

# MY BEST MOVE

## GM KAYDEN TROFF

GRANDMASTER AT 14

2014 U.S. JUNIOR  
CHAMPION

**I**n the many years and many chess games I have played, to pick one move as the best of all the moves I've made? This is a big decision! I have been playing chess for most of my life—I started when I was three, and I am now 16. I am still pretty young with lots of learning and growing to do, but when it comes to chess, it is something that feels so familiar to me.

It might be surprising that my best move comes from a two-year-old game! Given the situation and what this move has done for my career, it has to be the move described in the game below. I was playing in the Under-14 section at the World Youth Chess Championships. After a disappointing loss in the third round, I fought back but still knew I would have to finish strong with only six points out of eight at the time. I felt I would have to win my last three games to have any chance to capture first place. This game was the first of those last three games of the tournament.

### Sicilian Defense (B50)

Pavlo Vorontsov (FIDE 2220, UKR)

FM Kayden Troff (FIDE 2350, USA)

World Youth Chess Championship 2012 - Open 14 (9), Maribor, Slovenia, 11.16.2012

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. c3 Nf6 4. Be2 Nc6 5. d4 cxd4 6. cxd4 d5 7. e5 Ne4 8. Nc3 Nxc3 9. bxc3 e6 10. O-O Be7 11. c4 dxc4 12. Bxc4 O-O 13. Rb1 b6 14. d5 Na5 15. d6 Bxd6

Also possible is 15. ... Nxc4.

16. exd6 Nxc4 17. Rb4

No better is 17. Qd3 Nxd6 18. Ba3 Nb7 19. Qe4.

17. ... Ba6 18. Ra4 Bb5 19. Rb4 Nxd6 20. Re1 Bc6 21. Ne5 Bd5

Two pawns! Clearly I should win from here.

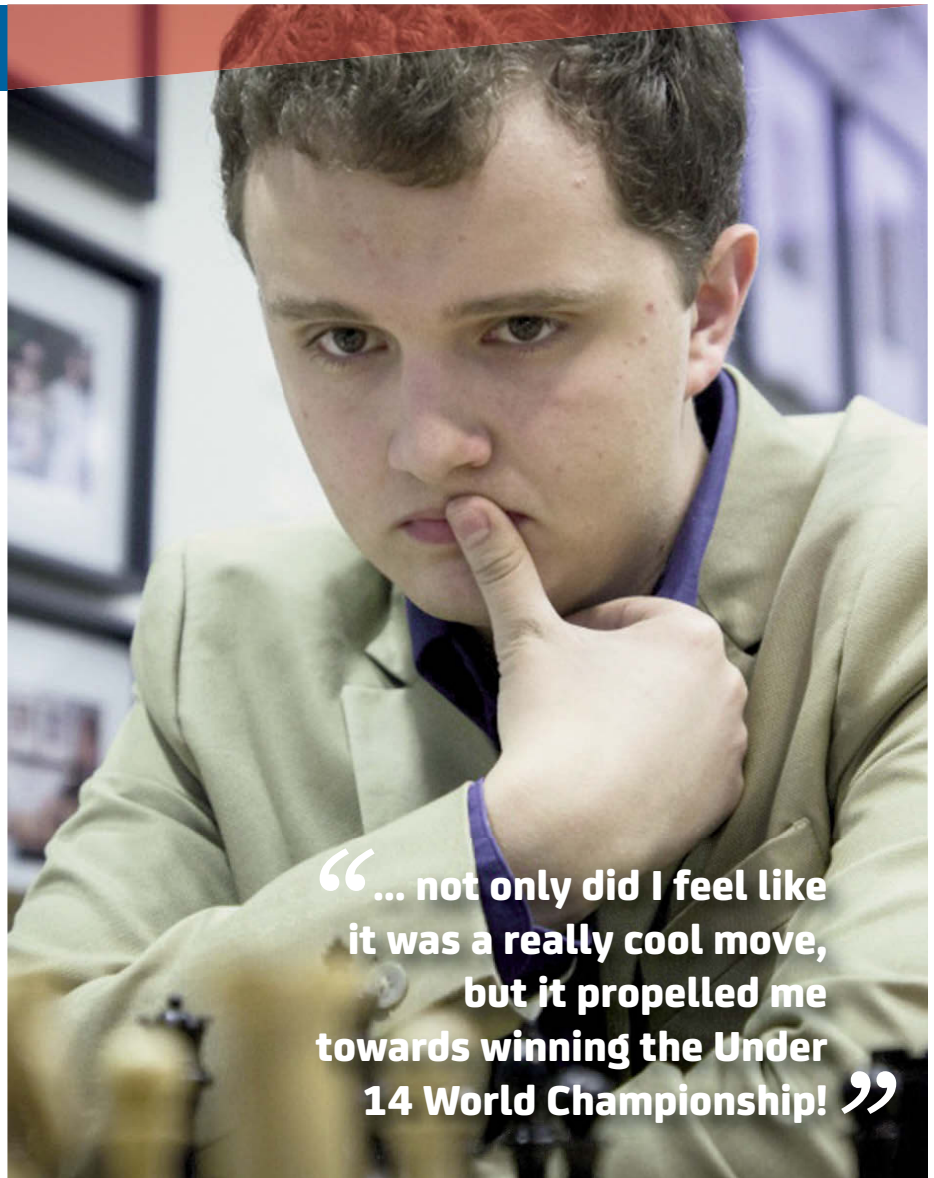


PHOTO: LENNART OOTES

“... not only did I feel like it was a really cool move, but it propelled me towards winning the Under 14 World Championship!”

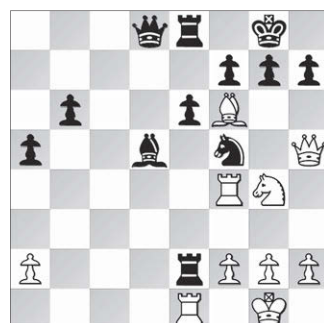
22. Qh5 Nf5 23. Ng4 a5 24. Rf4 Rc8 25. Ba3 Re8 26. Bb2 Rc2

Now he finds a great opportunity to make it more complicated.

27. Bf6

Now I was afraid I was losing—and I am—except for one move!

27. ... Re2!!



An unusual move, but the only one that wins!

28. Rxe2 Qc7

Now I have the duel threats of ... Qc1 (mating) or simply ... Qxf4 taking the rook back.

29. Rfe4 Bxe4 30. Qg5 Rc8 31. Bb2 Qd8 32. Nf6+ Kh8 33. Rd2 Qxf6, White resigned.

This was exactly what I needed from the first of my three critical final games as it gave me momentum going into the next two. I ended up winning those also and tied for first (winning the world championship on tiebreaks in the end). It is hard not to choose this move as my one best move when not only did I feel like it was a really cool move, but it propelled me towards winning the Under 14 World Championship! ♠

Whose Best Move would you like to see? Write to us at [letters@uschess.org](mailto:letters@uschess.org).