

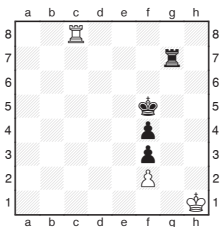
Michael Adams



Kamsky off to a flier

Given the economic climate, the number of high-level tournaments at the moment is surprising - I don't remember a busier start to the year.

The US Championship was won by Gata Kamsky in the absence of Hikaru Nakamura, who was participating in a new super tournament in Norway. However, he was pressed hard by the young Alejandro Ramirez, who was eventually vanquished in the tie-break despite tough resistance:



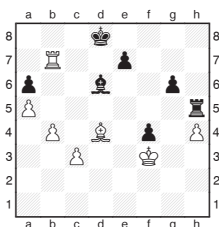
A. Ramirez - G. Kamsky
US Championship Play-off
2013 St Louis

With all the pawns on one file, White has a number of ways to save the game, but Ramirez flashed out the simplest in an instant.

- 58.Rc8-c3** **Kf5-e4**
- 59.Rc3-c4+** **Ke4-d3**
- 60.Rc4xf4** **Kd3-e2**
- 61.Rf4-a4** **Ke2xf2**
- 62.Ra4-a2+** **Kf2-g3**
- 63.Kh1-g1** **Rg7-b7**
- 64.Ra2-g2+**

A draw was agreed, as 64...f3xg2 is stalemate and 64...Kg3-f4 65.Rg2-g8 is an easy hold.

A week later Kamsky was back in Europe for the latest instalment of the FIDE Grand Prix.

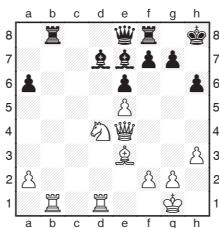


G. Kamsky - L. Dominguez Perez
Thessaloniki 2013

44.Rb7-b6 **Rh5xh4**
After the correct 44...Kd8-d7, matters are not so simple - this is a major mistake.

45.Rb6xd6+
Black resigned, as 45...e7xd6 46.Bd4-f6+ wins his rook.

Peter Svidler has also had a very full dance card of late.



P. Svidler - E. Bacrot
Thessaloniki 2013

20.Rd1-c1 **Qe8-d8**
It was a good idea to exchange rooks with 20...Rb8xb1 21.Rc1xb1 Qe8-c8.

21.Rb1-b7
A very unpleasant insertion. This kind of move is easy to miss due to the opposition of rooks.

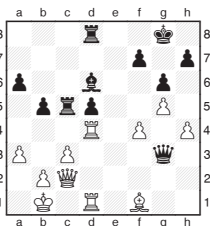
21... **Be7-a3**
This doesn't help, but there are few good options. 21...Rb8xb7 22.Qe4xb7 Bd7-c8 23.Rc1xc8 Qd8xc8 24.Qb7xe7 looks hopeless, so 21...Rb8-c8 was the best try.

22.Rc1-c3 **Ba3-e7**
Maybe Bacrot was hoping to play 22...Ba3-b2, but 23.Rb7xb8 Qd8xb8 24.Rc3-b3 wins immediately.
23.Rc3-c7 **Bd7-c8**
23...Rb8xb7 24.Qe4xb7

Bd7-c8 would have lasted a bit longer.

- 24.Rb7-a7** **Be7-a3**
 - 25.Rc7xf7** **Rf8xf7**
 - 26.Ra7xf7** **Qd8-g8**
 - 27.Qe4-f3** **Ba3-b2**
- and Bacrot resigned before 28.Rf7-f8.

And finally, we finish with a good win by the world champion from the Norwegian event.



V. Anand - V. Topalov
Sandnes 2013

It was better to take the 'h' pawn, as 28...Qg3xh4 29.Bf1-g2 can be met by 29...Rc5-c4.

- 29.Bf1-g2** **Bd6xf4**
- 30.Bg2xd5** **Kg8-g7**

Although the position looks balanced, White's dominant bishop gives him a substantial edge.

- 31.Qc2-e4** **Qg3-e3**
- 32.Qe4-h1** **Rd8-d7**
- 33.Rd1-d3**

There was an immediate breakthrough: 33.Qh1-f1 Bf4-e5 34.Rd4-d3 Qe3-f4 35.Rd3-f3.

- 33...** **Qe3-e5**
- 33...Qe3-f2 was a better try.
- 34.Qh1-f3** **Bf4-h2**
- 35.Bd5-e6**

This is good enough, but it is interesting to see how totally dominated Black's pieces are in the line 35.Bd5-b3 Rd7-c7 36.Qf3-f2 a6-a5 37.Rd3-f3.

- 35...** **Rd7-e7**
- 36.Rd4-e4** **Re7xe6**
- 36...Qe5-c7 37.Qf3-f6+ Kg7-g8 38.Be6xf7+ mates.
- 37.Re4xe5** **Rc5xe5**
- 38.Rd3-d8** **Re5-e4**
- 39.Kb1-a2** **Bh2-f4**
- 40.Rd8-d7** **Kg7-g8**
- 41.Rd7-a7**
- 1-0**