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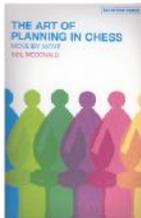
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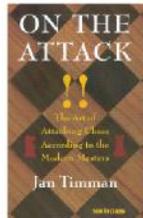
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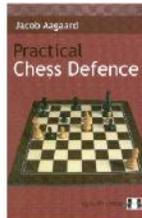
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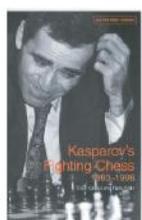
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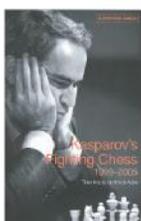
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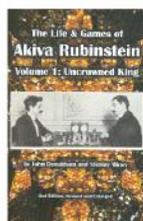
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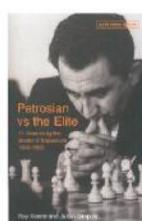
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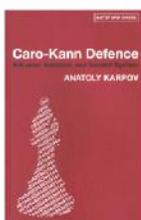
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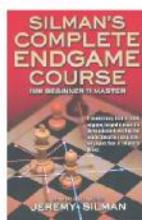
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*Ottawa stages a spectacular Canadian Open and a record breaking Canadian Youth Chess Championship.*

## FEATURE EVENT

CANADIAN OPEN

PAGE 26

### Articles:

Robert Hamilton, Hal Bond  
Jean Hebert, Larry Parr

Games Analyst: Nikolay Noritsyn  
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# CHESS CANADA

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# In the News

By Robert Hamilton

## Nikolay Notches Nationals

Toronto prodigy Nikolay Noritsyn became the youngest Canadian Champion in history by winning the Canadian Championship held in Kitchener in August. With his victory, Nikolay broke the 66-year-old record set by legendary Abe Yanofsky in 1941.

This year's championship wound up in a dramatic four way tie for first between Noritsyn, Jean Hébert, Ron Livshits and newcomer Artem Samsonkin. The playoff matches that ensued were indeed spectacular. In Round 1 of the playoffs, Samsonkin

prevailed over Livshits, but the Hébert vs. Noritsyn match-up was an amazing affair. In the rapid/speed play matches, the two titans split one two game match after another before Hébert finally extended his hand and said "It's yours." Nikolay then defeated Samsonkin to clinch the crown.

With his victory in the championship, Nikolay confirmed his IM title only weeks after picking up his fourth norm in Ottawa. We'll have detailed coverage of the Canadian Championship in the next issue of Chess Canada.



**Noritsyn - Canada's youngest champion ever**

photo: [www.monroi.com](http://www.monroi.com)



**Ivanchuk unbeatable on Canadian soil**

photo: [www.chesstigers.de](http://www.chesstigers.de)

## Stars Descent on Montreal

There's something about Canada that brings out the best in Super Grandmaster Vassily Ivanchuk. In the 2005 Canadian Open, he tied first, facing the strongest players along the way. This summer he was at it again, but this time the field was considerably tougher. The Montreal International was a whopping Category 17 event, one of the strongest in North American history, and Ivanchuk walked away with clear first. Canadians Mark Bluvshtein and Pascal

Charbonneau turned in relatively solid performances, considering the strength of opposition.

The event was again organized by André Langlois and sponsored by the Empresa Group, who continue to do bigger and better things in chess.

Jean Hébert provides detailed coverage of the event on page 39 of this issue of Chess Canada.

## The Empire Strikes Back

Legendary World Chess Champion Garry Kasparov visited Toronto in June to give a simultaneous exhibition and deliver a speech at the prestigious Empire Club.

Speaking before a packed house, Kasparov gave a scathing speech about the current state of Russia under the Putin regime. Kasparov has dedicated his early retirement to drawing world attention to the atrocities being committed in Russia. As with most Kasparov appearances, the speech attracted

significant media coverage. In Canada and around the world, the event was covered by major media outlets.

Both the simultaneous and the Empire Club speech were sponsored by Sid and Alicia Belzberg, who continue to make valuable contributions to the Canadian chess landscape.

And, yes, Kasparov easily dispatched all twenty opponents in his simultaneous exhibition.



**Kasparov Attacks Putin in Toronto**

photo: [www.chessbase.com](http://www.chessbase.com)

## Get Ready to Rumble

As we go to press, the stage is set in Mexico for the World Chess Championship tournament, an eight player double round robin event.

Heading in, most insiders consider the favourites to be current champ Vladimir Kramnik (Russia) and Viswanathan Anand (India), the world's top-rated active player. But few would be stunned if emerging Levon Aronian (Armenia) stole the show.

Rounding out the field for Mexico are Peter Svidler, Alexander Morozevich, Peter Leko, Boris Gelfand, Alexander Grischuk and Levon Aronian.

Games from the Championship will be broadcast on the Internet from September 13th to 29th. In this issue, Jean Hébert reports on road to the championship, the recent Candidates' Matches in Elista, Russia.



**Anand - back for another crack at the crown**

[www.thehindu.com](http://www.thehindu.com)



**Karpov coming to Canada this fall**

photo: [www.chessville.com](http://www.chessville.com)

## Karpov Launches Canadian Academy

Legendary World Chess Champion Anatoly Karpov is set to launch the Anatoly Karpov Chess Academy in Canada when he stages a training camp for members of the Canadian Youth Chess Team in Toronto this fall.

The event in Toronto will represent a unique opportunity for some of Canada's most talented young players to benefit from one of the greatest chess legends of

all time. Along with Karpov, there will be a roster of talented trainers including Chinese Champion Ni Hua, Israeli Grandmaster Emil Sutovsky and our own Mark Bluvshtein, Pascal Charbonneau and Yan Teplitsky.

Those seeking more information on the Academy can check out the ad on the back cover of this issue of Chess Canada.

## Cramling Wins MonRoi Grand Prix

In early 2007, Montreal based MonRoi launched a successful international Grand Prix for Women, in which top players had their results from seven accredited events count towards qualification for the finals. Grand Prix qualifiers were existing prestigious events held in each of Germany, USA, Italy, France, Liechtenstein, Croatia and Gibraltar.

Winners gathered in Montreal for the eight player round-robin finals which were staged from July 22nd to July 29th. The fortunate finalists received numerous perks from the organizers and competed for attractive prizes.

Swedish veteran Grandmaster Pia Cramling proved that she's still got what it takes by going undefeated to score 5/7, good enough for clear first.



**Swedish superstar Pia Cramling**

photo: [www.monroi.com](http://www.monroi.com)

## EDITORIAL



**Robert Hamilton**

I can't recall a summer in Canadian chess history when so many important events occurred. The Montreal International this year reached Category 17 status, thus ranking as one of the strongest tournaments ever held in Canada. Montreal also hosted the finals of the MonRoi International Women's Grand Prix and the prestigious Quebec Open.

Meanwhile, Ottawa staged one of the most impressive Canadian Opens ever and broke the attendance record for the Canadian Youth Chess Championships. Kitchener's Chess Festival included the Canadian Championship and the Canadian Women's Championship along with other events. Further west, Edmonton played host to the Edmonton International. What with further excitement such as Garry Kasparov's June visit to Toronto, it adds up to a lot for Chess Canada to keep an eye on. We cover most of the events on the summer calendar in this issue, but have reserved a few for our upcoming issue.

A wonderful trend is occurring in Canadian chess: more and more sponsorship of the big events is occurring. The budgets for the events above totalled several hundred thousand dollars, and it's great to see more sponsors choosing to identify with Chess in Canada.

I want to take a moment and congratulate a couple of our most valuable Chess Canada contributors. First and foremost, congratulations to our main games analyst, sixteen year old Nikolay Noritsyn, for becoming the youngest Canadian Champion ever. It's going to be very interesting to watch Nikolay's chess career develop in the years ahead. Also, congratulations to Chess Canada contributor, veteran IM Jean Hébert, who it took Nikolay twelve rounds of tie-break play to finally defeat en route to the crown.

If that weren't enough, Scholastic Scene author Hal Bond threw his hat in the ring for the CFC Presidency, and wound up elected by a wide margin. I'm sure Hal has the skills to make a lot of positive changes to the federation and look forward to seeing it unfold.

There's all kinds of interesting news inside this issue of Chess Canada - I hope you enjoy it.

Yours truly,  
Robert Hamilton  
[hamilton@chess.ca](mailto:hamilton@chess.ca)

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# New Kid on the Block

by Robert Hamilton

Artem Samsonkin arrived in Canada about a half year ago. Already an IM, the talented 17 year old soon found his way to Toronto's Bayview Chess Club, where he quickly proved that he could do battle with Canada's elite. A few months later, Artem asked the federation for special permission to play in the Canadian Senior Championship in spite of not having been resident long enough. Permission was granted, and Artem wound up tied first in the championship and came within one tie-break match of being crowned Canadian Champion.

Born in Minsk, Belarus, Artem Samsonkin learned to play chess as a young boy after receiving a chess set as a birthday gift. Fortunately for Artem, his grandfather had a keen interest in chess, and the two duked it out for about a year before Artem began receiving formal chess training.

Artem's talent immediately began to shine through, and within the next few years he was champion/co-champion at the U10, 12, 14, 16 & 18 age categories for Belarus. In addition to national successes, Artem had plenty of success playing internationally on behalf of his country.

Artem's style is characterized by daring attacking play. He is a relentless attacker who handles the initiative with great skill. Artem is working hard on developing similiar prowess in other aspects of his game, and seems well on his way to doing so, as is evidenced by the fine positional game he was good enough to annotate for this article.

Have a look, and you'll see why he's been chosen as our New Kid on the Block!



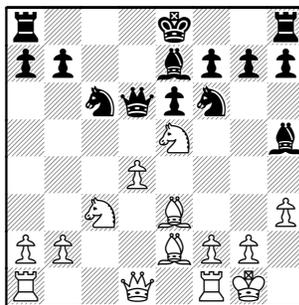
photo: monroi.com

**Name:** Artem Samsonkin  
**Date of birth:** 23 June, 1989  
**Home:** Toronto  
**Favourite as White:** e4  
**Favourite as Black:** Sicilian, King's Indian  
**Favourite player:** Garry Kasparov  
**Self-description:** Tactician  
**Other activities:** Sports & Travel

## Samsonkin-Tayar [B22] Canadian Open 2007 (5)

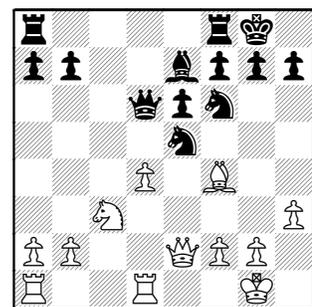
Three months after arrival to Canada, my first (and hard!) tournament became the Canadian Open 2007. And probably the most difficult game was against Jonathan Tayar-- a young prospective Canadian hope, who in this tournament got an IM norm, defeating the reigning Canadian Champion along the way.

1. e4 c5 2. c3 d5 3. ed5 ♖d5 4. d4  
 ♜f6 5. ♘f3 ♙g4 6. ♙e2 e6 7. O-O  
 ♜c6 8. h3! ♙h5! 9. ♙e3! cd4!  
 10. cd4 ♙e7 11. ♜c3 ♚d6! 12.  
 ♜e5!?



As a result of my opponent's preparation we came directly into a middlegame position with very little advantage for White. I had several options here to develop the position, but perhaps nothing could get a real advantage.

- 12... ♙e2 13. ♚e2 O-O 14. ♜fd1  
 ♜e5! 15. ♙f4!



- 15... ♘f3!

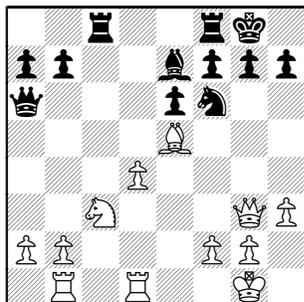
Correctly escaping from the threatened

16. d5, which could bring much danger for Black.

16. ♖f3 ♗b6 17. ♕e5!

Trying to reduce Black's mobility, and the bishop of course is very active on this square.

17... ♜ac8 18. ♜ab1 ♗a6 19. ♖g3!



The idea is ♗e4 with some pressure. But...

19... ♗h5!!

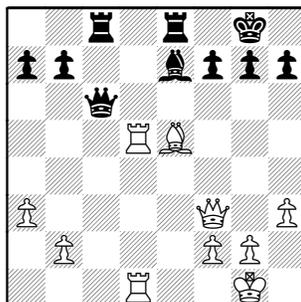
Probably the best way to escape correctly from all the problems which could be created after ♗e4 or d5.

20. ♖g4 ♗f6 21. ♖g3 ♗h5 22.

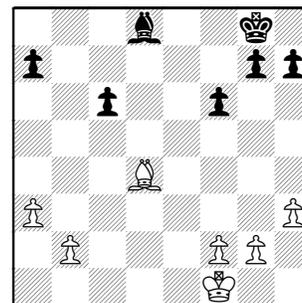
♗e3 ♗f6 23. a3 ♜fe8 24. ♖g3 ♗h5 25. ♖f3 ♗f6 26. d5!?

As soon as I realized that I can't do anything on the king-side, I was trying to create some other kind of plan. But nothing was coming to my mind about the queen side and centre, probably because he is quite well developed and nothing is wrong in his position. So I decided to go into an endgame - with almost no risks, which is also important in our psychology.

26... ♗d5 27. ♗d5 ed5 28. ♜d5 ♖c6! = 29. ♜bd1



29... ♜cd8?! 30. ♜d8 ♜d8 31. ♜d8 ♜d8 32. ♖c6 bc6 33. ♗f1! f6 34. ♕d4!



34... a6!

Not 34... ♕b6?! 35. ♕b6 ab6 36. ♗c2 ♗f7 37. ♗d3 ♗e6 38. ♗c4 ♗d6 39. a4! ± with the next moves b4 and a5.

35. ♗e2 ♗f7 36. ♗d3 ♗e6 37. ♗c4 ♗d7 38. ♕c3! ±

Preventing ...♗c7 and also preparing the c5 square for the king, which will create some pressure on Black.



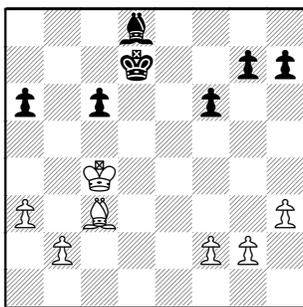
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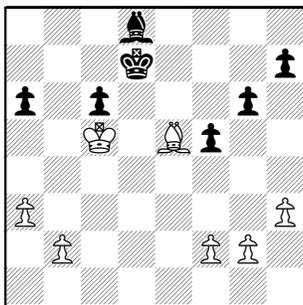
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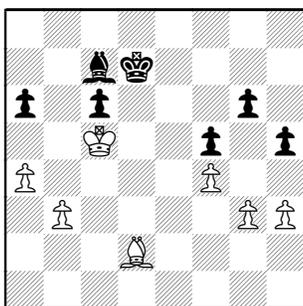


38... g6 39. ♖c5 f5 40. ♙e5! ±



Now the main task for Black is not to get into a zugzwang, which is really hard because there are no options for the king and almost none for the bishop, because he has to watch the b6 square.

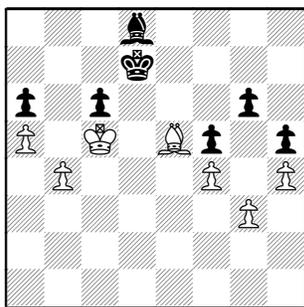
40... ♙a5 41. f4 ♙d8 42. ♙c3 ♙c7 43. ♙d2 h5 44. a4 ♙d8 45. b3! ♙c7 46. g3



46... ♙d8

Or 46... g5?! 47. fg5 ♙g3 48. g6 ♙e5 49. ♙h6 ♖e6 50. ♖c6 f4 51. b4 f3 52. ♙c3 ♖f6 53. ♖b7 ♖g6 54. ♖a6 ± ♖f5 55. b5 ♖e4 56. ♙f2 ♖d3 57. b6 ♖e2 58. ♙c5 f2 59. ♙f2 ♖f2 60. a5 ♖g3 61. ♖b5! ♖h3 62. a6 +-.

47. h4! ± ♙c7 48. b4 ♙d8 49. ♙c3 ♖c7! 50. ♙e5! ♖d7 51. ♙c3 ♖c7 52. ♙e5 ♖d7 53. a5! ±

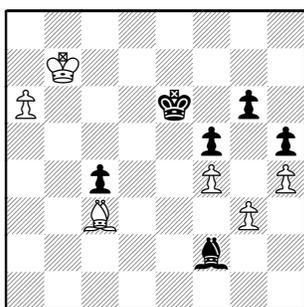


Now it seems the few next moves are the only option for Black.

53... ♙c7 54. ♙f6! ♙d6 55. ♖b6 ♙b4 56. ♖a6 ♙e1 57. ♖b6 ♙f2!

Worse is 57... ♙g3?! 58. ♖b7 ♙f4 (58... ♙f2 59. a6 and ♙c3-a5-b6 +- ) 59. ♙d4 +-.

58. ♖b7 c5 59. a6 c4 60. ♙c3! ♖e6!



Black hopes, after sacrificing the bishop for the a-pawn, to exchange the c-pawn for White's king-side pawns!

61. ♙a5!

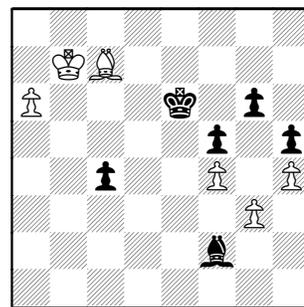
Preventing ...♖d5, because then my queen will be first with check! Not 61. a7?? ♙a7! 62. ♖a7 ♖d5 63. ♖b6 ♖e4 64. ♖c5 ♖f3 65. ♙c1 c3 66. ♙c3 ♖g3 67. ♖d4 ♖f4 68. ♖d3 ♖g4 ±.

61... ♖d6!

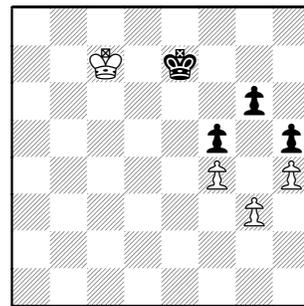
Not 61... ♖d5?? 62. ♙b6! +- ♙b6 63. ♖b6 c3 64. a7 c2 65. a8=Q.

62. ♙e1 ♙e3 63. ♙a5 ♙f2 64. ♙c7! ♖e6??

Also insufficient was 64... ♖d7!? 65. ♙c5 ♖e6 66. ♖c6! ♙g1 67. ♙c3 ♙f2 68. ♙a5 +-.



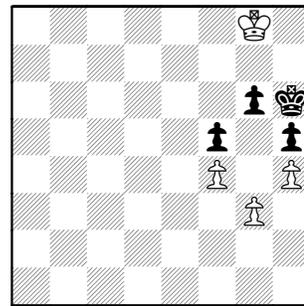
65. ♙b6! +- ♙b6 66. ♖b6 c3 67. a7 c2 68. a8=Q c1=Q 69. ♖c6! +- ♖c6 70. ♖c6 ♖e7 71. ♖c7



71... ♖f7

Or 71... ♖e6 72. ♖d8! ♖d5 73. ♖e7 ♖e4 74. ♖f7 ♖f3 75. ♖g6 ♖g3 76. ♖g5! +-.

72. ♖d7 ♖f6 73. ♖d6 ♖f7 74. ♖d7 ♖f6 75. ♖e8 ♖g7 76. ♖e7 ♖h8 77. ♖f6 ♖h7 78. ♖f7 ♖h6 79. ♖g8! +-



A final zugzwang. Bad luck for Black, who now resigned, but very satisfying for me! It was a nice chance to use some typical ideas gained from many lessons with one of the most famous Grandmasters, Victor Kupreichik.

1-0



# *In the Arena: Four More for Mexico*

by IM Jean Hébert



## CANDIDATES MATCHES - Elista, Russia FOR THE 2007 WORLD CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

If you are like me, you must find that FIDE's world championship cycle is a tough act to follow. But thank God, the current two-year cycle is coming to an end very soon, which helps makes things fairly clear. That is, until the new and completely changed cycle starts in 2008...

After his close victory (2.5-1.5 in the rapid games tie-break) against Veselin Topalov in the "reunification match," Vladimir Kramnik is World Champion until the World Championship Tournament in Mexico City this fall, September 11 to October 1. This 8-player tournament will include, according to the FIDE website: "top 4 winners of WCCT 2005 in San Luis—Vladimir Kramnik (RUS), Vishy Anand (IND), Peter Svidler (RUS), Alexander Morozevich (RUS)—and the 4 top winners of the Candidates Matches" (which is the topic of this article). That is, FIDE deems Topalov (the glorious winner at San Luis) to have been a nonparticipant, and deems Kramnik (who did not play) to have been a winner.

Though FIDE's motivations may be murky, we can disentangle much of the story. In negotiations for the Topalov-Kramnik reunification match, the Topalov camp insisted that the loser be left out of this year's world championship tournament, and the Kramnik camp agreed. Then Topalov lost the match, and suddenly faced not only the dismal prospect of being shut out of the World Champion-

ship tournament in 2007, but also the likelihood that he could also be in a bad position for the next cycle, depending on how FIDE would set it up. However, FIDE found in Topalov's unpleasant position an opportunity to introduce yet another "theoretical novelty."

In the next cycle, there is to be a match in 2008 pitting Topalov against the winner of the World Cup tournament 2007 (a knock-out to be held this fall in Russia with 128 players). The winner of that match will play off against the winner of the 2008 Universal Event Promotion match (UEP) in 2009, for the World Chess Championship title. Thus Topalov finds himself as a guinea pig in a FIDE experiment to which he can hardly object.

Now, that is only part of the new scheme. FIDE also intends to set up a Grand Prix Series (6 tournaments) with the winner seeded somewhere in those matches leading to the World Championship. Going into this in detail is out of the question (go to the Web for that). Not only is this quite complicated but, if the future reflects the past, it is also unlikely to happen as planned. History has shown that Ilyumzhinov's FIDE is generally unable to find organizers and sponsors for its often ill-conceived events, forcing it to come up with last-minute solutions that barely avoid total chaos.

Going back to the Candidates Matches 2007 held from May 26 to June 14, it must be said that it belonged to the best breed of FIDE

Round 1	Standard	Rapid	Blitz
Aronian	1 = 0 1 0 =	1 = = 0	1 1
Carlsen	0 = 1 0 1 =	0 = = 1	0 0
Shirov	= = = 0 = 1	1 1 =	
Adams	= = = 1 = 0	0 0 =	
Gelfand	= = = = =	1 = 1	
Kasimjanov	= = = = =	0 = 0	
Bareev	= 1 = 1 0 =		
Polgar	= 0 = 0 1 =		
Rublevsky	= = 1 = = =		
Ponomariov	= = 0 = = =		
Kamsky	= 1 1 1		
Bacrot	= 0 0 0		
Grischuk	1 = = 1 =		
Malakhov	0 = = 0 =		
Leko	= 1 1 1		
Gurevich	= 0 0 0		

Round 2	Standard	Rapid
Grischuk	1 = = 0 = =	1 = 1
Rublevsky	0 = = 1 = =	0 = 0
Aronian	1 = = = = =	
Shirov	0 = = = = =	
Gelfand	= = 1 = 1	
Kamsky	= = 0 = 0	
Leko	1 = 1 = =	
Bareev	0 = 0 = =	

events: those organized and financed by the FIDE president himself, and held, of course, in the capital city of his Kalmykian republic, Elista. On the menu, 16 top GMs to battle two



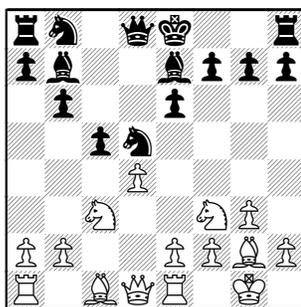
Norwegian prodigy Magnus Carlsen nearly topped prohibitive favourite Levon Aronian.  
photo: commons.wikimedia.org

**Carlsen-Aronian [A30]  
Candidates Semifinal (3), 2007**  
*[Notes by Jean Hébert]*

1.  $\text{d}f3$   $\text{d}f6$  2.  $\text{c}4$   $\text{b}6$  3.  $\text{g}3$   $\text{c}5$  4.  $\text{g}2$   $\text{b}7$  5.  $\text{O-O}$   $\text{e}6$  6.  $\text{d}c3$   $\text{e}7$  7.  $\text{e}1$   $\text{d}5$  8.  $\text{cd}5$   $\text{d}d5$

Here 8...  $\text{cd}5$  9.  $\text{d}4$   $\text{O-O}$  is chosen about 2/3 of the time.

9.  $\text{d}4$



But with this natural enough move the game enters little explored territory.

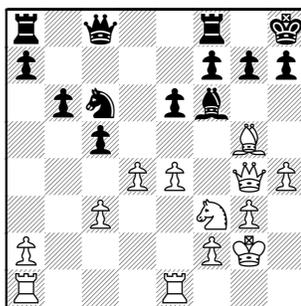
9...  $\text{d}c3$  10.  $\text{bc}3$   $\text{e}4$

Before allowing  $\text{e}2$ - $\text{e}4$ , Black wants a pair of bishops off the board. With fewer pieces left, a space advantage becomes less meaningful.

11.  $\text{d}e5$   $\text{g}2$  12.  $\text{c}g2$   $\text{O-O}$  13.  $\text{e}4$   $\text{c}c8$ ?

This allows the opposing queen to take an active position on the king-side. Compare: 13...  $\text{e}f6$  14.  $\text{d}g4$   $\text{cd}4$  15.  $\text{e}a3$   $\text{e}e7$  16.  $\text{e}e7$   $\text{c}c7$  17.  $\text{cd}4$   $\text{d}d8$  18.  $\text{d}5$   $\text{cd}5$  19.  $\text{cd}5$   $\text{d}d6$  20.  $\text{c}f3$   $\text{d}d7$  as in Yermolinsky-Atalik, Berkeley 2005. 1/2-1/2 (39) was a classic battle to prove whether White's  $\text{d}$ -pawn was strong or weak. Chances seemed equal.

14.  $\text{c}g4$   $\text{e}f6$  15.  $\text{d}f3$   $\text{c}h8$  16.  $\text{h}4$   $\text{d}c6$  17.  $\text{e}g5$



17...  $\text{cd}4$

17...  $\text{cd}4$

Instead, 17...  $\text{e}e7$ ? avoids the structural damage done after  $\text{e}f6$ ,  $\text{g}f6$  and provides active defensive possibilities like  $\text{...f}7$ - $\text{f}6$  or even  $\text{...f}7$ - $\text{f}5$ . For example: 18.  $\text{e}e7$   $\text{d}c7$  19.  $\text{h}5$   $\text{d}g8$  20.  $\text{c}f4$   $\text{h}6$  and Black's position remains solid.

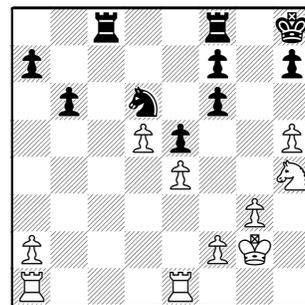
18.  $\text{e}f6$   $\text{g}f6$  19.  $\text{cd}4$   $\text{e}5$ !

Aronian rightly seeks his chances in the ending.

20.  $\text{c}c8$   $\text{e}ac8$  21.  $\text{d}5$   $\text{d}a5$  22.  $\text{h}5$ !

A very important move to keep things fluid on the king-side. Otherwise Black would shut things off with  $\text{...h}5$ .

22...  $\text{d}c4$  23.  $\text{d}h4$   $\text{d}d6$

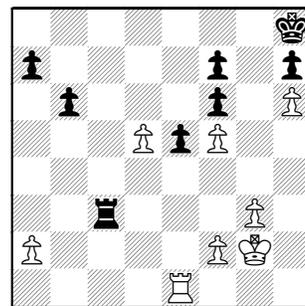


Black has set up a fine defensive position. He is first on the  $\text{c}$ -file, and his blockading knight could not be better placed.

24.  $\text{h}6$ !

Another step with deep consequences.

24...  $\text{e}c3$  25.  $\text{e}ac1$   $\text{e}fc8$  26.  $\text{e}c3$   $\text{e}c3$  27.  $\text{d}f5$ !  $\text{d}f5$  28.  $\text{ef}5$



Now the idea behind  $\text{h}4$ - $\text{h}5$ - $\text{h}6$  becomes clear: White intends  $\text{e}c4$ - $\text{g}4$ - $\text{g}7$  tying up Black's forces.

28...  $\text{c}g8$

rounds of elimination matches for the four spots available in the Mexico City World Championship tournament. Well, there is certainly something to say about this peculiar formula. In the good old days (think of the Interzonals if you are over 30) they used to hold all-play-all tournaments to qualify people into the Candidates Matches. Now it is the other way around: people are knocked out in matches (too bad if you get an unlucky pairing...) and others go through to get into the round robin championship tournament. What would have been wrong with a 16-man round robin tournament with the top four seeded into the next stage? Too old fashioned, I guess. But it would certainly have been fairer than those knock-out matches where the luck of the pairings and individual styles play a much bigger role.

Now let's concentrate on the chess played. The star match among the eight of the first round was clearly the number one seeded Aronian vs the young 16 year old sensation Magnus Carlsen. This turned out be a fantastic clash between two evenly matched players. Three times young Magnus fell behind, but each time he did what very few players can do on a regular basis: he fought back immediately to score decisive victories. One striking developing feature of the Norwegian's play is his impressive endgame mastery, quite atypical for such a young player. He has long shown the attacking and tactical abilities that are often found in talented youth, but now, by coupling that with formidable endgame skills, he is turning into an all around powerhouse that will very soon pose a serious threat to the very best.

Certainly not 28... ♖d3?? 29. ♖c1 forcing mate and underlining the value of the ♖/h6.

29. ♖e4! ♗f8 30. ♖g4 ♖c7

If 30... ♖d3 31. ♖g7 ♖d5 32. ♖h7 ♗g8 (otherwise ♖h8+ and h7 promotes the pawn) 33. ♖g7 ♗h8 (33... ♗f8 34. ♖g4) 34. ♖f7 wins.

31. ♖g7 b5 32. ♖h7 ♗g8 33. ♖g7 ♗h8

Or 33... ♗f8 34. ♖g4 and the pawn queens.

34. d6 ♖d7 35. ♗f3 b4 36. ♗e4 ♖d6 37. ♖f7 ♖a6 38. g4 ♗g8 39. h7 ♗h8 40. g5 fg5 41. f6

A formidable accomplishment in its apparent simplicity, reminiscent of Bobby Fischer's play.

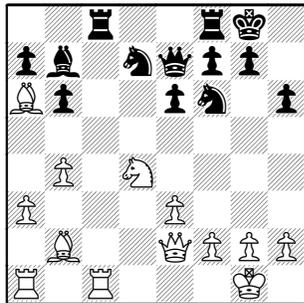
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#### Aronian-Carlsen [E14]

#### Candidates Semifinal (4), 2007

[Notes by Jean Hébert]

1. d4 ♗f6 2. ♗f3 e6 3. c4 ♖b4 4. ♗bd2 b6 5. a3 ♖d2 6. ♖d2 ♖b7 7. e3 O-O 8. b4 d5 9. ♖b2 ♗bd7 10. ♖d3 dc4 11. ♖c4 c5 12. O-O ♖c8 13. ♖e2 ♖e7 14. ♖fc1 cd4 15. ♗d4 h6 16. ♖a6!



After this, Black will suffer for the rest of the game because of his c6 square weakness,

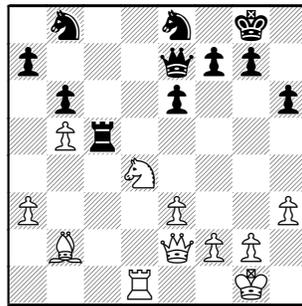
16... ♖a6 17. ♖a6 ♖c1 18. ♖c1 ♗b8

Now c6 is OK but the ♗/b8 is not.

19. ♖c4 ♖d8 20. h3 ♗e8

Or 20... a6 21. a4 ♗d5 22. b5 a5 23. ♗c6 ♗c6 24. bc6 +/- 24... ♖c7 25. ♖g4 f5 26. ♖g6 ♖f7.

21. b5 ♖d5 22. ♖e2 ♖c5 23. ♖d1

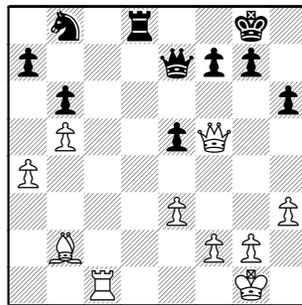


It is vitally important to keep the rooks, because White must aim for penetration on the 7th or 8th rank.

23... ♖c8 24. ♖f3 ♖d8

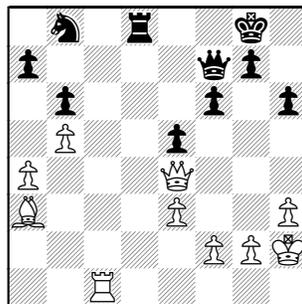
It is not clear whether 24... a6 25. a4 ab5 26. ab5 improves Black's chances. He would have only one pawn to defend on the queen-side, but alone on b6 it might be even more vulnerable.

25. ♖c1 ♗d6 26. a4 e5 27. ♗f5 ♗f5 28. ♖f5



The knight exchange has not diminished White's positional advantage. He has more space, the better minor piece and generally more active pieces.

28... f6 29. ♖e4 ♖f7 30. ♖a3 ♗h8 31. ♗h2 ♗g8



32. ♖d6!

Decisive penetration.

32... ♖d7 33. ♖c7 ♖f8

Or 33... ♖c8 34. ♖b7, picking up the black pawns.

34. ♖c2

A little bit of cat and mouse, as Jeremy Silman would say. Here 34. ♖b7 is more direct.

34... ♖e8 35. ♖c4

Or 35. ♖a8 +/-.

35... ♖f7 36. ♖d6 ♖d8 37. ♖c7 ♗d7 38. ♖c6 ♖e6 39. ♖a7 ♗f7 40. ♖b6

A smooth positional crush by the Armenian GM.

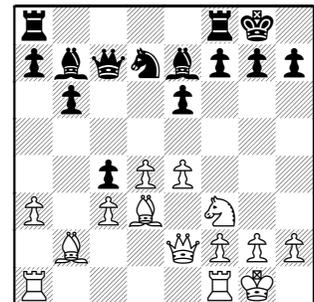
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#### Carlsen-Aronian [E12]

#### Candidates Semifinal (5), 2007

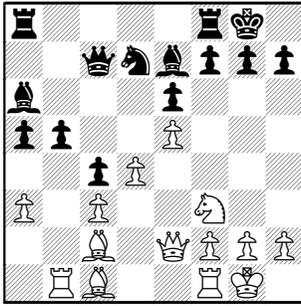
[Notes by Jean Hébert]

1. d4 ♗f6 2. c4 e6 3. ♗f3 b6 4. a3 ♖b7 5. ♗c3 d5 6. cd5 ♗d5 7. ♖c2 ♖e7 8. e4 ♗c3 9. bc3 O-O 10. ♖d3 c5 11. O-O ♖c7 12. ♖e2 ♗d7 13. ♖b2 c4?!



This underlines the poor (but temporary) placement of the ♖/b2. On the other hand, White gets a freer hand in the centre. Other games tend to show that Aronian's approach may not find too many followers: 13... ♖ac8 14. ♗d2 ♗f6 15. f4 b5 (15... cd4 16. cd4 g6 17. g4 ♗d7 18. ♖ac1 ♖b8 19. ♖c8 ♖c8 20. e5 ♖b7 21. f5 with a clear advantage, 0-1 (43) Ponomariov-Karjakin, Tomsk 2006) 16. ♗h1 g6 17. ♖ae1 c4 18. ♖c2 a5 19. ♖f3 ♗h5 20. ♖c3 b4 21. g4 ♗f6 22. ♖g1 ba3 23. ♖a1 ♖fe8 24. h4 ♖f8 25. h5 with an unclear position, 1-0 (49) Jakovenko-Wojtaszek, Pamplona 2006; 13... ♖fd8 14. d5 ed5 15. ed5 ♖f6 16. c4 b5 17. cb5 ♖d5 18. ♖f6 ♗f6 19. ♖c4 ♖c8 ½-½, Ponomariov-Leko, Moscow 2006.

14. ♖c2 b5 15. ♖c1 a5 16. ♖b1  
♖a6 17. e5

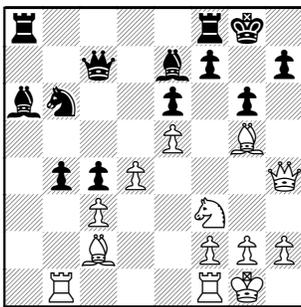


To counter White's dangerous attacking setup, Aronian must be active on the queen-side.

17... b4 18. ab4 ab4 19. ♖g5

Taking care of an important black defender.

19... ♗b6 20. ♖e4 g6 21. ♖h4



White has a clear advantage. His dark square attack is proceeding in textbook fashion.

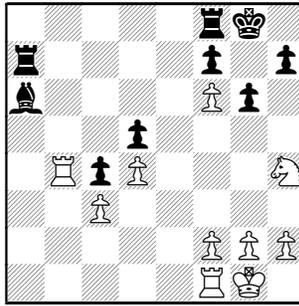
21... ♖a7 22. ♖f6

Or 22. ♖e7 ♖e7 23. ♖e7 (23. ♗g5 h5 24. cb4 ♗d5 25. b5 ♖b7 sees Black getting counterplay on the queen-side) 23... ♖c7 24. ♖b4 ♗d5 25. ♖a4 ♖b7 26. ♖e1 ♗c3 27. ♖c4 and making use of the extra d-pawn when Black has rock solid control of d5 is no easy task. Black should draw.

22... ♖f6 23. ef6 ♗d5 24. ♖e4 ♖f4

The point of Black's defence.

25. ♖d5 ♖h4 26. ♗h4 ed5 27. ♖b4

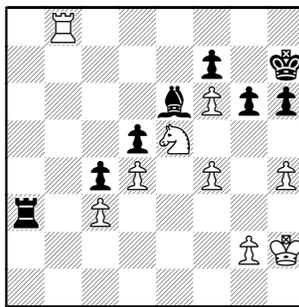


White's better minor piece and extra (even if doubled) pawn give him a clear advantage. Black's counterplay against the c-pawn proves insufficient.

27... ♖c8 28. ♖b6 ♖a3 29. ♖c1  
♖e6 30. ♗f3 ♖fa8 31. h4 h6 32.  
♗e5 ♖a1

Inadvisable was 32... ♖b3 33. ♖b1 ♖c3? (33... ♖b6 34. ♖b6 ♖a3 35. ♖b8 ♗h7 35. ♖1b3 cb3 36. ♗h2 does not improve Black's chances) 34. ♖e6!! fe6 35. ♖b7 and Black cannot avoid being checkmated.

33. ♖a1 ♖a1 34. ♗h2 ♖a3 35. ♖b8  
♗h7 36. f4!



Preparing a breakthrough on the king-side. Going after f7 would be premature: 36. ♖f8 g5 37. h5 ♖c3 38. ♗f7 ♖f7 39. ♖f7 ♗g8 40. ♖d7 ♖d3 41. ♖d5 ♗f7.

36... ♖c3

Not 36... h5? 37. ♗f3 winning.

37. h5!!

The wonderful point of the previous move. Again 37. ♖f8 is not conclusive: 37... h5! 38. ♗f7 ♖f7 39. ♖f7 ♗g8 40. ♖d7 ♖d3 41. ♖d5 ♗f7 42. ♖d6 c3 43. g3 c2 44. ♖c6 ♖d4 45. ♖c2 ♗f6 =.

37... gh5

The only move to prevent hxg6, fxg6, f7, etc. If 37... g5 38. f5 (A simple but key move set up by 37.h5!!) 38... ♖f5 39.



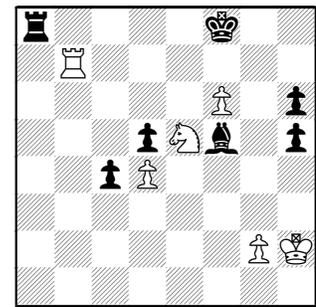
Levon Aronian, a very real threat to win the World Championship.  
photo: chessbase.com

♗f7 mates.

38. ♖f8!

Not 38. f5? ♖f5 39. ♗f7 ♗g6.

38... ♖a3 39. f5 ♖f5 40. ♖f7 ♗g8  
41. ♖g7 ♗f8 42. ♖b7 ♖a8



43. ♗g3!

The only way! Once attacked, the black bishop will be forced to surrender control over either g6 or d7.

43... ♖d8 44. ♗f4 ♖e4 45. g3

The simplest way.

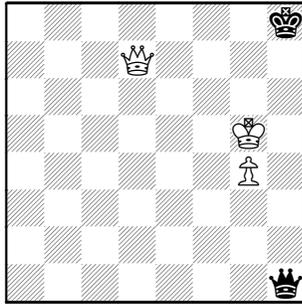
45... c3 46. ♖f7 ♗g8 47. ♖g7 ♗f8  
48. ♗d7 ♖d7 49. ♖d7

It is very hard to criticize any of Carlsen's moves in this game. After getting an opening advantage, he found all the answers to Black's stubborn defence.

1-0

## Carlsen–Aronian [E12] Candidates Semifinal (10), 2007

[Notes by Jean Hébert]



Black to move

This seems to be an easy enough drawing position but appearances can be deceptive. The simple fact that Black's only check is losing (and so is the black king's only move!) seriously complicates matters.

### 82... ♖c1?

With little time on the clock, such an error is only human. Also losing was 82... ♔g8? 83. ♖c8 ♔g7 84. ♖g6 ♔f8 85. ♖h6; but 82... ♖c1 83. ♔g6 ♖c6! draws by stalemate; and 82... ♖g1 83. ♖d8 ♔g7 84. ♖f6 ♔g8 sees White unable to make progress.

### 83. ♔g6 +- ♖b1 84. ♖f5

It is all over: 84... ♖b8 (or 84... ♖b6 85. ♖f6 winning the pawn ending) 85. ♖h5 ♔g8 86. ♖h7 ♔f8 87. ♖f7. This was the last time that Carlsen managed to tie the match before succumbing in the blitz games.

### 1-0

If Carlsen's performance deserves admiration, so does Aronian's. After the grueling affair with Carlsen in which he managed to never fall behind, he had to deal with the always dangerous Alexei Shirov in the second round. He conducted the match like an old pro, taking the lead in Game 1 and then mixing up the right amount of risks and care to draw the remaining battles. At 24, he is reaching maturity and must be considered a strong outsider for the forthcoming Mexico World championship. His 4-2 clear victory against Kramnik in a rapid match in April must be taken as a serious warning by his rivals. His play is steady and dynamic, and he has excellent nerves.



At 39, Gelfand is the old man of the championship cycle.

photo: chessbase.com

## Aronian–Shirov [D20] Candidates Final (1), 2007

[Notes by Jean Hébert]

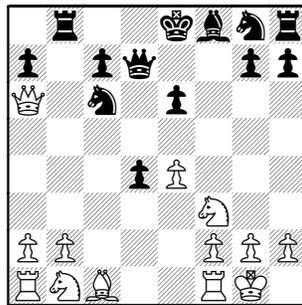
### 1. d4 d5 2. c4 dc4 3. e4 e5 4. ♔f3 ed4 5. ♔c4 ♔c6

Here 5... ♔b4 is the other important branch.

### 6. O-O ♔e6

Now 6... ♔f6 7. ♖b3 ♖d7 appears quite playable despite its utter awkwardness, 8. ♔g5 being met by 8... ♔e5.

### 7. ♔e6 fe6 8. ♖b3 ♖d7 9. ♖b7 ♖b8 10. ♖a6



Both players enjoy complicated, unclear positions. But this one seems sounder for White, in my humble opinion.

### 10... ♔f6 11. ♔bd2 ♔d6

The alternative is 11... ♔b4 with, among other merits, the idea of discouraging b2-b3 because of ...♔c3. For example: 12. ♔c4 O-O 13. a3 ♔c5 14. b4 ♔e4!

### 12. b3

White has several options at his disposal, 12. ♖d3 being the most played. Aronian's choice seems more logical. It pursues fast development to connect the rooks and use them on the half-open c-file. And why retreat a queen that occupies at little risk an annoying outpost?

### 12... O-O 13. ♔b2 ♔f4

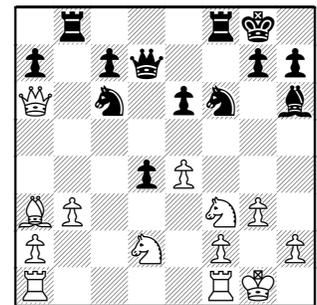
Of course White would welcome 13... e5, which would make the ♔d6 bad and weaken the white squares.

### 14. g3

This appears to be a novelty. 14. ♖d3 ♖bd8 (14... e5 15. ♖ac1 ♖f7 16. ♖c5 ♖e8 17. ♔a3

♔d8 [stronger seems 17... ♖b6] 18. ♖fc1 ♖e6 19. ♖c4 ♔d8! 18. g3 ♔d2 19. ♖c5 and Black is in serious trouble, 1-0 (32), Shishkin-Solodovnichenko, Krakow 2006) 15. ♔c4 ♔b4 (15... e5!? 16. g3 ♖g4!) 16. ♖d4 ♖c7 17. ♖a7 ♖a8 18. ♔f6 gf6 19. ♖d4 ♔c2 20. ♖c3 ♔a1 21. ♖a1 with a slight edge for White ½-½ (53) Van Wely-Sasikiran, Moscow 2004.

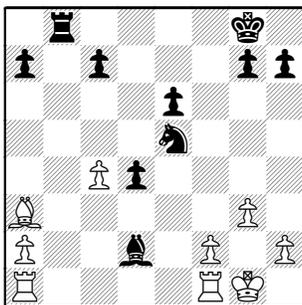
### 14... ♔h6 15. ♔a3



### 15... ♔e4!?

This is typical Shirov, who rarely misses a chance to sacrifice. True, after 15... ♖f7 16. ♔c4 ♔g4 17. ♔c1 e5 18. ♔d3 ♖c8 19. ♖ad1 White's game make a better impression.

### 16. ♔f8 ♔d2 17. ♔d2 ♔d2 18. ♔a3 ♖d5 19. ♖c4 ♖c4 20. bc4 ♔e5



Black has decent compensation for the exchange.

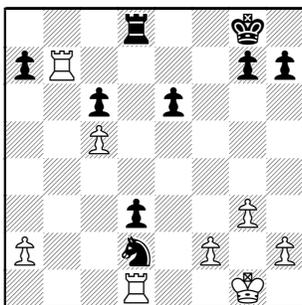
**21. ♖ab1 ♜d8**

On principle, Shirov keeps his last rook, which is the recommended recipe when down the exchange. Also, 21... ♖b1 22. ♖b1 ♗c4 23. ♙c5 gives White a passed a-pawn, since giving the strong d-pawn is out of the question.

**22. c5 ♗c4 23. ♙c1 d3 24. ♖b7 c6**

Or 24... ♙c1!? 25. ♖c1 d2 26. ♜d1 c6 27. ♗f1 ♜d5 28. ♗e2 a5 29. a4 and it is unclear whether White can overcome Black's good piece coordination. Not 29. ♖c7? ♖e5! 30. ♗f1 (or 30. ♗d3 ♗b2 31. ♗c2 ♗d1 32. ♗d1 ♖c5) 30... ♖c5 and Black has the advantage; 29. f4 e5! 30. fe5 ♖e5 31. ♗d3 ♖e1 and again Black is better. However, after 29. a4 Black must not take c5 immediately: 29... ♖c5? 30. ♗d3.

**25. ♙d2 ♗d2 26. ♜d1**



**26... ♗e4?**

The return to c4 still looked adequate even with a tempo (d3-d2) down compared with the line started with 24... ♙c1: 26... ♗c4!?

**27. f3!**

Here 27. ♖a7? would allow an immediate draw: 27... ♗c3 28. ♜d2 ♗e4 29. ♜d1 ♗c3.

**27... ♗c3 28. ♜d2 ♗a2**



Grischuk, considered massively talented by his peers.

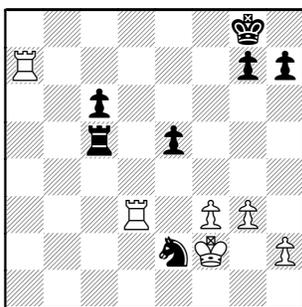
photo: chessbase.com

It is understandable that Shirov was tempted by this line winning the potentially dangerous a-pawn. However, his all important d-pawn is now doomed as White coordinates his forces.

**29. ♖b3 ♗c1 30. ♖b1 ♗e2 31. ♗f2 e5 32. ♖a1**

Or 32. ♗e3 ♗c3 33. ♖a1 ♗d5 34. ♗d3 ±.

**32... ♜d5 33. ♖a7 ♖c5 34. ♜d3**



Black's weak pawn formation and unstable knight make life difficult.

**34... ♗d4 35. ♜d2**

35. f4 ♖c2 36. ♗f1 ♖c1 37. ♗g2 ♖c2 38. ♗h3 ♖c2 39. fe5 c5 is not completely clear.

**35... h6 36. f4 ♗b5?!**

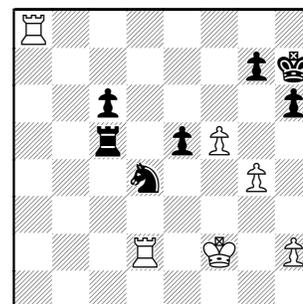
Here 36... ♜d5! 37. fe5 c5 appears a better defence.

**37. ♖a8?**

There was no good reason to renounce

doubling the rooks on the 7th: 37. ♖b7! ef4 38. gf4 ♖f5 39. ♗f3 ♖f6 40. ♜dd7 ♖g6 41. f5 ♖g5 42. ♗f4 and White now wins by doubling on the 8th rank!

**37... ♗h7 38. f5 ♗d4 39. g4**



**39... ♖c3?**

Like so many before him, Shirov falls approaching time control when salvation was at hand. Breaking up White's pawns with 39... h5! should draw: 40. gh5 (not 40. h3? ♖c3 41. ♗g2 h4! and Black is even better) 40... ♖c3 41. ♖f8 ♗h6.

**40. ♖b2 h5??**

There was still lots of fighting left after 40... ♗b5 41. ♖c2 h5 42. ♖c5 hg4 43. ♖a4 ♗g8 44. ♖g4 ♗f7.

**41. ♖bb8**

The point is simply 41. ♖bb8 ♗h6 42. h4!

**1-0**

All four qualifiers were among the top six seeds: Aronian (1), Leko (2), Gelfand (4) and Grischuk (6).

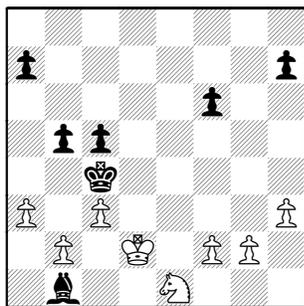
Leko made getting back into the World Championship Tournament look easy. He completely dominated veteran Mikhail Gurevich in Round 1, and made short work of Evgeny Bareev in Round 2. His performance rating was astronomical, but he was playing opponents who are past their primes.

Gelfand won a tough match in overtime against Kasimjanov and then made surprisingly short work of Kamsky's poor openings. At age 39, Gelfand will be the oldest player in Mexico.

Grischuk, who many describe as among the most talented players in the world, looked very crisp against Malakhov but required overtime to dispatch a stubborn Rublevsky.

Among the unfortunate knocked outs, we notice England's Michael Adams, who lost a close first round match vs Shirov in rather dramatic fashion. In the final regular game, Adams needed a draw to wrap things up but failed rather miserably.

### Shirov-Adams [C43] Candidates Semifinal (6), 2007 *[Notes by Jean Hébert]*



*Black to move*



*Peter Leko performed north of 2850 in his two matches, to earn his way back to the championship.*

photo: chessbase.com

Adams has been fighting an uphill battle in this game, forced to surrender a pawn early. But now he is at arm's length to save the game and win the match. His king is the most active, especially considering the nice hole on b3, and his bishop clearly dominates the knight. That should be enough to hold the game.

#### 33... ♖e4?

A terrible "do nothing" move that loses without a fight; 33... a5! to prevent b2-b4 and eventually trade as many pawns as possible with ...b5-b4, was necessary. After, for example, 34. g4 ♖b3 35. ♖c1 ♖c4 36. f3 ♖c6 37. f4 ♖e4 38. g5 fg5 39. fg5 b4 40. ab4 ab4 41. cb4 ♖b4, Black maintains good drawing chances.

#### 34. f3 ♖g6 35. b4!

Now it is over. Most queen-side pawns stay on the board, and White has avoided being tied up by a backward b2 pawn. Now ♖c2-c3 would allow the knight to come out and start going after the black pawns. Hence Adams' desperate continuation.

35... ♖b3 36. bc5 ♖a3 37. c6 ♖a4 38. g4 ♖e8 39. c7 ♖d7 40. ♖d3 ♖a5 41. ♖c5 ♖c8 42. ♖e4 ♖b6 43. ♖f6 ♖c7 44. ♖h7 ♖d6 45. h4 a5 46. h5 ♖e7 47. ♖g5 ♖b7 48. h6 ♖f6 49. f4 1-0

And so the stage is set for Mexico with Aronian, Leko, Gelfand and Grischuk joining the four seeded stars who are waiting in the wings.



*Viswanathan Anand*

photo: www.tnqsponsorship.com



*Vladimir Kramnik*

photo: www.chessmexico.com



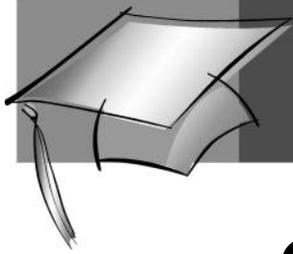
*Alexander Morozevich*

photo: chessbase.com



*Peter Svidler*

photo: www.psvidler.net



# The Scholastic Scene

by Hal Bond

## Canadian Youth Championships: Unprecedented Success

A record smashing 189 young chess players congregated at Ottawa's Fairmont Château Laurier in early July to compete in Canada's annual youth championships. Wireless telecommunications leader Telus sponsored the competition to the tune of \$25,000. Honorary Chairperson Susan Polgar wowed the crowd with her charisma and innate passion for youth chess. The Turkish Ambassador hosted the closing ceremonies at his Rockcliffe residence, where twelve new Canadian champions were crowned. You could say that Gordon Ritchie and his able committee of volunteers have moved the event into new territory.

Amid the fanfare and excitement, the tournament featured some epic battles, and almost every section required playoffs to sort out the final placements. Here's how it went down.

The Under 8 Boys made its debut this year as a separate section. The 14 player field was dominated by Janak Awatramani (BC) and Yinshi Li (Ontario). They scored 6 points against the competition and drew each other in the 4th round. Janak prevailed in the playoff. John Dokjnas (BC) captured third place with 5.5.

The U8 Girls was also a new division this year. The competition was conducted as an 8 player round robin. Kelly Wang (PQ) finished the tournament with a perfect score, followed closely by native Aleksandra Milicevic with 6 points. Cendrina Bilodeau-Savaria (PQ) prevailed in a playoff over Melissa Giblon (Ontario) and Janelle Maxin (Manitoba).

The U10 Boys division attracted 34 players. Top seeded Christopher Knox of Richmond Hill was the class of



Ottawa's distinctive Château Laurier was home to the most successful Canadian Youth Championships ever.

photo: www.thestudio21.de

the field, racking up 7 points in as many games and crossing the 2000 rating threshold in the process. Zhaoyang Luo (PQ) captured the silver with 5.5, despite his pre-tournament rating of 1284. No less than 5 players from 4 provinces then had to duke it out for the bronze. In the end Richard Wang (Alberta) finished atop Jingzhou Lai (BC), Donovan Zhao (BC), Mike Brichko (PQ) and Jonathan Lai (Ontario).

With eleven players competing in the U10 Girls division, a 6 round swiss was deployed. Rebecca Giblon (Ontario) and Joanne Foote (BC) finished tied at 5 points. Rebecca took charge in the playoff to win the first place trophy. A playoff was also required for third place. Lin Fei Kang (PQ) bested Masha Mehdiyeva (Ontario).

The largest section in the CYCC was the U12 Boys, with 36 players. The competition was intense, to say the least. In the end, top seeded Nikita Kraiouchkine (PQ) finished with 6.5, a full point ahead of the local favourite Joey Qin. Both players were undefeated, but Joey

was unable to win with the Black pieces and had to settle for 3 draws. The battle for third place required several decisive playoff matches to separate Nikita Gusev (Ontario) and Thomas Kaminski (Alberta). Gusev eventually emerged victorious.

The U12 Girls was another 8 player round robin. The top seeds in the tournament were Miriam Roy of Varennes, and Alexandra Botez from Port Moody, BC. They finished the round robin tied, drawing their game. The playoff was won by Miriam. Victoria's Erika Ruiter took third place.

Considerable drama was generated in the 32 player U14 Boys competition. Local favourite and top seed Lloyd Mai appeared to be completely in charge, winning his first 5 games and leading the pack with 5.5 heading into the final round. Burnaby's Louie Jiang (BC) played the spoiler in round 7, defeating Mai and allowing the ever dangerous Arthur Calugar of Toronto to capture gold with a win in game seven. Lloyd later avenged his loss to Louie, winning their playoff for second and third.

Yelizaveta Orlova scored a perfect 5-0 to take the U14 Girls championship. Dalia Kagramanov won her playoff match against Katherine Frenette of New Brunswick, and they finished second and third respectively. The field included 9 players.

The U16 Boys division attracted 20 players, including 3 masters: Victor Kaminski, Eric Hansen of Calgary, and Toronto's Kevin Chung. But someone forgot to tell Haonan Zhou that they were the top seeds. The native mowed down the field and took a draw in the final round to finish with 6.5, performing some 300 points above his pre-event rating of 2016. Kaminski and Chung could only watch the playoffs, as Eric Hansen and Aman Hambleton edged out Hamilton's Haizhou Xu for second and third place.

Although only 4 players competed in the U16 Girls division, 4 provinces (BC, Alberta, Ontario and Nova Scotia) were represented. Ottawa's Sonja Xiong won her playoff with Jasmine Du of Halifax. Chelsea Ruitter of Victoria finished third, equalling her younger sister in the U12's.

The U18 Boys drew 11 players and was the only boys' section to play 6 games. Ling Feng Ye of St. Laurent, Quebec outscored top seeded Bindi Cheng (BC) by a half point to capture top honours. Cheng was held to a sixth round draw against Derek Jia, which allowed the native to capture third place. Bindi Cheng went on to score an IM norm in the Canadian Open. Some people just need the right motivation!

The U18 Girls attracted only two players, both Ontarians. Kapuskasing's Gabrielle Nadeau defeated Amelia Mandamin of Shoal Lake.

### Jiang-Mai [B76]

#### CYCC U14 Boys, 2007

[Notes by Nikolay Noritsyn]

1. e4 e5 2. ♖f3 d6 3. d4 cd4 4. ♗d4 ♗f6 5. ♗c3 g6

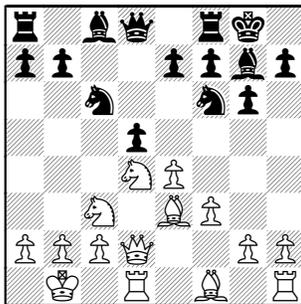
The Sicilian Dragon. A great opening to fight for a win as Black, but why did Lloyd take such risks when a draw was enough for at least a shared first? It is always nice to have a solid opening for this case in your repertoire. Definitely a lesson for Lloyd!

6. ♗e3 ♗g7 7. f3 O-O 8. ♖d2

### ♗c6 9. O-O d5!?

Very sharp. Theory in the main line here is very deep, and then there are always rare lines White can prepare, and Black can lose already in the opening. Which is what happened in this game.

### 10. ♖b1!?



A move I have never seen before in this position, and it appears to be quite poisonous. This move might even lead to clear advantage for White, but I did not look deeply enough to be sure.

### 10... ♗b8?!

Already this seems to be an error. The tactical point of White's 10th move is 10... de4? 11. ♗c6 ♖d2 12. ♗e7. Probably the best Black has is 10... ♗d4 but White has a very strong reply: 11. e5!! and now 11... ♗f3 (11... ♗c6 12. ef6 ef6 13. ♗d5 ±; 11... ♗d7 12. ♗d4 e6 13. ♖e1 a6 14. h4 ± with a strong attack; 11... ♗f5!? 12. ef6 ef6 [or 12... ♗f6 13. ♗d5 ♖d5!? 14. ♖d5 ♗e3 15. ♖d2 ♗d1 16. ♖d1 as in Adams- Ivanchuk, 1998, but I think White is better here as well...]) 13. ♗d5 ♗e3 14. ♖e3 ±) 12. gf3 ♗d7 13. ♗d5 ♗e5 14. ♗h6 ♖e8 15. f4 ♗d6 16. ♖g1 ± White has more than enough compensation for the pawn.

### 11. ♗db5! a6 12. ♗a7

Brilliant. Black is already close to lost here. How can Black hold the d5 pawn?

### 12... e6 13. g4!

Threatening g5, winning the d5 pawn.

### 13... ♗e5

Black is trying to use the drawbacks of the g4 move, attacking the now undefended f3 pawn.

### 14. ♗c8?!

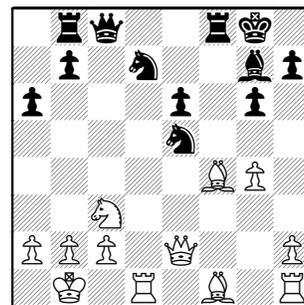
Not the best. White should not hurry with exchanging his magnificent knight on a7. After this move Black feels better.



GM Susan Polgar attended as Honorary Chair for the CYCC  
photo: monroi.com

Instead, after 14. ♗c2 Black has no good defence against the simple g5.

14... ♖c8 15. ed5 ♗f3 16. ♖e2 ♗e5 17. ♗f4 ♗fd7 18. de6 fe6



### 19. ♗d7

It appears both players missed an in-between move: after 19. ♗g3 Black is positionally lost.

### 19... ♖d7

Much better is 19... ♗d7 20. ♖e6 ♗h8 21. ♗b8 and now 21... ♖e8 and Black has great play for the pawn: 22. ♖d5 ♗b8 23. ♗c4 b5 24. ♗b3 ♖g4 =.

### 20. ♗e5

Now the game goes into the technical phase. Louie nicely shows he can win a won position (the hardest thing in chess).

### 20... ♗e5 21. ♖e5 b5 22. ♗h3 ♖g7

Black sacrifices the e6 pawn to open the c-file, but it does not help.

23. ♖e6 ♗h8 24. ♖e1 ♖f6 25. ♖e5 ♖bf8 26. ♗e4 ♖f4 27. ♖g7 ♗g7 28. ♗c5 ♗h8 29. ♗d3

White improves the positions of his pieces, achieving harmony.

### 29... ♖d4 30. ♗c1

The king is coming closer to the centre.

30... ♖c8 31. ♔d2 ♜dc4 32. c3 a5  
33. g5 ♜8c7

A blunder, which does not change anything.

34. ♜e8 ♔g7 35. ♙e6

I know the feeling Lloyd had after this move, and I understand why he played to the end.

35... h5 36. ♙c4 ♜c4 37. ♔e3 ♜h4  
38. ♖f2 b4 39. ♜e4 bc3 40. bc3  
♜h2 41. ♔f3 h4 42. ♜g4 ♔f7 43.  
♜g1 ♔e6 44. c4 a4 45. ♜g2 ♜g2  
46. ♔g2 ♔f5 47. ♔f3 ♔g5 48.  
♔e4 ♔f6 49. c5 ♔e6 50. ♖h3  
♔f6 51. ♔d5 g5 52. c6 g4 53. c7  
gh3 54. c8=Q h2

A very strong game by Louie!

55. ♜h3 1-0

**Zhou-Hansen [B07]  
CYCC U16 Boys (3), 2007**

1. d4 d6

If Black wanted to play the King's Indian, this move is a mistake. Now White uses his chance to transpose to the Pirc Defence.

2. e4 ♖f6 3. f3!?

It seems White changed his mind and offers Black to play the King's Indian.

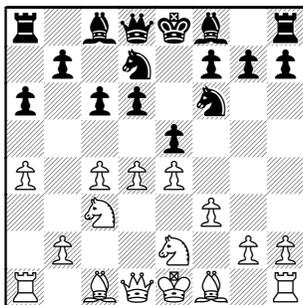
3... ♖bd7

Here 3... g6 4. c4 would transpose to the Saemisch King's Indian

4. c4 e5

Black refuses!

5. ♙e2 c6 6. ♖bc3 a6 7. a4?!



An error, which was not used by Black. White weakens the b4 square.

7... g6

An alternative is 7... a5! and why not? The bishop will go to e7, later Black

takes on d4 and puts his knight on c5, the queen finds its place on b6. A dream position for Black!

8. ♙e3 ♙g7 9. d5

White has to play this move in order to continue development.

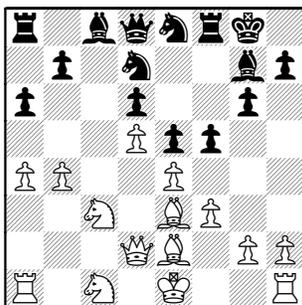
9... cd5

I would recommend to wait with this move. 9... ♜c7!? 10. ♜d2 O-O 11. ♖c1 (11. dc6 bc6 12. ♜d1 ♖e8 =) 11... cd5 12. cd5 ♖b6 with good play.

10. cd5 O-O 11. ♜d2 ♖c5?!

First error. A couple of moves later, the knight will be pushed away from c5. The usual 11... ♖h5 intending f5 leads to good play: 12. ♖c1 (12. g4?! ♖hf6 13. ♖g3 [13. ♖c1 ♔h8 14. ♙e2 ♖g8 15. O-O f5 with counterplay] 13... ♖c5 14. ♙c4 ♖fd7 15. O-O ♖b6 ♢) 12... f5 13. cf5 gf5 14. ♙e2 ♜h4 15. ♙f2 ♜f4 =.

12. ♖c1 ♖e8 13. b4 ♖d7 14. ♙e2 f5



Compared to previous lines, Black lost two moves, playing ...♖d7- c5- d7. The evaluation changed accordingly.

15. O-O f4?!

Yes, it is the normal way to get counterplay in King's Indian structures, but here I think it is too slow. Black should have tried 15... fe4! intending to fight for equality: 16. fe4 (16. ♖e4 ♖df6 17. ♖c3 ♖h5 18. ♖d3 ♖f4!?) 16... ♜f1 17. ♔f1 ♖df6 18. h3 ♙d7 19. ♖d3 ±.

16. ♙f2 g5

Black continues with the wrong plan. It was still possible to turn around and start to defend: 16... b6 17. ♖d3 ♖ef6 18. ♖b2 ♙b7 19. ♜fc1 ♜f7 20. ♜c2 ±.

17. a5!

Fixing Black's queenside.

17... h5 18. b5 ab5 19. ♖b5 b6



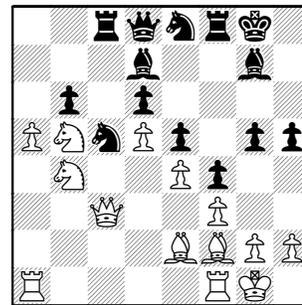
Haonan Zhou, winner of the Boys Under 16 category  
photo: monroi.com

Black is trying to trade all queenside pawns, but it does not help.

20. ♖d3 ♖c5

Or 20... ♜a5 21. ♜a5 ba5 22. ♖a7 ± going to c6.

21. ♜c3 ♙d7 22. ♖b4 ♜c8



23. ♖c6!

It is important to trade Black's good pieces. Black's working bishop goes off the board.

23... ♙c6 24. dc6 ♜c6

Black wins a pawn, though it would have been better for him if the pawn had stayed on d5. Now White's bishop comes to the pawn's place.

25. ♙c4 ♔h7 26. ♙d5 ♜c8 27. ♖a7

Getting a material advantage.

27... ♜c7 28. ab6 ♜d7 29. ♜fb1 ♖b7

Black is trying to block the passed pawn.

But there are too many holes in his position.

30. ♖e6

White wins an exchange.

30... ♟f6 31. ♙d7 ♟d7 32. ♖c7

The rest is technique. White builds up his advantage with great ease.

32... ♟de5 33. ♙c5 ♟c5 34. ♖d8 ♙d8 35. ♟c6 ♖c8 36. b7 ♟b7 37. ♖b7 ♖c6 38. ♖aa7 ♖c1 39. ♔f2 ♖c2 40. ♔e1 ♖g2 41. ♖g7 ♔h6 42. ♖gd7 g4 43. ♖d6 ♔g5 44. ♖g7 ♔h4 45. fg4 ♖h2 46. gh5 f3 47. ♖f6

A great game by the Under 16 Canadian Champion!

1-0

### Kraiouchkine-Gusev [B73] CYCC U12 Boys (4), 2007

[Notes by Nikolay Noritsyn]

This was a deciding game in the under-12 section.

1. e4 c5 2. ♟f3 ♟c6 3. d4 cd4 4. ♟d4 g6

The Accelerated Dragon, a favourite of mine and of many of my students.

5. ♟c3 ♙g7 6. ♙e3 ♟f6 7. ♙e2

Not very ambitious: 7. ♙c4 is considered to be a must-play in order to fight for advantage.

7... d6 8. O-O O-O 9. ♟b3

I recommend 9. h3!? intending ♖d2, with the knight on d4.

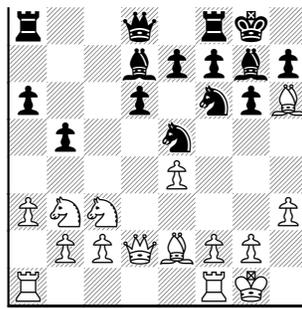
9... ♙d7

One of the possible plans. The main line is 9... ♙e6 10. f4 ♖c8 11. ♔h1 ♖d8 12. ♙g1 d5 13. e5 ♟e4, where, in my opinion, Black is slightly better. An interesting alternative is 9... a5!? 10. a4 ♙e6 11. f4 ♙b3 12. cb3 e6 13. ♙f3 ♟b4=.

10. h3 a6 11. ♖d2 b5 12. a3 ♟e5

Until now Black demonstrates great knowledge of the dragon, promoting the plan ♟e5-c4, trading White's light-square bishop.

13. ♙h6



13... ♙c6?!

Black chooses a wrong strategy. The bishop was stronger on d7 where it had more options. Much better is 13... ♙h6! 14. ♖h6 ♖b6 getting hold of the initiative.

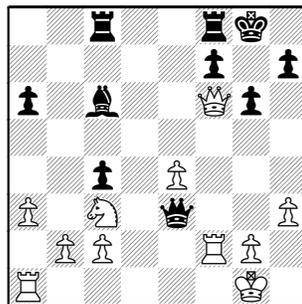
14. ♙g7 ♔g7 15. ♖d4 ♖c8 16. f4

Basically forcing Black so sacrifice a pawn.

16... ♟c4 17. ♙c4 bc4 18. ♟d2 e5

18... d5?! 19. e5 ♟c4 20. ♟de4 de4 21. ♖ad1 ±.

19. fe5 de5 20. ♖e5 ♖d2 21. ♖f6 ♔g8 22. ♖f2 ♖e3



Moves were forced until here. Black lost a pawn, but has good chances to save the game. Here the game turns twice.

23. ♔h2?!

After 23. ♟d5! ♙d5 24. ed5 White is much better.

23... ♖ce8

Immediately attacking White's weakness.

24. ♖e2 ♖c5?

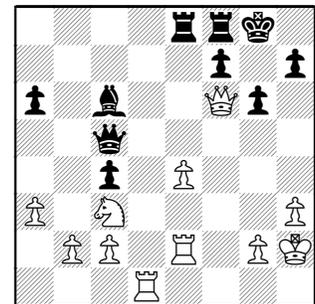
Probably missing something simple. Instead 24... ♖b6 25. ♖b1 (25. ♟d5 ♖b8 ±; 25. ♟a4 ♖b8 - +) 25... ♖c6 26. ♖f4 ♖fe8 with complete equality, as Black surely gets the pawn back.

25. ♖d1



Nikita Kraiouchkine had a fine outing to win the Boys Under 12 event.

photo: monroi.com



Now White is fully consolidated. Kraiouchkine shows great technique in the endgame.

25... ♖e5 26. ♖e5 ♖e5 27. ♖d6 ♖e6 28. ♖ed2 ♖fe8 29. ♖e6 ♖e6 30. ♖d4

White wins a second pawn.

30... f5!?

Black does not give up and looks for chances.

31. ef5 gf5 32. ♖c4 ♖g6 33. g3 ♖d6 34. ♔g1 ♔f7 35. ♖f4?!

Very passive. There was no need in bringing the rook to defence.

35... ♔g6 36. ♖f1 ♖d2 37. ♖f2 ♖d4

Black improved his position, but it still is not enough to save half a point.

38. ♖e2 ♔f6 39. ♔f2 f4 40. gf4 ♖f4 41. ♔e1 ♖f3 42. ♖f2 ♔g5 43.

♖f3 ♗f3 44. ♖f2 ♖f4 45. ♗e2 ♖e4 46. ♗g3 ♖f4 47. ♗f1 ♗e4 48. ♗e3 ♗c6 49. c4 ♗d7 50. h4 ♗c6 51. ♗d5 ♗d5 52. cd5

With a sigh. Black loses all chances to draw the game.

52... ♖e5

Black refuses to give up! I wish everyone to be such a fighter like Nikita.

53. ♖e3 ♖d5 54. ♖d3 a5 55. b3 h5 56. ♖e3 ♖e5

Or 56... ♖c5 57. ♖c4.

57. b4 a4 58. ♖d3 ♖d5 59. ♖c3 ♖c6 60. ♖c4 ♖b6 61. ♖d5 ♖b5 62. ♖e6 ♖c4 63. ♖f5 ♖b3 64. b5 ♖a3 65. b6 ♖a2 66. b7 a3 67. b8=Q ♖a1 68. ♗a7 a2 69. ♖g5 ♖b1 70. ♗a2 ♖a2 71. ♖h5 ♖b3 72. ♖g6 ♖c4 73. h5 ♖d5 74. h6 ♖e6 75. h7

Kraiouchkine showed his strengths in this game: good technique, strong tactical vision, and fighting spirit.

1-0

**Gusev-Cheng [C77]  
CYCC U12 Boys (6), 2007**  
*[Notes by Nikolay Noritsyn]*

1. e4 e5 2. ♗f3 ♗c6 3. ♗b5 a6 4. ♗a4 ♗f6 5. d3

This move is usually played to go out of well known theory early in the game. It is sometimes played on the elite level as well, but it obviously is not the right move to fight for opening advantage. Nikita avoids the Open Ruy Lopez after 5. O-O ♗e4.

5... b5

5... d6 is safer.

6. ♗b3 ♗b7!?

This allows White's next move, whereas 6... ♗e7 leads to more positional play, later probably transposing to the Anti-Marshall.

7. ♗g5

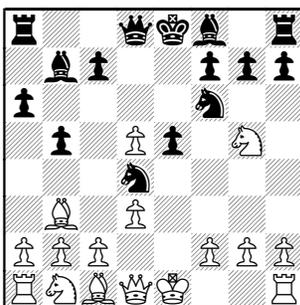
Forcing Black to sacrifice a pawn.

7... d5 8. ed5 ♗d4

Of course, not 8... ♗d5? 9. ♗f3 +- .

## Canada's 2007 Youth Champions

- U8 Boys Janak Awatramani
- U8 Girls Kelly Wang
- U10 Boys Christopher Knox
- U10 Girls Rebecca Giblon
- U12 Boys Nikita Kraiouchkine
- U12 Girls Miriam Roy
- U14 Boys Arthur Calugar
- U14 Girls Yelizaveta Orlova
- U16 Boys Haonan Zhou
- U16 Girls Sonja Xiong
- U18 Boys Ling Feng Ye
- U18 Girls Gabrielle Nadeau



9. c4!?

White hangs on to the pawn, which is a dangerous idea. After this move the bishop on b3 becomes very passive. But after the normal 9. ♗c3 ♗b3 10. ab3 ♗b4 11. O-O O-O 12. ♗f3 ♗c3 13. bc3 ♗d5 Black easily equalizes.

9... h6

Why push the knight away? Better seems 9... ♗d6! with good compensation.

10. ♗f3 ♗f3?

And this is a mistake. Black should have kept the knight on d4. White cannot take on d4 with his knight because it will make the light-square bishop even worse: 10... ♗d6 11. O-O O-O 12. ♗d4?! (12. ♗c3 =) 12... ed4 ♖.

11. ♗f3 ♗d6 12. O-O O-O 13. ♗c3 ± ♗d7 14. ♗e4 ♗e4 15. de4 ♗c8?

A move which is hard to explain. After 15... c6! 16. ♗c3 bc4 17. ♗c4 cd5 18. ed5

♗e8 Black has good practical chances for the pawn.

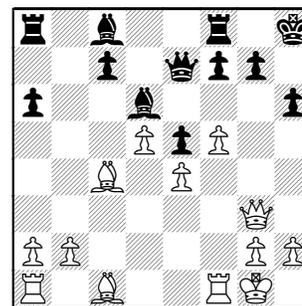
16. ♗g3 ♖h8 17. f4!

The best way to make the ♗/c1 work.

17... bc4

Or 17... ef4 18. ♗f4 ♗f4 19. ♗f4 and Black is down one pawn, but also his position is worse.

18. ♗c4 ♗e7 19. f5



White is showing his intentions in getting a king-side attack.

19... f6

Forced, because White was threatening to play f6 himself.

20. ♖h1 ♗d7 21. ♗d3 a5 22. ♖f3 ♖fb8 23. ♖h3 ♖h7 24. a4!

It is always important to block all counterplay.

24... ♖b4 25. b3 ♖bb8 26. ♗g3 ♗e8 27. ♗e3 ♗d8 28. ♗f2 ♖ab8 29. g4!

White is all ready for the attack. Black is defenceless.

29... ♗f8 30. ♖g3 ♗e7 31. h4 ♗d6 32. g5 +- ♗h5 33. gh6 gh6 34. ♖ag1 ♗d7 35. ♗d2 ♖e7 36. ♖g6

It is fun to sacrifice, especially when there is no risk involved.

36... ♗b4 37. ♗c1 ♗g6 38. fg6 ♖h8 39. ♗h6

Forcing Black to give up the material advantage.

39... ♖g7 40. ♗g7 ♗g7 41. h5 ♗d6 42. h6 ♗d7 43. ♗f1 ♖g8 44. ♖g3 ♗d8 45. ♗f6 ♖f8 46. h7

Mate to follow. Nice game by Nikita!

1-0



# The Kings of Chess

by Larry Parr

## Machgielis (Max) Euwe

b. 1901 - d. 1981

*World champion: 1935 to 1937*

Said Bobby Fischer after meeting Max Euwe, "That man is too normal. There must be something wrong with him." The 12th figure on our list of world champions is the great and good man among chess kings—a 6' 4" Dutchman who won the world amateur championship at The Hague in 1928 and who became an amateur world champion by defeating Alexander Alekhine in 1935. He is the last player who scaled the Everest of Chess in his spare time. Earning a mathematics doctorate in 1926, Dr. Euwe took up flying, boxing and swimming. Marriage, too. He fathered three daughters and wept inconsolably when one of them died relatively young. George Orwell ought to have been thinking of him when he wrote: "The fact to which we have got to cling, as to a life-belt, is that it is possible to be a normal decent person and yet to be fully alive."

In chess Dr. Euwe is remembered as The Man Who Beat Alexander Alekhine, +9 -8 =13, for the world



*Réti vs Euwe, Pístyan (Czechoslovakia), 1922.*

championship. The year was 1935. Dr. Euwe himself, though aware of his myriad contributions to chess, did not balk at the description, once remarking that no one could deny him the honour of having won a long match against the greatest attacking player in chess history.

Dr. Euwe first attracted wide attention in 1921, when he drew a match, +2 -2 =8, with Geza Maroczy. He seemed a young comer who would soon be a major title contender. But the tempi expended on work and love caused his chess development to lag. He competed in some 60 tournaments and played 20 matches during the 1920s, but these get-togethers were small, local affairs. He averaged only one strong tournament a year during the 1920s and did not garner a major first prize until Hastings 1930-31, when he finished ahead of Jose Capablanca. Dr. Euwe served his long apprenticeship for the pantheon of great masters by the novel means of losing narrowly and occasionally drawing matches against famous opponents. These matches were typically played during Christmas and Easter breaks. In 1926-27, he narrowly lost an exhibition match to Alekhine, +2 -3 =5; in 1928 and 1929, he lost two 10-matches to Efim Bogolyubov by a single point each; in 1931, he dropped a hard-fought match to Capablanca, -2 =8. When his tournament results began to improve—second at Berne 1932 and Zurich 1934 behind Alekhine both times and first equal at Hastings 1934-35 ahead of Capablanca and Mikhail Botvinnik—he became a logical challenger to Alekhine in the absence of a return match between Capa and Alekhine.

"Nothing infuriates me more," wrote GM Arnold Denker, "than to hear Max Euwe described as the 'weakest of



*Max Euwe, Hastings 1949*

world champions'...who made it to the top only because of Alekhine's alcoholism." Indeed, the lifetime score between these two titans was only narrowly in Alekhine's favor, 44 - 38. As late as game 56 in their lifetime competition, the score was dead even! Only when Alekhine won game seven of the rematch in 1937 did he go ahead for keeps. (Dr. Euwe lost that match +4 -10 =11, though winning the five-game exhibition match that followed, +2 -1 =2.) The two men were in approximately the same chess league.

Dr. Euwe was a tactical genius who employed his gifts not to devise original stratagems à la Alekhine but to enforce general positional laws with the rigour of a trained mathematician. Hans Kmoch called him "logic personified, a genius of law and order." Alekhine wrote, "Does the general public, do even our friends the critics realize that Euwe virtually never made an unsound combination? He may, of course, occasionally fail to take account ... of an opponent's combination, but when he has the initiative in a tactical operation his calculation is ... impeccable."

The 82-game Euwe-Alekhine series supports the above generalizations about Dr. Euwe's playing style. As Alekhine once noted, if Richard Reti was interested only in the exceptions to positional rules, then Max Euwe believed "perhaps a little too much" in their "immutability." Many of the Euwe-Alekhine affrays featured Dr. Euwe seeking to impose order while his Russian opponent struggled to create tactical anarchy given the tiniest opportunity. Often Dr. Euwe wound up defending a solid if uncomfortable position against a fiery attack that would have incinerated a lesser opponent. In the following game from the 1935

match, though, there is no fiery attack...instead, the tactical anarchy stays just barely under control, while Dr. Euwe brings his initiative to its logical and triumphant conclusion.

**Euwe-Alekhine [E18]  
World Championship Match (26),  
1935**

[Notes by Nikolay Noritsyn]

**1. d4 e6**

Intending the Dutch Defence, but avoiding the Staunton Gambit (1... f5 2. e4!).

**2. c4**

Euwe declines to transpose to the French Defence after 2. c4.

**2... f5 3. g3 ♖b4**

Here 3... ♗f6 could lead to the Stone Wall variation of the Dutch Defence.

**4. ♗d2 ♗e7!?**

This is one of the first games where Black uses this manoeuvre. Black forces White's bishop to d2 where it is not well placed. Nowadays ...♗f8-b4-e7 is used in the main line of the Queen's Indian.

**5. ♗g2 ♗f6 6. ♗c3 O-O 7. ♗f3**

Worth consideration is 7. ♗h3!?

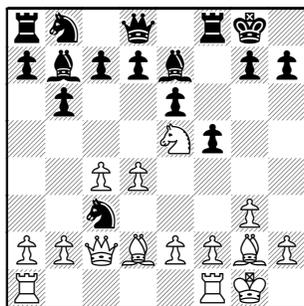
**7... ♗e4 8. O-O b6 9. ♖c2**

Both sides are fighting for the important square e4. The alternative 9. ♗e4!?! f4 10. ♗e5 ♗b7 11. ♖c2 d5 12. ♖ac1 c5 leads to very interesting play.

**9... ♗b7 10. ♗e5**

White forces exchanges to get hold of the e4 square.

**10... ♗c3**



**11. ♗c3**

It would be a mistake to play 11. ♗b7? ♗c2 12. ♗g2 ♗d4 13. ♖a4 ♗bc6 14. ♗c6 (not 14. ♗a8? ♗e5 -+) 14... ♗c6



Flohr, Alekhine and Euwe at the A.V.R.O. tournament, 1938.

15. ♗a8 ♖a8 ♖. Black gets more than enough compensation for the exchange.

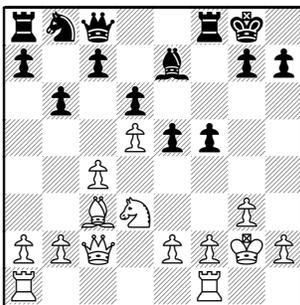
**11... ♗g2 12. ♗g2 ♖c8**

Here 12... ♗c6!?! is a creative way to fight for equality (but Alekhine was fighting for a win): 13. ♗c6 dc6 14. ♖ad1 ♖d7 15. e4 f4!?! =.

**13. d5!**

White occupies the centre.

**13... d6 14. ♗d3 e5**



**15. ♗h1**

A very deep move, the main point of which is to defend against ...f4!?!.

**15... c6**

Now 15... f4? is a mistake: 16. gf4 cf4 17. ♖g1 and Black's king is in trouble.

**16. ♖b3 ♗h8**

An alternative is 16... ♖f7!?

**17. f4! e4**

A serious mistake would be 17... ef4? 18. ♗f4 ± with White's knight going to c6.

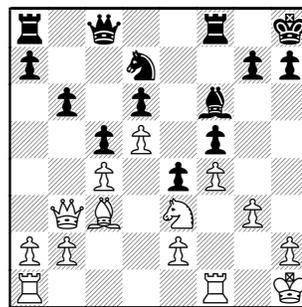
**18. ♗b4 c5**

Black must lock the position, White was already threatening to take on c6 and place his knight on d5.

**19. ♗c2**

The knight will be well placed on e3.

**19... ♗d7 20. ♗e3 ♗f6!?**



Both players saw White's next move, but their evaluations were different. Euwe looked deeper! After 20... ♖c7 with the idea ...♗f6, Black is close to equalizing.

**21. ♗f5!!**

White sacrifices a piece for three strong centre pawns.

**21... ♗c3 22. ♗d6 ♖b8 23. ♗e4 ♗f6 24. ♗d2!**

The knight backs away to clear the road for the pawns. Not 24. ♗f6? after which Black can block all three pawns: 24... ♗f6 25. ♖ae1 ♗e4! 26. ♖d3 ♖c8 27. ♗g2 ♖d6! ♖.

**24... g5!**

Black immediately starts his counterattack. This was foreseen by both players when they were pondering the 20th move.

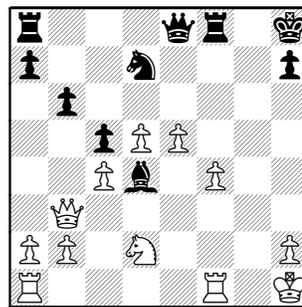
**25. e4 gf4 26. gf4 ♗d4**

Black's pieces are becoming very active, but it seems that the pawns are stronger!

**27. e5**

Defending the f4 pawn.

**27... ♖e8**



Black cannot safely give the piece back: 27... ♗e5 28. fe5 ♖e5 29. ♗f3 ♖e2 30.

♖a1 ♜b2 31. ♜b2 ♘b2 32. ♔g5. White's pieces are much better, and the d5 pawn should decide the game in White's favour.

### 28. e6!

This is a move you really want to avoid, because now the pawns might become weak and blockaded. Euwe calculated very deep here. After 28. ♖a1 ♜h5 29. ♔e4 ♖g8 Black has strong counterplay.

### 28... ♖g8 29. ♔f3

29. ed7?! ♜e2 ♞.

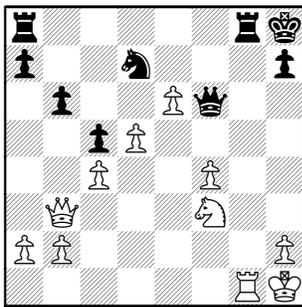
### 29... ♜g6

A critical moment in the game. It looks like Black has a strong attack but, with his next move, White turns things around!

### 30. ♖g1!!

Another positional sacrifice! Other moves lead to good play for Black, for example: 30. ♔g5?! ♔e5! 31. ♖a1 ♖af8 ♞.

### 30... ♘g1 31. ♖g1 ♜f6?!



It is possible that this is already the losing move. Alekhine probably underestimated White's next move. Better was 31... ♜f5 32. ed7 ♖g1 33. ♔g1 ♜d7 34. ♔f2 and Black has to be very careful, but should probably draw.

### 32. ♔g5!

Incredible! At this moment, White is down a full rook. Less strong would be 32. ed7 ♖g1 33. ♔g1 ♜f4 34. ♜c3 ♔g8 35. ♔e5 ♖d8 and Black is just in the game.

### 32... ♖g7

Black must defend against the deadly ♔f7.

### 33. ed7 ♖d7

Or 33... ♜f4 34. ♜c3! ♜d4 35. ♜e1!

♖d7 36. ♔e6 ♜b2 37. ♖g2 ♜f6 38. ♖f2 ♜g6 39. ♔f8 +-. .

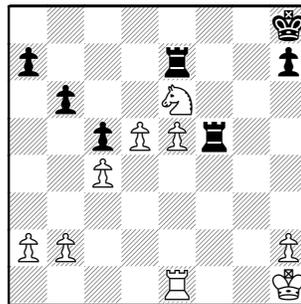
### 34. ♜e3

The most accurate. White wants to exchange queens and win the endgame.

### 34... ♖e7 35. ♔e6 ♖f8 36. ♜e5! ♜e5 37. fe5 ♖f5

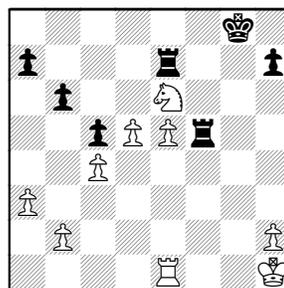
After 37... ♖e6? 38. de6 ♖e8 39. ♖g5! ♖e6 40. ♔g2 +- Black's king is cut off and he cannot cause any trouble for White.

### 38. ♖e1



### 38... h6

Perhaps 38... ♔g8 was a better try, where Black cannot move anything, but it is not easy to find a winning plan for White. For example, 39. a3



Analysis

39... a5! (39... ♔f7 40. ♔d8 ♔e8 41. ♔c6 ♖ef7 42. ♖g1 ♖f1 43. e6 +-; 39... a6 40. b4 cb4 41. ab4 ♔f7 42. ♔d8 ♔e8 43. ♔c6 ♖ef7 44. e6 +-) 40. b3 h6 41. a4 ♖e6 42. de6 ♔f8 43. ♔g2 ♔e7 44. ♖d1 ♖e5 45. ♖d7 ♔e6 46. ♖b7 ♖e2 47. ♔g1 ♖e3 48. ♖b6 ♔e5 and maybe Black can hold this?

### 39. ♔d8!

Once again this knight clears the road for the pawns.

### 39... ♖f2

Not 39... ♖ce5 40. ♖e5 ♖e5 41. ♔f7.

### 40. e6 ♖d2 41. ♔c6 ♖e8 42. e7 b5

### 43. ♔d8 ♔g7 44. ♔b7 ♔f6 45.

### ♖e6 ♔g5 46. ♔d6 ♖e7 47. ♔e4

An incredible game by Euwe!

### 1-0

After Dr. Euwe lost the title, he still performed eminent chess labours as a player (in 1939-40, he narrowly lost a match to Paul Keres, +5 -6 =3; in 1946 he finished a good second at Groningen, though later failing badly in the 1948 World Championship match tournament), as a theorist (he edited *Chess Archives* for many years, a fitting pursuit for someone who introduced the Scheveningen Variation of the Sicilian Defence in 1923), as an author (he wrote more books than any other world champion) and as a chess leader (he served as president of FIDE from 1970-78).

As president of the International Chess Federation (FIDE) he visited more than 100 countries and brought in more than 30 new members. Some observers say that he acted arbitrarily to keep Fischer-Spassky 1972 and Karpov-Korchnoi 1978 from disintegrating. His motives were not self-serving, they say, but he established a precedent for arbitrary behaviour that opened the floodgates for FIDE violating its own regulations as a matter of convenience.

## Recommended Reading

Max Euwe, *From My Games, 1920 - 1937* (Dover, 1975), beautifully annotated;

Max Euwe, *Euwe I* in the *Weltgeschichte des Schachs* series (Verlag Dr. E. Wildhagen, 1959).

Garry Kasparov, *My Great Predecessors, Volume 1.*



# MonRoi International Women's Grand Prix

by Robert Hamilton

## MonRoi Grand Prix Finale

1. GM Pia Cramling (SWE)	2495	X	=	=	=	1	1	=	1	5.0
2. WGM Jovanka Houska (ENG)	2401	=	X	=	1	0	=	1	1	4.5
3. WGM Lela Javakhishvili (GEO)	2460	=	=	X	=	=	=	1	1	4.5
4. WGM Iweta Rajlich (POL)	2406	=	0	=	X	=	1	=	1	4.0
5. WGM Ketevan Arakhamia-Grant (GEO)	2418	0	1	=	=	X	=	=	1	4.0
6. WGM Cristina Adela Foisor (ROM)	2372	0	=	=	0	=	X	=	1	3.0
7. WGM Irina Krush (USA)	2473	=	0	0	=	=	=	X	1	3.0
8. Myriam Roy (CAN)	1970	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	X	0.0

The Women's Grand Prix is a wonderful concept launched by Montreal based MonRoi. Essentially, females playing in designated events around the world accumulate year-end totals to qualify for the championship event staged in Montreal.

In its inaugural year, the Grand Prix linked events from Germany, USA, Italy, France, Liechtenstein, Croatia and Gibraltar. Many of the world's elite participated in the qualifiers, and the lucky winners received royal treatment at the Grand Prix finals.

In Montreal, the eight player round-robin event reached a climax in the following last round game. Either player could take clear first by winning.

### Arakhamia Grant-Cramling

#### MonRoi Finale (7), 2007

[Notes by Robert Hamilton]

1. e4 c5 2. ♖f3 e6 3. d4 cd4 4. ♘d4 a6 5. ♙d3 ♘e7!?

A nice double-edged choice.

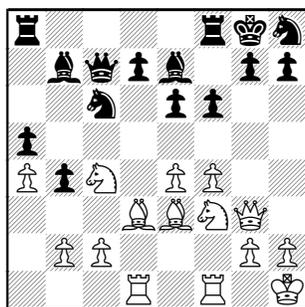
6. f4!? ♘bc6 7. ♘f3 ♘g6 8. ♙e3 b5?!

Very risky. Better was 8... d6.

9. O-O ♙e7 10. a4 b4 11. ♘bd2 ♙b7 12. ♚e1 O-O 13. ♚g3 ♚c7 14. ♙h1 a5 15. ♙ad1 f6?

With the idea of recycling the g6-knight, but 15... d5 was sounder.

16. ♘c4! ♘h8?



17. ♚h3! ♙ab8 18. ♘b6

Threatening to chop on d7, and planning to win on the light squares. Also good was 18. e5 f5 19. ♙b6 and soon taking the a-pawn with the bishop.

18... ♙c8 19. ♘c8

Perhaps even better was 19. ♘d5!? cd5 20. ed5 ♘g6 21. dc6.

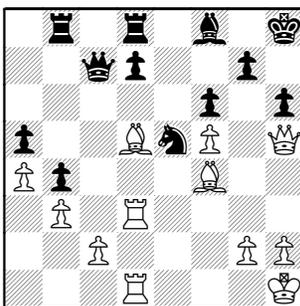
19... ♚c8 20. b3?!

Here 20. e5! was strong, as Black cannot afford 20... f5? 21. g4.

20... ♘f7 21. ♙d2 ♙d8 22. ♙fd1 ♚c7 23. f5 ef5 24. ef5 ♘ce5 25. ♙e4 ♘f3 26. ♚f3 ♘e5 27. ♙d5 ♙h8 28. ♚h5 ♙c5 29. ♙f4 ♙f8 30. ♙d3

Threatening mate in two.

30... h6



White to play and win

31. ♙e5?

Here 31. ♙g3!! is lethal. Full points only if you saw this mate threat: 32. ♙h6 gh6 33. ♙g8 ♙h7 34. ♚g6! ♘g6 35. fg6.

31... ♚e5 32. ♚f7?

White would preserve a considerable edge with 32. ♙d4!

32... ♙d6 33. ♙g3 ♙g8 34. ♚d7??

Throwing away the Grand Prix. White was still better with 34. ♙c4.

34... ♙bd8 35. ♚b5?!

White could still try to hang on with the bizarre 35. ♚f7! ♙c7 36. ♙g1!

35... ♙c7!

Given White's weak first rank and the d-file pin, Pia prepares to pluck the full point.

36. ♚c6?

Necessary but not really sufficient was 36. ♙h3! ♙ge8 37. g4.

36... ♙ge8 37. ♙g1 ♙b8

Missing 37... ♙d5! but the outcome is unchanged.

38. ♚c4 ♙e7 39. ♙f1 ♙d5

Finally.

40. ♚d5

Now Black mates in five.

40... ♚e2 41. ♙g1 ♙a7

An opportunistic win by Cramling.

0-1



# Ottawa Hosts Strongest Canadian Open Ever

by Robert Hamilton

HILL & KNOWLTON

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GAMES

Marriott  
OTTAWA



Event Chair Gordon Ritchie with former World Championship finalist Nigel Short

The Canadian Open Chess Championship held this summer in Ottawa was a spectacular event. In total, 280 players participated, included a record 22 International Grandmasters from every corner of the world.

Much of the credit for the success of the event must go to the event Chair, Gordon Ritchie, who accepted responsibility for the event on relatively short notice. But as anyone who has organized large events knows, there's no such thing as a one man show, and the success of this year's event was, in no small part, testimony to the diverse talent and hard-driving work ethic of the members of the Ottawa chess community.

Key contributors to the event included Stijn De Kerpel, Peter Hum and Tim Bouma, to name but a few who worked tirelessly to deliver a great event. Not only was the committee responsible for the Canadian Open, but they also delivered a record breaking Canadian Youth Chess Championship in parallel.

When queried about what Ritchie felt distinguished this Canadian Open from others, he was quick to point to the high level of corporate sponsorship. And indeed, by this yardstick the 2007 Cana-

dian Open will go down as among the greatest ever.

Former World Chess Championship finalist Nigel Short was the first international superstar to confirm participation in the event. But, as sponsorship poured in, the list was continuously expanded and elite players announced on virtually a weekly basis heading into the event.

Among the 22 International Grandmasters, seven were rated above 2600. Joining Nigel Short in the elite group were Xiangzhi Bu, Vadim Milov, Kamil Milton, Sergey Tiviakov, Alex Yermolinsky and Victor Mikhalevski.

To give all players a crack at the elite, the event was held in a single-section format. This monolithic structure has the obvious benefit or drawback, depending on one's perspective, of making the event more of a lottery. What may be less obvious is a peculiar effect resulting from technical requirements of norms for International Grandmaster and other titles: an aspirant's hopes for a nine-round norm can be messed up by an "easy" pairing against a lower-rated player. For this reason, a tenth round was added. To avoid top players playing weaker players early, the organizers adopted an infrequently used "ghost point" system.

These decisions resulted in mixed reviews and added a little more fodder to the never-ending debate about single section vs multiple section Canadian Opens.

In the end, IM norms were earned by three young Canadians. Bindi Cheng (of Burnaby, BC) clinched his first norm. Canadian Champion Nikolay Noritsyn snagged his fourth IM norm. A 15-year-old immigrant already rated 2527, Anton Kovalyov earned his third or possibly fourth IM norm.

With so many strong players taking part it's not surprising that the names on the leader-board changed a lot from round to round. But one was constant: Xiangzhi Bu was near the top most of the way, and in the last round he played a wonderful game to win with Black and secure clear first. Twenty-two year old Bu is the second highest rated player in China and one of the world's most talented young players. Undoubtedly we'll be hearing a lot more from him in the years ahead.

The quantity of strong games from the Canadian Open is deserving of a tournament book. We've chosen to focus on interesting games involving elite Canadian players.

## Canadian Open 2007

1. Xiangzhi Bu	2685	W31	W41	D2	D4	D9	W16	W37	W23	D3	W7	8.0
2. Chanda Sandipan	2563	W17	W21	D1	D9	D14	W74	W12	D7	W8	D3	7.5
3. Kamil Miton	2659	W44	D38	W42	D37	W19	D10	W18	W9	D1	D2	7.5
4. Nigel Short	2683	W76	W20	W12	D1	D8	D11	D10	D5	W26	W29	7.5
5. Bator Sambuev	2482	W59	D77	W115	D27	L25	W165	W43	D4	W32	W24	7.5
6. Tomas Krnan	2532	W54	L76	W53	D17	W50	W82	D8	D31	W28	W22	7.5
7. Vadim Milov	2678	W52	W19	D22	D24	D38	W39	W13	D2	W23	L1	7.0
8. Sergey Tiviakov	2648	W49	W15	D24	W22	D4	D13	D6	W38	L2	W36	7.0
9. Hoang Thong Tu	2483	W33	D45	W91	D2	D1	W126	W11	L3	W31	D10	7.0
10. Mark Bluvshstein	2542	D43	W79	W47	D25	W120	D3	D4	D32	W39	D9	7.0
11. Andrey Rychagov	2557	W50	D36	W58	D38	W47	D4	L9	W73	D16	W49	7.0
12. Anton Kovalyov	2510	W30	W73	L4	D46	W40	W51	L2	W77	W74	D20	7.0
13. Alex Yermolinsky	2612	D28	W40	W125	D23	W115	D8	L7	D17	W54	W44	7.0
14. Thomas Roussel-Roozmon	2454	W46	D25	D84	W51	D2	L22	W100	W63	D37	W57	7.0
15. Leonid Gerzhoy	2449	W127	L8	L28	W166	W167	W83	W119	D25	W27	D23	7.0
16. Daniel Rensch	2400	W53	L22	D81	W87	W76	L1	W126	W91	D11	W43	7.0
17. Jonathan Tayar	2310	L2	W130	W249	D6	L41	W58	W86	D13	W119	W38	7.0
18. Abhijit Kunte	2581	L45	W88	W78	D73	W159	W63	L3	W75	D36	W40	7.0
19. Alexander Reprintsev	2410	W34	L7	W35	W84	L3	W128	D80	D47	W121	W50	7.0
20. Frank De La Paz Perdomo	2452	W85	L4	D80	W116	L73	W118	W90	W60	W25	D12	7.0
21. Joe Bradford	2406	W78	L2	L51	W136	D160	W85	W81	D82	W45	W46	7.0
22. Valeriy Aveskulov	2539	W60	W16	D7	L8	W46	W14	D27	W42	D24	L6	6.5
23. Suat Atalik	2564	D75	W32	W74	D13	W48	W29	W24	L1	L7	D15	6.5
24. Alastair Howell	2519	W57	W39	D8	D7	W114	W25	L23	W49	D22	L5	6.5
25. Victor Mikhalevski	2601	W64	D14	W36	D10	W5	L24	W41	D15	L20	W77	6.5
26. Tom O'Donnell	2467	D40	D28	W59	D0	W79	W100	L0	W34	L4	W78	6.5
27. Anton Shomoev	2561	D32	W75	W77	D5	D39	W73	D22	D36	L15	W79	6.5
28. Bindi Cheng	2266	D13	D26	W15	L39	W227	W160	D29	W41	L6	W74	6.5
29. Tomas Likavsky	2503	L77	W95	W57	W30	W122	L23	D28	W79	W52	L4	6.5
30. Sebastian Predescu	2317	L12	W86	W138	L29	D94	W96	W161	L0	W165	W91	6.5
31. Arkady Vul	2312	L1	W87	D114	W128	D80	W164	W122	D6	L9	W100	6.5
32. Shiyam Thavandiran	2377	D27	L23	W132	D94	W228	W162	W120	D10	L5	W81	6.5
33. Michael Barron	2345	L9	W62	D135	L115	W123	L34	W103	W86	W87	W80	6.5
34. Josh Guo	2212	L19	D249	W200	L122	W250	W33	W98	L26	W108	W76	6.5
35. Karoly Szalay	2120	W112	W105	L19	D123	L162	L172	W101	W227	W156	W73	6.5
36. Rick Lahaye	2367	W96	D11	L25	W161	W56	D0	W117	D27	D18	L8	6.0
37. Sipke Ernst	2555	D79	W43	W45	D3	W117	D0	L1	W118	D14	L0	6.0
38. Nikolay Noritsyn	2496	W80	D3	W117	D11	D7	D119	W54	L8	W47	L17	6.0
39. Ekaterina Atalik	2400	W121	L24	W92	W28	D27	L7	W88	W80	L10	D59	6.0
40. Jeff Reeve	2344	D26	L13	W89	W134	L12	D158	W166	W95	W117	L18	6.0
41. Artem Samsonkin	2449	W93	L1	W82	D76	W17	W88	L25	L28	W155	D60	6.0
42. Borislav Ivkov	2494	D56	W89	L3	W163	D43	W159	W53	L22	D78	D63	6.0
43. Victor Plotkin	2293	D10	L37	W232	W62	D42	W114	L5	W128	W124	L16	6.0
44. Thanh Nha Duong	2331	L3	D92	D158	D0	D0	W105	W135	W167	W120	L13	6.0
45. David Gordon	2280	W18	D9	L37	D86	W84	L122	W123	W62	L21	W117	6.0
46. Gregory Huber	2324	L14	W169	W166	D12	L22	D78	W116	W159	W118	L21	6.0
47. Eric Hansen	2217	W48	W61	L10	W98	L11	D124	W172	D19	L38	W130	6.0
48. Joost Michielsen	2314	L47	W120	W126	W68	L23	D0	D167	W162	W125	L0	6.0
49. Raja Panjwani	2351	L8	W152	D94	D228	W137	W115	W198	L24	W82	L11	6.0
50. Lawrence Day	2320	L11	W161	D116	W130	L6	W56	D159	W134	W66	L19	6.0
51. Kubra Ozturk	2153	D123	W97	W21	L14	W66	L12	L74	D98	W131	W127	6.0
52. Goran Mikanovic	2365	L7	D81	L121	W184	W143	W59	W165	W139	L29	D56	6.0
53. Robert J. Gardner	2282	L16	W122	L6	W174	W86	W62	L42	L124	W198	W119	6.0
54. John Bick	2217	L6	D138	W178	D55	W163	W130	L38	W131	L13	W114	6.0
55. Aquino Inigo	1980	W212	L78	W192	D54	L57	W102	W76	L74	D127	W124	6.0
56. Wayne Barclay	2222	D42	L74	W176	W135	L36	L50	W231	W129	W162	D52	6.0
57. Miladin Djerkovic	2288	L24	W70	L29	W138	W55	D0	D124	W114	W67	L14	6.0
58. Lucas Davies	2220	W124	D0	L11	W61	L74	L17	D106	W151	W123	W128	6.0
59. Alex Davies	2262	L5	W83	L26	D250	W270	L52	W149	W84	W183	D39	6.0
60. Kevin Pacey	2271	L22	W129	D251	D160	D116	W252	W84	L20	W171	D41	6.0

... (full crosstable at [www.chess.ca](http://www.chess.ca))

## The Anton Arrival

Vastly talented Anton Kovalyov is the most recent in a wave of talented newcomers to call Canada home. The fifteen-year-old kid from Argentina performed at about 2550 in both the Canadian Open and the Quebec Open, and his new 2527 Canadian rating is one of the best in the country.

In Round 1, Anton was pitted against solid Ottawa master Sebastian Predescu. After an interesting opening, Predescu plays an aggressive advance on the queenside (17. b4). Anton has to dodge a few bullets, but forces the position towards an ending where Predescu's advanced queenside is a liability. After that, the new kid from Argentina makes the rest look really easy.

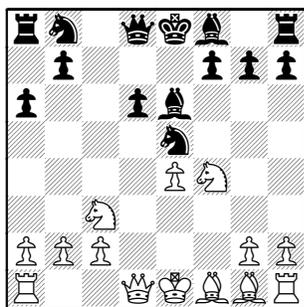
### Predescu-Kovalyov [B90] Canadian Open (1), 2007

[Notes by Robert Hamilton]

1. e4 c5 2. ♘f3 d6 3. d4 cd4 4. ♘d4 ♘f6 5. ♘c3 a6 6. ♙e3 e5 7. ♘de2

The retreat of the knight to e2 has long been considered to pose no problems for Black.

7... ♙e6 8. f4 ♘g4 9. ♙g1 ef4 10. ♘f4 ♘e5



An interesting position. Black has the strong outpost on e5, but is a little behind in development. Black should be satisfied with the opening.

11. ♙d3 g6

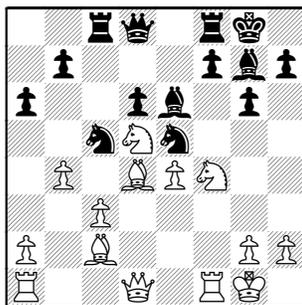
A provocative move. After the more conventional 11... ♙c7, the position is roughly equal.

12. ♘cd5 ♘bd7 13. ♙d4 ♙g7 14.



Canada's newest star, Anton Kovalyov: aged 15 and rated 2527.  
photo: chessbase.com

c3 O-O 15. O-O ♘c5 16. ♙c2 ♙c8 17. b4?!



This creates long term weaknesses on the queenside. A better alternative was 17. ♙e1 intending to transfer the queen to g3.

17... ♙g4! 18. ♙e1 ♘e6

The position is very messy and unclear, but with 17. b4 White has placed a certain amount of obligation on himself to prove White has a strong attack before the endgame.

19. ♘e6

The exchange of pieces assists Black. An interesting alternative was 19. ♙b6 ♙d7 20. ♙g3, keeping a little more tension in the position.

19... ♙e6

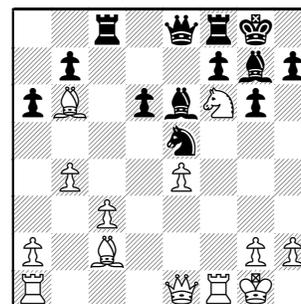
Also possible was 19... fe6 20. ♘f4 g5!, when Black holds a slight edge on ac-

count of White's weakened queenside.

20. ♙b6?!

White is losing the thread. More natural and stronger was 20. ♙b3! keeping the option of capturing on d5 with the bishop alive which discourages Black from exchanging the knight. White would be threatening ♙g3, since then the black queen would have little range. The bishop on d4 was better placed than on b6, and White is forcing Black's queen to become more active.

20... ♙e8 21. ♘f6?!



White continues to exchange pieces, which helps Black. There is no real chance of Black being mated on the dark squares in this position.

21... ♙f6 22. ♙f6 ♙b5!?

On 22... ♘d7 White had 23. ♙a4 with a very slight advantage. The cement 22... ♙e7 was perfectly playable. The text is a little more bold, and turns out to be just fine.

23. ♙d4 ♘c6!

Again, the theme of simply exchanging pieces serves Black well. White cannot easily undo the damage done by 17. b4.

24. ♙d2 ♘d4 25. cd4

After 25. ♙d4 Black gets to choose between 25... ♙e5 and 25... ♙c4, which both pose problems.

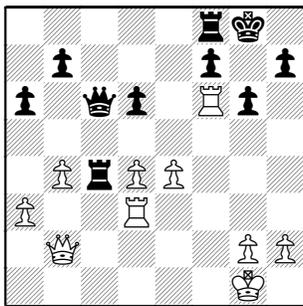
25... ♙c6!

Anton clearly understands how to probe his advantage, and his conduct of the remainder of the game is very clear and impressive. He starts by forcing the bishop to an awkward square.

26. ♙d3 ♙b6 27. ♙b2 ♙c4 28. ♙d1?

The position has become very difficult for White to play and very easy for Black. Exchanging on c4 allows Black's

rook in. More stubborn was 28. ♖c2.  
28... ♗d3 29. ♜d3 ♝c4 30. a3 ♞c6!



Black continues to probe. White may well be lost by force now.

31. ♞e2?

Oops, and just like that...it's lost: 31. ♞c3 was the only move that offered any resistance.

31... ♞c1! 32. ♝f1 ♞e8 33. ♞e3 ♝f1!

Black sees his powerful 35th move coming.

34. ♔f1 ♞c1 35. ♔f2 ♞c8!

That's the end.

36. ♔f3 ♞c2 37. ♞e1 ♞b2 38. e5 ♞d4 39. ed6 ♞f6 40. ♔e4 ♞e6

A very mature performance by Kovalyov.

0-1

## David and Goliath

Round 1 saw Ottawa's own Dave Gordon pitted against goliath, Abhijit Kunte. In 2005 Kunte, finished near the top of the Edmonton Canadian Open. He then travelled to Guelph, where he got the high score in the Guelph Futurity and finished first in the Guelph International. The following year, he tied second in the Quebec Open and then tied first in the Canadian Open. In nearly fifty games in Canada, he has played about two dozen GMs and only lost once.

Against Gordon, Kunte got a very comfortable position from the opening and even obtained some advantage. But he failed to capitalize on his opening and then, pressing hard, blundered with 31...b5? After that, Gordon made short work of him.

## Gordon-Kunte [A45] Canadian Open (1), 2007

[Notes by Robert Hamilton]

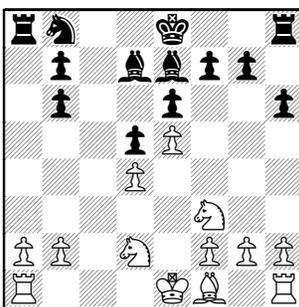
1. d4 ♗f6 2. ♖g5 e6 3. ♗d2 h6 4. ♗f6 ♞f6 5. c3 d5 6. ♗gf3 c5 7. e4 cd4 8. e5

Creating a somewhat dynamically imbalanced position akin to a French.

8... ♞d8 9. cd4 ♞b6 10. ♞b3 ♗b4 11. ♞d3

Black was threatening 11... ♗d2 keeping the white king in the centre.

11... ♗e7 12. ♞b5 ♗d7 13. ♞b6 ab6

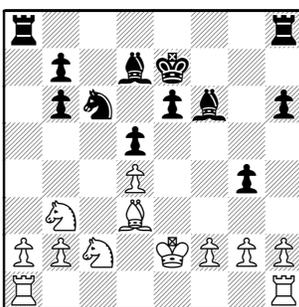


This ending offers Black a small edge, and White must play very carefully.

14. ♗d3?! ♗c6 15. ♔e2 g5!? 16. ♗b3?!

Better was 16. h3! which forces Black to use two tempi (...h5 and ...♞g8) to achieve ...g4. Allowing ...g4 so quickly allows Black a comfortable advantage.

16... g4 17. ♗e1 f6 18. ef6 ♗f6 19. ♗c2 ♔e7?!



Much more forcing is the immediate 19... e5! which poses White immediate problems particularly since 20. de5 ♗e5! is so hard to meet. If Black is determined to move his king, f7 appears a better choice then e7 since the rapid opening of



Ottawa master and CFC Executive Director Dave Gordon topples India's Abhijit Kunte. photo: monroi.com

the e- file can be very strong. Kunte envisioned the king going to d6.

20. ♞he1! ♗d6 21. a3?!

It was better for White to get his king to f1 immediately.

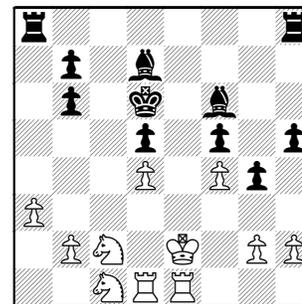
21... h5?!

Black is squandering his opportunities to strike while White is awkward. Better was 21... e5! when after 22. de5 ♗e5 the king is tied to the defence of the bishop on d3, and ...♗b5 and ...♞e8 are in the position.

22. ♞ad1 ♗e7 23. ♗c1?

Again 23. ♔f1, getting out of the way, was best.

23... ♗f5! 24. ♗f5 ef5 25. f4!



The best try...White plays to create a strong square on e5 for his knight.

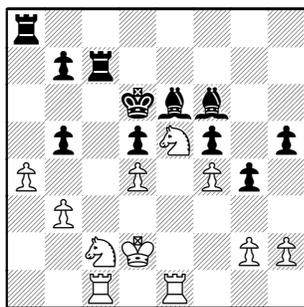
25... ♞ac8 26. ♔d2 ♞c4 27. b3 ♞c7 28. ♗d3

Since having fallen behind in the opening, White has outplayed Black. With the knight headed into the big hole on e5, White has fully equalized.

28... ♞hc8 29. ♞c1 ♞a8 30. ♗e5 ♗e6 31. a4!

The tide has turned. Suddenly it's Black who is on the defensive and has to be careful.

31... b5??



White to play and win

32. ♖a3!

Winning a pawn and the game on the spot.

32... ♜c1 33. ♘b5 ♙e7 34. ♜c1 ♜c8 35. ♜c8 ♙c8 36. ♙c3

Heading straight towards the weakened queenside. The rest is very straightforward.

36... ♙e6 37. ♙b4 ♙d8 38. ♙c5 ♙g8 39. ♙b6 h4 40. ♙b7 ♙e5 41. de5 d4 42. ♘d4 ♙d5 43. ♙b8 ♙g2 44. ♘f5 g3 45. hg3 1-0

## Bu who?

Many Canadians had never even heard of Xiangzhi Bu prior to his winning the Canadian Open in Ottawa. But he's currently the second highest rated player in China at 2685 and was top ranked at the Canadian Open. His results in recent events have been extremely impressive, and at only 22 years of age he's quickly establishing himself among the world's very best players.

Pitted against teenager Artem Samsonkin, who recently moved to Toronto, Bu uses a very rarely played move in the opening that gives White great chances. After the dust lifted, Bu had plenty of pressure, but he suddenly chose the second best 22. ♗e4. Samsonkin then defended very well until near the end, when he made the ill fated decision to centralize his king. After that there was no second chance for Samsonkin.



Bindi Cheng earned an IM norm in Ottawa. photo: monroi.com

### Bu-Samsonkin [E62]

#### Canadian Open (2), 2007

[Notes by Robert Hamilton]

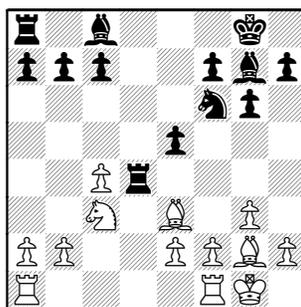
1. d4 ♘f6 2. c4 g6 3. g3 ♙g7 4. ♙g2 O-O 5. ♘c3 d6 6. ♘f3 ♘c6 7. O-O e5

A popular alternative is 7... a6.

8. de5

The alternative is 8. d5, which White does reasonably well with. Bu has a special idea prepared for this game.

8... ♘e5 9. ♘e5 de5 10. ♗d8 ♜d8 11. ♙g5 ♜d4 12. ♙e3!



A rare and fantastically tricky move. There's little doubt that with exhaustive analysis Black is probably okay in this position after 12...Rc4 13. Rfd1!, but in practice there are many ways for Black to go astray.

12... ♜d7

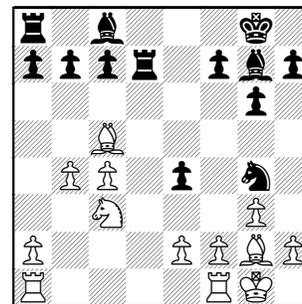
A practical move avoiding the complica-

tions but ceding White a small advantage.

13. b4!?

An aggressive move which at first seems to loosen White's position...but Bu undoubtedly was planning the exchange sacrifice already. Also interesting were both 13. h3, denying the black knight access to g4; and 13. ♘b5!? planning to meet 13... a6 with 14. ♘a7 gaining the advantage of the Bishops.

13... ♘g4!? 14. ♙c5 e4!

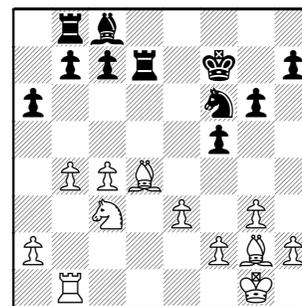


If White plays a natural move such as 15. Rac1 then, after 15...f5, Black has a slight initiative. Rather than defend passively Bu opts for a great exchange sacrifice which makes Black's position difficult to play.

15. ♘e4! ♙a1 16. ♜a1 f5 17. ♘c3!

Bu calmly retreats his knight to the best square, knowing that White has very real compensation for the sacrificed exchange.

17... ♘f6 18. e3 ♙f7 19. ♙d4 a6 20. ♜b1 ♜b8



Black's position is awkward for sure, with White having all kinds of different plans at his disposal.

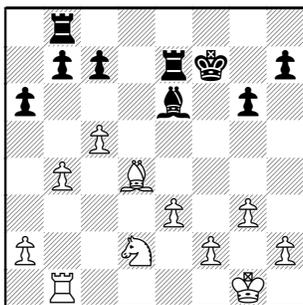
21. c5! ♘e4

A very practical decision. Faced with many complicated and difficult variations, Black simply returns the pawn for development and plays to hold the position.

**22. ♖e4?!**

A very strange decision, which allows Black some reasonable chances. After 22. ♖e4 ♜f4 23. ♖c4, Black has absolutely no chances of winning, and White has many good possibilities.

**22... ♜f4 23. ♖e4 ♞e7!? 24. ♖d2?! ♖e6!**



Suddenly Black's position appears quite tenable. Artem has defended quite well against the surprise variation.

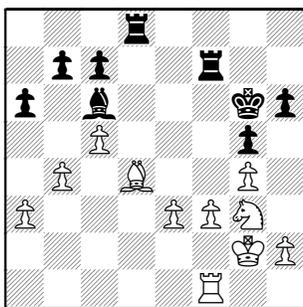
**25. a3 ♞d8 26. ♖f3 ♖f5 27. ♞c1 h6? 28. ♖d2?**

The immediate 28. ♖c5! followed by 29. f3 is very difficult for Black to meet.

**28... g5 29. f3 ♖d3 30. g4 ♖b5 31. ♖f1 ♖g6**

An interesting alternative was 31... a5 attempting to open the file for rook activity.

**32. ♖g3 ♞f7 33. ♖g2 ♖c6 34. ♞f1**



Artem now plays a very interesting exchange sacrifice to finally try and gain some activity.

**34... ♞d4!? 35. ed4 ♞f4! 36. d5?!**

Bu was probably discouraged by the fact that after 36. ♖f5 ♞g4 37. ♖f2 ♞f4 38. ♖e7 ♖f6 39. ♖c6 bc6 the position is not so easy to win for White. The immediate 36. h3! is better than the d5 played,

though, since White makes some progress after 36... ♞d4 37. ♖f5.

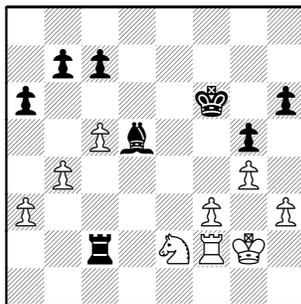
**36... ♞d5 37. h3 ♞c4!**

Black gets far more active then he would have had Bu not played 36. d5. Now, with the target on f3 and queenside pawns weak, it's doubtful White should have enough to win.

**38. ♖e2 ♞c2**

Also possible was 38... a5 39. ♞d1 c6, when White's queenside pawns remain weak.

**39. ♞f2 ♖f6?!**



It's counter-intuitive to move the Rook back to c4 for loss of time, but in this case it was tactically justified since it threatened ...a5 and the knight on e2 must remain there to keep the black rook from arriving on the key square c3. Ironically, trying to improve the black king only strengthens the threat of f4.

**40. ♖g3 ♖e5 41. f4 g4 42. ♖f4 ♞c3?!**

This unnatural move, wasting time in a race situation, is probably based on some miscalculation. Black should try 42... ♞f2 43. ♖d3 ♖d4 44. ♖f2 ♖c4 with excellent drawing chances.

**43. ♖h4**

Of course not 43. ♖h2 ♖c4! leaving Black on top.

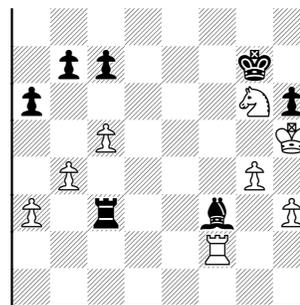
**43... ♖f3 44. ♖g6 ♖f6**

It might be better to make a last-ditch try for queenside counterplay: 44... ♖d4 45. ♖h5 ♞a3 46. ♖h6 ♞b3.

**45. ♖h5!?**

Probably White wins the rook ending after 45. ♖g3 ♖g6 46. ♞f3 ♞c4 47. ♞d3, but Bu is hoping for something better

**45... ♖g7**



Where should the white knight go?

**46. ♖h4?!**

Probably a mistake, but it's a tough decision.

**46... ♖d5?**

Black should try to take advantage of White's last move, by the natural 46... ♖c4 47. ♞c2 ♖c2 48. ♞d2 (not 48. ♞e7 ♖f6 49. ♞c7?? ♞h3 winning for Black!) 48... ♖c4.

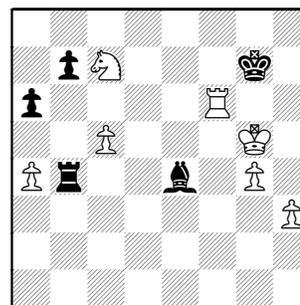
**47. ♖f5**

Now, with the new possibility of threats against the black king, Bu is clearly winning.

**47... ♖h7 48. ♖h4 ♖c4**

Black tries to avoid the critical rook penetration after 48... ♞a3 49. ♞c2.

**49. ♞f4 ♖d5 50. ♖e7 ♖c4 51. a4 ♖g7 52. ♖f5 ♖g6 53. ♞e4 ♖f1 54. ♖e3 ♖d3 55. ♞e6 ♖f7 56. ♞h6 ♖g6 57. ♖d5 ♞c4 58. ♖g5 ♖e4 59. ♞f6 ♖g7 60. ♖c7 ♞b4**



White to mate in eight.

**61. ♖e6 ♖h7 62. ♞f7 ♖g8 63. ♖f6 1-0**

## Nikolay's GM Norm Quest

Nikolay Noritsyn entered the Canadian Open with his sights set on notching a GM norm. And indeed, in the first half of the event he was well on his way, having beaten a few lower rated players and having drawn all three GMs he faced. In fact, in the following round five encounter, Nikolay had the 2678-rated Milov in big trouble. Had he converted that point, he'd have been performing at nearly 2700.

Instead, Nikolay let Milov escape with a draw and finished the tournament in uncharacteristically poor fashion. It was, however, good enough for his fourth IM norm, a title he confirmed a few weeks later by winning the Canadian Championship.

### Noritsyn-Milov [B42] Canadian Open (5), 2007

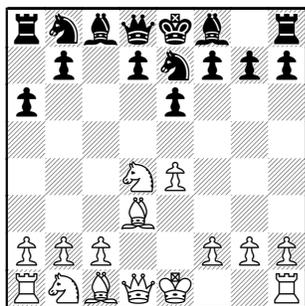
[Notes by Nikolay Noritsyn]

Even when I sat down at the board I did not know what my first move is. But I did spend the day analyzing sharp Sicilian lines and different plans in the English Opening.

#### 1. e4!

I chose Ostap Bender's favourite move absolutely randomly. But I felt it is the right move!

1... c5 2. ♖f3 e6 3. d4 cd4 4. ♘d4 a6 5. ♙d3 ♗e7!?



Milov appears to be a specialist in this variation. I never saw this move until I had to look at Milov's games. Of course I tried to find an opening advantage for

White, but unsuccessfully. Black appears to be very solid!

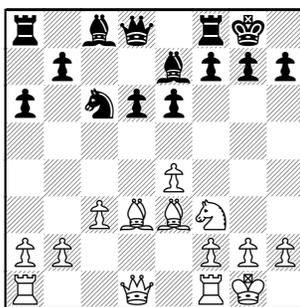
6. O-O ♗bc6 7. ♘c6

Or 7. ♘b3 g6! Mostly I looked at 7. c3!?

7... ♘c6 8. ♘d2 ♙e7 9. c3 O-O 10. ♘f3!!

I have to admit that, while looking at Milov's games (and I looked at around 200), I had an uncomfortable feeling of fear. If his opponents played for a draw as White he started to create complications, even if it required loosening his position, and it always worked for him. I know this kind of style well, because I play similarly in Toronto swisses. Thinking about my 10th move, I remembered that I was going to follow a Nakamura game against Milov after 10. f4, but then I decided to change my strategy.

10... d6 11. ♙e3



With the threat of ♘d4! exchanging Black's knight. After I made this move, I felt that Milov was not very happy about the position. How does Black play for a win? White is trying to exchange all pieces, and draw the game (or, that is what he thought).

11... e5?!

When I played 11. ♙e3, I knew he will play ...e5 with idea ...f5, even if it gives me an advantage.

12. ♙c4

Going to d5.

12... ♖h8 13. ♙d2!

With idea ♗g5.

13... f5

Not 13... h6? 14. ♙h6! ± and White has at least a draw. Another possibility is 13... ♙g4 14. ♗g5 ♙h5 15. f3! ♙g6 16. ♗h3 ± with the white knight going to f2, from where it can get to e4 very fast.

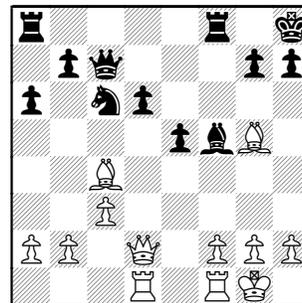
14. ef5 ♙f5 15. ♗g5

Winning the two-bishops advantage.

15... ♙g5

Or 15... ♗c8 16. ♗c6 ±.

16. ♙g5 ♗c7 17. ♗ad1!



With the idea to force Black to play ...h6 and ...g5.

17... h6 18. ♙h4 g5 19. ♙g3 ♗f6

Black is showing his aggressive intentions. But we both knew that objectively White is better.

20. ♙d5

Interesting was 20. h4!?, but I did not want to show my cards just yet.

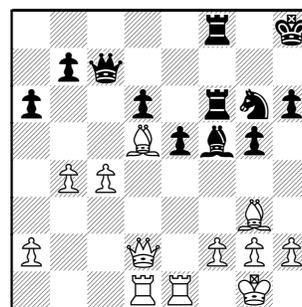
20... ♗e7 21. c4 ♗g6

The knight is going to...well, nowhere for now. If it goes to f4, White can always take, or leave it there—Black has no threats at all. After 21... ♗d5 22. ♗d5 ♗c8 23. b3, Black is just a little worse. But the game has only two possible results here.

22. ♗fe1

Just developing my pieces.

22... ♗af8 23. b4!



With the idea to sometime play c5 and break Black's defences.

23... b5!?

Objectively an error, but it worked. (Best play might be 23... b6 24. ♖c3 ♜f4 25. ♖a3 ±.) Having around 20 minutes, I felt that the time has come.

**24. c5!**

The alternative 24. ♖c1 bc4 25. ♖c4 ♜b6 26. ♖c6 ± led to a very strong position for White, but I felt I can get more in complications.

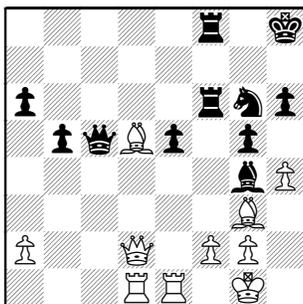
**24... dc5 25. bc5 ♜c5**

If Black does not take, he is lost positionally.

**26. h4!**

The idea of the 24th move. I always trust my intuition, and I was right that Black is lost here. Unfortunately I could not lead the game to the right result. Of course I did not sacrifice a pawn to go into an equal endgame after 26. ♙e5 ♜c5 27. ♖c5 ♙g6 28. ♜c3 ♜c3 29. fc3 ♖d6 30. ♖d4 ♖fd8 31. ♙b7 ♖d4 32. ed4 ♖d4 33. ♙a6 =.

**26... ♙g4**



The best chance. Compare 26... ♜c2 27. ♜c3 ♜f4 28. ♜c5 ♜d5 29. ♖d5 ♙g8 30. ♖d6 +- Black's king is too open, White's attack will be decisive.

**27. ♖c1?**

Having ten minutes on the clock, I could not convince myself that 27. hg5 is winning. However, after 27. hg5 ♖d6 28. ♖c5 ♙d1 and 29. ♜b2!! Black can resign. The variations are simple: 29... ♖c6 (or 29... ♜c2 30. ♜a1! ♙h7 [30... ♜c5 31. ♜e5 +-] 31. ♙e4 ♜c7 [31... ♜d2 32. ♖c7 ♙g8 33. ♜g7] 32. ♖d5; or 29... ♙h7 30. ♙g8 ♖g8 31. ♖c5) 30. ♙c6 ♜c5 31. ♜c5 ♜c5 32. ♙e5 ♙g8 33. ♙d5 ♙h7 34. ♙c4 ♙g8 35. gh6 ♖f7 36. ♙d5 ♙c2 37. g4 ♙f8 38. ♙d6 ♙e8 39. ♙c6 ♙d8 40. g5 +-.

**27... ♜d4 = 28. ♜d4 ed4 29. hg5**



Swiss Grandmaster Vadim Milov, rated 2678, was fortunate to get away with a draw against Toronto teenager Nikolay Noritsyn. photo: monroi.com

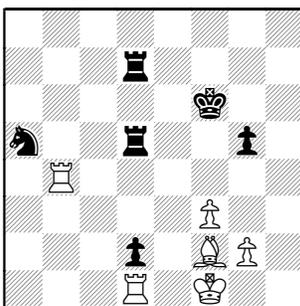
**hg5 30. f3**

Now the initiative is in Black's hands, White has to carefully draw the game.

**30... ♖d8 31. ♙e4 ♙f5 32. ♙f5 ♖f5 33. ♖e6 ♙g7 34. ♖a6 d3 35. ♖d1 ♖fd5 36. a4!**

After trading this pawn, Black's chances to create anything are nonexistent.

**36... ba4 37. ♖a4 ♖8d7 38. ♖e4 ♙f6 39. ♙f1 ♜c7 40. ♙f2 ♜c6 41. ♙e1 d2 42. ♙f2 ♜a5 43. ♖b4**



For a while, I am defending against nonexistent threats, instead of sacrificing an exchange as I do many moves later.

**43... ♖d3 44. ♖b6 ♙f7 45. ♖b4 ♜b3 46. ♖e4 ♖c3 47. ♙e3 ♙f6 48. ♙e2 ♜c1 49. ♙f1 ♜b3 50. ♙e2 ♖c2 51. ♙f1 ♖d5 52. ♖b4 ♖c3 53. ♖e4 ♙f7 54. ♙e2 ♜c1 55. ♙f1 ♖cd3 56. ♙f2 ♜a2 57. ♖c4 ♜c3 58. ♖c3**

Here 58. ♖d2 was also fine: 58... ♖d2 59. ♙d2 ♖d2 60. ♙c3 ♜b1 61. ♖g4 ♖d5 62. f4 gf4 63. ♖f4 =.

**58... ♖c3 59. ♖d2 ♖b5 60. ♙d4 ♖c4 61. ♙e3 ♙e6 62. ♖a2 ♙f5 63. ♖d2 ♖a4 64. ♖c2**

A funny game. I am proud of my psychological analysis of Milov—I could predict many of his moves! But when it came to calculating a few lines in order to win, I could not do it. A draw was a fair result.

1/2- 1/2

## The Gerzhoy Groove

For talented young Canadian IM Leonid Gerzhoy, the early rounds of the Canadian Open were very discouraging. Gerzhoy rarely loses more than one game in any event, but in round two he lost to Super Grandmaster Sergey Tiviakov and in round three disaster struck when he lost to lower ranked Bindi Cheng. But Gerzhoy pulled himself together and found the Gerzhoy groove, rattling off six out of his final seven, including the following round nine positional gem over GM Anton Shomoev.

Facing the Gruenfeld Defence, Gerzhoy didn't have a lot to show from the opening. But in the middle-game he set a positional trap that Shomoev walked into. By the time Gerzhoy locked up Shomoev's bishop with 20. e5!, things were looking bleak for Shomoev. After that, Gerzhoy demonstrated the refined technique that is the hallmark of his play.

**Gerzhoy-Shomoev [D85] Canadian Open (9), 2007**

[Notes by Nikolay Noritsyn]

**1. d4 ♜f6 2. c4 g6 3. ♜c3 d5**

A risky opening in my opinion. White has such a wide choice of different variations, it is impossible to be prepared everywhere. Even Kasparov stopped playing the Gruenfeld after the match with Kramnik.

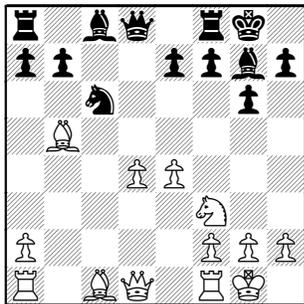
**4. ♜f3**

Ivanchuk recently surprised Sutovsky with a novelty on the fourth move: 4. ♙d2! and won the game.

**4... ♙g7 5. cd5 ♜d5 6. e4**

White chooses the main variation. But not the most dangerous for Black.

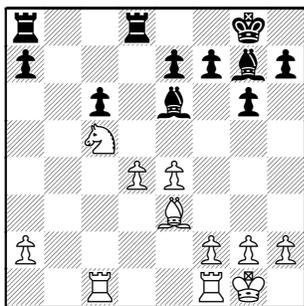
6... ♖c3 7. bc3 c5 8. ♙b5 ♘c6 9. O-O cd4 10. cd4 O-O



11. ♙e3 ♙g4 12. ♙c6 bc6 13. ♖c1 ♗a5 14. ♗d2

This move shows White did not get much out of the opening. Black comfortably equalized.

14... ♗d2 15. ♘d2 ♖fd8 16. ♘b3 ♙e6 17. ♘c5



White shows he agrees to an equal endgame, meanwhile setting up a very strong positional trap Black falls into.

17... ♙a2??

Probably the losing move. There is a famous game, (Winter- Capablanca, 1919) where White's bishop was trapped on g3. Very similar to this game. Black probably was not happy with a draw after 17... ♙d4 18. ♘e6 fe6 19. ♖c6 ♙e3 20. fe3 ♖ac8 21. ♖c6 ♖c7 = but this was the best he had.

18. ♖c2

Forcing the bishop to go back to e6.

18... ♙e6 19. ♘e6 fe6 20. e5!

Locking the cell and putting keys in pockets. If only Black could remove his own pawn from e7...

20... a5

The only chance is to move the passed pawn as far as possible and create threats.

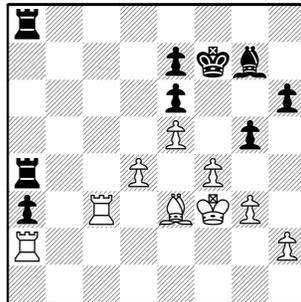
21. ♖c6 a4

Black even sacrifices the e6 pawn. Of course, White declines.

22. ♖a1 a3 23. g3!

No need to hurry!

23... ♖a4 24. ♖a2 ♔f7 25. ♔g2 ♖b8 26. ♖c3 ♖ba8 27. f4 h6 28. ♔f3 g5



Black tries to activate his bishop by offering White another pawn.

29. h3!?

White decides to follow his strategy. But 29. fg5!? was also probably winning: 29... hg5 30. ♙g5 ♖d4 31. ♖aa3 ♖a3 32. ♖a3 ♙c5 33. h4 ±.

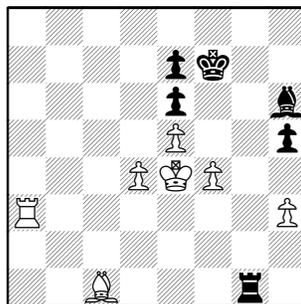
29... gf4 30. gf4 h5 31. ♔e4 ♙h6

Black has no moves.

32. ♙c1

White wins the a3 pawn.

32... ♖d8 33. ♖d3 ♖g8 34. ♖aa3 ♖a3 35. ♖a3 ♖g1



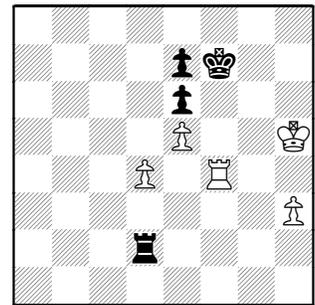
Black has some counterplay, thanks to his active rook. But White should be able to win by creating a passed pawn.

36. ♙d2 ♖g2 37. ♖d3 ♖e2 38. ♔f3 ♖h2 39. ♔g3

The king is going to h4. White's plan is

to trade the f4 pawn for Black's h5 pawn.

39... ♖h1 40. ♔h4 ♖d1 41. ♔h5 ♙f4 42. ♖f3 ♖d2 43. ♖f4



Now that White has a passed pawn, Black is hopeless. Leonid shows perfect technique.

43... ♔g7 44. h4 ♖d1 45. ♖g4 ♔h7 46. ♖g6 ♖d4 47. ♖e6 ♖d7 48. ♔g5 ♔g7 49. ♖g6 ♔f8 50. ♔h6 ♖d4 51. h5 ♖e4 52. ♖g5 ♔f7 53. ♔h7 ♖a4 54. h6 ♖a8 55. ♖g6 ♖h8 56. ♔h8 ♔g6 57. ♔g8

A great game by Gerzhoy!

1-0

## Tomas To the Top

Talented teenager Tomas Krnan of Burlington may not be a veteran in age, but he is in chess style. In recent years, he's made a knack of finishing high in strong swiss events with late surges that propel him to the top of the crosstable. The Canadian Open was no exception. After having a somewhat modest first four rounds, Krnan kicked into gear and rattled off five out of his last six, which was good enough to tie second. Not bad, considering two of the six opponents were GM's Tiviakov and Aveskulov.

In true Tomas tradition, he saved his best for last: in round ten, with the Black pieces, he mangled Aveskulov. Playing over the game, it's hard to imagine that White is a strong Grandmaster, which of course is testimony to Krnan's strong play.

**Aveskulov-Krnan [C84]  
Canadian Open (10), 2007**  
*[Notes by Robert Hamilton]*

1. e4 e5 2. ♘f3 ♘c6 3. ♗b5 a6 4. ♗a4 ♘f6 5. d3

Around 1850 this used to be considered one of the main branches of theory, but for the next 150 years or so, it was considered too passive. Recently the d3 variations have enjoyed a modest revival, but it has more to do with Black being resilient in main branches of theory than the independent merit of the d3 systems.

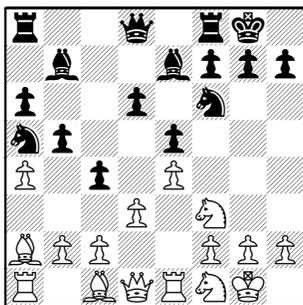
**5... b5**

A good alternative is 5... ♗c5, which was Morphy's favourite. The move has also been played successfully by modern mavens Korchnoi and Carlsen.

6. ♗b3 ♗e7 7. O-O d6 8. a4 ♗b7 9. ♘bd2 O-O 10. ♖e1 ♘a5 11. ♗a2 c5

An interesting alternative is 11... b4.

12. ♘f1 c4?!



A rarely played move. Far more common is 12... b4. After 12... c4 Black must play very precisely.

13. ♗d2 ♗c6 14. ♘g3 cd3 15. cd3 ba4

White still holds an initiative. The main alternative for Black was 15... ♗d7, both covering f5 and clearing c6 for the knight.

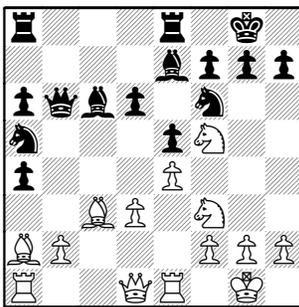
**16. ♗c3**

A little bit slow; 16. d4 must be the main test of Black's position.

**16... ♖b6**

A little bit risky; 16... ♖b8 playing for a rapid ...♘b3 looks more precise.

**17. ♘f5 ♖fe8**



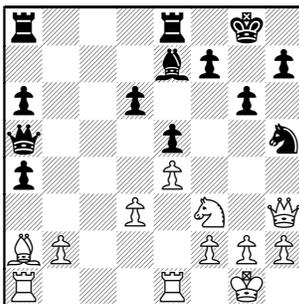
**18. ♗a5?**

The wrong plan. Black is now fully equal. White misses the chance for 18. ♗d2! virtually forcing 18... ♘b3 19. ♖g5 ♗f8, after which White has interesting attacking possibilities involving sacrificing a bishop on e5.

**18... ♖a5 19. ♖c1**

Also heading for g5. But with the black bishop on d7, covering f5, White's attack need not be feared.

- 19... ♗d7 20. ♖g5 ♗f5 21. ♖f5 g6 22. ♖h3 ♘h5



The position is quite balanced. Black has an extra pawn, but his pawns are broken and a4 is particularly weak. White's queen is temporarily offside, but that is difficult for Black to exploit. White's bishop on a2 is better than Black's bishop on c7.

**23. g3**

A good alternative was 23. ♗c4, which guards d3, enabling 23... ♘f4 to be met by 24. ♖d7 attacking a4.

**23... ♖ab8! 24. ♖eb1**

This funny looking move isn't best. Better was 24. ♖c2 when the position remains roughly equal. Now the initiative is shifting to Black.

**24... ♖b4 25. ♗c4 ♖eb8 26. ♖a2**

Suddenly White's position is very awkward.

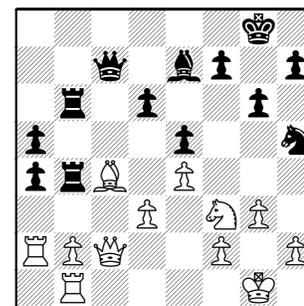


*Talented Tomas Kran pulled one of his late swiss surges to finish tied second.*  
photo: monroi.com

**26... ♖c7 27. ♖f1 a5 28. ♖e2 ♖8b6**

A slightly strange move. Improving the knight on the rim was more natural.

**29. ♖c2?**



Much better was 29. ♖c1!, intending to re-position the rook on c2, which makes it more difficult for Black. After ♖d7, the queen on c2 isn't really well placed.

**29... ♖d7 30. ♘e1?**

White has lost the thread of the position. It was better to admit that 29. ♖c2 was ineffective, with 30. ♖c2. Perhaps White was imagining placing his queen on c3 and knight on c2, but there really isn't time.

**30... ♘f6!**

Returning with force.

**31. ♖c2**

Now if 31. ♖c3 ♖c6! is very difficult to meet.

**31... ♖b7!**

Tying White's rook to b1 and preventing ♘c2. White's position is sick.

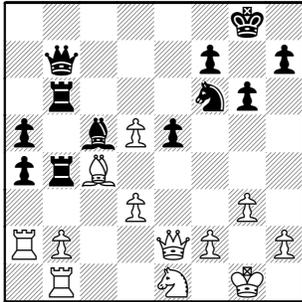
**32. ♖c2**

After 32. ♘f3, Black had 32... a3 33. ♖a3 d5, winning on the spot since ...♖b2 would threaten both the queen and the rook on a3.

32... d5 33. ed5 ♖c5

Improving the bishop with decisive effect. Here 33... a3! was even more brutal.

34. ♖e2



*Black to play and win*

34... a3!

Lights out. White has no defence to the oncoming assault on the queenside.

35. b3 a4 36. ♖a3 ♖c4

Collecting a piece...the rest is simple.

37. dc4 ♗a3 38. ♖e5 ♖e7 39. ♖e7 ♗e7 40. ♖a1 ab3 41. ♗d3 b2 42. ♖b1 ♗a3 43. ♗f1 ♗e4

A well played game by Tomas.

0-1

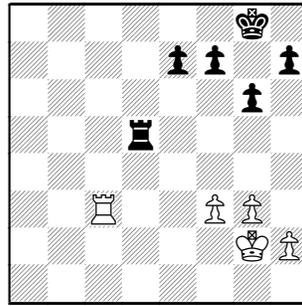
## Finale

We conclude, as did the event, with a classic lesson in the technique of rook and pawn endings, delivered to Canadian IM Thanh Nha Duong by veteran US GM Alex Yermolinsky. Let Yermo's moves speak for themselves...

### Nha Duong-Yermolinsky Canadian Open (10), 2007

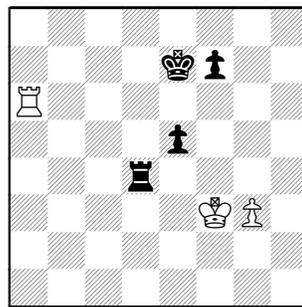
1. ♗f3 g6 2. d4 ♗f6 3. g3 d5 4. ♗g2 ♗g7 5. O-O O-O 6. c4 dc4 7. ♗a3 ♗c6 8. ♗c4 ♗e6 9. b3 a5 10. ♗b2 ♗d5 11. ♖e1 a4 12. ♗fe5 ♗g2 13. ♗g2 ♖d5 14. f3 ♖f8 15. e4 ♖b5 16. ♗c6 bc6 17. ♖c2 ♗d7 18. ♖ed1 ♖db8 19. ♖d3 c5 20. d5 ♗b2 21. ♗b2 ♗e5 22. ♖c3 ab3 23. ♖b3 ♖a6 24. ♖c3 c6 25. ♗d3 ♗d3 26. ♖d3 cd5 27. ed5 ♖f6 28. ♖b1 ♖b1 29. ♖b1 c4 30. ♖d2 c3 31. ♖c2 ♖c8 32.

♖b3 ♖c5 33. a4 ♖d4 34. a5 ♖a5 35. ♖c3 ♖c3 36. ♖c3 ♖d5

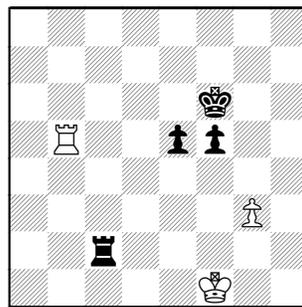


*White to play*

37. ♖c2 g5 38. ♖e2 e6 39. ♖b2 ♗g7 40. ♖a2 h5 41. h3 ♗g6 42. ♖e2 ♖d4 43. ♗f2 ♗f6 44. ♗g2 ♗e7 45. ♖a2 e5 46. ♗f2 g4 47. hg4 hg4 48. fg4 ♖g4 49. ♖a6 ♖d4 50. ♗f3

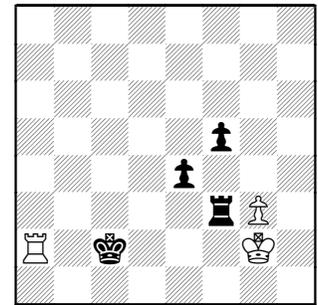


50... f5 51. ♗e3 ♖d6 52. ♖a5 ♗f6 53. ♖b5 ♖a6 54. ♖b8 ♖a3 55. ♗f2 ♗e6 56. ♖b5 ♖a2 57. ♗f1 ♖c2 58. ♖a5 ♗d6 59. ♖b5 ♖c5 60. ♖b3 ♖c2 61. ♖b5 ♖a2 62. ♗g1 ♗e6 63. ♗f1 ♗f6 64. ♖b8 ♗e7 65. ♖b6 ♖d2 66. ♖a6 ♖d6 67. ♖a5 ♗f6 68. ♗e2 ♖c6 69. ♖b5 ♖c2 70. ♗f1

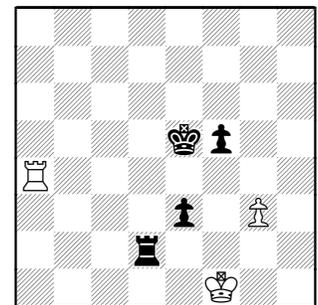


70... ♗e6 71. ♖a5 ♗d6 72. ♖b5 ♖c5 73. ♖b3 ♗d5 74. ♗e2 ♖c2 75. ♗e3

♗c4 76. ♖b8 ♖c3 77. ♗f2 ♗d3 78. ♖d8 ♗e4 79. ♖d2 ♖f3 80. ♗g2 ♗e3 81. ♖a2 e4 82. ♖a3 ♗e2 83. ♖a2 ♗e1 84. ♖a1 ♗d2 85. ♖a2 ♗d1 86. ♖a1 ♗c2 87. ♖a5 ♗d2 88. ♖a2 ♗c1 89. ♖a5 ♗c2 90. ♖a2



90... ♗b3 91. ♖a8 ♗c4 92. ♖a4 ♗d5 93. ♖a5 ♗e6 94. ♖a6 ♗e5 95. ♖a5 ♗f6 96. ♖a8 ♖c3 97. ♗f2 ♖c2 98. ♗f1 ♖b2 99. ♖a7 ♖b6 100. ♗f2 ♗g5 101. ♖g7 ♖g6 102. ♖h7 ♖d6 103. ♖g7 ♗f6 104. ♖a7 ♖d2 105. ♗f1 ♗e5 106. ♖a4 e3 107. ♖f4 ♖c2 108. ♖a4 ♖f2 109. ♗g1 ♖d2 110. ♗f1



110... ♖d4 111. ♖a5 ♗e4 112. ♗e2 ♖d2 113. ♗e1 ♖g2 114. ♖a4 ♗e5 115. ♖a5 ♗f6 116. g4 ♖g4 117. ♗e2 ♖g3 118. ♗d3 ♗g5 119. ♖e5 ♗f4 120. ♖e8 ♖g2 121. ♖e3 ♖g3 122. ♖g3 ♗g3 123. ♗e2 f4 124. ♗f1 ♗f3 0-1



# Quebec Open

This summer's Quebec Open was, as usual, a very strong event. The 39 player A section included more than a dozen GMs and IMs. Heading into the event, Canada's

main contenders were veterans Jean Hébert, Sylvain Barbeau and Jack Yoos, along with talented young players Thomas Roussel-Roozmon, Leonid Gerzhoy and Eric Lawson.

By the end of round seven, twenty-year-old Russian GM Andrey Rychagov, was stealing the show. With six points from his first seven games, he easily cruised to a full point margin of victory with draws in rounds eight and nine.

## 2007 Quebec Open, Section A

		R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	
1. Andrey V. Rychagov	2545	W19	W17	W8	D4	W5	D2	W18	D3	D7	7.0
2. Alexander Huzman	2614	W38	W14	D12	D7	W19	D1	D4	D5	D6	6.0
3. Anton Shomoev	2548	W32	W11	D7	D12	D14	D9	D6	D1	W13	6.0
4. Chanda Sandipan	2595	W27	D6	W20	D1	D12	D8	D2	D14	W15	6.0
5. Eduardas Rozentalis	2621	W21	D20	D13	W11	L1	W19	D8	D2	W14	6.0
6. Thomas Roussel-Roozmon	2466	W30	D4	D18	D8	W34	D7	D3	W12	D2	6.0
7. Abhijit Kunte	2562	W26	W23	D3	D2	D18	D6	D14	W9	D1	6.0
8. Anton Kovalyov	2517	W24	W34	L1	D6	W20	D4	D5	D13	D12	5.5
9. Hoang Thong Tu	2504	D25	D15	W37	D18	W10	D3	D12	L7	W21	5.5
10. Bindi Cheng	2312	L13	W16	D15	W33	L9	W25	D19	D11	W29	5.5
11. Rodney Perez	2420	W39	L3	W31	L5	D24	W30	D21	D10	W20	5.5
12. Valeriy Aveskulov	2553	W37	W31	D2	D3	D4	D14	D9	L6	D8	5.0
13. Bator Sambuev	2503	W10	D18	D5	L19	W17	D16	W20	D8	L3	5.0
14. Tomas Likavsky	2493	W28	L2	W32	W24	D3	D12	D7	D4	L5	5.0
15. Leonid Gerzhoy	2460	D0	D9	D10	D34	W31	L18	W32	W16	L4	5.0
16. Frank De La Paz Perdomo	2456	L23	L10	W36	W32	D21	D13	W29	L15	W27	5.0
17. Eric Lawson	2420	W33	L1	L24	W37	L13	D23	D25	W31	W28	5.0
18. Igor-Alexandre Nataf	2567	W22	D13	D6	D9	D7	W15	L1	D21	L0	4.5
19. Arkady Vul	2319	L1	W28	W25	W13	L2	L5	D10	L20	W23	4.5
20. Jean Hébert	2411	W36	D5	L4	W26	L8	W24	L13	W19	L11	4.5
21. John C. (Jack) Yoos	2421	L5	D26	W30	D23	D16	W34	D11	D18	L9	4.5
22. Lefong Hua	2376	L18	D30	L26	D25	W37	L32	W35	D23	W33	4.5
23. Louie Jiang	2238	W16	L7	D29	D21	D27	D17	D31	D22	L19	4.0
24. Ling Feng Ye	2127	L8	W38	W17	L14	D11	L20	D26	L27	W30	4.0
25. Marius Nicula	2143	D9	D29	L19	D22	W26	L10	D17	L36	W39	4.0
26. Hugues Massé	2236	L7	D21	W22	L20	L25	W39	D24	L29	W36	4.0
27. Jonathan Grant	2280	L4	W36	L34	D28	D23	L29	W30	W24	L16	4.0
28. Yves Morin	2134	L14	L19	W35	D27	L30	D31	W36	W32	L17	4.0
29. Sylvain Barbeau	2418	L34	D25	D23	L31	W33	W27	L16	W26	L10	4.0
30. Paul Saint-Amand	2180	L6	D22	L21	W36	W28	L11	L27	W39	L24	3.5
31. Jonathan Berry	2295	W35	L12	L11	W29	L15	D28	D23	L17	L0	3.0
32. Steve Bolduc	2306	L3	W39	L14	L16	W35	W22	L15	L28	L0	3.0
33. Jean Pelletier	1739	L17	W0	D0	L10	L29	D0	L39	W35	L22	3.0
34. Nikola Anastasovski	2200	W29	L8	W27	D15	L6	L21	L0	L0	L0	2.5
35. Ahmad Abou-Nassif	1842	L31	L37	L28	W39	L32	W36	L22	L33	L0	2.0
36. Karoly Szalay	2113	L20	L27	L16	L30	W39	L35	L28	W25	L26	2.0
37. Roland Chabot	2278	L12	W35	L9	L17	L22	L0	L0	L0	L0	1.0
38. Thanh Nha Duong	2329	L2	L24	W39	L0	L0	L0	L0	L0	L0	1.0
39. Daruish Kenani	1969	L11	L32	L38	L35	L36	L26	W33	L30	L25	1.0



Russia's Andrey Rychagov blazed out of the gate with 4.5/5 and never looked back  
photo: monroi.com

For Canada, it was Thomas Roussel-Roozmon's turn to shine. The vastly talented Quebec junior played six Grandmasters and was unbeatable. His final score of 6/9 was good enough for his first GM norm. Young Bindi Cheng of Burnaby, BC, scored his first IM norm in Ottawa only two weeks earlier. He narrowly missed scoring his second norm by defeating Sylvian Barbeau in the last round when Barbeau uncharacteristically went astray in a strong position. Unfortunately for Bindi, he had played one too many low rated players.

When in good form, Roussel-Roozmon is easily one of Canada's very best players. He's a strong theoretician who has good fighting skills, good tactics and is strong in both positional play and ending play. He clinched his norm with an easy draw against the powerful GM Huzman in the last round. In round 8, he played a strong classical game and made mincemeat out of GM Valeriy Aveskulov.

### Roussel-Roozmon—Aveskulov Quebec Open (8), 2007.07.27

[Notes by Robert Hamilton]

1.  $\text{f3}$   $\text{d5}$  2.  $\text{d4}$   $\text{f6}$  3.  $\text{c4}$   $\text{e6}$  4.  $\text{c3}$   $\text{e7}$  5.  $\text{g5}$   $\text{h6}$  6.  $\text{h4}$  O-O  
7.  $\text{e3}$   $\text{b6}$

An interesting variation first championed by Savielly Tartakower and later by legends Boris Spassky and Efim Geller.

### 8. $\text{e2}$ $\text{dc4}$

More common is 8...  $\text{b7}$ .

### 9. $\text{c4}$ $\text{b7}$ 10. $\text{c2}$

A very rare, but principled, move.

### 10... $\text{a6}$

This seems to be an over-reaction; 10...  $\text{bd7}$  seems more logical.

### 11. $\text{a4}$

Even stronger may be 11. O-O! since White has no fear of the exchange on f3, and queen-side expansion is risky for Black when under-developed.

### 11... $\text{bd7}$ 12. $\text{d1!?$ $\text{c6?}$

The start of a bad plan. Black had to strive for ...c5, even though White maintains an edge in the ensuing positions.

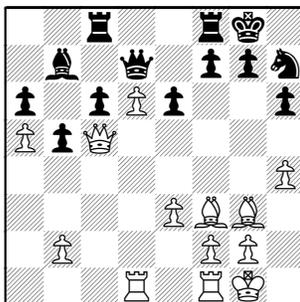
### 13. O-O $\text{b5?}$

Consistent, but wrong.

### 14. $\text{e2!}$ $\text{c8}$ 15. $\text{e5}$ $\text{e5}$ 16. $\text{de6}$ $\text{d7}$ 17. $\text{g3}$ $\text{e8}$

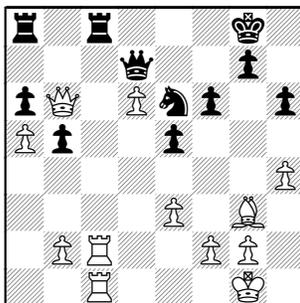
Black is already in very serious trouble.

### 18. $\text{e4}$ $\text{b6}$ 19. $\text{d6}$ $\text{d6}$ 20. $\text{ed6}$ $\text{d7}$ 21. $\text{a5}$ $\text{d5}$ 22. $\text{c5}$ $\text{f6}$ 23. $\text{f3}$ $\text{h7}$ 24. $\text{h4}$



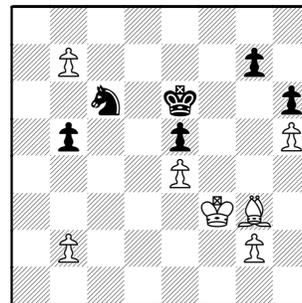
Black has been completely and utterly dominated. The rest is technique.

### 24... $\text{f6}$ 25. $\text{d2}$ $\text{fe8}$ 26. $\text{c1}$ $\text{f8}$ 27. $\text{dc2}$ $\text{e5}$ 28. $\text{b6}$ $\text{e6}$ 29. $\text{c6}$ $\text{c6}$ 30. $\text{c6}$ $\text{a8}$ 31. $\text{b6c2}$ $\text{ec8}$



This loses very quickly. After 31...  $\text{ed8}$  Black is still lost but could have offered more resistance.

### 32. $\text{c8}$ $\text{c8}$ 33. $\text{c8}$ $\text{c8}$ 34. $\text{d7}$ $\text{d7}$ 35. $\text{a6}$ $\text{c7}$ 36. $\text{b7}$ $\text{d6}$ 37. $\text{b8}$ $\text{h7}$ 38. $\text{b6}$ $\text{b6}$ 39. $\text{ab6}$ $\text{a6}$ 40. $\text{b7}$ $\text{g6}$ 41. $\text{e4}$ $\text{f7}$ 42. $\text{f4}$ $\text{e6}$ 43. $\text{fe5}$ $\text{fe5}$ 44. $\text{h5!}$ $\text{b8}$ 45. $\text{f2}$ $\text{c6}$ 46. $\text{f3}$



Black resigns. There is no adequate defence to the combined threats of promoting the b-pawn with ideas like  $\text{f2-a7}$  and king-side penetration by the white king. A powerful display by Thomas.

1-0



Thomas in great form notched a GM norm by going undefeated against six GMs  
photo: monroi.com



# Montreal Empresa Internacional

by IM Jean Hébert

Lots of time and money went into this fantastic event of a magnitude unseen in North America since the Man and His World tournament in 1979. Reaching the Category 17 status (average rating over 2650) is no mean feat, and worldwide only a handful of events reach or surpass this level. Generally the organizer and mastermind behind the yearly Montreal International (since 1999) André Langlois has two main goals in mind: to set up the strongest tournament possible with a very high level of fighting chess. Let it be known clearly that peaceful GMs run a high risk of not being reinvited to Mr Langlois's tournament. From the round by round report that follows it will be clear that this year's crop of top level GMs largely fulfilled expectations in terms of providing fighting and thus highly entertaining chess play.

## Round 1

In a quiet game, young Mark Bluvshstein comfortably held his own against former World Championship challenger Kamsky. Charbonneau had a tougher day vs Eljanov. Choosing the cramped Czech Benoni, Pascal put up a strong resistance, even obtaining lively queen-side play, but White's superior piece mobility carried the day. Harikrishna-Sutovsky (presented below) features an interesting opening battle, which led to an even endgame where exchanging rooks to a pawn endgame caused the Israeli's downfall. Miton-Short features a classic battle against

1. Ivanchuk	2762	X = 1 = = 1 1 1 = 1	7.0
2. Tiviakov	2648	= X 0 1 0 1 1 1 = 1	6.0
3. Harikrishna	2664	0 1 X 0 = 1 = 1 = 1	5.5
4. Eljanov	2701	= 0 1 X 1 = = = 1 0	5.0
5. Kamsky	2718	= 1 = 0 X = 1 = = =	5.0
6. Sutovsky	2656	0 0 0 = = X 1 1 1 =	4.5
7. Miton	2648	0 0 = = 0 0 X = 1 1	3.5
8. Bluvshstein	2520	0 0 0 = = 0 = X 1 1	3.5
9. Charbonneau	2503	= = = 0 = 0 0 0 X 1	3.0
10. Short	2683	0 0 0 1 = = 0 0 0 X	2.0

Average rating 2650 (Category 17)

the Englishman's isolated queen pawn. In a simplified position Short is unable to find enough counterplay to avoid being ground down. Tiviakov-Ivanchuk is most interesting in the final position. Instead of agreeing to a draw, Tiviakov could have forced the Ukrainian to fight for it.

## Round 2

A pawn up against Ivanchuk, Charbonneau chooses to put a first half-point on the score board. Further analysis shows that the world number two had decent compensation for it. Bluvshstein plays a fantastic Modern Benoni as Black and comes close to beating Eljanov. Bothered by a painful dental problem, Short suffers a shocking 19-move loss as White, when he overlooks a sharp but simple tactic that wins a piece. Tiviakov also scores as Black vs Sutovsky, his central buildup eventually leading to White's king.

Kamsky's win over Miton (presented below) is an entertaining example of how inadequate even top GMs can be when confronted with complicated and unusual tactical positions.

## Round 3

Decisive games continue to flow abundantly. Charbonneau seems to

get decent play on the king-side with its King's Indian but Bluvshstein calmly defends while picking up a couple of pawns and wins rather effortlessly. Ivanchuk scores his first win vs Sutovsky with the highly unusual 4. ♔d2 in the Grunfeld. Even though the game lasts 76 moves he is up a pawn with a technically winning position after move 17. While Short's dental pain is over, his chessboard miseries keep going. This time, Tiviakov torments him in a Ruy Lopez that goes bad when the centre opens up for White's two bishops.

## Round 4

Dynamic play by Miton vs Bluvshstein secures equality, but the youngster's start remains impressive with a win and three draws. Sutovsky scores his first win as Black vs Charbonneau in a fine game where Pascal's mistake proves quite difficult to pinpoint. Against Eljanov, Harikrishna gets good compensation for his sacrificed pawn, but with one or two indifferent moves the compensation goes, leaving him with a losing position. Kamsky shows why he is certainly one of the very best after the opening; his positional masterpiece at the expense of Tiviakov certainly deserves close scrutiny. To end a losing streak, Vasily Ivanchuk is most likely not the ideal





Mark Bluvstein, off to a great start in Montreal  
photo: monroi.com

customer. Nigel Short finds that out for himself and has to swallow a fourth zero. His misfortunes are now the main chess story around the world, while his opponents seeing his bad form clearly target him for an easy point. A spectacular finish, where Black is lost despite having two queens vs one.

### Round 5

Kamsky finds refuge in an opposite colour bishops endgame where Ivanchuk's two passed pawns can be neutralized. Still the draw came as a surprise as most players would have played on with a no-risk position. Another tribute to the Marshall Gambit: Short gets his first half point on the Black side vs Sutovsky. Tiviakov scores an important victory against Eljanov with a fine piece sac for two central pawns. Reduced to complete passivity, the Russian gets no chance. Harikrishna grinds down Bluvshstein after a great display of patience and positional torture. Charbonneau maintains an advantage until 27... ♖d8?, which weakens his back rank, thus giving Miton the initiative. In the time scramble that follows, Pascal has too much on his hands.

### Round 6

Bluvshstein strong showing of the first rounds starts to fade away. Tiviakov, who is now moving up nicely, takes him apart tactically in a few moves from a balanced position. Short's karma still has some sufferings in store for him in Montreal. Now it is Charbonneau's turn to take a bite off him with his favourite Scotch Opening. Short never even comes close to equality. The other games ended peacefully, which to a certain extent is to be expected after five rounds of well fought chess.

### Round 7

One of the most eventful rounds of a tournament that had a lot of fighting chess. Much of the light entertainment is provided by Harikrishna-Charbonneau. First the Indian GM sacs a pawn and get a tremendous position. Then he blunders a piece in a way that would put a class D player at shame. How Charbonneau returns the favour 15 moves later is only slightly less shameful. To top it off, Harikrishna accepts the draw in a much better position, just relieved to have avoided the worst. Ivanchuk makes a bid for first place with an impressively smooth win over Bluvshstein (presented below). The much anticipated Short-Kam-

sky match-up ends up in a well fought draw and a polite handshake. Relations between the two have been unfriendly for years after Gata's father accused Nigel of cheating and threatened him physically. Tiviakov scores again impressively on the White side of a Ruy Lopez vs Miton (presented below).

### Round 8

Early difficulties lead to a tough rook ending that Bluvshstein is unable to save against Sutovsky. Charbonneau, whose results have been improving after a slow start, has Kamsky in the ropes, but at the key moment he forgets to secure his king-side pawns with 32. g3 and h4 if needed, allowing a lucky escape. A little consolation comes Short's way when he puts an end to Eljanov's hopes for a high placing by outplaying him in a complex middlegame. Tiviakov suffers a similar fate against a most tenacious Harikrishna who seems always eager to extract every ounce of substance out of every game. Regarding Ivanchuk, his push at the top proves unstoppable. As Black, he dispatches Miton with remarkable ease (presented below), setting up a typical ...♗xh2 sac that his opponent could only foresee without being able to do much about it.

### Round 9

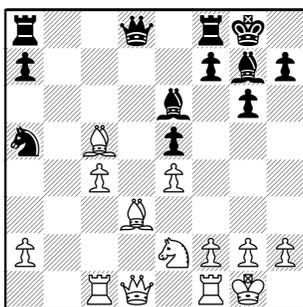
A tremendous last round, with no less than four decisive games! Against Eljanov, Kamsky as White finds himself in difficulties right out of the opening, and his pawn sac to untangle himself ultimately proves insufficient. Short's possibly worst tournament of his career fittingly ends with a chaotic loss as White in a King's Gambit vs Bluvshstein. At least no one can say he did not try. Sutovsky concludes with a beauty at the expense of a disappointing Miton. Tiviakov does his best to close the gap with Ivanchuk but Charbonneau's stubborn defence in a difficult two pawn down rook ending saves the half point. Ivanchuk crowns a spectacular finish with yet another fine win, this time over Harikrishna, thus securing undisputed first place. With this and previous successes this year he is set up to climb to number two spot in the world ranking, just after Anand. The quality of his play

impressed everyone, and he never got into any trouble. What a shame that this superb player at the height of his career is not qualified for the forthcoming World Championship Tournament in Mexico.

**Harikrishna-Sutovsky [D87]  
Montreal International (1), 2007**

[Notes by Jean Hébert]

1. d4 ♖f6 2. c4 g6 3. ♘c3 d5 4. cd5 ♘d5 5. e4 ♘c3 6. bc3 ♙g7 7. ♙c4 c5 8. ♘e2 ♘c6 9. ♙e3 O-O 10. O-O ♘a5 11. ♙d3 b6 12. ♙c1 e5 13. dc5 ♙e6 14. c4 bc5 15. ♙c5



**15... ♙h6**

Or 15... ♙e8 16. ♙e3 ♙c7 17. ♙c2 ♙d7 18. ♙fd1 ♘c6 19. a3 (19. ♙b1 ♙f8 20. c5 ♙a2 21. ♙a2 ♙d3 22. ♘c3 ±) 19... ♙a5 20. ♘c3 ♙a3 21. ♘d5 with a slight edge for White, Topalov-Svidler, Morelia/Linares 2006 1-0 (44)

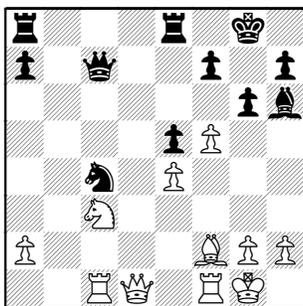
**16. f4**

Black achieved decent play after 16. ♙c2 ♙c8 17. ♘c3 ♙c8!? 18. ♙a7 ♙c7 19. ♙c3 ♙c3 20. fe3 ♘c4 = in Williams-Kurnosov Dresden 2007, 1/2- 1/2 (27)

**16... ♙e8 17. f5 ♙c7 18. ♙f2 ♙c4**

It was perfectly possible to take the rook: 18... ♙c1! 19. fe6 ♙g5 20. ef7 ♙f7 =.

**19. ♙c4 ♘c4 20. ♘c3**

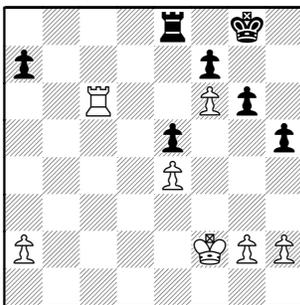


Ivanchuk dominated the superstrong (Category 17) Montreal International  
photo: monroi.com

**20... ♘b2**

Understandably Sutovsky expected practical difficulties to defend his king after 20... ♙c1 21. ♙c1 ♘b6 22. ♙h6.

21. ♘d5 ♙c1 22. ♘f6 ♙g7 23. ♘e8 ♙e8 24. f6 ♙g8 25. ♙c1 ♙c1 26. ♙c1 ♘d3 27. ♙c3 ♘f2 28. ♙f2 h5 29. ♙c6 ♙e6?

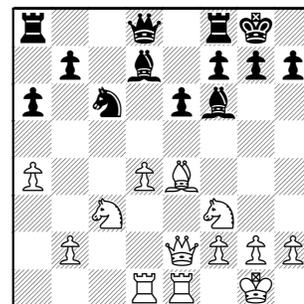


“I was calculating the idea before he played ...♙e6. I was very happy to see it, because it is the only way White is winning in this position.” -Harikrishna. By contrast, 29... g5 draws easily.

30. ♙e6 fe6 31. g4!! +- hg4 32. ♙g3 ♙f7 33. ♙g4 ♙f6 34. ♙h4 a5 35. a4 ♙e7 36. ♙g5 ♙f7 37. ♙h6 ♙f6 38. h4 ♙f7 39. ♙h7 ♙f6 40. ♙g8 1-0

**Kamsky-Miton [D27]  
Montreal International (2), 2007**

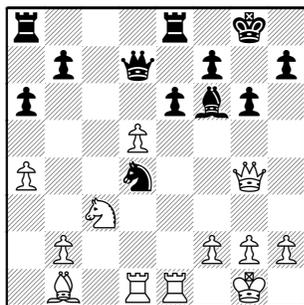
1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. ed5 cd5 4. c4 ♘f6 5. ♘c3 e6 6. ♘f3 ♙b4 7. ♙d3 dc4 8. ♙c4 O-O 9. O-O a6 10. a4 ♘c6 11. ♙g5 ♙e7 12. ♙e1 ♙d7 13. ♙e2 ♘d5 14. ♙d5 ♙g5 15. ♙e4 ♙f6 16. ♙ad1 ±



- 16... ♙e8 17. ♘e5 ♙e7 18. ♘d7 ♙d7 19. d5 ♘d4 20. ♙g4 g6 21. ♙b1



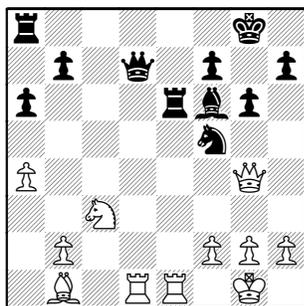
*Tiviakov took the silver, coming very close to a 2800 performance*  
photo: monroi.com



21... ♖f5?

The only defence was 21... h5! 22. ♖h3 (not 22. ♖f4 ♕g7 23. ♖d4? c5 -+) 22... ♖ad8 23. ♖c4 ♖f5 =.

22. de6 ♖e6



*White to move and win*

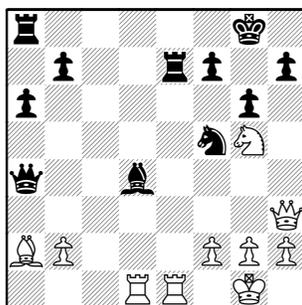
23. ♖e4?

Missing a clear win with the unusual 23. ♖f1!! ♖d4 24. ♕f5 +-.

23... ♕d4 24. ♕a2 ♖e7 25. ♖g5?

Completely missing Black's defensive resources.

25... ♖a4! 26. ♖h3



*Black to move and win*

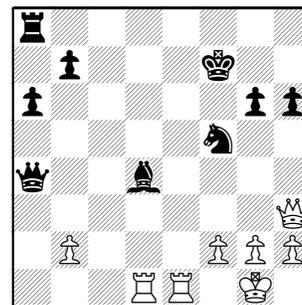
26... h6?

Miton also misses the fact that after ...♖a2, f7 is defended while White has back rank limitations: 26... ♖e1 27. ♖c1 ♖a2 28. ♖h7 ♖f8 -+ and White has no compensation whatsoever for the sacrificed piece.

27. ♕f7! ♖f7?

Better is 27... ♖g7 28. ♕b3 ♖e1 29. ♖c1 ♕f2 30. ♖h1 ♖c6 31. ♖c6 ♖h7 ♖.

28. ♖f7 ♖f7



White's slight material deficit is more than compensated by Black's disorganized position.

29. g4 ♖d6 30. ♖f3 ♖g7 31. ♖f4 ♕f2 32. ♖f2 ♖g4 33. ♖g3 ♖g3 34. hg3

Forget about the pawns, the rooks are too strong.

34... ♖f5

Or 34... ♖d8 35. ♖e6 ♖f7 36. ♖d8 ♖d8 37. ♖e7 ♖f8 38. ♖d7 ♖e8 39. ♖d6.

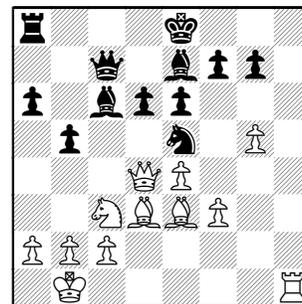
35. g4 ♖h4 36. ♖e6 ♖f7 37. ♖b6 ♖f3 38. ♖g2 ♖e5 39. ♖g3 ♖b8 40. ♖d5 ♖c6 41. ♖d6 ♖e7 42. ♖d7 h5 43. g5 1-0

**Ivanchuk-Bluvshstein**

**Montreal International (7), 2007**

[Notes by Jean Hébert]

1. e4 c5 2. ♖c3 ♖c6 3. ♖f3 d6 4. d4 cd4 5. ♖d4 ♖f6 6. ♕g5 ♕d7 7. f3 a6 8. ♖d2 e6 9. O-O-O ♕e7 10. ♖b1 ♖d4 11. ♖d4 ♕c6 12. h4 h6 13. ♕d2 ♖c7 14. ♕d3 b5 15. g4 ♖d7 16. g5 hg5 17. hg5 ♖h1 18. ♖h1 ♖e5 19. ♕e3 f6?!

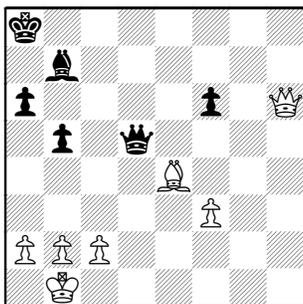


Ivanchuk is going to masterfully exploit the white square weakening. The alternative 19... O-O-O!? 20. ♖e2 ♗b7 21. f4 ♘c4 22. ♖c4 ♗c4 23. ♗g7 ♖e4 appears quite satisfactory.

20. ♘d5!! ed5 21. ed5 ♗b7 22. ♗h8 ♖f8 23. g6 g6 24. ♗h6 O-O-O 25. ♖f5 ♗b8 26. ♖f8 ♘f7 27. ♗g8 ♘h6 28. ♖d6!

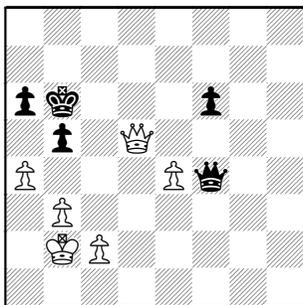
The point. Otherwise, Black would be OK.

- 28... ♗d6 29. ♗d8 ♗d8 30. ♗f4 ♗a8 31. ♗h6 ♗d5 32. ♖e4



The technical part, which requires much patience, begins.

- 32... ♗d1 33. ♗c1 ♗e2 34. ♗h1 ♖e4 35. fe4 ♗a7 36. a3 ♗b6 37. ♗g1 ♗c6 38. ♗d4 ♗f3 39. b3 ♗b7 40. ♗b2 ♗f4 41. ♗d5 ♗b6 42. a4!



42... ba4

Black cannot allow the pawn to reach a5 for several reasons. E.g., 42... ♗f2 43. a5 ♗a5 (43... ♗c7 44. b4) 44. ♗d8 ♗b4 45. ♗d6 ♗a5 46. b4 ♗a4 47. ♗a6 ♗b4 48. ♗a3 ♗c4 49. ♗c3.

43. ba4!

A pawn will reach a5 anyway!

- 43... ♗f1 44. a5 ♗a7 45. ♗d7 ♗b8 46. ♗d3 ♗e1 47. ♗d8 ♗b7



Pascal Charbonneau performed credibly against Super Grandmaster opposition. photo: monroi.com

48. ♗b6 ♗c8 49. ♗c6 ♗b8 50. ♗b6 ♗c8 51. ♗a6 ♗b8 52. ♗b6 ♗a8 53. ♗c6 ♗a7 54. a6

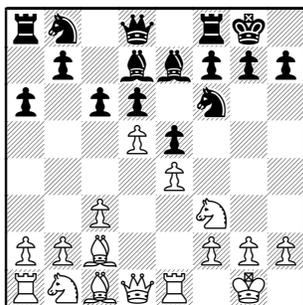
The white king easily escapes: 54. a6 ♗b4 55. ♗a2 ♗a5 56. ♗b3 +-.

1-0

Tiviakov-Miton

Montreal International (7), 2007

1. e4 e5 2. ♘f3 ♘c6 3. ♖b5 a6 4. ♖a4 d6 5. O-O ♖d7 6. c3 ♘f6 7. ♗e1 ♖e7 8. d4 O-O 9. d5 ♘b8 10. ♖c2 c6

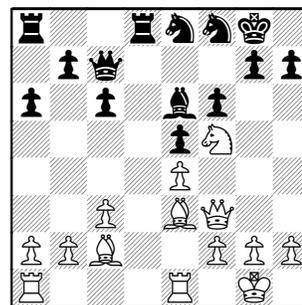


11. ♘e5!

A small combination that nets White the two bishops.

- 11... de5 12. d6 ♖g4 13. de7 ♗e7 14. ♗d3 ♘bd7 15. ♘d2 ♗fd8 16.

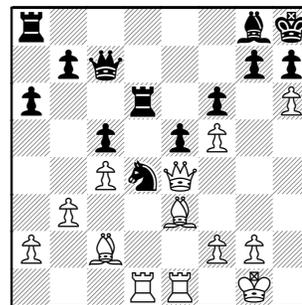
- ♘f1 ♖e6 17. ♘g3 ♘f8 18. ♗f3 ♘e8 19. ♖e3 ♗c7 20. ♘f5 f6



21. h4 ♘d6 22. b3 ♗h8 23. c4 c5 24. ♗ad1 ♖g8 25. h5 ♘e6 26. h6 ♘f5

Forced.

27. ef5 ♘d4 28. ♗e4 ♗d6



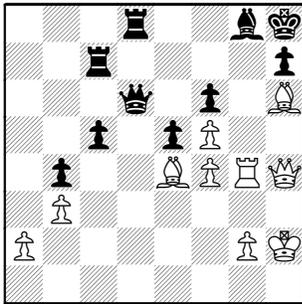
29. ♖b1!?

To keep the bishop pair and positional pressure, Tiviakov is willing to part with an exchange.

29... ♖e2 30. ♜e2 ♜d1 31. ♔h2 ♜ad8 32. ♙c2 ♜1d7 33. ♜h4

White has good compensation for the material.

33... ♜d6 34. ♙e4 b6 35. hg7 ♜g7 36. ♙h6 ♜gd7 37. ♜e3 b5 38. cb5 ab5 39. ♜g3 b4 40. ♜g4 ♜c7 41. f4!



41... ♜e7?

Better was 41... ♜a7, leaving e7 for the queen: 42. ♜g3 ef4 43. ♙f4 ♜e7 44. ♙h6 ♜a2 45. ♙g7 ♜g7 46. ♜g7 ♔g7 47. ♜g3 ♔h8 48. ♜c7 ♜ad2 49. ♜c5 ♙b3 50. ♜b4 ♙f7 =.

42. ♜g3!

Better than 42. ♜g3 ef4 43. ♙f4 ♜d1.

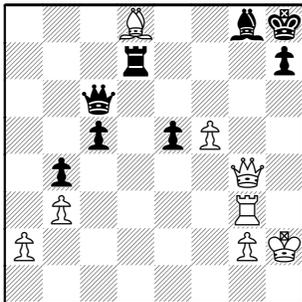
42... ♜ed7

Or 42... ef4 43. ♜d3 +-; or 42... ♜a7 43. ♜g4 ♜e7 44. fe5 fe5 45. ♙g5 ♜f8 46. ♙d8 ♜d8 47. f6 +-.

43. ♜g4 ♜e7 44. fe5 fe5

Now the passed f-pawn becomes a big factor.

45. ♙c6 ♜f6 46. ♙g5 ♜c6 47. ♙d8



Setting up an opposite colour bishop at-



André Langlois, Organizer  
photo: monroi.com

tack. Black is doomed.

47... ♜h6 48. ♜h3 ♜d6 49. ♙g5 +- ♜f7 50. ♜h6 ♜f8

Or 50... ♜d4 51. ♜d4 cd4 52. ♙f6 ♜f6 53. ♜f6 +-.

51. ♜h4 ♔g7 52. ♜g6

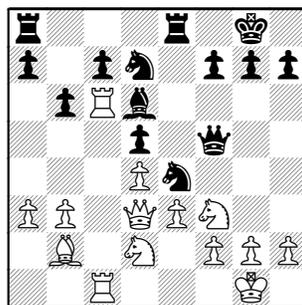
Impressive play by the winner.

1-0

**Miton-Ivanchuk [E12]**

**Montreal International (8), 2007**

1. d4 ♖f6 2. c4 e6 3. ♖f3 b6 4. a3 ♙a6 5. e3 ♙e7 6. ♙d3 d5 7. cd5 ♙d3 8. ♜d3 ed5 9. O-O O-O 10. ♖bd2 ♖bd7 11. b3 ♙d6 12. ♙b2 ♜e7 13. ♜fc1 ♜fe8 14. ♜c2 ♖e4 15. ♜ac1 ♜e6 16. ♜c6 ♖b8 17. ♜6c2 ♖d7 18. ♜c6 ♜f5



19. ♜f1?!

This seems odd, as it is hard to see the point of a queen on f1. Miton may be too young to have heard of Bent Larsen's saying "With a knight on f8 (f1) one does not get mated." Play might go, 19. ♖f1 ♖df6 20. ♜1c2 ♜e6 21. ♖e5.

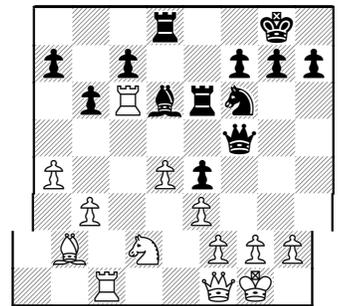
19... ♜ad8 20. ♖e4

A pawn on e4 is just what Black needs to mount an attack on the king-side. However, a knight on e4 might be even more dangerous!

20... de4 21. ♖d2 ♜e6 22. a4

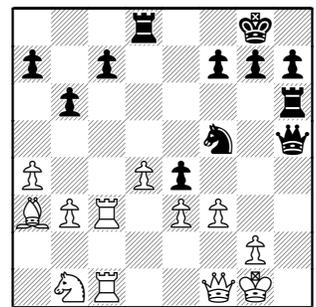
Worth considering was 22. h3.

22... ♖f6



White has too many problems. Besides obvious ...♙h2 possibilities, he must also worry about ...♖d5- b4- d3.

23. ♖b1 ♖d5 24. ♙a3 ♖e7 25. ♜6c3 ♙h2! 26. ♔h2 ♜h5 27. ♔g1 ♜h6 28. f3 ♖f5!



The key move that justifies ...♙h2.

29. ♖d2

Only move. Not 29. ♜c7 ♜h2 30. ♔f2 ef3 -+.

29... ♜h2 30. ♔f2 ♜h4 31. ♔g1 ♖g3 32. ♜d1

Or 32. ♜c4 ef3 33. ♖f3 ♜h1 34. ♔f2 ♖c4 35. ♔e2 ♖c3 -+.

32... ef3 33. ♖f3 ♖h2 34. ♗f2 ♜f6  
35. ♜f6 gf6 36. e4 ♗h1 37. ♜h1

Or 37. ♗f1 ♜f4 38. ♗g1 ♖d2 39. ♗h1  
♜d4.

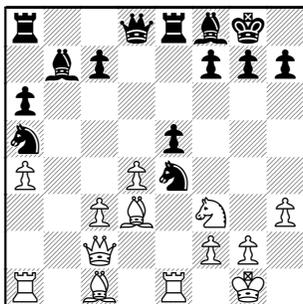
37... ♜h1 38. ♙e7 ♜h6 39. ♜g3  
♗h8 40. ♗f3 ♜e8 0-1

**Sutovsky-Miton**

**Montreal International (9), 2007**

[Notes by Jean Hébert]

1. e4 e5 2. ♗f3 ♗c6 3. ♙b5 a6 4.  
♙a4 ♗f6 5. O-O ♙e7 6. ♜e1 b5 7.  
♙b3 d6 8. c3 O-O 9. h3 ♙b7 10.  
d4 ♜e8 11. ♗bd2 ♙f8 12. a4 ♗a5  
13. ♙c2 b4 14. ♙d3 bc3 15. bc3  
d5 16. ♜c2 de4 17. ♗e4 ♗e4



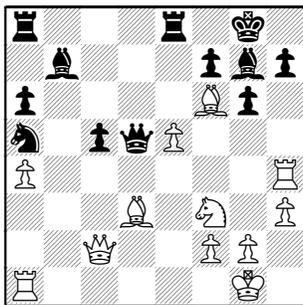
18. ♜e4!!

Quite a shocker! Already Black faces insurmountable problems.

18... g6

Or 18... ♙c4 19. ♙c4 cd4 20. cd4 c6 (or  
20... h6 21. ♙a8 ♜a8 22. ♜c7 ♜d5 23.  
♙f4 ♗b3 24. ♜d1 ♙c5 25. ♗h1 ±) 21.  
♙h7 ♗h8 22. ♙c4 ±.

19. ♙g5 ♜d6 20. de5 ♜e6 21.  
♗d4 ♜d5 22. ♙f6 c5 23. c4 ♗c4  
24. ♗f3 ♗a5 25. ♜h4 ♙g7



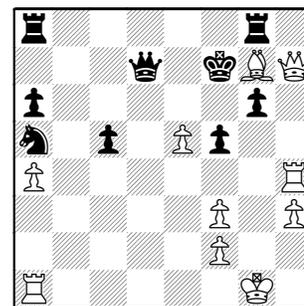
26. ♙e4

Also strong was 26. ♙g7 ♗g7 27. ♜d1!  
and Black's queen has no good square:  
27... ♜b3 28. ♜d2 h5 29. ♜b1.

26... ♜d7

Or 26... ♜b3 27. ♜d2 ♗c4 28. ♜c1 ♙c4  
29. ♙g7.

27. ♙g7 ♙e4 28. ♜c1 ♙f3 29. ♜h6  
f5 30. ♜h7 ♗f7 31. gf3 ♜g8



32. ♙f8 1-0

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# Coming Events


**BC**

Saturdays, Ho Math and ChessT Junior Tournaments, **Vancouver**  
 see [www.mathandchess.com](http://www.mathandchess.com) for details  
 every Sunday, Weekly Active, Croatian Cultural Centre, **Vancouver**


**AB**

every Monday, Edmonton Chess Club Tournaments, **Edmonton**  
 second Saturday monthly, Rooty Hill Cup, **Calgary**


**NB**

Club d'Échecs Régional Chaleur Regional Chess Club,  
 see [www.madisco.ca/CRCC/calendrier.htm](http://www.madisco.ca/CRCC/calendrier.htm)


**NS**

November 9-12, Remembrance Day Open, **Halifax**


**PE**

November 2-4, PEI Open, **Charlottetown**  
 see <http://138.119.1.209/~duff/mcc/peiop06.html>


**ON**

September 29-30, Chessca Open, **Guelph**  
 October 6-8, Thanksgiving Open, **Toronto**  
 October 12-14, Oktoberfest Open, **Kitchener**  
 see [www.kwchessclub.com](http://www.kwchessclub.com)  
 October 16-November 27, Toronto Senior Championship, **North York**  
 November 16-18, Ontario Junior, **Toronto**  
 December 26-30, Holidays Open, **Toronto**  
 every Sunday, Junior tournaments, Chess Academy of Canada, **Toronto**  
 also see [www.chessacademycanada.com](http://www.chessacademycanada.com)



Details [www.chess.ca](http://www.chess.ca)

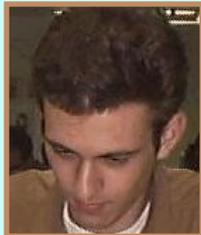
# National Ratings

*Top since 1980*



1. Kevin Spraggett	2665	1999
2. Alexandre Le Siège	2660	2002
3. Deen Hergott	2580	1995
4. Igor Ivanov	2576	1988
5. Dimitry Tyomkin	2570	2006
6. Peter Biyiasis	2555	1980
7. Igor Zugic	2553	2007
8. Mark Bluvshtein	2553	2005
9. Duncan Suttles	2550	1982
10. Yan Teplitsky	2549	1997
11. Bryon Nickoloff	2536	1988
12. Ron Livshits	2536	1999
13. Jean Hébert	2534	1998
14. Tomas Krnan	2534	2007
15. Pascal Charbonneau	2532	2007
16. Tom O'Donnell	2514	1989
17. Lawrence Day	2514	1997
18. Oleg Linskiy	2509	2002
19. Marat Khassanov	2496	1998
20. Michael Schleifer	2494	1999

*Top Canadians*



1. Dimitry Tyomkin	2570
2. Igor Zugic	2553
3. Mark Bluvshtein	2550
4. Tomas Krnan	2534
5. Pascal Charbonneau	2532
6. Nikolay Noritsyn	2492
7. Deen Hergott	2481
8. Tom O'Donnell	2473
9. Thomas Roussel-Roozmon	2466
10. Zhe Quan	2460
11. Leonid Gerzhoy	2460
12. Eric Lawson	2420
13. John C. Yoos	2414
14. Jean Hébert	2411
15. Ron Livshits	2406
16. Robert Hamilton	2393
17. Jura Ochkoos	2387
18. Goran Milicevic	2386
19. Grant Spraggett	2382
20. Shiyam Thavandiran	2378

*Top Women*



1. Natalia Khoudgarian	2262
2. Hazel Smith	2223
3. Nava Starr	2135
4. Dina Kagramanov	2127
5. Irina Barron	2119
6. Daniela Belc	2069
7. Amanda Benggawan	2064
8. Yuanling Yuan	2063
9. Myriam Roy	1970
10. Dalia Kagramanov	1925
11. Yelizaveta Orlova	1923
12. Julia Lacau-Rodean	1900
13. Sonja Xiong	1875
14. Natasa Serbanescu	1854
15. Alexandra Botez	1797
16. Jasmine Du	1781
17. Catherine Frenette	1725
18. Glenda Baylon	1706
19. Patricia Ho	1652
20. Shelley MacGrady	1566

*Top Under 18*



1. Nikolay Noritsyn	2492
2. Zhe Quan	2436
3. Shiyam Thavandiran	2378
4. David (Yu) Peng	2335
5. Victor Kaminski	2285
6. Lloyd Mai	2272
7. David Wang	2260
8. Louie Jiang	2238
9. Eric Hansen	2231
10. Kevin Chung	2225
11. Hazel Smith	2223
12. Noam Davies	2209
13. Roman Sapozhnikov	2188
14. Trevor Vincent	2175
15. Alexander Martchenko	2155
16. Sammy Yao	2148
17. Jerry Xiong	2143
18. Nikita Kraiouchkine	2139
19. Haonan Zhou	2125
20. Karoly Szalay	2113

*Top Under 16*



1. Nikolay Noritsyn	2492
2. Shiyam Thavandiran	2378
3. Victor Kaminski	2285
4. Lloyd Mai	2272
5. Louie Jiang	2238
6. Eric Hansen	2231
7. Kevin Chung	2225
8. Hazel Smith	2223
9. Noam Davies	2209
10. Roman Sapozhnikov	2188
11. Alexander Martchenko	2155
12. Jerry Xiong	2143
13. Nikita Kraiouchkine	2139
14. Haonan Zhou	2125
15. Karoly Szalay	2113
16. Arthur Calugar	2112
17. Yuanling Yuan	2063
18. Aman Hambleton	2061
19. Zi Yi (Joey) Qin	2042
20. David Mrugala	2038

*Top under 14*



1. Lloyd Mai	2272
2. Louie Jiang	2238
3. Roman Sapozhnikov	2188
4. Alexander Martchenko	2155
5. Jerry Xiong	2143
6. Nikita Kraiouchkine	2139
7. Karoly Szalay	2113
8. Arthur Calugar	2112
9. Avinash Sundar	2086
10. Yuanling Yuan	2063
11. Zi Yi (Joey) Qin	2042
12. Nikita Gusev	2034
13. Keith MacKinnon	2026
14. Thomas Kaminski	2016
15. Christopher Knox	2015
16. Kevin Gibson	1987
17. Richard Huang	1987
18. Brendan Fan	1978
19. Myriam Roy	1970
20. Michael Kleinman	1952

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Academy President and elite Grandmaster Emil Sutovsky of Israel.



Super Grandmaster Ni Hua, current Chinese Champion.



Canada's youngest Grandmaster, Mark Bluvshtein.



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