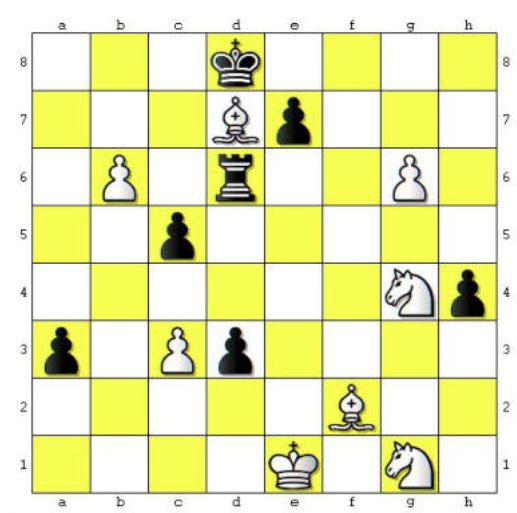




Beat Neuenschwander

White to move and win

> 7th Prize <

Watching this study unfold feels a bit like listening to a chess lesson between a father and his little daughter. "Come on," she says, eyes sparkling, "let's sacrifice another piece!"

The father hesitates. He looks at the board, at the King, at the growing danger. "Careful," he replies. "We're giving up a lot of material already. Let's not exaggerate." But the girl insists. And the board seems to agree with her.

White begins innocently enough with 1.g7, pushing the pawn forward with confidence. Black resists, but after 2.Be6!, the sacrifices start to pile up. Each time the father frowns: "Are you sure? That's another piece gone..." Rook after Rook is taken, Bishops step into fire, Knights jump in to be doomed. With 3.Ne5!, 4.Be3!, 5.Ne2!, White calmly offers everything. The white King, meanwhile, is becoming more and more uncomfortable. Space shrinks, flight squares disappear, and suddenly there is a serious threat of checkmate.

Now the father finally loses his patience. "All right," he says, "this is enough. You've sacrificed too much. Look at our position!" The girl smiles. "Don't worry. Now watch."

With perfect timing, the pawn queens: 7.g8=Q+. The tension dissolves instantly. What looked like recklessness is revealed as careful planning. The newly born Queen takes over the board with just a few precise checks, and after 10. b7, the win is beyond doubt.

A charming and instructive study: a cascade of sacrifices that never lose control, guided by a clear final idea. What at first seems like childish enthusiasm, a memory of times when all was simpler, turns out to be deep calculation — and the father, in the end, can only nod in quiet admiration.

Exactly as the judge does, every time he replays this study.

Solution: 1. g7!

(1. b7? Kc7 2. Bxc5 a2 3. Bxd6+ exd6 4. g7 a1=Q+ 5. Kd2 Qb2+ 6. Kxd3 Qb1+ 7. Kd2 Qb2+ Draw)

1. .. Rg6 2. Be6!

(2. g8=Q+ ? Rxg8 3. Be6 Rxg4 4. Bxc5 (4. Ba2 ? Rg2 -) 4. .. Re4+ Draw)

2. .. Rxe6+ 3. Ne5! Rxe5+ 4. Be3! Rxe3+ 5. Ne2! Rxe2+ 6. Kf1 a2
(6. .. Kd7 7. g8=Q Kc6 8. Qd8 +-)

7. g8=Q+ Kd7 8. Qd5+ Ke8 9. Qa8+ Kf7 10. b7 1-0