

The Pittsburgh Chess Club's
TUESDAY NIGHT BULLETIN

Vol. II, No. 6: June 2, 2009

at round 3 of the Richard Abrams Memorial
 (edited by Federico Garcia)

Dianna Boak scores second upset in three tournaments

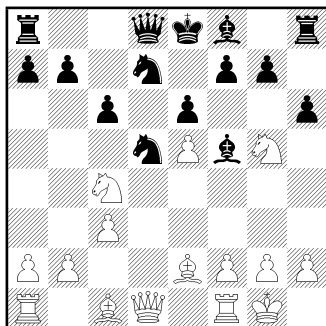
Dianna Boak is new to the Pittsburgh chess scene. She and her husband Stephen moved from California this year, and have played several PCC tournaments since March. Dianna has been quick in producing news at the Tuesday Nights tournaments: she was the winner of the Biggest Upset prize in the William Byland Memorial with a win over Mike Murawski (an upset of almost 500 rating points). With this win she earned free entry to the current Tuesday Night, the Richard Abrams memorial. In the second round of this tournament she achieved another meritorious win, this time beating Mike Vrabel (himself a player who is back to Tuesday Night in 2009, after a long history at the PCC dating back to the 1990s).

Their game is quite exciting, and features an adventurous attack by Vrabel, with White, that backfires onto his own king. From that point on, he systematically tries to generate counter-threats, but Boak is relentless in her pursuit of the white King:

□ Vrabel, Mike (1345) Pittsburgh 2009
 ■ Boak, Dianna (766) Nimzovitch Defense

1 e4 ♘c6 2 ♘f3 d6 3 ♖c4 ♗g4 4 c3 ♘e5 5 ♖e2 ♘d7 6 d4 ♘gf6 7 ♘bd2 c6 8 e5 dxe5 9 dxe5 ♘d5 10 ♘c4 e6 11 ♘g5 ♖f5 12 0-0 h6 (D)

Vrabel, M.–Boak, D.

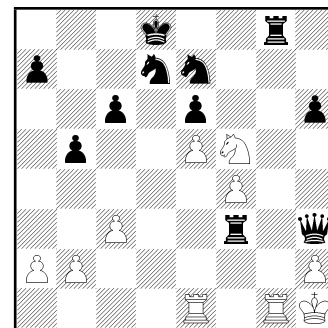


12...h6

13 ♘xf7!? ♖xf7 14 ♖h5+ g6 15 ♖g4?! ♖h4! 16 ♖xf5 gxf5. Now it's clear that White's development did not grant a sacrificial attack, even though Black had not castled. It is actually Black who has

very promising attacking lines on the white King. 17 f4?! [This will only provide one more line for Black's attack] 17...♖c5+ 18 ♖h1 b5 19 ♘d6+ ♖e7! [Black realizes that the knight on d6 looks very powerful but won't be a threat without help from other pieces, so she decides not to trade her excellently placed bishop] 20 g3 ♖h3 21 ♖f3 ♖hg8 22 ♖d2 ♖g4 23 ♖ae1 ♖ag8 24 ♖e3?! [Trying to find counterplay; but the Black threats are too powerful to be ignored] 24...♖xg3 25 ♖xc5 ♖xf3 26 ♘xf5+ ♖d8 27 ♖e7+ ♘xe7 28 ♖g1 (D)

Vrabel, M.–Boak, D.



28 ♖g1

Final touch: 28...♖xg1+ 29 ♖xg1 ♘xf5 30 ♖g2 ♖f1+ 31 ♖g1 ♖f3#

Turner takes a wide lead in the Tuesday Night Grand Prix

With his upset win over first seed Daniel Malkiel in the last round of the William Byland Memorial (see the game on page 3), Adonis Turner not only secured clear first place in that tournament, but also added up enough points in the 2009 Tuesday Night Grand Prix to sit on a very comfortable top place. The five top places in this year-long race (with prizes for top three at the end of 2009) are:

1. Turner, Adonis..... 49 pts.
2. Gordon, Daniel..... 38.5
3. Overlie, Finn..... 32.5
4. Galanter, Greg..... 31
5. Mo, Kevin..... 25.5

Turner's lead of over 10 points is the result of winning the tournament ahead of a five-way tie for second place (which meant that five players had to divide grand prix points among them while he got the full 10 points for first place), but is also due to his entry ratings in the qualifying tournaments. His amazing successes this year have put Turner's rating well above 2000 (and higher than any of the other people at the top of the Grand Prix), but this has happened so quickly that in all 2009 Tuesday Night tournaments held so far he has registered as an under-2000 player. This has added 9 points to his total of 49. (Complete standings and detailed scores are available at www.pittsburghcc.org/2009GrandPrixstandings.html.)

Nothing is decided yet, however. In the second round of the on-going Richard Abrams Memorial, Turner lost an excellent game, featured below, to Dale Lipinski (1742). This significantly undermines the possibility that he might win yet another Tuesday Night and increase his lead. Other news at the upper portion of the Grand Prix standings include Galanter's absence from the Abrams, as well as those of Timothy Crowell (6th place) and Gary Reinhart (7th). All this opens up ways for middle-table players to shorten distances to those at the top. The Grand Prix standings at the end of this on-going tournament are poised to differ substantially from their current state.

Lipinski beats Turner and spices up the Abrams Memorial

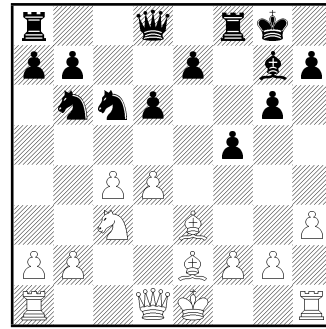
Both upsets in round 2 of the Abrams Memorial, in terms of rating difference, are well below the one that William Hoppmann (1167) scored over Vassil Prokhov (1804) on round 1. But Dale Lipinski's win over Turner—winner of everything this year at the PCC—will likely prove more significant to the unfolding and final results of the tournament. It is an excellent game where Turner, faithful to his style, embarked on an aggressive (and risky) fight for the initiative. It was enough for him to make one passive move to unleash the white forces, and from then on Lipinski led his advantage to a convincing win:

□ Lipinski, Dale (1742) Pittsburgh 2009
 ■ Turner, Adonis (1998) Alekhine – B05

1 e4 ♘f6 2 e5 ♘d5 3 d4 d6 4 ♘f3 ♙g4 5 c4 ♘b6 6 e×d6 c×d6 7 h3 ♙×f3 8 ♙×f3 ♘c6 9 ♙e3

g6 10 ♘c3 ♙g7 11 ♙d1 0–0 12 ♙e2 f5!? (D)

Lipinski, D.–Turner, A.



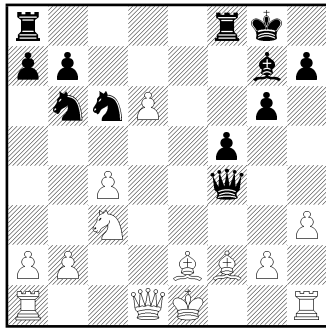
12...f5!?

In view of what happened later in the game, one would say that this move, opening up lines to his own king, is the culprit in Black's defeat. More conservative play would have been sufficient for equality: 12...♖c8 is a natural move that suggests itself, and even the more forceful 12...d5 13 c×d5 0–0 14 e6 ♙f3 15 ♘de7 produces an isolated queen's pawn position where White is not particularly well placed to attack, and a draw is easy for Black.

The move in the game is typical of Adonis. White has not castled and his pieces are solid but passive. The threat of a further advance of the f-pawn should in fact concern White, and thus Black, the higher rated player, ensures an initiative that might (and did in fact) lead to something other than a draw. **13 f4** White recognizes the potential of Black's f-pawn, and decides to block it. This justifies Black's strategy, since by advancing a pawn White has created weaknesses (the e1–h4 diagonal and the f4 pawn itself), but the decision is sound. The alternative line would be, instead of blocking the pawn, to open a line for the ♙e3: 13 d5!? f4! 14 ♙×b6 ♙×b6 15 d×c6 (15 ♙b3 ♙×b3 16 a×b3 ♘d4) 15... ♙×b2 16 ♘d5! □ ♙×a1 17 ♙×a1 ♙×a1 18 ♘×e7+! ♙f7 19 c×b7 ♙ab8 20 ♘c8! ♙f×c8 21 b×c8=♙ ♙c3+! 22 ♙d1 ♙×c8 and the position is a draw. But in such a line as this it is easier for White to go wrong than it is for Black. **13...e5!** [the only consistent move] **14 d×e5 ♙h4+ 15 ♙f2 ♙×f4 16 e×d6 (D)**

Black has succeeded in creating a storm, and White is still a few moves away from completely weathering it—if he could castle and consolidate his extra pawn with c4–c5, he would achieve a major advantage. But it's Black to play, and each of his pieces is ready to pounce. **16...♙fe8?** But not this way! The correct move was 16...♙e4!, that forces White to abandon one of his two dream moves (0-0 and c5). The bishop is attacked, and if he trades,

Lipinski, D.–Turner, A.

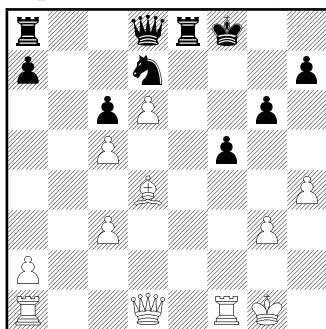


16 exd6

then castling is impossible. Moreover, even after 17 $\text{♙}\times\text{e4}?! \text{♜}\times\text{d4}$ 18 c5 $\text{♜}\text{d7}$ the pawns are weak on black squares (now 19 b4?? would allow 19... $\text{♙}\text{g3}+$ 20 $\text{♜}\text{d2} \text{♙}\text{g5}+$ 21 $\text{♜}\text{e1} \text{♙}\times\text{g2}$, winning). Thus White has to go for 17 0–0 $\text{♙}\times\text{d6}$, and Black has recovered the pawn with full equality.

Now White gets both moves in, and Black's position soon degenerates. 17 0–0 $\text{♙}\text{e5}$ [perhaps Black had hopes on this mate threat, but this is easily dealt with. It is interesting to note that from now on, virtually all moves by White threaten something. The battle for initiative has been conclusively decided.] 18 g3 $\text{♙}\text{g5}$ 19 h4 $\text{♙}\text{f6}?! \text{20 c5} \text{♙}\times\text{c3} \text{21 b}\times\text{c3} \text{♜}\text{d7} \text{22} \text{♙}\text{c4}+ \text{♜}\text{g7} \text{23} \text{♙}\text{d5} \text{♙}\text{d8}$ [the threats on the long diagonal had started to pile up] 24 $\text{♙}\times\text{c6} \text{b}\times\text{c6} \text{25} \text{♙}\text{d4}+ \text{♜}\text{f8}$ (D)

Lipinski, D.–Turner, A.



25... $\text{♜}\text{f8}$

26 $\text{♙}\text{d2}! \text{♜}\text{f6} \text{27} \text{♙}\text{ab1}! \text{♜}\text{g8}$ [better was 27... $\text{♜}\text{g4}$] 28 $\text{♙}\text{b7} \text{♙}\text{e6} \text{29} \text{♙}\text{h6} \text{♙}\text{f8} \text{30} \text{♙}\times\text{f8}+ \text{♜}\times\text{f8} \text{31} \text{♙}\times\text{f6} \text{♙}\times\text{f6} \text{32} \text{♙}\times\text{h7} \text{♜}\text{g8} \text{33} \text{♙}\text{e7}$ [33 $\text{♙}\text{c7}$] 33... $\text{♙}\text{f7} \text{34} \text{♙}\text{fe1} \text{♙}\text{af8} \text{35} \text{♙}\times\text{f7} \text{♙}\times\text{f7} \text{36} \text{♙}\text{e8}+ \text{♜}\text{g7} \text{37} \text{♙}\text{c8} \text{♜}\text{f6} \text{38} \text{♙}\times\text{c6}$

1 : 0

Two games from the Byland memorial

□ Turner, Adonis (1935) Pittsburgh 2009
 ■ Malkiel, Daniel (2141) French – C03

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 $\text{♜}\text{d2} \text{♙}\text{e7} \text{4} \text{♙}\text{d3} \text{c5} \text{5} \text{c3} \text{♜}\text{c6} \text{6} \text{♜}\text{e2} \text{c}\times\text{d4} \text{7} \text{c}\times\text{d4} \text{d}\times\text{e4} \text{8} \text{♜}\times\text{e4} \text{♜}\text{f6} \text{9} \text{0–0} \text{0–0} \text{10} \text{♙}\text{b1} \text{♜}\times\text{e4} \text{11} \text{♙}\times\text{e4} \text{♙}\text{f6} \text{12} \text{♙}\text{e3} \text{♜}\text{b4} \text{13} \text{♜}\text{c3} \text{♜}\text{c6} \text{14} \text{♙}\text{b1} \text{♙}\times\text{d4} \text{15} \text{♙}\text{d1} \text{e5} \text{16} \text{♙}\times\text{h7} \text{♜}\text{h8} \text{17} \text{♙}\text{e4} \text{♙}\text{g4} \text{18} \text{♙}\times\text{d4} \text{e}\times\text{d4} \text{19} \text{f3} \text{♙}\text{e6} \text{20} \text{♜}\text{e2} \text{♙}\text{b6} \text{21} \text{♜}\text{h1} \text{♙}\text{ad8} \text{22} \text{♜}\text{f4} \text{♙}\text{fe8} \text{23} \text{♙}\text{c1} \text{♜}\text{b4} \text{24} \text{♜}\times\text{e6} \text{♙}\times\text{e6} \text{25} \text{♙}\text{g5} \text{♙}\text{h6} \text{26} \text{a3} \text{♙}\text{d6} \text{27} \text{h3} \text{♜}\text{c6} \text{28} \text{♙}\text{ac1} \text{f6?!} \text{29} \text{♙}\text{d2} \text{♜}\text{e5?} \text{[29...} \text{♙}\text{g3]} \text{30} \text{♙}\times\text{d4} \text{♙}\times\text{d4} \text{31} \text{♙}\times\text{d4} \text{♙}\text{b8} \text{32} \text{♙}\text{c7} \text{1 : 0}$

□ Prokhov, Vassil (1800) Pittsburgh 2009
 ■ Galanter, Greg (1580) Dragon – B78

(Commentary by Greg Galanter)

1 e4 c5 2 $\text{♜}\text{f3} \text{d6} \text{3} \text{d4} \text{c}\times\text{d4} \text{4} \text{♜}\times\text{d4} \text{♜}\text{f6} \text{5} \text{♜}\text{c3} \text{g6} \text{6} \text{♙}\text{e3} \text{♙}\text{g7} \text{7} \text{f3} \text{♜}\text{c6} \text{8} \text{♙}\text{d2} \text{0–0} \text{9} \text{♙}\text{c4} \text{♙}\text{d7} \text{10} \text{0–0–0} \text{♙}\text{c8} \text{11} \text{♙}\text{b3} \text{♜}\text{e5} \text{12} \text{h4} \text{h5} \text{13} \text{♙}\text{g5} \text{♜}\text{c4}$ [Now we are “out of book.” At least that is what people told me after the game. I have made this move before in a similar spot, and I think I would make it again. I like what I get out of it.] 14 $\text{♙}\times\text{c4} \text{♙}\times\text{c4} \text{15} \text{♜}\text{de2}$ [15... $\text{♜}\times\text{e4}$ was threatened, but this was not the best way to deal with the threat. Moving a rook to the e file was probably better, after the game we looked at 15 $\text{♙}\text{he1}$, but that would seem to run against the theme of this opening for White—kingside attack. In any case 15 $\text{♜}\text{de2}$ was passive and ran into problems later.] 15... $\text{♙}\text{a5}$ [A very normal ‘dragon’ move] 16 $\text{♜}\text{b1} \text{♜}\text{h7}$ [This move looks very awkward, but I wanted no threats of $\text{♜}\text{d5}$ and $\text{♜}\times\text{e7}+$. Right now that is a serious threat. He did not have this option on the last move because of 16... $\text{♙}\times\text{a2}$. Fritz says this is a mistake, and it probably is.] 17 f4 $\text{♙}\text{g4} \text{18} \text{♙}\text{d3} \text{♙}\text{fc8} \text{19} \text{♙}\text{d2}$ [I think this is the decisive mistake. He obviously misses my reply. The overworked queen now gets exploited.] 19... $\text{♜}\times\text{e4} \text{20} \text{♜}\times\text{e4} \text{♙}\times\text{e4} \text{21} \text{c3} \text{♙}\times\text{e2}$ [Here it is over. He chooses to play on, and allows a very pretty mate.] 22 $\text{♜}\text{a1} \text{♙}\times\text{e2} \text{23} \text{♙}\times\text{e2} \text{♙}\times\text{c3} \text{24} \text{♙}\times\text{e7} \text{♙}\text{e6} \text{25} \text{b4} \text{♙}\text{c1}\#$ I was very pleased with my play. One mistake on my part that he failed to capitalize on, and one mistake on his part which I took advantage of.

0 : 1