

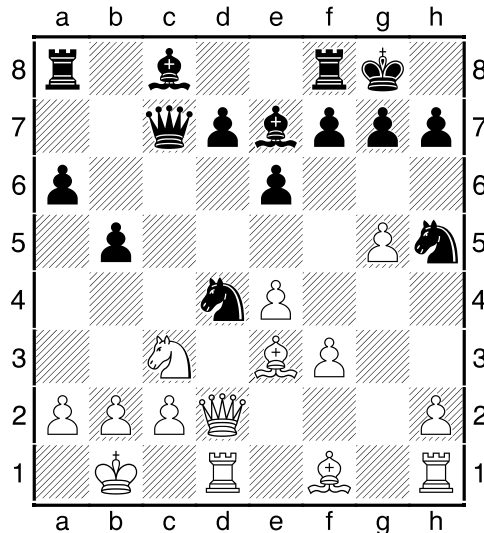
**Caruana (2770)**

**Maciej (2614)**

**40th Greek Team Championship 2012 Porto Rio Hotel (5), 04.07.2012**

[Annotations by GM Jacob Aagaard]

**1.e4 c5 2.♟f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♞xd4 ♞c6 5.♞c3 ♖c7 6.♙e3 a6 7.♚d2 ♜f6 8.0-0 ♙e7 9.f3 0-0 10.g4 b5 11.g5 ♜h5 12.♞b1 ♞xd4!? Diagram**



This is a novel approach. The main line has for some time been:

12...♞e5 13.f4 ♞g4 14.e5 , when equality is a bit elusive. 14...♙b7

(14...b4?! 15.♞e4 ♙b7 16.♙g2 d6 17.♞f6+! ♙xf6 18.♙xb7 ♚xb7 19.exf6± Quesada Perez – Laznicka, Havana 2012.)

15.♞g1 ♞xe3 16.♚xe3 b4

(16...g6 17.♙g2 ♙xg2 18.♞xg2 d5 19.exd6 ♚xd6 20.♞f5 ♚c5 21.♞xe7+ ♚xe7 22.♞gd2± N. Kosintseva – Munguntuul, Nalchik 2011.)

17.♞e4 ♙xe4 18.♚xe4 d5

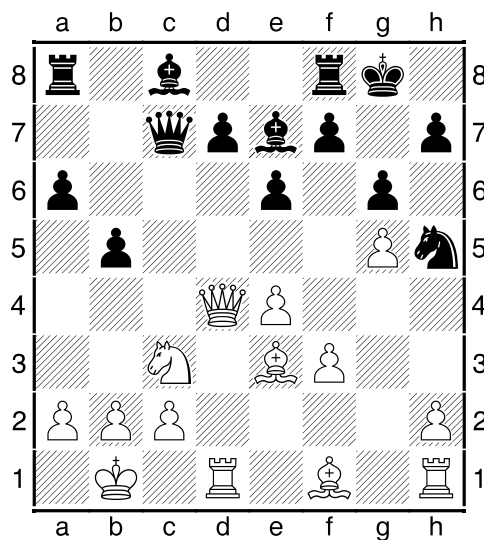
(Believe in the classics. Black's best chance probably arises after 18...g6!? 19.♙e2 ♞g7∞ Erdogdu – Miladinovic, Skopje 2002. It would have been interesting to see what the opening expert Motylev had prepared here.)

19.exd6!

(19.♚e3? g6 20.♙e2 ♞g7∞ Inarkiev – Movsesian, Rogaska Slatina 2011.)

19...♙xd6 20.f5± exf5 21.♞xf5 ♞fe8 22.♚f3 ♙c5? 23.♞g4!± Motylev – Laznicka, Poikovsky 2011.

**13.♚xd4 g6 Diagram**



**14. ♕d2N**

I find it hard to believe that this slow manoeuvre is going to put Black theoretical problems, but of course there are some practical problems to pay attention to.

14. ♕h3 b4 15. ♘e2 (15. ♘a4!?) 15...d5 16. exd5 ♖d8 17. ♗b6 ♗xb6 18. ♙xb6 ♖xd5 19. ♖xd5 exd5 20. ♙g4 ♘g7 lead to equal chances in Saric – Movsesian, Porto Carras 2011.

**14... ♖d8!?**

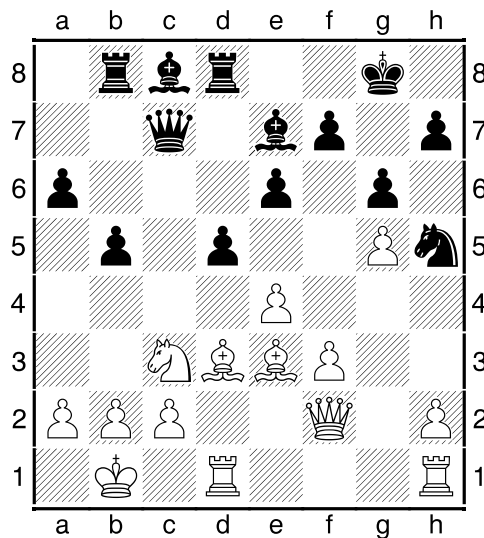
I do not particularly like the rook here, there are later problems with Bb6. But it has its plusses as well.

14... ♖b8! is probably an improvement here. Black awaits 15. ♗f2, against which he can play 15... ♙b7= with the idea of ...b4 and ...d5.

**15. ♗f2 ♖b8 16. ♙d3**

White has seemingly not achieved much, but Black is not forced to come up with a plan.

**16...d5! Diagram**



The only move that makes sense out of the last few Black moves.

16...Rf8 is a Houdini suggestion. The point is to play ...Bb7 and then ...Rfc8.

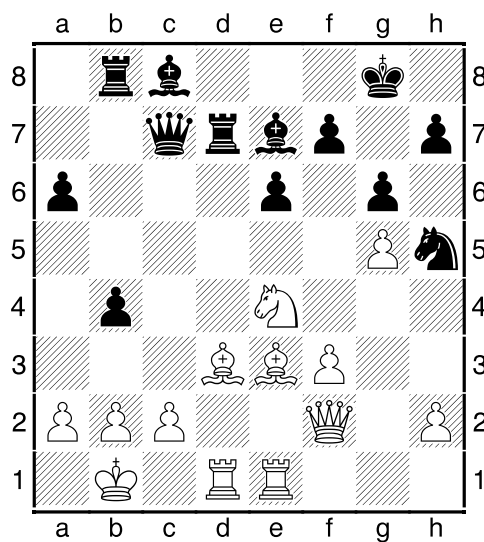
**17.exd5 b4!**

17...exd5 18.f4±

**18.d6!?**

I think Black would have found it harder to meet 18.♘a4 ♜xd5 19.f4 , although his position is only marginally worse.

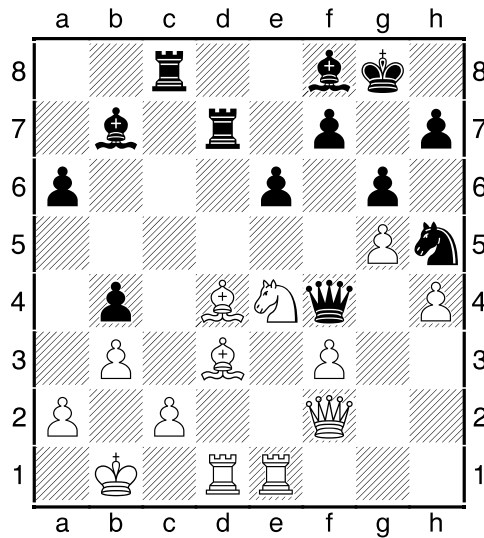
**18...♜xd6 19.♘e4 ♜d7 20.♞he1** Diagram



20...♙b7

20...♘f4!? makes sense too. Get the bad knight to d5 and let it control the board.

21.♙b6 ♖f4 22.h4 ♜c8 23.b3 ♙f8 24.♙d4 Diagram

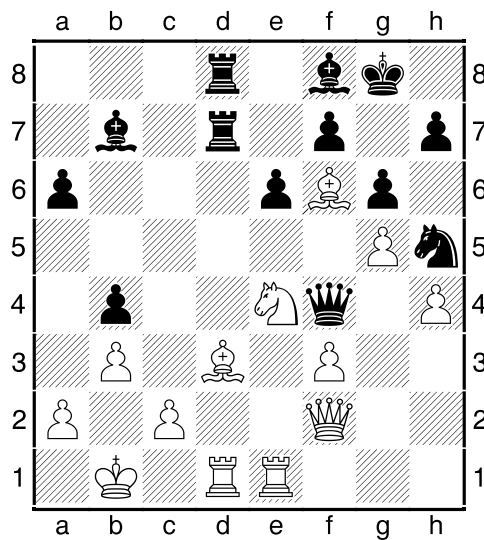


Black is ok, but he cannot really do much. The same is the case with his opponent. The important thing is therefore not to hang anything.

24...♜cd8?

But this is exactly what Black starts to do! 24...♜d5!?= is a pleasant looking non-doing sort of move, which covers the c5-square as a bonus.

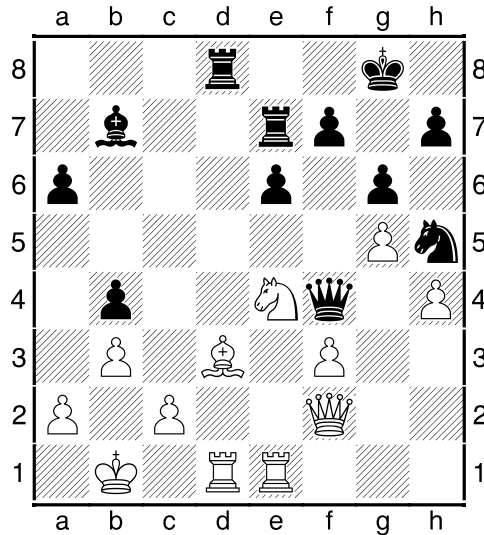
25.♙f6! Diagram



25...♙e7

Black should maybe consider the exchange sacrifice 25...♙xe4!? 26.♙xd8 ♙xd3 27.♖xd3 ♖xd3 28.cxd3 ♗d6±, where Black can fight for a draw with a real chance of success.

26.♙xe7 ♖xe7 Diagram #



27.♗b6?!

This shows how difficult chess is. White wins a pawn and gets winning chances. Of course the Italian no. 1 goes for it. But actually there was a much stronger move:

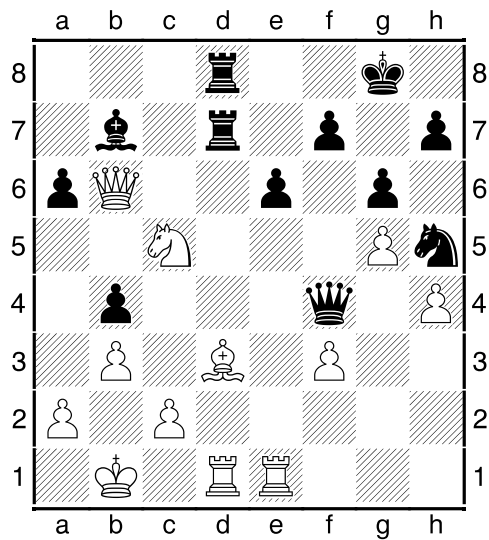
27.♙xa6!!± The b4–pawn is still exposed after this blow. The main point to it is that 27...♖xd1+ 28.♖xd1 ♙xa6? fails to 29.♖d8+ ♔g7 30.♗d4+ f6 31.♖d7! with mate in not too many moves

27...♖ed7?

A further blunder; one mistake is a rare sight, they usually travel in pairs.

27...♗c7 was necessary. After 28.♗xb4 ♖ed7 White has won a pawn, but still have some structural problems. Winning this is not going to be easy; for example: 29.♙e2 ♙xe4 30.fxe4 ♖xd1+ 31.♖xd1 ♖xd1+ 32.♙xd1 ♘g3 33.♙b2 ♗f4±

28.♘c5! Diagram



White just wins material. What did Black miss?

**28...♙xf3 29.♘xd7 ♖xd7 30.♖f1!?**

Even simpler was 30.♙e2! on account of 30...♖xd1+ 31.♖xd1! ♙xe2 32.♖d8+ ♔g7 33.♖c5 with mate.

**30...♜g3 31.♖d2 e5 32.♜xb4 ♙g4 33.♙c4 1-0**