

2018 Washington State Championship Brilliance Prize

Championship Section

Judged by Josh Sinanan

1st Place

Perez – Truelson (1-0)

A classic attacking game by the Cuban chess wizard! The feisty Truelson grabbed a pawn out of a Slav opening and tried to hang on to it with the queenside pawn lattice c6-b5-c4. This is like waving the flag in front of the bull when playing an attacking player like Ignacio, who cares little for material. White's 17th move h4 should have been a warning sign that something was about to happen on the kingside. Instead, Black ignored it and allowed a classic Greek Gift sacrifice, which led to a decisive attack on the exposed black king. To cap it all off, White sacrificed the exchange and then his queen, allowing his king, knights, and pawns to land the knockout blow!

Ignacio Perez (2258) –

Joseph Truelson (2080) [D31]
Washington Closed Championship
Redmond (R6), February 17, 2018
[Ralph Dubisch]

The game Josh picked for the Washington Championship brilliancy prize is interesting — exciting to be sure, and complicated. It certainly wouldn't win for most sound sacrifice, or for fewest blunders.

That either side could have won the prize up until the last two moves perhaps adds to the game's cachet. That the elder player was the exuberant attacker with little regard for material probably clinched the deal.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 dxc4

3...Nf6 is by far the most common move here, though; 3...e6 and; 3...e5 are occasional visitors, too.

4.e4 b5 5.Nf3

5.a4 is the normal plan against the c6/b5/c4 structure, virtually guaranteeing the recapture of the pawn with at least a slight edge for White: 5...b4 (5...e5 6.Nf3 exd4 7.Qxd4 Qxd4 8.Nxd4 is rare.) 6.Na2 Nf6 7.e5 Nd5 8.Bxc4 is generally accepted.

5...Bb7 6.Be2 e6 7.0-0 Nf6 8.Bg5 Be7

8...Nbd7!? 9.e5 h6 10.Bh4 (10.Bxf6 gxf6) 10...g5 11.Bg3 (11.Nxg5? hxg5 12.Bxg5 Qc7! Oops.) 11...Nd5∞ Not a position for the faint of heart.

9.e5 Nd5 10.Ne4 0-0 11.Rc1 Nd7

12.Bxe7 Qxe7 13.b3

White starts single-mindedly setting up the Greco sacrifice on the b1-h7 diagonal.

13...cxb3 14.axb3 a5 15.Nd6 N7b6 16.Bd3 a4 17.h4

Consistent, anyway. 17.bxa4 certainly offers some compensation for one pawn, if only due to the advanced outpost on d6.

17...axb3

Black is not yet worried.

18.Bxh7+

18.Qxb3

18...Kxh7 19.Ng5+ Kh6 20.Qd2 f5

21.Nxe6+



Position after 21.Nxe6+

21...Kxg6

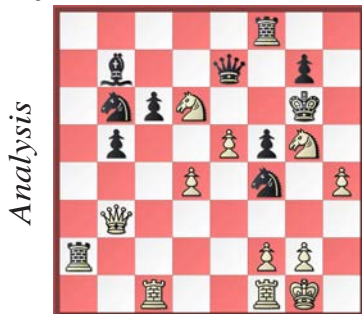
21...f4! 22.Nxf8 (22.Ng5 g6+) 22...Rxf8

22.Ng5?

22.Nxf8+ Rxf8 23.Qd3, possibly threatening Nxf5/g4 ideas, seems to contain enough complications to work with while retaining at least some material.

22...Ra4?

22...Ra2! essentially wins. 23.Qd3 (23.Qd1 b2 24.Rb1 Nc4! and White has nothing left in the bank.) 23...Nf4 24.Qxb3



(#Diagram-analysis after 24.Qxb3)

24...Qxg5!! 25.hxg5 (25.g3 Qg4 26.Qxa2 (26.Rce1 Nbd5 27.Nxb7 (27.Qd1 Qh3 28.Qf3 Ra3 29.Re3 Nxe3 30.fxe3 Ra2 31.Rf2 Ra1+ 32.Rf1 Rxf1+ 33.Qxf1 Qxg3+ 34.Kh1 Qxh4+ 35.Kg1 Qg3+ 36.Kh1 Rh8+) 27...Nh3+ 28.Kh2 Nxf2 29.Kg1 Rb2 30.Qa3 Ra8 31.Rxf2 Rxa3) 26...Qf3 27.h5+ (27.gxf4 Qg4+ 28.Kh1

Qxh4+ 29.Kg1 Qg4+ 30.Kh1 Rh8#) 27...Kxh5 28.gxf4 Nd5+) 25...Ne2+ 26.Kh2 Rh8+ 27.Qh3 Rxb3+ 28.Kxh3 Nxc1 29.Rxc1 Ba8, and the extra piece really should be enough.

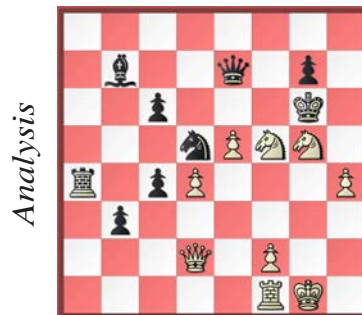
23.g4! Nc4 24.Rxc4! bxc4



Position after 24...bxc4

25.Kh2??

25.gxf5+ is the more obvious choice, with the benefit of also being stronger: 25...Rxf5 This is forced... (25...Kh6?? 26.f6! and Black must part with his queen due to the plethora of forks and discoveries.; 25...Kh5?? 26.Qe2+ Kh6 27.Qg4+-) 26.Nxf5



(#Diagram-analysis after 26.Nxf5)

26...Kxf5?! ...but this is not. (Maybe better (and beginning something of a theme of non-recapture, at least in the analysis of this game) 26...Qf8!? 27.Ng3 (27.Nd6 Qf4 28.Qd1 Ne3!?) (28...Bc8!?) Black meets the threats of Qb1+ and Ne6 by offering the bishop for free! 29.Nxc8 Qxh4 30.Ne6 Kf7! 31.Nc5 Qg5+ 32.Kh2 Ra8! 33.Qf3+ Kg8 34.Nd6 Nf4, and despite the piece minus, Black appears to have the better chances due to the advanced passed pawns and White's unsafe king position.; 28...Ra2 29.Ne6) 29.Ne6 (29.Qb1+ Nc2 (29...Nf5 30.Nh3 Qf3 31.Kh2+-) 30.Qd1 Nxd4 31.Qb1+ Nc2 32.Qd1 c5 33.Nxb7 c3 34.Qd6+ Kh5 35.Qd3 Qg4+ (35...Qxh4 should lead to a complicated perpetual check series by White.) 36.Kh2 Qf4+) 29...Qg4+) 27...Qf4 28.Qd1 Qxh4 29.Ne6 Ne7 30.Qb1+ Kf7 31.Nd8+ Kg8 32.Nxb7∞ Black's passed pawns nicely compensate for the piece, and many lines end in repetitions due to the exposed kings.) 27.Qe1! Nc3! 28.Qxc3 c5 29.Qh3+ Kg6 30.Qg4 b2 31.h5+ Kh6 32.f4 Ra3 (32...Ra1? 33.Qf5! Kxh5 (33...Rxf1+ 34.Kxf1 Kxh5 (34...

b1Q+ 35.Qxb1 Kxh5 36.Qf5+-) 35.Qh3+ Kg6 36.Qh7#) 34.Qh7+ Kg4 35.Qh3#) 33.Rb1 (33.Qf5?? Rg3+ 34.Kf2 Rg2+ 35.Ke1 Rxg5 36.fxg5+ Qxg5 37.Qxg5+ Kxg5 38.Kd2 cxd4+-) 33...g6! (33...cxd4 34.Rxb2)



(#Diagram-analysis after 33...g6)

34.Kf2! Getting out of third rank rook check defenses while simultaneously opening a route for the b1-rook to join the fun on the kingside. 34...gxh5 (34...c3 35.hxg6 Kxg6 36.f5+ Kg7 37.f6+) 35.Qf5 h4 (35...c3 36.Nf7+ Qxf7 37.Qxf7 c2 (37...Ra1 38.Qf6+ Kh7 39.f5 Rxb1 40.Qg6+ Kh8 41.f6+-) 38.Qf6+ Kh7 39.Qf5+ Kh6 40.Qg5+ Kh7 41.Qxh5+ Kg7 42.Rg1+) 36.Qg4 h3 37.Rxb2 h2 38.Rb6+ Kg7 39.Ne4+ Kf8 40.Rf6+ Ke8 41.Qg8+ Kd7 42.Nxc5+ Kc7 43.Rf7 Ra2+ 44.Ke3 Ra3+ 45.Kd2 Ra2+ 46.Kc3 Ra3+ 47.Kb2 Rb3+ 48.Ka2+-

25...fxg4 26.Qd1 Kh5 27.Kg3 Rf4 28.f3



Position after 28.f3

28...Ne3??

28...Qd7! 29.Qb1 g6 and while the material count suggests Black is ahead a rook, it isn't even that close. 0-1.; 28...gxf3!, adding possibilities of ...Rg4+, is also game-ending.

29.Kxf4!

Coffeehouse rules!

29...Nxd1??

Black's sense of danger deserts him. He doesn't notice the threat because he doesn't look for it. One attacks the queen, it doesn't move, so of course you take it! What else? 29...Qxg5+!! is necessary, and while extremely complicated, likely saves at least a draw. The variation trees tend to balloon out of control, which tells you how impossible this would be to produce

over the board. Here's a taste; for those willing to wade into it, there's quite a bit of beauty here: 30.hxg5 Nxd1



(#Diagram-analysis after 30...Nxd1)

31.e6!!

a) The natural recapture, 31.Rxd1?, loses. 31...c3 32.Kf5

(32.e6 c5! 33.Nxb7 (33.e7 Bc6) 33...c2 34.e7 Rxd4+ 35.Kg3 cxd1Q 36.e8Q+ Kxg5 37.f4+ (37.Qe5+ introduces the long-winded escape plan for the black king: 37...Kh6 38.Qe6+ Kh7 39.Qf5+ Kg8 40.Qc8+ Kf7 41.Qf5+ Ke7 42.Qe5+ Kd7 43.Nxc5+ (43.Qxg7+ Kc8!; 43.Qe3 Qxf3+ 44.Qxf3 gxf3 45.Nxc5+ Kc6 46.Nxb3 Rd3-+; 43.Qf5+ Kc6-+) 43...Kc6 and Black takes over.) 37...Rxf4! (37...Kf6 also works, eventually, as above.) 38.Qe5+ (38.Qe7+ Kg6 39.Kxf4 Qf3+ 40.Ke5 Qf6+-) 38...Kg6 39.Qxf4 Qf3+ 40.Qxf3 gxf3 41.Nxc5 b2-+)

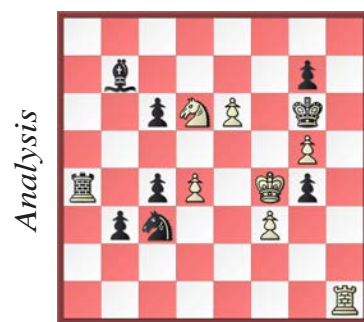


(#Diagram-analysis after 32.Kf5)

32...Bc8+!! 33.Nxc8 Kh4 34.Rh1+ Kg3 35.e6 b2 36.e7 Ra1! 37.Rxa1 (37.e8Q Rxh1 38.Qe5+ Kh3 and ...b1=Q soon.) 37...bxa1Q 38.e8Q Qb1+ 39.Ke6 Qe1+ 40.Kd7 Qxe8+ 41.Kxe8 c2 and the distant extra knight on c8 proves ill-equipped to deal with those advanced passed black pawns.;

b) 31.Rh1+ Kg6 32.e6 and Black has extra options: 32...Nf2!?! (32...Ra8! 33.Nf7 Rf8!-+) 33.Rh8 c5 34.Nxb7 (34.e7 Bc6 35.Rc8 Nd3+ 36.Kg3 Ra7 37.Rxc6 Rxe7 38.Nxc4+ Kxg5 39.dxc5) 34...Nd3+ 35.Kxg4 Ra1! 36.e7 Rg1+ 37.Kh3 Rh1+ 38.Kg2 Rxh8-+; 31...Nc3! (31...Ra8? doesn't work so well here, as White hasn't spent a tempo to drive the black king toward the action. 32.Rxd1!±) 32.Rh1+ Kg6

[Analysis Diagram top of next column]



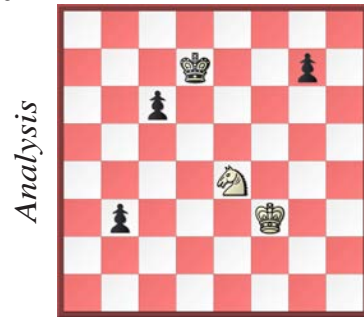
(#Diagram-analysis after 32...Kg6)

33.Nf7! Threatening two checkmates. 33...Nd5+ 34.Kxg4 Nf6+ 35.Kf4 (35.gxf6 Bc8!) 35...Nh5+! 36.Rxh5 c3!! (Again the natural recapture loses. 36...Kxh5?? 37.e7 Ra8 38.Nd8+-) 37.Rh1!! Renewing the mating net. 37...Rxd4+ 38.Kg3 (38.Ke3?? Rd5 39.Nh8+ Kf5 40.e7 Re5+ 41.Kd3 c2 with Black in control.) 38...Rd5! (38...Bc8?? 39.Ne5+ Kf5 40.e7+-) 39.Kg4 Rxg5+! 40.Nxg5 c2 41.f4 Bc8 42.f5+ Kf6 43.Ne4+ Ke7



(#Diagram-analysis after 43...Ke7)

44.Ra1!! Bxe6! 45.Ra7+! Bd7 46.Rxd7+! Ke8 (46...Kxd7 47.Nc5+ Kd6 48.Nxb3 Ke5 leaves no winning chances for either side.; 46...Kf8 47.f6 gxf6 48.Nxf6 c1Q 49.Nh7+ Ke8 50.Nf6+ Kf8) 47.f6! c1Q 48.fxg7 (48.f7+ Kxd7 (48...Kf8 49.Ng5) 49.f8Q Qd1+ (49...b2 50.Qd6+ Kc8 51.Qe6+ Kb7 52.Qe7+ Ka6 53.Qa3+ Kb5 54.Qb3+ Ka6 55.Qa3+ Kb7 56.Qe7+ Kb6 57.Qb4+ etc.) 50.Kg3 Qd3+ 51.Qf3 Qxf3+ 52.Kxf3



(#Diagram-analysis after 52.Kxf3)

Now White draws by switching the defenders, bringing king to the queenside and knight (eventually) to stop the g-pawn, e.g. 52...Ke7 53.Ke3 b2 54.Nd2 g5 55.Kd3 g4 56.Kc2 g3 57.Kxb2 g2 58.Nf3) 48...Kxd7 49.g8Q Qg1+ 50.Ng3



(#Diagram-analysis after 50.Ng3)

Superficially this looks promising for Black, but 50...Qd4+ 51.Kf3 b2 52.Qh7+ gives White just enough to hold, combining a repositioning of the knight to e2 with various blockade and perpetual check ideas. 52...Kc8 53.Ne2 Qb4 54.Qb1 c5 55.Ke3 c4 56.Qf5+ Kb7 57.Qh7+ Ka6 58.Qg6+ Ka5 59.Qf5+ Ka4 60.Qc2+ Ka3 (60...Qb3+ 61.Nc3+ Kb4 62.Qxb3+ Kxb3 63.Kd2) 61.Nc3 Qb3 62.Kd2 shows one typical drawing line.

30.fgx4+ Kh6 31.Nf5+

32.h5# looms.

1-0

Other games:

Lee, Megan – Lee, Michael (1-0)

Megan's knights outplay Michael's bishops in the battle of the IM Lee siblings.

Megan Lee (2298) –

Michael Lee (2500) [B30]

Washington Closed Championship
Redmond (R8), February 18, 2018

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 e6 4.Bxc6 bxc6 5.e5 Ba6 6.d3 d5 7.exd6 Bxd6 8.Nbd2 Nf6 9.b3 Qc7 10.Bb2 0-0 11.0-0 e5 12.Re1 Rfe8 13.Qe2 Nd5 14.Ne4 Bf8



Position after 14...Bf8

15.c4?! Nf4 16.Qe3 f6 17.Rad1 Ne6 18.Qc1 Bc8 19.h3 a5 20.Nc3 Rd8 21.Na4 Ra6 22.Qc3 Qf7 23.Bc1 Qg6 24.Kf1 Qh5 25.Qc2 g5 26.Qe2 Qf7 27.Be3 h5 28.Nd2 Nd4 29.Bxd4 cxd4 30.c5 Be6 31.Ne4

[Diagram top of next column]

31...Be7? 32.Nxg5! fxxg5 33.Qxe5 Bxb3 34.axb3 Ra7 35.Qe6 Rb7 36.Qxc6 Rxb3 37.Nb6 Rb2 38.f3 g4 39.hxxg4 hxxg4



Position after 31.Ne4

40.Nc4 Rc2 41.Ne5 Qf5 42.Nxxg4 Qh5 43.Qe6+ Kh8 44.Qe5+ Qxe5 45.Nxe5 1-0

Perez – Feng (0-1)

Trying to attack the State Champ's king is easier said than done, especially when he is up a piece!

Ignacio Perez (2258) –

Roland Feng (2481) [C13]

Washington Closed Championship
Redmond (R1), February 10, 2018
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 dxe4 5.Nxe4 Be7 6.Bxf6 gxf6 7.Bc4

7.Nf3 is far more common here, when Black will usually continue 7...f5 (or 7...b6)

7...f5 8.Ng3 Qd6 9.Bb3 Nc6

9...h5!?, since 10.Nxh5?! c5 gives Black a lead.

10.Nf3 Bd7 11.0-0 0-0-0 12.d5 Ne5 13.Nxe5?!

13.Re1! seems desirable, quickly developing with tempo. Perez goes his own way, planning a material offer.

13...Qxe5 14.Re1 Qxb2 15.Rb1 Qf6 16.Qf3 c6?

16...e5!? Possibly Feng chose to avoid this due to complications arising from 17.d6 Bxd6 when White can choose from a variety of discoveries, such as (It looks like a forced draw after 17...e4 18.Bd5! exf3 (18...Bc6? 19.Nxe4! fxe4 (or 19...Bxd5 20.Nxf6 Bxf3 21.dxe7) 20.Qh3+-) 19.Bxb7+ and repeats.) 18.Bxf7. However, Black appears to be doing well here, e.g. 18...Bc6 19.Qxf5+ Qxf5 20.Nxf5 Rhf8 21.Nxd6+ cxd6 22.Be6+ Kb8

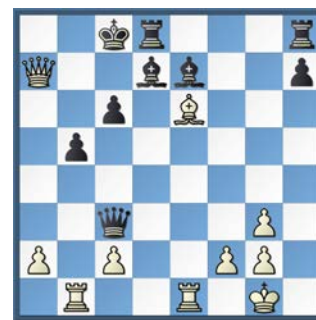
17.dxe6 fxe6 18.Qe3! f4 19.Qxa7 fxxg3 20.hxxg3 Qc3 21.Bxe6 b5

[Diagram top of next column]

Obviously White can take a perpetual check here. The question is, does he have more?

22.a4? Bc5! 23.Qa6+ Kc7 24.Bxd7

Definitely going downhill now. 24.axb5 Bxf2+ 25.Kxf2 Qc5+ 26.Ke2 Bxe6 also clearly favors Black.

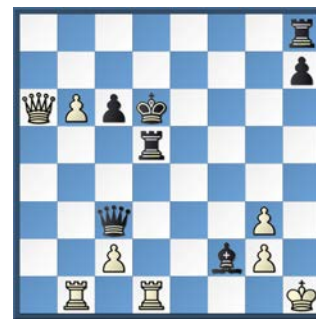


Position after 21...b5

24...Bxf2+! 25.Kh1 Rxd7 26.axb5 Rd5 27.b6+

27.Re4 Rh5+ 28.Rh4 Rxb5 29.Rf1 Qxc2+-

27...Kd6 28.Red1



Position after 28.Red1

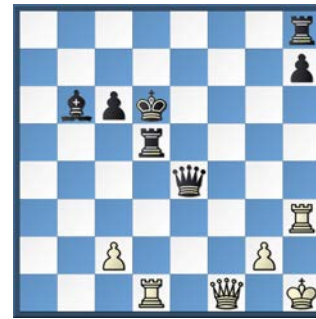
28...Bd4

Black misses the cute 28...Qe1+!! 29.Kh2 (29.Rxe1 Rh5#) 29...Bg1+ 30.Kh3 (30.Kh1 Bd4+ 31.Kh2 Rh5#) 30...Qe6+ 31.g4 Qh6+ 32.Kg3 Qe3+ 33.Kh4 Bf2+ 34.g3 Qxxg3#

29.Qe2 Qxxg3 30.Rb3 Qe5 31.Qf1 Qe4 32.Rh3 Bxb6??

It's tricky to see, but this nearly throws away the win by lining up a potential skewer along the sixth rank.

32...Re8



Position after 32...Bxb6

33.Re1??

33.Rxd5+ cxd5 (33...Kxd5 34.Qf7+ Kc5 (34...Qe6 35.Qf3+ Kd6 36.Qg3+ Ke7 37.Qg7+ Qf7 38.Qe5+ Qe6 39.Qg7+) 35.Rh5+ Kd6 36.Rh6+ Kc5 37.Rh5+) 34.Qf6+ Qe6 (34...Kc7? 35.Qg7+ Kc6 36.Rh6+ Kc5 37.Qc3+ Qc4 38.Qa3+ Qb4 39.Rc6+±) 35.Qxe6+ Kxe6 36.Rh6+ Ke5 37.Rxb6 Rc8, when these gladiators