



CHESS OLYMPIAD

**NORWAY 2014
TROMSØ**

Bulletin

Round 4

05.08.14



Sarasdat Khademalsharieh playing board 2 for Iran.
Photo: Georgios Souleidis / [chess24](#)

Round 4: Azerbaijan! Iran!

France came down to earth with a slight thud today, unable to repeat the form that overcame defending champions Armenia in round three. Number eight Azerbaijan edged out a solid and impressive victory over the third seeds, drawing three and producing a win with Black on board one. Shakhriyar Mamedyarov beat Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, whose recent run of good form has lifted him into the world top ten.

By GM Jonathan Tisdall

Russia-China was the kind of grim duel expected of a top clash, closely fought even when team members found themselves under pressure. The top two boards were the most eventful, with Kramnik and Yue Wang drawing an extremely lively game, with the ex-world champion pressing, while the fate of the match eventually came to rest on Grischuk's ability to steer to safety against rising star Liren Ding, which he managed after a long defensive slog.

Tough infighting

With the top half of the table now featuring largely even pairings, the matches were close affairs. One notable exception was Turkey's 3.5-0.5 dismantling of slightly higher seeded Italy. Only world number three Fabiano Caruana survived for Italy. England vaulted back into the fray with an

impressive 3-1 win over Latvia, and GM Matthew Sadler racked up his fourth win in a ferocious comeback for his country.



Photo: Georgios Souleidis / [chess24](#)

Serbia maintained a perfect match record by narrowly upsetting the Czech Republic, Bulgaria edged out Romania thanks to a grinding win from leader Veselin Topalov and a flashy and brutal attacking knockout from GM Valentin Iotov. Cuba also took a fourth match win, a bottom board victory the only decisive result against India.

Netherlands-Israel looked like a close one on paper, and there was no separating them afterwards, trading wins on the top two boards, and drawing the rest. Germany also fought to a 2-2 draw, this time against Uzbekistan.

The surprise losers of the previous round rebounded with predictable fury. Armenia shredded Costa Rica 4-0 and world number two Levon Aronian finally started winning for the defending Olympiad champions. The USA shrugged off disappointment vs. France and cruised to a 3-0 lead over South Africa, though Gata Kamsky finally went down to a shock defeat against IM Henry Robert Steel.

Hungary also recovered from their frustrating loss to China the day before, dispatching Portugal 3.5-0.5, with IM Paulo Dias holding Hungarian ace Peter Leko on board one.

Home team excitement

Norwegian hopes were high when Magnus Carlsen showed his full class, sweeping aside a player like Radoslaw Wojtaszek with bone-crushing simplicity. When Simen Agdestein built up a sizeable advantage with Black, Jon Ludvig Hammer created winning chances on board three and Kjetil Lie neutralized Mateusz Bartel, Poland's favorite on board four, national news outlets began predicting a rout, but all remaining games gradually fizzled out in draws - still, an encouraging result for Norway 1 against their toughest opposition so far.

The day's results set up some juicy fifth round pairings; Serbia's fine start earns them a top board face-off against Azerbaijan, Russia meets Bulgaria, which could mean another installment of the bitter rivalry between Vladimir Kramnik and Veselin Topalov, and World Champion Magnus Carlsen will likely meet world number two Levon Aronian when Norway 1 take on Armenia.

Iran!

If the perfect score of the Iranian women's team after three rounds was newsworthy, then perhaps the best way to angle the headline for round four is - Iranian women drop first half point! The Olympiad sensations, seeded 21st, defended their

right to the top table with a resounding 3.5-0.5 win over slightly higher rated Slovakia. Only Slovakian top board IM Eva Repkova survived, and the magical Iranians continue to outpace the clear pre-tournament favorites, China.



Turkey – Italy
Photo: Daniel Skog / COT2014

On paper, China should have steamrolled over 22nd ranked Azerbaijan, but the first result was a quickish draw from Chinese WGM Wenjun Ju with WGM Gulnar Mammadova. The favorites had a roughly 200 point advantage on the bottom three boards, and over twice as much on board one, where world champion Yifan Hou put China ahead early. WGM Zhongyi Tan extended the gap to two points with White on board three, and WGM Qi Guo made the final result 3.5-0.5, but only after a topsy-turvy brawl with WIM Sabina Ibrahimova on board four.

If Iran has been the surprise of the event so far, the shock of the day has to go to Indonesia, who handed tenth seeded Armenia an incredible 3.5-0.5 drubbing. Seeded only 23rd, the Indonesians were outrated on all four boards.

Tougher going

Russia is still looking to hit top form, and although they kept a perfect match record, they had to settle for a minimal 2.5-1.5 win over 12th seed Germany, WGM Melanie Ohme beat Russian colleague Olga Girya, and German WGM Sarah Hoolt drew WGM Nina Pogonina. Fourth seeds Georgia dropped a match point, only drawing 2-2 with Netherlands.

Fifth seeds India were upset by Serbia, 1.5-2.5, making the fourth round a cheery double for the Eastern Europeans. The Ukraine, led by the

Muzychuk sisters, turned in a solid 3-1 win over Turkey, but the third seeds must make up for a dropped match point against Spain in round three.

The 13th seeds Hungary produced another solid match victory, beating Cuba 3-1 - a result that sends them up to meet the red-hot Iranians. Due to the vagaries of the pairing system, Round 5's top match will be between Indonesia and China, despite Iran having a full game point lead at this stage of the event. The top match according to the rating list will be Russia-Georgia.

Annotated games

Annotations: GM Einar Gausel

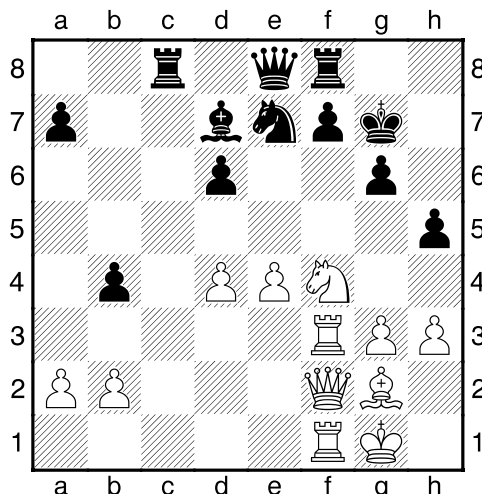
Magnus Carlsen (2877) – Radoslaw Wojtaszek(2735)
WCO2014 Tromso (4.29), 05.08.2014

1.e4 c5 2.♘c3 d6 3.g3 Enough mainline theory for today.

3...♗c6 4.♙g2 g6 5.d3 ♙g7 6.♙e3 e5 7.♗h3 ♗ge7 8.f4 ♗d4 9.0-0 0-0 10.♖d2 ♙d7 11.♗d1 ♖c8 12.♗df2 ♗dc6 13.c3 b5 14.fxe5 ♗xe5 15.♙h6 ♗7c6 16.♙xg7 ♗xg7 17.♗f4 ♖d8 18.♙ad1 ♖c8 19.♖e2 h5 20.d4 cxd4 21.cxd4
White now has both central domination and a superior pawn structure.

21...♗g4 22.h3 ♗xf2 23.♖xf2 ♗e7 24.♙d3 b4 25.♙f3 White cranks up the pressure on the kingside by piling up the heavy artillery along the f-file. Black has no source of counterplay and must now proceed with extreme caution.

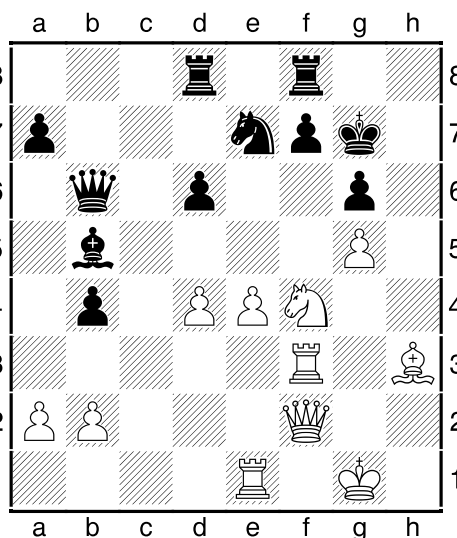
25...♖e8?!



26.g4!? 26.d5 , grabbing more space and threatening to whip off a7, also looked tempting.

26...hxg4 27.hxg4 ♙b5 27...♙xg4 28.♙g3 ♖d7 29.♙h3 ♙xh3 30.♗h5+ and White wins the house.

28.♙e1 ♖d8 29.g5 ♖b6? 29...♙d7 would have put up more of a fight. 30.♙h3 ♖cd8

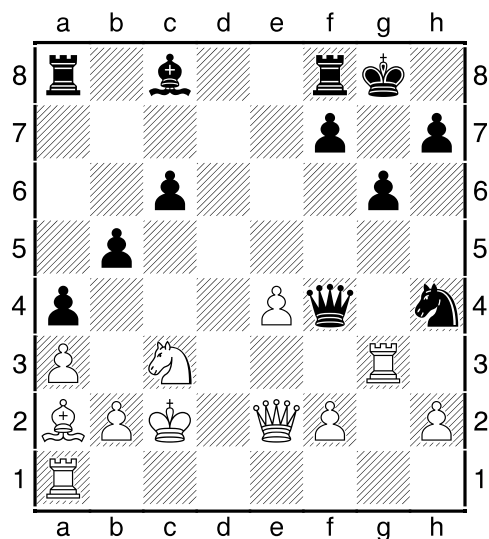


31.♙e6! ♙e8 31...fxe6 32.♗xe6+ ♗h7 33.♙f7+ ♙xf7 34.♖xf7+ ♗h8 35.♖g7#

32.♗d5 ♗xd5 33.♙xd5 33.♙xd5 ♖c7 34.♙h3 ♙g8 (34...♙h8 35.♖f6+) 35.♙h7+! ♗f8 (35...♗xh7 36.♖h2+ ♗g7 37.♖h6#) 36.♖h4 ♗e7 37.♙f1 ♙f8 38.♙xf7 ♙xf7 39.♙fxf7+ ♙xf7 40.♙xf7+ ♗xf7 41.♖h7+ ♗e8 42.♖xc7+-

1-0

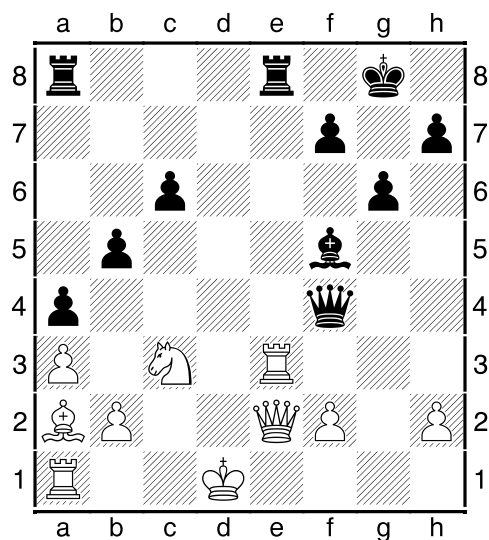
**Allan Stig Rasmussen (2522) –
Lenin Guerra Tulcan (2374)**
WCO2014 Tromso (4.19), 05.08.2014



29...♖f5! 30.exf5? 30.♖d3 was the lesser evil, but Black's positional advantage and extra pawn should be enough to bring home the bacon after a sensible move like. **30...♖e8**

30...♙xf5+ 31.♔d1 After **31.♖d3** simply **31...♖ad8 32.♖ad1 ♗xd3 33.♖xd3 ♖d8** and Black gains a decisive material advantage.

31...♗fe8 32.♖e3

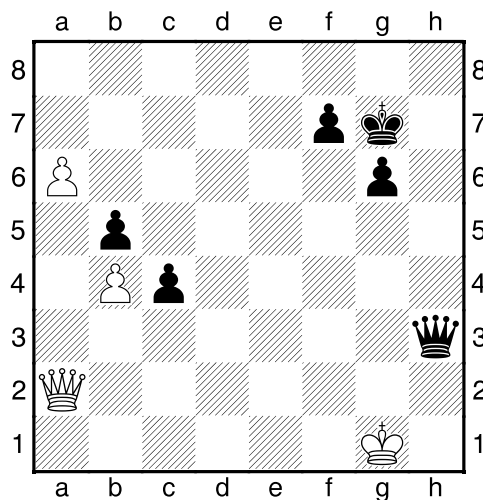


32...♙g4 As the other three games ended in draws, Ecuador pulled off an upset win against the higher rated Danish squad.

32...♙g4 33.f3 ♖xe3

0-1

**Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (2768) –
Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (2743)**
WCO2014 Tromso (4.25), 05.08.2014

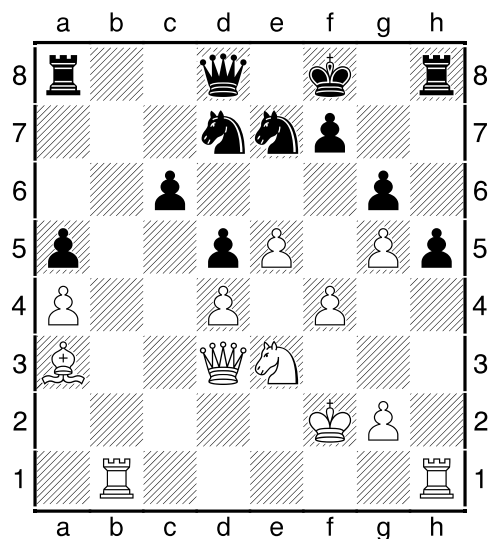


44...c3 45.♖a1 45.a7 ♖e3+ 46.♔f1 ♖c1+ 47.♔e2 c2 48.a8♖ ♖d1+ 49.♔f2 ♖d4+ 50.♔g2 c1♖ and Black will deliver checkmate in the not too distant future.

45...♖g4+ 46.♔f1 ♖f3+ 47.♔g1 ♖e3+ 48.♔f1 ♔h7 48...♔h7 49.a7 c2 50.a8♖ c1♖+ 51.♖xc1 ♖xc1+ and Black will be three pawns up after he picks off b4.

0-1

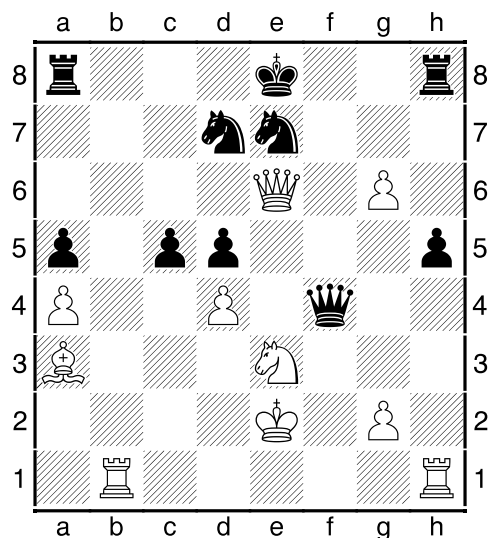
**Antoaneta Stefanova (2505) –
Monika Socko (2470)**
WCO2014 Tromsø (4.5), 05.08.2014



29.e6! This thrust blows Black's kingside to smithereens.

29...fxe6 30.♖xg6 Notice how the bishop on a3 makes a major contribution to White's attack.

30...c5 31.♖xe6 ♖c7 32.g6 ♖xf4+ 33.♔e2 ♔e8



34.♖xe7+! Forcing an ending where White will be a piece up.

34...♔e7 35.♘d5+ ♔e6 36.♘xf4+ ♔f5 37.g7 ♖hg8 38.♔f3 cxd4 39.♖xh5+ ♔f6

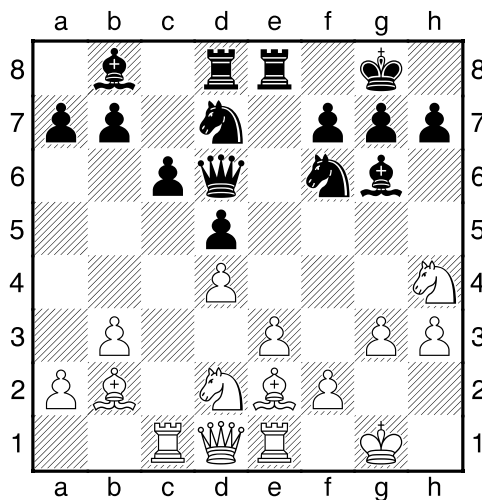
40.♙b2 ♘e5+ 41.♔e4 ♘c6 42.♖h6+ and White wins another piece.

1-0

Blunders, upsets and knockouts

Annotations: GM Einar Gausel

**Akshaya Kalaiyalahan (2016) –
Maria Neviroselaya (2032)**
WCO2014 Tromsø (4.15), 05.08.2014

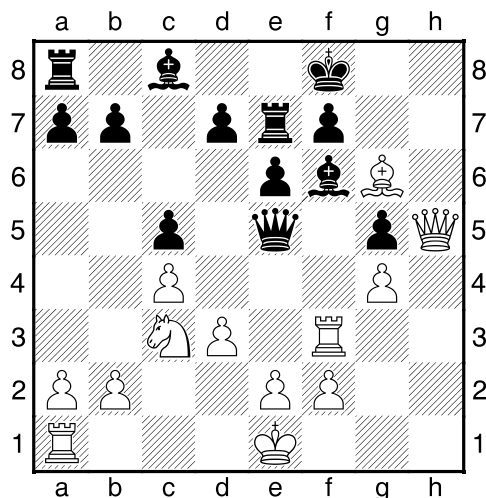


17...♖xe3! 18.fxe3 ♖xg3+ 19.♘g2 ♘e4 20.♘xe4 ♔xe4 21.♙f3 ♙f1 ♖h2+ 22.♔f2 ♙g3+ 23.♔e2 ♙xg2+

21...♙xf3 22.♖d2 ♖h2+ 22...♖h2+ 23.♔f1 ♖h1+ 24.♔f2 ♖xg2#

0-1

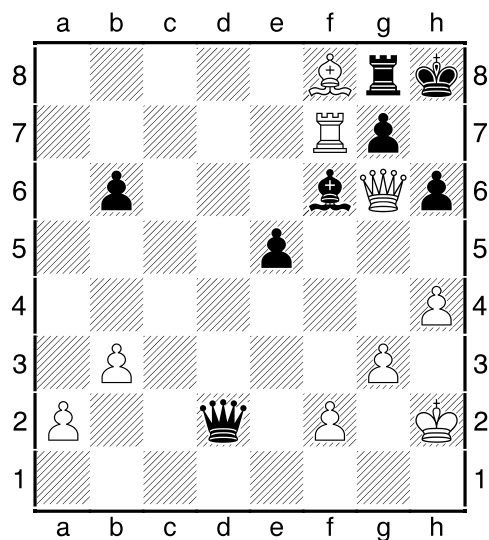
**R S Kalugampitiya (2121) –
Mphungt Gerrard (1930)**
WCO2014 Tromso (4.24), 05.08.2014



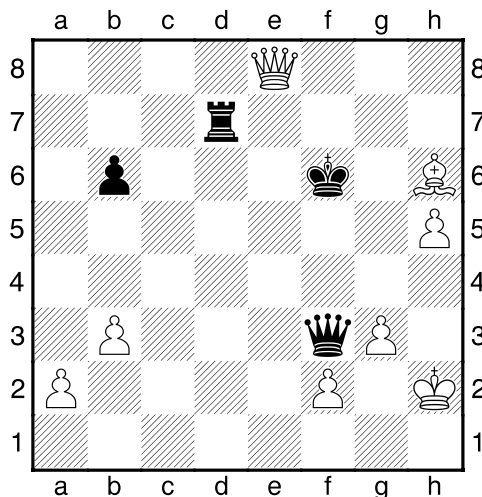
23. ♖e4! fxg6 24. ♜h8+ ♔f7 25. ♝xf6+
25. ♝xf6+ ♜xf6 26. ♘d6#

1-0

**Nca Garcia Ricardo (2215) –
John Rodgaard (2361)**
WCO2014 Tromso (4.27), 05.08.2014



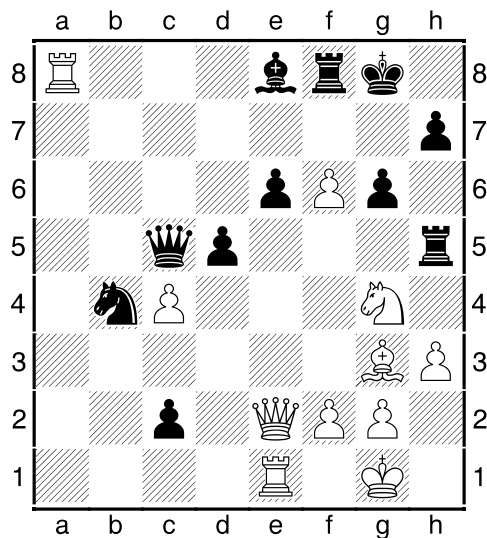
32. ♝xf6! gxf6 33. ♜xf6+ ♔h7 34. ♜f5+ ♔h8
35. ♜xe5+ ♔h7 36. ♜f5+ ♔h8 37. ♜f6+ ♔h7
38. ♜f7+ ♔h8 39. ♙e7 ♝g7 40. ♜f5 ♔g8 41. ♙f6
♝f7 42. h5 ♝d7 43. ♙c3 ♜d6 44. ♜g4+ ♔f7
45. ♜g7+ ♔e8 46. ♜g8+ ♔e7 47. ♙g7 ♜d1
48. ♙f8+ ♔f6 49. ♜g6+ ♔e5 50. ♙xh6 ♜f3
51. ♜e8+ ♔f6



52. ♙g5+! ♔xg5 53. ♜g6#

1-0

**Marat Dzhumaev (2510) –
Daniel Fridman (2639)**
WCO2014 Tromso (4.15), 05.08.2014

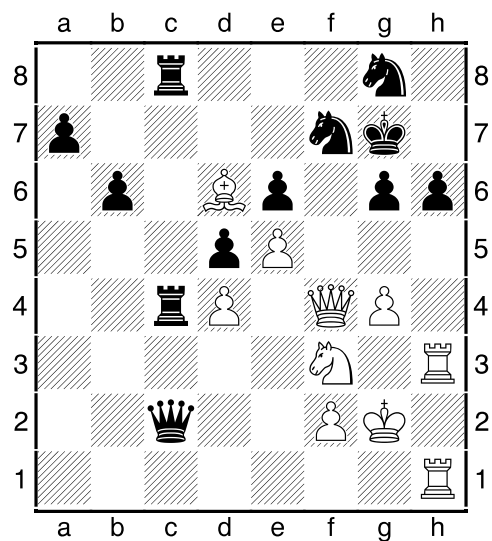


33. f7+! ♙xf7 34. ♙f6+ ♔g7 35. ♙d7 ♜c6
36. ♙e5+ ♔h6 37. ♜d2+ g5 38. ♝xf8 ♜xd7
39. ♜xb4 dxc4 40. ♜c3 ♜e7 41. ♙d6 ♜xd6
42. ♝xf7

1-0

**Christian Jeitz (2189) –
Jorge Cori (2630)**

WCO2014 Tromso (4.26), 05.08.2014

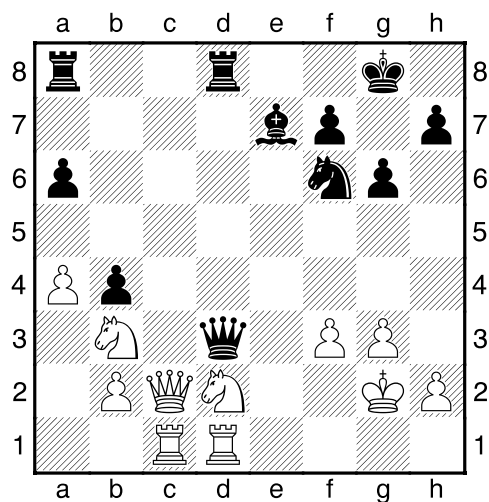


31. ♖xh6! ♜gxh6 32. ♕f6+ ♔g8 33. ♖xh6!
♜xh6 34. ♕xe6+ ♔h8 35. ♕f6+ ♔g8 36. ♕e6+
♔h8 37. ♕f6+ ♔g8

½-½

**Mahmood Lodhi (2335) –
Frode Urkedal (2500)**

WCO2014 Tromso (4.1), 05.08.2014



24. ♜c4?? ♕xc2+ 24... ♕xc2+ 25. ♖xc2 ♖xd1+-

0-1