



NATIONAL OPEN NEWS

Las Vegas International Chess Festival

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Editor: Bill Brock

GM Illia Nyzhnyk (2701) – Sungho Yim (2373)
2017 National Open, Round 4

Ukrainian Grandmaster Illia Nyzhnyk demonstrates yet another way to play the London System!

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Bf4

Everyone who plays 1...d5 prepares to meet the supposedly toothless London System. So how long can it possibly remain fashionable? As long as it delivers results!

3...e6 4.e3 c5 5.c3 Nc6 6.Nbd2 cxd4 7.exd4 Nh5 8.Be3 Bd6 9.Ne5 g6 10.Bb5

10.g4 Ng7 11.h4 Nxe5 12.dxe5 Bxe5 13.Nf3 was Kamsky-Nakamura, St. Louis 2017.

10...Bd7 11.Nxd7 Qxd7



12.0-0N

It's hard to believe that this commonsense move is a novelty in grandmaster play. Nyzhnyk again passes on playing g2-g4, placing his faith in the two bishops and the e-file.

12...0-0 13.Nf3 Qc7 14.Re1 Ng7 15.Qe2 a6 16.Bd3 Rac8 17.Bh6 Bf4 18.Bxf4 Qxf4

Black has eliminated the enemy bishop pair, but his own horse on g7 is a problem.



GM Illia Nyzhnyk is one of the leaders

19.g3 Qd6 20.Qd2 f6

Black wants to contest e5.

21.Qh6 Nd8 22.Qh4 b5 23.a3 Nc6 24.Re2!

Message: "Go ahead, play ...e5."

24...e5 25.dxe5 fxe5 26.Ng5! h5 27.Rd1 Qf6 28.f4!



28...exf4

After 28...e4, one White idea is 29.Bb1 Ne7 30.Ba2; Stockfish suggests that Black may be able to sacrifice a pawn for some activity here with 30...Kh8!

29.Qxf4 Qxf4 30.gxf4 Rxf4 31.Bxg6

White has better piece activity and better pawn structure.

31...Rd8 32.h3 Rd6 33.Bb1 Kf8 34.Rde1 a5 35.b4! d4 36.Ba2!



36...Rg6

Know your ABCs: 36...dxc3?? 37.Nh7#.

37.Rg2 Rxc5 38.Rxc5 dxc3 39.Rc5 Rf6 40.bxa5 Nf5 41.Rf1 Ncd4 42.Bb1 Ke7 43.Rcxf5 Rg6+ 44.Kh2 c2 45.Bxc2 Nxc2 46.Rf7+ Ke6 47.a6 Rg8 48.Rf8 Rg7 49.R1f6+ Kd5 50.R6f7 1-0

IM Anthony Saidy (2228) – Dmitri Shevelev (2319)
2017 National Open, Round 4

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 c5 3.d5 b5 4.Bg5 d6 5.Bxf6 exf6 6.e4 a6 7.a4 b4 8.Bd3 g6 9.Nbd2 Bg7 10.Nc4 a5 11.0-0 0-0 12.Nfd2

Everything is theory these days.

12...Qc7 13.f4 Nd7 14.Qf3 Ba6 15.Rae1 Bxc4 16.Nxc4 Nb6 17.b3 Nxc4 18.Bxc4 Rae8



With major pieces and opposite-color bishops, the initiative is everything. How to make progress? White's natural lever is e4-e5, but Black already controls e5 five times.

19.g4 Re7 20.Kg2 Rfe8 21.Bb5 Rb8 22.h4! Qa7 23.Qd3 h6 24.Re2 Qc7 25.h5! g5



26.e5! fxe5 27.fxg5 e4

27...hxg5 28.Qe4 and White wins with a kingside attack: the poor bishop on g7 is a tall pawn.

28.Rxe4 Rxe4?

Black can continue resistance with 28...hxg5 29.Qf3 (29.Rxe7 Qxe7 30.Qf5 Be5) 29...Re5, but White's attack is enduring.

29.Qxe4 hxg5 30.Bd3 Kf8 31.Qg6 Re8 32.h6 Bd4 33.h7 Bg7



34.Qh6! 1-0

GM Dmitry Gurevich (2509) – IM Dmitry Gordievsky (2663)
2017 National Open, Round 3

Dmitry Gurevich won queen for rook and bishop with a promising position, but Dmitry Gordievsky turned the tables with resourceful play.

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 b6 3.g3 c5
4.Bg2 Bb7 5.0-0 e6
6.Nc3 Be7 7.d4 cxd4
8.Qxd4 o-o 9.Rd1 Nc6
10.Qf4 d6 11.b3 Qb8
12.Ba3 Ne5 13.Nb5 Ng6
14.Qe3 Rd8 15.Rac1 h5
16.Nbd4 Ng4 17.Qd3



17...e5?!

Betraying the Hedgehog.

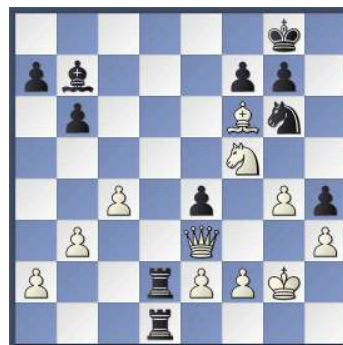
18.Nf5! e4 19.Qc3 Bf6
20.N3d4 h4 21.Ne3 Qc8?!
22.Bh3! Nxe3!?



Giving up the queen is Black's best practical chance.

23.Bxc8 Nxd1 24.Rxd1
Raxc8 25. Qe3 d5 26.Nf5
d4 27.Nxd4 Rd7 28.Bb2
Rcd8 29.Kg2 Bc8 30.h3
Bb7 31.Bc3 Ne7 32.g4
Ng6 33.Nf5 Rxd1 34.Bxf6
R8d2!

(see diagram next column)



And now not 35.Bxh4?? Rxe2! because of the knight fork on f4. Instead, White can retain an edge after 35.Kh2! (and not 35...gxf6?? 36.Qh6 mating).

35.Bg5 Re1! 36.Nd4?!

The discovered check makes 36.Qxd2?? taboo; 36.Kh2 Rdd1 was not appetizing, but relatively best per Stockfish.

36...Rdd1 37.f4 Rxd4
38.Kf2 Rd3 39.Qxd3 exd3
40.Kxe1 f6 0-1



GM Ruifeng Li created a masterpiece in Round 3

GM Ruifeng Li (2664) –
Anthony He (2316)
2017 National Open, Round 3

This beautiful attacking game can be enjoyed by beginners and grandmasters alike: enjoy!

1.b3 e5 2.Bb2 Nc6 3.e3
Nf6 4.Nf3 e4 5.Nd4 Nxd4
6.Bxd4 d5 7.c4 dxc4
8.Bxc4 Bd6 9.Nc3 Bf5
10.f3 o-o 11.o-o Bg6
12.fxe4 Nxe4 13.Nxe4
Bxe4 14.Qg4 Bg6

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

Paradise Event Center South

Sunday

9:30 a.m. Side Event Awards
 10:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., 3:30 p.m. Rounds 4–6
 6:30 p.m. Closing Ceremony



Time Controls

Championship: Game/60 delay 5
 Trophy Tournament: Game/25 delay 5
 Blitz: Game/3 + 2 second increment

Digital Clocks are preferred and delay (increment in blitz) must be on.

Free Lecture

Conference Room 1

Sun 1 p.m. *Crushing Black with the SCOTCH GAME*

GM Ron Henley

Analysis of Your Games

Conference Room 11

GM Larry Christiansen

Sessions start 2 Hours after the start of each Round of the **National Open** and run for 2 to 3 hours. Your game may wind up featured in Larry's weekly ICC Broadcast **Attack with Larry C.**

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.

(Li-He, continued from page 3)

The following amazing move appears to lead to a White advantage by force.

15.Rf5!! c5

Black can't capture right away because of mate on g7, but isn't White setting up a self-pin? Not really: 15...Qc8 16.Raf1!! a6 (not the best move, but better defenses don't help) 17.Rxf7! Qxg4 (17...Rxf7 18.Bxf7+ Kh8 is hopeless)) 18.Rxg7+ Kh8 19.Rg8#!

16.Bc3 Qc8 (see next column)

Black's best defense appears to be 16...b5!



17.Raf1! Kh8 18.Qg5!

Just wow.

18...f6 19.Rxf6! Rxf6 20.Rxf6 Qc6 21.Bd5 Qb6



There are many ways to win: choose the prettiest!

22.Qxg6!! hxg6 23.Rf3 Bxh2+ 24.Kh1 Bf4 25.Rh3+ 1-0

Black resigns because 25.Rh3+ Bh6 26.Rxh6 is mate: the g7 pawn is pinned!

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Monday 10 a.m. Harrah's Casino

POKER TOURNAMENT

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Join us Next Year June 20 –24, 2018!

NATIONAL OPEN June 22 – 24



Photography by Hanks

WGM Carla Heredia giving a simultaneous



Congratulations to Saturday night blitz winners. GM Ron Henley won the A section, David Dashoff & Eric Phares tied for first in the B section, Cailen Melville took top honors in the C section, David Talmadge Day won the D section, Guerrer Silvestre won the E section, and Jacob Keith Robishaw won the F section. Please see vegaschessfestival.com for the full list of prizewinners!