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# Putting the rush on opponent

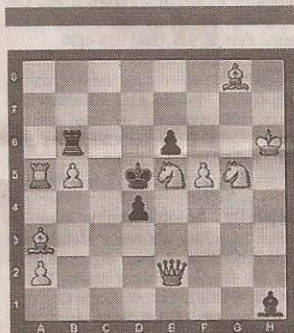
By BILL CORNWALL

A chess version of rushing the enemy and trying for a first-round knockout is the four-move checkmate [e.g. 1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Bc5 3. Qh5 Nf6?? 4. Qxf7 mate]. It works pretty well on beginners, as it did on yours truly in my first chess game as a youngster. Before too long, though, as one meets more experienced foes, that so-called scholar's mate, proves not just ineffective, it wastes valuable time.

That does not necessarily stop players from attempting early attacks by delaying castling, moving the same pieces too many times, and neglecting the deployment of much of their army. Eventually, most players develop a more patient approach as they properly organize their forces in preparation for battle in the midgame.

Some players, though, are so tactically strong that they risk the rush from time to time, trying for an early KO. Hikaru Nakamura, our current U.S. Champion, is one of the most notable. Unbelievably, just a few years ago, he even set up a scholar's mate type position against several Grandmasters, hoping for aggressive play when the mate failed.

The variation he tried is called the Wayward Queen Attack [1.e4 e5 2. Qh5] or, pejoratively, the Patser Opening. Though this style may be at least suspect, players such as Nakamura create fascinating fighting games



## Feb. 10, 2013

**Position No. 6246:** White Mates in Two.

**Solution to Position 6245:** 1.Qf1! Hint: White mates after black's next move with: Nfd6, Nf6, Be6, Qxd3, or Qg2,

containing high spectator appeal. They will not lack for invitation to major events.

This column's game shows Nakamura trying for an early attack against World's No. 1 Magnus Carlsen. The Amazing Norwegian has been dominating chess for the last three years, teaching Grandmasters a trick or two. Nakamura goes directly out after the phenom and is exposed to the error of his ways. Carlsen's game is highly instructive, showing how to handle the rush.

The Tata Steel Chess Tournament in the Netherlands is one of the major grandmaster chess events in the world each year. It routinely contains world champions, their challengers and players in the World Chess Federation's Top-10 list. This year's version, just con-

cluded, turned out to be yet another showcase for Magnus Carlsen. No sooner had he broken the World Record for the highest rating in history, 2851, previously held by Garry Kasparov, then he increased his own record from 2861 to 2872. That is 62 points above second-ranked Vladimir Kramnik.

### GAME OF THE WEEK

**Carlsen-Nakamura**  
75th Tata Steel Tournament  
Wijk aan Zee, The Netherlands  
Jan. 26, 2013

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e5 5.Nb5 d6(A) 6.g3(B) h5(C) 7.Nic3 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Nd5 Nge7 10.Bg2 Bg4 11.f3 Be6 12.c3 h4 13.Nc2(D) Bxd5 14.exd5 Na5 15.f4 Nf5 16.g4(E) h3 17.Be4 Nh4 18.0-0 g6 19.Kh1 Bg7(F) 20.f5 gxf5 21.gxf5 Ng2 22.f6! Bf8?(G) 23.Qf3 Qc7 24.Nb4 Nb7 25.Nc6 Nc5 26.Bf5 Nd7 27.Bg5 Rg8 28.Qh5 Nb6 29.Be6! Rxe5 30.Qxe5 fxe6 31.dxe6(H) 1-0

A) Known as the Kalashnikov Variation of the Sicilian Defense, this opening is akin to others in which black allows a backward d-pawn on the half-open d-file as well as a potentially occupiable d5 square. B) As Carlsen is wont to do, he avoids the most frequently travelled paths such as Nb1c3, c4, Be3, a4, and others. C) Here comes Nakamura! Seldom-played, this early attacking attempt has not been very successful. Be7, Be6, Nf6, and a6 have proven more reliable. D) White continues to improve the placement of his men. E) Unafraid of black's next counter. F) Black's knights are on the rim; his king remains uncastled, and his development is lagging. The early "attack" has been sidestepped. G) 22...Bxf6 23.Qf3 Bg7?? (23...Rh4 24.Bg5 Rf4 25.Bxf4 Nxf4 offers at least some hope.) 24.Qxf7 mate. H) Qxc6 [31...Bg7 32.fxg7 Qxg7 33.Qxg7 wins] 32.f7 mate.

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