

**Subject:** Australia Edges Out New Zealand in Chess Olympiad Encounter

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Australia Edges Out New Zealand in Chess Olympiad Encounter

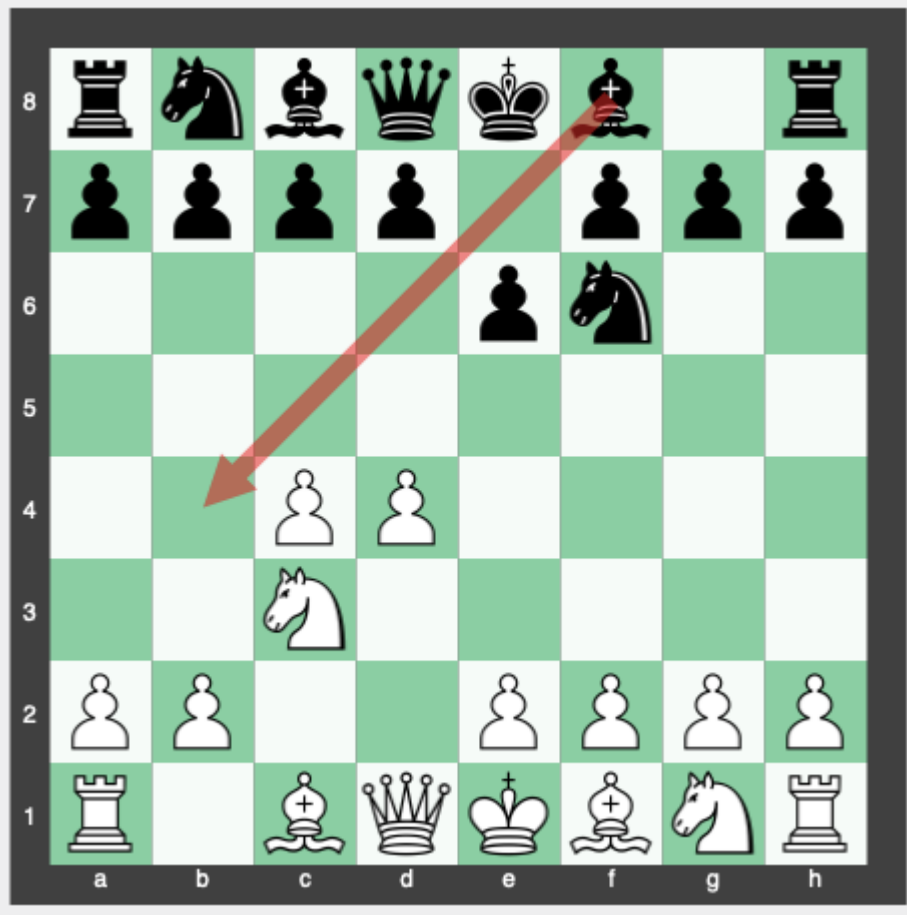
by Paul Power, Australian Chess Federation, from Budapest

The Australian Open team travelled to Budapest to play our neighbours across the Tasman.

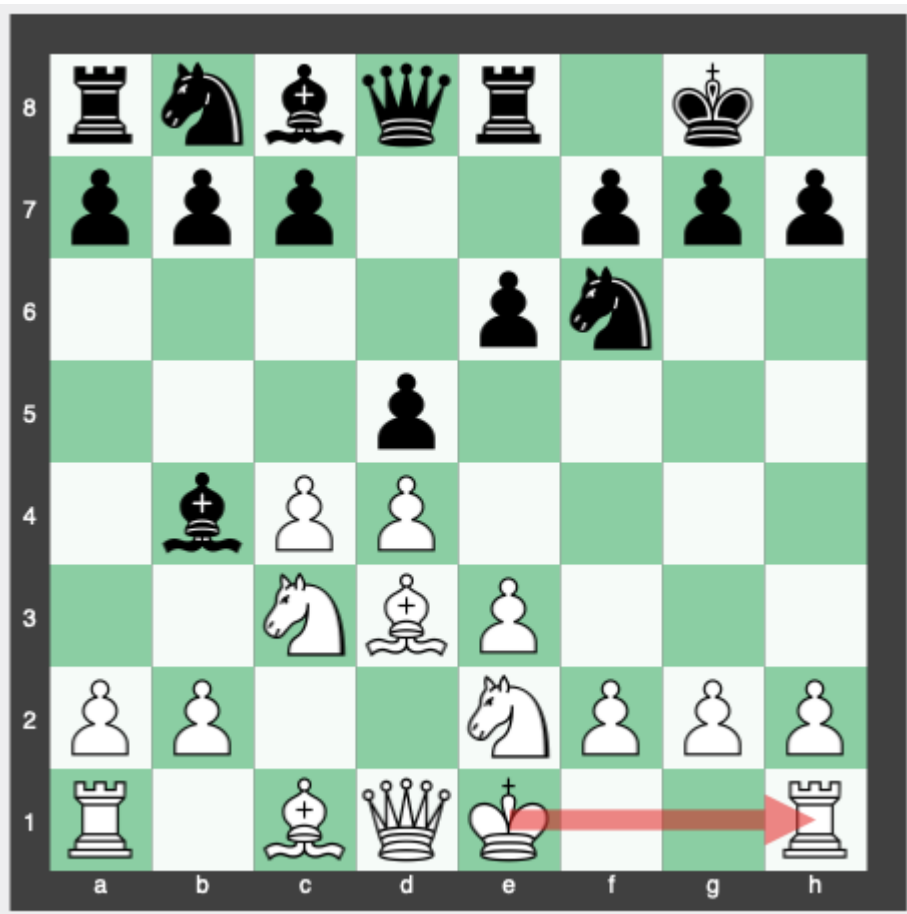
Australian Champion, Rishi Sardana, played New Zealand's Nicholas Croad on board 3.



Sardana chose a Nimzo-Indian Defence



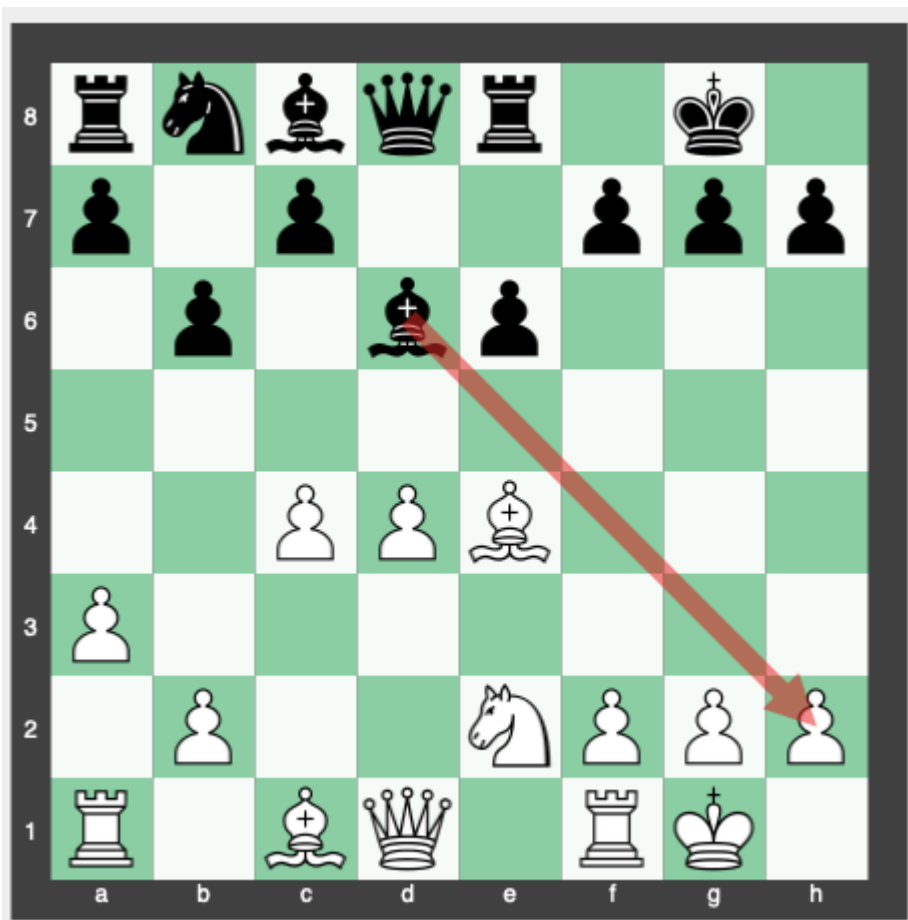
Reaching the same position after 7. O-O



as Grischuk-Artemiev, 02-2024, where Artemiev continued 7... Bf8; Sardana chose 7... b6

There followed 8. a3 Bd6 9. e4 setting off a series of exchanges in Black's favour.

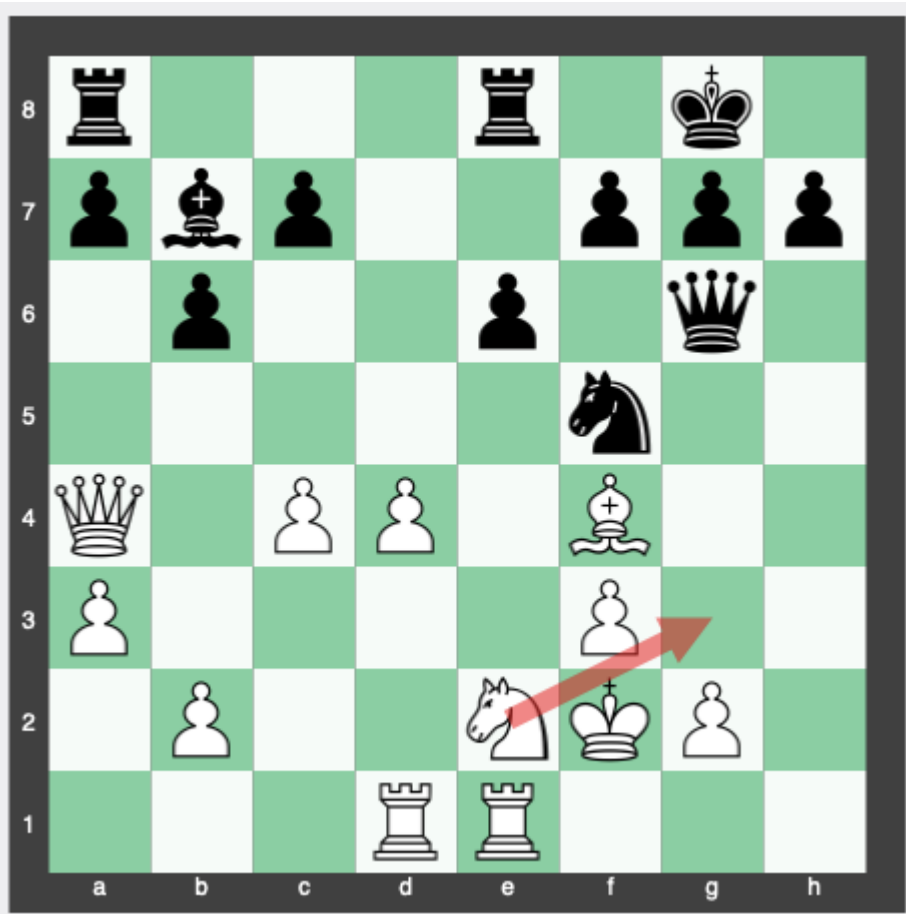
After 9... dxe4 10. Nxe4 Nxe4 11. Bxe4 Bxh2+



and already Sardana has seized the advantage.

There followed 12. Kxh2 Qh4+ 13. Kg1 Qxe4

A critical position occurred at 21... Nf5



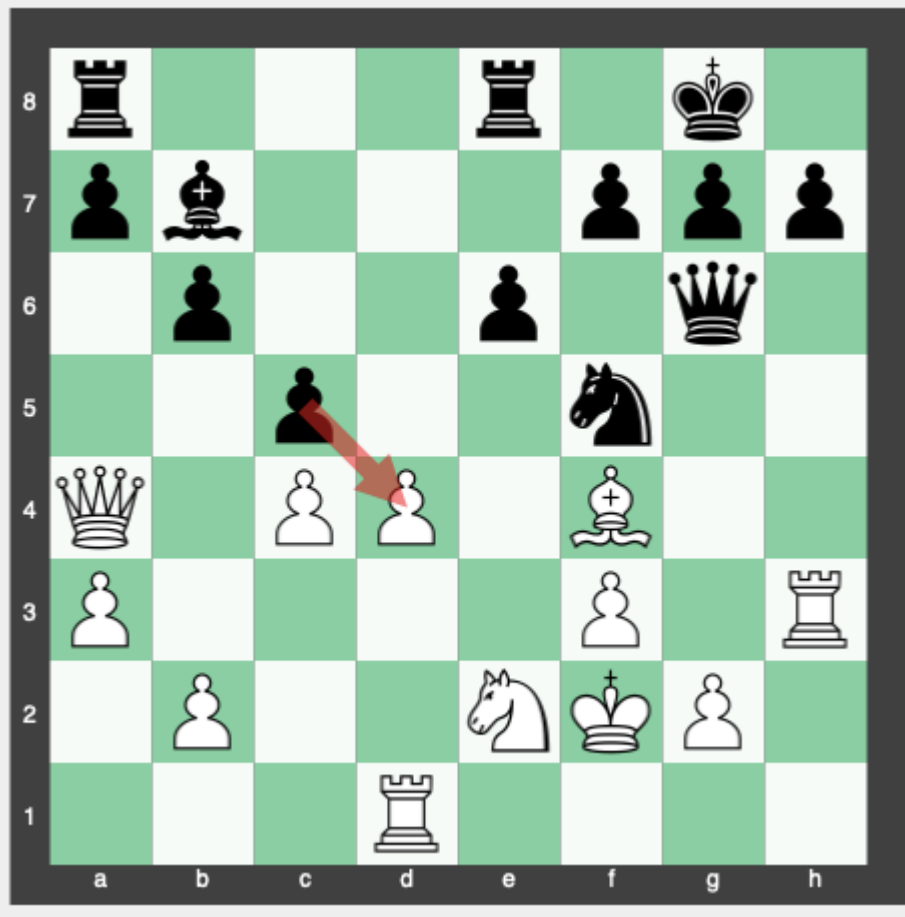
where White should look to the Centre with 22 Ng3 followed by d5.

But, instead, misplaced the Rook: 22. Rh1

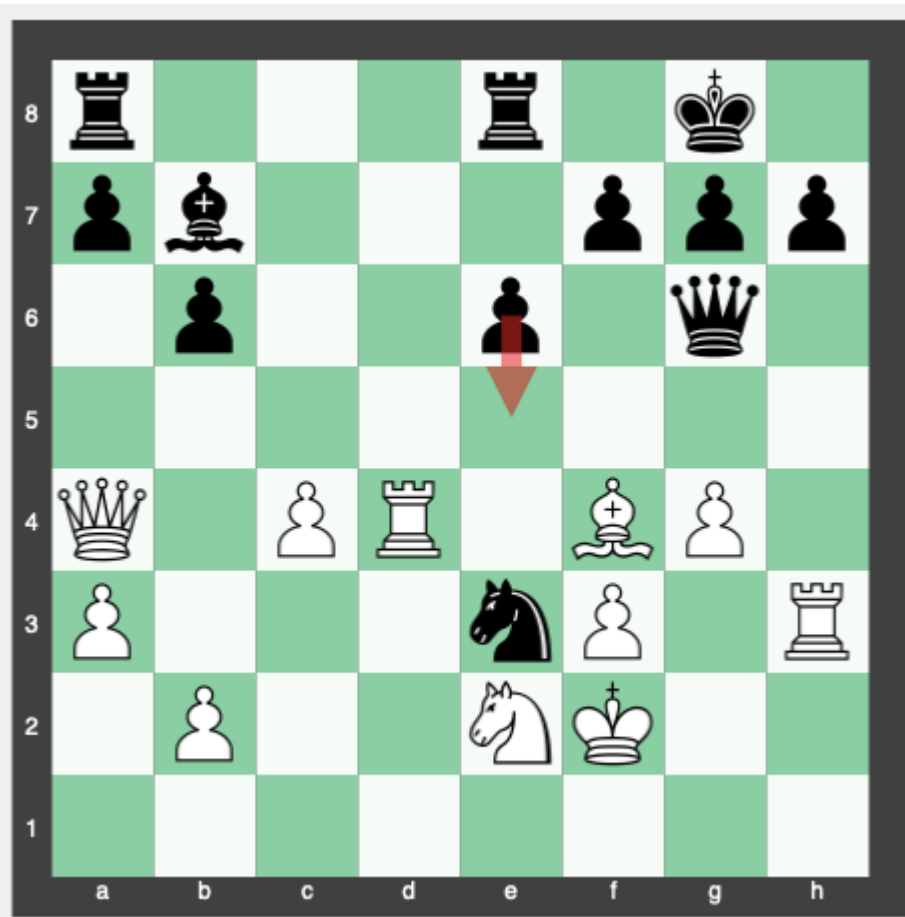
Sardana immediately struck the Centre with 22... c5

White compounded the misplacement 23. Rh3

Black captured the d-pawn

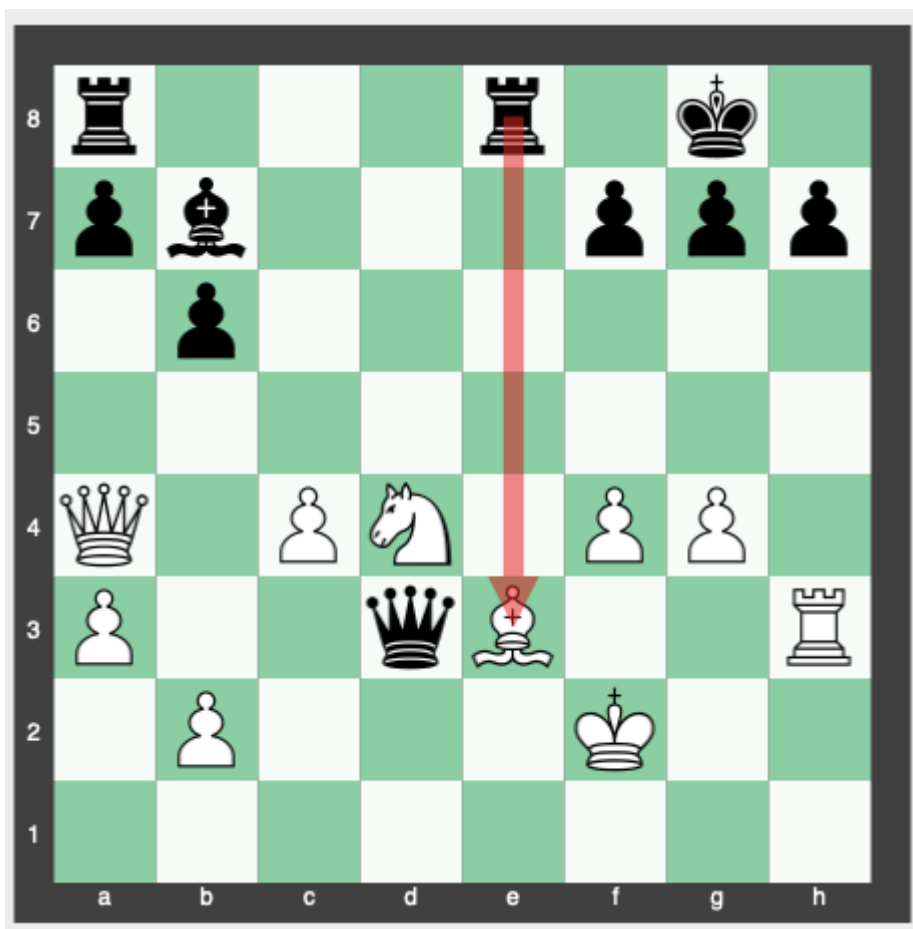


There followed 24. g4 Ne3 25. Rxd4 (less bad was 25. Bxe3 dxe3+ 26. Kxe3 e5)  
And now 25... e5



And it's game over.

There followed 26. Bxe3 exd4 27. Nxd4 Qd3 28. f4 Rxe3



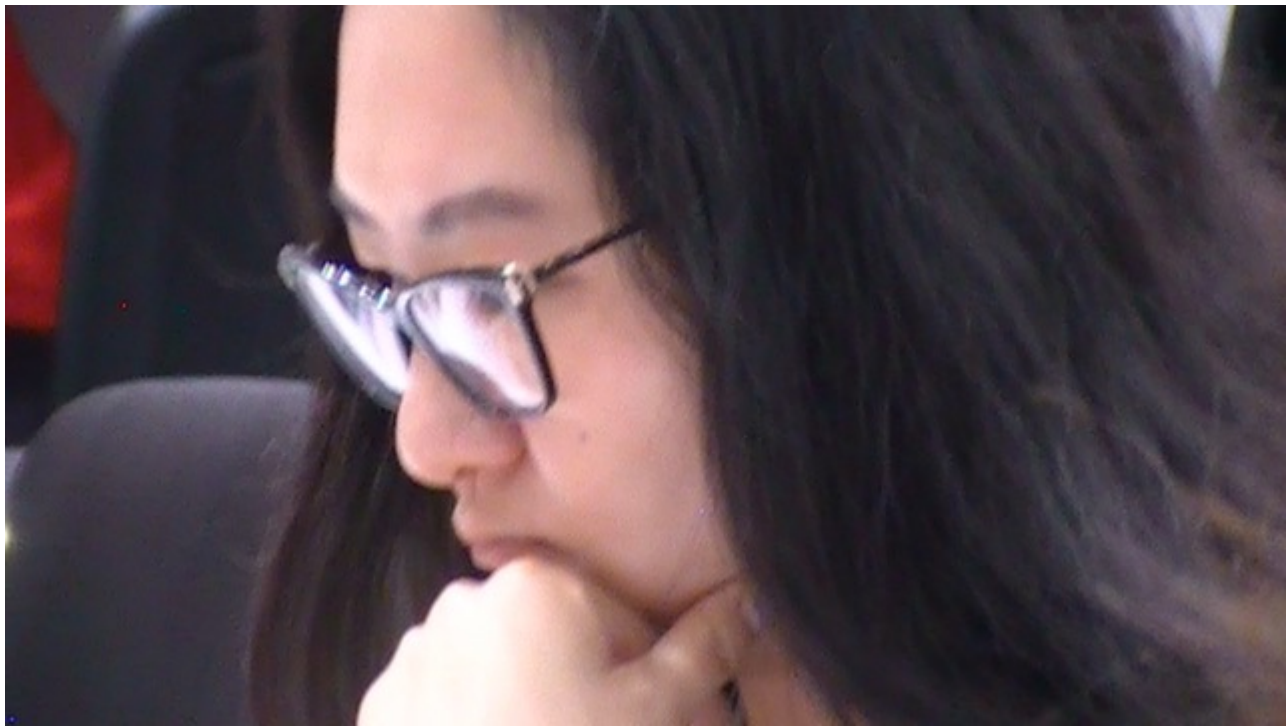
White resigns

0-1

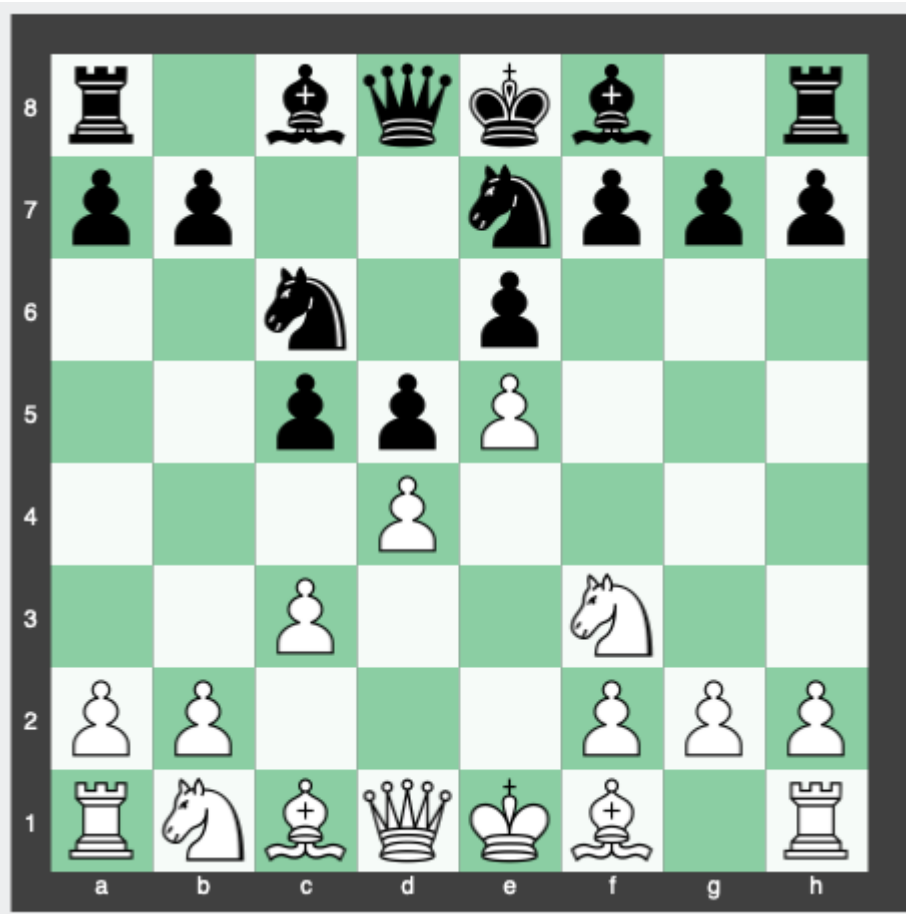
Kuybokarov lost to Xie, Cheng won over Renjith and Smerdon secured a draw and a match win for Australia, 2.5-1.5

Australian Women's team played Singapore.

Jilin Zhang (White), on board 3,

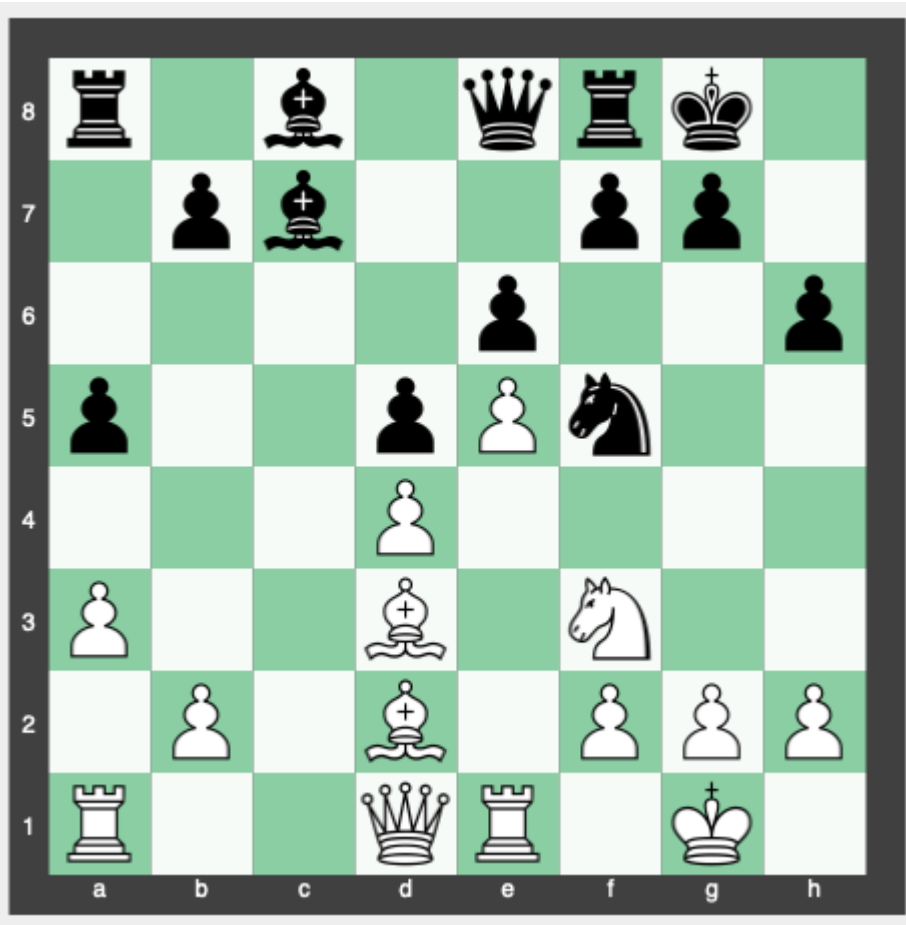


played a delayed Alapin (3. c3) to Eden Kay Yan's Sicilian Paulsen, arriving at the same position after 5... Nge7



as Karjakin-Rapport, Wijk aan Zee, rd 8, Jan-23, where Karjakin continued 6. h4; Zhang chose 6. a3

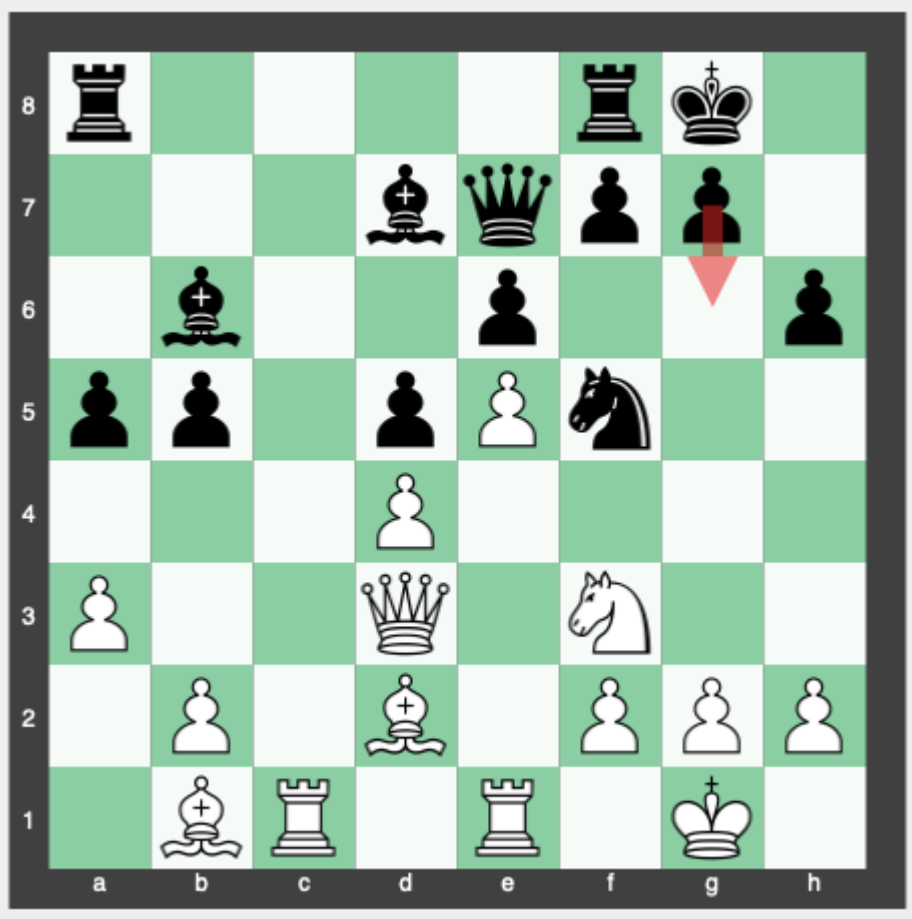
Zhang built on White's opening advantage, by 16. cxd4



establishing the strategic advantage of directing White's pieces against Black's Castled King, with no counter-advantage for Black.

And by 20. Qd3,

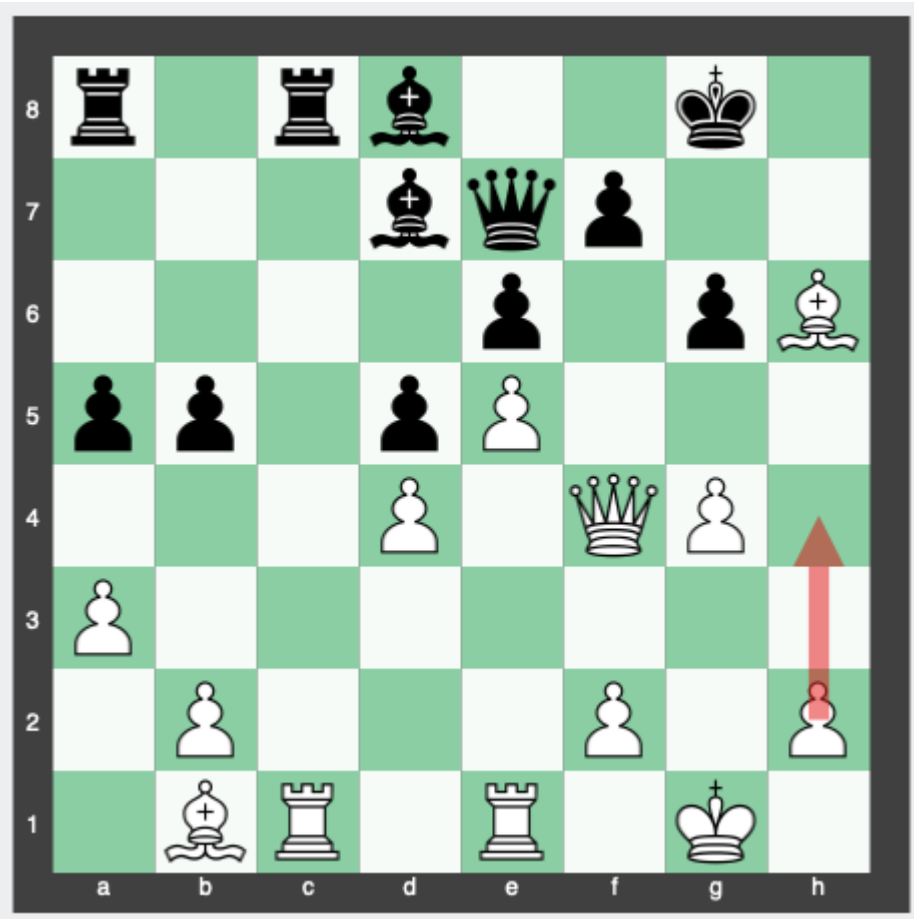




an x-ray Checkmating threat against h7, impelling 20... g6 weakening Black's h6-pawn.

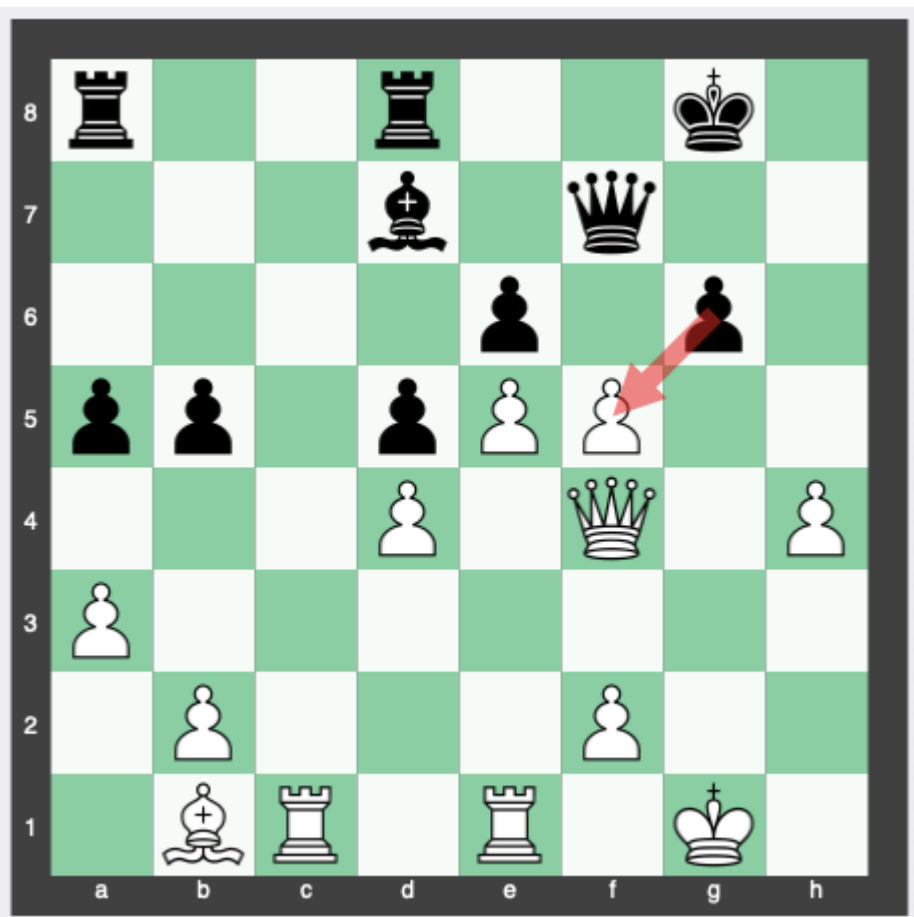
There followed 21. g4 Nh4 22. Bxh6

And by 25. h4



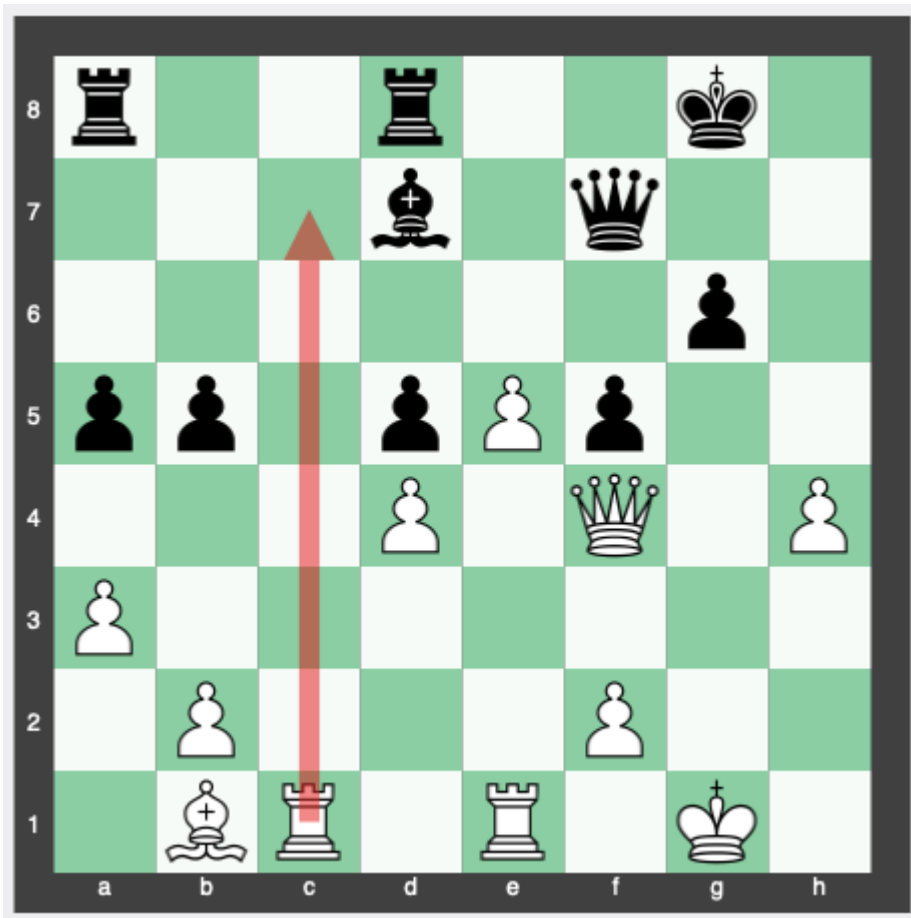
had a strategically won game.

On 28. gxf5, Black should recapture 28... gxf5,

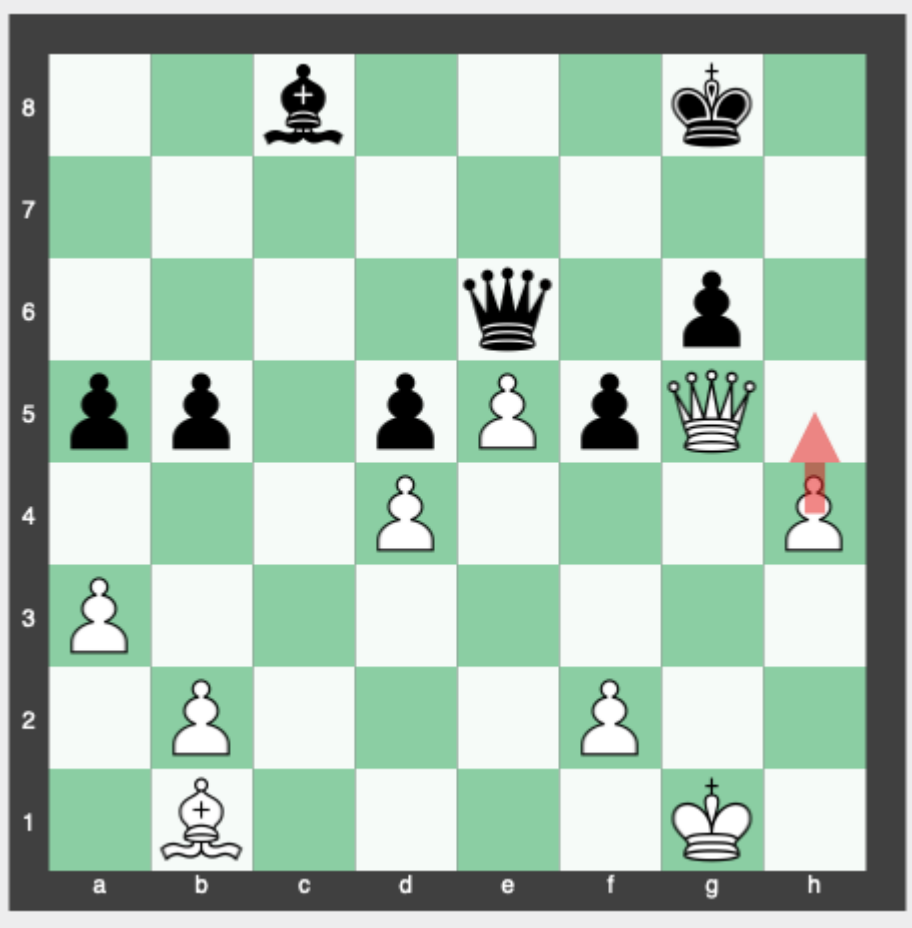


but cracked under pressure, perhaps afraid of exposing the King down the g-file, instead recapturing 28... exf5, gifting White a supported passed e-pawn.

Zhang attacked, invading the seventh rank 29. Rc7

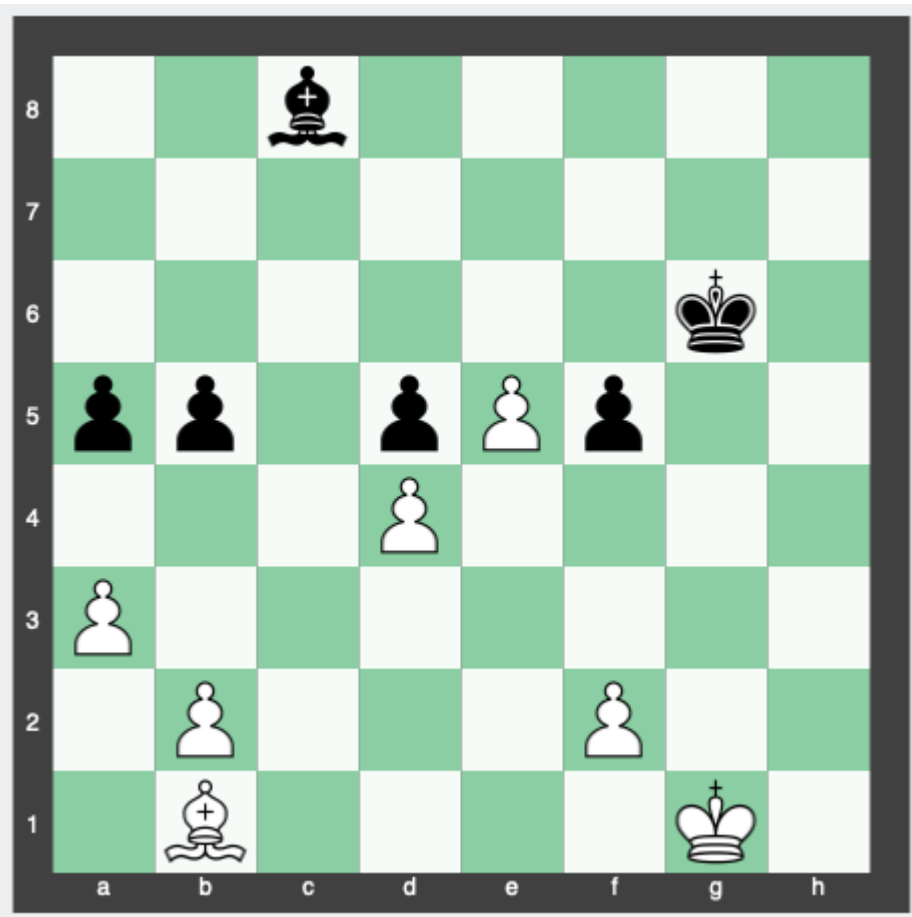


On 34. h5



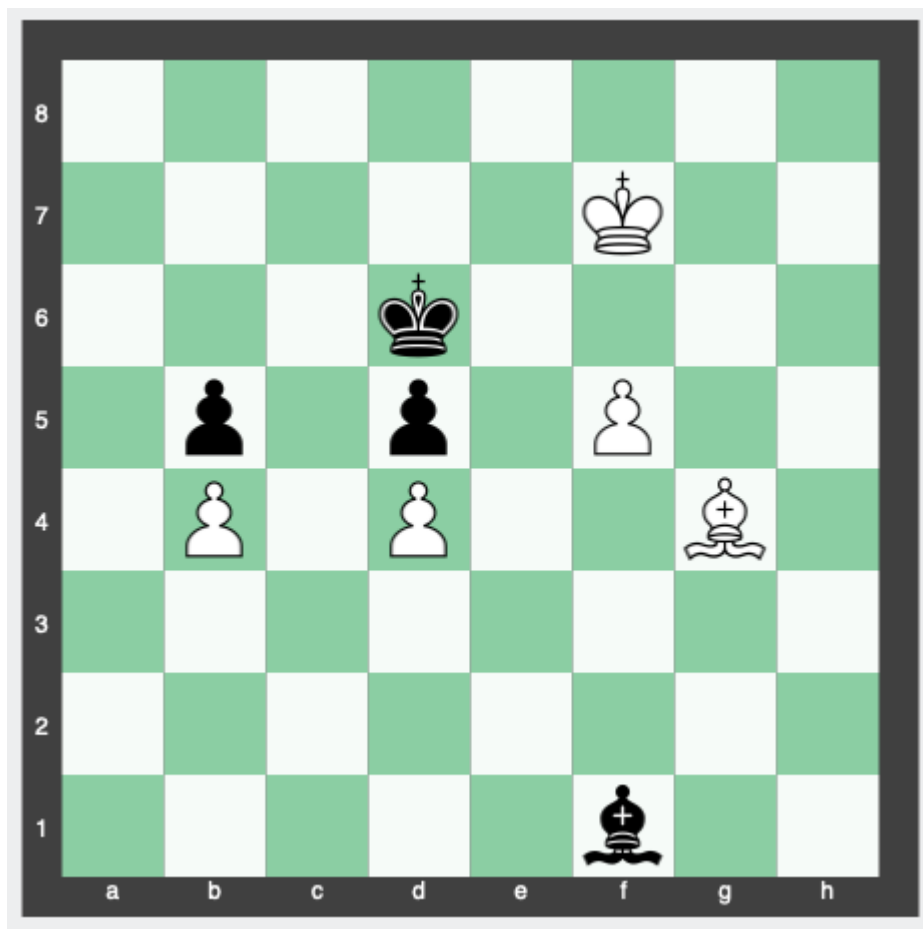
Black's house was ready for collapse.

On 34... Kh7 35. hxg6+ Qxg6 36. Qxg6+ Kxg6



White had a won endgame, which Zhang prosecuted accurately.

At 58. Kf7



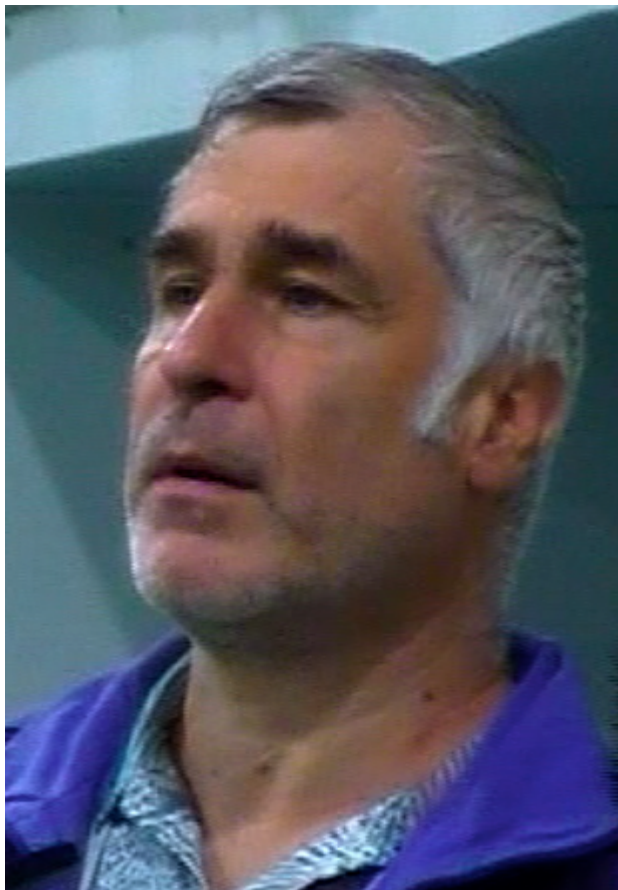
Black resigned.

1-0

Julia Ryjanova lost to Qianyun Gong, Giang Thu Nguyen won over Gladys Wei Le Koh and Alaina Vincent lost to Kun Fang, resulting in a tied match.

Top ranked USA were paired with #15, Ukraine

Yasyl Ivanchuk



reversed the result with Bobby Cheng in round 3, defeating Wesley So, Korobov triumphed over Robson and Ponomarev and Dominguez Perez drew, resulting in a match win for Ukraine, 2.5-1.5

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