



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	
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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	

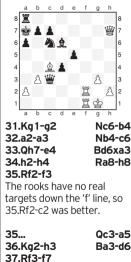
immediately exploits.

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