

# NATIONAL OPEN NEWS

Las Vegas International Chess Festival Volume 2013 • Issue 1 Editor: Chris Bird

## GMs Wesley So and Varuzhan Akobian Take Game/10

This year's U.S. Game/10 Championship was extended to 8 rounds of play and I for one am very glad as we got to see a whole lot more exciting quick chess than usual.

At the end of the evening, GMs Wesley So and Varuzhan Akobian finished atop of the standings with 7/8, half-point ahead of GM Enrico Sevillano who finished in sole 3rd place.

Here are some of the exciting games from the event with some brief commentary.

This first game is the matchup between the two eventual winners. Akobian blunders in a highly tactical position allowing So to win the exchange and he converts the position with ease.

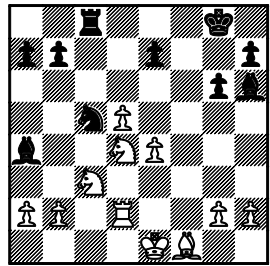
**Akobian, Varuzhan (2685)**  
**So, Wesley (2728)**  
 US G-10 Ch. (6)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Bg5 Bg7 5.Bxf6 Bxf6 6.cxd5



GM Varuzhan Akobian

c5 7.dxc5 Nd7 8.Qa4 0-0 9.Qa3 Qc7 10.Ne4 Bg7 11.Nf3 f5 12.Nc3 Qxc5 13.Qxc5 Nxc5 14.e3 Bd7 15.Be2 Rac8 16.Nd4 f4 17.Rd1 fxe3 18.fxe3 Bh6 19.e4 Bg7 20.Rf1 Rxf1+ 21.Bxf1 Ba4 22.Rd2 Bh6



23.b4! Ne6 24.Nxa4? 24.Nde2 Bxd2+ 25.Kxd2 Ng5 26.Nxa4 Nxe4+ 27.Ke3± 24...Bxd2+ 25.Kxd2 Nxd4 26.Bd3 Kf7 27.Nc3 e5 28.Nd1 a5 29.bxa5 Ra8 30.a6 bxa6 31.Ne3 h5 32.Nc4 Kf6 33.Ke3 Rb8 34.h4 Rb4 35.g3 Rb8 36.Kd2 a5 37.Nxa5 Rb2+ 38.Ke3 Rxa2 39.Nc4 Rg2 40.Nd6 Rxc3+ 41.Kd2 Nf3+ 42.Ke2 Nxe4 43.Ne8+ Ke7 44.Bb5 Nf3 45.d6+ Kd8 46.Ba4 Nd4+ 47.Kf2 Ra3 0-1

Going into round 7, So was a half-point ahead of his nearest rivals and faced the dangerous GM Tamaz Gelashvili. However, once again So showed his tactical prowess to take the victory.

**So, Wesley (2728)**  
**Gelashvili, Tamaz (2668)**  
 US G-10 Ch. (7)

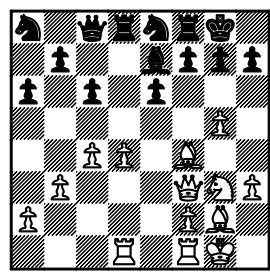
1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qd6 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 a6 6.g3 Bg4 7.Bg2 e6 8.h3 Bxf3



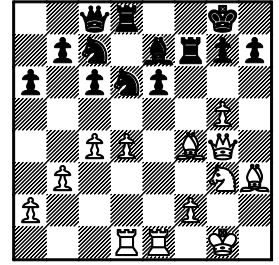
GM Wesley So

9.Qxf3 c6 10.Ne2 Nbd7 11.0-0 Qc7 12.c4 Be7 13.g4 0-0 14.Ng3 Rad8 15.b3 Nb6 16.Bf4 Qc8 17.Rad1 Na8 18.g5 Ne8

Black's pieces do not look very comfortable arranged on the back row. White definitely has a comfortable edge in this position.

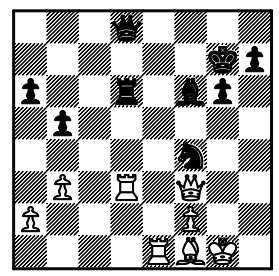


19.h4 Nd6 20.Rfe1 Nc7 21.Bh3 f6 22.Qg4 fxg5 23.hxg5 Rf7



24.d5! cxd5 25.cxd5 Nxd5 26.Bxd6 Rxd6 27.Ne4 Rf4 27...Rc6 28.Rxd5 cxd5 29.Qxc8+ Rxc8 30.Bxc8 dxe4 31.Be6 28.Qg3 Rxe4 29.Rxe4 Kh8 30.Rde1

The simplifying 30.Rxe6 Rxe6 31.Bxe6 Qxe6 32.Qb8+ Qg8 33.Qxg8+ Kxg8 34.Rxd5 may have led to a quicker win. 30...Nc7 31.Qe3 Qd8 32.Bxe6 Bxg5 33.Qh3 g6 34.Bc4 Bf6 35.Qf3 b5 36.Bf1 Kg7 37.R4e3 Nd5 38.Rd3 Nf4



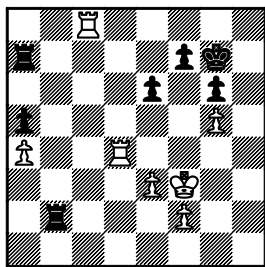
39.Qxf4 Rxd3 40.Bxd3 Qxd3 41.Rc1 g5 42.Qc7+ Kh6 43.Qc6 Kg7 44.Kg2 h5 45.Qe6 Qd4 46.Rc7+ Kg6 47.Rd7 Qf4 48.Qf7+ Kf5 49.Qxh5 Ke6 50.Qe8+ Kf5 51.Rd5+ Kg4 52.Qd7+ Kh5 53.Qh7+ 1-0

# More from the U.S. Game/10 Championship

This was one of the last games to finish. So had already drawn his final game with Sevillano which left him a point ahead of Akobian, the only person who could catch him.

Thankfully, for Akobian at least, his opponent, GM Elshan Moradiabadi, was in a giving mood and the following position was reached with both players having just a couple of minutes left on their clocks.

**Akobian,Varuzhan (2685)**  
**Moradiabadi,Elshan (2629)**  
 US G-10 Ch. (8)



1...f5??

After this blunder black is lost. Much better was just about anything although 1...f6 2.gxf6+ Kxf6, the best line given by my computer, still leaves White a little better thanks to the better pawn structure and the awkward Black rook on a7.

2.Rh4! e5 3.Rch8 1-0

Black is going to get mated or lose the rook on a7 and so he resigned.

Here are some more games from the Game/10 Championship.

**So,Wesley (2728)**  
**Griffith,Kyron (2401)**  
 US G-10 Ch. (2)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 0-0 5.Nc3 d6 6.Nf3 Nbd7 7.0-0 e5 8.h3 exd4 9.Nxd4 Re8 10.e4 a6 11.Be3 Rb8 12.a4 c6 13.Qc2 Qc7 14.a5 Nc5 15.Rfd1 Nfd7 16.b4 Ne6 17.Nxe6 Rxe6 18.Rac1 Re8 19.Na4 Ne5 20.Ba7 Ra8

21.Bb6 Qe7 22.c5 dxc5 23.Bxc5 Qe6 24.Nb6 Rb8 25.Bd6 Nd7 26.Bxb8 Nxb8 27.Qc4 Qe7 28.Qc5 Qxc5 29.bxc5 Be6 30.Nc4 Nd7 31.f4 Rb8 32.Nd6 h5 33.e5 f6 34.exf6 Nxf6 35.Rb1 Nd5 36.Rxb7 Rxb7 37.Nxb7 Bc3 38.Nd8 1-0

**Moradiabadi,Elshan (2629)**  
**Robson,Ray (2698)**  
 US G-10 Ch. (4)

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.Qb3 Nb6 6.d4 Bg7 7.e4 0-0 8.Be3 Bg4 9.Ne5 Be6 10.Qa3 Nc6 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Rd1 a5 13.Qc5 Qd6 14.Be2 Rfd8 15.Qxd6 exd6 16.0-0 a4 17.f4 Bc4 18.Rf2 Re8 19.Bf3 Nd5 20.exd5 Rxe3 21.dxc6 a3 22.Nd5 Rxf3 23.Ne7+ Kf8 24.Rxf3 axb2 25.f5 Bxd4+ 26.Kh1 Kxe7 27.a3 Ba2 0-1

**Robson,Ray (2698)**  
**Akobian,Varuzhan (2685)**  
 US G-10 Ch. (5)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bd7 5.Nf3 Be6 6.Neg5 Nd7 7.Nxf7 Kxf7 8.Ng5+ Ke8 9.Bc4 Bxg2 10.Nxe6 Qe7

**So,Wesley (2728)**  
**Sevillano,Enrico (2549)**  
 US G-10 Ch. (8)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.exd5 exd5 5.Bd3 Nf6 6.Nge2 0-0 7.0-0 h6 8.h3 Re8 9.a3 Bd6 10.Nb5 Bf8 11.Bf4 Na6 12.Nbc3 c6 13.Ng3 Nc7 14.Qd2 Ne6 15.Be3 c5 16.Nce2 c4 17.Bf5 Bd7 18.c3 Qb6 19.Rfe1 Rad8 20.Rab1 37.d5 cxd5 38.cxd5 Rc7+ a5 21.Bc2 Qc7 22.f3 b5 39.Kd3 Rc1 40.Re6 Rb1 23.Nf5 ½-½ 41.Kc4 Rc1+ 0-1



Callaghan McCarty-Snead plays IM Anthony Saidy in round 1 of the U.S. Game/10 Championship

## National Open Blitz Tournaments!

### Sectionals

Saturday, 9:30 pm

In sections of 12-15 players.

Rating range less than 200 points whenever possible.

### The Rumskey Chess Challenge

Saturday, 9:30 pm

10 Grandmasters compete for cash prizes and signed magnums of Rumskey, a unique product of the Las Vegas Distillery. Spectators welcome!

### Open & Under 1900 Sections

Sunday, 9:30 pm

\$3,000 guaranteed in prizes!  
 7 round double Swiss.

All blitz tournaments will take place in Grande Ballroom E

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# GM Alex Lenderman Simul

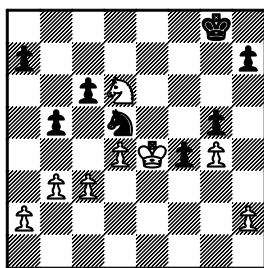
GM Alex Lenderman, last year's winner of the National Open, gave a 28 board simultaneous exhibition, scoring 22 wins, 3 draws and 3 losses.

Alex was very gracious in his pre-simul speech, telling the players to play for a win rather than just trying to obtain the draw, just like he did in last year's National Open when he declined a draw from a strong opponent to play for, and obtain, the win!

Here are the games from the three players who managed to beat Alex although special mention must also go to Jeff Gallegos, Gordon Gribble and Rudy Vrana for scoring draws.

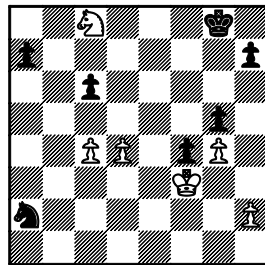
**Lenderman,Alex  
Nguyen, Cuong (1763)**

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Be4 Nf6 4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 Nxd5 6.d4 Bb4+ 7.c3 Be7 8.Qf3 Bxg5 9.Bxd5 0-0 10.Bxg5 Qxg5 11.Qe3 Qxe3+ 12.fxe3 exd4 13.exd4 Re8+ 14.Kf2 Bg4 15.Bf3 Bxf3 16.Kxf3 Re7 17.Na3 Rae8 18.Nc2 f5 19.Rhe1 g5 20.Rxe7 Rxe7 21.Re1 Rf7 22.Ne3 Kf8 23.Re2 Kg8 24.Nc4 Re7 25.Rxe7 Nxe7 26.g4 f4 27.Ke4 c6 28.Nd6 b5 29.b3 Nd5



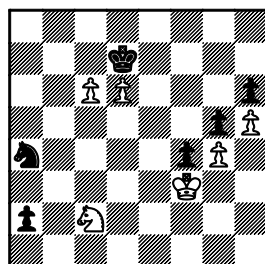
30.c4?!  
Lenderman starts to go wrong in the knight and pawn ending.  
30.Kd3=  
30...bxc4 31.bxc4 Nc3+ 32.Kf3 Nxa2 33.Nc8  
33.Nb7 holding the a-pawn and coming round to attack the c-pawn from the other way was better although Black has

all the winning chances still.



33...a5! 34.Ne7+ Kf7 35.Nxc6 a4 36.d5

If the White king tries to come over to prevent the a-pawn queening then the Black knight shields it until it is time to go start causing trouble on the other side of the board, e.g.  
36.Ke2 Kf6 37.Kd2 a3 38.Ne5 Nb4 39.Kc3 a2 40.Kb2 Nc2 41.Kxa2 Nxd4 42.Nd3 Nf3 43.h3 Ne5  
36...a3 37.d6 Ke8 38.c5 Nc3 39.Nb4 a2 40.Nc2 Kd7 41.h4 h6 42.h5 Na4



43.c6+  
Lenderman tries one last trick.

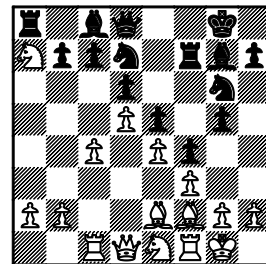
43...Kxd6 0-1  
43...Kxc6?! 44.Nb4+ Kxd6



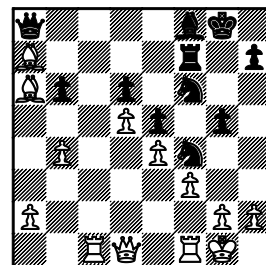
45.Nxa2 although even here Black is probably still winning but it sure is tougher than the other way.

**Lenderman,Alex  
Leano,Bryan (1914)**

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 e5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.d5 Ne7 9.Ne1 Nd7 10.Be3 f5 11.f3 f4 12.Bf2 g5 13.Rc1 Ng6 14.Nb5 Rf7 15.Nxa7

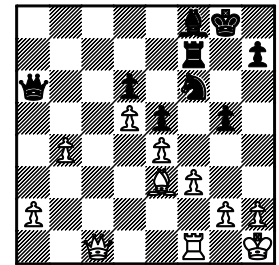


15...Rxa7 16.Bxa7 b6 17.b4 Bf8 18.Nd3 Nf6 19.c5 Ba6 20.Nxf4 Nxf4 21.Bxa6 Qa8 22.cxb6 cxb6



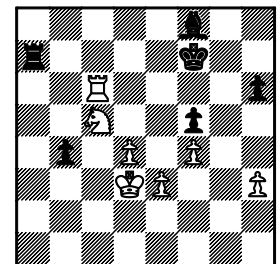
23.Bxb6?!  
23.g3 N4h5 24.Bxb6 Qxa6

25.Be3 Qxa2 26.Bxg5+-  
23...Qxa6 24.Be3?  
24.Rc6 Nxe4 25.Bf2  
24...Ne2+ 25.Kh1 Nxc1  
26.Qxc1



26...Nxe4! 27.Rd1 Nf6 28.Qc2 Qa3 29.Bxg5 Qxb4 30.h3 Qc5 31.Qxc5 dxc5 32.d6 Nd7 33.a4 h6 34.Be3 Rf6 35.Bxc5 Nxc5 36.d7 Nxd7 37.Rxd7 Ra6 38.Rd5 Rxa4 39.Kg1 Bg7 40.Rd2 Rd4 41.Re2 Kf7 42.Kf2 Ke6 43.Ra2 Kf5 44.Re2 h5 45.g4+ Kf4 46.gxh5 Bh6 47.Kg2 Bg5 48.Kf2 Bh4+ 49.Kg2 Bg5 50.Kf2 Kf5 51.Kg2 Rd2 52.Rxd2 Bxd2 53.Kf2 Bg5 54.Kg3 Bf4+ 55.Kh4 Bh2 56.h6 Kg6 57.h7 Kxh7 0-1

**Lenderman,Alex  
Taylor-Brill,Seth (1945)**



49.Ra6?  
A blunder. 49.Nb3 and White should be able to convert this pawn up position.  
49...Bxc5 50.Rxh6 Be7 51.Rb6 Ra3+ 52.Ke2 Ra2+ 53.Kf3 Rb2 54.Kg3 b3 55.Kf3 Rb1 56.Ke2 b2 57.Kd3 Ba3 0-1

Pictured - The last few boards to finish, players left to right, Scott Raymond, Petro Gretchanei, Bryan Leaho and Scott Taylor-Brill.

# INTERNATIONAL



# CHESS FESTIVAL

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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.

## NATIONAL OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

Time Control: 40/90, SD/30, inc 30  
2-day Rounds 1-3: G/45, delay 5

### Grande Ballroom A-D FRIDAY

Round 1 11:00 am  
Round 2 5:00 pm

### SATURDAY

Round 3 10:00 am  
2-day Round 1 10:00 am  
2-day Round 2 12:00 pm  
2-day Round 3 2:00 pm  
Round 4 4:30 pm

### 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

Thursday 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm Saturday 9:00 am - 11:00 pm  
Friday 9:00 am - 11:00 pm Sunday 9:00 am - 11:00 pm

## International Youth Championship (Grande Ballroom E)

Hosted by International Master Daniel Naroditsky

### Friday

10:00 am Scholastic Trophy Tournament  
5:15 pm Awards Presentation  
6:30 pm Youth Blitz

### Saturday (Continued)

4:00 pm Round 3  
6:30 pm Puzzle Solving Competition  
7:00 pm Daniel Naroditsky Simul

### Saturday

8:00 am Late Registration (to 9:00 am)  
9:30 am Opening Ceremony  
10:00 am Round 1  
1:00 pm Round 2  
3:00 pm Daniel Naroditsky Autograph Session

### Sunday

9:30 am Side Event Awards  
10:00 am Round 4  
1:00 pm Round 5  
4:00 pm Closing Ceremony

## Free Lectures and Workshops

### Friday

1:00 pm Analysis of your games, GM Melik Khachiyan (Capri 103)  
3:00 pm Crushing White! Part I, GM Ron Henley (Capri 109)  
7:00 pm Analysis of your games, GM Melik Khachiyan (Capri 103)  
8:00 pm Crushing White! Part II, GM Ron Henley (Capri 109)

### Saturday

12:00 pm Analysis of your games, GM Ron Henley (Capri 103)  
2:30 pm Birth of a Variation: The Byrne Variation of the Sicilian Najdorf, GM Walter Browne (Capri 109)  
6:30 pm Analysis of your games, GM Melik Khachiyan (Capri 103)  
8:00 pm Crushing Black!, GM Ron Henley (Capri 109)

### 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](mailto:games13@VegasChessFestival.com) or check the box on the scoresheet.

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