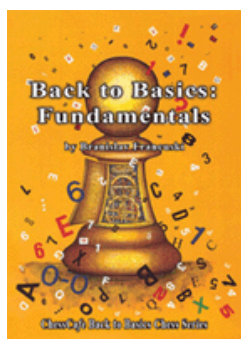




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Steve Goldberg



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## 2008 World Youth Championships

The 28-player U.S. squad at the 2008 World Youth Chess Championships in Vung Tau, Vietnam did quite well, including bronze medals for Sam Shankland and Darwin Yang, as well as an international master title for Shankland. As a treat for our readers, Darwin annotates his victory over the eventual winner of his section.

The inaugural edition of the Mind Sport Games took place in Beijing. Although not a scholastic event, up-and-coming teenager Abby Marshall was one of the U.S. participants. Her fascinating game against her Swedish opponent is included below.

### Everyman Quiz of the Month

Each month Everyman Chess sponsors our Everyman Quiz of the Month, offering a free chess book to three respondents with correct answers. This month, winners of our quiz will receive *Uncompromising Chess*, by GM Alexander Beliavsky. Please note – winners within the last three months are ineligible for this month's contest.

We will accept all contest answers for *two weeks* following the appearance of the column, then randomly select our three winners from this group. Please e-mail your responses to me by December 17, 2008. Send your answers to [scholasticchess@chesscafe.com](mailto:scholasticchess@chesscafe.com). Good luck!

### Problem #1



It is White to move. How did he cause Black's immediate resignation?

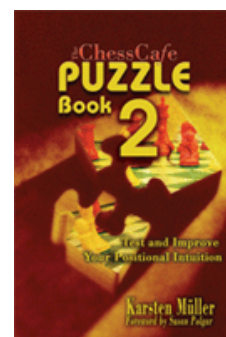
### Problem #2

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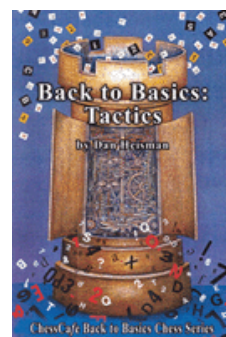
by Bruce Alberston



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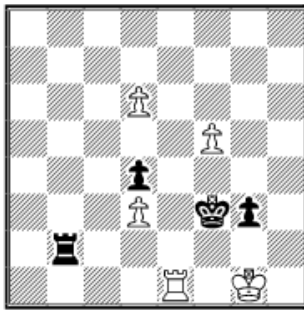
[Puzzle Book 2](#)

by Karsten Müller



[Back to Basics: Tactics](#)

by Dan Heisman



Both sides have dangerous pawns. It is Black to move – what do you suggest?

### 2008 World Youth Chess Championship, Vung Tau, Vietnam

Twenty-eight players traveled to Vietnam to represent the U.S. at the 2008 World Youth Chess Championship, held October 18-31. FM Sam Shankland, competing in the Under 18 section, finished in a five-way tie for first, receiving the bronze medal on tiebreaks. Because of his first-place tie, he receives an automatic international master title for his efforts.



In the Under 12 division, FM Darwin Yang received a bronze medal for his excellent third-place finish. Jonathan Chiang, in the Under 8 section, had a very strong tournament, with a score of 8/11, resulting in a 5th-place finish.

Other players finishing in the top twenty in their sections include:

- Hannah Liu, 7/11, 7th place in Girls Under 8
- FM Daniel Naroditsky, 7½/11, 9th place in Boys Under 14
- WFM Simone Liao, 7/11, 9th place in Girls Under 10
- Jeevan Karamsetty, 7/11, 11th place, Boys Under 10
- WCM Sarah Chiang, 7/11, 13th place, Girls Under 12
- Tommy He, 7/11, 16th place, Boys Under 8
- Daniel Ludwig, 6½/11, 17th place, Boys Under 18
- Alena Kats, 6½/11, 18th place, Girls Under 14
- Reva Singh, 6½/11, 18th place, Girls Under 8
- David Adelberg, 6½/11, 19th place, Boys Under 12



*Impressive show, but the board is set up wrong!*

Sixth grader Darwin Yang, who turns twelve this month, attends middle school in Plano, Texas. This is what he had to say about his experience at the World Youth Championships in Vietnam:

“The World Youth was a very exciting event for me (not just because I won bronze). Although I must admit that the playing conditions were not up to par in my opinion. Sometimes the fans would break, I would constantly find something dirty at my table, and there were two blackouts during heavy storms. Nevertheless, the event had many positives. I am not a fan for long and formative programs, but nonetheless the opening and closing ceremonies were fantastic (although they were quite long and started 1-2 hours late). Our hotel, and the visits to the beach 100-feet-away, was very relaxing. However, the food is not to be envied. Although it wasn’t bad, surely there could be some variety? I could barely eat anything after two weeks of Vietnamese food. I really needed some KFC or McDonalds! Overall the tournament was nice.”

In his first round game, Darwin demonstrated the dangers of leaving one’s king in the center:

*Yang, Darwin – Chen, Pin-Hung*  
WYCC 2008 (1) [D45]

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 e6 5.e3 Nbd7 6.Qc2 Be7 7.g4 h6 8.Rg1 dxc4 9.Bxc4 Nd5 10.e4 Nxc3 11.bxc3 g5 12.Bb2 Rg8 13.0–0–0 b5 14.Bb3 Bb7 15.d5 exd5 16.exd5 Qc7 17.Qf5**

Fritz prefers 17.d6, but this proves quite effective.

**17...Rf8 18.Rge1 Kd8 19.Rxe7 1–0**

19...Ke7 is met by 20.d6+.



*Darwin Yang*

In the fifth round, Darwin faced India’s Das Sayantan, who went on to

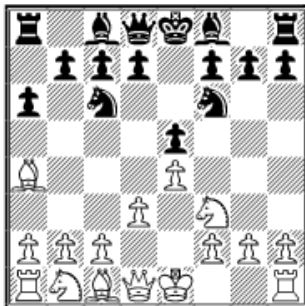
win the gold medal in their Under 12 section. In this encounter, though, Darwin held the upper hand, and he annotates this beautiful game:

*Yang, Darwin – Sayantan, Das*  
WYCC 2008 (5), 23.10.2008 [C54]

#### 1.e4

A real surprise for my opponent. I had played d4 for many months, and it was “obvious” that I was going to employ it here. I played e4 in specific preparation for the Ruy Lopez, playing a line that I utilized for quite some time before. It looked like the experience in the opening was equal, but he had not prepared.

**1...e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.d3**



In contrast to 5 0–0, this rare line barely appears nowadays. It was employed by Steinitz long ago, but he played Nbd2–f1–g3 or e3 immediately. I play more in the style of a modern Ruy Lopez, though I am a tempo down. I was never fond of certain structures resulting from immediate castling.

#### 5...b5

Many times have my opponents naively played 6...Be7?. I just took on c6 with my bishop and captured the pawn on e5.

#### 6.Bb3 Bc5

The game continues in the Müller system, except White is a tempo down.

**7.0–0 0–0 8.c3 d6 9.Nbd2 Bb6 10.Re1**

It is usually useful to interpose 10.a4; however, I just like to continue with White's plan of Re1, Nf1, Ne3 or g3.

**10...Bb7 11.Nf1 Ne7 12.Ng3**

It was possible to play 12.Bg5; however, 12...Ng6 13.Ng3 (threatening Nh5) 13...h6 and White must either give up the bishop or retreat. White loses a tempo on the retreat, so maybe 14.Bxf6 Qxf6. Black seems to have slightly relieved the pressure, ...Nf4 and the two bishops give him some trumps.

**12...Ng6 13.Nf5**

White immediately launches an excursion into Black's camp. It is difficult to roost the white knight out. Meanwhile, White can attempt some kingside pressure with a possible h4–h5 in the future, or prepare for d4. In an attempt to escape, Sayantan lashes out in the center, and complications hit the board.

#### 13...d5

Objectively a good move. It is like a temporary pawn sacrifice. If White is stubborn, he can hold the pawn, but weakens himself positionally. However, immediate tactical attempts to recover the material result in failure. If 13...Ne7, even 14.N3h4 seems possible.

#### 14.exd5

Not really a choice!

#### 14...Nxd5

Not bad, but the variations that follow are sort of long.

#### 15.Nxe5



I had lots of doubts on this move. I was wondering whether ...Qf6 would accomplish anything. I finally decided on acceptance after lengthy consideration.

#### 15...Bxf2??

A complete blunder that I failed to exploit fully; however, let us look at the best try: 15...Qf6. I admit I did not think up some of these variations on the board. These are just objective evaluations:

##### a) 16.Bxd5

##### a1) 16...Bxd5

a1i) 17.Nxg6 fxe6 18.Ne7+ transposes.

a1ii) 17.Qh5 Rae8 (17...Nxe5 18.Rxe5 Qxe5 19.Nh6+ Kh8 20.Qxe5 Rae8 21.Ng4 Rxe5 22.Nxe5 Re8 23.Bf4 White is slightly better.) 18.d4 White is holding, but it is very precarious. White is a little better to roughly equal.

a2) 16...Qxf5 17.Qf3 Qxf3 18.Bxf3 Nxe5 19.Rxe5 Rae8 20.Rxe8 Rxe8 21.Kf1 Bxf3 22.gxf3 White is up a pawn, a doubled pawn, but a pawn nonetheless.

##### b) 16.Nxg6

b1) 16...fxg6 17.Bxd5+ Bxd5 18.Ne7+

b1i) 18...Qxe7 19.Rxe7 Rxf2 20.Be3 Rxe2+ 21.Kf1 Bxe3 22.Rxe3 Rf8+ 23.Ke1 Rxe2 24.Qg4 Rh1+ 25.Kd2 Rxa1 White is slightly better.

b1ii) 18...Kh8 19.Nxd5 Bxf2+ 20.Kh1 Qd6 21.Ne3 Bxe1 22.Qxe1 Qxd3 23.a4 trying to open up the rook 23...Rae8 24.axb5 axb5 25.h3 White is slightly better.

b2) 16...hxe6 17.Bxd5

b2i) 17...Bxf2+ 18.Kh1 c6 19.Ne7+ Kh8 20.Rf1 cxd5 21.Be3 Qxe7 22.Bxf2 And White is slightly better due to the fact that his bishop is better and Black has some weak pawns.

b2ii) 17...Qxf5 18.Bxb7 Bxf2+ 19.Kh1 Bxe1 20.Qxe1+/-

#### 16.Kxf2 Qf6 17.Bxd5?!

17.Qh5! Nde7 18.Nd7 Qxf5+ 19.Qxf5 Nxf5 20.Nxf8 Kxf8+-.

#### 17...Bxd5 18.Qh5 Be6 19.g4 Nxe5

19...Bxf5 20.Qxf5 Qh4+ 21.Kf1 Qxh2 22.Nf3 Qd6 23.d4+–.

**20.Rxe5 g6 21.Qg5?**

Total blackout. This move surrenders part of my advantage, leaving me only a little bit winning. 21.Qh4! Qxe5? 22.d4 and the queen cannot move!

**21...Qxg5 22.Bxg5 gxf5??**

My opponent finally collapses under the weight. He is now completely lost. 22...f6 23.Ne7+ Kf7 24.Rxe6 Kxe6 25.Re1+ Kd7 26.Bh6+–.

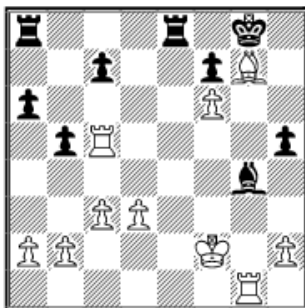
**23.Bh6 Rfe8 24.gxf5 Bd7??**

Computer says mate in fifteen!

**25.Rg1+ Kh8 26.Bg7+ Kg8 27.Rc5?!**

Forced Mate! 27.Rxe8+ Rxe8 28.Bd4+ Kf8 29.Bc5+ Re7 30.f6 Bg4 31.fxe7+ Ke8 32.Rxg4 Kd7 33.Rd4+ Kc6 34.b4 a5 35.e8Q+ Kb7 36.bxa5 f5 37.a6+ Kxa6 38.Qa8#!

**27...h5 28.f6 Bg4?**



**29.Rxg4 1–0**

It's over; the rook goes to h5-h8#.



*Darwin decorated at the closing ceremony*

Like Darwin Yang, Sam Shankland also brought home a bronze medal, but he had to defeat a grandmaster to do it. Here is that game:

**Shankland, Samuel (2436) – Le, Quang Liem (2583)**

WYCC Vung Tau, Vietnam (11), 30.10.2008 [B76]

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 0–0 8.**



Qd2 Nc6 9.0–0–0 Nxd4 10.Bxd4 Be6 11.Kb1 Qc7 12.h4 Rfc8 13.h5  
 Qa5 14.hxg6 fxg6 15.a3 Rab8 16.Bd3 Bf7 17.Ne2 Qxd2 18.Rxd2 a6 19.  
 Re1 Nd7 20.Bxg7 Kxg7 21.Nc3 b5 22.Bf1 Rc5 23.Rd4 Ne5 24.Nd5  
 Bxd5 25.exd5 g5 26.Re3 h5 27.g3 Rf8 28.Be2 Rf5 29.b4 Rc8 30.a4 Rh8  
 31.axb5 axb5 32.f4 gxf4 33.Rxf4 Rxf4 34.gxf4 Ng6 35.Bxb5 Nxf4 36.c4  
 h4 37.Bd7 Kf6 38.Bh3 Rg8 39.Bd7 Rh8 40.Bh3 Rb8 41.b5 Nxh3 42.  
 Rxh3 Kg5 43.Kc2 Kg4 44.Re3 Re8 45.c5 dxc5 46.d6 e5 47.b6 h3 48.d7  
 Rd8 49.b7 h2 50.Re1 Kf5 51.Rb1 Rb8 52.Rd1 Rd8 53.Kc3 Rxd7 54.  
 Rf1+ 1–0

## 1st Mind Sport Games, Beijing

Teenage WFM Abby Marshall was part of the U.S. team at the 1st Mind Sport Games held this past October in Beijing. Chess was an important part of her experience, but perhaps not the most important part. She reveled in the opportunity to see bits and pieces of a very foreign world.



Abby Marshall, left foreground

Photo: Chess Life Online

But it was chess that afforded Abby the opportunity to be in China, and here is her interesting game against Swedish opponent Emilia Horn, with annotations from Fritz. Abby falls back on her reliable King's Gambit:

### *Marshall, Abby – Horn, Emilia*

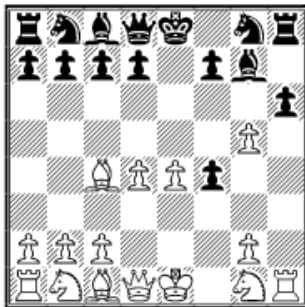
1st Mind Sport Games, Beijing, 2008

King's Gambit Accepted [C33]

**1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Bc4 h6**

Better is 3...Qh4+!? 4.Kf1 Nf6, with Black slightly better.

**4.d4 g5 5.h4 Bg7 6.hxg5**



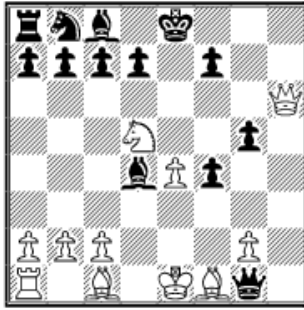
**6...hxg5?**

6...d5 is the best option. Black has 7.Bxd5 c6+/- (7...hxg5? fails because of 8.Rxh8 Bxh8 9.Qh5+/-).

**7.Rxh8+ Bxh8 8.Qh5 Qf6 9.Nc3 Nh6??**

Black has lost her nerve... understandable when you consider her position.  
 9...Nc6 10.Nf3 Nb4+—.

**10.Nd5 Qxd4 11.Qxh6 Qxg1+ 12.Bf1 Bd4**



12...Qd4 13.Nxc7+ Kd8 14.Nxa8 Qxe4+ 15.Be2+—.

**13.Be3**

13.Nxc7+?! is useless: 13...Kd8 14.Nd5 Qf2+ 15.Kd1 Qxf1+ 16.Kd2 Ke8  
 (16...Qxg2+? 17.Kd3 Ke8 18.Kxd4 Nc6+ 19.Kc5+—) 17.Nc7+ Kd8=.

**13...fxe3**

13...Bxe3 14.Qh8#.

**14.0–0–0 c6 15.Nc7+ Kd8 16.Nxa8 Ke7 17.Qxg5+**

17.Rxd4?! is weaker: 17...Qxf1+ 18.Rd1 e2 19.Qd6+ Ke8 20.Qe5+ Kf8  
 21.Qh8+ Ke7 22.Qe5+ Kf8 23.Qh8+ Ke7 24.Qe5+ Kf8=.

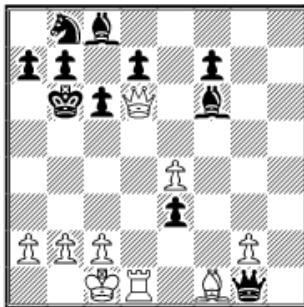
**17...Bf6 18.Qc5+ Ke8 19.Nc7+**

19.Qd6 e2 20.Nc7+ Kd8 21.Qxf6+ Kxc7 22.Qf4+ Kb6 23.Bxe2 Qxg2+—.

**19...Kd8 20.Qf8+**

20.Nb5 Be7 21.Qe5 cxb5 22.Bxb5 Qxg2 23.Qxb8 Qg4 24.Rxd7+ Qxd7  
 25.Bxd7 Kxd7 26.Qxa7 Bg5 27.Qd4+ Ke8 28.Qe5+ Be7+—.

**20...Kxc7 21.Qd6+ Kb6**



**22.Qxf6**

22.Qxb8? e2 23.Bxe2 Qe3+ 24.Kb1 Qxe2+—.

**22...e2**

22...a6+ is one last hope.

**23.Qd8+ Kc5**



23...Ka6 24.Bxe2+ b5 25.Qxc8+ Ka5 26.Rxg1 Na6 27.Qd8+ Kb4 28.  
Qxd7 Kc5 29.Qxa7+ Kd6 30.Rd1+ Ke5 31.Qxf7 Kxe4 32.Qe6+ Kf4 33.  
Rf1+ Kg3 34.Qh3#.

**24.Qa5+ b5 25.Qxa7+ 1-0**

Mate is coming: 25.Qxa7+ Kc4 26.Bxe2+ Kb4 27.Qa3#.

## 2008 National Youth Action Championship, Brownsville, Texas

The annual National Youth Action tournament isn't quite as big as the spring nationals or the K-12 (commonly known as "grade nationals") winter championships, but typically about 400+ players enjoy a weekend of rapid (game/30) play.

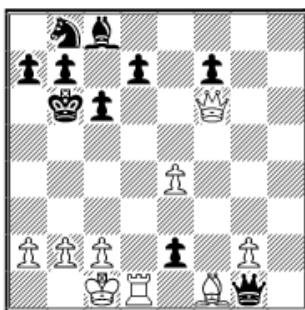
The 2008 edition of the National Youth Action fell right in line, drawing 455 players across primarily four sections. Amazingly, though, all but about ten participants hailed from the state of Texas.

The K-12 division was won by Ted Belanoff, who finished with 8½ points in the nine-round event. The K-9 title was shared by teammates from the same Brownsville middle school, Jeffery Hung and Ian Santos, who had identical scores of 8/9. They did not face each other in the tournament. The K-6 section saw the only perfect score in the event, 9/9, by Michael Brown. In the K-3 section, clear first was won by Winston Zeng, with 8 points.

As Chief TD Francisco Guadalupe pointed out in his November 12, 2008 Chess Life Online article, there were only three entrants from California, but each took first place in his section – Belanoff, Brown and Zeng.

## Answers to Last Month's Quiz

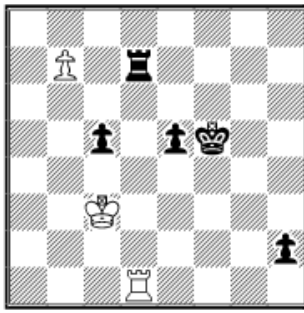
### Problem #1



Keeping in mind the maxim, "If you find a good move, stop and look to see if there's an even better move," how did White force a win here?

*Answer: 23.Qd8+ Kc5 24.Qa5+ b5 25.Qxa7+ 1-0 (it'll be mate in two), from Abby Marshall – Emilia Horn, 1st Mind Sport Games, Beijing 2008.*

### Problem #2



Black has just played 51...Rxd7. Both White and Black have pawns on the verge of queening. How can White put the game away?

*Answer: 52.Rf1+ and Black immediately resigned, from Sam Shankland – Le Quang Liem, World Youth Chess Championship, Vung Tau, Vietnam 2008. Shankland tied for first place and thereby earned an automatic International Master title.*

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