



NATIONAL OPEN NEWS

Las Vegas International Chess Festival

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Editor: Bill Brock

GM Akobian Annotates

IM Ruifeng Li (2629) – IM Keaton Kiewra (2526) [B46]
2016 National Open (4)
Annotated by GM Varuzhan Akobian

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 a6 3.Nf3 e6 4.d4
cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nc6 6.Be3 Nf6
7.Be2 d6 8.f4 Bd7 9.0–0 Be7
10.Qe1 Nxd4 11.Bxd4 Bc6
12.Qg3 0–0 13.Bd3 Rc8
14.Kh1 b5 15.a3 g6 16.f5



White begins a strong attack.

16...Nh5 17.Qg4 Bf6 18.Be3
Qe7 19.Rae1 Kh8 20.Bd2 Rg8
21.Nd5!



This excellent move opens the position.

21...Bxd5 22.exd5 e5 23.Rf3!
Rc5 24.Qh3

24.fxg6 fxg6 25.b4 Rc7 26.c4
would have given White a big
advantage.

24...Qd8 25.Re1



Photography by Hanks

Round 3 action: Iranian GM Ehsan Ghaemmaghami (left) faced American IM Ruifeng Li (right): Ruifeng Li leads the National Open by a full point and will likely face GM Gata Kamsky in round 5: Ghaemmaghami is part of a 12-player group still in the hunt for the National Open title

White had a stronger continuation: 25.fxg6! fxg6
26.Re1 Rg7 27.Rxf6 Nxf6
28.Bg5 Rf7 29.Bxg6!

25...Bg5 26.fxg6 fxg6 27.Rf7
Ng7

27...Bxd2 is refuted by the beautiful 28.Qxh5!



Variation: after 28.Qxh5!

28...gxh5 29.Rxh7#

28.Rd7

28.Bxg6! Bh4 29.Rd7

28...Bxd2 29.Rxd8 Rxd8
30.Bxg6! h6 31.Qf3 Rcc8

32.Bd3 1–0

Excellent victory by Ruifeng Li!

GM Alex Shimanov (2699) – IM Philip Wang (2474) [D83]

2016 National Open (4)

Annotated by GM Varuzhan Akobian

1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 Nf6 3.e3 g6 4.c4
Bg7 5.Nc3 0–0 6.Rc1 c5 7.dxc5
Qa5 8.cxd5 Ne4

This line is not considered very good for Black: better would have been 8...Rd8 9.Bc4 Be6 with a very sharp position.

9.Nge2 Nxc5



10.a3!

Good move! Now White is threatening to play b4 and win the knight.

10...Ne4 11.f3 Nxc3 12.Nxc3 e6
13.Bc4 Rd8 14.0–0 Na6

Perhaps 14...exd5 15.Nxd5 Nc6 would have been a little bit better for Black.

15.Bg5! Rf8 16.Be7 Re8 17.d6



Now White is simply winning, as he has a strong extra pawn on d6 and a very nice position.

17...Bd7 18.Ne4 Qe5 19.Re1

b5 20.Bd3 Qxb2 21.a4 f5 22.Ng5 Bf8 23.Bxf8 Kxf8 24.Bxb5 Bxb5 25.axb5 Qxb5 26.d7!

Now if the rook moves, 27.Nxe6 wins, and if 26...Re7, white will queen the passed d-pawn. 1-0

GM Viktor Korchnoi, 1931-2016



Credit: Stefan64 (GNU-FDL license)

Viktor Korchnoi, who died on June 6, won four Soviet championship titles and was a candidate for the World Championship on ten separate occasions. He narrowly lost the 1974 Candidates match to determine Bobby Fischer's challenger; after Fischer failed to defend his title, Anatoly Karpov became FIDE champion. Korchnoi then defected from the Soviet Union and challenged Karpov for the World Championship in both 1978 and 1981, losing twice.

Yes, Korchnoi was a prickly pear. More than one person told me stories that began, "This is not for publication, of course...."

But for a man who survived the Nazi siege of Leningrad and who did battle with the Soviet empire for more than a decade, we should make generous allowances. Korchnoi may have been rude on more than one

occasion, but he was also an honest man in a dishonest era. Viktor's love for the game was immense, and his incredible work ethic allowed him to reach his peak strength in his late forties.

Korchnoi played in the National Open twice, in 1993 and in 2007. GM Dmitry Gurevich recalls that in 1993, Korchnoi said of Las Vegas, "It's a madhouse. But every country should have one of those."

Near the end of one round of the 1993 event, one of his opponents said, "I respectfully offer you a draw."

Korchnoi started laughing in his usual manner, making a sound something like, "Khhh, khhh."

His opponent replied, "I did say 'respectfully.'"

"But my position is won, I think." And indeed, Viktor the Terrible won in a few moves.

Here is Korchnoi's final National Open victory:

GM Viktor Korchnoi (2623 FIDE) – GM Dmitry Gurevich (2518 FIDE) [A31]

National Open, Las Vegas, 2007

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e5 3.Nf3 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e5 5.Nb5 d5 6.cxd5 Bc5 7.N5c3 0-0 8.g3 Qb6 9.e3 Bg4 10.Be2 Bh3



11.g4! h5 12.g5 Nh7 13.Rg1 Be7 14.Rg3 Bg4 15.Bxg4 hxg4 16.Qxg4 Bxg5



17.e4! Bh6 18.Bxh6 Qxh6 19.Nd2 Nf6 20.Qf3 Nbd7 21.0-0 Nh5 22.Rh3 Ndf6 23.Kb1 Rac8 24.d6 Qg6 25.Nd5 Nxd5 26.Qxh5 Qxh5 27.Rxh5 Nb6 28.Rxe5 Rfd8 29.Nf3 Rc6 30.Re7 Rcx6 31.Rxd6 Rxd6 32.Ng5 g6 33.Nxf7 Rf6 34.Ne5 Rxf2 35.Rxb7 g5 36.Rxa7 Rxh2 37.Ra6 Rh6 38.a4 Re6 39.Ng4 Kg7 40.e5 Kf7 41.Kc2 Nd5 42.Rxe6 Kxe6 43.Kd3 Nc7 44.b4 Kd5 45.Kc3 Ne6 46.b5 1-0

Saturday games

FM Michael Brown (2508) – GM Ehsan Ghaemmaghami (2682)

2016 National Open (4)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 0-0 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.Qxc3 d6 7.Bg5 Nbd7 8.e3 b6 9.Ne2 Bb7 10.Qc2 c5 11.Rd1 Qc7

12.Nc3 cxd4 13.Rxd4 a6 14.Qd1 Rfd8 15.f3 h6 16.Bh4 d5 17.cxd5 exd5 18.Be2 Re8 19.Bf2 Nc5 20.0-0 Rac8 21.Qc2 b5 22.Rc1 Qe5 23.Qd1 Ne6



24.Rb4!?! d4 25.exd4 Qc7 26.Na2 Qe7 27.Rxc8 Rxc8 28.Rb3 Nd5 29.Bf1 Qg5 30.Kh1 Nef4 31.Nc3 Ne6



32.h4! Qf4 33.Nxd5 Bxd5 34.Rc3 Rxc3 35.bxc3 Qc7 36.a4 Qxc3 37.axb5 axb5 38.Bxb5 Qb2 39.Qe2 Qc1+ 40.Qf1 Qb2 41.Qe2 Qc1+ 1/2-1/2



NM Hugo Padilla of Chicago is one of three Midwestern players with a perfect 4-0 in the U2300 section: FM Alex Bian (IL) and Peter Gilruth (MI) also lead.



FM Michael Brown has drawn three consecutive GMs, including Gata Kamsky

GM Gata Kamsky (2744) – FM Michael Brown (2508)
2016 National Open (3)

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e6 3.d4 Bb4
4.Nf3 b6 5.e3 c5 6.Bd3 Bb7
7.0–0 0–0 8.Na4 cxd4 9.exd4
Be7 10.a3 d6 11.b4 Nbd7
12.Nc3 Rc8 13.Re1 Qc7 14.Bf4
Qb8 15.Bf1 Rfe8 16.Nd2 Bf8
17.Nb3 Qa8 18.Bg3 e5 19.d5
g6 20.a4 a5 21.bxa5 bxa5
22.Qd2



22...Nb6! 23.Nb5 Nxc4
24.Bxc4 Rxc4 25.Nxa5 Rc5
26.Nxb7 Qxb7 27.f3 Rec8
28.Ra2 Qxd5 29.Bf2 Rc1
30.Qxd5 Nxd5



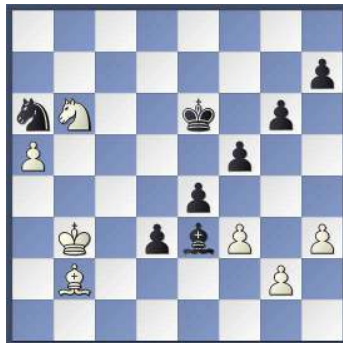
31.a5 Nb4 32.Ra1 Rxe1+
33.Bxe1 Na6 34.Rd1 f5 35.Kf1
Rb8 36.Nc3 Kf7 37.Nd5 Rb5

38.Nb6 Ke6 39.Rc1 Rc5
40.Rxc5 Nxc5 41.Bb4 Na6
42.Ba3 Bh6 43.Ke2 Bg5
44.Kd3 d5



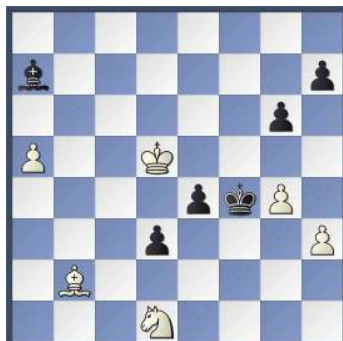
Major upset in the making?

45.Kc2 e4 46.Bb2 Be3 47.h3 d4
48.Kb3 d3

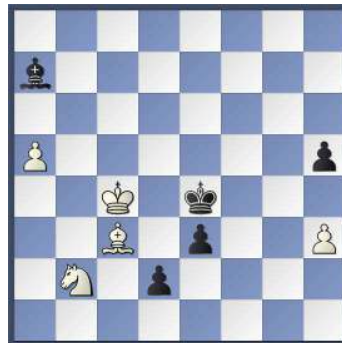


It's hard to imagine even Kamsky saving this position, but he accomplishes the impossible and (almost) more.

49.Nc4 Bc5 50.Be1 Kd5
51.Bd2 Nc7 52.Ne3+ Kc6
53.fxe4 fxe4 54.Kc4 Nb5
55.Nd1 Nd6+ 56.Kb3 Bd4
57.Kb4 Be5+ 58.Kb3 Nf5
59.g4 Ne7 60.Kc4 Nd5 61.Bg5
Ba7 62.Bh6 Kd6 63.Be1 Ke5
64.Bb2+ Kf4 65.Kxd5!



65...e3 66.Bc3 d2 67.Kc4 Ke4
68.Nb2 h5 69.gxh5! gxh5



70.a6

Perhaps White even has winning chances after Stockfish's 70.Kb3!

70...h4!

And now with the h3 pawn fixed, Black will draw.

71.Kb3 Kf3 72.Kc2 Kg2
73.Nc4 Kxh3 74.Nxe3 Bxe3
75.Bxd2 Ba7 76.Be1 Kg4
77.Bxh4 ½–½

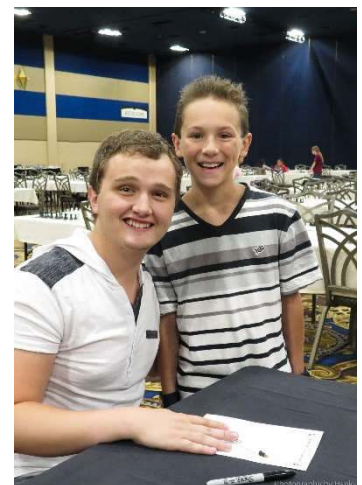
GM Joshua Friedel (2620) – GM Alexey Dreev (2768)
2016 National Open (3)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 c6 4.g3 f5
5.Bg2 Nf6 6.0–0 Bd6 7.b3 Qe7
8.Bb2 b6 9.Nbd2 0–0 10.Ne5
Bb7 11.Nd3 Nbd7 12.a4 a5
13.Rc1 Rac8 14.Rc2 Ne4 15.e3
c5 16.cxd5 exd5 17.Nf4 Rfd8
18.dxc5 Bxf4 19.gxf4 Ndx5
20.Nf3 Ba6



21.Nd4 Qf7 22.Bh3 Bxf1
23.Qxf1 Nd6 24.Qg2 Rc7
25.Kh1 Rdc8 26.Ba3 h6
27.Qf1 Nce4 28.Rxc7 Rxc7
29.f3 Ne5 30.Qb1 Qh5 31.Kg2
Qg6+ 32.Kh1 Qh5 33.Kg2 Re7
34.Qc1 Qg6+ 35.Kf1 Qh5
36.Kg2 Qe8 37.Bxc5 Rc7
38.Qb1 bxc5 39.Nxf5 Qg6+

40.Kf2 Kh8 41.Qd3 Nxf5
42.Bxf5 Qd6 43.Qb5 Rf7
44.Bd3 g5 45.fxg5 hxg5
46.Qxa5 Qxh2+ 47.Ke1 Qh4+
48.Ke2 g4 49.f4 Qh2+ 50.Kd1
Kg7 51.Qd8 Qh5 52.Be2 Qf5
53.Qh4 Rb7 54.Ke1 d4 55.exd4
cxd4 56.Qg3 Re7 57.Kd2 Re3
58.Qxg4+ Qxg4 59.Bxg4 Rxb3
60.Bd7 Kf6 61.Kc2 Rc3+
62.Kd2 Ra3 63.Kc2 Ke7
64.Bb5 Kd6 65.f5 Ke5 66.Kb2
Rc3 67.Bd7 Rc5 68.Bb5 Kxf5
69.Kb3 Ke4 70.Be2 d3 71.Bg4
Rg5 72.Bd1 Rg1 73.Bh5 Kd4
74.a5 Rg5 0–1



GM Kayden Troff signs an autograph for a young player

Analysis of Your Games

Conference Room 5

GM Varuzhan Akobian

Sessions start 2 hours after the start of each round of the **National Open** and run for 2 to 3 hours.

National Open players age 14 and under are eligible for the **FREDDIE** best game award. Those who wish to have a game considered must bring it to one of first five analysis sessions. Only rounds 1 through 5 will be considered.



GM Elshan Moradiabadi, looking good!

NN-Abraham Martinez [D35]
National Open, U1300 Section

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.e3 Nf6 4.Nc3
Be7 5.Bd3 0-0 6.Qc2 dxc4
7.Bxc4 b6 8.Nf3 Bb7 9.e4 c5
10.d5 exd5 11.exd5 Nxd5
12.Qe4



12...Nxc3! 13.Qxb7 Qd1# 0-1



The 2016 U. S. Women's Open Champion, WGM Vera Nebolsina, worked hard against her young opponents in Saturday's simultaneous exhibition.



Susan Browne, GM Ron Henley, and Janelle Losoff, after Henley's tribute to Walter Browne

Sunday, 10 p.m., Ballroom F

SPIRIT OF CHESS INVITATIONAL BLITZ ROUND ROBIN

Spectators Welcome! Sponsored by Las Vegas Chess Center

Free Lecture, Conference Room 1, Sun, 1 p.m.

The Bishop Pair in the Endgame GM Ron Henley

ROCHESTER CHESS CHESS4LESS

Ballroom E

Sun. 9:00 a.m. 11:00 p.m.

Sunday, 10 p.m. Ballroom D
BLITZ SECTIONALS

EF \$30—Register by 9:30 p.m.

US Chess Blitz rated

National Open prizes will be paid in the **Winners' Circle** reception in Ballroom F after 9:00 p.m. Sunday. *No checks will be issued until all the prizes for a section are computed and verified.* Plus-Score Bonus Prizes will not be mailed: you must pick them up Sunday at the Registration Desk. Blitz Prizes will be paid by 1 p.m. Saturday at the Registration Desk.

Winner's Circle Cash Bar: 9 p.m.

Monday, 10 a.m. Ballroom F
U. S. GAME/10 CHAMPIONSHIP

\$7,500 prize fund based on 100

Entry Fee \$100—Register by 9:30 a.m.

US Chess Quick & FIDE Rapid Rated

Join us next year June 14-19, 2017

2017 NATIONAL OPEN, June 16-18