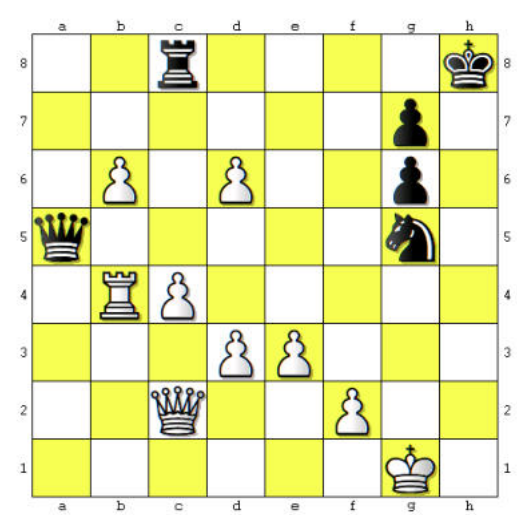




Beat Neuenschwander

White to move and win

9th Commendation

A study with natural play and a surprising Rook domination in spite of his large mobility. The Author was inspired by a real game, citing his words: "*The study was inspired by the game Megan Paragua (12 years old!!) vs. Rose Atwell (16 years old!) of round 7 of the US Women's Championship 2025, in which Megan was trying to*

trick Rose in a lost endgame. For more details, see the commentary by Katerina Nemcova, Yasser Seirawan, and Maurice Ashley on the YouTube video (starting at 3:15:10) of the Saint Louis Chess Club." The game-like configuration is well recognizable and very well adapted in study form.

Solution: **1. b7 !**

(1. d7 ? Rf8 =)

(1. Rb1 ? Nf3+ 2. Kg2 Qh5 3. Rh1 Nh4+ 4. Kf1 g5 = 5. Qe2 Qf7 6. Qg4 Rf8 =)

1. .. Rb8

(1. .. Nf3+ 2. Kf1 Rb8 3. Qa4 +-)

2. Rb1

(2. Qb2 ? 2. .. Qf5 {! =})

(2. Qb1 ? Nf3+ 3. Kg2 Qh5 4. c5 Rxb7 ! 5. Rxb7 (5. c6 Rxb4 6. Qxb4 Ng5 =) 5. .. Qg4+ 6. Kf1 Nd2+ 7. Ke1 Nxb1 8. d7 Qg1+ 9. Ke2 Qg4+ =)

2. .. Nf3+

(2. .. Qf5 3. f4 +-)

3. Kg2

(3. Kf1 ? Nd2+ 4. Ke2 Nxb1 =)

3. .. Ne1+

(3. .. Nh4+ 4. Kh3 Qh5 5. Qd1 ! Nf3+ 6. Kg2 Qg4+ 7. Kf1 Nh2+ 8. Ke1 Nf3+ 9. Ke2 +-)
(3. .. Qh5 4. Qd1 +-)

4. Rxe1 Qxe1 5. c5

(5. d7 ? Qb4 6. c5 Qg4+ 7. Kf1 Qxd7 8. c6 Qh3+ 9. Ke2 Rf8 =)

(5. d4 ? Qb4 6. c5 (6. Qe4 Qxc4 7. d7 Qc7 8. Qe8+ Kh7 9. Qc8 Qd6 10. e4 g5 =)

6. .. Qxb7+ 7. c6 Qf7 8. c7

(8. Qe4 Rf8 9. Qf4 Kg8 10. Qxf7+ Kxf7 11. e4 (11. d5 Re8 =) 11. .. Ke6 12. e5 Kd5
13. c7 Ke6 =) 8. .. Rc8 9. Qe4 Kg8 10. Qf3 (10. d5 Re8 =) 10. .. Qd7 =)

5. .. Rxb7 6. d7 !

(6. c6 ? Rb5 7. c7 Rg5+ 8. Kf3 Rf5+ 9. Kg2 Rg5+)

6. .. Rxd7

(6. .. Qa5 7. c6 Qg5+ (7. .. Rxd7 8. cxd7 Qd5+ 9. e4 Qxd7 10. Qd1 +-) 8. Kf1 Ra7 9. Qb2
! Kh7 10. Qd4 Ra8 11. c7 !6)

7. Qa4 {! Traps the Rook!} Rxd3

(7. .. Rb7 {<main>} 8. Qa8+)

(7. .. Rc7 {<main>} 8. Qh4+ Kg8 9. Qd8+)

(7. .. Rd8 {<main>}) 8. Qh4+)

(7. .. Rd5 {<main>} 8. Qa8+)

(7. .. Re7 {<main>} 8. Qh4+)

(7. .. Rf7 {<main>} 8. Qe8+)

(7. .. Qc3 8. Qxd7 Qxc5 {is hopeless, e.g.} 9. Qd8+ Kh7 10. Qh4+ Kg8 11. Qc4+)

8. Qh4+ Kg8 9. Qc4+ 1-0