

I was at the 1st day of the Scholastics doing my regular free analysis thing and got some really good games. I couldn't make it Sunday due to car trouble. The level of play in these 3 games is remarkable. I always say, "scholastic means young, not weak!" In the 1st game White misses what would have been a devastating queen sac that would have ultimately lead to black giving back the queen to avoid mate. In the second game, only nuances could have upset the balance as the game was equal almost all the way through. The evaluation stayed between +0.24 and -0.24 for so many moves and for so many choices It has to be seen to be believed! They did unearth a very good lesson about queenside and center play! The 3rd game is so good, if I didn't tell you their ratings, you'd think you were watching a master game. Their marks came in so high on the engine it was insane. All 6 of these players played like they were in a championship. If this is the future of Virginia chess, I desperately need more study time!! Simply outstanding!!

Vishnu - Zachary [B30]

Va Scholastics, 28.03.2015

[RCI]

This game is truly interesting. It's a tough fight. Black has a chance to put white away but missed. Back rank weaknesses must be looked for at all times! **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 e6 4.d3?** This move is 5th on the list and is entirely too slow. You have to be able to see 3 moves ahead to see that this move will cost you your castling privelage!! [4.Nc3 Nf6 5.0-0 d5 6.exd5 exd5 7.Bb5 Be7 8.d4 0-0 9.Re1=] **4...d5 5.exd5 exd5 6.Bb3** Diagram

6...Nf6?! [6...Qe7+! Even though the position is still equal, losing the castling privelage unecessarily is still a failure to properly develop and disrupts the normal course of the opening enough for my opponent to have to replan their entire game. I would have checked you!] **7.Bf4?!³** This move comes in at number 7 on the list. Everyone knows they have to castle here! Had black played 7...Qe7, you'd have lost your castling privelage because 8. Be3 is met by 8...d4! [7.0-0 Bf5 8.Nc3 Be7 9.Re1 0-0 10.Bf4=] **7...Qa5+?!** Your opponent was hoping for 8.Nc3?? There were better ways to exploit your mistake than prayer and hope! [7...Bd6!f 8.Bg5 Qe7+

9.Qe2 Bg4 10.Bxf6 gxf6 11.Qxe7+ Nxe7 12.Nc3 Be6 13.Nb5 Kd7³] **8.Nbd2?!**
[8.Bd2 Qb6 9.0–0 Be6 10.Re1 0–0–0 11.Ba4 Nd4 12.Nxd4 cxd4 13.Na3 Bb4=
(13...Qxb2? 14.Nb5 a6 15.Na7+ Kb8 16.Nc6+ Kc8 17.Nxd8+-)] **8...Bg4 9.0–0**
Be7 10.Bg5? This gives the game back to black again! There were 11 better
moves than 10. Bg5. h3, Re1, c4, Qe1, a3, a4, Qe2, Qc1, Rb1, Rc1 and c3!
10...Rd8! Better than 0–0–0 and not easy to find! **11.Re1 0–0 12.c3?!** [12.h3!? Be6
13.c4 Qc7 14.Rc1 dxc4 15.Nxc4 h6 16.Bh4=] **12...b5?** [12...h6 13.Bh4 Be6 14.c4
Qa6 15.h3 Rd7 16.cxd5 Nxd5 17.Bxe7 Rxe7 18.Ne4 b6 19.Bc4 Qa5 20.Qb3 Rd8
21.a3 Nf4³] **13.c4?!** [13.h3 It should be played] **13...dxc4 14.dxc4** Diagram

14...a6? [14...h6! 15.cxb5TM Any bishop move is going to cause lots of problems!
15...Qxb5 16.Ba4 Qxb2 17.Bxc6 Bxf3 18.Qxf3 hxg5 19.Nc4 Qb4 20.Rac1=] **15.h3**
Bxf3 16.Qxf3 Rxd2?? [16...Nd4 17.Qc3 Qxc3 18.bxc3 Ne6 19.Bxf6 Bxf6 20.Ne4
Be7 21.cxb5 axb5 22.Bxe6 fxe6²] **17.Bxd2 Qxd2?! 18.Qxc6 Re8??** [18...bxc4
19.Bxc4 Qxb2 20.Rad1 Bd8 21.Qxa6+-] **19.cxb5 axb5** Diagram

This was what I wanted to put on the engine when I saw this game! It would
literally take me 10–20 minutes to work out the satisfactory details of this position.
White has less dramatic ways to win, but this is a prime example of how if you
want your game to be exciting, you have to be exciting! Even if you don't play a
combination, you should be working hard enough at the board to ask about it
during analysis or make it the 1st thing you threw on your engine to see what
should have happened!! **20.Rf1??** [20.Rad1!! Qa5TM 21.Qxe8+ Nxe8 22.Rxe7
Diagram

Here we are again! In my opinion, seeing checks and captures are easier to see
than other moves because they are more powerful and more forceful! Being able
to see 3 moves ahead should have left you deciding if you wanted to have this
position or not. Once you see that the knight must also be captured with check this
becomes a no brainer!!!!!! 22...g6 23.Rxe8+ Kg7 24.Bd5 c4 Diagram

25.Re7 Qxa2 26.Rxf7+ Kh6 27.f4! Threatening mate in 3! Players are not seeing
7, 8, and and 9 move combos. They are seeing 3 or moves ahead and seeing the
position so clear that they can see 3 or 4 more. That's when they go ahead! and
make the move. 27...Qb3 28.Re1 Qb4 29.Ree7 Qxe7 30.Rxe7+-] **20...c4 21.Bd1**
Qxb2 22.Bh5??= [22.Bf3 Bf8 23.Rab1 Qxa2 24.Rxb5 Re6 25.Qc8 Re8 26.Qc7

Re7 27.Qa5 Qxa5 28.Rxa5±] **22...Rd8?** Black has to start mobilizing the pawns. It's his only chance to get back some of his material [22...b4 23.Bf3 c3 24.Qc4 Bf8 25.Rfb1 Qd2 26.Rd1 Qb2 27.Rab1 Qc2 28.Re1 g6 29.Rbd1 Rxe1+ 30.Rxe1=] **23.Rae1?!** The rook moved, you have to retreat the bishop! **23...Bb4??+/-** This drops a pawn and gives you the game back. [23...Rd6 24.Qc8+ Bf8 25.Rb1 Qe5 26.Bf3 Rd2 27.Rfe1 Qd4 28.Re3 Rxa2 29.Rxb5 Ra1+ 30.Kh2 g6=] **24.Qc7?** You were winning hard if you just eliminate the potential of the passed pawn! [24.Qxb5! Qa3 25.Re5 c3 26.Qc4 Nxb5 27.Rxb5+-] **24...Rf8 25.Rd1??** [25.Rb1 Qa3 26.Bf3 Ne8 27.Qd7 Nd6 28.Rbd1 g6 29.Rd5 c3 30.Rd3 Kg7²] **25...Nxb5 26.Rd8?** [26.Rd5TM Nf6 27.Rxb5 Qc3 28.Rd1 Ba3 29.Kh2 Ne8 30.Qa5 Qc2 31.Rbb1 Bb2 32.Qd2 Qxd2 33.Rxd2 c3 34.Rdxb2 cxb2 35.Rxb2—+] **26...c3?? 27.Rxf8+** [27.Rd5 Nf6 28.Rxb5 Bd6 29.Qc4 Qd2 30.a4—+] **27...Bxf8 28.Qc8 c2 29.g4 Nf4 30.Re1** This is how you use your computer to do analysis! **0–1**This was from one of my private students. The notes may require some editing!

(406) Balser (1338) - Naylor (1731) [A03]

Va Scholastic 2015 , 30.03.2015

[RCI]

This is another interesting game where just a little patience may have given a different result. The end result is that the higher rated player wins. Before the time trouble, things were dead even! **1.b3 Nf6 2.Bb2 g6 3.e3 Bg7 4.f4 d5 5.Nf3 0–0**
Diagram

We have a Bird by transposition from a Larsen. White's next move is off the grid and should not be played again. **6.c4?** [6.Bd3 Nc6 7.0–0 Nb4 8.Be5 Bg4 9.Nc3 c5 10.Qe2 Qb6=] **6...e6?!** [6...Nc6 7.Be2 Bf5 8.0–0 Nb4 9.Nc3 dxc4 10.Bxc4 c5³] **7.Nc3** You can play it this way, but the king is sitting in the center too long! 4 of white's 1st 6 moves have been pawn moves. The next piece to move should be on the side he wants to castle. **7...c5 8.Bd3 Nc6** [8...a6!/? This is a way to get the light squared bishop into the game. It's not better than the text, just a viable alternative! 9.0–0 Nc6 10.a3 (10.Qe2 Nb4 11.Bb1 Nc6 12.Na4 b6=) 10...dxc4 11.Bxc4 b5 12.Be2 Bb7 13.Qc2 Qd6 14.Rad1 Rfd8=] **9.0–0f d4 10.Ne4 Nxe4 11.Bxe4**
Diagram

11...Nb4? This move is completely off the grid right now. Black had to try to finish his development! [11...Qd6 12.Qe1 Rd8 13.Qh4 Bd7 14.Ne5 Nxe5 15.fxe5 Qxe5 16.Bxb7 Rab8 17.Qe7 Be8 18.Bf3 Rd7 19.Qh4 Qc7=] **12.a3 Nc6 13.Bxc6?!** I actually felt the pain when I saw this move. This type of move is good for computers but I wouldn't give up my bishop so easily. The hard move that's hard to see is 13. b4! I missed a similar opportunity in a game against Macon Shibut. A good post mortem and analyzing my game when I got home made this type of move a ready part of my arsenal! [13.b4! Qb6™ 14.Qb3 Rd8 15.Rab1 Rb8 16.exd4 Nxd4 17.Qe3! cxb4 18.axb4 Nxf3+ 19.Bxf3 Rd3 20.c5 Qd8!= Now that's dukin' it out!] **13...bxc6²** Diagram

e4? It's funny, that a lot of times when I say, "Hey, why didn't you play this move?" They say, "Well, I played it late!" This is one of the times they could have gotten away with it! [14.b4! Qb6 15.Qc1 Rb8 16.exd4 cxd4 17.c5 Qc7 18.Bxd4 Qxf4 19.Bxg7 Kxg7 20.Qc3+± The exchange of dark squared bishops and the queen using a check to lift herself off the back row make this a solid and instructive way for white to complete his development. ...f6 is forced or white will play Ne5 winning a pawn and with it the game!] **14...Qb6 15.d3** [15.Rb1 Rb8 16.b4 a5 17.bxc5 Qxc5 18.e5 Qxc4 19.Bxd4 Ba6 20.Re1 Rfc8 21.Rc1 Qa2 22.Qa4=] **15...a5 16.a4** [16.Rb1 twice in one game ...lol] **16...Rb8** Diagram

17.Ra3?! Turns out this isn't as bad as I initially thought but there is an alternative. [17.Ba3! Diagram

17...f6 18.e5 f5 19.Qd2= So equal it could be a draw!] **17...Bd7 18.Bc1 Qb4 19.Qd2 Qb6 20.Qb2 Qa7= 1-0**

(403) Maggie Luo (1748) – Krishan Perumal (784) [B20]

VA Scholastic 2015, 15.03.2015

[RCI]

This is a remarkable game! The level of play is of the highest standard. Both players put in an outstanding performance that far exceeded their ratings! **1.e4 c5 2.d3 e6 3.g3 Nc6 4.Bg2 Nf6 5.f4?!** A knight should come up here. Either one should be met with ...d5 [5.Nc3] **5...d6 6.Nf3 Be7 7.0-0 0-0 8.c3 b6 9.Qe2 Ba6 10.Rd1 Qc7 11.Nbd2 Rad8 12.Nf1 e5** Diagram

Up to this point there were no major errors. If you think there were, just let your engine sit a little while longer at each move! **13.Nh4?! d5! 14.fxe5?** [14.exd5 Nxd5 15.Nf5 Rfe8 16.c4 Nf6 17.fxe5 Qxe5 18.Qf2 Nd4 19.Nxd4 Rxd4 20.Bf4 Qh5=] **14...Nxe5?** [14...Qxe5! 15.Bf4 Qe6 16.Qc2 c4 17.Qa4 Qc8 18.dxc4 dxe4 19.Nd2 Rfe8μ] **15.Bf4 Bd6** [15...dxe4 16.Bxe4 Bd6 17.Nf5 Nxe4 18.Nxd6 Nxd6 19.Qxe5 Rfe8—+] **16.Nf5** Diagram

16...g6?? [16...dxe4 17.Bxe4 Nxe4 18.Nxd6 Nxd6 19.Bxe5 Rfe8 20.Re1 Bb7 21.Qg4 g6 22.Qh3 Qc6—+] **17.Nxd6 Qxd6 18.exd5 Rfe8 19.Re1??** [19.Ne3 Nh5 20.Bh6 f6 21.Bf3 Nf7 22.Bxh5 Nxh6 23.Bf3 Rd7 24.Qd2 Nf7±] **19...Bxd3™ 20.Qxd3 Nxd3 21.Rxe8+ Nxe8 22.Bxd6 Nxd6 23.b3** Diagram

23...Nf5?? [23...f5! 24.Rd1 Ne5 25.Nd2 Re8 26.Re1=] **24.Rd1??** [24.Be4 Ne5 25.Bxf5 gxf5 26.Ne3 Ng6 27.Rf1+/-] **24...Ne5= 25.Kf2 a5?!** [25...Nd6 26.Ne3 f5 27.a4 Re8 28.h3=] **26.Ne3 Nd6 27.g4 f6 28.Kg3=** Diagram

28...g5?! [28...Re8 29.h4 b5 30.Bf3 Kf7 31.h5 Re7 32.Bg2=] **29.Nf5 Nb5??** [29...h5; 29...Nxf5+ 30.gxf5 Kf8 31.h4 gxh4+ 32.Kxh4 Ke7 33.Be4 Rg8 34.d6+ Kd7 35.Bd5 Rd8 36.Be6+ Kc6 37.d7=] **30.c4 Nc3?** [30...Nd6 31.Nxd6 Rxd6 32.Be4 h6 33.h4 Kg7 34.Re1 Kf7 35.hxg5 fxg5 36.Bf5 Ng6 37.Rh1 Nh4 38.Be6+ Kf6 39.Rf1+ Ke5] **31.Rd2 Ng6?** [31...b5 32.cxb5 Nxb5 33.d6 Nf7 34.d7 Ne5 35.Rc2 Nxd7 36.Rd2 Kf7 37.Bd5+ Ke8 38.Bc6 Nd4 39.Nxd4 cxd4 40.Rxd4 Ke7 41.Be4 Rh8 42.Rd5 h5 43.gxh5 Rxh5 44.Bf5 Ne5 45.Rxa5 Rh4 46.Ra7+ Kd6 47.Ra6+ Ke7 48.Re6+ Kf7 49.Rb6 Rf4 50.Be6+ Ke7 51.a4 Rf3+ 52.Kg2 Rc3] **32.Rc2 Nd1 33.Bf3 Ne3 1-0**