



NATIONAL OPEN NEWS

Las Vegas International Chess Festival

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Editor: Bill Brock

Paikidze wins US Women's Open

WGM Nazi Paikidze-Barnes added the 2017 U.S. Women's Open title to her expanding trophy case. The Las Vegas resident defeated WIM Asritha Eswaran of San Jose in round 3 and WGM Yaniet Marrero Lopez of Cuba in round 4 to set up a final round showdown with Saikhanchimeg Tsogtsaikhan of Mongolia.

Tsogtsaikhan (please call her Sana) has earned a provisional USCF Expert's rating in California events earlier this year. She's probably much stronger!

Nazi Paikidze (2475) — Tsogtsaikhan Saikhanchimeg (2075) U.S. Women's Open, Round 5

1.e4 c6 2.Nf3 d5 3.Nc3 Bg4 4.h3 Bxf3 5.Qxf3 e6 6.d3 Nd7 7.Bd2 Ngf6 8.g4 h6 9.O-O d4 10.Ne2 Qb6 11.O-O-O c5 12.f4 c4 13.Nxd4 Qxd4 14.Be3 Qd6 15.e5 Qa6 16.exf6 Qxa2 17.fxg7 Bxg7



The opening has gone very well for Nazi. Sana, having

already burned most of her time, mounts heroic resistance while virtually playing on increment.

18.c3 a5 19.dxc4 a4 20.Qg2 a3 21.Qc2 Qa1+ 22.Kd2 axb2 23.Bd3 O-O 24.Rb1 Ra3 25.Rxa1 bxa1=Q 26.Rxa1 Rxa1 27.Qb2 Ra5 28.Qxb7 Nc5 29.Bxc5 Rxc5 30.Qb6 Rfc8 31.h4 R5c6 32.Qb7 R6c7 33.Qe4 Rd8 34.Ke3 Ra7



35.c5

One kibitzer running Stockfish thought White could afford to play for a win with a fishing expedition on the kingside: 35.Qh7+ Kf8 36.g5 (the less ambitious 36.f5 Ra3 37.fxe6 fxe6 38.Be2 Rxc3+ 39.Kf2 Rd2 might be drawish) 36...hxg5 37.fxg5 with the idea of pushing the h-pawn. But Paikidze had seen a similar variation: in the post mortem, she immediately pointed out that Black has a strong counterattack with 37...Ra3!

35...Ra3 36.c6 Rxc3 37.Ke2 Rd4 38.Qh7+ Kf8



Now the queen is clearly out of play, and Black finally is in control.

39.Be4 Rcc4 40.Bf3 Rc1 41.g5 Rb4 42.Kf2 hxg5 43.hxg5 Rxf4 44.Qd3 Bd4+ 45.Kg3 Be5 46.Qb5 Rf5+ 47.Kg2 Rxg5+ 48.Kh3 Rc3 49.Kh4 Bf6 50.Qb8+ Kg7 51.Bg4 Rb5# 0-1

Paikidze won \$1,000 for her perfect 5-0. Second place was shared by Marrero Lopez, WFM Ramya Inapuri of Texas, Tsogtsaikhan, and top U2000 Jamie Olson of Utah, all with 4-1 scores.

Kimberly Liu of California took the second U2000 prize, while Jennifer Ishee of Tennessee, Ramona Grotle of Norway, and Katherine Line of Ohio split the U1800 prize.

Kiyarra Haturia of India & Hemma Bagley of Ohio split top U1400 honors. Please see the website for a full list of prizewinners.

The U.S. Women's Open is a great event that deserves more funding from US Chess! The field of 36 players was drawn from eleven states and seven countries.

We chatted briefly with 2017 U.S. Women's Open champion Nazi Paikidze after her victory.

Q: The last fourteen months have been interesting for you. In April 2016, you won the U.S. Women's Championship title, and in October 2016, you made international headlines for declining your invitation to play in the Women's World Championship in Tehran because of the hijab dress code. How has the fallout from the controversy affected your personal life?

A: It certainly took a toll. Before I made any public statements, I asked the other participants, and almost all of them were against it. But many of them wound up playing in Tehran after all, and I ended up alone: that was completely unexpected.

And I only gave one or two interviews to the press: most of the other stories were made up.

Q: I promise you that I will only make up good stories about you...

Not to be too nosy, but did you object to wearing the hijab on personal, feminist, or political grounds?

All of the above...though I'm not that political.

Q: Which of your opponents in Las Vegas made the biggest impression on you?

My final round opponent, Tsogtsaikhan Saikhan-chimeg, offered really tough resistance. And I will always owe a debt of gratitude to my third-round opponent, As-

ritha Eswaran. She's always a tough player, and I would not have won the 2016 U.S. Women's Championship had it not been for her last-round upset of Tatev Abrahamyan.

Q: How do you like living in Vegas?

My husband and I decided to give Las Vegas a try last year. We love it, and we're planning to stay. He's a mechanical engineer who travels a lot. I teach almost all of my chess students on the Web, so I can work anywhere.

Q: And how do you like the Women's Open?

I'm very impressed. This is the first time I've played in the event—I have to confess I'd never heard of the tournament before! I accidentally clicked on the website, and found out this tournament was in my hometown.

It deserves better marketing.

Tigran Petrosian wins Browne Memorial on tiebreaks

Six players tied for first in the 2017 edition of Walter Browne Memorial Blitz Championship, held Thursday night: GM Tigran L. Petrosian of Armenia, GM Illia Nyzhnyk of Ukraine, GM Dmitry Gordievsky of Russia, 12-year-old (!) Anthony He of Washington, GM Fidel Corrales Jimenez of Missouri, and FM Sam Schmakel of Illinois. GM

Petrosian, almost as formidable a blitz player as his World Champion namesake, won the trophy on tiebreaks. The players split \$2,100 six ways. There were 58 players in the powerful Open Section.

Anthony He seemed rather nonchalant about his fabulous performance. He got blanked 2-0 by Nyzhnyk, ("my toughest opponent"), but handled other titled players (names withheld by request) with ease.

FM Sunil Weeramantry was fuming about losing a pawn-up endgame to Sam Schmakel on time, but his mood brightened when I told him to forget about that silly game and talk about his stepson Hikaru Nakamura's return to top form in Norway.

"Hikaru is very satisfied with his play so far," Sunil said. "And for the first time, everyone sees Magnus as vulnerable."

Good luck to Hikaru, to Wesley So, and to Fabiano Caruana in today's final round! We'll probably know the Norway results by noon local time.

Back to blitz—there's not enough room to list all the prizewinners here, but special congratulations to the biggest money winner of the evening, Alexander Connelly (1694) of Illinois, who won \$500 for a dominant 13-1 performance in the 46-player Reserve (Under 1900) section, three (!) clear points ahead of the field!

FM Anthony He (2316)—GM Aleksandr Lenderman (2720), 2017 Walter Browne Memorial Blitz Championship

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 c5 4.exd5 Qxd5 5.Ngf3 cxd4 6.Bc4 Qd6 7.O-O Nf6 8.Nb3 Nc6 9.Nbx4 Nxd4 10.Nxd4 a6 11.Re1 Qc7 12.Qe2 h6 13.Bb3 Be7 14.Qf3 O-O 15.Bf4 Qc5 16.Rad1 Rd8 17.c3 Nd5 18.Bg3 Bf6



19.Nf5! Nb6 20.Nxh6+ Kh7 21.Rxd8 Bxd8 22.Nxf7 Bf6 23.Ne5 Kg8 24.Ng4 Be7 25.Qe4 Kf8 26.Re3 Bd7 27. Qg6 Nc4 28.Rf3+ Kg8 29.Rf7 Bf8 30.Nf6+ 1-0

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Ballroom E
Fri – Sun
9:00 a.m. –
10:00 p.m.

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

HOSTED BY NATIONAL OPEN CHAMPION RUIFENG LI – ONE OF AMERICA’S YOUNGEST GRANDMASTERS

Paradise Event Center South

Friday

10:00 a.m. Youth Trophy Tournament
 5:15 p.m. Awards Presentation
 6:30 p.m. Youth Blitz

Saturday

8:30 a.m. Late Registration (to 9:00 a.m.)
 9:45 a.m. Opening Ceremony
 10:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., 3:30 p.m. Rounds 1–3
 3:00 p.m. GM Ruifeng Li Autograph Session
 6:00 p.m. Puzzle Solving Competition
 6:30 p.m. WGM Carla Heredia Simul for Kids

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



Entry Fees

Trophy Tournament: \$50
 Youth Championship: \$120
 Youth Blitz: \$35
 Puzzle Solving: \$25
 WGM Carla Heredia Simul: \$30

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.

\$20 change fee for team or section changes after Round 1 starts. No team additions allowed after Saturday 5:00 p.m.

Free Lectures

Conference Room 1

Fri	3 p.m.	<i>Removing the Glue</i>	<i>GM Aleksandr Lenderman</i>
	4 p.m.	<i>Flamboyant GMs: Colorful Figures of Modern Chess</i>	<i>GM Elshan Moradiabadi</i>
	8 p.m.	<i>Wesley So and His Bishops</i>	<i>GM Ron Henley</i>
Sat	3 p.m.	<i>Crushing Black with the LONDON SYSTEM</i>	<i>GM Ron Henley</i>
Sun	1 p.m.	<i>Crushing Black with the SCOTCH GAME</i>	<i>GM Ron Henley</i>

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.



Dylan Quercia (above) and **Charles Davis** were the only players to take half-points from **GM Ruifeng Li** in Thursday’s simul: 26 wins, 0 losses, and 2 draws for the GM!

All photos by Tim Hanks—look for much more of Tim’s great work on our website & social media!

NATIONAL OPEN



Time Control 40/90, SD/30, increment 30
(2-day rounds 1-3 & all Beginner Rounds Game/40, increment 5)

Ballroom A – C

Friday

Round 1 11:00 a.m.

Round 2 5:30 p.m.

BEGINNER SECTION

11, 1, 3, 5:30 & 7:30 Fri

10, 12, 2, 4:30 & 6:30 Sat/Sun

2-Day Schedule Ballroom F

Saturday

Round 3 10:00 a.m.

2-day Round 1 10:00 a.m.

2-day Round 2 12:00 p.m.

2-day Round 3 2:00 p.m.

Round 4 4:30 p.m.

Sunday

Round 5 10:00 a.m.

Round 6 4:30 p.m.

Winners' Circle

Cash Bar 9:00 p.m.



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Sunday 10 p.m. Ballroom F

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Friday 11 p.m. Ballroom F

Saturday 10 p.m. Ballroom F

Sunday 10 p.m. Ballroom D

BLITZ SECTIONALS

Entry Fee \$30

Registration ends ½ hour before start

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Join us Next Year June 20 –24, 2018

NATIONAL OPEN June 22 – 24

Welcome to the 2017 edition of the **Las Vegas International Chess Festival**. Thank you for coming. Many of you are old friends, who return to play year after year. Some of you are first time guests. No matter who you are, whatever your level of play, we wish you brilliant games and the best of times. Welcome to your Chess Vacation of the Year.

Please, take a few moments to look over this schedule to make sure you don't miss anything. Our staff is here to help in any way we can.

Alan & Janelle Losoff

Tournament Organizers



**FOR GAMES,
RESULTS, AND
SCHEDULES**

