

Michael Adams

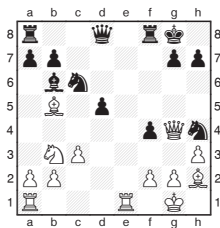


Poland's tribute to a great man

Getting the opportunity to play in an event in Buenos Aires, sponsored as well as organised by Miguel Najdorf, was a great experience for me in 1991.

Miguel was a huge celebrity there and was recognised by all when you walked the streets with him. During the games, when the players got up from their board, he would slip into their seat to get a close-up view of proceedings. So it is good to see a memorial in the country of his birth, Poland, being held at the moment.

The games below would have brought a smile to the great man's face.



Zakoscielna, K - Winski, L
Najdorf Memorial Warsaw 2010

18... **Bb6xf2+**
It looks tempting to play 18...f4-f3, but 19.Bh2-g3 Nh4xg2 20.Re1-d1 is not so clear. Winski is alert and spots a stronger possibility to draw White's king to his doom.

19.Kg1xf2 **Qd8-b6+**
20.Nb3-d4
Both 20.Kf2-e2 Qb6xb5+ 21.Ke2-d2 and 20.Kf2-f1 Qb6xb5+ 21.Qg4-e2 Qb5xe2+ 22.Re1xe2 f4-f3

are pretty dire, so White interposes.

20... **Nc6xd4**
21.c3xd4 **Qb6xd4+**
22.Kf2-f1 **Nh4-f5**

However, now the knight retreat sets up some deadly checks.

23.Re1-e2
23.Bh2xf4 Nf5-e3+
24.Re1xe3 Rf8xf4+
25.Qg4xf4 Qd4xf4+ wins the queen for insufficient compensation.

23... **Nf5-g3+**
24.Bh2xg3 **f4xg3+**
25.Kf1-e1 **Qd4-g1+**
26.Ke1-d2 **Qg1xa1**

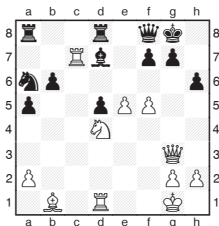
Black has the material and the attack, so it is not difficult to convert.

27.Qg4-d4 **Rf8-f1**
27...Ra8-c8 keeping the back-rank well-covered was more clinical.

28.Qd4xd5+ **Kg8-h8**
29.Kd2-c3 **Ra8-c8+**
30.Bb5-c4 **Qa1-d1**
31.Re2-d2 **Qd1-a4**
32.b2-b3 **Qa4-e8**
33.Qd5xb7 **Rf1-f2**
34.Rd2-d4

34.Qb7-d7 Qe8xd7
35.Rd2xd7 Rf2xg2 is also a simple win, but this allows forced mate.

34... **Qe8-e1+**
0-1



Zhitalko, S - Bobula, M
Najdorf Memorial Warsaw 2010

25.Rc7xd7
The position is ripe for this exchange sacrifice wrong-footing Black's pieces, 25.Rc7-b7 Na6-c5 26.Rb7xb6 Bd7-a4 27.Rd1-e1 Nc5-e4 enables Black to fight back.

25... **Rd8xd7**

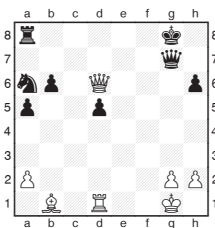
26.e5-e6 **Rd7-c7**
27.f5-f6

The duo of pawns are an ominous sight.

27... **f7xe6**
28.Nd4xe6 **Qf8-f7**

29.Ne6xg7
Removing the pawn cover is much stronger than 29.Ne6xc7 Na6xc7.

29... **Qf7xf6**
30.Ng7-e6+ **Rc7-g7**
31.Ne6xg7 **Qf6xg7**
32.Qg3-d6



Having regained the exchange, Zhitalko sinks his queen into the heart of Black's position.

32... **Kg8-h8**
32...Ra8-f8 intending 33.Qd6xb6 Na6-c7 was a tougher defence.

33.Qd6xb6 **Na6-c7**
34.Rd1-c1 **Ra8-g8**

White's precise last move has made things very tricky for Black's knight as 34...Nc7-e8 35.Rc1-c6 Qg7-a7 36.Qb6xa7 Ra8xa7 37.Rc6-c8 Ra7-e7 38.Bb1-g6 wins a piece.

35.g2-g3 **Nc7-a8**
Unfortunately, now the horse is banished to the corner as 35...Nc7-e8 36.Rc1-c6 mops up.

36.Qb6xa5 **Qg7-d4+**
37.Kg1-h1 **Rg8-b8**
It was slightly better to play 37...Rg8-f8, although 38.Qa5-a3 does keep control.

38.Qa5-a6 **Rb8xb1**
The end is also nigh after 38...Qd4-b6 39.Qa6-d3 Qb6-b7 40.Qd3-f5.

39.Qa6xh6+
Black resigned as 39...Kh8-g8 40.Qh6-g6+ Kg8-h8 41.Rc1xb1 collects Black's rook without allowing any checks.