

Breaking News/ Lee Sedol Succeeds in Two Consecutive Wins!



Lee Sedol as White. Lee Sedol, from the first move, spent a lot of time thinking.

When the players are not only interesting, but also incite excitement among the observers, you've got go with a story behind it. If boxing had Muhammed Ali and George Forman, when it comes to go, you can't overlook Lee Sedol and Gu Li.

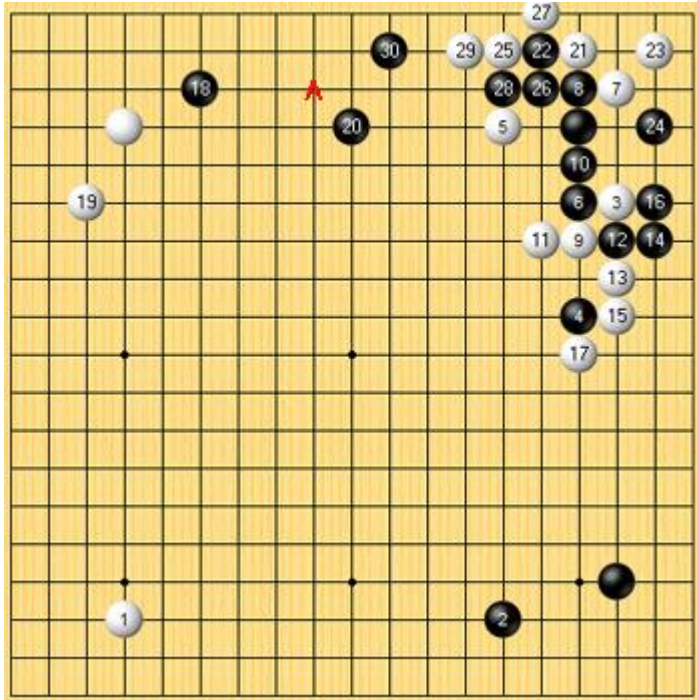
The representative players of Korea and China – Lee Sedol and Gu Li... Both being born in 1983, in addition to both becoming pro in 1995, these two share a lot of common points. With Lee Sedol having achieved 41 titles, Gu Li 40, along with sharing a similar record against one another – 17 wins, 1 no result, and 17 losses (based on official match results) – the two are an even match. Both possess a spirit leading to unpredictable battles, disregarding stability, often resulting in both comeback wins and turnaround losses, making observers' hands clench with sweat.

To answer the question on everyone's mind, "Who is stronger?", Lee Sedol and Gu Li have agreed to both put their respect and honor on the line, and play one game a month in the form of a jubango to distinguish the winner. Lee Sedol, who picked up the win by resignation in last month's first match of the jubango, continued on to the second match of the series today (February 23rd) from 9:00am at the Pingfushi Sunlake Hotel in China.

[1st Update – 9:00am] Lee Sedol as White

With the last match's nigiri deciding Lee Sedol to be black, following the rule of switching colors from the second match, Lee Sedol takes white in the second match.

As Tygem is relaying the 2nd match of the Lee Sedol vs. Gu Li Jubango live, right now on Tygem, Kim Jung Hyun (http://www.kbleague.com/baduk/player/player_info.php?idx=47) is simultaneously broadcasting while providing a detailed commentary for the Tygem users.



[2nd Update – 10:30am] The Reason the Thinking Time in the Opening Took So Long

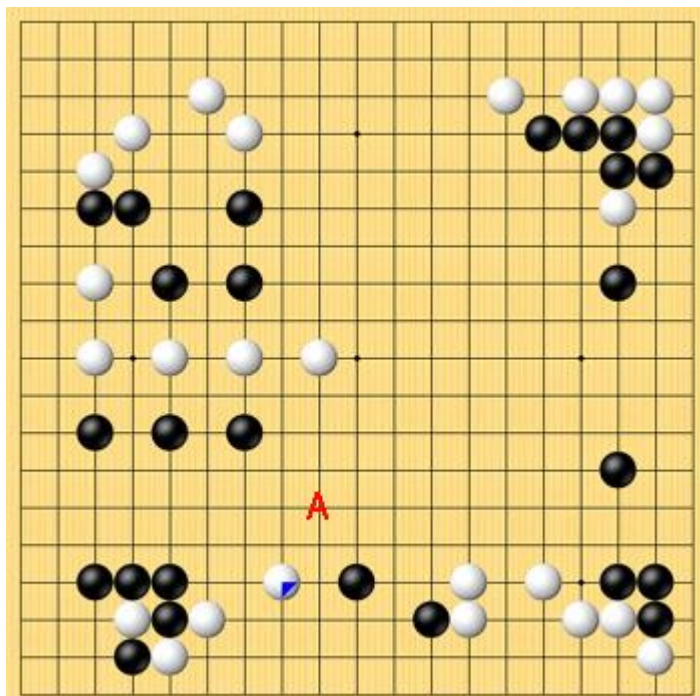
With Lee Sedol starting out with taking a long time to think about his first few moves, Gu Li followed suit by thinking for a long time on the 5th move. What's the reason?

When it's already decided beforehand who will play black and who will play white, most pros will research beforehand about which fuseki they'll try to use. Because of this, for Lee Sedol, Gu Li taking the lead from the fuseki would make it easy to ruin the board and make it an uphill battle for Lee. On the other hand, Gu Li prepared for the fuseki above. First instinct might be to play around A after black 20, but if the position turned out like the diagram above, it'd be even better for black.

Last February 18th through 21st Kim Seong Ryong, along with Sin Min Jun, Lee Dong Hun, and Ahn Sung Jun, played an exchange match with the Chinese National Boy Scouts. At that time, at the research room, Gu Li showed up and asked Li Zhe's opinion on the "Ace-in-the-hole" fuseki that he was going to use for the jubango. So Li Zhe and Shin Min Jun both thought it looked okay, and Gu Li said that he'd use the fuseki. However, as Lee Sedol didn't follow this planned fuseki and approached the 3-4, Gu Li started to think a long time from move number 5.



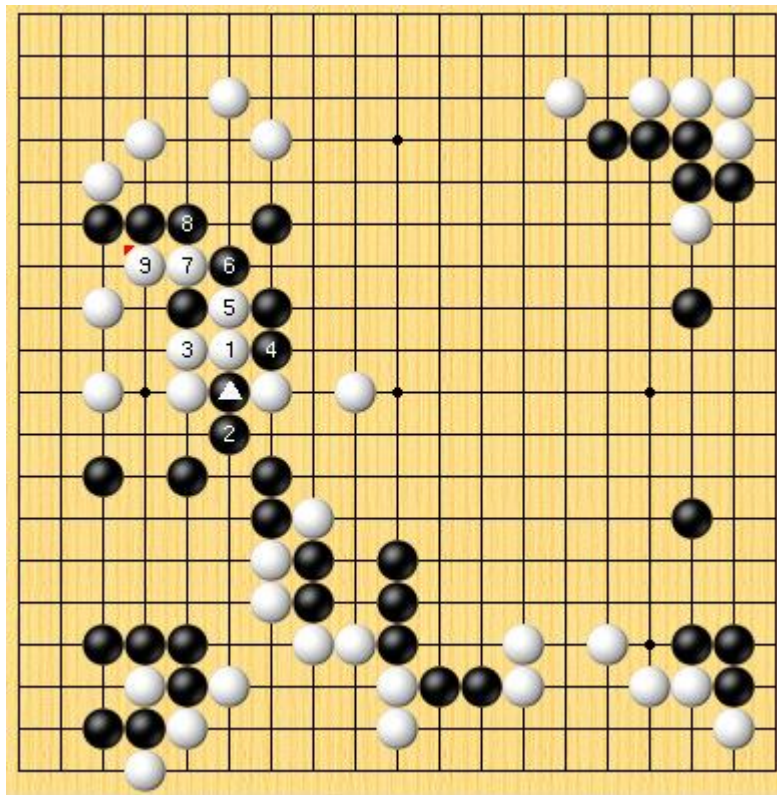
This is a picture of the fuseki that Gu Li, Li Zhe, Sin Min Jun, and a lot of other pros researched together at that time.



[3rd update – 12:00pm] Lee Sedol, After Invading into Black's Territory, Ordered a Spicy Local Chinese Dish (from Honam Province) for Lunch

With Lee Sedol's invasion of the bottom black area, the first point of battle appeared. Kim Jung Hyun, who was doing the commentary on Tygem, said, "Black's first instinct would be to play at A (above), so white looks a bit confined (not good for white)". It looks like it will be interesting to see how Lee resolves this situation, since he is pretty good at turning bad stones to good use."

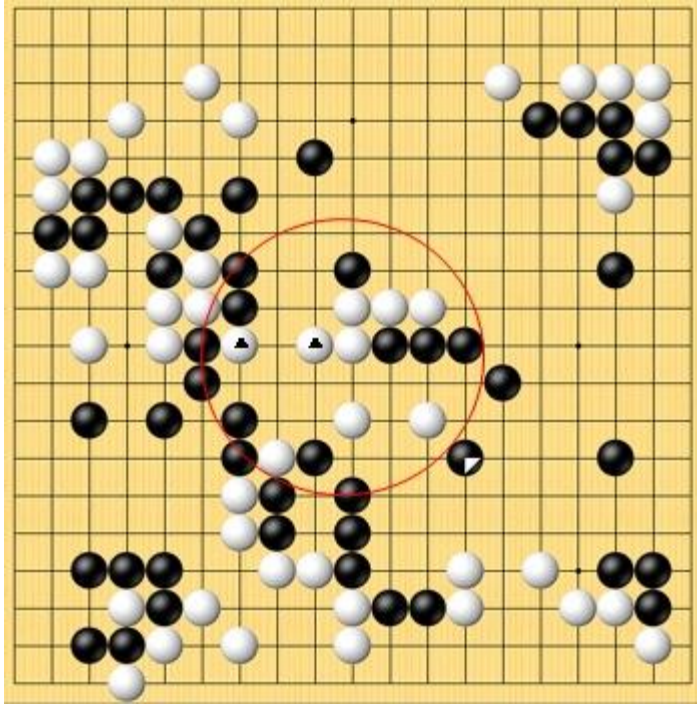
On the other hand, a jubango with 4 hour time limits doesn't have a separate dedicated lunchtime. Instead, if the player wants, he can get up and grab a bite next to the playing room. When it was getting close to lunch time, Lee Sedol asked Lee Young Ho to order him a spicy local Chinese dish (food from Honam Province). Lee Young Ho added that, "Whenever Lee Sedol comes to China, he usually enjoys the local food from Honam Province."



[4th update – 1:30pm] Lee Sedol, Clearly Ahead in Terms of Territory

Lee Sedol's lunch break was less than 10 minutes. After lunch, he took a brief moment to smoke a cigarette and immediately went back to the match room.

After easily dealing with the lower area, Lee Sedol was clearly ahead on territory. The only problem was, as actually occurred in the game, black's cut at the marked triangle, splitting apart the white stones on the right. Kim Jung Hyun, the commentator on Tygem, said, "In the diagram above, with white 1 through 9, white has no problem living, but it's a bit concerning that white's center stones become thin." Whilst Lee Sedol has more definite points at this stage in the game, the question becomes the extent to which Gu Li is able to effectively utilize his thickness.



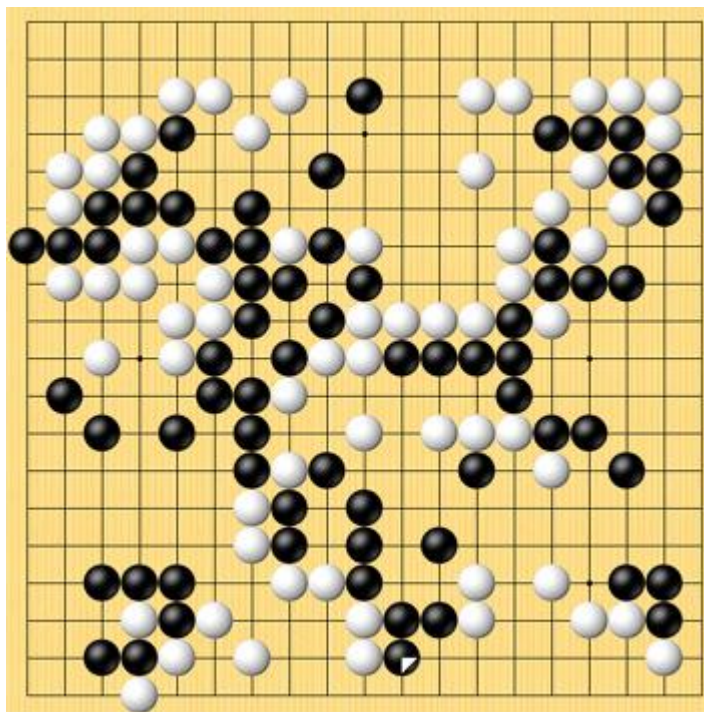
[5th update – 3:00pm] Lee Sedol Finishes His Calculations (Literally: Lee Sedol Gets His Tab)

Lee Sedol enjoys playing a “First Territory, Breakthrough Later”-type strategy. He is really good at shaping his stones, so when he can get solid territory first, it’s easier for him to win. The second match of the jubango flows as Lee Sedol wanted. Lee Sedol diligently solidified definite territory, point-by-point, and made the marked center white stones thin.

In the second battle of the match, again, Gu Li didn’t put sufficient pressure on Lee Sedol. Kim Jung Hyun, the commentator on Tygem, said, “Gu Li’s attack failed. Right now, Gu Li is enduring as much as possible with the marked black stone, but the center white stones won’t die easily. Judging from the fact that Lee Sedol is letting the right black side become solid, Lee Sedol has calculated that, if he can have the center white survive, he can win.”



Osawa Narumi, Joanne Missingham, Xie Yimin, the Beautiful Pros, Reviewing

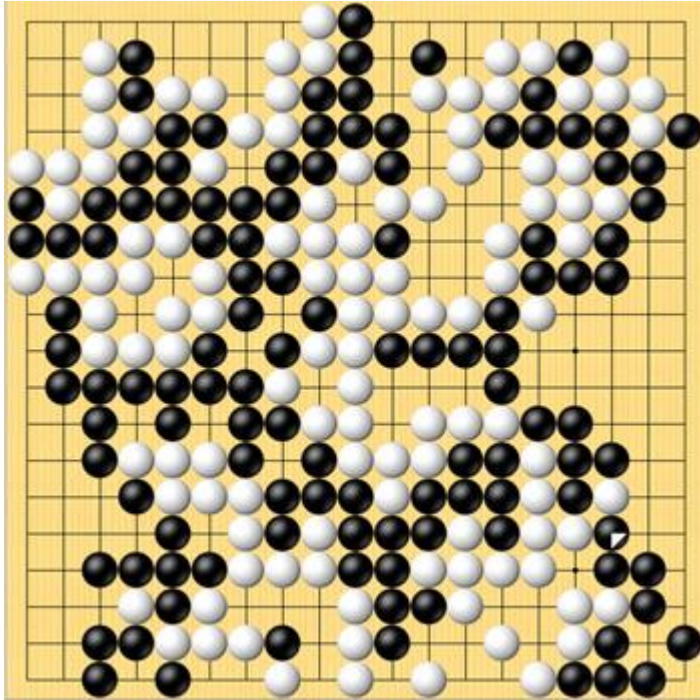


[6th update – 4:30pm] Close Endgame Battle

The review room thought that Lee Sedol would win without difficulty if the center white stones could live, but Lee Sedol opted for a more difficult path. As a result of having a complex ko fight in the center, Lee Sedol broke into the right side black territory, and Gu Li got a ponnuki in the center. If you try to calculate the result of this battle, Lee Sedol lost out. As a result, the game became very close.



For the 2nd Jubango, there were about 700 Chinese Go Fans that Came to the Public Commentary Room



[7th update – 6:00pm] Lee Sedol Seems to Win by Half Point

Both Korean and Chinese review teams are certain that Lee Sedol will win by a half point. When it turned out that Lee Sedol would win by a half a point, there came to be a chilly atmosphere in the Chinese review room.

[6:10pm – After 287 Moves, Lee Sedol Wins by 1.5 Points!]

The Lee Sedol vs. Gu Li Jubango is held by the Chinese Go Association, and also sponsored by MLily Meng Baihe (same company that sponsors the MLILY Go Tournament). The winner gets 5000000 Yuan (about 890,000,000 Korean won – about 820,600 USD), the loser gets 200,000 Yuan (about 36,000,000 Korean won – about 32,800 USD) for participation money. If there's a tie, they'll share the prize money 50/50. The time limit is 4 hours (after 3 hours and 55 minutes, there will be 5 periods of 1 minute byo-yomi). After nigiri for the first game, the players alternate colors for each game.



5 minutes before the game, Lee Sedol takes his seat first.



In contrast to the event from the night before, the match room has a tense atmosphere.



Lee Sedol takes a looong time from the first move. On the other hand, Gu Li plays very quickly.



Heated attention from the press of the jubango.



Among a lot of press, you can see the president, Ni Jang Gun, the President of MLily. (Brian Kirby's commentary: Where? I just see the back of people's heads...)

(Translated from <http://www.tygem.com/news/news/viewpage.asp?pagec=&seq=18511> by Brian Kirby)