



A sight for sore eyes

Blindfold games don't often create a lasting impression unless you like blooper reels. However, occasionally they can be a bit special, and this brutal battle between two creative and adventurous adversaries will be remembered a little longer.

Standard structures are an aid to the players when keeping track in this format of the game, but here an unconventional beginning leads to a maelstrom of imbalances, requiring complex calculation and judgment - tasks that both participants negotiate with aplomb despite the swift time limit.

B. Jobava - H. Nakamura SportAccord Blindfold

Beijing Rapid 2012



9.Nc3-d5

White has a decent position after 9.Nc3-e4, but this concept is what makes the game special.

| 13.Nf3-g5 | |
|-----------|--|
|-----------|--|

14.Qd 1-h5+
15.Rf 1-f7Ke8-d815.Rg5-e6+ Bc8xe616.Bc4xe6 when the bishop
cuts Black's position in two.

15... 16.Ra1-f1 17.Kg1-g2 18.Qh5-h4 19.Rf7xg7 Qa5xd2 Qd2xe3+ Bc8-g4 Kd8-c8 Rh8-f8

Re8-d8

20.Bb2-c1 20.Qh4xh6 Qe3-d2+ 21.Kg2-g1 Qd2-e3+ could lead to a draw, but Jobava wants more.

| 20 | Qe3-c3 |
|----------------------------|---------|
| 21.Ng5-f7 | Qc3xc2+ |
| 22.Kg2-g1 | Nh6xf7 |
| 23.Qh4xg4+ | Kc8-b8 |
| 24.Rg7xf7 | Rf8-e8 |
| A small slip, which Jobava | |

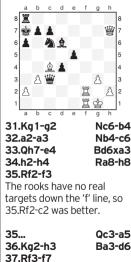
immediately exploits.

25.Qg4-e6

The queen can't be captured due to 25...Re8xe6 26.Rf7-f8+.

| 26.Bc1-q5 | a7-a6 |
|-----------|--------|
| 27.Rf7-f2 | Qc2-c3 |
| | Nc6xd8 |
| 28.Bg5xd8 | |
| 29.Qe6-d7 | Nd8-c6 |
| 30.Qd7xh7 | Kb8-a7 |

Although White is now material ahead, the black monarch has finally found sanctuary.



Ng8-h6 The logical plan of

advancing the kingside pawns weakens White's king, especially now his opposite number is safely tucked away. 37.g3-g4 is well met by 37...Qa5-d2.

| 37 | Qa5-d2 |
|-----------|--------|
| 38.Rf1-f6 | Qd2-b4 |
| 39.Rf7-d7 | Nc6-a5 |
| 40.Bc4-d5 | Qb4-b5 |
| 41.Rd7-f7 | Rh8-d8 |
| 42.Rf6-f3 | Bd6-b4 |
| 43.Bd5-c4 | Na5xc4 |
| 44.b3xc4 | Qb5xc4 |
| 45.g3-g4 | |

With seven passed pawns on the board, time is of the essence, so 45.Qe4xe5 was understandably rejected in favour of this advance, but removing this pawn was essential.

45... Qc4-d5 Great judgment. With the

queens exchanged, Black's central pawns carry the day.

| 46.Qe4xd5 | Rd8xd5 |
|-----------|--------|
| 47.g4-g5 | d4-d3 |
| 48.Rf3-f1 | e5-e4 |
| 49.g5-g6 | |

49.Rf7-f4 e4-e3 50.Rf4xb4 e3-e2 51.Rf1-b1 Rd5-b5 52.Rb4xb5 a6xb5 leaves White's rook outwitted by the foot soldiers.

| 49 | e4-e3 |
|--------------------------|--------|
| 50.g6-g7 | Rd5-d8 |
| The impressive power | |
| of two connected | |
| passed pawns is starkly | |
| demonstrated by the fact | |
| | |

that even 50...e3-e2 51.g7g8Q d3-d2 is winning for Black.

| 51.Rf7xc7 | e3-e2 |
|---|---------|
| 52.Rf1-f7 | Ka7-b6 |
| 53.Rc7xb7+ | Kb6-a5 |
| The king gives the slip, and the game wrapped up. | |
| 54.Rb7-d7 | e2-e1Q |
| 55.Rd7xd8 | Qe1-e6+ |

| 55.Rd7xd8 | Qe1-e6+ |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| 56.Kh3-g3 | Bb4-d6+ |
| 57.Kg3-g2 | Qe6-g6+ |
| 58.Kg2-h3 | - |
| Added to a second second second | 1 f |

White resigned before 58...Qg6-g3 mate.