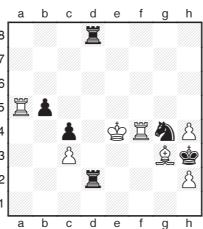


Michael Adams



Opportunity to beat champion is spurned

Vishy Anand and some of his seconds broke off from their World Championship match preparations to play in the crucial Bundesliga weekend with OSG Baden-Baden facing off against Werder Bremen. However, over the board, things weren't going quite to plan:



V. Anand - P. Eljanov Bundesliga 2012

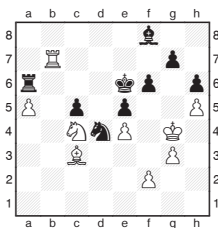
41... **Rd8-e8+**
Opportunities to beat the world champion tend to be fleeting. Here Eljanov could have created a passed pawn that would have cost Vishy his rook. 41...b5-b4 42.c3xb4 c4-c3 43.Ra5-c5 c3-c2 44.Rc5-c3 Rd8-e8+ 45.Ke4-f5 Ng4-e3+ 46.Kf5-g5 Rd2-d3 47.Rc3-c7 Rd3-d7 48.Rc7-c6 Re8-g8+ 49.Kg5-f6 Rd7-d6+.

42.Ke4-f5 **Ng4-e3+**
42...Rd2-d5+ 43.Kf5-g6 Ng4-e5+ still kept a few chances.

43.Kf5-g6 **Ne3-d5**
44.Ra5xb5 **Nd5xf4+**
45.Bg3xf4 **Rd2-d3**
46.h4-h5 **Rd3xc3**
47.h5-h6 **Rc3-b3**
1/2-1/2

With six other boards also

drawn, I decided the match in Baden's favour.



M. Adams - L. Fressinet Bundesliga 2012

As Black's king is short of squares I advanced on the kingside.

52.f2-f4 **e5xf4**
53.g3xf4 **f6-f5+**

I had calculated 53...Bf8-e7 54.f4-f5+ Ke6-f7 55.e4-e5 f6xe5 56.Nc4xe5+ Kf7-e8 57.Rb7-b8+ Be7-d8 58.Bc3-e1 wins.

54.e4xf5+ **Ke6-d5**
55.Nc4-e5

I was looking at 55.Nc4-b6+ Kd5-e4 56.Rb7-f7 Bf8-d6 57.f5-f6 g7xf6 58.Rf7xf6 Bd6-c7, but missed the key move 59.Nb6-d7.

55... **Nd4-e2**

55...Kd5-e4 56.Ne5-d7 Bf8-d6 57.Rb7-b6 Ra6xb6 58.a5xb6 and the pawn will cost Black's bishop.

56.Bc3-e1 **Bf8-d6**
57.Rb7xg7 **Ne2xf4**

I felt 57...c5-c4 was a better chance, the most convincing line 58.Rg7-d7 c4-c3 59.Ne5-f7 c3-c2 60.Be1-d2 wouldn't be easy to find.

58.Ne5-f7 **Nf4-d3**
59.Nf7xd6

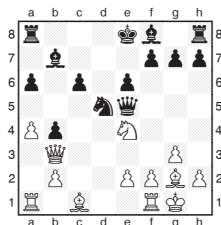
59.Rg7-g6 Nd3xe1 60.Rg6xd6+ Ra6xd6 61.Nf7xd6 is deadly, but the simple capture is not bad.

59...Nd3xe1
60.Nd6-e8 **Ra6xa5**
61.Rg7-d7+

The key check. Black's king is forced away from White's passer as his knight is lost if he moves to the file.

61... **Kd5-c6**
62.Rd7-d6+ **Kc6-b5**
63.f5-f6 **Ra5-a7**
64.Rd6-e6 **Ne1-d3**

64...Ra7-a4+ 65.Kg4-f5 Ne1-c2 66.Ne8-c7+ Kb5-c4 67.Re6-e8 also wins easily.
65.f6-f7 **Ra7-a4+**
66.Kg4-g3
1-0



L. Fressinet - S. Gordon Bundesliga 2012

15.Bc1-e3

Showing how well prepared young players are. After the game Anish Giri, who was playing in another match at the weekend, revealed that in this position he had prepared the subtle retreat 15.Ne4-d2. The line 15...Qe5-c7 16.Nd2-c4 Bf8-d6 17.e2-e4 Nd5-b6 18.Nc4xd6+ Qc7xd6 19.Bc1-f4 shows what he had in mind. Fressinet keeps good compensation with his move as well.

15... **a6-a5**
16.Rf1-d1 **Qe5-c7**

17.Be3-d4
Forcing the 'e' pawn forward makes Black less solid.

17... **e6-e5**
18.Bd4-c5 **Bf8xc5**
19.Ne4xc5 **Ra8-d8**
20.Qb3-c2 **Bb7-c8**

After 20...0-0 Black is still fighting. Now his king carries a little too long in the middle and he gets tactically punished.

21.Nc5-b3
There is no good way to meet the threats of Rd1xd5, Qc2-c5 and Nb3xa5.

21... **Qc7-b6**
22.Nb3xa5 **Qb6xa5**
23.Qc2xc6+ **Ke8-e7**
24.Rd1xd5 **Rd8xd5**
25.Bg2xd5 **Bc8-a6**
26.Bd5-b3 **Rh8-d8**
27.Qc6-f3
1-0