

HIKARU NAKAMURA

Born Japan 1987. Represents USA. ELO 2810

Qualified to be a Candidate by highest average rating Aug25-Jan26 route

Did a tour of events to ensure he played 40 games at the right level so that he would qualify as he hadn't played at the right timing recently. He has been concentrating more on being a streamer, earning good money. This is his best chance at becoming World Champion and having that status.

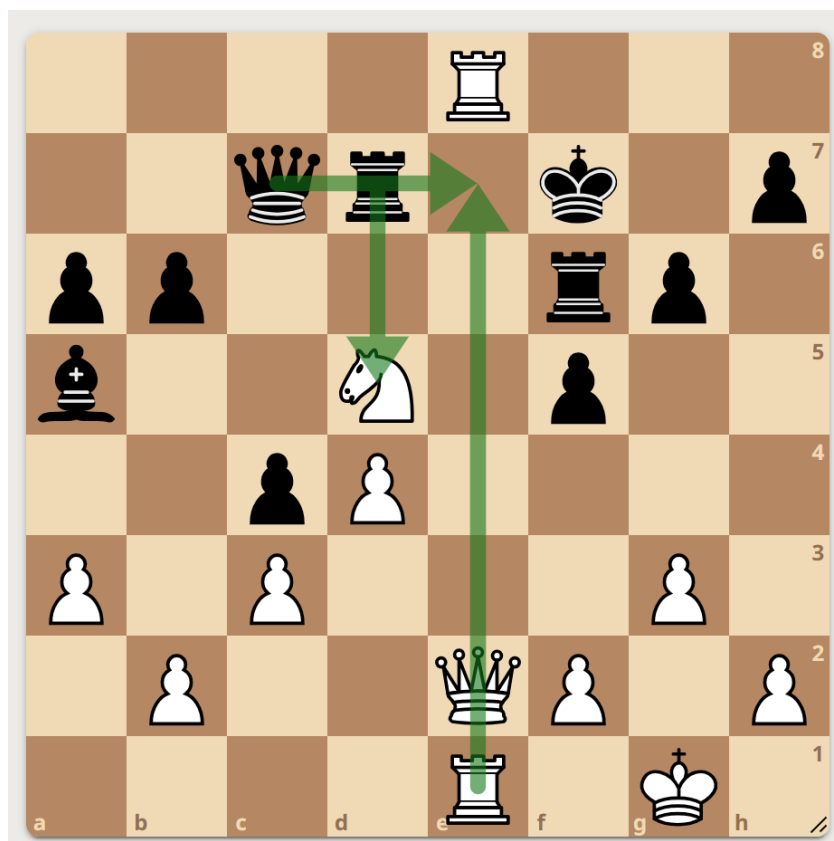
This is a game from that tour -v- Benjamin Derr. Nakamura was white.



Notice how the black rooks are not active in the game, but white has rooks and queen aligned on the e file, a very strong **battery** on an **open file**.

The queen is also threatening h5+, so black makes the move g6 to prevent that.

White (Nakamura) uses the power of the battery by Re8, threatening black's queen. Black queen moves to c7. White moves Nd5 and black resigned. The knight was now giving a **fork threat** to the queen and rook.



The game would likely have continued;

Black rook takes d5.

Qe7+, Qxe7

Re7++

