

Tournament News:



Joe Hendersen of Seattle, Washington, reports that the [America's Foundation for Chess \(AF4C\)](#) will once again be sponsoring the [2003 US Championships](#). The venue for this event will be at the Seattle Center. The tournament will take place from the 9th to 18th of January 2003. 58 of the best chess players in the USA will be competing for a whopping \$254,200 in prizes! The prizes for the top 3 places are: 1st: \$25,000; 2nd: \$17,000 and 3rd: \$13,000. For a break down of the entire prize fund go the AF4C website. Some of the top players participating will be, **GM Alexander Goldin**, **GM Yasser Seirawan**; **GM Boris Gulko**; **GM Gregory Kaidanov**; **GM Alexander Shabalov**; **GM Joel Benjamin**; and **GM Larry Christiansen** (current US Champion). For a complete list of all 58 participants visit the official website. Additional information can found at the website as well. Joe Hendersen will be the event's Press officer. We at CT will be sure to bring you news and games from this exciting and important USA event. So please stay tuned.

After the World Chess Olympiad there is no big event yet to catch our eyes. I keep working on the base of the Olympiad's most interesting games for CT readers, but it will take me a week or so to get through the games. Today I'd like to feature a game in which a

few of White's pieces occupied Black's pawns initial positions and one brave rook went even further. Enjoy the fine mating variations!

A nice geometry!

□ **H. Gretarsson (2508)**

■ **G. Sargissian (2568)**

Olympiad Bled SLO (2), 27.10.2002
 [E12]

Notes by IM Maxim Notkin

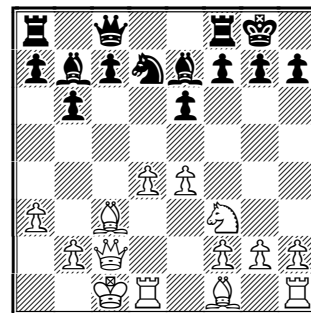
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♗f3 b6 4.a3
 ♙b7 5.♗c3 d5 6.cxd5 ♗xd5 7.♚c2
 ♙e7 8.♙d2

In this line of the Petrosian System White temporarily refrains from e2-e4 preparing the capture on c3 with the bishop.

8...♗d7 9.e4 ♗xc3 10.♙xc3 0-0
 11.0-0-0

After d4-d5 the dark-squared bishop will look directly at the Black king's residence.

11...♚c8 (D)



Another way of counterplay is 11...c6 12.h4 b5! 13.♖h3 a5 Kamsky - Anand, Sanghi Nagar 1994; 11...c5 with the idea of 12.dxc5 ♚c8! is also playable.

12.h4! ♗d8 13.♖h3

This rook manoeuvre was invented by the Armenian GM Lputian.

13...h6

Actually this move doesn't put obstacles to the ♗g5 thrust. Karpov against Piket (Monaco 1999) chose 13...♗f8 14.h5 c5 15.♖g3 cxd4 16.♗xd4 ♙f6 with an equal position.

14.♙d3

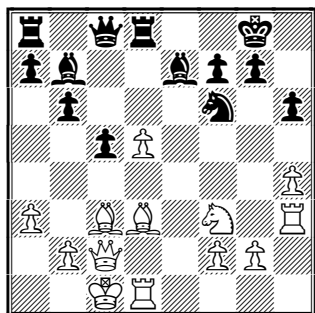
About ten years ago the leader of the Armenian olympic team Vladimir Akopian played 14.d5 ♗f6 15.♗g5! hxg5 16.hxg5 ♗g4 17.f4 ♙c5 18.♙xg7! ♚xg7 19.♚c3+ e5 (19...♗f8!? 20.♖h7)

20.♖e2 ♘d6 21.f5! **A)** if 21...♗f2? then 22.f6+ ♖g8 (22...♖g6 23.♖h6+ ♖xg5 24.♗e3#) 23.♖h4! ♗xd1 24.♗f3+- mating; **B)** 21...♖g8 22.♖xg4 with rich compensation for the piece (Akopian - Granda Zuniga, Groningen 1993). **14...c5 15.d5 exd5?**

The best defence is 15...c4! 16.♖e2 exd5 (without the pawn on c7 16...♗f6 is met by 17.♖xf6 ♖xf6 18.e5 ♖e7 19.d6 ♖f8 20.g4 with an attack on the kingside) 17.exd5 ♗f6 18.♗g5!? ♖xd5 19.♖xd5 ♖xd5 20.♖xf6 ♖xf6 21.♗h7+ ♖f8 22.♖e3 g6 and the position is far from clear.

16.exd5

The ♗g5 idea is in the air. Black's position can't be estimated as lost, but it requires a very precise defence. **16...♗f6 (D)**



After 16...♖d6 17.♗g5! hxg5 18.hxg5 ♖f4+ 19.♖b1 ♖xg5 20.♖h7+ ♖f8 White wins by another piece sacrifice 21.♖xg7+! ♖xg7 22.♗f5+- ♖f6 23.♖g3+ ♖h8 (23...♖f8 24.♖g8+ ♖e7 25.d6#) 24.♖g8!

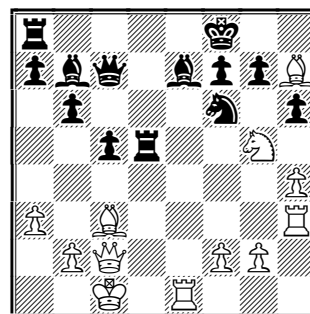
17.♗g5!

Apparently Akopian and Lputian didn't help their younger team-mate in preparation for this game. 17.♖f5 ♖c7 18.♖e5 ♖d6 19.♖xf6 gxf6 20.♗e4 looks attractive but in fact it's not that strong as it's hard for White's pieces to come closer to the enemy king. **17...♖xd5?**

After this I couldn't find any real improvement for Black. [If 17...hxg5 18.hxg5 ♗xd5 then the best continuation is 19.♖d2! (though the line 19.♖dh1 ♖xg5+ 20.♖d2 being extended for 6-7 moves also gives White a decisive advantage); in case of 17...♗xd5 18.♖h7+ ♖f8 (18...♖h8?? 19.♗xf7#) 19.♗xf7! ♗xc3 20.♗xd8 ♗xd1 21.♗xb7 ♖xb7 22.♖e4 White

wins the exchange; Black should have protected the vulnerable point f7 by 17...♖xd5! 18.♖e1 ♖c7 19.♖e5 ♖d6! (worse is 19...♗d7? 20.♖b5! ♖xb5 21.♖xf6 hxg5 22.hxg5 ♖c4 23.♖xc4 ♖xc4 24.♖xe7 ♖d3 25.♖h4! ♖d4 26.f4 f6 27.g6! ♖d3 28.♖eh1 and White wins the exchange again this time in the ending) 20.♖xf6 gxf6 21.♗e4 ♖e5 Paradoxically the destruction of the kingside pawn structure favours Black.

18.♖e1 ♖c7 19.♖h7+ ♖f8 (D)



20.♗xf7! ♖f4+

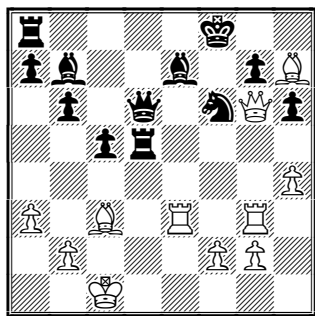
I'd like to show you a very long line, so be patient please :-)) 20...♖xf7 21.♖g6+ ♖f8 22.♖he3 ♖d6 (22...♗f4 23.g3) 23.♖xf6 ♖f4 24.♖c2! (not 24.g3 ♖xe3+ 25.♖xe3 ♖d1+! 26.♖xd1 ♖d6+ 27.♖d3 ♖xf6 and Black gets off lightly) 24...♖xe3 25.♖xe3 ♖d2+ 26.♖c3! ♖ad8! (26...♖d6 27.♖e7+-) 27.♗f5! (27.♖e7+? ♖xe7 28.♖xe7 ♖8d3+ and White should give the queen back as 29.♖c4?? ♖a6# hmm... favours Black :-)) 27...♖8d3+ (27...gxf6 28.♖xf6+ ♖f7 29.♖h8+) 28.♖xd3 ♖xd3+ 29.♖xd3 gxf6 (29...♖d6+ 30.♖d4+! ♖e7 31.♖e5+ saving the bishop's life) 30.♖xf6+ ♖e8? (better is 30...♖f7 but the bishop ending is easily winning for White anyway) 31.♖g6+ ♖d7 32.♖f5+ ♖e8 33.♖h8+ ♖e7 34.♖g7+ ♖d6 (34...♖d8 35.♖f8#) 35.♖f6+ ♖d5 36.♖e6# - hope you had fun!; the other line is shorter - 20...♗xh7 21.♖xh7 ♖f6 22.♖xf6 ♖f4+ (22...gxf6 23.♖h8+ ♖xf7 24.♖h7+) 23.♖he3 ♖xf6 24.♗e5 and White wins.

21.♖e3

21.♖he3 ♖xf7 22.g3 was good enough too.

21...♖g4

Let's try to take the knight again - 21...♖xf7 22.♖g6+ ♖f8 23.♖hg3 ♖d6 (D)



24. ♖g8!! ♜d1+ (24... ♜xg8 25. ♖xg7#;
24... ♜xg8 25. ♜xg7#) 25. ♜c2 ♜d2+
26. ♖xd2 ♜xg8 27. ♜xg7+ ♜e8
28. ♜xg8+ ♜d7 29. ♜xe7+! ♜xe7
30. ♜d3++-

22. ♜hg3 ♜h5

After 22... ♜xh4 White could play the curious 23. ♜h8!+- ♜h1+ 24. ♜e1

23. ♜xe7!?

Here 23. ♜h8! was also quite possible.

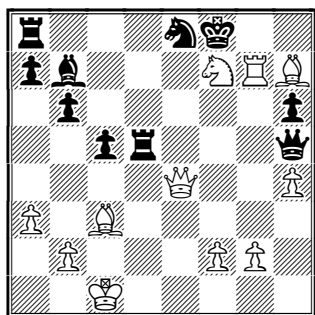
23... ♜xe7 24. ♜xg7

I like this 7th rank intrusion!

24... ♜e8

24... ♜f8 loses to 25. ♖xf6 ♜e8 26. ♜e5
♜dx5 27. ♜g8+! ♜f7 28. ♖xe5 ♜xg8
29. ♜c4+ ♜e7 30. ♖xg8 ♜xe5 31. ♜f7+
♜d6 32. ♜xb7 ♜e1+ 33. ♜c2 ♜xf2+
34. ♜b1; if 24... ♜xh4 25. ♜e2+ ♜f8
26. ♜d8! ♜f4+ 27. ♜b1 ♜xg7 28. ♜e7+
♜h8 29. ♖xf6+ ♜xf6 30. ♜xf6+ ♜xh7
31. ♜e7+ ♜g8 32. ♜e6 winning.

25. ♜e4+ ♜f8 (D)



25... ♜d7 26. ♜e5+ ♜d8 (26... ♜c8
27. ♖f5+) 27. g4! ♜xg7 28. gxh5 ♜d1+
29. ♜xd1 ♖xe4 30. ♖xe4 ♜c8
31. ♜c6++-

26. ♜g8+!

Further and further!

26... ♜xf7 27. ♖g6+

A nice geometry!

27... ♜xg8 28. ♜e6+

Black resigned. 28. ♜e6+ ♜f8
29. ♜f7# 1-0.

Contact information. Do you want to report a tournament or have a suggestion concerning Chess Today? E-mail us at ct@gmsquare.com. We always appreciate your comments and feedback!

Please tell your chess friends about Chess Today. Feel free to send them our newspaper to sample – with more readers the price will go down, while the quality will go up!

Chess Today is published by:

Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel: (353-1) 278-2276. Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839. E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com

Website: <http://www.chesstoday.net/>

Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov, IM Vladimir Barsky, GM Mikhail Golubev, IM Maxim Notkin.

Technical editors: Graham Brown and Ralph P. Marconi.

Chess Today is copyright 2002 by Alexander Baburin and protected intellectual property under the International Copyright convention. Any unauthorised reproduction, via print, electronic format, or in any form whatsoever is strictly prohibited without express written permission.