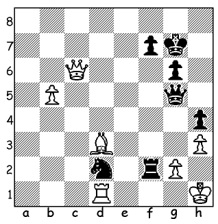
CHESS December 9 2023 David Ellis 0439798607 / [ellisd19@bigpond.com](mailto:ellisd19@bigpond.com)

A person holding a trophy

Description automatically generated  **Jean-Christophe Olivier** *Caruana holding Sinquefield Cup*

**vs Fabiano Caruana, 2011:**

Black to play and win:

**WILL HE BE THE NEXT WORLD CHAMPION?**

The important **Sinquefield Cup** held in St Louis in November resulted in a victory to **Fabiano Caruana** who scored 5.5/8 (+3 =5) just ahead of fellow American **Leiner** **Dominguez** (+2 =6) with early leader **Wesley So** 3rd (+2 =5 -1). His win gave Caruana first place in the Grand Chess Tour, after winning two of the four events (Sinquefield and St Louis Rapid & Blitz). Born in Miami in 1992, Caruana became a GM (Grandmaster) at the age of 14. He has been US champion three times as well as Italian champion three times, the first aged 14. A notable achievement was his win in the Sinquefield in 2014 when he began with seven wins before drawing his last three and ending with a phenomenal performance rating of 3098. He won the Candidates in 2018 and drew all 12 games in his world championship match against Magnus Carlsen before losing in a rapidplay playoff 0-3. Having qualified for the 2024 Candidates (8 players, Toronto in April), he will have a strong chance of winning and challenging Ding Liren for the world title.

**HANS NIEMANN IMPRESSES**

Twenty year old American **Hans Niemann** has won the all-GM **Tournament of Peace** in Zagreb by 3 points after scoring 8/9 (winning games 1-7 & 9). His performance rating was 2946, the highest by anyone in 2023, and this boosted his official rating to 2693. Afterwards Niemann compared himself to the legendary Bobby Fischer. Niemann, readers will recall, was at the centre of accusations from Magnus Carlsen of cheating in last year’s Sinquefield Cup.

**SOLUTION:** 1…Nf3! (obstruction sacrifice removing queen’s defence of g2; if 2.gxf3 Qg2#) 2.Bf1 (2.Qxf3 is best but leaves White with no hope) 2…Qg3! with mate on g2 or h2.