

Denver Open Champ

“The passed Pawn is a criminal, who should be kept under lock and key. Mild measures, such as police surveillance are not sufficient. - Aaron Nimzowitsch

This position is from the winning game of the 2011 Denver Open.

In the position on the right it is **White to move**.

Answer below.

Anthea Carson wrote two interesting articles about this tournament:

- [The New Denver Open Chess Champion 2011 Robert Ramirez](#)
- [The Return of the Denver Open](#)



In the first one Anthea talks about Robert Ramirez who is white in the position on the right.

Anthea writes:

"When Robert Ramirez was a teenager he played chess on the [16th street mall](#) which meant playing a lot of speed chess. He didn't have parents who sent him to chess camp every year or paid for private chess lessons, he had one book on the Scandinavian and he studied it to pieces because that's all he had. One book. He came from tough circumstances and not much money but his spirit always shined through. With that one book he created his own system and became one of the best chess players in Colorado.

Now he is the Denver Open Chess Champion. His goal now is to go from 2100 to 2200 and become a master."

Here is the complete game:

[Event "2011 Denver Open"]
[Site "http://www.redhotpawn.com"]
[Date "2011.06.26"]
[Round "5"]

[White "Ramirez, Robert"]
[Black "Kondracki, Kurt"]
[Result "1-0"]
[ECO "B20"]
[WhiteElo "2090"]
[BlackElo "1929"]
[PlyCount "97"]

1. e4 c5 2. Na3 Nc6 3. f4 e6 4. Nf3 d5 5. e5 Nge7 6. g3 Nf5 7. c3 d4 8. Bd3 Be7
9. O-O O-O 10. Be4 a6 11. d3 Qc7 12. g4 Nh6 13. Ng5 g6 14. Nh3 Kg7 15. Nf2 Ng8
16. g5 b5 17. Ng4 Bb7 18. Nf6 Rfd8 19. c4 b4 20. Nb1 h5 21. Nd2 a5 22. Rf3 Kf8
23. Rh3 Rdb8 24. Nf1 Nxf6 25. gxf6 Bd8 26. Bd2 Ke8 27. Ng3 Kd7 28. Qf3 Qc8 29.
Kf2 Bc7 30. Qe2 Qf8 31. Rg1 Rd8 32. Bf3 Kc8 33. Ne4 Kb8 34. Ng5 Rd7 35. Be4 Bb6
36. Bxg6 fxg6 37. Nxe6 Qe8 38. Ng7 Rxg7 39. fxg7 Qf7 40. Rxg6 Ka7 41. Qxh5 Nxe5
42. Rxb6 Nxd3+ 43. Kf1 Qxg7 44. Rxb7+ Qxb7 45. Rxd3 Rg8 46. Qxc5+ Kb8 47. Qe5+
Ka7 48. Qxa5+ Kb8 49. Qxb4 1-0

You can play through this game here: http://tacticstime.com/?page_id=2017.

Answer:

40. Rxc6!! got a double exclamation from Fritz 12.

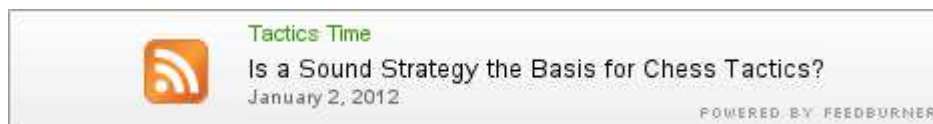
White clears the way to protect his passed pawn on g7.

If **40. ...Qxc6 41. Rg3** Black Queen moves, and then White Queens a pawn with **42. g8=Q+**

This was a clever way for Robert to protect his passed pawn.

Happy Tactics!

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