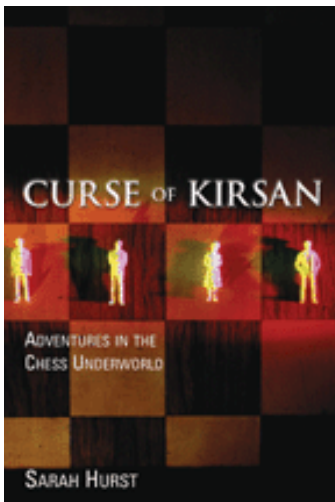




## COLUMNISTS

## *Susan Polgar on Chess*

Susan Polgar



*Curse of Kirsan*  
by Sarah Hurst

## Battle of the Genders II: Polgar vs. Nakamura

On Saturday February 26, 2005, another historic battle of the genders took place during the Millennium Chess Festival in Virginia Beach, Virginia. It featured two of the biggest names in US chess: 2005 US Champion and the number one ranked US player Hikaru Nakamura and 4-time Women's World Champion and 5-time Olympic Champion and the number one ranked woman player in the world Susan Polgar.

The format was a big hit with the fans. Instead of competing face to face, the players occupied adjacent rooms with large demo boards. They then explained their thoughts, analysis, and evaluations to the audience. It was like being inside the grandmasters' minds. The audience could ask questions and sometimes even got involved with the analysis. It was done in a very fun, informative, personal and exciting environment.



Both players arrived before 7 PM to a throng of people waiting in line. After a spending a few minutes going over the rules, the players went to their separate playing rooms. While the players waited for all the technical things to be set up, they greeted the fans. Hikaru went on the Internet where he is a very popular player and Susan glad-handed with the folks standing in line to get into the playing hall while posing for pictures and signing autographs.



Finally, the game got underway. Paul Truong was the emcee for Susan's playing hall and FM Sunil Weeramantry was the emcee for Hikaru's side. When the players were ready to move, they would inform either Sunil or Paul who would then relate the moves to each other through walkie-talkies. In the meantime, the event was broadcast live on playchess.com with voice and video live feeds. Many other major servers also broadcast the game live.

The audiences in both playing halls were very enthusiastic and cheered the players on. The game was very exciting and filled with psychological warfare and unexpected twists and turns. It was a fantastic event. The sponsors got tremendous coverage and the fans got to be involved in a real exciting chess battle. They actually witnessed how two world-class grandmasters think while trying to outwit each other on the chess board. Overall, it was a win-win situation for everyone. The organizers and sponsors of the Millennium Chess Festival deserve a lot of credit for putting on a fantastic show!

***GM Susan Polgar (2577) – GM Hikaru Nakamura (2660)***

[D09] Virginia Beach, 02.27.2005 (Game 60) Analysis by Susan Polgar

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 e5**

The Albin Counter Gambit is quite rare in grandmaster practice and only very few "dare" to play it. Grandmaster Morozevich of Russia is one who plays it occasionally and with success. Hikaru is likely the second strongest player who is willing to surprise his opponents with it.

Prior to the game I primarily anticipated a more solid opening. However, I was ready for the Albin psychologically. Ironically, in the current (February 2005) issue of *Chess Life*, I wrote about this very opening! Therefore, it became a psychological battle too. I was wondering if he read my article or not?! And if he did, did he find a novelty? As I discovered after the game, he did! It is flattering that he is not the only GM who reads my articles.

**3.dxe5 d4 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.g3 Nge7**

Formerly, Black used to play 5...Be6 or 5...Bg4 instead. This is a new idea of Morozevich's.

### 6.Bg2 Ng6 7.Bg5

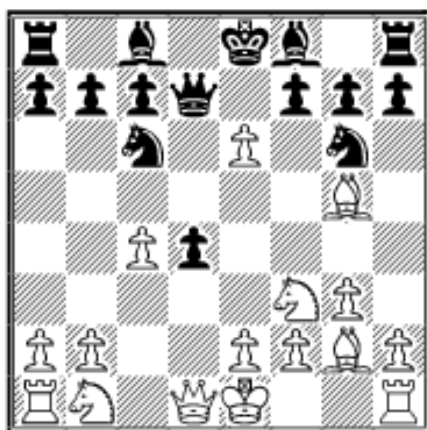
In some games, White returned the pawn with 7.0-0 Ngxe5 8.Nxe5 Nxe5 but Black has little to worry then. Protecting the pawn with 7.Bf4 allows 7...Nxf4 ruining White's pawn structure on the kingside.

### 7...Qd7



A strange looking move but it is the best choice. After 7...Be7 8.Bxe7 Black has problems getting the sacrificed pawn back.

### 8.e6!



By returning the pawn, White forces Black's f-pawn to the e-file.

### 8...fxe6 9.0-0 e5 10.Nbd2

Apparently, my opponent was hoping for 10.Qa4 as I suggested in my article, but I surprised him with 10.Nbd2.

### 10...h6 11.Bh4 Bd6

I don't think that this is an improvement over Krasenkow - Morozevich, where Black developed the bishop to e7.

### 12.c5!

A fine tactical way to use the black knight's unprotected position.

### 12...Bxc5

This came to me as a pleasant surprise. It also shocked the audience; retreating to e7 was much safer. It shows that Hikaru is not afraid of sharp games, nor is he afraid of a challenge.

### 13.Qc2

This move forks Black's bishop and knight.

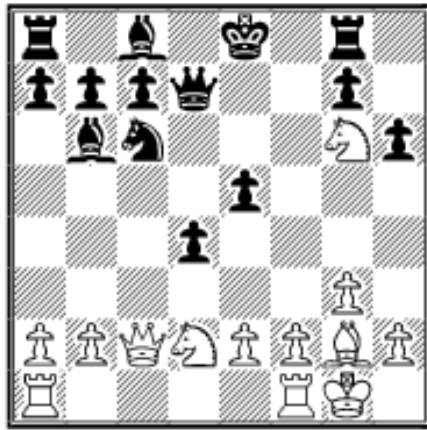
### 13...Nxb4

The only way to avoid losing a piece.

### 14.Nxb4 Bb6

I did not even consider this retreat, only to d6, b4 or e7.

### 15.Ng6 Rg8



The rook could not go to h7 because of a discovery with the knight. White is clearly better here. The dilemma is which tempting continuation to choose.

### 16.Qc4

I considered this along with a different execution with 16.Qb3. However, I found an additional interesting continuation after the game with 16.Nc4. For example 16...Qf5 17.Be4 Qf6 18.Bxc6+ bxc6 19.Ngxe5.

### 16...Qe6

The only way to save the rook! After 16...Ne7, White would trade knights and then simply capture the rook on g8.

### 17.Bxc6+

This is one of the critical positions of the game. I had the opportunity to win an exchange with 17.Bd5 Qxg6 18.Bxg8 but with the short time control I did not want to give Hikaru counterplay with 18...Bh3. Then Black has a pawn for the exchange and the light squares around my king are pining for my bishop which is stranded on g8. Another option was after 17.Bd5 Qxg6 was 18.Bxc6, but I decided against it because of 18...Kf8. To my amazement, my opponent told me after the game that he planned to sacrifice the exchange anyway with 18...bxc6. If I had known that, I would have played the 17.Bd5 variation.

### 17...bxc6 18.Nxe5 Qxc4 19.Ndxc4

This is the position I was hoping for. White has the better pawn structure and the black bishop on b6 is really out of play.

**19...c5 20.Rfc1 a5**

Perhaps better was 20...Be6. On the other hand, 20...Bb7 is not good because of 21.a4 (threatening to trap the bishop with 22.a5) 21...a5 22.Nxb6 cxb6 and 23.Nc4 winning a pawn.

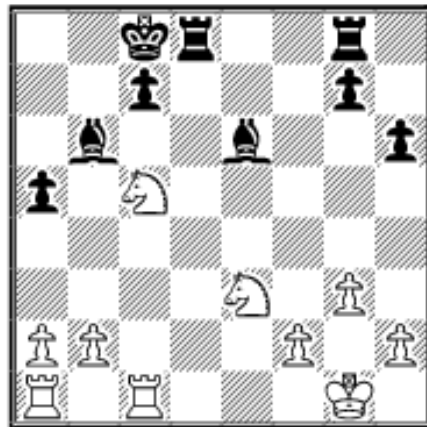
**21.e3! dxe3 22.Nxe3 Be6 23.Nd3?**

This mistake lets most of the advantage slip. The more accurate move was 23.Rd1 not allowing Black to castle.

**23...0-0-0**

I was so glad to win a pawn that I underestimated Black's counter play.

**24.Nxc5**



**24...Bh3**

This bishop is becoming like an “annoying monster” constantly setting up back rank checkmate traps.

**25.Rc2**

25.Rc3 was also good.

**25...Rge8 26.Rac1 Kb8 27.a3**

Preparing b2-b4.

**27...a4!**

A very good move! After 28.Nxa4, Black answers with 28...Rxe3 29.fxe3 Bxe3+ 29.Kh1 Bxc1 30.Rxc1 Rd2.

**28.Rc3**

According to Fritz better was 28.Rc4 Rd2 29.Rb4.

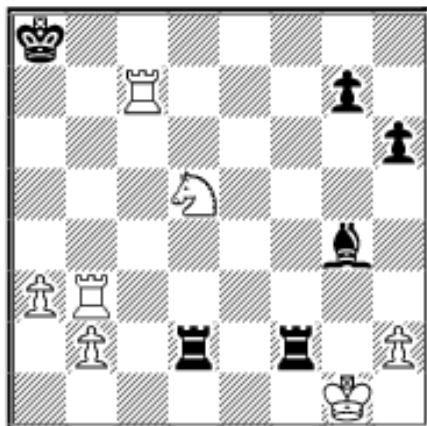
**28...Rd2 29.Nxa4**

A blunder would be 29.R1c2, because of checkmate in two after 29...Rd1+!.

**29...Bxe3 30.Rxe3 Rf8 31.Rb3+ Ka8 32.g4!**

Giving up a pawn to force the bishop away from its powerful position!

**32...Bxg4 33.Rxc7 Rxf2 34.Nb6+ Kb8 35.Nd5+ Ka8 1/2-1/2**



Black offered the draw. White had 2'25" left and Black had 4'31" left. White is still better after 36.Ne3 Bh3 37.Rc5 Rf7 38.Ra5+ Ra7 39.Nc4.



### **The Susan Polgar Foundation New Challenge**

Unfortunately, after the recent passing of legendary grandmaster Arnold Denker, the annual Denker Tournament of High School Champions is in jeopardy because of funding problems. Therefore, the Susan Polgar Foundation has decided to sponsor the tournament in his honor. The boy's event will continue to be held alongside the Susan Polgar National Invitational for Girls. We want to give the boys and girls equal opportunities to compete and excel in chess.

The cost to finance these two events is about \$13,000 - \$15,000 each year. I will continue to work hard to do the fundraising to support our young players. Donations to the Susan Polgar Foundation to support scholastic chess are certainly welcome. Donations can be made to the [Susan Polgar Foundation](#) a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The address is 103-10 Queens Blvd. (Suite 1C) Forest Hills, NY 11375. Thank you for your support.

### **New Products and Upcoming Events**

I have just received the first copy of my upcoming book *World Champion's*



*Guide to Chess* by Random House and I am quite pleased with it. The official release date is March 8, 2005.

This book contains masterful tactics and techniques for players of all ages with all original puzzles. I wanted to share with the readers the techniques that were taught to me when I started to play chess and the methods that I developed teaching my sisters and countless students over the years. It will be available at the Super Nationals, at USCF Sales and book stores nationwide. The *World Champion's Guide to Tactics* will come out later this year.

Additionally, my book *Breaking Through - How the Polgar Sisters Changed the Game of Chess* will come out in May and a premier signing will be held at the National Open in Las Vegas in June 2005.

My sisters will join me for a special appearance at the [National Open](#) between June 9 and 13, 2005. *This is the first time in over 10 years that the Polgar sisters appear together at an event in the United States!* We don't expect to repeat this any time in the near future. Part of our program will be a 100 board simul with all three sisters. This is an incredibly rare opportunity for fans to have a chance to play against all three of us at once!

Fans can also join us for breakfast before the first round where we will talk about our chess careers and answer questions from the audience. I will also conduct a special chess camp on site. This is guaranteed to be a very special event.

Last but not least, I have just completed a series of five professionally produced DVDs by the Award-Winning firm Avanti Visual Communications in West Palm Beach, Florida and Polgar Chess. The entire series will be released before the Super Nationals about a month from now.

### **Irina Krush versus Zhu Chen**

On March 1, 2005, IM Irina Krush, member of the 2004 US Women's Olympiad Silver Medalist Team will face off against GM Zhu Chen, the ninth World Champion and member of the 2002 Chinese Gold Medal Women's Olympiad Team in a two game rapid exhibition. They will play at the same location as the Kasparov versus Karpov match in Times Square ABC Studio a few years ago.

The event is sponsored by Accoona.com, the new Artificial Intelligence Search Engine. The players have an intense personal rivalry that dates back five years. At the 2000 Women's World Championship in New Delhi, India, 16-year-old Krush defeated the heavily favored Chen in the first round in a knockout world championship, dashing her world championship hopes for the year. In 2002 Zhu Chen finally got her revenge when she faced Krush in a four-game match between China and the United States and won three of them.

Move-by-move commentary of the match will be provided by best-selling author and television personality Paul Hoffman, who has covered chess for the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *New Yorker*, and *ESPN*. Joining him will be two-time Canadian Champion and International Master Pascal Charbonneau and

two-time US Women's Champion Jennifer Shahade (author of the forthcoming book, *Chess Bitch: Women in the Ultimate Intellectual Sport*) and me.

### **Linares 2005**

The Linares super chess tournament is about half way through and once again Garry Kasparov is showing why he has been ranked #1 in the world for the last 20 straight years. He is leading the tournament with a +2 score with a performance of nearly 2900. The world's #2 player GM Vishy Anand is tied for second place with #3 ranked player GM Topalov of Bulgaria. They are both +1 in the tournament. GM Leko from Hungary and the reigning world knockout champion Kasimdzhanov have drawn all their games.

### **Women's Chess Still Taking a Back Seat with FIDE**

An [Associated Press story](#) out of Georgia – site of the FIDE Presidential Council Feb. 27-28 – quotes FIDE president Kirsan Ilyumzhinov as wanting a double round-robin tournament to unify the world title.

*Under the latest Ilyumzhinov's plan, grandmasters Kasimdzhanov, his runner-up Michael Adams of England, Leko, Viswanathan Anand of India, Veselin Topalov of Bulgaria and Russians Kramnik, Kasparov and Alexander Morozovich will play two round-robin rounds to decide the world title.*

*The eight chess players had no immediate reaction.*

*Ilyumzhinov said that the likely venue for the event would be Kalmykia's central city of Elista, but several other options are also being considered. "The minimum prize-money for the event is set at \$500,000, but it will most likely rise," he said.*

*All the participants will have to sign up for the match by March 15. In case any of the eight grandmasters refuse, they will be substituted by their follow-ups in the FIDE rankings.*

In the meantime, what about the women? Why isn't there a unification event for women? Where is the \$500,000 prize fund for the top 6 or 8 women?

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Paul Truong assisted Susan Polgar in the preparation of this column. Susan Polgar is available for chess instruction. For more information, visit the Polgar Chess Center, 103-10 Queens Boulevard, Forest Hills, NY 11375 (Tel: 718-897-4600) or email: [PolgarChessInc@aol.com](mailto:PolgarChessInc@aol.com)

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