INSIDE! DAY ONE FUN, GAMES, PICTURES AND MORE!!



Editor: Chris Bird

NATIONAL OPEN NEWS

Las Vegas International Chess Festival

Volume 2013 ● Issue 2

Favorites Win In Round One Mismatches

The main National Open sec- ☐ Ehlvest,J (2692) tions got under way on Friday

Chen,S (2281) with the start of the 3-day National Open (1.2) schedules.

than 15 Grandmasters decided 4.d4 Nf6 5.0-0 e6 6.c4 dxc4 they wanted to play all 6 games 7.Qa4 Bd7 8.Qxc4 cxd4 at the slower time control.

ups in a Swiss throw up some 13.Bxc6+ Rxc6 14.Rd1 Ob6 potential upset games. However, there were no wins by the lower rated players but a handful managed to nick their higher rated opponents for a draw.

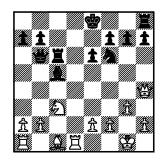
Succumbing to this, and therefore starting the event with a Swiss gambit were GM Ben Finegold, FMs Luke Harmon-Vellotti and Seth Homa, and Jared Defibaugh who drew with Ilia Serpik, Leonid Furman, Georgi Kostadinov and Solomon Ruddell respectively.

On the main boards only GM Ray Robson's game against Jonathan Chiang was lengthy enough to give the spectators something to watch beyond the end of the first time control although the GM eventually won the rook and pawn ending.

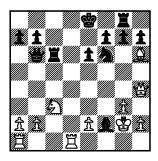
GM Alex Lenderman, defending National Open Champion, also got off to a winning start by dispatching of Vignesh Panchanathan in a complicated Caro-Kann.

Here are a couple of the more interesting games from round one as GM Jaan Ehlvest shows off his tactical prowess and GM Varuzhan Akobian takes care of FM Alisa Melekhina's King's Indian Defense.

In the Open Section, no less 1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 c5 3.Bg2 Nc6 9.Nxd4 Rc8 10.Nc3 Nxd4 As usual, the 1st round match- 11.Qxd4 Bc5 12.Qh4 Bc6



15.Bh6! Bxf2+ 16.Kg2 Rg8

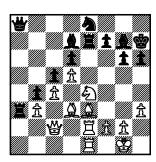


17.Bxg7! Rxc3 18.bxc3 Nd5 19.Rxd5 exd5 20.Qxh7 Rxg7 21.Qxg7 Qe3 22.Rf1 1-0

☐ Akobian, V (2685) **■** Melekhina, A (2267) National Open (1.4)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 d6 25.h4

4.Nc3 g6 5.e4 Bg7 6.h3 0-0 7.Nf3 e6 8.Bd3 Na6 9.Bg5 h6 10.Be3 exd5 11.exd5 Nc7 12.Qd2 Kh7 13.0-0 b5 14.b3 Re8 15.Rae1 b4 16.Ne2 a5 17.Qc2 Bd7 18.Ng3 Re7 19.Re2 a4 20.Rfe1 axb3 21.axb3 Ra3 22.Nd2 Qa8 23.Nde4 Nxe4 24.Nxe4 Ne8



25.Bc1 threatening Ng5+ wins exchange but maybe Akobian thinks that Black would get too much compensation or he just thought his move was better.

25...Bf5 26.h5 26.Bc1+-26...Rea7



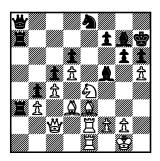
GM Jaan Ehlvest showed off his tactical skills in an entertaining game in round one against Shijie Chen on board 2

Slotman Hunt!



Can you find the 8 mini Slotmen hidden in this issue of the National Open News?

Akobian -Melekhina **Continued**



27.Ng5+! hxg5 28.Bxf5 gxf5 29.Qxf5+ Kh8 30.Bxc5 Nc7 31.Bxa7 Rxa7 32.Qxf7 Qf8 33.Qd7 Be5 34.Rxe5 dxe5 35.d6 Qe8 36.Qf5 Na6 37.Qxg5 Nc5 38.Rxe5 Ne6 39.Qh6+ Rh7 40.Qxe6 1-0



GM Ray Robson, the highest rated player in the 3-day schedule of the National Open

Where Are All The Interesting Games?

As has been announced before score into an email or attach a Interesting for Mr. Ball, and is the start of each round, this year pgn file and send it along. there is a new way for participants to submit their interesting games for publication; via email.

Yes folks, we're getting up to speed with technology in the National Open News production office.

completed your games you go back to your room and plug the keeping legible score. moves into your favorite chess engine, which then shows you how you had much better options on just about every move. (Isn't it a great feeling when you actually play the move recommended by the silicon beast?)

Anyway, if you're going to do that with your interesting games then why not send them along to us while you're at it?

Just copy and paste that game

The email address you need to remember

games13@vegaschessfestival.com.

We can't guarantee that we'll find your game as interesting as you did, but we might get more of a chance to look at it if we 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 f5 3.Nxe5 Nc6 12.Ke1 don't have to try to decipher 4.Qh5+ g6 5.Nxg6 Nf6 6.Qh4 14.Na3 Qh4+ 15.g3 Nxf3+ We know that once you've some of the hieroglyphics that Rg8 7.Nxf8 Rg4 8.Qh6 Rxe4+ 16.Ke2 Nd4+ 17.Kd3 Nf2+ some people try to pass off as 9.Kd1 Ng4

> Of course, if you're not technically inclined then you can stay with the tried and trusted method we've had over the years by checking that little box in the top corner of your scoresheet when you hand it in.

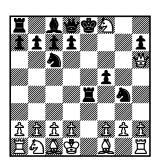
> Here is an interesting game that submitted via scoresheet method.

Unfortunately it involves a big 10.d3??

quite the upset in the U2000 (11.Qxf5+? is a big mistake Section but come on folks, I'm sure you can do better!

☐ Moore,D (1934)

■ Ball,B (1809) National Open (U2000) (1)



blunder and a mop up by Black. The only move for White here

10.Qh5+ Kxf8 11.c3 even though it is the most commonly played move in this position 11...Kg7 12.c3 d5 13.0f3 Ne3+!) 12.Kc2 d6=

10...Nxh6 11.dxe4 Ng4 Kxf8 13.f3 18.Kxd4 Qxe4+ 0-1



Send your interesting games via email to

Volume 2013 Issue 2 Page 3

Top Seeds Held In Round Two; Landaw Upsets GM

through the round 2 games was round 2 action. much more exciting than round 1, despite there being, theoretically anyway, a better chance of some sacrificial onslaught when the rating differential is greater.

On board 1, top seed GM Ray Robson was held to a draw by GM Carlos Matamoros. Yes folks, its only round 2 and already we're seeing GM vs. GM matchups!

Second highest seed, GM Jaan Ehlvest, was also nicked for a draw by Adithya Balasubrama- 2...d6 3.Bb2 Nc6 4.Bb5 Bd7 nian meaning the top two will 5.f4 a6 6.Bxc6 Bxc6 7.d3 e6 be in the 1½ point score group 8.Nf3 Nf6 9.Nbd2 Be7 10.0-0 for the start of round 3, thereby vacating the top boards and giving the spectators some fresh blood to watch.

down on board 9 as FM Julian led to a loss. Landaw beat GM Elshan Moradiabadi. Landaw managed to convert a favorable rook and bishop vs. rook and knight endgame.

This means we have 13 players currently on perfect scores, 10 of them GMs. (There seems to be a reason they hold that title.) 12 of those players will occupy the top 6 boards while Landaw will probably get "down" against Robson.

Even I must admit that working my favorite games from the

In this first game, GM Tamaz Gelashvili should probably have become the 2nd GM to lose to a lower rated player but he somehow manages to not only escape, but go on to win.

☐ Gelashvili,T (2668) **■** Griffith,K (2401)

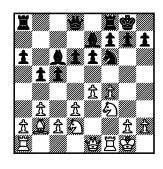
National Open (2.5)

1.e4 c5 2.b3

favorite of Gelashvili's against the Sicilian.

0-0 11.Qe1 b5

According to my database Gelashvili has had this position on the board numerous times in There was also a big upset his life and so far it has never



12.e5

Once again, here are some of Gelashvili has also played the



GM Tamaz Gelashvili was lucky to survive in his round 2 game against Kyron Griffith



The demo board crew help keep the spectators happy by immediately relaying every move played on the top boards

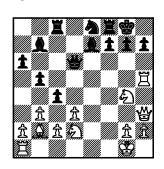
immediate 12.Qg3.

Here is the first new move for Gelashvili. Previously played Here GM Victor Mikhalevski against him was 14...Kh8 and outplays his young opponent 14...Ne8.

15.f5 exf5 16.Rxf5 Ne8 17.Ng4 Qd6

17...Rc6 bringing the rook in to ■ Mikhalevski, V (2628) play and defending along the National Open (2.10) 6th rank is better.

18.Qh3 c4 19.Rh5?!



19...c3!-+ 20.Rxh7 Qc5+?

20...f5! gives the king some luft and attacks another White piece. This position should be won for Black, e.g. 21.Qh5 g6 22.Rh8+ Kf7-+

21.Nf2 g6

21...f5 is now too late 22.Qh5! and Black no longer has the ...g6 push to prevent the mate since he moved his queen from where it would have protected the pawn.

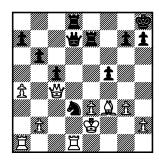
22.Rh8+ Kg7 23.Bxc3+ 1-0

Black's king will be driven to 12...dxe5 13.Nxe5 Bb7 14.Og3 f6 where a deadly knight check awaits.

> and then finishes him off with some nice tactical flair.

☐ Wheeler, C (2328)

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.g3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.Bg2 Nc6 6.Nc3 Nc7 7.0-0 e5 8.d3 Be7 9.Nd2 Bd7 10.Nc4 f6 11.a4 0-0 12.f4 exf4 13.Bxf4 Ne6 14.Bd6 Be8 15.Ne4 Kh8 16.Bh3 Bf7 17.e3 Bg8 18.Qe2 b6 19.Bg2 Rc8 20.Rac1 Od7 21.Rfd1 Rce8 22.Qd2 Ng5 23.Bxe7 Nxe4 24.Bxe4 Rxe7 25.Qc3 Nb4 26.Ra1 Rd8 27.Kf2 f5 28.Bf3 Nxd3+ 29.Ke2 Bxc4 30.Oxc4



30...Rxe3+!!

The only way to win and a cool looking rook sacrifice at that!

Round Two Continued

31.Kxe3 Qe7+ 32.Be4 Qg5+ 32...fxe4 33.Qxe4 Qxe4+ 34.Kxe4 Nf2+

33.Ke2 Qg4+ 34.Kf1 fxe4 35.Qf7 h6 36.Kg1 e3 37.Qe7 Od4 38.Kf1 e2+ 0-1

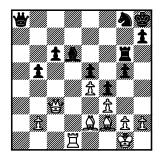
38...e2+ 39.Qxe2 *(39.Kxe2 Qf2#)* 39...Rf8+ 40.Kg2 Rf2+

The following neat little sacrifice was brought to my attention by the player who played it when asked how his game went.

☐ Molner,M (2535)

■ Yanayt,E (2302) National Open (2.16)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7
4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 e5 7.0
-0 Nc6 8.d5 Ne7 9.Ne1 Nd7
10.Be3 f5 11.f3 f4 12.Bf2 g5
13.Rc1 Rf6 14.Nd3 Kh8 15.c5
Nxc5 16.Nxc5 dxc5 17.Bxc5
Ng8 18.Bf2 a6 19.Na4 Bf8
20.Nc5 Bd6 21.Qb3 Rh6
22.Rfd1 Qe8 23.Ne6 Bxe6
24.dxe6 b5 25.Ra1 Rxe6 26.a4
Rb8 27.axb5 axb5 28.Ra5 c6
29.Ra7 Rg6 30.Qc3 Ra8
31.Rxa8 Qxa8



32.Rxd6! Rxd6 33.Qxe5+ Rf6
34.Bd4 Qd8 35.b4 h6 36.Bd1
Qf8 37.Bc3 Qf7 38.Qd4 Kg7
39.Bc2 Qe7 40.Bb3 Kf8
41.Bxg8 Rd6 42.Qh8 Qa7+
43.Kf1 Qe3 44.Be6+ Ke7
45.Qf6+ Ke8 46.Qf7+ Kd8
47.Bf6# 1-0

Commemorative Boards & Sets

\$15.00 each or two for \$25.00

(Board or Set only \$10.00)

Use your Plus Score Certificates!

Order at the Registration Desk

......



FM John Daniel Bryant who is amongst the leaders after starting with 2 wins on day one.

National Open Blitz Tournaments!

Sectionals

Saturday, 9:30 pm

In sections of 12-15 players. Rating range less than 200 points whenever possible.

The Rumskey Chess Challenge

Saturday, 9:30 pm

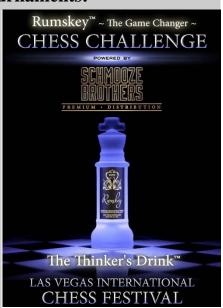
10 Grandmasters compete for cash prizes and signed magnums of Rumskey, a unique product of the Las Vegas Distillery. Spectators welcome!

Open & Under 1900 Sections

Sunday, 9:30 pm

\$3,000 guaranteed in prizes! 7 round double Swiss.

All blitz tournaments will take place in Grande Ballroom E



Volume 2013 Issue 2 Page 5

Scholastic Blitz Results

On Friday night there was a Scholastic Blitz 10 and Under tournament. Here are the results of the trophy winners.

15 and Under

Player	Trophy
Gabriel Sam	1st
Jackson Wahl	2nd
Franklin Zhou	3rd
Eric Hon	4th
Royce Pereira	5th
Sean Innes	1st 1200-1399
Alexander Ionkov	2nd 1200-1399
Stephen Dolz	1st 1000-1199
Olivia Deangelis	2nd 1000-1199
Valentin Matveev	1st Under 1000
Isaac Adams	2nd Under 1000
Peyton Smith	1st Unrated

Player	Trophy
Aaryan Deshpande	1st
Ruiting Ma	2nd
Hans Niemann	3rd
Phillip Ionkov	4th
Asher Thakur	5th
Patrick Bless	1st 1000-1199
Maximilian Corliss	2nd 1000-1199
Nathan Dolz	1st 800-999
Marcos Sanchez	2nd 800-999
Darci Deangelis	1st Under 800
Andrew Corliss	2nd Under 800
Zihan Zhang	1st Unrated
Maya Kaufman	2nd Unrated

Random Photos From The Main Playing Hall















Here are the full results, board by board, from the Alex Lenderman Simul on Thursday.

Alex's final score from 28 games was 22 wins, 3 draws and 3 losses.

Player	Res
Bryan Leano	Win
Guoc Cuong Nguyen	Win
Seth Taylor-Brill	Win
Jeff Gallegos	Draw
Gordon W Gribble	Draw
Rudy Vrana	Draw
William Adamson	Loss
Stephen Barbre	Loss
Donald Bishop	Loss
John C. Bonfield	Loss
Charles Davis	Loss
Philip Dennis	Loss
Petro Gretchanei	Loss
Roger Gribble	Loss
Vivian Xiao Liu	Loss
Caset McCartney	Loss
Helene McIntosh	Loss
Kevin Miller	Loss
Travis James Miller	Loss
Hans Moke Niemann	Loss
George Racz	Loss
Scott G Raymond	Loss
Roger Schmidt	Loss
Ranjeet Singh	Loss
Edward Tucker	Loss
Karl Ulbrich	Loss
Alfred Walker	Loss
Bob Wheat	Loss



Scholastic Trophy Tournament Winners!



Queena Deng, Under 1800 Co-Champion and winner of the 1st place trophy on tie-breaks



Carson Woods went a perfect 5-0 to win the Under 800 section



Griffin Salvador won all of his games to win the Under 1200 section









Congratulations to all the Scholastic Trophy event winners and to all the participants on a great day of chess!







Volume 2013 Issue 2 Page 7

Picture This! Scholastic Trophy Tournament

































INTERNATIONAL CHESS FESTIVAL

www.VegasChessFestival.com (702) 560-0955

Dropping Out? Need a Bye?

Be sure to sign the sheet at the Registration Desk - nobody wants to sit at an empty board! Halfpoint byes for Sunday rounds must be requested before the start of round 2 and may not be cancelled. Other half-point byes may be requested up to one hour after the start of the previous round. After hours, call (702) 560-0955 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.

Post Your Results!

Both players are responsible for reporting results. Please post on the pairing sheet and turn in a score sheet with the result clearly marked and signed by both players.

NATIONAL OPEN **CHAMPIONSHIP**

Time Control: 40/90, SD/30, inc 30 2-day Rounds 1-3: G/45, delay 5

Grande Ballroom A-D SATURDAY

Round 3	10:00 am
2-day Round 1	10:00 am
2-day Round 2	12:00 pm
2-day Round 3	2:00 pm
Round 4	4:30 pm

SUNDAY

Round 5	10:00 am
Round 6	4:30 pm

Capri 103

Cash Bar	8:00 pm
Winner's Circle	9:00 pm

Rochester Chess and Chess4Less (Capri 106)

Rochester Chess Center and Chess4Less have teamed up to bring you the best selection ever selection of chess books, sets, clocks and National Open t-shirts. A great selection will be available throughout the tournament. Book signings will be posted. Check it out!

Opening Hours

Saturday 9:00 am - 11:00 pm Sunday 9:00 am - 11:00 pm

International Youth Championship (Grande Ballroom E)

Hosted by International Master Daniel Naroditsky

Sunday

Saturday		Surany	
8:00 am	Late Registration (to 9:00 am)	9:30 am	Side Event Awards
9:30 am	Opening Ceremony	10:00 am	Round 4
10:00 am	Round 1	1:00 pm	Round 5
1:00 pm	Round 2	4:00 pm	Closing Ceremony
3:00 pm	Daniel Naroditsky Autograph Session		
4:00 pm	Round 3		
6:30 pm	Puzzle Solving Competition		
7:00 pm	Daniel Naroditsky Simul		

Free Lectures and Workshops

Saturday

Saturday

12:00 pm Analysis of your games, GM Ron Henley (Capri 103)

2:30 pm Birth of a Variation: The Byrne Variation of the Sicilian Najdorf, GM Walter

Browne (Capri 109)

6:30 pm Analysis of your games, GM Melik Khachiyan (Capri 103)

8:00 pm Crushing Black!, GM Ron Henley (Capri 109)

Sunday

12:00 pm Analysis of your games, GM Melik Khachiyan (Capri 103)

1:00 pm Masterpiece at 2013 U.S. Championship, GM Walter Browne (Capri 109)

2:30 pm Russian Endgame Tactics, GM Ron Henley (Capri 109)

6:30 pm Analysis of your games, GM Ron Henley (Capri 109)

National Open players aged 14 and under who wish to have a game considered for the "Freddie" Best Game Prize must bring it to one of the first 5 analysis sessions. Only rounds 1 through 5 will be considered.

Commemorative Tournament DVD

Hundreds of games, photos and more mailed on a DVD a few days after the Chess Festival. If you think your game is worthy of publication, submit it in PGN format via email to games13@VegasChessFestival.com or check the box on the scoresheet.

> Order your DVD for just \$25 at the Registration Desk Use your Plus Score Certificates!

Poker Tournament

Enjoy the No Limit Hold'em Tournament for participants in our Chess Festival. The Las Vegas International Chess Festival is adding a commemorative bracelet for the winner, plus a \$25 bounty of any member of our staff that you knock out. Register at the Poker Room Sunday night or Monday morning.





Live Game Broadcast

www.VegasChessFestival.com/live/



www.VegasChessFestival.com/results/