



# NEWS

## NATIONAL OPEN JUNE 21-24, 2018

### National Open Action, Four Tied at the Top

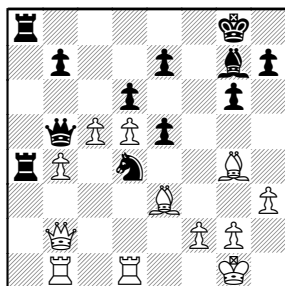
After 3 rounds of the National Open 4-day and 3-day schedules, four players are tied at the top with perfect scores.

GM Illia Nyzhnyk, GM Ruifeng Li and GM Cristian Chirila are joined by Finnish FM Teemu Virtanen as the only players without a blemish on their records and they will be ready to play each other by the time you're reading this Newsletter.

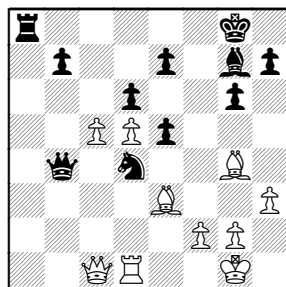
Also joining the fray on Saturday is the 2-day schedule folks and last time I checked there were 9 players registered for that in the Open Section, 8 GMs and one IM. That sounds like it should be a blood bath before the 2-day merges with the main schedule in round 5.

Here is some of the action from today's Open Section leading us up to this point.

**Nyzhnyk, Illia (2706)**  
**Kiewra, Keaton (2476)**  
National Open (2) 2018  
26...Qb5

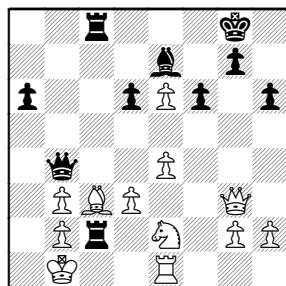


27.Qc1  
27.Rxd4! exd4 28.Be6+ Kh8  
29.Bxd4  
27...Rxb4 28.Rxb4 Qxb4

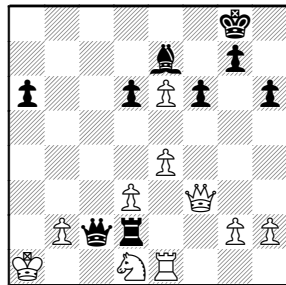


29.Bxd4 1-0  
29.Bxd4 exd4 30.Be6+ Kh8  
31.c6 bxc6 32.dxc6 Qc3  
33.c7

**Banik, Siddharth (2249)**  
**Bitoon, Richard (2450)**  
National Open (2) 2018  
28.Bc3



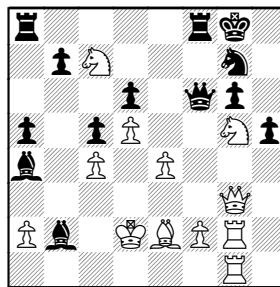
28...R8xc3! 29.Nxc3 Qxb3  
30.Nd1 Rd2 31.Qf3 Qc2+  
32.Ka1



32...Rxd3  
32...Qa4+ 33.Kb1 d5!  
34.exd5 (34.Qh5 Qc2+

35.Ka1 Ba3 36.Qf7+ Kh7  
37.Qb7 Rxd3 38.e7 Bxe7  
39.Qxe7 Rxd1+ 40.Rxd1  
Qxd1+ 41.Ka2 Qa4+ 42.Kb1  
Qxe4+) 34...Qc2+ 35.Ka1  
Ba3  
33.Ne3 Qb3 34.Qe2 Qa4+  
35.Kb1 Qxe4 36.Nc2 Qxe2  
37.Rxe2 d5 38.Ne3 g6  
39.Kc2 Rd4 40.Rd2 Re4  
41.Nxd5 Rxe6 42.Nxe7+  
Rxe7 43.Rd6 Kf7 44.Kd3 a5  
45.Ra6 Rb7 46.Kc3 Rb5  
47.g4 h5 48.Ra7+ Ke6  
49.Ra6+ Ke5 50.gxh5 gxh5  
51.Kc4 Rxb2 52.Rxa5+ Ke4  
53.Rxh5 f5 54.Rh8 Rc2+  
55.Kb3 Rc6 56.h4 Kf4  
57.Rh5 Rc8 58.Kb2 Ke4  
59.Rh7 Kf4 60.Rh5 Rc5  
61.Rh8 Kg4 62.h5 Kg5  
63.h6 Kg6 64.Kb3 Rc7  
65.Kb4 Rh7 66.Rg8+ Kxh6  
67.Kc4 Rd7 68.Rg1 f4  
69.Rg4 Rf7 70.Kd3 Kh5  
71.Rg1 Re7 72.Kd2 Kh4  
73.Re1 Rxe1 74.Kxe1 Kg3  
75.Kf1 Kf3 0-1

**Kolay, Alex (2158)**  
**Wongso, Steve (1571)**  
National Open (2) 2018  
35.Kd2



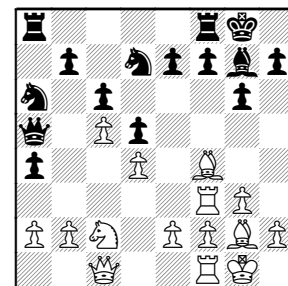
35...Be5  
35...Bc1+! 36.Rxc1 (36.Kxc1  
Qa1+ 37.Kd2 Qb2+ 38.Ke3  
Qd4#) 36...Qb2+ 37.Rc2



GM Ruifeng Li

Qxc2+ 38.Ke3 Qc1+ 39.Kd3  
Bc2+ 40.Kc3 Bb1+ 41.Kb3  
a4#  
36.Qd3 Bf4+ 37.Ke1 Qa1+  
38.Bd1 Bxd1 39.Qxd1  
Qc3+ 40.Kf1 Qxc4+ 41.Qe2  
Qc1+ 42.Qe1 Rac8 43.Qxc1  
Bxc1 44.Nge6 g5 45.Nxf8  
Kxf8 46.Nb5 Bf4 47.Ke2 h4  
48.Nxd6 Bxd6 49.Rxg5 Rc7  
50.e5 Re7 51.f4 Bb8 52.Kf3  
c4 53.d6 Rf7 54.e6 Rxf4+  
55.Kxf4 Nxe6+ 56.Ke5  
Nng5 57.Rxg5 c3 58.Ke6  
h3 59.d7 Bc7 60.Rc5 Bb6  
61.Rxc3 h2 62.Rh3 Bc7  
63.Rxh2 1-0

**Moradiabadi, Elshan (2624)**  
**Nyzhnyk, Illia (2706)**  
National Open (3) 2018  
17.Rxf3



17...e5!

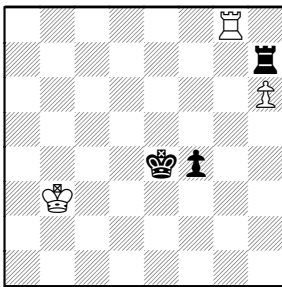


## National Open Games Continued

Undermining the c5 pawn win!  
which will fall soon. White's  
position collapses quickly.

18.dxe5 Nxe5 19.Rc3 Nc4  
20.Ne3 Bxc3 21.bxc3 Nxe3  
22.Bxe3 Nxc5 23.Bd4 f6  
24.Bh3 Ne4 25.f3 Ng5  
26.Bg4 Rae8 0-1

Chandra,Akshat (2590)  
Li,Ruifeng (2692)  
National Open (3) 2018  
64...Rh7



65.Rg6?

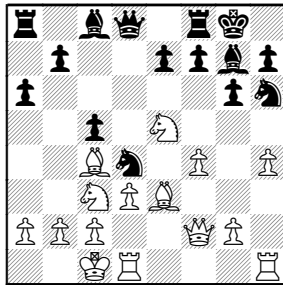
65.Re8+ Only move to draw  
according to the endgame  
tablebase.

65...Kf5!

And this is the only move to

66.Ra6 f3 67.Kc3 f2 68.Ra8  
Rxb6 69.Ra1 Ke4 0-1

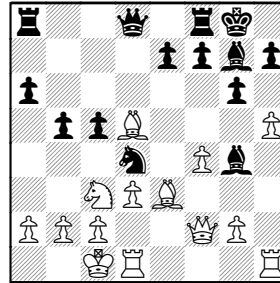
Bitoon,Richard (2503)  
Chirila,Ioan (2637)  
National Open (3) 2018  
14.h4



14...Ng4!

Black forces the trade of the  
h6 knight for the e5 one, de-  
velops the bishop and opens  
up the a1-h8 diagonal. A  
multi-purpose move if ever  
there was one.

15.Nxg4 Bxg4 16.h5 b5  
17.Bd5



17...b4!

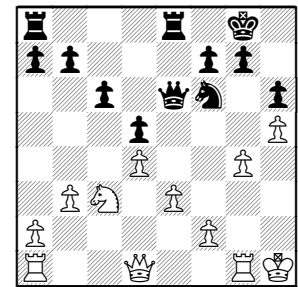
There are captures all over  
the place but none of them  
are any good for White.

18.hxg6 bxc3 19.Bxd4  
cxd4 20.Bb3 h5 21.Rde1  
Qd6 22.f5 e5 23.gxf7+ Rxf7  
24.Kb1

24.Bxf7+ Kxf7 25.Qg3 Bh6+  
26.Kb1 Qb4 and mate fol-  
lows.

24...Kf8 25.Bxf7 Kxf7 26.f6  
Qb4 27.fxg7+ Kxg7 28.b3  
Qa3 0-1

Quirke,Jeff (2223)  
Ippolito,Dean (2410)  
National Open (3) 2018  
22.Rg1



22...Nxh5 23.Qf3

23.gxh5 Qh3#

23...Nf6 24.Rg2 Ne4  
25.Nxe4 dxe4 26.Qf4 f6  
27.Rgg1 Red8 28.Rac1 Rd5  
29.Kg2 a5 30.f3 exf3+  
31.Kxf3 Re8 32.Rc3 h5  
33.Ke2 Rg5 34.Rc5 Rxc5  
35.dxc5 Qd5 36.g5 f5 37.g6  
Rd8 38.Qc7 f4 0-1



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available from the T-shirt vendor in the Registration Foyer



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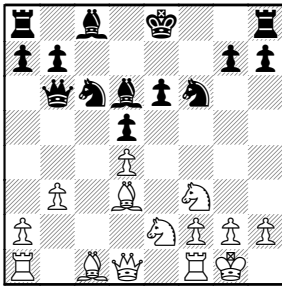




## Freddie Frontrunners, Analysis by GM Melik Khachiyan

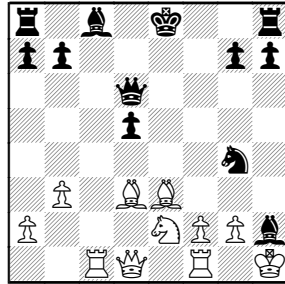
Two hours into each round, GM Melik Khachiyan analyzes games in Conference Room 1. Players age 14 and under are eligible to win the Freddie Best Game Prize, a prize started by previous National Open organizer Fred Gruenberg. Only games from round 1-6 will count as the award will be made prior to round 7. To submit a game, take it to one of Melik's analysis sessions. Here are two games that Melik is already excited about!

**Sun, Aaron (1936)**  
**Levine, Joseph (1999)**  
 National Open U2100 2018  
**1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.Bd3 c5 6.c3 Nc6 7.Ne2 Qb6 8.Nf3 cxd4 9.cxd4 f6 10.exf6 Nxf6 11.0-0 Bd6**  
 Interesting idea to take control over e5 square.  
**12.b3**

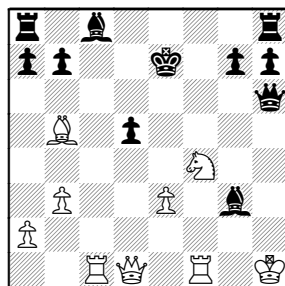


**12...e5!? 13.dxe5 Nxe5 14.Nxe5**  
 14.Ned4 perhaps this is more solid for White but he jumps in on the train of a tactical battle believing since he is ahead in development that should work for him.  
**14...Bxe5 15.Be3 Qd6?**  
 Way too risky but Black wanted to launch an attack on the h2 pawn. 15...Qd8 was more preferable,

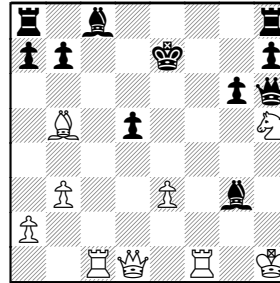
**16.Rc1 Bxh2+ 17.Kh1 Ng4**



**18.g3?! 18.Nd4 Nxe3 19.fxe3 Qh6 20.Rxc8+ Rxc8 21.Nf5** This line gives White a decisive advantage but it's really hard to find, even for me it took some time to figure it.  
**18...Nxe3 19.fxe3 Qh6 20.Bb5+**  
 20.Rxc8+ Rxc8 21.Kg2 Rc7 22.Bb5+ Kd8 23.Qxd5+ Kc8 24.Qe5 Bxg3 25.Qxg3 Qg6 26.Qxg6 hxg6 Elimination of the c8 bishop was very important and with the idea of trapping the other bishop.  
**20...Ke7 21.Nf4 Bxg3+**

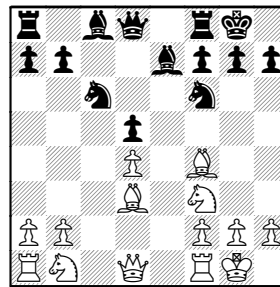


**22.Nh5?**  
 22.Kg2 Qh2+ 23.Kf3 Bxf4 24.exf4 Bg4+ 25.Kxg4 Qg2+ 26.Kh4 and this is amazing draw which Black has seen in the game.  
**22...g6?**  
 Very tough tactical battle and Black is missing strong response 22...Be6 giving them a big advantage.

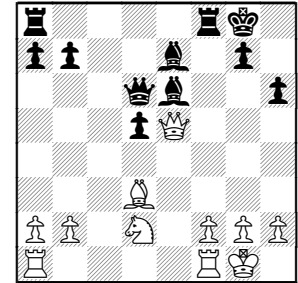


**23.Rf7+! Ke6 24.Rf6+ Ke7 25.Rf7+ 1/2-1/2**  
 Draw!! 25.Rf7+ Kxf7 26.Qxd5+ Be6 27.Qxb7+ is winning for White and that is why he agreed to draw!

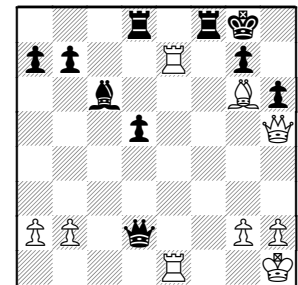
**Holcomb, Caeden (1452)**  
**Christensen, Thomas (1402)**  
 National Open U1500 2018  
**1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.Bd3 c5 5.c3 Nc6 6.Nf3 Nf6 7.0-0 cxd4 8.cxd4 Be7 9.Bf4 0-0**



**10.Nbd2!?**  
 With idea on ...Bg4 to keep the queen free. What I like in this decision is that White clearly knew exactly what they were doing.  
**10...Bg4 11.Be5 Nxe5 12.dxe5 Nd7 13.Qa4 Be6 14.Qf4 f6 15.Qh4 h6 16.Qh5 Nxe5 17.Nxe5 fxe5 18.Qxe5 Qd6**



**19.Qh5!**  
 Not because this is strongest move. Exclamation mark for being brave and refusing the queen trade!  
**19...Bd7?! 20.Rae1 Bc6?**  
 20...Be8 was screaming to be played. Black keeps missing White's threats on the kingside.  
**21.Re2 Rae8 22.Rfe1 Qf6 23.Bg6 Rd8 24.Rxe7 Qxf2+?**  
 24...Rd6 amazingly keeps Black in the game 25.Bd3 Qxf2+ 26.Kh1 Qxd2  
**25.Kh1 Qxd2**



**26.Rxg7+!**  
 Nice finish of a very well-played game! By the way, line with all details was presenting to me blindfold!  
**26...Kxg7 27.Re7+ Kf6 28.Qe5+ Kxg6 29.Rg7# 1-0**

My sincere thanks to GM Melik for providing his notes to these games. Go see him, his energy and enthusiasm for chess is contagious!



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## 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

### Saturday

3 pm *The History of Chess*,  
Sean Manross

### Sunday

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

## BLITZ SECTIONALS

Saturday Ballroom G

Sunday Ballroom D

Saturday, 10 pm RR sections 10-12 players

Sunday, 10 pm RR sections of 8 players

Reg ends 30 minutes before start times!



## NATIONAL OPEN

Ballroom A-C				Ballroom F-G			
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

### 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  
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

## SPIRIT OF CHESS INVITATIONAL BLITZ

Ballroom F

Come check out some top Grandmasters playing blitz in the Spirit of Chess Invitational Blitz Tournament scheduled for Sunday at 10:00 pm. The event is sponsored by the



## 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 1-6 will be considered.