

NATIONAL OPEN NEWS

Las Vegas International Chess Festival Volume 2013 • Issue 3 Editor: Chris Bird

Molner Halts Holt, Americans Downed in Round 3

Round 3 started the day off with a bang as the GMs started to face off against each other. However, it was an IM who made the headlines by taking a GM scalp.

IM Mackenzie Molner beat GM Conrad Holt in an exciting battle that involved an interesting exchange sacrifice followed by a successful king hunt.

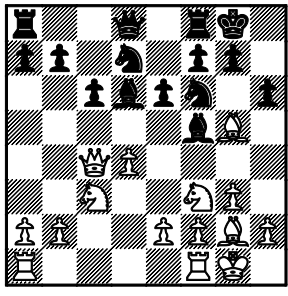
Joining Molner on a perfect score after 3 rounds was a group of four GMs, Tamaz Gelashvili, Ruben Felgaer, Manuel Hoyos and Mikheil Kekelidze.

In fact, all the GMs just mentioned beat an American to stay perfect going into round 4, leaving Molner as the only USA player in the group.

Here are some games from round 3, starting with the Molner-Holt fireworks.

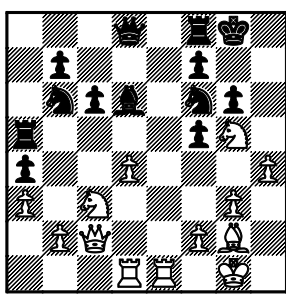
□ Molner, M (2535)
 ■ Holt, C (2629)
 National Open (3.6)

1.c4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nf3 Nf6
 4.Qc2 dxc4 5.Qxc4 Bf5 6.g3
 Nbd7 7.Bg2 e6 8.0-0 Bd6
 9.Nc3 0-0 10.Bg5 h6

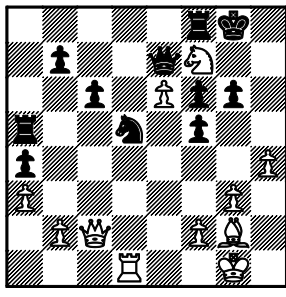


11.e4 hgx5 12.exf5 exf5
 13.Nxg5 Nb6 14.Qb3 a5

15.Rad1 a4 16.Qc2 g6
 17.Rfe1 Bb4 18.a3 Bd6 19.h4
 Ra5



20.Re5!? Bxe5 21.dxe5 Nfd5
 22.e6 f6 23.Nf7 Qe7 24.Nxd5
 Nxd5

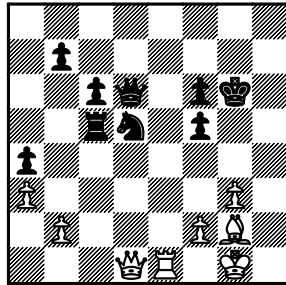
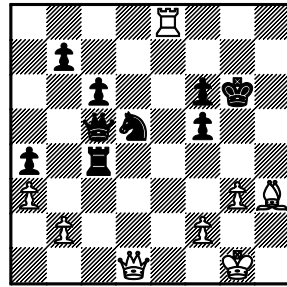


25.h5 Qxe6 26.hxg6 Rxf7
 Black sacrifices back the ex-

change to get rid of the pesky knight but in doing so he opens up his king.

27.gxf7+ Kxf7 28.Qd2 Rc5
 29.Re1 Qd6 30.Qd1 Kg6

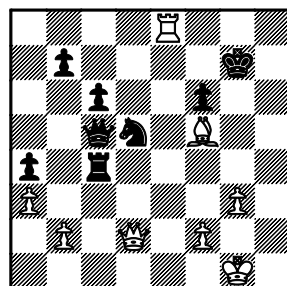
Black could have put up a tougher fight with 30...f4 31.Re4 b5 32.Rxf4 Ke7 but his position is still very tough to defend.



31.Re8!
 Black's king has become too exposed and he will be unable to prevent the White forces from developing a coordinated attack.

31...Re4 32.Bh3 Qc5

33.Bxf5+ Kh6
 33...Kxf5 34.Qh5#
 34.Qd2+ Kg7



35.Rh8 Kf7 36.Qe2 Kg7
 37.Rh7+ Kf8 38.Rh8+ Kg7
 39.Qe8 Rc1+ 40.Kg2 Ne3+
 41.Qxe3 Qxf5 42.Qh6+ Kf7
 43.Qxc1 1-0



The top boards ready for action in round 3

Slotman Hunt!



Can you find the 8 mini Slotmen hidden in this issue of the National Open News?

More Round 3 Action, Wins for Kekelidze and Gelashvili

Here is GM Mikheil Kekelidze's victory over the 2011 National Open Champion, GM Varuzhan Akobian.

- Akobian, V (2685)
 - Kekelidze, M (2627)
- National Open (3.2)

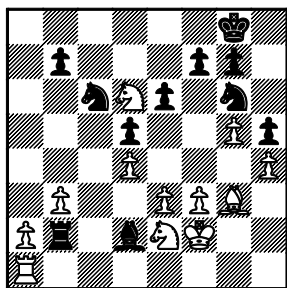
1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.cxd5 cxd5
4.Bf4 Qb6 5.Nc3 Nf6 6.e3 Bg4
7.f3 Bd7 8.Bd3 e6 9.Nge2 Be7
10.g4 Nc6 11.Kf2 Rc8 12.Qd2
Na5 13.b3 0-0 14.h4 Bb4
15.Rac1 Bb5?! 16.Bxb5 Qxb5
17.Nxb5

17.g5 Nd7 18.Bd6! Rfe8
19.Nxb5 Bxd2 20.Rc7±

17...Bxd2 18.Rxc8 Rxc8
19.Nxa7 Rc2 20.Ra1 h5 21.g5
Nd7 22.Nb5 Nf8 23.Na3 Rb2
24.Bg3 Ng6 25.Nb5?!

The best move, according to my program is 25.Nb1 but boxing in the rook on a1 and putting the knight back on its starting square is not really something a human would normally consider.

25...Nc6 26.Nd6



26...Nb4! 27.Nxb7

27.f4 Bxc3+ is better but still leaves Black with a big, possibly decisive edge.

27...Nc2 28.Rd1 Bxc3+
29.Kf1 Rxa2 30.Rd3 Ne7

The knight starts on a journey to the other side of the board although 30...Ra1+ 31.Kg2 Re1! would have led to a quick finish.

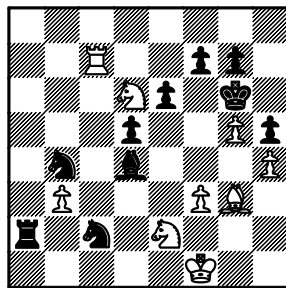
31.Nd6 Nc6 32.Nb5 N6b4
33.Rc3 Kh7 34.Rc7 Kg6?!

34...Nd3 35.Nbc3 Ra3 36.Rxf7
Rxb3 37.Rc7 Nxd4 38.Nxd4
Bxd4 leaves Black a pawn up



GM Nick de Firmian waits for his opponent in round 3

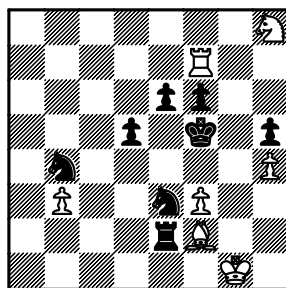
but with some work still to do. 0-1
35.Nd6 Bxd4



36.Nxf7??

A major blunder, just as White had battled his way back into the game. 36.Nf4+ Kh7
37.Nxf7 Nc3+ 38.Ke1 Ng2+
39.Kd1! Nxf4 40.Bxf4 Nd3
41.Bd2 is equal according to the computer.

36...Ne3+ 37.Kg1 Rxe2
38.Nh8+ Kf5 39.Rf7+ Bf6
40.gxf6 gxf6 41.Bf2



41...d4

There is no stopping the the runaway d-pawn.

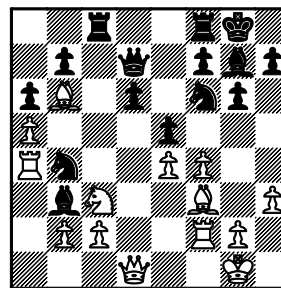
42.Rh7 Nd3 43.Rxh5+ Kf4

It's mate in a few moves, one such possible line being
43...Kf4 44.Bxc3+ dxc3
45.Rh6 Kg3 46.Rg6+ Kh3
47.Kh1 Rc1+ 48.Rg1 Nf2#

GM Nick de Firmian is a crowd favorite here in the US but in this game he comes unstuck against the New York based GM Tamaz Gelashvili.

- De Firmian, N (2575)
 - Gelashvili, T (2668)
- National Open (3.3)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4
4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 a6
7.Be2 Bg7 8.a4 0-0 9.0-0 Nc6
10.f4 Bd7 11.Nb3 Rc8 12.a5
Be6 13.Bb6 Qd7 14.h3 Nb4
15.Bf3 Be4 16.Rf2 e5 17.Ra4
Bxb3



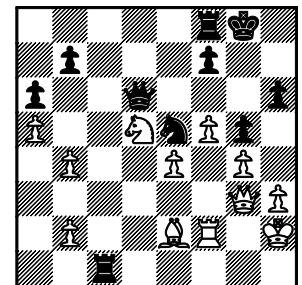
18.exb3

The other capture was also interesting and may have even been better 18.Rxb4 Be6 19.f5
gxf5 20.exf5 Bxf5 21.Bxb7

18...Nc6 19.f5 Bh6 20.g4 Bg5
21.Rg2 h6 22.Bf2 Nd4
23.Rxd4!? exd4 24.Qxd4 Qd8
25.Bg3 Nd7 26.Bxd6 Bf6
27.Qb4?!

Better is 27.Qd5 Ne5 28.Be2
Re8 29.fxg6 Nxd6 30.Bc4=
27...Ne5 28.Be2 Nc6

Forcing the White queen out of play due to having to retain her protection of the bishop on d6.
29.Qa3 Bd4+ 30.Kh2 Be5+
31.Bxe5 Nxe5 32.Nd5 Rc1
33.b4 Qd6 34.Qg3 g5 35.Rf2



35...Nxc4+!

There were other moves that won but this one is the quickest and most pleasant for the viewers.

36.Bxc4 Rh1+ 37.Kxh1 Qxc3
38.Rc2 Kh8 39.Nc3 Rd8 40.f6
Qe1+ 41.Kg2 Rd2+ 42.Rxd2
Qxd2+ 43.Kf3 Qf4+ 0-1



Sorry Mr. Hon

I would like to extend my sincere apologies to Eric Hon who finished in 4th place in the Scholastic Youth Blitz, 15 and Under Section. I unfortunately skipped his name when it came to publishing the winners and listed incorrect players winning the 4th and 5th place trophies.

I would also like to apologize to Zolboo Lkhagvasuren who I erroneously listed as finishing in 5th when in fact Zolboo did not win a trophy. I hope I didn't accidentally get your hopes up.

Bring Me A Six Pack, More Grandmasters Join The Action

The 2-day schedule of the National Open started today and in the Championship section that meant an additional 16 players, 6 of which are Grandmasters, bringing the total number in the event to 21.

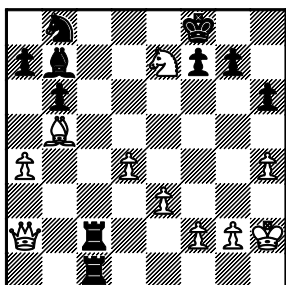
GMs Wesley So, Alejandro Ramirez and Jimenez Corrales, along with IM Joseph Bradford, all merged over into the 3-day schedule with 2½ points from the three games played at Game/45.

Also amongst the GMs entering the fray is GM Maurice Ashley, fresh off his commentary gig at the US Championship in St. Louis last month.

Here are the first two games that Ashley played. The first one was an upset loss to FM Pablo Venegas while the second is a speculative sacrifice, turned win, against FM Steven Weiner.

□ Venegas,P (2314)
 ■ Ashley,M (2486)
 National Open (1.50)

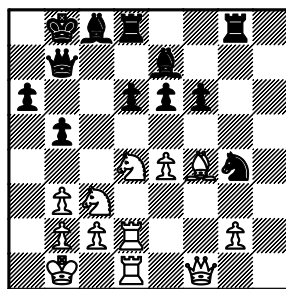
1.Nf3 Nf6 2.d4 e6 3.Bg5 d5
 4.e4 Be7 5.e3 0-0 6.Nc3 h6
 7.Bh4 Ne4 8.Bxe7 Qxe7 9.Bd3
 Nxc3 10.bxc3 c5 11.0-0 Nc6
 12.Rb1 Rd8 13.Qe2 b6
 14.Rfd1 Bb7 15.cxd5 exd5
 16.Bb5 Rac8 17.Rb2 Na5
 18.Ne5 cxd4 19.cxd4 Rc3
 20.Rc2 Rdc8 21.Rdc1 Qa3
 22.h4 Qxc1+ 23.Rxc1 Rxc1+
 24.Kh2 Nc6 25.Nd3 Rb1
 26.a4 Nb8 27.Qa2 Rd1 28.Nf4
 Rdc1 29.Nxd5 R8c2 30.Ne7+
 Kf8



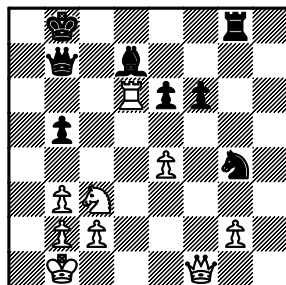
31.Qa3!+- Rxf2 32.Nd5+ Kg8

33.Qxc1 1-0
 □ Ashley,M (2486)
 ■ Winer,S (2418)
 National Open (2.50)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4
 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bc4 e6
 7.Bg5 Be7 8.Bb3 Nc6 9.Qd3
 Na5 10.f4 h6 11.Bh4 g5
 12.fxg5 Ng4 13.Bg3 hxg5 14.0-0
 Ne5 15.Qe2 Nxb3+
 16.axb3 Qa5 17.Kb1 Bd7
 18.Nf3 0-0-0 19.Qe3 f6
 20.Rd4 Kb8 21.Rhd1 Qc7
 22.R4d2 Bc8 23.h3 g4
 24.hxg4 Nxg4 25.Qg1 Rhg8
 26.Bf4 Ne5 27.Qf2 b5 28.Nd4
 Qb7 29.Qf1 Ng4



30.Ndxb5 axb5 31.Bxd6+
 Bxd6 32.Rxd6 Rxd6 33.Rxd6
 Bd7
 33...Rg5 appears to be the best
 way to defend the position, e.g.
 34.Qd3 Rc5 35.Rd8 Qb6 36.b4
 Rc6



34.Qg1 Kc8 35.Qc5+ Qc7
 36.Qa3 Ne5?
 36...Qb7 37.Qc5+ Qc7
 38.Qa3=
 37.Ra6 Kd8?
 37...Bc6 is still good for White
 but at least gives some hopes
 for holding rather than the

move played 38.Nxb5 Qb8 38.Nxb5 1-0
 38.Nxb5 Qb7 (38...Bxb5
 39.Ra8+) 39.Ra8+ Bc8 40.Ra7
 Black is totally busted, e.g.



GM Jimenez Corrales played in the 2-day schedule

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Round 4: Gelashvili Perfect Heading Into Final Day's Play

Heading into round 4, after both schedules were merged together, we had 5 perfect scores.

After round 4 only one player has managed to win all their games, GM Tamaz Gelashvili.

This time it was IM Mackenzie Molner who succumbed to the New York based GM, despite Gelashvili arriving over half an hour late to the game!

GMs Ruben Felgaer, Manuel Hoyos and Mikheil Kekelidze, along with Molner, were the other perfect scores heading into the evening's play.

Felgaer and Hoyos drew against each other, reaching a rook and pawn ending after just 18 moves. After 26 moves the draw had been agreed to.

Meanwhile, Kekelidze couldn't maintain the level of play that saw him knock off Akobian earlier in the day as he fell easily to GM Wesley So.

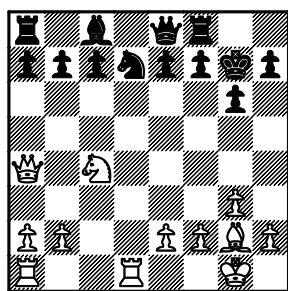
In round 5 Gelashvili and So are projected to meet on board one and it should really be a no holds barred contest so make sure you stop by the stage to check out the game.

Here is Gelashvili's victory against Molner.

□ Gelashvili,T (2668)
 ■ Molner,M (2535)
 National Open (4.1)

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 d5 5.c4 dxc4 6.Qa4+ Nfd7 7.Nbd2 0-0 8.Nxc4 Nc6 9.0-0 Nxd4 10.Nxd4 Bxd4 11.Bh6 Bg7 12.Bxg7 Kxg7 13.Rfd1 Qe8

13...c6 has been played a few times in this position. You will see in a moment why that is.

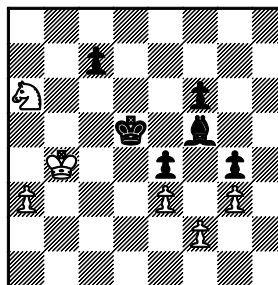


14.Bxb7! Bxb7 15.Qxd7

White is going to be able to play against Black's weak isolated queenside pawns, which gives him something to keep probing at for the rest of the game.

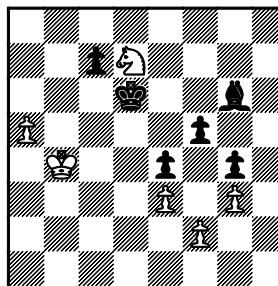
15...Ba6 16.Qd4+ f6 17.b3 e5 18.Qc5 Rf7 19.Rac1 Qe6 20.Qd5 Re8 21.Rd2 h5 22.Qxe6 Rxe6 23.Kf1 Rc6 24.Rdc2 Rd7 25.Ke1 g5 26.Na5 Rxc2 27.Rxc2 Be8 28.Rc4 Kg6 29.Nc6 a6 30.b4 Rh7 31.a3 g4 32.Rc3 Kg5

33.Na5 h4 34.Nb3 Rd7 35.Nc5 hxg3 36.hxg3 Rd4 37.Rd3 Rxd3 38.Nxd3 Kf5 39.Nc5 e4 40.Kd2 Ke5 41.Kc3 Kd5 42.e3 a5 43.Kb3 Bf5 44.Na6 axb4 45.Kxb4



Material is equal but White's advantages are clear, the better knight and the outside passed pawn mean that he is the only one playing for a win in the position.

45...Kc6 46.Nc5 Kd5 47.a4 Bg6 48.Nd7 f5 49.a5 Kd6



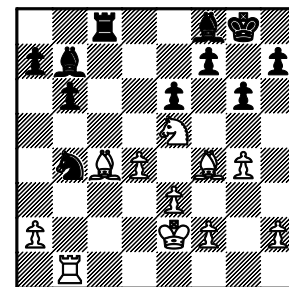
50.a6 Bf7 51.Nf6 Kc6 52.Ka5 Be6 53.Nh5 Bc8 54.Nf4 Kd6 55.Ne2 Kd5 56.a7 Bb7 57.Nd4 Kc5 58.Nxf5 Kc4 59.Nd4 Kd3 60.Ne6 1-0

Once White plays Nxc7 and Kb6, the bishop will have no safe squares to go to because of its own "friendly" pawn on e4.

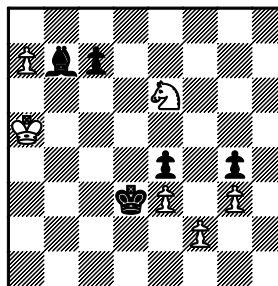
In this game, So takes immediate advantage of a couple of inaccuracies to pounce quickly for the victory.

□ Kekelidze,M (2627)
 ■ So,W (2728)
 National Open (4.3)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Bg5 Ne4 5.Bf4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.e3 c5 8.cxd5 Qxd5 9.Nf3 0-0 10.Be2 cxd4 11.cxd4 Qa5+ 12.Qd2 Nc6 13.Rb1 b6 14.Bb5 Bb7 15.Ke2 Qxd2+ 16.Kxd2 Rac8 17.Rhc1 Rfd8 18.Ke2 e6 19.g4 Bf8 20.Ne5 Nb4 21.Rxc8 Rxc8 22.Bc4



22...Nxa2! 23.Ra1 Nc3+ 24.Kd3 Bb4 25.f3 25.Rxa7 Be4+ 26.Kd2 Nb5+ 25...a5 26.Nd7 Bxf3 27.Nxb6 Be4+ 28.Kd2 Na4+ 0-1



The end position deserves a diagram. White will queen the pawn without having to sacri-



GM Mikheil Kekelidze reading the National Open News

Let's Face It! Do These Pictures Say How The Game is Going?



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International Youth Festival Pictures!



Naroditsky Simul Results

Here are the full results, board by board, from the Daniel Naroditsky Youth Simul on Saturday night.

Daniel managed to win all of his games but it seems everyone enjoyed playing in the simul.

<i>Player</i>	<i>Res</i>
Isaac Adams	Loss
Ethan Aquino	Loss
Nathaniel Barrett	Loss
Olga Cherepakhin	Loss
Michael Dunaevsky	Loss
Jack Easton	Loss
Gabriel Eidelman	Loss
Hiya Ghosh	Loss
Jeffrey Kapilivsky	Loss
Jonathan Kopeliovich	Loss
Philip Leung	Loss
Ruiting Ma	Loss
Valentin Matveev	Loss
Steven Molotnikov	Loss
Tanner Muscarella	Loss
Laura Pei	Loss
Brian Reyes	Loss
Vinay Shukla	Loss
Aidan Ye	Loss
Zihan Zhang	Loss
Franklin Zhou	Loss

Photos from the International Youth Festival provided by Margaret Snead and available on the Commemorative Tournament DVD

Moradia-Party! The Rumskey Chess Challenge



The participants in the Rumskey Chess Challenge, left to right, GM Dmitry Gurevich, GM Jaan Ehvest, GM Jimenez Corrales, GM Enrico Sevillano, GM Varuzhan Akobian, GM Alejandro Ramirez, Chief TD Robert Tanner, GM Elshan Moradiabadi, Janelle Losoff and Chief Organizer Al Losoff

GM Elshan Moradiabadi managed to win the special Rumskey Chess Challenge held on Saturday night.

The challenge involved 8 Grandmasters who played a round robin blitz tournament at a time control of Game/3 minutes with a 2 second increment.

After 7 rounds of cut throat blitz, Moradiabadi emerged as the winner, a half-point ahead of GM Alejandro Ramirez.

Ramirez managed to beat Moradiabadi in round 6 to catch

him up meaning both players had 5 points each going into the final round. However, Moradiabadi won his game against GM Dmitry Gurevich while Ramirez was held to a draw by GM Jaan Ehvest.

As well as a big bottle of Rumskey, a combination drink of rum and whisky developed by event sponsors Schmooze Brothers, given to each of the participants, Moradiabadi took home \$250 while Ramirez collected \$150 and Akobian took \$100 for finishing in 3rd place.



GM Elshan Moradiabadi



Rumskey!

The Rumskey Chess Challenge Final Crosstable



		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
1	GM Elshan Moradiabadi		0	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
2	GM Alejandro Ramirez	1		½	1	½	1	1	½	5½
3	GM Varuzhan Akobian	0	½		½	1	1	1	1	5
4	GM Dmitry Gurevich	0	0	½		1	½	1	1	4
5	GM Jimenez Corrales	0	½	0	0		1	½	0	2
6	GM Mikheil Kekelidze	0	0	0	½	0		½	1	2
7	GM Enrico Sevillano	0	0	0	0	½	½		1	2
8	GM Jaan Ehvest	0	½	0	0	1	0	0		1½

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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 byes for Sunday rounds must be requested before the start of round 2 and may not be cancelled. Other half-point byes may be requested up to one hour after the start of the previous round. After hours, call (702) 560-0955 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.

Post Your Results!

Both players are responsible for reporting results. Please post on the pairing sheet and turn in a score sheet with the result clearly marked and signed by both players.

National Open Blitz!

Open & Under 1900 Sections

Sunday, 9:30 pm

\$3,000 guaranteed in prizes!

7 round double Swiss.

Grande Ballroom E

NATIONAL OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

Time Control: 40/90, SD/30, inc 30

Grand Ballroom A-D SUNDAY

Round 5 10:00 am
Round 6 4:30 pm

Capri 103

Cash Bar 8:00 pm
Winner's Circle 9:00 pm

Rochester Chess and Chess4Less (Capri 106)

Rochester Chess Center and Chess4Less have teamed up to bring you the best selection ever selection of chess books, sets, clocks and National Open t-shirts. A great selection will be available throughout the tournament. Book signings will be posted. Check it out!

Opening Hours: Sunday 9:00 am - 11:00 pm

International Youth Championship (Grande Ballroom E)

Hosted by International Master Daniel Naroditsky

Sunday

9:30 am Side Event Awards
10:00 am Round 4

Sunday (continued)

1:00 pm Round 5
4:00 pm Closing Ceremony

Free Lectures and Workshops

Sunday

12:00 pm Analysis of your games, GM Melik Khachiyan (Capri 103)
1:00 pm Masterpiece at 2013 U.S. Championship, GM Walter Browne (Capri 109)
2:30 pm Russian Endgame Tactics, GM Ron Henley (Capri 109)
6:30 pm Analysis of your games, GM Ron Henley (Capri 109)

National Open players aged 14 and under who wish to have a game considered for the "Freddie" Best Game Prize must bring it to one of the first 5 analysis sessions. Only rounds 1 through 5 will be considered.

Commemorative Tournament DVD

Hundreds of games, photos and more mailed on a DVD a few days after the Chess Festival. If you think your game is worthy of publication, submit it in PGN format via email to games13@VegasChessFestival.com or check the box on the scoresheet.

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Poker Tournament

Enjoy the No Limit Hold'em Tournament for participants in our Chess Festival. The Las Vegas International Chess Festival is adding a commemorative bracelet for the winner, plus a \$25 bounty of any member of our staff that you knock out. Register at the Poker Room



Pinball Tournament

Are you a pinball wizard? This tournament, for Chess Festival participants will be held at the Pinball Hall of Fame, near the food court on Monday morning. Registration will be on Sunday evening at the registration desk or from 9:00 am - 9:30 am at the Pinball Hall of Fame.



Live Game Broadcast
www.VegasChessFestival.com/live/



Results and Pairings
www.VegasChessFestival.com/results/

Join us next year! June 12-15, 2014