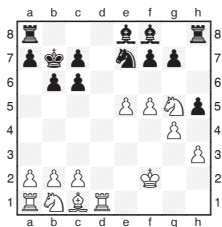


**Michael Adams**



## Victory that gave me an all-time high

I managed to prevent Vladimir Kramnik's traditional victory in the Sparkassen Chess-Meeting in Dortmund, scoring half a point more than him with 7/9. The tournament went rather smoothly for me and this third-round win proved a springboard for success, in the process of which my Elo rating hit an all-time high of 2761.



**F. Caruana - M. Adams**  
Dortmund 2013

### 16.Nb1-c3

If White can complete development without incident, his advanced pawns will be a valuable asset, but his king is uncomfortably placed.

**16...** **h5xc4**

Accepting the challenge, as 16...Ne7-d5 17.Nc3xd5 c6xd5 18.Kf2-g3 looks pleasant for White.

**17.h3xc4** **Rh8-h2+**

**18.Kf2-g3** **Rh2xc2**

**19.Ng5-h7**

Play remains murky after the alternative 19.e5-e6 f7-f6 20.Ng5-h7 c6-c5 21.Nh7xf8 Be8-c6 22.Nf8-g6 Ne7xc6 23.f5xc6 Rc2-g2+ 24.Kg3-f4 Rg2-f2+. My bishop is now destined to perish on its starting square, but my other pieces become

very active.

**19...** **c6-c5**

**20.Nh7xf8**

20.Rd1-d2 Rc2xd2

21.Bc1xd2 Be8-c6

22.Ra1-d1 offers good compensation for a pawn.

**20...** **Be8-c6**

**21.f5-f6**

I was expecting the better

21.Bc1-g5 Ne7xf5+

22.g4xf5 Rc2-g2+ 23.Kg3-f4

Rg2-f2+ 24.Kf4-g4

(24.Kf4-e3 Rf2xf5 25.Nf8-h7

Ra8-h8 is OK for Black)

24...Rf2-g2+ repeating.

**21...** **Rc2-g2+**

**22.Kg3-f4**

White's king can't find a

safe spot. 22.Kg3-h4 g7xf6

23.e5xf6 Ne7-f5+ 24.g4xf5

Ra8xf8 wins, 22.Kg3-h3

g7xf6 23.Bc1-h6 f6-f5

24.g4-g5 f5-f4 is also bad.

**22...** **g7xf6**

**23.e5xf6** **Rg2-f2+**

**24.Kf4-e3**

24.Kf4-e5 Ra8-e8 forces

mate in two. 24.Kf4-g5

Ra8xf8 25.f6xe7 Rf8-g8+

26.Kg5-h4 Rf2-g2 only lasts

a little longer.

**24...** **Rf2xf6**

**25.Nf8-h7** **Rf6-f3+**

**26.Ke3-d2**

The alternative 26.Ke3-e2

Ra8-h8 27.Nh7-g5 Rh8-h2+

28.Ke2-e1 Rf3-f2 29.Bc1-e3

Rf2-g2 is no better.

**26...** **Ra8-d8+**

**27.Kd2-c2**

Or 27.Kd2-e1 Rd8-h8.

**27...** **Rf3xc3+**

**28.b2xc3** **Bc6-a4+**

**29.Kc2-b2** **Rd8xd1**

With two extra pawns and

the better position, the rest is

simple.

**30.Bc1-g5** **Ne7-c6**

**31.Ra1xd1**

If 31.Bg5-f4 Rd1-d3.

**31...** **Ba4xd1**

**32.Bg5-f4**

32.Nh7-f6 Nc6-e5 wins

another pawn.

**32...** **Bd1xc4**

**33.Nh7-f6** **Bg4-f3**

**34.Nf6-e8** **Nc6-a5**

**35.Ne8xc7** **Bf3-c6**

Now the white knight is

dominated.

**36.Kb2-c2** **Kb7-c8**

**37.Kc2-d3** **Kc8-d7**

**38.Kd3-c2**

**39.Nc7-a6**

**40.Na6-b8+**

**41.Kc2-d3**

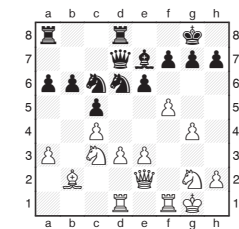
**0-1**

**Na5-c4**

**Bc6-b7**

**Kd7-c8**

**b6-b5**



**V. Kramnik - D. Fridman**  
Dortmund 2013

### 20.f5-f6

A highly enterprising sacrifice. The weak dark squares provide enduring compensation.

**20...**

**21.Rf1xf6**

**22.Ng2-f4**

**23.Nf4-h5**

**24.Rd1-f1**

**25.Qe2-g2**

**26.h2-h4**

White's pieces slide closer to the Black king. Perhaps Fridman should try 26...b6-b5, aiming to create some openings for his rooks.

**27.Qg2-g3**

**28.Qg3-f4**

A major error. This loses to

a beautiful combination

28...Rd8-b8 29.Qf4xh6 Ke8-

d8 running the king to the

queenside avoids immediate disaster.

**29.Nc3-d5**

**30.Bb2xf6**

Unsurprisingly this doesn't

help, but the alternatives

30...Nd7xf6 31.Nh5xf6+

Ke8-e7 32.Qf4-e5 mate and

30...d5xc4 31.Nh5-g7+ are

no better.

**31.Qf4xe5+**

**32.Bf6-g7**

**33.Nh5-f6+**

33...Kd7-d8 34.Qe5xd5

leaves all Black's pieces

hanging.

**34.Qe5-a1**

Black resigned, as his queen

is lost after 34...Qf8xg7

35.Nc3xd5+ or 34...Qf8-e7

35.Nc3xd5+.