

Carlsen,M
-Caruana,F

5th Bilbao Masters (final) (6)8.10.2012
 [A.J.G.]

C00
2843
2773

10.Nc4 Re8 ; 11.Bf1 Bg4 ;
 Right now, the position is
 dead equal, if anyone is
 any better here, it would
 probably be Black.

GOTM - October, 2012.

Carlsen plays a superb ending.

1.e4 e6 ; 2.d3 d5 ;
3.Nd2 Nf6 ; 4.Ngf3 Nc6 ;
5.c3 Bd6 ; 6.Be2 0-0 ;
7.0-0 a5 ;

A rather unusual position.

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XABCDEFGHY
8r + l ♖ - t k + (
7+ p p - + p p p '
6- + n ♜ p ♞ - + &
5p - + p + - + - %
4- + - + P + - + $
3+ - ♟ P + N + - #
2P ♟ - ♞ L ♟ P P "
1R - ♞ Q + R ♞ - ! [
x a b c d e f g h y
    
```

Carlsen has like a Philidor's
 Defense - as White - with the
 normal colors being reversed.
8.Re1 e5 ; 9.exd5 Nxd5 ;

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XABCDEFGHY
8r + - ♖ r + k + (
7+ p p - + p p p '
6- + n ♜ - + - + &
5p - + n p - + - %
4- + N + - + l + $
3+ - ♟ P + N + - #
2P ♟ - + - ♟ P P "
1R - ♞ Q R L ♞ - ! [
x a b c d e f g h y
    
```

The problem is that Caruana
 does not seem to know what
 to do with his position.

12.h3 Bh5 ; 13.g3!? ,
 I guess White is going for a
 re-deployment of the LSB
 to g2, g3 also keeps the BN
 out of f4.

[RR13.g4 Bg6 ;
 14.Qb3 , - DF14.]

.
 .
 Now just when it looks like Black might be gaining the upper hand here, he goes and wrecks his Q-side Pawn structure here. Why? (I have no clue!)

DF14 likes 13...a5-a4.
13...Nb6!? ; **14.Nxb6 cxb6** ;
15.Bg2 b5 ; **16.a4! b4** ;
17.Be3 Bc7 ; **18.Qb3 h6!?** ;

This is not bad, but it does not solve all of Black's problems here.

[<18...Qxd3?? ; 19.Rad1 Qa6 ;
 20.g4 Bg6 ; 21.Bf1+-]
 [.
 RR18...Rc8 ; 19.Qc4 Qd7 ;
 20.Qb5 Bb8 ; 21.Nd2²]

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 .
 DF-14 likes 19.Nh4 here.
19.Qc4 bxc3 ; **20.bxc3 e4?!** ;
 This is just inferior, a player of Caruana's ability should know better than this.

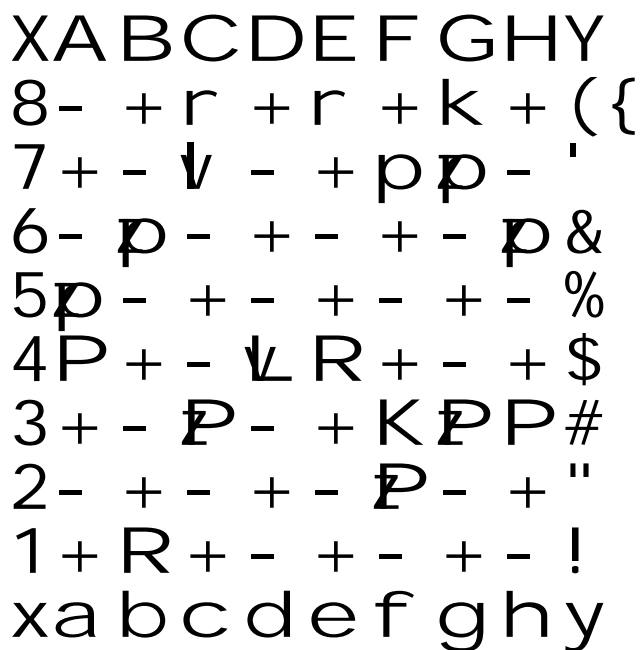
[>/= ¹ 20...Bg6 ; 21.d4÷ ,
 Maybe - '2']

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 .
 Now with 21.Nd4, White

would have gained an appreciable advantage.
21.dxe4?! Bxf3 ; **22.Bxf3 Ne5** ;
23.Qe2 Nxf3+ ; **24.Qxf3 Qd3** ;
25.Kg2 Qxe4 ; **26.Bd4 Qxf3+** ;
27.Kxf3 b6 ; **28.Rab1 Rac8** ;
29.Re4 , (Waiting.)

This is Carlsen's "get them to an endgame and squeeze them as hard as you can" ... kind of stuff. (It has been working for him for years.)

[Also, the try of: 29.Rxe8+!?, looks OK as well.]



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 All of Caruana's bad choices eventually come back to haunt him in this game, although Carlsen does miss

several opportunities for a big advantage.

29...g6!? ; (Just inferior?)

Black is slowly drifting into a bad endgame ... and is also making a lot of poor choices as well.

[1 29...Re6! ; 30.Rxe6 fxe6 ; 31.Ke4 Bd8 ; 32.Kd3 Rc6 ; 33.h4² Kf7 ; etc.]

Now Rb5! gives White an edge of a fairly decent size. (- Deep Fritz 14.)

And the same program shows that 30...Re6; was better than what was played in the game.

30.g4!? **Kf8!?** ; **31.h4!?** **Rxe4?! ;**

The simple ¹ 31...Bd8; was much better, now White has an ideal endgame ... and Black might have to play perfect chess in order not to lose from here.

32.Kxe4 Re8+ ; 33.Kd3!? **Re6 ;**

34.Be3 Kg7 ; 35.Rb5!? ,

Apparently Carlsen had an off day, some days he plays nearly perfect chess, today

it was "just" 2700-2800 ...

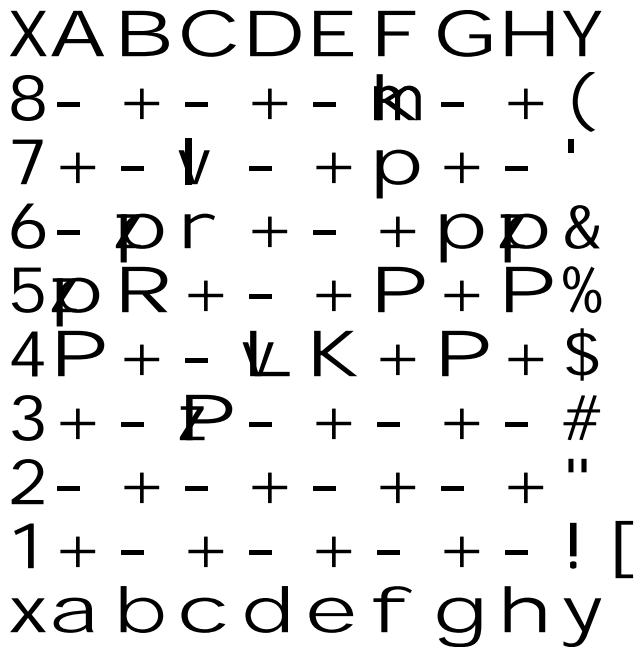
[RR35.h5² , - DF-14]

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| X | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | Y |
| 8 | - | + | - | + | - | + | - | + | { |
| 7 | + | - | v | - | + | p | m | - | ' |
| 6 | - | p | - | + | r | + | p | p | & |
| 5 | p | R | + | - | + | - | + | - | % |
| 4 | P | + | - | + | - | + | P | P | \$ |
| 3 | + | - | P | K | v | - | + | - | # |
| 2 | - | + | - | + | - | P | - | + | " |
| 1 | + | - | + | - | + | - | + | - | ! |
| x | a | b | c | d | e | f | g | h | y |

One thing to note is that if the Rooks ever come off the board, then Black is just completely lost.

35...Bd8 ; 36.h5 Rd6+ ;
37.Kc4 Rc6+ ; 38.Kd5 Re6 ;
39.Bd4+ Kf8 ; 40.f4 Bc7 ;
41.f5 Rd6+ ; 42.Ke4 Rc6 ;

Take a look now ...



White has an ideal position, maybe even the box cannot help Black here.

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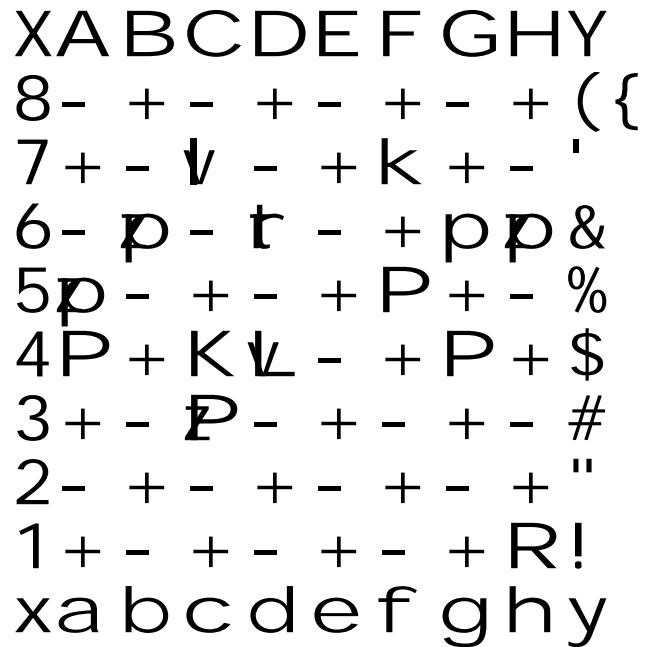
White continues to squeeze ... (White cannot grab on h6 due to the threat ...gxf5+; which will win the WR.)

43.Rb1 Ke8 ; 44.hxg6 fxg6 ; 45.Rh1 Kf7! ; 46.Kd5 Rd6+ ; 47.Kc4 , {Diagram.}

[RR47.Ke4!? Rc6 ; etc.]

(Diagram)

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White is much better here, but the win is not yet a



one-hundred percent lock.

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47...gxf5? ; (Losing move?)

Even Caruana cracks under the strain of a long and a very difficult defense. (Who knows? Maybe Caruana mistakenly thought that he could draw this endgame?!?)

[>/= 1 47...g5™ ; 48.Rh3±]

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The remainder of the game does not require a lot of comment ... the plan is to run both of the WP's down to a6 and c6, cut off the BK from a7, and then transfer the WK to the

all important d7-square.

**48.gxf5 Bd8 ; 49.f6! Bxf6 ;
 50.Rxh6 Be7 ; 51.Rxd6 Bxd6 ;
 52.Kb5 Ke6 ; 53.Bxb6 Kd7 ;
 54.c4 Kc8 ; 55.Bxa5 Kb7 ;
 56.Bb4 Bf4 ; 57.c5 Ka7 ;
 58.c6 Kb8 ; 59.a5 Ka7 ;
 60.a6 Ka8 ; 61.Bc5 Bb8 ;
 62.Kc4 Bc7 ; 63.Kd5 Bd8 ;
 64.Ke6 Bc7 ; 65.Kd7 Ba5 ;
 66.Be7!+- , Black Resigns.**

Caruana gives up, he knows the end is not very far away.

[After the moves:
 66.Be7! Ka7 ; 67.Bd8! , '+-'
 and the White c-Pawn
 cannot be stopped here.]

(Diagram)

Marvelous endgame play by Carlsen, but Caruana (also) made a lot of bad decisions in this game.

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|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|---|
| X | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | Y |
| 8k | + | - | + | - | + | - | + | { | |
| 7 | + | - | + | K | ⚡ | - | + | - | ' |
| 6P | + | P | + | - | + | - | + | & | |
| 5⚡ | - | + | - | + | - | + | - | % | |
| 4- | + | - | + | - | + | - | + | \$ | |
| 3 | + | - | + | - | + | - | + | # | |
| 2- | + | - | + | - | + | - | + | " | |
| 1 | + | - | + | - | + | - | + | ! | |
| x | a | b | c | d | e | f | g | h | y |

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