last two World Championships! Finally, there is the most worrying question: will London be remembered as the only contest in which all games ended in a draw – or just the first?



## Expert opinion

### Mackenzie Molner

This was a world title match that will go down in history as one of the closest of all time. There were near misses by both players, chances for both sides, and it really could have gone either way with just one or two different moves... When looking back on the contest I think a lot of emphasis will be placed on the opening preparation of the players. It was great to see both of them so well armed with the black pieces, although hopefully in future matches the players will rise to the challenge of taking more risks and creating more chances with the white pieces..

### Joel Benjamin

In a lot of ways the match went along the lines I predicted. Caruana was not inferior to Carlsen in classical chess. The far more rigorous 2018 schedule had Fabiano more ready and motivated. Carlsen's disdain of opening theory torpedoed his chances with White. Unfortunately, when Caruana was unable to produce a win, everyone's prediction came true – the rapid playoff was one-sided.

The first move of the World Championship, London 2018.  
*Photo by Nadia Panteleva*

### John Burke

This was probably the most accurately played match in World Championship history. The draws were not so much due to lack of effort, but rather because the players canceled each other out at every corner. Sure, we can point to Magnus' weak opening preparation as White, but obviously the fact that Fabiano had such excellent preparation himself played a major role. Although both players had fleeting chances to win games, overall there were no terrible blunders in the classical portion of the match and the players proved themselves equals. As for the rapid, that's another story. Magnus is king!



# Magnus Misses the First Shot

## GAMES 1-4

AS EXPECTED, IN THE FIRST FOUR GAMES BOTH PLAYERS DISPLAYED A VERY HIGH LEVEL OF OPENING PREPARATION, ESPECIALLY WITH THE BLACK PIECES. IN FACT MAGNUS' ADVANTAGE IN GAME 1 WAS PROBABLY DECISIVE, BUT SURPRISINGLY HE FAILED TO DELIVER THE KNOCKOUT BLOW...

Annotations by **GM MACKENZIE MOLNER**

Fabiano Caruana 2832  
Magnus Carlsen 2835

Game 1, World Championship Match **8. ♖e3 e5 9.0-0**

**1.e4 c5 2. ♘f3 ♘c6 3. ♗b5**

**3...g6**

**4. ♗xc6 dxc6 5.d3 ♗g7 6.h3 ♘f6 7. ♘c3**

```

X I | | | | | | | | Y
9r + - + k n - t 0
9p p + - p p v p 0
9- + p + - + p + 0
9+ - p - + - + - 0
9- + - + P + - + 0
9+ - N P + N + P 0
9P P P + - P P + 0
9R - v Q K - + R 0
x i i i i i i i y

```

**7... ♘d7**

**9...b6 10. ♘h2 ♘f8 11.f4 exf4 12. ♖xf4 ♗e6 13. ♖f2 h6 14. ♖d2**

```

X I | | | | | | | | Y
9r + - + k n - t 0
9p - + - + p v - 0
9- p p + l + p p 0
9+ - p - + - + - 0
9- + - + P + - + 0
9+ - N P v - + P 0
9P P P v - R P N 0
9R - + - + - K - 0
x i i i i i i i y

```

**14...g5!**

**15. ♖af1 ♖d6**

Mackenzie Molner is an American grandmaster, residing in New Jersey. He has been US Open Co-Champion and competed in the U.S. Championship. Mac is now a full-time chess coach, conducting group classes in school programs and also private lessons.

```

X I | | | | | | | | Y
9r + - + k n - t 0
9p - + - + p v - 0
9- p p + l + p p 0
9+ - p - + - p - 0
9- + - + P + - + 0
9+ - N P v - + P 0
9P P P v - R P N 0
9+ - + - + R K - 0
x i i i i i i i y

```

**16. ♘g4?!**

**16...0-0-0 17. ♘f6?!**

## An epic battle

## Editor's Diary

The first game of a World Championship match is always something very special. The process of qualification for a world title challenger takes two years, during which there is ever-increasing excitement and expectation. On the day the players finally sit down at the board, the pent up tension is tangible and you can sense an enormous release of energy into the atmosphere. How intense it must be for the two rivals!

27...♔d4+ 28.♘e3 ♕b7 29.♖h1 ♜df8  
30.♗f5 ♝c3 31.♝c1

26...♞hg8 27.♞e2?

27...♞xg2+ 28.♝xg2 ♜e6 29.♗f2  
♞g8 30.♗g4 ♝e8

31.♝f3 ♝xh5 32.♖f2 ♘c7

XI | | | | | | | Y  
9- +k t - n - t 0  
9p - + - + p v - 0  
9- p p ♗ | ♞ - p 0  
9+ - p - + - p - 0  
9- + - + P + - + 0  
9+ - ♞NP ♗ - + P 0  
9P P P ♗ - ♞P + 0  
9+ - + - + R ♞ - 0  
xi | | | | | | | y  
17...♗d7!

22.♗xf6 ♗e6 23.♗h5 ♘xh5 24.gxh5  
♗f4 25.♘xf4 gxf4

XI | | | | | | | Y  
9- +k t - + - t 0  
9p - + - + - + - 0  
9- p p ♗ - + - p 0  
9+ - p - v - + P 0  
9- + - + P p - + 0  
9+ P + P + - + P 0  
9P + P ♗ - ♞ - + 0  
9+ - + N + R ♞ - 0  
xi | | | | | | | y  
26.♞g2?!

18.♗h5 ♘e5 19.g4 f6 20.b3 ♘f7  
21.♗d1 ♗f8

XI | | | | | | | Y  
9- +k + - + r + 0  
9p - v - + - + - 0  
9- p p + - + - p 0  
9+ - p - + - + q 0  
9- + - + P p N + 0  
9+ P + P + Q + P 0  
9P + P + - ♞ - + 0  
9+ - + - + R + - 0  
xi | | | | | | | y  
33.♖e2?



40...♔b8 41.♖f8+ ♔c7 42.♖f7+ ♔d6  
43.♗xa7 ♗h2+

33...♔g5 34.♘h2 h5?!



35.♗f2 ♗g1 36.♘h4?

X	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9	-	+	-	+	-	0
9	p	-	v	-	+	-
9	-	p	p	+	-	+
9	+	-	p	-	+	-
9	-	+	-	+	P	p
9	+	P	+	P	+	Q
9	P	+	P	+	K	R
9	+	-	+	-	+	N
x	i	i	i	i	i	y

37.♔d2?

Photo by David Llada

♗f8 48.e7 ♗e8 49.♘h6! h3 50.♘f5 ♔f6  
51.a3 b5 52.b4! cxb4 53.axb4 ♔xe7  
54.♘xe7 h2 55.♗xh2 ♗xe7 56.♗h6

X	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9	-	+	-	+	-	0
9	p	-	+	-	+	-
9	k	+	p	+	-	R
9	+	p	+	-	+	-
9	-	P	-	+	-	+
9	+	-	+	P	+	-
9	-	+	K	+	-	+
9	+	-	+	-	+	-
x	i	i	i	i	i	y

41.h4?! ♔xa2+

42.♔c1 ♔xb3+-)

39.♔c2 ♔g7?

37...♔b7 38.c3

X	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9	-	+	-	+	-	0
9	p	k	v	-	+	-
9	-	p	p	+	-	+
9	+	-	p	-	+	-
9	-	+	-	+	P	p
9	+	P	P	+	Q	P
9	P	+	-	K	-	R
9	+	-	+	-	+	N
x	i	i	i	i	i	y

38...♔e5?

40.♘h2 ♔xc3

41.♔xf4 ♔d4

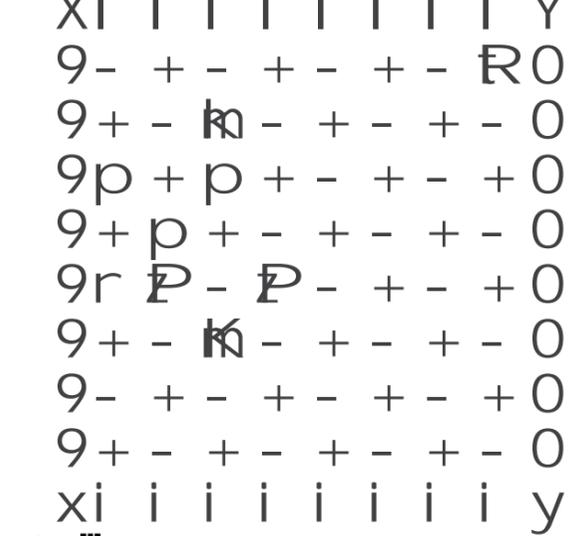
56...♔b6 57.♔c3 ♗d7 58.♗g6 ♔c7  
59.♗h6 ♗d6 60.♗h8 White also has

42.♔f7+ ♔a6 43.♔xg7 ♗xg7 44.♗e2  
♗g3 45.♘g4 ♗xh3 46.e5 ♗f3 47.e6

60...♗g6 61.♗a8 ♔b7 62.♗h8 ♗g5

63.♖h7+ ♔b6 64.♖h6 ♖g1 65.♕c2  
 ♜f1 66.♖g6 ♖h1 67.♖f6 ♖h8 68.♕c3  
 ♖a8 69.d4 ♖d8

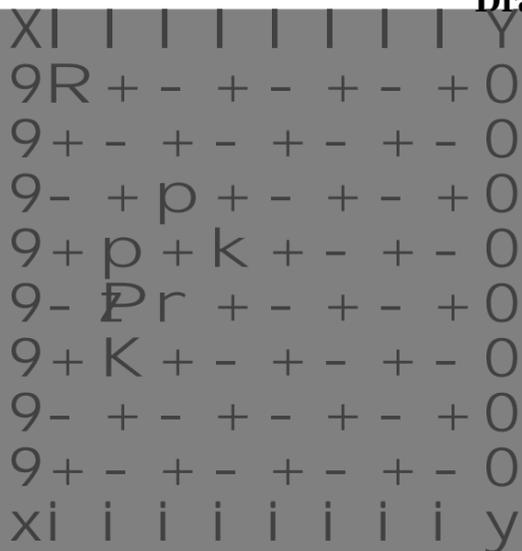
70.♖h6 ♖d7 71.♖g6 ♕c7 72.♖g5 ♖d6  
 73.♖g8 ♖h6 74.♖a8 ♖h3+ 75.♕c2  
 ♖a3 76.♕b2 ♖a4 77.♕c3 a6 78.♖h8



78...♖a3+

79.♕b2 ♖g3 80.♕c2 ♖g5 81.♖h6 ♖d5  
 82.♕c3 ♖d6 83.♖h8 ♖g6 84.♕c2  
 ♕b7 85.♕c3 ♖g3+ 86.♕c2 ♖g1  
 87.♖h5 ♖g2+ 88.♕c3 ♖g3+ 89.♕c2  
 ♖g4 90.♕c3 ♕b6 91.♖h6 ♖g5 92.♖f6  
 ♖h5 93.♖g6 ♖h3+ 94.♕c2 ♖h5  
 95.♕c3 ♖d5 96.♖h6 ♕c7 97.♖h7+  
 ♖d7 98.♖h5 ♖d6 99.♖h8 ♖g6 100.♖f8  
 ♖g3+ 101.♕c2 ♖a3 102.♖f7+ ♕d6  
 103.♖a7 ♕d5 104.♕b2 ♖d3 105.♖xa6  
 ♖xd4 106.♕b3 ♖e4 107.♕c3 ♖c4+  
 108.♕b3 ♕d4 109.♖b6 ♕d3 110.♖a6  
 ♖c2 111.♖b6 ♖c3+ 112.♕b2 ♖c4  
 113.♕b3 ♕d4 114.♖a6 ♕d5 115.♖a8

Draw



Magnus Carlsen	2835
Fabiano Caruana	2832

Game 2, World Championship Match

1.d4 the

1...♗f6 2.♗f3 d5 3.c4 e6 4.♗c3 ♗e7

5.♗f4 0-0 6.e3 c5



7.dxc5 ♗xc5 8.♖c2 ♗c6 9.a3 ♖a5



10.♖d1

11.h4

### Echoes from the past

### Editor's Diary

Most of the people involved in the match – journalists, commentators, and staff – had a problem finding somewhere to eat because of the long duration of the first game, but no one wanted to complain. No one, except Fabiano, who quipped: "It is actually not that easy getting food late at night in London!"

If the first game in London was reminiscent of the 5<sup>th</sup> game of the 1978 match between Karpov and Korchnoi because of its length, the second brought back



Photo by Ivan Mudrov

11. ♖e2

12. ♖xc4!? ♖e7

11... ♗e4!

```

XI | | | | | | | | Y
9r + | t - + k + 0
9p p + - + p p p 0
9- + n + p + - + 0
9♗ - ♖ p + - + - 0
9- + P + n ♗ - + 0
9♞ - ♞ - ♞N + - 0
9- ♞Q + L ♞P ♞P 0
9+ - + R ♞ - + R 0
xi | | | | | | | | y
    
```

12.0-0?!

14... ♗e7!

```

XI | | | | | | | | Y
9r + | t - + k + 0
9p p + - ♗ p p - 0
9- + - + p + - p 0
9♗ - ♖ p + - + - 0
9P + P + - ♗ - + 0
9+ - ♞ - ♞N + - 0
9- + Q + L ♞P ♞P 0
9+ - + R + R ♞ - 0
xi | | | | | | | | y
    
```

15. ♗e5?!

16... ♖d7! 17.c4  
 ♖xa4 18. ♗a2 ♗b4 19. ♗a1∞

15... ♖d6 16.cxd5 ♗xd5 17. ♖f3  
 ♗xf4 18.exf4 ♖xe5! 19. ♗xd8+  
 ♗xd8 20.fxe5 ♗c7

```

XI | | | | | | | | Y
9r + | + - + k + 0
9p p ♗ - + p p - 0
9- + - + p + - p 0
9+ - + - ♞ - + - 0
9P + - + - + - + 0
9+ - ♞ - + L + - 0
9- + Q + - ♞P ♞P 0
9+ - + - + R ♞ - 0
xi | | | | | | | | y
    
```

21. ♗b1

21... ♗b8! 22. ♗d3 ♖d7

12.g4!?

10... ♗d8

```

XI | | | | | | | | Y
9r + | t - + k + 0
9p p + - + p p p 0
9- + n + p ♗ - + 0
9♗ - ♖ p + - + - 0
9- + P + - ♗ - + 0
9♞ - ♞ - ♞N + - 0
9- ♞Q + - ♞P ♞P 0
9+ - + R ♞L + R 0
xi | | | | | | | | y
    
```

12... ♗xc3 13.bxc3 h6!?

14.a4

23.a5!?

Fabiano Caruana	2832
Magnus Carlsen	2835

Game 3, World Championship Match

23...♙c6!

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 g6  
4.♙xc6 dxc6

24.♙d6 ♙xd6 25.exd6 ♙xf3  
26.gxf3 ♙f8 27.c4 ♙e8 28.a6 b6  
29.c5 ♙d7 30.cxb6 axb6 31.a7 ♙a8  
32.♙xb6 ♙xa7

```

X| | | | | | | | Y
9- + - + - + - + 0
9t - + k + p p - 0
9- R - P p + - p 0
9+ - + - + - + - 0
9- + - + - + - + 0
9+ - + - + P + - 0
9- + - + - P - P 0
9+ - + - + - K - 0
xi i i i i i i i y

```

5.d3 ♙g7 6.0-0

6...♙c7

7.♙e1

```

X| | | | | | | | Y
9r + l + k + n t 0
9p p w - p p v p 0
9- + p + - + p + 0
9+ - p - + - + - 0
9- + - + P + - + 0
9+ - + P + N + - 0
9P P P + - P P P 0
9R N L Q R - K - 0
xi i i i i i i i y

```

33.♙g2 e5 34.♙b4 f5

35.♙b6 ♙e6 36.d7+ ♙xd7 37.♙b5  
♙e6 38.♙b6+ ♙f7 39.♙b5 ♙f6  
40.♙b6+ ♙g5 41.♙b5 ♙f4 42.♙b4+  
e4 43.fxe4 fxe4 44.h3 ♙a5 45.♙b7  
♙g5+ 46.♙f1 ♙g6 47.♙b4 ♙g5  
48.♙b7 ♙g6 49.♙b4

Draw

7...e5 8.a3!?

## Editor's Diary

### *They always come in threes...*

It felt a bit weird to have a rest day after only two games; indeed there are quite a few organizational matters in the current World Championship format that provoke widespread criticism, and this is one of them. As so often, photos of Magnus Carlsen playing football with members of the Norwegian delegation emerged on social media. The champion also attended the Chelsea-Everton match later in the evening, and that ended – you guessed it – in a draw: 0-0!

The Rossolimo appeared on the board again, and to nobody's surprise Caruana came up with an improvement on the first game, electing instead for 6.0-0. Also quite predictably, Magnus immediately chose a sideline and reached a non-theoretical position in double-quick time. We might say that has always been his approach to chess, and it wouldn't make sense to change it here and now...when faced with an

opponent famed for his top-notch home



8...♗f6 9.b4 0-0!

XI | | | | | | | | Y  
 9r + l + - t k + 0  
 9p p ♗ - + p ♖ p 0  
 9- + p + - ♖ p + 0  
 9+ - ♗ - ♗ - + - 0  
 9- ♗ - + ♗ + - + 0  
 9♗ - + ♗ + N + - 0  
 9- + ♗ + - ♗ ♗ ♗ 0  
 9R N ♗ QR - ♞ - 0  
 xi i i i i i i i y

10...♗g4?!

11.h3 ♕xf3 12.♗xf3 cxb4 13.axb4 a5  
14.bxa5 ♕xa5

XI | | | | | | | | Y  
 9- + - + - t k + 0  
 9+ p ♗ - + p ♖ p 0  
 9- + p + - ♖ p + 0  
 9t - + - ♗ - + - 0  
 9- + - + ♗ + - + 0  
 9+ - + ♗ + N + ♗ 0  
 9- + ♗ + - ♗ ♗ + 0  
 9R - ♗ QR - ♞ - 0  
 xi i i i i i i i y

15...♕d2?!

15...♕aa8 16.♖b1 ♗d7 17.♖b4

17...♕fe8 18.♕c3 b5 19.♕xa8 ♕xa8  
20.♕a1 ♕xa1+ 21.♕xa1

XI | | | | | | | | Y  
 9- + - + - + k + 0  
 9+ - ♗ n + p ♖ p 0  
 9- + p + - + p + 0  
 9+ p + - ♗ - + - 0  
 9- ♗ - + ♗ + - + 0  
 9+ - + ♗ + N + ♗ 0  
 9- + ♗ + - ♗ ♗ + 0  
 9♗ - + - + - ♞ - 0  
 xi i i i i i i i y

10...♕g4?!

21...♖a7 22.♕c3 ♖a2 23.♖b2 ♖xb2  
24.♕xb2 f6 25.♗f1 ♗f7 26.♗e2 ♗c5  
27.♕c3 ♗e6 28.g3 ♕f8 29.♗d2

XI | | | | | | | | Y  
 9- + - + - ♖ - + 0  
 9+ - + - + k + p 0  
 9- + p + n ♗ ♗ + 0  
 9+ p + - ♗ - + - 0  
 9- + - + ♗ + - + 0  
 9+ - ♗ ♗ + - ♗ ♗ 0  
 9- + ♗ N K ♗ - + 0  
 9+ - + - + - + - 0  
 xi i i i i i i i y

29...♗g5!?

30.h4 ♗e6 31.♗b3 h5 32.♕d2 ♕d6  
33.c3 c5!

34.♕e3 ♗e7 35.♗d1 ♗d7 36.♗c2 f5  
37.♗d1

XI | | | | | | | | Y  
 9- + - + - + - + 0  
 9+ - + k + - + - 0  
 9- + - ♖ n + p + 0  
 9+ p ♗ - ♗ ♗ + p 0  
 9- + - + ♗ + - ♗ 0  
 9+ N ♗ ♗ ♗ - ♗ - 0  
 9- + - + - ♗ - + 0  
 9+ - + K + - + - 0  
 xi i i i i i i i y

37...fxe4

38.dxe4

38...c4 39.♖d2 ♗c5

```

XI | | | | | | | | Y
9- + - + - + - + 0
9+ - + K + - + - 0
9- + - ♖ - + ♘ + 0
9+ ♗ ♖ - ♗ - + ♗ 0
9- + ♗ + ♗ + - ♗ 0
9+ - ♗ - ♖ - ♗ - 0
9- + - ♖ - ♗ - + 0
9+ - + K + - + - 0
xi | i | i | i | i | i | y

```

40.♗xc5!

40...♗xc5 41.♖e2 ♗c6 42.♗f1 b4  
43.cxb4 ♗xb4 44.♗e3 ♗c5 45.f4  
exf4 46.gxf4 ♗a5 47.f5 gxf5

```

XI | | | | | | | | Y
9- + - + - + - + 0
9+ - + - + - + - 0
9- + - + - + - + 0
9♖ - ♗ - + ♗ + ♗ 0
9- + ♗ + ♗ + - ♗ 0
9+ - + - ♖ - + - 0
9- + - + K + - + 0
9+ - + - + - + - 0
xi | i | i | i | i | i | y

```

48.♗xc4

48...♗xc4 49.exf5

Draw

1...e5 2.♗c3 ♗f6 3.♗f3 ♗c6 4.g3 d5  
5.cxd5 ♗xd5 6.♗g2

```

XI | | | | | | | | Y
9r + l ♗ k ♖ - t 0
9♗ ♗ ♗ - + ♗ ♗ ♗ 0
9- + n + - + - + 0
9+ - + n ♗ - + - 0
9- + - + - + - + 0
9+ - ♖ - + N ♗ - 0
9♗ ♗ - + ♗ ♗ L ♗ 0
9R - ♖ Q ♗ - + R 0
xi | i | i | i | i | i | y

```

6...♗c5

7.0-0 0-0 8.d3

```

XI | | | | | | | | Y
9r + l ♗ - t k + 0
9♗ ♗ ♗ - + ♗ ♗ ♗ 0
9- + n + - + - + 0
9+ - ♖ n ♗ - + - 0
9- + - + - + - + 0
9+ - ♖ N ♗ + N ♗ - 0
9♗ ♗ - + ♗ ♗ L ♗ 0
9R - ♖ Q + R ♗ - 0
xi | i | i | i | i | i | y

```

8...♗e8

#04, page 30

9.♗d2 ♗xc3 10.♗xc3

```

XI | | | | | | | | Y
9r + l ♗ r + k + 0
9♗ ♗ ♗ - + ♗ ♗ ♗ 0
9- + n + - + - + 0
9+ - ♖ - ♗ - + - 0
9- + - + - + - + 0
9+ - ♖ P + N ♗ - 0
9♗ ♗ - + ♗ ♗ L ♗ 0
9R - + Q + R ♗ - 0
xi | i | i | i | i | i | y

```

10...♗d4

11.b4!

```

XI | | | | | | | | Y
9r + l ♗ r + k + 0
9♗ ♗ ♗ - + ♗ ♗ ♗ 0
9- + - + - + - + 0
9+ - ♖ - ♗ - + - 0
9- ♗ - ♖ - + - + 0
9+ - ♖ P + N ♗ - 0
9♗ + - + ♗ ♗ L ♗ 0
9R - + Q + R ♗ - 0
xi | i | i | i | i | i | y

```

11...♗d6

Magnus Carlsen 2835

Fabiano Caruana 2832

Game 4, World Championship Match

1.c4



12.♖b1

12...♗xf3+ 13.♔xf3 a6

14.a4 c6

```

XI | | | | | | | Y
9r + | ♖r + k + 0
9+ p + - + p p p 0
9p + p ♗ - + - + 0
9+ - + - ♗ - + - 0
9P ♗ - + - + - + 0
9+ - ♗ P + L ♗ - 0
9- + - + P ♗ - ♗ 0
9+ R + Q + R ♗ - 0
xi | | | | | | | y

```

15.♖e1

15...♔d7 16.e3 ♖f6 17.♔e4 ♔f5

18.♖f3 ♔xe4 19.♖xf6 gxf6 20.dxe4

```

XI | | | | | | | Y
9r + - + r + k + 0
9+ p + - + p + p 0
9p + p ♗ - ♗ - + 0
9+ - + - ♗ - + - 0
9P ♗ - + P + - + 0
9+ - ♗ - ♗ - ♗ - 0
9- + - + - ♗ - ♗ 0
9+ R + - R - ♗ - 0
xi | | | | | | | y

```

20...b5!

### The leak

### Editor's Diary

The fourth game of the match will be remembered for an off-the-board incident rather than the game itself. While both players were presumably still sleeping, a video was posted online by the Saint Louis Chess Club. It was a 2-minute clip showing behind-the-scenes footage of Fabiano's training camp at one of Rex Sinquefield's country houses in Missouri. This was a preview extract from the "Today in Chess" digest that is produced at the club. Most of the scenes just show Caruana doing sports, but some chess books and chess positions are also clearly visible. In fact this offered an interesting insight on how a top-player prepares, even by analyzing intricate endgames and solving difficult chess compositions. But for a few seconds the camera showed an open laptop, in which a Chessbase database could be seen. The opening variations displayed on screen included some that had already been played in the match, but also some lines of the Petroff that Fabi had yet to unleash over the board.

How could something like this happen? It was so awkward that some even speculated that it could have been a bluff, and Fabi's camp was trying to disseminate misinformation! But there is an explanation: apparently, the video

21.♖ed1 ♔f8 22.axb5 axb5 23.♔g2  
 ♖ed8 24.♖dc1 ♔g7 25.♔e1 ♖dc8  
 26.♖c2 ♖a4 27.♔f3 h5 28.♔e2  
 ♔g6 29.h3 f5 30.exf5+ ♔xf5 31.f3  
 ♔e7 32.e4+ ♔e6 33.♔d2 ♔d6  
 34.♖bc1

Draw

Experience and quick thinking, Magnus is still the better player. Caruana needed to take more risks and train more at fast time controls.

**Vesna Dimitrijevic,**  
Watertown, MA

During the regulation part of the match, Carlsen was almost playing with draw-odds, due to his clearly superior strength at the faster time controls. So Caruana needed to win the match during the regulation games. His one missing ingredient was, I believe, enough self-confidence to play aggressive moves such as 24. h5 in Game 8.

**Jon Crumiller,**  
Princeton, NJ

Magnus is the better rapid player.

**Reuven Fischer,**  
Narberth, PA

I believe that Fabiano should have taken more risks.

**Jose Gaona,**  
New York, NY

Preparation appeared about even in the classical games. But Magnus had much better prep in the tiebreaks, and this was ultimately the difference.

**Allan Savage,**  
Kensington, MD

I was ashamed by the lack of risk taking in long games by Carlsen. This match was too short by half.

**Nicolas Renault,**  
France

They were equally matched in classical chess, but when it went to rapid play Fabiano had maybe a 30% chance of winning. Magnus was a huge favorite in the rapid stage.

**Kenneth Calitri,**  
Mahwah, NJ

Fabiano's calculation skills are the best there is. Visualization of what can be done with the existing position to get to a winning position is Carlsen's great strength. Fabiano needs to hone those same visualization skills to be better than Carlsen.

**Steven Chilson,**  
Dumfries, VA

Magnus' intuition. Both players are equal with enough time to calculate, but in rapid games Magnus' intuition makes the difference. Fabiano should have taken more risks, especially when starting the second part of the match.

**Philippe Chappe,**  
France

Caruana needed to take more risks. The challenger must beat the champion decisively to claim the crown.

**Timothy Brookshear,**  
Decatur, GA

I think Caruana played in far too safe a way. He knew that Carlsen was stronger than him at the faster time limit. Therefore he needed to force/risk more in the normal time limit games, especially those in which he played White. For example, his decision to play the Rossolimo against the Sicilian was not a great idea. He played too safe, he had to risk more.

**Alessandro Marin,**  
Italy

According to French GM Igor Alexandre Nataf, Caruana's stubbornness in playing for a theoretical advantage in the opening instead of aiming for a playable position with practical chances – especially in the tiebreak – prevented him

## What decided the world championship match? What was Magnus' greatest strength? What was missing in Fabiano's campaign to win the title?

from winning the match. Magnus is just a monster in rapid play!

**Serge Lacour,**  
France

It was decided by Magnus' greater strength in speed games, but he was not able to show that he is the better player in classical chess. With a bit more luck, Fabiano would have taken the title.

**Markus Mock,**  
Germany

Both played at a high level in the 12 classical games. They made very few mistakes and defended well when they had an inferior position – so it wasn't too surprising that the classical portion ended at 6-6. But once they moved on to the tie-breaks, Magnus' superiority in rapid chess was the deciding factor. Magnus' greatest strength was his ability to deal with Fabiano's excellent opening preparation. In general, Magnus had a better intuitive grasp of the middlegame positions that

arose after both players were out of their preparation. Fabiano needed to press a bit harder in the classical games in which he obtained an advantage, particularly in Game 8 where 24. h5 would have maintained a strong attack, instead of the too-slow 24.h3.

**Kevin Wilson,**  
San Diego, CA

The system. Magnus took advantage of the tiebreak system. Fabiano's preparation when playing with the white pieces was unacceptable at this level.

**Tal Haimovich,**  
Israel

By playing it safe throughout the classical games, Magnus was then able to perform to his higher rating in the faster time controls. I think Fabi should have tried to take more calculated risks in the classical stage.

**Brian Bannon,**  
Saint Charles, MO

With regard to what was missing from Fabiano's approach, who can say? I have two different answers: My more objective answer is to state that only when we ourselves are prepared to sit down and face the world champion in a match, can we then perhaps pretend to satisfactorily answer the question of how best to approach it to achieve victory.

My amateur, fan-based spectator answer is of course to say that I wish Fabiano had taken a few more risks. But I would say the same for both of them. Perhaps then we wouldn't have witnessed 12 consecutive draws.

**Jeremy W. Treadwell,**  
Bakersfield, CA

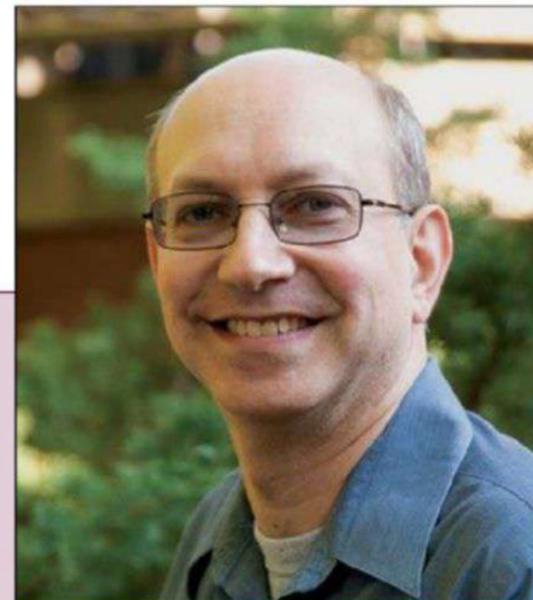


# Full-blooded Battle

## GAMES 5-8

AFTER HAVING PREVIOUSLY TRIED 1.D4 AND 1.C4, CARLSEN FINALLY EMPLOYED 1.E4 IN GAME 6. IT MIGHT HAVE BACKFIRED BADLY AS CARUANA'S PETROFF EVENTUALLY PROVIDED HIM WITH A STUDY-LIKE WIN – PERHAPS EASY FOR SILICONS, BUT NOT AT ALL FOR HUMANS WITH LIMITED TIME ON THE CLOCK.

Annotations by **GM JOEL BENJAMIN** 



Joel Benjamin was hailed as a prodigy when he became youngest ever national master at the age of 13, breaking Bobby Fischer's record, which, incidentally, is now in the hands of Sam Sevian. He played in the US Championship on a record 22 consecutive occasions and managed to win three times in three different decades: 1987, 1997 and 2000. Benjamin played an important role in the team that IBM put together to defeat Garry Kasparov in 1997, and he is the youngest inductee ever into the World Chess Hall of Fame.

Fabiano Caruana	2832
Magnus Carlsen	2835

Game 5, World Championship Match

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 g6 4.0-0 ♙g7 5.♞e1 e5 6.b4

```

X| | | | | | | | | Y
9r + l ♘ k + n t 0
9p p + p + p ♖ p 0
9- + n + - + p + 0
9+ L ♗ - ♗ - + - 0
9- ♞ - + ♞ + - + 0
9+ - + - + N + - 0
9P + P ♗ - ♗ P P 0
9R N ♞ Q R - ♞ - 0
x i i i i i i i y

```

6...♗xb4

A)

```

X| | | | | | | | | Y
9r + l ♘ k + n t 0
9p p + p + p ♖ p 0
9- + n + - + p + 0
9+ L + - ♗ - + - 0
9- ♗ - + ♞ + - + 0
9P - + - + N + - 0
9- + P ♗ - ♗ P P 0
9R N ♞ Q R - ♞ - 0
x i i i i i i i y

```

B)

11.♙a4 d5

10.b4 a6

7.♙b2

7...a6 8.a3 axb5 9.axb4 ♞xa1 10.♙xa1 d6

## Editor's Diary

### Gurgenidze lives!

I will admit my ignorance as right towards the

14.cxd6 ♔e6

15.♔c7 ♔xc7 16.dxc7 ♖c6

11.bxc5 ♗e7

```
X| | | | | | | Y
9- + | ♗k + - t 0
9+ p + - ♗p ♗ p 0
9- + - ♗ - + p + 0
9+ p ♗ - ♗ - + - 0
9- + - + ♗ + - + 0
9+ - + - + N + - 0
9- + ♗ ♗ - ♗ ♗ ♗ 0
9 ♗ N + Q R - ♗ - 0
xi i i i i i i y
```

12.♔e2

```
X| | | | | | | Y
9- + - + k + - t 0
9+ p ♗ - + p ♗ p 0
9- + n + l + p + 0
9+ - + - ♗ - + - 0
9- ♗ - + ♗ + - + 0
9+ - + - + N + - 0
9- + ♗ ♗ - ♗ ♗ ♗ 0
9 ♗ N + - R - ♗ - 0
xi i i i i i i y
```

17.c3

15.♔xg7 ♔xd1

16.♗xd1 ♗xg7 17.c3 ♖c6

18.♗a3 b4 19.cxb4 ♗xb4 is

20...♗xc7

20...♗e8 and

12...b4 13.♔c4

```
X| | | | | | | Y
9- + | qk + - t 0
9+ p + - ♗p ♗ p 0
9- + - ♗ - + p + 0
9+ - ♗ - ♗ - + - 0
9- ♗ Q + ♗ + - + 0
9+ - + - + N + - 0
9- + ♗ ♗ - ♗ ♗ ♗ 0
9 ♗ N + - R - ♗ - 0
xi i i i i i i y
```

13...♔a5!

17...♗d7 18.cxb4 ♗a8 19.♔c3

```
X| | | | | | | Y
9r + - + - + - + 0
9+ p ♗ k + p ♗ p 0
9- + n + l + p + 0
9+ - + - ♗ - + - 0
9- ♗ - + ♗ + - + 0
9+ - ♗ - + N + - 0
9- + - ♗ - ♗ ♗ ♗ 0
9+ N + - R - ♗ - 0
xi i i i i i i y
```



19...♔xc7

20.d3

20...♔b6

21.♙d2 ♖d8

22.♙e3+

22...♔b5

23.♗c3+ ♔xb4 24.♗d5+ ♙xd5  
25.exd5 ♖xd5 26.♖b1+ ♔c3 27.♖xb7

27...♗d8

28.♖c7+ ♔xd3 29.♔f1

30...♔e4 31.♗d2+ ♔d3 32.♗b3 and

29...h5!

30.h3 ♔e4 31.♗g5+ ♔f5 32.♗xf7  
♗xf7 33.♖xf7+ ♙f6 34.g4+

Draw

*outprepared  
outplayed*

Magnus Carlsen 2835  
Fabiano Caruana 2832

Game 6, World Championship Match

1.e4 e5 2.♗f3 ♗f6

3.♗xe5 d6 4.♗d3!?

4...♗xe4 5.♖e2 ♖e7 6.♗f4 ♗c6  
7.♗d5 ♗d4

### Editor's Diary

#### Black to move and mate in 36!

It was quite a tense moment when, at the beginning of the sixth game, Caruana chose the Petroff defense. Would he go for any of the lines revealed in the leaked video?

Up until now the outcome of the openings had generally been favorable to Fabiano; however, this time he got hardly anything, and "maybe I was very slightly worse", he admitted later at the press conference. But contrary to what had happened in the other games, this time this challenger outplayed the

champion from an equal position.

XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y  
 9r + l + k v - t 0  
 9p p p - p p p 0  
 9- + - p - + - + 0  
 9+ - + N + - + - 0  
 9- + - n + - + 0  
 9+ - + - + - + - 0  
 9P P P P Q P P P 0  
 9R N v - K L + R 0  
 xi i i i i i i i y

XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y  
 9r + - + k + - t 0  
 9p p + - n p p - 0  
 9- + p v l + - + 0  
 9+ - + p + - + p 0  
 9- + - P - + - P 0  
 9+ - P L N P P - 0  
 9P P - + - K - + 0  
 9R - v - + - + R 0  
 xi i i i i i i i y

21...c5!

34...d3 35.c2

XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y  
 9- + l + - + k + 0  
 9p p + - + p p - 0  
 9- + - + - + - + 0  
 9+ - + p + - + p 0  
 9- v - P - v - P 0  
 9+ P n - N P P - 0  
 9P + L + - K - + 0  
 9+ - + - + - + - 0  
 xi i i i i i i i y

35...a3!

36.b8 a6 37.f4 d7 38.f5 c6  
 39.d1 b2

40.xh5 e4+ 41.g2 xd4  
 42.f4 c5 43.f3

43...d2 44.xd5 xe3 45.xc6  
 xf4 46.xb7 d6 47.xa6 e4  
 48.g4

XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y  
 9- + - + - + k + 0  
 9+ - + - + p p - 0  
 9L + - t - + - + 0  
 9+ - + - + P + - 0  
 9- + - + n + P P 0  
 9+ P + - + - + - 0  
 9P + - + - + K + 0  
 9+ - + - + - + - 0  
 xi i i i i i i i y

48...a3!

49.c4 f8 50.g5 d3

8.dxe7 dxe2 9.d5 d4

10.a3 e6

XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y  
 9r + l + k v - t 0  
 9p p p - + p p p 0  
 9- + - p n + - + 0  
 9+ - + N + - + - 0  
 9- + - + n + - + 0  
 9N - + - + - + - 0  
 9P P P P - P P P 0  
 9R - v - K L + R 0  
 xi i i i i i i i y

22.c2 0-0 23.d1 f8 24.g2  
 cxd4 25.cxd4 ac8 26.b3 c6  
 27.f4 a5

XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y  
 9- + r t - + k + 0  
 9p p + - + p p - 0  
 9- + - v l + - + 0  
 9n - + p + - + p 0  
 9- + - P - v - P 0  
 9+ L + - + P P - 0  
 9P P - + - K N + 0  
 9R - + R + - + - 0  
 xi i i i i i i i y

28.d1

28...b4 29.d1

29...c4 30.b3 a3 31.xc8 xc8  
 32.xc1 b5 33.xc8+ xc8 34.e3

11.f3 d4c5 12.d4 d7 13.c3 c6  
 14.f4 b6 15.d3 d5 16.d2  
 d6 17.dxe6

17...xe6 18.f2 h5 19.h4 c8  
 20.e3 e7 21.g3



Photo by David Llada

51. b4 ♖xb4 52. ♖f3 ♘a4 53. ♖b5  
 ♘c5 54. a4 f6 55. ♖g4 ♘e4 56. ♖h5  
 ♖e1 57. ♖d3 ♘d6

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9-	+	-	+	-	♞	-	+	0
9+	-	+	-	+	-	♞	-	0
9-	+	-	♞	-	♞	-	+	0
9+	-	+	-	+	♞	♞	K	0
9♞	+	-	+	-	+	-	♞	0
9+	-	+	L	+	-	+	-	0
9-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0
9+	-	+	-	♞	-	+	-	0
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y

58. a5

58... ♖xa5 59. gxf6 gxf6 60. ♖g6 ♖d8  
 61. ♖h7 ♘f7 62. ♖c4 ♘e5 63. ♖d5  
 ♖a5 64. h5 ♖d2 65. ♖a2

65... ♘f3 66. ♖d5 ♘d4 67. ♖g6 ♖g5  
 68. ♖c4

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9-	+	-	+	-	♞	-	+	0
9+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	0
9-	+	-	+	-	♞	K	+	0
9+	-	+	-	+	♞	♞	P	0
9-	+	L	♞	-	+	-	+	0
9+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	0
9-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0
9+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	0
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y

68... ♘f3?

71. ♖g4 ♖g8

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9-	+	-	+	-	♞	-	+	0
9+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	0
9-	+	-	+	-	♞	K	+	0
9+	-	+	L	+	♞	♞	P	0
9-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0
9+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	0
9-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0
9+	-	+	-	+	-	♞	-	0
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y

72. ♖c4 ♘h3

72. ♖b3 ♘e2

73. ♖d1 ♘d4

74. ♖g6 ♖g8

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0
9+	-	+	-	+	k	+	K	0
9-	+	-	+	-	♞	-	+	0
9+	-	+	-	+	♞	+	♞	0
9-	+	-	+	-	+	L	+	0
9♞	-	+	-	+	-	♞	-	0
9-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0
9+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	0
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y

and

A)

B)

78. ♖h3 ♘e4  
 ♘xf5 79. ♖b3+ ♖e7.

69.♔h7 ♖e5 70.♙b3 ♗g4 71.♙c4 ♖e3  
72.♙d3 ♗g4 73.♙c4 ♖h6 74.♔g6

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9-	+	-	+	-	♞	-	+	0
9+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	0
9-	+	-	+	-	♞	K	♞	0
9+	-	+	-	+	♞	♞	♞	0
9-	+	L	+	-	+	-	+	0
9+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	0
9-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0
9+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	0
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y

74...♔e7

12.♙e2

12...♙e7

75.♙b3 ♔d6 76.♙c2 ♔e5 77.♙d3  
♔f4 78.♙c2 ♗g4

14.♙xf6 ♙xf6 15.♖d5 ♙g5

16.e4!?

79.♙b3 ♖e3 80.h6 ♙xh6

Draw 13.♙g5 dxc4 14.♖d2

14...♖e5 15.0-0 ♙d7 16.♙f4 ♗g6  
17.♙g3 ♙c6 18.♖xc4 ♙c7

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9r	+	-	+	-	t	k	+	0
9♞	♞	♞	♞	-	♞	♞	♞	0
9-	+	l	+	♞	n	+	0	
9+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	0
9-	+	N	+	-	+	-	+	0
9♞	-	♞	-	♞	-	♞	-	0
9-	♞	Q	+	L	♞	♞	♞	0
9R	-	+	-	+	R	♞	-	0
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y

19.♙fd1 ♙fd8 20.♙xd8+ ♙xd8 21.♙d1  
♙xd1+ 22.♙xd1 ♖d5 23.♙d4 ♖xc3  
24.♙xc3 ♙xg3 25.hxg3 ♙d7 26.♙d3

## Softly, softly... Editor's Diary

Purely by coincidence, a couple of days before this game was played

Magnus Carlsen 2835

Fabiano Caruana 2862

Game 7, World Championship Match

1.d4 ♖f6 2.♖f3 d5 3.c4 e6 4.♖c3 ♙e7  
5.♙f4 0-0 6.e3 c5 7.dxc5 ♙xc5 8.♙c2  
♖c6 9.a3 ♙a5 10.♖d2

10...♙d8

11.♖b3 ♙b6

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9r	+	l	♞	-	t	k	+	0
9♞	♞	+	-	+	♞	♞	♞	0
9-	♞	n	+	♞	n	-	+	0
9+	-	+	♞	+	-	+	-	0
9-	+	♞	+	-	♞	-	+	0
9♞	N	N	-	♞	-	+	-	0
9-	♞	Q	+	-	♞	♞	♞	0
9R	-	+	-	♞	L	+	R	0
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y



b6 27.f3 ♙b7 28.♙xg6

28...hxg6 29.e4 ♖c7 30.e5 ♖c5+  
31.♔h2 ♙a6

32.♘d6 ♖xc3 33.bxc3 f6 34.f4 ♔f8  
35.♔g1 ♔e7 36.♔f2 ♔d7 37.♔e3

```

XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y
9- + - + - + - + 0
9p - + k + - p - 0
9l p - ♖pppp + 0
9+ - + - ♗ - + - 0
9- + - + - ♗ - + 0
9♗ - ♗ - ♞ - ♗ - 0
9- + - + - + ♗ + 0
9+ - + - + - + - 0
xi | i | i | i | i | i | i | y

```

37...♙f1

38.♔f2 ♙a6 39.♔e3 ♙f1 40.♔f2

Draw 12...f5

Fabiano Caruana 2832

Magnus Carlsen 2835

Game 8, World Championship Match

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4

3...cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 e5

bxc6 7.e5

6.♘db5 d6 7.♘d5!

```

XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y
9r + l ♗k ♖ - t 0
9pp + - + ppp 0
9- + n ♗ - ♖ - + 0
9+ N + N ♗ - + - 0
9- + - + ♗ + - + 0
9+ - + - + - + - 0
9♗ ♗ ♗ + - ♗ ♗ ♗ 0
9R - ♖ Q ♞ L + R 0
xi | i | i | i | i | i | i | y

```

7...♘xd5 8.exd5 ♘b8 9.a4

9...♙e7 10.♙e2 0-0 11.0-0 ♘d7 12.♙d2

13.a5 a6 14.♘a3 e4

```

XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y
9r + l ♗ - t k + 0
9+ p + n ♖ - ♗ pp 0
9p + - ♗ - + - + 0
9♗ - + ♗ + p + - 0
9- + - + p + - + 0
9N - + - + - + - 0
9- ♗ ♗ ♖ L ♗ ♗ ♗ 0
9R - + Q + R ♞ - 0
xi | i | i | i | i | i | i | y

```

15.♘c4 ♘e5 16.♘b6 ♖b8 17.f4 exf3  
18.♙xf3 g5

6.♘xc6

19.c4 f4 20.♙c3

20...♙f5

```

XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y
9- t - ♗ - t k + 0
9+ p + - ♖ - + p 0
9p ♖ - ♗ - + - + 0
9♗ - + ♗ ♖ l ♗ - 0
9- + ♗ + - ♗ - + 0
9+ - ♖ - + L + - 0
9- ♗ - + - + ♗ ♗ 0
9R - + Q + R ♞ - 0
xi | i | i | i | i | i | i | y

```

21.c5

21...♘xf3+

22.♖xf3 dxc5 23.♖ad1

23...♙d6

```

XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y
9- t - ♗ - t k + 0
9+ p + - + - + p 0
9p ♖ - ♖ - + - + 0
9♗ - ♗ ♗ + l ♗ - 0
9- + - + - ♗ - + 0
9+ - ♖ - + Q + - 0
9- ♗ - + - + ♗ ♗ 0
9+ - + R + R ♞ - 0
xi | i | i | i | i | i | i | y

```

24.h3?

## A narrow escape

## Editor's Diary

The first open Sicilian was received in the press room with loud exclamations of joy and enthusiasm. I was on the phone when Fabi played 3.d4 and the caller suddenly asked: "Who has scored? Are you in a bar or something?"

The expectation only increased with the following moves. Carlsen chose the Sveshnikov, and Caruana responded with the sideline 7.♗d5 instead of the

it was clear that the World Champion was walking into

24...♙e8!

25.♗c4 ♖g6 26.♗xd6 ♙xd6 27.h4

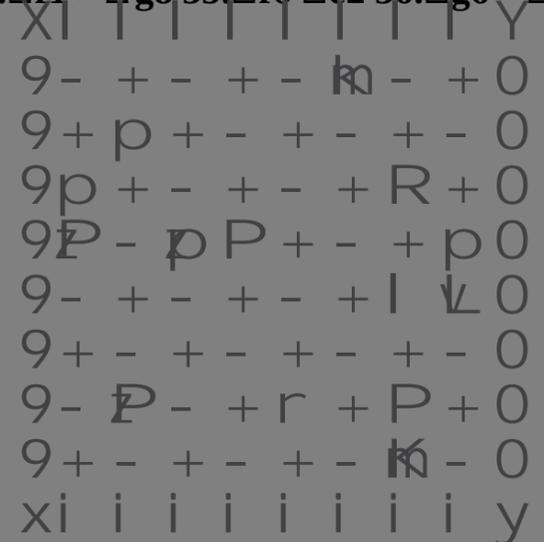


27...gxh4

28.♙xf4 ♙xf4 29.♗xf4 h5

30.♗e1 ♗g4 31.♗f6 ♗xf6 32.♗xf6 ♖f7  
33.♗xh4 ♗e8

34.♗f1+ ♖g8 35.♗f6 ♗e2 36.♗g6+ ♖f8



37.d6!? ♗d2

38.♗g5

Draw

The rapid chess phase of the world championship match was decisive, as the faster time controls are obviously Fabi's Achilles' heel. But Magnus' strength is apparent, irrespective of the time control. Fabi should have varied his choice of openings. Also he failed to take advantage of the few opportunities presented to him. One win could have made all the difference.

**Manuel Infante,**  
Oklahoma City, OK

I am not qualified to answer this question but I think Carlsen was able to avoid getting into enough trouble for Caruana to exploit.

**Jim Duffy,**  
Gonzales, LA

Obviously the quick chess format. Magnus' strength seems to have been a bit better than Fabiano's. In all fairness to Fabiano, his lack of experience in playing a match for the world championship took its toll on him. No shame in that. Hopefully, what he learned here will help him one day to rise to the pinnacle of the chess world.

**Benjamin Soto,**  
San Antonio, TX

Magnus won the match with his strategy of prolonging the match until the rapid tiebreaks. Magnus' main strength is his superiority in rapid play. Fabiano should not have agreed to the rapid tiebreak format.

**Omar Aguilar,**  
Sicklerville, NJ

Both players seemed to lack a killer, risk-taking, element. They were very evenly matched in the classical games.

**Mike Sakarias,**  
Juneau, AK

It is simple: Magnus and Fabiano are equal in classical chess but Magnus is much better in rapid. Fabiano now knows he needs to really improve at faster time limits if he is to have a chance next time.

**Christopher Moscinski,**  
Bronx, NY

Fabiano failed to push when he had the initiative. Carlsen drew until he got to the rapids. Fabi needs Rapid improvement!

**Dan O'Hanlon,**  
Huntington, WV

The rapid games decided the match. The classical games were too closely matched to show a clear victor. Fabiano didn't lack anything obvious in the classical games, but his rapid skills were not strong enough on the last day.

**Rob Neal,**  
Olathe, CO

Magnus' strength at rapid was decisive. Fabi needed to take more chances at the classical time control.

**Gary Andrus,**  
Eagle, WI

Magnus is the much better rapid player. Fabiano was often strategically outplayed but held himself together in the complications.

**Boris Dimitrijeski,**  
Germany

Magnus' routine in any competitive situation.

**Jesper Knudsen,**  
Denmark

Magnus' ability to play better at rapid chess time controls. Fabiano missed winning the championship by not winning one of the regulation time control games. He needed to try an opening that Magnus was not so familiar with.

**Michael Damey,**  
Land O Lakes, FL

## What decided the world championship match? What was Magnus' greatest strength? What was missing in Fabiano's campaign to win the title?

Fabiano was better prepared in the openings, but Magnus is great at adapting, and his great chess skills helped him to secure draws (and to win the Chess960 match against Nakamura). Fabiano needs to put in some serious work on his rapid and blitz play.

**Judson T Smalley,**  
Colorado Springs, CO

Magnus knew he could retain the title without winning at classical chess. He did not have to take any risks to try and win a game, although opportunities did arise that he missed. Magnus' biggest strength is that he is almost impossible to beat. I'm not sure Fabi could have done anything differently. He played well enough to win but when you let opportunities pass by there isn't much else you can do.

**Timothy Kuzma,**  
Pittsburgh, PA

Clearly the obvious thing to say is that the title was decided by Magnus' superiority at the rapidplay time limit. So what was

missing was a change in the match format – I suspect a longer match of classical games with no tiebreaks (if there is a draw then the champion retains his title) would have suited Fabi more.

**Jeremy Hart,**  
United Kingdom

I believe the biggest influence on the outcome was the existence of the rapid tiebreak and the known rating gap. I felt that Fabiano was the only one pressing for a decisive result for most of the match. Magnus knew he could play for draws and win the rapids.

**John Frederiksen,**  
Frisco, TX

Magnus is far better at faster time controls.

**Bryan Embrey,**  
Fremont, CA

Analysis.

**John Busowski,**  
Winter Springs, FL

For Magnus, it was knowing how not to lose. For Fabi, allowing the match to go to rapids. He might as well have risked more during the classical stage and lose a game there.

**Alan Reed,**  
Poland

Rapid chess decided the Classical world champion. Magnus' strength lies in practical sporting match considerations. Fabiano did not take sufficient risks to create chances.

**Mark Warriner,**  
Henrico, VA

I don't know why so many people are surprised by the classical result (6-6). Never in the history of world championship chess have the two competitors been so closely rated (2835 – 2832). I would have been surprised if



Photo by David Liada



Photo by David Liada

the final result was anything other than a tie.

**Kenneth Belger,**  
Arlington, TX

The tiebreak has decided. Waiting for the tiebreak was Magnus' greatest strength. Fabiano lacked the courage and power that Robert James Fischer displayed in his match with Spassky: after two games it was Spassky 2 Fischer 0, after ten games Spassky 3½ Fischer 6½...

**Christiaan Bijl,**  
Netherlands

Rapidity of thinking within a limited time frame. Are we not just in a century of speed?

**Viorel Craciuneanu,**  
Romania

Match experience prevailed in the end. Next time Fabiano will get over the hump.

**Edward Gonsalves,**  
Providence, RI

Magnus' strength is in fast play and that is Caruana's weakness.

**Jon Bilbao,**  
Miami, FL

The tiebreaker decided it but I have a solution. First play the rapids and if you win that

and then draw the match you are the world champion. In this way the loser of the rapids has to push harder in the longer classical games to make the match more interesting.

**Cornelis Klaver,**  
South Africa

Magnus' superiority at rapidplay decided the match. Magnus' strength was in recognizing that he'd win the rapid tiebreaker and so he did not need to take undue risks in games 1-12. Fabiano started out uncomfortably in the big match, and could not find a way to break down Magnus before the tiebreaker. Magnus might just be too strong!

**Lawrence Stevens**  
Beaumont, CA

The match was decided by the strength of Magnus in rapidplay. He is superior to everyone else in this regard. Fabiano's only chance was to have an opening surprise he could exploit during the classical portion. While Fabiano did seem to have superior preparation, he was not able to crack the Magnus' defense.

**Doug White,**  
Normal, IL

Magnus' tenacity decided the match. Fabiano blinked first in the switch to a faster time control. Fabiano had to press harder, take more risks and introduce more complications at the slow time control and grab an early lead. If either player had won a game earlier it would have been a different match.

**Brian Hulse,**  
Austin, TX

Magnus' greatest strength (and Fabiano's greatest weakness) is rapid/blitz play. Of course, I find it outrageous

that the world championship is decided by such play. There's got to be a better way.

**Dennis Kosterman,**  
Madison, WI

That Magnus can't win in classic chess. He's good at rapid and Fabiano isn't. The challenger isn't decided by winning at rapid chess, is he?

**Brian Gain,**  
Las Vegas, NV

Magnus' strength is in rapid games. Fabiano lacked sufficient strength in rapid games.

**Emilio Zecca,**  
Italy

Clearly Magnus was much stronger in the rapids. Perhaps Fabiano should have prepared better for this phase, which was always likely to feature.

**David Halpin,**  
United Kingdom

Magnus is better in games at faster time controls.

**Dave Arganian,**  
Seattle, WA

Carlsen's main strength is objectivity and no mistakes. Caruana may need to show a little more courage.

**Axel Eger,**  
Germany

Fabi certainly put effort into deep preparation so as to surprise Carlsen in the opening. However it was not enough, since Carlsen is extremely good in the rapid format of the game! As already reiterated, Carlsen's strength is his extremely strong intuitive play – and raw talent.

The way Caruana could have won was to assume he was already a point down and play a really double-edged and complicated game! Carlsen is not necessarily the world's

best at calculation. With this approach he might have lost a game or two at classical but, practically speaking, would have had more chance of claiming the title.

**Thirunarayanan Sampath,**  
India

Both players have put some fantastic chess on the board, but Magnus kept his cool in games 11 and 12 knowing that he is a better player at rapid.

**Kristof Van Dyck,**  
Belgium

Magnus is nearly unbeatable in classical chess, and although Fabiano has impressively closed the gap between them, Magnus is overpowering at faster time controls. While Fabi has improved at rapid and blitz, he has no significant chance of matching Magnus' level.

**Ben Crane,**  
Ithaca, NY

I felt Magnus was a corporation playing the match, engrossed more in spreadsheets for best odds – draws, then success at rapids.

**Leo Feret,**  
Gilford, NH



## Editor's Diary

### The match heats up

The day after the 8<sup>th</sup> game was played, Magnus Carlsen posted a photo on his personal Instagram (@magnus\_carlsen) sporting a black eye, under the header:



15. cxd4 ♗e4 16. ♖b3+ ♘d5

17. ♖d1

```
XI | | | | | | | | Y
9r + - ♖r + k + 0
9p p p - + - p p 0
9- ♖ n + - p - + 0
9+ - + l + - + - 0
9- + - ♗ - + - + 0
9+ Q + - + N ♗ - 0
9P ♗ - + P ♗ L ♗ 0
9R - + - + R ♖ - 0
xi | | | | | | | | y
17... ♗xf3!?
```

14. ♖c2

```
XI | | | | | | | | Y
9r + - ♖r + k + 0
9p p p - + - p p 0
9- ♖ n + - p - + 0
9+ - + l p - + - 0
9- + - ♗ - + - + 0
9+ - ♗ - + N ♗ - 0
9P ♗ Q + P ♗ L ♗ 0
9R - + - + R ♖ - 0
xi | | | | | | | | y
```

14... exd4

16. c4 ♘xd4 17. ♘xd4 ♘xd4  
18. ♖ad1 ♘c6 19. e3 g5 20. ♖xd4 ♖e6

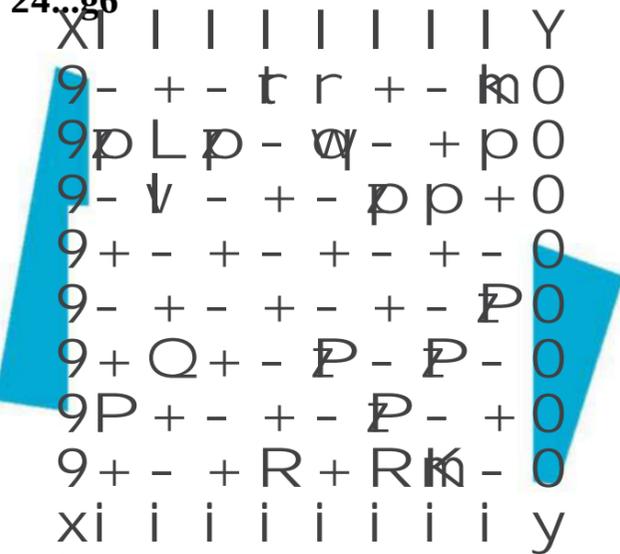
18. ♖b3+ ♔h8 19. ♗xf3 ♘xd4  
20. ♘xd4 ♖xd4 21. e3 ♖e5 22. ♗xb7  
♖ad8

```
XI | | | | | | | | Y
9- + - ♖ r + - ♖ 0
9p L p - + - p p 0
9- ♖ - + - p - + 0
9+ - + - ♖ - + - 0
9- + - + - + - + 0
9+ Q + - ♗ - ♗ - 0
9P + - + - ♗ - ♗ 0
9R - + - + R ♖ - 0
xi | | | | | | | | y
```



23.♖ad1 ♔e7 24.h4

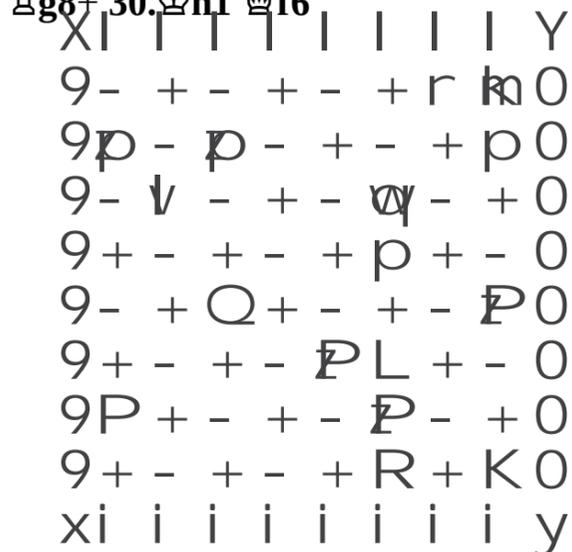
24...g6



25.h5!?

25...gxh5 26.♔c4 f5!

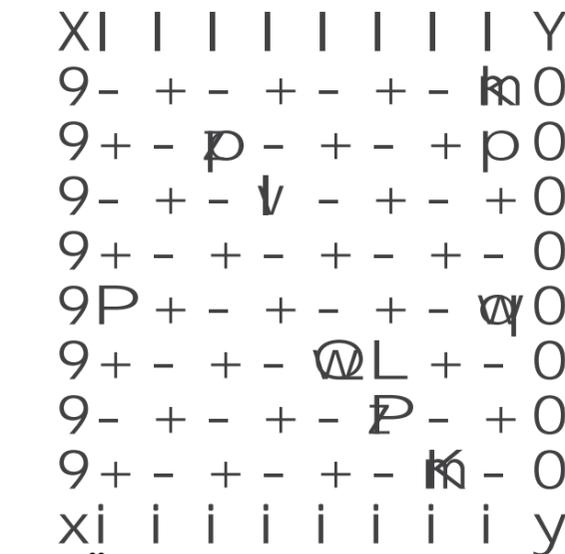
27.♕f3 h4 28.♖xd8 ♖xd8 29.gxh4 ♖g8+ 30.♔h1 ♔f6



31.♔f4 ♕c5

32.♖g1 ♖xg1+ 33.♔xg1 ♕d6 34.♔a4 f4 35.♔xa7 fxe3 36.♔xe3 ♔xh4

37.a4

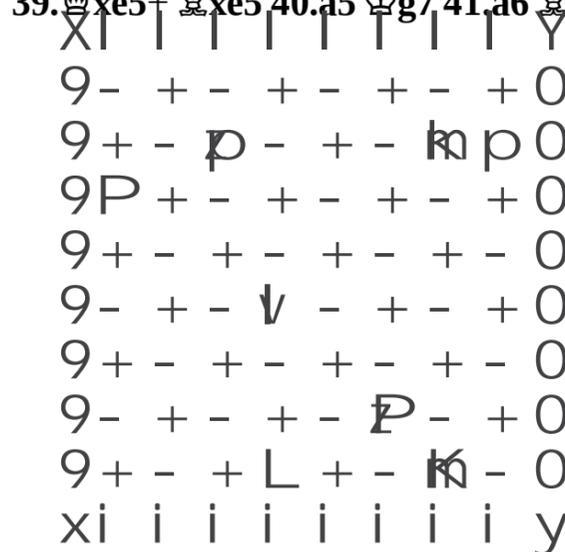


37...♔f6

39.♔f6

38.♕d1 ♔e5

39.♔xe5+ ♕xe5 40.a5 ♔g7 41.a6 ♕d4



42.♔g2 ♔f6 43.f4 ♕b6 44.♔f3 h6 45.♔e4 ♕a7 46.♕g4 ♕g1 47.♔d5 ♕b6 48.♔c6 ♕e3!

49.♔b7 ♕b6 50.♕h3 ♕e3 51.♔c6 ♕b6 52.♔d5 ♕a7 53.♔e4 ♕b6 54.♕f1 ♔e6 55.♕c4+ ♔f6 56.♕d3 ♔e6

Draw

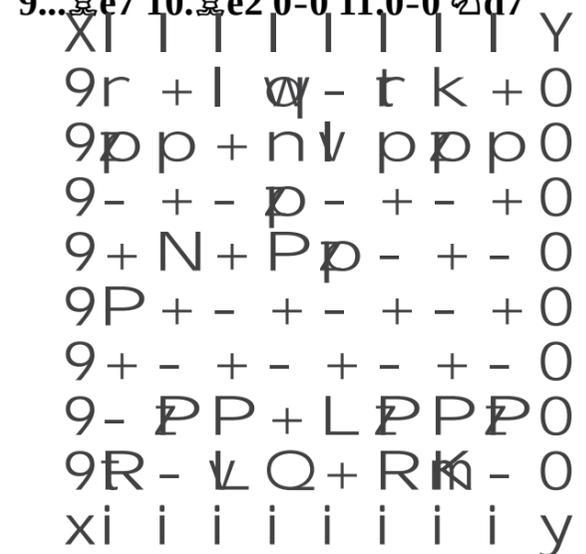
Fabiano Caruana	2832
Magnus Carlsen	2835

Game 10, World Championship Match

1.e4 c5 2.♖f3 ♖c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♖xd4 ♖f6 5.♖c3 e5 6.♖db5 d6 7.♖d5

7...♖xd5 8.exd5 ♖b8 9.a4

9...♕e7 10.♕e2 0-0 11.0-0 ♖d7





## Editor's Diary

### Razor sharp

You can't blame them for not trying. Caruana and Carlsen repeated the same sharp Sicilian that they

12.b4

```

XI | | | | | | | | Y
9r + l ♖ - t k + 0
9+ p + n ♗ p p p 0
9- + - ♘ - + - + 0
9+ - + P ♙ - + - 0
9P + N + - + - + 0
9+ - + - + - + - 0
9- + P + L ♞ P P P 0
9R - ♜ Q + R ♞ - 0
xi | | | | | | | | y

```

12...a6 13.♗a3 a5!

16...f5

14.bxa5 ♝xa5 15.♗c4 ♝a8

```

XI | | | | | | | | Y
9r + l ♖ - t k + 0
9+ p + n ♗ p p p 0
9- + - ♘ - + - + 0
9+ - + P ♙ - + - 0
9P + N + - + - + 0
9+ - + - + - + - 0
9- + P + L ♞ P P P 0
9R - ♜ Q + R ♞ - 0
xi | | | | | | | | y

```

17.a5!

17...f4 18.♗b6 ♝e8

```

XI | | | | | | | | Y
9r + l + q t k + 0
9+ p + n ♗ - ♘ p p 0
9- ♜ - ♘ - + - + 0
9P - + P ♙ - + - 0
9- + N + - ♘ - + 0
9+ - + - + - + - 0
9- + P + L ♞ P P P 0
9R - + Q + R ♞ - 0
xi | | | | | | | | y

```

19.♝a3

16.♗e3

19...♞g6 20.♗c7



Photo by David Llada

20...e4

21.♔h1

```

XI | | | | | | | | Y
9r + | + - t k + 0
9+ p v n v - p p 0
9- + - p - + q + 0
9P - + P + - + - 0
9- + N + p p - + 0
9R - + - + - + - 0
9- + P + L P P P 0
9+ - + Q + R + K 0
xi | | | | | | | | y

```

21...b5!

22.♘b6

22...♘xb6 23.♙xb6

23...♔g5

24.g3

24...b4

25.♙b3

```

XI | | | | | | | | Y
9r + | + - t k + 0
9+ - + - v - p p 0
9- v - p - + - + 0
9P - + P + - v - 0
9- p - + p p - + 0
9+ R + - + - P - 0
9- + P + L P - P 0
9+ - + Q + R + K 0
xi | | | | | | | | y

```

25...♙h3

26...♙h3?

27.♙e1

```

XI | | | | | | | | Y
9r + | + - + k + 0
9+ - + - v - p p 0
9- v - p - t - + 0
9P L + P + - + - 0
9- p - + p + q + 0
9+ R + - + p P - 0
9- + P + - P - P 0
9+ - + Q R - + K 0
xi | | | | | | | | y

```

A)

29...♙xe3 30.♙xe3 ♖xa5

B)

```

XI | | | | | | | | Y
9r + - + - + k + 0
9+ - + - R - p p 0
9- v - p - + - t 0
9P - + P + - v - 0
9- + - + - + - + 0
9+ - + - v p P | 0
9- + P + - P - + 0
9+ - + - + L K - 0
xi | | | | | | | | y

```

26.♙g1 f3 27.♙f1

27...♙xf1 28.♙xf1 ♙xd5 29.♙xb4

29...♔e6

```
XI | | | | | | | | Y
9r + - + - t k + 0
9+ r + - + - p p 0
9- ♖ - ♗ - ♘ q + - + 0
9♙ - + - + - + - 0
9- ♞ - + p + - + 0
9+ - + - + p ♙ - 0
9- + ♙ + - ♚ - ♛ 0
9+ - + - + Q R K 0
xi | | | | | | | | y
```

30.♞b5!

30...♙d8

31.♔e1 ♙xb6 32.axb6 ♞ab8 33.♔e3

33...♔c4 34.♞b2 ♞b7 35.♞d1 ♔e2!

```
XI | | | | | | | | Y
9- + - + - t k + 0
9+ r + - + - p p 0
9- ♙ - ♚ - + - + 0
9+ - + - + - + - 0
9- + - + p + - + 0
9+ - + - ♗ p ♙ - 0
9- ♞ P + q ♙ - ♛ 0
9+ - + R + - + K 0
xi | | | | | | | | y
```

36.♞e1

36...♔xe3 37.♞xe3 d5 38.h4!

38...♞c8 39.♞a3 ♔f7 40.♔h2 ♔e6  
41.g4 ♞c6

```
XI | | | | | | | | Y
9- + - + - + - + 0
9+ r + - + - p p 0
9- ♙ r + k + - + 0
9+ - + p + - + - 0
9- + - + p + ♙ ♙ 0
9♞ - + - + p + - 0
9- ♞ P + - ♙ - ♞ 0
9+ - + - + - + - 0
xi | | | | | | | | y
```

42.♞a6!

42...♔e5 43.♔g3 h6 44.h5! More

44...♔d4?

45.♞b5!

45...♞d6! 46.♞a4+ ♔e5

```
XI | | | | | | | | Y
9- + - + - + - + 0
9+ r + - + - p - 0
9- ♙ - t - + - p 0
9+ R + p ♞ - + P 0
9R + - + p + P + 0
9+ - + - + p ♞ - 0
9- + P + - ♙ - + 0
9+ - + - + - + - 0
xi | | | | | | | | y
```

47.♞ab4

47...♔e6 48.c4 dxc4 49.♞xc4 ♞dxb6  
50.♞xe4+ ♔f7

51.♞f5+ ♞f6 52.♞xf6+ ♔xf6 53.♔xf3  
♔f7 54.♔g3

Draw

Magnus Carlsen	2835
Fabiano Caruana	2832

Game 11, World Championship Match

1.e4

1...e5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.♘xe5 d6 4.♘f3

4...♘xe4 5.♘c3 ♘xc3 6.dxc3 ♙e7  
7.♙e3

```
XI | | | | | | | | Y
9r n | ♗ k + - t 0
9p p p - ♖ p p p 0
9- + - ♙ - + - + 0
9+ - + - + - + - 0
9- + - + - + - + 0
9+ - ♙ - ♖ N + - 0
9P P P + - P P P 0
9R - + Q ♞ L + R 0
xi | | | | | | | | y
```

7...0-0



8. ♖d2 ♜d7 9.0-0-0

```

XI | | | | | | | | | Y
9r + | ♗ - t k + 0
9p p p n ♜ p p p 0
9- + - ♝ - + - + 0
9+ - + - + - + - 0
9- + - + - + - + 0
9+ - ♞ - ♞ N + - 0
9P P P ♗ - P P P 0
9+ - ♞ R + L + R 0
xi | | | | | | | | | y

```

9... ♜f6

10. ♕d3 c5

11. ♞he1 ♕e6

```

XI | | | | | | | | | Y
9r + - ♗ - t k + 0
9p p + - ♜ p p p 0
9- + - ♝ | ♞ - + 0
9+ - ♝ - + - + - 0
9- + - + - + - + 0
9+ - ♞ L ♞ N + - 0
9P P P ♗ - P P P 0
9+ - ♞ R R - + - 0
xi | | | | | | | | | y

```

### Editor's Diary

#### A musical interlude

There is not much to say about Game 11, the shortest game of the match and probably the only draw which could justifiably be called boring. The previous challenger, Sergey Karjakin, was invited to make the first move, which was a nice touch by the organizers. It also came as a pleasant surprise for the uninformed players, since both Carlsen and Caruana are quite fond of Sergey. The Russian, always with a childish smile on his face, is indeed a very likeable fellow.

Caruana was not looking for trouble and entrusted his last game with the black pieces to his pet defense, the Petroff. Carlsen went for the main line, 5. ♜c3, and timidly tried to get some play. No one expected Fabiano to go for 9... ♜f6, one of the lines that appeared in the leaked video from the Saint Louis Chess Club, but he did. "He managed to surprise me. If that was indeed some kind of gambit, it worked

well!" said Caruana after the game.

12. ♕b1

12...h6?? 13. ♕xh6 c4  
 14. ♕xg7 cxd3 15. ♞g5 ♜e4 16. ♞h6  
 ♕g5+ 17. ♜xg5 ♞xg5+ 18. ♞xg5  
 ♜xg5 19. ♕xf8 dxc2 20. ♞xd6

```

XI | | | | | | | | | Y
9r + - ♗ - t k + 0
9p p + - ♜ p p p 0
9- + - + | ♞ - + 0
9+ - ♝ p + - ♞ - 0
9- + - + - ♗ - + 0
9+ - ♞ L + N + - 0
9P P P + - P P P 0
9+ - ♞ R R - + - 0
xi | | | | | | | | | y

```

14... ♞b6

15. ♕xf6?! ♕xf6

12... ♞a5

```

XI | | | | | | | | | Y
9r + - + - t k + 0
9p p + - ♜ p p p 0
9- + - ♝ | ♞ - + 0
9 ♗ - ♝ - + - + - 0
9- + - + - + - + 0
9+ - ♞ L ♞ N + - 0
9P P P ♗ - P P P 0
9+ K + R R - + - 0
xi | | | | | | | | | y

```

13.c4



13... ♖xd2 14. ♗xd2 h6 15. ♘h4

15... ♗fe8 16. ♘g6

```

X | | | | | | | | Y
9r + - + r + k + 0
9p p + - v p p - 0
9- + - p l n N p 0
9+ - p - + - + - 0
9- + P + - + - + 0
9+ - + L + - + - 0
9P P P V - P P P 0
9+ K + R R - + - 0
x i i i i i i i y

```

16... ♘g4!

0 À À 0 E \ D4x Ð sP 2 K H W D 75 0

s

: fG 3P 40 Ð L W H flg Cakat. i ch4 hin 76 kiat.1

Wop ÑKDG WNLOG ¾ lg d W e 14 4



10...♔d7 11.♚b4 ♔f5

### A dozen draws... and so on to the rapids

### Editor's Diary

The duel between Caruana and Carlsen now had the dubious honor of becoming the first World Championship match in which all the games ended in a draw. And particularly this draw, played in the last of the 12 scheduled classical games, was anti-climactic in the extreme.

It was the moment of truth for Fabiano: he knew perfectly well that Carlsen is a stronger player than him in rapid time controls, and here the American had the white pieces and one last chance to avoid that dreaded scenario. Fresh in everyone's mind was the last game of the New York match, two years ago, when Magnus went for general simplification and did his best to avoid a full-blown

12.h4

```

XI | | | | | | | Y
9r + - ♔k ♖ - ♗ 0
9p p + - + p p p 0
9- + - ♘ - + n + 0
9+ N+ P p l + - 0
9- ♚P + - + - ♜ 0
9+ - + - + - + - 0
9P ♜ - + - ♜ P + 0
9R - ♗ - ♞ L + R 0
xi | | | | | | | y

```

12...h5

17...g6

13.♚a4 ♔d7 14.♚b4 ♔f5

```

XI | | | | | | | Y
9r + - ♔k ♖ - ♗ 0
9p p + - + p p - 0
9- + - ♘ - + n + 0
9+ N+ P p l + p 0
9- ♚P + - + - ♜ 0
9+ - + - + - + - 0
9P ♜ - + - ♜ P + 0
9R - ♗ - ♞ L + R 0
xi | | | | | | | y

```

15.♔e3



24...b5

21...♖ac8 22.0-0 ♕g6 23.♖c2

Photo by David Liada

23...f5  
 X | | | | | | | Y  
 9 - + r + - t k + 0  
 9 + p ♖ n ♜ - p - 0  
 9 p + - p - + l + 0  
 9 + - + P p p + p 0  
 9 - ♔ P + N + - ♟ 0  
 9 + - + L ♜ P ♟ - 0  
 9 P ♟ R + - + - + 0  
 9 + - ♞ R + - + - 0  
 x i i i i i i i y  
 24.♜f2!?

17...♕e7 18.f3

18...♜f8

15...a6 16.♜c3  
 X | | | | | | | Y  
 9 r + - ♖ k ♜ - t 0  
 9 + p + - + p p - 0  
 9 p + - p - + n + 0  
 9 + - + P p l + p 0  
 9 - ♔ P + - + - ♟ 0  
 9 + - ♞ - ♜ - + - 0  
 9 P ♟ - + - ♟ P + 0  
 9 R - + - ♞ L + R 0  
 x i i i i i i i y

16...♔c7

17.g3

19.♜e4 ♜d7 20.♕d3 0-0

X | | | | | | | Y  
 9 r + - + - t k + 0  
 9 + p ♖ n ♜ p p - 0  
 9 p + - p - + - + 0  
 9 + - + P p l + p 0  
 9 - ♔ P + N + - ♟ 0  
 9 + - + L ♜ P ♟ - 0  
 9 P ♟ - + - + - + 0  
 9 R - + - ♞ - + R 0  
 x i i i i i i i y

21.♞h2!?

25.♕xg5? ♜c5

26.fxe4  
 26...fxe4 27.♕e2

♜e5.

24...♜c5 25.f4?



XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y  
 9- + r + - t k + 0  
 9+ p ♗ - v - p - 0  
 9p + - p - + l + 0  
 9+ - ♖ P p p + p 0  
 9- ♔ P + - ♙ - ♙ 0  
 9+ - + L ♘ - ♙ - 0  
 9P ♙ R + - ♞ - + 0  
 9+ - ♞ R + - + - 0  
 xi i i i i i i i y  
 25...a5?

XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y  
 9- + r + l t k + 0  
 9+ p ♗ - + - p - 0  
 9- + - p - v - + 0  
 9p - ♖ P + p + p 0  
 9- + P + p ♙ - ♙ 0  
 9+ - + - ♘ - ♙ - 0  
 9P ♙ R ♔ L ♞ - + 0  
 9+ K + - R - + - 0  
 xi i i i i i i i y  
 29...a4?

30...g6 31.♙d1 ♞a8  
 XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y  
 9r + - + l t k + 0  
 9+ p ♗ - + - + - 0  
 9- + - p - v p + 0  
 9+ - ♖ P + p + p 0  
 9p ♔ P + p ♙ - ♙ 0  
 9+ - + - ♘ - ♙ - 0  
 9P ♙ R + L ♞ - + 0  
 9+ K + R + - + - 0  
 xi i i i i i i i y

26. ♙d2 e4 27. ♞e2 ♞e8

30.b3 ♞xb3! 31.axb3 ♞xb3  
32. ♙d1 a4

28. ♞b1 ♞f6  
 XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y  
 9- + r + l t k + 0  
 9+ p ♗ - + - p - 0  
 9- + - p - v - + 0  
 9p - ♖ P + p + p 0  
 9- + P + p ♙ - ♙ 0  
 9+ - + - ♘ - ♙ - 0  
 9P ♙ R ♔ L ♞ - + 0  
 9+ K + R + - + - 0  
 xi i i i i i i i y  
 29. ♞e1?!

XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y  
 9- + r + l t k + 0  
 9+ p ♗ - + - p - 0  
 9- + - p - v - + 0  
 9+ - ♖ P + p + p 0  
 9p + P + p ♙ - ♙ 0  
 9+ - + - ♘ - ♙ - 0  
 9P ♙ R ♔ L ♞ - + 0  
 9+ K + - R - + - 0  
 xi i i i i i i i y  
 30. ♙b4

Draw

# A Rapid Defeat!

## TIE-BREAK 1-3

AS SOON AS THE LAST CLASSICAL GAME WAS OVER, THE CRITICS CAME OUT IN FORCE TO SLAM CARLSEN FOR AGREEING A DRAW IN A FAVORABLE POSITION. HOWEVER, THIS VERBAL ASSAULT MERELY SERVED TO ROUSE THE LION KING WHO THEN PROCEEDED TO DEMONSTRATE THE MARGIN OF HIS SUPERIORITY AT RAPID PLAY. THE FINAL RESULT WAS NO LONGER IN DOUBT.

Annotations by **GM JOHN BURKE**

### Editor's Diary

*"I did it my way..."*

We still hadn't recovered from the emotion and the disappointment of Caruana's defeat in the tie-break, when the following statement from the challenger was published on Twitter

Magnus Carlsen 2835

Fabiano Caruana 2832

Tie-break Game 1 (rapid),  
World Championship Match

1.c4

3...♘b4

1...e5 2.♘c3 ♘f6

```

X| | | | | | | | Y
9r n l k v - t 0
9p p p p + p p p 0
9- + - + - n - + 0
9+ - + - p - + - 0
9- + P + - + - + 0
9+ - N - + - + - 0
9P P - P P P P P 0
9R - L Q K L N R 0
x i i i i i i i y

```

3.g3

5.♘ge2

6.f3 is also an



XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y  
 9r ㉞ | ㉞ - t k + 0  
 9p p p p + p p p 0  
 9- + - + - ㉞ - + 0  
 9+ - + - p - + - 0  
 9- ♁ P + P + - + 0  
 9+ - ㉞ - + - P - 0  
 9P P - P N P - P 0  
 9R - ♁ Q K L + R 0  
 xi i i i i i i i y

5...c6

6. ♕g2 a6?!

7.0-0 b5 8.d4 d6

9.a3 ♕xc3

11...axb5 12.d5

10. ♁xc3 bxc4 11.dxe5 dxe5 12. ♁a4

XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y  
 9r ㉞ | ㉞ - t k + 0  
 9+ - + - + p p p 0  
 9p + p + - ㉞ - + 0  
 9+ - + - p - + - 0  
 9N + p + P + - + 0  
 9P - + - + - P - 0  
 9- P - + - P L P 0  
 9R - ♁ Q + R K - 0  
 xi i i i i i i i y

12... ♕e6!

13. ♖xd8

13... ♖xd8

XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y  
 9r ㉞ - t - + k + 0  
 9+ - + - + p p p 0  
 9p + p + l ㉞ - + 0  
 9+ - + - p - + - 0  
 9N + p + P + - + 0  
 9P - + - ♁ - P - 0  
 9- P - + - P L P 0  
 9R - + - + R K - 0  
 xi i i i i i i i y

14. ♕e3

14... ♁bd7 15.f3

15... ♖ab8 16. ♖ac1 ♖b3 17. ♖fe1

XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y  
 9- + - t - + k + 0  
 9+ - + n + p p p 0  
 9p + p + l ㉞ - + 0  
 9+ - + - p - + - 0  
 9N + p + P + - + 0  
 9P r + - ♁ P P - 0  
 9- P - + - + L P 0  
 9+ - R - R - K - 0  
 xi i i i i i i i y

17... ♁e8

20.bxc3 ♖b3

19. ♖xc3 ♖xc3

a4

18. ♕f1 ♁d6 19. ♖cd1

19... ♁b5?

20. ♁c5 ♖xb2 21. ♁xe6 fxe6 22. ♕xc4

22... ♁d4 23. ♕xd4 exd4

XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y  
 9- + - t - + k + 0  
 9+ - + n + - p p 0  
 9p + p + p + - + 0  
 9+ - + - + - + - 0  
 9- + L p P + - + 0  
 9P - + - + P P - 0  
 9- t - + - + - P 0  
 9+ - + R R - K - 0  
 xi i i i i i i i y

24. ♕xe6+

24...♔f8 25.♖xd4 ♕e7 26.♖xd7+  
♗xd7 27.♘xd7 ♔xd7

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0
9+	-	+	k	+	-	p	p	0
9p	+	p	+	-	+	-	+	0
9+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	0
9-	+	-	+	P	+	-	+	0
9P	-	+	-	+	P	P	-	0
9-	t	-	+	-	+	-	P	0
9+	-	+	-	R	-	k	-	0
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y

28.♖d1+ ♕e6 29.f4 c5

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0
9+	-	+	-	+	-	p	p	0
9p	+	-	+	k	+	-	+	0
9+	-	p	-	+	-	+	-	0
9-	+	-	+	P	P	-	+	0
9P	-	+	-	+	-	P	-	0
9-	t	-	+	-	+	-	P	0
9+	-	+	R	+	-	k	-	0
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y

30.♖d5?

30...♖c2 31.h4 c4

32.f5+ ♕f6!

33.♖c5

33...h5!

34.♕f1

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0
9+	-	+	-	+	-	p	-	0
9p	+	-	+	-	k	-	+	0
9+	-	R	-	+	P	+	p	0
9-	+	p	+	P	+	-	P	0
9P	-	+	-	+	-	P	-	0
9-	+	r	+	-	+	-	+	0
9+	-	+	-	+	K	+	-	0
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y

34...♖c3

36.♕d1 ♖d2+ 37.♕c1 ♖e2

35.♕g2 ♖xa3 36.♖xc4 ♕e5 37.♖c7

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0
9+	-	R	-	+	-	p	-	0
9p	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0
9+	-	+	-	k	P	+	p	0
9-	+	-	+	P	+	-	P	0
9t	-	+	-	+	-	P	-	0
9-	+	-	+	-	+	K	+	0
9+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	0
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y

37...♕xe4??

38.♕f3 ♖a3+

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0
9+	-	+	-	+	-	R	-	0
9p	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0
9+	-	+	-	+	P	+	p	0
9-	+	-	+	k	+	-	P	0
9+	-	+	-	+	-	P	K	0
9-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0
9t	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	0
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y

38.♖e7+!

38...♕xf5 39.♖xg7

39...♕f6 40.♖g5 a5 41.♖xh5 a4

42.♖a5 ♖a1

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0
9+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	0
9-	+	-	+	-	k	-	+	0
9R	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	0
9p	+	-	+	-	+	-	P	0
9+	-	+	-	+	-	P	-	0
9-	+	-	+	-	+	K	+	0
9t	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	0
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y

43.♕f3 a3 44.♖a6+

44...♕g7 45.♕g2 ♖a2+ 46.♕h3 ♖a1  
47.h5!

47...♕h7 48.g4

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0
9+	-	+	-	+	-	+	k	0
9R	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0
9+	-	+	-	+	-	+	P	0
9-	+	-	+	-	+	P	+	0
9p	-	+	-	+	-	+	K	0
9-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0
9t	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	0
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y

48...♔g7

49.♔h4 a2 50.♔g5

50...♔f7 51.h6 ♖b1 52.♖a7+ ♔g8  
53.♖xa2 ♖b5+ 54.♔g6 ♖b6+ 55.♔h5  
Black resigned

Fabiano Caruana	2832
Magnus Carlsen	2835

Tie-break Game 2 (rapid),  
World Championship Match

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 ♗c6 3.d4 cxd4  
4.♗xd4 ♗f6 5.♗c3 e5 6.♗db5 d6  
7.♗d5

7...♗xd5 8.exd5 ♗e7 9.c4 ♗g6  
10.♖a4 ♗d7 11.♖b4

```

XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y
9r + - ♗k ♗ - t 0
9p p + l + p p p 0
9- + - p - + n + 0
9+ N + P p - + - 0
9- ♖P + - + - + 0
9+ - + - + - + - 0
9P P - + - P P P 0
9R - ♗ - ♞L + R 0
xi i i i i i i i y
    
```

11...♖b8

12.h4 h5 13.♗e3

13...a6 14.♗c3 a5?!



Photo by David Llada

15.♖b3 a4 16.♖d1

16...♗e7 17.g3 ♖c8 18.♗e2 ♗g4

```

XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y
9r + q + k + - t 0
9+ p + - ♗ p p - 0
9- + - p - + n + 0
9+ - + P p - + p 0
9p + P + - + l P 0
9+ - ♖ - ♗ - P - 0
9P P - + L P - + 0
9R - + Q ♞ - + R 0
xi i i i i i i i y
    
```

19.♖c1

19...♗xe2 20.♖xe2 ♖f5 Here White's

21.c5!?

21...0-0

22.c6

22...bxc6 23.dxc6 ♖fc8

24.♖c4 Not

```

XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y
9r + r + - + k + 0
9+ - + - ♗ p p - 0
9- + P p - + n + 0
9+ - + - p q + p 0
9p + Q + - + - P 0
9+ - ♖ - ♗ - P - 0
9P P - + - P - + 0
9+ - R - ♞ - + R 0
xi i i i i i i i y
    
```

24...♗d8

```

XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y
9- + r + - + k + 0
9+ - + - + p p - 0
9- ♖P + q + n + 0
9+ r + p p - + p 0
9p ♗ - + - + - P 0
9+ - + - ♗ - P - 0
9P P Q + K P - + 0
9+ - R - + - + R 0
xi i i i i i i i y
    
```

29

30. ♖xc3 d4; 30. ♗xa4  
 ♔d4 31. ♕xd4 exd4+ 32. ♖f1 ♗e5 and  
 Or 30. bxc3  
 ♖xc6 31. ♗xa4 d4

25. ♗d5

25...e4

```

X I | | | | | | | Y
9r + r ♖ - + k + 0
9+ - + - + p p - 0
9- + P p - + n + 0
9+ - + N + q + p 0
9p + Q + p + - P 0
9+ - + - ♗ - P - 0
9P P - + - P - + 0
9+ - R - ♔ - + R 0
xi i i i i i i i y
  
```

26. c7??

26... ♕xc7 27. ♗xc7 ♗e5

```

X I | | | | | | | Y
9r + r + - + k + 0
9+ - ♗ - + p p - 0
9- + - p - + - + 0
9+ - + - ♗ q + p 0
9p + Q + p + - P 0
9+ - + - ♗ - P - 0
9P P - + - P - + 0
9+ - R - ♔ - + R 0
xi i i i i i i i y
  
```

28. ♗d5

30. ♖xd6 ♖cb7

28... ♖h7

♗d3+ 30. ♖f1 ♗xc1

White resigned 13... bxc5 14. f4 ♗g6 15. ♖e3

Magnus Carlsen 2835

Fabiano Caruana 2832

Tie-break Game 3 (rapid),  
 World Championship Match

1. e4 c5

2. ♗f3 e6

3. c4 ♗c6 4. d4 cxd4 5. ♗xd4 ♕c5

6. ♗c2

6... ♗f6 7. ♗c3 0-0 8. ♕e3 b6 9. ♕e2  
 ♕b7 10. 0-0 ♖e7

```

X I | | | | | | | Y
9r + - + - t k + 0
9p l + p ♗ p p p 0
9- p n + p ♗ - + 0
9+ - ♗ - + - + - 0
9- + P + P + - + 0
9+ - ♗ - ♗ - + - 0
9P P N + L P P P 0
9R - + Q + R ♔ - 0
xi i i i i i i i y
  
```

```

X I | | | | | | | Y
9r + - t - + k + 0
9p l + p ♗ p p p 0
9- + - + p ♗ n + 0
9+ - p - + - + - 0
9- + P + P P - + 0
9+ - ♗ - ♗ - + - 0
9P P N + L + P P 0
9R - + R + - ♔ - 0
xi i i i i i i i y
  
```

15...d6

16. ♖d2 a6 17. ♖ad1 ♖c7 18. b3 h6

19. g3 ♖d7 20. ♕f3 ♖e8 21. ♖f2 ♗e7

22. h3 ♖ed8 23. ♕g2 ♗c6

```

X I | | | | | | | Y
9- + - t - + k + 0
9+ l ♗ r + p p - 0
9p + n p p ♗ - p 0
9+ - p - + - + - 0
9- + P + P P - + 0
9+ P ♗ - + - P P 0
9P + N R - ♗ L + 0
9+ - + R + - ♔ - 0
xi i i i i i i i y
  
```

24. g4!

24... ♖a5

25. ♗a4!

11. ♖d2 ♖fd8 12. ♖fd1 ♗e5 13. ♕xc5

25... ♖c7

26. e5!



31...♔b2 32.♚d6 ♘xd7 33.♚xd7  
♚xc2

34.♚e8+ ♔h7 35.♚xa8 ♚d1+

36.♔h2 ♚d6+ 37.♔h1 ♘d4 38.♚e4+  
f5 39.gxf5

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y	
9-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0	
9+	-	+	-	+	-	♗	♔	0	
9♖	+	-	♙	♖	+	-	♖	0	
9+	-	+	-	+	♖	+	-	0	
9-	+	♖	♗	♙	♙	+	-	+	0
9+	♖	+	-	+	-	+	♖	0	
9♖	+	-	+	-	+	+	♔	0	
9+	-	+	-	+	-	+	♔	0	

Photo by David Llada

40.♚e3 ♘e6 41.b4

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0
9+	-	+	-	+	-	♗	♔	0
9♖	+	-	♙	♖	+	-	♖	0
9+	-	+	-	+	♖	+	-	0
9-	♖	♖	+	-	+	-	+	0
9+	-	+	-	♙	-	+	♖	0
9♖	+	-	+	-	+	+	♔	0
9+	-	+	-	+	-	+	♔	0

41...♘g5

42.c5

42...♚f6 43.c6 ♘e6 44.a4 ♘c7  
45.♚f4 ♘e6

26...dxe5 27.♘xc5 ♚xd2 28.♚xd2  
♚xd2 29.♚xd2

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9-	+	-	+	-	+	♔	+	0
9+	♙	-	+	♖	♖	-	0	
9♖	+	♖	+	♖	♗	-	♖	0
9+	-	♖	-	♖	-	+	-	0
9-	+	♖	+	-	♖	♖	+	0
9+	♖	+	-	+	-	+	♖	0
9♖	+	♖	♙	-	+	♔	+	0
9+	-	+	-	+	-	♔	-	0
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y

29...♚a8

30.fxe5 ♚xe5

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9	+	-	+	-	+	♔	+	0
9+	♖	+	-	+	♖	-	0	
9-	+	♖	+	-	+	♖	+	0
9+	♖	+	-	+	-	+	♖	0
9♖	+	♖	♙	-	+	♔	+	0
9+	-	♖	-	♙	-	+	-	0
9-	+	♖	+	-	+	♖	+	0
9+	♖	+	-	+	-	+	♖	0
9♖	+	♖	♙	-	+	♔	+	0
9+	-	+	-	+	-	♔	-	0
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y

31.♘d7!

XI I I I I I I I Y  
 9- + - + - + - + 0  
 9+ - + - + - p k 0  
 9p + P + n w - p 0  
 9+ - + - + p + - 0  
 9P P - + - W - + 0  
 9+ - + - + - + P 0  
 9- + - + - + L + 0  
 9+ - + - + - + K 0  
 xi i i i i i i i y

46. ♔d6

46... ♔a1+ 47. ♕h2 ♖d4 48.c7 ♔c3 49. ♔c5 ♕e3  
 50.c8 ♕ f4 51. ♕g4

Black resigned

I don't like the classical world championship being decided by rapid and blitz games. I think after playing the 12 classical games, whoever wins the next classical game should be world champion. A kind of sudden death playoff.

For the most part, I found the games too sterile and averse to risk. A couple of the games contained enough imbalance to make it interesting, but overall it won't be a match that I will want to review the games again and again.

**Brian Bannon,**  
 Saint Charles, MO

To be honest, it was a little disappointing. I found the rapid games more exciting, though I don't like to admit it. Magnus is already the world rapid champion, so now he essentially has that title twice!

**Jeremy W. Treadwell**  
 Bakersfield, CA

What can we do? I think that the idea about starting the match with "the playoffs", could help in inspiring the players to take risks.

**Vesna Dimitrijevic,**  
 Watertown, MA

The world championship should continue in the classical time control, and rapid games should remain in the world rapid chess championship.

**Kevin Tortolini,**  
 Ashburn, VA

The match was interesting at first, but became a lot less interesting after 10 draws in a row. Wait until the end of the day to find out what happened. It was not "fair" to change the type of chess to decide the match. Have separate championships for classical and rapid. Find a way to adjust the classical match

to avoid 100% draws. Go back to 24 games. And consider a 25-game match with the challenger getting White in odd-number games, with a tie going to the champion.

**Lawrence Stevens,**  
 Beaumont, CA

The match did produce a lot of shadow boxing, which also adds tension to the sport. Actually the production of new ideas was a lot higher in comparison with the last world championship.

**Jesper Knudsen,**  
 Denmark

Most of the games were very interesting and exciting. I'm not a fan of tie-breaking with rapid games, but it's probably necessary because the match logistics (venue, hotels, plane tickets, etc.) can't be reserved open-ended, so there has to be a firm end-date to the match.

**Jon Crumiller,**  
 Princeton, NJ

Yes. It was interesting to follow. No. Rapidplay is a bad decision-maker. We need a longer match with 16 or – even better – 20 games.

**Axel Eger,**  
 Germany

The match was interesting but I don't feel that the world championship should be determined in rapid games. Make the match longer, like 18 or 24 games, but make it all classical.

**Doug White,**  
 Normal, IL

At least half of the games were without a real fight. I think we should have got a world classical chess championship, we already have a world rapid chess championship...

**Tal Haimovich,**  
 Israel

It was interesting. Yes... I like the rapid tie-breaks.

**Reuven Fischer,**  
 Narberth, PA

Was this match, with so many draws, interesting for you to follow? Do you consider it fair that the classical world championship should be decided by rapid games?

For me it was not interesting. I preferred to follow the women's championship. If the men's championship is not decided by rapid games, it will last months!

**Jose Gaona,**  
 New York, NY

The ideal length for the classical portion of the match would be 16 games in this day and age. If undecided then rapid two-game mini-matches until a winner is decided. No blitz. Of course, I would not mind a four-game rapid match then two-game mini matches. However organizers may not agree even though the rapidplay stage passes quickly so not much extra time is needed.

**Kenneth Calitri,**  
 Mahwah, NJ

Many of the games were interesting when accompanied by the expert analysis of Seirawan and Ashley. Without that, I would have been clueless. I think new tie-break methods need to be explored as well as a longer match.

**Jim Duffy,**  
 Gonzales, LA

I was interested in each one of the games. I think a world champion has to win classical chess games to be declared world champion. A decisive result in classical, rapid and blitz (all three combined) could also be a determining factor in future world chess championships.

**Steven Chilson,**  
Dumfries, VA

Yes, it was really high level chess with very few mistakes and no terrible blunders. Both players knew the rules, Magnus exploited them better. It's sad for Fabiano as he had the example of Karjakin two years ago...

**Philippe Chappe,**  
France

The match was interesting even if all the games were drawn. I think it would be better to play a greater number of games (at least 16 or 18) at a classical time format, after which a playoff decider with rapid games might be fine. However, a two point margin should be required for victory. I would not use blitz games. I would continue with the rapid games until one of the two players gets a two-point advantage, even if this means playing over more days.

**Alessandro Marin,**  
Italy

Despite the large number of draws, the match was very interesting to follow! However, in my opinion, playing tie-break rapid games to decide the world classical chess champion is complete nonsense.

**Serge Lacour,**  
France

It was interesting. The alternative proved unworkable in previous K-vs-K matches that went on forever and exhausted the players. Those were more boring.

**Brian Hulse**  
Austin, TX

There were many interesting games. However, the fact that there were only twelve games pushed both players into reducing risks. Since there are separate world championships for rapid and blitz chess, I think it is absolutely misguided to decide the world championship this way. This needs to be changed – and soon.

**Markus Mock,**  
Germany

Although all of the classical games were drawn, overall I found the match quite fascinating, since many of the games had dynamic positions with chances for both sides. It was interesting to see how Magnus would respond to Fabiano's opening preparation. It does seem incongruous to have the championship decided by rapid games. I would be in favor of doing away with the rapid & blitz tie-break games, and instead have more classical games (e.g. 16, 20, or even 24) as in previous world championship matches. And in case of a tie, the current champion would retain the title.

**Kevin Wilson,**  
San Diego, CA

It was interesting as so much rides on winning and losing. As to the fairness, this is what was agreed upon by both camps. Perhaps a return to the classical format of 24 games would make it a bit more interesting.

**Benjamin Soto,**  
San Antonio, TX

Yes, although it would be a longer match, 18 or 24 games with fewer rest days would have been more interesting.

**Alan Reed,**  
Poland

Yes, the quality of games was excellent. No, it is not reasonable for the classical world championship to be decided in the rapid format.

**Mark Warriner,**  
Henrico, VA

Was this match, with so many draws, interesting for you to follow? Do you consider it fair that the classical world championship should be decided by rapid games?

Wins are obviously more exciting and preferable, but draws can be exciting as well. Remember these are the two best players in the world. There can be a lot to learn from draws as well as wins. Rapid and blitz games can be more entertaining due to the faster time controls, but the classical style is traditional. If there is a tie after the number of games scheduled are completed, then the existing world champion should retain his title. Those addicted to speed can watch NASCAR.

**Manuel Infante,**  
Oklahoma City, OK

Yes. It is still magnificently fascinating chess. I would have preferred the winner to be decided at the classical time format, but that did not reduce the quality of the chess – except towards the end when I believe it was clear Magnus was playing to get to the tie-breaker. I do not like the rapid games solution. A big part of chess is risk-taking and when that is potentially removed, it does make the game less interesting.

**Timothy Kuzma,**  
Pittsburgh, PA

I enjoyed it by following the analysis on Chess Network and GM Huschenbeth. As far as fairness for the world chess championship to be decided on rapid games, I lived through the 48-game Kasparov-Karpov match. THAT got VERY boring. As Magnus said he could live with whatever the rules were.

**Mike Sakarias,**  
Juneau, AK

Despite the draws the match was great to follow. But I really wish FIDE would change the rules so the title is decided only by classical chess.

**Christopher Moscinski,**  
Bronx, NY

Yes, there were some excellent games. But perhaps 16 classical games would have gotten a result in the regular sessions.

**Dan O'Hanlon,**  
Huntington, WV

Yes, very interesting, but not fair to be decided by rapid games.

**Jose Ybarra,**  
Charlotte, MI

The match was still interesting, even if so closely matched. I would like to see the option of offering a draw removed. Endgame skills are not well revealed with early draws. I would rather not see the rapid time control games in a classical match.

**Rob Neal,**  
Olathe, CO

Yes.

No. Doesn't classical world championship mean world championship at classical time control? Carlsen did not show he was best at classical chess.

**Gary Andrus,**  
Eagle, WI

I was so busy this year, I missed it all! Rapid games sounds fair to me.

**Christopher Morabito,**  
Boise, ID

It was very interesting, and I do not know a better tie-break.  
**Boris Dimitrijeski,**  
Germany

Yes, even with the many draws it was still interesting to watch. And yes, I think it was fair to decide the championship in rapid games. I just wish that Fabiano had practiced more using the rapid time controls.  
**Michael Damey,**  
Land O Lakes, FL

If the chess world really wants to perk up the world chess championship match, I strongly recommend this idea: Games played: 12 to 16; Time for each player: 2:15 for White, 1:45 for Black; Style of game: Special Armageddon: If White wins, White gets 1 point; if the game's a draw, Black gets 1 point; if Black wins, Black gets 2 points. If the players get through that and are even, then they can play the rapids and blitz. This way, EVERY game from game 1 to the final Armageddon game will be exciting.  
**Judson T Smalley,**  
Colorado Springs, CO

Yes of course some of the games were very interesting despite being draws. I saw Game 8 live at the venue in London and enjoyed the whole experience immensely. No, it is not fair.  
**Jeremy Hart,**  
United Kingdom

The match was interesting because the draws were hard-fought. If the world championship is a quest for truth, to find the best player, it should never be decided by rapid play which, although exciting, is significantly more prone to error.  
**Omar Aguilar,**  
Sicklerville, NJ

As a novice player I found the match a bit disappointing, as I don't have a deep enough understanding to grasp the

nuances of a precisely fought draw. Games 1 and 12 held some interest. While the rapid games were far more entertaining, I would prefer the classical world championship be decided by classical games.  
**John Frederiksen**  
Frisco, TX

The match was probably interesting to follow for chess players. Unlike most other sports, chess requires a level of understanding and familiarity; it's possible to enjoy a soccer game, for example, without knowing that a specific passing sequence might be extremely difficult. I thought the games were deep and hard-fought, but neither player took many risks. Both played like Petrosian. I'd rather it not be decided by rapid play, but continue on under normal time controls.  
**Bryan Embrey,**  
Fremont, CA

The classical world championship should never be decided by anything but classical games. Twelve games are too short in these computer-assisted times, given the high number of draws. The old formula of 24 games, where a tie allowed the champion to retain his title, would work best.  
**Allan Savage,**  
Kensington, MD

Most of the games were boring, with over-cautious play and rapid queen exchanges. Fabiano defended very well.  
**Nicolas Renault,**  
France

I was not surprised by so many draws and yes it was interesting to follow. Due to the fact that each professional player has a rating in 3 categories (classical, rapid and blitz), the final championship result should be determined by computing all three categories.  
**Kenneth Belger,**  
Arlington, TX

No, this match was not very interesting to follow for me. No, I do not find it fair that the classical world championship should be decided in rapid games.  
**Christiaan Bijl,**  
Netherlands

Yes of course! It is only natural that the classical world championship has been hijacked by rapid play. The same way that football uses the penalty kick from 11 meters after four draws!  
**Viorel Craciuneanu,**  
Romania

Don't like rapid deciding a classical match. Tie goes to the champion.  
**Edward Gonsalves,**  
Providence, RI

I don't like rapid deciding a classical match. A tie should favour the champion. I do not think that something so important should be decided in quick games, there must be another method.  
**Jon Bilbao,**  
Miami, FL

No, but play them the other way around for an epic match: first playoffs then classical!  
**Cornelis Klaver,**  
South Africa

Yes, the match was interesting. Draws can be exciting, and several of these were. No, it is not fair to decide the championship by rapid games. I would prefer the old way (champion has draw odds), or joint champions (or a vacant championship) in the event of a drawn match. Any tie-break is bound to be arbitrary.  
**Dennis Kosterman,**  
Madison, VM

It was a fantastic match that will be long remembered. Rapid games are also part of chess and it shows that Magnus is the true all-round champion. But maybe 12 classical games are not

enough for a player to take more risks.  
**Kristof Van Dyck,**  
Belgium

It was very interesting throughout; draws are not boring by definition. On the contrary. A world champion should be able to demonstrate superior competence in both classical and rapid play.  
**David Halpin,**  
United Kingdom

No. We need at least 24 games or first to win 6 games, to decide the title, which was the norm from 1951-1990. Nowadays these young players like Carlsen, Karjakin and Caruana can handle longer matches!  
**Dave Arganian**  
Seattle, WA

The best in the world should win in classical chess!  
**Brian Gain,**  
Las Vegas, NV

Having known the relative strengths of the two players in rapid I would definitely have preferred more result-oriented play from the challenger. Having said that. Caruana was still excellent with his play! Unfortunately, up to now he is only second best in the world.  
**Thirunarayanan Sampath,**  
India

While the match was certainly interesting, it fell short of the great world championship matches of the past. At least a few more classical games would have increased the likelihood of avoiding rapid tie-breaks.  
**Ben Crane,**  
Ithaca, NY

It was interesting notwithstanding the 12 draws, but is really unfair that the world chess championship has been decided in rapid games: it is not like that in other sports.  
**Emilio Zecca,**  
Italy

RADOSLAW WOJTASZEK DEFEATS NAIDITSCH IN TIE-BREAKER TO CLAIM VICTORY.  
HIS WIFE ALINA KASHLINSKAYA WON TOP WOMEN'S PRIZE!

# ISLE OF MAN – AND WIFE!

WITH A FIELD THAT INCLUDED A TOTAL OF 75 GRANDMASTERS AND TWENTY PLAYERS RATED ABOVE 2700, THE ISLE OF MAN OPEN 2018 MADE IT INTO THE RECORD BOOKS AS THE STRONGEST OPEN TOURNAMENT IN HISTORY.

Aronian, Giri, Vachier-Lagrave, Kramnik, So, Anand, Grischuk, Nakamura and Karjakin were the world class players who lined up ahead of Radek Wojtaszek on the starting grid – but it was the steady hand of the Polish grandmaster that clinched first prize.

By **FM MIKE KLEIN** with annotations by **GM RADEK WOJTASZEK & WGM ALINA KASHLINSKAYA**



**“WE HAD THIS IDEA TO GO OUT TO SOME FINE RESTAURANT”, WOJTASZEK SAID, “BUT I ENDED UP PREPARING AND THEN PLAYING THE TIEBREAK. AFTER THAT WE JUST HAD A GLASS OF WINE AND THAT WAS IT.”**



*only after*

# ISLE OF MAN

## INTERNATIONAL

Radoslaw Wojtaszek and Alina Kashlinskaya. Photo by Alina Lami

Radoslaw Wojtaszek 2727

Arkadij Naiditsch 2721

Armageddon Game, Isle of Man Open 2018  
Annotated by Radoslaw Wojtaszek

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘f3 ♙g7 4.g3 0-0  
5.♙g2 d6 6.0-0 ♘bd7 7.♘c3 e5 8.e4  
♙e8 9.♙e3 c6 10.h3 a5

```

      11.d5!?
  XI | | | | | | | | | Y
  9r + | ♗r + k + 0
  9+ p + n + p ♖ p 0
  9- + p p - ♗ p + 0
  9p - + P p - + - 0
  9- + P + P + - + 0
  9+ - N - ♜ N P P 0
  9P P - + - P L + 0
  9R - + Q + R K - 0
  XI | | | | | | | | | Y
  
```

11...♘c5?

12.♘d2?

12...cxd5 13.cxd5 b6

14.a4 ♙a6 15.♘b5! ♚d7



Radoslaw Wojtaszek vs. Arkadij Naiditsch, Tie breaks. Photo by Alina L'ami

```

XI | | | | | | | | Y
9r + - + r + k + 0
9+ - + q + p v p 0
9l p - p - n p + 0
9p N n P p - + - 0
9P + - + P + - + 0
9+ - + - v - P P 0
9- P - N - P L + 0
9R - + Q + R k - 0
xi | | | | | | | | y

```

16. ♖c4!?

18. ♔a4 ♜eb8 19. ♖c4 ♗e8!

```

XI | | | | | | | | Y
9- t - + r + k + 0
9+ - + q + p v p 0
9- p - + - n p + 0
9p P p P p - + - 0
9Q + N + P + - + 0
9+ - + - + - P P 0
9- P - + - P L + 0
9R - + - + R k - 0
xi | | | | | | | | y

```

24...exf4 25.gxf4 ♔h6 26.e5 ♗g4  
27. ♖h3 ♜h8 28.f5!?

```

XI | | | | | | | | Y
9- t - + - + - t 0
9+ - + q + p k - 0
9- p - + - + - v 0
9p P p P P P + p 0
9- + N + - + n + 0
9+ - + - + - + Q 0
9- P - + - + L + 0
9+ - + R + R k - 0
xi | | | | | | | | y

```

16... ♔xb5?

17.axb5 ♜ab8 18. ♔xc5 dxc5 19. ♔a4

19...h5 20.h4 ♔h6?

21. ♜ad1 g5?! 22.hxg5 ♔xg5 23. ♖b3  
♗g7 24.f4!

28... ♗f8 29.e6 ♖d8 30.f6 ♗xf6 31.d6  
fxe6 32. ♗e5 ♗g7 33. ♖g3+ ♗g4  
34. ♗xg4 hxg4 35. ♖e5+ ♗g8 36. ♖xe6+  
♗h7 37. ♔e4+ Black resigned



3...d5 4.♔g2 dxc4 5.♘f3 c5

6.0-0 ♘c6 7.♗e5 ♔d7 8.♗xc4!?

8...cxd4 9.♔f4

```

X| | | | | | | | Y
9r + - ♔k ♖ - ♖ 0
9p p + l + p p p 0
9- + n + p ♗ - + 0
9+ - + - + - + - 0
9- + Np - ♗ - + 0
9+ - + - + - ♗ - 0
9P ♗ - + P ♗ L ♗ 0
9RN + Q + R ♗ - 0
x i i i i i i i y

```

9...♔e7

12.♖b3?! ♘a5!

10.♗d6+ ♔f8 11.♗xb7 ♖b6 12.♗d6 ♖c5

```

X| | | | | | | | Y
9r + - + - ♗ - ♖ 0
9p - + l ♖ p p p 0
9- + n ♗ p ♗ - + 0
9+ - ♔ - + - + - 0
9- + - p - ♗ - + 0
9+ - + - + - ♗ - 0
9P ♗ - + P ♗ L ♗ 0
9RN + Q + R ♗ - 0
x i i i i i i i y

```

13.b4!

Radoslaw Wojtaszek 2727

Michael Adams 2712

Isle of Man Open 2018

Annotated by Radoslaw Wojtaszek

1.d4 ♗f6 2.c4 e6 3.g3

**Mike Klein** began playing chess at the age of four in Charlotte, NC. In 1987, he became the youngest member of the very first All-America Chess Team, and was on the team a total of eight times. In 1988, he won the K-3 National Championship, and eventually became North Carolina's youngest-ever master. In 1996, he won clear first for under-2250 players in the top section of the World Open. Mike has taught chess full-time for a dozen years in New York.



13...♔xb4 14.a3 ♔c5  
 XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y  
 9r + - + - ♔ - t 0  
 9p - + l v p p p 0  
 9- + n ♠ p ♠ - + 0  
 9+ - ♗ - + - + - 0  
 9- + - p - ♖ - + 0  
 9♞ - + - + - ♞ - 0  
 9- + - + ♞ ♞ L ♞ 0  
 9R N + Q + R ♔ - 0  
 xi i i i i i i i y  
 15.♔b3!?



Radoslaw Wojtaszek and his wife. Photo by Alina L'Ami

XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y  
 9r + - + - ♔ - t 0  
 9p - + l v p p p 0  
 9- + - ♠ p ♠ - + 0  
 9+ - + - + - + - 0  
 9- ♞ - p - ♖ - + 0  
 9R n + - + - ♞ - 0  
 9- + - + ♞ ♞ L ♞ 0  
 9+ N + - + R ♔ - 0  
 xi i i i i i i i y

XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y  
 9r + - + - ♔ - t 0  
 9p - + l v p p p 0  
 9- + n ♠ p ♠ - + 0  
 9+ - ♗ - + - + - 0  
 9- + - p - ♖ - + 0  
 9♞ Q + - + - ♞ - 0  
 9- + - + ♞ ♞ L ♞ 0  
 9R N + - + R ♔ - 0  
 xi i i i i i i i y  
 15...♗a5??

♔d8 18.♙d6↑

16...♗h5 17.♗c4!

16.♔b4! ♔xb4 17.axb4 e5

18.♙xa8 exf4 19.♙xa5 ♙xd6 20.♙xa7 ♙xb4

21.♙d1!

21...fxg3 22.hxg3 ♙c5 Not



23. ♖a5 ♗b4 24. ♖a6 ♘e7

```

X| | | | | | | | Y
9L + - + - + - ♖ 0
9+ - + | ♞ p p p 0
9R + - + - ♠ - + 0
9+ - + - + - + - 0
9- ♜ - ♞ - + - + 0
9+ - + - + - ♞ - 0
9- + - + ♞ ♞ - + 0
9+ N + R + - ♞ - 0
xi i i i i i i y

```

25. ♗c6!

25... ♖c8 26. ♖xd4! ♗c5

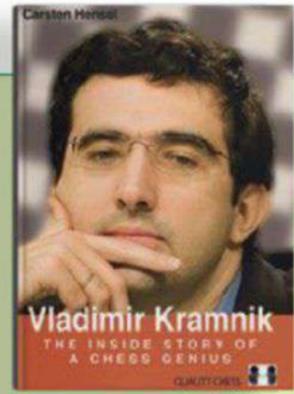
27. ♗xd7 ♜xd7 28. ♖e4+ ♘f8 29. ♜d2 g6 30. ♘g2 ♖d8 31. ♖c4 ♗e7

```

X| | | | | | | | Y
9- + - ♖ - ♞ - + 0
9+ - + n ♜ p + p 0
9R + - + - + ♞ + 0
9+ - + - + - + - 0
9- + R + - + - + 0
9+ - + - + - ♞ - 0
9- + - ♞ ♞ ♞ K + 0
9+ - + - + - + - 0
xi i i i i i i y

```

32. ♜e4 32... h5  
 33. ♖c7 ♜e5 34. ♖aa7 ♖e8 35. f4 ♜g4  
 36. ♜c3 ♜h6 37. e4 ♗d6 38. ♖c6 ♖d8  
 39. ♜d5 ♘g7 40. ♘f3 ♜g4 41. ♖b7 ♘f8  
 42. ♖a6 ♗c5 43. ♖c7 ♗d4 44. ♖a4 ♗g1  
 45. ♖b4 and Black resigned





▲ Radoslaw Wojtaszek.  
Photo by David Llada

6.0-0

6...♘h6 7.♘c3 0-0 8.h3

8...c6

```

XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y
9r + l ♔ - t k + 0
9p p + n + p ♗ p 0
9- + p p - + p ♖ 0
9+ - + - ♘ - + - 0
9- + P P P + - + 0
9+ - ♗ - + N + P 0
9P P - + L P P + 0
9R - ♜ Q + R ♞ - 0
xi i i i i i i i y

```

9...dxe5

10.♘xe5 dxe5 11.b4 f5 leads

11.f4 ♕xh3! 12.fxe5  
♚g3 13.♜f2 ♕xe5 14.♔f1 ♚h2

```

XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y
9r + l ♔ - t k + 0
9p p + n + p ♗ p 0
9- + p + - + p ♖ 0
9+ - + - ♘ - + - 0
9- + P + P + - + 0
9+ - ♗ - + N + P 0
9P P - + L P P + 0
9R - ♜ Q + R ♞ - 0
xi i i i i i i i y

```

10.♕e3?!

9.dxe5

10...f6?!

then

11.c5 ♘f7 12.♕c4 ♚e7 13.b4 ♜e8  
14.♚b3 ♘f8

```

XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y
9r + l + r ♗ k + 0
9p p + - ♔ n ♗ p 0
9- + p + - p p + 0
9+ - ♘ - ♘ - + - 0
9- ♘ L + P + - + 0
9+ Q ♗ - ♜ N + P 0
9P + - + - P P + 0
9R - + - + R ♞ - 0
xi i i i i i i i y

```

15.♜ad1 ♕e6

XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y  
 9r + - + r s k + 0  
 9p p + - w n v p 0  
 9- + p + l p p + 0  
 9+ - P - p - + - 0  
 9- P L + P + - + 0  
 9+ Q N - V N + P 0  
 9P + - + - P P + 0  
 9+ - + R + R K - 0  
 xi i i i i i i i y  
 16.♘d5!

and 26.♞f2 ♔d8 27.♚d5 ♚h4 28.♔g2 h6  
 29.c6 bxc6 30.bxc6 ♘h7 31.d7 ♞f8  
 32.c7 ♘f6 33.♚e6 ♘xd7 34.♞xd7  
 ♞ac8 35.♚xg6 ♘e5 36.♚xh6+ ♚xh6  
 37.♘h6

Black resigned

19.♘d2 f5

20.d6 ♚d7 21.♘xe4

21...fxe4 22.b5 ♞ec8

16...cxd5 17.exd5 ♘f5 18.g4

XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y  
 9r + - + r s k + 0  
 9p p + - w n v p 0  
 9- + - + - p p + 0  
 9+ - P P p l + - 0  
 9- P L + - + P + 0  
 9+ Q + - V N + P 0  
 9P + - + - P - + 0  
 9+ - + R + R K - 0  
 xi i i i i i i i y

18...♘e4

XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y  
 9r + r + - s k + 0  
 9p p + q + n v p 0  
 9- + - P - + p + 0  
 9+ P P - p - + - 0  
 9- + L + p + P + 0  
 9+ Q + - V - + P 0  
 9P + - + - P - + 0  
 9+ - + R + R K - 0  
 xi i i i i i i i y

23.f3

23...♔h8 24.♘xf7 exf3 25.♞xf3 e4



www.chess.surf

CHESS BOOKS

Better Thinking, Better Chess by Joel Benjamin  
**\$29.95**

125 Chess Opening Surprises  
**\$21.95**

Beginner Puzzles (Chess 101 Series)  
**\$4.99**



01

## TRAINING IN AUTOMATIC DECISION MAKING

There is only one move.

### **ACTION**

Candidates check. Is there only one option?

### **TRAINING**

Candidates. Practice finding additional ideas.

02

## SIMPLE DECISIONS

Positions without much to calculate.

### **ACTION**

Quick decision making. Can often be played on feeling.

### **TRAINING**

Train using the three questions:

1. Where are the weaknesses?
2. What is the opponent's idea?
3. Which is the worst placed piece?

03

## CRITICAL MOMENTS

Moments where you sense that the difference between the best and other moves is high.

### **ACTION**

Accurate calculation. Don't rely on intuition. Work it out; no guessing.

### **TRAINING**

Practice calculating difficult tactics.

04

## STRATEGIC DECISIONS

Complex positions that cannot be conclusively worked out.

### **ACTION**

Use all your tools, from general considerations and three questions, to deep calculation.

### **TRAINING**

Analyse games deeply, look at the games by the best players, solve difficult strategic exercises.

6

# Aagaard's ALL-ROUND TRAINING

by GM JACOB AAGAARD

THERE ARE FOUR TYPES OF DECISIONS YOU CAN TAKE IN CHESS. THESE PAGES PROVIDE TRAINING IN ALL OF THEM.

Photo by David Liada.

# 01 TRAINING IN AUTOMATIC DECISION MAKING

## CANDIDATES 1

xi | i | i | i | i | i | i | i | y  
 9- t r + - + k + 0  
 9+ p + l p p v p 0  
 9p + n p - s p + 0  
 9+ - + - + - + - 0  
 9- + P + P + - + 0  
 9+ P N - N P P - 0  
 9P v - R - + L P 0  
 9+ R + - + - k - 0 ★  
 xi | i | i | i | i | i | i | i | y

## CANDIDATES 2

xi | i | i | i | i | i | i | i | y  
 9- + r + - t k + 0  
 9p - + - + p + p 0  
 9- + - + - + - + 0  
 9+ - p P w - + - 0  
 9- + - + - + - + 0  
 9+ - p - + - P - 0  
 9P w l + - P L P 0  
 9+ - R R + - k - 0 ★  
 xi | i | i | i | i | i | i | i | y

## CANDIDATES 3

xi | i | i | i | i | i | i | i | y  
 9- + - + - + k + 0  
 9+ p + - + p + p 0  
 9- s - + p + p + 0  
 9p P + p P - + - 0  
 9P + - P - + - + 0  
 9+ - + - k - P - 0  
 9- v L + - P - P 0  
 9+ - v - + - + - 0 ★  
 xi | i | i | i | i | i | i | i | y

# 02 SIMPLE DECISIONS

## WEAKNESSES

xi | i | i | i | i | i | i | i | y  
 9r + l + - t k + 0  
 9+ - w - + p p - 0  
 9p + - v p + - p 0  
 9+ - + - N - + P 0  
 9- + - w P + - + 0  
 9+ R + - + - + - 0  
 9P + - + - P P + 0  
 9+ - v - + R k - 0 ★  
 xi | i | i | i | i | i | i | i | y

## WORST PLACED PIECE

xi | i | i | i | i | i | i | i | y  
 9r + - + q t k + 0  
 9p p + n p p v - 0  
 9- s p + - + p + 0  
 9+ - + - + - + p 0  
 9- + - P P v - + 0  
 9+ - + - + N + Q 0  
 9P P - + N P P P 0  
 9+ - + R k - + R Q ★  
 xi | i | i | i | i | i | i | i | y

# 03 CRITICAL MOMENTS

## PROPHYLAXIS

xi | i | i | i | i | i | i | i | y  
 9- + - + - + - + 0  
 9+ - + - R - s - 0  
 9- + - N - k - + 0  
 9+ P + - + - + - 0  
 9- + P + - p - + 0  
 9+ - + - + K + - 0  
 9r + - + - + - + 0  
 9+ - + - + - + - 0 ★  
 xi | i | i | i | i | i | i | i | y

## CRITICAL MOMENT

xi | i | i | i | i | i | i | i | y  
 9- + - t - + k + 0  
 9p p w - + p p - 0  
 9- s p + - + l p 0  
 9+ - + - P - + - 0  
 9- + - R - w P + 0  
 9+ L N - + - + P 0  
 9P P - + - P - + 0  
 9+ - + - + - k - 0 ★  
 xi | i | i | i | i | i | i | i | y

# 04 STRATEGIC DECISIONS

## STRATEGIC DECISIONS

xi | i | i | i | i | i | i | i | y  
 9r + n + - t - k 0  
 9+ - w n v p p l 0  
 9- p - + p + - p 0  
 9p - p - P - + - 0  
 9P + - P - N P P 0  
 9+ Q + N v P + - 0  
 9- P - + - k - + 0  
 9+ - + R + L + R Q ★  
 xi | i | i | i | i | i | i | i | y



# 01 TRAINING IN AUTOMATIC DECISION MAKING

## CANDIDATES 1

**Bu Xiangzhi 2712 – Safarli 2676**  
Chess Olympiad 2018 (CHN – AZE)

18.c5! ♔e6  
19...♔h6 20.♖e1 ♘xe5  
21.♘cd1

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9-	t	r	+	-	+	k	+	0
9+	p	+	l	p	p	v	p	0
9p	+	-	+	-	♞	p	+	0
9+	-	p	-	♞	-	+	-	0
9-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0
9+	P	+	-	♞	P	P	-	0
9P	v	-	R	N	+	L	P	0
9+	R	+	-	+	-	♞	-	0
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y

19.cxd6 exd6 20.♖xd6

## CANDIDATES 2

**Nakamura 2763 – Nabaty 2692**  
Chess Olympiad 2018 (USA-ISR)

28.♔g5+  
28...♔xe4 29.♖xe4

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9-	+	r	+	-	t	-	♞	0
9p	-	+	-	+	p	+	p	0
9-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0
9+	-	p	P	+	Q	+	-	0
9-	+	-	+	L	+	-	+	0
9+	-	p	-	+	-	P	-	0
9P	v	-	+	-	P	-	P	0
9+	-	R	I	+	-	♞	-	0
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y

28...♔g6 29.♖f6 ♔c2 30.♖g5+  
♔g6 31.♖f6? 31...♖fe8  
32.♖xc3

31...♔c2 32.♖e1?

32...♖ce8

33.♔f1 ♖xe1 34.♖xe1 ♔g6 35.♖e3  
♖xa2 36.♖xc3 ♖xd5 37.♖e5

Draw

## CANDIDATES 3

**Shankland 2722 – J. Van Foreest 2624**  
Chess Olympiad 2018 (USA-NED)

38.♔xb2  
♘c4+ 39.♔e2! ♘xb2 40.♔b3! the

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9-	+	-	+	-	+	k	+	0
9+	p	+	-	+	p	+	p	0
9-	+	-	+	p	+	p	+	0
9p	P	+	p	P	-	+	-	0
9P	+	-	P	-	+	-	+	0
9+	L	+	-	+	-	P	-	0
9-	♞	-	+	K	P	-	P	0
9+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	0
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y

40...b6 41.♔d2 h6 42.♔c3 ♘xa4+  
43.♔xa4 ♔f8 44.♔d3 ♔e7 45.♔e3  
♔f8 46.♔f4 ♔g7

1-0

# 02 | SIMPLE DECISIONS

## WEAKNESSES

**Yu Yangyi 2765 – Radjabov 2751**  
 Chess Olympiad 2018 (CHN – AZE)

18. ♖g4!

18... e5

A) 21. ♖xa8 ♕e6

B)

19. ♗xh6+ gxh6

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y	
9	r	+	l	+	-	t	k	+	0
9	+	-	♗	-	+	p	+	-	0
9	p	+	-	♖	-	+	-	p	0
9	+	-	+	-	p	-	+	P	0
9	-	+	-	♗	P	+	-	+	0
9	+	R	+	-	+	-	+	-	0
9	P	+	-	+	-	P	P	+	0
9	+	-	♖	-	+	R	♞	-	0
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y	

20. ♖d2!

20... ♖e8

21. ♖g3+ ♕f8 22. ♖xh6+ ♕e7 23. ♕g5+ ♕d7 24. ♖c1

## WORST PLACED PIECE

**Duda 2739 – Ivanchuk 2710**  
 Chess Olympiad 2018 (POL – UKR)

th

17.e5!

17... ♗d5 18.g4!

18... ♖c8

19. ♖h4!

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y	
9	r	+	q	+	-	t	k	+	0
9	p	p	+	n	p	p	♖	-	0
9	-	+	p	+	-	+	p	+	0
9	+	-	+	n	P	-	+	p	0
9	-	+	-	P	-	♖	P	♗	0
9	+	-	+	-	+	N	+	-	0
9	P	P	-	+	N	P	-	P	0
9	+	-	+	R	♞	-	+	R	0
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y	

19... ♖d8 20.gxh5 ♗f8 21.hxg6!?

21... ♗xg6 22. ♖g3 ♖f5 23. ♕c1 ♕f8 24.h4 ♖h5 25. ♖g2 ♕e8 26. ♗g5 ♕h6 27. ♖f3 ♖xf3 28. ♗xf3 ♕xc1 29. ♖xc1 f6 30. ♕d2 ♕f7 31. ♖cg1 White has not

31... ♖h8? 32.e6+!

1-0



Grandmaster **Jacob Aagaard** was the 2007 British Champion, co-founder of the number one chess publishing house, *Quality Chess*, and author of many chess books, including the *Decision Making in Chess* series with Boris Gelfand. Jacob trained with Mark Dvoretsky and now helps GMs of all levels maintain and improve their level, through coaching and his six-volume series of book, *Grandmaster Preparation*. He is the only chess author to win all four major book awards.

# 03 | CRITICAL MOMENT

## PROPHYLAXIS

### Aithmidou 2244 - Li Chao 2708

Chess Olympiad 2018 (MOR CHN)

66. ♖f7+? White has an inferior

68. ♔xf4? ♖b3

69. ♗b5 ♗h5+!!

71. ♛g8+? ♔f6 72. ♛f8+ ♔g6

73. ♛xf4 ♖e7!

66... ♔e5!

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	0
9	+	-	+	-	+	R	♗	- 0
9	-	+	-	♗	-	+	-	0
9	+	P	+	-	♗	-	+	- 0
9	-	+	P	+	-	P	-	+
9	+	-	+	-	+	K	+	- 0
9	r	+	-	+	-	+	-	+
9	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	- 0
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y

67. ♖xg7 ♖a3+ 68. ♔f2 ♔xd6?

69. ♖g6+ ♔c5 70. ♖c6+ ♔d4 71. b6 ♔e4 72. c5 ♖a2+ 73. ♔g1! ♖b2 74. ♖c7?

75. ♖c7!

74... ♔f3

74... ♖b1+ 75. ♔f2 ♖b2+ 76. ♔g1 ♖b1+ 77. ♔h2 f3 78. ♔g3 ♔e3

85. ♖c8? f2

79. ♖f7 ♔d4! 80. ♖f5 ♔e4?

81. ♖f8 ♔d5 82. ♖c8 ♖b3 83. ♖c7 ♔e4 84. b7 ♖b2 85. c6 ♖g2+ 86. ♔h3 ♖g8 87. ♖f7

1-0

## CRITICAL MOMENT

### Radjabov 2751 - Sargissian 2691

Chess Olympiad 2018 (AZE ARM)

24. e6! ♖c8

25. ♛xc7!

25... ♖xc7 26. ♖d8+ ♔h7 27. f4!

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9	-	+	-	R	-	+	-	+
9	p	p	t	-	+	p	p	k 0
9	-	♗	p	+	P	+	I	p 0
9	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	- 0
9	-	+	-	+	-	P	P	+
9	+	L	♗	-	+	-	+	P 0
9	P	P	-	+	-	+	-	+
9	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	- 0
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y

27... fxe6 28. f5! ♖f7

29. fxe6

29... ♖g6 30. h4! h5 31. gxh5 ♖xh5

32. ♖c2+?

32... ♖g6?

33. ♗e4! ♖f5 34. ♗g5+ ♔g6

35. e7! ♖xe7 36. ♖d6+ ♔h5 37. ♖xf5 ♔xh4 38. ♖g6 ♔g3 39. ♗e6+ ♔f3 40. ♖g4 ♔e3 41. ♖g3+ ♔d2 42. ♖g2+ ♔d1 43. ♗c5 1-0

# 04 | STRATEGIC DECISION

**Nakamura 2763 - Bu Xiangzhi 2712**  
 Chess Olympiad 2018 (USA - CHN)

21.d5!

21...♞xe5

22.g5!?

22...♞a7  
 23.d6 23.♙xd3 ♙b4 23...♞xe5 24.♙e4

22.♞xe5 ♙xe5 23.dxe6 fxe6 24.♙xe6  
 ♙xb2+

25.♙e2 ♙f6 26.g5!

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9r	+	n	+	-	t	-	♞	0
9+	-	+	-	v	-	p	l	0
9-	p	-	+	Q	W	-	p	0
9p	-	p	-	+	-	P	-	0
9P	+	-	+	-	N	-	P	0
9+	-	+	-	v	P	+	-	0
9-	+	-	+	L	♞	-	+	0
9+	-	+	R	+	-	+	R	0
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y

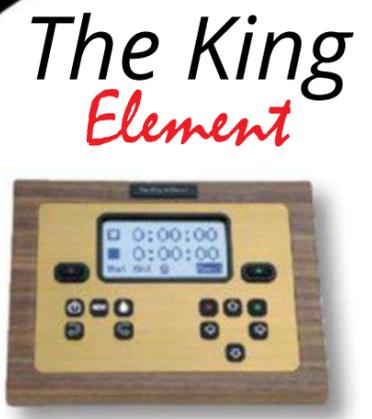


> 2300 ELO

Handcrafted wooden sensor board indicating its moves through 81 single-square lights and especially convenient fully automatic piece recognition. Its powerful software provides a playing strength of over 2300 ELO.

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THREE TEAMS TOP THE TABLE, BUT TIE-BREAK FORTUNE FAVORS CHINA

# SILVER FOR USA!



rd

ENTERING THE LAST ROUND, THE US AND CHINESE TEAMS, JOINT FIRST AND PAIRED AGAINST EACH OTHER, HAD DESTINY PLACED FIRMLY IN THEIR OWN HANDS. BUT, AS IT TURNED OUT, AFTER FOUR FIGHTING DRAWS THE OLYMPIAD ENDED IN A THREE-WAY TIE, SINCE RUSSIA DEFEATED FRANCE AND CAUGHT UP WITH THE LEADERS.

By **GM BASSEM AMIN**  
**GM ROBERT HUNGASKI**

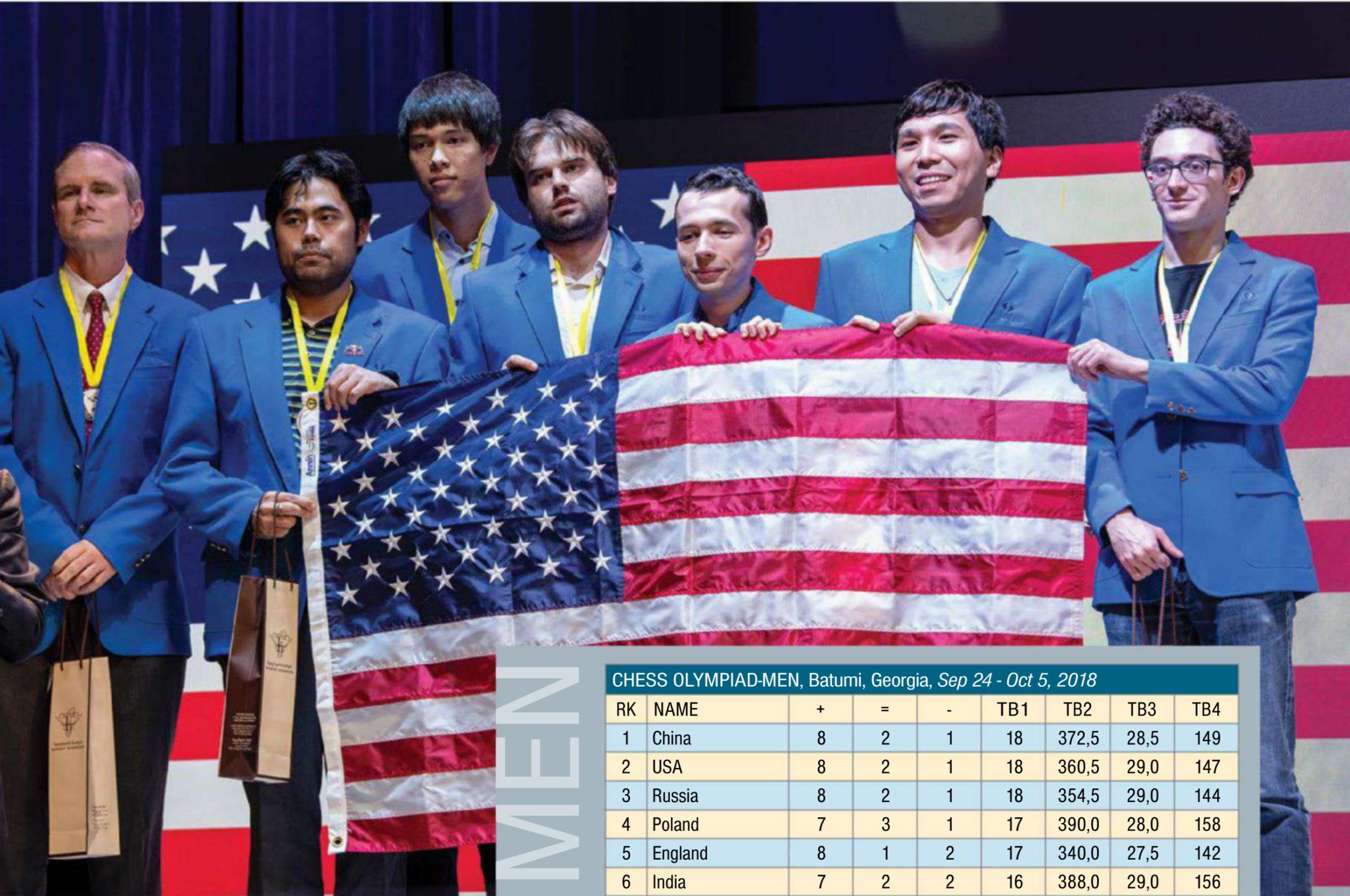
ROUND		
1	USA	4
	Panama	0
2	Georgia 3	1½
	USA	2½
3	Netherlands	1
	USA	3
4	USA	2½
	India	1½
5	USA	2
	Israel	2
6	Bosnia and Herzegovina	½
	USA	3½
7	Croatia	1
	USA	3
8	USA	2½
	Azerbaijan	1½
9	Poland	2½
	USA	1½
10	Armenia	1½
	USA	2½
11	USA	2
	China	2



▲ The US Men's team, Chess Olympiad, Batumi 2018.

Arkadiy Dvorkovich (FIDE President), John Donaldson (Captain), Hikaru Nakamura, Ray Robson, Sam Shankland, Alexander Lenderman, Wesley So and Fabiano Caruana.

Photo by David Llada



# MEN

## CHESS OLYMPIAD-MEN, Batumi, Georgia, Sep 24 - Oct 5, 2018

RK	NAME	+	=	-	TB1	TB2	TB3	TB4
1	China	8	2	1	18	372,5	28,5	149
2	USA	8	2	1	18	360,5	29,0	147
3	Russia	8	2	1	18	354,5	29,0	144
4	Poland	7	3	1	17	390,0	28,0	158
5	England	8	1	2	17	340,0	27,5	142
6	India	7	2	2	16	388,0	29,0	156
7	Vietnam	6	4	1	16	379,5	30,5	138
8	Armenia	7	2	2	16	371,0	27,5	152
9	France	7	2	2	16	366,0	28,5	153
10	Ukraine	7	2	2	16	337,0	26,0	152

Wesley So 2776

Erwin L'Ami 2639

Round 3, USA vs. Netherlands  
Annotated by Bassem Amin

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 ♘f6 4.d3  
d6

5.0-0 g6 6.d4

XI | | | | | | | Y  
9r + | ♖k ♜ - t 0  
9p p p - + p + p 0  
9- + n p - ♞ p + 0  
9+ L + - ♞ - + - 0  
9- + - ♞ P + - + 0  
9+ - + - + N + - 0  
9P ♞ P + - ♞ P P 0  
9R N ♞ Q + R ♞ - 0  
xi | | | | | | | y

6...♙d7

7.d5 ♘e7

8...♙xd7

8.♙xd7+ ♘xd7 9.c4 ♙g7 10.♙e3 h6  
11.♘fd2 f5 12.f3



XI | | | | | | | | Y  
 9r + - ♔k + - ♚0  
 9p p p n s - ♜ - 0  
 9- + - ♞ - + ♞ ♞0  
 9+ - + ♞ ♞ ♞ + - 0  
 9- + ♞ + ♞ ♞ + - 0  
 9+ - + - ♞ ♞ + - 0  
 9 ♞ ♞ - ♞ - + ♞ ♞0  
 9 ♞ ♞ + ♞ + ♞ ♞ - 0  
 xi | | | | | | | | y



12...f4

13.♔f2 g5 14.♘c3 ♘g6 15.c5!? White

15...♘xc5

16.♔xc5 dxc5 17.♚b3 b6

18.d6!?

18...♚xd6 Not

19.♘c4 ♚c6

20.♞fd1

XI | | | | | | | | Y  
 9r + - + k + - ♚0  
 9p - ♞ - + - ♜ - 0  
 9- ♞ q + - + n ♞0  
 9+ - ♞ - ♞ - ♞ - 0  
 9- + ♞ + ♞ ♞ - + 0  
 9+ ♞ ♞ - + ♞ + - 0  
 9 ♞ ♞ - ♞ - + ♞ ♞0  
 9 ♞ - + - + ♞ ♞ - 0  
 xi | | | | | | | | y

20...♘f8?!

21.♞d5!

XI | | | | | | | | Y  
 9r + - + k s - ♚0  
 9p - ♞ - + - ♜ - 0  
 9- ♞ q + - + - ♞0  
 9+ - ♞ ♞ ♞ - ♞ - 0  
 9- + ♞ + ♞ ♞ - + 0  
 9+ ♞ ♞ - + ♞ + - 0  
 9 ♞ ♞ - + - + ♞ ♞0  
 9 ♞ - + - + - ♞ - 0  
 xi | | | | | | | | y

21...♘e6

Wesley So, Chess Olympiad, Batumi 2018.  
Photo by David Llada

23...♔b8 24.♘f7+

22.♘xe5 ♔xe5 23.♞xe5 c4 24.♚a3

24...♔f7

25.♞f5+ ♔g6

26.♘d5 ♚c5+ 27.♚xc5 ♘xc5

XI | | | | | | | | Y  
 9r + - + - + - ♚0  
 9p - ♞ - + - + - 0  
 9- ♞ - + - + k ♞0  
 9+ - s ♞ + ♞ ♞ - 0  
 9- + ♞ + ♞ ♞ - + 0  
 9+ - + - + ♞ + - 0  
 9 ♞ ♞ - + - + ♞ ♞0  
 9 ♞ - + - + - ♞ - 0  
 xi | | | | | | | | y

28.♞f6+

28...g7 29.c6 he8 30.xc7+

d6 47.e5 d8 48.d2 h5 49.e1  
h3 50.gxh3 h4 51.e6 xe6 52.xe6  
Black resigned



30...g6

XI | | | | | | | Y  
9r + - + r + - + 0  
9p - R - + - + - 0  
9- p - + - + k p 0  
9+ - N + - p - 0  
9- + p + P p - + 0  
9+ - + - + P + - 0  
9P P - + - + P P 0  
9R - + - + - k - 0  
xi | | | | | | | y

31.h4!

31...ad8 Or

32.h5+! xh5 33.f6+ h4 34.xe8  
xe8 35.h2

35...g4

36.h1 g3+ 37.g1+ g5 38.f1  
d8 39.e2 e6 40.xc4 d4+  
41.e1 h5 42.c7 g6

XI | | | | | | | Y  
9- + - t - + - + 0  
9p - R - + - + - 0  
9- p - + - + k + 0  
9+ - + - + - + p 0  
9- + - N P p - + 0  
9+ - + - + P p - 0  
9P P - + - + P + 0  
9+ - + - k - + R 0  
xi | | | | | | | y

43.c3

43...g5 44.d3 h4 45.d1 a5 46.a4 8...e8

Fabiano Caruana 2827  
Boris Gelfand 2703  
Round 5, USA vs. Israel  
Annotated by Bassem Amin

1.e4 c5 2.f3 c6 3.b5 g6 4.xc6

XI | | | | | | | Y  
9r + l w k v n t 0  
9p p + p p p + p 0  
9- + L + - + p + 0  
9+ - p - + - + - 0  
9- + - + P + - + 0  
9+ - + - + N + - 0  
9P P P P - P P P 0  
9R N L Q k - + R 0  
xi | | | | | | | y

4...dxc6

5.d3 g7 6.h3 f6 7.c3 0-0 8.0-0  
Here,

XI | | | | | | | Y  
9r + l w - t k + 0  
9p p + - p p v p 0  
9- + p + - n p + 0  
9+ - p - + - + - 0  
9- + - + P + - + 0  
9+ - N P + N + P 0  
9P P P + - P P + 0  
9R - L Q + R k - 0  
xi | | | | | | | y

**Bassem Amin** is the first super Grandmaster from the African continent; his current rating is at an all time high of 2710. Born in Egypt 30 years ago, he has managed to successfully combine his chess career with his studies, graduating from the Faculty of Medicine at Tanta University in 2012. He is a five-time winner of the African Championship and has also won a number of Arab and Mediterranean titles.

9.e3

9...b6

XI | | | | | | | Y  
9r + l w n t k + 0  
9p - + - p p v p 0  
9- p p + - + p + 0  
9+ - p - + - + - 0  
9- + - + P + - + 0  
9+ - N P L N + P 0  
9P P P + - P P + 0  
9R - + Q + R k - 0  
xi | | | | | | | y



Fabiano Caruana, Chess Olympiad, Batumi 2018. Photo by David Llada

10.e5!?

12...fxe5?

10...f6

13...a5?! 14.exf6  
exf6 15.d4±

11.♞e1 ♘c7

12.♞d2

13.♙h6!

```

XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y
9r + l ♚ - t k + 0
9p - ♗ - ♖ - ♜ p 0
9- ♖ ♖ + - ♖ ♞ 0
9+ - ♖ - ♖ - + - 0
9- + - + - + - + 0
9+ - ♞ ♖ + ♞ + ♖ 0
9 ♖ ♖ ♖ ♚ - ♖ ♖ + 0
9 ♞ - + - ♞ - ♞ - 0
xi | i | i | i | i | i | i | i | y

```

13...♞xf3!?

14.♙xg7!

14...♙xg7 15.gxf3 ♙xh3 16.♞xe5 e6

```

XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y
9r + - ♚ - + - + 0
9p - ♗ - + - ♞ p 0
9- ♖ ♖ + ♖ + ♖ + 0
9+ - ♖ - ♞ - + - 0
9- + - + - + - + 0
9+ - ♞ ♖ + ♖ + ♖ 0
9 ♖ ♖ ♖ ♚ - ♖ - + 0
9 ♞ - + - + - ♞ - 0
xi | i | i | i | i | i | i | i | y

```

17.♞g5?!

17...♞f6

18.♘xd5 cxd5 19.♞e1 ♞f6  
20.♞g3 ♙f5=

18.♞g3 ♙f5 19.♙g2

```

XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y
9r + - + - + - + 0
9p - ♗ - + - ♞ p 0
9- ♖ ♖ + ♖ ♚ ♖ + 0
9+ - ♖ - + ♖ + - 0
9- + - + - + - + 0
9+ - ♞ ♖ + ♖ ♞ - 0
9 ♖ ♖ ♖ ♚ - ♖ ♞ + 0
9 ♞ - + - + - + - 0
xi | i | i | i | i | i | i | i | y

```

19...h5?

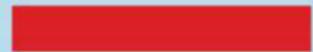
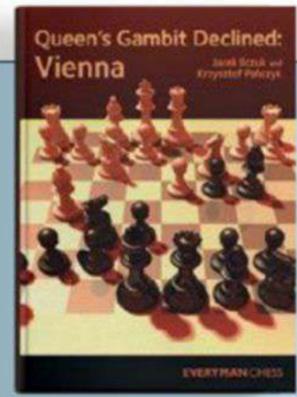


20. ♖h1

20... ♖h8 21. ♘e4!

21... ♔xb2  
X | | | | | | | Y 22. ♔f4!

2 ... ♞ 5



EVERYMAN CHESS





1.e4 e5 2.f3 c6 3.b5 a6 4.a4 f6  
5.0-0 xe4

6.d4 b5 7.b3 d5 8.dxe5 e6

```

XI | | | | | | | | Y
9r + - ♖k ♜ - ♔ 0
9+ - ♗ - ♜ ♗ ♗ ♗ 0
9p + n + l + - + 0
9+ ♗ + ♗ ♗ - + - 0
9- + - + n + - + 0
9+ L + - + N + - 0
9P ♗ ♗ + - ♗ ♗ ♗ 0
9R N ♗ Q + R ♗ - 0
xi i i i i i i i y

```

9. d2

9... c5 10.c3 e7

12... xe5?

13. e1 g6  
14. xe6 fe6 15. d4 e5 16. e6 d7  
17. xd5.

11. c2 d4 12. b3 d3

```

XI | | | | | | | | Y
9r + - ♖k + - ♔ 0
9+ - ♗ - ♜ ♗ ♗ ♗ 0
9p + n + l + - + 0
9+ ♗ ♗ - ♗ - + - 0
9- + - + - + - + 0
9+ N ♗ ♗ + N + - 0
9P ♗ L + - ♗ ♗ ♗ 0
9R - ♗ Q + R ♗ - 0
xi i i i i i i i y

```

13. b1

17.c4 bxc4 18. ac1 b4 19.a3 d3  
20. xc2 d7=

13... xb3 14.axb3 f5 15. e3 0-0

```

XI | | | | | | | | Y
9r + - ♖ - ♔ k + 0
9+ - ♗ - ♜ ♗ ♗ ♗ 0
9p + n + - + - + 0
9+ ♗ + - ♗ l + - 0
9- + - + - + - + 0
9+ P ♗ ♗ ♗ N + - 0
9- ♗ - + - ♗ ♗ ♗ 0
9R L + Q + R ♗ - 0
xi i i i i i i i y

```

16. d4

19. xd3 ad8

16... d5 17. e1

```

XI | | | | | | | | Y
9r + - + - ♔ k + 0
9+ - ♗ - ♜ ♗ ♗ ♗ 0
9p + n + - + - + 0
9+ ♗ + ♗ ♗ l + - 0
9- + - ♗ - + - + 0
9+ P ♗ ♗ ♗ + N + - 0
9- ♗ - + - ♗ ♗ ♗ 0
9R L + Q R - ♗ - 0
xi i i i i i i i y

```

17... d2!?

A)

22.e6 xd4 23.exf7+  
f8 24.cxd4 xd4

B)

```

XI | | | | | | | | Y
9r + - + - ♔ k + 0
9+ - ♗ - ♜ ♗ ♗ ♗ 0
9p + n + - + - + 0
9+ ♗ + ♗ ♗ l + - 0
9- + - ♗ - + - + 0
9+ P ♗ - + N + - 0
9- ♗ - ♗ - ♗ ♗ ♗ 0
9R L + Q R - ♗ - 0
xi i i i i i i i y

```

18. e2

19. xb1 xd4 20.cxd4 xd4 21. f3  
g4=

19. xb1 xd4  
20.cxd4 b4!∞ and all of a sudden the

18... xb1 19. xb1 xd4

```

XI | | | | | | | | Y
9r + - + - ♔ k + 0
9+ - ♗ - ♜ ♗ ♗ ♗ 0
9p + - + - + - + 0
9+ ♗ + ♗ ♗ - + - 0
9- + - ♗ - + - + 0
9+ P ♗ - + N + - 0
9- ♗ - ♗ R ♗ ♗ ♗ 0
9+ R + Q + - ♗ - 0
xi i i i i i i i y

```

20. xd4



GM Robert Hungaski was born in Stamford, CT, to an American father and an Argentine mother. He moved to Argentina at a very young age, which is where he learned to play chess at the age of six in an after-school program. Soon after achieving the IM title, Robert moved back to the U.S. At this time he began training with GM William Lombardy and, at his coach's behest, enrolled in the University of Connecticut. Robert, now a Grandmaster, currently resides in New York City, but continues to travel extensively throughout Latin America.

20...♔g5 21.g3

21...c5 22.♘f5 ♔d3 23.♘d6 ♔g6

24.h4

```
XI | | | | | | | | Y
9r + - + - t k + 0
9+ - + - + p p p 0
9p + - N - + q + 0
9+ p p - P - v - 0
9- + - + - + - P 0
9+ P P - + - P - 0
9- P - p R P - + 0
9+ R + Q + - K - 0
xi i i i i i i i y
```

24...♔f4

25.♘e4!

```
XI | | | | | | | | Y
9r + - + - t k + 0
9+ - + - + p p p 0
9p + - + - + q + 0
9+ p p - P - + - 0
9- + - + N v - P 0
9+ P P - + - P - 0
9- P - p R P - + 0
9+ R + Q + - K - 0
xi i i i i i i i y
```

25...f5!?

26...h6  
27.♙d1 ♖ac8 28.♔d7 ♕b8 29.♙d5±

26.♘xd2

26...♖ad8

```
XI | | | | | | | | Y
9- + - t - t k + 0
9+ - + - + - p p 0
9p + - + - + q + 0
9+ p p - P p + - 0
9- + - + - v - P 0
9+ P P - + - P - 0
9- P - N R P - + 0
9+ R + Q + - K - 0
xi i i i i i i i y
```

27.♙a1

27...♙fe8

28.♔e1?!

29...♙xd2 30.♔xf5 ♕xe5

31.♔xe5±

```
XI | | | | | | | | Y
9- + - t r + k + 0
9+ - + - + - p p 0
9p + - + - + q + 0
9+ p p - P p + - 0
9- + - + - v - P 0
9+ P P - + - P - 0
9- P - N R P - + 0
9R - + - W - K - 0
xi i i i i i i i y
```

28...♔xd2?!



29.e6 ♖xd2  
 30.♖xd2 ♗xd2 31.♔xd2 ♔xe6=  
 30.♔g2 ♔c6  
 30...h6 31.♗h3

33.♔h2? ♔h5+ 34.♔g1  
 f3 35.♖e3 ♔h3 36.♗f1 ♖d1

29.♖xd2 ♖xd2 30.♔xd2 ♖xe5  
 X | | | | | | | Y  
 9- + - + - + k + 0  
 9+ - + - + - p p 0  
 9p + - + - + q + 0  
 9+ p p - t p + - 0  
 9- + - + - + - P 0  
 9+ P P - + - P - 0  
 9- P - ♗ - P - + 0  
 9R - + - + - K - 0  
 xi i i i i i i y

35.♗b7

35...♖e7 36.♖d8+ ♔f7 37.♗f3 g6  
 38.♗f4 ♔c6 39.♖d1 ♖e4 40.♗h6 ♔g8  
 41.h5

41...♖e8 42.hxg6 hxg6 43.♔f1! White

31.♗d8+ ♖e8 32.♗d5+ ♔e6 33.♖d1  
 X | | | | | | | Y  
 9- + - + r + k + 0  
 9+ - + - + - p p 0  
 9p + - + q + - + 0  
 9+ p p Q + p + - 0  
 9- + - + - + - P 0  
 9+ P P - + - P - 0  
 9- P - + - P - + 0  
 9+ - + R + - K - 0  
 xi i i i i i i y  
 33...c4?!

43...♖e6 44.♗h4 ♖e8 45.♖d4  
 X | | | | | | | Y  
 9- + - + r + k + 0  
 9+ - + - + - + - 0  
 9p + q + - + p + 0  
 9+ - + - + p + - 0  
 9- + p R - + - ♗ 0  
 9+ - P - + - P - 0  
 9- P - + - P - + 0  
 9+ - + - + K + - 0  
 xi i i i i i i y  
 45...♖c8?



34.bxc4 bxc4

10...♔e7

11.exf6 ♔xf6 12.♔xf6

14...♔a5!?

12...♔xf6 13.g3

15.axb5 cxb5 16.♔g2  
♔b7 17.d5 exd5+ 18.♔f1 ♔d7  
19.♔xd5±

13...♔b7

14.♔g2 ♔a6

XI | | | | | | | | Y  
9r + - + k + - t 0  
9p | + - + p + - 0  
9n + p + p + - + 0  
9+ p + - + - + - 0  
9- + p P - + - + 0  
9+ - N - + - P - 0  
9P P - + - P L P 0  
9R - + Q K - + R 0  
xi i i i i i i i y

15.♔e4

A)

20.♔xa6?? ♔f3

B)

15...♔e7 16.0-0 0-0-0

XI | | | | | | | | Y  
9- + k t - + - t 0  
9p | + - ♔p + - 0  
9n + p + p + - + 0  
9+ p + - + - + - 0  
9- + p P N + - + 0  
9+ - + - + - P - 0  
9P P - + - P L P 0  
9R - + Q + R K - 0  
xi i i i i i i i y

17.h4



Sam Shankland, Chess Olympiad, Batumi 2018.  
Photo by David Llada

17...c5 18.a4! ♔xd4 19.♔e2 b4

XI | | | | | | | | Y  
9- + k + - + - t 0  
9p | + - ♔p + - 0  
9n + - + p + - + 0  
9+ - p - + - + - 0  
9P p p t N + - P 0  
9+ - + - + - P - 0  
9- P - + Q P L + 0  
9R - + - + R K - 0  
xi i i i i i i i y

20.♔ac1?!

20...♔d5 21.♔fd1 ♔xd1+ 22.♔xd1

22...♔d8

XI | | | | | | | | Y  
9- + k t - + - + 0  
9p - + - ♔p + - 0  
9n + - + p + - + 0  
9+ - p | + - + - 0  
9P p p + N + - P 0  
9+ - + - + - P - 0  
9- P - + Q P L + 0  
9+ - + R + - K - 0  
xi i i i i i i i y

23.♔c1

23...♔b8!

24.♔e3 ♔c6 25.♔xc5 ♔f6

XI | | | | | | | | Y  
9- + k t - + - + 0  
9p - + - + p + - 0  
9- + n + p + - + 0  
9+ - N | + - + - 0  
9P p p + - + - P 0  
9+ - + - ♔ - P - 0  
9- P - + - P L + 0  
9+ - R - + - K - 0  
xi i i i i i i i y

26.b3?

29...♔d7?? 30.♔xd5+ exd5 31.♔xf6+  
30...♔a8?? 31.♔xd5+

exd5 32.♔xf6+

26...c3 27.♔e2



34... ♖xc1+ 35. ♔g2 ♜xb8 36. ♖xb8+ ♔c5 37. ♖c8+ ♔d4

White resigned

27... ♖d4! 28. ♖b5

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9-	+	k	t	-	+	-	+	0
9p	-	+	-	+	p	+	-	0
9-	+	n	+	p	+	-	+	0
9+	Q	N	I	+	-	+	-	0
9P	p	-	♗	-	+	-	P	0
9+	P	p	-	+	-	P	-	0
9-	+	-	+	-	P	L	+	0
9+	-	R	-	+	-	K	-	0
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y

28... ♔c7!

29. ♜a6+ ♔d6

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9-	+	-	t	-	+	-	+	0
9p	-	+	-	+	p	+	-	0
9N	+	n	k	p	+	-	+	0
9+	Q	+	I	+	-	+	-	0
9P	p	-	♗	-	+	-	P	0
9+	P	p	-	+	-	P	-	0
9-	+	-	+	-	P	L	+	0
9+	-	R	-	+	-	K	-	0
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y

30. ♔xd5 exd5

31.a5?

31... ♖e8 32. ♖b7 ♖e7 33. ♖c8 ♖d2

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9-	+	Q	+	-	+	-	+	0
9p	-	+	-	t	p	+	-	0
9N	+	n	k	-	+	-	+	0
9P	-	+	p	+	-	+	-	0
9-	p	-	+	-	+	-	P	0
9+	P	p	-	+	-	P	-	0
9-	+	-	♗	-	P	-	+	0
9+	-	R	-	+	-	K	-	0
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y

34. ♜b8

Kacper Piorun	2612
Hikaru Nakamura	2763

Round 9, Poland vs. USA  
Annotated by Robert Hungaski

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 ♖xd5 3. ♜c3 ♖d8

4.d4 ♜f6 5. ♜f3

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9r	♗	I	♗	k	v	-	t	0
9p	p	p	p	-	p	p	p	0
9-	+	-	+	-	♗	-	+	0
9+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	0
9-	+	-	P	-	+	-	+	0
9+	-	N	-	+	N	+	-	0
9P	P	P	+	-	P	P	P	0
9R	-	V	Q	K	L	+	R	0
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y

5...g6!?

6. ♔e2 ♔g7 7.0-0 0-0 8. ♔f4 ♜c6  
9. ♖d2 b6 10. ♖ad1 ♔b7

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9r	+	-	♗	-	t	k	+	0
9p	I	p	-	p	p	v	p	0
9-	p	n	+	-	♗	p	+	0
9+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	0
9-	+	-	P	-	V	-	+	0
9+	-	N	-	+	N	+	-	0
9P	P	P	W	L	P	P	P	0
9+	-	+	R	+	R	K	-	0
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y

11. ♖fe1!?

12. ♔h6!? a6 13. ♜a3±

11...e6 12. ♔h6 ♜e7 13. ♔xg7 ♔xg7  
14. ♜e5 ♖c8 15. ♖f4 a6

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9-	+	r	♗	-	t	-	+	0
9+	I	p	-	♗	p	k	p	0
9p	p	-	+	p	♗	p	+	0
9+	-	+	-	N	-	+	-	0
9-	+	-	P	-	W	-	+	0
9+	-	N	-	+	-	+	-	0
9P	P	P	+	L	P	P	P	0
9+	-	+	R	R	-	K	-	0
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y

16. ♖d3!

16... h5 17. ♔d3

16...b5 17.a3 ♖d6 18.b4

18... ♖cd8 19. ♖ed1 ♜fd5 20. ♜xd5



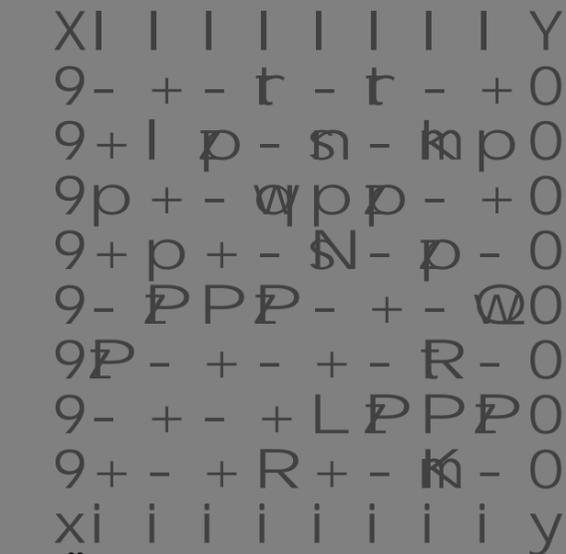
21. ♖xd5 21. ♔h4 f6 22. c4



22...g5?

24. cxd5 ♔xe2  
exd4!?

23. ♖g3 ♗e7



24. ♔h5?

25. ♔h5,

A)

28... ♔xe5 29. ♖xg6+ ; 28... ♗xe5  
29. ♖h6++

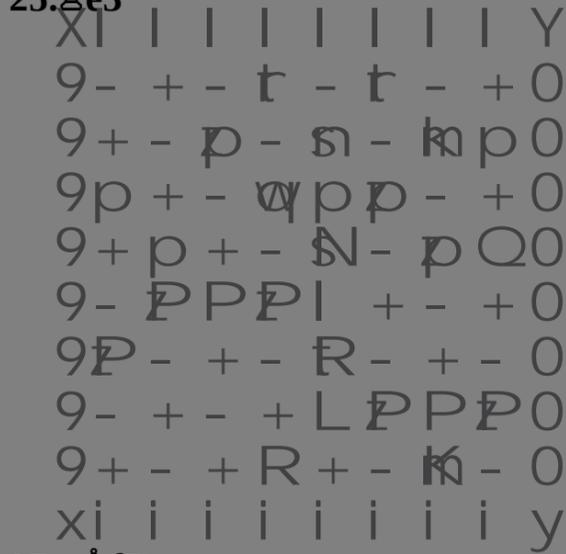
B)

28. g3 fx5 29. gxh4 gxh4 30. ♖xh4 ♔h8  
31. ♔xe5++

24... ♗e4!

25. c5 ♔e7 26. ♖h3

25. ♖e3



25... ♗f5?!

26. c5 ♔d5 27. ♗f3 ♔a2 28. ♗c6 ♗xc6  
29. ♗xc6 ♔c4 30. ♗e4



30... ♗xe4?!

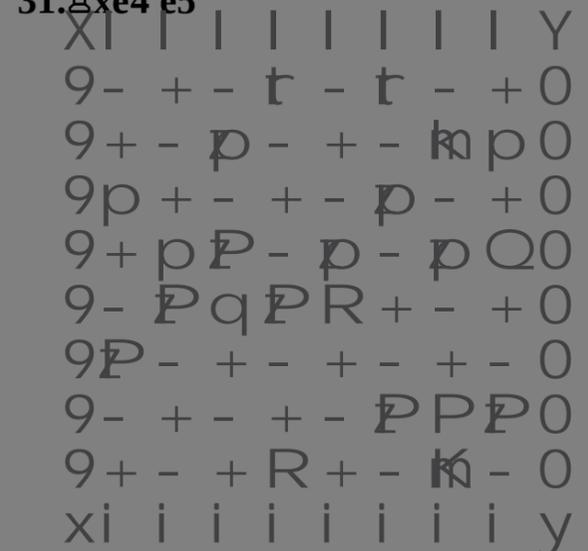
### CARUANA: MOVE BY MOVE

By Cyrus Lakdawala

**MSRP: \$26.95**

Fabiano Caruana is the perfect role model for any aspiring player. He is a very dangerous attacking player who is also equally at home in quiet strategic positions or manoeuvring in an endgame. In this respect he is the epitome of the modern grandmaster, being a hard-working and determined fighter who prepares thoroughly and plays with great determination and accuracy.

31. ♖xe4 e5



32. h4

32...h6 33. ♖f3 ♔d5



34.h5 exd4?

58.♖xh6 ♖c4+ 59.♔d2 ♖xc5 60.♖e6  
Black resigned

35.♖dxd4 ♔f7 36.g4 ♖xd4 37.♖xd4

```
XI | | | | | | | | Y
9- + - + - ♖ - + 0
9+ - ♖ - + ♗ ♞ - 0
9♖ + - + - ♖ - ♖ 0
9+ ♖ ♖ - + - ♖ ♖ 0
9- ♖ - ♖ - + ♖ + 0
9♖ - + - + ♖ + - 0
9- + - + - ♖ - + 0
9+ - + - + - ♞ - 0
xi i i i i i i i y
```

Ding Liren	2804
Jan Krzysztof Duda	2739

Round 10, China vs. Poland  
Annotated by Robert Hungaski

37...♔e6

38.♔d3 f5 39.♖d7+ ♖f7 40.♔d4+  
♔h7 41.♖d8 ♖g7 42.♖f8 ♔c4  
43.♔xc4 bxc4 44.♖xf5

```
XI | | | | | | | | Y
9- + - + - + - + 0
9+ - ♖ - + - ♖ ♞ 0
9♖ + - + - + - ♖ 0
9+ - ♖ - + ♖ ♖ ♖ 0
9- ♖ ♖ + - + ♖ + 0
9♖ - + - + - + - 0
9- + - + - ♖ - + 0
9+ - + - + - ♞ - 0
xi i i i i i i i y
```

44...c6

45.♖e5 ♖d7 46.♖e4 ♖d1+ 47.♔g2  
♖c1 48.♔f3 ♔g7 49.♔e3 ♔f6  
50.♔d4 c3 51.♖e8 c2 52.♔c3 a5  
53.♖c8 axb4+ 54.axb4 ♔e5 55.♖xc6  
♖b1 56.♔xc2 ♖xb4 57.f3 ♔d4

1.d4 ♖f6 2.c4 e6 3.♔f3 d5 4.♔c3  
dxc4 5.e4 b5!?

```
XI | | | | | | | | Y
9r ♞ | ♗ ♞ ♖ - ♖ 0
9♖ - ♖ - + ♖ ♖ ♖ 0
9- + - + ♖ ♞ - + 0
9+ ♖ + - + - + - 0
9- + ♖ ♖ ♖ + - + 0
9+ - ♞ - + ♞ + - 0
9♖ ♖ - + - ♖ ♖ ♖ 0
9♖ - ♖ ♖ ♖ ♖ + ♖ 0
xi i i i i i i i y
```

6.e5 ♔d5 7.♔xb5 ♔b6 8.♔e2 ♔c6

9.0-0 ♔e7

```
XI | | | | | | | | Y
9r + | ♗ ♞ + - ♖ 0
9♖ - ♖ - ♖ ♖ ♖ 0
9- ♞ ♞ + ♖ + - + 0
9+ ♞ + - ♖ - + - 0
9- + ♖ ♖ - + - + 0
9+ - + - + ♞ + - 0
9♖ ♖ - + ♖ ♖ ♖ 0
9♖ - ♖ ♖ ♖ ♖ + ♖ 0
xi i i i i i i i y
```

10.♔d2!

10...0-0 11.♔f4 ♖b8

12. ♖c3 f5!?

```

X| | | | | | | | Y
9- t | ♗ - t k + 0
9p - p - ♜ - ♞ ♞ 0
9- ♠ n + p + - + 0
9+ - + - ♞ p + - 0
9- + p ♞ - ♗ - + 0
9+ - ♠ - + N + - 0
9P ♞ - + L ♞ ♞ ♞ 0
9R - ♞ - + R ♠ - 0
xi i i i i i i i y

```

13. ♖g3!

13... ♖h8

14. ♖d1 ♖b4 15. b3!

15... cxb3 16. axb3 a6

```

X| | | | | | | | Y
9- t | ♗ - t - ♠ 0
9+ - p - ♜ - ♞ ♞ 0
9p ♠ - + p + - + 0
9+ - + - ♞ p + - 0
9- ♠ - ♞ - + - + 0
9+ P ♠ - + N ♗ - 0
9- + - + L ♞ ♞ ♞ 0
9R - ♞ R + - ♠ - 0
xi i i i i i i i y

```

17. ♖c4

17... ♖c2 18. ♖a2 ♖b4 19. ♖a1 ♖c2  
20. ♖a2 ♖b4

21. ♖e2 a5

```

X| | | | | | | | Y
9- t | ♗ - t - ♠ 0
9+ - p - ♜ - ♞ ♞ 0
9- ♠ - + p + - + 0
9p - + - ♞ p + - 0
9- ♠ L ♞ - + - + 0
9+ P ♠ - + N ♗ - 0
9- + - + R ♞ ♞ ♞ 0
9+ - ♞ R + - ♠ - 0
xi i i i i i i i y

```

22. d5!

22... exd5

24. ♖xd5 exd5 25. e6

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♖xb3 26. ♔f4∞

30. ♔g5 ♖g6±



23.e6 ♔d6?!

28. ♖g5 ♖g6

24. ♖h3

29. ♖xd6 f4

30. ♖h4 ♖b1

24. ♖f6

```

X| | | | | | | | | Y
9- t | + - t - k 0
9+ - p - + - p p 0
9- n - R - + - + 0
9p - + - + - N - 0
9- n p + - p - Q 0
9+ P + + + + - 0
9- + - + R P P P 0
9+ n v - + - k - 0
X| | | | | | | | | y

```

31. ♖e1

```

X| | | | | | | | | Y
9- t | + - t - k 0
9+ - p - + - p p 0
9- n - v P Q - + 0
9p - + p + p + - 0
9- n L + - + - 0
9+ P N - + N + Q 0
9- + - + R P P P 0
9+ - L R + - k - 0
X| | | | | | | | | y

```

25. ♖b5!

32. ♖xb6?

Ding Liren, Chess Olympiad, Batumi 2018. Photo by David Llada

♖d5!

33... ♖xb6 34. ♖f7+ ♔h8 35. ♖f8+

31... ♔f5?!

B)

28... ♖e8? 29. ♖h5!

♖xe7 30. ♖e8+!

35... ♔g8

```

X| | | | | | | | | Y
9- t | + - t - k 0
9+ - p - + - p p 0
9- n - N P Q - + 0
9p - + - + p + - 0
9- n p + - + - + 0
9+ P + - + N + Q 0
9- + - + R P P P 0
9+ - L R + - k - 0
X| | | | | | | | | y

```

36. ♖xh6++

32. ♖d8 ♔g6 33. ♖xb8 ♖xb8 34. ♖xf4 ♖g8 35. ♖f7+ ♔xf7 36. ♖xf7 ♖d7 37. e8 ♖ ♖f6 38. ♔g5

Black resigned

26... cxd6?

25... dxc4 26. ♖xd6

A)

28... ♖xf7? runs into 29. ♖xd6 cxd6 27.e7! ♖e8 30. ♖xd6





The Chinese women's team: Zhai Mo, Huang Qian, Shen Yang, Ju Wenjun, Lei Jingjie and Yu Shaoteng (Captain).  
Photo by David Liada

By **GM ELSHAN MORADIABAD**

With annotations by **WGM JENNIFER YU**

# GOLDEN GIRLS DO THE DOUBLE FOR CHINA!

The Chinese women's team may have been missing star players Hou Yifan and Tan Zhongyi from their line-up but they were still strong enough to be seeded third at the Women's Chess Olympiad, behind Russia and Ukraine. Moreover, they exceeded expectations by winning gold – thanks to World Champion Ju Wenjun's defeat of Russia's Alexandra Kosteniuk in a dramatic 96 move encounter that was the last game to be completed in the two-week competition! Nevertheless it was a close call, as the undefeated Chinese girls did need their superior tie-break to overhaul Ukraine at the finishing post.



rd

th

Jennifer Yu	2268
Eesha Karavade	2374

Round 6, USA vs. India  
Annotated by Jennifer Yu

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♗c3 ♙b4 4.g3

XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y  
 9r ♗l ♘k + - ♖0  
 9p p p p + p p p 0  
 9- + - + p ♗ - + 0  
 9+ - + - + - + - 0  
 9- ♘ P P - + - + 0  
 9+ - ♗ - + - P - 0  
 9P P - + P P - P 0  
 9R - ♘ Q ♗ L ♗ R 0  
 xi i i i i i i i y

4...0-0

8...♙xc3+?! 9.bxc3  
 ♙xc3+ 10.♙xc3 ♘xc3 11.♙b2 ♘a4 12.♙xg7

CHESS OLYMPIAD-WOMEN, Batumi, Georgia, Sep 24 - Oct 5, 2018								
RK	NAME	+	=	-	TB1	TB2	TB3	TB4
1	China	7	4	0	18	407,0	30,5	153
2	Ukraine	7	4	0	18	395,5	30,0	154
3	Georgia 1	7	3	1	17	375,0	28,0	153
4	Russia	7	2	2	16	379,5	30,5	146
5	Hungary	7	2	2	16	372,0	29,5	141
6	Armenia	7	2	2	16	366,0	27,0	155
7	USA	7	2	2	16	359,5	27,5	152
8	India	6	4	1	16	352,5	29,5	142
9	Georgia 2	7	2	2	16	351,5	28,5	142
10	Azerbaijan	6	4	1	16	347,5	28,5	145
11-12 Kazakhstan 16; 13-19 France, Spain, Iran, Vietnam, Poland, Uzbekistan, Belarus, Slovakia 15; 20 Mongolia 14, etc.								

5.♙g2 d5 6.♗f3

XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y  
 9r ♗l ♘ - ♖k + 0  
 9p p p - + p p p 0  
 9- + - + p ♗ - + 0  
 9+ - + p + - + - 0  
 9- ♘ P P - + - + 0  
 9+ - ♗ - + N P - 0  
 9P P - + P P L P 0  
 9R - ♘ Q ♗ - + R 0  
 xi i i i i i i i y



6...c5

and

7.0-0 dxc4 8.dxc5 ♖c6

9.♖a4

```

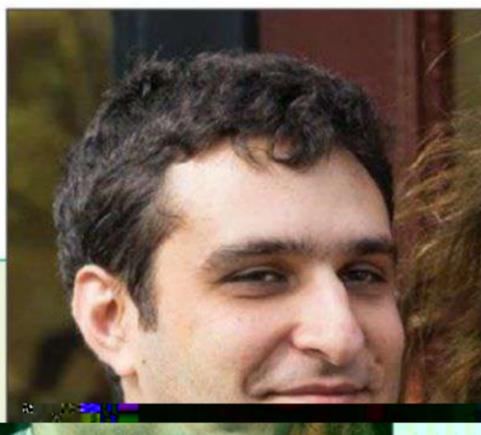
XI | | | | | | | | Y
9r + l ♗ - t k + 0
9p p + - + p p p 0
9- + n + p ♖ - + 0
9+ - ♙ - + - + - 0
9Q ♗ p + - + - + 0
9+ - ♚ - + N ♙ - 0
9P ♙ - + P ♙ L ♙ 0
9R - ♘ - + R ♚ - 0
xi | | | | | | | | y

```

13.♙f4.

11...a5 12.♖b5 ♖d8

10...h6



11.♙xf6 ♖xf6

```

XI | | | | | | | | Y
9r + l + - t k + 0
9p p + - + p p - 0
9- + n + p ♗ - p 0
9+ - ♙ - + - + - 0
9Q ♗ p + - + - + 0
9+ - ♚ - + N ♙ - 0
9P ♙ - + P ♙ L ♙ 0
9R - + - + R ♚ - 0
xi | | | | | | | | y

```

12.♙ac1

9...♖e7

```

XI | | | | | | | | Y
9r + l + - t k + 0
9p p + - ♗ p p p 0
9- + n + p ♖ - + 0
9+ - ♙ - + - + - 0
9Q ♗ p + - + - + 0
9+ - ♚ - + N ♙ - 0
9P ♙ - + P ♙ L ♙ 0
9R - ♘ - + R ♚ - 0
xi | | | | | | | | y

```

10.♙g5

10...♗xe5? 11.♖xb4

GM Elshan Moradiabadi won the Iranian Chess Championship at the age of 16, ahead of the local legend Ehsan Ghaem Maghami.

He moved to the US in 2012, where he became a very active player in the US college chess scene.

Representing Texas Tech University, he won the Final Four of Collegiate Chess in 2012 and the Pan-American Intercollegiate Team Championship in 2015. Since February 2017 he has represented the USA.

12...♖e7

```

XI | | | | | | | | Y
9r + l + - t k + 0
9p p + - ♗ p p - 0
9- + n + p + - p 0
9+ - ♙ - + - + - 0
9Q ♗ p + - + - + 0
9+ - ♚ - + N ♙ - 0
9P ♙ - + P ♙ L ♙ 0
9+ - R - + R ♚ - 0
xi | | | | | | | | y

```

13.♗d4! ♖xc5

14.♗xc6 bxc6 15.♗e4

15...♔a5 16.♔xa5 ♕xa5 17.♖xc4  
 XI | | | | | | | Y  
 9r + l + - t k + 0  
 9p - + - + p p - 0  
 9- + p + p + - p 0  
 9v - + - + - + - 0  
 9- + R + N + - + 0  
 9+ - + - + - ♔ - 0  
 9P ♔ - + P ♔ L ♔ 0  
 9+ - + - + R ♔ - 0  
 xi i i i i i i y

23...♔f8

24.♕d3

17...♖b8 18.b3 ♖d8

24...♖d7

25.♖c8+ ♔e7

26.♔g2

26...♖c7 27.♖b8

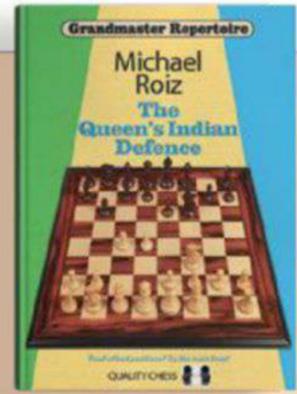
19.♖xc6 ♕b7 20.♖c2 ♕xe4 21.♕xe4  
 ♖bc8 22.♖fc1 ♖xc2 23.♖xc2  
 XI | | | | | | | Y  
 9- + - t - + k + 0  
 9p - + - + p p - 0  
 9- + - + p + - p 0  
 9v - + - + - + - 0  
 9- + - + L + - + 0  
 9+ P + - + - ♔ - 0  
 9P + R + P ♔ - ♔ 0  
 9+ - + - + - ♔ - 0  
 xi i i i i i i y

27...♕b6

XI | | | | | | | Y  
 9- ♔ - + - + - + 0  
 9p - t - ♔ p p - 0  
 9- + - + p + - p 0  
 9v - + - + - + - 0  
 9- + - + - + - + 0  
 9+ P + L + - ♔ - 0  
 9P + - + P ♔ K ♔ 0  
 9+ - + - + - + - 0  
 xi i i i i i i y

28.a4

28...♖d7



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 by Michael Roiz

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**QUALITY CHESS**



XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y  
 9- R - + - + - + 0  
 9p - + r k p p - 0  
 9- v - + p + - p 0  
 9+ - + - + - + - 0  
 9P + - + - + - + 0  
 9+ P + L + - P - 0  
 9- + - + P P K P 0  
 9+ - + - + - + - 0  
 xi i i i i i i i y

29. ♖b5

29... ♖d4 30. ♖b7+

30... ♖f8

XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y  
 9- + - + - k - + 0  
 9p R + - + p p - 0  
 9- v - + p + - p 0  
 9+ L + - + - + - 0  
 9P + - t - + - + 0  
 9+ P + - + - P - 0  
 9- + - + P P K P 0  
 9+ - + - + - + - 0  
 xi i i i i i i i y

31. ♖c4

31... ♖d2

33.a5 ♖xa5!

XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y  
 9- + - + - k - + 0  
 9p R + - + p p - 0  
 9- v - + p + - p 0  
 9+ - + - + - + - 0  
 9P + L + - + - + 0  
 9+ P + - + - P - 0  
 9- + - t P P K P 0  
 9+ - + - + - + - 0  
 xi i i i i i i i y

32.f4!

32...g6

33.h3

33...h5 34.g4 hxg4 35.hxg4 ♖d4  
36. ♖f3 ♖d1 37. ♖e4

XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y  
 9- + - + - k - + 0  
 9p R + - + p + - 0  
 9- v - + p + p + 0  
 9+ - + - + - + - 0  
 9P + L + K P P + 0  
 9+ P + - + - + - 0  
 9- + - + P + - + 0  
 9+ - + r + - + - 0  
 xi i i i i i i i y

37... ♖d4+?

38. ♖e5 ♖d1 39.f5

39... ♖d4+

XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y  
 9- + - + - k - + 0  
 9p R + - + p + - 0  
 9- + - + p + p + 0  
 9+ - + - k P + - 0  
 9P + L v - + P + 0  
 9+ P + - + - + - 0  
 9- + - + P + - + 0  
 9+ - + r + - + - 0  
 xi i i i i i i i y

40. ♖f4

40...gxf5 41.gxf5 exf5

42. ♖xf7+ ♖e8 43. ♖xf5 a5

44. ♖e6 ♖c5 45. ♖c7 ♖d6+ 46. ♖e5  
♖a3 47. ♖a7 ♖b4

XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y  
 9- + - + k + - + 0  
 9+ - R - + - + - 0  
 9- + - t - + - + 0  
 9p - + - k - + - 0  
 9P v L + - + - + 0  
 9+ P + - + - + - 0  
 9- + - + P + - + 0  
 9+ - + - + - + - 0  
 xi i i i i i i i y



The US Women's team,  
Chess Olympiad,  
Batumi 2018.

Jennifer Yu,  
Melikset Khachiyan  
(Captain), Irina  
Krush and Tatev  
Abrahamyan.

Sabina Foisor, Irina  
Krush, and  
Jennifer Yu.  
*Photos by  
David Llada*

48.♖b7

50...♔d7

51.♔c5 ♖h5+ 52.♙d5 ♔c7 53.e4 ♗g5  
54.a5

54...♗g6 55.♔xb4

**Black resigned**

48...♗h6 49.♗xb4 axb4 50.♔d5 She



Anna Muzychuk	2555
Ju Wenjun	2561

Round 6, Ukraine vs. China

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0
9p	-	♞	-	+	k	p	-	0
9-	p	-	+	-	+	-	+	0
9+	-	+	R	+	P	+	p	0
9P	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0
9+	P	♞	-	+	-	+	-	0
9-	+	P	+	-	+	r	+	0
9+	-	+	K	+	-	+	-	0
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y

39.a5?

41.♙xa7

39...♙xa5?!

- A)
- B)

C)

40.♙e5

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0
9p	-	+	-	+	k	p	-	0
9-	p	-	+	-	+	-	+	0
9v	-	+	R	♞	P	+	p	0
9-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0
9+	P	+	-	+	-	+	-	0
9-	+	P	+	-	+	r	+	0
9+	-	+	K	+	-	+	-	0
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y

40...h4?!

43.c4 ♙c3

41...♞f1+ 42.♙e2 ♞c1 48.♙d2??



▲ Anna and Mariya Muzychuk, Chess Olympiad, Batumi 2018. Photo by David Llada

40...♙b4

41.c3!

41...h3 42.b4 ♙xb4 43.cxb4 h2  
44.♙xh2 ♞xh2 45.♞d7+ ♙f6 46.♞xa7  
♞b2 47.♞b7 ♞xb4

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0
9+	R	+	-	+	-	p	-	0
9-	p	-	+	-	♞	-	+	0
9+	-	+	-	+	P	+	-	0
9-	t	-	+	-	+	-	+	0
9+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	0
9-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0
9+	-	+	K	+	-	+	-	0
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y

48...♞b1??

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0
9+	R	+	-	+	-	p	-	0
9-	p	-	+	-	♞	-	+	0
9+	-	+	-	+	P	+	-	0
9-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0
9+	r	+	-	+	-	+	-	0
9-	+	-	♞	-	+	-	+	0
9+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	0
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y

A)

B)

51.♙c3?? ♞c4+ and then ...♞c5



XI | | | | | | | | Y  
 9- + - + - + - + 0  
 9+ R + - + - P - 0  
 9- P - + - K - + 0  
 9+ - + - + P + - 0  
 9- + - + - + - + 0  
 9+ - + - + - + - 0  
 9- + - K - + - + 0  
 9+ r + - + - + - 0  
 xi | | | | | | | | y  
 49.♔e3 b5 50.♔e4 ♖b4+ 51.♔e3 ♖b2  
 52.♔e4 ♖e2+ 53.♔f4 ♖f2+ 54.♔e4  
 ♖e2+ 55.♔f4 ♖f2+ 56.♔e4 ♖xf5  
 57.♖xg7 ♔xg7 58.♔xf5 b4 59.♔e4  
 Draw

39...h5 40.♗c4 h4  
 XI | | | | | | | | Y  
 9- R - + - + - + 0  
 9+ - + - + P K - 0  
 9- + - + - + r + 0  
 9+ - + - + - + - 0  
 9P + N + - + - P 0  
 9+ P + - + - + - 0  
 9- + - + - ♗ - + 0  
 9+ - + - + - + K 0  
 xi | | | | | | | | y  
 41.♖b7?!

XI | | | | | | | | Y  
 9- + - + - + - + 0  
 9+ - + - + P + - 0  
 9- + - + - + K + 0  
 9+ - + R + - + - 0  
 9P + N + r + - P 0  
 9+ P + - + - ♗ - 0  
 9- + - + - + K + 0  
 9+ - + - + - + - 0  
 xi | | | | | | | | y  
 45...f5!?

Shen Yang 2464  
 Mariya Muzychuk 2533

Round 6, Ukraine vs. China  
 XI | | | | | | | | Y  
 9- + - R - ♗ K + 0  
 9+ - + - + P + P 0  
 9- P - + - + - + 0  
 9P - + - + N + - 0  
 9P + - + - + - + 0  
 9+ P + - + r + P 0  
 9- + - + - P - + 0  
 9+ - + - + - K - 0  
 xi | | | | | | | | y  
 33.♗e3 ♖xh3 34.♖b8 ♖h6 35.♗d5  
 ♔g7 36.♗xb6 ♖g6+ 37.♔h1 ♔c5  
 38.♗c4 ♔xf2 39.♗xa5

41...♔g3 42.♖b6 ♖g4 43.♖b5  
 43...♖e4  
 XI | | | | | | | | Y  
 9- + - + - + - + 0  
 9+ - + - + P K - 0  
 9- + - + - + - + 0  
 9+ R + - + - + - 0  
 9P + N + r + - P 0  
 9+ P + - + - ♗ - 0  
 9- + - + - + - + 0  
 9+ - + - + - + K 0  
 xi | | | | | | | | y  
 44.♖d5?  
 ♖g5  
 49...♖g2 50.♖h5 h2 51.a6 ♖a2  
 52.a7  
 44...♔g6 45.♔g2?

XI | | | | | | | | Y  
 9- + - + - + - + 0  
 9+ - + - + - K - 0  
 9- + - + - + - + 0  
 9+ - + R + - + - 0  
 9P + - + K P - P 0  
 9+ P + - + - ♗ - 0  
 9- + - N - + - + 0  
 9+ - + - r - + - 0  
 xi | | | | | | | | y  
 5  
 55...♖a1 56.b4 ♖a4 57.♖d7+ ♔h6  
 58.♖d8!!

46.♔f3??  
 46...♖f4+ 47.♔e3 ♖f1 48.♗e5+  
 XI | | | | | | | | Y  
 9- + - + - + - + 0  
 9+ - + - + - + - 0  
 9- + - + - + K + 0  
 9+ - + R N P + - 0  
 9P + - + - + - P 0  
 9+ P + - K - ♗ - 0  
 9- + - + - + - + 0  
 9+ - + - + r + - 0  
 xi | | | | | | | | y

48...♙xe5!

49.♙e2 ♖a1! 50.♙d3

50...♙g5 51.♙f2 ♙g4 52.♙g2 h3+  
White resigned

```

XI | | | | | | | | Y
9- + - + - + - + 0
9R p + - + k p p 0
9- + - + - p - + 0
9+ - + - + - + - 0
9- + - ♗ - + - + 0
9+ - + - + K P - 0
9- + r + - P - P 0
9+ - + - + N + - 0
xi | i | i | i | i | i | y
41.♙e4!
    
```

♙f6 82.♙f2 ♖a2+ 83.♙f1 ♙d2  
84.♙g1 ♖e2 85.♙f1 ♖e7 86.♙f2  
♙g7 87.♖e8 ♙f7 88.♖a8 ♙g8 89.♖a5  
♙g6 90.♙f3 ♖b8

```

XI | | | | | | | | Y
9- t - + - + - + 0
9+ - + - + - + - 0
9- + - + - + k + 0
9R - + - + p p - 0
9- + - + - + - + 0
9+ - + - + K P - 0
9- + - + - + - + 0
9+ - + - + - + - 0
xi | i | i | i | i | i | y
91.♙f2
    
```

41...♖xf2 42.♖xb7+ ♙g6 43.♙xd4  
♖xf1 44.♙e3 ♙h6 45.♙e2 ♖f5 46.h4!

91...♖b6 92.♙g1 ♖f6 93.♙f2 ♖f8  
94.♙f3 ♖c8 95.♙f2 ♙d8 96.♙f1  
♙f6 97.♙f2 ♙d2+ 98.♙e3?! Why

Anna Ushenina 2451  
Qian Huang 2446

Round 6, Ukraine vs. China

```

XI | | | | | | | | Y
9- + - + - + - + 0
9+ p + - + k p p 0
9- + - + - p - + 0
9+ - + - + n + - 0
9- + - p - ♗ - + 0
9+ - + q P - P - 0
9- + r + - P K P 0
9R - + - + N + - 0
xi | i | i | i | i | i | y
37.♖a7??
    
```

37...♖b5??

40.♖f4+ g5

38.exd4 ♖d5+?!

39.♖f3 ♖xf3+ 40.♙xf3 ♗xd4+

46...♙g6 47.♖a7 ♖b5 48.♙f3 ♖b3+  
49.♙f2 ♙d3 50.♖b7 f5 51.♙g2 ♖e3  
52.♖a7 ♙f6 53.♖b7 h6 54.♖a7 ♙d3  
55.♖b7 ♙d2+ 56.♙f3 g5 57.hxg5+  
hxg5

```

XI | | | | | | | | Y
9- + - + - + - + 0
9+ R + - + - + - 0
9- + - + - ♗ - + 0
9+ - + - + p p - 0
9- + - + - + - + 0
9+ - + - + K P - 0
9- + - t - + - + 0
9+ - + - + - + - 0
xi | i | i | i | i | i | y
58.♙e3?!
    
```

58...♙d6 59.♖b8 ♖a6 60.♖b5 ♖a3+  
61.♙f2 ♖a2+ 62.♙f1 ♙d2 63.♖a5  
♙d4 64.♙f2 ♙e6 65.♙e3 ♖c4  
66.♖a8 ♖c3+ 67.♙f2 ♖c2+ 68.♙e3  
♖c3+ 69.♙f2 ♙d3 70.♖e8+ ♙f7  
71.♖e5 ♙g6 72.♖a5 ♙d2+ 73.♙f1  
♙f6 74.♖b5 ♖a2 75.♙g1 ♖a4  
76.♙f2 ♙e6 77.♙e3 ♖c4 78.♙f2  
♙d4 79.♙e3 ♙d5 80.♖b8 ♖a5 81.♖g8

98...♖c2 99.♖a6+ ♙f7 100.♙f3 ♙d2  
101.♙e3

101...♙d7 102.♙f3 ♖e7 103.♖b6 ♖e6

```

XI | | | | | | | | Y
9- + - + - + - + 0
9+ - + - + k + - 0
9- R - + r + - + 0
9+ - + - + p p - 0
9- + - + - + - + 0
9+ - + - + K P - 0
9- + - + - + - + 0
9+ - + - + - + - 0
xi | i | i | i | i | i | y
    
```

104.♖b8 ♖a6 105.♖b5 ♙f6 106.♙f2  
g4!

107.♙f1 ♙e6 108.♙f2 ♙d6 109.♙e3

♠d5 110.♞b8 ♠d1 111.♞b6+

# SMART BOARD + DGT PI CHESS COMPUTER YOUR PERFECT SPARRING PARTNER!



Developed by DGT - The Chess Innovators  
[digitalgametechnology.com](http://digitalgametechnology.com)



124...♖g2 125.♔e5 ♜xg3 126.♖xf5

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	0
9	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0
9	-	+	-	+	-	+	K	+
9	+	-	+	-	+	R	+	0
9	-	+	-	+	-	p	+	0
9	+	-	+	-	+	r	-	0
9	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	0
9	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y

126...♖f3!

127.♖f4 ♔g5 128.♖a4 g3 129.♖a8 ♖e3+  
130.♔d4 ♖e1 131.♔d3 ♔g4 132.♔d2  
♖e7 133.♖g8+ ♔h3 134.♖h8+ ♔g2  
135.♖g8 ♖e5 136.♖g7 ♔h2 137.♖h7+  
♔g1 138.♖g7

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	0
9	+	-	+	-	+	R	-	0
9	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	0
9	+	-	+	-	+	t	-	0
9	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	0
9	+	-	+	-	+	p	-	0
9	-	+	-	+	-	K	-	0
9	+	-	+	-	+	k	-	0
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y

138...g2

139.♖g8 ♖h5 140.♔e2 ♔h2 141.♔f2  
♖f5+ 142.♔e2 g1 ♖ 143.♖h8+ ♔g2  
144.♖g8+ ♔h1

White resigned

Jennifer Yu	2268
Maria Kursova	2289

Round 7, USA vs. Armenia  
Annotated by Jennifer Yu

8...♗e7

9.♖d1 ♘c6

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9	r	+	l	♙	-	t	k	+
9	p	-	+	p	v	p	p	0
9	-	p	n	+	p	n	-	+
9	+	-	+	-	+	v	-	0
9	-	+	P	+	-	+	-	+
9	P	-	N	-	+	N	+	0
9	-	P	Q	+	P	P	P	0
9	+	-	+	R	K	L	+	R
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y

10.e4

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♗b4 4.♖c2

4...c5 5.dxc5 0-0 6.a3 ♗xc5 7.♘f3 b6

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9	r	n	l	♙	-	t	k	+
9	p	-	+	p	+	p	p	0
9	-	p	-	+	p	n	-	+
9	+	-	v	-	+	-	+	-
9	-	+	P	+	-	+	-	+
9	P	-	N	-	+	N	+	0
9	-	P	Q	+	P	P	P	0
9	R	-	v	-	K	L	+	R
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y

8.♗g5

10...h6

11.♗h4

11...♘h5 12.♗xe7 ♘xe7 13.g3

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9	r	+	l	♙	-	t	k	+
9	p	-	+	p	n	p	p	-
9	-	p	-	+	p	+	-	p
9	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	n
9	-	+	P	+	P	+	-	+
9	P	-	N	-	+	N	P	-
9	-	P	Q	+	-	P	-	P
9	+	-	+	R	K	L	+	R
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y

Jennifer Yu won the gold medal at the 2014 World U-12 Youth Chess Championship in South Africa – the first world title for an American girl since 1987. The following year she won the Virginia State Closed Championship, becoming the youngest player and also the first female to do so. In 2017 she earned a bronze medal at the World U-20 Junior Girls Championship and in Batumi she also won bronze for the best result on the fifth board.

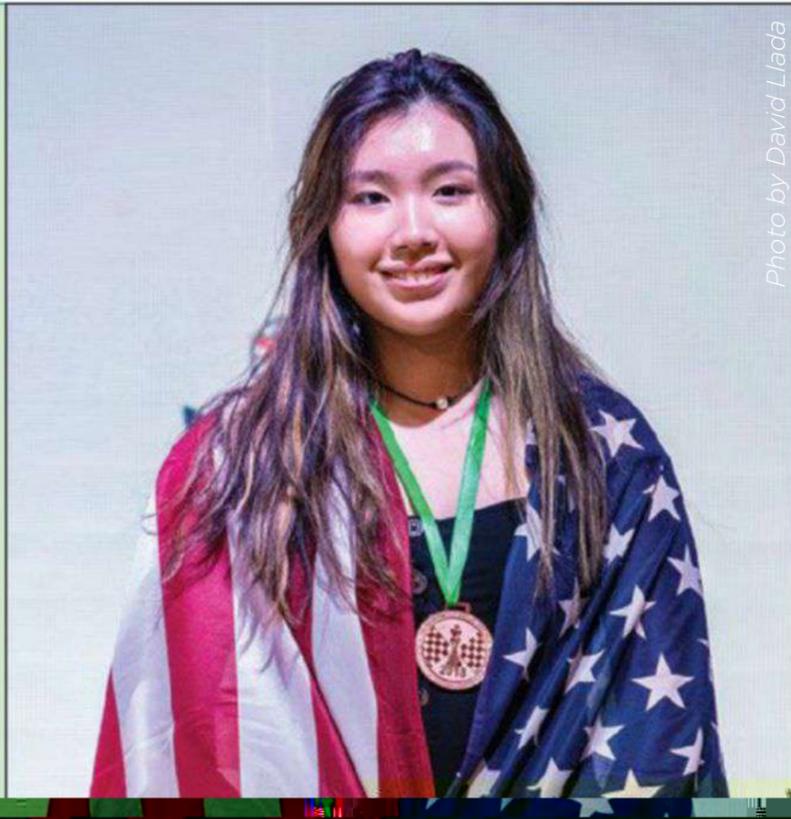


Photo by David Llada

15...♔xc4?? 16.♘d2!

15...♘g6 16.0-0 ♖b8 17.b3

17...♙b7 18.e5

17...♖d8 18.♙d6

13...a6

14.♙g2 ♔c7

```

XI | | | | | | | | Y
9r + l + - r k + 0
9+ - ♖ p ♗ p p - 0
9p p - + p + - p 0
9+ - + - + - + n 0
9- + P + P + - + 0
9P - ♗ - + N P - 0
9- P Q + - P L P 0
9+ - + R ♖ - + R 0
xi | | | | | | | | y

```

14.♘b5 is not the 15.♙d3 Here  
14...f5! and

```

XI | | | | | | | | Y
9- r l r - + k + 0
9+ - ♖ p + p p - 0
9p p - ♗ p + n p 0
9+ - + - + - + n 0
9- + P + P + - + 0
9P P ♗ - + N P - 0
9- + - + - P L P 0
9+ - + R + R ♖ - 0
xi | | | | | | | | y

```

18...♙a7

19.e5



19...♙b7 20.♚d4

20...f5

```

XI | | | | | | | | Y
9- t - t - +k +0
9w| + p + - p - 0
9p p - + p + n p 0
9+ - + - P p + n 0
9- + P ♔ - + - + 0
9P P ♚ - + N P - 0
9- + - + - P L P 0
9+ - + R + R ♚ - 0
xi | | | | | | | | y

```



21.♘e2

21...♚a8 22.♘e1

```

XI | | | | | | | | Y
9qt - t - +k +0
9+ | + p + - p - 0
9p p - + p + n p 0
9+ - + - P p + n 0
9- + P ♔ - + - + 0
9P P + - + - P - 0
9- + - + N P L P 0
9+ - + R N R ♚ - 0
xi | | | | | | | | y

```

22...d6!



39...♔h7

40.♖f4

40...♗g5

```
XI | | | | | | | Y
9- + - + - + - + 0
9+ q + - + - p k 0
9p + - + - + - p 0
9+ r + - + p n - 0
9- P - + p N - + 0
9P - ♖ - P - P - 0
9- + - + - + K P 0
9+ - + R + - + - 0
xi | | | | | | | y
```

41.h4!

41...♗f3?

42.♗e6!

```
XI | | | | | | | Y
9- + - + - + - + 0
9+ q + - + - p k 0
9p + - + N + - p 0
9+ r + - + p + - 0
9- P - + p + - P 0
9P - ♖ - P n P - 0
9- + - + - + K + 0
9+ - + R + - + - 0
xi | | | | | | | y
```

42...♕g6

```
XI | | | | | | | Y
9- + - + - + - + 0
9+ q + - + - p k 0
9p + - + N + - p 0
9+ r + - n p + - 0
9- P - + p + - P 0
9P - ♖ - P - P - 0
9- + - + - + K + 0
9+ - + R + - + - 0
xi | | | | | | | y
```

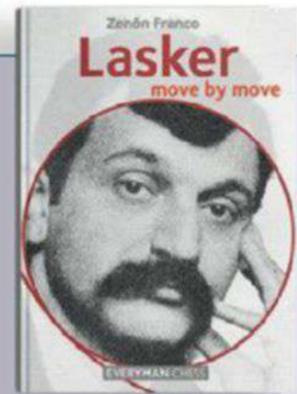
A) 43...♙d5 44.♗f8+ ♔g8  
45.♙b3±

```
XI | | | | | | | Y
9- + Q + - + - R 0
9+ - + - ♗ k p - 0
9p + - n - + - p 0
9+ r + - + p + - 0
9- P - + p N - P 0
9P - + - P - P - 0
9- + - + - + K + 0
9+ - + - + - + - 0
xi | | | | | | | y
```

B) 43...♗xd7?? 44.♙xg7#

43.♙d6

43...♙e7



**LASKER: MOVE BY MOVE**

By Zenón Franco

**MSRP: \$29.95**

Lasker was, essentially, a complete chessplayer and his games feel thoroughly modern. Indeed, many contemporary elite players (the most obvious one being the current world champion Magnus Carlsen) exhibit a very similar style.

EVERYMAN CHESS

```
XI | | | | | | | Y
9- + - + - + - + 0
9+ - + - ♗ - p - 0
9p + - R N + k p 0
9+ r + - + p + - 0
9- P - + p + - P 0
9P - ♖ - P n P - 0
9- + - + - + K + 0
9+ - + - + - + - 0
xi | | | | | | | y
```

44.h5+! ♔xh5 45.♗f4+ ♔g4 46.♙g6+ ♗g5 47.♙c2

**Black resigned**



9. ♘a3

13. exf6 gxf6

14. ♘f4

9...a6 10. ♘d3 0-0-0 11. ♖e2 a5  
12. ♘b5 ♗ge7

23... ♖h2 24. ♔c2 ♖gh8 25. ♖ee2

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9-	+	k	+	-	+	-	t	0	
9+	l	p	q	+	-	+	-	0	
9-	p	n	+	p	+	-	+	0	
9p	L	+	n	P	p	+	-	0	
9P	+	Q	P	-	+	p	+	0	
9V	-	P	N	+	-	P	-	0	
9-	+	K	R	R	P	-	t	0	
9+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	0	
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y

13. ♗f3 f5

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9-	+	k	t	-	+	-	t	0	
9+	l	p	q	n	-	p	p	0	
9-	p	n	+	p	+	-	+	0	
9p	L	+	p	P	p	+	-	0	
9P	+	-	P	-	+	-	+	0	
9V	-	P	-	+	N	+	-	0	
9-	+	P	+	Q	P	P	P	0	
9R	-	+	-	K	-	+	R	0	
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y

25... ♖h1 26. ♔b3 ♖b1+ 27. ♔c2 ♖bh1  
28. ♘b2 ♖8h3 29. ♔b3 ♖g1 30. ♗f4  
♖h6 31. ♗d3

31... ♖h3 32. ♔a2 ♖hh1 33. ♖c2 ♔b8  
34. ♖c1 ♖xc1 35. ♘xc1 While it may

35...f4!

14.c4?!

14...dxc4 15.c3 h6 16.0-0-0 ♗d5

Lei Tingjie	2468
Tatev Abrahamyan	2361

Round 10, China vs. USA

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3. ♗c3 ♘b4 4.e5 ♖d7!?

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9r	n	l	+	k	+	n	t	0	
9p	p	p	q	+	p	p	p	0	
9-	+	-	+	p	+	-	+	0	
9+	-	+	p	P	-	+	-	0	
9-	v	-	P	-	+	-	+	0	
9+	-	N	-	+	-	+	-	0	
9P	P	P	+	-	P	P	P	0	
9R	-	V	Q	K	L	N	R	0	
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y

5.a3 ♘xc3+ 6.bxc3 b6 7.a4 ♗c6!?

17. ♖xc4 g5 18. ♗e1 g4 19. ♗d3 h5  
20. ♖d2 ♖dg8 21. ♖e1 h4 22.g3 hxg3  
23.hxg3

36.gxf4??

36... ♖h7!

8. ♘b5 ♘b7

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9r	+	-	+	k	+	n	t	0	
9p	l	p	q	+	p	p	p	0	
9-	p	n	+	p	+	-	+	0	
9+	L	+	p	P	-	+	-	0	
9P	+	-	P	-	+	-	+	0	
9+	-	P	-	+	-	+	-	0	
9-	+	P	+	-	P	P	P	0	
9R	-	L	Q	K	-	N	R	0	
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9-	+	k	+	-	+	r	t	0	
9+	l	p	q	+	-	+	-	0	
9-	p	n	+	p	+	-	+	0	
9p	L	+	n	P	p	+	-	0	
9P	+	Q	P	-	+	p	+	0	
9V	-	P	N	+	-	P	-	0	
9-	+	-	R	-	P	-	+	0	
9+	-	K	-	R	-	+	-	0	
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y

37. ♖e1

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9-	k	-	+	-	+	-	+	0	
9+	l	p	-	+	-	+	q	0	
9-	p	n	+	p	+	-	+	0	
9p	L	+	n	P	-	+	-	0	
9P	+	Q	P	-	P	p	+	0	
9+	-	P	N	+	-	+	-	0	
9K	+	-	+	-	P	-	+	0	
9+	-	V	-	R	-	+	r	0	
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y

37...♗ce7?

38.♙xc6 ♘xc6 39.♖d1 ♘xa4 White's

38.♖xh1 ♗xh1 39.♙b2??

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9-	♞	-	+	-	+	-	+	0	
9+	I	p	-	♞	-	+	-	0	
9-	p	-	+	p	+	-	+	0	
9p	L	+	n	P	-	+	-	0	
9P	+	Q	P	-	P	p	+	0	
9+	-	P	N	+	-	+	-	0	
9-	♞	-	+	-	P	-	+	0	
9+	-	♞	-	+	-	+	q	0	
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y	

39...♗f1??

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9-	♞	-	+	-	+	-	+	0	
9+	I	p	-	♞	-	+	-	0	
9-	p	-	+	p	+	-	+	0	
9p	L	+	n	P	-	+	-	0	
9P	+	Q	P	-	P	-	+	0	
9♞	-	P	N	+	-	P	-	0	
9-	+	-	+	-	+	-	♞	0	
9+	-	♞	-	+	-	+	-	0	
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y	

- A)
- B)

46.♙c4  
♙xc4+ 47.♙xc4 ♗g2 48.♙b3 ♗d5+  
49.♙b2 ♗xd3 50.♗b1 ♗e1

40.♗b3 c6 41.♙c4 ♙a7 42.♗c2 ♗f5  
43.♗d2 ♙c8

44.♙b3 ♙a6 45.c4 ♗de7 46.♗c3 g3  
47.fxg3 ♗xg3 48.♗e1 ♗e2 49.♗d2  
♗xc1 50.♗xc1 ♗f2+ 51.♙c3 ♗f5  
52.♗c2 ♗f3+ 53.♙b2 ♗d3

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0	
9♞	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	0	
9I	p	p	+	p	+	-	+	0	
9p	-	+	-	P	n	+	-	0	
9P	+	P	P	-	P	-	+	0	
9+	L	+	q	+	-	+	-	0	
9-	♞	N	+	-	+	-	+	0	
9+	-	♞	-	+	-	+	-	0	
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y	

54.c5 ♗xd4 55.♗xd4 ♗xd4+ 56.♗c3  
♗xf4 57.♙xe6 ♗xa4 58.♙b3 ♗e4  
59.e6 ♙c8 60.♗g7+ ♙b7 61.cxb6+  
♙xb6 62.e7 ♙c8 63.♗f8 ♗e5+  
64.♙a2 ♗h2+ 65.♙b1 ♗g1+ 66.♙c2  
♗h2+ 67.♙d3

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9-	+	I	+	-	♞	-	+	0	
9+	-	+	-	P	-	+	-	0	
9-	♞	p	+	-	+	-	+	0	
9p	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	0	
9-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0	
9+	L	+	K	+	-	+	-	0	
9-	+	-	+	-	+	-	♞	0	
9+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y	

67...♙f5+ 68.♗xf5 ♗d6+ 69.♙c2  
♗xe7 70.♙b2 ♗c5 71.♗f4 ♗e7  
72.♗d4+ ♙b7 73.♗f2 ♗g7+  
74.♙a2 ♗e7 75.♙c4 ♗b4 76.♗e2  
♗a4+ 77.♙b2 ♗b4+ 78.♙c2 ♗a4+  
79.♙b3 ♗b4 80.♗e5 ♗b5 81.♗e7+  
♙b6 82.♗d8+ ♙b7 83.♗d4 ♗b4  
84.♙c4 ♗a4+ 85.♙d2 ♗b4+  
86.♙e2 ♗e7+ 87.♙f3 ♗f8+ 88.♙g4  
♗e7 89.♙f5 ♗f8+ 90.♙g6 ♗e8+  
91.♙f7 ♗e7 92.♙g7 ♗c7 93.♙f6  
♗b6 94.♗d3 ♗b2+ 95.♙e6 ♗b6  
96.♙g6 ♗c7 97.♙e4 ♗c8+ 98.♙f7

♗c7+ 99.♙g6 ♙a7

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0	
9♞	-	♞	-	+	-	+	-	0	
9-	+	p	+	-	+	K	+	0	
9p	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	0	
9-	+	-	+	L	+	-	+	0	
9+	-	+	Q	+	-	+	-	0	
9-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0	
9+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	0	
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y	

100.♗d4+ ♙b7 101.♗c5 ♗g3+  
102.♙f5 ♗c7 103.♗b5+ ♗b6  
104.♗d3 ♗c7 105.♗c4 ♗d7+  
106.♙f4 ♗d6+ 107.♙e3 ♗g3+  
108.♙f3 ♗e5+ 109.♙f2 ♗b2+  
110.♙e2 ♗f6+ 111.♙g2 ♗g5+  
112.♙g4 ♗d5+ 113.♗xd5 cxd5  
114.♙d1

Draw

and suddenly the Ukrainians found



Alexandra Kosteniuk	2559
Ju Wenjun	2561

Round 11, Russia vs. China

1.e4 e5 2.d3 f6

3.dxe5 d6 4.f3 xe4 5.d4 d5 6.f3

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y	
9	r	n	l	Q	k	v	-	t	0
9	p	p	p	-	+	p	p	p	0
9	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0
9	+	-	+	p	+	-	+	-	0
9	-	+	-	P	n	+	-	+	0
9	+	-	+	L	+	N	+	-	0
9	P	P	P	+	-	P	P	P	0
9	R	N	v	Q	K	-	+	R	0
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y	

6...f5!?

A)  
B)

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y	
9	r	+	-	+	-	t	k	+	0
9	p	p	p	q	v	p	p	p	0
9	-	+	n	+	-	+	-	+	0
9	+	-	+	p	+	-	+	-	0
9	-	+	-	P	-	+	-	+	0
9	+	-	P	Q	+	N	+	-	0
9	P	P	-	+	-	P	P	P	0
9	R	-	v	-	R	-	K	-	0
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y	

1 13.f4 a6 14.e2 ae8  
15.ae1 d8 16.d2 xe2 17.xe2  
a5 18.b3 b6 19.c1 f6 20.a4 e7  
21.d3 g5 22.c1 g6 23.b3 e7  
24.h4 gxh4 25.f4 f7 26.e6 xe6  
27.xe6 xf4 28.f4

C)

7.0-0 e7 8.bd2!?

8...d6!?

9.b3 0-0 10.f4 xd3 11.xd3  
d7 12.fe1

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y	
9	r	+	-	Q	-	t	k	+	0
9	p	p	p	n	v	p	p	p	0
9	-	+	-	n	-	+	-	+	0
9	+	-	+	p	+	-	+	-	0
9	-	+	-	P	-	v	-	+	0
9	+	N	+	Q	+	N	+	-	0
9	P	P	P	+	-	P	P	P	0
9	R	-	+	-	R	-	K	-	0
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y	

12...e4

13.c4

13...d6 14.e5

14...dxc4

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y	
9	r	+	-	Q	-	t	k	+	0
9	p	p	p	n	+	p	p	p	0
9	-	+	-	v	-	+	-	+	0
9	+	-	+	v	-	+	-	+	0
9	-	+	p	P	n	+	-	+	0
9	+	N	+	Q	+	N	+	-	0
9	P	P	-	+	-	P	P	P	0
9	R	-	+	-	R	-	K	-	0
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y	

15.xe4?!

15...cxb3 16.xb7 bxa2 17.xd6  
cxd6 18.xa2 a5 19.h3 h6 20.e3

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y	
9	r	+	-	Q	-	t	k	+	0
9	+	Q	+	n	+	p	p	-	0
9	-	+	-	p	-	+	-	p	0
9	p	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	0
9	-	+	-	P	-	+	-	+	0
9	+	-	+	-	R	N	+	P	0
9	R	P	-	+	-	P	P	+	0
9	+	-	+	-	+	-	K	-	0
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y	

20...f6 21.ea3 e8 22.b5 c7  
23.c3 b8 24.b3

24...c8 25.c3

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y	
9	r	+	q	+	r	+	k	+	0
9	+	-	+	-	+	p	p	-	0
9	-	+	-	p	-	n	-	p	0
9	p	Q	+	-	+	-	+	-	0
9	-	+	-	P	-	+	-	+	0
9	+	-	R	-	+	N	+	P	0
9	R	P	-	+	-	P	P	+	0
9	+	-	+	-	+	-	K	-	0
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y	

25...e6!

26.xa5 xa5 27.xa5 e2 28.a4  
xb2 29.c2 a1+ 30.c1 a8

31.♖c6 ♗e4 32.♙c2 ♚b7 33.♖c7  
 ♙d5 34.♖c8 ♖xc8 35.♙xc8+ ♔h7  
 36.♙c2 ♗g6 37.♗d2 ♗g5 38.♙c4 ♙f5  
 39.♙e2 ♔g7



40.♙e3 ♙d5  
 x i i i i i i i i y  
 9 - + - + - + - ♗ 0  
 9 + - + - + p k - 0  
 9 - + - p - + p p 0  
 9 + - + q + - ♖ 0  
 9 - + - P - + M - + 0  
 9 + - + - ♗ - + P 0  
 9 - + - N - P P + 0  
 9 + - + - + K - 0  
 x i i i i i i i i y

41.h4

Alexandra Kosteniuk vs. Ju Wenjun,  
 Chess Olympiad, Batumi 2018.  
 Photo by David Llada

41...♗e6 42.♗f3 ♗g5 43.hxg5 hxg5  
 44.♔h2 ♔g6 45.♙d3+ ♙f5 46.♙c3  
 ♙e4 47.♙c8 ♔f6 48.♙h8+ ♔e7  
 x i i i i i i i i y  
 9 - + - + - + - ♗ 0  
 9 + - + - k p + - 0  
 9 - + - p n + - + 0  
 9 + - + - + - p - 0  
 9 - + - P q + - + 0  
 9 + - + - + N + - 0  
 9 - + - + - P P k 0  
 9 + - + - + - + - 0  
 x i i i i i i i i y

49.♙h5?!

50.♔g1 ♙b1+ 51.♔h2 ♙e4 52.♔g1  
 f6 53.♙h8

53...g4 54.♗h2 f5 55.♙h7+ ♔d8  
 56.♗f1 ♗xd4 57.♗e3 ♔c8 58.♙g8+  
 ♔d7 59.♙f7+ ♙e7 60.♙d5 ♙e5  
 61.♙b7+

49...♙f5

52...♙f4 53.g3  
 ♙f3 54.♗e3 ♗c5 55.♙xg4+

61...♔e6 62.♙c8+ ♔f7 63.♙c4+  
 ♗e6 64.g3 ♔g6

65.♙c8 ♗d4 66.♙g8+ ♙g7 67.♙e8+  
 ♙f7 68.♙c8 ♗f3+ 69.♔g2 ♗g5  
 70.♔f1 ♙e6 71.♙d8 ♗f3

x i i i i i i i i y  
 9 - + - ♗ - + - + 0  
 9 + - + - + - + - 0  
 9 - + - p q + k + 0  
 9 + - + - + p + - 0  
 9 - + - + - + p + 0  
 9 + - + - + N P - 0  
 9 - + - + - P - - 0  
 9 + - + - + K + - 0  
 x i i i i i i i i y

72.♙b8?

72...d5!

73.♔g2??  
 74...♔g5 75.♙b7 ♔h6  
 76.♙b4 ♙d7 77.♙b6+ ♔g7 78.♙b4

73...d4 74.♗c2



Alexandra Kosteniuk vs. Ju Wenjun,  
Chess Olympiad, Batumi 2018.  
Photo by David Llada

85. ♖d5

85... ♔f7??

86. ♖d6+ ♔g7

87. ♖f4??

87... ♔h7!

88. ♖e6 d1♔

89. ♖f8+ ♔g8 90. ♖xd1 ♔xf8 91. ♖a1  
♔g8 92. ♖a8+ ♔h7 93. ♖a5 ♖g5  
94. ♖b5 ♔g6 95. ♖c6+ ♖e6  
White resigned

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9-	♔	-	+	-	+	-	+	0
9+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	0
9-	+	-	+	q	+	k	+	0
9+	-	+	-	+	p	+	-	0
9-	+	-	p	-	+	p	+	0
9+	-	+	-	+	n	♖	-	0
9-	+	N	+	-	♖	K	+	0
9+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	0
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y

74...d3??

75. ♖e3 d2 76. ♖d8

76... ♔f7 77. ♖c7+ ♔f6 78. ♖d8+ ♔f7  
79. ♖c7+ ♔e8 80. ♖b8+ ♔d7 81. ♖b7+  
♔d6 82. ♖b6+ ♔e7 83. ♖c7+

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0
9+	-	♔	-	k	-	+	-	0
9-	+	-	+	q	+	-	+	0
9+	-	+	-	+	p	+	-	0
9-	+	-	+	-	+	p	+	0
9+	-	+	-	N	n	♖	-	0
9-	+	-	p	-	♖	K	+	0
9+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	0
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y

83... ♔f6 84. ♖d8+ ♔g6

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9-	+	-	♔	-	+	-	+	0
9+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	0
9-	+	-	+	q	+	k	+	0
9+	-	+	-	+	p	+	-	0
9-	+	-	+	-	+	p	+	0
9+	-	+	-	N	n	♖	-	0
9-	+	-	p	-	♖	K	+	0
9+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	0
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y

# Unconventional Approaches to Modern Chess

Alexander Ipatov

Vol.1 Rare Ideas for Black



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E



PERUVIAN GM JORGE CORI IS THE HIGHEST PERFORMING PLAYER IN BATUMI

# WHO'S WHO?

WHILE CHESS OLYMPIADS ARE PRIMARILY ABOUT TEAMS, STRONG INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCES ARE ALSO RECOGNIZED AND REWARDED WITH MEDALS FOR EACH BOARD, AS WELL AS THE BEST OVERALL RESULTS IN TERMS OF RATING FOR THE WHOLE EVENT. TEN-TIME MEDALLIST SUSAN POLGAR HIGHLIGHTS THE TOP PERFORMERS IN THE OLYMPIAD – AND THEIR BRILLIANCIES.

by **GM SUSAN POLGAR**



Ju Wenjun and Jorge Cori. Photo by David Llada



**Susan Polgar** is an Olympic and World Chess Champion, a top-notch coach, prolific writer and savvy promoter. Some of the notable achievements in her chess career include: Being the first woman in history to earn the Grandmaster title, becoming the #1 ranked female player at 15, and remaining in the top 3 for 25 years, being the first in history, male or female, to win the Chess Triple Crown (World Blitz, Rapid, Classical World Championships), as well as winning 10 Olympiad medals (5 gold, 4 silver, 1 bronze) while recording a record 56 consecutive game scoring streak without a loss on board 1. Since retiring from chess competition, she became one of the top chess coaches in the world, leading her SPICE chess program to an unprecedented 7 consecutive Collegiate Division I Final Four Championships. She also founded the Susan Polgar Foundation which has awarded more than \$5 million in chess prizes/scholarships to young players, and [www.ChessDailyNews.com](http://www.ChessDailyNews.com), one of the most popular personal chess websites in the world.

Jorge Cori	2664
Wei Yi	2742

Chess Olympiad, Batumi, 2018

```

XI | | | | | | | | | Y
9- + - ♖ - ♔ k + 0
9+ p + l + r ♜ - 0
9- + p + - + - ♘ 0
9p - + p + p ♘ - 0
9P + - + - + P + 0
9+ - ♟ - ♟ P + P 0
9- ♟ L + - + Q ♜ 0
9+ R + - + R + K 0
xi i i i i i i i y

```

31. ♖b1 ♔c8?!

32. ♕d6!

32... ♖d8?!

33. ♕c5

```

XI | | | | | | | | | Y
9- + q ♔ - + k + 0
9+ p + l + r ♜ - 0
9- + p + - + - ♘ 0
9p - ♜ p + p ♘ - 0
9P + - + - + P + 0
9+ - ♟ - ♟ P + P 0
9- ♟ L + - + Q + 0
9+ - + - ♞ ♞ + K 0
xi i i i i i i i y

```

33... ♔c7? Wei underestimated the

34... gxf4? 35. ♖xf4

A) (41. ♕xg3? ♖h1)



B)



XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y  
 9- + - ♖ - ♔ + 0  
 9+ p + l + r ♜ - 0  
 9- + p + - + - ♘ 0  
 9p - + p + p ♘ - 0  
 9P + - + - + P + 0  
 9+ - ♙ - ♙ P + P 0  
 9- ♙ L + - + Q ♘ 0  
 9+ R + - + R + K 0  
 xi | i | i | i | i | i | i | y

34.f4!

34...fxg4?

Jorge Cori vs. Aleksandr Volodin, Chess Olympiad, Batumi 2018. Photo by David Llada

37...♔e5 38.♖xf7

XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y  
 9- + - ♔ - + k + 0  
 9+ p + - + R + - 0  
 9- + p + l + - ♜ 0  
 9p - ♘ p ♖ - + - 0  
 9P + - + - + P + 0  
 9+ - ♙ - ♙ - + - 0  
 9- ♙ L + - + Q + 0  
 9+ - + - ♖ - + K 0  
 xi | i | i | i | i | i | i | y

38...♙xf7?!

35.fxg5

XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y  
 9- + - ♔ - + k + 0  
 9+ p ♖ l + r ♜ - 0  
 9- + p + - + - ♘ 0  
 9p - ♘ p + - ♙ - 0  
 9P + - + - + p + 0  
 9+ - ♙ - ♙ - + P 0  
 9- ♙ L + - + Q + 0  
 9+ - + - ♖ R + K 0  
 xi | i | i | i | i | i | i | y

35...♙e6

39.g5!

39...♙f8 40.♙d4 ♖e6 41.♖h2 and Black resigned

Jorge Cori	2664
Yannick Pelletier	2544

Chess Olympiad, Batumi 2018

XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y  
 9r + - + k + - ♔ 0  
 9+ p + - + p p p 0  
 9p + - + p ♙ - + 0  
 9P - ♘ - + - + - 0  
 9- + L + - + - + 0  
 9+ - ♖ - + l + q 0  
 9- ♙ - + Q + - ♙ 0  
 9R - + R + - ♖ - 0  
 xi | i | i | i | i | i | i | y

20.fxg7 ♖g4+ 21.♔f2 ♖g8

21.♗b5? ♖g8+ 22.♔f2 ♖f5+

19...gxf6?

20.♖f1! ♖g8+ 21.♔f2

36.gxh6 ♙xh6 37.hxg4

```

XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y
9r + - + k + r + 0
9+ p + - + p + p 0
9p + - + p p - + 0
9P - v - + - + - 0
9- + L + - + - + 0
9+ - N - + l + q 0
9- P - + - K - P 0
9R - + R + Q + - 0
xi | i | i | i | i | i | i | y

```

21... ♖f5?

22. ♖xf3? ♜g3+  
 23. ♖e4 f5+ 24. ♖d4 ♜d8+ 25. ♖d5  
 ♜xd5+ 26. ♖xd5 ♜xb2+ 27. ♖c4 ♜b3+  
 28. ♖d4 ♜xd5

22. ♖e3!

22... ♜xc5+ 23. ♖xf3 ♜f5+ 24. ♖e3  
 ♜e5+ 25. ♖d2 ♜xb2+

```

XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y
9r + - + k + r + 0
9+ p + - + p + p 0
9p + - + p p - + 0
9P - + - + - + - 0
9- + L + - + - + 0
9+ - N - + - + - 0
9- P - K - + - v 0
9R - + R + Q + - 0
xi | i | i | i | i | i | i | y

```

26. ♖c1

26... ♜g2 27. ♖e2 ♜c8 28. ♖b1 f5  
 29. ♜f3 ♖f8 30. ♜xb7 ♜b8 31. ♜xa6  
 ♖g7 32. ♜d3 ♜b3 33. a6 ♜g3 34. ♜d4+  
 Black resigned

**Emilio Cordova** 2609

Ding Liren 2804

Chess Olympiad, Batumi 2018

1. ♖f3 g6 2. d4 ♖f6 3. g3 ♖g7  
 4. ♖g2 0-0 5. 0-0 d5 6. c4 c6  
 7. ♖bd2 a5 8. b3 a4 9. ♖b2 ♖e4  
 10. ♖xe4 dxe4 11. ♖e1 c5 12. ♖c2  
 ♖c6 13. e3 f5 14. ♖c3 ♜c7 15. ♖a3  
 cxd4 16. ♖b5 ♜b8 17. exd4

```

XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y
9r v | + - t k + 0
9+ p + - p - v p 0
9- + n + - + p + 0
9+ N + - + p + - 0
9p + P P p + - + 0
9+ P v - + - P - 0
9P + - + - P L P 0
9R - + Q + R K - 0
xi | i | i | i | i | i | i | y

```

17... ♖xd4 18. ♖xd4?!

18... ♜d8 19. ♖b6?

19... ♜xd1 20. ♜axd1 ♖e6 21. ♖c7 ♖f7  
 22. f3

```

XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y
9r v - + - + - + 0
9+ p N - p k v p 0
9- v - + l + p + 0
9+ - + - + p + - 0
9p + P + p + - + 0
9+ P + - + P P - 0
9P + - + - + L P 0
9+ - + R + R K - 0
xi | i | i | i | i | i | i | y

```



Ding Liren, Chess Olympiad, Batumi 2018.  
 Photo by Lennart Ootes

22... ♜a6! 23. ♖xa6 bxa6 24. c5 e3  
 25. ♜fe1 f4 26. ♖f1 g5 27. ♜d3 fxe3  
 28. h3 ♜f4 29. ♖g2 ♖xh3+  
 White resigned

Nguyen Ngoc Truong Son 2620

Nico Georgiadis 2522

Chess Olympiad, Batumi 2018

1. d4 ♖f6 2. ♖f3 d5 3. c4 e6 4. ♖c3 ♖b4  
 5. ♖g5 h6 6. ♖xf6 ♜xf6 7. e3 0-0 8. ♜c1  
 dxc4 9. ♖xc4 c5 10. dxc5 ♖d7 11. 0-0

11.xc5 12.b5 a6 13.bbd4 d7  
 14.c2 e5 15.e2 b6 16.g3 g4  
 17.e4 xf3 18.gxf3 xc4 19.xc4  
 e7 20.b3 ab8 21.c7 e6

```

XI | | | | | | | | | Y
9- t - + - t k + 0
9+ p R - v p p - 0
9p + - + q + - p 0
9+ - + - p - + - 0
9- + - + Q + - + 0
9+ P + - P P N - 0
9P + - + - P - P 0
9+ - + - + R K - 0
xi i i i i i i i y
    
```

22.f4! fc8

23.fc1

```

XI | | | | | | | | | Y
9- t r + - + k + 0
9+ p R - v p p - 0
9p + - + q + - p 0
9+ - + - p - + - 0
9- + - + Q P - + 0
9+ P + - P - N - 0
9P + - + - P - P 0
9+ - R - + - K - 0
xi i i i i i i i y
    
```

23...xc7

24.xc7 d6

25.xe5

BOARD 1 – CHESS OLYMPIAD-MEN, Batumi, Georgia, Sep 24 - Oct 5, 2018						
RK	NAME	TEAM	TPR	PTS.	%	GAMES
1	DING LIREN	CHN	2873	5½	68,8	8
2	FABIANO CARUANA	USA	2859	7	70,0	10
3	ANISH GIRI	NED	2814	8½	77,3	11

BOARD 2 – CHESS OLYMPIAD-MEN, Batumi, Georgia, Sep 24 - Oct 5, 2018						
RK	NAME	TEAM	TPR	PTS.	%	GAMES
1	NGUYEN NGOC TRUONG SON	VNE	2804	8½	85,0	10
2	IAN NEPOMNIACHTCHI	RUS	2790	7½	75,0	10
3	TEIMOUR RADJABOV	AZE	2788	7	70,0	10

BOARD 3 – CHESS OLYMPIAD-MEN, Batumi, Georgia, Sep 24 - Oct 5, 2018						
RK	NAME	TEAM	TPR	PTS.	%	GAMES
1	JORGE CORI	PER	2925	7½	93,8	8
2	VLADIMIR KRAMNIK	RUS	2770	6½	72,2	9
3	KACPER PIORUN	POL	2765	6½	72,2	9

BOARD 4 – CHESS OLYMPIAD-MEN, Batumi, Georgia, Sep 24 - Oct 5, 2018						
RK	NAME	TEAM	TPR	PTS.	%	GAMES
1	DANIEL FRIDMAN	GER	2814	7½	83,3	9
2	JACEK TOMCZAK	POL	2808	5½	78,6	7
3	BU XIANGZHI	CHN	2774	7½	75,0	10

BOARD 5 – CHESS OLYMPIAD-MEN, Batumi, Georgia, Sep 24 - Oct 5, 2018						
RK	NAME	TEAM	TPR	PTS.	%	GAMES
1	ANTON KOROBV	UKR	2773	6½	81,3	8
2	ILIA SMIRIN	ISR	2746	7½	83,3	9
3	CHRISTIAN BAUER	FRA	2743	7	77,8	9

25...d1+ 26.g2 d6

```

XI | | | | | | | | | Y
9- t - + - + k + 0
9+ p R - + p p - 0
9p + - v - + - p 0
9+ - + - W - + - 0
9- + - + - P - + 0
9+ P + - P - N - 0
9P + - + - P K P 0
9+ - + q + - + - 0
xi i i i i i i i y
    
```

27.d7!

29...f8 30.f5

```

XI | | | | | | | | | Y
9- t - + - k - + 0
9+ p + R + p p - 0
9p + - + - v - p 0
9+ - + - + N + - 0
9- + - + - P - + 0
9+ P + - P - + - 0
9P + - + - P K P 0
9+ - + - + - + - 0
xi i i i i i i i y
    
```

30...b6

27...xe5 28.xd1 f6 29.d7



31.e4 h5 32.e5 ♔d8 33.♗f3 g6  
 34.♘d6 ♕e7 35.♗e4 ♕xd6 36.exd6  
 ♖e8+ 37.♗d5 ♖e2 38.♖d8+ ♗g7  
 39.♖a8 ♖d2+ 40.♗c6 ♖c2+ 41.♗xb6  
 ♖d2 42.♗c7 ♖c2+ 43.♗d8  
**Black resigned**

Mashala Kabamwanishi

Byron Small 1721

Chess Olympiad, Batumi 2018

1.e4 e5 2.♗f3 ♘c6 3.♕b5 a6 4.♕a4  
 ♗f6 5.0-0 ♗xe4 6.d4 b5 7.♕b3 d5  
 8.dxe5 ♕e6 9.c3 ♕e7 10.♗bd2 ♗c5  
 11.♕c2

```

X| | | | | | | | Y
9r + - ♗k + - t 0
9+ - ♖ - ♜ p p p 0
9p + n + l + - + 0
9+ p ♗ ♖ ♗ - + - 0
9- + - + - + - + 0
9+ - ♗ - + N + - 0
9P ♗ L ♖ - ♗ P ♗ 0
9R - ♘ Q + R ♖ - 0
xi i i i i i i i y
  
```

11...0-0

12.♗d4 ♕d7 13.f4

13...♗e6

14.♗2b3

WOMEN

BOARD 1 — CHESS OLYMPIAD-WOMEN, Batumi, Georgia, Sep 24 - Oct 5, 2018						
RK	NAME	TEAM	TPR	PTS.	%	GAMES
1	JU WENJUN	CHN	2661	7	77,8	9
2	HOANG THANH TRANG	HUN	2636	8½	85,0	10
3	NANA DZAGNIDZE	GEO1	2600	7½	75,0	10

BOARD 2 — CHESS OLYMPIAD-WOMEN, Batumi, Georgia, Sep 24 - Oct 5, 2018						
RK	NAME	TEAM	TPR	PTS.	%	GAMES
1	MARIYA MUZYCHUK	UKR	2616	8	80,0	10
2	IRINA KRUSH	USA	2552	7½	75,0	10
3	ALEKSANDRA GORYACHKINA	RUS	2492	6½	72,2	9

BOARD 3 — CHESS OLYMPIAD-WOMEN, Batumi, Georgia, Sep 24 - Oct 5, 2018						
RK	NAME	TEAM	TPR	PTS.	%	GAMES
1	KHANIM BALAJAYEVA	AZE	2522	7	77,8	9
2	HUANG QIAN	CHN	2459	7½	68,2	11
3	ANA MATNADZE	ESP	2442	7	77,8	9

BOARD 4 — CHESS OLYMPIAD-WOMEN, Batumi, Georgia, Sep 24 - Oct 5, 2018						
RK	NAME	TEAM	TPR	PTS.	%	GAMES
1	MARINA BRUNELLO	ITA	2505	8½	85,0	10
2	LEI TINGJIE	CHN	2498	8½	77,3	11
3	BELA KHOTENASHVILI	GEO1	2496	7	77,8	9

BOARD 5 — CHESS OLYMPIAD-WOMEN, Batumi, Georgia, Sep 24 - Oct 5, 2018						
RK	NAME	TEAM	TPR	PTS.	%	GAMES
1	ALSHAEBY BOSHRA	JOR	2568	8	100,0	8
2	OLGA GIRYA	RUS	2511	7½	83,3	9
3	JENNIFER YU	USA	2407	8	72,7	11

14...♗cxd4 15.♗xd4 ♕c5

16.f5 ♗xd4 17.cxd4 ♕b6 18.f6 g6

```

X| | | | | | | | Y
9r + - ♗ - t k + 0
9+ - ♖ l + p + p 0
9p ♜ - + - ♗ p + 0
9+ p + ♖ ♗ - + - 0
9- + - ♗ - + - + 0
9+ - + - + - + - 0
9P ♗ L + - + ♗ ♗ 0
9R - ♘ Q + R ♖ - 0
xi i i i i i i i y
  
```

19.♗d2 ♗h8 20.♗h6 ♖g8

```

X| | | | | | | | Y
9r + - ♗ - + r ♖ 0
9+ - ♖ l + p + p 0
9p ♜ - + - ♗ p ♗ 0
9+ p + ♖ ♗ - + - 0
9- + - ♗ - + - + 0
9+ - + - + - + - 0
9P ♗ L + - + ♗ ♗ 0
9R - ♘ - + R ♖ - 0
xi i i i i i i i y
  
```

21.♖f4! ♗f8

22.♗xh7+  
**Black resigned**



Ju Wenjun	2561
Zhaoqin Peng	2367

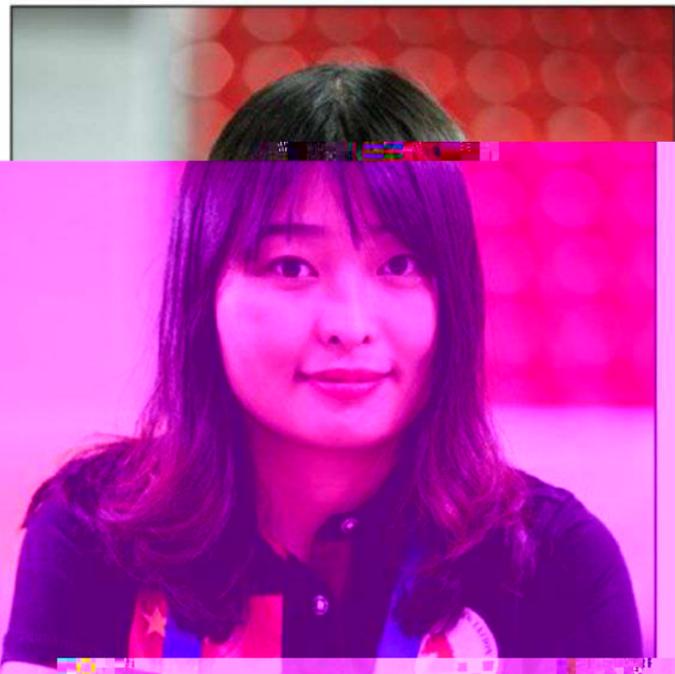
Chess Olympiad, Batumi 2018

```

XI | | | | | | | | | Y
9- + - + - + - + 0
9+ - ♗ - + ♖ ♗ - 0
9p + q + n ♘ ♘ + 0
9+ ♘ + ♘ + - + - 0
9- + - ♙ - + - ♞ 0
9+ ♙ + - ♗ ♙ - 0
9♙ + - + - ♙ - + 0
9+ - + - + ♙ ♞ - 0
xi | | | | | | | | | y

```

Ju Wenjun, Chess Olympiad, Batumi 2018. Photo by David Llada



35. ♔d3 ♜f8

36. ♜xg6! ♜xg6 37. ♖h5 f5  
38. ♖xf5+ and Black resigned

Hoang Thanh Trang	2423
Humpy Koneru	2557

Chess Olympiad, Batumi 2018

1.d4 ♜f6 2. ♜f3 d5 3.e3 e6 4. ♔d3  
b6 5. ♜bd2 ♔b7 6.b3 ♔d6 7. ♔b2  
0-0 8.0-0 ♜e4 9. ♜e5 f6 10. ♜ec4  
♜xd2 11. ♜xd2 f5 12.f4 ♜d7  
13.g4 g5

```

XI | | | | | | | | | Y
9r + - ♗ - ♖ k + 0
9p | ♘ n + - + p 0
9- ♘ - ♗ ♘ + - + 0
9+ - + ♘ + ♘ ♘ - 0
9- + - ♙ - ♙ ♙ + 0
9+ ♙ + ♗ ♙ - + - 0
9♙ ♗ ♙ ♞ - + - ♙ 0
9R - + ♙ + R ♞ - 0
xi | | | | | | | | | y

```

14.gxf5 exf5

15. ♖h5

15...gxf4 16. ♔xf5 ♜f6 17. ♖h3

```

XI | | | | | | | | | Y
9r + - ♗ - ♖ k + 0
9p | ♘ - + - + p 0
9- ♘ - ♗ - ♗ - + 0
9+ - + ♘ + ♗ + - 0
9- + - ♙ - ♙ - + 0
9+ ♙ + - ♙ - + ♙ 0
9♙ ♗ ♙ ♞ - + - ♙ 0
9R - + - + R ♞ - 0
xi | | | | | | | | | y

```

17... ♔c8

A)

```

XI | | | | | | | | | Y
9r + - + - ♖ - ♞ 0
9p | ♘ - ♗ - + p 0
9- ♘ - ♗ ♗ ♗ - + 0
9+ - + ♙ + - + - 0
9- + - + ♘ + - ♗ 0
9+ ♙ + - ♙ - + - 0
9♙ ♗ ♙ ♞ - + - ♙ 0
9R - + - + R ♞ - 0
xi | | | | | | | | | y

```

22. ♔xf6+? ♙xf6 23. ♖xf6+ ♖xf6  
24. ♙xf6 ♔b2 25. ♙af1 ♔c3! and White is

B)

23. ♙f1  
ends in the same result after 23... ♖xb2  
24. ♖g4+ ♔h7 25. ♖h3+ ♔g8 26. ♖e6+

```

XI | | | | | | | | | Y
9r + - + - ♖ - + 0
9p | ♘ - + - ♞ - 0
9- ♘ - ♗ ♙ ♗ - + 0
9+ - + ♙ + - + - 0
9- + - + ♘ + - ♗ 0
9+ ♙ + - ♙ - + - 0
9♙ ♗ ♙ ♞ - + - ♙ 0
9R - + - + - + ♞ 0
xi | | | | | | | | | y

```

27.♔xf1 ♖f6 28.♙e7 ♕f7 29.♙xf6  
♔xf6 30.♞xd5

```

X| | | | | | | | | Y
9- + r + r + - + 0
9p - p - + - + p 0
9- p - + - ♞ - + 0
9+ - + R + - + - 0
9- + - P - + - + 0
9+ P + - + - + - 0
9P + P + - + - P 0
9+ - + - + K + - 0
xi i i i i i i i y
  
```

30...♞f8 31.♔e2 ♔e6 32.♞h5 ♞f7  
33.♔e3 c6 34.c4 a5 35.♞h6+ ♔d7  
36.d5 ♞e7+ 37.♔d4 cxd5 38.cxd5  
♞e2 39.♞xh7+ ♔d6 40.♞h6+ ♔c7  
41.a4 ♞b2 42.♔c4 ♞c2+ 43.♔b5  
♞c5+ 44.♔a6 ♞xd5 45.♞xb6 ♞h5  
46.♞b5 ♞xh2 47.♔xa5 ♞h8 48.♞c5+  
♔d6 49.b4 ♞b8 50.♞c3

**Black resigned**

Ding Liren and Ju Wenjun,  
Chess Olympiad, Batumi 2018.  
Photo by David Llada

18.exf4 ♙xf5 19.♔xf5 ♔c8!

```

X| | | | | | | | | Y
9r + q + - t k + 0
9p - p - + - + p 0
9- p - ♜ - ♞ - + 0
9+ - + p + Q + - 0
9- + - P - P - + 0
9+ P + - + - + - 0
9P ♘ P ♞ - + - P 0
9R - + - + R ♞ - 0
xi i i i i i i i y
  
```

24.♙a3 ♞f7 25.♔e5

```

X| | | | | | | | | Y
9- + r + - + k + 0
9p - p - + r + p 0
9- p - + - + - + 0
9+ - + p ♞ - + n 0
9- + - P - ♜ - + 0
9♘ P + - + - + - 0
9P + P + - + - P 0
9+ - + - R R ♞ - 0
xi i i i i i i i y
  
```

25...♙xe5?!

20.♔xc8 ♞axc8 21.♞ae1 ♔h5

22.f5 ♙f4

26.♞xe5 ♞xf1+

23.♔f3 ♞xf5



Ketevan Arakhamia-Grant	2345
Patricia Castillo Pena	1810

Tiger Hillarp Persson	2544
Tomas Laurusas	2484

Chess Olympiad, Batumi 2018

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.♙b5+ ♘d7 4.a4 ♘gf6 5.♘c3 a6 6.♙c4 g6 7.a5 ♙g7?

```

XI | | | | | | | | Y
9r + l ♘k + - t 0
9+ p + n p p ♖ p 0
9p + - p - ♗ p + 0
9♙ - p - + - + - 0
9- + L + P + - + 0
9+ - ♗ - + N + - 0
9- ♙ ♙ ♙ - ♙ ♙ ♙ 0
9R - ♖ Q ♗ - + R 0
xi i i i i i i y

```

8.♙xf7+!

Chess Olympiad, Batumi 2018

```

XI | | | | | | | | Y
9- + - + - t k + 0
9+ - + - ♗ p + - 0
9l p L + - + p + 0
9p - + - + - + p 0
9- + - + - + - R 0
9+ P + - R K ♙ - 0
9P + - + P ♙ - ♙ 0
9+ - + - + q t - 0
xi i i i i i i y

```



30.♙f4! ♙xf2+?

31.♙g5 ♙g7

8...♙xf7 9.♘g5+ ♙g8 10.♘e6 ♙e8 11.♘c7 ♙f7 12.♘xa8

```

32.♙f4 ♙xh2 33.♙f6+ ♙h7
XI | | | | | | | | Y
9- + - + - t - + 0
9+ - + - + p + k 0
9l p L + - ♗ p + 0
9p - + - + - ♗ p 0
9- + - + - R - + 0
9+ P + - R - ♙ - 0
9P + - + P + - ♗ 0
9+ - + - + - t - 0
xi i i i i i i y

```



34.♙xg6+!

34...♙h8

35.♙h6!

Black resigned

34.dxc5 ♖e5!

35.♖a6

35...♖xa6 36.♖xe5 ♖d3+ 37.♔c1  
♖xb3 38.♖a1

```

X| | | | | | | | Y
9- t - + - + k + 0
9+ - + - + - p - 0
9- + p + - s - + 0
9p - P p + - + - 0
9P + - + p + - + 0
9+ q + - P p + P 0
9- + - v - P - + 0
9W - K - + - + R 0
xi i i i i i i i y
  
```

38...d4!

39.exd4 e3 40.♖xe3

40...♖b4 41.♖g1 ♖c4+ and White resigned

Anne Haast	2345
Alexandra Kosteniuk	2559

Chess Olympiad, Batumi 2018

```

X| | | | | | | | Y
9- + - + - t k + 0
9p R + - + - p - 0
9- + p + p + - p 0
9+ - + - p - W - 0
9- + - v - + - + 0
9+ - + - N - P - 0
9P P P + Q P P + 0
9+ K + - + - + - 0
xi i i i i i i i y
  
```

23...♖xe3 24.fxe3 ♖g4!

25.♖e1

```

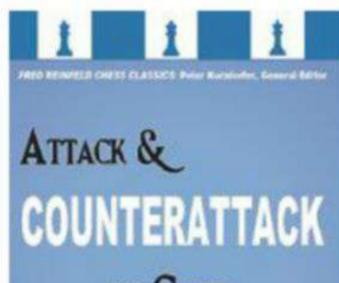
X| | | | | | | | Y
9- + - + - t k + 0
9p R + - + - p - 0
9- + p + p + - p 0
9+ - + - p - + - 0
9- + - + - + q + 0
9+ - + - P - P - 0
9P P P + - + P + 0
9+ K + - W - + - 0
xi i i i i i i i y
  
```

25...♖xg3! 26.♖e2 ♖g4!

White resigned

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### Attack & Counterattack in Chess

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THE PERUVIAN STAR CATCHES UP WITH ILLYA NYZHNYK IN THE FINAL ROUND, THEN WINS THE ARMAGEDDON TIE-BREAK

# LAST MINUTE VICTORY FOR JORGE CORI AT THE SPICE CUP

By GM JORGE CORI

AFTER HIS GOLD MEDAL WIN FOR BEST INDIVIDUAL RATING PERFORMANCE (2925 ELO!) AT THE BATUMI OLYMPIAD, JORGE CORI, MEMBER OF THE SUPER-STRONG WEBSTER UNIVERSITY CHESS TEAM, WENT ON TO CLAIM THE SPICE CUP AHEAD OF SOME OF THE BEST YOUNG PLAYERS IN THE USA. WITH FIVE WINS, THREE DRAWS AND ONLY ONE DEFEAT, HE IS NOW APPROACHING THE 2700 MARK.



Elizabeth J. Stroble (Webster University President), Jorgo Cori, Illya Nyzhnyk, Susan Polgar SPICE CUP. Photo by Paul Trong

th

### CLAYTON, MO

October 23–28, 2018  
SPICE Cup

1-2. Jorge Cori, Illya Nyzhnyk **6½**  
3-6. Lazaro Bruzon, Benjamin Bok, Benjamin Gledura, Awonder Liang **6**  
7-10. Alexandr Lenderman, Aleksandr Shimanov, Yuniesky Quesada, Akshat Chandra **5½**  
(38 players in total)

Yuniesky Quesada	2622
Jorge Cori	2664

SPICE Cup Open, Clayton 2018

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0
9+	-	+	-	♞	p	+	P	0
9-	+	-	+	I	R	-	+	0
9+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	0
9p	+	p	+	L	+	-	+	0
9P	-	+	-	♞	-	P	-	0
9-	+	-	+	-	+	-	t	0
9+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	0
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y

59.♞f4?

60...♙d7 61.♞b7

59...♗f8 60.♞h4 ♞xh4 61.gxh4 ♗g7  
62.♙c2 ♙d7 63.♗d4 f5 64.♗xc4 ♗xh7  
65.♗d5 ♗g6 66.♗d6 ♙b5 67.♗e5  
♗h5 68.♙xf5 ♗xh4 **Draw**

Vasif Durarbayli	2629
Jorge Cori	2664

SPICE Cup Open, Clayton 2018

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4  
♗c6 5.♗c3 ♞c7 6.♙e3 a6 7.♞f3 ♗f6  
8.0-0-0 d6 9.♗xc6 ♞xc6 10.g4 b5  
11.g5 ♗d7 12.a3 ♙b7 13.♞h3 ♞c8

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9-	+	r	+	k	v	-	t	0
9+	+	l	+	n	+	p	p	0
9p	+	q	p	p	+	-	+	0
9+	p	+	-	+	-	P	-	0
9-	+	-	+	P	+	-	+	0
9P	-	♞	-	v	-	+	Q	0
9-	P	P	+	-	P	-	P	0
9+	-	♞	R	+	L	+	R	0
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y

14.g6! ♗f6 15.♞g1 ♞c7 16.♙d3 e5  
17.gxf7+ ♞xf7 18.♗d5 ♙e7 19.f4  
exf4 20.♙d4 ♞f8 21.♗xf4

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9-	+	r	+	k	t	-	+	0
9+	+	l	+	-	v	q	p	0
9p	+	-	p	-	♞	-	+	0
9+	p	+	-	+	-	+	-	0
9-	+	-	v	P	♞	-	+	0
9P	-	+	L	+	-	+	Q	0
9-	P	P	+	-	+	-	P	0
9+	-	♞	R	+	-	R	-	0
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y

21...g5!

22.♗d5?

24...dxe5 25.♙f5

22...g4 23.♗xf6+ ♙xf6 24.♞e3 ♞g7  
25.♙xf6 ♞xf6 26.♗b1 ♞c5 27.♙e2?

27...♞g5

28.♞d4 h5 29.b4?! ♞e5 30.♙d3 ♗f7  
31.♞df1 ♗g7 32.♞xf6 ♞xf6

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y	
9-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0	
9+	+	l	+	-	+	-	♞	-	0
9p	+	-	p	-	♞	-	+	0	
9+	p	+	-	t	-	+	p	0	
9-	P	-	♞	P	+	p	+	0	
9P	-	+	L	+	-	+	-	0	
9-	+	P	+	-	+	-	P	0	
9+	K	+	-	+	-	R	-	0	
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y	

33.♞f1?

33...♞f5!!

34.♞xf6+ ♞xf6 35.♞e1 ♗h6

36.♞e2 h4 37.♗c1 ♗g5 38.e5 dxe5  
39.♞xe5+ ♗f4 40.♞h5 h3

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0
9+	+	l	+	-	+	-	+	0
9p	+	-	+	-	t	-	+	0
9+	p	+	-	+	-	+	R	0
9-	P	-	+	-	♞	p	+	0
9P	-	+	L	+	-	+	p	0
9-	+	P	+	-	+	-	P	0
9+	-	♞	-	+	-	+	-	0
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y

41.♗d2 ♙e4 42.♞h8 ♙xd3 43.cxd3  
♗f3+ 44.♞g8 ♞f4 45.♞g6 ♗g2 46.♗e3  
♞f3+ 47.♗e4 ♗xh2 48.♞xg4 ♞g3  
49.♞h4 ♗g2 50.d4 h2 51.♞xh2+  
♗xh2 52.d5 ♞xa3 53.d6 ♞a1 54.♗e5  
♞d1 55.♗e6 ♗g3 **White resigned**



▲ Awonder Liang, SPICE Cup Open 2018. Photo by Paul Trong

Awonder Liang	2572
Jorge Cori	2664

SPICE Cup Open, Clayton, 2018  
Annotated by GM Awonder Liang

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4  
♘c6 5.♘c3 ♖c7 6.♙e3 a6 7.♗f3 ♘f6  
8.0-0-0 d6!?

```

XI | | | | | | | | Y
9r + l + k v - t 0
9+ p w - + p p p 0
9p + n p p n - + 0
9+ - + - + - + - 0
9- + - N P + - + 0
9+ - N - V Q + - 0
9P P P + - P P P 0
9+ - K R + L + R 0
xi i i i i i i i y

```

9.♙e2

9...♘xd4 10.♙xd4 e5 11.♙e3

B)

```

XI | | | | | | | | Y
9r + l + k v - t 0
9+ p w - + p p p 0
9p + n p p n - + 0
9+ - + - + - + - 0
9- + - + P + - + 0
9+ - N - V Q + - 0
9P P P + - P P P 0
9+ - K R + L + R 0
xi i i i i i i i y

```

9...bxc6 10.g4 h5 11.g5 ♘g4  
12.♙f4 ♙e7 13.♙e2 ♘e5 14.♙xe5 dxe5  
15.g6 fxg6 16.♗g3±

A)  
A1)  
A2)

A3)

```

XI | | | | | | | | Y
9r + l + k v - t 0
9+ p w - + p p p 0
9p + n p p n - + 0
9+ - + - + - + - 0
9- + - N P + - + 0
9+ - N - V Q + - 0
9P P P + L P P P 0
9+ - K R + - + R 0
xi i i i i i i i y

```

9...♙e7

10.♙xd4 e5 11.♙e3

b5±

12.♘xb5 axb5 13.♙xb5+ ♔d8 14.exd6  
♗d7! 15.♙xd7 ♙xf3

13...axb5 14.♙xb5+ ♔e7  
15.♙c4+

10.♗g3

10...0-0 11.f4 ♘h8 12.♘b1 ♙d7 13.♘f3

A) 14...b5⇐

B) 15...♘e4!! 16.♘xe4 ♘xd4

13...♙ac8

14.♙d2

16.♙h3!  
 XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y  
 ♁- + r + n t - ♔0  
 ♁+ p w l v p p p 0  
 ♁p + n + p + - + 0  
 ♁+ - + p ♡ - + - 0  
 ♁- + - + - ♡ - + 0  
 ♁+ - ♠ - ♚ N + Q0  
 ♁P ♡ P R L + P ♡ 0  
 ♁+ K + - + - + R0  
 xi | i | i | i | i | i | i | y

17...f5 18.exf6  
 ♘xf6 19.♙xh7±

16...f5 17.g4 fxg4 18.♙xg4 ♙b4

19.♘g5 ♘e7 20.♙h5 h6 21.♘f7+

XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y  
 ♁- + r + - t - ♔0  
 ♁+ p w l v p p p 0  
 ♁p + n p p ♠ - + 0  
 ♁+ - + - + - + - 0  
 ♁- + - + P ♡ - + 0  
 ♁+ - ♠ - ♚ N ♙ - 0  
 ♁P ♡ P R L + P ♡ 0  
 ♁+ K + - + - + R0  
 xi | i | i | i | i | i | i | y

14...d5

XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y  
 ♁- + r + n t - ♔0  
 ♁+ p w l ♠ N p - 0  
 ♁p + - + p + - ♡ 0  
 ♁+ - + p ♡ - + Q0  
 ♁- ♚ - + - ♡ - + 0  
 ♁+ - ♠ - ♚ - + - 0  
 ♁P ♡ P R L + - ♡ 0  
 ♁+ K + - + - + R0  
 xi | i | i | i | i | i | i | y

21...♙g8!

22.♘h6+ gxh6 23.♙g1+ ♘g7 24.♙xg7+

15.e5 ♘e8?

♘d3= 19...♘d3 20.♙e7!±

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27...♙f7  
 28.♙g4

28.♙c5!?

24...♙xg7 25.♙d3

resilient defense:

25...♙h8!  
 XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y  
 ♁- + r + - + - t 0  
 ♁+ p w l ♠ - ♔ - 0  
 ♁p + - + p + - ♡ 0  
 ♁+ - + p ♡ - + Q0  
 ♁- ♚ - + - ♡ - + 0  
 ♁+ - ♠ L ♚ - + - 0  
 ♁P ♡ P R - + - ♡ 0  
 ♁+ K + - + - + - 0  
 xi | i | i | i | i | i | i | y



26. ♖h4!

♔f8 28.f6↔  
28. ♖h4+ ♔f7 29. ♕d4!+

26... ♗g8

27. ♖g2+ ♔f8 28. ♖g4

28... ♕e8?

```

XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y
9- + r + l k n t 0
9+ p ♗ - + - + - 0
9p + - + p + - p 0
9+ - + p ♖ - + - 0
9- ♗ - + - ♖ Q + 0
9+ - ♗ L ♗ - + - 0
9P ♖ P + - + R ♖ 0
9+ K + - + - + - 0
xi i i i i i i i y

```

29.a3?

fxe6 ♕xe5

29...h5 Or

30. ♖g5

```

XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y
9- + r + l k n t 0
9+ p ♗ - + - + - 0
9p + - + p + - + 0
9+ - + p ♖ - ♗ p 0
9- ♗ - + - ♖ - + 0
9P - ♗ L ♗ - + - 0
9- ♖ P + - + R ♖ 0
9+ K + - + - + - 0
xi i i i i i i i y

```

30... ♕xa3?!

31. ♗xd5!

31...exd5

```

XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y
9- + r + l k n t 0
9+ p ♗ - + - + - 0
9p + - + - + - + 0
9+ - + p ♖ - ♗ p 0
9- + - + - ♖ - + 0
9v - + L ♗ - + - 0
9- ♖ P + - + R ♖ 0
9+ K + - + - + - 0
xi i i i i i i i y

```

32. ♖f5+?

32... ♕f7 33.e6

30.

33... ♖e8 34.exf7 ♖xf7 35. ♖xf7+  
♔xf7 36. ♕g6+ ♔f8 37. ♕xe8

```

XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y
9- + - + L k n t 0
9+ p + - + - + - 0
9p + - + - + - + 0
9+ - + p + - + p 0
9- + - + - ♖ - + 0
9v - + - ♗ - + - 0
9- ♖ P + - + R ♖ 0
9+ K + - + - + - 0
xi i i i i i i i y

```

37... ♕e7?

42. ♕b2 ♖xg7 43. ♖xg7+ ♔xg7 44. ♕c3  
♔f6 45. ♕d4 ♕e6! 46. ♕c5 h4 47. ♕b6  
♔f5 48. ♕xb7 ♔xf4 49. ♕xa6 ♔f3 50.a4  
♔g2 51.a5 ♔xh2 52. ♕b5 ♔g3 53.a6  
h3 54.a7 h2 55.a8 ♖ h1 ♖=

38. ♕d7 ♖h6 39.f5

```

XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y
9- + - + - k n + 0
9+ p + L ♗ - + - 0
9p + - + - + - t 0
9+ - + p + ♖ + p 0
9- + - + - + - + 0
9+ - + - ♗ - + - 0
9- ♖ P + - + R ♖ 0
9+ K + - + - + - 0
xi i i i i i i i y

```

39... ♖h7 40. ♕e6 ♗f6 Or

41. ♖g6 ♔e8 42. ♕d4 ♗d7 43. ♕g8  
Black resigned

rd



FRESH IDEAS IN THE CLOSED RUY LOPEZ

# THE BREYER LABYRINTH

A GRANDMASTER EXAMINES THE RARE LINE 11...C5, IN PLACE OF THE CUSTOMARY 11...B7 IN THE BREYER VARIATION, AND REVEALS HOW A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT MOVE ORDER CAN SURPRISE EVEN A THEORETICALLY WELL-PREPARED OPPONENT BY INTRODUCING NEW METHODS OF PLAY NOT USUALLY SEEN IN THE WELL-TRODDEN PATHS OF THIS EVER-POPULAR OPENING.

By **GM ALEXANDER IPATOV**



# A

Born in Ukraine 25 years ago, **Alexander Ipatov** won the World Junior Championship in 2012, ahead of Ding Liren, Rapport, Yu Yangyi and Wei Yi. He was very close to repeating this success the following year – but he had to settle for silver. He played under the Turkish flag for a number of years and won their national championship in 2014 and 2015. Currently, he is a full-time MBA student at Saint Louis University, as well as a member of SLU Collegiate Chess Team.



1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 a6  
4.♙a4 ♘f6 5.0-0 ♙e7 6.♞e1 b5 7.♙b3  
d6 8.c3 0-0 9.h3 ♘b8 10.d4 ♘bd7  
11.♘bd2 11...c5!?,

XI | | | | | | | | Y  
9r + l ♘ - t k + 0  
9+ - + n ♘ p p p 0  
9p + - p - ♘ - + 0  
9+ p p - p - + - 0  
9- + - ♞ P + - + 0  
9+ L ♞ - + N + P 0  
9P ♞ - ♞ - ♞ P + 0  
9R - ♘ QR - ♞ - 0  
xi i i i i i i i y

12.♘f1

A) 14...♘c5 15.♘3h2  
a5 16.a3 ♞b8 17.♙d2 ♘fd7 18.♘g3  
♞d8 19.♘f5 ♘b6 20.♘xe7+ ♞xe7  
21.♙e3 ♘ba4 22.♞b1 f5!

B)

A)

B)

15.♘f5 ♞e8 16.♘b3 ♙f8  
17.♘xd6 ♙xd6 18.♞xd6 ♙xe4 19.♙xe4  
♘xe4 20.♞d4 ♘dc5 21.♞xd8 ♞axd8=

C)

XI | | | | | | | | Y  
9r + l ♘ r + k + 0  
9+ - + n ♘ p p p 0  
9p + - p - ♘ - + 0  
9+ p p - p - + - 0  
9- + - ♞ P + - + 0  
9+ - ♞ - + N + P 0  
9P ♞ L ♞ - ♞ P + 0  
9R - ♘ QR - ♞ - 0  
xi i i i i i i i y

C1) 14.♘g3  
12. ♘f1 ♞e8 13. ♘g3  
♙f8 14.♙c2

C1a)

C1b) 18...♘c6  
19.♙xf6 gxf6 20.♘e3

C1c)

C2) 17.♙b2 ♘e5 18.♙c2 ♙d7=; 17.♞xa4  
♘e5=  
C2b)

C2c) 18.♙d4 ♞b8!∞

12...♞e8 13.♘g3 ♙f8!?

XI | | | | | | | | Y  
9r + l ♘ r ♘ k + 0  
9+ - + n + p p p 0  
9p + - p - ♘ - + 0  
9+ p p - p - + - 0  
9- + - ♞ P + - + 0  
9+ L ♞ - + N ♞ P 0  
9P ♞ - + - ♞ P + 0  
9R - ♘ QR - ♞ - 0  
xi i i i i i i i y

14.♘g5

14...♙b7

16.a4 g6 17.♙g5

A)

23.♞de2 d5!

B)

XI | | | | | | | | Y  
9r + l ♘ r ♘ k + 0  
9+ - + n + p p p 0  
9p + - p - ♘ - + 0  
9+ p + - + - + - 0  
9- + - ♞ P + - + 0  
9+ - + - + - ♞ P 0  
9P ♞ L + - ♞ P + 0  
9R - ♘ QR - ♞ - 0  
xi i i i i i i i y

B1) 17...♘c5  
18.♞f3 ♞b6∞

B2)

B2a)

21.♞d3  
g6+ 22.♙h4? g5  
23.♙g3 ♘xh5 24.♞xh5 ♘f6 25.♞f3  
♘e4+

B2b)

21...h6

22. ♖xf7 ♔xf7

23. ♕c7! ♖

23. ♖xf7?

23... ♔xf7 24. ♕b3+ ♕d5--+

**B2c)**

**B2c1)**

**B2c11)**

20. ♕e3 ♖xd5

21. a3 ♖xe3 22. ♖xe3 ♖b6

**B2c12)**

**B2c2)**

**B2c3)**

**B2c31)**

20. ♖e3 ♖e8 21. a4 bxa4

22. ♕xa4 ♖xe3 23. ♖xe3 ♕e4 24. ♕d2

♖c5=

**B2c32)**

```
XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y
9r + - + - ♖ k + 0
9+ l + n + p p p 0
9p ♖ - + - ♗ - + 0
9+ p + P + N + - 0
9- + - ♗ - + - + 0
9+ - + - + - + P 0
9P ♖ L + - ♖ P + 0
9R - ♖ - ♗ - ♗ - 0
xi i i i i i i i y
```

20. ♕e3?! ♖xd5!

**A)**

```
XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y
9r + l ♖ r ♖ k + 0
9+ - + n + p p p 0
9p + - + - + - + 0
9+ p + p ♖ N + - 0
9- + p ♖ n + - + 0
9+ - + - + N + P 0
9P ♖ L + - ♖ P + 0
9R - ♖ QR - ♗ - 0
i i i i i i i i i
```

**A1)**

```
XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y
9r + l ♖ r ♖ k + 0
9+ - + n + p p p 0
9p + - + - + - + 0
9+ p + - ♖ N + - 0
9- + p ♖ L + - + 0
9+ - + - + N + P 0
9P ♖ - + - ♖ P + 0
9R - ♖ Q + - ♗ - 0
xi i i i i i i i y
```

1

20. ♖h6+ gxh6

21. ♖xe5 ♗a7 22. ♖c6 ♖h4 23. ♖xa7

♖xe4 24. ♖xc8 ♗xc8 25. ♕e3 ♕g7=

**A2)**

21. ♗f1! ♗a7

```
XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y
9- ♗ l ♖ r ♖ k + 0
9t - + - + p + p 0
9p + - + - + p + 0
9+ p + p ♖ - ♗ - 0
9- + p ♖ - + - + 0
9+ - + - + - ♖ P 0
9P ♖ L + - + P + 0
9R - ♖ Q + R ♗ - 0
xi i i i i i i i y
```

2. ♗f6!!

22... ♕g7 23. ♖xh7! ♔xh7

24. ♕g5!+

♖h5+ or

♗xg6

21... ♕g7 22. e6

fxe6 23. ♖xh7!±

**B)**

```
XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y
9r + - ♖ r ♖ k + 0
9+ l + n + p p p 0
9p + - p - ♗ - + 0
9+ p p - + N + - 0
9- + - ♖ P + - + 0
9+ L + - + N + P 0
9P ♖ - + - ♖ P + 0
9R - ♖ QR - ♗ - 0
xi i i i i i i i y
```

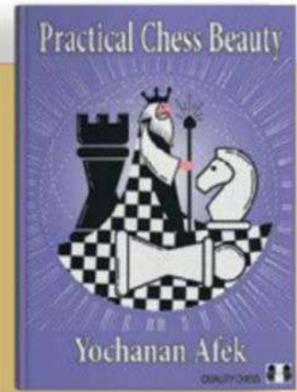
**B1)**

2

20...c4? =

**B2)**

17... ♖e5 18. ♕g5!±



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XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y  
 9r + - ♗ - ♖ k + 0  
 9+l + - + ppp0  
 9p + - ♖ r ♗ - + 0  
 9+ p + - + - ♘ - 0  
 9- + - ♗ P + - + 0  
 9+ P + - + NNP0  
 9- ♖ - + - ♖ P + 0  
 9R - + - R - ♗ - 0  
 xi | i | i | i | i | i | i | y

B2a)

B2a1) 21. ♕f4 ♖c8  
 22. ♗a7 ♖xc1 23. ♖xc1 ♖e7

B2a2)

B2b)

XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y  
 9- + r + - + k + 0  
 9+ - + - ♗ppp0  
 9R + - ♖ - + - + 0  
 9+ p + ♗ + - + - 0  
 9- + - + n + - + 0  
 9+ P + - + N + P 0  
 9- ♖ - + - ♖ P + 0  
 9+ - + - + - ♗ - 0  
 xi | i | i | i | i | i | i | y

B2b1)

B2b2)

B2b21)

B2b22)

30... ♗xf2 31. ♖e8 ♗c7  
 32. ♗d5 ♖h1+ 33. ♖g3 ♖d1 34. ♗c4  
 ♗xc4 35. bxc4 ♗d3 36. b3 ♖g7=

B2b23)

34. ♗d4 ♗xd4  
 35. ♗xd4 ♗xb2 36. ♖d8 ♗d3 37. ♖xd6

♖b1=

XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y  
 9- + - + - + - + 0  
 9+ - + - + p + k 0  
 9- + - ♖ - ♗pp0  
 9+ - + - + - + - 0  
 9- + - + R + - + 0  
 9+ P + - + NNP0  
 9- + - ♗ - + P + 0  
 9+ - + n + - + r 0  
 xi | i | i | i | i | i | i | y

14...c4 15. ♕c2

XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y  
 9r + l ♗ r ♖ k + 0  
 9+ - + n + ppp0  
 9p + - ♖ - ♗ - + 0  
 9+ p + - ♖ - ♗ - 0  
 9- + p ♖ P + - + 0  
 9+ - ♖ - + - NNP0  
 9P ♖ L + - ♖ P + 0  
 9R - ♘ QR - ♗ - 0  
 xi | i | i | i | i | i | i | y

15...g6!?

A)

16... ♕b7 17. ♕e3 ♗c7  
 17... ♕b7

B3)

B3a)

18...d5!?

B3b)

XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y  
 9r + - ♗ r ♖ k + 0  
 9+ l + n + ppp - 0  
 9p + - ♖ - ♗ - ♖ 0  
 9+ p + - + - + - 0  
 9- + ppp P + - + 0  
 9+ - ♖ - ♘ NNP0  
 9P ♖ L + - ♖ P + 0  
 9R - + QR - ♗ - 0  
 xi | i | i | i | i | i | i | y

B)

XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y  
 9r + - ♗ r ♖ k + 0  
 9+ l + n + ppp - 0  
 9p + - ♖ - ♗ - ♖ 0  
 9+ p + - ♖ - + - 0  
 9- + ppp P + - + 0  
 9+ - ♖ - + NNP0  
 9P ♖ L + - ♖ P + 0  
 9R - ♘ QR - ♗ - 0  
 xi | i | i | i | i | i | i | y

20... ♗g6

B1)

B1a)

21. ♕e3 ♕xe3 22. ♖xe3 ♗g6  
 23. e5 ♗xf4 24. ♗f3 ♖ad8  
 23. ♖f2? dxe4

B1b)

B2)

17...d5!?N 18. ♗xe5  
 ♗xe5 19. dxe5 ♗xe4 20. ♗g4 ♖xe5  
 21. ♗xe4 dxe4 22. ♕xh6 cxb3 23. ♕xb3  
 ♗f6=

18.d5?

18...cxb3 19. axb3 ♗xc3  
 18...d5!?N

19. ♗xe5 ♗xe5 20. dxe5  
 ♗xe5 21. f4 ♗c7 22. e5 ♗e4 23. ♗xe4  
 dxe4 24. ♗e2 cxb3 25. axb3 f5 26. exf6  
 ♗b6+ 27. ♕e3 ♗xf6=

19... ♕g7±

18...♘c5 19.♙xc5  
dxc5 20.e5 ♘d5 21.♙e4↑

B4)

18...d5!N 19.dxe5 ♘xe5 20.♙f4  
♚b6+ 21.♙e3 ♚c7 22.♘xe5 ♚xe5  
23.♙f3 dxe4 24.♙xe4  
25.fxg6 hxg6 26.♙xe4

♙g4!=

XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y  
9r + - + r + k + 0  
9+ - + - + p ♖ p 0  
9p + - + - + p + 0  
9+ p + - + - + - 0  
9- + p + l + - + 0  
9+ - ♙ - + Q + P 0  
9P ♙ - + - ♘ P + 0  
9R - + - + - ♞ - 0  
xi | i | i | i | i | i | i | y

16.f4

16...♙g7 17.♘f3

XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y  
9r + l ♗ r + k + 0  
9+ - + n + p ♖ p 0  
9p + - + - ♞ p + 0  
9+ p + P ♙ - ♞ - 0  
9- + p + P + - + 0  
9+ - ♙ - + - ♞ P 0  
9P ♙ L + - + P + 0  
9R - ♘ Q R - ♞ - 0  
xi | i | i | i | i | i | i | y

18

17...♚c7

XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y  
9r + l + r + k + 0  
9+ - ♗ n + p ♖ p 0  
9p + - ♙ - ♞ p + 0  
9+ p + - ♙ - + - 0  
9- + p ♙ ♙ ♙ - + 0  
9+ - ♙ - + N ♞ P 0  
9P ♙ L + - + P + 0  
9R - ♘ Q R - ♞ - 0  
xi | i | i | i | i | i | i | y

18.f5

24...♘xe4 25.♙d4

XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y  
9r + l + r + k + 0  
9+ - + - + p ♖ p 0  
9p + - + - + p + 0  
9+ p + - ♗ P + - 0  
9- + p ♘ n + - + 0  
9+ - ♙ - + Q ♞ P 0  
9P ♙ - + - + P + 0  
9R - + - R - ♞ - 0  
xi | i | i | i | i | i | i | y

25...♚d6

26.♙xe4

26...♙xe4 27.♙xe4

27...♙xd4+ 28.cxd4 ♙b8 29.♙f1

29...♙d7 30.♙f3 ♙xd4+ 31.♙h1  
♙d3 32.♙f4 ♙e8 33.fxg6 fxg6=

**OPENING REPERTOIRE: 1 e4**

By Cyrus Lakdawala

**MSRP: \$29.95**

The suggested variations for White are ones that rely far more on a generic understanding of strategic ideas rather than the memorisation of reams of opening theory. This explains the choice of the Bishop's Opening (handled "Lopez-style") against 1...e5 and the Bb5 variations against the Sicilian Defence.

21...♙f8  
22.a4↑ 22.a4 b4!



IM HANS NIEMANN WINS THE 2018 RAPID OPEN IN CENTRAL PARK

# AN ENGLISHMAN IN NEW YORK

JUST LIKE EVERY SEPTEMBER, OVER THE PAST 18 YEARS HUNDREDS OF PARTICIPANTS GATHERED AROUND THE BETHESDA FOUNTAIN IN CENTRAL PARK FOR THE CHESS IN THE PARK EVENT, RUN BY CIS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NYC PARKS DEPARTMENT. CHESS JOURNALIST LEON WATSON, FROM LONDON, WAS VISITING THE CITY FOR THE FIRST TIME AND TOOK AN UNEXPECTED OPPORTUNITY TO PLAY IN THE EVENT AND EXPERIENCE CHESS LIFE IN NEW YORK CITY.

By **LEON WATSON**





**Leon Watson** is a London-based journalist who writes regularly for one of the oldest surviving newspapers in the United Kingdom, *The Daily Telegraph*, as well as one of the newest chess-learning websites, Chessable. Apart from chess, he has some other typically British hobbies, like watching cricket and supporting his favourite Premier Division soccer team, Tottenham Hotspur.

It is typically British to bang on about the weather. But in this case, it may be justified. In September I went on a brief visit to New York – my first, as it happens, and mainly to see my brother who lives there. The trip had nothing to do with chess, but... it unexpectedly turned into a bit of an impromptu pilgrimage and I even found myself duking it out in a tournament: the Chess In the Park rapid. I am a rather gentle, out of practice 1600+ player and thought “why not” after it was suggested to me on Twitter. So I jumped on a subway train and got there, albeit very late but thankfully the organizers squeezed me in. As one New Yorker said to me as I sat down for my first game – I think he was called Mitch, or Rich – “it’s always sunny when Chess In the Park is on”. And so it was – not that the weather helped me, I had rushed there just in time to enter Round 4 and was hot and bothered when I hit the clock for my first game playing Black. My opponent trotted out a London System, which was slightly misplayed, and I quickly gained a pawn. However, my lack of preparation caught up with me and time trouble soon followed, leading

to a decisive loss. A bad start, my opponent took full advantage and deserved the win.

For the final round I was paired against a pleasant junior by name of Chance Deas from Medgar Evers College Preparatory School in Brooklyn. He played a Tarrasch in a game I won. We chatted before and afterwards. In fact, I chatted with everyone either side of me before and after.

They were mostly juniors, or old New Yorkers, perhaps interested by my London accent but more likely just friendly people. There were also plenty of women and girls, although as it happened not sat near me. The participants were a range – broadly representative of New York society, I would hope. This, it may surprise you, was something quite new to me. In England chess just isn’t like this. Across the water the game is a pursuit that takes place in dark and draughty church or community halls in the depths of November – not in bright sunshine in the middle of Central Park. Chess is also a pursuit that is all too often rather anti-social. Anti-social people like me play it, people who are often a little odd (hopefully not me) and



The Bethesda Fountain in Central Park.  
Photo by Erik Baran.

GM Maxim Dlugy & NGM John Fedorowicz.  
Photo by Kimberly Doo McVay

really only older people, older men to be specific. Your average chess player in England is also often very secretive about their openings – I'm never sure why this bothers people unless they're a master – and also, I hate to say it, frequently very bad losers who go off in a sulk if they have a bad game. If you've ever seen the 80s classic movie *American Werewolf in London*, walking into a chess club is a bit like the scene where the protagonist walks into a country pub and all the locals turn around and stare at him for being an outsider. Which brings me onto my main point – chess is in no way representative in England. You may see different minority groups playing, but you will never walk into a chess competition and find as many women or girls. For example, I helped organize a league over the summer called the Summer Chess League and we made a real effort to be as inclusive as possible, but still only managed three female players out of 112. We have a problem, a real problem. Junior competitions also tend to be separate, in part because most league matches take place in the evenings – way past bedtime for most children on a school night. Only really good youngsters find themselves playing adults. By comparison, Chess in the Park – while I am sure most events in the US aren't exactly like this – was a breath of fresh air, literally. We have nothing like this in the UK. After this revelation, I couldn't help but feel pretty chessy. So I continued the odyssey and dropped into the Marshall Chess Club via a quick glimpse at the hustlers in Washington Square Park. And then after that, on another Twitter suggestion, I stuck my head into the Chess Forum shop. Both the Marshall and Chess Forum are obviously part of the fabric of chess in your country. I visited the Marshall because, hey, you have to but also because my fellow chess-obsessed national newspaper journalist Stephen Moss wrote about it with such wonder in his book *The Rookie*. But even at the grand old Marshall, with its wall-mounted paintings and deep sense

Young players in Central Park.



Awards.

Photos by  
Kimberly Doo McVay

of history, it was mostly juniors. I felt old – which is a good thing, for chess. Readers may know the dusty little Chess Forum shop is a little different – but what a wonderful place, it's like it has stood still in time preserved in aspic. We had book shops like that in London once, Charing Cross Road used to be full of them, but not now. But back to Chess in the Park. When I left, the closing speeches were being made and the prizes given out. The overall championship was won by 15-year-old master Hans Niemann. Afterwards, he said: "I just got my IM title and I would just like to inspire all the young chess players here to continue working hard and playing chess, and to continue the passion (...). I really appreciated everything Chess in the Schools is doing to promote youth chess." The passion Niemann

refers to that made Chess in the Park possible was certainly obvious to me. However, as a Brit I have to point out one more ingredient that makes it possible - the weather. Unfortunately for us Brits, our reliably unreliable weather would make planning an event such as this in Hyde Park dicey to say the least, and it certainly wouldn't run for 18 years without getting rained off. But that does not stop me taking off my new New York Yankees hat to you: in my limited and brief experience, chess in the US is done very well. As the tournament began, Debbie Eastburn, President and CEO of Chess in the Schools, described it as a "gift" to New York and it certainly seemed that way. With organization like this you will always find champions. No wonder you win Olympiad medals you lucky, lucky things.



# McFarland

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“thoroughly researched...a wonderful and unique reference” — *Mind's Eye Press*.

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1<sup>ST</sup> BROOKLYN CLASSIC CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP STAGED BY USA CHESS TOUR

# BIG CHESS IN BIG APPLE

THE USA CHESS TOUR HAS ARRIVED AS A NEW PLAYER ON THE AMERICAN TOURNAMENT CIRCUIT! AS THE AMBITIOUS NAME OF THE PROJECT SUGGESTS, ITS ORGANIZATIONAL TEAM, LED BY GM VLADIMIR ROMANENKO AND IM MILOS SCEKIC, HAS THE AVOWED INTENT OF CREATING A NEW CHESS EXPERIENCE – WITH AN INITIAL SCHEDULE OF NO LESS THAN SIX OPEN TOURNAMENTS. MOREOVER THEIR IDEA OF BRINGING BIG CHESS TO THE BIG APPLE HAS ALREADY PASSED ITS FIRST TEST WITH A HIGH APPROVAL RATING. HERE WE PRESENT AN INTERVIEW WITH THE ORGANIZERS AND THREE INTERESTING GAMES FROM THIS EVENT.

By **DUSAN KRUNIC**

The inaugural tournament was held at the very end of September. For the venue the organizers had chosen the Stewart Hotel, just across from Penn Station and Madison Square Garden – in the very heart of Manhattan. With a guaranteed prize fund of \$21,000 and a field of 124 players from seven different countries (USA, Russia, Mexico, Cuba, Canada, China and England) there was a great deal of chess action in eight sections over the course of three days. The eventual tournament winner was GM Gil Popilski followed by GMs Kudrin and Fishbein (all tied with 5 points from 7 rounds).

## USA Chess Tour – New Kid on the Block

Both of the USA Chess Tour organizers, Vladimir and Milos, have been teaching chess to kids in New York City for over ten years. They can often be seen traveling with their students to events all over the States, including Nationals and State scholastic tournaments. They have already won seven national titles in various categories with their NYC elementary advanced learner school Speyer.

**This was the first time you found yourself being “on the other side” – in the role of an organizer of a chess tournament. Was it a challenge for you?**

For sure it's a lot different from Europe where you often have different institutions and organizations helping the organizers. Also it is very difficult to find sponsors or donations, but with determination and passion any goal can be achieved. Here we cover all costs out of our own pockets and this means perhaps even ending up with a big minus! So it not only involves taking a risk, but also has to be carefully planned in advance. I believe that in the US at the moment we're having a kind of “chess boom”, which has made an impact on the organization of chess tournaments, as lately more and more of them have been popping up.

Our next two tournaments are just around the corner: MICO (Manhattan International Chess Open) will take place on December 7-9 and the Manhattan Classical Chess Championship is scheduled for

**Vladimir Romanenko** (32) is an American GM, born in Belarus. He lives in NYC and his biggest success so far was winning the Manhattan Open in 2011, where he obtained his final GM norm.

**Milos Scekic** (41) is an American IM, residing in New York. He was born in Serbia where he became a Master at the age of 14 and International Master at the age of 20. Since 2007 he has acted as a certified FIDE Trainer.



almost certain to participate in the next one. Alex Fishbein posted a very nice comment on Facebook:

**“I have only good things to report about the first USA Chess Tour. There will be more events, and I recommend them to everyone who may not yet be familiar with the new organizers!”**

Also, young and talented players Ryan Peterson, Kiren Nasta, Brewington Hardaway and James Oh were very excited and promised to come back to the next tournament. In the future we will be looking for a new American GM among these talents. Chess players are our religion. What they think is of ultimate importance to us. Those who received copies of ACM as gifts were delighted with the gesture and we thank you for your support and donations.

January 19-21, 2019. Both tournaments will have the same \$21,000 prize fund.

**How difficult is it to organize tournaments like yours?**

“Oh my God! It’s definitely not easy! Now I’m able to see what it looks like from a different perspective. As a player it is easy, you just sit down and play! But when you are organizing there is a lot of physical work to be done, so as to have everything running smoothly. Not to mention the anxiety before the tournament starts – will every little detail be in place? I was very happy to see legends like GMs Fishbein and Kudrin enter – that was such a relief for me as an organizer.

Encouraged by the results from the inaugural event, we are planning at least five more tournaments in 2018 and 2019! Any interested players can find more information on our website [www.usachess.com](http://www.usachess.com).

**When putting together the concept of the USA Chess Tour, what were the key elements that you wanted to include?**

Since we both have vast experience of playing chess in Europe and America, we decided to incorporate into our Tour all the good things we have found in the methods of tournament organizers in both these continents.

**What are the most vital goals that you’re aiming to achieve?**

Our goal is simple, we want to show chess players how chess tournaments

should be organized and hopefully then other organizers will follow suit and try to do the same. American chess players deserve to play in a great atmosphere and with excellent playing conditions!

**Do you have any relationship with the USCF?**

Our relationship is still on a basic level. We collaborate with the USCF on advertising our chess tournaments and questions related to rules and ratings.

**What kind of a support for your activities you would expect from the USCF?**

So far everything we have done with the USCF has gone smoothly and we hope this relationship will grow even more in the future.

**What was the feedback like that you received from the participants after the first tournament?**

People were satisfied and most importantly wanted to come back to our next tournament. We are open to new ideas and still have homework to do, as more preparations need to be made for our next MICO tournament in December. *American Chess Magazine* wholeheartedly supports our quest to establish ourselves as successful organizers and provide US players with excellent tournaments in which to participate.

GMs Fishbein and Kudrin greatly enjoyed our first tournament and are

**USA Chess Tour in its format reminds us of the Continental Chess tournaments? Do you see yourself as their competitors?**

Everyone knows about CCA and Bill Goichberg. His chess organizational skills are hard to match, but we are willing to learn and improve so that we can hopefully reach his high standard at some point. But I’d rather say that we are offering an additional choice to the chess community. People want to play chess more frequently!

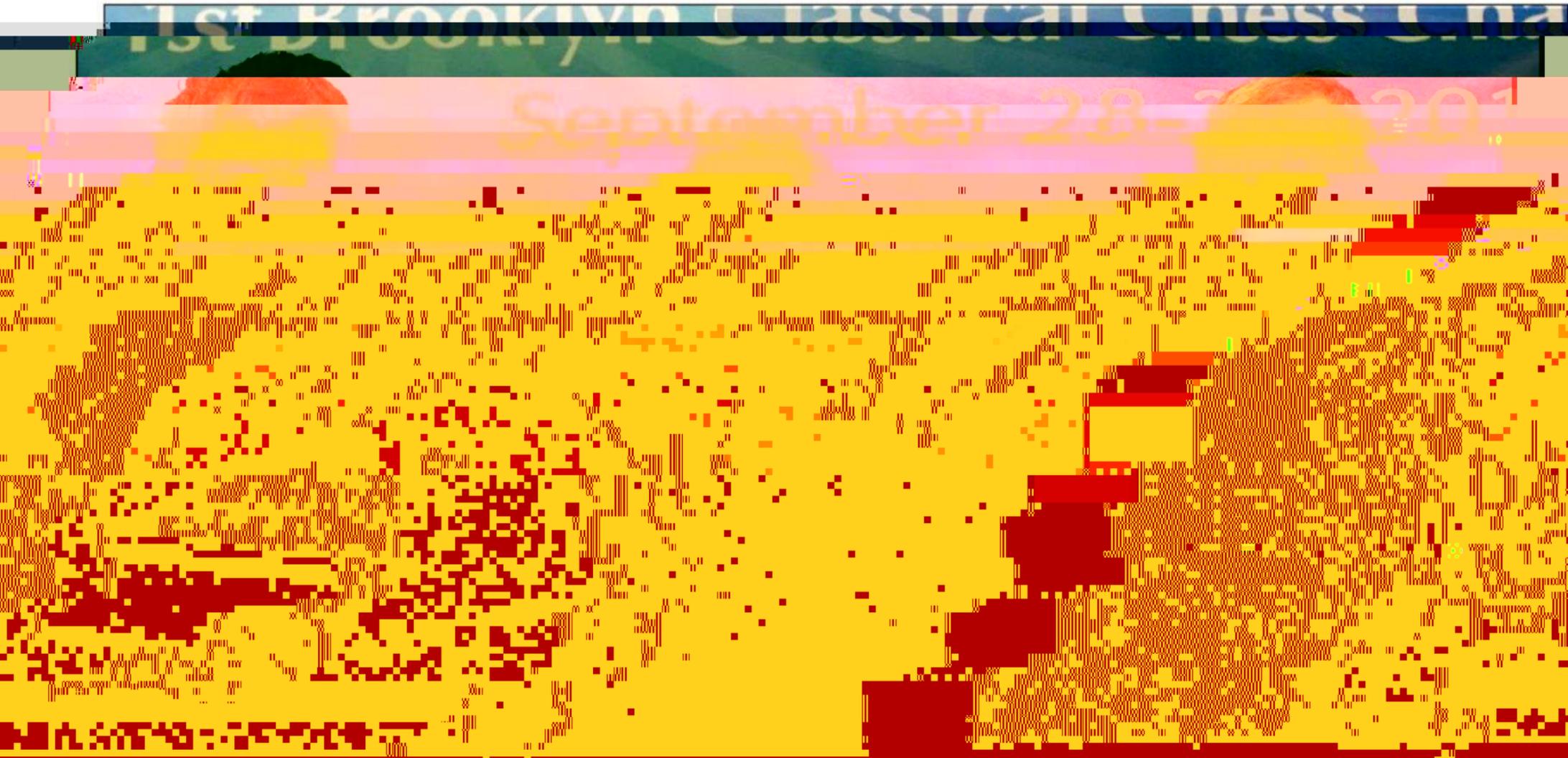
**Across the US, are there successful chess organizers that inspire you?**

I have to praise the work of chess organizers from the Charlotte Chess Center – Peter Giannatos and Grant Oen, who are doing some amazing work.

**What are your plans for the future besides these five more tournaments?**

We hope to grow with time. Hopefully we’ll get experience that will further help us deliver extraordinary conditions for players of all levels in our future tournaments.

Our dream is to organize a really big one! Last but not least, goodwill sponsors are always welcome to support and help us.



Vladimir Romanenko, Gil Popilski and Milos Scekic. Photo by USA Chess Tour

**A37**

Lev Paciorkowski	2498
Gil Popilski	2586

1<sup>st</sup> Brooklyn Classical Championship,  
New York 2018  
Annotations by  
GM Vladimir Romanenko

1.♠f3 c5 2.c4 g6 3.g3 ♕g7 4.♕g2  
♘c6 5.♘c3 d6 6.0-0 ♖f5 7.d3 ♔d7  
8.♘d5 ♗c8

9.♞b1 ♗h3



White'

it seems that White'

10.a3

10...♕xg2 11.♔xg2 e6 12.♘f4 a6  
13.♔a4 ♘f6 14.b4 0-0 15.bxc5 dxc5  
16.♗b3 ♗b8 17.♕e3?!

17...♔d6 18.♗fc1 ♗fd8 19.♘d2 ♘g4

20. ♖e4 ♗xe3+ 21. fxe3 ♜e5 22. ♚b6  
 ♙f8 23. ♚b2 b6 24. h3 ♙e7 25. ♚xe5  
 ♗xe5 26. g4 ♜dc8

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9-	t	r	+	-	+	k	+0
9+	-	+	-	v	p	+	p0
9p	p	-	+	p	+	p	+0
9+	-	p	-	n	-	+	-0
9-	+	P	+	N	N	P	+0
9P	-	+	P	P	-	+	P0
9-	+	-	+	P	+	K	+0
9+	R	R	-	+	-	+	-0
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	y

27. ♗c3?!

27...h5 28. ♖g3 hxg4 29. hxg4 ♖g7  
 30. a4 ♜h8 31. ♜h1 g5 32. ♗h5+?

32...♖g6 33. e4 f6 34. ♜b3 ♙d6

35. ♖h3 ♙c7 36. ♗d1 ♜h7 37. ♗e3  
 ♜bh8 38. ♖g2 a5?!

### NEW YORK, NY

September 28–30, 2018  
*1st Brooklyn Classical Championship*

#### Final Standings (Open):

1-3 Gil Popilski, Sergey Kudrin,  
 Alexander Fishbein **5**  
 4-6 Lev Paciorkowski,  
 Bartosz Kocwin, Justin Sarkar **4½**  
 7-8 Leif Pressman,  
 Maximillian Lu **4**

### C56

Alex Fishbein	2589
Leif Pressman	2422

1st Brooklyn Classical Championship,  
 New York 2018  
*Annotations by GM Alex Fishbein*

39. ♜f1 ♜f7

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9-	+	-	+	-	+	-	t0
9+	-	v	-	+	r	+	-0
9-	p	-	+	p	p	k	+0
9p	-	p	-	n	-	p	N0
9P	+	P	+	P	+	P	+0
9+	R	+	P	N	-	+	-0
9-	+	-	+	P	+	K	+0
9+	-	+	-	+	R	+	-0
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	y

40. ♗g3

40...♜h4! 41. ♜h1 ♗xg4

42. ♗gf1 ♜xh1 43. ♖xh1 ♜h7+  
 44. ♖g2 ♗e5 45. ♗g3 ♗c6 46. ♗c2 g4  
 47. ♗e3 ♖g5 48. ♜b1 ♜h3 49. ♗gf1  
 ♗e7 50. e5 f5 51. ♜b5 ♗c6 52. ♗c2  
 ♗xe5 53. d4 cxd4 54. ♗xd4 ♖f6

White resigned

1. e4 e5 2. ♗f3 ♗c6 3. d4

3...exd4 4. ♙c4 ♗f6 5. e5 ♗g4

6. 0-0 d6 7. exd6 ♙xd6

8. ♜e1+ ♙e7 9. ♙g5 0-0 10. ♙xe7  
 ♗xe7 11. ♚xd4 ♚xd4 12. ♗xd4 ♗f5

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9r	+	+	-	t	k	+	+0
9p	p	p	-	+	p	p	p0
9-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+0
9+	-	+	-	+	n	+	-0
9-	+	L	N	-	+	n	+0
9+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-0
9P	P	P	+	-	P	P	P0
9R	N	+	-	R	-	K	-0
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	y



13. ♖f3

main line”

13... ♗d6 14. ♘b3 ♘d7 15. ♗c3 ♗f6  
16. ♗e5 ♘f5 17. h3 ♖fe8 18. g4 ♘e6  
19. f4 a6 20. ♖ad1 ♘xb3 21. axb3  
♖ad8 22. ♗g2 g6 23. ♗f3 ♗g7

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9-	+	-	t	r	+	-	+	0
9+	p	p	-	+	p	k	p	0
9p	+	-	n	-	n	p	+	0
9+	-	+	-	N	-	+	-	0
9-	+	-	+	-	P	P	+	0
9+	P	N	-	+	K	+	P	0
9-	P	P	+	-	+	-	+	0
9+	-	+	R	R	-	+	-	0
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y

24. ♗a4?

24... ♗b5!

25. ♗f2?

25... ♗d4! 26. ♖d2 ♗e6 27. ♖xd8 ♖xd8

28.f5

28... gxf5 29. gxf5 ♗d4 30. ♖g1+ ♗f8  
31. ♗g4 ♗xg4+

32. hxg4 ♗xc2 33. ♗c5 ♖d2+ 34. ♗f3  
♖d5 35. ♗e4 h5

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9-	+	-	+	-	k	-	+	0
9+	p	p	-	+	p	+	-	0
9p	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0
9+	-	+	r	+	P	+	p	0
9-	+	-	+	N	+	P	+	0
9+	P	+	-	+	K	+	-	0
9-	P	n	+	-	+	-	+	0
9+	-	+	-	+	-	R	-	0
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y

36. ♖c1?

36... hxg4+?

37. ♗xg4 ♗e3+ 38. ♗f4 ♗xf5 39. ♖xc7

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9-	+	-	+	-	k	-	+	0
9+	p	R	-	+	p	+	-	0
9p	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0
9+	-	+	r	+	n	+	-	0
9-	+	-	+	N	k	-	+	0
9+	P	+	-	+	-	+	-	0
9-	P	-	+	-	+	-	+	0
9+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	0
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y

39... ♗d6??

's turn to

**NEW YORK, NY**  
September 28–30, 2018  
*1st Brooklyn Classical Championship*

**Section winners**

Under 2200  
1-3 Evan Rabin, Mubassar Uddin, Jelvis Calvelo **5½** (7 rounds)

Under 2000  
1. Gennadiy\* Reznikov **5½**  
2-5. Nicol Zlotchevsky, James Oh, Ryan Peterson, Gary R Patella **5**

Under 1800  
1. Morgan Ken Mairaj **6**  
2-3. Dylan Singer, Nathan Whipple **4½**

Under 1600  
1. Taalaibek Duisheev **5½**  
2-3. Luis E Gonzalez, Yanyan Li **5**

Under 1400  
1. Eraldo Gjoni **6**  
2. Daniel J Metz **5½**  
3-4. Stan Wang, Firdavs Majidzoda **5**

Under 1200  
1. James Michalski **7**  
2. Ajitesh Nallapareddyagri **4½**  
3-4. Jason Jiang, Bruce Fox **4**

Under 1000  
1. Wesley Luo **6**  
2. Matt Aaron Hall **5½**  
3-4. Hartej Sahni, Jack Foster **4½**

40. ♖d7!

40... ♖f5+ 41. ♗g4



XI | | | | | | | Y  
 9- + - + - ♞ - + 0  
 9+ ♖ + ♞ + ♖ + - 0  
 9♖ + - ♞ - + - + 0  
 9+ - + - + ♖ + - 0  
 9- + - + ♞ + ♞ + 0  
 9+ ♖ + - + - + - 0  
 9- ♖ - + - + - + 0  
 9+ - + - + - + - 0  
 xi | | | | | | | y

41...♞b5

43.♗d2

42.♞xd6 ♞b5

### A27

Gregory Keener 1780

Morgan Mairaj 1777

1st Brooklyn Classical Championship (U-1800), New York 2018  
 Annotations by GM Vladimir Romanenko

1.c4 e5 2.♗c3 ♗c6 3.♗f3 d6 4.g3 ♗e6 5.b3?!

42.♗xd6 f5+ 43.♔g5 ♞xb3 44.♞f7+ ♔g8 45.♞xb7 ♞h3 46.♗xf5 ♞h2 47.♔g6 ♞g2+ 48.♔f6 a5 49.♞g7+

5...♗e7 6.♗g2 ♞d7 7.♗b2 ♗h3 8.0-0 h5 9.d4 h4 10.dxe5?

10...hxc3 11.♗d5??

XI | | | | | | | Y  
 9r + - + k + n t 0  
 9♖ ♖ ♖ ♖ ♖ ♖ ♖ ♖ - 0  
 9- + n ♖ - + - + 0  
 9+ - + ♞ ♖ - + - 0  
 9- + ♖ + - + - + 0  
 9+ ♖ + - + ♞ ♖ | 0  
 9♖ ♖ - + ♖ ♖ ♖ ♖ 0  
 9♞ - + ♖ + ♞ ♞ - 0  
 xi | | | | | | | y

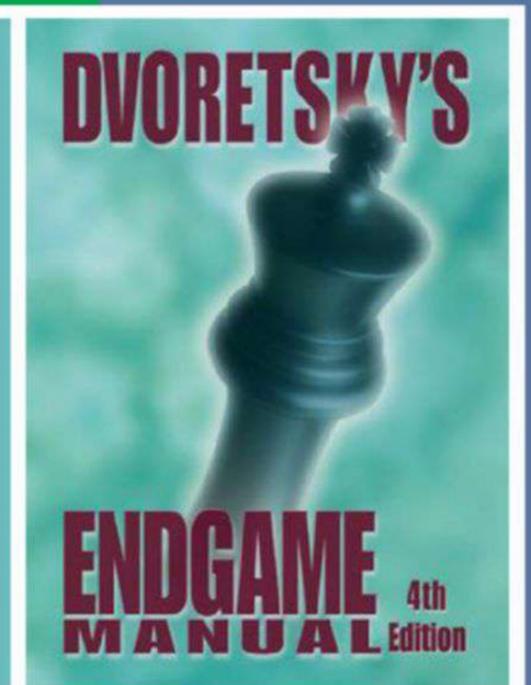
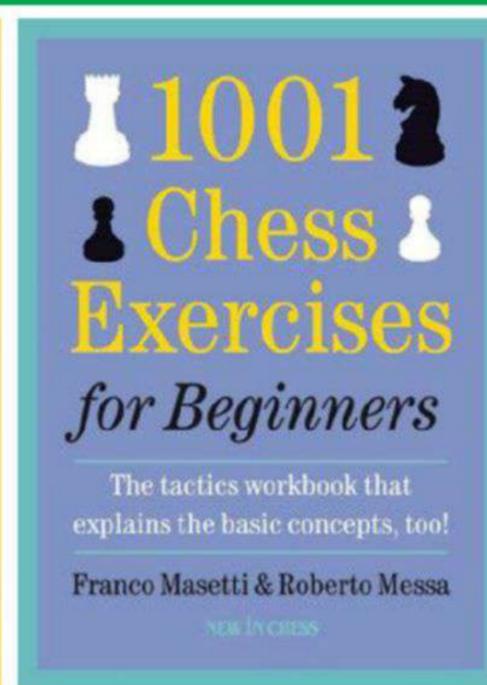
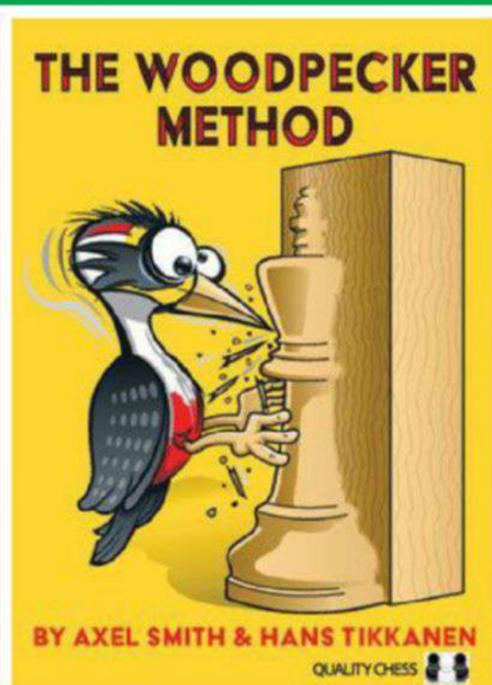
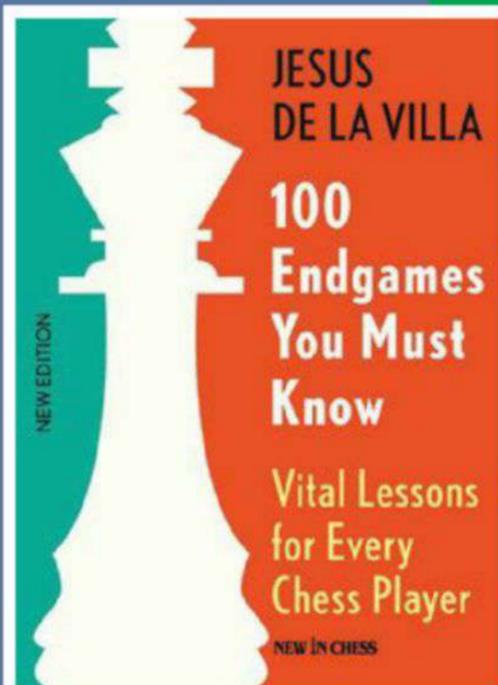
Black resigned

11...gxe2+! 12.♔h1 ♗xe2+ 13.♔xe2 h1 ♞+ 14.♞xh1 ♞g4+ 15.♔f1 ♞xh1+ 16.♗g1 ♞xg1 mate. White resigned

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# KING AND PAWN ENDINGS FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY (AND BEYOND)

WE OFTEN HEAR THAT TODAY'S CHESS ELITE DOESN'T SPORT THE SAME KNOWLEDGE OF THE ENDGAME AS DID MASTERS OF THE PAST. WHILE THIS CLAIM IS DEBATABLE, ONE THING IS BEYOND QUESTION: THE ERA OF ADJOURNMENTS IS LONG GONE AND TIME CONTROLS ARE SIGNIFICANTLY FASTER. THIS NOT ONLY AFFECTS THE QUALITY OF THE PLAY IN THE FINAL PHASE OF THE GAME, BUT ALSO THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS: THE PRACTICAL PLAYER WILL OFTEN NEED TO RELY MORE ON INTUITION THAN ON PURE CALCULATION.

By **GM ALEX FISHBEIN**



Manual  
Liquidation on the Chess Board

Endgame

Grandmaster Secrets: Endings

th

**PAWN ENDING INSTINCT #1:**  
Use the process of elimination.

**PAWN ENDING INSTINCT #2:**  
Have more pawn tempo moves than your opponent.

**PAWN ENDING INSTINCT #3:**  
Contain the opposing king.

Sergei Matsenko	2530
Alexander Fishbein	2481

Chicago Clark St GM, 2017

```

XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y
9- + - + - + - + - + 0
9p - v - + - + - 0
9P + P K - + - p 0
9+ - + - + p + - 0
9- + K + - + - P 0
9+ N + - + - + - 0
9- + - + - + - + 0
9+ - + - + - + - 0
xi | i | i | i | i | i | i | i | y

```

63...f4?

```

XI | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | Y
9- + - + - + - + - + 0
9p - + - + - + - 0
9P + P K - + - p 0
9+ - + - + p + - 0
9- + - K - + - P 0
9+ - + - + - + - 0
9- + - + - + - + 0
9+ - + - + - + - 0
xi | i | i | i | i | i | i | i | y

```



Photo by David Llada.

65...♔xc6? 66.♕e5 ♖b6 67.♕xf5  
 ♕xa6 68.♕g6 ♖b5 69.♕xh6 a5 70.♕g7  
 a4 71.h5 a3 72.h6 a2 73.h7 a1♚+

```
XI | | | | | | | Y
9- + - + - + - + 0
9+ - + - + - ♔ P 0
9- + - + - + - + 0
9+ ♔ + - + - + - 0
9- + - + - + - + 0
9+ - + - + - + - 0
9- + - + - + - + 0
9♚ - + - + - + - 0
xi | | | | | | | y
```

```
XI | | | | | | | Y
9- + - + - + - + 0
9+ - + - + - + P 0
9- + - + - + ♔ + 0
9+ ♔ + - + - + - 0
9- + - + - + - + 0
9+ - + - + - + - 0
9- + - + - + - + 0
9♚ - + - + - + - 0
xi | | | | | | | y
```

66.♕e3 makes  
 66...♕xc6 67.♕f4 ♖b5  
 68.♕g5 f4!  
 69.♕xf4 ♕xa6

64.♘d4

```
XI | | | | | | | Y
9- + - + - + - + 0
9♗ - ♖ - + - + - 0
9P + P ♔ - + - ♗ 0
9+ - + - + - + - 0
9- + ♔ ♚ - ♗ - P 0
9+ - + - + - + - 0
9- + - + - + - + 0
9+ - + - + - + - 0
xi | | | | | | | y
```

64...♗b6 65.♘f5+ ♕xc6 66.♘xh6  
 ♕d6 67.♘g4 ♕e6 68.h5 ♕f5 69.h6  
 ♕g6 70.♕d5 ♗c7 71.♕e4 ♕h7  
 72.♕f5 ♗d6 73.♕e4 ♗c7 74.♕f5  
 ♗d6 75.♕e4

Draw



Peter Svidler 2756

Magnus Carlsen 2839

European Clubs Cup, Porto Carras 2018

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0
9p	-	k	-	n	p	p	-	0
9-	+	-	+	-	+	-	p	0
9+	-	P	L	K	-	+	-	0
9-	+	-	+	-	+	-	P	0
9P	-	+	-	+	-	P	-	0
9-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0
9+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	0
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y

41.♔xd5 h5!

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0
9p	-	k	-	n	p	p	-	0
9-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0
9+	-	P	L	K	-	+	p	0
9-	+	-	+	-	+	-	P	0
9P	-	+	-	+	-	P	-	0
9-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0
9+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	0
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y

42.c6 a6 43.a4 a5 44.♔c5 f6 45.♔d5 g5 46.♔e6 ♖xc6 47.♔xf6 gxh4 48.gxh4

40...♗xd5!

48...♔d6!

49.♔g5 ♔e5 50.♔xh5 ♔f5 51.♔h6 ♔f6

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0
9p	-	+	-	+	p	+	-	0
9-	+	k	+	-	+	p	p	0
9+	-	P	-	+	-	+	P	0
9-	+	K	+	-	+	P	+	0
9P	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	0
9-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0
9+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	0
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0
9+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	0
9-	+	-	+	-	k	-	k	0
9p	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	0
9P	+	-	+	-	+	-	P	0
9+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	0
9-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0
9+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	0
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y

52.h5 ♔f7 53.♔g5 ♔g7 54.h6+

**Alex Fishbein** is an American grandmaster, residing in New Jersey. He was the winner of the inaugural Denker Tournament of High School Champions in 1985. He won several national and international tournaments in the 1990s, including in Denmark and Norway, and became a grandmaster in 1992. He then began a career in finance but continued to compete in his spare time, including four times in the U.S. Championship in the 2000s. He is known for his endgame knowledge, having won the Best Endgame Prize in the 2004 U.S. Championship and written a well-received book on pawn endings in 1993.

XI | | | | | | | | Y  
 9- +k + - + - + 0  
 9+ - + - + - + - 0  
 9- ♔ - + - + - + 0  
 9+ - + - + - + - 0  
 9P + - + - + - + 0  
 9+ - + - + - + - 0  
 9- + - + - + - + 0  
 9+ - + - + - + - 0  
 xi i i i i i i i y

XI | | | | | | | | Y  
 9- + - + - + - + 0  
 9+ p + k + - + - 0  
 9- + p + - + - p 0  
 9p - P p + p + - 0  
 9P P - + - P - + 0  
 9+ - ♔ - + - + P 0  
 9- + P + - + - + 0  
 9+ - + - + - + - 0  
 xi i i i i i i i y

A)

A1)

54...♔h7 55.♔h5 ♔h8 56.♔g6 ♔g8  
 57.h7+ ♔h8 58.♔h6 ½-½

50...♔c7 51.♔d4 ♔d7 52.♔e5

A2)

XI | | | | | | | | Y  
 9- + - + - + - + 0  
 9+ p + - ♔ - + - 0  
 9- + p + - + - + 0  
 9P - P p + p + - 0  
 9P + - + - P - p 0  
 9+ - + K + - + P 0  
 9- + P + - + - + 0  
 9+ - + - + - + - 0  
 xi i i i i i i i y

5

B)

47...♔c7?  
 48.♔c3 ♔d7 49.a5 ♔e7 50.a6 bxa6  
 51.♔b4 ♔d7 52.♔a5 ♔c7 53.♔xa6  
 48.♔c3 ♔e7!

46.♔b4 ♔c8 47.♔a5 ♔c7 48.h4 ♔b8  
 49.♔b6

Magnus Carlsen 2844  
 Hou Yifan 2673

Tata Steel Chess, Wijk aan Zee 2016

XI | | | | | | | | Y  
 9- + - + - + - + 0  
 9+ p + k + - + - 0  
 9p + p + - ♔ - p 0  
 9+ - P p + p + - 0  
 9P + - + - P - + 0  
 9+ P ♔ - + - + P 0  
 9- ♔ P + - + - + 0  
 9+ - + - + - + - 0  
 xi i i i i i i i y

44...♔xc3+ 45.♔xc3 h5?

XI | | | | | | | | Y  
 9k + - + - + - + 0  
 9+ p + - + - + - 0  
 9P ♔ p + - + - + 0  
 9+ - P p + p + p 0  
 9- + - + - P - P 0  
 9+ - P - + - + - 0  
 9- + - + - + - + 0  
 9+ - + - + - + - 0  
 xi i i i i i i i y

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 GRANDMASTER ALEX COLOVIC

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[www.alexcolovic.com](http://www.alexcolovic.com)



49...♔c8 50.b4 ♔b8 51.b5

51...cxb5 52.axb5 axb5 53.♔xb5 ♔c7

```

XI | | | | | | | | Y
9- + - + - + - + 0
9+ p ♞ - + - + - 0
9- + - + - + - + 0
9+ K P p + p + p 0
9- + - + - P - P 0
9+ - + - + - + - 0
9- + P + - + - + 0
9+ - + - + - + - 0
xi | i | i | i | i | i | y

```

54.c3! 1-0



B)

```

XI | | | | | | | | Y
9- + - + - + - + 0
9+ - p - + - + - 0
9- + k + - + - p 0
9+ - + - p - p - 0
9- P P + - + P + 0
9+ - ♞ - + - + P 0
9- + - + - + - + 0
9+ - + - + - + - 0
xi | i | i | i | i | i | y

```

after 46...♔d6 47.♔d3+  
47...♔d6 48.♔d3!

```

XI | | | | | | | | Y
9- + - + - + - + 0
9+ - p - + - + - 0
9- + - + k + - p 0
9+ - P - p - p - 0
9- P - + - + P + 0
9+ - + - ♞ - + P 0
9- + - + - + - + 0
9+ - + - + - + - 0
xi | i | i | i | i | i | y

```

49. ♔e4?? c6

Alexander Fishbein	2550
Ernest Colding	2200

Empire City Open 2016

```

XI | | | | | | | | Y
9- + - + - + - + 0
9+ - p - + - + p 0
9- + - ♞ - + - + 0
9+ - + - p - p - 0
9- P P + K + P + 0
9+ - + - + - + P 0
9- + - + - + - + 0
9+ - + - + - + - 0
xi | i | i | i | i | i | y

```

A)

```

XI | | | | | | | | Y
9- + - + - + - + 0
9+ - p - + - + - 0
9- + - ♞ - + - p 0
9+ - + - p - p - 0
9- P P + - + P + 0
9+ - + K + - + P 0
9- + - + - + - + 0
9+ - + - + - + - 0
xi | i | i | i | i | i | y

```

44...♔e6 45.♔e4 ♔d6  
46.♔f5 c6 47.b5

```

XI | | | | | | | | Y
9- + - + - + - + 0
9+ - + - + - + - 0
9- + k + - + - p 0
9+ - P - p - p - 0
9- + K + - + P + 0
9+ - + - + - + P 0
9- + - + - + - + 0
9+ - + - + - + - 0
xi | i | i | i | i | i | y

```

W

41.c5+?

41...♔c6 42.♔xe5 ♔b5 43.♔f6  
♔xb4 44.♔xg5 ♔xc5 45.♔h6 ♔d4  
46.♔h7 c5 47.g5 c4 48.g6 c3 49.g7  
c2 50.g8 ♖ c1 ♗ 51.h4 Draw

```

XXI | | | | | | | | Y
9- + - + - + Q + 0
9+ - + - + - + K 0
9- + - + - + - + 0
9+ - + - + - + - 0
9- + - ♞ - + - P 0
9+ - + - + - + - 0
9- + - + - + - + 0
9+ - ♗ - + - + - 0
xi | i | i | i | i | i | y

```

46...♔g5+ 47.♖xg5 hxg5 48.♔g3  
♕h6 49.f4?!

XI | | | | | | | | Y  
9- + - + - + - + 0  
9+ - + - + - + - 0  
9- + - + - + p k 0  
9+ - + - + p p - 0  
9- + - + - + - + 0  
9+ - + - + P + K 0  
9- + - + - P - + 0  
9+ - + - + - + - 0  
xi i i i i i i i y

Alan Zhang 2230  
Alexander Fishbein 2602

Eastern Chess Congress 2018

XI | | | | | | | | Y  
9- + - + - + - + 0  
9+ - + - + p k - 0  
9- + - + - p p 0  
9 ♖ - + - + - + - 0  
9- + - + - + - + 0  
9+ - + - + P + - 0  
9- + - + - P K + 0  
9+ - + - + - + - 0  
xi i i i i i i i y

49...f6? 50.f4 gxf4 51.♔xf4  
XI | | | | | | | | Y  
9- + - + - + - + 0  
9+ - + - + - + - 0  
9- + - + - p p k 0  
9+ - + - + - + - 0  
9- + - + - k - + 0  
9+ - + - + - + - 0  
9- + - + - P - + 0  
9+ - + - + - + - 0  
xi i i i i i i i y

N

51...♕h5 52.♔g3! ♔g5  
53.f4+! ♕f5 54.♔f3 ♕e6 55.♔e4=

50.♔g3 ♕h5!  
XI | | | | | | | | Y  
9- + - + - + - + 0  
9+ - + - + - + - 0  
9- + - + - + p + 0  
9+ - + - + p p k 0  
9- + - + - + - + 0  
9+ - + - + P k - 0  
9- + - + - P - + 0  
9+ - + - + - + - 0  
xi i i i i i i i y

1.♕h3 f4! 52.♔g2 g4 53.fxg4+ ♔xg4  
54.f3+ ♕f5 55.♔f2 ♕e5 56.♔e2 ♕d4  
57.♔d2 g5!  
A)

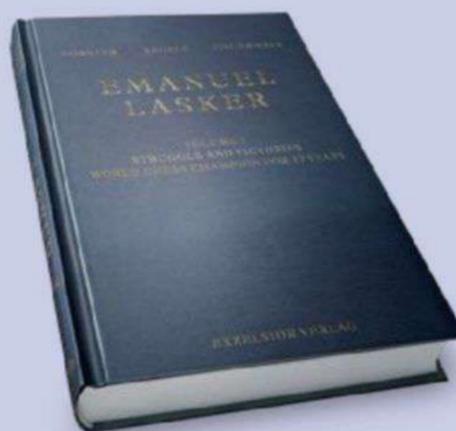
Richard Forster/Michael Negele/Raj Tischbierek (eds.)

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♔xg5 54.f4+

52...♔h5 53.fxg5

B)

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	0
9	+	-	+	-	+	-	♞	- 0
9	-	+	-	+	-	+	p	+ 0
9	+	-	+	-	+	-	p	- 0
9	-	+	-	+	-	+	p	- + 0
9	+	-	+	-	+	♞	♞	- 0
9	-	+	-	+	-	♞	-	+ 0
9	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y

52.♔g2 ♕f6 53.♔f1 ♔e5  
54.♔e2 ♕f5 55.♔f1 g4

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y	
9	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	0	
9	+	-	+	-	+	-	0		
9	-	+	-	+	-	+	p	+ 0	
9	+	-	+	-	+	-	p	- 0	
9	-	+	-	+	-	+	p	- + 0	
9	+	-	+	♞	+	♞	+	♞	0
9	-	+	-	+	-	+	♞	-	+ 0
9	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0	
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y	

5

49...gxf4+ 50.♔xf4 ♔h5! 51.♔g3  
♔g5 52.♔f3 ♕f5 53.♔g3 ♔e4  
54.♔g4

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	0
9	+	-	+	-	+	p	-	0
9	-	+	-	+	-	+	p	+ 0
9	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0
9	-	+	-	+	♞	+	♞	+ 0
9	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0
9	-	+	-	+	-	+	♞	- + 0
9	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y

54...f6!

55.♔g3 f5 56.♔g2 f4 57.♔g1 f3

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y
9	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	0
9	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0
9	-	+	-	+	-	+	p	+ 0
9	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0
9	-	+	-	+	♞	+	-	+ 0
9	+	-	+	-	+	p	+	- 0
9	-	+	-	+	-	♞	-	+ 0
9	+	-	+	-	+	-	♞	- 0
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y

58.♔f1

58...♔d3 59.♔e1 ♔c2 0-1

Michael Adams	2710
Magnus Carlsen	2848

London Chess Classic 2012

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y	
9	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	0	
9	+	-	+	-	+	-	p	- 0	
9	-	+	-	♞	-	+	-	p	0
9	+	-	p	q	p	-	+	♞	0
9	-	+	-	+	-	+	♞	+ 0	
9	+	♞	♞	-	+	-	♞	- 0	
9	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+ 0	
9	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0	
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y	

52.♞c4 ♞xc4

53.bxc4 e4 54.♔f4 e3! 55.♔f3!

55...♔e6 56.♔e2 ♔f6! 57.♔f3 ♔g5

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y	
9	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	0	
9	+	-	+	-	+	-	p	- 0	
9	-	+	-	+	-	+	p	0	
9	+	-	p	-	+	-	♞	♞	0
9	-	+	♞	+	-	+	♞	+ 0	
9	+	-	+	-	+	p	♞	+	- 0
9	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+ 0	
9	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0	
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y	

58.♔xe3 ♔xg4 59.♔e4 ♔xh5 60.♔d5

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y	
9	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	0	
9	+	-	+	-	+	-	p	- 0	
9	-	+	-	+	-	+	p	0	
9	+	-	p	♞	+	-	+	♞	0
9	-	+	♞	+	-	+	-	+ 0	
9	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0	
9	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+ 0	
9	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0	
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y	

60...g5 61.♔xc5 g4 62.♔d4 g3  
63.♔e3 ♔g4 and White resigned

X	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Y	
9	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	0	
9	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0	
9	-	+	♞	+	-	+	-	p	0
9	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0	
9	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+ 0	
9	+	-	+	-	♞	-	+	♞	0
9	-	+	-	+	-	+	p	+ 0	
9	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	0	
x	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	y	

to

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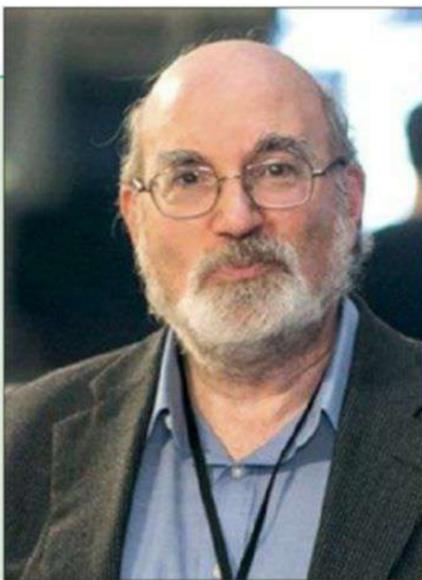


A VARIETY OF TIPS AND POSSIBILITIES THIS MONTH

# A TECH POTPOURRI

by JON EDWARDS

<https://secure.newinchess.com/Yearbook/Default.aspx?PageID=223>



**Jon Edwards** is an ICCF Senior International Master living in Pennington, NJ. He won the 10<sup>th</sup> US Championship and is now competing in the World Correspondence Candidates. He has written more than 40 chess books, notably *The Chess Analyst* (1999), *Sacking the Citadel* (2010), and *ChessBase Complete* (2014). He is regular columnist for *Chess Life for Kids*. His web site, *Chess is Fun*, provides free chess instruction.

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Issue	NicBase 3	ChessBase	PGN
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Yearbook 127 (2018)	-	-	
Yearbook 126 (2018)	-	-	
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Yearbook 124 (2017)	-	-	
Yearbook 123 (2017)	-	-	
Yearbook 122 (2017)	-	-	
Yearbook 121 (2016)	-	-	
Yearbook 120 (2016)	-	-	
Yearbook 119 (2016)	-	-	
Yearbook 118 (2016)	-	-	
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Yearbook 111 (2014)			
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Here is ChessBase 15 in its new Replay Training mode, with the radar position in the lower right.



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# FRESH LEAVES 9

## from the BOOKSHELF

by **FM CARSTEN HANSEN**



**Carsten Hansen** is a FIDE Master and chess enthusiast residing in Bayonne, New Jersey. He has written twelve books, mostly on openings, the most recent *The Sicilian Dragon – move by move* (Everyman Chess 2016). From 2000 to 2014, he wrote the book review column, Checkpoint at *chesscafe.com*. You can find his blog on all areas of chess at *carstenchess.com*.

### 10 NOTEWORTHY BOOKS



- 01 **Under the Surface**  
by Jan Markos (Quality Chess 2018)  ★★★★★
- 02 **Fabiano Caruana**  
by Alexander Kalinin (New In Chess 2018)  ★★★★★
- 03 **Understanding before Moving: Part 1**  
by Herman Grooten (Thinkers Publishing 2018)  ★★★★★
- 04 **Neumann, Hirschfeld and Suhle**  
by Hans Renet e and Fabrizio Zavatarelli (McFarland 2018)  ★★★★★
- 05 **The Bishop**  
by Sergey Kasparov (Russell Enterprises 2018)  ★★★★★
- 06 **by Milan Velimirovic & Kari Valtonen (Chess Informant 2018)**  ★★★★★
- 07 **Queen's Gambit Declined: Vienna**  
by Jacek Ilczuk & Krzysztof Panczyk (Everyman Chess 2018)  ★★★★★
- 08 **by Erik Kislik (Gambit Publications 2018)**  ★★★★★
- 09 **edited by Richard Forster, Michael Negele and Raj Tischbierek (Exzelsior Verlag 2018)**  ★★★★★
- 10 **by David Llada (Quality Chess 2017)**  ★★★★★

Opening – Mastering the Fundamentals

**01 Under the Surface**  
by Jan Markos

MSRP \$ 37.95

Hardcover

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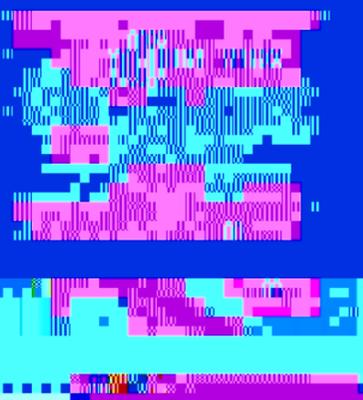
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**02 Fabiano Caruana -  
His Amazing Story and  
His Most Instructive  
Chess Games**  
by Alexander Kalinin

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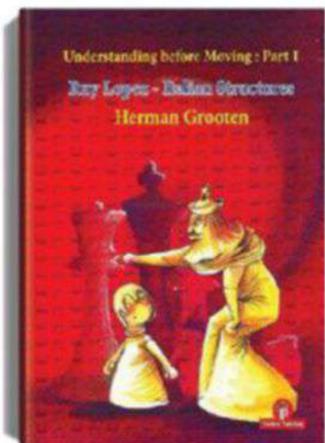


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**03 Understanding before Moving: Part 1 – Ruy Lopez – Italian Structures**  
by Herman Grooten

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Master Herman

is familiar to

as his *Chess Strategy for Club Players*

*Club Players*

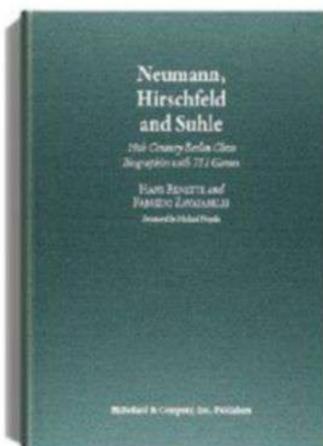
*Attacking Chess for*

*Think Later*

*Move First,*

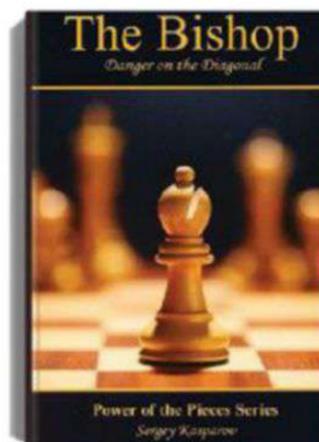
**04 Neumann, Hirschfeld and Suhle – 19<sup>th</sup> Century Berlin Chess Biographies with 711 Games**  
by Hans Rene e & Fabrizio Zavatarelli

MSRP \$ 75.00



**05 The Bishop**  
by Sergey Kasparov

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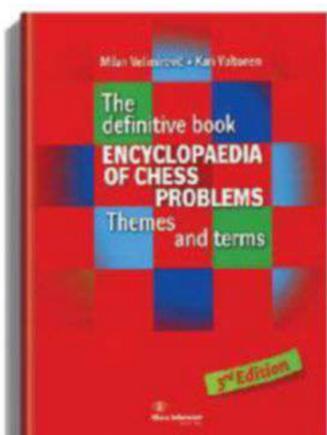
*Doubled Pawns*

authored *The Exchange Sacrifice* and

**06 The definitive book:  
Encyclopaedia of Chess  
Problems**

by Milan Velimirovic &  
Kari Valtonen

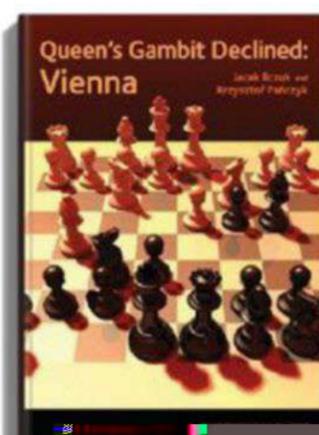
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**07 Queen's Gambit Declined:  
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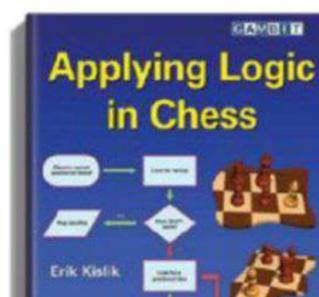
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on these lines

**08 Applying Logic in Chess**  
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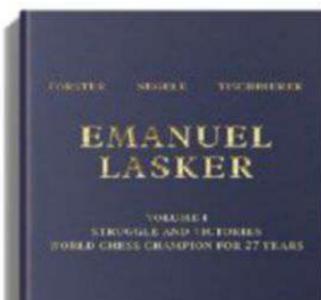


these into elements so that the reader

### 09 Emanuel Lasker – Volume 1: Struggle and Victories, World Chess Champion for 27 Years

edited by Richard Forster,  
Michael Negele and  
Raj Tischbierek

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my deadline

### 10 The Thinkers by David Llada

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if for no other  
reason than

*The  
Thinkers*

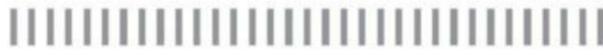
falls into this

are a reader

*Emanuel Lasker – Denker,  
Weltenburger, Schachweltmeister*

and then re-

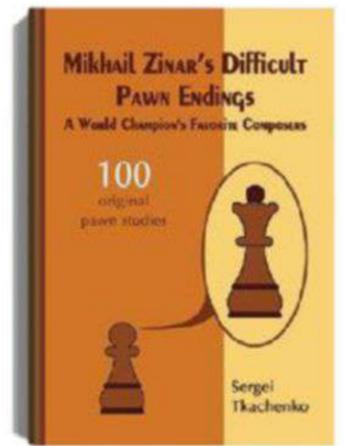
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Mikhail Zinar's  
*Difficult Pawn Endings,*

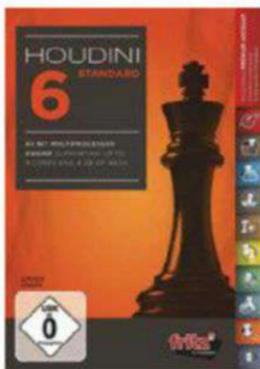
*A [Piece]*

*saves the Day*



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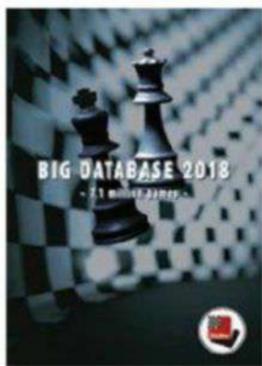
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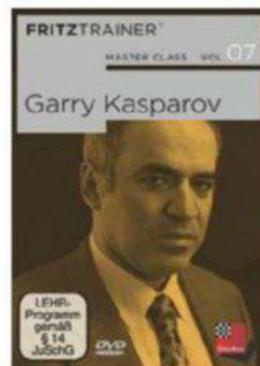
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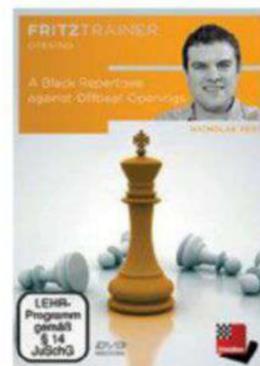
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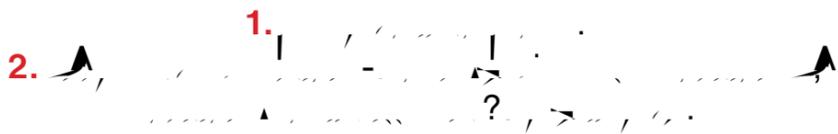


# Igor's Chess Doubles

Solutions on page 149

by IM IGOR KHMELNITSKY

For each pair



<b>1A</b>	<b>HARD</b>	<b>1B</b>
XI   I   I   I   I   I   I   I   Y		XI   I   I   I   I   I   I   I   Y
9- + - + k + r + 0		9- + - + k + r + 0
9+ l p - ♖ p + - 0		9+ l p - ♖ p + - 0
9- + - + - + - + 0		9- + - + - + - + 0
9p p p - ♙ - + p 0	<b>8</b>	9+ p p - ♙ - + p 0
9- + - + - ♗ - ♘ 0	points	9p + - + - ♗ - ♘ 0
9+ - ♙ ♙ + - t P 0		9+ - ♙ ♙ + - t P 0
9P ♙ - + - R P ♞ 0		9P ♙ - + - R P ♞ 0
9R - + - + - + - 0		9R - + - + - + - 0
xi   i   i   i   i   i   i   i   y		xi   i   i   i   i   i   i   i   y
Black to Move		Black to Move

<b>2A</b>	<b>MODERATE</b>	<b>2B</b>
XI   I   I   I   I   I   I   I   Y		XI   I   I   I   I   I   I   I   Y
9r + - + - t k + 0		9r + - + - t k + 0
9p - p q + p p p 0		9p - p q + p p p 0
9- + p p - + - + 0		9- + p p - + - + 0
9♗ - + - ♘ - + - 0	<b>5</b>	9♗ - + - ♘ - + - 0
9- + P + - ♘ - + 0	points	9- + P + - ♘ - + 0
9♘ P + - + - + - 0		9♘ P + - + - + - 0
9P + L + - ♙ ♙ ♙ 0		9P + - + - ♙ ♙ ♙ 0
9+ - + R + R ♞ - 0		9+ L + R + R ♞ - 0
xi   i   i   i   i   i   i   i   y		xi   i   i   i   i   i   i   i   y
White to Move		White to Move

<b>4A</b>	<b>EASY (Extra)</b>
XI   I   I   I   I   I   I   I   Y	
9- + - t n + - ♞ 0	
9p p ♘ - + r p p 0	
9- + p p q p - + 0	
9+ - + - + N + - 0	
9- + P + P + - + 0	
9+ P + - + - + Q 0	
9P ♘ - + - ♙ ♙ ♙ 0	
9+ - + R R - ♞ - 0	
xi   i   i   i   i   i   i   i   y	
White to Move	
<b>4B</b>	<b>3</b>
XI   I   I   I   I   I   I   I   Y	points
9- + - t l + - ♞ 0	
9p p ♘ - + r p p 0	
9- + p p q p - + 0	
9+ - + - + N + - 0	
9- + P + P + - + 0	
9+ P + - + - + Q 0	
9P ♘ - + - ♙ ♙ ♙ 0	
9+ - + R R - ♞ - 0	
xi   i   i   i   i   i   i   i   y	
White to Move	

<b>3A</b>	<b>EASY</b>	<b>3B</b>
XI   I   I   I   I   I   I   I   Y		XI   I   I   I   I   I   I   I   Y
9- + - + - + k + 0		9- + - + - + k + 0
9+ - + q + p p p 0		9+ - + q + p p p 0
9- + - + - + - + 0		9- + - + - + - + 0
9+ p t - + - + - 0	<b>2</b>	9+ p + - + - + - 0
9- + - + - ♗ - + 0	points	9- + - + - ♗ - + 0
9+ - + - + - + - 0		9+ - t - + - + - 0
9- + - + - ♙ ♙ ♙ 0		9- + - + - ♙ ♙ ♙ 0
9R - + - + - ♞ - 0		9R - + - + - ♞ - 0
xi   i   i   i   i   i   i   i   y		xi   i   i   i   i   i   i   i   y
White to Move		White to Move

# TOURNAMENT REVIEW

## SEPTEMBER – NOVEMBER 2018

### ALBANY, NY

August 31 - September 3, 2018  
140 Annual New York State  
Championship 2018 (5 rounds)

1. Lev PACIORKOWSKI 5
- 2-3. Jay R BONIN, Jimmy HEISERMAN 4½
- 4-10. David BRODSKY, Bryan G SMITH,  
Max GEDAJLOVIC,  
Matan PRILLELTENSKY, Alan ZHANG,  
Jacob CHEN, Tyler Taira TANAKA 4

### JACKSONVILLE, FL

September 1-3, 2018  
Florida State Championship 2018  
(6 rounds)

1. Jorge Leon OQUENDO 5½
- 2-3. Arslan OTCHIYEV, Bryan TILLIS 4½
4. Benjamin FINEGOLD 4
- 5-11. Corey ACOR,  
Ravindra WIJESUNDERA, Raghav VENKAT,  
Goran MARKOVIC, Alex SINNOTT,  
Bach NGO, Benjamin L.J. CHEN 3½

### CINCINNATI, OH

September 1-3, 2018  
2018 Ohio Chess Congress (6 rounds)

1. Mika BRATTAIN 6
2. Elton CAO 5
- 3-4. Scott RAMER, Adam GERVER 4½
- 5-7. Madhavan NARKEERAN,  
Justin STORN, Michael JOELSON 4
- 8-13. Logan WU, Aristo LIU,  
Hans MULTHOFF, Blake BAUMGARTNER,  
Russell WILSON, Drew HOLLINBERGER 3½

### PORTLAND, OR

September 1-3, 2018  
68<sup>th</sup> Annual Oregon Open (6 rounds)

1. Matt ZAVORTINK 5
- 2-7. James Edward TARJAN,  
Nick RAPTIS, Anthony BI HE,  
Seth TALYANSKY, David ROPER,  
Daniel SHUBIN 4½

ACM would like to invite tournament organizers and players to submit announcements, results and games to be featured in Tournament Review section. Send your submissions to [office@acmchess.com](mailto:office@acmchess.com) or visit [www.acmchess.com/submit](http://www.acmchess.com/submit). Information published here is free of any charge. For advertising space, visit [www.acmchess.com/advertise](http://www.acmchess.com/advertise)

- 8-12. Shunkai PENG, Joshua GRABINSKY,  
Jason YU, Joseph LEVINE,  
Eric M ZHANG 4

### SAN DIEGO, CA

September 1-3, 2018  
Southern California Open 2018 (6 rounds)

1. Timur GAREYEV 5½
- 2-3. Keaton KIEWRA,  
Robert SHYAKHTENKO 4½
- 4-10. Thomas DIEM,  
Alexander COSTELLO, Gabriel SAM,  
Gordon McNEILL, Nicky KORBA,  
Alex KOLAY, Ming LU 4

▼ Timur Garyev. Photo by David Llada



### SAINT PAUL, MN

September 21-23, 2018  
4<sup>th</sup> Golden Gopher Open (6 rounds)

- 1-2. Timur GAREYEV, Ashwin JAYARAM 4½
- 3-4. Fidel CORRALES, Andrew TANG 4
- 5-13. Andrew Lewis TITUS,  
Samrug NARAYANAN, Ashton JIN, Isaac  
WIEBE, Dane ZAGAR,  
Andrew SHEEHAN, Josiah Israel JORENBY,  
Alice LEE, Samarth RAM 3½

### FALLS CHURCH, VA

October 4-8, 2018  
10<sup>th</sup> Washington Chess Congress  
(9 rounds)

1. Samuel SEVIAN 7½
2. Sergey ERENBURG 7
3. Carlos Antonio HEVIA ALEJANO 6½
- 4-10. Vladimir BELOUS,  
Kacper DROZDOWSKI, Joshua RUIZ,  
Tianqi WANG, Arthur GUO,  
Leif PRESSMAN, Abhimanyu MISHRA 6

### WHEELING, IL

October 5-7, 2018  
27<sup>th</sup> Midwest Class Championships  
(5 rounds)

- 1-5. Mika BRATTAIN, Ben LI,  
Justus WILLIAMS, William GRAIF,  
Awonder LIANG 4
- 6-17. Aaron GRABINSKY, Jason WANG,  
Mauro AMPIE, Samrug NARAYANAN,  
Julian PROLEIKO, Nikola MITKOV,  
Tom POLGAR-SHUTZMAN,  
Dmitry GUREVICH, Scott RAMER,  
James Alex NEAL, Arshaq SALEEM,  
Joseph St PIERRE 3½

**ANDREWS AFB, MD**

October 6-8, 2018

2018 Armed Forces Open (5 rounds)

- 1-3. Larry LARKINS, Michael ADARLO, Dharim BACUS **4½**  
 4-8. Andrew PERAINO, Narciso VICTORIA, Eigen WANG, Paul CHOATE, Daniel TANCO **4**  
 9-10. Gordon RANDALL, Abiye WILLIAMS **3½**

**SAINT LOUIS, MO**

October 10-18, 2018

Fall Chess Classic 2018 (round-robin)

**Group A**

1. Aleksey DREEV **5**  
 2-4. Varuzhan AKOBIAN, Eric HANSEN, Lazaro BRUZON **4**  
 5-7. Alex LENDERMAN, Yuriy KUZUBOV, Ray ROBSON **3½**  
 8. Jon-Ludvig HAMMER **3**  
 9. S.P. SETHURAMAN **2½**  
 10. Dariusz SWIERCZ **2**

**Group B**

1. Hovhanes GABUZHYAN **6**  
 2-4. Ashwin JAYARAM, Elshan MORADIABADI, Conrad HOLT **4**  
 5-6. Brandon JACOBSON, Denes BOROS **3½**  
 7-8. Steven ZIERK, Sergei AZAROV **3**  
 9-10. Akshat CHANDRA, Christopher YOO **2**

**RENO, NV**

October 19-21, 2018

36<sup>th</sup> Annual Sands Regency Reno - Western States Open (6 rounds)

1. Fidel CORRALES **5**  
 2-4. Sergey KUDRIN, Enrico SEVILLANO, Andrew ZHANG HONG **4½**  
 5-8. Derek O'CONNOR, Ezra Paul CHAMBERS, Dale HAESSEL, Rochelle WU **4**  
 9-11. Eugene YANAYT, Joshua GRABINSKY, David BRAGG **3½**

**PRINCETON, NJ**

October 26-28, 2018

22<sup>nd</sup> Eastern Chess Congress

1. Fidel CORRALES **4½**  
 2-5. Alexander SHABALOV,

John M. BURKE, Alexander KATZ, David BRODSKY **4**

- 6-7. Sergey ERENBURG, Alexander FISHBEIN **3½**  
 8-17. Lev PACIORKOWSKI, Justin SARKAR, Daniel CREMISI, Vincent UMayAN, Boris PRIVMAN, Andrew ARDITO, Alan ZHANG, Yefim TREGER, Terry LUO, Alexander HU **3**

**LOS ANGELES, CA**

November 2-4, 2018

13<sup>th</sup> Los Angeles Open (5 rounds)

1. Atousa POURKASHIYAN **4½**  
 2-6. John D. BRYANT, Alexander COSTELLO, Keerthi KVIJAY, Eugene YANAYT, Noam FEINBERG **4**  
 7-13. Adarsh JAYAKUMAR, Jianwen WONG, Robert SHLYAKHTENKO, Timothy W. TAYLOR, Gabriel EIDELMAN, Teddie WEN, Jeffrey CHOU **3½**

**STAMFORD, CT**

November 2-4, 2018

4<sup>th</sup> Stamford Open (5 rounds)

1. Alexander IVANOV **4**  
 2-5. David BRODSKY, Lev PACIORKOWSKI, Justin SARKAR, Maximillian LU **3½**  
 6-12. Arslan OTCHIYEV, Andrew RYBA, Max LI, Colin DENNISTON, Aasa DOMMALAPATI, Eshan GUHA, Sebastian PRESTIA **3**

**SAINT LOUIS, MO**

November 5-13, 2018

Winter Chess Classic 2018 (round robin)

**Group A**

1. Yuniesky QUESADA PEREZ **7**  
 2-5. Krishnan SASIKIRAN, Hrant MELKUMYAN, Jeffery XIONG, Samuel SEVIAN **5**  
 6. Dariusz SWIERCZ **4½**  
 7. Ray ROBSON **4**  
 8. Aleksandr SHIMANOV **3½**  
 9-10. Alexander MOTYLEV, Evgenij MIROSHNICHENKO **3**

**Group B**

- 1-2. Zaven ANDRIASIAN, Victor MIKHALEVSKI **5½**  
 3. Aram Hakobyan **5**

- 4-6. Nikolas THEODOROU, Lucas VAN FOREEST, Robby KEVLISHVILI **4½**  
 7-9. Cemil Can ALI MARANDI, Joel BENJAMIN, Eugene PERELSHTEYN **4**  
 10. Timur GAREYEV **3½**

**Tie-break:**

- Zaven ANDRIASIAN **2**  
 Victor MIKHALEVSKI **1**

**BLUE ASH, OH**

November 9-11, 2018

27<sup>th</sup> Kings Island Open (5 rounds)

- 1-2. Andrey STUKOPIN, Hovhannes GABUZYAN **4½**  
 3. Alexander SHABALOV **4**  
 4-12. Elshan MORADIABADI, Vladimir GEORGIEV, Nikola MITKOV, Mika BRATTAIN, Bryan SMITH, Ben LI, Deepak AARON, Scott RAMER, Archit MOKASHI **3½**

**DALLAS, TX**

November 16-21, 2018

2018 UT Dallas Fall FIDE Open (9 rounds)

1. Akshat CHANDRA **7**  
 2-3. Danny RAZNIKOV, Gil POPILSKI **6**  
 4-11. Ruifeng LI, Omer RESHEF, Anton KOVALYOV, Kacper DROZDOWSKI, Timur GAREYEV, Razvan PREOTU, Irakli BERADZE, Angel ARRIBAS LOPEZ **5½**

**CHARLOTTE, NC**

November 21-25, 2018

Fall 2018 CCCSA GM Norm Invitational (round-robin)

1. Nicolas CHECA **6½**  
 2-3. Alexander KATZ, David BERCZES **5½**  
 4. Kassa KORLEY **5**  
 5-6. Tanguy RINGOIR, Joel BANAWA **4½**  
 7-8. Kevin WANG,





Angel ARRIBAS LOPEZ 4  
 9. Brandon JACOBSON 3½  
 10. Tianqi WANG 2

**COSTA MESA, CA**  
 November 22-25, 2018  
 54<sup>th</sup> Annual American Open (8 rounds)

1-2. John BRYANT, Danial ASARIA 6  
 3-5. Melikset KHACHIYAN, Philip WANG,  
 Keaton KIEWRA 5½  
 6-11. Cameron WHEELER,  
 Alexandre KRETCHETOV, Anthony GE,  
 Alexander COSTELLO,  
 Vijay KRISHNAMOORTHY,  
 Gabriel EIDELMAN 5

**SAINT LOUIS, MO**  
 November 23-25, 2018  
 Thanksgiving Open (6 rounds)

1-2. Dariusz SWIERCZ,  
 Emilio CORDOVA 5  
 3-6. Lazaro BRUZON BATISTA,  
 Benjamin BOK, Nikolas THEODOROU,  
 Felix Jose YNOJOSA APONTE 4½  
 7-9. Alex SHIMANOV, Peter PROHASZKA,  
 James A. NEAL II 4  
 10-13. Aaron GRABINSKY, Mauro AMPIE,  
 Tom POLGAR-SHUTZMAN, Logan WU 3½

**SAN JOSE, CA**  
 November 23-25, 2018  
 2018 California Class Warfare  
 Championship (6 rounds)

1-3. Zviad IZORIA, Tejas BAKRE,  
 Enrico SEVILLANO 5  
 4-9. Richard KELSON, Rochelle WU,  
 Vinesh RAVURI, Oliver WU, William  
 SARTORIO, Anthony HUNG 3½

**PHILADELPHIA, PA**  
 November 23-25, 2018  
 National Chess Congress 2018 (6 rounds)

1-4. Andrew TANG, Sergei AZAROV,  
 Sergey ERENBURG,  
 Aleksandr LENDERMAN 5  
 5-7. John M BURKE, Michael ROHDE,  
 Alexander SHABALOV 4½  
 8-13. Irina KRUSH, Ben LI,  
 Oliver BARBOSA, Mackenzie MOLNER,  
 Evelyn ZHU, Isaac MARTINEZ 4

# Igor's Chess Doubles

## SOLUTIONS

Page 146

### 1. HARD - 8 POINTS

4... ♖xd1+ and mate in

(B) (A) and not

1. ♖xe5

1... ♖g4

2. ♖e4

### 3. EASY - 2 POINTS

1... ♖xh4

(A)

(B)

2. ♖xh4

2... ♜xg2+ 3. ♜xg2 ♜xg2+ 4. ♔h1  
 4... ♜g4+

1. ♖d4!

5. ♔h2 ♜xh4 6. ♔g3

addresses all three is 1... ♖c8

5... ♜g2+

2. ♖xc3  
 2... ♖xc3? 3. ♜a8+  
 ♖c8 4. ♜xc8 mate

after 6. ♔g3 ♜a4

### 4. EASY (EXTRA) - 3 POINTS

### 2. MODERATE - 5 POINTS

(B)

(A).

on e8 (B)

(A).

1. ♖xe5

20. ♖h6 ♖xh3

1... ♖g4!

21. ♖xf7+ ♔g8

22. gxh3

2. ♖e4

20. ♖h6

2... ♖h3+ 3. ♔h1 ♖xf2+ and White is  
 4. ♜xf2 his rook on d1

♜e7



# TOURNAMENTS

## from **ABROAD**

**SATKA, RUSSIA**

August 24 - September 6, 2018  
71<sup>st</sup> Russian Championship (round-robin)

- 1-2. Dmitry JAKOVENKO,  
Dmitry ANDREIKIN **7**  
3. Evgeny TOMASHEVSKY **6½**  
4-6. Ernesto INARKIEV,  
Vladimir FEDOSEEV,  
Ian NEPOMNIACHTCHI **6**  
7. Grigoriy OPARIN **5½**  
8-9. Alexey SARANA, Daniil DUBOV **5**  
10-11. Mikhail KOBALIA,  
Nikita VITIUGOV **4½**  
12. Denis KHISMATULLIN **3**

**Tie-break:**

- Dmitry ANDREIKIN **1½**  
Dmitry JAKOVENKO **½**

**SATKA, RUSSIA**

August 24 - September 6, 2018  
68<sup>th</sup> Russian Women's Championship  
(round-robin)

- 1-2. Olga GIRYA, Natalija POGONINA **7½**  
3-4. Alina KASHLINSKAYA,  
Aleksandra GORYACHKINA **7**  
5-6. Valentina GUNINA,  
Alexandra KOSTENIUK **6½**  
7. Alisa GALLIAMOVA **6**  
8. Polina SHUVALOVA **5**  
9. Oksana GRITSAYEVA **4**  
10. Elena TOMILOVA **3½**  
11. Anastasia BODNARUK **3**  
12. Anastasiya PROTOPOPOVA **2½**

**Tie-break:**

- Natalija POGONINA **1½**  
Olga GIRYA **½**

**MANAVGAT, TURKEY**

September 4-16, 2018  
57<sup>th</sup> World Juniors U-20 Championship  
(165 players, 11 rounds)

1. Parham MAGHSOODLOO **9½**  
2-4. Abhimanyu PURANIK,

Sergei LOBANOV, Andrey ESIPENKO **8½**  
5-6. Amin M. TABATABAEI, Jinshi BAI **8**  
7-18. Johan-Sebastian CHRISTIANSEN,  
Aram HAKOBYAN, Harsha BHARATHAKOTI,  
Alireza FIROUZJA, Alexander DONCHENKO,  
Sunilduth Lyna NARAYANAN,  
Jordan VAN FOREEST,  
Murali KARTHIKEYAN,  
Chithambaram VR. ARAVINDH,  
Haik MARTIROSYAN,  
Nodirbek YAKUBBOEV,  
Semyon LOMASOV **7½**

**MANAVGAT, TURKEY**

September 4-16, 2018  
36<sup>th</sup> World Junior Girls U-20 Championship  
(98 players, 11 rounds)

1-2. Aleksandra MALTSEVSKAYA,  
Gulrukhbegim TOKHIRJONOVA **8½**  
3-7. Nino KHOMERIKI, Nazerke NURGALI,  
Dinara DORDZHIEVA,  
Stavroula TSOLAKIDOU, Jiner ZHU **8**  
8-11. Bibisara ASSAUBAYEVA,  
Gabriela ANTOVA, Bai XUE,  
Sila CAGLAR **7½**

**DOUGLAS, ENGLAND**

October 20-28, 2018  
chess.com Isle of Man Masters  
(165 players, 9 rounds)

1-2. Radoslaw WOJTASZEK,  
Arkadij NAIDITSCH **7**  
3-9. Vladimir KRAMNIK,  
Alexander GRISCHUK, Hikaru NAKAMURA,  
Wang HAO, Gawain JONES,  
Baskaran ADHIBAN, Jeffery XIONG **6½**  
10-28. Anish GIRI,  
Maxime VACHIER-LAGRAVE,  
Viswanathan ANAND, Sergey KARJAKIN,  
Richard RAPPORT, Liem LE QUANG,  
Santosh VIDIT, Vladislav ARTEMIEV,  
Zoltan ALMASI, Peter LEKO,  
David HOWELL, S.P. SETHURAMAN,  
VladislavKOVALEV, Hrant MELKUMYAN,  
Emil SUTOVSKY,  
Mircea-Emilian PARLIGRAS,

Surya Shekhar GANGULY,  
Daniel FRIDMAN, Alina KASHLINSKAYA **6**

**Tie break:**

- Radoslaw WOJTASZEK **2**  
Arkadij NAIDITSCH **1**

**PORTO CARRAS, GREECE**

October 11-19, 2018  
34<sup>th</sup> European Team Championship Open  
(61 teams, 7½ rounds)

- 1-2. Mednyi Vsadnik St.Petersburg,  
AVE Novy Bor **12**  
3-6. Molodezhka, Obiettivo Risarcimento  
Padova, Valerenga Sjakklubb, Alkaloid **11**  
7-8. Itaka, CC Gambit Asseco SEE **10**

**PORTO CARRAS, GREECE**

October 11-19, 2018  
34<sup>th</sup> European Team Championship,  
Women  
(12 teams, 2-group 5 rounds + SF + final)

1. Cercle d'Echecs de Monte-Carlo **13**  
2. Nona **12**  
3. Ugra **9**  
4. SSHOR **7**

**PORTO CARRAS, GREECE**

October 20-30, 2018  
World Youth Open U18 Championship  
(11 rounds)

1. Viktor GAZIK **8½**  
2-6. Igor JANIK, Szymon GUMULARZ,  
Luca MORONI Jr, Ashot PARVANYAN,  
Zhandos AGMANOV **8**  
7-8. Kirill SHEVCHENKO, Leon LIVAIC **7½**

**PORTO CARRAS, GREECE**

October 20-30, 2018  
World Youth Girls U18 Championship  
(11 rounds)

1. Polina SHUVALOVA **10**



2-5. Alexandra OBOLENTSEVA,  
Teodora INJAC, Sagar TEJASWINI,  
Aleksandra DIMITROVA **8**  
6-8. Mukherjee ARPITA, Goyal TARINI,  
Alicja SLIWICKA **7½**

#### PORTO CARRAS, GREECE

October 20-30, 2018  
World Youth Open U16 Championship  
(11 rounds)

1. Shant SARGSYAN **9**  
2. Viktor MATVIISHEN **8½**  
3-6. Nikoloz PETRIASHVILI,  
Nodirbek YAKUBBOEV,  
Tor Fredrik KAASEN, Luis ENGEL **8**  
7-10. Pawel TECLAF, Felix BLOHBERGER,  
David GAVRILESCU, David STEVANIC **7½**

#### PORTO CARRAS, GREECE

October 20-30, 2018  
World Youth Girls U16 Championship  
(11 rounds)

1-2. Annmarie MUETSCH, Honorata  
KUCHARSKA **8½**  
3. Goyal SANSKRITI **8**  
4-11. Jovana SRDANOVIC,  
Govhar BEYDULLAYEVA,  
Aashna MAKHIJA, Maria BERDNYK,  
Michalina RUDZINSKA,  
Thalia CERVANTES LANDEIRO,  
Lara SCHULZE, Assel SERIKBAY **7½**

#### PORTO CARRAS, GREECE

October 20-30, 2018  
World Youth Open U14 Championship  
(11 rounds)

1-2. Pedro Antonio GINES ESTEO,  
Nikoloz KACHARAVA **9**  
3-8. Kazybek NOGERBEK, Dmitry TSOI,  
Nikolaos SPYROPOULOS, Jan SUBELJ,  
Aydin SULEYMANLI, Konstantin POPOV **8**

#### PORTO CARRAS, GREECE

October 20-30, 2018  
World Youth Girls U14 Championship  
(11 rounds)

1. Kaiyu NING **9**  
2-3. Yuxin SONG, Divya DESHMUKH **8½**  
4. Yelyzaveta HREBENSHCHYKOVA **8**  
5-14. L JYOTHSNA, Leya GARIFULLINA,  
Dehankar MRUDUL,

Maria EIZAGUERRI FLORIS,  
Eva STEPANYAN, Evelyn ZHU,  
Miruna-Daria LEHACI,  
Beloslava KRASTEVA,  
Parva BEHZAD NAZIF, Martyna WIKAR **7½**

#### SHENZHEN, CHINA

November 4-15, 2018  
2<sup>nd</sup> Du Te Cup (double round-robin)

1-3. Maxime VACHIER-LAGRAVE,  
Anish GIRI, Ding LIREN **5½**  
4-5. Yu YANGYI, Nikita VITIUGOV **5**  
6. Radoslaw WOJTASZEK **3½**

#### KOLKATA, INDIA

November 9-14, 2018  
Tata Steel India Rapid (round-robin)

1. Hikaru NAKAMURA **6**  
2-3. Pentala HARIKRISHNA,  
Levon ARONIAN **5½**  
4-5. Wesley SO,  
Shakhriyar MAMEDYAROV **5**  
6. Sergey KARJAKIN **4½**  
7-8. Viswanathan ANAND,  
Santosh VIDIT **4**  
9. Nihal SARIN **3**  
10. Surya Shekhar GANGULY **2½**

#### KOLKATA, INDIA

November 9-14, 2018  
Tata Steel India Blitz  
(double round-robin)

1-2. Hikaru NAKAMURA,  
Viswanathan ANAND **12½**  
3. Levon ARONIAN **12**  
4. Wesley SO **10**  
5-7. Shakhriyar MAMEDYAROV,  
Pentala HARIKRISHNA, Santosh VIDIT **8**  
8. Sergey KARJAKIN **7½**  
9. Surya Shekhar GANGULY **6**  
10. R. PRAGGNANANDHAA **5½**

#### Tie-break:

Viswanathan ANAND **1½**  
Hikaru NAKAMURA **½**

#### ZAGREB, CROATIA

November 12-23, 2018  
Tournament of Peace 2018 (round robin)

1. Baskaran ADHIBAN **7½**  
2-3. Etienne BACROT,

Vassily IVANCHUK **7**  
4-5. Ivan SARIC, Ivan CHEPARINOV **6½**  
6-7. Vladimir MALAKHOV, Bassem AMIN **6**  
8. Robert ZELCIC **5**  
9. Hrvoje STEVIC **4½**  
10-11. Zdenko KOZUL, Mladen PALAC **4**  
12. Zoran JOVANOVIĆ **2**

#### KHANTY-MANSIYSK, RUSSIA

November 3-23, 2018  
Women's World Championship  
Knockout 2018

#### 1/4 Final

Ju WENJUN (CHN) **1½**  
Gulrukhbegim TOKHIRJONOVA (UZB) **½**

Mariya MUZYCHUK (UKR) **4½**  
Zhansaya ABDUMALIK (KAZ) **3½**

Kateryna LAGNO (RUS) **2**  
Lei TINGJIE (CHN) **0**

Alexandra KOSTENIUK (RUS) **2½**  
Anna MUZYCHUK (UKR) **1½**

#### 1/2 Final

Alexandra KOSTENIUK (RUS) **½**  
Ju WENJUN (CHN) **1½**

Mariya MUZYCHUK (UKR) **1**  
Kateryna LAGNO (RUS) **3**

#### Final

Ju WENJUN (CHN) **5**  
Kateryna LAGNO (RUS) **3**

#### BLED, SLOVENIA

November 17-30, 2018  
2018 World Senior 50+ (11 rounds)

1-2. Karen MOVSHISZIAN,  
Giorgi BAGATUROV **8½**  
3-6. Zurab STURUA, Klaus BISCHOFF,  
Ram SOFFER, Mark VAN DER WERF **8**  
7-12. Evgenij KALEGIN,  
Ketevan ARAKHAMIA-GRANT,  
Keith ARKELL, Francois VAREILLE,  
Dale HAESSEL, Sandor BIRO **7½**





# WHERE GRANDMASTERS ADVISE YOUNG PLAYERS

# 5x5 Q&A

**01** What is the advantage of someone starting to play chess at an early age? When is it best to start? And for those who might be late in learning the game, are they able to get back on track to becoming a titled player?

Just as in any undertaking, starting young does give someone an edge over latecomers. It is best to start as soon as the child shows a willing interest in learning the game. The earlier the better. But never force a child to take up chess. One should try to stimulate their curiosity and enthusiasm for the game without imposing it. History has shown that a few world-class players like Akiba Rubinstein and Mikhail Chigorin were late learners but that was before the age of computers! And so, for those who might be late in learning the game today, becoming a titled player is definitely achievable as long as there is the passion and dedication to achieve such a goal. Nowadays preparation and practice are doable in the comfort of your own home.

**02** If there are three main departments of the game opening, middlegame and endgame what portion of our time should we spend on each? And what is the most important?

All these departments are important. First the opinion and advice of an expert should be sought to assess one's overall chess knowledge. It is only after a

Asia's first grandmaster in 1974

**GM EUGENIO TORRE**



Photo by David Liada.

player realizes their strengths and weaknesses that it is logical to spend more time on the department in which they are most vulnerable.

**03** From your own experience can you recall any specific type of opening position or endgame theme that an aspiring chess player should be sure to study because of its particular importance?

In the opening, the classical symmetrical approach, 1.e4 e5, 1.d4 d5, or 1.c4 c5, etc. are all worth studying. In the endgame, it is a must to know by heart the subtleties of king and pawn endings and their winning and drawing methods. Equally indispensable are the decisive themes in rook and pawn endgames, such as the Lucena position, and also the

various concepts involved in surviving in difficult positions. Similarly, studying and understanding the numerous motifs in knight, bishop and queen endings are all important.

**04** Not everyone can be a chess world champion. But how can chess be of benefit in life and business?

There are countless benefits one can derive from chess and some of these can be found by googling "the benefits of chess". Many of our mental attributes are enhanced by playing chess. Lots of imagination is required to get the most out of the game. In fact Albert Einstein once said, "Imagination is more important than knowledge". We can also try to identify our "kings" in life and business: family, health, education,

profession and integrity. We should protect them and make sure they will not be checkmated! Vices and bad habits are the blunders and pitfalls of life. Many chess concepts can be very usefully applied in life: control of the center, time and space, harmonious positioning of pawns and pieces, and Philidor's famous statement "Pawns are the soul of chess", are just a few of the numerous instructive principles that are embedded in chess. Once appreciated by a practitioner on the chessboard, the real challenge is then to apply these in life.

**05** Why would you recommend chess to youngsters? What joys may they expect to experience on this thrilling journey, in addition to those you have mentioned in your previous answer?

I would recommend chess to youngsters because just as we need regular physical exercise, so do we also need regular mental exercise. To be fully healthy, our body cannot do without the mind and vice-versa. Chess is also one wholesome diversion that is easily accessible to everyone and can be an effective deterrent to the temptations of hazardous vices like drug-taking. In chess, as long as you give your honest best before, during and after a game in a tournament, the outcome is predictable. It can be sweet memories or a learning experience. Either way you come out a winner!



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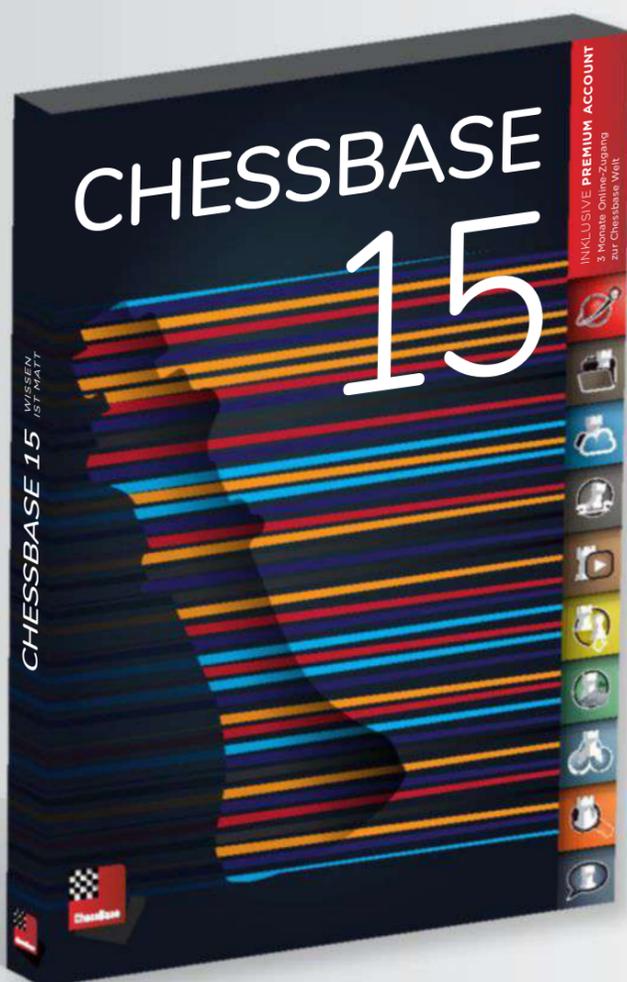
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<p>NEW: ChessBase 15 program</p> <p>NEW: Big Database 2019</p> <p>Update service through end of 2019</p> <p>Access to ChessBase Online Database (8 million games)</p> <p>ChessBase Magazine subscription (3 issues)</p> <p>ChessBase Premium membership (6 months)</p>	<p>NEW: ChessBase 15 program</p> <p>+ NEW: Mega Database 2019</p> <p>Update service through end of 2019</p> <p>Access to ChessBase Online Database (8 million games)</p> <p>+ ChessBase Magazine subscription (6 issues)</p> <p>ChessBase Premium membership (12 months)</p>	<p>NEW: ChessBase 15 program</p> <p>+ NEW: Mega Database 2019</p> <p>Update service through end of 2019</p> <p>+ Corr Database 2018</p> <p>+ NEW: Endgame Turbo 5 on a 128 GB USB stick</p> <p>Access to ChessBase Online Database (8 million games)</p> <p>ChessBase Magazine subscription (6 issues)</p> <p>ChessBase Premium membership (12 months)</p>
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