

Championship Chronicle



2009 US Women's Chess Championship

Zatonskih Scores Big Win Against Krush

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The big clash of the top two seeded players did not disappoint the many spectators on-site and online as IM Anna Zatonskih improved to a perfect 3-0 with a win with the black pieces against IM Irina Krush.

The game probably finished a lot earlier than everyone had anticipated but had something for all chess tastes as it started out in a positional line of the Queen's Gambit Declined but then turned tactical as Krush managed to get her queen trapped in the most unlikely of positions.

Zatonskih finished the game off with unnerving accuracy and stays a half-point up on her nearest rival in the tournament while Krush remains with 1½/3.

WGM Sabina Foisor moved into second spot in the tournament with a lucky win against WIM Iryna Zenyuk.

Having made the time control, Zenyuk allowed Foisor's king to march all the way up the board and she fell into a mating net despite being two pawns up. Foisor happily accepted the full point to move to 2½/3.

Just a half-point the top two are the oldest and youngest competitors in the tournament, WGM Camilla Baginskaite and WIM Alisa Melekhina.

Baginskaite had quite a complicated struggle against IM Rusudan Goletiani but in the end decided to bail out of any further

complications by claiming a draw by repetition.

Melekhina scored her first victory of the tournament against WFM Tatev Abrahamyan who admitted after the game that she was just outplayed by the young WIM.

In the final game of the day, WIM Battsetseg Tsagaan won a mistake riddled contest with Yun Fan. Both players went into the game 0-2 and so Fan remains rooted to the bottom of the crosstable despite being involved in the longest game in each round.

Current Standings:

- 1 Anna Zatonskih, 3
- 2 Sabina Foisor, 2½
- 3-4 Camilla Baginskaite, 2
- 3-4 Alisa Melekhina, 2
- 5-6 Irina Krush, 1½
- 5-6 Rusudan Goletiana, 1½
- 7-8 Iryna Zenyuk, 1
- 7-8 Battsetseg Tsagaan, 1
- 9 Tatev Abrahamyan, ½
- 10 Yun Fan, 0

Round 4 Match-Ups

Round 4 sees all four of the unbeaten players playing each other.

Zatonskih will put her 100% record on the line against Baginskaite. Baginskaite openly admitted that it is too early to be looking at the crosstable standings but I'm sure she won't want to fall

further behind the leader with a loss.

Foisor will take the white pieces against Melekhina with both players wanting to keep pace with the leader but also having one eye looking backwards with Krush and Goletiani right behind them.

Krush will get the black pieces against the unfortunate Fan while Goletiani will take the white pieces against Abrahamyan.

The last game sees both players on one point play each other as Zenyuk has the white pieces against Tsagaan.



Ben's Best: Krush vs Zatonskih

GM-Elect Ben Finegold Picks His Game of the Day

Krush, Irina (2490) –
Zatonskih, Anna (2492)

1.d4

All awaited this game with baited breath, as many believed the winner of this game would have the inside track to the Championship.

1...d5 2.c4 e6

For the third day in a row, Zatonskih surprises me with her opening choice. Jen and I both expected the a6 Slav, but, we knew Anna plays many openings, and could choose anything.

3.Nc3 Be7 4.Nf3 Nf6
5.Bg5 h6 6.Bh4 0-0 7.e3
Ne4

The Lasker Defense! Not as popular as 75 years ago, but still considered playable. It seems unlikely Irina had prepared for this, but, she still played rather quickly.

8.Bxe7 Qxe7 9.Rc1 Nxc3
10.Rxc3 c6 11.Qc2

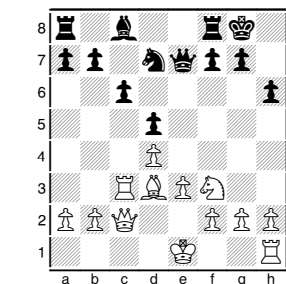
11.Bd3 is the main move. Irina is hoping to play Bxc4 in one move if Anna decides to trade on c4.

11...Nd7 12.cxd5!?

This is unusual. White plays for the smallest of advantages. More common is 12.a3, preparing a later b4, and giving the Bf1 a nice square to hide on a2 in case of 12...dxc4 13.Bxc4

12...exd5 13.Bd3

"We were all shocked when we saw this anti-positional move, then we realized the Qc5 was in dire straights."



13...Nb6

An interesting novelty. Afterwards I asked Anna why she rejected the natural 13...Nf6. It turns out black has always played 13...Nf6, with one exception, whereupon black prefaced it with 13...Re8, THEN 14...Nf6! Anna said she was worried she would stand worse after 13...Nf6 14.0-0 Ne4 15.Bxe4 dxe4 16.Ne5. Anna's choice is solid, and, as stated earlier, Krush has the smallest of advantages.

14.0-0 Be6 15.Rb1

I expected 15.Ne5, as black moved her knight to the queenside but Anna said she was going to challenge the knight immediately with 15...Nd7. Black seems fine there.

15...a5 This slows down white's play with b4-b5. A typical minority attack in the QGD.

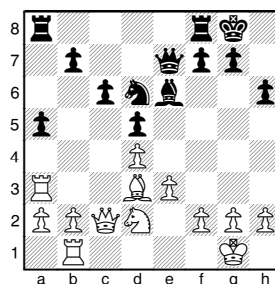
16.Nd2 Nc8

Many of the spectators in the commentary room were asking me why black played Nb6, and what was the future of this knight. I correctly explained that the knight often wants to go to d6 via c8, and this is exactly what Zatonskih had in mind. Now Irina surprised us all with the interesting rook move...

17.Ra3!?

I thought this was brilliant and very creative. I was thinking back to Irina's beautiful win last round, when she played the unexpected Bd6!! against Goleiani. In this game, Anna gets the upper hand later with an even more surprising move, but this position is still a little bit in white's favor.

17...Nd6



18.Qc5!?

This also was an unexpected move. The queen is misplaced on c5, and I expected Nb3-c5. If black prevents Nc5 (and defends a5) with 18...b6, then the queenside is somewhat weakened.

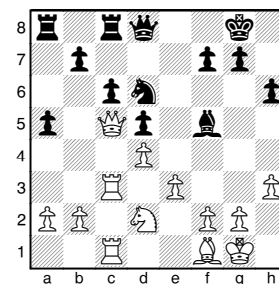
18...Qc7 19.Rc3?!

Having played Ra3 earlier, I do not like moving back to c3, as the queen on c5 has fewer squares to retreat. I thought Irina was better the whole game, but, for the first time in the live commentary, I now thought black had equalized.

19...Rfc8 20.Rbc1 Qd8
21.h3 Bf5

The game would be equal after 22.Bxf5 Nxf5 23.Nc4! I liked Irina's next move, but, I also missed the absolute haymaker Anna uncorks with her next, amazing retort.

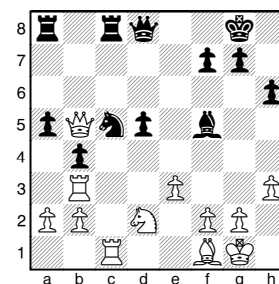
22.Bf1?



22...b5!!

We were all shocked when we saw this anti-positional move, then we realized the Qc5 was in dire straights. I wonder if Irina analyzed the best defense here, the computer move 23.Bd3 (back to d3!), when white has good drawing chances after 23...Nb7 24.Bxf5 Nxc5 25.Bxc8. Irina thought a long time here, but either did not see 23.Bd3 (I do not know many humans who would), or simply thought what she did was all right. Anna's technique is exemplary, and she finishes the game nicely.

23.Rb3? Nb7 24.Qa3 b4
25.Qa4 c5! 26.dxc5 Nxc5
27.Qb5



27...Rab8!!

Ends the game immediately and is much stronger than the pedestrian 27...Nxb3

28.Qe2 a4 0-1

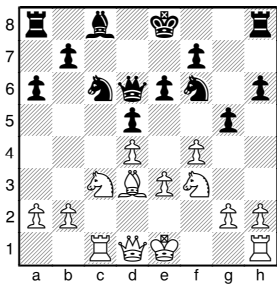
Foisor Stays Unbeaten After Zenyuk Gifts Win

Zenyuk,Iryna (2281) –
Foisor,Sabina (2390)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.cxd5

In talking to Foisor after the game she said she hadn't prepared for this line as Zenyuk never plays the exchange variation.

3...cxd5 4.Bf4 Nf6 5.e3 a6
6.Bd3 Nc6 7.Nc3 e6 8.Rc1
Bd6 9.Bxd6 Qxd6 10.f4
h6 11.Nf3 g5



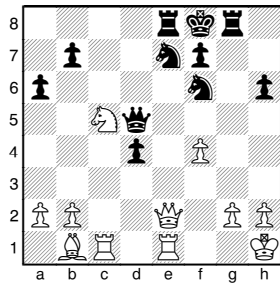
12.0-0!? gxf4 13.Nh4 e5
14.dxe5 Qxe5 15.exf4
Qd4+ 16.Kh1 Bg4 17.Ne2

17.Nf3 Qxf4 18.Qb3 Qb4
19.Nxd5 Qxb3 20.Nxf6+
Ke7 21.axb3 Kxf6 22.Nd4+
Kg7 23.Nxc6 bxc6
24.Rxc6±

17...Qb6

Taking the b-pawn may be a little risky but after 17...Qxb2 18.Rb1 Qxa2 19.Rxb7 0-0! black should survive.

18.Nf5 Bxf5 19.Bxf5 Kf8
20.Nc3 Ne7 21.Na4 Qd6
22.Bb1 d4 23.Nc5 Qd5
24.Re1 Rg8 25.Qe2 Re8



26.Be4

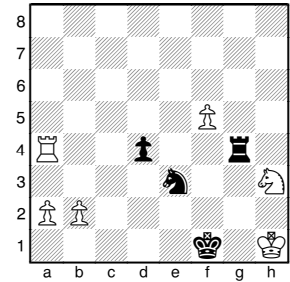
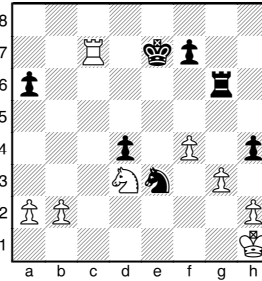
26.Qd2! Rc8 27.Re5 Qd6
28.Nxb7+-

26...Nxe4 27.Qxe4 Qxe4

27...Kg7! and black holds
28.Qxd5 Nxd5 29.Red1
Nxf4 30.Rxd4=

28.Rxe4 Nf5 29.Rxe8+
Kxe8 30.Nxb7 Rg6 31.Nc5

Ne3 32.g3 h5 33.Nd3 h4
34.Rc8+ Ke7 35.Rc7+



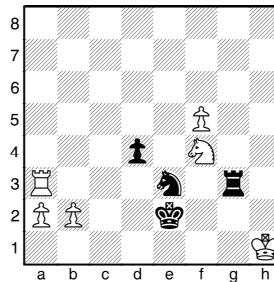
46...d3! 0-1

35...Kd6!

The black king gains a lot of activity.

36.Rxf7 hxg3 37.hxg3
Rxc3 38.Rf6+ Kd5
39.Rxa6 Ke4 40.Ra3 Kf3
41.f5 Rh3+ 42.Kg1 Rg3+
43.Kh1 Ke2 44.Nf4+?

44.f6 Rf3 45.Kh2 Rxf6
46.Nc1+ Kf3 47.Nd3
should lead to a draw.



44...Kf1!-+

Foisor becomes the recipient of a gift and takes full advantage.

45.Ra4 Rg4

Thankfully this doesn't throw away the win but after 45...Ng4! white cannot prevent 46...Rg1#.

46.Nh3



WIM Iryna Zenyuk and WGM Sabina Foisor in the opening stages of their game. (Photo Betsy Dynako)

Tsagaan Scores First Win, Fan Fights Hard For Nothing Again

Tsagaan, Battsetseg (2265) – Fan, Yun (2201)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f3

7.Qd2 is the usual move although Tsagaan has played 7.f3 previously, albeit without very good results according to my limited database.

7...Qb6

7...a6 8.Qd2 Be7 9.0-0-0 Bd7 10.h4 b5 11.Nxc6 Bxc6 12.Bd3 Qc7 13.Kb1 h6 14.Be3 Nd7 15.Qf2 Rb8 16.g4 g6 17.Bd4 Rg8 18.Qd2 Bf8 19.f4 b4 20.Ne2 Qb7 21.Ng3 a5 22.Rh3 a4 23.g5 hxg5 24.fxg5 d5 25.Qf2 f5 26.exf5 gxf5 27.Nxf5 exf5 28.Qxf5 0-1 Battsetseg, T (2254)–Justice, D/ Philadelphia 2006

8.Nb3 a6 9.Qd2 Nd7 10.0-0 Qc7 11.f4 b5 12.f5 Nde5 13.fxe6 Bxe6

13...fxe6 seems to be a more natural continuation denying the white knight access to the d5 square and not leaving so many open lines.

14.Nd5 Bxd5 15.exd5 Ne7 16.Nd4 Rc8 17.Kb1 h6 18.Bf4 N7g6 19.g3

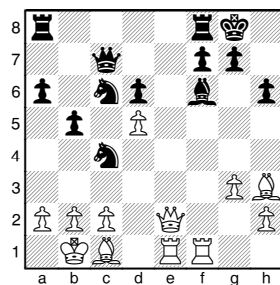
19.a4!? is interesting but opens up the queenside 19...Be7 20.axb5 0-0 21.bxa6 and the question is does black have compensation for the two pawn deficit?

19...Be7 20.Bh3 Ra8

21.Nc6 Nc4!

21...Bf6 22.Bxe5 Nxe5 23.Rhf1! Nc4 (23...0-0 24.Rxf6! gxf6 25.Qxh6+–) 24.Rde1+ Kf8 25.Qf2 threatening Re7

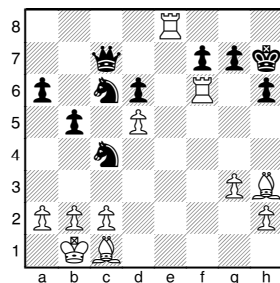
22.Qe2 0-0 23.Rde1 Bf6 24.Bc1 Nge5 25.Rhf1 Nxc6



26.Rxf6 Rfe7?

26...N6e5=; 26...gxf6? 27.Qg4+ Kh8 28.Bxh6 Rg8 29.Qh4+–

27.Qxe8+! Rxe8 28.Rxe8+ Kh7



29.Rf1?

29.Bf5+! was a simple win 29...g6 30.Bxg6+ f5 31.dxc6+–

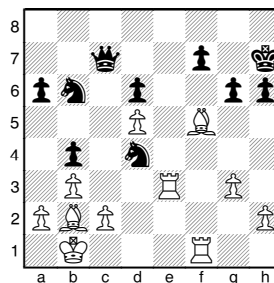
29...Nd4?

29...Nb4 30.c3 Nxd5 and black is still alive.

30.Rc8

30.c3! Na3+ 31.bxa3 Qxc3 32.Rf2+–

30...Qe7 31.b3 Nb6 32.Rc3 b4 33.Re3 Qc7 34.Bf5+ g6 35.Bb2?



35...Nxd5

The only reason I can think of why Fan doesn't play the simple capture on f5 is because she is worried about a mate on h8 but that is easily defended 35...Nxf5 36.Re8 Ng7 37.Rf8 f5 and black would have been winning.

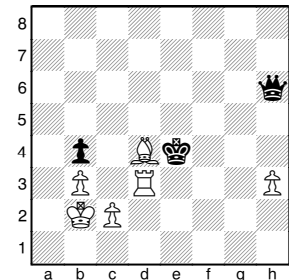
36.Bxd4 Nxe3 37.Bxe3 gxf5 38.Rxf5

Surely it is white that is playing for a draw in this ending.

38...Kg6 39.Rf4 f5 40.Bd2 a5 41.g4 fxg4 42.Rxg4+ Kf5 43.Rh4 d5 44.Rxh6 Qd8 45.Rh3 d4 46.Rd3 Qd5 47.h3 Qg2 48.Kb2 Ke4 49.Be1 Qg7 50.Bf2

Thanks to a couple of inaccuracies, Tsagaan has managed to round up two pawns and can now play for a win without risk.

50...Qf6 51.Bxd4 Qh4 52.a3 Qh6?! 53.axb4 axb4



54.Kb1

54.Bc5 would win the b4 pawn 54...Qf6+ 55.Kb1 Qf1+ 56.Ka2 Qc1 57.Rd4+

54...Qh5 55.Bb2 Qc5 56.Rd4+ Kf5 57.h4 Qb5 58.Bc1 Qb6 59.Rc4 Kg6 60.Bd2

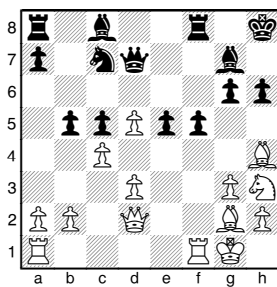
The last black pawn is about to fall and the rest is just technique, ensuring you don't fall into a perpetual check.

60...Kh5 61.Bxb4 Qg1+ 62.Kb2 Qg7+ 63.Bc3 Qe7 64.b4 Qe6 65.Rd4 Qc6 66.Rf4 Qd6 67.Re4 Qc6 68.Re5+ Kxh4 69.b5 Qb6 70.Kb3 Kg4 71.Bb2 Qd6 72.Kc4 Qd1 73.Kb3 Qd6 74.Re4+ Kf3 75.Rd4 Qe6+ 76.c4 Qe3+ 77.Kb4 Qe1+ 78.Bc3 Qb1+ 79.Ka5 Qc2 80.Bb4 Qb2 81.Bc5 Qa2+ 82.Kb6 Qa8 83.Bd6 Qd8+ 84.Kc6 Qc8+ 85.Kb6 Qd8+ 86.Kc5 Qg5+ 87.Rd5 Qe3+ 88.Kc6 Qe8+ 89.Kb7 Qd7+ 90.Bc7 Qe8 91.Rf5+ Kg4 92.Re5 Qd7 93.b6 Qd3 94.c5 Qf3+ 95.c6 Qf8 96.Rd5 Qf3 97.Rd8 Kh5 98.Bd6 Qf7+ 99.c7 Qd5+ 100.Kb8 Qc6 101.b7 1-0

Baginskaite and Goletiani Play Complicated Draw

Baginskaite, Camilla (2356) – Goletiani, Rusudan (2437)

1.Nf3 g6 2.c4 Bg7 3.Nc3 e5 4.g3 Ne7 5.Bg2 c5 6.0-0 0-0 7.d3 Nbc6 8.e4 d6 9.Be3 f5 10.Qd2 Nd4 11.Bg5 Ne6 12.Bh4 Qd7 13.Nd5 Nxd5 14.exd5 Nc7 15.Ng5 Kh8 16.f4 h6 17.Nh3 b5 18.fxe5 dxe5



Both players have played the opening well and the position is rich with chances for both sides.

19.g4

Played to prevent the trapping of the bishop on h4. 19.d6 winning the exchange 19...Qxd6 20.Bxa8 Nxa8 gives black ample compensation with the unopposed light squared bishop and those pawns racing down towards the white king.

19...f4 20.g5 h5

20...hxg5!? 21.Nxg5 Qg4 is met by various moves, 22.Qe1, 22.d6 or even 22.Nf3, all of which have their various complications.

21.Rf3 Ne8

21...bxc4 22.dxc4 Ne6 the knight cannot be taken as the pawn is pinned 23.Bf2

Nd4 24.Bxd4 (24.Ra3 e4 with advantage to black.) 24...cxd4 25.c5 would have been an interesting variation with each player having an advanced pawn mass.

30.Nf2

30.Ng1 improving the position of the only piece out of play might have given white the opportunity to play for more than the repetition that follows.



WGM Camilla Baginskaite trying to work through the complications in her round 3 game against IM Rusudan Goletiani. (Photo Betsy Dynako)

22.Bf2 Qc7 23.cxb5 Bg4 24.Rc1

After all the opportunities white had to grab the exchange, it is white herself that ends up making the same material sacrifice.

24...Bxf3 25.Bxf3 Nd6 26.Bxc5 Rfc8 27.Kg2

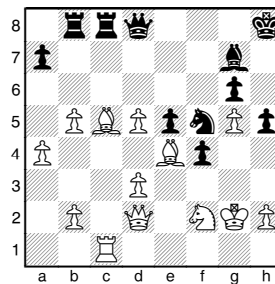
27.a4!? defending the b-pawn may be a better option.

27...Rab8

Black had the option of taking the b-pawn, which may have been slightly better than the move played 27...Nxb5 28.d6 (28.Be4 Bf8 29.b4 Qd7) 28...Nxd6 29.Bxa8 Rxa8

28.a4 Nf5 29.Be4 Qd7

30...Qd8



31.Nh3

Baginskaite could have tried 31.Bxa7 but probably couldn't work out all the complicated variations since both players were getting short on time 31...Rxc1 (31...Qxg5+ 32.Kh1! and black doesn't get the all important c-file.) 32.Qxc1 Rc8 33.Qd2 Ne3+

34.Bxe3 Qxg5+ 35.Kf3 fxe3 36.Qxe3 Qg1! and white has nothing better than to accept a draw by 37.h3! preventing access to the g4 square (White cannot just make moves and ignore black's attack, e.g. 37.b6 Rc2 38.b7 Rxf2+! removing the defender of the g4 square 39.Qxf2 Qg4+ 40.Ke3 Bh6+-) 37...Rc2 38.Qb6! Kh7 39.a5 Rxb2 40.a6 Bf6 41.Qc7+ (41.a7? h4! and white gets mated!) 41...Bg7 42.Qb6=

31...Qd7 32.Nf2 Qd8 33.Nh3 Qd7

Baginskaite informed the arbiter she was going to play 34.Nf2 and claimed a draw by repetition.

½-½

Abrahamyan Outplayed as Melekhina Notches Her First Win

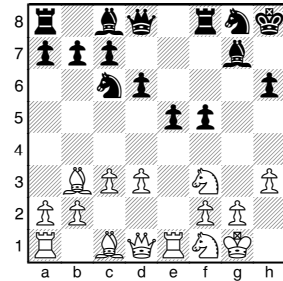
Abrahamyan, Tatev (2334) –
Melekhina, Alisa (2301)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4
Nf6 4.d3 h6 5.0-0 d6 6.c3
g6 7.Nbd2 Bg7 8.Bb3 0-0
9.Re1 Kh8 10.Nf1 Ng8

Normally the knight would go to h7 to make way for the f5 push 10...Nh7 11.h3 Bd7 12.d4 Qe7 13.a4 Ng5 14.Nxg5 hxg5 15.d5 Nd8 16.a5 Kg8 17.Ba4 Bc8 18.b4 f5 19.g4 Bf6 20.c4 Kg7 21.Ra3 Rh8 22.Rg3 Nf7 23.Kg2 Rh4 24.Nh2 fxg4 25.hxg4 Bd7 26.Bxd7 Qxd7 27.Rh3 c6 28.Qf3 Rc8 29.Bd2 b6 30.axb6 axb6 31.Be3 cxd5 32.cxd5 Qb5 33.Rc1 Rxc1 34.Bxc1 Qe2 35.Qd3 Qa2 36.Be3 Qa4 37.Qd2 Bd8 38.Rxh4 gxh4 39.g5 Qd7 40.f3 b5 41.Ng4 Qe7 42.Nf6 Qb7 43.Qe1 h3+ ½-½ Yu-dasin, L (2460)–Malaniuk, V

(2485)/Sverdlovsk 1984

11.h3 f5 12.exf5 gxf5



13.d4?!

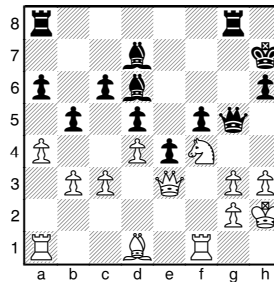
In her post-game interview Melekhina said she was more worried about 13.Ng3 and I have to agree with her.

13...e4 14.N3h2 d5 15.Bf4
Nce7 16.Ng3 Ng6 17.Ne2
Nf6 18.Qd2 Kh7 19.Nf1
Nh5 20.Nfg3 Ngxf4
21.Nxf4 Nxg3 22.fxg3 c6

23.Rad1 b5

Played to prevent any ideas white may have of playing c4.

24.a4 a6 25.Ra1 Bd7
26.Bd1 Rg8 27.Qe3 Bf8
28.b3 Bd6 29.Rf1 Qg5
30.Kh2



30...Raf8

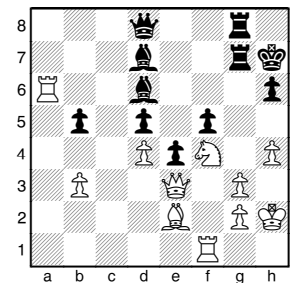
30...b4!? 31.cxb4 Rg7
32.h4 Qf6 intending
Rag8.; The immediate
30...Rg7 is not as good

31.axb5 cxb5 32.b4

31.axb5 axb5 32.c4 Rg7
33.cxd5 cxd5 34.h4

34.Ra6 Bb8 35.b4 Rfg8
36.Kh1 Qxg3 37.Qxg3
Rxg3 38.Nxd5 R3g6
39.Rxg6 is probably equal
despite black having the
bishop pair.

34...Qd8 35.Be2 Rfg8
36.Ra6



36...Rxxg3!

Black's queen will dominate white's uncoordinated pieces.

37.Qxg3 Rxg3 38.Kxg3
Qc7 39.Ra2 b4 40.h5 Kg8
41.Bd1 Bb5 42.Rff2 Qc3+
0-1



WFM Tatev Abrahamyan makes use of the scarf that she picked at the opening ceremony. (Photo Betsy Dynako)

Photo Gallery: Krush vs Zatonskih, Round 3

All Photos by Betsy Dynako



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www.USChessChamps.com



Round Schedule

- Round 4, Wednesday, October 7, 2:00 pm
- Round 5, Thursday, October 8, 2:00 pm
- Round 6, Saturday, October 10, 12:00 pm
- Round 7, Sunday, October 11, 12:00 pm
- Round 8, Monday, October 12, 12:00 pm
- Round 9, Tuesday, October 13, 10:00 am
- Tie-Break (if necessary), Tuesday, October 13, 5:00 pm

Other Events

- Breakfast with Players at Siteman Cancer Ctr, Friday, October 9, 8:30 am
- Players Simul at Sci-Fest, Friday, October 9, 10:30 am
- Players Lunch at Chess Club, Friday, October 9, 12:00 pm
- Closing Ceremony, Tuesday, October 13, 7:00 pm
- A Game of Chance, 2009 US Women's Champion vs Special Guest Kemper Art Museum, Wednesday, October 14, 6:00 pm

FM Mike Klein's Daily Wrap-Up

The most anticipated encounter of the 2009 U.S. Women's Championship took place in round three, with the top two seeds facing off for the first time since their controversial finish to the 2008 Championship. This time, as last time, the top seed, Anna Zatonskih, took the victory at the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis.

Zatonskih, of Long Island, N.Y., the top defending champion, took the black pieces against second-seeded Irina Krush, of Brooklyn, N.Y. The two had not faced each other since Zatonskih won a blitz tiebreaker in last year's tournament, causing Krush to object to her opponent's etiquette.

This time they played a regular-length match, but despite pundits predicting a six-hour battle, their game was the first to finish. Zatonskih found a brilliant defensive resource on her 22nd move, exploiting the exposed position of the

enemy queen and catching the unsuspecting Krush without a reasonable reply.

Krush spent 20 minutes looking for a reprieve but could not find a way to untangle her army, which was bumping into each other like crowded passengers on a subway car. Zatonskih called it a "very unusual tactic." Grandmaster commentator Ben Finegold referred to the move as "shocking." The win leaves Zatonskih with three wins out of three games and a slim lead on her closest competition.

Trailing closely with two wins and one draw (2.5 points) is Sabina Foisor, of Baltimore, Md., who won a close ending against Iryna Zenyuk, of Pittsburgh, Pa. Looking ahead, Foisor and Zatonskih will not play until Monday's round eight, when Foisor will have the advantage of the white pieces.

The tournament's youngest player,

18-year-old Alisa Melekhina, of Philadelphia, also continued to impress. She drew her first two matches by playing gritty defense, something younger players are not usually known for, but in round three she broke through with her first win, against Tatev Abrahamyan, of Glendale, Ca. Melekhina is coming off a gold-medal performance at the World Team Chess Championships in China. She now has an unbeaten streak stretching more than 12 games. "I went undefeated in China and not losing [there] gave me a lot of confidence," she said.

The oldest player in the field, 42-year-old former champion Camilla Baginskaite, of Sioux Falls, S.D., can also count herself among the field of unbeaten women. She followed her round one win with draws Tuesday and today, though the round three tie against third-seeded Rusudan Goletiani, of Hartsdale, N.Y., was much more

unbalanced than in round two. Baginskaite won the event in 2000 and many players are praising her for playing so well after a recent hiatus from chess.

In the final match, Battsetseg Tsagaan, of Ellicott City, Md., parted with her queen and entered an unbalanced theoretical ending against Yun Fan of Greencastle, Ind. Both women were seeking their first point of the match, and after more than six hours Tsagaan tasted victory.

All four undefeated women are paired in round four, including Zatonskih against Baginskaite and Foisor versus Melekhina.

