

12th European Individual Chess Championship



Report
Round 4

by
GM
Miso
Cebalo

Especially impressive was Potkin's game which you can find below with some short comments.

Behind them there is a huge group of players with half a point less, Anatoly Vaisser is among them as the best classified French player.

A couple of ladies decided to play in men's competition, the most famous among them is certainly Judith Polgar who started with a disappointing draw in the first round, but now, after 3 wins in a row, she is again there where she belongs, near to the top.

Now I let you to enjoy the game of the day.

Ter-Sahakyann

Potkin

g 2575

g 2673

ECO B48

The results of round 4 have left us with just two leaders, both with perfect scores.

It is curious that both of them won their games playing with black pieces.

Their names are Potkin (43) and Savchenko (71),

and both are coming from Russia.

The numbers behind their names indicate their start position according to their Elo points, a detail which demonstrates that the Elo favorites haven't an easy life for the time being.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘c6 5.♘c3 ♚c7 6.♙e3 a6 7.♚d2 ♘f6 8.0-0-0 ♙b4 9.f3 ♘e5 10.♘b3 b5 11.♚e1 ♙e7 12.f4 ♘g6 13.e5 ♘g4 14.♘e4

Until here everything "déjà vu".

14...♘xe3

It is interesting that I managed to find just 3 games played like this, and all three won by White!?

15.♚xe3 0-0

One of the mentioned games went 15...♘h4 16.♘d4 f5 17.♘d6+ ♙xd6 18.exd6 ♚c5 19.♚g3 ♘g6 20.h4 0-0 21.h5 ♘h8 22.h6 g6 23.♘f3 ♙b7 24.♘e5 ♙e4 25.c4 ♚a7 26.♙h3 b4 27.♚h4 b3 28.♙xb3 ♙b7 29.♚e7 ♘f7



30.♘xg6! ♙bb8 31.♚f6 1-0 Jakovenko,D (2753)-Karr,J (2388)/France 2009.

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16.h4 ♖b7 17.h5



White also tried with success 17.♘d6 ♘h4 18.♘xb7 ♜xb7 19.♙d3 f5? 20.exf6 ♙xf6 21.g4 ♙e7 22.♙e4 ♜a7 23.♜d3 ♜ac8 24.♜xd7 ♜xd7 25.♞xd7 ♙d8 26.♙b7 ♜c4 27.♘d4 1–0 Mamedov,N (2580)-Geller,J (2544)/Moscow RUS 2011.

17...♞ac8!?!

After this move it is obvious that Black is ready to sac a piece. The exclamation mark is for the bravery, other two go for the objective value of the whole idea. The “safe”, or it’s better to call it “chicken” choice 17...♞fc8 18.♙d3 ♘f8 19.h6 g6 20.♙b1 would have given White a dangerous initiative.

18.♙d3 ♘xe5 19.fxe5 ♜xe5

Now it’s time to evaluate Black’s idea. For a piece he got two pawns, a possibility to create a strong pawn centre and very active pair of bishops, and yet it is not perfectly clear whether his piece sac is 100% sound or not. On the other hand such a position offers good practical chances to play for a win and that is exactly in this way that “brave hearts” play chess.

20.♘bd2

Practically forced, since 20.♞de1? f5 21.♘ed2 ♜xe3 22.♞xe3 ♙xg2 would have lost a third pawn.

20...f5 21.♘f3 ♜c7 22.♘eg5

Any retreat toward his own king would have been a safer option, but White seems to be in aggressive mood as well.

22...♙d5

Black obviously didn’t like 22...h6 because of 23.♘xe6 (23.♘h3 is bad because after 23...♜a5 24.♙b1 ♙d5 White comes under attack, ex.g. 25.b3 (or 25.a3 ♙xa3) 25...♙f6) 23...dxe6 24.♜xe6+ ♙h8 25.♙b1 with an

Sunday, March 27th

ALMIRA SKRIPCHENKO

plays in simultaneous games, in the Theater of Casino Grand Cercle. Her opponents : the 8 best teams of the Trophy Ernst & Young (32 players). The games will be commented by GM Miso Cebalo and IM Jean-Baptiste Mullon.

From March 27th to 29th

GARRY KASPAROV

will be in Aix-les-Bains

unclear game with chances for both sides.(25.♙xf5 ♜f4+ (25...♞f6 26.♜d7) 26.♙b1 ♜xf5 27.♜xe7 ♜xc2+ seems to be clearly in his favor.)

23.♘h4?

And the bravery starts to pay. After the correct 23.h6 g6 24.♙b1 White’s chances should be preferred.

23...♜c5

23...♙xa2 was a good alternative.

24.♜d2 ♙f6

24...♙xa2 was now objectively the best move.

25.a3 25.h6 g6 doesn’t help now anymore.

25...b4! 26.axb4 ♜d4 27.c3 ♙xg5

27...♜xb4 was also decisive.

28.♜xg5



28...♞xc3+! 29.♙c2

29.bxc3 ♜xc3+ 30.♙c2 ♙e4 would have lost even quicker.

29...♞xc2+! 30.♙xc2 ♜c8+ 31.♙b1 ♙e4+ 32.♙a1 ♜xb4 33.♜e3 ♜c5 34.♞d3 ♞b5 0–1

“Chapeau Mr.Potkin”, as they say in France!

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