

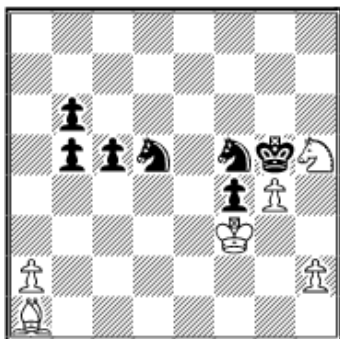


## SPICE Cup and Other Flavors of the Month

I was intending to present Interviews from the World Championship: Part Two this month, but a corrupt audio file has caused me some delay. Instead, we'll look at a number of recent events, as well as an announcement for a very special event and a trivia contest.

First on the agenda this month is the Casino Barcelona tournament in Spain. This took place October 18-26, 2007 and was a Category 15 event with an average rating of 2607. The young American GM Hikaru Nakamura captured clear first, finishing a full point ahead of Cuban #1 GM Lenier Dominguez.

Here is a critical position of the last round from Narcisco—Nakamura after **53...Kg5**:



Narcisco could achieve a draw with **54.Be5**, but in severe time pressure he played **54.Ng7??**

Nakamura then finished the game in style and his final score of 7 points out of 9 gave him an impressive 2850 performance rating!

**54...Nh4+ 55.Kf2 Kxg4 56.Ne8 Nb4 57.Nf6+ Kh3 58.Nd7 Nd3+ 59.Kf1 f3 60.Ne5 Nb4 61.a3 Nc2 62.Bc3 Ne3+ 63.Kg1 f2+ 64.Kxf2 Nd1+ 65.Ke2 Nxc3+ 66.Kd3 Na4 67.Ke4 Ng2 68.Kd5 Ne3 + 69.Kc6 Ne4 70.Kxb5 Nxe5 71.Kxa4 c4 0-1**

Here are the final standings:

|    |                         |     |      |    |
|----|-------------------------|-----|------|----|
| 1  | Hikaru Nakamura         | USA | 2648 | 7  |
| 2  | Lenier Dominguez Perez  | CUB | 2683 | 6  |
| 3  | Vugar Gashimov          | AZE | 2664 | 5½ |
| 4  | Alexander Beliavsky     | SLO | 2646 | 5½ |
| 5  | Michal Krasenkow        | POL | 2668 | 4½ |
| 6  | Rafael Vaganian         | ARM | 2600 | 4½ |
| 7  | Josep Oms Pallise       | ESP | 2506 | 4  |
| 8  | Miguel Illescas Cordoba | ESP | 2598 | 3½ |
| 9  | Marc Narciso Dublan     | ESP | 2546 | 3  |
| 10 | Jordi Fluvia            | ESP | 2508 | 1½ |

### 2007 Corsica Masters

After conquering Barcelona, Nakamura then participated in the Corsica Masters tournament. This rapid event took place in Bastia, October 28-30 and was held in two stages. The first stage was a ten round Swiss tournament featuring ninety-five players, including many big name stars.

Nakamura won clear first with 8 out of 10, with Dutch top player GM Loek Van Wely and GM Mikheil Mchedlishvili of Georgia tied for second at 7½. Fourteen players including Fridman, Landa, V. Milov, L. Milov, Bareev, Jussupov, Mikhalevski and Cvitan finished with 7.

|   |                 |     |      |    |
|---|-----------------|-----|------|----|
| 1 | Hikaru Nakamura | USA | 2648 | 8  |
| 2 | Loek Van Wely   | NED | 2680 | 7½ |

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|    |                       |     |      |    |
|----|-----------------------|-----|------|----|
| 3  | Mikheil Mchedlishvili | GEO | 2631 | 7½ |
| 4  | Daniel Fridman        | GER | 2621 | 7  |
| 5  | Konstantin Landa      | RUS | 2678 | 7  |
| 6  | Vadim Milov           | SUI | 2680 | 7  |
| 7  | Evgeny Bareev         | RUS | 2653 | 7  |
| 8  | Artur Jussupow        | GER | 2583 | 7  |
| 9  | Victor Mikhalevski    | ISR | 2598 | 7  |
| 10 | Hichem Hamdouchi      | MAR | 2576 | 7  |
| 11 | Namig Guliyev         | AZE | 2560 | 7  |
| 12 | Ognjen Cvitan         | CRO | 2543 | 7  |
| 13 | Leonid Milov          | GER | 2492 | 7  |
| 14 | Eric Prie             | FRA | 2532 | 7  |

The second stage was a knock-out event with sixteen participants, including former world champions Rustam Kasimdzhanov and Anatoly Karpov. In round 16, Nakamura had to face the strong Israeli grandmaster Mikhalevski, who just won an impressive tournament in Spain the week before. The first two games were split 1-1 and Hikaru won the play off 1½-½. Here are the results of round 16.

|             |               |       |
|-------------|---------------|-------|
| Hamdouchi   | Karpov        | 0-2   |
| L. Milov    | Kasimdzhanov  | ½-1½  |
| Cvitan      | V. Milov      | 0-2   |
| Guliyev     | Landa         | 1½-½  |
| Prie        | Van Wely      | ½-1½  |
| Mikhalevski | Nakamura      | 1½-2½ |
| Jussupow    | Bareev        | 0-2   |
| Fridman     | Mchedlishvili | 1½-½  |

In the quarterfinal, Nakamura split the first two games against Loek VanWely, and then won the playoff 2-0. Here are the results of the quarterfinals:

|              |          |      |
|--------------|----------|------|
| Karpov       | Guliyev  | 2-0  |
| Kasimdzhanov | Fridman  | 1½-½ |
| Bareev       | V. Milov | 3-1  |
| Nakamura     | Van Wely | 3-1  |

In the semifinal, Nakamura split the first two games against Bareev and dominated the playoff 2-0 to advance to the final. In the meantime, Kasimdzhanov did the same to Anatoly Karpov. Here are the results of the semifinals:

|              |          |     |
|--------------|----------|-----|
| Kasimdzhanov | Karpov   | 3-1 |
| Bareev       | Nakamura | 1-3 |

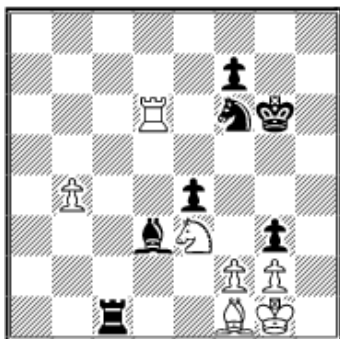
Nakamura then won the playoff 2-0. Here is the first game of the final match.

**Kasimdzhanov, R (2690) - Nakamura, H (2648)**

Corsica Masters Bastia FRA (4.1), 10.30.2007 [D45]

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 e6 5.e3 Nbd7 6.Qc2 Bd6 7.e4 dxe4 8.Nxe4 Nxe4 9.Qxe4 Bb4+ 10.Bd2 Bxd2+ 11.Nxd2 c5 12.dxc5 Qa5 13.a3 Qxc5 14.b4 Qe7 15.Bd3 a5 16.Rb1**

axb4 17.axb4 Nf6 18.Qc3 0-0 19.0-0 Rd8 20.Nf3 Qc7 21.Ne5 b6 22.Rfd1 Bb7 23.Bf1  
Be4 24.Nd3 Ra3 25.Ra1 Rc3 26.Qf4 Qxf4 27.Nxf4 Rxd1 28.Rxd1 g5 29.Nh3 g4 30.Nf4  
Kg7 31.h3 h5 32.hxg4 hxg4 33.Rd6 e5 34.Ne2 Rxc4 35.Rxb6 Bd3 36.Ng3 Rc1 37.Rd6 e4  
38.Nf5+ Kg6 39.Ne3 g3



40.fxg3

40.b5 Bxb5 (40...Kg5 41.Rc6 Re1 42.Rc5+ Kg6 43.  
b6 Bxf1 44.Nxf1 Ng4+) 41.Rd1 Rxd1 42.Nxd1  
gxf2+ 43.Kxf2 and White has drawing chances.

40...Bxf1 41.Kf2 Bd3 42.Nd5 Kg5  
0-1

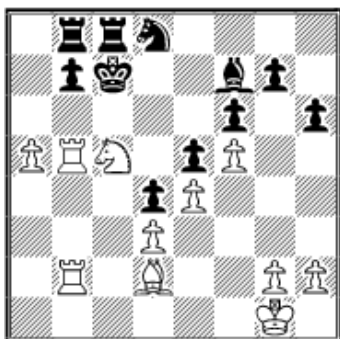
### *Sixth North American FIDE Invitational*

The Sixth North American FIDE Invitational took place October 28-November 3, 2007 in Chicago. Among the highlights was the fact that Ray Robson, who at thirteen years of age was by far the youngest player of the tournament, scored his first IM norm by beating the tournament leader, IM David Vigorito, in the final round.

**Robson, Ray (2368) - Vigorito, David (2399)**

Chicago (8), November 3, 2007 [B32]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e5 5.Nb5 a6 6.Nd6 Bxd6 7.Qxd6 Qf6 8.Qc7 Nge7 9.  
Nc3 Nb4 10.Bd3 d5 11.O-O d4 12.Na4 Qc6 13.Qxc6 Nxc6 14.Nb6 Rb8 15.Bd2 Be6 16.  
f4 f6 17.a3 Nxd3 18.cxd3 Ke7 19.b4 Kd6 20.a4 Kc7 21.a5 Rbd8 22.Rab1 Rhe8 23.b5  
axb5 24.Rxb5 h6 25.Rfb1 Rb8 26.f5 Ba2 27.R1b2 Bf7 28.Na4 Rec8 29.Nc5 Nd8



30.a6 b6 31.Na4 Be8 32.Rc2 Nc6 33.Nxb6 Kd8  
34.Rd5 Kc7 35.Nxc8 Kxc8 36.Ba5 Rb1 37.Kf2  
Kb8 38.Rdc5 Ra1 39.Bb4 Rxa6 40.Rb5 Ka8 41.  
Bf8 Ra7 42.Rbc5 Kb7 43.Bxg7 Ra3 44.Bxf6  
Rxd3 45.Bxe5 Rb3 46.Rd2 d3 47.Rc3 Rb4 48.  
Bd6 Rxe4 49.Rcxd3 Na5 50.Re2 Rxe2 51.Kxe2  
Bb5 52.f6 Bxd3 53.Kxd3 1-0

Congratulations to Ray Robson for earning his first IM norm! I am sure we will hear a lot more about this young man in the near future.

Here are the final standings:

|    |                  |     |
|----|------------------|-----|
| 1  | Ray Robson       | 7   |
| 2  | David Vigorito   | 6½  |
| 3  | Mehmed Pasalic   | 5½  |
| 4  | Todd Andrews     | 5.0 |
| 5  | Stephen Muhammad | 4.0 |
| 6  | Angelo Young     | 4.0 |
| 7  | Igor Tsyanov     | 4.0 |
| 8  | Dale Haessel     | 4.0 |
| 9  | Albert Chow      | 3½  |
| 10 | Ludmila Mokriak  | 1½  |

The event was organized by Sevan A. Muradian, President of the North American Chess Association.

### *The European Team Chess Championship*

As we go to press, the European Team Chess Championship is taking place in Crete, Greece. Russia is in clear first in the men's section, with Slovenia second and Ukraine in third. In the women's section, Russia and Poland are currently tied for first with Ukraine and Georgia tied for second.

Here is a game from the first round of the women's section:

**B. Igla (2291) – T. Kosintseva (2492)**

European Team Chess Championship, Crete, Greece (1), 28.10.2007 [E39]

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4**

The Nimzo-Indian defense is one of the most complicated of all chess openings. The positions can be sharp, positional, closed or wide open.

**4.Qc2**

This is arguably White's best response. The idea is to avoid doubled pawns after ...Bxc3.

**4...0-0 5.Bg5**

The main line is 5.a3, forcing Black to give up the pin of the c3-knight.

**5...c5 6.dxc5 Na6**

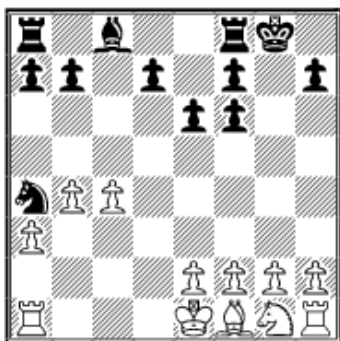
General opening advice suggests not to bring your knight to the edge of the board, but in this case it is only a temporary stop-over on the way to the center.

**7.a3 Bxc3+ 8.Qxc3 Nxc5**

Now the knight is back in business.

**9.Bxf6 Qxf6 10.Qxf6 gxf6 11.b4 Na4**

It seems that White was thinking "less pieces, less problems," but it is a risky strategy that often backfires. Black has doubled f-pawns, but White is significantly behind in development.



**12.e3**

After 12.c5 b6, Black would be in good shape too.

**12...b6 13.Nf3 Ba6 14.Kd2**

In another recent game, White also suffered after 14.Nd2 Rfc8 15.Ne4 Kf8 16.Be2 Ke7 17.Nd2 Rc7 18.e4 Rac8 19.Bd1 Nb2 20.b5 Bb7 21.Bb3Nd3+ 22.Ke2 Nf4+ 23.Kf3 e5 24.g3 Ne6 25.Ke3 Nd4 26.Bd1 f5 Mchedlishvili - Gelashvili, Tbilisi 2007.

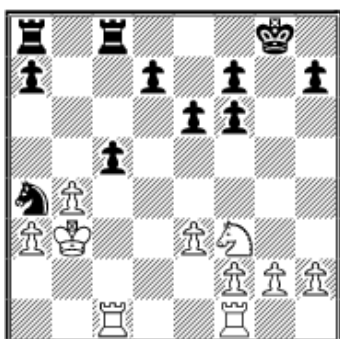
**14...Rfc8 15.Rc1 Nb2 16.c5**

16.b5 Bb7 would gravely weaken the c5-square as well as White's c4-pawn.

**16...Bxf1 17.Rhxf1 bxc5 18.Kc3**

After 18.bxc5 Na4, White cannot hang on to the c5-pawn.

**18...Na4+ 19.Kb3**

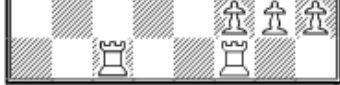


This is the critical moment of the game.

**19...a5!!**

A brilliant move! After 19...Nb6 20.bxc5 Nd5 21.e4, White regains the pawn and it would be Black who would have to fight for a draw.

**20.Kxa4**



Otherwise Black simply keeps the extra pawn.

**20...axb4+ 21.Kb3**

21.Kb5 is even worse, as after 21...bxa3, White loses if she captures on c5: 22.Rxc5 Rcb8+ 23.Kc4 a2 24.Ra1 Rb1.

**21...Rxa3+ 22.Kb2**

After 22.Kc4 d5+ 23.Kb5, Black could play 23...c4, because if 24.Kxb4, Black mates in two by 24...Rb3+ 25.Ka4 Ra8#.

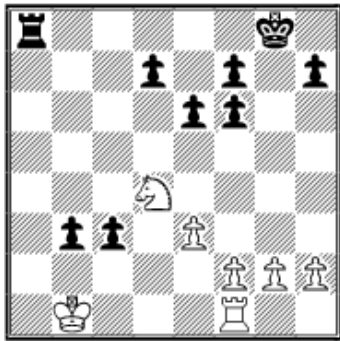
**22...c4**

Black has three connected passed pawns for the knight and a clear advantage.

**23.Ra1 c3+ 24.Kb1 Rxa1+ 25.Kxa1 b3**

The pawns are unstoppable!

**26.Nd4 Ra8+ 27.Kb1**



Is Black's attack over? If 27...b2 28.Kc2 Ra1 29.Rb1 or 27...c2+ 28.Kb2, and the tables have turned. However, as so often happens, tactics come to the rescue.

**27...Ra2! 28.Rc1**

Black indirectly protects the pawn: 28.Nxb3 Rb2+.

**28...e5**

This is objectively the best move, although the pawn endgame after the simpler 28...c2+ 29.Nxc2 Rxc2 30.Rxc2 bxc2+ 31.Kxc2 should also be winning.

**29.Rxc3**

White had no choice but to give up the knight.

**29...exd4 30.exd4 Rxf2**

Now Black is ahead two pawns and the rest is easy.

**31.Rg3+ Kf8 32.h3 Ke7 33.Rg7 f5 34.Rxh7 Rxg2 35.Rh4 Kf6 36.Kc1 Kg5 37.Rh7 Kg6 38.Rh8 Rc2+ 39.Kb1 f4 0-1**

#### 2007 SPICE Cup International Invitational Chess Tournament

This special event will take place November 9-16, 2007 at the Matador Room in the Student Union Building at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas. It is organized by the Susan Polgar Foundation, SPICE (Susan Polgar Institute for Chess Excellence), the Knight Raiders and the Provost Office and is dedicated to grandmaster Samuel Reshevsky.

It is a Category 12 event, with an average rating of 2527. This will be one of the strongest international round robin tournaments in the United States in many years. Can you name the last ten player international round robin invitational tournament in the US that was Category 12 or stronger? Please send your answer to [SusanPolgar@aol.com](mailto:SusanPolgar@aol.com). There will be special prizes to three random winners who submit the correct answer. The contest ends at midnight on November 14, 2007.

The time control for the tournament will be 40 moves in 90 minutes + 15 minutes after move 40. There will also be a 30 second increment starting from move 1. The Arbiter and Chief TD will be IA Frank K. Berry. The assistant Chief TD will be Mr. Jim Berry, USCF VP.

|   |             |     |      |
|---|-------------|-----|------|
| 1 | Kamil Miton | POL | 2628 |
|---|-------------|-----|------|

|    |                    |     |      |
|----|--------------------|-----|------|
| 2  | Boris Gulko        | USA | 2571 |
| 3  | Julio Beccerra     | USA | 2568 |
| 4  | Imre Hera          | HUN | 2544 |
| 5  | Gilberto Hernandez | MEX | 2536 |
| 6  | Eugene Perelshteyn | USA | 2536 |
| 7  | Dmitry Schneider   | USA | 2502 |
| 8  | Manuel Leon Hoyos  | MEX | 2495 |
| 9  | Irina Krush        | USA | 2475 |
| 10 | Blas Lugo          | USA | 2411 |

All the games will be broadcast live at [www.monroi.com](http://www.monroi.com) and on the ICC.

This will be a very special event for the young people in Lubbock, as we are inviting a number of children from various local schools to visit each day and there will be special activities, raffles and gifts for them. It will be a thrill for these youngsters to meet so many chess stars. My goal is to introduce chess to every child in Lubbock, Texas.

We are still looking for more sponsors for this tournament. If you or someone you know would like to be a sponsor, please contact me at [SusanPolgar@aol.com](mailto:SusanPolgar@aol.com). All sponsors will be listed on the official website. I would like to thank everyone in advance for your support for this very special event.

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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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