

☐ SnekBee,(Keaton)

■ NMbrayden,(Brayden)

CCCA - January '26 Online Tournament

B95

1302

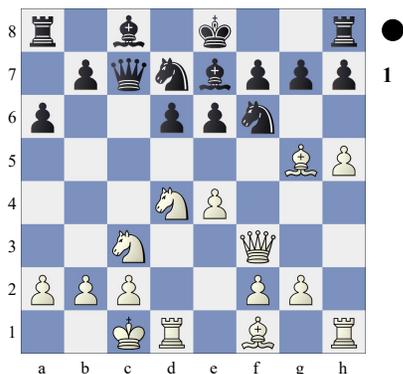
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23.01.2026

Blitz 10min+5sec This is the first round game of the January '26 - USCF Rated Online Tournament. Keaton, after taking a year + off from chess to pursue other interests, steps into tournament lobby against the Powerhouse Brayden Van de Graaff. Brayden is a 900-point chess.com favorite! **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.Qf3 Be7 8.0-0-0 Qc7 9.h4** 0.45/16 White has more active pieces. 9.g4 gains popularity. B95: Sicilian Najdorf: 6 Bg5 e6, unusual White 7th moves. 9.g4 gains popularity.

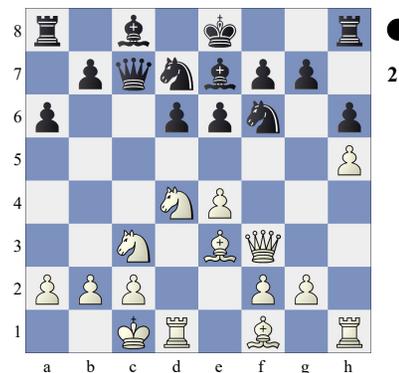
[9.Be2± 1.02/15 Would have activated the bishop ahead of advancing a pawn up the board.]

9...Nbd7± 10.h5



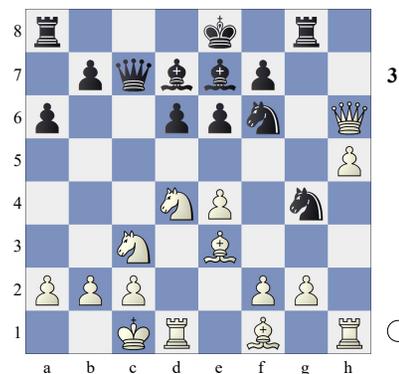
10...h6! 11.Be3

(Diagram 2)



White is slightly better. **11...Ne5N 12.Qg3 Bd7** 1.22/16
13.f4 0.31/17

[White avoids the poison pawn, which would have lead to handing the advantage over to Black. 13.Qxg7?! Rg8 14.Qxh6 Neg4±

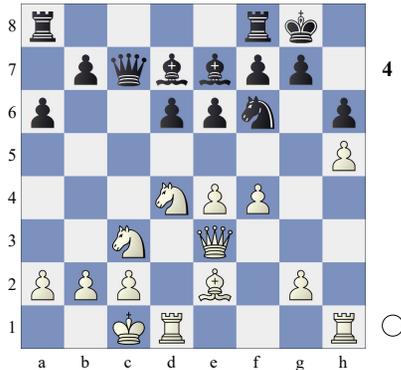


] [13.Be2± 1.22/16 Better was activating the light squared bishop]

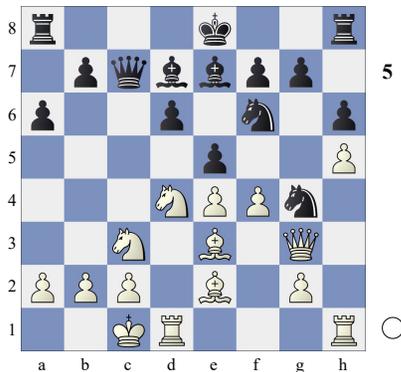
13...Neg4 14.Be2 e5 1.38/18 Black goes to challenge the knight, establishing a presence in the middle handing White

a ever so slight advantage.

[Better would have been 14...Nxe3± 0.40/18 15.Qxe3 0-0



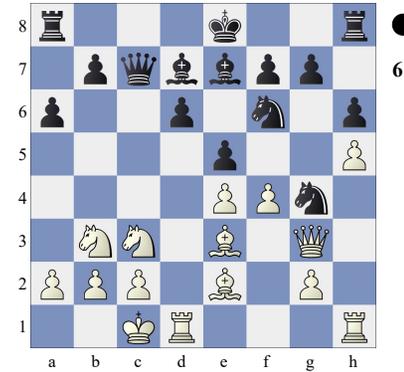
with the Black king finding refuge.]



15.Nb3? -0.25/17 White retreats, stabilizing his position.

[Better was, 15.Bxg4!± 1.38/18 keeping an initiative and progressing pieces up the board. Bxg4 16.Nf5 Bxf5 17.exf5]

(Diagram 6)

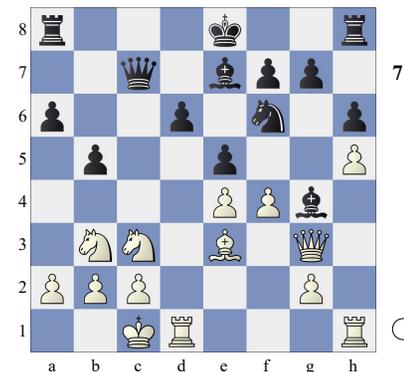


15...b5? 1.55/18 Black mis-times his pawn advancement

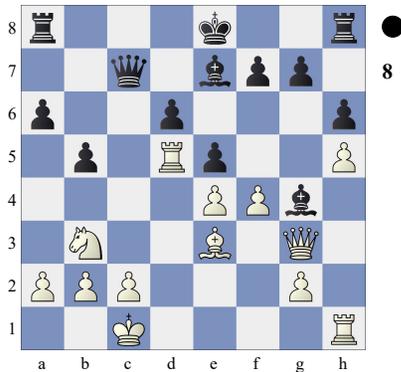
[missing an opportunity to usher the opposing queen to a more passive position with 15...Nxe3= -0.25/17 16.Qxe3 0-0]

16.Bxg4± White seizes the opportunity to move the exchange up the board with 16...Bxg4 2.65/17

[16...Nxg4± 1.52/17 17.Nd5 Qc4]



17.Nd5? 0.67/18 White threatens the queen and a king-rook fork, leaving his rook exposed 17...Nxd5± 18.Rxd5



18...Be6 Black does not like the rook on the 5th Rank and missed an opportunity to form a rook-queen battery **19.Rd3 Bc4 20.Rd2** Threatens to win with fxe5. **20...0-0-0 21.fxe5**

[Eating the pawn leads to bad things for White. 21.Qxg7? Rdg8-+]

21...dxe5 22.Rhd1 Connecting the rooks, while the queen eyes the g-pawn

[22.Qxg7? Although taking the g-pawn would have led to bad things. Rdg8-+]

22...Rxd2 23.Rxd2 Bxb3? 3.06/16

[23...Bf8± 0.62/19]

24.axb3 1.75/19

[Δ24.Qxg7 3.06/16 Rd8 25.axb3]

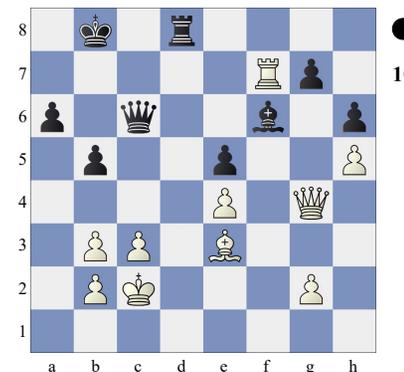
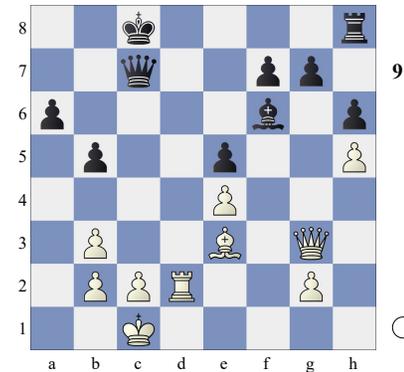
24...Bf6+-

(Diagram 9)

25.Qg4+! Kb8 26.Rd7 Qc6 27.Rxf7 Rc8 28.c3 Rd8

Prevents Rd7. **29.Kc2**→ 0.67/19 White has some attack.

[29.Qf5+- 1.94/17]



29...Qd6 1.69/20

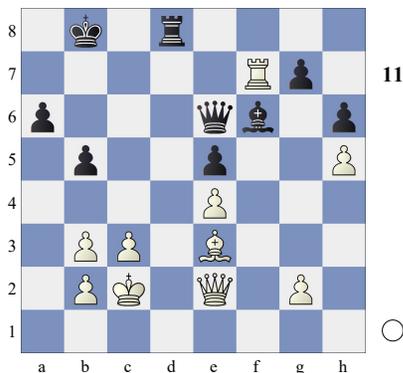
[Black should play 29...a5!± 0.67/19 To even up the game]

30.Qe2 Qe6

(Diagram 11)

31.Ra7 Qc6 32.Qf3 Bg5? 4.98/17

[32...Qd6± 1.25/19 is more resistant.]



33.Bxg5

[33.Rxg7 Bxe3 34.Qxe3 a5]

33...hxg5 34.Rxg7 Endgame KQR-KQR. White is two pawns up. **34...Qd6 35.Qe2** The correct move instead of greedily eating the extra pawn, which would have handed the game over to Black!

[35.Rxg5? too greedy. Loses the rook Qd2+ 36.Kb1 Qxg5-+]

35...Qc5 36.Rxg5 Rf8 37.Rf5 Rd8 38.h6 Qd6 39.Rh5 Rh8 40.h7 Qd7? 7.26/18

[40...Qg6 3.72/18 41.g4 (41.Rxe5 Rxh7 42.g4 Qc6+-) 41...Rxh7 42.Rxe5 Qc6]

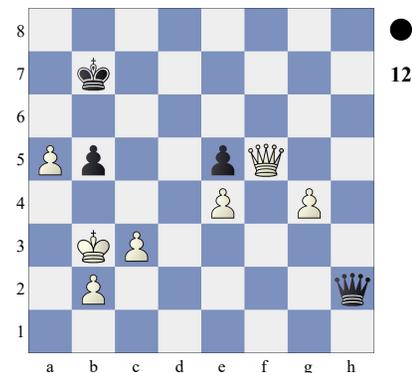
41.Qf3 Rxh7 42.Rxh7 Qxh7 KQ-KQ. White is two pawns up. **43.Qf8+ Kb7 44.Qf5 Qg7** 5.24/17

[44...Qh2 2.60/17 45.Qf3 a5 46.Qf7+ Kb6]

45.g4 Qh8 46.b4 a5? 11.34/16

[46...Qh2+ 3.37/18 47.Kb3 Qd2 48.Qf7+ (48.Qxe5 Qd1+ 49.Ka2 Qa4+ 50.Kb1 Qd1+ 51.Ka2 Qa4+ 52.Kb1 Qd1+ 53.Ka2=) 48...Kb6]

47.bxa5 Qh2+ 48.Kb3



Intending Qd7+ and mate. Three pawns up **48...Qe2 49.Qd7+**

[49.Qxe5 Qc4+ 50.Kc2 Qe2+ 51.Kb1 Qd1+ 52.Ka2 Qa4+ 53.Kb1 Qd1+ 54.Ka2 Qa4+ 55.Kb1 Qd1+=]

49...Kb8 50.Qd6+ Kb7 51.Qb6+ Kc8 52.Qe6+ Kb7 53.Qxe5? 0.00/13 A misstep after munching the pawn the game leads to a draw!

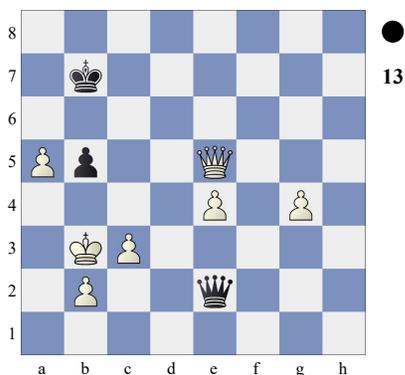
[53.Qd5+- 15.70/16 Ka7 54.g5 (54.Qxe5 Qc4+ 55.Kc2 Qe2+ 56.Kb1 Qd1+ 57.Ka2 Qa4+ 58.Kb1 Qd1+ 59.Ka2 Qa4+ 60.Kb1 Qd1+=)]

(Diagram 13)

53...Qc4+!= The position is equal. **54.Kc2 Qe2+ 55.Kb1 Qd1+ 56.Ka2 Qa4+ 57.Kb1 Qd1+ 58.Ka2 Qa4+ 59.Kb1 Qd1+** Game drawn by repetition. Black defended with fortune.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.54/Black=0.73

Loses game: --- Black=2



Missed win:	White=1	---
Mistake:	White=4	Black=8
Inaccurate:	White=6	Black=1
OK:	White=12	Black=13
Best:	White=2	Black=7
Strong:	White=1	Black=1

This game is evidence that any player has the potential to beat another, White was not afraid of blacks rating and finished in a draw with a player 900 (chess.com) points higher. A wonderful game for White!

1/2-1/2