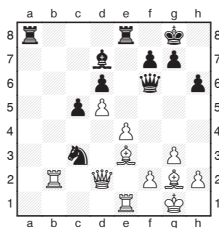


**Michael Adams**



## Hou Yifan cruises to the title

Hou Yifan completed a surprisingly easy victory over Anna Ushenina 5.5-1.5 to regain the Women's World Championship. The Chinese Grandmaster is very comfortable in the matchplay format and was rarely in trouble, again going undefeated, as she did in her match two years earlier against Humpy Koneru.



**A. Ushenina - Hou Yifan**  
Women's World Championship Taizhou 2013

One feature of the match was that Ushenina frequently reached positions where she had the bishop pair against Hou Yifan's bishop and knight, as in last week's game, but was unable to exploit this. Here Black's knight is already a thorn in White's side:

### 29.f2-f3

Weakening the second rank is unwise, although Black remains active after 29.Be3-f4 Ra8-a3.

**29...** **Ra8-a3**

**30.Be3-f2** **Nc3-b5**

**31.Re1-b1** **c5-c4**

31...Re8-a8 was also interesting.

**32.Rb2xb5** **Bd7xb5**

### 33.Bf2-d4

The precise 33.Qd2-b4 Ra3-a2 34.Qb4xb5 Re8xe4 35.Rb1-f1 Re4-e2 36.Qb5xc4 g7-g6 looks drawish.

**33...** **c4-c3**

After this the pawn becomes too strong.

### 34.Qd2-f2

Or 34.Qd2-e3 c3-c2.

**34...** **Qf6-g5**

### 35.f3-f4

35.Rb1xb5 Qg5-c1+ 36.Bg2-f1 Qc1-d1 is decisive.

**35...** **Qg5-g4**

### 36.Rb1-e1

36.Rb1xb5 Qg4-d1+ 37.Bg2-f1 c3-c2 is even worse.

**36...** **Re8-a8**

**37.h2-h3** **Qg4-c8**

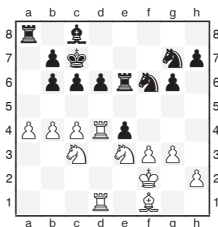
**38.e4-e5** **Ra3-a1**

**39.e5xd6** **c3-c2**

### 40.Bd4xa1

**0-1**

Chinese players have yet to challenge seriously for the World Championship, but given their crop of very strong young players this will change in the future.



**Yu Yangyi - Salem A. R. Saleh**  
World Juniors Kocaeli 2013

### 26.Bf1-h3

Initiating some complex tactics.

**26...** **Re6-e7**

**27.Rd4xd6** **Ng7-e8**

Necessary, as 27...Bc8xh3 28.Rd6xf6 e4xf3 29.Ne3-d5+ is a serious fork.

**28.Rd6-d8** **e4xf3**

**29.b4-b5** **Ra8-b8**

It's natural to unpin, but

29...Re7-e5 was also worth considering.

**30.a4-a5** **Nf6-d7**

Black had to capture the pawn 30...b6xa5 31.b5-b6+ (31.c4-c5 looks worrying but Black manages to dodge the bullets in the line 31...Bc8-d7 32.Rd8xd7+ Re7xd7 33.b5-b6+ Kc7-d8 34.Bh3xd7 Nf6xd7) 31...Kc7xb6 32.Rd8xc8 Rb8xc8 33.Bh3xc8 wins material, but Black's pieces become very active after 33...Kb6-c7 34.Bc8-h3 Ne8-d6 35.Kf2xf3 Nd6-e4.

### 31.Rd8xc8+

Yu Yangyi finds the most imaginative and strongest continuation. The less spectacular 31.Rd8xd7+ Bc8xd7 32.Ne3-d5+ c6xd5 33.Nc3xd5+ Kc7-d8 34.Nd5xe7 Ne8-f6 35.Ne7-g8 was also good.

**31...** **Kc7xc8**

### 32.Ne3-d5

A great concept. For the moment White remains a whole rook behind, but his opponent's shambolically organised pieces are unable to muster any resistance.

**32...** **c6xd5**

**33.Nc3xd5** **Re7-g7**

The active 33...Re7-e2+ rebounds after 34.Kf2xf3 Re2xh2 35.Nd5xb6+ Kc8-c7 36.Rd1xd7 mate.

**34.Nd5xb6+** **Kc8-c7**

**35.Nb6xd7** **Rb8-a8**

**36.b5-b6+** **Kc7-c6**

It is surprising how many pleasing mates appear despite the reduced material 36...Kc7-d8

37.Nd7-c5+ Kd8-e7 38.Rd1-d7+ Ke7-f6 39.Nc5-e4+ Kf6-e5 40.Rd7-d5+ Ke5xe4 41.Bh3-f1 when 42.Bf1-d3 mate is inevitable would have been a great finish.

**37.Rd1-d5** **Ra8xa5**

The only way to avoid mate which could occur after 37...Ne8-d6 38.Nd7-e5 mate or 37...Rg7-e7 38.Nd7-e5+ Re7xe5 39.Bh3-d7 mate.

**38.Rd5xa5** **Rg7xd7**

**39.Bh3xd7+** **Kc6xd7**

**40.Kf2xf3**

**1-0**