

Dallas Defeats Belgrade

By WIM Alexey Root
November 10, 2007



Did the cheerleaders have something to do with UTD's crushing victory over the University of Belgrade?

On November 9, University of Texas at Dallas defeated University of Belgrade 11-5 in the 2nd Transatlantic Cup. The opening ceremony featured a live video feed from each campus to the other, speeches by dignitaries, and the UTD cheerleaders. After opening moves for white on board one by UTD Associate Provost Michael Coleman and on board two by Serbian Minister of Sports Snezana Samardzic-Markovic, the match was officially underway. Dean Coleman confided that he told GM Alejandro Ramirez, "I'll just touch your elbow. You do whatever you think is best." Ramirez chose 1. d4, and, 27 moves later, scored the first victory of the match. In the end, UTD won 8, drew 6, and lost 2, avenging last year's one point loss (8.5 to 7.5). Complete results and all the game scores are available on the Internet Chess Club (ICC) ("fi UTD-Belgrade07")

GM Alejandro Ramirez commented on his win on first board over GM Veljko Jeremic immediately after its completion in the VIP room, which was staffed by UTD graduate student GM Magesh Panchanathan and FM John Jacobs.

2nd Transatlantic Cup, Belgrade/Dallas 2007
White: Ramirez, Alejandro
Black: Jeremic, Veljko

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 c5 5.Bd3 Nc6 6.Nf3 Bxc3+ 7.bxc3 d6 8.O-O e5 9.Nd2 O-O 10.Re1 Qe7 11.d5 Nd8 12.e4 Ne8 13.Nf1 g6 14.Rb1 Ng7 15.Rb2 f6 16.Ng3 Nf7 17.f3 f5 18.f4 Qf6 19.Rf2 exf4 20.Bxf4 g5 21.Bxd6 Qxd6 22.exf5 Ne8 23.Ne4 Qc7 24.f6 Ne5 25.Nxg5 Nxf6 26.d6 Qg7 27.Rxe5 h6 28.Nh7 1-0

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Game Position
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Ramirez noted that the first nine moves are all book. On move 10, he noted that most players play Rb1. But, following Alexandrov of Belorussia, Ramirez chose 10. Re1. Black's response, 10....Qe7, was a new move according to Ramirez. Ramirez felt 11. d5 to close the center was a natural response. He also liked that the black N on c6 cannot retreat to e7. His long-range plan was "to move the pawns forward on the kingside because I'm crippled on the queenside." He will attempt Rb1-f3-Rf2-f4. Ramirez felt that Black's 17...f5 showed a lack of patience.





Position after 17...f5

He also thought that his 18. f4 was a strong response, though he considered also taking on f5. 19. Rf2 best; "I wanted all the pieces there [on the kingside] before I release the tension." 21. Bxd6 is a "shocking move. If Black recaptured with the N on d6, then I would play e5." Although Ramirez gave up a piece, he said, "I have two pawns for the piece and he can't stop f6. All my chips are on the fact that his pieces are not coordinated. For example, if 22...Ne5 23. f6. 22...Ne8 was black's most solid move. On move 23, I considered Nh5. If 26...Qxd6 then 27. Bxh7+ wins the queen. 28. Nh7 was "a little flourish at the end. I am very happy with this game. I haven't played this well in a while."

Additional Games

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White: A-Vrbljanac
Black: Milisits-DAL

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6
5.Nc3 e6 6.Ndb5 Bb4 7.a3 Bxc3+ 8.Nxc3 d5
9.exd5 exd5 10.Bd3 O-O 11.O-O d4
12.Ne2 Bg4 13.f3 Bh5 14.Nf4 Bg6
15.Nxg6 hxg6 16.Bg5 Qd6 17.Re1 Rfe8
18.Qd2 Nd5 19.Be4 Rac8 20.Rad1 f5
21.Bxd5+ Qxd5 22.Rxe8+ Rxe8 23.c3 d3
24.Be3 Ne5 25.Bxa7 Nc4 26.Qg5 Nxb2
27.Rb1 d2 0-1

Game Position

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2nd Transatlantic Cup, Belgrade/Dallas 2007

White: V-Blesic
Black: Keaton-Kiewra

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Nc6 5.O-O Bg7
6.d3 e5 7.c3 Nge7 8.a3 O-O 9.b4 b6
10.Nbd2 h6 11.Bb2 Be6 12.Qe2 Qd7
13.b5 Nd8 14.d4 Bh3 15.dxe5 dxe5
16.Rfd1 Bxg2 17.Kxg2 Ne6 18.a4 Rad8
19.Nc4 Qc7 20.Ne3 Qb7 21.Qc4 Kh7
22.a5 bxa5 23.Rxa5 Rxd1 24.Nxd1 f5
25.Ne3 fxe4 26.Nd2 Nf4+ 27.gxf4 exf4
28.Qxe4 Qd7 29.Nef1 Nf5 30.Nf3 Nd6
31.Qa4 Qg4+ 32.Ng3 Qe6 33.Rxa7 Nc4
34.Qa6 Qxa6 35.bxa6 fxg3 36.Bc1 gxf2

Game Position

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**2nd Transatlantic Cup, Belgrade/Dallas
2007**

White: ISchneider-DAL

Black: M-Lapcevic

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6
5.Nc3 Qc7 6.Be3 a6 7.Qd2 Nf6 8.O-O-O Bb4
9.f3 Ne5 10.Nb3 b5 11.Kb1 Rb8 12.Bd4 O-O
13.Qg5 d6 14.a3 h6 15.Qg3 Bxc3 16.Bxc3 Bb7
17.Bd3 Rfc8 18.Rhe1 Ne8 19.f4 Nc4
20.Bxc4 bxc4 21.Nd4 Ba8 22.Ka1 Qc5
23.e5 Rd8 24.f5 dxe5 25.Rxe5 Bd5 26.fxe6 f6
27.Ree1 Nd6 28.e7 Re8 29.Ne6 Bxe6
30.Rxe6 Nf5 31.Qxb8 Rxb8 32.Rd8+ 1-0

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Game Position

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WIM Alexey Root is the author of Children and Chess: A Guide for Educators.

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