



NEWS

NATIONAL OPEN JUNE 21-24, 2018

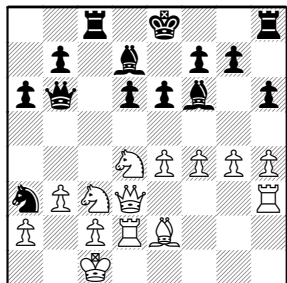
Saikhanchimeg Tsogetsai Khan Wins US Women's Open

Having come so close to taking the US Women's Open title last year, losing in the final round to IM Nazi Paikidze after winning her first 4 games, Saikhanchimeg Tsogetsai Khan went one better this year, starting the same way but winning her final game to finish with a perfect 5/5, a full point ahead of her nearest rivals WGM Sabina Foisor and WFM Ramya Inapuri.

The following round 4 victory over Julia Sevilla was key to giving her breathing room in the last round.

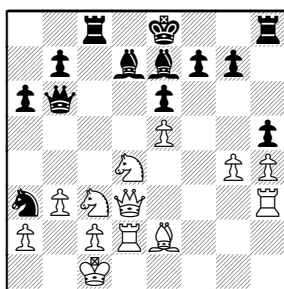
Tsogetsai Khan, Saikhan (2185)
Sevilla, Julia (2064)

US Women's Open 2018
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4
4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5
e6 7.f4 Be7 8.Qf3 Qc7 9.0-0
-0 Nbd7 10.Bd3 h6 11.Bxf6
Bxf6 12.Be2 Nb6 13.g4 Bd7
14.h4 Nc4 15.Qd3 Rc8
16.Rh3 Qb6 17.b3 Na3
18.Rd2



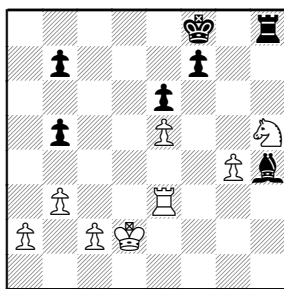
1 8 . . . h 5 ?
Dubious although a common theme in such positions. The simple 18...0-0 followed by a queenside attack already gives Black a big edge in this position.

19.e5! dxe5 20.fxe5 Be7
20...Bxe5 21.Nf3 leaves the less than obvious 21...Bd6 as the only move to keep equality.



21.Nf5! Rd8 22.Nxg7+ Kf8
23.Nxh5 Bb5 24.Qe3 Qxe3
25.Rxe3 Rxd2 26.Kxd2
Bxh4 27.Nxb5 Nxb5
28.Bxb5 axb5

An ending has arisen with White and pawn up and positionally much better. This should be an easy win from here.



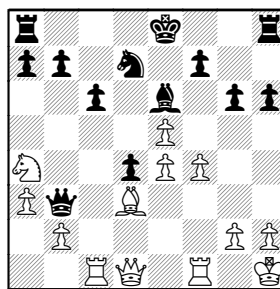
29.Rc3 Bd8 30.Rc8 Ke7
31.Kd3 Kd7 32.Rc5 Rg8
33.Rxb5 Kc6 34.Rb4 Rg5
35.Rf4 Bc7 36.Rxf7 Bxe5
37.Ke4 Rxc4+ 38.Kxe5
Rg5+ 39.Kxe6 Rxc4 40.Rf4
Rh2 41.Rc4+ Kb5 42.Kd6
Rh7 43.Rc7 Rh6+ 44.Kd5
Kb6 45.Rc8 Rh4 46.Rc4
Rh5+ 47.Kd4 Rh2 48.Kc3
Ka5 49.Rc5+ Kb6 50.Kb4

Ka6 51.a4 Rh3 52.Rg5 Rh6
53.a5 Rc6 54.c4 Rf6 55.Rc5
Rf3 56.Rb5 Rh3 57.Rg5
Rh1 58.Rg8 Ka7 59.Kb5
Rh5+ 60.c5 Rh4 61.Rg7
Rh6 62.b4 Rf6 63.Rd7 Rh6
64.Rd6 Rh5 65.a6 bxa6+
66.Rxa6+ Kb7 67.Rg6 Rh7
68.Ka5 Rc7 69.c6+ Kb8
70.Kb6 Rb7+ 71.Kc5 Rf7
72.b5 Rf8 73.Kb6 Rc8
74.c7+ Ka8 75.Rg4 1-0

Tsogetsai Khan's path to victory was made a little easier when top seed WGM Sabina Foisor fell to Badamkha Norovsambuu in round 3 in the following game. This eventually saved Tsogetsai Khan from facing Foisor in the tournament.

Norovsambuu, Badamkha (2076)
Foisor, Sabina (2394)

US Women's Open 2018



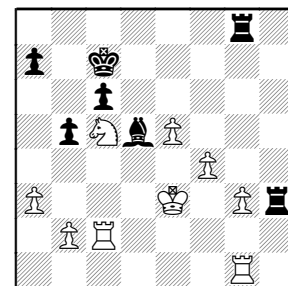
21.Bc2! Qe3 22.Bd3!
The Black queen is trapped.
22...f5
22...b5 23.Qc2 bxa4
24.Rce1
23.exf5 gxf5 24.Qc2 Bd5
25.Rce1 Qh3 26.Bxf5 d3
26...Bxc2+ 27.Kg1!
27.Bxh3 dxc2
Black has managed to ex-
cavate her queen but will
face an ending two pawns



Saikhanchimeg Tsogetsai Khan

down.

28.Rc1 b5 29.Bxd7+ Kxd7
30.Nc5+ Kc7 31.Rxc2 Rhg8
32.Kg1 h5 33.g3 h4 34.Kf2
hxg3+ 35.hxg3 Rh8 36.Ke3
Rh3 37.Rg1 Rg8



38.Ne4 Bxe4 39.Kxe4
Rgxg3

Black wins a pawn back but the liquidation of a pair of rooks makes the two White connected passed pawns unstoppable.

40.Rxg3 Rxg3 41.Kf5 a5
42.e6 b4 43.axb4 axb4
44.Kf6 Re3 45.f5 b3 46.Rd2
c5 47.e7 c4 48.Kf7 c3
49.bxc3 1-0



Illia Nyzhnyk Takes Walter Browne Memorial Blitz

GM Illia Nyzhnyk took home the Walter Browne Memorial Blitz trophy and first prize of \$1,000 after finishing in clear first with a score of 11.5/14. He was tied with fellow St. Louis compatriot GM Alex Shimanov going into the last round and while he won both games, Shimanov only took 1.5 points, leaving the whole pot in Nyzhnyk's hands.

GMs Darius Swiercz, Akshat Chandra and Zbigniew Pakleza finished a whole point behind Shimanov on 10/14 to finish tied for 3rd.

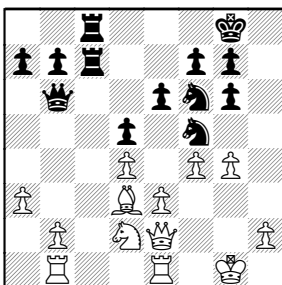
The following two games showcase a fun battle with English IM Lawrence Trent. Nyzhnyk manages to steal a crucial half-point in the first game with white while playing a major piece endgame to the maximum with black.

Nyzhnyk, Illia (2750)

Trent, Lawrence (2474)

Walter Browne Blitz 2018

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Bf5 3.Bf4 e6 4.e3 Bd6 5.Bg3 Nf6 6.Nbd2 0-0 7.Be2 c5 8.c3 Nc6 9.Nh4 Bg6 10.Nxg6 hxg6 11.Bxd6 Qxd6 12.f4 cxd4 13.cxd4 Ne7 14.Bd3 Nf5 15.Qe2 Qb4 16.Rb1 Rac8 17.a3 Qb6 18.0-0 Rc7 19.Rfe1 Rfc8 20.g4

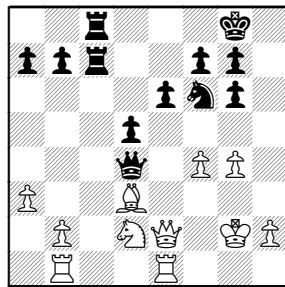


20...Nxd4

The computer doesn't like this sacrifice but in a G/3 +2 blitz game it might be worth the risk.

21.exd4 Qxd4+ 22.Kg2

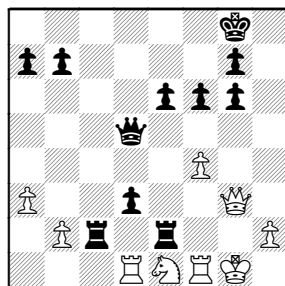
22.Qe3 Qxe3+ 23.Rxe3 Nxe4 leaves the computer happy with his position from White's perspective.



22...Nxg4

The computer prefers 22...Qxf4 as the g-pawn falls too although it is not too obvious why 23.h3? Rc2! 24.Bxc2 Rxc2 25.Rbd1 Ne4

23.Qxg4 Qxd3 24.Nf3 Rc2+ 25.Kg1 Re2 26.Rf1 Rcc2 27.Kh1 Qe4 28.Qg3 d4 29.Rbd1 d3 30.Kg1 Qe3+ 31.Kh1 Qe4 32.Kg1 f6 33.Ne1 Qd4+ 34.Kh1 Qd5+ 35.Kg1



35...Qd4+

Short of time White fails to find the finishing touch 35...Qc5+ 36.Kh1 Rxh2+! 37.Qxh2 Rxh2+ 38.Kxh2 Qh5+ picking up the rook on



GM Illia Nyzhnyk & GM Alex Shimanov

d1.

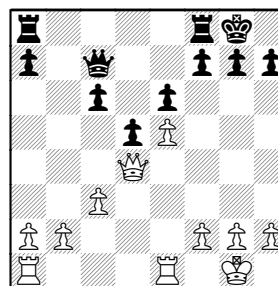
36.Kh1 Qe4+ 37.Kg1 Qd4+ 38.Kh1 Qe4+ 1/2-1/2

Trent, Lawrence (2474)

Nyzhnyk, Illia (2750)

Walter Browne Blitz 2018

1.e4 c6 2.Ne2 d5 3.e5 c5 4.d4 Bf5 5.dxc5 e6 6.Nd4 Bxc5 7.Be3 Bxd4 8.Bxd4 Nc6 9.Bb5 Nge7 10.c3 0-0 11.0-0 Nxd4 12.Qxd4 Bxb1 13.Rxfb1 Qc7 14.Re1 Nc6 15.Bxc6 bxc6

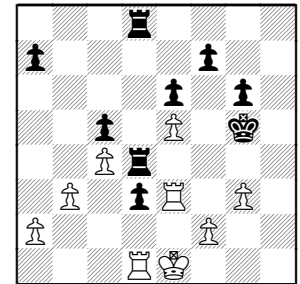


16.Re3

White offered a draw here but Black declined. Although White looks like he's about to get an attack going against the Black king, Black's play on the queenside has more chance of going somewhere in this type of structure.

16...c5 17.Qg4 Rab8 18.b3

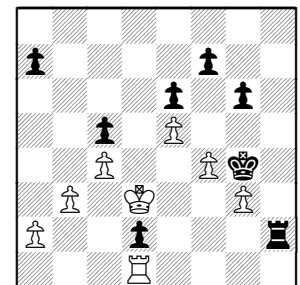
Rfd8 19.Rae1 Qe7 20.Rg3 g6 21.h4 d4 22.c4 d3 23.Rd1 Rd4 24.Qg5 Qxg5 25.hxg5 Rbd8 26.Re3 Kg7 27.g3 h6 28.gxh6+ Kxh6 29.Kf1 Kg5 30.Ke1



30...d2+

White's king and rook are tied down to the prevention of Black queening his d-pawn. This gives Black's king a free hand to go exploring.

31.Ke2 Kg4 32.f4 Rh8 33.Rd3 Rh2+ 34.Ke3 Rxd3+ 35.Kxd3



35...Kxg3 36.b4

36.Ke4 Re2+ 37.Kd3 Rf2

36...cxb4 37.c5 Kxf4 38.c6 Kxe5 0-1



National Open Starts on a Thursday! Huh? What?!

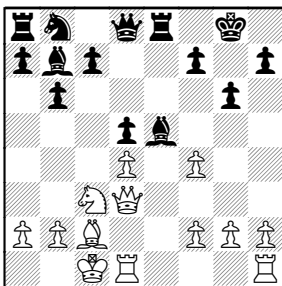
I've personally never been able to write about the National Open main event for the Friday Bulletin before but from the current attendance count, just over 700 which is the first time that has happened since 2008, it seems the experiment to move to 7 rounds has been successful. Next year the Open Section will be moving to a 9-round FIDE norm event, but more on that in a future edition.

Round 1 of the 4-day schedule saw the usual mis-matches. For once there were no major upsets, not counting a forfeit win over a GM on board 5 of course. Steve Wongso was the only lower rated player to take anything from his game, a draw with FM Nick Raptis down on board 24.

Here are a couple of fun games from the upper-mid section of the Open Section.

Moradiabadi, Elshan (2624)
Saidy, Anthony (2225)
National Open 2018

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6
4.Bf4 Bb7 5.e3 Be7 6.Nc3
Nh5 7.Bd3 Nxf4 8.exf4 Bf6
9.Be4 d5 10.cxd5 exd5
11.Bc2 0-0 12.Qd3 Re8+
13.Ne5 g6 14.0-0-0 Bxe5?

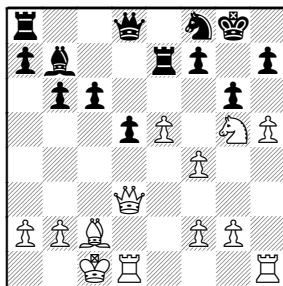


15.dxe5

Many folks would automati-

cally play 15.fxe5 to undouble the f-pawns but Moradiabadi sees the open d-file as a way of getting his knight over to the kingside to start an attack.

15...c6 16.Ne4 Re6 17.h4
Nd7 18.Ng5 Re7 19.h5 Nf8

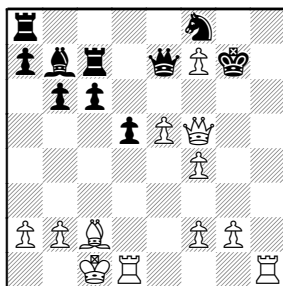


20.Nxh7

A few other moves win but this one is the prettiest!

20...Kxh7 21.hxg6+ Kg7
22.Qf5 Rc7 23.gxf7 Qe7

Tactics time, mate in 3



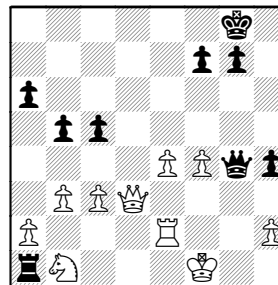
24.Rh7+ Nxh7 25.Qxh7+
Kf8 26.Qg8# 1-0

Kitsis, Stanislav (2197)

Bryant, John (2584)

National Open 2018

1.d4 c5 2.c3 Qc7 3.e4 d6
4.Nf3 Nf6 5.Bd3 e5 6.Bb5+
Nbd7 7.0-0 a6 8.Bxd7+
Bxd7 9.Re1 Be7 10.Bg5 0-0
11.dxe5 dxe5 12.Nxe5
Rad8 13.Nxd7 Rxd7 14.Qf3
Rfd8 15.Na3 b5 16.Bxf6
Bxf6 17.Rad1 Be5 18.g3
Rd2 19.Rxd2 Rxd2 20.Re2

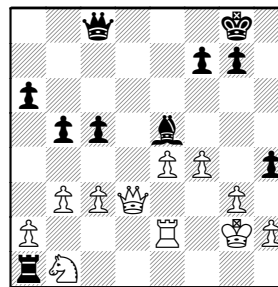


27...Rxb1+! 28.Qxb1 Qf3+
29.Kg1



The top boards in the playing hall

Rd1+ 21.Kg2 Ra1 22.Qd3 29.Ke1 Qh1+
h5 23.b3 h4 24.Nb1 Qc8 29...Qxe2 30.Qf1 Qxe4
25.f4 31.Qf2 h3 32.Qd2 Kh7
33.a4 c4 34.bxc4 bxa4 0-1



25...Bxf4 26.gxf4 Qg4+
27.Kf1

27.Kf2 was the only move
27...Qxf4+ 28.Ke1 Qc1+
29.Kf2 Rxb1 30.Qd8+ Kh7
31.Qxh4+ Kg6 32.Qg3+
should be equal.

GM Tigran Petrosian Perfect in Simul

GM Tigran Petrosian took on 23 players in the GM simul on Thursday. Unfortunately none of the players managed to win or draw as the GM went a perfect 23-0. I've yet to speak to Tigran about which games he thought were best and so once I do I hope to publish one or two. In the meantime, thanks to all the players for participating and even though you didn't win, we hope you had a great experience!



702-930-9550

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www.VegasChessFestival.com

DROPPING OUT? NEED A BYE?

Be sure to sign the sheet at the Registration Desk! Nobody wants to sit at an empty board. Half-point (½) byes are available in any round if requested in advance or by the start of the previous round. Round 6 or 7 byes must be requested before the start of round 3 and cannot be revoked after round 3 starts. After hours, call 702-930-9550 and leave a voice message or use the contact page on our website. Be sure to speak clearly and give your name, section and contact number.

LECTURES

Conference Room 11

Friday

- 3 pm *My Immortal Game from Las Vegas*,
GM Pavel Blatny
- 4 pm *Big New Ideas in Chess*,
GM Zbigniew Pakleza
- 8 pm *Tricks That Sometimes Work
Against Better Players Than Us*,
IM Valer Krutti

Saturday

- 3 pm *The History of Chess*,
Sean Manross

Sunday

- 2 pm *Making Chess More Accessible*,
US Chess Accessibility & Special
Circumstances Committee

NATIONAL OPEN

Ballroom A-C				Ballroom F-G			
Friday	R2: 11 am	R3: 5:30 pm		Friday 3-day	R1: 11 am	R2: 2pm	
Saturday	R4: 10 am	R5: 4:30 pm		Saturday 2-day	R1: 10 am	R2: 11:30 am	
Sunday	R6: 10 am	R7: 4:30 pm			R3: 1 pm	R4: 2:30 pm	
				Sunday	Winners' Circle Cash Bar 9 pm		
BEGINNERS	Friday	R1: 11 am	R2: 12:30 pm	R3: 2pm	R4: 3:30 pm	R5: 5:30 pm	R6: 7 pm
	Saturday & Sunday	R1: 10 am	R2: 11:30 am	R3: 1pm	R4: 2:30 pm	R5: 4:30 pm	R6: 6 pm

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

Paradise Event Center South

Friday

- 10 am Youth Trophy Tournament
- 5:15 pm Awards Presentation
- 6:30 pm Youth Blitz

Saturday

- 8:30 am Late Registration (to 9 am)
- 9:45 am Opening Ceremony
- 10 am Round 1
- 1 pm Round 2
- 3 pm WGM Sabina Foisor Autographs

Saturday Continued

- 3:30 pm Round 3
- 6 pm Puzzle Solving Competition
- 6:30 pm WGM Sabina Foisor Simul

Sunday

- 9:30 am Side Event Awards
- 10 am Round 4
- 1 pm Round 5
- 3:30 pm Round 6
- 6:30 pm Closing Ceremony

BLITZ SECTIONALS

Friday/Saturday Ballroom G & Sunday Ballroom D

Friday, 11 pm	RR sections 8 players	Sunday, 10 pm	RR sections of 8 players
Saturday, 10 pm	RR sections 10-12 players	Registration ends 30 mins before start times!	

ANALYSIS OF YOUR GAMES

Conference Room 1



GM Melik Khachiyan will analyze National Open games 2 hours after the start of each round. National Open players age 14 and under are eligible for the Fredie Best Game Award. Those who wish to have a game considered must bring it to one of the first six analysis sessions. Only rounds 1 through 6 will be consid-