

NATIONAL OPEN NEWS

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LENDERMAN TAKES TITLE AFTER FINAL ROUND BATTLE

GM Alex Lenderman took the National Open title, and with it the Edmondson Cup, after finishing with 5½/6. A final round draw with IM Enrico Sevillano was enough to claim the title for the likeable New York based GM.

Heading into the final round, Lenderman was a perfect 5-0 while Sevillano was the only player on 4½, giving an Armageddon game situation with White, Sevillano, needing to win while Black, Lenderman, had draw odds.

The game started in a line of the Caro-Kann that saw a double rook and bishop ending arise by move 15.

Sevillano tried to prove an edge in the position but Lenderman easily held the ending and was even able to give a pawn away, calculating correctly that the position was dead drawn.



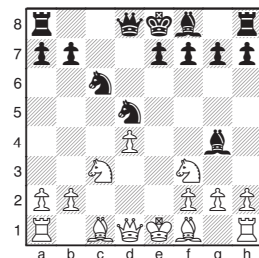
GM Alex Lenderman



Sevillano eventually agreed to the inevitable draw, giving Lenderman his first ever National Open title.

Sevillano,E (2585)
Lenderman,A (2656)
National Open (6.1)

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.c4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Nf3 Bg4 7.cxd5 Nxd5

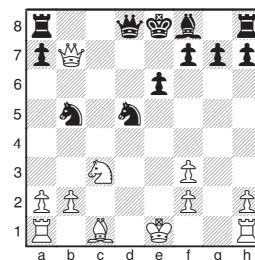


8.Qb3

This is definitely the most popular move in this position and White doesn't lose many games from here. However, he doesn't win many either, so playing something different here was probably the best

chance for Sevillano to possibly play something more double edged if he was going for the win.

8...Bxf3 9.gxf3 e6 10.Qxb7 Nxd4 11.Bb5+ Nxb5



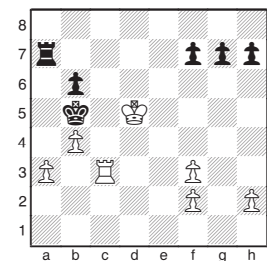
12.Qxb5+

Normally White plays a check on c6 first to stop Black from castling, e.g. 12.Qc6+ Ke7 (12...Qd7 13.Qxa8+) 13.Qxb5 Qd7 14.Nxd5+ exd5 15.Qb3 Kf6 16.Be3 d4 17.Rd1 Bc5 18.Qc4 Rac8 19.Rg1 Rhe8 20.Rg4 dxe3 21.Rf4+ Kg6 22.Rg4+ Kf6 23.Rf4+ Kg5 24.Rg4+ ½-½ (24) David,A (2598)-Shirov,A (2710) Caleta ENG 2012

12...Qd7 13.Nxd5 exd5 14.Qxd7+ Kxd7 15.Be3 Bb4+ 16.Ke2 Rhc8 17.Rac1 Ba5

17...a6 18.Kd3 Bd6 has been seen more frequently from this position.

18.Kd3 Bb6 19.b4 Rab8 20.a3 Rc6 21.Rxc6 Kxc6 22.Rc1+ Kb5 23.Bxb6 axb6 24.Kd4 Ra8 25.Rc3 Ra7 26.Kxd5



White wins a pawn, but it won't help him to win the game. The position is totally equal due to Black's active king and rook and White's kingside pawn structure.

26...Rd7+ 27.Ke4 Ka4 28.Rc6 Kb5 29.Rc8 Rd6 30.Rc7 Re6+ 31.Kd4 Rf6

White's weak doubled pawns, offered by his 8th move, enable Black to easily hold the position.

32.Ke3 Re6+ 33.Kd3 Rf6 34.Ke3 Re6+ ½-½

FREDDIE AWARD WINNER - EDWARD SONG

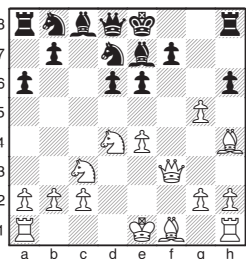
Edward Song was the winner of the “Freddie,” a prize given to the best game played by someone aged 14 years or younger. Song also received \$200 with the award.

Players were invited to submit games to Grandmasters Ron Henley and Melik Khachiyani during their free “analysis of your game” sessions.

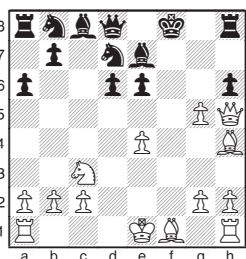
The following game, played in the Under 2200 Section in round 4, is a sacrificial theoretical line in the Sicilian Najdorf. Song shows a good knowledge of the line and cashes in on his opponent’s mistake.

Song,E (2129)
Hough,R (2044)
 U2200 (4)

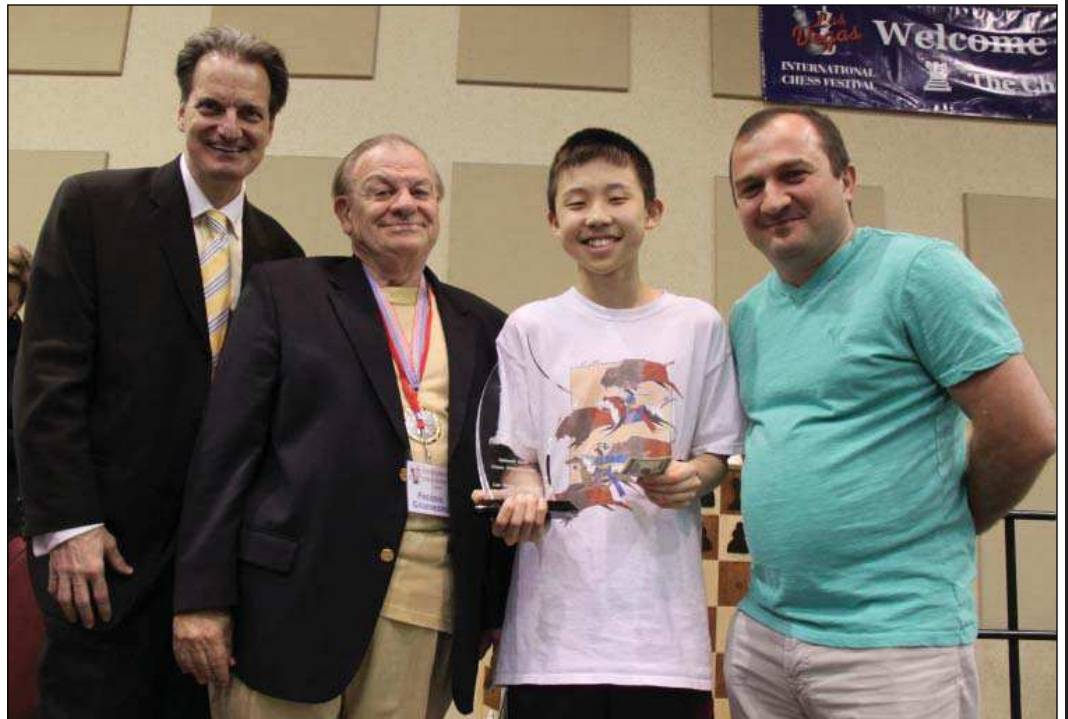
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Be7 8.Qf3 h6 9.Bh4 g5 10.fxg5 Nfd7



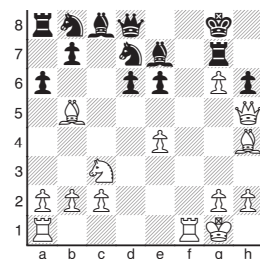
11.Nxe6 fxe6 12.Qh5+ Kf8



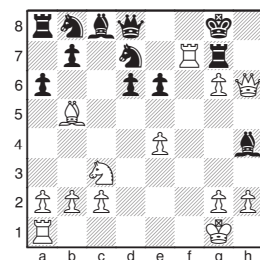
13.Bb5 Rh7 14.0-0+ Kg8 15.g6 Rg7



Edward Song receives the Freddie Award from Fred Gruenberg, selected by GM Ron Henley (left) and GM Melik Khachiyani (right)



16.Rf7 Bxh4 17.Qxh6



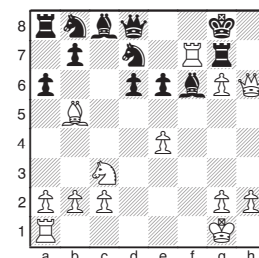
17...Bf6?

All these moves had been seen quite a few times before and is fairly well known theory for players of this line. However, Black makes a mistake here allowing White’s attack to crash through. Black had to play 17...Rxf7 where the known drawing

line goes 18.gxf7+ Kxf7 19.Rf1+ Bf6 20.Qh7+ Ke8 21.Qg6+ Kf8 22.e5 dxe5 23.Ne4 Qb6+ 24.Kh1 axb5 25.Nxf6 Ke7 26.Qg7+ Kd8 27.Qg8+ Kc7 28.Ne8+ Kd8 29.Nd6+ Kc7

18...Bd4+?

Black misses the drawing chance 18...Rxf7! and White has no better than a perpetual 19.gxf7+ Kxf7 20.Qh7+ Ke8 21.Qg8+ Ke7 22.Qh7+



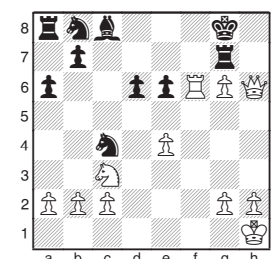
18.Rf1

It seems obvious to bring the other rook into the attack but this move only leads to a draw. The winning move was 18.Rxg7+! Bxg7 19.Qh7+ Kf8 20.Rf1+ Nf6 21.e5! dxe5 22.Ne4 Qd4+ 23.Kh1 Qxe4 24.Rxf6+ Ke7 25.Qxg7+ Kd6 26.Qf8+ Kc7 27.Rf7+ Bd7 28.Bd3 and the g-pawn will give White an extra Queen.

19.Kh1 Qf6

It is too late for the bishop to go back 19...Bf6 20.Rxg7+ Bxg7 21.Qh7#

20.R1xf6 Bxf6 21.Bc4 Ne5 22.Rxf6 Nxc4



23.Rf8+ Kxf8 24.Qh8+ 1-0

GM RON HENLEY ANNOTATES

The following game was played in the GM Anatoly Karpov simul and is annotated by GM Ron Henley.

Karpov shows his usual expertise in exploiting his opponent's weaknesses, in this case doubled pawns, and slowly increasing his advantage into a winning position.

Karpov,A (2615)
Ochkur,A (1547)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.0-0 d6 5.d4 exd4 6.Nxd4 Bd7 7.Bxc6 bxc6 8.Re1 c5 9.Nb3

9.Nf5!? Bxf5 10.exf5+ Be7 11.Qe2! with a big edge for White.

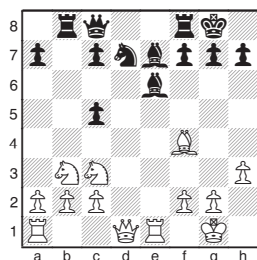
9...Be7 10.h3!? 0-0 11.Nc3 Qc8

More precise is **11...Rb8!**? **12.Bf4 Re8** with a solid position for Black.

12.Bf4 Be6 13.e5!±

Fracturing the black pawn structure. White has an edge in this position.

13...dxe5 14.Bxe5 Nd7 15.Bf4 Rb8



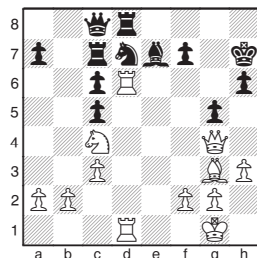
16.Nd5!

The unprotected pieces in the black camp allow White to build an initiative.

16...Bxd5 17.Qxd5 Bf6 18.c3 Rb6 19.Rad1

White's pieces dominate the position and Black's pieces become overworked trying to defend everything.

19...g5 20.Bg3 Rd8 21.Qc4 h6 22.Rd5 c6 23.Rd6 Rb5 24.Qg4 Kh7 25.Red1 Rb7 26.Na5 Rc7 27.Nc4 Be7



28.Qh5 1-0

28.Qh5 Bxd6 29.Qxf7+ Kh8 30.Rxd6 Nf8 31.Rxh6+ Nh7 32.Rxh7#

The following interesting game was played in round one by Christopher Von Krogh against GM Sergey Kudrin.

Von Krogh,C (2231)
Kudrin,S (2577)
National Open (1)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Nf3 0-0 8.Be2 c5 9.Rb1 b6

The most common plan of development for Black today. Black has also tried **9...Qa5**; **9...Nc6**; **9...Bg4**

10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qd3 Ba6

The exchange of a second pair of minor pieces makes it easier to play in a slightly cramped position.

12.Qe3 Qc8!? 13.Bb2!?

An unexpected move, which not only blocks the white rook on b1, but

anticipates the white c3 and d4 pawns moving forward or being exchanged. Advancing the d-pawn is an alternative way for White to pursue the initiative – **13.d5 Bxc2 14.Qxe2 Bxc3 15.e5 (15.e5 Rd8!?) 16.Rb3 Bd4!?) 17.Nxd4 cxd4 18.Qe4 Qb7 19.Qxd4 Qxd5 20.Qh4 Nc6 21.Rh3 h5 22.f4 Rac8 23.Rg3 Nd4 24.Qxh5 Qe4! 25.Qh6 Ne2+ 26.Kh1 Rxc1 De Boer – Kudrin, Groningen 1989.) 15.e5 Qf5 16.Rb3 Ba5 17.Nh4! Qd7 18.Bh6 Qxd5 19.Bxf8 Kxf8 20.Rd3 Qb7 21.Rd8+ Kg7 22.Nf5+ gxf5 23.Qe3 Qc6 24.Qg5+ Qg6 25.Qxe7 1-0, Khalifman – Lau, European Cup 1988.**

13...e6 14.Rfd1 Qc6 15.e4!?

White accepts a weak c-pawn in order to force the exchange on d4 and activate his pieces.

15...cxd4 16.Nxd4 Qa4 17.Qb3

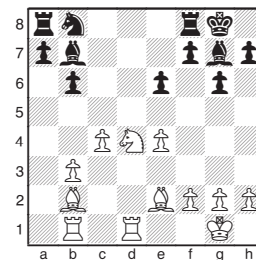
White could try for a slight edge with **17.e5!?**

17...Qxb3 18.axb3

The exchange of queens has improved the white queenside pawns structure, leaving Black the problem of completing his queenside development.

18...Bb7

Black attacks the white e-pawn and gives his knight options of developing to c6 or a6. Note that **18...Nd7? 19.Nxe6! fxe6 20.Rxd7** simply loses a pawn for Black.



19.e5!

This strategically desirable advance saves the pawn and blocks in the black bishop on g7 while securing White a central space advantage.

19...Be4

Black gains a tempo on the white rook. Note **19...Nc6 20.Bf3** or; **19...Bxe5 20.Nxe6!** do not fully solve Black's problems.

20.Bd3 Bxd3 21.Rxd3 Rd8 22.Rdd1!

The routine **22.Rbd1** is less accurate since **22...Na6 23.f4 Nc5** creates discomfort for the white units.

22...Rc8

Capturing on e5 – **22...Bxe5?** runs into **23.Nxe6! Rxd1+ 24.Rxd1 Bxb2 25.Rd8#** mate.

23.f4 Na6

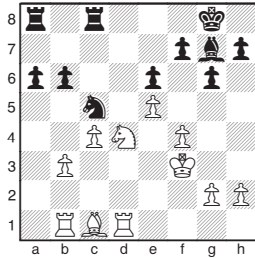
White has secured his e-pawn and Black has managed to develop his queenside knight. However, White still has a slight edge due to his space advantage and superior mobility.

24.Kf2 Nc5 25.Kf3 a6 26.Bc1

White looks to relocate his bishop to e3, but temporarily disconnects his rooks. I might have preferred

GM RON HENLEY ANNOTATES (CONTINUED)

26.Ba3 keeping open the option of Bxc5 on a moment's notice.



26...f6!

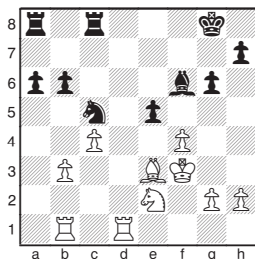
Kudrin correctly creates counterplay by attacking the white center.

27.exf6 Bxf6 28.Be3 e5!

By liquidating the White center, Black achieves full equality and looks to expose the white king on f3.

29.Ne2

White retreats to support his f4 pawn. After 29.fxc5 Bxc5 30.g3 Ra7 Black is okay.



29...Rf8!

The black rook on f8 x-rays the white king on f3.

30.g3 Rae8!

Suddenly the black forces are all beautifully centralized and it is White who must play carefully to maintain the equilibrium.

31.Rd6

White could play safe with 31.Bxc5 bxc5 32.Rd5 exf4

(Not 32...e4+?! 33.Ke3 with advantage to White.) 33.gxf4 which is equal.

31...exf4 32.gxf4 Ne4 33.Rd7

After 33.Rxb6 Black can force a draw with 33...Ng5+ 34.Kf2 Nh3+ 35.Kf3 Ng5+ since 36.fxg5 Bd4+! is very good for Black.

33...Re6 34.Ng3

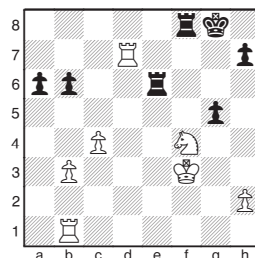
White understandably wants to exchange off the powerful black knight.

34...Ng5+ 35.Kf2 Nh3+ 36.Kf3 Ng5+ 37.Kf2 Nh3+ 38.Kf3 Nxf4!? 39.Bxf4 Bg5

Black plans to use the f-file pin to recoup his sacrificed piece.

40.Ne2 Bxf4 41.Nxf4 g5

It now appears Black will recover his piece and net a pawn for his f-file efforts.



42.Ra1

White looks for salvation by activating his rooks. In our analysis we discovered an amazing resource for White – 42.Rd8!! Ref6 43.Rxf8+ Rxf8 44.Kg4! gxf4 (If 44...Rxf4+ 45.Kxg5 with an easy draw.) 45.Rf1 f3 46.Rxf3 Rxf3 47.Kxf3 with a drawn pawn ending.

42...Rxf4+ 43.Kg2 a5 44.c5!



GM Sergey Kudrin

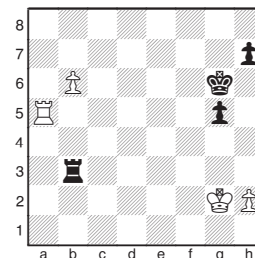
White places his hopes on liquidating as many pawns as possible.

44...Re2+ 45.Kg3 Re3+ 46.Kg2 Rf7

If 46...bxc5 47.Rxa5 with complete equality.

47.Rxf7 Kxf7 48.cxb6 Rxb3 49.Rxa5 Kg6

Black figures to either collect on b6 or force the white rook onto the passive a6 square and then advance on the kingside.



50.h4!

White continue his policy liquidation into a drawn ending.

50...h6

After 50...gxh4 51.b7 Rxb7 52.Kh3 the black king is cut along the fifth rank and the devalued black h-pawns offer zero winning chances.

51.hxg5 hxg5 52.b7! 1/2-1/2

White sacrifices his last pawn to reach a known drawn rook ending. After 52.b7 Rxb7 53.Ra2 White can defend easily.

GM RON HENLEY ANNOTATES (CONTINUED)

The following game was played in round 2 in the Open Section.

Chad Schneider (2187)
Peter Graves (2284)
National Open (2)

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bf5 5.Ng3 Bg6 6.Nf3 Nd7 7.h4 h6 8.h5 Bh7 9.Bd3 Bxd3 10.Qxd3 e6 11.Bf4!?

White assumes control of the f4-b8 diagonal and prepares the possibility of queenside castling.

11...Qa5+

Black uses the queen check to disrupt White's smooth buildup.

12.Bd2

After 12.c3 Ngf6 White is unable to castle – 13.0-0-0 (Or 13.0-0 Nxb5) 13...Qxa2 and Black snags a valuable pawn in both cases.

12...Bb4!?

In a slightly cramped position, Black correctly offers to exchange pieces while blocking the attack on his queen.

13.c3 Be7

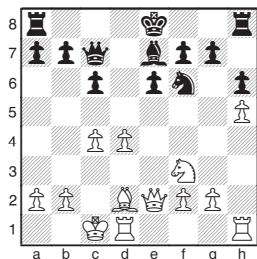
Less precise is the retreat 13...Bd6?! since 14.Ne4 Be7 15.Bf4 is good for White.

14.c4 Qc7

The black queen retreats to take control of the c7-f4 diagonal. Note offering to exchange bishops – 14...Bb4 is met by 15.Ne4! and Black will soon feel the weakness of his d6 square. 15...Ngf6 For example –

16.Nd6+! Kc7 17.c5 with a nice advantage for White.

15.0-0-0 Ngf6 16.Ne4 Nxe4 17.Qxe4 Nf6 18.Qe2



18...b5!

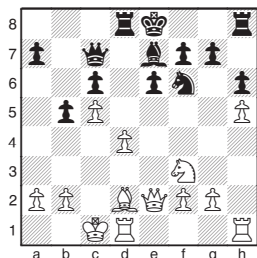
This timely advance looks to remove the white c4 pawn which in turn will make the d5 square accessible to the black pieces.

19.c5

Of course White is not able to win a pawn with 19.cxb5?! since 19...cxb5+ the check on the open c-file gives Black time to secure the b5 pawn after – 20.Kb1 Qb7! and Black can even claim a positional advantage.

19...Rd8

Black has a rock solid position which can prove to be a very tough nut to crack. This explains the appeal of the Caro-Kann over the years for positional players like Karpov, Anand and Sierawan.



20.g4!?

An enterprising pawn sacrifice to try and whip up



Peter Graves

some initiative.

20...Nxb4!?

In the spirit of the Romantic Era in chess, Black accepts the offered pawn. The above mentioned super grandmasters would have preferred the more prudent 20...Rd5! since after 21.g5 hxg5 22.Bxg5 Nd7 23.Bxc7 Kxc7 24.Rdg1 Qf4+ Black has a very solid position and the white pawns on d4, f2 and h5 are now targets.

21.Rhg1!

The point of White's pawn sacrifice is of course to enter the black position via the g-file.

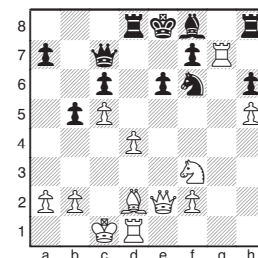
21...Nf6

The black knight must retreat. Protecting the knight – 21...f5? loses to 22.Qxe6; Hoping to exchange the knight – 21...Nh2 loses to 22.Ne5 Rxd4 23.f4! and after 23...0-0 24.Be3 Rxd1+ 25.Rxd1 the black knight on h2 is trapped.

22.Rxg7 Bf8

Black hopes to evict the white rook and then counter-attack 23...Nxb4 snip-

ping a pawn. Grabbing the white h-pawn – 22...Nxb4 runs into 23.Rxf7! 23...Kxf7 24.Ne5+ Kf8 25.Qxh5 with a crushing attack for White.



23.Qxe6+!!

A brilliant queen sacrifice based on the seventh rank pin!

23...fxe6 24.Rxc7 Nd5 25.Rxc6 Kf7 26.Ra6 1-0

White is a connected passed c-pawn ahead with attacks on a7 and e6 about to net a second pawn.



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