

## Cover Story

**13. ... Bg7 14. h3 Be6 15. Ng5 Qd7 16. Nxe6 Qxe6 17. Rb1 Qxa2 18. e5**

18. Rxb7 Rd8 (18. ... 0-0-0? Long castling wins the Exchange again ... ahhhh no thanks! 19. Rxe7 Nxe7 20. Bxe7 Rxd2 21. Qg4+ when my poor king has no pawn cover) 19. Be3 0-0 (Not 19. ... Bc3, when 20. Qb3 escapes the pin by force) and White would have the advantage in that position.

**18. ... Rd8 19. Rxb7 Rxd2**

Castling is safer but having already turned down two Exchanges I couldn't resist the knight on d2 and now things get out of hand.

**20. Bxe7**

Probably better than the game is 20. Bxc6+ Nxc6 21. Qg4 Qe6 22. Qxe6+ fxe6 23. Rxc7 Rd7 24. Rxd7 Kxd7.

**20. ... Nxe7**

Too greedy is 20. ... Rxd1 21. Bxc6+ Rd7 22. Bd6.

**21. Rb8+ Kd7 22. Qg4+ Nf5**

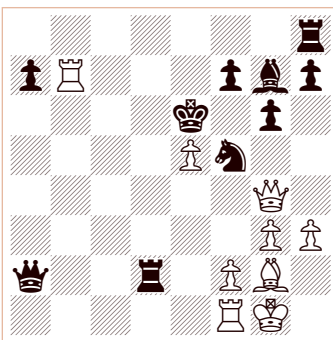
White breaks through on the queenside after 22. ... Qe6 23. Qa4+.

**23. Rb7+ Ke6**

(see diagram top of next column)

**24. Qb4**

24. Be4 is necessary to maintain the



After 23. ... Ke6

pressure. After 24. Qb4, the game move, I have time to eliminate the e5-pawn and relocate the king. 24. ... Bxe5 25. Qg5 Re8 (25. ... Bf6? 26. Bxf5+ gxf5 27. Qh5!; 25. ... f6? 26. Bxf5+ gxf5 27. Qg7) 26. Bxf5+ gxf5 27. Qh6+ f6 28. Qxh7 when Black has an extra piece and a shaky king.

**24. ... Bxe5 25. Qb5 Kf6**

Taking on g3 is also good but time pressure was creeping in so hiding the king was my first reaction.

**26. g4 Nd6 27. g5+ Kf5 28. Qd7+ Kxg5 29. Qe7+ f6 30. h4+ Kxh4 31. Qg7 h5**

I can save the rook but would lose the king! White is threatening 32. Qh6+ Kg4 33. Bh3+ Kf3 34. Qe3 mate.

**32. Rb4+ Kg5 33. Qxh8 a5**

I was happy to find this in time pressure. The idea is to deflect the rook so I

can swing the queen to the kingside.

**34. Rbb1 Qc4**

Even better is 34. ... Rxf2.

**35. Qd8?**

White has to play Re1xe5 to stop the mate.

**35. ... Qf4, White resigned.**

This game set the tone for the rest of my Olympiad. I remained undefeated throughout all 11 rounds making it one of the most memorable tournaments in my career. Anna Zatonskih said it was a pleasure playing next to me because all the games were sharp and exciting.

The only blunder for the American teams came at the awards ceremony. Armenia repeated as men's champion and took the stage adorned in its red, blue and orange flag. Israel's iconic Star of David banner flew as they received the silver. On the women's podium, Georgia dusted off its cross-laden ensign while the Ukrainian delegation flew its gleaming blue and yellow flag. The two American squads, however, had forgotten to bring the Stars and Stripes. In Khanty-Mansiysk, 2010, they left room for improvement. ■

*Many more games and photos can be found on Chess Life Online at [uschess.org](http://uschess.org), November archives, including reports by GM Ian Rogers and FM Mike Klein.*

## KCF Sponsors U.S. Teams to the tune of \$40K

There are many KFCs in Dresden, but the U.S. team dined thanks to the KCF—Kasparov Chess Foundation. The non-profit is the chief charitable arm of former World Champion Garry Kasparov and provided the lion's share of financial support to both the men's and women's teams.

The KCF began funding American Olympiad teams in 2004, when the women's team received training and had all of their expenses paid (they went on to win the silver, their first team medal in history). Beginning in 2006, both the men's and women's teams were sponsored. According to FIDE Senior Trainer Michael Khodarkovsky, who is president of KCF in addition to being the women's team captain, KCF contributed \$30,000 plus \$10,000 in bonuses for this event. The U.S. Chess Trust also contributed additional funds. The KCF is not involved with the selection of players, and Khodarkovsky's nomination as captain was independent of his position within KCF. The players chose him after their selections.

The funding helps ensure that players are adequately compensated during their fortnight of chess. Many are chess teachers, or have other sources of income, that are necessarily suspended during the Olympiad. Some teams, even from medium-sized federations like Australia, had to pay their own way to compete in Dresden.

"All players were very appreciative of KCF's sponsorship, as well as USCF, so we believe it does make a difference," Khodarkovsky said. "We are willing to continue our support for 2010 Olympiad teams as well."

The funding provided a competitive advantage according to men's team captain IM John Donaldson. With the advent of the "be on time" rule and with players' hotels splayed all over the city, including some several tram connections away on the other side of the Elbe River, teams had to curtail preparation in favor of a prudent departure.

"(FIDE Vice-President George) Markopoulos called [the rule] a 'perfectly reasonable request' but it is not a

good condition with unequal conditions," Donaldson said. "If you have to leave your hotel at one o'clock to be confident to make it at three, that is not an equal playing field." A noticeable upgrade from more budget choices, the U.S. teams stayed at the closest possible accommodation, only about a 30-second walk away. "I am extremely grateful the USCF put us in the Maritim Hotel."

The KCF no longer provides training sessions for the players, but it does conduct invitation-only sessions for U.S. youth taught by Kasparov himself. The most recent class took place in December in New York. Additionally, the KCF developed a curriculum in use in schools around the country, founded and organizes the All-Girls National Championships (the next is April 24-26 in Dallas, Texas), and sponsors the Greater New York Scholastic Championships. ~M.K.

*See [kasparovchessfoundation.org](http://kasparovchessfoundation.org) for more information.*