

NATIONAL OPEN NEWS

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GAREYEV TAKES CROWN AFTER TOP BOARD THRILLER

Going into the final round's play, GM Varuzhan Akobian sat all alone at the top of the standings with a perfect 5/5.

Right behind him, and the only player on 4½, was GM Timur Gareyev. Gareyev had come through a tough 2-day schedule and won both of his games in rounds 4 and 5 after the merge.

The two players were set to meet in a winner-takes-all battle on the top board.

Akobian knew that a draw would secure him the title. He also knew that a win would secure him an additional bonus of \$2,000 for finishing perfect, as announced right before the start of the game by Chief TD Bill Snead. (A semi-cruel thing to mention at such a time although Akobian had checked after his round 5 win to see if the prize still existed.)

However, the charismatic Gareyev had other ideas as he went all-out (in Vegas would it be all-in?) in an attempt to secure himself the lone title and a prize purse of over \$6,000.

Gareyev, T (2655)
Akobian, V (2664)

National Open 2010 (6.1)

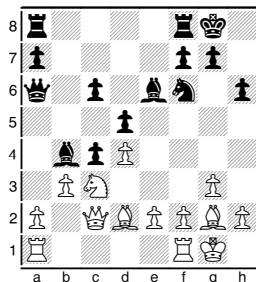
1.d4 e6 2.c4 d5 3.Nc3 c5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.g3 Nf6 7.Bg2 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Bg5 c4 10.Ne5 Be6 11.b3 h6

Akobian switches to a lesser known move from what he had regularly played previously in this position 11...Qa5 12.Qd2 Bb4 13.Nxc6 bxc6 14.Bxf6 gxf6 15.Rfc1 Rad8 16.bxc4 dxc4 17.e3 f5 18.Bxc6 f4 19.a3 fxe3 20.Qxe3 Bxc3 21.Rxc3 Rd6 22.Be4 Rfd8 23.d5 Bxd5 24.Qg5+ Kf8 25.Re3 h6 26.Qf5 Re6 27.Rae1 c3 28.Qh7 c2 29.Bxd5 Qxe1+ 30.Rxe1 Rxe1+ 31.Kg2 Rxd5 32.Qxc2 Re6 33.Qb3 ½-½ So,W (2656)-Akobian,V (2628)/Wijk aan Zee 2010

12.Bf4

The position after 12.Bxf6 Bxf6 13.Nxc6 bxc6 14.bxc4 dxc4 15.e3 has been seen a few times before.

12...Qa5 13.Bd2 Bb4 14.Nxc6 bxc6 15.Qc2 Qa6



16.Nxd5!

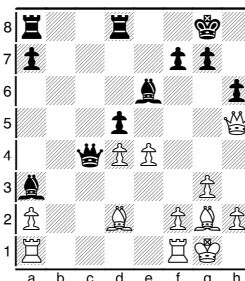
This only way to play for an ad-

vantage in the position.

16...Nxd5 17.bxc4 Rfc8 18.cxd5

18.e4! Bxd2 19.cxd5 cxd5 20.Qxd2 just leaves White a pawn up with minimal compensation for Black.

18...cxd5 19.Qd1 Ba3 20.e4 Rd8 21.Qh5 Qc4



22.Bc1!

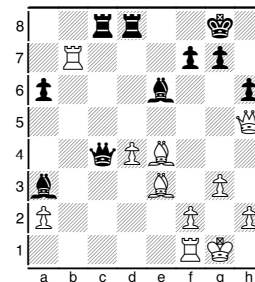
Finding what looks like a strange little retreat is what makes a GM a GM.

22...Bf8

Just trading everything off by 22...Bxc1 23.exd5 Bb2 24.dxe6 fxe6 25.Bxa8 Bxa1 26.Rxa1 Rxa8 leaves White a clear pawn up.

23.Be3 Ba3 24.Bc1 Bf8 25.Be3 Ba3 26.Rab1 Rac8 27.Rb7 dxe4 28.Bxe4 a6?

Black tries to save the a-pawn but misses White's major threat. Instead 28...Bf8 29.a3 a6 30.Rfb1± is still good for White but definitely not as good as things will be now.



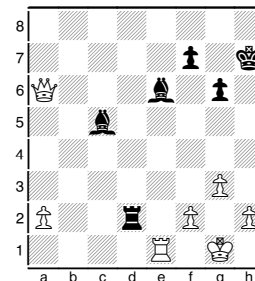
29.Bxh6! Qxd4

29...Bf8 30.Bg5+-

30.Bh7+ Kxh7 31.Be3+

The Black queen falls.

31...Kg8 32.Bxd4 Rxd4 33.Qa5 Bc5 34.Rc7 Rxc7 35.Qxc7 Rc4 36.Qd8+ Kh7 37.Qd3+ g6 38.Re1 Rd4 39.Qxa6 Rd2



40.Rxe6

Gareyev gives back an exchange in favor of simplifying the win.

40...fxe6 41.Qxe6 Rxf2 42.Kh1 Rc2 43.a4 Rc1+ 44.Kg2 Rc2+ 45.Kf3 Rxf2 46.Qf7+ Kh6 47.Qf4+ 1-0

47.Qf4+ Kh7 (47...Kh5 48.g4+ Kh4 49.Qh6#; 47...g5 48.Qf6+ Kh7 49.Qf5+) 48.Qc7+