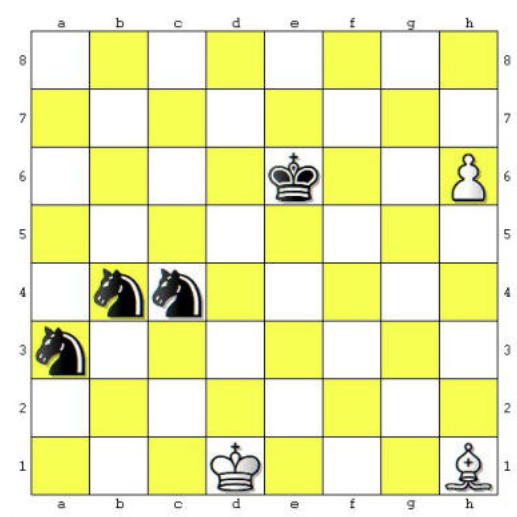




Volker Hergert

White to move and win

3rd Special Honorable Mention

Three black Knights already on the board
without a minor promotion in the
introduction?

Oh my God. What am I evaluating?

*"This should be sent into the trash bin.", a voice
says, somewhere in the dusk.*

Yes, it should. But let's take a look deeper.

Come on ... look at the three poor Knights striving to stop a pawn they can't stop,
stumbling in each other's legs like at the beginning of a race. And look at that
hilarious Bishop going corner-to-corner without apparent reason, just to keep the
balance of the position.

Also the final position is amusing. Who will be the first to be taken with a skewer?

Bets are open.

Solution: **1. h7 Nd3** {! Threatens the fork on f2.}

2. Ba8 !!

(2. h8=Q ? Nf2+ 3. Ke2 Nxh1 4. Qxh1 Nb5 5. Qe4+ Ne5 Draw)

(2. Bc6 ? Ne3+ 3. Kd2 Nac4+ (3. .. Ne5 4. Be8 Nac4+ Draw) 4. Kc3 Nde5 Draw)

(2. Ke2 ? Nf4+ 3. Kf2 Ng6 Draw) 2. .. Ne3+ (2. .. Ncb2+ 3. Kd2 Nbc4+ {same position
as main line})

3. Kd2

(3. Ke2 ? Nf4+ 4. Kxe3 Ng6 Draw)

3. .. Nec4+

(3. .. Ne5 4. h8=Q +-) (3. .. Nac4+ 4. Kc3 {! +- and the pawn will promote soon})

4. Kc3 !

(4. Kxd3 ? Ne5+ {Draw as the Knight stops the pawn})

(4. Kd1 Ne3+ 5. Kd2 {waste of time}) **4. .. Nb5+** {! the additional possibility
compared to 3...Nac4+} **5. Kc2 !** (5. Kxd3 ? Ne5+ Draw)

(5. Kxc4 ? Ne5+ {Draw or 5...Nd6+ Draw})

(5. Kb3 Nd4+ 6. Kc3 Nb5+ {waste of time})

5. .. Nba3+

(5. .. Nd4+ 6. Kb1 Nd2+ 7. Ka2 Nc1+ 8. Kb2 Nd3+ 9. Kc3 Ne5 10. h8=Q +-)
(5. .. Nb4+ 6. Kb3 +-)

6. Kb3 ! (6. Kc3 Nb5+ {loss of time})

(6. Kd1 Ne3+ 7. Kd2 Nec4+ 8. Kc3 Nb5+ {loss of time})
(6. Kxd3 ? Ne5+ Draw)

6. .. Nc5+ 7. Kc3

(7. Kb4 7. .. Nd3+ 8. Kb3 {loss of time})
(7. Ka2 Nd3 ! 8. Kb3 {! loss of time})

7. .. Nb5+ ! 8. Kc2 !

(8. Kxc4 ? Nd6+ 9. Kxc5 Nf7 10. Bd5+
Kf6 11. Bxf7 Kg7 Draw)
(8. Kb4 8. .. Nd3+ 9. Kb3 {! waste of time}
(8. h8=Q ? Nc1+ 9. Ka1 Nb3+ 10. Ka2 Nc1+ Draw))

8. .. Nc7

(8. .. Nba3+ 9. Kd1 +-) (8. .. Nd4+ 9. Kb1
+-) (8. .. Nb6 9. Bg2 {+- or 9.Bh1 +-})

9. Bh1 {!! switchback}

(9. Bc6 ? 9. .. Ne5 10. h8=Q Nxc6 Draw)
(9. Bf3 ? 9. .. Ne5 10. Bh5 (10. h8=Q Nxf3 Draw) 10. .. Nf7 11. Bxf7+ Kxf7 Draw)
(9. Bg2 ? Ne3+ Draw)
(9. Kxb5 ? Nd6+ 10. Ka5 Nf7 Draw)

9. .. Kf7

{Black has no sensible checks anymore, and so, finally, White can promote the pawn
successfully.}

10. h8=Q 1-0