AMERICAN
CHESS MAGAZINE

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WHERE GREAT MINDS MEET

CANDIDATES TOURNAMENT

No championship match
for the No.1 U.S. player
FABI'S MISSED CHANCES
Jeffery Xiong

Russia's Ian Nepomniachtchi
is next world title challenger
CARLSEN'S NEMESIS?
Illia Nyzhnyk

New ideas in the openings
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STANDING OVATION

15-Year-Old wins
the National Open
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**AUSSIE GM & PhD
ADVISES**
IT'S NEVER TOO LATE
TO LEARN CHESS!
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U.S. JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

Annie Wang and
Hans Niemann are tops!
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RIVALRIES IN FOCUS

Background story to an
unusual game
THE LOOK
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ISSN 2572-2808

INTERVIEW AND BEST GAMES
David Brodsky
A TACTICIAN WITH A COMPETITIVE DRIVE!

MY GENERATION

GM-ELECT JOINS THE NEW WAVE OF MOST PROMISING JUNIORS IN THE UNITED STATES

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MY GENERATION

GM-elect David Brodsky

Now aged 19, David Brodsky from Westchester County, NY, belongs to the new generation of the most promising juniors in the United States (see the table for Top 10 Juniors by FIDE ratings). This interview and the article that follows were actually prepared back in 2020 when there were no OTB tournaments, so we were looking forward to more successes from him.

We did not have to wait long as shown by his excellent performance in the 2021 U.S. Junior Championship (see page 50) where he gained 15 rating points and then just before we went to print he convincingly won the 87th Southwest Open in Dallas, TX, with an undefeated 6 points from 7 games.

By **Josip Asik**

▼ David Brodsky, *Photo by Stevan Dobrojevic*

What were the circumstances of your first learning to play chess?
When I was six, my mom thought I might like chess, but she wasn't sure I would follow her suggestions. So she bought a chess computer game (*Fritz and Chesster*) for my four-year-old brother. Naturally, I couldn't let him have all the fun.

Do you remember the reason for the attraction you must have felt?
I'm honestly not sure. I always enjoyed puzzles, so maybe chess was another puzzle to me.

How did things change from playing chess to first studying the game?
At the beginning, there wasn't a clear distinction in my mind between playing and studying chess. The two were intermingled.

Who were your first chess teachers?
GM Ronen Har-Zvi was my first teacher/coach. Interestingly, I started with Skype lessons and have never had a face-to-face coach.

What were your first chess books?
The *Chess Tactics for Champions* series by Susan Polgar and Paul Truong were my first chess books. They were an excellent way to learn basic tactics. *Winning Chess Openings* by Yasser Seirawan was another one of my first books that I loved as evening reading. It taught me opening principles and gave a good overview of opening theory.

RK	Name	Rating	Birth Year
1	Hans Niemann	2638	2003
2	Awonder Liang	2590	2003
3	John Burke	2554	2001
4	Nicolas Checa	2545	2001
5	Praveen Balakrishnan	2524	2002
6	Abhimanyu Mishra	2517	2009
7	Andrew Hong	2509	2004
8	Brandon Jacobson	2492	2003
9	Christopher Yoo	2485	2006
10	David Brodsky	2480	2002

FIDE RATINGS - USA Top 10 Juniors (U20) on October 1, 2021

How did it look like first time travelling abroad for chess?
The 2014 World Youth Championships in Durban, South Africa was my first international tournament. The experience stood in such stark contrast to the American Swiss tournaments I was used to. While the organization was far from stellar, I loved the playing venue, the atmosphere, having lots of time to prepare and socialize, etc.

When did you realize you wanted to devote your time to becoming really good, even a titled player?
Honestly, I don't feel there was a moment like that. I wanted to become a GM since the very beginning – a "realistic" goal in my six-year-old mind. In my mind, GMs knew everything and never lost. As I got older, I realized how hard it would be to become a titled player, but at the same time I was getting closer and closer to the GM title.

What were your most memorable tournament experiences early on?
In my very first tournament, I was one of (I believe) three players who finished 4/4 in the novice section, and I won the first place trophy on tiebreaks. That by itself was a memorable experience.

How did you manage to balance chess with your school/studies?
I have been homeschooled for academic reasons since 1st grade, before I even knew what chess was. When I play a tournament, I try to get my schoolwork done ahead of time. In the fall of 2018, I was even able to go play the World U16 Olympiad in Turkey, an experience that meant a lot to me. Nonetheless, it's still a struggle to balance playing and studying chess with school. One of my key principles is to study chess every day, even if it is just a few tactics.

What interests do you have outside chess?
Academically, I am very STEM oriented (STEM is a curriculum based on the idea of educating students in four specific disciplines – science, technology, engineering and mathematics – in an interdisciplinary

and applied approach. *-Ed.*) I participate in a few math competitions (I'd rate my competitive math strength at around 2200). I participate in computer science competitions and am working on a research project, and plan to study computer science in college. I used to do karate, love racquetball, and am playing a lot of table tennis with my brother during quarantine.

What grandmasters have you studied under and what did you learn from each?
I've had three GM coaches: Ronen Har-Zvi, Alex Yermolinsky, and Farrukh Amonatov. Ronen gave me a strong chess foundation and brought me up to around 2100. Alex Yermolinsky helped strengthen all aspects of my game, especially endgames, to get me to IM. My current coach Farrukh Amonatov is helping me reach the GM title, mainly by strengthening my middlegame play. I am thankful to all my coaches for everything they taught me.

What setbacks do you think you've had, if any, and how did you react to them?
I have had several slumps in my career so far, many of which were incredibly frustrating. The winter of 2019/20, the fall of 2018, and late summer (early fall) of 2016 come to mind. Something just wouldn't be right with my play. I have no cure to those slumps besides studying more and continuing to play.

Where does your competitive drive come from?
I've had a competitive drive from a young age. When I was 4, I decided to memorize the names, capitals, and locations of all the countries in the

world, and I did. Then when I was 5, I decided to manually calculate all the powers of 2 up to 2100 (I stopped around 250). There was no reason to do either of those things besides my drive.

What role have your parents/family played in your chess career?
My parents have been very supportive of my chess career, from paying for chess lessons to taking me to tournaments to scheduling our family plans around tournaments.

What are your possible life goals at this point? Where do you want to be five years from now?
I have plenty of options. In the fall, I will start studying computer science at UTD on a combination of chess and National Merit scholarships. In 5 years, I could see myself either working in the tech industry, in graduate school, or playing/teaching chess professionally.

What grandmaster's games do you especially like?
I'm a big fan of Carlsen's games, especially his games from 2019. I also enjoy watching creative players like Dubov and Rapport play, even if their styles are so different from mine.

How would you describe your style of play?
It's hard for me to describe my style. I'm an active player who is more tactically oriented, but I'm still fairly solid and rarely go into tactical slugfests.

How has all the traveling affected you? And now, how about the staying-at-home?
Traveling is one of my favorite things about chess, even if it gets tiresome at times. In addition to traveling all over the US, I've gone to South Africa, Greece, and Turkey with chess. In South Africa and Greece, we were able to go on vacation after the tournament. As a homeschooler, staying at home hasn't changed my lifestyle as much as it has for others. Quarantine is getting tiresome and depressing, especially since I live in one of the hardest hit areas in the US. I'm realizing just how much I miss chess tournaments, and I can't wait

until I'll be able to play OTB again. The bright side of the whole situation is that I have more time to study chess, and there are more coaching opportunities online. At the moment, I'm really excited to be taking online group lessons with Kramnik and Gelfand.

Do you annotate all your games played on your database?
Yes, even if some of my notes aren't as detailed as I'd like them to be.

What changes would you like to see in the chess world, either in the US or internationally, that would help young players?
I'd like to see a crackdown on cheating. There have been more than a few very disturbing incidents in the US where players who were caught with phones in the bathroom weren't forfeited. There was one time when I was definitely cheated against. Obviously the battle against cheating is very difficult, but I feel that security measures in some US tournaments are very lax, and measures against cheaters should be strict, transparent, and consistent.

What particular games that you've played are key to your chess development?

To list a few:

- OSTROVSKIY - BRODSKY, New York State Championship 2014, was my first win against an IM (ignoring that he was +10 at one point in the game)
- ROHDE - BRODSKY, New York International 2015, was my first win against a GM
- KADRIC - BRODSKY, Washington Chess Congress 2016, was a convincing positional win against an almost 2600 GM
- CHRISTIANSEN - BRODSKY, US Amateur Team East 2017, was a mature, high quality win against a strong, experienced GM (even if he did overpress and should have taken a draw)
- SHIMANOV - BRODSKY, Philadelphia Open 2017, is one of my favorite games. I wasn't even an IM at that point, and I positionally outplayed and beat a 2650 GM with black.
- BRODSKY - SWIERCZ, US Masters 2019, was my first win against a world top-100 player.

OSTROVSKIY – BRODSKY,
New York State Championship 2014, was my first win against an IM (ignoring the fact that he had a "+10" advantage at one point in the game).

28...♗xc2?? Unfortunately, this doesn't work.
29.♗xc2 d3 30.♖c4+?? This careless check is an awful mistake. Upon the correct 30.♗a4 the idea is that now he threatens to take my rook with check. 30...♛xa4 (30...d2 31.♗xd7+ ♚xd7 32.♛xf7++−) 31.♖xa4 d2 32.♛h8+ ♖d8 33.♖c4+ ♚d7 34.♖d4++−.
30...♚b8 31.♗a4 c2! There are back rank issues on top of everything.
32.♛h8+? The losing move. 32.h3 ♖d4 (32...♛e1+? 33.♚h2 c1♛ 34.♛h8+ ♚b7 35.♛c8+ ♚b6 36.♛c6+ ♚a5 37.♛b5 mate; 32...d2 33.♗xc2 d1♛+ 34.♗xd1 ♖xd1+ 35.♚h2+− My king is very weak.) 33.♖xd4 c1♛+ 34.♚h2 ♛cc7 35.♖b4+ ♚c8 leads to a fascinatingly

complex position where White will most likely give a perpetual check.

32...♕d8 32...♖d8 was also winning, 33.♖b4+ ♔c7 (Not *33...♔a8?? 34.♗c6 mate.*) 34.♖c4+ ♔b7 35.♖b4+ ♕xb4–+.
33.♖b4+ ♔c7 34.♖c4+ ♔b6! My king must come out.
35.♖c6+ 35.♖b4+ ♔a5 36.♖b5+ ♔xa4–+.
35...♔b7 There are no more checks.
36.♕xh7 36.♕xd8 ♖xd8 37.♔f1 (*37.♗xc2 dxc2 38.♖xc2 ♖d1 mate.*) 37...♖c8–+.
36...d2 White resigned and that was my first IM scalp!

▲ David Brodsky, World Youth Chess Championship 2015, Porto Carras, *Photo by Diana Matisone.*
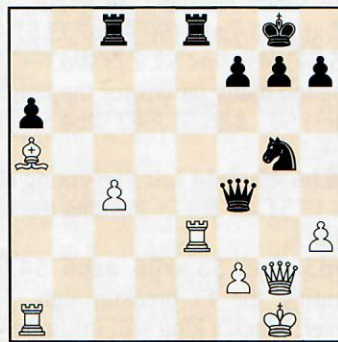

🔹 **ROHDE – BRODSKY,**
New York International 2015, was my first win against a GM.


20.dxe5 20.♘xe5? loses because of 20...♕xd4 21.♘f3 ♗xf3 22.♕xf3 ♘e5.
20...♗xf3! The key move.
21.gxf3? Sort of a sad necessity as 21.♕xf3? runs into 21...♘xe5. However, White can get a better version. As Rohde correctly pointed out after the game, he should have played 21.♕d2! ♕xe5 (*21...♘xe5?? 22.♗xh7++–*) 22.gxf3, which, though it is pretty bad for White, is a better version of the game.
21...♘xe5 22.♗e4 ♘xf3+! Winning a pawn.
23.♕xf3 ♘xe4 Rohde only had a couple minutes on his clock, with a 30 second increment. I am a pawn up and White's king is in trouble. I think that Black is pretty much near winning here.
24.♖fe1 ♘g5 25.♕g2 ♕f4 I'm threatening ...♘f3+.
26.♖e3 Preventing ...♘f3+ and being tricky.
26...♖ac8 Getting my rook off the a8 square and attacking the c4 pawn. 26...♖xe3?? 27.♕xa8+ ♖e8 28.♕xe8 mate.


27.♗d2 Rohde offered a draw. Though it was tempting, I'm totally crushing him here.
27...♖xe3 28.♗xe3 ♘f3+ 29.♔h1 ♕f6 Attacking the rook.
30.♖b1? White is totally lost after this move as it is just too slow. White should play 30.♖d1! h5 (*30...♖xc4? 31.♗g5!!* is probably what Rohde missed.) 31.c5 and, though Black is probably still near winning here, it's better than what happened in the game. 30.♖c1 was also possible.
30...♕f5 Harassing the rook.
31.♖d1
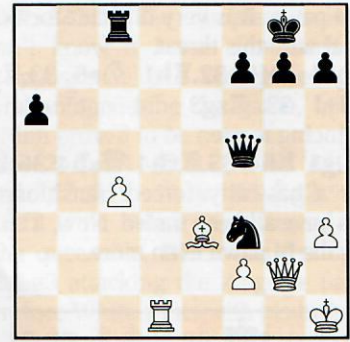
31...h5! The key move. Black makes loft for his king, and does so in a way that he can play ...♖c6-g6. 31...h6? fails to 32.♗xh6.
32.c5 Keeping the c-pawn. The problem with this move is that he pretty much gets mated.
32...♖c6! Swinging the rook to g6 with deadly effect. White has no good defense. 32...♘h4 33.♕g3.
33.♕g3 ♖g6 34.♕b8+ ♔h7 White is getting mated on h3. Rohde thought here for a bit over 30 seconds... until he flagged. **0-1**
My first GM scalp!

🔹 **KADRIC – BRODSKY,**
Washington Chess Congress 2016, was a convincing positional win against an almost 2600 GM,
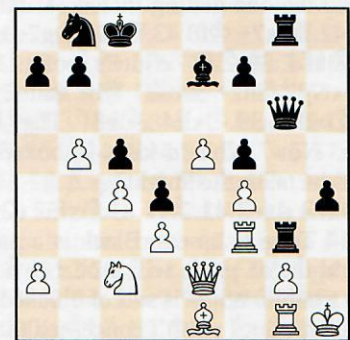
28...♕h6 Taking aim against the f4 pawn. 28...♘d7! followed by ...♘f8-e6 was probably even stronger here. Note that 29.♗xg3? fails to 29...hxg3 after which White is getting mated. 30.♖e1 ♕h6+ 31.♔g1 ♕h2+ 32.♔f1 ♕h1 mate.
29.♔h2 ♖8g4 30.♗d2 The build-up is now complete. White's pieces are all tied up.
30...♘d7! Improving my knight. It's coming to e6, where it will be attacking

the f4 pawn. It is very difficult for White to deal with this threat.

31.♘e1 ♘f8 32.♖h1 ♘e6 33.♖xg3 hxg3+! 33...♖xg3 did not seem as convincing to me.

34.♔g1 ♖h4 35.♖xh4 ♕xh4 36.♕f3 After a basically forced transition, the rooks have all been traded. Now, it's time to hit the f4 pawn even more.

36...♗f8! Coming to h6.
37.♕d5!? A tricky move. 37.a4 was the critical move necessary to calculate. 37...♗h6 38.a5.

A) I admit I only saw 38...♘xf4 39.♗xf4 (*39.a6 ♕h2+ 40.♔f1 ♕h1 mate.*) 39...♕xf4−+ which should be good enough to win.

B) 38...♗xf4! was however stronger. 39.a6 (*39.♗xf4 ♘xf4 40.a6 ♕h2+ 41.♔f1 ♕h1 mate.*) 39...♗d2! 40.♕xb7+ ♔d8 Black's king escapes, and White's king will be the one getting mated. 41.♕b8+ ♔e7 42.♕xa7+ ♔f8 43.♕b8+ ♔g7−+.

37...♘xf4 38.♘f3 White's point. Not 38.♕xf7?? ♕h2+ 39.♔f1 ♕h1 mate..

38...♘xd5 39.♘xh4 ♘e3! The key move. Now, White's king is boxed in unless he takes the knight.

40.♗xe3 dxe3 41.♔f1 41.♘xf5? e2−+.

41...f4 Time to assess. Black is a pawn up, and the e5 pawn will probably be in some trouble. White is sort of blockading the pawns, but I wasn't concerned that it would stop me from winning. After all, I'm two pawns up, White's pieces need to defend against the pawns, and I should be able to pick up some pawns on the queenside with my king.

42.♔e2 ♗g7 43.♘f3 ♔d7 44.d4 This shouldn't help White. If he does something like 44.a4 ♔e6 45.♘g5+ ♔f5
A) After 46.♘xf7 ♗xe5 White's knight is going to be stuck or the pawns are going to crash through. 47.a5 (*47.♘d8 ♔g4! 48.♘xb7 f3+ 49.gxf3+ ♔h3-+* the

g-pawn queens.) 47...♗c7 48.a6 bxa6 49.bxa6 ♔g6 50.♘h8+ ♔g7−+.
B) 46.♘f3 ♗xe5 47.♔e1 Say White decides to wait. Then 47...f6 48.♔e2 ♔e6 49.♔e1 ♔d6 50.♔e2 ♔c7! and my king is coming out the other way. 51.a5 is met with 51...♗c3!−+.

44...cxd4 45.♔d3 45.♘xd4 ♗xe5 46.♘f3 ♔d6 is similar to the game. Black's king will infiltrate via c5.
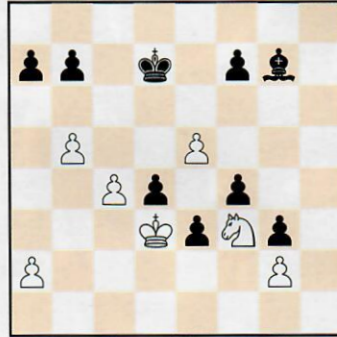
45...f6! 46.e6+ ♔xe6 47.♘xd4+ ♔d6! Some accurate calculation. There is no point allowing White to go c4-c5.
48.♘e2 48.♘f5+ ♔e5 (*48...♔c5?? 49.♘xg7 f3 50.♘e6+ ♔d6 51.♘f4*) 49.♘xg7 f3!−+ is the key idea. The pawns crash through.
48.c5+ ♔xc5 49.♘e6+ also fails. After 49...♔xb5 50.♘xf4 (*50.♘xg7 f3 51.♘e6 fxg2 52.♘d4+ ♔a4 53.♘f3 ♔a3−+* there will be too many pawns for the knight to handle!) 50...♗h6 51.♘e2 ♔b4 52.♘xg3 ♔a3−+.
48...♗h6 49.♔d4 b6! Preventing c5.
50.a4 f5 51.a5 ♗g7+ Pushing the white king back.
**52.♔d3 ♗e5 53.axb6 axb6 54.♘g1** Preventing the f3 breakthrough. Now, however, Black's king will infiltrate with decisive effect.
54...♔c5 55.♘f3 ♗f6 56.♘g1 ♔b4 57.♘e2 ♗e5 58.♘g1 ♔b3 59.♘f3 ♗f6 White resigned in view of something like 59...♗f6 60.♘g1 ♔b2 61.♘e2 (*61.♔e2 ♔c3−+*) 61...♗e5 62.♘g1 ♔c1 63.♘f3 ♗f6 64.♘g1 ♔d1 65.♘e2 ♗e5, where Black is totally winning. For instance: 66.♘g1 ♗d6 (*66...♔e1!? wins, though it requires some calculation. 67.♘f3+ ♔f2 68.♘xe5 e2 69.♘f3 e1♕ 70.♘xe1 ♔xe1 71.c5 f3 72.c6 f2 73.c7 f1♕+ 74.♔c3 ♕f4 75.c8♕ ♕c1+−+*) 67.♘e2 (*67.♘f3 e2-+*) 67...f3 68.gxf3 g2 69.♘xe3 ♗c5+ 70.♔d3 g1♕ 71.♘xg1 ♗xg1−+.

CHRISTIANSEN – BRODSKY,

US Amateur Team East 2017, was a mature, high quality win against a strong, experienced GM (even if he did overpress and should have taken a draw.
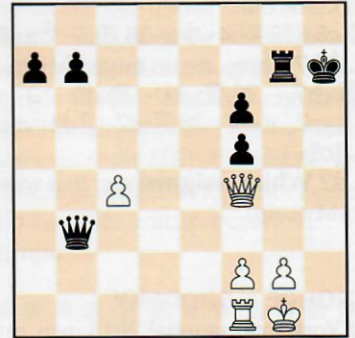
36...♕h3! Christiansen probably missed this move.
37.g3 Black is now on top. With little time on the clock I had to make the time control, and then decide what to do.
37...♕g4 Offering a queen trade. 37...♔g6? 38.♕b8=.
38.♕d6 Naturally he declines. 38.♕xg4 fxg4∓ is an unpleasant rook endgame for White.
38...f4 39.♕d3+?! 39.♔g2! was better. 39...f3+ 40.♔g1 f5∓ (*40...♕h3? 41.♕d3+ spoils the fun.*).
39...♕g6 40.♕d5? Now it's just lost for White. White had to go for 40.♕xg6+ ♔xg6∓ which is not going to be easy for him to hold. I will attack his c4 pawn and my king is more active.
40...fxg3 41.♕h1+ ♔g8 42.♕d5+ ♔h8 Getting out of the checks.
43.f4 ♕h6 Black goes king hunting.
44.♔g2 44.♕d8+ ♖g8−+.
44...♕h2+ 45.♔f3 g2 46.♖g1!? Sneaky. Now, Black wins not by taking the rook but by chasing the white king. White runs out of checks after 46.♕d8+ ♔h7 47.♕d3+ ♔h6.
46...♕h3+ White's point is 46...♖xg1?? 47.♕h5+ ♖h7 48.♕e8+ ♔g7 49.♕d7+ ♔g6 50.♕g4+ ♔h6 51.♕h3+=. I didn't see any point allowing 46...♕g3+ 47.♔e4.
47.♔f2 47.♔e4 ♖e7+ 48.♔d4 ♕e3 mate. Or 47.♔e2 ♖e7+ 48.♔f2 ♕e3+ 49.♔g2 ♖g7+ winning.
47...♕g3+ 48.♔e2 ♖e7+ 49.♔d1 ♕b3+ 50.♔d2 50.♔c1 ♕e3+ 51.♔c2 transposes to the game.
50...♕e3+ 51.♔c2 ♕f2+ 52.♔b3 ♖e3+ White resigned as he will get mated soon.

▲ David Brodsky.
Photo by Saint Louis Chess Club

🔷 **SHIMANOV – BRODSKY,**
Philadelphia Open 2017, is one of my favorite games. I wasn't even an IM at that point, and I positionally outplayed and beat a 2650 GM with the black pieces.

25...Rd4 Solidifying my knight on e4 and preparing to double on the d-file.
26.Rc1 Rad8 27.Rc2 This may not be pretty, but there's no obvious way to invade White's camp. I decided to simply improve my pieces before striking.
27...Bc5 28.Kh2 Bb6 29.h4 White doesn't have many active moves here, so he logically tries to push h4-h5, which may or may not end up being in his favor.
29...Kf7!? I decided to take the time to improve my king so that it prevents e5-e6 in some variations and opens up ...Rh8 ideas.
30.Rf3 Qd5 31.Rh3 If 31.Be3 I was planning 31...Ba5 with a ...Rd2 invasion coming once the bishops are traded.

31...Rd3! With the rooks traded, h4-h5 will not be as strong.
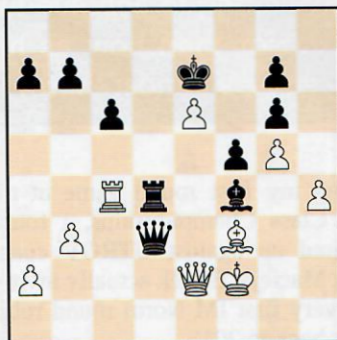**32.Rxd3** A sad move, after which Black invades.
32...Qxd3 33.Bf3 Qe3 White has no easy way to defend the f4 pawn, and his position collapsed.
34.Bg3 Nxg3 35.Kxg3 Rd4 35...Qd4 36.Qc4+ Ke7 was also very strong.
36.e6+ 36.Rc4 Rxf4+ 37.Kf2 Qxe2+ 38.Bxe2 Rxe5 39.Rxd4 Bxd4+ would result in a similar endgame to the one we actually had in the game.
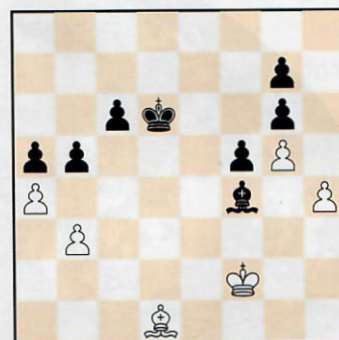**36...Ke7** I saw no reason to play 36...Kxe6.
37.Rc4 Bxf4+ 38.Kf2

38...Qxe2+!? The simplest solution. I don't know if I was convinced that the opposite-colored bishops endgame was winning during the game, but my intuition proved to be correct.
39.Bxe2 Rxc4 40.Bxc4 b5 41.Be2 Kxe6 42.Bf3 Kd6 43.Bg2 Kc5 44.Bf3 If the white king tries to come to the queenside, Black has the option of ...Bg3 attacking the kingside pawns. Therefore White waits with his bishop.
44...a5 45.a4 Kd6 46.Bd1

The correct plan here is to play ...Ke5-d4, trade on a4, and push the c-pawn down the board. The only problem is that after bxa4 bxa4, White can play Bb3-f7xg6, but he is too slow.
46...Bh2 This was the first of a few confused aimless moves, but I soon found the right path. Something like 46...Ke5 was much cleaner. 47.axb5 (*47.Be2 bxa4 48.bxa4 Kd4–+*) 47...cxb5 48.Be2 a4!–+.
47.Kg2 Be5 48.Kf2 Bc3 49.Be2 Kc5 50.Bf3 Kd4+ 51.Kg2 Be3 52.Kg3 Kd6 53.Be2 bxa4 54.bxa4 Ke5 55.Bc4 Ke4 56.Bf7 c5 57.Kg2 Kd3 58.Bxg6 c4 59.Bxf5+ Ke2 Just like I described above, White wins two pawns, but his counterplay is too slow.
60.Kg3 c3 61.Bb1 Bf2+ 62.Kg4 Kd2 63.h5 c2 64.Bxc2 Kxc2 65.Kf3 Bh4 66.Kf4 Kb3 67.Kf5 Be1 Obviously not 67...Kxa4?? 68.h6 gxh6 69.g6+–.
White resigned
My first 2650+ scalp!

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US Masters 2019, was my first win against a world top-100 player.

See page 16

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Photo by Saint Louis Chess Club

🔷 **SHIMANOV – BRODSKY,**
Philadelphia Open 2017, is one of my favorite games. I wasn't even an IM at that point, and I positionally outplayed and beat a 2650 GM with the black pieces.

25...Rd4 Solidifying my knight on e4 and preparing to double on the d-file.
26.Rc1 Rad8 27.Rc2 This may not be pretty, but there's no obvious way to invade White's camp. I decided to simply improve my pieces before striking.
27...Bc5 28.Kh2 Bb6 29.h4 White doesn't have many active moves here, so he logically tries to push h4-h5, which may or may not end up being in his favor.
29...Kf7!? I decided to take the time to improve my king so that it prevents e5-e6 in some variations and opens up ...Rh8 ideas.
30.Rf3 Qd5 31.Rh3 If 31.Be3 I was planning 31...Ba5 with a ...Rd2 invasion coming once the bishops are traded.

31...Rd3! With the rooks traded, h4-h5 will not be as strong.
32.Rxd3 A sad move, after which Black invades.
32...Qxd3 33.Bf3 Qe3 White has no easy way to defend the f4 pawn, and his position collapsed.
34.Bg3 Nxg3 35.Kxg3 Rd4 35...Qd4 36.Qc4+ Ke7 was also very strong.
36.e6+ 36.Rc4 Rxf4+ 37.Kf2 Qxe2+ 38.Bxe2 Rxe5 39.Rxd4 Bxd4+ would result in a similar endgame to the one we actually had in the game.
36...Ke7 I saw no reason to play 36...Kxe6.
37.Rc4 Bxf4+ 38.Kf2

38...Qxe2+!? The simplest solution. I don't know if I was convinced that the opposite-colored bishops endgame was winning during the game, but my intuition proved to be correct.
39.Bxe2 Rxc4 40.Bxc4 b5 41.Be2 Kxe6 42.Bf3 Kd6 43.Bg2 Kc5 44.Bf3 If the white king tries to come to the queenside, Black has the option of ...Bg3 attacking the kingside pawns. Therefore White waits with his bishop.
44...a5 45.a4 Kd6 46.Bd1

The correct plan here is to play ...Ke5-d4, trade on a4, and push the c-pawn down the board. The only problem is that after bxa4 bxa4, White can play Bb3-f7xg6, but he is too slow.
46...Bh2 This was the first of a few confused aimless moves, but I soon found the right path. Something like 46...Ke5 was much cleaner. 47.axb5 (*47.Be2 bxa4 48.bxa4 Kd4–+*) 47...cxb5 48.Be2 a4!–+.
47.Kg2 Be5 48.Kf2 Bc3 49.Be2 Kc5 50.Bf3 Kd4+ 51.Kg2 Be3 52.Kg3 Kd6 53.Be2 bxa4 54.bxa4 Ke5 55.Bc4 Ke4 56.Bf7 c5 57.Kg2 Kd3 58.Bxg6 c4 59.Bxf5+ Ke2 Just like I described above, White wins two pawns, but his counterplay is too slow.
60.Kg3 c3 61.Bb1 Bf2+ 62.Kg4 Kd2 63.h5 c2 64.Bxc2 Kxc2 65.Kf3 Bh4 66.Kf4 Kb3 67.Kf5 Be1 Obviously not 67...Kxa4?? 68.h6 gxh6 69.g6+–.
White resigned
My first 2650+ scalp!

🔷 **BRODSKY – SWIERCZ,**
US Masters 2019, was my first win against a world top-100 player.

See page 16

AMERICAN CHESS MAGAZINE #23 | 2021   13

DAVID BRODSKY ON THE VERGE OF GAINING THE GRANDMASTER TITLE

A TACTICIAN WITH STRONG COMPETITIVE DRIVE
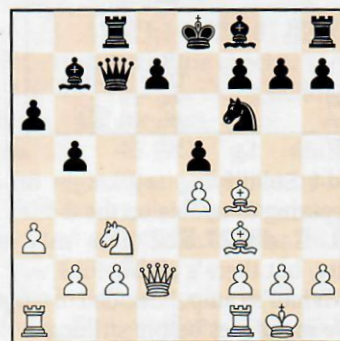
By GM-elect David Brodsky

Photo by XStevan Dobrojevic

Having already gained his third GM norm at the end of August 2019, 17-year-old David was eagerly looking forward to increasing his FIDE rating beyond the 2500 barrier, after which his GM title would be officially ratified. But then followed some ups and downs, including a long pause due to the COVID lockdown, so he is still waiting to achieve his goal. However he has never been closer than now as his rating is currently peaking at 2480 – so he's almost there!

B49

David Brodsky	2402
Bartlomiej Macieja	2527

Southwest Class Championships, Forth Worth 2019

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 e6 5.♘c3 ♕c7 6.♗e3 a6 7.a3!? A trendy line I was experimenting with.

7...b5 8.♘xc6 ♕xc6 9.♗e2 ♗b7 10.♕d2 ♖c8 11.0-0 ♘f6 12.♗f3 ♕c7 13.♗f4 e5

So far, everything went according to my preparation, but here I deviated.

14.♗g3 I honestly have no idea why I played this move. 14.♗g5! is logical and stronger and was played in a stem game. After 14...♗e7 15.♗xf6 ♗xf6 16.♖fd1 ♖d8 17.♕e2 0-0 18.♘d5, White obtained an edge and later won on move 45 in Hou Yifan 2663 - V.Potkin 2597, Almaty 2016.

A fter winning my first round game at the Southwest Class Championships, I found myself paired up against UTRGV coach GM Bartek Macieja. Bartek actually invited me to my very first IM Norm round robin tournament back in 2015.

GM BARTEK MACIEJA: "I met David for the first time in 2015 when he came to Brownsville to compete in an IM−norm tournament. He was much younger than all the other participants and since then has improved a lot. He is ambitious, has an active style and is not afraid to go for complications against higher rated opponents. And he is often successful! With good coaching, it should take him less than a year to become a GM once OTB tournaments resume."

14...h6! Stopping ♕g5 and planning to meet ♗h4 with ...g7-g5 if necessary. 14...♗e7? 15.♕g5! was one of my ideas.

15.♖fe1 ♗e7 16.a4 bxa4 The alternative was 16...b4. Then, after 17.♘d5 ♘xd5 18.exd5 d6 (*18...♕xc2?? 19.♕xc2 ♖xc2 20.♗xe5* is almost winning for White.) 19.♕xb4 White is a pawn up and Black will need to further prove his compensation. Or 19.♗xe5 dxe5 20.d6 ♖xd6 21.♕xd6 ♗xd6 22.♗xb7 ♖xc2 23.♖ac1 ♖xc1 24.♖xc1 ♔e7 25.♗xa6 will most likely end in a draw due to the opposite-colored bishops ending.

17.♖xa4 d6 18.♗e2! Rerouting my bishop to a better diagonal.

18...♕b6 19.b3 ♖c7 20.♗c4 0-0

21.♗h4 g5 Allowing ♗xf6 would be a positional nightmare for Black.

22.♗xg5!? I was so tempted by this sacrifice that I chose to play it. I wasn't sure how Black would successfully parry White's attack... Of course, there was nothing wrong with the safe choice 22.♗g3±.

22...hxg5 23.♕xg5+ ♔h8 24.♖e3 Lifting the rook.

24...♘h7 25.♕h5 ♗g5 25...♖g8 26.♖f3! was one of my ideas. Another possible defense was 25...♗d8, when after 26.♖h3 f5 27.exf5 ♖g7 a lot of fight lies ahead.

26.♖h3 f6
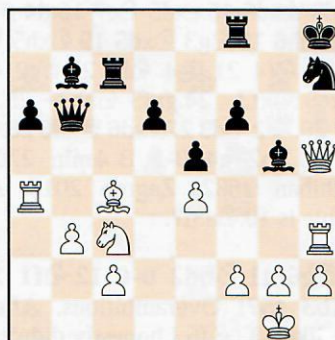
Black has protected everything, but it will be difficult for him to untangle.

27.♘d5 27.♗e6! followed by ♗f5 was a strong alternative.

27...♗xd5 28.exd5? A mistake which blows all my advantage. I wanted to win the a-pawn and invade with my rook, but in reality I'm giving Black counterplay. 28.♗xd5! was a better choice. Once White plays ♗e6-f5, he will have a strong positional bind.

28...♖g7 28...e4 29.♖xa6 ♕d4 was another possibility.

29.♖xa6 ♕d8 Rather passive, but not a mistake. 29...♕c5∞ was totally playable.

30.♖g3 f5 31.h4 I chose the most forcing approach, seeing that I had at least a draw there.

31...♗xh4 32.♖xg7 ♔xg7 33.♖a7+ ♗e7 34.♗b5
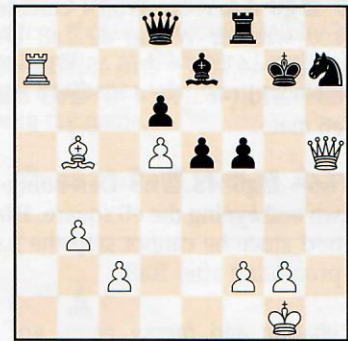
34...♖f6? In heavy time trouble, my opponent makes a mistake. After 34...♖f7! there was hardly anything better for me than making a draw by 35.♗d7 ♘g5 36.♗e6 ♘xe6 37.dxe6 ♖f6 38.♕g5+ ♔h8 39.♕h5+ with perpetual check.

35.♗e8!± Black's position is now very difficult. While he tries to resolve the pin along the seventh rank, I can freely advance my b-pawn.
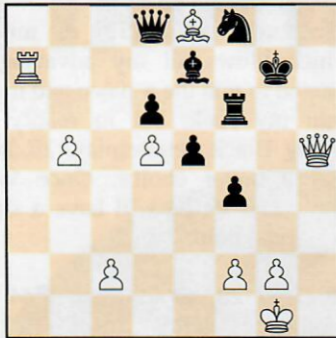
35...♘f8 35...♖f8 36.♕g6+ ♔h8 37.♗f7± is also very dangerous for Black.

36.b4 f4 No better for Black is 36...♘g6,

when after 37.♗xg6 ♖xg6 38.♕xf5 three pawns are worth more than a piece.

37.b5

37...♘g6?! Black's position is beyond salvation after this move, but it may have already been lost. Black could try to create counterplay with 37...e4 38.b6 e3, but White can just play 39.♔f1! stopping everything and leaving Black as tied up as he was before.

38.♗xg6 ♖xg6 39.b6 ♔f6 40.♕h4+ ♖g5 If 40...♔f7, then 41.♕h3 is winning.

41.b7 ♕g8 After 41...♕b8 I calculated a forced win for White: 42.♖a8 ♕xb7 43.♖g8 ♔f7 44.♕h7+ ♔f6 45.♕h6+ ♔f5 46.♕h3+ ♔f6 (*46...♔e4 47.♕d3* mate.) 47.♕e6 mate.

42.♕h6+ ♖g6 43.♕h3 Defending the g2 pawn and eyeing the e6 square. **Black resigned** since he cannot stop the pawn from promoting after ♖a8.

This chaotic and messy game got my tournament off to an excellent start, and after 7 more rounds I managed to earn my 2nd GM norm!

After winning my first round at the US Masters, I "won the lottery" and got paired against the top seed, GM Dariusz Swiercz. Playing against a 2650+ GM is always a challenge, but I wasn't going to back down.

C53

David Brodsky	2428
Dariusz Swiercz	2670

US Masters, Greensboro 2019

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗c4 ♗c5 4.c3 ♘f6 5.d3 d6 6.0-0 a6 7.a4 ♗a7 8.♖e1 ♘g4 9.♖e2 ♕f6

This is yet another experimental idea that Black has against the Giuoco Pianissimo. I was on my own here. When I checked after the game, I was horrified to discover that I had analyzed this variation in detail with a friend a few months previously and had forgotten everything!

10.b4 Expanding on the queenside and postponing ♘bd2 to not allow ...g7-g5. If 10.♘bd2, then Black's idea is 10...g5. It may appear overambitious, but the following game shows how wrong it can go for White. 11.♕e1 (Engines claim *11.d4 is good for White, but it's not so clear.*) 11...♖g8 12.♘f1 h5 13.♕d2 ♗e6 14.♗d5 ♗xd5 15.exd5 ♘e7 16.d4 0-0-0 17.h3 ♘h6 18.♘g3 ♘xd5 19.♘xh5 ♕g6 20.♘g3 ♘f4 21.♖e4 ♘f5 22.♕c2 ♘h4 23.dxe5 ♘xf3+ 24.gxf3 ♘xh3+ 25.♔f1 ♘xf2 26.♖e2 ♘d3 27.exd6 ♕xd6 28.♘e4 ♕d7 29.♖h2 g4 0-1 B.Amin 2709 - B.Adhiban 2682, Zagreb 2018. Also possible is 10.♘a3!?.

10...♕g6 11.♘bd2 0-0 12.♘f1 ♗e6 13.♗b3 f5?! Overambitious. After a move like 13...♘f6 I honestly didn't feel
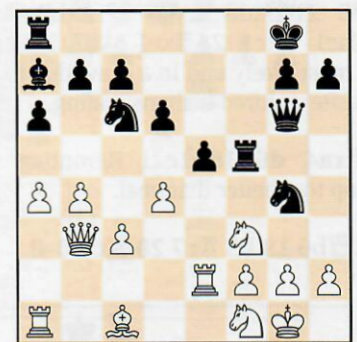

Dariusz Swiercz, *Photo by David Llada*

White had much. Fortunately for me, my opponent wanted to win this game.

14.exf5 ♖xf5 15.d4 A principled counterstrike in the center.

15...♗xb3 16.♕xb3+

16...♔h8? Technically a mistake. Black should have gone for the endgame after 16...♕f7 17.♕xf7+ ♖xf7 18.h3 ♘f6 19.b5 ♘a5 20.dxe5 dxe5 21.bxa6 bxa6 22.♖xe5, when he is a pawn down, but has serious compensation.

17.♕c2 White is simply threatening ♘h4 and Black is in an awkward situation.

17...♕f7 18.♕e4 I was later kicking myself for not including 18.b5! ♘a5 before playing 19.♕e4, since the knight is much worse on a5 than on c6, and ...♘b3 ideas aren't so dangerous.

18...♘h6 19.♘g3 d5 20.♕h4

20...e4? 20...♖xf3! 21.gxf3 exd4 was Black's best shot at counterplay. Now it would be the moment to regret not having included b4-b5 first, since with the black knight on a5 this wouldn't be possible. At higher depth, the engine claims that White is better, but to human eyes it's totally unclear. Here's a line that illustrates it: 22.♗xh6 gxh6 (*22...d3 23.♖d2 gxh6*) 23.♖d1 ♖f8 (After *23...dxc3 24.b5 axb5 25.axb5 c2 26.♖xc2 ♘e5 27.♕h5*, White should be winning.) 24.b5 ♕xf3 25.cxd4 ♘e5 26.♕xh6.

21.♘g5 ♕g6 22.♘xf5?! This wins the exchange, but the engines suggest a stronger resource, 22.♘5xe4!, which is far from intuitive trick I missed. 22...dxe4 23.♗xh6 gxh6 24.♘xf5 ♕xf5 25.♕xe4+−

White has control over the e-file, and Black's bishop is dead. In the game I was also close to winning, but this is much cleaner.

22...♘xf5 23.♕f4 h6 24.♘h3 White

GM FARUKH AMONATOV:

"I met David just over a year ago and started working with him. He was already an international master with a decent rating and one GM norm. It was clear to me that this talented boy has excellent prospects. He is currently one of the strongest juniors in his age category and has now completed all his remaining GM norms. His opening repertoire is at a high level and he is particularly strong in complex positions as his calculating skills are excellent. Moreover in recent months David has significantly improved his endgame knowledge (thanks to several chess camps) and he reminds me of the young Morozevich – playing any position without fear. In my opinion he has great potential and I am sure that soon his results will reach a very high level."

is up an exchange, but Black has some compensation.

24...♖f8 25.b5 ♘ce7? The losing mistake. 25...♘a5 would have kept the game going due to a trick I missed.

26.♕xc7 (*26.♕e5±* is stronger.) 26...♗b8 27.♕xa5? ♘h4! after which Black can actually salvage a draw.

26.♗a3! Black can't resolve the pin.

26...c5 27.bxc6 ♕xc6 28.♗xe7 ♗b8 29.♗xf8! The key idea. White gives up his queen gaining two rooks and a minor piece in return.

29...♗xf4 30.♘xf4 g5 31.♘xd5!? The practical choice. Of course White is also winning after 31.♘h5 ♕xc3 but I felt that Black has better swindling chances here than in the game.

31...♕xd5 32.♖ae1 ♔g8 33.♗c5

33...e3!? Infiltration on the e-file would be a disaster for Black.

34.fxe3 ♕e4 35.a5!? h5 36.♖d2 ♔f7 37.d5 ♔e8 38.♖f1 ♘h4 39.♖f8+ ♔d7 40.♖f7+ ♔d8 41.d6 ♕b1+ 42.♖f1 ♕b5 43.♗b6+ ♔d7 44.♖f7+ ♔e6 45.d7 ♕b1+ 46.♖f1

Black resigned

My first win against a world top-100 player! This very high quality game put me on the track to get my 3ʳᵈ and final GM norm.

GREENSBORO, NC
US MASTERS
August 21-25, 2019 *(9 rounds)*

1-9. Sergei AZAROV (BLR), Isan Reynaldo ORTIZ SUAREZ (CUB), Lazaro BRUZON (CUB), Daniel NARODITSKY, Elshan MORADIABADI, Praveen BALAKRISHNAN, Steven ZIERK, Hovhannes GABUZYAN (ARM), Bartlomiej MACIEJA (POL) **6½**
10-16. Hrant MELKUMYAN (ARM), Andrey STUKOPIN (RUS), David BRODSKY, Zhaozhi LI, Yaroslav ZHEREBUKH, Julio BECERRA RIVERO, Yuri GONZALEZ VIDAL (CUB) **6**
(ACM #13, page 80)

As usual over Thanksgiving, I was playing in the National Chess Congress in Philadelphia. This time, (a lot of) luck was on my side, and going into the last round, I was tied for first with 4½/5. My talented opponent was having a fantastic tournament, having beaten two GMs in back to back rounds.

C42

| David Brodsky | 2466 |
| Jason Liang | 2261 |

National Chess Congress, Philadelphia 2019

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 A surprise.

3.♘xe5 d6 4.♘f3 ♘xe4 5.d4 d5 6.♗d3 ♘c6 7.0-0 ♗e7

8.♘bd2 The modern treatment of this line after which White usually gets risk-free pressure, which Black can neutralize with very accurate play. Given the tournament situation, I felt it was a good choice.

8...♗f5 9.♖e1 ♘xd2 10.♕xd2 ♗xd3 11.♕xd3 0-0 12.c3 ♕d7 13.♗f4 a6 14.♖e2 ♖ae8 15.♖ae1 ♗d8

16.g3!? An over-the-board invention. I had forgotten that 16.♘d2 was seen in the model game W.So 2792 - V.Fedoseev 2731, Tbilisi 2017.

16...h6 17.h4 ♖e7 18.♖xe7 ♗xe7 19.♔g2 ♖d8 20.h5 I am slowly gaining space on the kingside while keeping the pressure on Black's position.

20...♖c8 21.♕d1 ♗f8

22.♘d2? Perhaps my only mistake. 22.♘h2 ♖d8 23.♘g4 was the right way to get to e3. One key difference is that 23...♘e6 runs into 24.♗xh6!.

22...♘d8! Now that my knight has moved away from f3 and can no longer go to e5, Black maneuvers his knight to e6.

23.♘f1 ♘e6 24.♗d2 ♔h8?! A dubious move which surprised me. I'm not realistically threatening ♕g4 and ♗xh6 anytime soon. Both 24...c5!? and 24...♖e8 should equalize.

25.♘e3 ♘g5 26.♕g4 I chose to go for a slightly better endgame.

26...♕xg4 27.♘xg4 ♘e4 28.♗f4 ♘d6 29.f3

29...♖e8?! This may not have been the wisest decision due to the game continuation. 29...♔g8 30.♔f2 c6 is unpleasant for Black, but it's hard to see what White plays next. Of course, not 30...♖e8? because of 31.♗xd6 ♖xe1 32.♗xf8 with material advantage.

30.♖xe8 ♘xe8 31.♘e3 c6 32.c4! I switch from positional to tactical.

32...dxc4 33.♘xc4 ♘f6 34.♗e5 ♘xh5
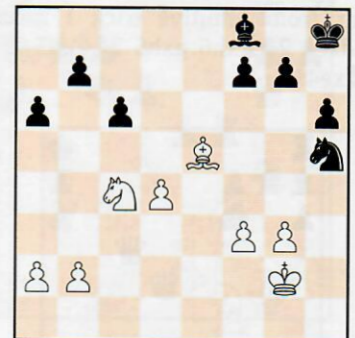
35.♘a5 After I win the b7 pawn, the c6 pawn will be very weak. Black's biggest problem for now is his knight, which is stuck on h5.
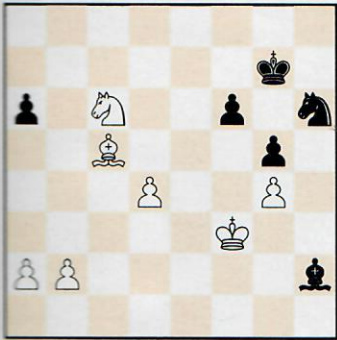
35...f6 35...♘f6 36.♗xf6 gxf6 37.♘xb7 is hopeless for Black. 35...♔h7! 36.♘xb7 ♔g6, followed by ...♘f6 is the engine's

suggestion, but White is still clearly better.

36.♗c7 g5 37.♘xb7 ♘g7 38.♗b6 38.♘d8! was stronger. I underestimated how good 38...c5 39.d5 ♘e8 40.♗b8 is for White.

38...♘f5 39.♔f2 h5 Black logically tries to create play on the kingside.

40.♘d8 ♗d6 41.g4 hxg4 42.fxg4 ♘h6 43.♔f3 ♔g7 44.♗c5 ♗h2 45.♘xc6

Next, White wants to advance his passed pawns, but Black has counterplay.

45...f5 46.gxf5 ♔f6 47.b4 Unfortunately 47.♘e7 ♘xf5 48.♘xf5 ♔xf5 isn't nearly enough to win.

47...♔xf5 47...g4+ 48.♔g2 ♗c7 49.a4 ♔xf5 may have been a better try, but it isn't clear if it holds.

48.a4 g4+ 49.♔g2 ♗f4 50.b5! After this move, I knew I was winning.

50...a5 If 50...axb5, then 51.a5+− is the key idea.

51.b6 ♔e4

52.b7!? A practical decision. I could have played 52.♘e5 first, but I still wasn't sure about 52...♘f5 53.b7 ♘h4+ 54.♔f1 g3 55.b8♕ g2+ 56.♔e2 g1♕ after which it looks like White should have something, but it's not obvious.

The engine finds 57.♕b7+ ♔f5 58.♕d7+ ♔e4 59.♘g4! which wins on the spot, but this isn't the easiest resource to envision from a far.

52...♗c7 He decides not to allow ♘e5. While this prolongs the fight, I was 100% confident in my ability to win the ensuing endgame. 52...♘f5 53.♘e5 would transpose to the 52.♘e5 note above.

53.♗b6 ♗d6 54.b8♕ ♗xb8 55.♘xb8 ♘f5 56.♘c6 ♘e3+ 57.♔g3 ♘c4 58.♗xa5 ♔d5 59.♘e7+ ♔d4 60.♗b4
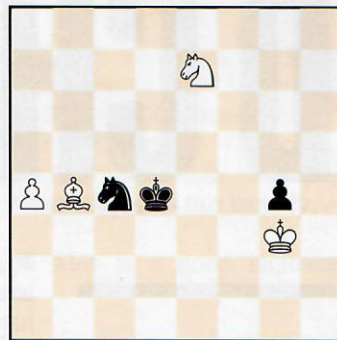
The dust has settled. White will win this endgame slowly but surely, but he has to be careful not to allow a knight trade since he has the wrong-colored bishop.

60...♘b6 61.a5 ♘a8 62.♔xg4 ♘c7 63.♔f5 ♔c4 64.♗e1 ♔b5 65.♔e5 ♘a6 66.♔d6 ♘c5 67.♘c6 ♘e4+ 68.♔c7 ♘c5 69.♘d4+ ♔a6 70.♔c6 ♘b7 71.♘b3 ♘d8+ 72.♔d7 ♘b7 73.♔c7 ♘a7 74.♗f2+ ♔a8
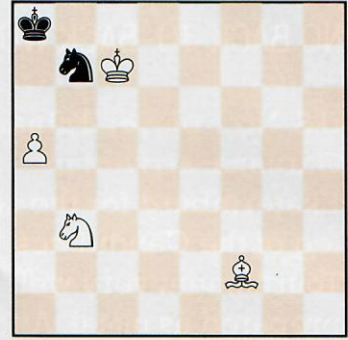
Mission accomplished! Now I have to be careful not to accidentally stalemate Black.

75.♔d7 ♔b8 76.a6 ♔a8 77.axb7+ There are more efficient ways to win, but I decided to go for an endgame I knew by heart.

77...♔xb7 78.♔d6 ♔a6 79.♔c5 ♔b7 80.♗g3 ♔a8 81.♔c6 ♔a7 82.♘c5 ♔a8 83.♘d7 ♔a7 84.♘b6 ♔a6 85.♗b8 We reach the textbook position. I actually learned the winning technique when I was 6, and 10 years later I get to use it for the first time!

85...♔a5 86.♘d5 ♔a4 87.♔c5 ♔b3 88.♘b4 ♔c3 89.♗f4 ♔b3 90.♗d2 ♔a4 91.♔c4 ♔a5 92.♗e3 ♔a4 93.♗b6 ♔a3 94.♘d3 ♔a4 95.♘b2+ ♔a3 96.♔c3 ♔a2 97.♔c2 ♔a3 98.♗c5+ ♔a2 99.♘d3 ♔a1 100.♗b4 ♔a2 101.♘c1+ ♔a1 102.♗c3 Mate

With this win, I won one of the biggest tournaments of my life! This technical, positional game was a nice change from some of my more chaotic games, even if there were a few inaccuracies/mistakes.