

Akobian wins Konig GM Invitational

September 4 – 15, 2002 Average ELO: 2538 – Cat.12 GM = 5.5



#	Name	Country	Rating	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total	Place
1	Nakamura,H	USA	2494	**	1	1/2	1	1/2	0	1/2	1	1/2	0	5	2-5
2	Browne, W	USA	2492	0	**	1/2	1/2	1/2	0	1/2	0	1/2	0	2.5	10
3	Atalik, S	BIH	2551	1/2	1/2	**	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1	5	2-5
4	Fedorowicz,J	USA	2509	0	1/2	1/2	**	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	4	8-9
5	Baburin, A	IRL	2580	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	**	1	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	5	2-5
6	Akobian, V	USA	2486	1	1	1/2	1/2	0	**	1/2	0	1	1	5.5	1
7	Yermolinsky,A	USA	2592	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	**	1/2	1/2	1/2	4.5	6-7
8	DeFirmian,N	USA	2551	0	1	1/2	1/2	1/2	1	1/2	**	1/2	1/2	5	2-5
9	Shulman,Y	BLR	2573	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	0	1/2	1/2	**	1/2	4	8-9
10	Wojtkiewicz,A	POL	2555	1	1	0	1/2	1/2	0	1/2	1/2	1/2	**	4.5	6-7

The [Imre Konig Memorial](#) in San Francisco finished on Sunday. The winner was GM Akobian who also won The *Oscar Samuels* best-played game prize for his victory over IM Nakamura. See our annotated game from CT-676 to check this game out. We have another Akobian win in our annotated game today.

The tournament was very tough as evidenced by the result of six-times US Champion Walter Browne.

CT's very own GM Alexander Baburin came equal second and didn't lose a game. He has another tournament still to play in America but hopefully we will hear more about his adventures when he returns to Dublin and to Chess Today. He shared second place with GM Suat Atalik, GM Nick DeFirmian and Hikaru Nakamura.

Final round results:

Baburin-Wojtkiewicz 1/2:1/2
 Akobian-Fedorowicz 1/2:1/2
 Yermolinsky-Atalik 1/2:1/2
 DeFirmian-Browne 1:0
 Shulman-Nakamura 1/2:1/2

A lot of interesting information has just appeared on the [TWIC](#) site. First of all is a Vladimir Kramnik [interview](#) by Mark Crowther. Vladimir talks about his upcoming match vs. Deep Fritz, his poor form during The Match of the Century and his immediate future.

The 65th Corus Chess tournament in Wijk aan Zee takes place January 10–26th 2003. Players include Vladimir Kramnik, Ruslan Ponomarev, Viswanathan Anand, Vesselin Topalov and Vassily Ivanchuk, Jan Timman and Loek Van Wely. Garry Kasparov has turned down his invitation ..

The FIDE World Cup in Hyderabad, India takes place 9–20th October 2002. The event looks sure to be missing many of the top stars ..

The [Chess Base](#) site reports that chess prodigy **Koneru Humpy** has become the first woman chess player from India to receive the Men's Grandmaster title. There is some debate about whether she is the youngest ever woman in the world to achieve this – at 15 years, one month and 27 days (three months less

than Judit Polgar's previous record). The Indian press are ecstatic.

Annotated Game

□ V Akobian
 ■ W Browne

Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky
 San Francisco, 12.09.2002 – E14

1.d4 ♘f6 2.♗f3 e6 3.e3

A very modest move, after which White can hardly pretend to have any opening advantage.

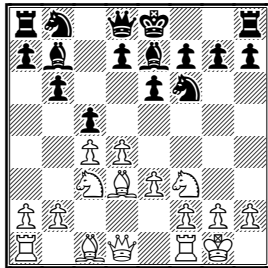
3...b6

Black chooses a Queens-Indian set-up. Also possible were 3...c5 or; 3...d5

4.♗d3 ♗b7

Black has to take the e4-square under control.

5.0-0 c5 6.c4 ♗e7 7.♗c3



7...cxd4

To my mind better was 7...d5!? or; 7...0-0 preparing d7-d5 without a pawn exchange on d4.

8.exd4 d5 9.b3

9.cxd5 ♗xd5 10.♗b5+?! ♗c6
 11.♗xc6+ ♗xc6 12.♖a4 ♖d7=

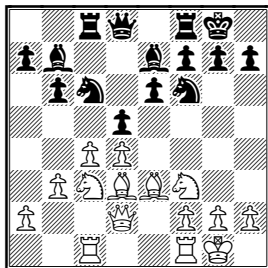
9...♗c6

Attacking the d4-pawn.

10.♗e3

White has to defend it. 10.♗b2? dxc4 11.bxc4? ♗xd4 12.♗xd4 ♖xd4 and the d3 bishop hasn't any jump with check.

10...♖c8 11.♖c1 0-0 12.♖d2



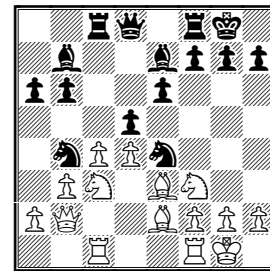
A rather strange move, why not 12.♖e2
 12...♗b4?!

But Black's response looks even more strange. Where is the knight going? Obviously, after dxc4 White will play bxc4, protecting the d5-square. I think better was the typical 12...dxc4 13.bxc4 ♗a5!? 14.♖e2 (14.♗e5 ♗d7 and Black has equal chances at least.)

13.♗e2 ♗e4

The second knight jump in a row hasn't a lot of deep ideas either. Black exchanges a pair of knights, that's all.

14.♖b2 a6?!



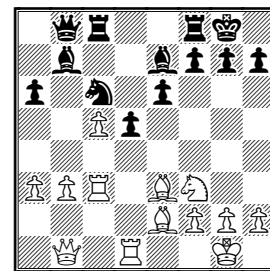
I don't understand Black's play. What is the idea of this move? Protecting the b5-square, or preparing b6-b5? It's very difficult to say. 14...♗f6!?

15.a3 ♗c6 16.♖fd1 ♗xc3 17.♖xc3 ♖d6?!

There wasn't any great sense in provoking c4-c5: in any case White has to play this move, and now he simply wins a tempo.

18.c5 bxc5

Maybe better was 18...♖c7 19.b4
 19.dxc5 ♖b8 20.♖b1

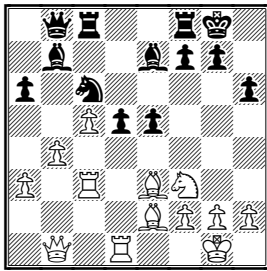


White has a huge pawn majority on the q-side and a lot of open files on the k-side. Black's only chance – his central pawns on d5 and e6 ... he has to push them.

20...h6?!

Too slow, better was 20...♖fd8 21.♗g5?! (21.♗g5?! g6) 21...f6!? (21...e5 22.♗xe7 ♗xe7 23.♗g5 g6 24.♖h3!?→; 21...d4 22.♗xe7 dxc3 23.♗xd8 ♖xd8

24.♖c1±) 22.♙h4 e5 23.b4 ⇌
21.b4 e5?



Yes Black wins an exchange, but receives a losing position. Once more, better was Rf8–d8.

22.♖xd5 ♘d4

It's the point of Black's idea, but...

23.♘xd4 ♙xd5 24.♘f5 ♖fe8
25.♙xa6

White has received two pawns for an exchange, also the knight is very strong on f5 and the and 3 pawns on the q-side are extremely dangerous.

25...♖c6 26.♙c4 ♙xc4 27.♖xc4
♙g5

White had a potential piece sacrifice on h6 with a crushing attack.

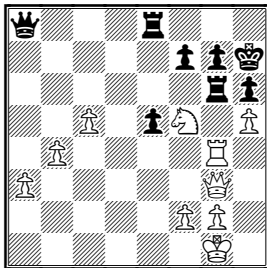
28.♙e4 ♖a6 29.h4!?

Fritz recommends 29.♙xg5 hxg5
30.♙e3 etc.

29...♙xe3 30.♙xe3 ♙a8

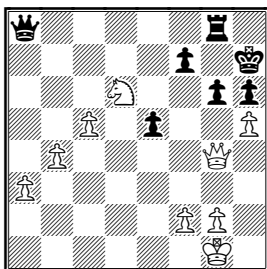
Attacking the a3-pawn, but White doesn't worry about it.

31.♖g4! ♖g6 32.♙g3 ♙h7 33.h5



A bit unexpected, but all White's pieces, and even a pawn, take part in the attack.

33...♖xg4 34.♙xg4 ♖g8 35.♘d6 g6



A desperate attempt for counter-play, but...

36.♙f3!

The simplest and strongest: in the endgame White's passed pawns will be unstoppable.

36...♙xf3 37.gxf3 gxh5+ 38.♙h2
♙d8 39.b5 ♙g6

A very technical victory by White.

1-0

Contact information. Do you want to report a tournament or have a suggestion concerning Chess Today? E-mail us at ct@gmsquare.com. We always appreciate your comments and feedback!

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