



COLUMNISTS

Susan Polgar on Chess

Susan Polgar



Breaking Through by Susan Polgar

From San Luis, Argentina to Corpus Christi, Texas

2005 FIDE World Championship San Luis, Argentina

GM Rustam Kasimdzhanov of Uzbekistan (FIDE World Knock-out Champion): He is a solid player with good nerves. I expect him to perform reasonably well, but he has little chance of winning the tournament. He'll have to work very hard to stay out of the cellar.

GM Michael Adams of England (runner-up of the Tripoli FIDE World Knock-out Championship): According to Nigel Short, Adams is the best player from England ever. His talent is enormous, but his nerves failed him in Tripoli when he was the favorite in the final against Kasimdzhanov. I expect Adams to finish in the middle of the field.

GM Judit Polgar of Hungary: My baby sister and the strongest woman player ever. She has worked very hard to prepare for this tournament. If she can learn to be more patient in a certain type of position, she will be a force to be reckoned with. I expect her to finish around 4th – 5th.



GM Peter Leko of Hungary: He is a hard worker and very dedicated to chess. He almost beat Kramnik in Brissago in 2004. Over the years, he tried to shake

off his image as Mr. Draw and has learned to play much more aggressively. I expect him to finish around 3rd – 4th.

GM Peter Svidler of Russia: He is a very solid player from St. Petersburg and is best known for winning four Russian Championships. He has been an elite player for a long time; however, he has not won the big one. I expect him to finish around 4th – 6th.

GM Vishy Anand of India: He is one of the most enterprising players of his generation, and his legend would have been even greater if it weren't for a player by the name of Kasparov. He is my pick to finish first.

GM Veselin Topalov of Bulgaria: He has played the best chess of his career this year and his rating is approaching the 2800 mark. He is Mr. Excitement and he has no intentions of playing boring chess. The big question is can he be consistent enough to win the tournament? I expect him to either tie for first with Anand or place second by a ½-point.

GM Alexander Morozevich of Russia: He is one that is hard to predict. Morozevich is capable of going +5 or – 5 in this tournament. The question is which Morozevich will show up. He has not been playing inspiring chess lately and I don't expect him to reverse that trend here. His passion for romantic openings may hurt him as well. I expect him to finish in the bottom half. Yet, he's capable of pulling out the biggest surprise of the tournament.

Top 5 Questions of the World Championship

1. Who will be the next FIDE World Champion?

My prediction is Anand, beating Topalov by a hair. However, it would not surprise me if Topalov comes out on top. I predict that a +5 will win the tournament outright, +4 may tie for first.

2. Do you consider this to be a legitimate World Championship?

Yes. This will end all the controversies about a legitimate World Champion.

3. Is Kramnik still the legitimate World Champion?

To my mind, Kramnik is no longer World Champion. If people agree with his claim that he will be the World Champion until a challenger can beat him in a head to head match, then Bobby Fischer is still a champion and so am I. Neither one of us lost our title in a match. But I don't claim that I am still World Champion and neither should Kramnik. Additionally, he is no longer as dominant a player as he once was and his excuse of not being fully recovered from Brissago is old. It has been more than a year since Kramnik played against Leko.

4. Should the winner of the FIDE World Championship in San Luis, Argentina play Kramnik to unify the title or should he/she be

crowned as the outright World Champion?

Absolutely not! The winner of this tournament is the outright World Champion and that winner should not play Kramnik. If Kramnik wishes, he can try to find money and hand pick his own opponents to retain his title until he is 64. If he wanted to do the right thing for the best interest of chess, he should have been in Argentina. Anand, Topalov and Leko are there and they are all higher rated than Kramnik. It is time for the chess world to move forward and respect the legitimacy of the new World Champion, the winner of the FIDE World Championship in San Luis, Argentina.

5. Do you like the 8 person double round robin format?

It is OK. I wish it would have been a 10 person double round robin. This way, perhaps Ivanchuk could have been included. In addition, Shirov was passed over after he convincingly destroyed Kramnik in a match. He should have been given a chance. My question is what happened to an 8 person double round robin for women? I am disappointed that FIDE continues to ignore this issue.

World Championship Round 1 Previews

Morozevich - Kasimdzhanov

This is a very interesting match up. Morozevich can beat just about anyone on a good day. The question is will he continue to employ many of his romantic openings? Moro is wild. People expect Kasim to finish last. However, he has shown that he can hold his own against elite players. This would be the ultimate forum for Kasim to show the world what he's made of.

J. Polgar - Anand

My sister and Anand have a long history and have played countless exciting games against each other. I don't expect Vishy to overextend with the black pieces in the first round. Unless Judit decides to create an issue, I expect it to be a fairly peaceful game.

Leko - Topalov

This is the ultimate pairing of round 1. These are two of the tournament favorites. Leko is one of the top four players in the world. He plays sound chess and his endgame technique is superb. Topalov is Mr. Excitement. He can beat anyone and he will go for the win with either color. This is a game that may set an early tone for the tournament.

Svidler - Adams

Even though both Svidler and Adams have been world-class players for a number of years, neither has shown that they can win a super-elite event. They are both very steady, but lack that little extra ingredient. I don't expect either to occupy the top 2 spots in this world championship.

World Championship Round 1 Summary

Morozevich 1/2-1/2 Kasimdzhanov

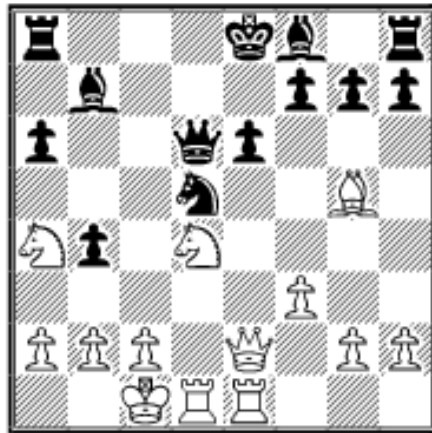
The final position was a dead draw, but at least there was some action. Kasim seemed to equalize as Black quite effortlessly. Neither side was really in danger of losing at any time. It is a fairly decent start for Kasim with Black. Back to the drawing board for Morozevich to get a better edge with White next time.

J. Polgar 0 - 1 Anand

I predicted a fairly peaceful game unless Judit decided to make an issue as White, and she did! However, she was severely punished for castling queenside, and her kingside attack was stopped stone cold before any real fireworks erupted. Anand cautiously squelched the kingside onslaught then launched his own deadly counter attack on the queenside against Judit's unsafe king. This certainly was a disappointing start for her, but there are still 13 games left.

Leko 0 - 1 Topalov

Leko also decided to make an early issue and castled on the queenside as well. However, his position looked really good and he had excellent winning chances.



On move 17, he could have played 17.f4 which would have lead to an even better position for White even though there was nothing wrong with 17.Kb1. After 17...h6 18.Bh4 Nf4 19.Qf2 Qc7, Leko made a number of inaccuracies starting with 20.Nf5?! (20.Nb6 Rb8 (20...Qxb6 21.Nxe6! Qxf2 22.Nc7#) 21.Bg3 Rd8 22.Nb3±) 20...g5 21.Bg3 Rc8 22.Qd4?! Rg8 23.c3? Rd8 24.Qxd8+ Qxd8 25.Rxd8+ Kxd8 26.Ne3 Bc6 27.Nb6 bxc3 28.bxc3 Bg7 29.Bxf4? (10.Kc2 Kc7 and Black is better)

30...gxf4 31.Nd1 Bb5—+. The bishop pair was simply too powerful and Topalov easily converted the position to a full point. This had to be a very painful loss for Leko.

Svidler 1/2-1/2 Adams

A somewhat uneventful Petroff draw at the end! Neither side really wanted to try anything when there was still plenty left to play for. I understand that it is not easy for White to try to go for the win in the final position because of black's active bishop pair. However, why not at least play on a little further? Black's a6- and c6-pawns are quite ugly. After all, this is a World Championship. If you don't at least try to win as white in such a position, when would you?

So what is the moral of round 1? In this caliber of play, you cannot make too many inaccuracies. In addition, if you live by the sword, be prepared to die by

the sword. The bishop pair is powerful and don't forget one of the basics of chess: king safety is a must even for 2700+ players!

World Championship Round 2 Previews

Adams - J. Polgar

This will be an interesting game. How will my sister rebound from a horrible loss in round one? In my opinion, she should try to regroup and play somewhat more cautiously, especially with Black. She can't afford to take too many risks and get into a big 0-2 hole. Will Adams take more chances today? He seemed content to accept the draw offer from Svidler in round one. I predict this game will be a draw.

Leko - Morozevich

This is Leko's second straight game with the white pieces. If he loses again today, he will be out of contention with 7 Black games in the last 12 rounds. I think he's very upset after the loss yesterday and will be trying to take it out on Morozevich today. Morozevich on the other hand needs to be very careful. His best strategy would be to play things safe while waiting for Leko to overextend. After the fireworks, I expect a draw. Morozevich shocked everyone by playing "normal" safe chess yesterday. This game may give us a small glimpse of his approach to this World Championship.

Kasimdzhanov - Svidler

Kasim held with black in round one. In this round, he will have white and will obviously try to go for the win. However, Svidler will be content to play something safe and go for a draw with black. I expect this game to be a draw.

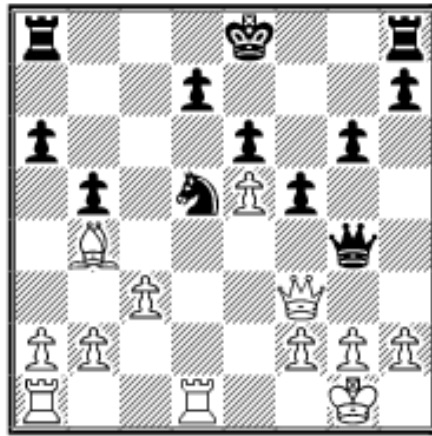
Topalov - Anand

This is the match up of the day; both won yesterday and their ratings are identical. Anand started with two black games, which means he'll have seven white games in the last 12 rounds. If he can start out with +2, he will be almost impossible to catch. I think Anand will be content to draw today, so he'll try to avoid big complications. Conversely, it is easier said than done against Topalov, who has no understanding of playing it safe. Even though I expect this game to be a draw, it will be a very hard fought draw.

World Championship Round 2 Summary

Adams $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ J. Polgar

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.Be3 a6 7.Bd3 b5 8.Nxc6 Qxc6 9.e5 Bb4 10.0-0 f5 (10...Bxc3 11.bxc3 Bb7 12.Qg4 Ne7 13.Bd4) 11.Be2 Bb7 12.Bh5+ g6 13.Bf3 Qc8 14.Bd2 Bxc3 15.Bxc3 Ne7 16.Bb4 Bxf3 17.Qxf3 Nd5 18.c3 Qc4 19.Rfd1 Qg4



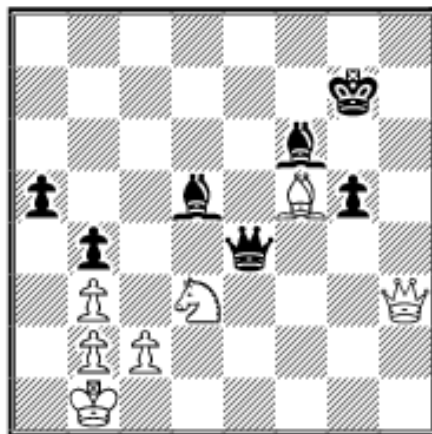
51.Re7 Rxe5 52.f3)

20.Qd3 (20.Qxg4 fxg4 21.Bd6 h5 22.Rd4±)
 20...Kf7 21.h3 Qf4 22.Qe2 (22.Bd6±)
 22...Qc4 23.Qf3 a5 24.Bd6 (24.Rd4 Qc6
 25.Bd6+-) 24...a4 25.Rd4 Qc6 26.Rad1 h6
 27.R1d3± Kg7 28.Kh2 Rac8 29.Qg3 Kh7
 30.Qh4 Rhg8 31.Rg3 g5 32.Qh5 Rg7
 33.Qd1 Nf4 34.h4 Rh8 35.Kg1 Kg8 36.b3
 axb3 37.axb3 Rhh7 38.h5 Rh8 39.Ba3
 Kh7 40.Bc1 Nd5 41.c4 bxc4 42.bxc4 Nb6
 43.Rd6 Qa4 44.Qxa4 Nxa4 45.Ra3 Nc5
 46.Ra7 Rc8 47.Be3 f4 48.Bxc5 ½-½
 (48...Rxc5 49.Rdxd7 Rxd7 50.Rxd7+ Kg8

Once again, my sister did not have a very good game right out of the opening. However, she defended extremely well to hold off Mickey Adams throughout the entire game. Even though his position looked very good, he did not find a clear way to score a full point. I am puzzled to why he offered a draw on move 48. There was still some play left as White was a little better.

Leko ½-½ Morozevich

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.f3 e6 7.Be3 Be7 8.Qd2
 0-0 9.g4 Nc6 10.0-0-0 Nd7 11.h4 Nde5 12.Qf2 Bd7 13.Kb1 Na5 (13...b5;
 13...Qc7) 14.g5 Nec4 15.Bc1 b5 16.f4 b4 17.Nce2 Qb6 18.Rh2 d5 19.exd5
 Bc5 (19...exd5 20.f5 Bd6 21.Nf4) 20.Qf3 (20.dxe6 Bxe6 21.f5 Na3+ 22.bxa3
 bxa3+ 23.Ka1 Rab8) 20...Rad8 21.Nb3 Nxb3 22.axb3 Ne3 23.Bxe3 Bxe3
 24.Rd3 Bc5 25.dxe6 Bxe6 26.Nc1 g6 27.Bh3 f5 28.gxf6 Bf7 29.f5 Bd4
 30.fxc6 hxc6 31.Qg4 Bxf6 32.Re2 a5 33.Re4 Kg7 34.Qg3 Rh8 35.Bf5 Rh5
 36.Rxd8 Qxd8 37.Be6 Bxh4 38.Qg2 Be8 39.Rg4 Re5 40.Bc4 Re1 41.Bd3
 Qf6 42.Qd2 Qf2 43.Be2 Bf6 44.Rc4 Qg3 45.Rc7+ Qxc7 46.Qxe1 g5 47.Nd3
 Bg6 48.Qg1 Qe7 49.Bg4 Qe4 50.Qg3 Bf7 51.Qh3 Bd5 52.Bf5

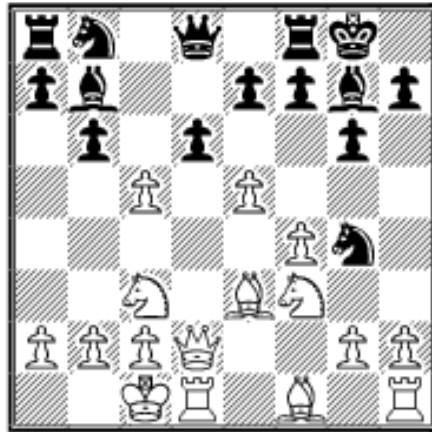


52...Qh4 (52...Qh1+ 53.Qxh1 Bxh1—+)
 53.Qe3 Qd4 54.Qg3 Bf7 55.Qg2 Qd5
 56.Be4 Qe6 57.Nc5 Qd6 58.Nd3 Be6
 59.Qh1 Qd4 60.Qh7+ Kf8 61.Bf5 Bf7
 62.Qh6+ Ke7 63.Qh2 Qd6 64.Qh7 Qb8
 65.Bg4= Kf8 66.Qh6+ Ke7 67.Qh7 Kf8
 68.Qh6+ Ke7 ½-½

This was a classic Sicilian game. White went all out on the kingside while Black tried to counter attack on the queenside. The game went back and forth and both players took chances to try to win. Neither player seemed to make any real bad moves. This game was akin to two heavyweight boxers pounding on each other for 15 rounds. But at the final bell, the battle ended as a hard fought draw.

Kasimdzhanov 1/2–1/2 Svidler

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.f4 Nf6 5.Nf3 0–0 6.Be3 b6 7.Qd2 Bb7 8.e5 Ng4
9.0–0–0 c5 10.dxc5



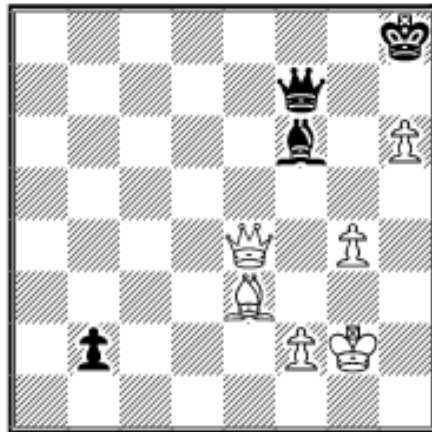
10...bxc5 (10...Qc8 11.cxd6 exd6 12.exd6 Bxc3 13.bxc3±; 10...Nxe3 11.Qxe3 bxc5 12.Bc4±) 11.Bxc5 Qa5 12.Ba3 dxe5 13.Nd5 Qxd2+ 14.Rxd2 Bxd5 15.Rxd5 Ne3 (15...Bh6=) 16.Rd2 Nc6 17.Bb5 Rfc8 18.Bxc6 Rxc6 19.Nxe5 Bxe5 20.fxe5 Nc4 21.Bxe7 (21.Rd3 Nxe5 22.Rd5 Re6 23.Rhd1) 21...Nxd2 22.Kxd2 Rb8 23.Kc1 Rc4 24.Bd6 1/2–1/2

Svidler employed a seldom used line 6...b6. On move 10, Black played the unusual

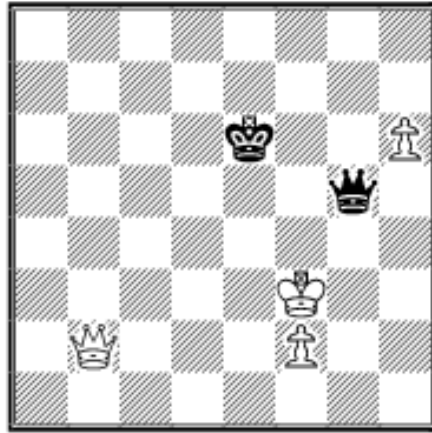
10...bxc5. Even though there were some tense moments, the game ended with the least drama among the four games today. This is a solid and uneventful start for both of them.

Topalov 1/2–1/2 Anand

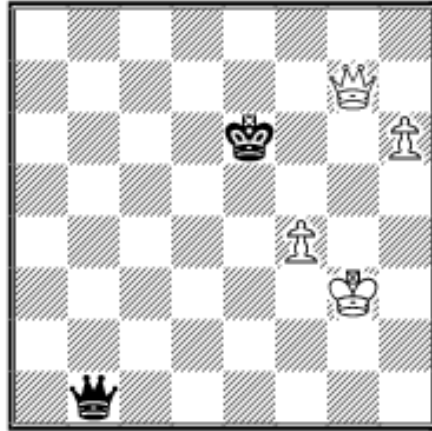
This was the game of the tournament so far and it exemplified what a World Championship is all about. Topalov has many new believers now. Even after sacrificing an exchange Topalov kept on grinding. It was clear that he was pushing for a win. Yet, both sides made a number of inaccuracies. Some of the most glaring errors were:



60.Bd4? (60.g5 Qe7 61.Qxe7 Bxe7 62.Bd4+ Kh7 63.Bxb2 Bxg5 64.Bg7+-) 60...Kg8 61.Bxf6 Qxf6 62.Kg3 Qb6 63.Qc4+ Kh7 64.g5 Qg6 65.Qc7+ Kg8 66.Qb8+ Kf7 67.Qb7+ Kf8 68.Qb8+ Kf7 69.Qb3+ Kf8 70.Qf3+ Ke7 71.Qe3+ Kd7 72.Qd4+ Ke6 73.Qxb2 Qxg5+ 74.Kf3



75...Qf5+? (75...Qg6+ 76.Ke3 (76.Kf3 Qh5+ 77.Kg2 Qg4+ 78.Kf1 Qd1+ 79.Kg2 Qg4+ 80.Kh2 Qh5+=) 76...Qxh6+=)
75.Ke4 Qf5+ 76.Ke3 Qg5+ 77.f4 Qg3+ 78.Ke4 Qe1+ 79.Kf3 Qf1+ 80.Kg3 Qg1+ 81.Qg2 Qb1 82.Qc6+ Kf7 83.Qd7+ Kf6 84.Qg7+ Ke6



85.Qe5+? (85.f5+! Kd5 (85...Qxf5 86.h7 Qd3+ 87.Kh4 Qe4+ 88.Qg4+-) 86.Qf7+ (86.Qd7+) 86...Kd4 87.h7 Qg1+ 88.Kh4 Qh2+ 89.Kg5 Qg3+ 90.Kh6 Qf4+ 91.Kg7 Qg3+ 92.Kh8+-) **85...Kf7 86.Qh5+ Kf6 87.Qg5+ Kf7 88.Qh5+ Kf6 89.Qh4+ Kf7 90.h7 Qe1+ 91.Kg4 Qd1+ 92.Kg5 Qd8+ 93.Kh5 Qd5+ 94.Qg5 Qh1+ 95.Qh4 Qd5+ 96.Kg4 Qd1+ 97.Kg3 Qe1+ 1/2-1/2**

This is what chess is all about. Mistakes happen, but no one can ever say that they

didn't fight. This is why these two players are at the top of the rating chart. Thank you guys for an incredibly entertaining battle, you are true champions!

World Championship Round 3 Previews

Morozevich - Topalov

It seems like Morozevich is in good form. He has played well so far and he missed good chances to beat Leko yesterday. Mr. Excitement Topalov once again thrilled the fans with his all out, fearless, in your face style. He likes living on the edge. He likes danger. He likes heart stopping positions. However, Topalov has to be very careful against Morozevich today. This will be a tough game for Topalov. This is the one opponent that can play the same type of game against him.

Svidler - Leko

Leko seems to be unsure of himself in the first two rounds. He wants to play sharp. He wants to play safe. It's a bird! It's a plane! He better makes up his mind swiftly or his tournament will head south for the winter soon. Svidler on the other hand seems to be content with early dinner in the first two nights. I predict that this will be a draw with some minor fireworks.

J. Polgar - Kasimdzhanov

My sister has to do better with the openings today. She did her best to brilliantly save the game yesterday against Adams. But you cannot win being behind the eight ball every game. This is a game that she could win if she can

get something out of the opening. Kasim has played well in the first two rounds. He won't win this tournament, but he will prove to the world that he can hold his own against the big boys and girl.

Anand - Adams

He's good! He's tenacious! He's brilliant! He's lucky and he's sharing the lead after two rounds. What else can we say about Anand? He was my pre-tournament pick to win this tournament and I haven't changed my mind. Vishy is tough. He can attack. He can defend. He is solid. Mickey had the best chance to become a World Champion in the last knockout in Tripoli. Unfortunately, Kasim played the chess of his life and Adams' nerve got the best of him. This is a game that favors Anand. The question is does Vishy have anything left after last night or will he play it safe and be happy with a short draw to recuperate?

After the excitement from round 2, can round 3 match the intensity and exhilaration of round 2? I hope so, but I think not.

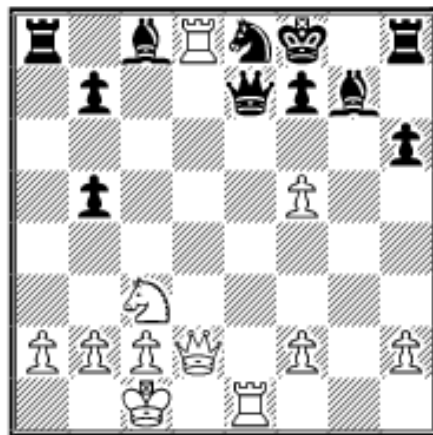
World Championship Round 3 Summary

Round 3 was incredible! The players have outdone themselves to thrill the fans, all four games were decisive.

J. Polgar (2735) - Kasimdzhanov (2670)

WCC-FIDE San Luis, ARG (3), 9-30-2005

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 e6 7.g4 e5 8.Nf5 g6 9.g5 gxf5 10.exf5 d5 11.Qf3 d4 12.0-0-0 Nbd7 13.Bxd4 exd4 14.Rxd4 Bg7 15.Rg1 Kf8 16.Qe3 Qe7 17.Qd2 h6 (17...Rg8 is an interesting move.) 18.gxf6 (unclear) Nxf6 19.Rd8+ Ne8 20.Bb5 (20.Rxe8+ Qxe8 21.Qd6+ Qe7 22.Qxe7+ Kxe7 23.Rxg7 with a slight advantage to Black) 20...axb5 21.Re1



21...b4?? (21...Be5 22.f4 Bf6 23.Rxe7 Bxe7 24.Qd4 f6 25.Nxb5 Bxd8 26.Qxd8 Rh7 27.Nd6 Re7 28.Nxe8 Rd7 29.Qxf6+ Kxe8 30.Qh8+ Kf7 31.Qh7+ Kf8 32.Qxh6+ Kg8 33.Qg5+ Rg7 34.Qd8+ Kf7±) 22.Nb5?? (22.Rxe8+! Kxe8 23.Rxe7+ Kxe7 24.Nd5+-) 22...Bxb2+?? (22...Be5 23.Kb1 Kg7+-) 23.Kxb2 Qf6+ 24.Qd4 Kg7 25.Rxe8 Rxe8 26.Rxe8 Qxd4+ 27.Nxd4 Kf6 28.f4 b6 29.Rd8 Bb7 30.Rxa8 Bxa8 31.Kb3 Bd5+ 32.Kxb4 Bxa2 33.Kb5 Bb1 34.c3 Ke7 35.Kxb6 Kd6 36.c4 Bd3 37.c5+ Kd5 38.Nc6 Ke4 39.Ne7 Bc2 40.c6 Ba4 41.c7 Bd7 42.Kc5 1-0

Judit played with her typical all-out aggressive style. At one point, she

sacrificed a few pieces for a heavy developmental advantage. Judit defeated Anand in a very famous game some years ago with 13.Bd2. This time, she opted for 13.Bxd4 and achieved an overwhelming position. After a blunder by Kasim with 21...b4?, Judit blundered herself on the next move by playing 22.Nb5?? instead of the winning move 22.Rxe8+. Kasim failed to capitalize with 22...Be5, and Judit then played brilliantly to earn her first win, which brought her back to an even score.

Svidler (2738) - Leko (2763)

WCC-FIDE San Luis, ARG (3), 9-30-2005

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 0-0 8.h3 Bb7 9.d3 Re8 10.a4 h6 11.Nc3 b4 12.Nd5 Na5 13.Ba2 Bc5 14.Bd2 Bxd5 15.Bxd5= Nxd5 16.exd5 Qf6 17.c3 bxc3 18.Bxc3 Qb6 19.Rxe5 Bxf2+ 20.Kh1



20...d6? (20...f6=) 21.Rxe8+ Rxe8 22.b4 Nb7+/- 23.Ra2 Bg3 24.Re2 Rd8 (24...Rf8 25.Nd4±) 25.Nd4+- a5 26.Nc6 Rf8 27.Bd4 Qa6 28.b5 Qa8 29.Re7 Be5 30.Nxe5 dxe5 31.Bxe5+- 1-0 Black's position is completely hopeless.

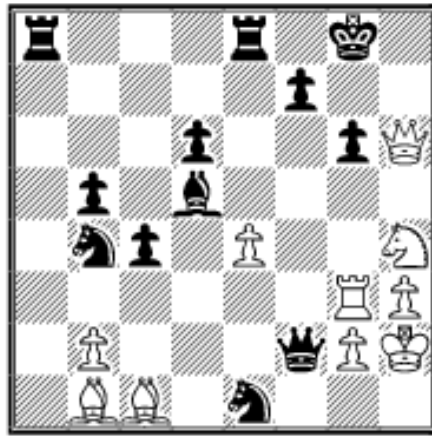
This doesn't seem to be Leko's tournament and he's out of form. His major mistake was 20...d6? which blocked his queen from being able to swing over to the kingside. Additionally, it took away the ideal spot for

his knight. Svidler played well to capitalize on Leko's error. With this win, Svidler vaulted into clear third, only a half point behind the leaders.

Anand (2788) - Adams (2719)

WCC-FIDE San Luis, ARG (3), 9-30-2005

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 Bb7 10.d4 Re8 11.Nbd2 Bf8 12.a4 h6 13.Bc2 exd4 14.cxd4 Nb4 15.Bb1 c5 16.d5 Nd7 17.Ra3 c4= 18.axb5 axb5 19.Nd4 Qb6 20.Nf5 Ne5 (20...g6 unclear) 21.Rg3 g6 22.Nf3 Ned3 23.Qd2 Bxd5 (23...Nxe1 24.Nxe1 Ra1 25.Nxh6+ Bxh6 26.Qxh6 Re5 27.Bd2 Rxb1 28.Bxb4 (28.Rxg6+ fxg6 29.Qxg6+ Kf8 30.Bxb4 Ke7+-) 28...Rxb2 29.Rxg6+ fxg6 30.Qxg6+ Kh8 31.Qh6+=) 24.Nxh6+ Bxh6 25.Qxh6 Qxf2+ 26.Kh2 Nxe1 27.Nh4



27...Ned3?? (27...Ra7 28.exd5 Nbd3 29.Nxg6 Qxg3+ 30.Kxg3 fxg6 unclear) 28.Nxg6 Qxg3+ 29.Kxg3 fxg6 30.Qxg6+ Kf8 31.Qf6+ Kg8 32.Bh6 1-0

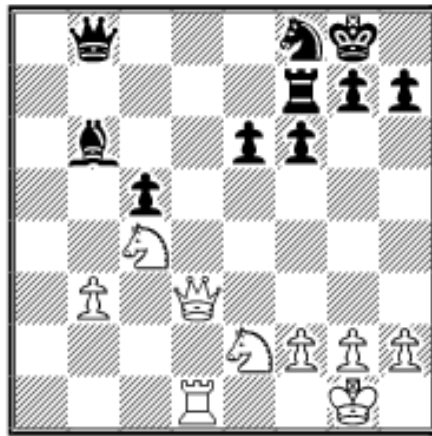
Anand played very aggressively on the white side of the Ruy Lopez and Adams actually defended very well. The game was exciting until a decisive blunder by Mickey (27...Ned3). Instead, 27...Ra7 would have been very interesting. Vishy obviously didn't need too many inaccuracies to fully

capitalize. He finished the game with a very nice combination to earn a share of the lead.

Morozevich (2707) - Topalov (2788)

WCC-FIDE San Luis, ARG (3), 9-30-2005

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Bd7 4.Bxd7+ Qxd7 5.0-0 Nf6 6.e5 dxe5 7.Nxe5 Qc8 8.Qf3 e6 9.d3 Be7 10.Nc3 0-0 11.Bf4 Nfd7 12.Nc4 Nc6 13.Rae1 Nd4 14.Qd1 Qc6= 15.a4 b6 16.Re3 f6 17.Rh3 Rf7 18.Be3 Rd8 19.Re1 Nf8 20.b3 a6 21.Ne2 b5 22.axb5 axb5 23.Nd2 Qc7 24.c4 Nc6 25.cxb5 Nb4 26.Qb1 Nxd3 27.Rd1 Nb4 28.Nc4 Nd5 29.Bd2 Qb8 30.Ba5 Rd7 31.b6 Bd8 32.Rhd3 Nxb6 33.Bxb6 Rxd3 34.Qxd3 Bxb6=/+



35.Qe3 Bc7 36.g3 Qb5 37.h4?! Qc6µ 38.f4 Rd7 39.Re1 Bd8 40.Nc3 Be7 41.Ne4 Rd4 42.Nf2 Qd5 43.Nb6 Qb7 44.Nc4 f5 45.Kf1 Bf6—+ 46.Ke2 Rd7 47.Qf3 Qb4 48.Rd1 Bd4 49.g4 h6 50.h5 Qb8 51.Rd2 Rf7 52.g5 hxg5 53.fxg5 Qh2 54.Kd3 Qh4 55.g6 Ra7 56.Nd1 Qg5 57.Nc3 Qg1 58.Rd1 Qh2 59.Nb5 Rd7 60.Nxd4 Qa2 61.Nd2 Qb2 62.Ke2 Qxd4 63.Qe3 Qd6 64.Qf3? The final blow (64.Rh1—+) 64...Qh2+ 65.Ke1 Rd4 66.Qb7 Rd7 67.Qf3 Rd5 68.Nf1 Re5+ 69.Ne3 f4

70.Rd3 Qg1+ 71.Kd2 fxe3+ 72.Rxe3 Qxe3+ 73.Qxe3 Rxe3 74.Kxe3 Nd7 0-1

What can we say about Topalov? He is Mr. Excitement. He is the Energizer Bunny. He can beat you with brute force. He can grind you to death, as was the case against Morozevich. It is amazing to me that with just a tiny bit of luck yesterday, he could have been 3-0 against opponents with an average rating of 2750+!! Morozevich needs to do a lot better to bring himself back into contention.

After three rounds, it has been the Topalov – Anand show, the top seeds of the tournament. Svidler is a surprise third and the biggest shock of the tournament

so far is the -2 performance of Peter Leko. However, there are still 11 games left and I am sure there will be many more shocking results. Overall, the fighting spirit has been very high as 50% of the games are decisive so far.

Assessment of the Players' Performance at the First Break

Anand

He hasn't played his best, but well-enough to be in third place and within striking distance. In the first round, he dispatched Judit quite convincingly. It was also one of the worst games by Judit in a long time. Therefore, even though he played well to capitalize on the situation, it was not really a true test to measure his form. In the second round, he was outplayed by the gutsier Topalov. He showed his resiliency by defending well. In the end, Topalov misplayed and Anand earned a hard fought lucky draw. In the third round, he dominated an out-of-form Adams. In round four, he underestimated Kasimdzhanov and lost badly. Even without playing his best, Anand is still in good shape with a plus one score of 2½ out of 4. I give his performance a B.

Topalov

Topalov was a little lucky in the first round. Leko misplayed his superior position and Topalov punished him severely. In the second round, he played with pure guts and heart and achieved a completely winning position against Anand. A few blunders cost him the half point. In round 3, he ground out a win against Morozevich and he basically did the same against Adams in round 4 to lead the field by half a point. So far, Topalov is the player of the tournament. He could have gone 4 out of 4. I give his performance an A+.

Leko

Leko started out horribly. He had an excellent position against Topalov in round one only to misplay it and lose badly. In round two, he barely hung on against Morozevich. In round three, he seemed to play without any spirit and once again lost, this time to Svidler. Even though he didn't play his best chess in round four, he beat my sister to stay within a minus one. So far, he has played way below his capability. I give his performance after four rounds a D.

Svidler

Svidler has performed better than I expected. He seemed to play uninspired chess in the first round against Adams and didn't do much against Kasimdzhanov in round two. Suddenly, he woke up against Leko in round three and was able to take advantage of Leko's poor play to earn a full point. In round four, he hung around against Morozevich and once again capitalized on his opponent's poor play to earn another full point. Now, Svidler is in clear second with a plus two score. He has played excellent economical chess and spent very little energy. I give him an A for his performance after four rounds.



J. Polgar

My sister has not played well at all. Her opening repertoire is too predictable. She seemed to be nervous in round one and lost badly. In round two, she fought extremely hard to hang on against Adams for a draw. In round three, Kasimdzhanov got outplayed tactically. Both sides made inaccuracies, but Judit pulled out a magnificent win to pull herself back to the .500 mark. She misplayed the opening in round four against Leko and lost again quite badly. I'm not sure if she has been saving some of her best stuff for crunch time, but her she has underachieved so far in the opening. I give her a C- after four rounds.

Adams

Adams took a safe draw against Svidler in round one. It didn't seem that he was ready to engage in a tough battle. In round two, he achieved a wonderful position against Judit, but failed to capitalize on it. Even when he offered a draw, his position was better with chances still remaining. In round three, he misplayed a complicated position against Anand and promptly lost. In round four he misplayed his position against Topalov and was squeezed to death. After four rounds, Adams is at minus two and tied for last place with Morozevich. I give Adams' performance a D.

Morozevich

He is a mystery. He seemed to be in a fighting mood by trying very hard to win against Kasimdzhanov in round one, but only got a draw. In round two, he was doing well against Leko, but again failed to win. In round three, Topalov outplayed him in a tight position. In round four, he once again tried hard against Svidler and lost again. He is sharing the basement with Adams at the first break. It seems that he is trying, but either he has been unlucky or out of form. I give his performance a D after four rounds.

Kasimdzhanov

He played hard against Morozevich, but only managed a draw in round one. He took any early draw against Svidler in round 2 in a position with plenty of play left for both sides. In round three, he missed his one chance to win the game

after Judit blundered, and lost badly. In round four, he played like Superman and thoroughly dispatched Anand to move into clear fourth place with a .500 score. He showed that he can hang with the big boys after four rounds. I give him a B.

For more daily commentaries, predictions and reports, please visit www.SusanPolgar.blogspot.com.

Continuing what I Started for Young Female Players in America

A few years ago, the Susan Polgar National Invitational for Girls was initiated and it has greatly impacted girl's chess in America. However, since it is an invitational, only one player per state can be nominated. Now, I want to give all others a chance to enjoy a similar experience.

Therefore, starting in 2006, there will be two additional major girl's tournaments sponsored by the Susan Polgar Foundation. The first one will be the Susan Polgar National Open Championship for Girls (under 21). This one will take place in Corpus Christi from January 27-29, 2006. The other will be the Susan Polgar World Open Championship for Girls (under 21), which will take place from June 15-18, 2006 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The biggest differences between these events and others are:

Costs: The hotel rate for the Susan Polgar National Open Championship for Girls \$59 per night. Even a suite for 2 families to share is only \$89. It's a Ramada hotel and it is only one block away from the ocean with plenty of affordable restaurants and meal options within walking distance. The entry fees are only \$28. I understand how hard it is for parents to support their children with their chess passion. That is why I am doing everything I can to make the event very affordable.

Prizes: We are giving away a laptop computer to the winner of each section! In addition, we are awarding a total of \$500 in chess prizes to second through fifth place in each section. These are on top of the standard trophies, medals and certificates. We will continue to seek sponsors to add even more prizes.

The Susan Polgar Foundation and the Polgar Committee did everything we could to make the annual Susan Polgar National Invitational for Girls a memorable experience for all participants. We will thrive to do the same with these events.

My personal goal is to give the girls a few years head start. After that, the Susan Polgar Foundation will start organizing major tournaments that will include both girls and boys. We aim to change the future of chess in America and bring it to the next level.

Here are some of the details:

Susan Polgar National Open Championships for Girls (under 21)

January 27-29, 2006 Corpus Christi, Texas

K-2, 3rd-5th, 6th-8th, Open section (Must be under 21 as of January 27, 2006)

Time Control: G/45 or G/40 with 5 seconds delay

Prizes: Trophies to top 20 individuals and top 4 teams in each section. Special medals to 21st – 30th place individuals and 5th – 7th teams. 3 or more from the same school and section or same chess club and section (top 3 scores added to give team final standings). Every player receives a special hand-signed certificate from Susan Polgar.

Cool Additional Prizes: A laptop computer to 1st individual each section! There will be chess items as prizes given in the value of \$200 - \$150 - \$100 - \$50 respectively for 2nd - 5th places (individual) in each section. Any player with 6-0 score will also receive a digital chess clock!!

Prizes for Blitz / Puzzle Solving Championships: Trophies to top 5 players in each section. Special medals to 6th – 20th place. Blitz and Puzzle Solving Championships will be only one section, but trophies will be given out to separate categories.

Schedule:

Friday, January 27

3:30 PM Lecture for players / parents / coaches by Susan
5:00 PM Puzzle Solving Championships
6:15 PM Tandem Simul (Maximum 70 players)

Saturday, January 28

10:00 AM Opening Ceremony
Rounds: 11:00 AM, 1:30 PM, 4:00 PM
7 PM Blitz Championships (G/5 - 7 SS)

Sunday, January 29

Rounds: 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 1:30 PM
4:00 PM Closing Ceremony

Entry Fees: \$28 if received by December 1, 2005; \$38 if received by January 1; \$48 if received by January 15; \$58 on site - On site registration: 2:00 PM - 9:00 PM Friday and up to 9:30 AM on Saturday. Blitz EF: \$10 - Puzzle Solving EF: \$10 - Simul: \$15 Special \$25 entry fees for all 3 events (Blitz, Puzzle and Simul)

Make checks payable to: Susan Polgar Foundation, 103-10 Queens Boulevard (Suite 1C), Forest Hills, NY 11375

Ramada Inn Bayfront & Convention Center 601 N. Water Street Corpus Christi, Texas 78401 (361) 882-8100 or 1-800-688-0334 or www.ramada-cc.com. For chess rate, please mention: "SPNO" beginning now. Hotel rate cutoff date: December 27, 2005. \$59.00 Single or Double; \$69.00 up to 4 people; \$89.00 2 family suite; \$10.00 roll away bed or crib.

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



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