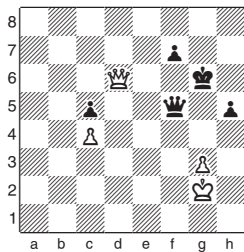


Nakamura cracked

By Malcolm Pein

The second round of the London Chess Classic certainly gave the spectators their money's worth as all the games went into the sixth hour and an astonishing 326 moves were played. Even the first round of the classic in 2009 when Luke McShane defeated Nigel Short in 163 moves only had 297 moves in total.

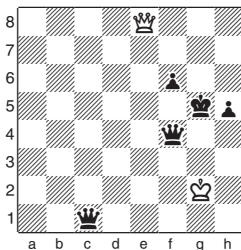
At the end of the round, Magnus Carlsen and Vladimir Kramnik were joint leaders on 6/6. Nakamura played a strange line against Kramnik, but was soon worse with White and lost a pawn. Kramnik is a great endgame player and gradually made progress.



Nakamura has just played 67.Qd6. Kramnik now gave his king protection from checks after which Nakamura had problems defending the c4 pawn against Qc2+ or Qe4+:

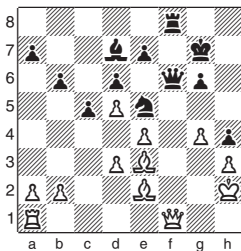
H. Nakamura - V. Kramnik
 67...f6! (67...Kg7 68.Qe7) 68.Qe7
 (68.Qa6 Kg5 and Kg4 Qf3+ etc)
 68...Qc2+ 69.Kh3 Qxc4 70.Qe8+ Qf7
 71.Qe4+ Kg7 72.Qf5 c4 73.Kg2 (73.Qc5
 Qe6+ 74.Kh2 Qe2+ 75.Kh1 Qe1+
 76.Kg2 c3 77.Qc7+ Kg6) 73...Qb7+
 74.Kh2 Qb2+ 75.Kh3 Qe5 76.Qc8 c3
 77.Qc4 Qe1 (Threatening mate)

78.Qc7+ Kg6 79.Qc6 Qf1+ 80.Kh4 Qe2
 81.Kh3 c2 82.g4 Qe3+ 83.Kh4 Qg5+
 84.Kg3 Qxg4+ 85.Kf2 Qf4+ 86.Kg2
 c1Q 87.Qe8+ Kg5 0-1



The top seed in the London Chess Classic Open was late for the round, but made short work of his opponent.

T. Johansson - H. Melkumyan
 1.g3 Nf6 2.Bg2 c5 3.e4 Nc6 4.c4 g6
 5.Nc3 Bg7 6.Nge2 d6 7.d3 Bd7 8.f4 h5
 9.h3 Qc8 10.Nd5 0-0 11.f5 Nxd5
 12.cxd5 Ne5 13.Nf4 Bb5 14.0-0 b6
 15.fxg6 fxg6 16.Ne6 Rxf1+ 17.Bxf1 Bd7
 18.Nxg7 Kxg7 19.Kh2 Qf8 20.Bf4 Qf6
 21.Be2 h4 22.Qf1 Rh8 23.g4 Rf8 24.Be3



Black to play and win

Answer: 24...Nxe4+ 25.Bxg4 Qe5+ 0-1