

2016 WORLD CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND 6

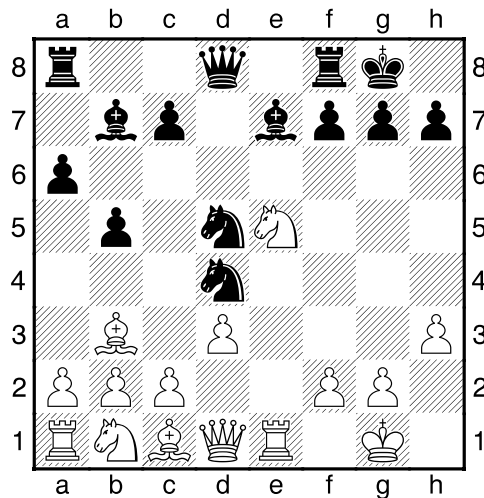
By: Amon Simutowe

ROUND 6

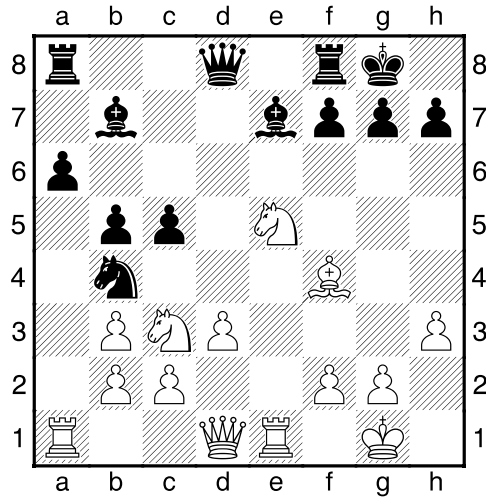
In round 6, Carlsen was able to get an active position though this was not due to Karjakin making a mistake but simply because of the opening structure. I am quite confident the match will now go on to at least game 12. Even though Carlsen has near perfect temperament, I think he is feeling the pressure to win within the next 3 games. I think the outcome of the match will be quite unpredictable if the match goes past game 9 without Carlsen leading. As I have indicated in my previous match comments, if Karjakin starts obtaining slight advantages when he is playing with white pieces, this would become problematic for Carlsen. As the match continues, Carlsen will start feeling more pressure but Karjakin's confidence will keep surging. Carlsen is clearly the better of the two titans but I think Karjakin has good chances of winning the match.

Karjakin Vs Carlsen

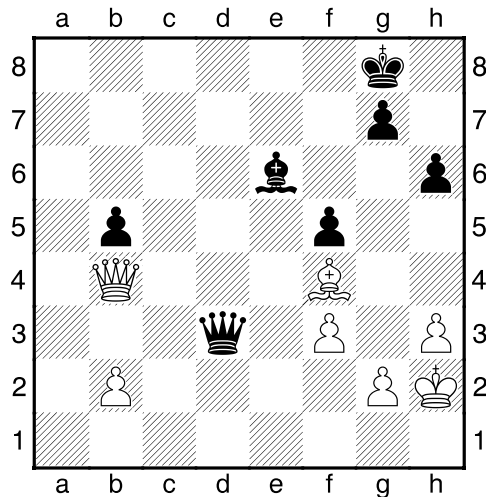
1.e4 Karjakin is sticking with e4 **1...e5** **2.Nf3** **Nc6** **3.Bb5** **a6** **4.Ba4** **Nf6** **5.0-0** **Be7** **6.Re1** **b5** **7.Bb3** **0-0** **8.h3** **Bb7** In this setup, Carlsen has relative control of the direction of the game as he chooses among many continuations including d6 or d5 **9.d3** **d5** **10.exd5** **Nxd5** Carlsen sacrifices a pawn for more activity **11.Nxe5** **Nd4** One of the trophies for Carlsen after giving up the pawn on e5 is to capture the Bishop on the b3-square



12.Nc3 **Nb4** **13.Bf4** **Nxb3** **14.axb3** **c5**



15.Ne4 f6 16.Nf3 This is a beautiful structure for Carlsen. Even though Carlsen is a pawn down, his activity is very strong. For instance, Karjakin cannot play c3 to chase the Knight from b4 as that would leave the d3 pawn unprotected. And further, Carlsen's position is easier to play and certainly at least worth a pawn sacrifice to obtain **16...f5 17.Neg5 Bxg5 18.Nxg5 h6 19.Ne6 Qd5 20.f3** [20.Nxf8 Qxg2#] **20...Rfe8 21.Re5** [21.Nc7 Qd4+ 22.Kh1 Rxe1+ 23.Qxe1 Qxf4 24.Nxa8 Nxc2 25.Qe6+ (25.Qe8+ Kh7 26.Nb6 Nxa1 27.Nd7 Carlsen should move the queen immediately to avoid it being captured after Nf8+ then discovered check to g6. But generally, white should get a perpetual check.) 25...Kh7 is unpleasant for white] **21...Qd6 22.c3 Rxe6 23.Rxe6 Qxe6 24.cxb4 cxb4 25.Rc1 Rc8 26.Rxc8+ Qxc8** An endgame with Queen and Bishops of different colors and same numbers of pawns should generally draw **27.Qe1 Qd7 28.Kh2 a5 29.Qe3 Bd5 30.Qb6 Bxb3 31.Qxa5 Qxd3 32.Qxb4 Be6**



1/2-1/2 Draw

The match has now entered a scenario I highlighted in my comments in the previous games. It's still very competitive and I think Carlsen is under pressure. But the comforting thing for Carlsen is that Karjakin has not managed to gain any serious advantage in the last six games but that could change like a switch. Let's keep our seatbelts fastened. I think the match will not disappoint.