

This was the first game of the MLily Gu vs Lee Jubango, played between Gu Li 9p and Lee Sedol 9p on January 26, 2014.

This event will almost certainly be the most popular and exciting match of 2014.

These two players have been the top two in the world over the last 10 years, and their head to head record before the match stood at 17-1-16 in Gu Li's favor (with one draw).

Among those 34 official games, there have already been many exciting and spectacular contests between these two players.

Even though they both lost in the finals of international tournaments in 2013, They both took domestic titles just before starting this match in 2014.

Internationally, in 2013, Gu Li was defeated by Mi Yuting 9p in the 1st MLily Cup final and Lee Sedol was defeated by Chen Yaoye 9p and Tang Weixing 9p in the 9th Chunlan Cup and 2013 Samsung Cup finals respectively.

However, in January 2014, in China, Gu Li won the 5th Longxing tournament, defeating Li Zhe 6p in the final. Mean-

while, in Korea, Lee Sedol won the 32nd KBS Cup, defeating Park Junghwan 9p.

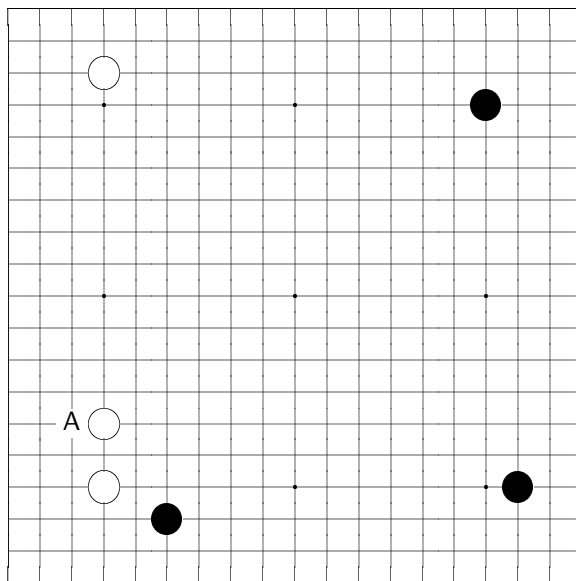
It's very hard to guess who will win this jubango, but it's surely a special gift for Go fans to be able to watch these two play a series of high quality games together.

We're working on a Go book about this match. You can think of this commentary as the first draft and we'd greatly appreciate your input into the final book! You can learn more about the book here: <http://gogameguru.com/lee-sedol-vs-gu-li-go-book/>

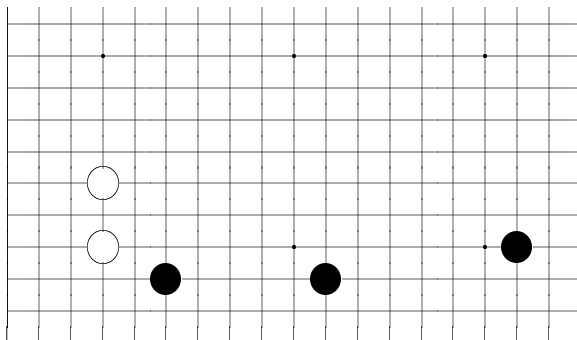
Share your feedback here: <http://gogameguru.com/go-commentary-lee-sedol-vs-gu-li-jubango-game-1/>

And follow this match as it happens here: <http://gogameguru.com/tag/mlily-gu-vs-lee-jubango/>

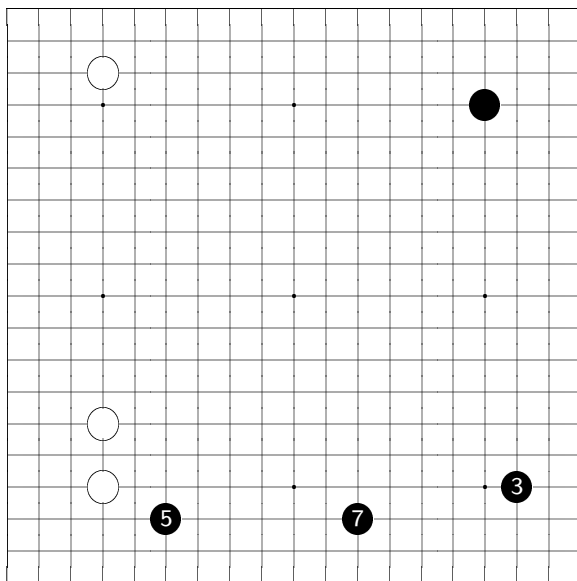
Let's have a look at the first game!



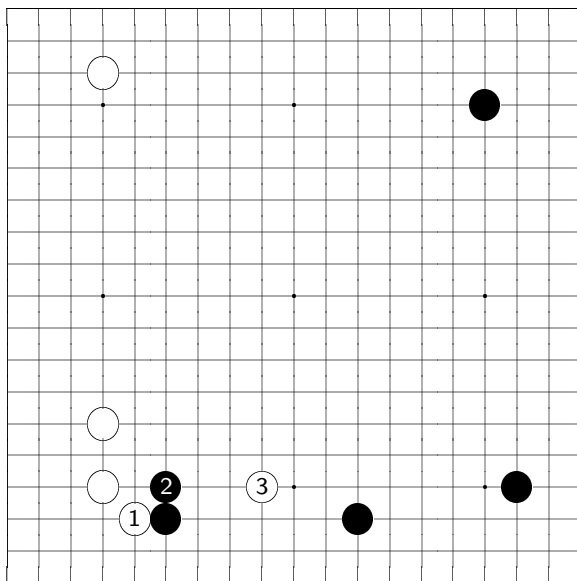
The low enclosure at A is more common than this move, but Gu Li likes to answer here because his style emphasizes thickness and fighting. This move has become more popular again in recent years, in part because Gu Li always answers here.



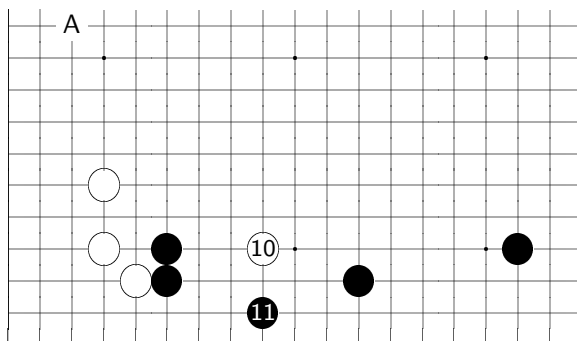
If Black extends here instead, forming the Mini Chinese Opening,



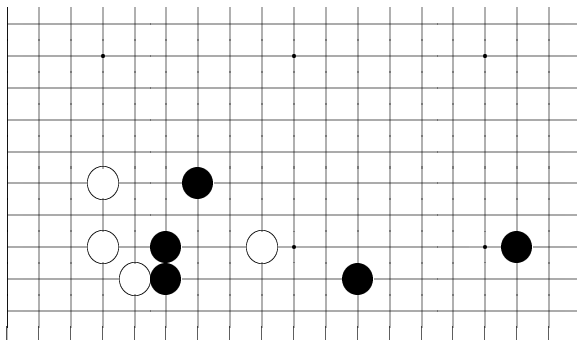
Lee chose to play the Micro Chinese Opening, creating a framework at the bottom with 3, 5 and 7.



Kicking and pinching with 1-3 is typical of Gu Li's style of play.

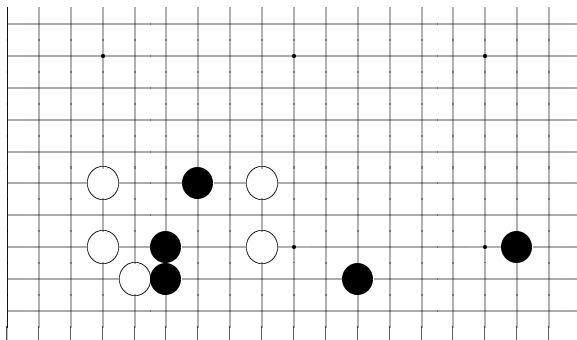


Black could try to connect under here, but it's passive for Black. White will play at A next and, because black 11 is very low, White can regard 10 for 11 as a forcing exchange.

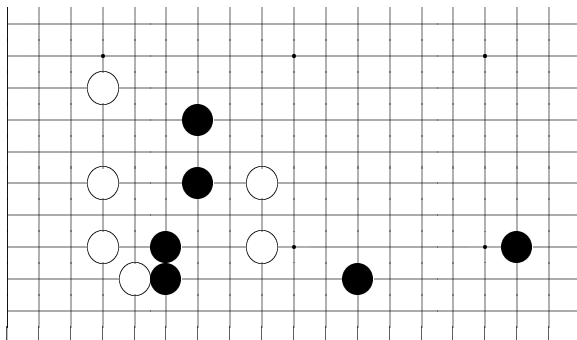


Black might run away like this, but then

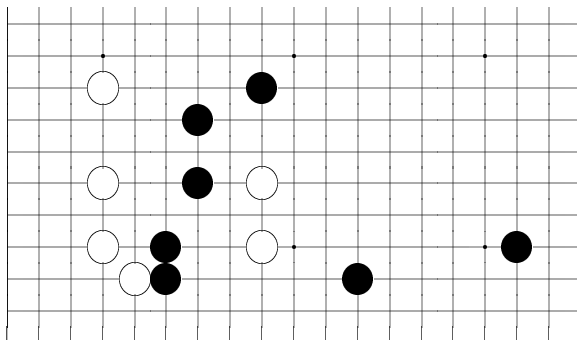




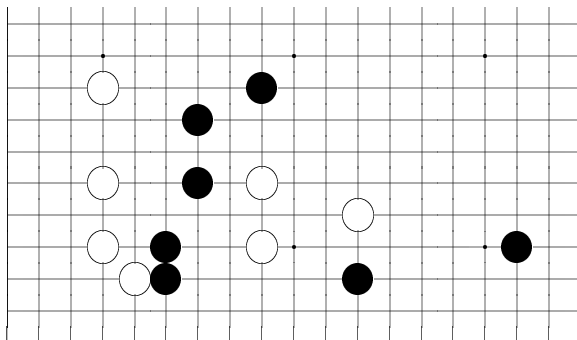
White will run out with Black, and



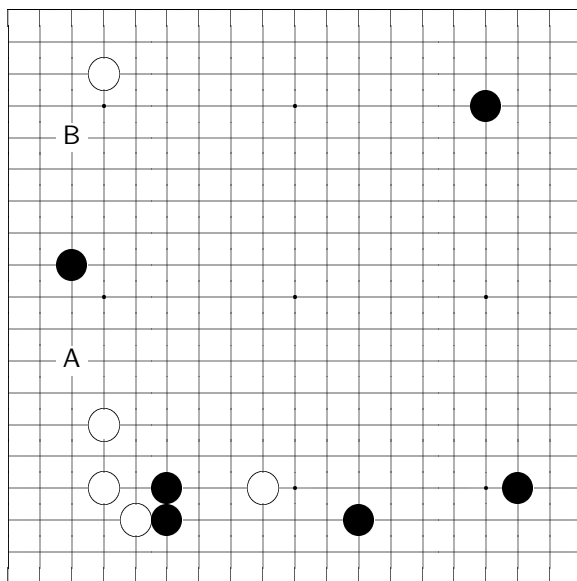
White can take profit on the left side naturally.



Black can continue by capping here, but

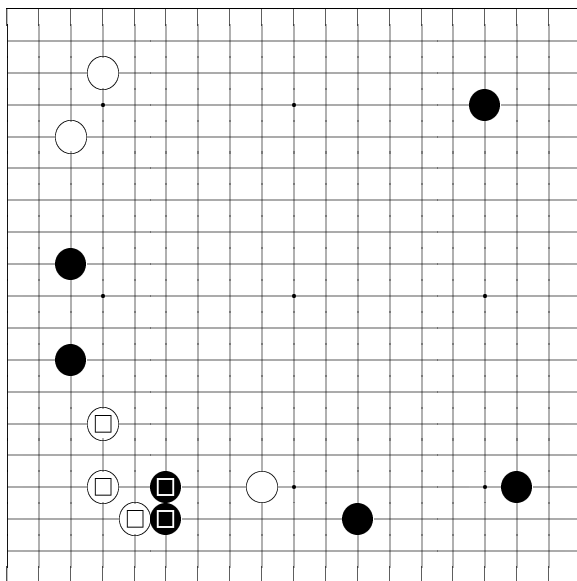


It's hard to attack White's three stones effectively after White makes shape here.

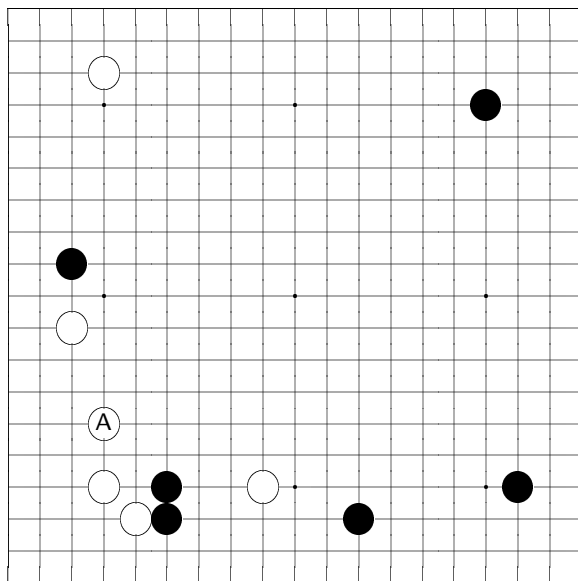


Lee didn't respond directly to White's invasion and split the left side instead. A and B are miai for Black next.





White's marked stones will become much weaker after Black extends here. This also assists Black's two marked stones indirectly.



Extending here is more important for White. That's because White's earlier high move at A 'leaves the door open' with respect the territory in the lower left corner.