



NEWS

NATIONAL OPEN JUNE 12-16, 2019

Hundreds more players join Las Vegas Chess Festival!

On Friday, the National Open kicks into high gear. On Thursday night, 380 players joined the four day schedule. Then on Friday morning an additional 159 players joined the three day schedule. And we haven't even hit the two day schedule which will start Saturday morning! In addition to the main sections, there is the International Youth Championship which also kicked off on Friday and will only get bigger on Saturday and Sunday. The Festival atmosphere is now in full force. One of the tournament features of the Las Vegas Chess Festival is free game analysis by a GM. Game analysis starts two hours after each round begins. In addition to having your game analyzed, there are two special features: your game might appear in the bulletin and you could win a Freddie award which is awarded for the best game played by a player age 14 and under. The first game featured is by Drew Martin. He has a win over Randy Hough who is a former National Master and has been an integral part of U.S Chess for decades. Randy served as the U.S. Chess technical director and has served in numerous elected positions including on the Executive Board of U.S. Chess. Variations are analysis by GM Khachiyani. Text provided by the editor.



Martin, Drew (1876) – Hough, Randy (2007) [D01]

National Open Under 2100

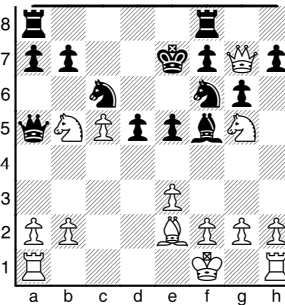
1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3 2...d5 3.Bf4 g6 4.Qd2 Bg7 5.Bh6 Bxh6 6.Qxh6 c5 7.e3 Nc6 8.Nf3 Bf5 9.dxc5 e5 10.Nb5 Bxc2 11.Be2 Qa5+ 12.Kf1 Bf5 13.Ng5 Rf8 14.Qg7

14.Nd6+ Ke7 15.Qh4 Qxc5 16.Nxb7 Qb4 17.Nf3;



GM Khachiyani analysis session

14.Qh4 0-0-0 15.Nd6+ Rxd6 16.cxd6 14...Ke7

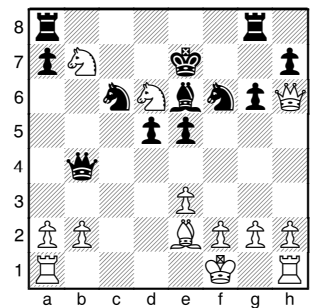


An extremely complex position that is roughly equal. Both sides have pluses and minuses in the position and the next few moves will determine the outcome of the game.

15.Nd6

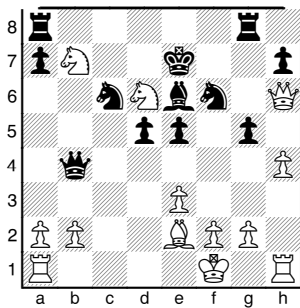
The brute force attack doesn't quite work as black has sufficient resources and can defend the attack and turn the tables on white.

15...Qxc5 16.Ngxf7 Rg8 17.Qh6 Be6 18.Nxb7 Qb4 19.Nfd6



The position is still complex and a bit tenuous, but black is winning. White has no knockout punch, and the pieces are becoming less coordinated.

19...g5 20.h4



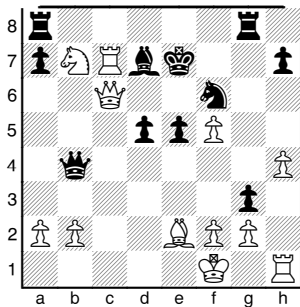
Desousa, Brian (2117) – Grabinsky, Joshua (2261) [D00]

National Open Under 2300

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 d5 3.e3 c6 4.Bd3 Nbd7 5.Nf3 Ne4 6.Bxe4 dxe4 7.Nfd2 Qa5 8.Bf4 e5 9.dxe5 Nxe5 10.0-0 Bg4 11.Qc1 f5 12.Nc3 Bd6 13.h3 Bh5 14.Nb3 Qc7 15.Nd4 Qf7 16.Nde2 0-0-0 17.b4 g5 18.Bh2 Qc7 19.Ng3 Bg6 20.b5 h5 21.Rd1 h4 22.Nf1 g4 23.Rxd6 Qxd6 24.Bf4 gxh3 25.bxc6 bxc6 26.Qb2 hxg2 27.Nh2 h3 28.Rb1 Rh7 29.Nd5 Qxd5 30.Qb8+ Kd7 31.Qxe5 Qxe5 32.Bxe5 Ke6 0-1

21. ... Rxc6 or Qxb2 are the best continuations and should lead to victory for black. The text move allows white back in the game.

20...g4 21.e4 Nd4 22.Rc1 Rg6 23.Rc7+ Bd7 24.Qc1 g3 25.Nf5+ Nxf5 26.exf5 Rgg8 27.Qc6



The next game has multiple sacrifices that lead to mate. The sacrifices do not win by force, but black cannot accept the sacrifices. Black takes the offered material and his king pays the price.

Taylor, Michael (2007) – Imada, Todd (1875)

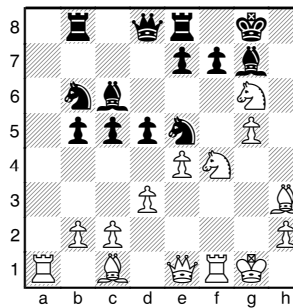
National Open U2100 (1),

1.g3 c5 2.Bg2 Nc6 3.Nf3 g6 4.0-0 Bg7 5.d3 Rb8 6.Nbd2 d6 7.e4 Nf6 8.a4 a6 9.Nc4 b5 10.axb5 axb5 11.Ne3 0-0 12.Nh4 Bd7 13.f4 Qc8 14.f5 Ne5 15.g4 Bc6 16.g5 Nfd7 17.Nd5 Qd8 18.Qe1 Re8 19.Nf4 Nb6 20.Bh3 d5 21.fxc6 hxg6 22.Nhxg6!?

27. ... Qb6 is the only move. Other moves allow the coordinated white pieces to win,

27...Ke8 28.Qxf6 1-0

Here is a game from the Under 2300 section featuring opposite side castling and attacks on opposite wings.



Kenney, Frank (1320) – McGee, James (1418) [B01]

National Open U 1500 (1),

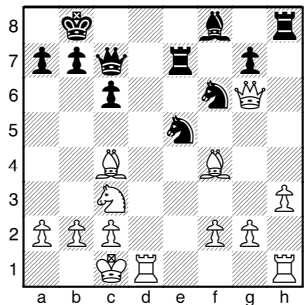
1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qa5 4.d4 c6 5.h3 Nf6 6.Nf3 Bf5 7.Bd2 Qc7 8.Bc4 e6 9.Nh4 Bg6 10.Nxg6 hxg6 11.Qe2 Nbd7 12.d5 0-0-0 13.dxe6 fxe6 14.0-0-0 Kb8 15.Qxe6 Re8 16.Qf7 Re7 17.Qxg6 Ne5 18.Bf4

This move doesn't win by force, but black's defensive task is very difficult.

22...Nxg6 23.Nxg6 dxe4?!

Black needs to play 23. ... Bd4+ and trade some pieces after 24. Be3 Bxe3

24.Rxf7



18...Nxg6?? 19.Rd8#

1-0



Steven Foreman

Again, this doesn't win by force, but black has a difficult task. The rook is immune as we shall see. again, the move for black is 24. ... Bd4+

24...Kxf7 25.Qf2+ Bf6 26.Ne5+ Kf8 27.gxf6 exf6 28.Bh6+ Ke7 29.Nxc6+ 1-0

Twenty five players opted for the beginner's tournament on Friday. After six rounds the winner's were:

Friday Beginner's Tournament		
1st	Steven Foreman	\$200
2nd/3rd	Paolo Brandon, Christopher Griersbach & Steve Outschoorn	\$67



The first youth side event was the Youth Trophy Tournament. There were 183 players in three separate sections. At the conclusion of the tournament, there was a puzzle solving competition as well as a youth blitz event



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Youth Trophy Tournament Winners

OPEN		
1st	Kenneth Su	4 1/2—1/2
2ns	Vladimir Davidyan	4 1/2—1/2
3rd	Daniel Yan	4-1
4th	Alexandr Zuev	4-1
5th	Savva Sustov	4-1
1st 1300-1499	Julian Colville	4-1
2nd 1300-1499	Enzo Restelli	3 1/2 1 1/2
1st 1100-1299	Mingchuan Cheng	3 1/2—1 1/2
2nd 1100-1299	Hengrui Zhang	3 1/2—1 1/2
1st Under 1100	Enrique Gael Nieves	3—2
2nd Under 1100	Carter Lykins	3-2
1st Unrated	Aashneel Chowdhury	1/2—4 1/2
2nd Unrated	Lucas Fernandez	0-5
RESERVE		
1st	Gordon Xu	4 1/2—1/2
2nd	Joshua Sang	4 1/2—1/2
3rd	Erika Chen	4—1
4th	John Pan	4-1
5th	Trevor Bate	4-1
1st Under 800	Nugen Tran	4-1
2nd Under 800	Terry Huang	4-1
1st Unrated	Juan de la Puente	3—2
2nd Unrated	Ricky Guitterez	1—4
BOOSTER		
1st	Jain Mantrit	5-0
2nd	Zion Qu	5-0
3rd	Sihan Tao	4 1/2—1/2
4th	Vicky Qin	4-1
5th	Gavin Xiao	4-1
1st 400-599	Bryan Chao	4-1
2nd 400-599	Jason Shi	4-1
1st Under 400	Jackson Moll	3 1/2—1 1/2
2nd Under 400	Annika Lyins	3—2
1st Unrated	Junrui Cheung	4-1
2nd Unrated	Jieying Cheung	4-1



In the youth blitz, thirty eight players played in the Under 14 year old section while forty one players played in the Under 9 Year old section. The event was a five round double round robin. The adults who wanted to play blitz had to wait until 11 PM to play in the 8 player sectional blitz.

Friday Night Blitz Section Winners			
Section A	GM Hovhannes Gabuzyan	6 1/2—1/2	\$100
	Aaron Grabinsky	6-2	\$60
Section B	Bryan Leano	6-2	\$100
	Rhett Langseth & Abhinav Pengalapati	5-3	\$30
Section C	Froilan Daigan	7-1	\$100
Section D	Cesar Tamondug	8 1/1—1 1/2	\$100
Section D	Dave Juchau & Vishva Nanu	7-1	\$30
Section D	Wille Roy	4-6	\$40

Youth Blitz Winners			
Under 14			
1st	Alexandr Zuev	9 1/2—1/2	
2nd	Jacob Lee	8-2	
3rd	Savva Sustov	8-2	
4th	Vladimir Davidyan	7 1/2—2 1/2	
5th	Maxwell Chu	7-3	
1st 1300-1499	George Li	6-4	
1st 1100-1299	Jack Fan	7-3	
1st 900-1099	Enrique Gael Nieves	7-3	
1st Under 900	Carter Lykins	5-5	
1st Unrated	Trevor Bate	5-5	
Under 9			
1st	Julian Colville	9-1	
2nd	Emmanuel Dentchouk	9-1	
3rd	Hengrui Zhang	8-2	
4th	Pranav Mahendran	7 1/2—2 1/2	
5th	Michael Xiao	7 1/2—2 1/2	
1st 1000-1199	Jai Shroff	7-3	
1st 800-999	Ramsey Robbins	6 1/2—3 1/2	
1st 600-799	Gordon Xu	7-3	
1st Under 600	Lawrence Cha	5-5	
1st Unrated	Caleb Zeng	5-5	

In the Open section, the players are still tightly grouped at the top of the crosstable, GM Ron Henley provides notes to the round one Yanayt vs Baryshpolets game.

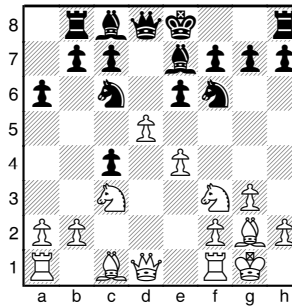
Yanayt, Eugene (2241) – Baryshpolets, Andrey (2574) [A00]
1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6

4.g3 dxc4 5.Bg2 a6 6.0-0!?

A very contemporary and energetic style of play in the Catalan and many QGD Slav positions where White lets Black spend time keeping the c4 pawn, while White focuses on occupying the center and rapid development. If White wants to recoup the c4 pawn, then 6.Ne5 would be the main

option.

6...Nc6 7.Nc3 Rb8 8.e4!?
Be7 9.d5



White plays to blast open the position before Black can complete his development and secure his King.

9...Nb4 10.Ne5 exd5 11.exd5 Bf5!?

Black follows the Steinitz principle of "Returning material for other considerations". Being greedy and trying to hold the c4 pawn loses – 11...b5?? 12.a3 Nd3 13.Nc6+- forking the black Queen and Rook.

12.a3 Nd3 13.Nxc4=

White has recovered his pawn and the position is very level.

13...0-0 14.Be3

14.Qf3 Bg6 15.Rd1 Nxc1 16.Rdxc1= (16.Raxc1? Bh5! ♯)

14...Re8 15.h3 h6 16.b4 Nd7

16...Qd7!?

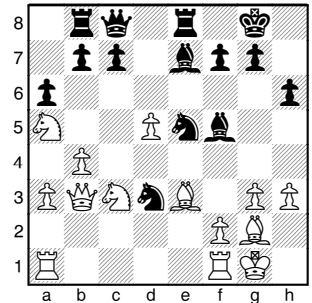
17.Qb3 N7e5

17...Bd6 18.Nxd6 cxd6 19.Rad1 Rc8∞; 17...Bf6!?=

18.Na5!?

18.Nd2!?

18...Qc8?!?



Black sets up the Q+B battery along the c8-h3 diagonal, but this is a fairly passive placement of the black Queen.

18...Bd6!?=; 18...Bf8!?

19.Kh2 c5

Black attempts to break out, but what to do.

The FRITZ recommendation of 19...b6 fails to equalize after 20.Nc6 Nxc6 21.dxc6 Qe6 22.Nd5 Bd6 23.Rad1 Qg6 24.Rd2 Ne5 25.Nf4 Qf6 26.Rfd1± when White enjoys superior coordination and position pressure.

20.dxc6! bxc6

The black pawn and square on c6 are already under pressure from the white Bishop on g2 and the Knight on a5.

21.f4!

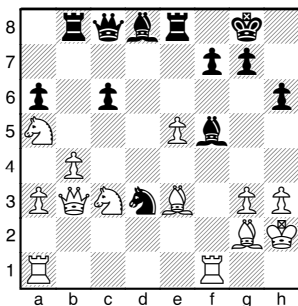
By driving the Knight from e5, White looks to collect the black pawn on c6.

21...Bd8?



In order to avoid losing the c6 pawn, Black begins jumping through hoops. Retreating the Knight from e5 – 21...Nd7 leaves Black a pawn down after 22.Nxc6± Black can create murky compensation with 22...Bf6!? 23.Bg1 N7c5!?!± with complications that should allow White to retain his extra pawn.

22.fxe5!



White spots the tactical flaw in Black's play.

22...Bxa5

The pin along the b-file allows Black to recoup his sacrificed Knight. However, the black pieces are very strung out and hanging by a thread.

23.Ne4!+-

The powerful centralizing Knight move exploits the many vulnerable points in the black position – White threatens to simply win a piece with either 24.Qxd3 and 24.Nd6.

23...Bxe4

Black attempts to save his minor pieces with this capture. However, his King now becomes exposed.

Saving the black Knight does not help – 23...Nxe5 24.Nd6 Qe6 25.Qxe6 Bxe6 26.Nxe8 Rxe8 27.bxa5; Saving the black Bishop and simply loses the black Knight – 23...Bc7 24.Qxd3

24.Qxf7+→

With this invasion down the f-file, White turns his attention to the black King.

24...Kh8 25.Bxh6!

With his eye on the prize, Black goes full "Nezhmetdinov" against the black King! The Bishop sacrifice continues the process of stripping away the black King's pawn cover.

25...gxh6

Mate in one on g7 was threatened, so Black felt compelled to capture the offered Bishop. Defending the g7 pawn would not have saved the black King –

a) 25...Rg8 26.Bxe4 Nxe5 (26...Rb7 27.Qg6 gxh6 28.Qxh6+ Rh7 29.Qxh7#) 27.Qh5 g6 28.Qxe5+ Kh7 29.Rf7+ Kxh6 30.Qf4+ g5 31.Rh7#;

b) The "x-ray" defense also fails – 25...Rb7 26.Bxg7+ Kh7 27.Bxe4+ Qf5 28.Bxf5#

26.Rf6! 1-0

Black resigned. For the moment Black is two pieces ahead, but in order to defend against 27.Rxh6+, Black will suffer heavy material losses

26.Rf6 Re6 27.Rxe6 Qg8 28.Rxh6+ Bh7 29.Qf6+ Qg7 30.Be4 Qxf6 31.exf6 Ne5 32.Rxh7+ Kg8 33.Rg7+ Kf8 34.bxa5+- +14.50.

GM Henley is providing a double header today. He annotates the game of IM Saidy defeating GM Vladimir Belous.

Saidy, IM Dr. Anthony (2290) – Belous, IGM V.L. (2514) [E60]

National Open (3),

Having already featured one of his games, we would not have our readers suffer from over-exposure to the good Doctor, but props to IM Anthony Saidy at age 82 (!) for taking down a Russian Grandmaster in fine style! For anyone who saw the movie "Pawn Sacrifice", they might remember Dr. Saidy was one of Fischer's most trusted friends and confidants.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 c5 5.d5 0-0 6.Nc3 d6 7.Nf3 e6 8.0-0 exd5 9.cxd5

The players have now reached a standard position from the g3 Benoni. White enjoys a central space advantage, while Black has a 3 v 2 queenside pawn majority and hopes to create counterplay along the half-open e-file and the g7-a1 long diagonal.

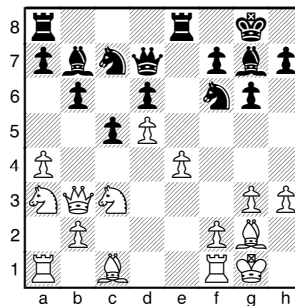
9...Na6 10.Nd2 Nc7 11.a4 b6 12.Nc4 Ba6 13.Qb3 Qd7 14.Na3

14.h3!?!±; 14.Bf4!?!±

14...Bb7?!

14...Ng4!?!±; 14...Rfe8!?!±

15.h3 Rfe8 16.e4!±



White secures his central space advantage and now the burden is on Black to find compensating counterplay or risk being squashed by the white center pawns.

16...Ba6

16...Na6 17.Nc4 Nb4 18.Bf4 Bf8 19.Rfd1±

17.Nab5

17.Re1!?

17...Bxb5?!

This capture gives White the Bishop Pair and fails to generate sufficient counterplay for Black.

17...Nh5!?

18.axb5 a6 19.bxa6 b5±

Here was Black's plan for counterplay as he uses the temporary sacrifice of the a-pawn to get his queenside pawns rolling.

20.Bg5

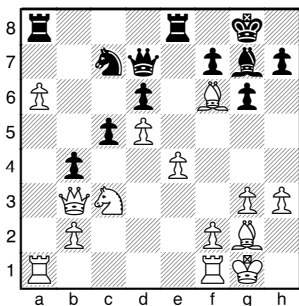
The good doctor completes his development, however, holding on to the passed a-



pawn offered exciting possibilities –

20.a7!? b4 21.Na4! Qb5 (21...Nxe4? 22.Nb6+; 21...Rxa7 22.Nxc5 dxc5 23.Rxa7+-) 22.Nxc5!! Qxc5 (22...dxc5 23.d6 Na6 24.e5 Rxa7 25.exf6 Bxf6 26.Rd1 c4 27.Qf3 Bd8 28.Be3 Rd7 29.Qa8! Nc5 30.Bc6+-) 23.Be3 Qb5 24.Rfc1 Qb7 25.Rc6 Nxe4 26.Qc4 Nc5 27.Bxc5 dxc5 28.d6 → +4.00.

20...b4 21.Bxf6!?



By capturing the black knight, White reduces the pressure on his e4 pawn and transitions into a BOOC middlegame where he will have light squares and Black will have dark squares.

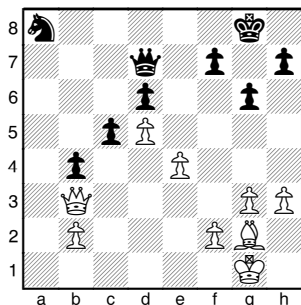
21...Bxf6 22.Nd1 Bd4 23.Ne3 Bxe3

Black plays to prevent the white Knight from reaching the c4 outpost. If Black recoups his sacrificed a pawn – 23...Rxa6 24.Rxa6 Nxa6 25.Nc4= Theoretically the position is equal, but the black queenside pawn majority is blockaded and White has a very clear strategic plan of Kh2, f2-f4 with an eye on a timely e4-e5 pawn break in the center.

24.Qxe3 Rxa6

Black finally recoups his sacrificed a pawn. Collecting the white d5 pawn would be a misguided attempt by Black at creating an imbalance – 24...Nxd5?! 25.Qd3! Nc7 26.Rfd1 Nb5 27.e5 This thematic advances unleashes a discovered attack on the black a8 Rook. 27...Ra7 28.exd6 Nd4 29.Re1 Rxe1+ 30.Rxe1 Qxd6 31.Bb7!± Black has a beautiful Knight on the d4 outpost, but his Rook is dominated and his King is vulnerable.

25.Rxa6 Nxa6 26.Ra1 Nc7 27.Qb3 Ra8 28.Rxa8+ Nxa8



A Q+B v Q+N ending has been reached. Many Russian players under the influence of Mikhail Chigorin give preference to the Q+N combo because of the possibilities for clever coordinated attacks. With his Q+N and 2 to1 queenside pawn majority, Black may have felt quite comfortable here.]

29.Qa2!

Dr. Saidy now demonstrates that with the black Knight so far away from the dominating d4 outpost, life is not so easy for Black.

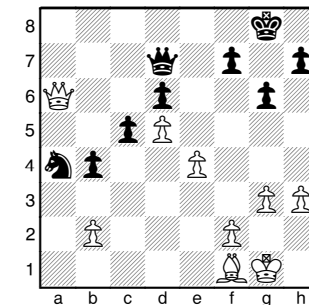
29...Nb6

Here is an example of the latent possibilities for the white center and Bishop – 29...Qb7? 30.e5! dxe5 31.d6 e4 32.Bxe4!! Qxe4 33.d7 Qe1+ 34.Kg2 Qe4+ 35.Kh2+ - and Black can resign!

30.Qa6 Na4?

Black optimistically chases after the white b2 pawn. Preferable was 30...Qc7 31.Qb5 Nd7 32.f4±

31.Bf1!±



A fine move as Dr. Saidy ignores the attack on his b2 pawn and activates his Bishop. After 31.Bf1 the immediate threat is to splice the black Queen and Knight – 31...-- 32.Bb5+-

31...Qe8

It turns out the black b2 pawn is poisonous to the black Knight – 31...Nxb2 32.Qa8+ Kg7 33.Qa1!+- Pin and Win!

32.Bb5?!

The obvious way to win the black Knight, but not the strongest as Black collects a few pawns.

a) 32.Qxd6! Qxe4 (32...Nxb2 33.Qxc5 Qxe4 transposes.)

33.Qc6 Nxb2 34.Qxc5+-1.90.;

b) 32.Qc6!? Qxe4 33.Qxa4 Qxd5 34.Qc2± and White reaches a more favorable version of the game type continuation.

32...Qxe4 33.Qxa4 Qb1+ 34.Bf1 Qxb2

Black's hopes for generating counterplay now lie with his connected passed b and c pawns.

35.Qe8+

35.Qa6!?

35...Kg7 36.Qe7 b3± 37.Qxd6 Qa1 38.Kg2 b2?

A tougher challenge for White was 38...Qd4 39.Qf4! Qxd5+ 40.Qf3 Qe6 41.Qc3+ f6 42.Kh2 Qb6±

39.Bd3+- c4

39...b1Q 40.Bxb1 Qxb1 41.Qe5+! Kg8 (41...Kf8 42.d6 Qb7+ 43.Kg1 Kg8 (43...c4 44.Qh8#) 44.Qe7!) 42.d6+-

40.Qe5+! Kg8 41.Qb8+ Kg7 42.Bc2 Qc1 43.Qe5+ Kg8

43...Kf8 44.d6 Qxc2 45.Qh8#

44.Qe4 f5

With his queenside passed pawns now firmly blockaded, Black lashes out in one last desperate attempt at counterplay.

45.Qxc4!

Both 45. Qe8+ and 45.Qe6+ were also winning.

**45...b1Q**

Black manages to promote his pawn, and even threatens 46...Qh1 mate!

46.d6+ Kf8 47.Qc8+ Kg7 48.Qc7+ Kh6 49.Bxb1

With his Queen on c7 protected, the white Bishop is no longer pinned to the white Queen!

49...Qxb1

A Q v Q ending has been reached, but the white passed d-pawn is unstoppable.]

50.d7 Qe4+ 51.Kh2+- 1-0

After 51.Kh2 Black could try for a perpetual check with 51...Qd4 but runs into 52.Qf4+! (52.d8Q?? Qxf2+ 53.Kh1 Qf1+ 54.Kh2 Qf2+=) 52...Qxf4 53.gxf4+- Once again, we see Dr. Saidy display nice endgame technique!

This brings us to the current standings of the Open section. Entering round 4, there were 3 perfect scores. This would be the last round to have perfect scores. Boards one and two drew, but neither was a short draw, GM Ramirez pressed for 62 moves versus GM Neiksans while on board two GM Janssen pressed for 107 moves versus GM Kovalenko. The draws allowed four other players to catch up.

Boros,Denes (2466) – Batista,Lazaro Bruzon**(2657) [B84]**

National Open (4),

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be2 e6 7.0-0 Be7 8.f4 0-0 9.Kh1 Qc7 10.Qe1 b5 11.Bf3 Bb7 12.a3 Nc6 13.Be3 Rac8 14.Qg3 Nd7 15.Rad1 Nxd4 16.Bxd4 e5 17.Be3 exf4 18.Bxf4 Ne5 19.Be2 Rfe8 20.Be3 Bf8 21.Bd4 g6 22.Qf2 Bg7 23.Rd2 h5 24.Rfd1 Re6 25.h3 Rce8 26.Rf1 Bc6 27.Rdd1 Qb7 28.Bd3 R6e7 29.b4 Qc8 30.Rd2 Qb7 31.Kg1 Rf8 32.Re2 f5 33.exf5 Nxd3 34.Rxe7 Qxe7 35.cxd3 Rxf5 36.Qa2+ Kh7 37.Bxg7 Qe3+ 38.Rf2 Qe1+ 0-1

GM Nyzhnyk defeated GM Gorovets on board 4.

Gorovets,Andrey (2502) – Nyzhnyk,Illia (2649) [D10]

National Open (4)

1.c4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.cxd5 cxd5 4.Bf4 Nc6 5.e3 Nf6 6.Nc3 Bf5 7.Qb3 Na5 8.Qa4+ Bd7 9.Qc2 Rc8 10.Bd3 g6 11.Nf3 Bg7 12.Ne5 Nh5 13.Qe2 Nxf4 14.exf4 Nc6 15.Rd1 Nxd4 16.Qe3 Nc6 17.Bb5 Bxe5 18.fxe5 d4 19.Qh6 dxc3 20.e6 fxe6 21.Qg7 Rf8 22.Bd3 Qb6 23.0-0 cxb2 24.Bb1 e5 25.Rd2 Bf5 26.Bxf5 gxf5 27.Qxh7 Nd4 28.Rdd1 Kd7 29.f4 Rc1 0-1

GM Li defeated IM Rao on board 5.

(2792) Li,Ruifeng**(2546) – Rao,Prasanna Raghu (2448) [A01]**

National Open (4)

1.b3 Nf6 2.Bb2 g6 3.Bxf6 exf6 4.c4 Bg7 5.Nc3 f5 6.Rc1 b6 7.Nf3 Bb7 8.e3 0-0 9.g3 Nc6 10.Bg2 Ne5 11.d4 Nxf3+ 12.Bxf3 Bxf3 13.Qxf3 c5 14.dxc5 b5 15.0-0 Bxc3 16.Rxc3 Qa5 17.Rfc1 bxc4 18.Rxc4 Qxa2 19.Qd1 Rfd8 20.Rd4 Qa3 21.c6 d6 22.c7 Re8 23.Rxd6 Rac8 24.Rd7 Qa5 25.Qd4 Qb6 26.Qxb6 axb6 27.Rc6 1-0

FM Sorokin defeated IM Ostrovskiy to also reach 3 1/2 out of 4.

Sorokin,Aleksey (2536) – Ostrovskiy,Aleksandr (2437) [E20]

National Open (4)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.g3 dxc4 6.Bg2 0-0 7.0-0 Nc6 8.Qa4 Nd5 9.Qc2 Be7 10.Rd1 Rb8 11.e4 Ncb4 12.Qb1 Nxc3 13.bxc3 Nd3 14.Qb5 c5 15.Qxc4 Nxc1 16.Raxc1 Qc7 17.Qe2 Rd8 18.h4 b5 19.h5 h6 20.Ne5 Bb7 21.Kh2 a6 22.f4 Bd6 23.Ng4 Rbc8 24.d5 e5 25.c4 exf4 26.e5 ffg3+ 27.Kg1 Re8 28.exd6 Qxd6 29.Qf3 bxc4 30.Rc3 f5 31.Qxf5 Re2 32.Be4 1-0

This resulted in seven players tied for the lead at the

hallway point. However, only one of the seven would win: GM Alejandro Ramirez defeated FM Aleksey Sorokin to emerge as the only player with 4 1/2 out of 5.

Eight players are chasing Ramirez: GMs Bruzon Batista, Kovalenko, Nyzhnyk, Gareyev, Neiksans, Corrales, Li, and Shtembuliak all have 4 points

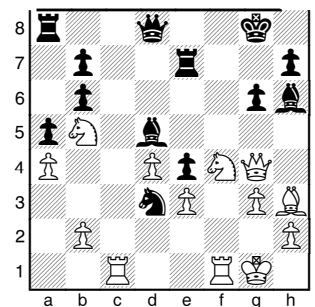
GM Ramirez had a nice tactic to enable a crisp victory over FM Sorokin.

Ramirez,Alejandro (2574) – Srokin, Aleksey (2536) [A16]

National Open (5)

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.cxd5

Nxd5 4.g3 e5 5.Bg2 Nb6 6.d3 Be7 7.Be3 0-0 8.Rc1 Re8 9.Nf3 Nc6 10.0-0 Bf8 11.a4 a5 12.Bxb6 cxb6 13.Nb5 Be6 14.d4 e4 15.Ne1 f5 16.f3 Bd5 17.fxe4 fxe4 18.e3 g6 19.Bh3 Bh6 20.Ng2 Re7 21.Nf4 Nb4 22.Qg4 Nd3



23.Nxd5 Nxc1 24.Qh4 Qxd5 25.Qxe7 Bxe3+ 26.Kh1 1-0



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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

1 pm Magnus and his New Weapon in Sicilian Defense
GM Melik Khachiyan

7 pm *Modern London System—2. Bf4*
GM Ron Henley

Sunday

1 pm Dynamic Decision Making in Chess
GM Melik Khachiyan

Poker Tournament

Westgate Poker Room

Monday

11 am Entry fee \$100

Bracelet, Bounties, and Cash Prizes

NATIONAL OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP SECTION

Ballroom A-C

Saturday R6: 10 am R7: 4:30 pm Sunday R8: 10 am R9: 4:30 pm

NATIONAL OPEN UNDER SECTIONS

Ballroom A-C

Saturday R4: 10 am R5: 4:30 pm

Sunday R6: 10 am R7: 4:30 pm

Ballroom E

Saturday 2-day R1: 9:30 am R2: 11 am

R3: 1 pm R4: 2:30 pm

Sunday Winners' Circle Cash Bar 9 pm

Saturday & Sunday R1: 10 am R2: 11:30 am R3: 1 pm R4: 2:30 pm R5: 4:30 pm R6: 6 pm

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP

Paradise Event Center North

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 Jennifer Shahade

Autograph session

3:30 pm Round 3

6 pm Puzzle Solving Competition

6:30 pm WGM Jennifer Shahade 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 and Quad Side Tournaments

Registration ends 30 mins before start times!

Walter Shawn Browne Memorial Blitz Ballroom E

Saturday, 10:30 pm 6 double rounds in 2 sections

Blitz Sectionals Sunday Ballroom G

Sunday, 10 pm RR sections of 8 players

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



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