

Machine Clobbers Man

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By Eric Hicks

Have computers grown to the level of invincibility in chess? Given the results of the latest machine vs. man match, computers are still getting stronger, and the question of machine vs. man is reaching a resolution, and it does not look good for the humans. In fact this match between super chess computer Hydra and #7 player in the world Michael Adams was so lopsided, it may be the end of the man vs machine era when it comes to chess.

The Champion: 34 year old Michael Adams. The number one player in the UK and currently the #7 player in the world with a 2737 fide rating.

Top 10 GM Adams faces off to the beastly machine The Challenger: Hydra. The latest and greatest of computer chess technologies running on 32 xeon processors and some special hardware similar to the infamous Deep Blue chess machine. Many think Hydra is stronger than Deep Blue making it the strongest chess playing machine ever.

The match: A complete slaughter. The human Michael Adams never had a chance. He only managed to draw one out of 6 games. Final score: Machine 5.5 Human .5. To give you an idea this is the most lopsided match crushing a top 10 super GM since the Fischer candidate matches way back in the early 70's. Some experts have tried to make the excuse that Adams did not prepare for this match and explains the lopsided outcome. It is said that Kasparov and Kramnik would prepare for months against their computer opponents, Fritz and Deep Blue. But there is no question that Adams' performance equated into an embarrassment never seen in recent history of a Top 10 GM.

The Prize? Adams won a total \$10,000 for his one draw. The computer mopped up a whopping \$130,000.

It has been calculated that if you gave Hydra a FIDE rating based on its performance at this match, it would be rated over 3000 FIDE!

You can check out the games by following this link

<http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/mychess/adahyd05.html>

Or get complete coverage from www.chessbase.com

Pictures courtesy of www.chessbase.com



Ali Mohammed, Hydra team manager...poses with the beast



The impressive stage in London.



The spectators gasp.



Adams accepts his measly \$10,000 check after a humiliating ordeal