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INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY

by Grivas Efstratios

Monthly Newsletter

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Grivas Chess International Academy

NEWSLETTER 23

OCTOBER 2026



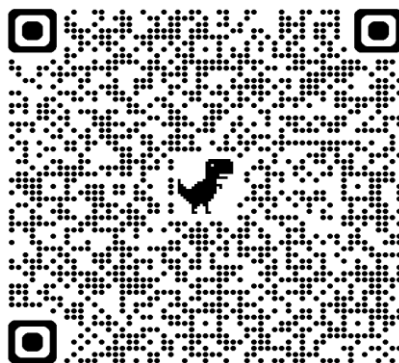
Symbols

+	check	=	equal position
++	double check	oo	unclear position
#	checkmate	oo/=	with compensation
!!	brilliant move	=+	Black is slightly better
!	good move	-/+	Black has a large advantage
!?	interesting move	-+	Black is winning
?!	dubious move	1-0	the game ends in a win for White
?	bad move	½-½	the game ends in a draw
??	blunder	0-1	the game ends in a win for Black
+-	White is winning	(D)	see next diagram
+/-	White has a large advantage	○	White to play
+=	White is slightly better	●	Black to play

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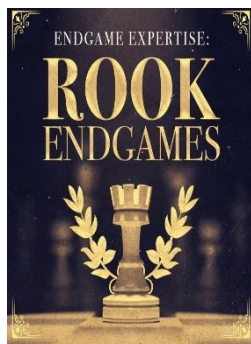


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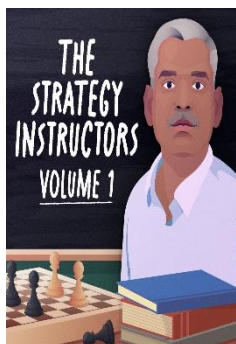
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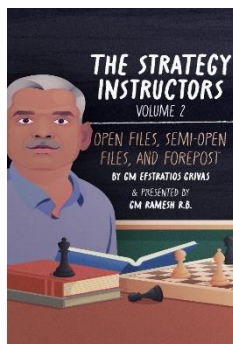
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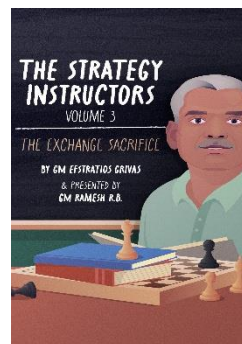
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Ivan Sokolov
Rook Endgames



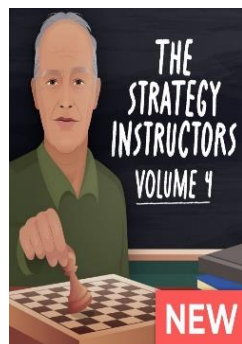
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Ramesh RB
Majority - Minority



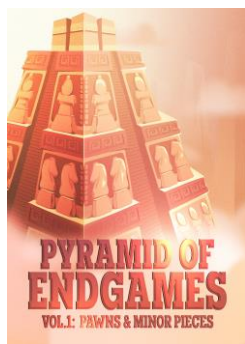
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Ramesh RB
Open Files



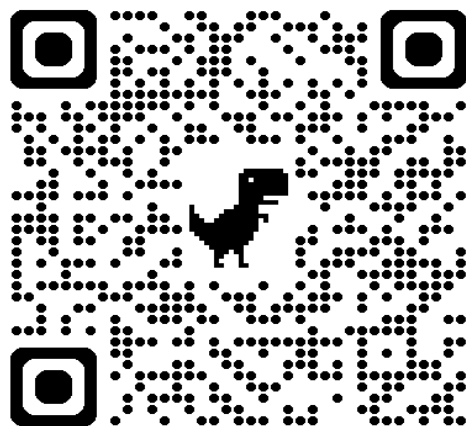
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Ramesh RB
Exchange Sacrifice



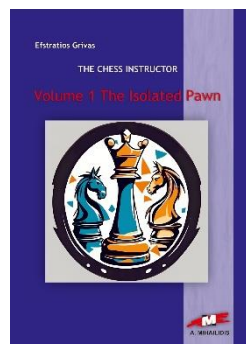
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The Isolated Pawn



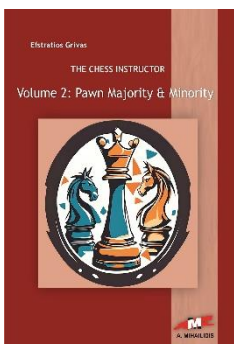
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Antoaneta Stefanova
Pyramid of Endgames
V1



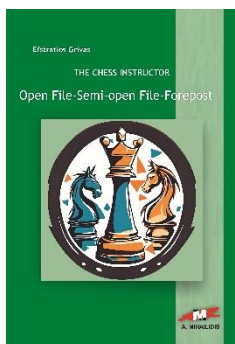
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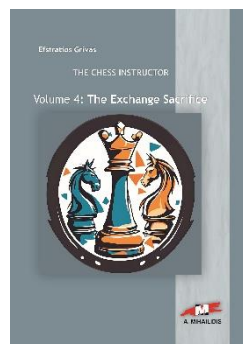
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The Isolated Pawn



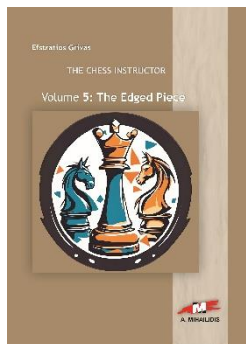
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Majority - Minority



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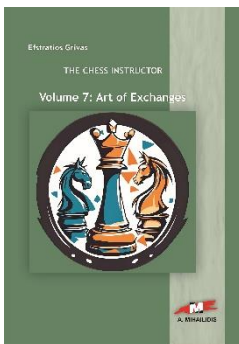
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Exchange Sacrifice



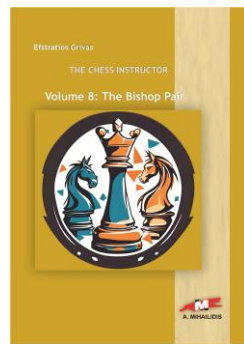
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The Edged Piece



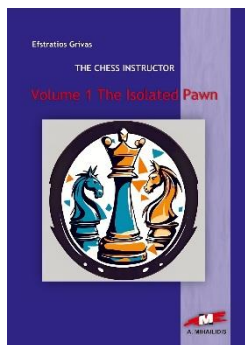
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The Weak Square



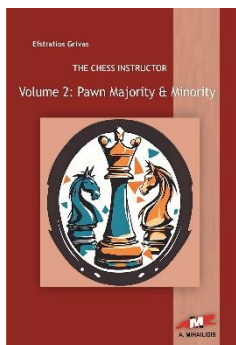
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Art of Exchanges



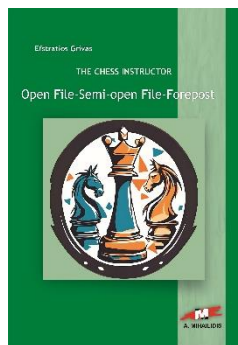
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The Bishop Pair



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The Isolated Pawn



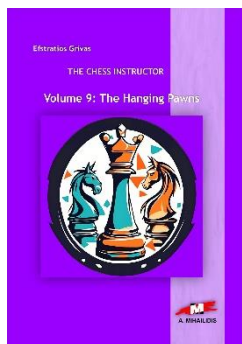
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Majority - Minority



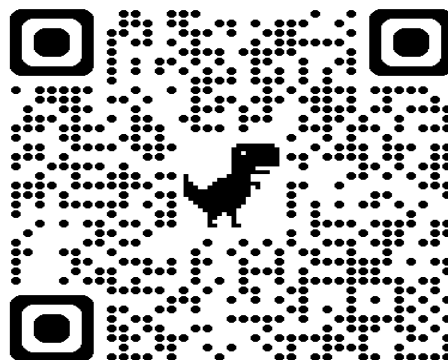
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Exchange Sacrifice



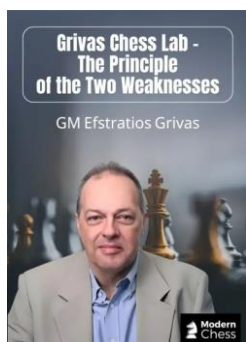
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The Hanging Pawns



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Opposite-coloured
Bishops



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Principle of the
Two Weaknesses



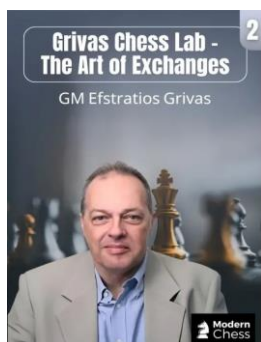
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Strategical and
Tactical Education



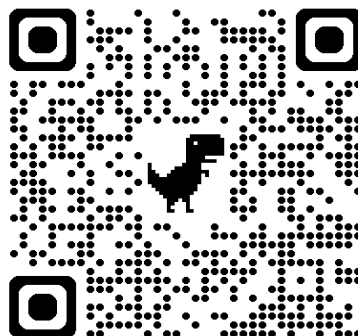
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Armed Against the
Slav Defence



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Art of Exchanges V1



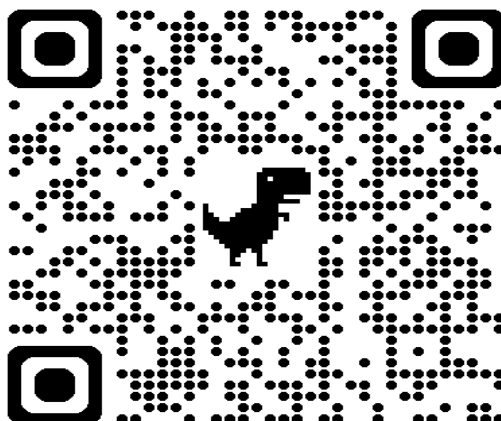
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Art of Exchanges V2



Klidarithmos Courses by Efstratios Grivas



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I Tehniki tis
Telias Aminas



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Looking for Something Good?

Do you like what you have read in this Newsletter? Do you want more material like this?

Are you tired of getting training and not improving? Are you tired of working endless hours and not improving?

Do you believe in quality work assisted by an expert? Then join the Grivas CIA!

What Will we do?

- Analyse yourself and identify your strong and weak points: This should be done as follows:

First you will have a deep look at your last 40 games (20 with white and 20 with the black pieces - no quick draws) and you will fill-up some special tables that I will send you.

This will help us to see how you understand your openings, your middlegame and your endgame.

Then you will send me these (light-analysed) 40 games in a Chessbase file and the tables that you have already filled-up.

I will look at them also and correct your tables.

Finally, as a conclusion, I will send you back your analysed games and my detailed opinion about your strong (in order to improve them) and weak points (in order to minimise them) on your play.

This will take about two months (time mostly depending on you).

- Build an Opening Repertoire: With the help of the previous work, we can build-up a full opening repertoire with both white and black pieces.

This repertoire will be your base for the next 2-3 years at least. I will not only fill-up a repertoire table but I will send you files on your openings and we will discuss your questions and things that you might do not understand.

I will also give you my opinion in certain literature that can help you.

- Understand Middlegame Technique: I will provide you with lot of middlegame material.

For each subject, after we work on it together, you will read the relative material and you will analyse 3-4 of your own games (if not exist then a choice by you) with this certain subject (positional or tactical).

I will check your analyses and I will provide you my opinion and how it can work better.

- Understand Endgame Technique: I will provide you with lot of endgame material.

For each subject, after we work on it together, you will read the relative material and you will analyse 3-4 of your own games (if not exist then a choice by you) with this certain endgame subject.

I will check your analyses and I will provide you my opinion and how it can work better.

- Understand Tactics: You will work on special files that I will provide you, for sharpening your tactical skills.

- Understand Planning: You will work on special files that I will provide you, for sharpening your planning skills.

- General Tips: I will provide you with general tips on how you should prepare and play in tournaments.

As the new year is coming soon and I have still 2-3 open spots for Chess Students, I am calling you to check my CV and message me privately, if you interested to be part of my Training Program, which has produced over 20 GMs, as well, as a high number of other titled players (IMs, WGMs, FMs, and Masters). Internet Individual Lessons or Groups of two to ten persons maximum.

All the best - GM Efstratios Grivas

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- Sessions will be recorded for replaying by the Participants!

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Check my CV in <https://linktr.ee/grivaschess>

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October 2026 Schedule - Rating Level 1300-2100

Date	Time CET	Category	Topic
Thursday 01	18:00 - 19:00	Middlegame	The Bishop Pair
	19:15 - 20:15	Endgame	Knight Endgames
Thursday 08	18:00 - 19:00	Planning	King Prophylaxis
	19:15 - 20:15	Tactics	Back-rank Mate
Thursday 15	18:00 - 19:00	Endgame	Bishop Endgames
	19:15 - 20:15	Middlegame	The Exchange Sacrifice
Thursday 22	18:00 - 19:00	Tactics	Blocking the f6-square
	19:15 - 20:15	Strategy	Centralised Safe King

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The Politics Corner

FIDE Elections 2026

The Procedure

On 26.09.2026, the FID Elections took place, parallel to the Olympic Games. Timur Turlov, President of the Kazakhstan Chess Federation, was elected President of the International Chess Federation (FIDE).

The elections were held on 26 September at the FIDE General Assembly, alongside the 46th Chess Olympiad, in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. T.Turlov won in the second round, with 110 votes. At 38, he becomes the second youngest FIDE President ever elected.



Delegates representing 196 national chess federations took part in the election, with three candidates competing in the race.

In the first round, T.Turlov received 96 votes, Wadim Rosenstein (Germany) received 76 votes, and Jan Henric Buettner (Germany) received 20 votes. In total, 192 votes were cast.

In the second round, which followed two hours later, T.Turlov won by a vote of 110 to 85 (196 votes in total), becoming the eighth President of FIDE. He succeeded Arkady Dvorkovich, who served two terms as President, from 2018 to 2026.

‘We are all one family, and we will continue working as one. This is a great responsibility and a vote for a better future of our sport’, Timur Turlov said following the result.

‘I am grateful to everyone who supported my campaign and to everyone who took part in this election. We may have different opinions, but we all share one belief - that chess is important and that we can do much more to develop it around the world by making our Member Federations stronger and more independent’ he added.

‘I look forward to moving chess forward and giving the game the spotlight it deserves’, T.Turlov concluded.

In his congratulations to Timur Turlov, former FIDE President Arkady Dvorkovich wished him success in his work.

‘T.Turlov has already done a great deal for chess, and I am sure he will do even more now as FIDE President. He and his team have the energy, a clear plan, and resources to deliver and this election result shows Timur has significant backing.

We are all one family, and we all share the same goal - for chess to be bigger, better and stronger in the world’, A.Dvorkovich said.

Abdulla Aripov, Prime Minister of Uzbekistan, host of both the 46th FIDE Olympiad and the FIDE Congress, greeted those attending and noted the country’s commitment to promoting chess and friendship in the world.

Biography: Timur Turlov

Timur Turlov (born on 13 November 1987) is an economist and serves as the Chief Executive Officer of Freedom Holding Corp., an international financial services group listed on the NASDAQ Stock Exchange, with a capitalisation of nearly \$11 billion.

Since January 2023, he has served as President of the Kazakhstan Chess Federation. T.Turlov is also the founding President of the International School Chess Federation (ISCF), established in September 2024.

Playing chess since childhood, T.Turlov - a father of six - has supported chess tournaments in Kazakhstan and abroad. Over

three years, Freedom Holding Corp. allocated approximately \$30 million to the development of chess in Kazakhstan and supported the staging of more than 20 major international FIDE tournaments, becoming one of the largest private sponsors of the game worldwide.

In September 2024, together with FIDE, T.Turlov initiated the founding of the International School Chess Federation and serves as its President.

With a strong belief in the value of education and the role of chess in personal and professional development, the ISCF works with schools, educational organisations, NGOs and national federations to expand chess in education and promote the game among young people worldwide.

He chairs the Turkic Chess Association, which brings together the national chess federations of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Türkiye and Uzbekistan. Under the Association's auspices, the inaugural Turkic Countries Team Chess Championship was held in Astana in 2026.

With a deep connection to chess tradition and a strong belief in innovation, Timur Turlov advocates the use of digital solutions to help FIDE and national federations advance modern, transparent and sustainable governance, improve services and provide more effective support for players and chess communities around the world.

An Agreement

Between voting rounds 1 and 2 an agreement between Malcome Pein (representing J.H.Buettner) which is below. There are more components to it but they agreed not to publish come of them.

Agreement between M.Pein and T.Turlov

Suspended teams not to be readmitted to FIDE competitions. TT to speak and vote against this.

CAS decisions to be respected and actioned in all cases.

A maximum of 25% of people from one nationality in management positions within FIDE.

A separate Ethics Commission or Safeguarding Tribunal to be established in order to fast track allegations of sexual harassment or sexual abuse. This Commission to include members with safeguarding experience.

Beatriz Marinello to be nominated the Chair of the Education Commission

Alex Holowczak to be nominated Chair or Secretary of the Arbiters Commission.

There will be a new appointment for the Head of Legal Affairs in FIDE who will not be from a suspended federation country.

All matters pertaining to FIDE's relations with suspended federations will be handled by a FIDE appointed lawyer who is not from the suspended country.

The Head of PR will not be from a suspended country.

Classical Chess World Championship remains paramount and the pinnacle of FIDE competition.

The Pein-Buettner principle of 30-day mandatory response by FIDE officials to Commission recommendations to be implemented.



Following the FIDE elections and the General Assembly held in Samarkand, FIDE was pleased to announce the composition of the FIDE Council for the 2026-2030 term.

President and Deputy President

1. Timur Turlov (KAZ).
2. Viswanathan Anand (IND).

Elected Vice Presidents

1. Yuhua Xu (CHN).
2. Michael Khodarkovsky (USA).
3. Pavel Kolobkov (RUS).
4. Yassin Souleiman Hassan (DJI).

Members Nominated by the FIDE President

1. Luigi Maggi (ITA) - FIDE Treasurer.
2. Bouchra Kadiri (MAR) - Secretary of the Council / Vice President.
3. Mahir Mammedov (AZE) - Vice President.
4. Carol S. Williams Pesqueira (ARU) - Vice President.
5. Mykhailo Podolyak (UKR) - Vice President.

Honorary Vice-Presidents

1. Rustam Kasimdzhanov (UZB).
2. Javier Ochoa De Echaguen (ESP).
3. Fouad Fahmi Darwish (UAE).
4. Michael Stocttinger (AUT).

Continental Presidents

1. Zurab Azmaiparashvili (GEO) - Europe.
2. Benard Wanjala (KEN) - Africa.
3. Sheikh Sultan Bin Khalifa Al Nehyan (UAE) - Asia.
4. José Antonio Carrillo (PAN) - Americas.



Statement of the Ukrainian Chess Federation

On September 26, 2026, at the General Assembly of the International Chess Federation (FIDE), a new president of the organization was elected. Tymur Turlov, who has been under sanctions since October 2022, was appointed as the new president.

This is in accordance with the decision of the National Security and Defence Council of Ukraine and the Decree of the President of Ukraine. In addition, according to available information, other effective sanctions are being prepared against Turlov.

At the General Assembly meeting, Tymur Turlov announced that Mikhail Podolyak, a citizen of Ukraine, and Pavel Kolobkov, a

citizen of the Russian Federation (rf), have been appointed as vice-presidents of FIDE.

The Ukrainian Chess Federation states that:

1. It has not authorised the citizen of Ukraine Mikhail Podolyak to represent the FIDE in the FIDE.

Mikhail Podolyak has no connection to the Ukrainian Chess Federation and chess life in Ukraine.

2. The citizen of the Russian Federation Pavel Kolobkov, former Minister of Sports of the Russian Federation, cannot hold positions in the FIDE, as the membership of the Russian Chess Federation in the FIDE is currently suspended.

3. The FIDE demands that Mikhail Podolyak and Pavel Kolobkov not be appointed as vice-presidents of the FIDE.

The FIDE believes that the actions of Mikhail Podolyak, taken during the full-scale armed aggression of the Russian Federation, undermine sovereignty and negatively affect the image of Ukraine.

The FSB calls on the Ukrainian public and the media to give a proper assessment of the actions of Mykhailo Podolyak.

When you hear the alarm signal, the sounds of Shaheds, rockets, and explosions, know that at this time Mykhailo Podolyak is cooperating with the Russians as the vice president of the FIDE.



Wadim Rosenstein's Letter to the Electoral Committee

Dear Chairman Roberto Rivello,

As a presidential candidate in the 2026 FIDE Presidential election I want to lodge a formal, written objection against the behaviour of another presidential candidate Mr. Timur Turlov and deputy presidential candidate Mr. Malcolm Pein who is running on the presidential ticket of Mr. Jan-Henric Buettner.

Shortly after you declared the results of the first ballot, you indicated that there had to be a second round of voting as no ticket had got the required majority of votes.

Further, that only I and Mr. Turlov would be the candidates in the second round of voting as Mr. Buettner had finished last with a small number of votes.

Afterwards both Mr. Turlov and Mr. Pein were seen talking.

Shortly before the second round of voting began, Mr. Turlov and Mr. Pein then went in front of the General Assembly and held each other's hands high in the air in a show of support for each other.

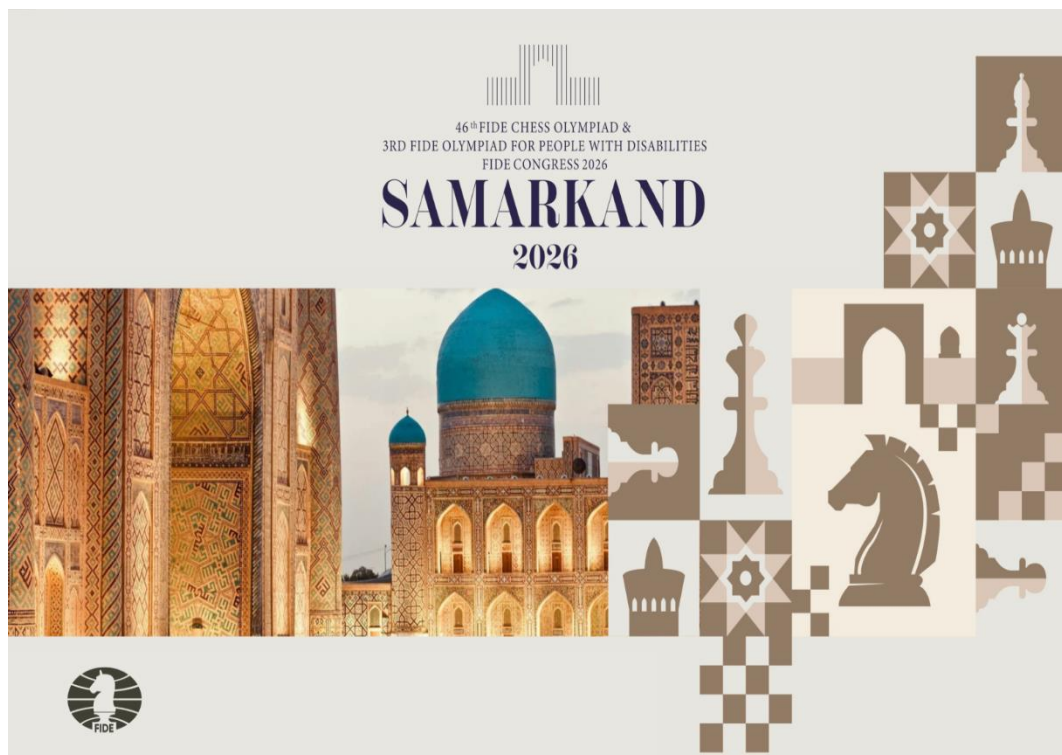
This was greeted with applause from a number of persons present, including delegates.

It is clear that both Mr. Turlov and Mr. Pein sought to 'collude' and/or 'manipulate' the election process in clear breach or violation of the provisions of Rule 9.8 of the FIDE Electoral Rules which state:

'Candidates should not engage in any act, collaboration or collusion by or between candidates with the intent to defraud or manipulate the result of the vote.'

It is clear that by going in front of the General Assembly and holding hands in support both T. Turlov and M. Pein breached the provisions of Rule 9.8. as they sought to 'manipulate' the vote by getting Buettner's/Pein's people to vote for T. Turlov.

I am calling on you as the Chairman of the FIDE Electoral Commission (ELC) to take the necessary steps to schedule a hearing of the ELC as a matter of urgency with a view to disqualifying both the tickets of Mr. T. Turlov/Anand and Buettner/Pein for breaching the FIDE Electoral Rules and bringing the electoral process in disrepute.



Olympiad 2026

Open Section

The Event

Uzbekistan triumph on home soil, collecting second Olympiad gold. India took silver, while Germany claimed bronze and their first team medal since 2000 after beating the Netherlands.

Nodirbek Abdusattorov won individual gold on board one, Frederik Svane repeated his individual success (also gold) from 2024, while Hungary's Gleb Dudin finished with five consecutive wins.



Uzbekistan completed their home Olympiad with gold after defeating Ukraine 2½-1½ in the final round in Samarkand. The hosts finished on 20/22 match points, two clear of India and Germany, to claim their second Olympiad title after their breakthrough victory in Chennai four years ago.

Uzbekistan therefore finished with ten match wins and a single defeat, against Germany in round eight.

Their campaign was built not only on the results of their highest-rated players, but on a remarkably balanced lineup which repeatedly produced points on all four boards.



Time to celebrate! The Uzbek team headed by team captain (and 2004 FIDE World Championship winner) Rustam Kasimdzhanov | Photo: Nils Rohde / ChessBase

The title has a clear link with Uzbekistan's first Olympiad triumph in Chennai in 2022. Four members of this year's five-player squad - Abdusattorov, Yakubboev, Sindarov and Shamsiddin Vokhidov - were also part of that gold-medal team.

The current squad is still exceptionally young. All five players are between 19 and 24 years old, with Yakubboev and Vokhidov the oldest members at 24.

Abdusattorov was again the leading figure. He played in all eleven rounds and finished unbeaten on 8½/11, taking individual gold on board one with a 2869 TPR. He had previously won individual silver on the top board at both the 2022 and 2024 Olympiads. Speaking to chess.com's Mike Klein, the Uzbek star noted:

This is the proudest moment in my life. It's been a tremendous achievement for our team, for Uzbekistan. I'm truly happy.



It was a dream tournament for Nodirbek Abdusattorov | Photo: Nils Rohde / ChessBase

There were individual medals further down the Uzbek lineup as well. Sindarov took bronze on board two, while Yakubboev collected silver on board three.

Four of the five Uzbek players also gained rating in Samarkand, with Vokhidov the lone exception. Abdusattorov gained 18.0 Elo points and Yakubboev 14.4. Sindarov and Abdusattorov now occupy 4th and 5th place respectively in the live world rankings, while Yakubboev has entered the 2700 club and sits 26th on 2712.

Given Uzbekistan's consistency, India's silver medal represented a strong result for the second seeds. Their final match against Hungary ended 2–2, although the result came in an unexpected fashion. Praggnanandhaa Rameshbabu drew Richard Rapport and Nihal Sarin shared the point with Benjamin Gledura, while the remaining two games were decisive.

Gleb Dudin defeated Gukesh Dommaraju on board four, while Arjun Erigaisi beat Peter Leko to restore equality and secure the match point India needed for silver.

Gukesh had arrived at the final round with an exceptional 8½/10 score, but Dudin's win pushed him down to individual silver on board four. The result ended a sequence in which Gukesh had taken gold for his individual performances on board one at both Chennai 2022 -when he represented India 2 - and Budapest 2024.

The defeat cost Gukesh 6.9 rating points on the day, although he still gained 7.1 Elo points over the Olympiad as a whole. He leaves Samarkand ranked 29th in the world and 72 points behind 2782-rated Sindarov, his opponent in the World Championship match that begins in Geneva in less than two months.

Praggnanandhaa also left Samarkand with an individual medal, taking bronze on board one with a 2772 performance rating.



Reigning world champion Gukesh Dommaraju | Photo: Nils Rohde / ChessBase



The golden generation of Indian chess won the 2024 Olympiad and now took silver in Samarkand | Photo: Nils Rohde / ChessBase

Germany took bronze after beating the Netherlands 2½-1½, finishing level with India on 18/22 but behind the defending champions on tiebreaks.

Matthias Bluebaum scored the decisive point by defeating Jorden van Foreest on board two, while Anish Giri drew Vincent Keymer, Loek van Wely drew Frederik Svane and Casper Schoppen shared the point with Rasmus Svane.

The medal ends a 26-year wait for Germany. Their previous team medal in the open section of a Chess Olympiad came in Istanbul 2000, when a team headed by Artur Yusupov and the late Robert Hübner took silver.

Germany's path to bronze featured nine match victories and two losses, without a single draw. Those defeats came against China and India, while they were the only team in the tournament to defeat eventual champions Uzbekistan.

Frederik Svane was their standout performer for a second Olympiad in a row. He played in all eleven rounds and finished undefeated on 8½/11, corresponding to a 2796 performance rating and individual gold on board three.

It was his second successive individual Olympiad gold, after he had scored 8/9 on board five in Budapest two years ago.



Frederik Svane (right) took home individual gold in two consecutive editions of the Chess Olympiad! | Photo: Nils Rohde / ChessBase



Germany reached the podium in the Olympiad for the first time in 26 years! | Photo: Nils Rohde / ChessBase

Four teams ended a match point behind India and Germany on 17/22: the United States, Azerbaijan, Armenia and Hungary. The Americans took fourth place on tiebreaks.

For the top-seeded United States, fourth place will inevitably look less impressive than their starting position suggested. They were never quite able to rejoin the fight for first place after losing to Germany in round five and drawing Armenia in round seven.

They nevertheless finished with a clear 3-1 victory over Türkiye, as Hans Niemann and Levon Aronian scored wins on the bottom two boards.

Aronian finished the event strongly, winning his final two games and collecting individual bronze on board four with 6/8.

Azerbaijan and Armenia also ended the event with match victories, defeating Serbia 2½-1½, and Croatia 3-1, respectively.



Armenia's Shant Sargsyan took individual bronze on board three, with 8/11 and a 2745 TPR | Photo: Nils Rohde / ChessBase

Hungary's seventh-place finish, one position above their seeding, was built in large part on the form of reserve player Gleb Dudin.

Dudin played ten of the eleven rounds and scored 8/10, impressively closing the Olympiad with five consecutive victories. His final win over Gukesh was the most significant of the sequence and secured him individual gold on board five with a 2738 performance rating. For a player rated, defeating the reigning world champion was an appropriate conclusion to one of the strongest individual performances of the event.



21-year-old Gleb Dudin receiving individual gold for his performance on board five alongside India's Savitha Shri | Photo: Nils Rohde / ChessBase

As it is the case in every edition of the Olympiad, players away from the medal-winning teams also produced notable individual results.

Yagiz Kaan Erdogmus, aged 15, scored 8/10 for Türkiye with a 2839 TPR, earning

individual silver on board one behind Abdusattorov.

He gained 15.1 rating points in Samarkand and climbed to 17th place in the live rankings, making him the highest-rated under-20 player in the world, ahead of Gukesh.

Jorden van Foreest also had an outstanding event for the Netherlands, scoring 8/10 with a 2798 TPR on board two.

His tournament ended abruptly, however, when a one-move blunder against Bluebaum turned a drawn position into a final-round defeat.

Van Foreest still took individual silver on board two. He finished with the same TPR as China's Wei Yi, but Wei played one additional game and took gold.

Another notable individual gold went to 17-year-old Ihor Samunenkov of Ukraine. His final-round draw against Yakubboev left him on 8/10 and gave him first place on board four, surpassing Gukesh at the last hurdle.



Jorden van Foreest and Armenia's Mariam Mkrtchyan | Photo: Nils Rohde / ChessBase

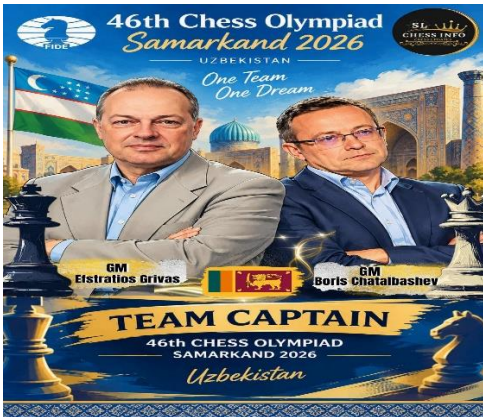


Two well-known rising stars in the chess circuit Yagiz Kaan Erdogmus and Carissa Yip | Photo: Nils Rohde / ChessBase



Top-10 Final Standings (206)		
P	Federation	MP
1	Uzbekistan	20
2	India	18
3	Germany	18
4	United States of America	17
5	Azerbaijan	17
6	Armenia	17
7	Hungary	17
8	China	16
9	France	16
10	Spain	16
30	Greece	14
84	Sri Lanka	12

The Greek team didn't fare well, as ended down on the 30th position, as a result of a poor finish.



I had the privilege of coaching the young, but a bit weak team of Sri Lanka (Open). We ended up slightly better than our original ranking. Obviously, more things should be done for the next Olympiad!

Games

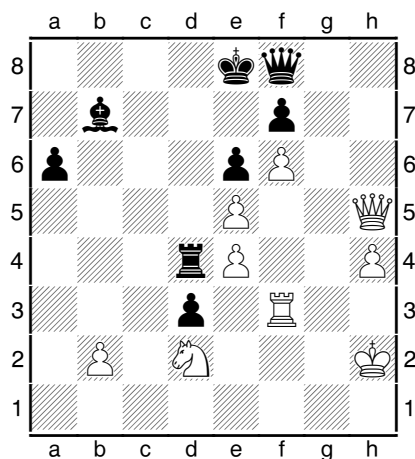
Olympiads always produce a large number of interesting games, but huge surprises as well!

□ Erigaisi Arjun

■ Laohawirapap Prin

D05 Samarkand 2026

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d5 3.e3 c5 4.c3 e6 5.Nbd2 Nbd7 6.Bd3 Be7 7.0-0 0-0 8.Ne5 Nxe5 9.dxe5 Nd7 10.f4 g6 11.c4 Nb6 12.cxd5 Nxd5 13.Qe2 a6 14.Nf3 b5 15.e4 Nb4 16.Bb1 c4 17.Be3 Bb7 18.f5 Re8 19.f6 Bf8 20.Qf2 Qc7 21.a3 Nc6 22.Bb6 Qb8 23.Qg3 b4 24.axb4 Nxb4 25.Be3 Qc7 26.Ra3 Rad8 27.Rc3 Nd3 28.Bxd3 Rxd3 29.Rxd3 cxd3 30.Qf4 Qc2 31.h4 h5 32.Nd2 Rc8 33.g4 Bc5 34.Bxc5 Qxc5+ 35.Kh2 Kf8 36.gxh5 gxh5 37.Qg5 Ke8 38.Rf3 Rd8 39.Qg8+ Qf8 40.Qh7 Qb4 41.Qh8+ Qf8 42.Qxh5 Rd4 (D)



White has got a winning position, but he fails to convert it...

43.Rg3?!

Decisive was 43.Qg5 Kd7 44.Qg7 Ke8 45.Rg3 +-.

43...Kd8 44.Qg5 Qb4!

Finally, some counterplay!

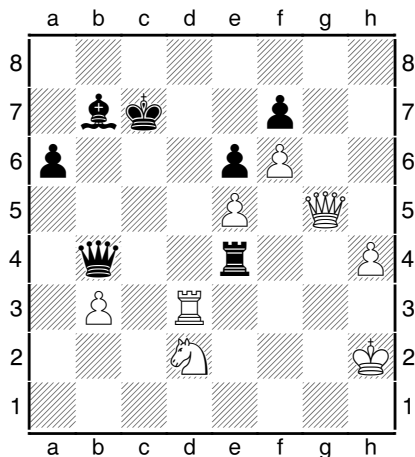
45.b3?!

Again, clear was 45.Rg4 Qxb2 46.Qe3 +-.

45...Rxe4!

There is no time for second thoughts...

46.Rxd3+ Kc7 (D)



47.Nf3?

Losing all the advantage, which could have been preserved by 47.Nxe4 Qxe4 48.Rc3+ Kb8 49.Rc1 Qe2+ 50.Kh3 +-.

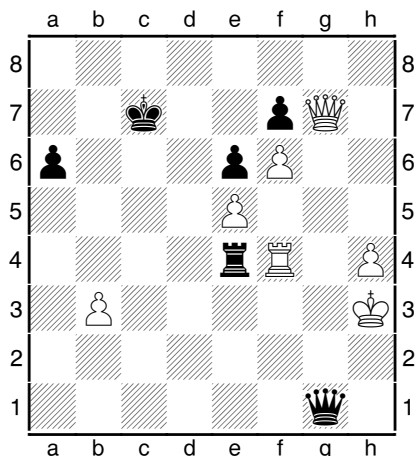
47...Re2+ 48.Kh3 Bxf3 49.Rxf3 Qe1 50.Qg7?

And even lose the game! White could have survived by 50.Qf4 Re4 51.Rf1! =.

50...Qh1+ 51.Kg4 Re4+ 52.Rf4

Or 52.Kg3 Qxh4+ 53.Kg2 Re2+ 54.Kg1 Kc6 -+.

52...Qd1+! 53.Kg3 Qg1+ 54.Kh3 (D)



54...Re3+

And White resigned. One of the biggest upsets of the Olympiad!

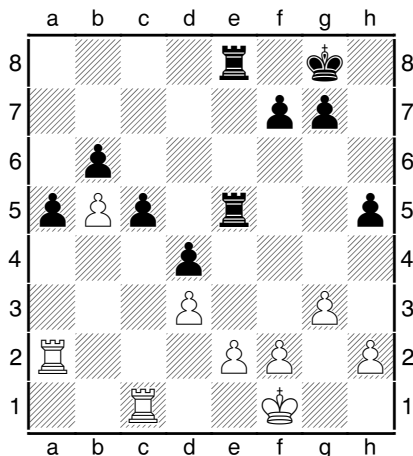
0-1

□ Chiya Mder Hamad

■ So Wesley

A29 Samarkand 2026

1.c4 e5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5
5.Nc3 Nb6 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.a3 Be7 8.0-0 0-0
9.b4 Be6 10.d3 a5 11.b5 Nd4 12.Nxd4 exd4
13.Na4 Bd5 14.Nxb6 cxb6 15.Bxd5 Qxd5
16.a4 Bc5 17.Ba3 Rfe8 18.Re1 Re6 19.Qc2
Rae8 20.Bxc5 bxc5 21.Ra2 h5 22.Qc4 Qd6
23.b6 Qxb6 24.Rc1 Re5 25.Qb5 Qxb5
26.axb5 b6 27.Kf1 (D)



When professionals are mixed with amateurs, the result is the expected one! Here, W.So demolishes his unexperienced opponent in a double rook endgame:

27...g5 28.f3 g4 29.f4 Re3 30.Kf2 h4 31.Rg1
f5 32.Rc2 Kf7 33.Rh1 Ke6 34.Rcc1 Kd5
35.Rc2 Rh8 36.Rcc1 Re7 37.Rce1 Rhe8
38.Rhg1 h3 39.Rgfl a4 40.e4+ fxe4
41.dxe4+ Rxe4 42.Rxe4 Rxe4 43.f5 d3 44.f6
Ke6 45.Kg1 Kf7 46.Rf5 d2
0-1

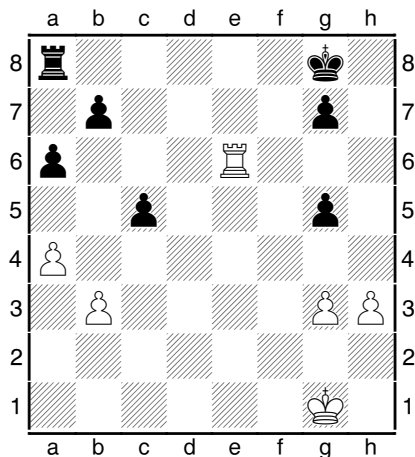
□ Aryan Ali Ehsan

■ Aronian Levon

B91 Samarkand 2026

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6
5.Nc3 a6 6.g3 e5 7.Nde2 Be6 8.Bg2 Nbd7
9.a4 Be7 10.h3 h5 11.Be3 0-0 12.0-0 Qb8
13.b3 Rc8 14.f4 Nf8 15.Qd3 Bd8 16.Nd5
Bxd5 17.exd5 N8d7 18.c4 Ba5 19.fxe5 Nxe5
20.Qf5 Re8 21.Bd4 Qd8 22.Nf4 Bb6 23.c5
Bxc5 24.Bxc5 dxc5 25.Nxh5 Nxh5 26.Qxh5
Qd6 27.Be4 Ng6 28.Qg4 Re7 29.Bxg6 fxg6
30.Rae1 Rxe1 31.Rxe1 Qxd5 32.Qe6+ Qxe6

33.Rxe6 g5 (D)



Black stands a pawn up, but the white rook is rather active.

34.Rb6 Rc8

34...Ra7?! 35.Kf2 +=, wouldn't be a right choice - passivity must be avoided.

35.Rxb7 c4 36.bxc4 Rxc4 37.Rd7 Rxa4

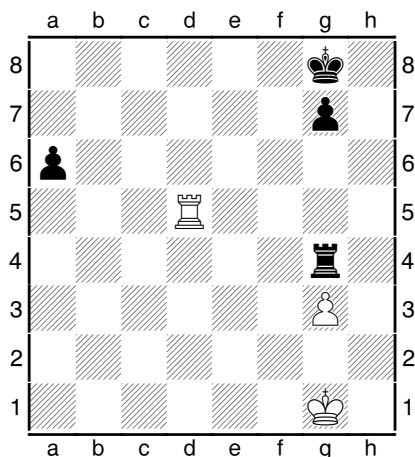
Black won a pawn, but the position is a theoretical draw, as the white rook can be placed behind the passed pawn.

38.Rd5! g4 39.hxg4

Giving Black some chances. 39.h4!, should be OK.

39...Rxc4 (D)

39...Ra2, was the alternative choice, but White can hold after 40.Kf1 Kf7 41.Rd6! =.



40.Kh2 Re4 41.Rd7 a5 42.Ra7 Re5 43.Kh3
g5 44.Kg4!

The right defence is connected to the activity

of the defending king!

44...Kf8 45.Kh5 Ke8 46.Kg6 Kd8 47.Kf6 Rb5 48.Ke6 Kc8 49.Kd6 Kb8 50.Rg7 a4 51.Kc6 Rf5 52.Rb7+ Ka8 53.Rb4! Ra5 54.Re4 Ka7

54...a3?, would even lose to 55.Kb6 +-.

55.Re7+ Ka6 56.Re8!

The continuous mating threats, allow White to save the half-point!

56...Ka7 57.Re7+ Ka6 58.Re8

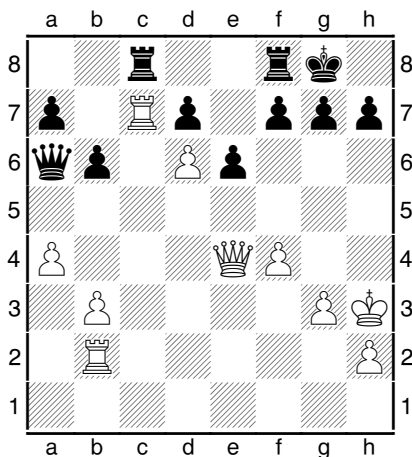
½-½

□ Flores Quillas Diego Saul Rodrigo

■ Sindarov Javokhir

B40 Samarkand 2026

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.b3 b6 4.Bb2 Bb7 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.g3 Nf6 7.Bg2 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.d4 cxd4 10.Nxd4 Nxd4 11.Qxd4 Qc7 12.e5 Bxg2 13.Kxg2 Ne8 14.Ne4 Qc6 15.f3 Qxc2+ 16.Rf2 Qc6 17.Rc1 Qb7 18.Rfc2 Rd8 19.Nd6 Qa6 20.a4 Bg5 21.f4 Be7 22.Kh3 Nxd6 23.exd6 Bf6 24.Qe4 Bxb2 25.Rxb2 Rc8 26.Rc7 (D)



Black is a pawn up, but White seems to have some counterplay on the c-file.

26...Qf1+ 27.Rg2?

The text loses. White had to opt for 27.Kh4 Rxc7 28.dxc7 d5 29.Qe3 Rc8 30.Rc2 h6 +/-.

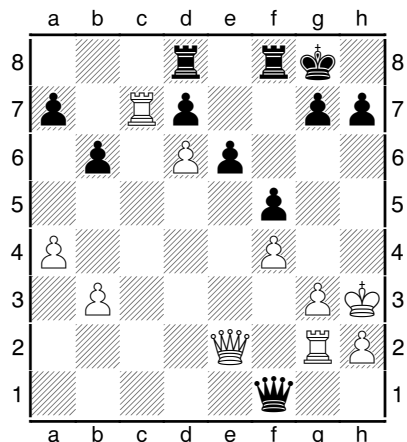
27...f5!

A great move, adding the f8-rook into the attack!

28.Qc2

28.Qe2, doesn't save White after 28...Qxe2 29.Rxe2 Rxc7 30.dxc7 Rc8 31.Rc2 Kf8 -+.

28...Rcd8! 29.Qe2 (D)



A critical position, where White seems to have escaped, but the truth is different!

29...Rf6!

Threatening mate in 1!

30.Kh4 Rh6+ 31.Kg5 Kf7!

The star move - Black doesn't need his queen!

32.Qxf1 Rh3!

The mating net is completed and as it is mate next move by 33...h6 #, White resigned.

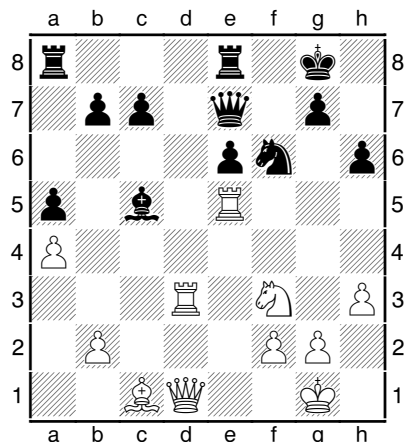
0-1

□ So Wesley

■ Thybo Jesper Sondergaard

C54 Samarkand 2026

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.0-0 Nf6 5.d3 h6 6.c3 d6 7.Re1 0-0 8.Nbd2 Bb6 9.h3 Ne7 10.a4 a5 11.d4 Nc6 12.Ra3 Re8 13.Ba2 exd4 14.cxd4 Nxd4 15.Nxd4 Bxd4 16.Rd3 Bc5 17.e5 Qe7 18.Nf3 dxe5 19.Rxe5 Be6 20.Bxe6 fxe6 (D)



White has invested a pawn for kingside activity.

21.Nh4! b6 22.Qe2 Rad8 23.Rg3! Rd5?

Black blunders! He should have opted for 23...Qd7 24.Kh2 oo/=.

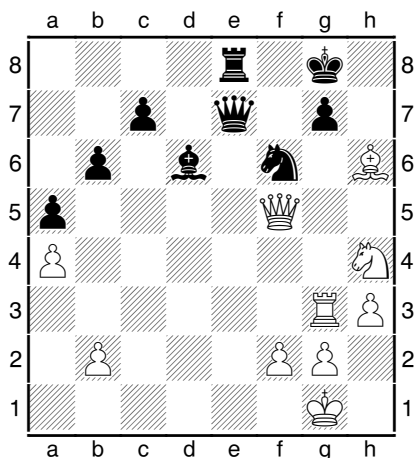
24.Bxh6! Rxe5 25.Qxe5 Bd6

Now it looks like White is in trouble, but...

26.Qxe6+! Kh7

Black cannot play 26...Qxe6?, due to 27.Rxg7+ Kh8 (27...Kf8 28.Ng6 #) 28.Ng6 #.

27.Qf5+ Kg8 28.Qe6+ Kh7 29.Qf5+ Kg8 (D)



After some typical move repetition, White finishes the game off!

30.f4! Qe1+ 31.Kh2 Bf8 32.Bxg7! Bxg7 33.Rxg7+ Kxg7 34.Qg6+ Kf8 35.Qxf6+ Kg8 36.Nf5

And Black resigned, as he is either getting mated, or losing huge material. A great attacking game by the Philippine/American top-player.

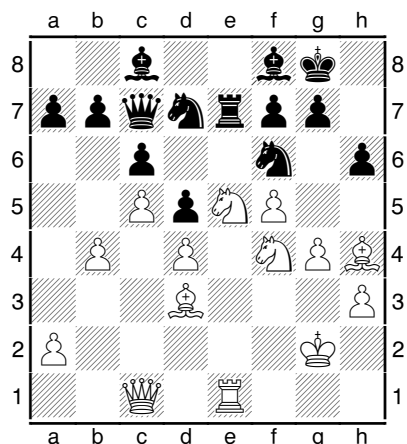
1-0

□ Wei Yi

■ Indjic Aleksandar

C42 Samarkand 2026

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.Nc3 Nf6 6.d4 Be7 7.Bd3 0-0 8.h3 Re8 9.0-0 h6 10.Re1 Bf8 11.Rxe8 Qxe8 12.Bf4 Nc6 13.Qd2 Ne7 14.Re1 Be6 15.Ne2 Bd5 16.Nh2 Qd7 17.c4 Be6 18.g4 d5 19.c5 Ne4 20.Qc1 Nc6 21.f3 Nf6 22.Be3 Re8 23.f4 Qd8 24.Nf3 Ne4 25.f5 Be8 26.Nf4 Nb8 27.b4 c6 28.Ne5 Nf6 29.Bf2 Nbd7 30.Kg2 Re7 31.Bh4 Qc7 (D)



Black is under pressure, as he is suffering from lack of space. White is in hurry to take advantage of it!

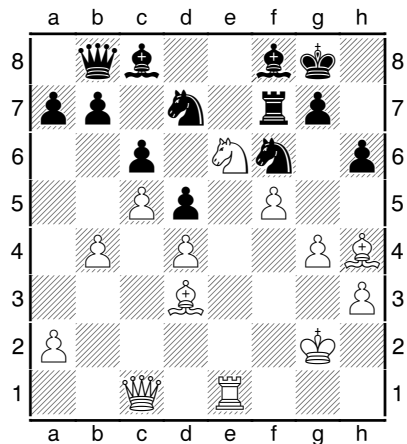
32.Nxf7!

Clearing square e6 for the other knight!

32...Rxf7

32...Rxe1 33.Bxe1 Kxf7 (33...Nxc5 34.Nxh6+ gxh6 35.bxc5 +-) 34.Ne6 +-, isn't much different.

33.Ne6 Qb8 (D)



Now a windmill on the black queen will emerge!

34.Bg3! Qa8 35.Nc7 Qb8 36.Ne6 Qa8 37.Nc7

A typical move repetition to reach move 40 as quicker as it is possible.

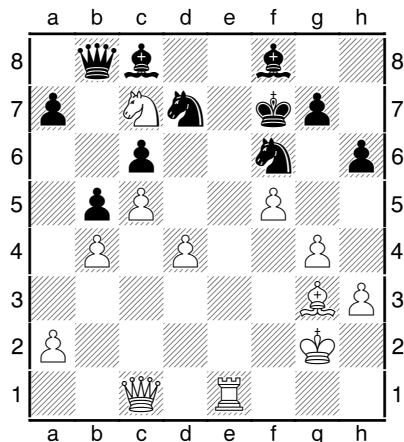
37...Qb8 38.Nxd5!

Starts the harvesting.

38...Qa8

Or 38...Qxg3+ 39.Kxg3 cxd5 40.h4 +-.

39.Nc7 Qb8 40.Ne6 Qa8 41.Nc7 Qb8
42.Bc4! b5 43.Bxf7+ Kxf7 (D)



It looks like Black can survive, but...

44.Qe3! Kg8 45.Qb3+ Kh8 46.Qf7! Bb7
47.Ne8! Qd8 48.Bc7

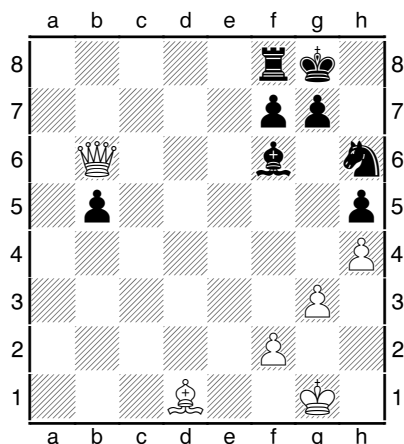
And Black resigned, due to 48...Qc8 49.Bd6
+-.
1-0

□ So Wesley

■ Bluebaum Matthias

E05 Samarkand 2026

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.g3 Be7 5.Bg2 0-0
6.0-0 dxc4 7.Qc2 a6 8.a4 Bd7 9.Rd1 Bc6
10.Bg5 b5 11.Bxf6 Bxf6 12.Nc3 Qe8 13.d5
exd5 14.Nd4 Qe5 15.e4 dxe4 16.Nxe4 Bxe4
17.Bxe4 Ra7 18.axb5 Qc5 19.Nc6 Nxc6
20.Rd5 Qxd5 21.Bxd5 axb5 22.Rxa7 Nxa7
23.b3 cxb3 24.Bxb3 Nc8 25.Qxc7 Ne7 26.h4
h5 27.Qb6 Nf5 28.Bc2 Nh6 29.Bd1 (D)

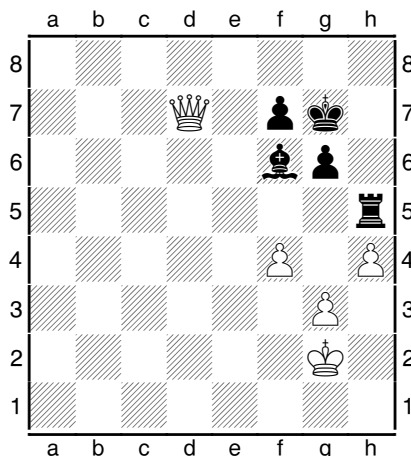


It looks like Black will not hold, but in the
end he is just proving that he made his
endgame homework!

29...Ng4! 30.Qxb5 g6 31.Bxg4 hxg4 32.Qc4
Kg7 33.Qxg4 Rh8! 34.Kg2 Rh5 35.f4 Kg8
36.Qe2 Kg7

36...Bxh4 37.gxh4 Rxh4 =.

37.Kf3 Ra5 38.Qe1 Rh5 39.Kg2 Bd8
40.Qd2 Be7 41.Kf3 Bf6 42.Kg2 Be7 43.Qd7
Bf6 (D)



44.g4 Rxh4 45.g5 Bxg5!

45...Rxf4 46.gxf6+ Rxf6 47.Qd4 g5 =.

46.fxg5 Rf4 47.Kg3 Rf5 48.Kg4 Kg8
49.Qd8+ Kg7 50.Qa8 Rf1 51.Kg3 Rf5
52.Qd8 Rf1 53.Qd4+ Kg8 54.Qd3

½-½

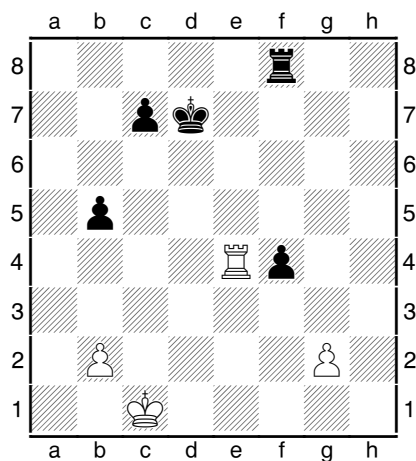
The next game was an important one for the
final standings, as clinched the 10th win (2½-
1½ vs. Ukraine) for the unstoppable Uzbeks!
A really historical one!

□ Dehtiarov Roman

■ Madaminov Mukhiddin

C77 Samarkand 2026

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.d3
b5 6.Bb3 Bc5 7.c3 d6 8.Bg5 h6 9.Bh4 g5
10.Bg3 Bb6 11.a4 Rb8 12.Nbd2 Ne7
13.axb5 axb5 14.d4 Ng6 15.dxe5 dxe5
16.h4 Ng4 17.hxg5 Nf4 18.Bxf4 exf4
19.Nd4 Bxd4 20.cxd4 Qxd4 21.Qe2 hxg5
22.Rxh8+ Qxh8 23.0-0 Qd4 24.Nf3 Qxf2
25.Qxf2 Nxf2 26.Rd2 Nxe4 27.Re2 f5
28.Nxg5 Bb7 29.Bc2 Kd7 30.Nxe4 fxe4
31.Bxe4 Bxe4 32.Rxe4 Rf8 (D)



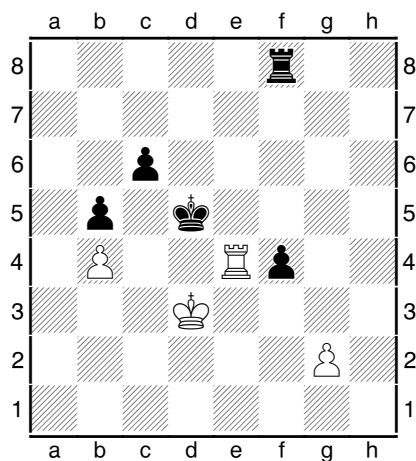
Black is a pawn-up, but he can't easily convert it; if not at all!

33.b4?

A huge blunder. White could hold by 33.Re5! c6 34.Rg5 =.

33...Kd6 34.Kd2 Kd5 35.Kd3 c6? (D)

35...c5, was an easy win: 36.bxc5 (36.Re2 c4+ 37.Kc3 Rg8 -+) 36...f3! 37.gxf3 Rxf3+ 38.Re3 Rxe3+ 39.Kxe3 Kxc5 -+.



36.Re7?

Returning the favour. 36.Rd4+ Ke5 37.Re4+ Kf5 38.Re7 =, seems to hold.

36...Rg8! 37.Rd7+ Ke5 38.Re7+ Kd6 39.Rf7

39.Re2 Kd5 40.Kc2 Rg3 -+.

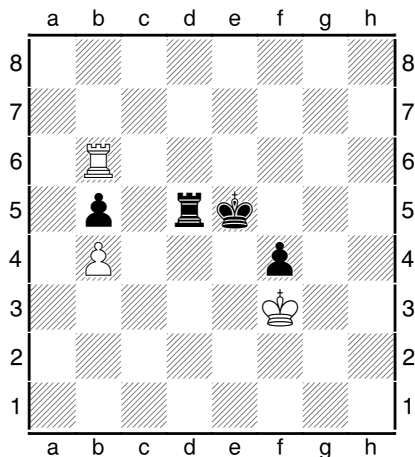
39...Rg4?!

39...Rg3+! 40.Ke4 Rb3 -+.

40.Rf6+ Ke5 41.Rxc6 Rg3+!

41...Rxc6? 42.Rc5+ =.

42.Ke2 Rxc6+ 43.Kf3 Rg3+ 44.Kf2 Rd3! 45.Rb6 Rd5 46.Kf3 (D)



Now, it is easy for Black...

46...Kd4! 47.Rc6 Re5 48.Kxf4 Re4+!

The killing idea!

49.Kf3

49.Kf5 Kd3 -+.

49...Kd3 50.Rc5 Rxb4

As the white king is cut-off, the win is in sight.

51.Rd5+ Kc4 52.Ke4 Rb1 53.Rd4+ Kc3

54.Rd3+ Kc2 55.Kd4

55.Rd8 Re1+ 56.Kf3 b4 -+.

55...Rb4+

And White resigned, due to 56.Kc5 (56.Ke3 Rb3 -+) 56...Rc4+ -+.

0-1



**SAMARKAND
2026**

□ Bluebaum Matthias

■ Van Foreest Jorden

D37 Samarkand 2026

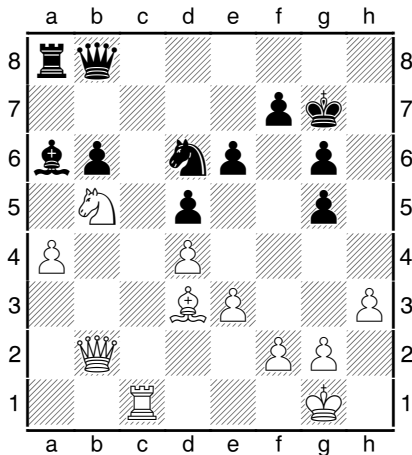
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 h6 5.a3 a6

6.c5 Nc6 7.b4 g6 8.Bb2 Bg7 9.e3 0-0 10.Bd3

b6 11.cxb6 cxb6 12.0-0 Bb7 13.b5 axb5

14.Nxb5 Qb8 15.a4 Rd8 16.Ba3 Bf8

17.Bxf8 Rxf8 18.Qb3 Ba6 19.Rfc1 Rc8
20.h3 Kg7 21.Qa3 Ne4 22.Qb2 Ng5
23.Nxg5 hxg5 24.Rc2 Ne7 25.Rxc8 Nxc8
26.Rc1 Nd6 (D)



Black seems to get near to full equality, but...

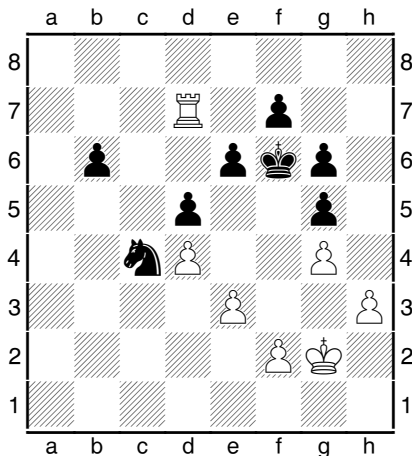
27.Nc7! Bxd3 28.Nxa8 Qxa8 29.Qa3!

The point - double attack is lethal...

29...Ne4 30.Qxd3

And White converted his material advantage.

30...Qxa4 31.Qc2 Qa6 32.Rb1 Nd6 33.Qc3
Ne4 34.Qc2 Nd6 35.Qb2 Nc4 36.Ra1 Qc8
37.Qb4 Qc7 38.Ra8 Nd6 39.Qa3 Nc8
40.Qa1 Qc4 41.Rb8 Qc7 42.Ra8 Qc4 43.g4
Qc2 44.Qa4 Qc1+ 45.Kg2 Nd6 46.Qa3 Qc7
47.Qa7 Qxa7 48.Rxa7 Kf6 49.Rd7 Nc4 (D)



50.Rb7 e5 51.dxe5+ Kxe5 52.Rxf7 d4
53.Re7+ Kd6 54.Re4 b5 55.Rxd4+ Kc5
56.Kf3 b4 57.Ke2 b3 58.Rxc4+ Kxc4
59.Kd2 Kb4 60.Kc1 Kc3 61.Kb1 Kd3

62.Kb2 Kc4 63.f4 Kd5 64.f5

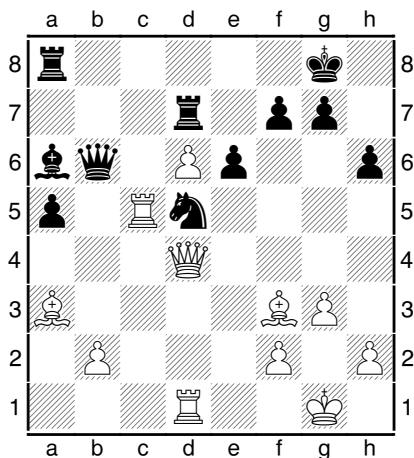
1-0

□ Erdogmus Yagiz Kaan

■ Oro Faustino

E04 Samarkand 2026

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Bg2 dxc4 5.Nf3
a6 6.0-0 Nc6 7.Nbd2 Nxd4 8.Nxc4 Nxf3+
9.Bxf3 Bd6 10.Qb3 0-0 11.Rd1 Qe7
12.Nxd6 cxd6 13.Qa3 Rd8 14.Be3 Rd7
15.Bb6 Nd5 16.Ba5 b5 17.e4 Nf6 18.e5 Nd5
19.Bb4 Bb7 20.exd6 Qd8 21.Rac1 a5
22.Bc5 b4 23.Qd3 h6 24.a3 bxa3 25.Bxa3
Qb6 26.Rc5 Ba6 27.Qd4 (D)



Black is in trouble, but he can still fight.

27...Rxd6?

But not like that! He should have opted for

27...Bb7! 28.Rcc1 (28.Rxd5? Qd8! oo/=)

28...Qb5 29.Rd2 +/-.

28.Rxd5! exd5

Or 28...Qxd4 29.Rxd6! +/- And Black lost on
time, but his position is already rather
unpleasant: 29.Bxd6 Qxd6 30.Bxd5 +/-.

1-0



Olympiad 2026

Women Section

The Event

A clear win for China in Women's Chess Olympiad, while Kazakhstan and India completed the podium.

In the final round of the Women's Chess Olympiad, China, led by top board Zhu Jiner, defeated Vietnam 3-1 to secure first place outright with 20 match points. Their rivals did not fare as well. Kazakhstan drew with Poland, while India drew with Georgia.

As a result, Kazakhstan's 18 points were enough for second place, while India took third on tiebreak ahead of the United States, Poland, Armenia and Mongolia, all of whom finished on 17 points.



The Chinese team remained unbeaten in the women's section. The team suffered only two individual losses in total. In the team matches in which they suffered an individual defeat, China drew 2-2 instead of winning.

With a total of 20 match points, China pulled clear of the competition and won gold. Zhu Jiner also stood out with her individual performance on board one. For scoring 7 points from 9 appearances and achieving a tournament performance rating of 2638, J.Zhu received individual gold.

Several of Zhu Jiner's teammates also finished in the top ten on their respective boards. Like Zhu Jiner, Lu Miaoyi finished

first in the individual standings on board three. She scored 9½ points from 11 games and achieved a tournament performance rating of 2576.



Nodirbek Abdusattorov and Zhu Jiner are honoured for their individual performances on board one | Photo: Nils Rohde / ChessBase



Frederik Svane and Lu Miaoyi win individual gold (board three) | Photo: Nils Rohde / ChessBase

For her results on board two, Song Yuxin received the bronze medal in the individual standings. She scored 8 points from 11 games and achieved a tournament performance rating of 2492.

On the reserve board, Mo Zhai finished sixth in the individual standings with 5 points from 8 games and a tournament performance rating of 2295.

Top-10 Final Standings (189)		
P	Federation	MP
1	China	20
2	Kazakhstan	18
3	India	17
4	United States of America	17
5	Poland	17
6	Armenia	17
7	Mongolia	17
8	Georgia	16
9	Vietnam	16
10	Slovenia	16
23	Greece	15
34	Sri Lanka	14

The Greek team lost in the last round to Mongolia, also losing the chance to climb at least on the top-6!

Good coaching by GM Hristos Banikas, was the key-point for this young and strong team.

The Sri Lanka team faired excellent, winning the gold medal in their Category (C), with a round to spare!

Passing the Olympiad Flag

As tradition dictates, the closing ceremony then turned its attention to the future. The Olympiad flag was formally handed over to the hosts of the next edition to be held in the UAE in 2028.



Hussein Abdullah Al-Khoury, the Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Chess Club and the Tournament Director of the 47th Chess Olympiad and Abdulraheem Al Zarooni, Corporate Communications Office Director - Abu Dhabi Sports Council, Chairman of the Accommodation and Travel Committee for 47th FIDE Chess Olympiad in UAE, received

the flag from Alisher Sadullayev, First Vice President of the Uzbekistan Chess Federation.

As the handover took place on stage, the giant screens came alive with images of Abu Dhabi, offering the thousands of guests a first glimpse of the city that will welcome the chess world for the next Olympiad in 2028.

A Spectacular Farewell

To bring the ceremony to its conclusion, FIDE President Timur Turlov took to the stage to thank President Shavkat Mirziyoyev for his tremendous support for chess and for the Olympiad.

He also expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Abdulla Aripov, as well as to the governments, chess federations and organising committees whose work had made the event possible.



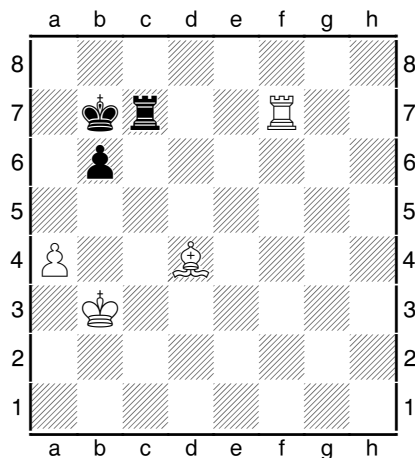
After a few more words of encouragement, translated into Uzbek for the local audience, T.Turlov received a warm round of applause before officially declaring the 46th Chess Olympiad closed.

And then, fittingly, the sky became the final stage of the evening. Magnificent fireworks burst over Samarkand.



Games

□ Guichard Pauline
 ■ Kaliakhmet Elnaz
 D38 Samarkand 2026 ○



Here White committed the blunder of the Olympiad!

89.Kb4?

89.Rf5 +-.

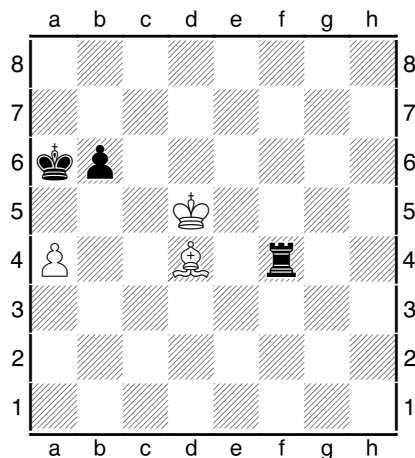
89...Rxf7

The position now is equal, but White even lost it; some things cannot be swallowed...

90.Bc3 Rf5 91.Kc4 Kc6 92.Bd4?

92.Bb4 =.

92...Rf4! 93.Kc3 Kb7! 94.Kc4 Ka6 95.Kd5 (D)



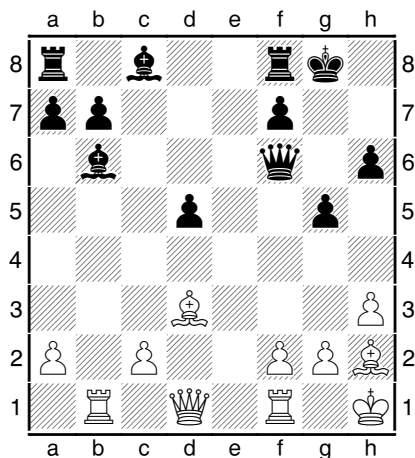
95...Rxd4+! 96.Kxd4 Ka5 97.Kc3 Kxa4 98.Kc2 Ka3 99.Kb1 b5 100.Ka1 Kb3

101.Kb1 b4 0-1

□ Daulyte Cornette Deimante
 ■ Injac Teodora

C01 Samarkand 2026

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.h3 Bd6 6.Bd3 0-0 7.0-0 c5 8.dxc5 Bxc5 9.Bg5 h6 10.Bh4 g5 11.Bg3 Ne4 12.Bh2 Nc6 13.Nc3 Nxc3 14.bxc3 Qf6 15.Nd4 Nxd4 16.cxd4 Bxd4 17.Rb1 Bb6 18.Kh1 (D)



White has sacrificed a pawn for the initiative on the weakened black king.

18...Bf5?

A blunder. Forced was 18...Bd7 19.f4 g4! 20.f5! gxh3 21.Qg4+ Kh7 22.Qxh3 oo/=.

19.Qf3!

And as Black is losing material, she resigned...

1-0

□ Arelong Abon

■ Gamba Francois

C20 Samarkand 2026

1.e4 e5 2.h3 Bc5 3.h4 Qf6 4.Nc3 Qxf2 #

What can we say for this game? The absolute Olympiad tourist was revealed... Well, of course only some games were so weak (to put it smoothly), but still it makes you uncomfortable and think that you are also deserving to play in the Olympiad!

0-1

Ten Twenty Club Grivas Chess International Academy

Ten
Twenty
Club



Can You Spot a Trained Coach?

7 behaviours that give it away

It's not about asking better questions. It's about what they don't do.

By G  raldine Gauthier

	Not trained	Trained
1 Silence	Rushes to fill the silence.	Lets the silence work. Gives the client space to think.
2 Questions	Stacks 2-3 questions at once.	Asks one clear question, then listens.
3 Solutions	Moves too fast into advice or problem-solving.	Stays with the person before solving the problem.
4 Listening	Hears the story at surface level.	Notices the words behind the words: 'I have to', 'I'll try', 'I'm fine'.
5 Depth	Focuses only on the situation being described.	Listens for beliefs, emotions, patterns, and identity.
6 Challenge	Avoids challenge or overcompensates by pushing.	Challenges respectfully, without needing to be right.
7 Presence	Wants to sound smart or ask the perfect question.	Cares more about the client's answer than their own performance.

An Obituary

IM Georgios Makropoulos (Greece)

Fair-Well My Friend...

It was the Opening Ceremony day of the 46th Chess Olympiad 2026, the 15th of September 2026; a long awaited moment by the chess community.

I was scrolling on my mobile, when suddenly I was frozen looking at it. My long-time friend of more than 45 years have passed away, following a two-weeks period in the hospital.

I knew that he wasn't good, as his intestines' cancer was already too much 'advanced' to stop it.

But I wasn't simply didn't expect it, at least so quickly...

'Makro' wasn't anymore with us. Just days before his 73rd birthday (born 1953), he decided to goodbye us, once and forever...

Fair-well my friend...

Personal Life and Death

Georgios Makropoulos (Greek: Γεώργιος Μακρόπουλος; 29 September 1953 - 15 September 2026) was a Greek chess player.

He achieved the title of International Master (IM) in 1979 and was a seven-time Greek Chess Championship winner (1971, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1978, 1980, 1985).

G.Makropoulos died on 15 September 2026, at the age of 73. His widow is the chess player WGM Marina Makropoulou.

Chess Player Career

As a player, G.Makropoulos belonged to the Greek chess elite in the 70s and 80s. He twice participated in World Junior Chess Championship (1969, 1971).

Between 1971 and 1985, G.Makropoulos won the Greek Chess Championship seven times. He was International Master since 1979 and achieved a Grandmaster norm in the 1980 *Banco di Roma* tournament.

G.Makropoulos played for Greece in the Chess Olympiads:

- In 1972, at first reserve board in the 20th Chess Olympiad in Skopje (+4, =8, -2).

- In 1974, at first board in the 21st Chess Olympiad in Nice (+3, =1, -3).

- In 1980, at first board in the 24th Chess Olympiad in Valletta (+5, =3, -3).

He played for Greece in the European Team Chess Championships:

- In 1989, at sixth board in the 9th European Team Chess Championship in Haifa (+3, =2, -2).

G.Makropoulos played for Greece in the Men's Chess Balkaniads:

- In 1971, at third board in the 3rd Men's Chess Balkaniad in Athens (+0, =1, -0) and won individual bronze medal.

- In 1973, at fourth board in the 5th Men's Chess Balkaniad in Poiana Braşov (+2, =0, -2).

- In 1978, at first board in the 10th Men's Chess Balkaniad in Băile Herculane (+1, =0, -3).

- In 1979, at first board in the 11th Chess Balkaniad in Bihać (+1, =2, -2).

- In 1981, at first board in the 13th Chess Balkaniad in Athens (+0, =0, -4).

- In 1983, at fourth board in the 15th Chess Balkaniad in Băile Herculane (+1, =3, -0) and won individual silver medal.

- In 1985, at sixth board in the 17th Chess Balkaniad in Iraklio (+2, =2, -0) and won individual silver medal.

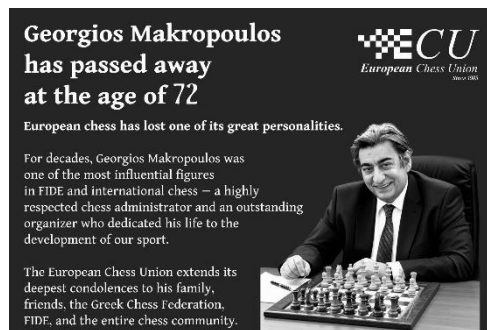
Chess Official Career

G.Makropoulos worked from 1977 as a journalist for the Athens daily newspaper *Eleftherotypia*.

He was President of the Greek Chess Federation since 1982. Numerous international chess events took place in Greece under his aegis, including the two Chess Olympiads in Thessaloniki: 1984 and 1988.

After the President of FIDE Florencio Campomanes awarded the Chess Olympiad 1986 to Dubai in 1984 and the organising Chess Federation of the United Arab Emirates then announced that it would not

invite the Israeli team, G.Makropoulos together with Raymond Keene and Don Schultz was member of a negotiation commission, which from the end of 1984 was supposed to find solutions to the crisis that had arisen on behalf of FIDE.



Despite international protests and despite the commission's efforts, the Israeli team did not take part in the Dubai Olympics. At the FIDE Congress in Dubai, the statutes were changed in such a way that future refusal by the hosts of individual associations to FIDE events should only be possible with the consent of a three-quarters majority of the FIDE General Assembly.

In 1986, G.Makropoulos became Vice President of FIDE. In 1990, he moved to the position of Secretary General of the organisation, a position he held until 1996.

After that, G.Makropoulos was Deputy President of FIDE until 2018. In 2006, G.Makropoulos supported the renewed candidacy of the FIDE President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, who prevailed at the congress in Turin against Bessel Kok with 96:54 votes.



In 2018, G.Makropoulos himself ran unsuccessfully against Arkady Dvorkovich.

He retained the Vice President position till his death...

A Book for Makro

In 2017 I wrote a book on Makro's life & Legacy, which you download:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/ctyybjc7jtszr9e8v6vih/AEqH-4VyghGwsz79uOV250g?rlkey=qwc19runvsyzer9ade0iwdvpb&dl=0>



It is rather difficult to write more on Makro. I will miss our early-night coffee breaks near by, as we were living less than 10 km away.

He will live forever in our hearts and we will remember him as a decent and nice man; not even his enemies could say a bad word for his intelligence in this stupid world...

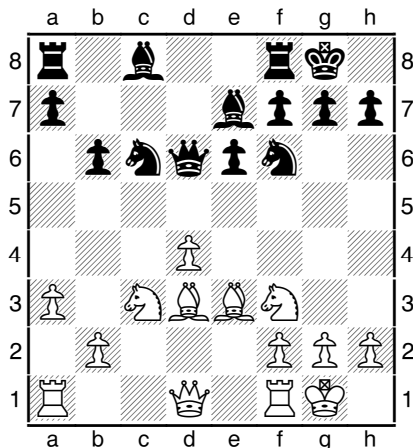


□ Makropoulos Georgios

■ Conquest Stuart

B22 Athens 1987

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.Be3 cxd4 7.cxd4 e6 8.Nc3 Qd6 9.a3 Be7 10.Bd3 0-0 11.0-0 b6 (D)



The typical isolated pawn position; the trademark of Makro!

12.Re1

Or 12.Qe2 Bb7 13.Rad1 Rad8 14.Bb1 Rfe8 15.Rfe1 oo Kudrin,S-Dlugy,M Berkeley 1984.

12...Bb7 13.Bc2 Rfd8 14.Qd3 g6 15.Rad1 Rac8

All pieces on board and centralised - natural, good chess!



16.h4!? a6?!

Too slow. Black needs to exchange some pieces, so he had to go for 16...Nd5 17.Ne4 Qc7 18.Bb3 Nxe3 19.Qxe3 Na5 oo.

17.Bg5! Qc7 18.Qe2 Re8 19.Bb1 Qb8?!

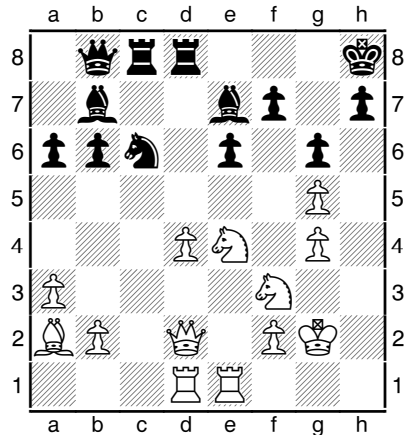
19...b5 20.Ba2 Na5, was the correct way to fight. Black can't defend by parking his pieces on his last rank...

20.Ba2! Nh5 21.Ne4 Kh8 22.g4!?

22.Qd2! b5 23.d5! exd5 24.Bxd5 +-.

22...Nf4 23.Qd2 Nh3+ 24.Kg2 Nxc5

25.hxg5 Red8 (D)



Looks like Black is defending well, as threats do exist down the long diagonal...

26.d5

The typical centre break, but lethal was 26.Qe3! Kg7 27.Rh1! +-.

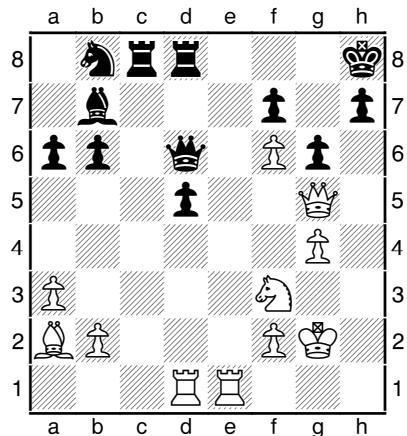
26...exd5?

Black could try to defend with 26...Ne5! 27.Nxe5 Qxe5 28.Nf6 Qd6 29.Qd4 +/-.

27.Nf6! Bxf6

27...Qd6 28.Rxe7! Nxe7 29.Rh1 +-.

28.gxf6 Qd6 29.Qg5 Nb8 (D)



30.Rh1

And Black resigned: 30...Qf8 (30...Nd7 31.Rxh7+ Kxh7 32.Qh6+! Kxh6 33.Rh1+) 31.Rxh7+! Kxh7 32.Rh1+ Kg8 33.Qh4.

1-0