



# NATIONAL OPEN NEWS

## 2016 National Open: Top Prizes!

If I listed all the prizewinners in the \$100,000 2016 National Open, this newsletter would be much longer. Instead, please visit [vegaschessfestival.com/results](http://vegaschessfestival.com/results) for the complete breakdown. The highlights follow!

### Open Section

Fourteen-year-old International Master Ruifeng Li of Plano, Texas, and Grandmaster Daniel Fridman of Bochum, Germany are 2016 National Open Co-Champions! Both players scored an undefeated 5-1 and earned \$6,000 each; Ruifeng Li won the championship trophy on tiebreaks. Four grandmasters tied for third: Alexey Dreev of the Russian Federation, Gata Kamsky of New York, Tigran Petrosian of Armenia, and Axel Bachmann of Paraguay.

### Under 2300 Section

FM Alex Bian of Lincolnshire, Illinois, won the \$6,000 Under 2300 prize, and Hugo Padilla of Chicago and Ryan Swerdlin of Boulder, Colorado tied for second.

### Under 2100 Section

Dylan Quercia won \$6,000 and a brand-new rating floor of 2100. Five players tied for second through sixth: Pranav Narnur of Arizona, Yuen Tak Mok of Québec, Christian Silvestre and Alan Severino of

California, and Vigneshwaran Nesamani of Virginia.

### Under 1900 Section

Jesus Alvarado of Arizona, Dennis Moore of New York, and Fred Williams of Texas tied for first through third. Because Alvarado's rating was provisional, his prize was limited to \$2,000, while Moore and Williams each took home \$3,375.

### Under 1700 Section

Dakim Vanterpook of New York and Isaac Balter of Utah tied for first and second, winning \$3,000 each.

### Under 1500 Section

Jonathan Liu of Illinois took first; as Jonathan's rating was provisional, his prize was limited to \$1,200. Eusy Ancheta of California, Anatoliy Zharkikh of Utah, and Alejandro Moreno of



2016 National Open co-champions Daniel Fridman and Ruifeng Li

Aguascalientes won \$1,450 each. *(continued on page 2)*



FM Alex Bian won the Under 2300 Section

**See you next year!**

**June 14-19, 2017**

**2017 NATIONAL OPEN**

**June 16-18**

**Under 1300 Section**

Edwin Llamo of California took clear first; as his rating was provisional, his prize was limited to \$800. Five players shared second through sixth, winning \$700 each: Munkhbileg Munkh-Erdene of Washington, Ryan Crone and Joshua Gass of Arizona, and Avi Khanna and Shreyas Rangan of California.

**Unrated**

Paulexander Elauria of Nevada was the only player to score a perfect 6-0 in the National Open! Todd Gutierrez of Arizona took second, and Trinidad Cruz of California and Charles Ezeani of Utah split third.

**Mixed Doubles**

National Open champion Ruifeng Li and his six-year-old sister Rachael Li (1255) won the mixed doubles title by a full point. Rachael Li scored 4½ points in the Under 1300 Section!

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**Interview with Rachael Li**

*How old are you, Rachael?*

Six years old.

*Did you just turn six?*

[Thinks for a moment.] I've been six for a while.

*Is this your first national title?*

[Thinks for several moments.] Yes.

*What do you love most about chess?*

[Immediately, and with great enthusiasm.] Attacking!

*Your favorite piece?*

Queen!

*Is there anything that your opponents do that you find annoying?*

[After some reflection.] Well, a knight on e4 bothers me.

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**Interview with Ruifeng Li**

*So who was stronger at age six, you or Rachael?*

Definitely, she is stronger than I was: I didn't even learn to play chess until I was older.

*Was this the first time that you have faced a world-class player like Kamsky?*

Actually, we've played several times: he won the first time, and I've drawn every game since then. And I've played [Fabiano] Caruana.

*You earned a grandmaster norm at the Philadelphia Open and this is your second big tournament win of the year. What are your plans for the rest of the year?*

I'll do my best and see what happens. I'm planning to play in the World Open, the Junior Closed, and the Washington International. The Junior Closed is one of the strongest fields ever: I expect to be rated second or third going in.

*In these recent events, is there something you have particularly admired in your grandmaster opponents? Some impression they made on you? Something you want to emulate? [I must have been subconsciously thinking about Ron Henley's*

*tribute to Walter Browne's intensity at the chess.]*

No, not really.

*I know this is a stupid question, but do you see yourself more as an intuitive player in the style of Tal or a concrete calculator in the style of Korchnoi?*

Obviously I use both (pauses) ... probably somewhat more intuitive.

*What were your favorite games in this event?*

My wins against Kierwa and Ghaemmaghami.

*What is your best game to date?*

Definitely my win against Michael Roiz at last year's Washington International. I sacked two rooks!

**Ruifeng Li (2408) – GM**  
**Michael Roiz (2595) [B13]**  
Rockville, 2015

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.c4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Nf3 Bg4 7.Bg5 Ne4 8.cxd5 Nxc3 9.bxc3 Qxd5 10.Qb3 e6 11.Bc4 Qa5



12.Qxb7 Qxc3+ 13.Bd2 Qxa1+ 14.Ke2 Nxd4+ 15.Kd3



Bxf3 16.gxf3 Qxh1 17.Qxa8+ Ke7 18.Qxa7+ Ke8 19.Qb8+ Ke7 20.Qc7+ Ke8 21.Qb8+ Kd7 22.Qb7+ Ke8



23.Kxd4 Qa1+ 24.Ke4 1-0

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*Below: a prizewinner from the International Youth Championships*



**2017  
NATIONAL  
OPEN  
June 16-18**

Thanks to Tim Hanks, Rita Hanks, and Gay Weiss for this week's wonderful photographs!



GM Axel Bachmann

Ruifeng Li receives his first "Freddie Award" from GM Var Akobian



Kibitzers enjoy the "Spirit of Chess" GM blitz invitational



Ruifeng Li receives his first "Freddie Award" from GM Var Akobian



The sponsors of Sunday night's "Spirit of Chess" round robin blitz, the Las Vegas Chess Center, presented a gift to each GM



Co-organizer Janelle Losoff distributes moolah

Hamlet Tovmasyan – Todd Imada [E91]  
2016 National Open (6)

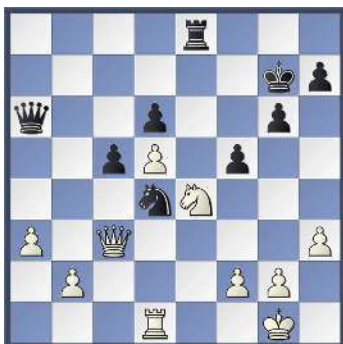
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7  
4.e4 d6 5.Be2 0–0 6.Nf3 c5 7.d5  
b5 8.cxb5 a6



9.0–0 axb5 10.Bxb5 Ba6  
11.Re1 Qb6 12.Bxa6 Nxa6  
13.e5 Ng4 14.exd6 exd6



15.h3 Ne5 16.Nxe5 Bxe5  
17.Qf3 Nb4 18.Re2 Qa6  
19.Bh6 Bg7 20.Bxg7 Kxg7  
21.Rd1 Rfe8 22.Rxe8 Rxe8  
23.a3 Nc2 24.Ne4 f5 25.Qc3+  
Nd4



26.Rxd4! exd4 27.Qxd4+ Kh6  
28.Qd2+ Kg7 29.Qc3+ Kh6  
30.Qc1+ Kg7 31.Qc7+ Kh6  
32.Nxd6 Re1+ 33.Kh2 Qa4

34.Nf7+ Kh5 35.Qg3 1–0

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## Notes by GM Akobian

Jonah, M - Skutches, P [C10]  
2016 National Open U–1300  
[GM Akobian]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6  
4.Bg5 c5 5.Nf3  
5.exd5 exd5 6.Nf3  
5...h6 6.Bxf6 gxf6 7.exd5 Qb6  
8.Na4

Better 8.Bb5+ with a winning position.

8...Qa5+ 9.Nc3 Bd7 10.Bc4  
Na6 11.a3 0–0–0 12.Ba2  
12.0–0.

12...Kb8 13.dxc5 Qxc5 14.Ne4  
Qc7 15.Nxf6 Nc5 16.Qe2 exd5  
17.0–0 Be6 18.Nd4 Be7  
19.Nxe6 fxe6 20.Ng4 Bd6  
21.h3 h5 22.Ne3 Bf4 23.Rfe1  
1–0

Sartoro, D - Charlier, G [C01]  
2016 National Open U–1300  
[GM Akobian]

1.e4 e6 2.Nf3 d5 3.exd5 exd5  
4.d4 Nf6 5.c4 c6 6.Nc3 Bd6  
7.Bg5 Bg4

7...0–0

8.h3 Bh5 9.exd5 0–0 10.dxc6  
Re8+ 11.Be2 Nxc6

11...Bxf3 12.gxf3 Nxc6 13.Rg1  
Be7

12.d5

12.0–0

12...Ne5

12...Bxf3 13.gxf3 Ne5

13..Ne4 Bb4+



14.Nfd2 Bxe2 15.Qxe2 Bxd2+  
16.Nxd2 Nd3+ 17.Kf1 Rxe2 0–1

Brown, M - Vera, Y [B90]  
2016 National Open U–1500  
[GM Akobian]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4  
4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.h3 b5  
7.a3 Bb7 8.Qe2

8.Bd3

8...e5 9.Nf3

9.Nf5 g6 10.Ng3

9...Be7

9...Nbd7 10.g4 Rc8 11.Bg2  
Rxc3 12.bxc3 Bxe4

10.g4 0–0 11.Bg2 Nbd7

11...Nc6 12.g5 Nd7

12.g5 Nh5 13.Nxe5 dxe5  
14.Qxh5 b4 15.axb4 Bxb4  
16.Bd2 Qb6 17.0–0 Qd4



18.Rfd1 Nc5 19.Qe2 Qd8  
20.Be3 Qe7 21.Nd5 Bxd5  
22.exd5 Rad8 23.c3 Nb3  
24.cxb4 Nxa1 25.Bc5 Qxg5  
26.Bxf8 Nb3 27.Bc5 1–0

Levine, Joseph - Vallens, Evan  
[C00]  
2016 National Open U–1500,  
26.06.2016

[GM Akobian]

1.e4 e6 2.c4 Nc6

2...d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.cxd5 Nf6

3.Nc3

3.d4

3...b6 4.Nf3 Bb7 5.d4 Nge7  
6.Bd3

6.d5! Na5 (6...Nb4 7.a3 Na6  
8.b4) 7.b4

6...d5 7.cxd5 exd5



8.0–0 dxe4 9.Nxe4 Nd5 10.Re1  
Be7 11.Bg5 0–0 12.Bxe7  
Ndx7 13.Nfg5 h6 14.Qh5  
Qxd4 15.Rad1



15...f5

15...Qxb2 16.Rd2 Qe5 17.f4  
Qxf4 18.Rf2

16.Ne6 Qxb2 17.Nxf8 fxe4  
18.Bc4+ Kh8 19.Ng6+ Nxg6  
20.Qxg6 Ne5 21.Qe6 Nxc4  
22.Qxc4 c5 23.a4 Rf8 24.Re2  
Qe5 25.f3 Re8 26.Qf7 Re7

26...Qe7

27.Qg6 Ba6?? 28.Rd8+ 1–0