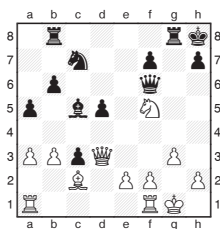


**Michael Adams**



## Olympians of the board

The cream rose to the top at the Chess Olympiad, with the top-seeded teams taking the podium positions. Third-seeded Armenia led brilliantly as usual and Levon Aronian took the gold medals on tie-break.



**L. Aronian - V. Ivanchuk**  
Istanbul Olympiad 2012

### 25.b3-b4

White is dominant on the light squares, and this very powerful move enables his rook to join the fun.

### 25... a5xb4

25...Bc5-f8 26.Nf5-d4 Rg8-g7 27.Qd3xc3 eliminates Black's major asset.

### 26.a3xb4 Bc5xb4

### 27.Ra1-a7 Nc7-e6

Ivanchuk must part with the exchange, as 27...Rb8-c8 28.Nf5-e7 is even worse.

### 28.Nf5-e7 Qf6-g7

28...Rg8-g7 29.Ne7xd5 picks up the bishop.

### 29.Ne7xg8

Simple and strong, but 29.Ne7-c6 also wasn't bad.

### 29... Kh8xg8

### 30.Qd3xd5 Bb4-c5

### 31.e2-e3 b6-b5

White's bishop prevents the Black pawns from advancing too far, so the technical task is quite straightforward.

### 32.Ra7-a8

### 33.Qd5xa8+

### 34.Qa8-e4

### 35.Rf1-a1

### 36.Ra1-a5

### 37.Qe4-g4+

### 38.Qg4-h4

### 39.Ra5-a8

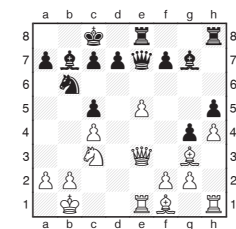
39...Qg7-e5 40.Qh4xb4 is hopeless.

### 40.Ra8xf8+

### 41.Qh4-g4+

### 42.Qg4-f5

Black resigned, as 42...Qf8-g7 43.Qf5-c8+ and 42...Kh8-g7 43.Qf5-e5+ win Black's knight.



**H. Nakamura - K. Sasikiran**  
Istanbul Olympiad 2012

### 17.a2-a4

Nakamura starts action on the queenside where Black's king is feeling draughty behind the compromised pawn structure.

### 17... d7-d6

Sasikiran fights back in the centre, as 17...a7-a5 18.Nc3-b5 feels risky.

### 18.a4-a5 Nb6-d7

### 19.Nc3-b5 Nd7xe5

Sasikiran clears room for his king to flee since 19...a7-a6 20.Nb5xc7 wins material.

### 20.Qe3-b3 Bb7-a8

### 21.f2-f4

An excellent move, bringing his undeveloped bishop into the game and continuing to harass the monarch.

### 21... g4xf3

### 22.g2xf3 Qe7-f6

22...f7-f5 23.f3-f4 Ba8xh1 24.Nb5xa7+ Kc8-d7 25.f4xe5 also looks very dangerous.

### Rb8xa8

### Qg7-f8

### Qf8-h6

### b5-b4

### Bc5-f8

### Qh6-g7

### h7-h6

### Ne6-c7

### 23.Nb5xa7+

### 24.Bg3xe5

### 25.Qb3-b8+

### 26.Bf1-h3+

### 27.Qb8-b5+

### 28.Bh3xe6

### 29.Rh1-g1

The fearless 29...Ba8xf3 was better.

### 30.Na7-c6+

Understandably returning material to limit Black's activity, but 30.Rg1-g2 covering the second rank had its points.

### 30...

### 31.Rg1xg7+

### 32.Qb5xc6

White keeps the advantage after 32...Qg7-g6+ 33.Re1-e4 Qg6-e8 34.Qc6xc7+ Qe8-d7

### 33.a5-a6

Hikaru could have solidified his king position with 33.Re1-c1 Qd4-d3+ 34.Kb1-a2.

### 33...

### 34.Kb1-a1

### 35.Qc6-e4

### 36.a6-a7

A slip. He should have played 36.Qe4xe6+ Kd7-c6 37.Qe6-e4+ Kc6-d7 38.a6-a7 Qd2-a5+ 39.Ka1-b1 Qa5xa7 40.Qe4-e7+ Kd7-c8 41.Qe7-e6+ Kc8-b7 42.Re1-e3 keeping the pressure on.

### 36...

### 37.Ka1-b1 Rd8-a8

After the calm 36...Qd2-a5+ 37.Ka1-b1 Rd8-e8, Black has everything covered. 37.Ka1-b1

### Ra8xa7

A time pressure blunder decides, surprisingly 37...e6-e5 38.f3-f4 (38.Qe4xa8 Qd2xe1+ is perpetual.) 38...e5xf4 39.Re1-g1 Qd2-d4 still secures half a point.

### 38.Qe4xe6+

### 39.Qe6-e8+

Black resigns, as 39...Kc6-b7 40.Qe8-b5+ Kb7-a8 41.Re1-e8 is mate.

### Kc8-d8

### Re8xe5

### Kd8-d7

### Re5-e6

### Kd7-e7

### f7xe6

### Rh8-d8

### Ba8xc6

### Qf6xg7

### Qg7-d4

### Ba8xc6

### Qf6xg7

### Qg7-d4

### Ba8xc6

### Qf6xg7

### Qg7-d4

### Ba8xc6

### Qf6xg7

### Qg7-d4

### Ba8xc6

### Qf6xg7

### Qg7-d4

### Ba8xc6

### Qf6xg7

### Qg7-d4

### Ba8xc6

### Qf6xg7

### Qg7-d4

### Ba8xc6

### Qf6xg7

### Qg7-d4

### Ba8xc6

### Qf6xg7

### Qg7-d4

### Ba8xc6

### Qf6xg7

### Qg7-d4

### Ba8xc6

### Qf6xg7

### Qg7-d4

### Ba8xc6

### Qf6xg7

### Qg7-d4

### Ba8xc6

### Qf6xg7

### Qg7-d4

### Ba8xc6

### Qf6xg7

### Qg7-d4

### Ba8xc6

### Qf6xg7

### Qg7-d4

### Ba8xc6

### Qf6xg7

### Qg7-d4

### Ba8xc6

### Qf6xg7

### Qg7-d4

### Ba8xc6

### Qf6xg7

### Qg7-d4