

(495) Isaac Chiu (2095) - Nick Failon (1716) [E63]

2016 Scholastics [RCI]

I got to do analysis this year at the Chess Kids booth. Lots of players bypass me when they get, "good"?! After 5 yrs of VSCA tournament analysis, I've learned knowing your opening, and taking your time annoys experience based opponents!! In Scholastics, it is very important to look at a player's history. Isaac Chiu has been to 145 events starting in 2011 and Nick Failon has been to 33 events since 2009. Most of the players that dominate are doing it with experience, not study. Sitting down with Nick to look at this game was very refreshing! He played a true sacrifice and novelty! It's not in chess.com's explorer, it's not in Batsford Chess Openings, It's not mentioned in the E63 lines of ECO. Fritz says it's almost equal after an hour. Every great Kings Indian Grandmaster has played this position! Many of them as white and black. I am honored to be the 1st person to write about this novelty and I thank Nick for sharing it with me!! **1.♗g1-f3 ♖g8-f6 2.d2-d4 g7-g6 3.g2-g3 ♜f8-g7 4.♜f1-g2 0-0 5.0-0 d7-d6 6.c2-c4 ♜b8-c6 7.♜b1-c3 a7-a6 8.d4-d5 ♜c6-a5 9.♜f3-d2**



My Fritz shows Panno, Bronstein, Spasski, Petrosian, Keen, Nunn, Unzicker, Vladimirov, Ivanov, Shirov, and Schmidt coming to this position on both sides of the board. Nick is the 1st one to play the next move! **9...b7-b5!?** This move must have surprise value! This is a true sacrifice of a pawn. Can White switch gears after thinking they had achieved a quite game? Nick knew the lines, the risks, and the benefits! I think it's disruptive enough to be 100% playable. The variation Nick played is original and can stand on its own without comparison. In my mind this will always be the Failon Variation. [9...c7-c5TM 10.d5xc6 ♖a5xc6 11.♜d2-b3=; 9...♜f6-g4 10.♜d1-a4 c7-c5 11.♜d2-b3 b7-b6 12.♜b3xa5 b6xa5 13.♜a4-

c2 ♣g7-e5=; 9...♠f6-d7 10.♠d1-c2 ♠d7-e5 11.b2-b3 c7-c6=; 9...♠f6-h5 10.♠d1-c2 c7-c5 11.d5xc6 ♠a5xc6 12.♠d2-e4 ♣c8-e6 13.c4-c5 ♠a8-c8÷] **10.c4xb5 a6xb5 11.♠c3xb5 ♣c8-a6!?** [11...♣c8-b7?! I don't trust this!?! It dictates white's moves. 12.e2-e4 ♠d8-d7 13.a2-a4 ♣b7-a6 14.♠f1-e1! ♣a6xb5 15.a4xb5 ♠d7xb5 16.♠e1-e3! ♠f6-d7 17.♣g2-f1 ♠b5-c5 18.♠e3-a3 ♠d7-b6²] **12.♠b5-c3! ♠d8-d7 13.♠f1-e1!?** [13.b2-b4! ♠f6-g4 14.♠d1-c2 ♠d7-f5 15.♠d2-e4 ♠a5-c4 16.a2-a4 ♣g7-d4 17.b4-b5 ♣a6-b7 18.♠c2-b3 ♠g4-e5±] **13...♠f8-b8 14.h2-h3 ♠b8-b7** [14...c7-c6=] **15.♠d1-c2 ♠a8-b8** [15...c7-c6 16.♠c2-a4 ♠f6xd5 17.♣g2xd5 ♣g7xc3 18.b2xc3 ♣a6-b5 19.♣d5xf7+ ♠g8xf7 20.♠a4-h4 ♠f7-g8 21.a2-a4 ♣b5-a6 22.♠d2-e4÷] **16.e2-e4 ♠f6-e8 17.f2-f4 ♣g7-d4+ 18.♠g1-h2**



c7-c6?? [18...c7-c5™ 19.♠d2-f3 ♠b7-b4 20.b2-b3 ♠e8-c7 21.♣c1-d2²] **19.d5xc6??** [19.♠c2-a4 ♣d4xc3 20.b2xc3 ♠d7-c7 21.♠d2-b3 ♠a5xb3 22.a2xb3 ♣a6-b5 23.♠a4-a5 c6xd5 24.e4xd5 ♠c7-c8 25.♣c1-e3 ♠e8-g7 26.♠e1-c1+-] **19...♠a5xc6 20.♠d2-b3 ♠c6-b4 21.♠c2-d2 ♣d4xc3 22.b2xc3 ♠b4-d3 23.♠e1-e3 ♠d7-a4 24.♠b3-d4!?** [24.♠a1-b1! ♠d3xc1 25.♠b1xc1 ♣a6-c4 26.e4-e5 ♠b7-a7 27.♠b3-d4 d6-d5 28.♠c1-c2=] **24...♠d3xc1 25.♠d2xc1 ♠b7-b2 26.e4-e5**



b2xa2? [26...b2-f2+ 27.ϕh2-g1 b8-b2 28.¥g2-f3 f2-f1+ 29.£c1xf1 ¥a6xf1
 30.la1xf1 d6xe5 31.le3xe5 e7-e6 32.f1-a1 ρe8-d6+] **27.la1xa2 £a4xa2 28.£c1-g1**
b8-b1 29.le3-e1 b1-b2 30.ϕh2-h1 ¥a6-c4 [30...d6xe5] **31.ρd4-f3?? ¥c4-d5**
32.ρf3-h4 ¥d5xg2+ 33.ρh4xg2 ρe8-g7?? Nick told me that by the time they got
this far he was getting into time trouble. [33...d6xe5 34.le1xe5 e7-e6 35.le5-e1
 ρe8-f6 36.le1-d1 £a2-c4 37.l d1-d8+ ϕg8-g7+] **34.e5xd6 e7xd6 35.le1-a1 £a2-e6**
36.g3-g4 h7-h5 37.£g1-e3 £e6-d5 38.la1-g1 b2-d2 [38...ϕg8-h7 39.ϕh1-h2 ρg7-
 e6 40.g4xh5 £d5xh5 41.lg1-f1 £h5-a5 42.f4-f5 g6xf5 43.£e3-d3 £a5-e5+ 44.ϕh2-
 g1 ρe6-g7 45.£d3-d4³] **39.c3-c4 £d5-d3 40.£e3xd3 l d2xd3 41.ϕh1-h2 h5xg4**
42.h3xg4 l d3-d4 43.lg1-c1 ρg7-e6 44.f4-f5 ρe6-f4 45.ρg2xf4 l d4xf4 46.ϕh2-g3
f4-d4 47.c4-c5 d6xc5 48.lc1xc5 ϕg8-g7 49.f5xg6 ϕg7xg6 50.ϕg3-h4 l d4-f4 1/2-1/2
Well deserved draw. Congrats on your new novel weapon.