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Sacrificing in Sarajevo

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Unfortunately this year's super tournament in Sarajevo was slightly overshadowed by two coinciding major events: the European Individual Championships in Antalya, Turkey, and the World Knockout Championships for Women held in Elista. Nevertheless, the organizers of the Bosna 2004 tournament did a great job of assembling one of the strongest "in-house" competitions ever, since all the participants were actually members of the same club; yet they still proved very keen to compete against each other! Finally, when the nine rounds of fighting chess had come to an end, all the players moved on to Neum, where they successfully defended the umpteenth title of the Bosnian Team Champions.

In the game between Bologan and Atalik, both players emphatically insisted on the most aggressive continuations. The quiet man from Moldova struck first by sacrificing a pawn in a blocked classical Ruy Lopez structure. Atalik snatched it without much hesitation, and the show began! Trying to exploit Black's somewhat weakened eighth rank, Bologan conceded another pawn in order to create multiple threats. Atalik gladly accepted the pawn and had he decided to simplify matters by offering to exchange queens, it is most likely that Bologan would have faced a difficult ending. Instead Atalik discovered a tactical resource that turned out to be a drawing continuation. Unable to adjust to the circumstances, he pushed to win immediately after the time control, but it misfired badly and Bologan seized upon the chance to skillfully dismantle Black's position.

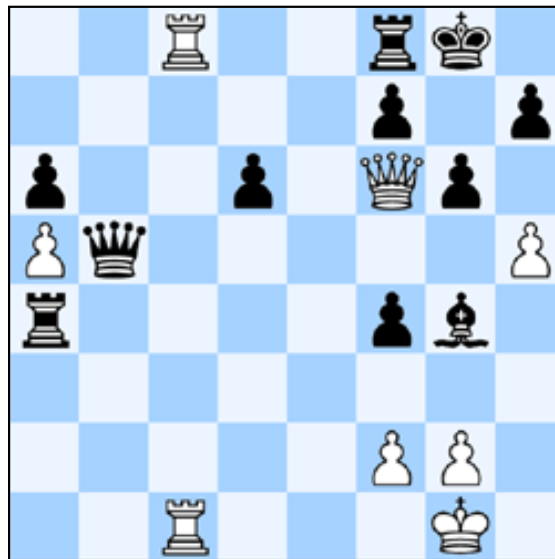
Inexperience was probably the key aspect affecting the tournament performance of U-16 World Champion Borki Predojevic. The best lesson that he was taught during his first over-the-board clash against a 2700+ player was on the subject of true grit. His teacher in this instance was Nigel Short, who had previously misstepped in his first two rounds of the tournament against Bologan and Movsesian. The former World Champion challenger was obviously unwilling to put up with that unfortunate "short castling" for too long, so he opted for long castling instead (thus completely ignoring the symbolism of connecting three zeros in a row), only to find out that he might have pushed his luck a bit too far against the aspiring young lad. Had Predojevic made the most of his opportunities in the second featured game, Short could easily have been smothered, but patience has never been the hallmark of the young gun's play. He threw all caution to the winds and launched a highly speculative piece sacrifice. The ensuing mind-boggling complications that the young IM had to deal with, in serious time trouble, brought Short back into the game. Predojevic overlooked the winning

continuation, but still managed to force a draw by perpetual check.

Bologan (2665) – Atalik (2554)

Sarajevo 2004

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Ba4 Nf6 5. 0-0 Be7 6. Re1 b5 7. Bb3 d6 8. c3 0-0 9. h3 Nb8 10. d4 Nbd7 11. Nbd2 Bb7 12. Bc2 c5 13. d5 g6 14. Nf1 Nh5 15. Bh6 Re8 16. a4!? [16. b3 see 16/264] **Nb6!?** [a novelty; 16... Bf6] **17. a5?!** [17. Qd2 and White is slightly better; 17. Ng3 Ng3 18. fg3 Na4 19. Ba4 ba4 20. Ra4 Bc8 21. g4 Bd7 22. Ra1 and White is slightly better] **Nc4 18. b3?!** [18. b4 cb4 19. cb4 Bf6 20. Ne3 Ne3 21. Be3 Nf4; 20... Rc8 unclear] **Na5 19. Ra2 Qc7** [19... Bc8? 20. Qa1 Nb7 21. Ra6 Ra6 22. Qa6 and White is superior; 19... Qb6! 20. Qa1 (20. Qd2 Bc8 21. Rea1 Nb7 22. c4 b4 23. g4 Nf6 and Black is slightly better, with the idea 24. Ng5?! Nd8 25. f4 ef4 26. Qf4 Nd7 27. Nf3 Bf6; 20. Bg5 Bg5 21. Ng5 h6 22. Nf3 Bc8 23. Qd2 Nf4 24. Rea1 Nb7 25. h4 Kg7 26. Ne3 Bd7 27. g3 Nh5 and Black is slightly better) Bd8 21. Qb2 Bc8 22. Rea1 Nb7 and Black is slightly better] **20. Qa1 Bd8 21. N1d2!** (with counterplay) **Bc8 22. Rc1** [22. b4 cb4 23. cb4 Nc4 24. Nc4 Qc4 25. Qb1 Qc7 and Black is slightly better] **Nf4** [22... Qb6!? 23. b4 Nb7 24. c4 Bd7 25. Bd3 Nf4 26. Bf4 ef4 27. cb5 Bb5 28. Bb5 Qb5 29. Rb1 cb4 30. Nd4 Qd7 31. Rb4 Nc5 32. Nc6 with compensation] **23. Bf4 ef4 24. b4 cb4?!** [24... Nc4 25. Nc4 bc4 26. Nd2 Rb8 27. bc5 Qc5 28. Ra4 Bh4 29. Rf1 Bf6 30. Rc4 Qa7 unclear] **25. cb4 Nc4 26. Bd3 Qb8 27. Bc4 bc4 28. Nc4!?** (with initiative) **Re4 29. Na5** [29. b5?! Bb7 30. ba6 Bd5 31. a7 Qb4 32. Rb2 Qc5 33. Nb6 Ra7 34. Qb1 Bb6 35. Rc5 Bc5 and Black is superior, with the idea 36. Rb8?! Kg7 37. Qd3 Ra2! (37... Bc6 38. Rc8; 37... Ra8 and Black is slightly better) 38. Qc3 (38. Qd5? Ra1 39. Kh2 Bf2 and Black is winning) f6 39. Rb2 Rc4 40. Qd2 Ra1 41. Kh2 Bf3 42. gf3 Rd4 43. Qe2 Rdd1 and Black is winning] **Ba5** [29... Qb4 30. Nc6 Qb6 31. Rb2 Qc7 32. Nd8 Qd8 33. Rc6 Re7 34. Rbb6 Rd7 35. Nd2 with compensation] **30. ba5 Qb5 31. Rd2** [31. Qf6 Qd5 32. Rd2 Qe6 33. Rd6 Qf6 34. Rf6 h6] **Bb7 32. h4?** [32. Rb1? Ra4; 32. Rb2 Qd7 (32... Qd5 33. Rc7 Bc8 34. Rd2 Qe6 35. Qd1 Qe8 36. Rd6 and White is slightly better) 33. Qa2 Rc8 34. Rc8 Bc8 35. Rb6 Ra4 36. Qd2 unclear] **Bd5 33. h5** [33. Qf6 Qa5 34. Rcd1 Bb3 and Black is winning; 33. Rcd1 Ra4 and Black is winning] **Ra4!** (and Black is superior) **34. Qf6 Bf3 35. Rdc2** [35. h6 Qe5 and Black is winning; 35. hg6 hg6 36. gf3 Ra5 37. Rd6 Qg5 and Black is winning] **Re8!** [35... Rf8 36. Rc8 (36. Rc5!?) Bg4

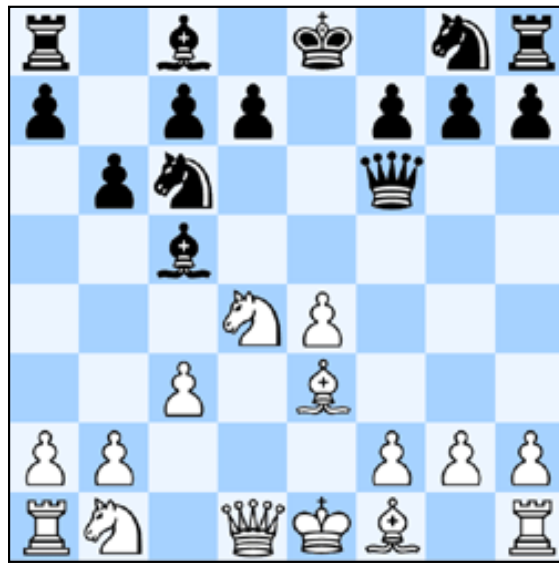


37. Re1! Re4!! 38. Rf8 (38. Re4? Rc8 and Black is winning) Kf8 39. Qh8 Ke7 40. Re4 Be6 unclear; 35... Bh5 36. Rc8 Qe8 37. Re8 Re8 38. Rc7 Rf8 39. Qd6 equal; 35... Qf5!? 36. Qf5 gf5 37. gf3 Ra5 38. Kh2 (38. h6? Rc5 39. Rc5 dc5 40. Rc5 a5 and Black is winning) Rb5 39. Rg1 Kf8 40. h6 Rc5 41. Rb2 Ke7 42. Rb7 Ke6 43. Rg7 Rf8 44. Rh7 Kf6 and Black is superior] **36. h6 Qe5 37. Rc8 Bc6** [37... Qf6?? 38. Re8 mate] **38. Qe5** [38. R1c6 Ra1 39. Kh2 Qh5 and Black is winning] **de5 39. R1c6 Kf8?** [39... Rf8! 40. Rc5 e4 41. R8c6 (41. R8c7 Ra1 42. Kh2 Ra2 43. Re7 e3 44. fe3 f3) Ra1 42. Kh2 e3 43. fe3 fe3 44. Re5 e2 45. Re2 Ra5 and Black is winning] **40. R8c7 Ra1** [40... Re7 equal] **41. Kh2 Re6?** [41... Re7 equal] **42. Rb6!** (and White is winning) **e4** (only move) **43. Rb8 Re8 44. Rbb7 Re5 45. Rf7 Ke8 46. g4!** [46. Kh3 Rg5!] **fg3 47. Kg3 Rg5** [47... e3 48. Rh7 Rg5 49. Kh4 Rh5 50. Kg4 Rg1 51. Kf3 Rf5 52. Ke2 Rf2 53. Ke3] **48. Kf4 Rf5 49. Rf5 gf5 50. Rh7 Rf1 51. Rb7 Rf2 52. Kg3 1 : 0 [Bologan]**

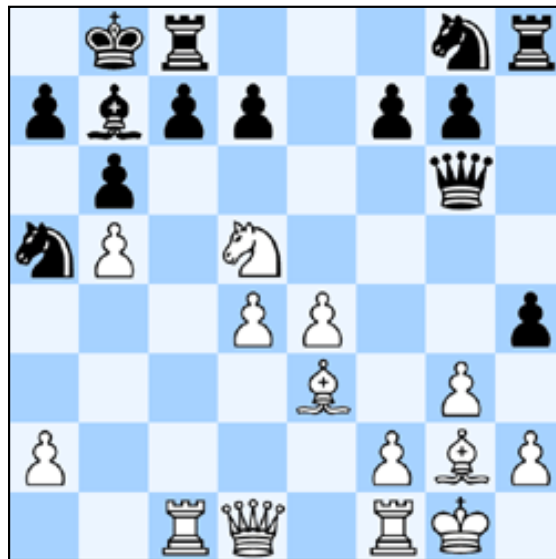
Predojevic (2503) – N. Short (2712)

Sarajevo 2004

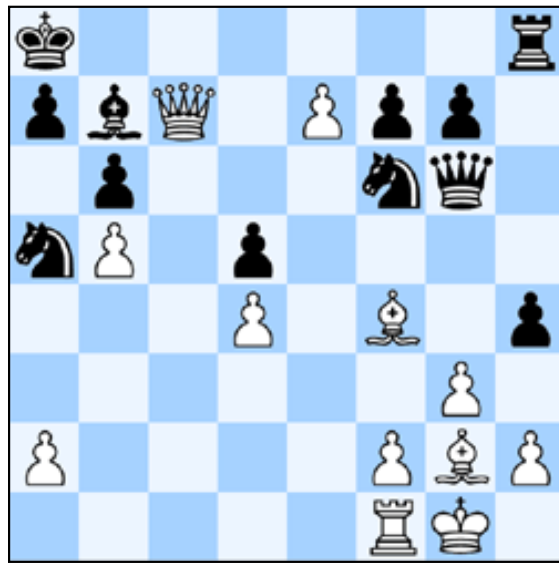
1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 ed4 4. Nd4 Bc5 5. Be3 Qf6 6. c3 b6?! [6... Nge7 7. g3 b6 8. Bg2 Bb7 9. 0-0 0-0 a) 10. b4 Bd4 11. cd4 Ba6! 12. Re1 Nb4 13. a3 (13. Qa4 Nd3 with the idea 14. Qa6? Ne1 15. e5 Qf5 16. Ba8 Ra8) Nd3 14. Re2 c5 15. e5 Qe6 16. Ba8 Ra8 with compensation; b) 10. Re1! Rfe8 11. b4 Bd6 12. Nb5 Nc8 13. f4 with initiative]



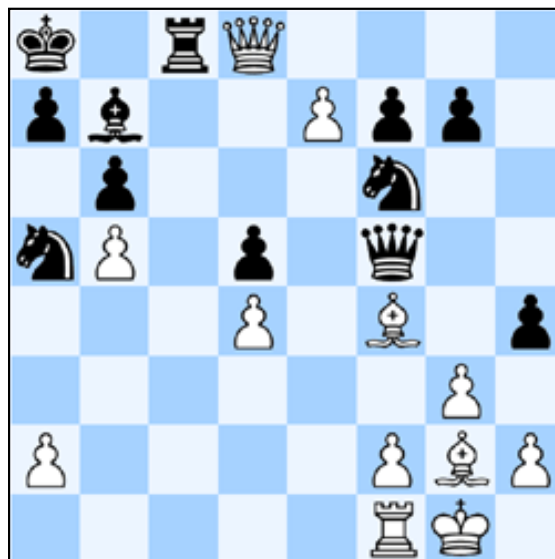
7. g3! [a novelty; 7. Bc4 see 87/302; 7. b4!? a) 7... Bd4?! 8. cd4 Nb4 9. Nc3! Ne7 10. Nb5 Na6 11. Rc1 0-0! (11... Bb7 12. d5 0-0 13. Nc7 Nc7 14. Rc7 Bc8 15. Bd3 and White is superior) 12. Qf3! (12. Nc7 Nc7 13. Rc7 Qd6 14. Rc1 Bb7 15. f3 Rfc8 16. Bc4 Qg6 17. 0-0 d5 unclear) Qf3 13. gf3 c6 14. Nd6 Nc7 15. Rg1! with compensation; b) 7... Be7 8. Nb5 Bd8 9. Nd2! (9. g3 Nge7 10. Bg2 a5!) Nge7 (9... a6 10. Nd4 Nge7 11. g3 0-0 12. Bg2 Bb7 13. 0-0 Re8 14. f4 and White is slightly better; 9... a5 10. ba5 Ra5 11. a4 Nge7 12. Be2 0-0 13. 0-0 and White is slightly better) 10. g3 d5 11. Bg2 de4 12. Ne4 Qg6 13. 0-0 Bf5 14. Ned6! cd6 15. Nd6 Kf8 16. Nf5! (16. Bc6 Nc6 17. Qd5 Bd7 18. b5 Qe6! 19. Qe6 fe6 20. bc6 Bc6 and Black is slightly better) Qf5 17. Qd6 Qc8 (17... Rc8 18. Bc6 and White is superior) 18. b5 Bc7 19. Qd1 Ne5 20. Ba8 Qa8 21. f4 Nc4 22. Bd4 Nf5 23. Qe2 Ncd6 24. Rfe1 with initiative; c) 7... Nd4! 8. bc5 Ne6 unclear] **Bb7 8. Bg2 0-0-0?! [8... Nge7 see 6... Nge7] 9. 0-0 h5!** [9... Nge7 10. b4! Bd4 11. cd4 Nb4 12. Qa4 Nbc6 13. Nc3 and White is superior] **10. b4 Bd4** [10... Bf8!? 11. h3 (11. f4 h4 12. g4 h3! 13. Bf3 Qg6 with counterplay) Qg6 12. Nd2 Nf6 13. Re1 d5 14. Nc6 Bc6 15. e5 Ne4 16. Ne4 (16. Bd4 Nd2 17. Qd2 Be7 18. a4 and White is superior) de4 17. Qe2 h4 18. g4 f5 (18... Rd3 19. a4 Be7 20. b5 Bb7 21. a5 Rhd8 22. Bd4 and White is superior) 19. ef6 gf6 20. Bd4 Re8 21. Qc4 Bb7 22. a4! and White is superior] **11. cd4** (and White is superior) **h4** [only move; 11... Nb4? 12. Nc3 Ne7 (12... Ba6? 13. Qa4! Bf1 14. Qa7 Qc6 15. Bf1! and White is winning) 13. Qb3 Nbc6 14. d5 Ne5 15. Nb5! Kb8 (15... a6 16. Nc7! Kc7 17. f4 and White is winning) 16. Bd4 c5 17. Bc3 and White is winning, with the idea f4] **12. Nc3 Kb8! 13. Rc1 Rc8 14. Nd5?! [14. b5 Na5 15. Qd3 and White is superior] Qg6 15. b5 Na5!** [15... Nce7 16. Nc7! Rc7 17. Bf4 d6 18. Rc7 Kc7 19. Qc2 Kb8 20. Rc1 Ka8 21. Qc7 and White is superior]



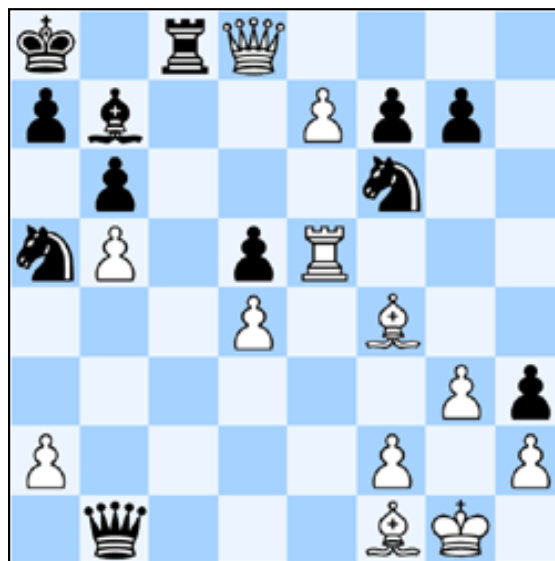
16. Nc7!? [16. Qf3! Bd5 17. ed5 d6 18. h3! f5! (18... Nf6 19. g4 and White is superior; 18... hg3 19. fg3 Nf6 20. Bd2!? Nb7 21. g4 and White is superior) 19. Rfe1 Nf6 20. Bd2 Nb7 21. Bf4 and White is slightly better] **Rc7 17. Bf4 d6 18. Rc7 Kc7 19. Qc1!!** [19. Qc2? Kb8 (19... Kd8 20. Rc1 Ke8 21. Qc7 and White is winning) 20. Rc1 (20. e5?? Qc2 and Black is winning) Ka8 21. Qc7 Nf6 and Black is winning] **Kb8!** [19... Kd7? 20. Bh3 Kd8 (20... Ke8 21. Qc7 and White is winning) 21. Bf5 Qh5 (21... Qf6 22. Bg5 and White is winning) 22. g4 and White is winning; 19... Kd8!? a) 20. e5? d5! 21. e6 Nc4! and Black is superior; b) 20. Qc2 Nf6 only move (20... Ne7 21. Rc1 and White is winning; 20... Bd5!? 21. Rc1 Bc4 22. Qa4 Bd3 23. Qb4 with attack) 21. Bd6 (21. Rc1 Ne8!) Ne8! 22. Bb4 a6! 23. Ba5 (23. ba6 Ba6 24. Rc1 Nc4 25. Qb3 b5 unclear) ba5 24. ba6 Ba6 25. Rb1 hg3 26. hg3 (26. Rb8 Kd7 27. hg3 Qc6 unclear) Qh6 (26... Kd7 27. Qa4 Ke7 28. Qa5 Rh6 29. Rb8 Qc6 30. Qa3 Qd6 31. Qb2 with initiative) 27. f4 Qd6 28. Qd2 Ke7 unclear; c) 20. Qa3! Ke8! (20... Ne7 21. Bd6 Nc8 22. Bf4 Nc4 (only move) 23. Qa4 N4d6 24. d5 hg3 25. fg3 f6 26. Bd6 Nd6 27. Qa7 Qf7 28. Qb8 Nc8 29. Rc1 and White is winning) 21. Rc1 hg3 22. fg3 Qf6 c1) 23. e5 Qe6 24. Bb7 Nb7 25. Qa7 Nd8 26. Qb6 Qa2 (26... de5 27. Qe6 Ne6 28. Be5 and White is winning) 27. h4 de5 28. Re1 (28. Rc8? Qa1 29. Kg2 Qb2 30. Kh3 Qd4 31. Qd4 ed4 32. b6 Ne7 33. b7 Nec6 34. b8Q Nb8 35. Rb8 f6 and Black is superior) Ne7 29. Be5 Rh6! (with counterplay) 30. Qc5 Re6!; c2) 23. Qb4! d5! (23... Kd7 24. h4! and White is superior, with the idea Bh3) 24. ed5 (24. e5? Qe7 and Black is superior; 24. Rc7 de4 with the idea 25. Rb7? Nb7 26. Be4 Nd8 and Black is winning) Ne7 25. Rc7 Ng6 26. Bc1!? (with the idea Ba3, Qc3, Rc8) Rh5 (only move) 27. Qc3! (with the idea Rc8) c21) 27... Qf5 28. h4 Bd5 (28... Kf8 29. d6 and White is winning) 29. Rc8 Ke7 30. Qc7 Kf6 31. Rd8 Be6 32. d5 and White is winning; c22) 27... Kd8! 28. h4! (with the idea Bh3) Ne7 29. d6 Qd6 30. Bf4 Nd5! 31. Bd6 Nc3 32. Rc3 Rb5 33. Bb7 Nb7 34. Bf8 g6 and White is slightly better] **20. e5! d5** [20... Nf6!? 21. ef6 Qf6] **21. e6 Ka8 22. Qc7 Nf6 23. e7** with attack



23... Rc8? [23... Qf5! a) 24. Rc1? a1) 24... Rc8? 25. Qd8 Nc4 26. Be5 hg3! 27. hg3 (27. fg3? Qe6 28. Bf6 Qe3 and Black is winning) Qe6 28. f4!! g6 (28... Ne8 29. Rc4! dc4 30. f5! and White is winning) 29. Bf6 Qe3 (29... Qf6 30. Qc8 Bc8 31. e8Q and White is winning) 30. Kh2 Qc1 31. Qc8 Bc8 32. e8Q and White is superior; a2) 24... Qc8! 25. Qc8 (25. Be5 Nc4 26. Qc8 Rc8 and Black is winning) Bc8 26. Be5 Be6 27. gh4 Re8 28. Rc7 Ng8 29. Bg7 Ne7 30. h5 Nf5 31. Be5 Rg8 32. Kh1 Nc4 and Black is winning; b) 24. Be5 Nc4 only move (24... Qc8 25. Qc8 Rc8 26. Bf6 gf6 27. Re1 Re8 28. Bh3 and White is winning; 24... Rc8 25. Qd8 Qe6 26. Bf6 gf6 27. Bh3 and White is winning) 25. Bf6! Qf6 (25... gf6? 26. Re1 and White is winning) 26. Rc1 (with the idea Rc4) Nd6!? (26... Rc8 27. Bd5! and White is winning; 26... Re8 27. Rc4 Qe7 28. Qe7 Re7 29. Rc1 and White is slightly better) 27. Rc6! b1) 27... Nb5 28. Rf6 Nc7 29. Rf7 Re8 30. Rg7 hg3 31. hg3! and White is superior, see 27... hg3; b2) 27... hg3 28. hg3 Nb5 29. Rf6 Nc7 30. Rf7 Re8 31. Rg7 Ne6 32. Rf7 Bc6 (32... Kb8 33. f4 Kc7 34. f5 Kd6 35. f6!) 33. g4! Kb7 (33... Ng5 34. Rf8 and White is winning; 33... a6 34. f4 Nf4 35. Rf4 Re7 36. g5 and White is superior) 34. f4 Nf4 35. Rf4 Re7 36. g5 and White is superior; b3) 27... Bc6! 28. Qc6 Kb8 29. Bd5 hg3 30. Qa8 Kc7 31. Qc6 equal; c) 24. Re1 Rc8 (only move) 25. Qd8 h3 equal see 23... Rc8; d) 24. Qd8 Qc8 25. Bc7! (N. Short) h3! 26. Bf3 Nc4 27. Rc1 Re8 28. Be2! (28. a4?! g6! 29. a5 ba5 30. Ba5 Ng8 31. Bd5 Ne7 32. Qc8 Rc8 33. Bc4 Nf5 and Black is slightly better) g6 29. Bc4 dc4 30. Rc4 Bd5 31. Rc1 Kb7 32. a4 Be6 33. a5 ba5 34. Qd6 Ka8 35. d5 Bd5 36. Qf6 Qe6 37. Be5 Qf6 38. Bf6 Kb7 with counterplay] **24. Qd8** [with the idea Bh3] **Qf5**



25. Re1? [25. Be5! Qe6 only move (25... Ne8 26. Rc1 Nc4 27. Bd5 and White is winning) 26. Bf6 gf6 27. Bh3! Qh3 28. e8Q a) 28... hg3 29. fg3 Rd8 (29... Qg4? 30. Qdd7! Qd4 31. Kh1 and White is winning) 30. Qd8 Qc8 31. Qc8 Bc8 32. h4 and White is winning; b) 28... Rd8 29. Qd8 Qc8 (29... Bc8 30. Rc1 Nc4 31. Qd5 Bb7 32. Qd8 Bc8 33. Rc4 and White is winning) 30. Qc8 Bc8 31. gh4 and White is winning] **h3!** [25... Ne8 26. Re5! Qb1 27. Bf1 Qa2 28. Rh5! Qc2 29. Rh8 Nf6 30. Be5 Ng4 31. Be2! and White is winning] **26. Re5!** [26. Be5? Ne8! 27. Bd5 Bd5 28. Qd5 Nb7 and Black is winning] **Qb1** **27. Bf1**



27... a6! [equal, with the idea Ka7; 27... Ne8 28. Rd5!! (28. Rh5 and White is winning, with the idea Rh8) Qe4! 29. Qc8!! (29. Qe8 Qh1!! and Black is winning) Bc8 30. Rd8 Kb7 31. Re8 a6 (31... Nc4 32. Rc8 Kc8 33. Bh3 f5 34. Bf5 Qf5 35. e8Q and White is winning; 31... Qe6 32. Bh3! Qh3 33. Rd8 and White is winning; 31... f5 32. Be5 and White is winning, with the idea Rc8) 32. Rc8 Qe7 (32... Kc8 33. Bh3 Kb7 34. Bg2 and White is winning) 33. Rc7 Qc7 34. ba6 Kb8 35. a7 and White is winning] **28. e8Q** [28. Qb6? Nc4 and Black is winning] **Ne8** **29. Re8 Rd8** **30. Rd8 Ka7** **31. Bb8** [31... Ka8 32. Be5 Bc8 (32... Ka7 33. Bb8 equal) 33. Rc8 Kb7 34. Rc7 Ka8 35. Rc8 (35. ba6? Nc4 and Black is winning) Kb7 36. Rc7 equal] **1/2 : 1/2** [Predojevic]



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