

Alisher Sanetullaev scores 3/3 in Lansing Swiss

Alisher Sanetullaev (2175) -
Todd Mcauliffe (1870)

Lansing Mini-Swiss, 14-Mar-2010

Notes by Jacob David Fortuna

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 c5 3. d5 b5 4. cxb5 a6 5. e3

This is an interesting idea in the Benko gambit. Alisher is able to quickly activate his pieces.

axb5 6. Bxb5 Qa5+ 7. Nc3 Bb7 8. Bc4 e6 9. Bd2 Qb6 10. e4 Nxe4!

Todd uses a tactical shot here to regain the pawn that he sacrificed in the opening.

11. Nf3

Alisher reacts with a calm developing move that gives up the bishop pair, but leaves white with excellent central control.

Nxd2 12. Qxd2 Be7 13. O-O O-O 14. Ne4 Rd8 15. Rfe1 Na6 16. Ne5 Nb4

It is interesting that this thematic placement of the knight on the queenside allows white the following attack.

17. d6 Bf8 18. Qf4 f6? [D]



This move allows the following mate in eight! [19. Nxf6+ gxf6 20. Bxe6+ dxe6 21. Qg4+ Bg7 22. Qxe6+ Kh8 23. Nf7+ Kg8 24. Nh6+ Kh8 25. Qg8+ Rxg8 26. Nf7#]

19. Bxe6+ dxe6 20. Nxf6+ Black resigns.

1-0

Alisher Sanetullaev (2175) -
Matt Hassen (2062)

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1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nd2 c5 4. Ngf3 cxd4 5. Nxd4 dxe4 6. Nxe4 a6 7. Bd3

Alisher enjoys a nice lead in development here and the knight on d4 is not of concern due to Bb5+ should black capture the knight.

Nf6 8. O-O Nxe4 9. Bxe4 Bc5 10. Be3 O-O

Alisher capitalizes on the position of black's unprotected c5 bishop with the following moves.

11. Bxh7+ Kxh7 12. Qh5+ Kg8 13. Qxc5 Nd7 14. Qd6

At first I thought Alisher played this move because he wanted to exchange queens with an extra pawn. However, Alisher's idea is to get the queen to g3 and use his lead in development to attack.

Nf6 15. Qg3 Re8 16. Nf3 Qd5 17. Bd4 Kf8

This move unpins the g-pawn, but places the king on

an awkward square. A slightly better try was Nh5.

18. Rad1 Qf5 19. Ne5 b5 20. Rd3 Bb7?

It is unfortunate and odd that at the very moment that black develops his problem piece Alisher plays a sacrifice that decides the game.

21. Nd7+!!

A shocking blow that decides the game.

Nxd7 22. Bxg7+

There is nothing to offer black. On 22. Ke7 white has [22 Qd6+ Kd8 23. Qd7#. 22. Kg8 allows [23. Bf6+ Qg6 24. Qxg6+ fxg6 25. Rxd7] with a clear advantage for white.

Black resigns.

1-0

Matt Hassen (2062) -

Kevin Czuhai (2204)

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Notes by Jacob David Fortuna

Matt has grown to be one of Michigan's elite players by performing well against strong opposition. Kevin probably would like to have 1 move back after this game was over.

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. f3 d5

It was interesting to me after the game that 4. f3 makes 4 ... d5 an accurate reply. I have more often seen games with 4. Nf3 for white and

then a struggle by white to hold the c4 pawn after black plays 4. ... c5 to fix the c4 pawn. Then, black will try to maneuver his knight to a5, bishop to a6 and rook to c8 to set up a pawn capture on d4 that will leave the c4 pawn very weak.

5. a3 Bxc3+

Matt as is common in the Nimzo-Indian has the advantage of the bishop pair.

6. bxc3 c5 7. cxd5 exd5 8. e3 O-O 9. Bd3

This position is nearly equal according to Rybca 3. However, I would feel more comfortable playing the white side of this position with the strong central pawns and both bishops.

Qa5 10. Bd2 c4 11. Bc2 Re8 12. Ne2 Bd7 13. O-O Nc6 14. Ng3 h5 15. Nf5 Bxf5 16. Bxf5

Here again I had the feeling that white stood much better, but the computer's analysis gives white only a very slight advantage.

g6 17. Bc2 Re7

Better was Re6 supporting the f6 knight and avoiding the pin that could arise with Bg5 later.

18. Qe1 Kg7 19. Qf2 Qc7 20. Rae1 Rae8 21. Qh4 Qd6 22. h3

The final preparation of the e4 thrust.

Qxa3 23. e4 Qb2 24. Bg5 Qxc2?

Here (24... Re6) would have

secured black an advantage, but the move played drops the exchange and places white on the path toward victory. Czuhai is known for his dramatic comebacks. However, in this game the awkward coordination between black's remaining pieces does not allow Czuhai to orchestrate any counter play.

25. Bxf6+ Kh7 26. Bxe7 Nxe7 27. Qf6 Kg8 28. exd5 Qxc3 29. d6

Black Resigns.

1-0