

NATIONAL OPEN NEWS

VOLUME 2011, ISSUE 2

JUNE 11, 2011

LET THE BATTLE COMMENCE!

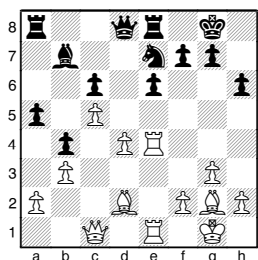
Round one of the three-day schedule didn't see any major upsets but FM Michael Feinstein, Dipro Chakraborty, Nicky Rosenthal and Ezgi Menzi all frustrated their higher rated opponents to go into round two with a half-point more than they were expected to.

The three-day schedule has 15 Grandmasters playing but the Swiss system keeps them away from each other in the early rounds. However, this usually leads to some exciting moves as they try to finish off their lower rated opponents quickly to get some rest before round two.

Here are a few examples of some tactics uncocked by the Masters.

Atalik,S (2672)
Krishnan,V (2256)

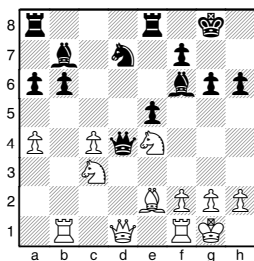
National Open (1), 10.06.2011



24.Bxh6 gxf6 25.Qxh6 Ng6 26.h4 Qf6 27.h5 Qg7 28.Qxg7+ Kxg7 29.Rg4 Kh6 30.hxg6 f5 31.Rh4+ Kxg6 32.Bf3 Re7 33.Kg2 a4 34.Reh1 axb3 35.axb3 Rg8 36.Rh6+ Kf7 37.Bh5+ Kg7 38.Be2 Kf7 39.Rh7+ Rg7 40.Rh8 Rd7 41.R1h7 f4 42.Bh5+ Kf6 43.Rf8+ Kg5 44.Rxg7+ Rxg7 45.Be2 fxf3 46.f4+ Kh6 47.Bd3 Re7 48.Rg8 Rf7 49.Kf3 g2 50.Rxg2 Rf6

51.Rh2+ 1-0
Ramirez,A (2640)
Gant,C (2245)

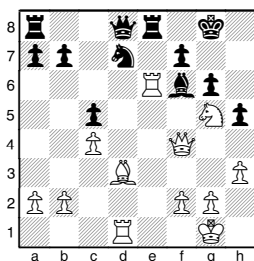
National Open (1), 10.06.2011



20.Qc2! and the Black queen will be trapped next move. **1-0**

Finegold,B (2566)
Kerman,D (2200)

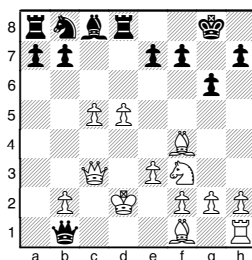
National Open (1), 10.06.2011



26.Nxf7! Kxf7 27.Rd6! Ne5 28.Rxd8 Raxd8 29.Be2 Rxd1+ 30.Bxd1 Rd8 31.Bf3 Rd4 32.Bd5+ Kg7 33.Qe3 Nxc4 34.Qe6 Rd1+ 35.Kh2 Be5+ 36.g3 1-0

Kaufman,L (2465)
Liu,D (2141)

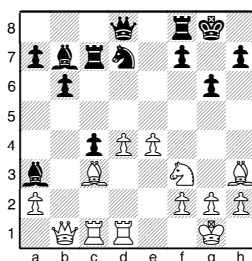
National Open (1), 10.06.2011



14.Bc4 Qxh1 15.Bh6 f6 16.d6+ Kh8 17.Ng5 Qxg2 18.Nf7+ Kg8 19.Nxd8+ Kh8 20.Nf7+ Kg8 21.Ng5+ Kh8 22.dxe7 Qxf2+ 23.Be2 Bd7 24.Ne4 Qf5 25.Nxf6 1-0

McCambridge,V (2502)
Chiang,S (2153)

National Open (1), 10.06.2011



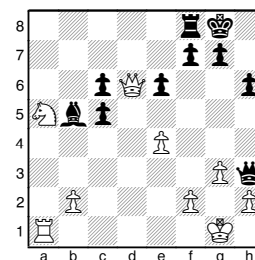
21.d5! Bxc1 22.Qxc1 Nc5 23.d6 Rc6 24.Qh6 f6 25.Ng5 Rc7 26.d7 Qe7 27.Bxf6 1-0



GM Alejandro Ramirez

Veech,J (2204)
Yermolinsky,A (2568)

National Open (1), 10.06.2011



25...Be2! 26.Nxc6 Bf3 27.Qxf8+ Kh7 0-1

“THE THREE-DAY SCHEDULE HAS 15 GRANDMASTERS...”

TOP SEED TOPPLED IN ROUND TWO

Round two more than made up for the lack of upsets in round one as top seed, GM Loek Van Wely was brutally attacked then suffocated in an ending by IM Andranik Matikozyan on board 1 while GM Giorgi Kachishvili was ground down by IM Dionisio Aldama on board 6.

There were also slightly surprising draws on board 4 and 7 as IM Jake Kleiman held last year's National Open Champion, GM Timur Gareyev, and Arun Sharma held GM Alejandro Ramirez.

Here is Matikozyan's win on board 1 against the experienced Dutchman.

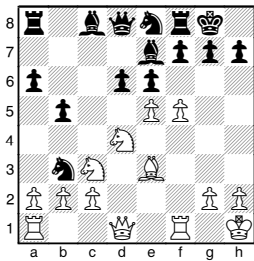
Matikozyan,A (2511) Van Wely,L (2737)

National Open (2), 10.06.2011

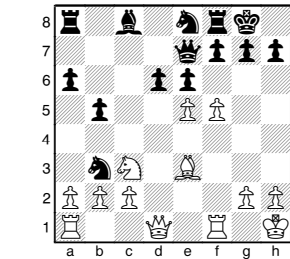
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 a6 6.Bc4 e6 7.0-0 Be7 8.Bb3 0-0 9.f4 Nc6 10.Kh1 Na5

Matikozyan has been in this position in Vegas before, 10...Qc7 11.f5 Nxd4 12.Qxd4 e5 13.Qd3 b5 14.Bg5 Bb7 15.Bxf6 Bxf6 16.Bd5 b4 17.Bxb7 bxc3 18.Bxa8 cxb2 19.Rab1 Rxa8 20.Rxb2 h6 21.Rfb1 Rc8 22.Qxa6 Qc5 23.Qxc8+ 1-0 Matikozian,A (2515)-Rensch,D (2360)/Las Vegas 2005

11.e5 Ne8 12.Be3 b5 13.f5 Nxb3



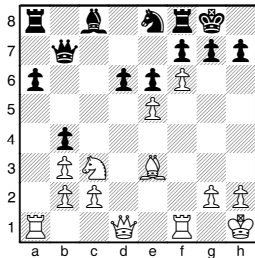
14.Nc6! Qd7 15.Nxe7+ Qxe7



16.f6 Qb7?!

My computer program wants to take the pawn, something a human probably would never do in this position, e.g. 16...gxf6 17.exf6 Qb7 18.axb3 Kh8 19.Rf4 but even it still thinks White is better here and I have to agree.

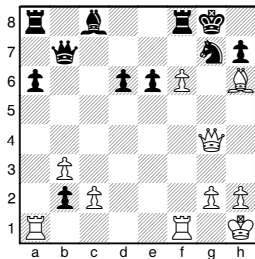
17.axb3 b4



18.Qg4!

Matikozyan seems to like these aggressive moves.

18...bxc3 19.fxg7 Nxg7 20.Bh6 f5 21.exf6 cxb2



A rather crazy position!

22.Rab1 e5 23.Qg5 Rf7 24.Rxb2 Qe4 25.c4?!

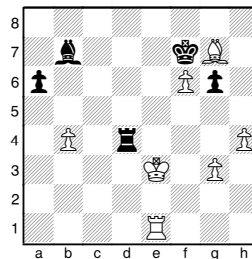
My computer prefers to take on g7 immediately with the bishop.

25...Qg6 26.Qxg6 hxg6 27.Bxg7 Rd7 28.Rd2 Bb7 29.h4 Kf7



GM Loek Van Wely was knocked off board 1 by IM Andranik Matikozyan

30.Kh2 Rad8 31.Re1 e4 32.Kg3 49.g4 Rf4 50.g5 a5 51.Ra8 a4 d5 33.cxd5 Bxd5 34.b4 Bb7 52.Kd6 Rd4+ 53.Ke7 Rb4 54.Ra7 35.Rxd7+ Rxd7 36.Kf4 e3 37.g3 Rb8 55.Bh6 1-0 Rd4+ 38.Kxe3



38...Rxb4

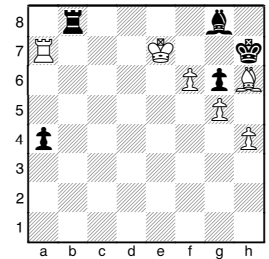
It would be interesting to see if the opposite colored bishop ending after 38...Re4+ 39.Kf2 Rxe1 40.Kxe1 can be held. Obviously Van Wely thought it couldn't be. However, the move he played allows the White rook to decisively penetrate to the 7th rank and so it couldn't have been any worse.

39.Rc1 Bd5 40.Rc7+

The Black king now gets boxed in while the opposite colored Black bishop is helpless to defend against its White counterpart and rook.

40...Kg8 41.Bh6 Bf7 42.Rc8+ Kh7 43.Bg7 Rb3+ 44.Kf4 Rb4+ 45.Ke5 Rb5+ 46.Kd6 Bg8 47.Rf8 Rd5+ 48.Kc6 Rf5

Black had to stop the potential f7 push but his king gets completely boxed in the corner.



There is no way to stop the f7 push anymore and so Van Wely resigns.

“MATIKOZYAN SEEMS TO LIKE THESE AGGRESSIVE MOVES.”

PHOTO GALLERY: SCHOLASTIC TROPHY WINNERS

Under 800 Co-Champion
Chang Xu



Under 1800 Champion
Russell Bik



Under 800 Co-Champion
Anna Tong Sun



Under 1200 Champion
Carmen Pemsler

VAN WELY TAKES NATIONAL OPEN BLITZ TITLE

Grandmaster Loek van Wely won the National Open Blitz Championship on Thursday night, finishing with 10½ points out of 12, a half-point ahead of his nearest rival, GM Alex Lenderman.

Van Wely and Lenderman split their personal match in round five leaving them equal on 8½ points along with GM Varuzhan Akobian and GM Ron Henley going into the final round.

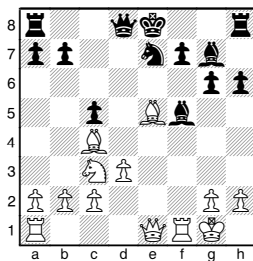
Van Wely managed to take both points in the final round against Henley, while Lenderman could only (I say only!) score 1½ against Akobian to leave the Dutchman with the title.

Here is Van Wely's final game against Henley. At one stage Van Wely was two pawns down and clearly losing but he managed to drum up enough counterplay to keep the position complicated, eventually leading to Henley losing on time.

Henley,R Van Wely,L

National Open Blitz, 09.06.2011

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 d6 3.f4 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Bb5+ Bd7 6.Bc4 Nc6 7.0-0 e6 8.d3 Nge7 9.f5 exf5 10.Qe1 h6 11.Bf4 Ne5 12.exf5 Bxf5 13.Nxe5 dxe5 14.Bxe5



14...0-0

After sacrificing a pawn early on, White has managed to regain the pawn and possibly already has a winning advantage. However, this is blitz and just about anything can, and does, happen.

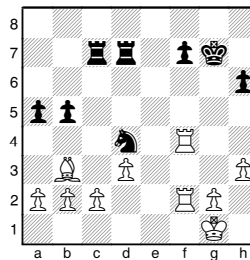
15.Bxg7 Kxg7 16.Qe5+ Kg8 31.c3?! 17.Qxc5

Now White is a pawn up.

17...Nc6 18.Qf2 Rc8 19.Rae1 Qd4 20.Bd5 Qb4 21.Bb3 Qd4 22.Nd5 Kg7 23.Ne7 Qxf2+ 24.Rxf2 Rc7 25.Nxf5+ gxf5 26.Rxf5

White is now two clear pawns ahead and should be able to convert the win. However, Van Wely manages to somehow drum up some counter play on the queen-side.

26...Nd4 27.Rf2 Rd8 28.Re4 b5 29.Re4f4 Rdd7 30.h3 a5



There was no need to give a pawn back as Black wasn't threatening to play ...a4. For example, 31.Kh2 a4 32.Rg4+ Kf8 33.Bxf7 Rxf7 34.Rxf7+ Kxf7 35.Rxd4 Rxc2 36.Rb4 and White remains up two pawns.

31...Nxb3 32.axb3 Rxd3 33.R4f3 Rd6 34.Kh2 a4 35.bxa4 bxa4 36.Re2 Ra6 37.Re4 a3 38.Rg4+ Kf8 39.bxa3 Rxa3 40.c4 Ra5 41.Rg6 h5 42.Rgf6 Rac5 43.R3f4 Kg7

The simple 43...Rxc4 44.Rxf7+ Rxf7 45.Rxc4 should easily be equal.

44.R6f5 Rxf5 45.Rxf5 Kg6 46.Rf4 f5 47.h4 Kf6 48.Rd4 0-1

And here, a pawn to the good but in a dead drawn position, Henley flagged giving Van Wely the title.

