

= Magnus Carlsen =

Sven Magnus Øen Carlsen (Norwegian : [sʔʔn ʔmʔʔnʔs øʔn ʔkʔʔʔsn ʔ] ; born 30 November 1990) is a Norwegian chess grandmaster , and the current World Chess Champion .

Carlsen is a former chess prodigy . He became a Grandmaster in 2004 , at the age of 13 years , 148 days . This made him the third youngest grandmaster in history .

In November 2013 Carlsen became World Champion by defeating Viswanathan Anand in the World Chess Championship 2013 . On the May 2014 FIDE rating list , Carlsen reached his peak rating of 2882 , which is the highest in history . He successfully defended his title in November 2014 , once again defeating Anand . The same year , he also won the World Rapid Championship and the World Blitz Championship , thus holding all three world championship titles . In 2015 Carlsen won the inaugural Grand Chess Tour , a series of three supertournaments featuring the 10 best chess grandmasters in the world .

Carlsen was known for his attacking style as a teenager , but he has since developed into a more universal player . He does not rely on opening preparation as much as other top players , and plays a variety of openings in order to make it more difficult for opponents to prepare against him . Carlsen 's positional mastery and endgame prowess have drawn comparisons to those of former world champions Bobby Fischer , José Raúl Capablanca , Vasily Smyslov , and Anatoly Karpov .

= = Childhood = =

Carlsen was born in Tønsberg , Norway , on 30 November 1990 , to Sigrun Øen and Henrik Albert Carlsen , both engineers (sivilingeniør) by profession . The family spent one year in Espoo , Finland , and then in Brussels , Belgium , and in 1998 returned to Norway and settled in Lommedalen , Bærum . They later moved to Haslum . Carlsen showed an aptitude for intellectual challenges at a young age : at two years , he could solve 50 @-@ piece jigsaw puzzles ; at four , he enjoyed assembling Lego sets with instructions intended for children aged 10 ? 14 . His father taught him to play chess at the age of 5 , although he initially showed little interest in the game .

The first chess book Carlsen read was Find the Plan by Bent Larsen , and his first book on openings was Eduard Gufeld 's The Complete Dragon . Carlsen developed his early chess skills by playing by himself for hours at a time ? moving the pieces around the chessboard , searching for combinations , and replaying games and positions shown to him by his father . Simen Agdestein emphasises Carlsen 's extreme memory , claiming that he was able to recall the areas , population numbers , flags and capitals of all the countries in the world by the age of five . Later , Carlsen had memorised the areas , population numbers , coat @-@ of @-@ arms and administrative centres of " virtually all " Norwegian municipalities . Carlsen participated in his first tournament ? the youngest division of the 1999 Norwegian Chess Championship ? at the age of 8 years and 7 months , scoring 6 ½ / 11 .

Carlsen was later coached at the Norwegian College of Elite Sport by the country 's top player , Grandmaster (GM) Simen Agdestein , who in turn cites Norwegian football manager Egil " Drillo " Olsen as a key inspiration for his coaching strategy . In 2000 , Agdestein introduced Carlsen to Torbjørn Ringdal Hansen , an International Master (IM) and former Norwegian junior champion , as Ringdal served a one @-@ year sivilteneste (an alternative civilian service programme) at the college . Over the course of this year , Carlsen 's rating rose from 904 in June 2000 , to 1907 . Carlsen 's breakthrough occurred in the Norwegian junior teams championship in September 2000 , where Carlsen scored 3 ½ / 5 against the top junior players of the country , and a performance rating (PR) of about 2000 . Apart from chess , which Carlsen studied about three to four hours a day , his favourite pastimes included football , skiing , and reading Donald Duck comics . Carlsen also practiced ski jumping until the age of ten . His personal best is 21 metres .

From autumn 2000 to the end of 2002 , Carlsen played almost 300 rated tournament games , as well as several blitz tournaments , and participated in other minor events . In October 2002 , he placed sixth in the European Under @-@ 12 Championship in Peñíscola . In the following month , he tied for first place in the World Under @-@ 12 Championship in Heraklio , placing second to Ian

Nepomniachtchi on tiebreak . After this , he obtained three IM norms in relatively quick succession ; his first was at the January 2003 Gausdal Troll Masters (score 7 / 10 , 2345 PR) , the second was at the June 2003 Salongernas IM @-@ tournament in Stockholm (6 / 9 , 2470 PR) , and the third and final IM norm was obtained at the July 2003 Politiken Cup in Copenhagen (8 / 11 , 2503 PR) . He was officially awarded the IM title on 20 August 2003 . After finishing primary school , Carlsen took a year off to participate in international chess tournaments held in Europe during the fall season of 2003 , returning to complete secondary education at a sports school . During the year away from school , he finished in a tie for third in the European Under @-@ 14 Championship and placed ninth in the World Under @-@ 14 Championship . Both events were won by Sergei Zhigalko .

= = Chess career = =

= = = 2004 = = =

Carlsen made headlines after his victory in the C group at the Corus chess tournament in Wijk aan Zee . Carlsen obtained a score of 10 ½ / 13 , losing just one game (against the highest @-@ rated player of the C group , Duško Pavasović) . As a result of the victory , he earned his first GM norm , and achieved a PR of 2702 . Particularly notable was his win over Sipke Ernst in the penultimate round , when Carlsen sacrificed material to give mate in just 29 moves . The first 23 moves in that game had already been played in another game ? Almagro Llanas ? Gustafsson , Madrid 2003 (which ended in a draw) ? but Carlsen 's over @-@ the @-@ board novelty immediately led to a winning position . Carlsen 's victory in the C group qualified him to play in the B group in 2005 , and it led Lubomir Kavalek , writing for the Washington Post , to give him the title " Mozart of chess " . Agdestein said that Carlsen had an excellent memory and played an unusually wide range of openings . Carlsen 's prowess caught the attention of Microsoft , which became his sponsor .

Carlsen obtained his second GM norm at the Moscow Aeroflot Open in February . On 17 March , in a blitz chess tournament in Reykjavík , Iceland , Carlsen defeated former World Champion Anatoly Karpov . The blitz tournament was a preliminary event leading up to a rapid knockout tournament beginning the next day . In that event , Carlsen was paired with Garry Kasparov , then the top @-@ rated player in the world . Carlsen achieved a draw in their first game and lost the second one , and was thus knocked out of the tournament .

In the sixth Dubai Open Chess Championship , held 18 ? 28 April , Carlsen obtained his third and final GM norm . This caused him to become the world 's youngest GM at the time , as well as the third @-@ youngest GM in history (after Sergey Karjakin , who earned the title at the age of 12 years and 7 months and Parimarjan Negi) . Carlsen played in the FIDE World Chess Championship , thus becoming the youngest player ever to participate in one , but was knocked out in the first round by Levon Aronian .

In July , Carlsen and Berge Østenstad (then the reigning Norwegian champion) tied for first in the Norwegian Chess Championship , each scoring 7 / 9 . A two @-@ game match between them was arranged to decide the title . Both games were drawn , which left Østenstad the champion because he had superior tiebreaks in the tournament .

= = = 2005 = = =

In the Smartfish Chess Masters event at the Drammen International Chess Festival 2004 ? 05 , Carlsen defeated Alexei Shirov , then ranked No. 10 in the world , as well as the co @-@ winner of the tournament . In the semifinals of the Ciudad de León rapid chess tournament in June , Carlsen played a four @-@ game match against Viswanathan Anand , who was ranked No. 2 in the world at the time and had won the 2003 World Rapid Chess Championship . Anand won 3 ? 1 .

In the Norwegian Chess Championship , Carlsen again finished in shared first place , this time with his mentor Simen Agdestein . A playoff between them was played between 7 and 10 November . This time , Carlsen had the better tiebreaks , but the rule giving the title to the player with better

tiebreak scores in the event of a 1 ? 1 draw had been revoked previously . The match was closely fought ? Agdestein won the first game , Carlsen the second ? so the match went into a series of two @-@ game rapid matches until there was a winner . Carlsen won the first rapid game , Agdestein the second . Then followed three draws until Agdestein won the championship title with a victory in the sixth rapid game .

At the end of 2005 , Carlsen participated at the Chess World Cup in Khanty @-@ Mansiysk , Russia . In the knockout tournament , he upset the 44th @-@ ranked Zurab Azmaiparashvili in round one , and proceeded to defeat Farrukh Amonatov and Ivan Cheparinov to reach the round of 16 . There , Carlsen lost to Evgeny Bareev , but then won against Joël Lautier and Vladimir Malakhov before losing again to Gata Kamsky . Thus , Carlsen finished in tenth place and became the youngest player to be an official World Championship Candidate . In October , he took first place at the Arnold Eikrem Memorial in Gausdal with a score 8 / 9 and a PR of 2792 .

= = = 2006 = = =

Carlsen qualified for a place in the Corus B group due to his first @-@ place finish in Corus group C in 2004 . His shared first place with Alexander Motylev with 9 / 13 (+ 6 ? 1 = 6) qualified him to play in the Corus group A in 2007 .

At the traditional international ' Bosna ' tournament in Sarajevo 2006 , Carlsen shared first place with Liviu @-@ Dieter Nisipeanu (who won on tiebreak evaluation) and Vladimir Malakhov ; this could be regarded as Carlsen 's first ? A ? elite tournament win , although it was not a clear first .

Carlsen was close to winning the 2006 Norwegian Chess Championship outright , but a last @-@ round loss to Berge Østenstad dropped him into another tie for first place with Agdestein . It also prevented Carlsen from beating Agdestein 's record as the youngest Norwegian champion ever . Nonetheless , in the playoff held from 19 ? 21 September , Carlsen won 3 ? 1 . After two draws at standard time controls , Carlsen won both rapid games in round two , securing his first Norwegian championship win .

Carlsen won the Glitnir Blitz Tournament in Iceland . He achieved a 2 ? 0 win over Viswanathan Anand in the semifinals and achieved the same score in the finals . He scored 6 / 8 in the 37th Chess Olympiad and achieved a PR of 2820 .

In the Midnight Sun Chess Tournament in Tromsø , Carlsen finished second behind Sergei Shipov . In the Biel Grandmaster Tournament , he placed second , beating the tournament winner Alexander Morozevich twice .

In the NH Chess Tournament held in Amsterdam in August , Carlsen participated in an " Experience " vs. " Rising Stars " Scheveningen team match . The " Rising Stars " won the match 28 ? 22 , with Carlsen achieving the best individual score for the Rising Stars team (6 ½ / 10) and a 2700 PR , thus winning the right to participate in the 2007 Melody Amber tournament .

With a score of 7 ½ / 15 , Carlsen placed 8th out of 16 participants at the World Blitz Championship in Rishon LeZion , Israel . In the rapid chess tournament Rencontres nationales et internationales d 'échecs in Cap d 'Agde , France , he reached the semifinal , losing there to Sergey Karjakin . In November , Carlsen achieved a shared 8th place of 10 participants in the Mikhail Tal Memorial in Moscow with two losses and seven draws . He finished ninth in a group of 18 participants in the associated blitz tournament , which was won by Anand .

= = = 2007 = = =

Playing in the top group of the Corus chess tournament for the first time , Carlsen placed last with nine draws and four losses , scoring 4 ½ / 13 . In the prestigious Linares chess tournament , Carlsen played against the following top @-@ rated players : Veselin Topalov , Viswanathan Anand , Peter Svidler , Alexander Morozevich , Levon Aronian , Peter Leko , and Vassily Ivanchuk . Despite being rated significantly lower than any of them , he finished in second place on tiebreaks with 7 ½ / 14 , having scored four wins , seven draws and three losses , and achieving a PR of 2778 .

Carlsen played for the first time in the Melody Amber blind and rapid chess tournament in Monte

Carlo in March . In the 11 rounds , he achieved eight draws and three losses in the blindfold games , as well as three wins , seven draws and one loss in the rapid games . This resulted in a shared ninth place in the blindfold , shared second place in the rapid (behind Anand) , and a shared eighth place in the overall tournament .

In May and June , he participated in the Candidates Tournament for the FIDE World Chess Championship 2007 , facing Levon Aronian in a six @-@ game match at standard time controls , which Carlsen drew (+ 2 ? 2 = 2) by coming from behind twice . The four @-@ game rapid playoff was drawn as well (+ 1 ? 1 = 2) , with Carlsen winning the last game to stay in the match . Eventually , Aronian eliminated Carlsen from the tournament after winning both tiebreak blitz games .

In July and August , Carlsen won the Biel Grandmaster Tournament with a 6 / 10 record and a PR of 2753 . His score was matched by Alexander Onischuk and they played a match to break the tie . After drawing two rapid and two blitz games , Carlsen won the armageddon game . Immediately after the Biel tournament , Carlsen entered the open Arctic Chess Challenge in Tromsø , but his fourth @-@ place result with + 5 = 4 was a slight underperformance in terms of rating . In the first round , Carlsen , surprisingly , conceded a draw to his classmate Brede Hagen (rated 2034) after having a lost position at one point . A game which attracted some attention was his sixth @-@ round win over his father , Henrik Carlsen .

Carlsen reached the semifinal round of the World Chess Cup in December , after defeating Michael Adams in the round of 16 and Ivan Cheparinov in the quarterfinals . In the semifinal , he was eliminated by the eventual winner , Gata Kamsky , scoring $\frac{1}{2}$? 1 $\frac{1}{2}$.

== = 2008 == =

In the top group A of the Corus chess tournament , Carlsen scored 8 / 13 , achieving a PR of 2830 . Carlsen won five games , lost two and drew six , sharing first place with Levon Aronian . At the Linares chess tournament , Carlsen had another 2800 + PR , scoring 8 / 14 . He finished in sole second place , $\frac{1}{2}$ point behind the winner World Champion Viswanathan Anand .

In March , Carlsen played for the second time in the Melody Amber blind and rapid chess tournament , held in Nice for the first time . In the 11 rounds he achieved four wins , four draws and two losses in the blindfold , and three wins , two losses , and six draws in the rapid . This resulted in a shared fifth place in the blindfold , shared third place in the rapid and a shared second place in the overall tournament .

Carlsen was one of 21 players in the six @-@ tournament FIDE Grand Prix 2008 ? 2009 , a qualifier for the World Chess Championship 2012 . In the first tournament , in Baku , Azerbaijan , he finished in a three @-@ way tie for first place , with another 2800 PR . Carlsen later withdrew from the Grand Prix cycle despite his initial success , criticizing how FIDE was " changing the rules dramatically in the middle of a [World Championship] cycle " .

Carlsen won a rapid match against Peter Leko held in Miskolc , Hungary , scoring 5 ? 3 . In June , Carlsen won the annual Aerosvit chess tournament , finishing undefeated with 8 / 11 in a category 19 field and achieving a PR of 2877 , his best PR at that point in his career . Playing in the category 18 Biel Grandmaster Tournament , Carlsen finished third with 6 / 10 , with a PR of 2740 .

In the Mainz World Rapid Chess Championship , Carlsen finished in second place after losing the final to defending champion Anand 3 ? 1 . In the qualification round Carlsen scoring 1 $\frac{1}{2}$? $\frac{1}{2}$ against Judit Polgár , 1 ? 1 against Anand and 1 ? 1 against Alexander Morozevich . In the category 22 Bilbao Masters , Carlsen tied for second with a 2768 PR .

== = 2009 == =

Playing in Group A of the Corus chess tournament , Carlsen tied for fifth with a 2739 PR . In the Linares chess tournament , Carlsen finished third with a 2777 PR . Carlsen tied for second place with Veselin Topalov at the M @-@ Tel Masters (category 21) tournament in Sofia , Bulgaria . He lost to eventual winner Alexei Shirov in their final game , dropping him from first .

Carlsen won the category 21 Nanjing Pearl Spring tournament , 2 ½ points ahead of second @-@ place finisher Topalov , the world 's highest @-@ rated player at the time . He scored an undefeated 8 / 10 , winning every game as white (against Topalov , Wang Yue , Leko , Teimour Radjabov , and Dmitry Jakovenko) , and also winning as black against Jakovenko . By rating performance , this was one of the greatest results in history , with a PR of 3002 . Chess statistician Jeff Sonas has declared it one of the 20 best tournament performances of all time , and the best chess performance of all time by a teenager .

In the Tal Memorial , played from 5 to 14 November , Carlsen started with seven straight draws , but finished with wins over former FIDE World Champion Ruslan Ponomarev and Peter Leko . This result put Carlsen in shared second place behind former World Champion Vladimir Kramnik and equal with Ivanchuk . After the Tal Memorial , Carlsen won the World Blitz Championship , played from 16 to 18 November in Moscow , Russia . His score of 28 wins , 6 draws and 8 losses left him three points ahead of Anand , who finished in second place .

Carlsen entered the London Chess Classic as the top seed in a field including Kramnik , Hikaru Nakamura , Michael Adams , Nigel Short , Ni Hua , Luke McShane and David Howell . He defeated Kramnik in round one and went on to win the tournament with 13 / 21 (three points were awarded for a win , and one for a draw ; using classical scoring he finished with 5 / 7) and a PR of 2844 , one point ahead of Kramnik . This victory propelled him to the top of the FIDE rating list , surpassing Veselin Topalov .

Based on his average ranking from the July 2009 and January 2010 FIDE lists , Carlsen qualified for the Candidates Tournament that would determine the challenger to World Champion Viswanathan Anand in the World Chess Championship 2012 . In November 2010 , however , Carlsen announced he was withdrawing from the Candidates Tournament . Carlsen described the 2008 ? 12 cycle as " [not] sufficiently modern and fair " , and wrote that " Reigning champion privileges , the long (five year) span of the cycle , changes made during the cycle resulting in a new format (Candidates) that no World Champion has had to go through since Kasparov , puzzling ranking criteria as well as the shallow ceaseless match @-@ after @-@ match concept are all less than satisfactory in my opinion . "

In early 2009 Carlsen engaged former World Champion Garry Kasparov as a personal trainer . In September their partnership was revealed to the public by Norwegian newspapers .

Responding to a question in an interview with Time magazine in December 2009 as to whether he used computers when studying chess , Carlsen explained that he does not use a chess set when studying on his own .

== = 2010 == =

Carlsen won the Corus chess tournament played 16 ? 31 January with 8 ½ points . His ninth @-@ round loss to Kramnik ended a streak of 36 rated games undefeated . Carlsen appeared to struggle in the last round against Fabiano Caruana , but saved a draw , leaving him half a point ahead of Kramnik and Shirov .

In March it was announced that Carlsen had split from Kasparov and would no longer use him as a trainer , although this was put into different context by Carlsen himself in an interview with the German magazine Der Spiegel , in which he stated that they would remain in contact and he would continue to attend training sessions with Kasparov . In 2011 , Carlsen said : " Thanks to [Kasparov] I began to understand a whole class of positions better Kasparov gave me a great deal of practical help . " In 2012 , when asked what he learnt from working with Kasparov , Carlsen answered : " Complex positions . That was the most important thing . "

Carlsen shared first place alongside Ivanchuk in the Amber blindfold and rapid tournament . Scoring 6 ½ / 11 in the blindfold and 8 / 11 in the rapid , Carlsen accumulated 14 ½ from a possible 22 points . In May it was revealed that Carlsen had helped Anand prepare for the World Chess Championship 2010 against challenger Veselin Topalov , which Anand won 6 ½ ? 5 ½ to retain the title . Carlsen had also helped Anand prepare for the World Chess Championships in 2007 and 2008 .

Carlsen played in the Bazna Kings Tournament in Romania on 14 ? 25 June . The tournament was a double round robin involving Wang Yue , Boris Gelfand , Ruslan Ponomarev , Teimour Radjabov , and Liviu @-@ Dieter Nisipeanu . He finished with $7 \frac{1}{2} / 10$ and a 2918 PR , winning the tournament by two points ahead of Radjabov and Gelfand . Carlsen then played in a rapid tournament 28 ? 30 August at the Arctic Securities Chess Stars tournament in Kristiansund , Norway . The field featured World Champion Viswanathan Anand , female world No. 1 Judit Polgár , and Jon Ludvig Hammer . In the preliminary round robin , Carlsen scored $3 \frac{1}{2} / 6$ to qualify for the final , second behind Anand . In the final , Carlsen defeated Anand $1 \frac{1}{2} ? \frac{1}{2}$ to win the championship . Following this event , Carlsen suffered setbacks in his next two tournaments . In the 39th Chess Olympiad from 19 September to 4 October , he scored $4 \frac{1}{2} / 8$, losing three games , to Baadur Jobava , Michael Adams , and Sanan Sjugirov ; these were his first losses with the black pieces in more than a year . His team , Norway , finished 51st out of 149 teams .

Carlsen 's next tournament was the Grand Slam Masters Final on 9 ? 15 October , which he had qualified for automatically by winning three of the previous year 's four Grand Slam chess events (2009 Nanjing Pearl Spring , 2010 Corus , 2010 Bazna Kings) . Along with Carlsen , the finals consisted of World Champion Anand and the highest two scorers from the preliminary stage held in Shanghai in September : Kramnik and Shirov . The average Elo of the participants at the time was 2789 , making the Grand Slam Final the strongest chess tournament in history . In the first round , Carlsen lost with black to Kramnik ; this was Carlsen 's second consecutive loss to Kramnik , and placed his hold on the world No. 1 ranking in serious jeopardy . In his second round , Carlsen lost with the white pieces to Anand ; this was his first loss as White since January 2010 . Carlsen recovered somewhat in the latter part of the tournament , achieving a win over Shirov , and finishing with $2 \frac{1}{2} / 6$. The tournament was won by Kramnik with $4 / 6$. Carlsen finished this tournament with a rating of 2802 , two points behind Anand at 2804 who temporarily ended Carlsen 's reign at world No. 1 . These setbacks called into question from some whether Carlsen 's activities outside chess , such as modelling for G @-@ Star Raw , were distracting him from performing well at the chessboard . Carlsen said he did not believe there was a direct connection .

Carlsen 's next tournament was the Pearl Spring chess tournament on 19 ? 30 October in Nanjing , China , against Anand , Topalov , Vugar Gashimov , Wang Yue , and Étienne Bacrot . This was the only tournament in 2010 to feature Anand , Carlsen and Topalov , at the time the top three players in the world , and was the first tournament in history to feature three players rated at least 2800 . With early wins over Bacrot , Wang Yue , and Topalov with white , Carlsen took the early lead , extending his winning streak with white in Nanjing to eight . This streak was halted by a draw to Anand in round seven , but in the penultimate round Carlsen secured first place by defeating Topalov with black . This was his second victory in the tournament over the former world No. 1 ; his final score of $7 / 10$ (with a PR of 2903) was a full point ahead of runner @-@ up Anand .

In the World Blitz Championship , held in Moscow on 16 ? 18 November , Carlsen attempted to defend his 2009 title . With a score of $23 \frac{1}{2} / 38$, he finished in third place behind Radjabov and winner Levon Aronian . After the tournament , Carlsen played a private 40 @-@ game blitz match against Hikaru Nakamura , winning with a score of $23 \frac{1}{2} ? 16 \frac{1}{2}$.

Carlsen won the London Chess Classic on 8 ? 15 December in a field comprising World Champion Anand , Vladimir Kramnik , Nakamura , and British players Adams , Nigel Short , David Howell , and Luke McShane . Carlsen had a rocky start , losing his games to McShane and Anand in rounds 1 and 3 , but winning with white against Adams and Nakamura in rounds 2 and 4 . He joined the lead with a win over Howell in round 5 , and managed to stay in the lead following a harrowing draw against Kramnik in round 6 , before defeating Short in the last round . Since the tournament was played with three points for a win , Carlsen 's $+ 4 ? 2 = 1$ score put him ahead of Anand and McShane who scored $+ 2 = 5$ (a more traditional two @-@ points @-@ for @-@ a @-@ win system would have yielded a three @-@ way tie , with Carlsen still on top , having the better tiebreaker due to four games with black ? Anand and McShane played only three times with black) .

Carlsen competed in the GM @-@ A group of the Tata Steel Chess Tournament (formerly called Corus Chess Tournament) on 14 ? 30 January in Wijk aan Zee in an attempt to defend his title ; the field included World Champion Viswanathan Anand , Levon Aronian , former World Champion Vladimir Kramnik , Alexander Grischuk , Hikaru Nakamura , Ruslan Ponomarev , among others . Despite losing games with white against Anish Giri and reigning Russian champion Ian Nepomniachtchi , Carlsen finished with 8 / 13 , including victories over Kramnik and tournament winner Nakamura . Although Carlsen 's performance raised his rating from 2814 to 2815 , Anand 's 8 ½ / 13 score elevated his rating to 2817 , making him the world No. 1 for the March 2011 FIDE rating list .

The first tournament victory of the year came in the Bazna Kings tournament , a double round robin played in Mediaș , Romania on 11 ? 21 June . Carlsen finished with 6 ½ / 10 , equal with Sergey Karjakin but with a better tiebreak score . Carlsen won his White games against Nakamura , Nisipeanu , and Ivanchuk and drew the rest of the games .

The Grand Slam Chess Final was held as a double round robin with six players , in São Paulo (25 September ? 1 October) and Bilbao (5 ? 11 October) . Although Carlsen had a slow start , including a loss against bottom @-@ ranked Francisco Vallejo Pons , he finished + 3 ? 1 = 6 , equal with Ivanchuk (whose + 4 ? 3 = 3 finish was equal due to three points for a win) . Carlsen then won the blitz tiebreak against Ivanchuk . The other players were Anand , Aronian , Nakamura , and Vallejo Pons .

Another tournament victory was achieved in the Tal Memorial in Moscow 16 ? 25 November as a round robin with ten players . Carlsen won two games , against Gelfand and Nakamura , and drew the rest . Although he finished equal on points with Aronian , he placed ahead since the tiebreak was determined by the number of black games ; Carlsen had five black games , while Aronian only had four .

In the London Chess Classic , played 3 ? 12 December , Carlsen 's streak of tournament victories ended when he finished third , behind Kramnik and Nakamura . Carlsen won three games and drew five . Although he did not win the tournament , Carlsen gained rating points , rising to a new personal record of 2835 .

= = = 2012 = = =

At the Tata Steel Chess Tournament held on 14 ? 29 January in Wijk aan Zee , Carlsen finished in a shared second place with 8 / 13 , behind Aronian , and equal with Radjabov and Caruana . Carlsen defeated Gashimov , Aronian , Gelfand , and Topalov , but lost against Karjakin . At the blitz chess tournament at Tal Memorial , held in Moscow on 7 June , Carlsen shared first place with Morozevich . In the main event (a category 22 ten @-@ player round robin) , he won two games and drew seven . He finished in first place , ahead of Radjabov and Caruana .

Carlsen then went on to finish second in the Biel Grandmaster Tournament , with 18 points , just one point behind Wang Hao using the 3 ? 1 ? 0 scoring system . As in the Tal Memorial earlier in 2012 , Carlsen managed to finish the tournament without any losses (+ 4 ? 0 = 6) . He also defeated the winner Wang in both of their individual games . In the exhibition blitz tournament at Biel before the GM tournament , Carlsen was eliminated (+ 1 ? 2 = 0) in the first round by Étienne Bacrot . Bacrot deprived Carlsen of a win in the classical tournament by holding him to a draw in the final round . Carlsen would have won the classical tournament on the traditional 1 ? ½ ? 0 scoring system , with 7 / 10 .

The Grand Slam Chess Final was again held as a double round robin with six players , in São Paulo and Bilbao . Carlsen started with a loss against Caruana , but after three wins in the second (Bilbao) round , finished + 4 ? 1 = 5 , equal first with Caruana , and ahead of Aronian , Karjakin and Anand . Carlsen won the tournament by winning both tiebreak games against Caruana .

From 24 to 25 November , Carlsen took part in the chess festival " Segunda Gran Fiesta Internacional de Ajedrez " in Mexico City . As part of it , Carlsen took on an online audience (dubbed as " The World ") with the white pieces and won . He then took part in the knockout

exhibition event " Cuadrangular UNAM " . Carlsen first beat Lázaro Bruzón $1\frac{1}{2} ? \frac{1}{2}$, thus qualifying for a final against Judit Polgár (who had in turn beat Manuel León Hoyos $1\frac{1}{2} ? \frac{1}{2}$) . Carlsen lost the first game , but won the second one , and in the tiebreak defeated Polgár $2 ? 0$.

Carlsen won the London Chess Classic in December with five wins (over McShane , Aronian , Gawain Jones , Adams and Judit Polgár) and three draws (against Kramnik , Nakamura and Anand) . This win , the third time Carlsen had won the tournament in the past four years , increased his rating from 2848 to a new record of 2861 , breaking Kasparov 's 13 @-@ year record of 2851 . By rating performance , this was one of the best results in history , with a PR of 2994 .

== = 2013 == =

Carlsen played in the 75th Tata Steel Chess Tournament from 11 to 27 January in Wijk aan Zee . In the 13 @-@ round tournament , he scored 10 points ($+ 7 ? 0 = 6$) , winning clear first $1\frac{1}{2}$ points ahead of second @-@ place finisher Aronian . On 1 February , Danish GM Peter Heine Nielsen joined the team of assistants who helped Carlsen prepare for the Candidates Tournament in March . Before this , Nielsen was on Viswanathan Anand 's team .

Carlsen played in the 2013 Candidates Tournament , which took place in London , from 15 March to 1 April . He finished with $+ 5 ? 2 = 7$, and won the tournament on tiebreak over Vladimir Kramnik . As a result , he earned the right to challenge Anand for the World Champion title .

In May , Carlsen played in the first edition of Norway Chess tournament . He finished second , scoring $5\frac{1}{2} / 9$ ($+ 3 ? 1 = 5$) , half a point behind Sergey Karjakin .

Carlsen played in the Tal Memorial from June 12 to June 23 . He finished second , with $5\frac{1}{2} / 9$, half a point behind Boris Gelfand . Carlsen ended the tournament with $+ 3 ? 1 = 5$, losing to Caruana but beating Anand , Kramnik and Nakamura . Later that month , Carlsen played a four @-@ game friendly rapid match against Borki Predojevič , which he won $2\frac{1}{2} ? 1\frac{1}{2}$.

In the Sinquefeld Cup , held in September , Carlsen finished first , scoring $+ 3 ? 0 = 3$, a point ahead of Nakamura .

== = = World Chess Championship 2013 == = =

Carlsen faced Anand in the World Chess Championship 2013 in Chennai , India , from 9 to 22 November . Carlsen won the match $6\frac{1}{2} ? 3\frac{1}{2}$ by winning games five , six and nine and drawing the remainder . Thus , Carlsen became the new world chess champion .

== = 2014 == =

From 29 January to 4 February , Carlsen played in the Zurich Chess Challenge , winning the preliminary blitz event ($+ 2 ? 1 = 2$) and the classical event ($+ 3 ? 0 = 2$) . He performed less well in the rapid event ($+ 1 ? 2 = 2$) , which counted towards the overall standings , but retained enough of a lead to win the tournament . The other players in the event were Aronian , Nakamura , Caruana , Gelfand and Anand .

Carlsen played a game for his club Stavanger in the final team match for promotion to the Norwegian Premier League on 22 March . His win over Vladimir Georgiev helped his team to a $3\frac{1}{2} ? 2\frac{1}{2}$ win over Nordstrand .

Carlsen won the Vugar Gashimov Memorial in Baku , Azerbaijan , played from 20 ? 30 April . He played in the A group along with Caruana , Nakamura , Karjakin , Shakhriyar Mamedyarov and Radjabov . Carlsen started the tournament with $2 / 2$, beating Mamedyarov and Nakamura . He then drew Karjakin , only to lose two games in a row for the first time in four years , losing to Caruana with black and then with white to Radjabov . In the second half of the tournament , Carlsen scored $4 / 5$, beating Mamedyarov and Nakamura again , and securing the tournament victory by beating Caruana in the final round , finishing with $+ 5 ? 2 = 3$.

On 8 May Carlsen played an exhibition game at Oslo City against the people of Norway , assisted by a grandmaster panel consisting of Simen Agdestein , Leif Erlend Johannessen , and Jon Ludvig

Hammer . Each of the panel members proposed a move and the public could then vote over the proposed moves . Each panel member was allowed three chances to let chess engine Houdini propose a move during the game . Norway 's moves were executed by Oddvar Brå who was disguised in a red spandex suit for the occasion . The game was drawn when Carlsen forced a perpetual check .

Carlsen placed second (to Sergey Karjakin) in the second edition of Norway Chess , a ten @-@ player round robin , from 2 June to 13 June . Other players in the event were Aronian , Caruana , Topalov , Svidler , Kramnik , Grischuk , Giri and Agdestein .

Carlsen won FIDE World Rapid Championships held in Dubai from 16 June to 19 June . He went on to claim the World Blitz Championships two days later , becoming the first player to simultaneously hold the title in all three FIDE rated time controls .

Carlsen played nine games for Norway in the 41st Chess Olympiad , scoring five wins , two draws , and two losses (against Arkadij Naiditsch and Ivan ?ari?) .

Carlsen placed second to Fabiano Caruana in the Sinquefeld Cup , a six @-@ player double round robin in Saint Louis , Missouri from 27 August to 7 September . Billed as the strongest chess tournament ever held , the remaining 4 players in the event were Levon Aronian , Hikaru Nakamura , Veselin Topalov , and Maxime Vachier @-@ Lagrave . He lost to Fabiano Caruana in Round 3 and defeated Levon Aronian and Hikaru Nakamura in Rounds 5 and 7 , respectively . He finished the tournament in second place , with 5 @.@ 5 / 10 (+ 2 @-@ 1 = 7) , behind Caruana .

= = = World Chess Championship 2014 = = =

Carlsen faced Anand in a match for the title of World Chess Champion in November 2014 , as Anand qualified by winning the 2014 Candidates Tournament . The rematch was held from November 7 to 23 in Sochi , Russia . After 11 of 12 games , Carlsen led 6 @.@ 5 ? 4 @.@ 5 , thereby defending his World Champion title .

= = = 2015 = = =

In January , Carlsen won the Tata Steel Chess Tournament , which was played mainly in Wijk aan Zee on 9 ? 25 January . Carlsen had a poor start to the tournament with two draws and a loss in the third round to Radosław Wojtaszek , which left him in tenth place among the fourteen players . However , a string of six wins in a row thrust Carlsen into clear first place . Drawing the final four games was sufficient to win the tournament with 9 points out of 13 , half a point ahead of Anish Giri , Maxime Vachier @-@ Lagrave , Wesley So and Ding Liren . In February , Carlsen won the 3rd Grenke Chess Classic in Baden @-@ Baden after a five @-@ game tiebreak with Arkadij Naiditsch . Carlsen finished equal first with Naiditsch on 4 @.@ 5 / 7 , beating Michael Adams , Anand , and David Baramidze , and losing to Naiditsch in their classical encounter . This tournament victory meant that Carlsen began 2015 by winning two out of two tournaments . Carlsen continued his streak in April , winning Shamkir Chess with a score of 7 / 9 , beating Mamedyarov , Caruana , Vachier @-@ Lagrave , Kramnik , and Rauf Mamedov , going + 5 @-@ 0 = 4 . With a performance rating of 2981 , this was Carlsen 's third best tournament result ever . His performance was only bested in Nanjing 2009 (3002 TPR) and London 2012 (2993 TPR) . Carlsen had a poor result in the Norway Chess event of 15 ? 26 June . In the first round he obtained a winning position against Topalov after pressing in a long endgame , only to lose on time when he mistakenly thought that he would receive 15 minutes of extra time at move 60 . He was then outplayed by Caruana in the second round , missed a win against Anish Giri in round 3 , and lost to Anand in round 4 . He won against Grischuk in round 5 , drew against Nakamura and Vachier @-@ Lagrave in rounds 6 and 7 , and defeated Aronian in round 8 , but he lost the last round against Jon Ludvig Hammer , leaving him tied for seventh and eighth place . Carlsen finished 2nd place at the 2015 Sinquefeld Cup with 5 points , one point below tournament winner Levon Aronian . He defeated the 2014 Sinquefeld Cup 's winner Fabiano Caruana , French # 1 Maxime Vachier @-@ Lagrave , and wild @-@ card Wesley So , but lost to Veselin Topalov and Alexander Grischuk .

In October , Carlsen successfully defended his title in the FIDE World Rapid Championships held in Berlin , as the first world rapid champion to do so in history , going + 8 @-@ 0 = 7 . He reached the highest live rapid rating in history after the tournament , and was at that point ranked # 1 in all three disciplines simultaneously . However , Carlsen quickly lost his # 1 blitz spot after he had a weak second day in the World Blitz Championship , causing him to lose his title to Alexander Grischuk . In November 2015 , Carlsen participated in the European Team Chess Championship , playing for the Norwegian team . He started off poorly , scoring 0 @.@ 5 points out of 3 games - losing to Levon Aronian , drawing against Sune Berg Hansen , and losing again to Yannick Pelletier due to a blunder . He finished the tournament strongly , scoring victories against Peter Leko and Radoslaw Wojtaszek , the latter of whom he had lost to earlier in the year . However , his performance was not enough to earn his team a medal , and he lost 16 rating points during the event . In December 2015 , Carlsen participated in the final leg of the Grand Chess Tour , the London Chess Classic . He scored + 2 @-@ 0 = 7 in the event , defeating Hikaru Nakamura (and inflicting Nakamura 's 12th classical loss to Carlsen) and Alexander Grischuk . In the 3 @-@ way tiebreak between Anish Giri and Maxime Vachier @-@ Lagrave , he was the top seed , meaning he faced the winner of the two @-@ game match between Giri and Vachier @-@ Lagrave . He eventually won against the match , the Classic , and the overall inaugural Grand Chess Tour , earning him \$ 75 @,@ 000 for the London Chess Classic and the Grand Chess Tour bonus prizes . In late @-@ December 2015 , Carlsen won first place at the 2nd edition of the Qatar Masters Open , defeating Grandmaster Yu Yangyi in a tie @-@ break after both players had finished on a + 5 score . This concluded his final tournament for the 2015 year .

== 2016 ==

From January 15 to 31 , 2016 , Carlsen participated in the 78th Tata Steel Chess Tournament , held in Wijk Aan Zee , The Netherlands . Carlsen won the tournament by scoring 9 points out of 13 (+ 5 @-@ 0 = 8) , earning him his 5th Wijk Aan Zee title .

In the 2016 World Chess Championship in New York City , Carlsen will face Sergey Karjakin for the World Chess Championship . The match will take place from 11 ? 30 November .

On April 29th , 2016 , Magnus Carlsen won the 4th edition of the Norway Chess Tournament , after scoring a final round victory against Pavel Eljanov .

In July 2016 , Carlsen won the 9th edition of the Bilbao Masters Final , scoring 17 points out of 10 games (+ 4 @-@ 1 = 5) . Wins were awarded with 3 points , a draw with 1 point and losses with 0 points .

== Honours ==

Carlsen won the Chess Oscars for 2009 , 2010 , 2011 , 2012 and 2013 . The Chess Oscar , conducted by the Russian chess magazine 64 , is awarded to the year 's best player according to a worldwide poll of leading chess critics , writers , and journalists . The Norwegian tabloid Verdens Gang (VG) has awarded him " Name of the Year " (Årets navn) twice , in 2009 and 2013 . VG also named him " Sportsman of the year " in 2009 and in the same year he won the Folkets Idrettspris , a people 's choice award from the newspaper Dagbladet . In 2011 , he was given the Peer Gynt Prize , a Norwegian honour prize awarded annually to " a person or institution that has achieved distinction in society " ; the following year , he repeated as winner of Folkets Idrettspris . In 2013 , Time magazine named Carlsen one of the 100 most influential people in the world .

== Playing style ==

Carlsen had an aggressive style of play as a youth , and , according to Agdestein , his play was characterised by " a fearless readiness to offer material for activity " . Carlsen found as he matured that this risky playing style was not as well suited against the world elite . When he started playing in top tournaments he was struggling against top players , and had trouble getting much out of the

opening . To progress , Carlsen 's style became more universal , capable of handling all sorts of positions well . Carlsen opens with both 1.d4 and 1.e4 , as well as 1.c4 , and , on occasion , 1.Nf3 , thus making it harder for opponents to prepare against him . Evgeny Sveshnikov has criticised Carlsen 's opening play , claiming in a 2013 interview that without a more " scientific " approach to preparation , his " future doesn 't look so promising " .

Garry Kasparov , who coached Carlsen from 2009 to 2010 , said that Carlsen has a positional style similar to that of past world champions such as Anatoly Karpov , José Raúl Capablanca , and Vasily Smyslov , rather than the tactical style of Alexander Alekhine , Mikhail Tal , and Kasparov himself . According to Carlsen , however , he does not have any preferences in playing style . Kasparov said in 2013 that " Carlsen is a combination of Karpov [and] Fischer . He gets his positions [and] then never lets go of that bulldog bite . Exhausting for opponents . " Carlsen has also stated that he follows in the traditions of Karpov and Fischer , but also mentions Reuben Fine as a player who " was doing in chess similar to what I am doing . " Anand has said of Carlsen : " The majority of ideas occur to him absolutely naturally . He 's also very flexible , he knows all the structures and he can play almost any position Magnus can literally do almost everything . " Kasparov expressed similar sentiments : " [Carlsen] has the ability to correctly evaluate any position , which only Karpov could boast of before him . " In a 2012 interview , Vladimir Kramnik attributed much of Carlsen 's success against other top players to his " excellent physical shape " and his ability to avoid " psychological lapses " , which enables him to maintain a high standard of play over long games and at the end of tournaments , when the energy levels of others have dropped . Tyler Cowen gave a point of view on Carlsen 's playing style : " Carlsen is demonstrating one of his most feared qualities , namely his ' nettlesomeness , ' to use a term coined for this purpose by Ken Regan . Using computer analysis , you can measure which players do the most to cause their opponents to make mistakes . Carlsen has the highest nettlesomeness score by this metric , because his creative moves pressure the other player and open up a lot of room for mistakes . In contrast , a player such as Kramnik plays a high percentage of very accurate moves , and of course he is very strong , but those moves are in some way calmer and they are less likely to induce mistakes in response . "

Carlsen 's endgame prowess has been described as among the greatest in history . Jon Speelman , analysing several of Carlsen 's endgames from the 2012 London Classic (in particular , his wins against McShane , Aronian , and Adams) , described what he calls the " Carlsen effect " :

... through the combined force of his skill and no less important his reputation , he drives his opponents into errors He plays on for ever , calmly , methodically and , perhaps most importantly of all , without fear : calculating superbly , with very few outright mistakes and a good proportion of the " very best " moves . This makes him a monster and makes many opponents wilt .

= = Rating = =

= = = Rating achievements = = =

In the January 2006 FIDE list , at the age of 15 years , 32 days , he attained a 2625 Elo rating , which made Carlsen the youngest person to surpass 2600 Elo (the record has since been broken by Wesley So , Wei Yi and John M. Burke) . In the July 2007 FIDE list , at the age of 16 years , 213 days , Carlsen attained a 2710 Elo rating , which made him the youngest person to surpass 2700 Elo (the record has since been broken by Wei Yi at the age of 15 years , 9 months) . On 5 September 2008 , after winning round 4 in the Bilbao Grand Slam chess championship , Carlsen , just 17 years , 280 days old , briefly became No. 1 on the unofficial live ratings list . Carlsen 's September ? October 2009 victory in the Nanjing Pearl tournament raised his FIDE rating to 2801 , making him at age 18 years , 336 days , the youngest player ever to break 2800 . The youngest before him was Vladimir Kramnik at age 25 . Before Carlsen , only Kasparov , Topalov , Kramnik , and Anand had achieved a 2800 + rating . After the Tal Memorial (November 2009) he became No. 1 on the unofficial live chess rating list with his new peak rating of 2805 @. @ 7 , 0 @. @ 6 point over the No. 2 ranked player , Veselin Topalov .

The FIDE rankings from January 2010 , which took into account the 16 games played at the Tal Memorial and the London Chess Classic , were enough to raise Carlsen 's rating to 2810 . This meant that Carlsen started 2010 by being , at the age of 19 years , 32 days , the youngest ever world No. 1 , and also the first player from a Western nation to reach the top of the FIDE rating list since Bobby Fischer in 1971 . The press coverage of this feat included an interview and article in Time magazine .

The March 2010 FIDE rating list showed Carlsen with a new peak rating of 2813 , a figure that only Kasparov had bettered at that time . On the January 2013 FIDE rating list , Carlsen reached 2861 , thus surpassing Garry Kasparov 's 2851 record from July 1999 . On list from May 2014 , Carlsen achieved an all @-@ time high record of 2882 .

= = Head @-@ to @-@ head record versus selected grandmasters = =

(Rapid , blitz and blindfold games not included ; listed as + wins ? losses = draws as of 23 Jul 2016 .) Players who have been undisputed World Champion in boldface

= = Notable games = =

All links in this section lead to an external site .

Carlsen ? Garry Kasparov , Reykjavík Rapid (2004) , Queen 's Gambit Declined : Cambridge Springs Variation (D52) , ½ ? ½ At the age of just 13 years , Carlsen had serious winning chances in a rapid game against Garry Kasparov , ranked No. 1 in the world at that time , and considered by many to be the greatest chess player of all time .

Carlsen ? Veselin Topalov , M @-@ Tel Masters (2009) , Semi @-@ Slav Defense : General (D43) , 1 ? 0 This was Carlsen 's first win against a 2800 + player .

Carlsen ? Boris Gelfand , Tal Memorial (2011) , Slav Defense : Quiet Variation . Schallop Defense (D12) , 1 ? 0 The No. 1 Israeli player and future World Championship challenger creates a seemingly decisive rook invasion into White 's back rank , but Carlsen vanquishes his threats . Carlsen called it " one of the most interesting games I have played in recent times " .

Carlsen ? Hikaru Nakamura , London Chess Classic (2011) , Italian Game : Classical Variation . Giuoco Pianissimo (C53) , 1 ? 0 Facing the No. 1 American player , Carlsen demolishes Black 's pawn structure .

Carlsen ? Viswanathan Anand , Bilbao Masters (2012) , Sicilian Defense : Canal Attack . Main Line (B52) , 1 ? 0 Playing against the then World Champion in a game he considers one of the best in his career , Carlsen sacrifices a pawn to leave Black with a cramped position , leading to his resignation at move 30 .

Carlsen 's complete PGN chess game collection can be downloaded from [1]

= = Beyond chess = =

Carlsen modelled for G @-@ Star Raw 's Autumn / Winter 2010 advertising campaign with actress Liv Tyler . The campaign was shot by Dutch film director and photographer Anton Corbijn . The campaign was coordinated with the RAW World Chess Challenge in New York , an event where Carlsen played an online team of global chess players who voted on moves suggested by three GMs : Maxime Vachier @-@ Lagrave , Hikaru Nakamura , and Judit Polgár . Carlsen , playing White , won in 43 moves . Film director J. J. Abrams offered Carlsen a role in the movie Star Trek Into Darkness as " a chess player from the future " , but he had to decline , unable to get a US work permit in time for shooting . In 2012 , Carlsen was featured in a 60 Minutes segment , and appeared as a guest on The Colbert Report . He was also interviewed by Rainn Wilson for SoulPancake . Carlsen was selected as one of the " sexiest men of 2013 " by Cosmopolitan . In August 2013 , Carlsen became an ambassador for Nordic Semiconductor .

As of 2012 , Carlsen is the only active chess professional with a full @-@ time manager . Espen Agdestein , brother of Carlsen 's former trainer Simen , and a FIDE Master and twice member of the

Norwegian team at the Chess Olympiads , began working as an agent for Carlsen in late 2008 . His work consisted initially of finding sponsors and negotiating media contacts , but since 2011 , he has taken over management tasks formerly performed by Carlsen 's father Henrik . Carlsen reportedly earned roughly US \$ 1 @. @ 2 million in 2012 , the bulk of which was from sponsorships .

In October 2013 , Carlsen started his majority @-@ owned company , Play Magnus AS . Based in Oslo , Norway , Play Magnus ' first product is an iOS app that allows a user to play a Magnus Carlsen @-@ tuned chess engine at 21 different ages (from ages 5 to 25) . The chess engine was created using a database of thousands of Carlsen 's recorded games from the age of 10 . Carlsen 's goal is to use Play Magnus as a platform to encourage more people to play chess .

In 2008 during a Q & A session with Nettavisen , when Carlsen was asked whether he had a form of autism spectrum disorder , he replied " well , isn 't that obvious ? " In December 2013 , in an interview with Norwegian tabloid Verdens Gang , he clarified that he had meant " obviously not " , and said that he considers himself to have " normal social skills and to be functioning normally . "

In February 2014 , Carlsen appeared in G @-@ Star Raw 's Spring / Summer 2014 campaign along with actress and model Lily Cole .

= = Books and films = =

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The Prince of Chess , a film about Magnus Carlsen (2005) . Directed by Øyvind Asbjørnsen .

Opedal , Hallgeir (2011) . Smarte trekk . Magnus Carlsen : Verdens beste sjakkspiller [Smart Moves . Magnus Carlsen : The World 's Best Chess Player] . Kagge . ISBN 978 @-@ 82 @-@ 489 @-@ 1050 @-@ 3

Mikhalchishin , Adrian ; Stetsko , Oleg . (2012) . Fighting Chess with Magnus Carlsen (Progress in Chess) . Edition Olms . ISBN 978 @-@ 3 @-@ 283 @-@ 01020 @-@ 1 .

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Kotronias , Vassilios & Logothetis , Sotiris (2013) . Carlsen 's assault on the throne . Quality Chess . ISBN 978 @-@ 1 @-@ 906552 @-@ 22 @-@ 0 .

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