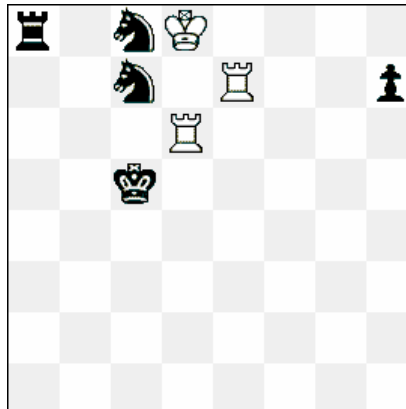


**Richard Becker (USA)**  
**Iuri Akobia (GEO)**  
**5<sup>th</sup> prize, Ceskoslovensky Sah, 2006**



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**1. Rh6**

Thematic try 1.Rxc7+? Kxd6 2.Rd7+ Kc6

a) 2...Ke6? 3.Rxh7 Ne7+ (3...Nd6+ 4.Kc7 Ra7+ 5.Kd8 Nf7+ 6.Kc8 Nd6+ 7.Kd8 =>) 4.Kc7 Ra7+ 5.Kb8 (Kd8) 5...Nc6+ 6.Kc8 Rxh7 stalemate;

b) 2...Kc5? 3.Rxh7 Nd6+ 4.Kd7 (Ke7) Ra7+ 5.Kd8 Nf7+ 6.Ke8 Nd6+ 7.Kd8 =;

3.Rc7+ Kd5 4.Rxh7 Nd6+ (4...Nb6+? 5.Kc7 Ra7+ 6.Kb8 Rxh7 stalemate) 5.Kd7 Ra7+ 6.Kd8 Nf7+ (Black avoids 6...Rxh7? a sixth echo stalemate) 7.Kc8 Kc6+;

A) 1...Nd5 2.Rc7+ Nxc7 3.Kxc7 Ne7 4.Rxh7 Ra7+ 5.Kb8(Kd8) Nc6+ 6.Kc8 Rxh7 echo stalemate 1, or 3...Nb6 4.Rxh7 Ra7+ 5.Kb8 Rxh7 echo stalemate 2;

B) 1...Nxe7+ 2.Kxe7 Ra7 3.Kf8 Kd5 4.Rxh7 Ne6+ 5.Ke8 Ra8+ 6.Ke7 Ra7+ 7.Ke8 Rxh7 echo stalemate 3,

or 2...Rh8 3.Kf7(Kd7/Kf6) Ne8 4.Ke6 Kd4 5.Rh3 zz BTM, Ng7+ 6.Kf6 Ne8+ 7.Ke6 c7+ 8.Kf7(Kf6) Ne8 9.Ke6 and with:

9...Ke4 10.Rxh7 Rxh7 echo stalemate 4, or

9...h5 10.Rh4+ Ke3 11.Kf7 Nd6+ 12.Kg6 Rg8+ 13.Kh7 Rg5 14.Kh6 Nf7+ 15.Kh7 Kf3 16.Rf4+ Kg3 17.Rg4+Kf3 18.Rf4+ Kxf4 echo stalemate 5.

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