



NEWS

NATIONAL OPEN JUNE 12-16, 2019

WIM Megan Lee wins U.S. Women's Open



WIM Megan Lee

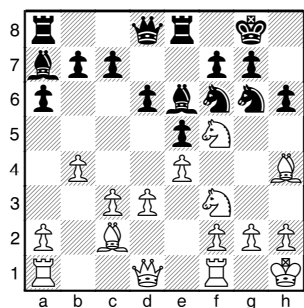
WIM Megan Lee scored 4 1/2—1/2 to take clear first in the 2019 U.S. Women's Open. Megan surrendered a draw in round two to Sandhya Goli, but then won the rest of her games to claim the title, trophy and the \$1000 first prize. This is the first year Megan played in the event. She started as the second seed and her crucial victory this year was her last round win over defending champion Saikhanchimeg Tsogtsaikhan.

Tsogtsaikhan, Saikhanchimeg (2125) – Lee, Megan (2250) [C54]

U.S. Women's Open (5)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d3 a6 6.Nbd2 d6 7.Nf1 0-0 8.b4 Ba7 9.Bg5 Be6 10.Bb3 h6

11.Bh4 Re8 12.Ne3 Nb8 13.0-0 Nbd7 14.Nf5 Nf8 15.Kh1 Ng6 16.Bc2?

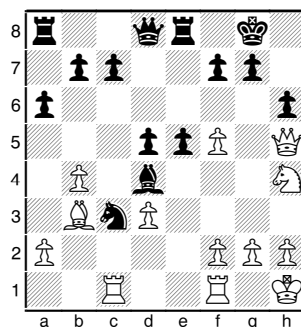


16. Bxe6 or Bxf6 maintains equality. After the text move black obtains the advantage.

16...Bxf5 17.exf5 Nxh4 18.Nxh4 Nd5 19.Qh5

19.Nf3 Nxc3 20.Qd2 Bd4+-

19...Nxc3 20.Bb3 d5 21.Rac1 Bd4



Black has a winning advantage and displays very nice technique in bringing home the full point.

22.Rc2 Qg5 23.Qxg5 hxg5 24.Nf3 g4 25.Ng5 c6 26.f3 gxf3 27.Rxf3 e4 28.dxe4 Nxe4 29.Nxe4 Rxe4 30.Rf1 Rae8 31.g3 Re2 32.Rfc1 Bb2 33.Rb1 Ba3 34.Ba4 Rxc2 35.Bxc2 Re2 36.Bb3 Rf2 37.Re1 Kf8 38.g4 Bxb4 39.Rb1 Bd6 40.Kg1 Rxh2 41.Rd1 Rh4 42.Kf2 Rxg4 43.Bc2 Rh4 44.Ke3 Rh3+ 45.Ke2 Rh2+ 46.Kd3 c5 47.Re1 c4+ 48.Kc3 d4+ 49.Kxc4 Rxc2+ 50.Kd5 Bb4 51.Rb1 Rc5+ 52.Kd6 Bb5+ 53.Kd7 d3 54.f6 gxf6 55.a3 Bxa3 56.Rh1 Rd5+ 57.Kc7 d2 0-1

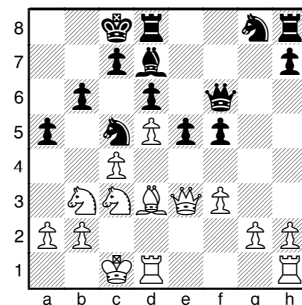
Either WFM Joanna Liu or Nadiia Salakh could have been co-champion with a last round win, but they drew and tied for second with WGM Carla Heredia. They all finished at 4-1. Liu had excellent winning chances, but let the victory slip away. Nadiia Salakh defended very well playing much of the

game on increment and nearly losing on time several times.

Liu, Joanna (2176) – Salakh, Nadiia (2139) [A42]

U.S. Women's Open (5)

1.d4 g6 2.c4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.e4 e5 5.d5 a5 6.Be3 Na6 7.Bd3 Bd7 8.f3 f5 9.exf5 gxf5 10.Qd2 Bh6 11.0-0-0 Bxe3 12.Qxe3 Nc5 13.Nge2 Qf6 14.Nd4 0-0-0 15.Nb3 b6



15. ... Nxb3 or Nxd3 or Qh6 or f4 maintain the balance. The text move allows white an edge that she will enjoy for most of the game.

16.Nxc5 bxc5



WFM Joanna Liu



White should ensure the queens stay on the board by playing moves such as 17. Qe2, Qf2, or Kb1

17.Bc2 Ne7

Black misses an opportunity to equalize with Qh6.

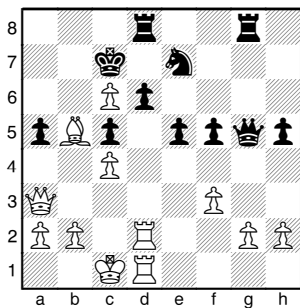
18.Ba4 Rhg8 19.Rd2 h5 20.Nb5 Bxb5 21.Bxb5

Black's king is a little loose and she decides to give up a pawn, but the resulting positions favor white.

21...c6 22.dxc6 Kc7 23.Rhd1

21. ... Nxc6 22. Bxc6 Kxc6 23. Qa3 e4 isn't great, but there is some counterplay.

23...Qg5 24.Qa3



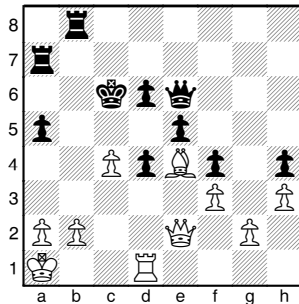
White is winning, but the win will require accurate moves – the position doesn't play itself.

24...Ra8 25.Kb1 Rgd8 26.Qb3 Rab8 27.Qa4 Ra8 28.Qc2 Qf4 29.h3 h4 30.Ka1 Qg5 31.Rd3 Qg6 32.Ra3 Ra7 33.Qd2 Rda8 34.Qf2 Qg3 35.Qd2 Qg6 36.Rd3 Rd8 37.Qc2 f4 38.Qd2 Nf5 39.Ra3 Rda8 40.Ba4 Nd4 41.Rd3 Rb8 42.Bc2 Qe6

Black has now managed to

equalize. White now tries too hard to win and hands all the winning chances to black.

43.Rxd4 cxd4 44.Qe2 Kxc6 45.Be4+



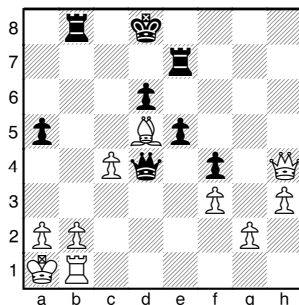
45...Kc7

Black is in severe time pressure and is playing with just the increment. 45. ... Kd7 maintained winning chances.

46.Bd5 Qg6 47.Be4 Qf7 48.Bd5

48. ... Qg7, Qf6 or Qd7 all maintain winning chances. With the next move black throws away winning chances, but when your flag is hanging....

48...Qe7?? 49.Rxd4 Kd8 50.Rd1 Qc7 51.Qf2 Qb6 52.Qxh4+ Re7 53.Rb1 Qd4



White can again play for the win with 54. Qf6 and try to win with the h pawn, but it is

by no means easy. At this point though, both players are in time pressure and they just repeat the position.



Nadiia Salakh

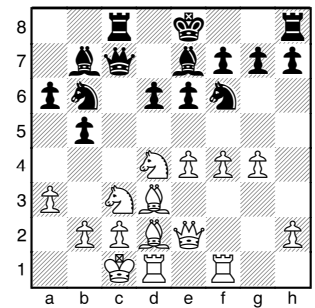
54.Qe1 Ra7 55.Qh4+ Re7 56.Qe1 Ra7 57.Qh4+ Re7 1/2-1/2

Defending champion Saikhanchimeg Tsogtsaikhan played well and had an opportunity to defend her title by winning the last round. Sana, as she prefers to be called, played her last three rounds all on board one! She started as the fourth seed and was paired up three times. In round three, Sana defeats the tournament's top seeded player, WGM Carla Heredia.

Heredia, Carla (2281) – Tsogtsaikhan, Saikhanchimeg (2125) [B23]

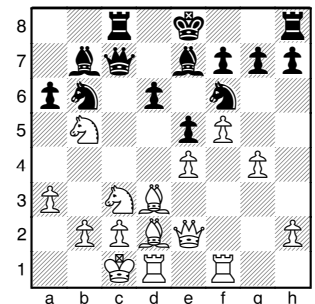
U.S. Women's Open (3)

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 e6 3.f4 d6 4.Nf3 a6 5.d4 cxd4 6.Nxd4 b5 7.Bd3 Bb7 8.a3 Nd7 9.Qe2 Qc7 10.Bd2 Ngf6 11.0-0-0 Be7 12.g4 Nb6 13.Rhf1 Rc8



White has an advantage and should follow up with 14. g5. After 14. ... Nfd7 15. Kb1 Nc4 16. Bxc4 Qxc4 17. Qe2 white is clearly better.

14.f5 e5 15.Ndxb5



This sacrifice is not quite sound. White gets play and black has to be careful, but the extra piece will prove decisive.

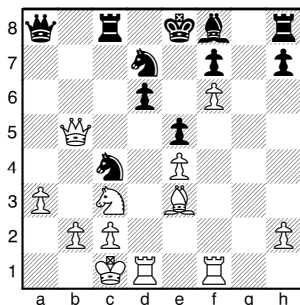
15...axb5 16.g5 Nfd7 17.Nxb5 Qb8 18.f6 gxf6 19.gxf6 Bf8 20.Nc3 Qa8



Saikhanchimeg Tsogtsaikhan



21.Bb5 Bc6 22.Be3 Bxb5 34.Rf1 Qh6 35.Qd7 Qc6
23.Qxb5 Nc4 36.Qf5 Qxg2 0-1



WGM Carla Heredia

White is in significant time pressure (less than 2 minutes, but with 30 second increment). Black is now winning due to the extra material and open lines to white's king.

24.Nd5 Nxe3 25.Nxe3 Qxe4
26.Rfe1 Bh6 27.Rd3 0-0
28.Kb1 Nxf6 29.Rxd6 Bxe3
30.Rxf6 Qxc2+ 31.Ka2 Bd4
32.Re2 Qc1 33.Rg2+ Kh8

This year's U.S. Women's Open marked the 6th event in the annual series. Thirty-one ladies ventured from ten states and seven foreign countries to play in this year's event. There was one WGM, one WIM, one WFM and two WCMs in the field.

Over half the participants had a FIDE rating, which will enable many of the other participants to obtain their initial FIDE rating.

ANALYSIS OF YOUR GAMES

Conference Room 1

GM Melik Khachiyan and GM Ron Henley will analyze National Open games 2 hours after the start of each round. 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 the first six analysis sessions. Last round games will not be considered

2019 U.S. Women's Open Prize Winners

1st	WIM Megan Lee	\$1000
2nd/3rd	WGM Carla Heredia, WFM Joanna Liu & Nadiia Salakh	\$334
1st/2nd U2000	Sandhya Goli, Chang Xu, & Miaoyi Lu	\$184
1st/2nd U1800	Sophia Peng, Jocelyn Chen, & Chrystal Gu	\$134
1st U1600	Jill Rennie	\$200
2nd U1600 +	Elena Zhang, Risa Azim, Eledna Shtyker,	
1st/2nd U1400	Sadhana Arivoli, & Rashi Gupta	\$70



2019 U.S. Women's Open Participants



702-930-9550

CONTACT@VEGASCHESSFESTIVAL.COM
www.VegasChessFestival.com

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 (½) byes are available in any round if requested in advance or by the start of the previous round. Round 6 or 7 byes must be requested before the start of round 3 and cannot be revoked after round 3 starts. After hours, call 702-930-9550 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.

LECTURES

Conference Room 11

Thursday

9 pm Magnus Miniatures
GM Ron Henley

Friday

11 am SNIPER 2019 Update
GM Ron Henley
7 pm *Hyper Accelerated and Anti-Sicilians*
GM Ron Henley

Saturday

1 pm Magnus and his New Weapon in Sicilian Defense
GM Melik Khachiyan
7 pm *Modern London System—2. Bf4*
GM Ron Henley

Sunday

1 pm Dynamic Decision Making in Chess
GM Melik Khachiyan

GM Fidel Corrales Simul

Paradise Foyer

Thursday

3 pm Spectators Welcome!

NATIONAL OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP SECTION

Ballroom A-C

Thursday	R2: 1 pm	R3: 7:30 pm	Saturday	R6: 10 am	R7: 4:30 pm
Friday	R4: 11 am	R5: 5:30 pm	Sunday	R8: 10 am	R9: 4:30 pm

NATIONAL OPEN UNDER SECTIONS

Ballroom A-C

Thursday	R1 7:30 pm
Friday	R2: 11 am R3: 5:30 pm
Saturday	R4: 10 am R5: 4:30 pm
Sunday	R6: 10 am R7: 4:30 pm

Ballroom E

Friday 3-day	R1: 10:30 am R2: 1:30 pm
Saturday 2-day	R1: 9:30 am R2: 11 am
	R3: 1 pm R4: 2:30 pm
Sunday	Winners' Circle Cash Bar 9 pm

BEGINNERS	Friday	R1: 11 am	R2: 12:30 pm	R3: 2pm	R4: 3:30 pm	R5: 5:30 pm	R6: 7 pm
	Saturday & Sunday	R1: 10 am	R2: 11:30 am	R3: 1pm	R4: 2:30 pm	R5: 4:30 pm	R6: 6 pm

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP

Paradise Event Center North

Friday

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

Saturday

8:30 am Late Registration (to 9 am)
9:45 am Opening Ceremony
10 am Round 1
1 pm Round 2
3 pm WGM Jennifer Shahade
Autograph session

Saturday Continued

3:30 pm Round 3
6 pm Puzzle Solving Competition
6:30 pm WGM Jennifer Shahade Simul

Sunday

9:30 am Side Event Awards
10 am Round 4
1 pm Round 5
3:30 pm Round 6
6:30 pm Closing Ceremony

Blitz and Quad Side Tournaments

Registration ends 30 mins before start times!

Walter Shawn Browne Memorial Blitz Ballroom E

Saturday, 10:30 pm 6 double rounds in 2 sections

Blitz Sectionals Friday Ballroom E & Sunday Ballroom G

Friday, 11 pm	RR sections 8 players	Sunday, 10 pm	RR sections of 8 players
---------------	-----------------------	---------------	--------------------------

Action Quads Thursday Paradise North

Thursday 2:30 pm RR sections 4 players