

Whilst looking at the games played in the 2018 International Khazar Cup in Anzali I came across this game played in round 3 between Arash Daghli a 15 year old up and coming star from Iran paired as black against Russian Grandmaster and number 1 seed Serge Volkov.

Play began with the King's Indian Defense 1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. e4 d6 5. Be2 0-0 6. Nf3 e5 with white's domination of the centre countered by Arash's pawn on e5 7. Be3 exd4 8. Nxd4 Re8 9. f3 c6 10. Bf2 d5 and Arash now looks to open up the centre 11. exd5 cxd5 12. 0-0 Nc6 13. c5 Nh5 14. Qd2 Be5 15. g3 Ng7 16. Rfd1 Bf5 17. Rc1 Bxd4 18. Bxd4 Ne6 19. Bf2 and white has to retreat his bishop allowing Arash to play 19. ...d4 advancing his very threatening passed pawn 20. Nb5 Qd5 21. b4 Ng5 22. Nc7 (see diagram) and Arash would appear to have blundered as his queen and both his rooks are attacked by the knight on c7. However, Arash has a plan in mind - can you see it?

Arash played 22. ...Rxe2 23. Qxe2 Nxf3+ 24. Kh1 d3 25. Qe3 Qd7 26. Nxa1 Ng5 losing the rook on a1 and it looks like white's queen and take the knight on g5. However, Arash calculated that 27. Qxg5 Be4+ 28. Kg1 Qh3 wins. Black also saw this so play continued 27. Kg1 Ne5 28. c6 bxc6 29. Rc5 Nef3+ 30. Kh1 Be4 and Arash closes in for the kill 31. Rxd3 Qh3 32. Rd8+ Kg7 33. Bg1 Nxh2+ and white resigned as his only move is 34. Qxe4 Nxe4 losing the queen.

In the end Serge finished equal first on 6.5 out of 9 with Arash equal 11th on 5.5 but I am sure we will hear more about him in the future.

Lincoln Chess Club play at the Lincoln Labour Club, Grafton House, 32 Newland. LN1 1XJ on Wednesdays at 7.30pm although we are not meeting during the Coronavirus crisis.
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