

NEWS

NATIONAL OPEN
JUNE 12-15, 2014

#4

Kamsky Wins National Open, 13-way (!) Tie For Second



GM Gata Kamsky, his fiancée Iryna and the prestigious Edmondson Cup.
"She is my inspiration," Kamsky said.

GM Gata Kamsky was the clear winner of the 2014 National Open with a score of 5/6. No less than thirteen other players tied for second place at 4.5/6. Here's a summary of the action at the top boards in the final two rounds.

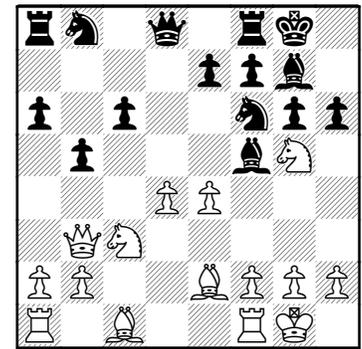
Round 5

Heading into the last day of competition there was a four-way tie for first place between GMs Gata Kamsky, Timur Gareev, Yuniesky Quesada Perez, and Alejandro Ramirez. In round 5, Kamsky took

sole lead of the Open section with 4.5/5 by defeating GM Alejandro Ramirez as Black on top board in an up-and-down contest in which Ramirez gained an early advantage but faltered, allowing Kamsky to take control of the game.

Ramirez - Kamsky
National Open (5)

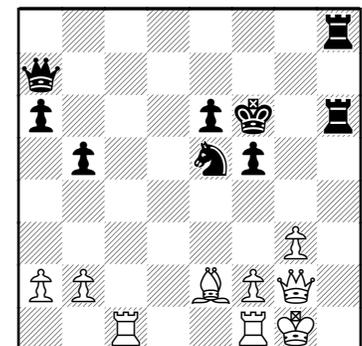
1. $\text{d}3$ $\text{f}6$ 2. $\text{c}4$ $\text{c}6$ 3. $\text{d}4$ $\text{d}5$ 4. $\text{c}3$ $\text{a}6$
5. $\text{e}3$ $\text{g}6$ 6. $\text{d}3$ $\text{g}7$ 7. 0-0 0-0 8. $\text{b}3$
 $\text{dxc}4$ 9. $\text{xc}4$ $\text{b}5$ 10. $\text{e}2$ $\text{f}5$ 11. $\text{g}5$
 $\text{h}6$ 12. $\text{e}4$



12...hxg5N

Deviating from 12... $\text{g}4$ 13. $\text{gxg}4$ $\text{hxg}5$ 14. $\text{e}2$ $\text{xd}4$ 15. $\text{gxg}5$ $\text{xe}4$ 16. $\text{xe}4$ $\text{xd}4$ 17. $\text{ae}1$ as in Lou Yiping-Kamsky, Tromsø 2013.

13. $\text{exf}5$ $\text{gxf}5$ 14. $\text{gxg}5$ $\text{xd}4$ 15. $\text{ad}1$ $\text{c}5$ 16. $\text{c}1$ $\text{a}7$ 17. $\text{b}4$ $\text{e}6$ 18. $\text{h}4$ $\text{bd}7$ 19. $\text{h}6$ $\text{e}5$ 20. $\text{gxg}7$ $\text{cxg}7$ 21. $\text{g}5+$ $\text{g}6$ 22. $\text{h}4$ $\text{h}7$ 23. $\text{g}3$ $\text{f}4$ 24. $\text{f}3$ $\text{hxh}4$ 25. $\text{xf}4$ $\text{g}6$ 26. $\text{d}6$ $\text{f}6$ 27. $\text{xc}6$ $\text{h}8$ 28. $\text{f}3$ $\text{h}6!$ 29. $\text{e}4$ $\text{xe}4$ 30. $\text{xe}4$ $\text{ah}8$ 31. $\text{g}3$ $\text{f}5$ 32. $\text{c}6$ $\text{e}5$ 33. $\text{g}2$ $\text{f}6!$



The king makes way for the queen. Next is 34... $\text{Wh}7$, so White resigned.



Ramirez-Kamsky

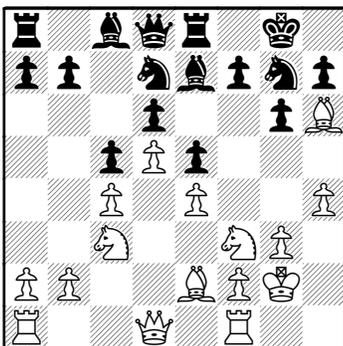
On board 2, GMs Gareev and Quesada Perez drew a rather uneventful game, putting them at 4/5, one-half point behind Kamsky.

In the meantime, GMs Bruzon Batista, Lenderman, Kacheishvili, and Margvelashvili, and FMs Landaw and Banawa all won their 5th round games to stay in contention at 4/5

Especially GM Kacheishvili played a lovely game which he must have enjoyed tremendously.

Kacheishvili - Bryant National Open (5)

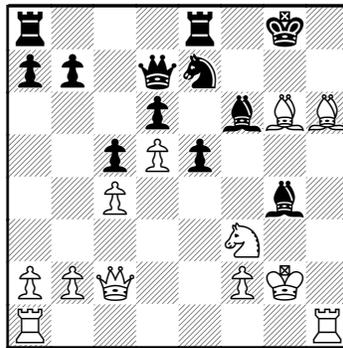
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♙g7 4.e4 d6 5.♘f3 0-0 6.♙e2 e5 7.0-0 ♗bd7 8.♙e3 ♖e8 9.d5 ♗h5 10.g3 ♙f6 11.h4 ♙e7 12.♔g2 ♗g7 13.♙h6 c5



14.♖h1!

From a Classical King's Indian with kingside-castling, White starts an attack along the h-file!

14...f5 15.h5 fxe4 16.♗xe4 ♘f5 17.hxg6 hxg6 18.♙d3 ♗f6 19.♗xf6+ ♙xf6 20.♙e4 ♗e7 21.♔c2 ♙f5 22.g4! ♙xg4 23.♙xg6 ♔d7



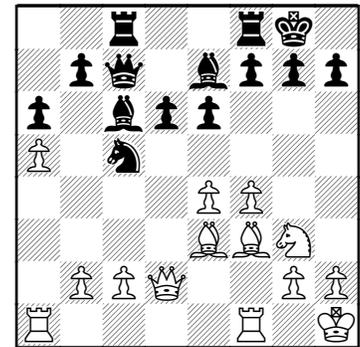
24.♙f7+! 1-0

Round 6

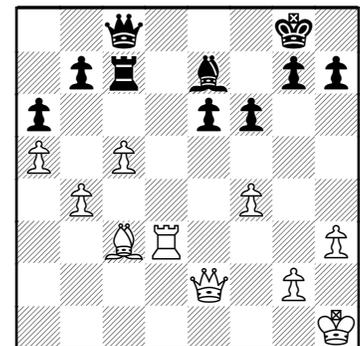
The 6th round saw GM Kamsky with a half-point lead on the field and paired as White against GM Bruzon Batista on top board. Kamsky gave it a go for a while in a Classical Scheveningen Sicilian but settled for a draw without complications to go 5/6 and secure, at worst, a tie for first place. The game ended with a perpetual check.

Kamsky - Bruzon National Open (6)

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 e6 3.♘c3 a6 4.d4 cxd4 5.♗xd4 ♗c6 6.♙e2 d6 7.0-0 ♗f6 8.♙e3 ♙e7 9.f4 0-0 10.♔h1 ♙d7 11.a4 ♗xd4 12.♔xd4 ♙c6 13.a5 ♖c8 14.♙f3 ♗d7 15.♔d2 ♖c7 16.♗e2 ♗c5 17.♗g3



17...d5 18.exd5 ♙xd5 19.♙xd5 ♖fd8 20.b4 ♗xd5 21.♔e2 ♗d7 22.c4 ♖d6 23.♗e4 ♖c6 24.c5 ♗f6 25.♗xf6+ ♙xf6 26.♖ad1 ♖d8 27.♗xd8+ ♔xd8 28.♖d1 ♔c8 29.♙d4 ♙e7 30.♙c3 f6 31.h3 ♖c7 32.♗e1 ♖c6 33.♖d1 ♖c7 34.♖d3



34...♔f7 35.♔h5+ ♔g8 36.♔e2 ♔f7 37.♔h5+ 1/2-1/2

As it happened, it was enough to make him the outright winner of the National Open as none of his nearest competitors at 4/5 could break through with a win in the last round to catch him.

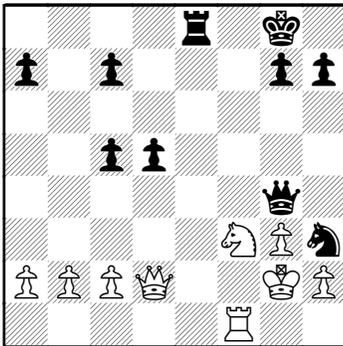
One beneficiary of the outbreak of peace among the top boards was GM Melik Khachiyan, whose pretty last round win vs. FM Kazim Gulamali

propelled him to 4.5/6 and into the massive 13-way tie for second place.

Gulamali - Khachiyan

National Open (6)

1.e4 d6 2.d4 ♟f6 3.♟c3 e5 4.♟ge2
 5.♟c6 5.f3 exd4 6.♟xd4 ♟e7 7.♟e3 0-0
 8.♟d2 d5 9.♟xc6 bxc6 10.e5 ♟d7
 11.f4 ♟c5 12.♟e2 f6 13.exf6 ♟xf6
 14.♟d4 ♟f8 15.0-0 ♟e6 16.♟e5 ♟f6
 17.♟xf6 ♟xf6 18.♟g4 ♟xf4 19.♟xc8
 ♟axc8 20.g3 ♟h3+ 21.♟g2 ♟e6
 22.♟ae1 ♟g4 23.♟e2 ♟xf1 24.♟xf1
 ♟e8 25.♟d4 c5 26.♟f3



26...♟e2+! 0-1

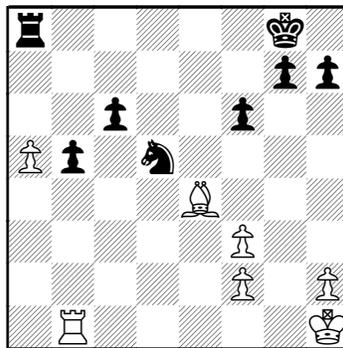
Aleksandr Lenderman came quite close, and played on till move 92, but in the end he had to settle for draw as well in his game against Joel Banawa.

Lenderman - Banawa

National Open (6)

1.d4 ♟f6 2.c4 e6 3.♟c3 ♟b4 4.e3 0-0
 5.♟d3 d5 6.♟f3 b6 7.cxd5 exd5 8.0-0
 ♟b7 9.a3 ♟d6 10.b4 a6 11.♟b3 ♟e8
 12.a4 c6 13.a5 b5 14.♟d2 ♟c7 15.e4
 dxe4 16.♟cxe4 ♟d5 17.♟f3 ♟d7

18.♟e1 ♟f8 19.♟g5 f6 20.♟h4 ♟e6
 21.♟ac1 ♟f4 22.♟c2 ♟e7 23.♟b2
 ♟f8 24.♟g3 ♟ad8 25.♟xf4 ♟exf4
 26.♟f1 ♟c8 27.♟a3 ♟g4 28.♟c5
 ♟xf3 29.♟xe8 ♟xe8 30.♟xf3 ♟e1
 31.♟xa6 ♟c1 32.♟b3 ♟e8 33.♟b1
 ♟e2+ 34.♟h1 ♟f4 35.♟f3 ♟xf3
 36.gxf3 ♟xd4 37.♟d1 ♟e2 38.♟h3
 ♟ec3 39.♟c1 ♟f4 40.♟f1 ♟fd5
 41.♟d3 ♟a2 42.♟a1 ♟axb4 43.♟xb4
 ♟xb4 44.♟e4 ♟a8 45.♟b1 ♟d5



46.♟xb5 f5 47.♟xd5+ cxd5 48.♟xd5
 g6 49.♟g2 ♟g7 50.♟g3 ♟h6 51.♟f4
 ♟h5 52.♟g3 ♟a7 53.♟d4 ♟xa5

54.♟h4+ ♟g5 55.♟xh7 ♟a4 56.h4+
 ♟f6 57.♟b7 ♟c4 58.♟b6+ ♟g7 59.f4
 ♟a4 60.♟b7+ ♟h6 61.♟b8 ♟a3+
 62.f3 ♟a4 63.♟g8 ♟b4 64.♟f8 ♟g7
 65.♟c8 ♟h6 66.♟c7 ♟a4 67.♟f7 ♟a5
 68.h5 gxh5 69.♟h4 ♟g6 70.♟b7 ♟a6
 71.♟b2 ♟c6 72.♟b8 ♟a6 73.♟g8+
 ♟f7 74.♟g5 ♟f6 75.♟xh5 ♟a1
 76.♟g6+ ♟f7 77.♟b6 ♟g1 78.♟h4
 ♟g2 79.♟h3 ♟g1 80.♟b2 ♟a1 81.♟g2
 ♟a4 82.♟g3 ♟c4 83.♟h2 ♟g6 84.♟h4
 ♟c2 85.♟h8 ♟c4 86.♟a8 ♟b4 87.♟a6+
 ♟f7 88.♟a3 ♟g6 89.♟c3 ♟a4 90.♟c8
 ♟b4 91.♟c6+ ♟g7 92.♟c3 ♟g6 1/2-1/2

Thus concludes another hugely successful National Open, and with it, the 2014 Las Vegas International Chess Festival. The organizers want to thank all of this year's participants in all events and hope to see you back in Las Vegas next June for the 2015 edition of the Las Vegas International Chess Festival!

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International Youth Competition Wraps Up

The 2014 International Youth Competition completed on Sunday. Jean Azcunaga topped a field of 42 players to take sole first in the 14 & Under Open at 4.5/5.

The 70-player 14 & Under Reserve section ended with first place shared between Teddie Wen and Ricardo Vazquez, both finishing with perfect 5/5 scores.

In the 9 & Under Open section, Benjamin Friedlander outlasted 32 other players to take top honors. Below is Benjamin's 5th round game against Phap Quoc Nguyen that preserved his perfect 5/5 score and secured sole first place for him.

Maxwell Li also achieved a perfect 5/5 score to become sole winner



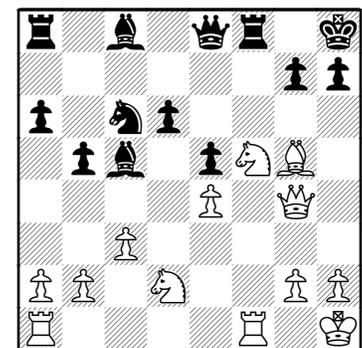
of the 63-player 9 & Under Reserve section.

Here's the aforementioned game between Benjamin Friedlander and Phap Quoc Nguyen.

Friedlander -
Nguyen
International Youth
U9 (5)

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6
3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4
♗f6 5.♘c3 a6
6.♙e2 e6 7.♙e3
♙e7 8.0-0 0-0 9.f4
♖c7 10.♗b3 ♗c6
11.f5 b5 12.fxе6

fxe6 13.♗d2 ♙b7 14.♙g4 ♗xg4 15.
♖xg4 ♖d7 16.♙h6 ♙f6 17.♗d5 ♙d4+
18.♙h1 ♙h8 19.c3 ♙c5 20.♙f4 ♖d8
21.♗e3 e5 22.♙g5 ♖e8 23.♗f5 ♙c8



This position would not look out of place in a tactics book. White to play and win!

24.♙f6! ♖f7 25.♙xg7+ ♙g8 26.♙f6+
♖g6 27.♗h6#
Checkmate!



Host Grandmaster Irina Krush was on hand to congratulate all the award winners at the conclusion of the event.

Four Players Earn FREDDIE Awards



This year, as he has done every year since retiring as the long-time National Open organizer, Fred Gruenberg sponsored the annual FREDDIE awards, given to players aged 14 and under who were judged to have played the best games in their age group in the main National Open event.

This year's judge, GM Ron Henley, awarded top prize to Agata Bykovtsev for her 4th round game vs. Ernesto Malazarte, earning Agata \$200 in cash and the 2014 FREDDIE trophy.

Bykovtsev - Malazarte

International Youth (4)

[Notes by GM Ron Henley]

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.♗c3 ♘c6
4.♙c4 e6 5.0-0 ♗f6 6.d4 cxd4
7.♗xd4 ♙e7 8.♙b3 0-0 9.♖h1
e5

A typical move in the Sveshnikov and Najdorf Sicilians, where by voluntarily accepts a backward pawn on the half open d-file, but looks for counterplay along the half-open c-file to compensate.

10.♗de2 ♙e6 11.f4 a6

A better way for Black to combat White's plan is to fight for control of the d5 square with 11...♗a5!? 12.♖d3 ♖c7 13.f5 ♗xb3 14.axb3 ♙d7 15.♙g5 ♙c6 etc.

12.f5!?

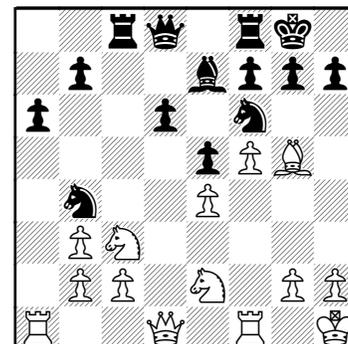
This advance forces Black to either exchange light-squared bishops (reducing Black's defenders of the d5 square), or to retreat and let the white bishop control the b3-f7 diagonal.

12...♙xb3 13.axb3 ♗b4=

Black could prevent White's plan of ♙c1-g5 xf6 with the prophylactic 13...h6!?=

14.♙g5 ♖c8

Black should offer the exchange of dark square bishops and retain his knights to fight for control of the d5 square with 14...♗g4!? and now 15.♙xe7?! ♖xe7 16.♖d2 ♖h4 17.h3 ♗f2+ 18.♖h2 a5!? (18...♗xe4 19.♗xe4 ♖xe4 20.f6 with compensation). Better is 15.♙d2!?=



15.♙xf6!?

White surrenders her bishop for one of the black knights guarding the weakened d5 square.

15...♙xf6 16.♗c1!?

The next step in White's strategic plan for assuming total control of the d5 square is to exchange the black knight which is the only black minor piece guarding d5.

16...♖c7 17.♗d3!± ♗xd3

17...♗c6 18.♗d5 ♖d8 19.♖f3 ♗b8
20.c3 ♗d7 21.♖e2 ♗b6 22.♗3b4!±

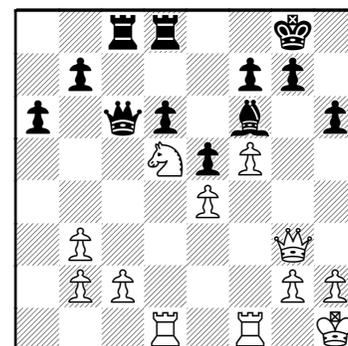
18.♖xd3 ♖fd8 19.♖ad1

19.♖f2 ♖b6 20.♖e2 ♖c5 21.♗d5±

19...♖c6 20.♖g3 h6?!?

20...♖h8!?

21.♗d5!±





Agata Bykvtseva

25.bxc4 ♖c6

25...a5.

26.b4 ♖dc8 **27.♖e2** ♖a7 **28.♖fd1!**

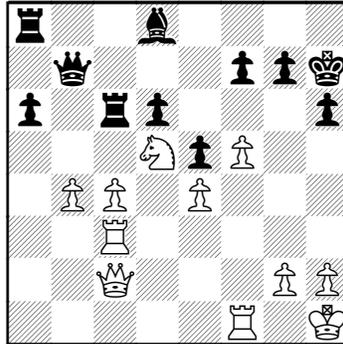
Keeping the black queen out of d4. **28...♗g5** **29.♖c3** ♔g8 **30.♖a2** ♖b7 Black prudently unpins his a-pawn. White threatened to use the pin on the a-file to execute the b5 pawn advance: **31.b5!** ♖c5 **32.f6** gxf6 (**32...♗xf6** **33.♗xf6+** gxf6 **34.♖d2** ♖xc4 **35.♖g3+** ♔h7 (**35...♔f8** **36.♖xd6+** ♖e7 **37.♖g8+** ♔xg8 **38.♖xe7+-)** **36.♖h3** axb5 **37.♖xh6+** ♔g8 **38.♖h8#)** **33.♖xa6** ♖xa6 **34.bxa6** ♖xc4 **35.♖xc4** ♖xc4 **36.♖a1!+-** and the white passed a-pawn cannot be stopped.

31.♖b1 ♖a8 **32.♖c2** ♔h7 **33.♖f1!**

With the black major pieces on the queenside, White uses her superior mobility to swing over and threaten to blast open the black king position!

Nudging forward with **33.g3!**? followed by **34.h4** ♗d8 **35.♔g2** was another plan.

33...♗d8



34.f6! ♗xf6 **35.♖xf6!**

A “defender elimination” exchange sacrifice leaves the black king at the mercy of the combined power of the white queen, knight and rook.

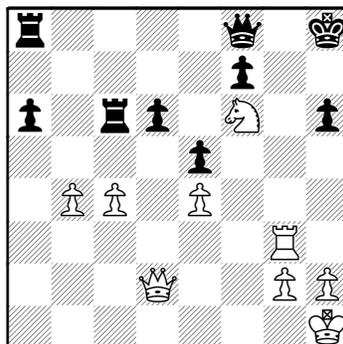
35...gxf6 **36.♖g3!**

A beautiful example of “delayed gratification” as White refrains from grabbing the f-pawn with check, but instead confines the black king along the h-file. White threatens **37.♗xf6+**, **38.♖d2** and **39.♖xh6** mate.

36...♖b8

The black queen tries to scurry over to defend her weakened kingside.

37.♗xf6+ ♔h8 **38.♖d2** ♖f8



39.♖g8+! 1-0

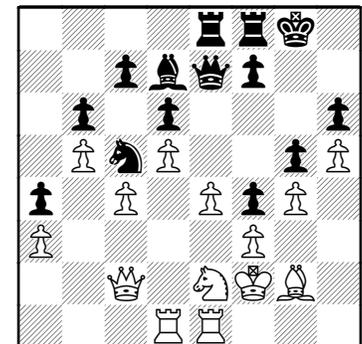
39...♖xg8 **40.♖xh6+!** ♖h7 **41.♖xh7#.**

Hans Nieman was awarded 2nd place award for his 5th round game vs, Jason Metphally, earning him \$100.

Metpally - Nieman

International Youth (5)

1.d4 ♗f6 **2.c4** e6 **3.♗c3** ♗b4 **4.♖c2** 0-0 **5.a3** ♗xc3+ **6.♖xc3** d6 **7.♗g5** ♗bd7 **8.f3** b6 **9.e4** e5 **10.d5** a5 **11.b3** ♗c5 **12.♖c2** a4 **13.b4** ♗b3 **14.♖d1** h6 **15.♗e3** ♗h5 **16.g4** ♗f4 **17.♗xf4** exf4 **18.h4** ♖f6 **19.♗e2** g5 **20.h5** ♖e7 **21.♔f2** ♗d7 **22.b5** ♗c5 **23.♗g2** ♖ae8 **24.♖he1**



24...f5!?

Trying to break through on the kingside.

25.gxf5 g4 **26.♗xf4?**

White should defend with **26.fxg4** ♖h4+ **27.♔f1** ♖xg4 **28.♗d4.**

26...♖h4+ **27.♔f1** gxf3 **28.♗g6** fxg2+ **29.♖xg2** ♖g5

29...♖xh5 was OK too.

30.♗xf8 ♔xf8 **31.♖xg5** hxg5 **32.♖d4** ♔g7 **33.♔f2** ♔f6 **34.h6** ♔e5 **35.♖d2** ♖h8 **36.♔f3** ♖xh6 **37.♖g2** ♔f6

38.♖e1 ♜h3+ 39.♖g3 ♜h5 40.♗d1
 ♜h4 41.♗e1 ♜f4+ 42.♔g2 ♝xe4
 43.♜h3 ♘xf5 44.♜h8 ♖g4+ 45.♔f3
 ♖g3+ 46.♔e2 ♘g4+ 47.♔f1 ♘h3+
 48.♔e2 ♘f5 49.♗f1 ♔g7 50.♗e8
 ♘g4+ 0-1



Hans Nieman



Jack Easton

Jack Easton and Wesley Yeung finished on 3rd and 4th place in the



Wesley Yeung

final standings. Both players earned \$50 prizes. Congratulations to all the winners!

Youngest and Oldest Players Recognized

Every year, the organizers of the National Open extend special prizes to the youngest and oldest players in the main National Open event.

This year, 7-year-old Justin

Friedlander was awarded a chess bag, board, and set for being the youngest player in the National Open while 92-year-old David Hartman was awarded a Chess.com jacket for being the oldest competitor.



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Wesley So Strongest at Blitz



On Sunday night 85 entrants, including GMs Wesley So, Timur Gareev, Alex Lenderman, and Max Dlugy, competed for the National Open Blitz title and the accompanying

\$3000 prize fund.

The tournament was conducted as a 7-round double Swiss System in which paired opponents play two games

against each other with alternating colors. The time control was Game in 5 minutes.

When all was done, GM Wesley So emerged as the sole winner with a score of 11.5/14, earning \$600 with GMs Alex Lenderman and Max Dlugy coming in a half-point behind at 11/14, each earning \$250. Ian Schoch clinched the \$200 prize for best U2300 player.



GM Wesley So wins the blitz

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