

Nature vs Nurture

“Geniuses are made, not born ~ László Polgár

This position comes from the game Shakhriyar Mamedyarov vs Judit Polgar, FIDE World Blitz Championship (2014)

In the position on the right it is **White to move**.

Answer below.

Some interesting facts and stories about Judit Polgar, from Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Judit_Polg%C3%A1r

Judit Polgár (born 23 July 1976) is a Hungarian chess grandmaster. She is by far the strongest female chess player in history. In 1991, Polgár achieved the title of Grandmaster at the age of 15 years and 4 months, the youngest person to do so until then.

Polgár is the only woman to have won a game from a reigning world number one player, and has defeated ten current or former world champions in either rapid or classical chess: Magnus Carlsen, Anatoli Karpov, Garry Kasparov, Boris Spassky, Vasily Smyslov, Veselin Topalov, Viswanathan Anand, Ruslan Ponomarev, Alexander Khalifman, and Rustam Kasimdzhanov.

Polgár was born on 23 July 1976 in Budapest, to a Hungarian Jewish family. Polgár and her two older sisters, Grandmaster Susan and International Master Sofia, were part of an educational experiment carried out by their father László Polgár, in an attempt to prove that children could make exceptional achievements if trained in a specialist subject from a very early age. "Geniuses are made, not born", was László's thesis. He and his wife Klára educated their three daughters at home, with chess as the specialist subject.

Polgár has rarely played in women's-specific tournaments or divisions and has never competed for the Women's World Championship. "I always say that women should have the self-confidence that they are as good as male players, but only if they are willing to work and take it seriously as much as male players," she said.

While László Polgár has been credited with being an excellent chess coach, the Polgárs had also employed professional chessplayers to train their daughters, including Hungarian champion IM Tibor Florian, GM Pal Benko and Russian GM Alexander Chernin.



Susan Polgár, the eldest of the sisters, 5½ years older than Sophia and 7 years older than Judit, was the first of the sisters to achieve prominence in chess by winning tournaments and by 1986 she was the world's top-rated female chess player.

Initially, being the youngest, Judit was separated from her sisters while they were in training. However, this only served to increase Judit's curiosity. After learning the rules, they discovered Judit was able to find solutions to the problems they were studying and she began to be invited into the group.

One evening Susan was studying an endgame with their trainer, a strong International Master. Unable to find the solution they woke Judit, who was asleep in bed and carried her into the training room. Still half asleep, Judit showed them how to solve the problem, after which they put her back to bed.

László Polgár's experiment would produce a family of one international master and two grandmasters and would strengthen the argument for nurture over nature, but also prove women could be grandmasters of chess.

Here is the complete game:

```
[Event "FIDE World Blitz Championship"]
[Site "Dubai UAE"]
[Date "2014.06.19"]
[EventDate "2014.06.19"]
[Round "9.5"]
[Result "1-0"]
[White "Shakhriyar Mamedyarov"]
[Black "Judit Polgar"]
[ECO "A45"]
[WhiteElo "2743"]
[BlackElo "2685"]
[PlyCount "21"]
```

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1. d4 Nf6 2. Bg5 Ne4 3. Bh4 d5 4. f3 Nd6 5. Nc3 c6 6. e4 Qb6
7. Qd2 e6 8. O-O-O dxe4 9. fxe4 Qa5 10. Kb1 Nd7 11. Nd5 1-0
```

You can play through this game here: <http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1759418>

Answer:

11. Nd5! discovers and attack on the Black Queen on a5, and threatens mate with Nc7. Black cannot safely move the Queen, and prevent this mate threat.

This is a great tactical pattern to know, and is one that catches even strong players off guard.

Happy Tactics!

Your Friend,



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Life Master Brian Wall Podcast June 2014

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