

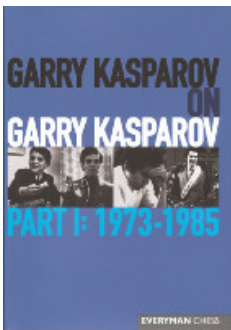


## Boxing the Compass

David Vigorito



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## New England Nor'easters Week Ten

The final week of the regular season of the USCL saw the Nor'easters up against the Baltimore Kingfishers for the second time this season. In order to make the playoffs, we would not only have to win, but we would need either Boston (facing New Jersey) or Manhattan (facing Carolina) to falter.

The line-ups were as follows:

- **Board One**  
GM Giorgi Margvelashvili (Baltimore) – GM Sam Shankland (New England)
- **Board Two**  
IM Robert Hungaski (New England) – IM Tegshsuren Enkhbat (Baltimore)
- **Board Three**  
NM Jared Defibaugh (Baltimore) – FM Braden Bournival (New England)
- **Board Four**  
NM Mika Brattain (New England) – FM Ralph Zimmer (Baltimore)

Sam's glorious return did not see fireworks, as his opponent seemed content to exchange pieces and the game was quickly drawn. This seemed fine to us, as Sam had black and we felt as though we were favorites on the other boards. Robert and Mika had good positions with white, and Brad looked solid.

This match was unusual because we were not only focused on our four games – we were watching the outcome of the other matches as well. These matches started before ours and things were taking odd turns. Last place New Jersey had brought out a strong lineup to face Boston, so we thought our best chance may be for Boston to falter. Unfortunately, for us, Boston's Krasik destroyed the veteran IM Kapengut, who was New Jersey's biggest rating favorite, with the black pieces.

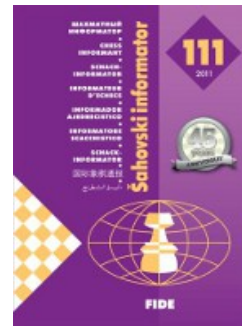
**Kapengut, Albert (2374) – Krasik, Ilya (2264)**  
USCL (10), 02.11.2011



[FEN "r2qr1k1/bp3ppp/p1n2n2/2Np3b/1P6/P4N1P/1BP1BPP1/R2Q1RK1 b - - 0 16"]

16...Ne4! 17.Nxb7 Qe7 18.Bxa6 Ng5 19.Be2 Qxb7 20.Qxd5 h6 21.Rfe1 Rad8 22.Bd3 Rxe1+ 23.Rxe1 Qb8 24.Ne5 Rxd5 25.Nxc6 Nf3+ 26.Kf1 Nd2

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**+ 27.Kg1 Bxf2+ 28.Kh1 Qa8 0-1**

On Board One, Benjamin beat Perelshteyn, but Krasik's crush was enough to ensure victory for Boston.

We still had hope, however, as Carolina was poised for an early victory on Board Four. Black was up a pawn for nothing in a normal ending and had a 100+ point rating advantage to boot.

**Prilleltensky, Matan (2186) – Jones, Craig (2305)**

USCL (10), 02.11.2011



[FEN "r4rk1/pp2bPPP/3p4/2pP4/PnP1nB2/1P3NP1/4NPK1/R6R b - - 0 19"]

Almost any move would leave Black clearly better.

**19...g5?**

A senseless weakening.

**20.Nd2 Nxd2? [20...f5] 21.Bxd2 Bf6 22.Nc3 Rae8? 23.Rh6**

Already Black is much worse.

**23...Kg7 24.Rah1 Rh8 25.Nb5+/- Nd3? 26.Nxd6+-- Re2 27.Be3 Be5 28.Nf5 + Kf8 29.d6 Ke8 30.d7+ Kxd7 31.Rd1 f6 32.Rxd3+ Ke6 33.Ng7+ Ke7 34. Bxc5+ Kf7 35.Rd7+ Kg8 36.Nf5 1-0**

And Black will be mate. After this our fate was sealed, but we took care of our business at least. Brad got in trouble. He was a pawn down in a rook ending and at one point he had less than a minute, while his opponent had close to an hour. His opponent kept moving very quickly and not surprisingly, completely blew it. Brad drew easily. Mika had a good position but his opponent created enough problems to gain counterplay and draw. The match all came down to Robert.

**Hungaski, Robert – Enkhbat, Tegshsuren**

USCL (10), 02.11.2011

Sicilian Defense [B13]

*Notes by Hungaski*

Life is tough, especially when your fate is out of your hands! We needed a win, and for Boston or Manhattan to falter.

**1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.c4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Bg5 dxc4 7.Bxc4**

I had prepared against a different line of the Panov, so now my "book" was running on fumes. I was impressed with Larry Christiansen's win over comrade Shankland last season, so I thought I would put the line to the test.

**7...h6**

7...Qxd4 8.Qxd4 Nxd4 9.0-0-0; 7...Nxd4 8.Nf3 Nxf3+ 9.Qxf3.

**8.Be3 e6 9.Nf3 Bd6 10.0-0 0-0 11.Qd2!?N**



[FEN "r1bq1rk1/pp3pp1/2nbpn1p/8/2BP4/2N1BN2/PP1Q1PPP/R4RK1 b - - 0 11"]

This is a new move, apparently. Usually when I look at these IQP positions where Black has a pawn on h6, I just can't resist the need to target it. I remember being impressed by the game Lenderman-Molner Philadelphia 2009, which illustrated some of the main drawbacks of having this pawn on h6. Moreover, in these type of positions, the queen usually goes to e2. However, my idea is to leave this square free for my knight on c3, so that when Black plays Nd5 I can reply with Ne2, avoiding the trade and perhaps relocating the knight to the kingside.

**11...Re8 12.Rad1 Bf8 13.a3 a6 14.Ba2 Ne7 15.Ne5 b5 16.Qd3 Bb7 17.Bc1 Ned5 18.Ne2!**



[FEN "r2qrbk1/1b3pp1/p3pn1p/1p1nN3/3P4/P2Q4/BP2NPPP/2BR1RK1 b - - 0 18"]

It's such a great feeling when ideas become reality!

**18...Rc8 19.Bb1 Rc7 20.Qh3 Ne7 21.Rfe1**

21.Nf4 Rxc1! 22.Rxc1 Qxd4 I looked at this position for quite some time and concluded that Black is doing quite well.; 21.Bd2!?.

**21...Ned5 22.Bd2 b4 23.a4**

I would argue that the situation on the queenside is to white's favor, given the weakened light-squares.

**23...Nd7 24.Ng3 Nxe5 25.dxe5 Rd7 26.Qg4**



## 26...f5

Black refuses to be part of the GOTW contest! The alternative would have led to some nice tactics. 26...Kh8 27.Ne4 Qb6 28.Bxh6! gxh6 29.Rxd5 Bxd5 (29...exd5 30.Qxd7) 30.Nf6+.

## 27.exf6

27.Nxf5 exf5 28.Bxf5 (28.Qxf5 g6 29.Qxg6+ Rg7) 28...Rf7 29.Qg6 Rxf5 30.Qxf5 Qc7.

**27...Nxf6 28.Qe2 Qa8 29.f3 Bd5 30.Be3 Qc6 31.a5 Bc5 32.Rc1 Bxe3+ 33.Qxe3 Qd6 [33...Qa4 34.Rc5] 34.Red1 Qf8 35.Ne2 Rc8 36.Nf4 Rxc1 37.Rxc1 Qd6 38.Nd3 Rc7 39.Rxc7 Qxc7**



[FEN "6k1/2q3p1/p3pn1p/P2b4/1p6/  
3NQP2/1P4PP/1B4K1 w - - 0 40"]

## 40.Qc5!

The endgame is winning.

**40...Qxc5+ [40...Ne8] 41.Nxc5 Bc4 42.b3 Bb5 43.Nxe6 Nd5 44.Bg6 Ne7 45.Be4 Nc6 46.Bxc6 Bxc6 47.Kf2 Bb5 48.Nc7 Bd3 49.Ke3 Bf1 50.g3 Kf7 51.Kd4 Ke7 52.Kc5 Kd7 53.Kb6 1-0**

All our other games were drawn, so this meant we won the match! Unfortunately, our friends in Jersey and Carolina could not give us a hand, having lost their respective matches against Boston and Manhattan. Their efforts did not go unnoticed, since despite having no playoff chances they fielded their top lineups and did their best to win. My hat goes off to them, to Boston and Manhattan, who struggled quite hard to get to where they are, and lastly to us! Despite our horrible start, we displayed a resilience that honored last year's accomplishments. Both seasons will always remain a source of great pride for me. Since I will be graduating from UConn this December, and moving back to the Southern Connecticut/New York area, it is safe to say this will be my last season with the Nor'Easters. At least for now. Guys, it's been a great ride and long live the New England Nor'Easters!

The Nor'easters set all kind of records last year and we won the championship in our very first season. Unfortunately, we set a distinction this year too: we became the first team in USCL history to not qualify for the playoffs with a winning record. We started the season with an abysmal 1/2-3 1/2 and turned it around to finish with a very strong 5-1 to achieve a final record of 5 1/2-4 1/2. We still missed some chances though. Until next year!

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