



# NEWS

# NATIONAL OPEN JUNE 21-24, 2018

## National Open Round 4 Games

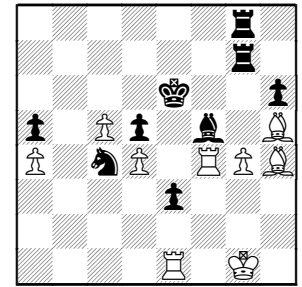
Round 4 in the main schedule saw two of the players maintain their perfect scores in the battle of players going into the round on 3/3.

GM Illia Nyzhnyk, fresh off his win from the Walter Browne Memorial Blitz continued to show his good form with a win against FM Teemu Virtanen. It was mostly plain sailing for the Ukrainian GM although Virtanen mentioned he thought he missed a chance or two to

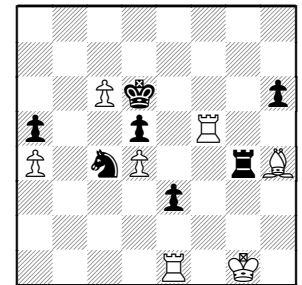
get something out of the game. GM Cristian Chirila managed to join Illia at the top, albeit with a lot of luck as his opponent, GM Ruifeng Li, decided to turn down a repetition in the hopes of playing out an interesting queen and pawns versus two rooks and a knight ending. Unfortunately for Li the decision backfired when he blundered allowing Chirila to mate the roving queen.

Here are the round 4 games from the top two players.

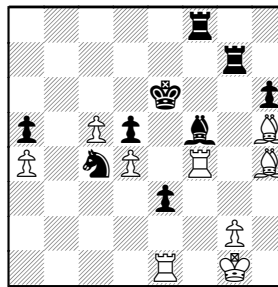
**Nyzhnyk, Illia (2706)**  
**Virtanen, Teemu (2305)**  
 National Open (4) 2018  
**1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 d5 3.Nf3 c5 4.e3 Nc6 5.Nbd2 cxd4 6.exd4 Qb6 7.Nb3 Bg4 8.Be2 e6 9.0-0 Be7 10.a4 a5 11.h3 Bh5 12.c3 0-0 13.Nbd2 h6 14.Bd3 g5 15.Bh2 g4 16.hxg4 Nxd4 17.Bg3 e5 18.Be2 e4 19.Nh4 Bxh4 20.Bxh4 f5 21.Qb3 Qxb3 22.Nxb3 b6 23.Rfe1 Nf6 24.f3 Bg6 25.Bb5 Rac8 26.Nd2 Kf7 27.fxe4 fxe4 28.Nf1 Ne7 29.Ne3 Nf5 30.Nxf5 Bxf5 31.Rf1 Ke6 32.Be2 Rf7 33.Rf4 Rcf8 34.b4 Ne8 35.bxa5 bxa5 36.c4 Nd6 37.c5 Nc4 38.Rb1 e3 39.Re1 Bc2 40.Bg4+ Bf5 41.Bh5 Rg7**



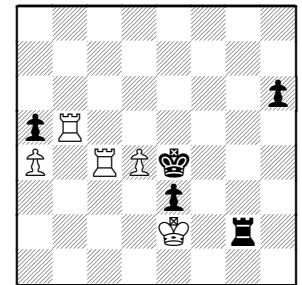
**43.c6! Kd6 44.Rxf5 Rxd4+ 45.Bxg4 Rxd4+**



**46.Bg3+ 46.Kf1! Rxh4 47.c7 Kxc7 48.Rxd5+- 46...Rxd4 47.Kh2 Rg6 48.c7 Kxc7 49.Rxd5 Rd6 50.Rc5+ Rc6 51.Rf5 Kd7 52.Kg3 Rd6 53.Rf4 Kc6 54.Kf3 Kd5 55.Rc1 Rc6 56.Ke2 Rb6 57.Rf5+ Ke4 58.Rb5 Rg6 59.Rxc4 Rg2+**



**42.g4?**  
 Throwing away a big edge. The simple 42.Be2 threatening to capture on c4 and then e3 wins, 42...Nd2 43.Bd3 Rg7 44.Rxe3+ Ne4 45.Be2+-  
**42...Rfg8 42...Rgg8! 43.Bf2 Be4 44.Bxe3 Nxe3 45.Rxf8 Rxf8 46.Rxe3 Rf4=**



**60.Kf1!**  
**60.Ke1? Kd3 61.Kf1 Rf2+**



GM Cristian "The Count" Chirila, well known for his commentary at the St. Louis Chess Club

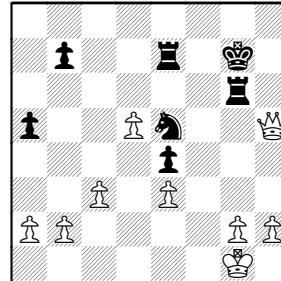
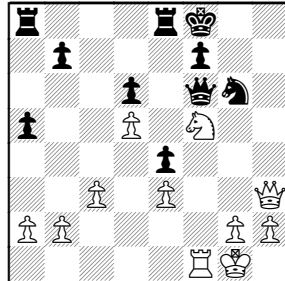


# National Open Round 4 Games Continued

62.Ke1 Rh2 and White has to give a rook back with a much worse position.

**60...e2+ 61.Kxg2**  
Cute but cruel, allowing Black to queen his pawn.  
**61...e1Q 62.Re5+ 1-0**

**Li,Ruifeng (2692)**  
**Chirila, Ioan (2637)**  
National Open (4) 2018  
**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.c3 d6 6.Nbd2 a5 7.Nf1 h6 8.Ng3 0-0 9.0-0 Be6 10.Bb5 Bd7 11.Ba4 Re8 12.Re1 Qb8 13.d4 Ba7 14.d5 Ne7 15.Bxd7 Nxd7 16.Nh4 Qd8 17.Nh5 Kh7 18.Qg4 Ng6 19.Nf5 Nf6 20.Qh3 Nxh5 21.Qxh5 Qf6**



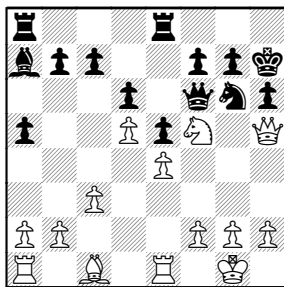
**31.Nh6**  
Turning down the draw by repetition.  
**31...Qg7 32.Rxf7+ Qxf7 33.Nxf7 Kxf7 34.Qd7+ Re7 35.Qxd6 Ra6 36.Qd8 Ne5 37.Qh8 Rg6 38.Qh5?!**  
38.h3 White has to be careful and do a little bit of slow play first.  
**38...Kg7**

**39.h3??**  
39.Kh1 and White is still fighting. After the blunder it is all over.  
**39...Nf3+ 0-1**  
39...Nf3+ 40.Kf2 Rg5 and the White queen is trapped.

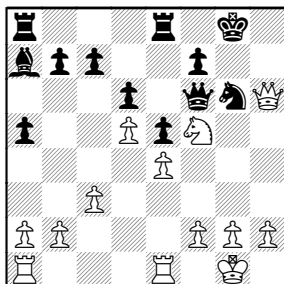
In the battles of players just half-point behind the leaders, GM Dariusz Swiercz managed to beat IM John Bryant while FM Nick Raptis scored an upset win against GM Fidel Corrales.

The all GM match-up board 4 ended up drawn between GMs Andrey Gorovets and Alex Shimanov.

**Bryant, John (2584)**  
**Swiercz, Dariusz (2753)**  
National Open (4) 2018  
**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 b5 6.Bb3 Bb7 7.Re1 Bc5 8.c3 d6 9.d4 Bb6 10.a4 0-0 11.Bg5 h6 12.Bh4 Qe7 13.Na3 exd4 14.cxd4 g5 15.Bg3 Na5 16.Ba2 b4 17.Nc4 Nxc4 18.Bxc4 Nxe4 19.a5 Ba7 20.Qb3 Qf6 21.Bd5 Bxd5 22.Qxd5 Nxc3 23.hxg3 g4 24.Nh4 Bxd4 25.Re4 Qxf2+ 26.Kh2 Be5 27.Rxg4+ Kh8 28.Qd3 Qf6 29.Rf1 Qe6**



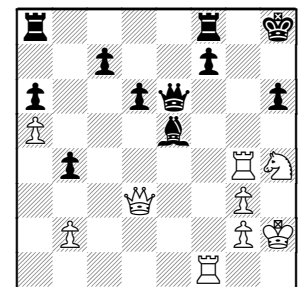
**22.Bxh6 gxh6 23.Qxh6+ Kg8**



**24.Re3 Bxe3 25.fxe3 c6 26.Rf1 cxd5 27.exd5 e4 28.Qh3 Kf8 29.Qh6+ Kg8 30.Qh3 Kf8**



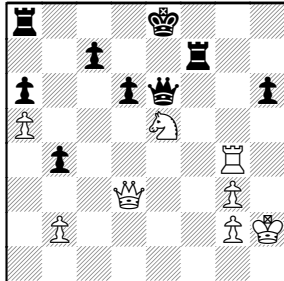
GM Illia Nyzhnyk receiving the Walter Browne Blitz Trophy from Chief TD Enrique Huerta



**30.Rxf7?**  
30.Ng6+! fxc6 31.Rxg6 Qe7 32.Rxh6+ Kg8 33.Qg6+ Qg7 34.Qe6+ Rf7 35.Rg6+-  
**30...Rxf7 31.Ng6+ Kg8 32.Ne7+ Kf8 33.Ng6+ Kg8 34.Ne7+ Kf8 35.Ng6+ Ke8 36.Nxe5**



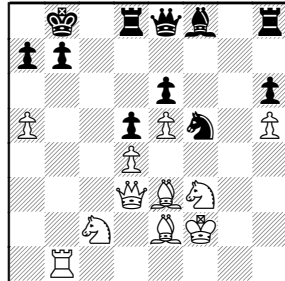
# National Open Round 4 Games Continued



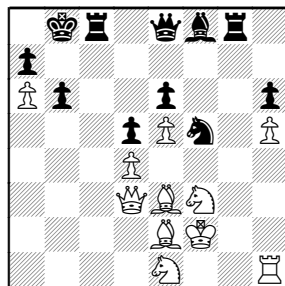
**36...dxe5**  
 Not totally losing the advantage but making it harder. The simple 36...Rf6! and the queen defends the g8 square while the knight cannot move because of the rook on g4 37.Qe4 Rc8 38.Nf3 Qxe4 39.Rxe4+ Kd7+

37.Rg8+ Rf8 38.Rxf8+ Kxf8 39.Qf3+ Ke7 40.Qxa8 Kd7 41.Qe4 Qd6 42.Kh3 Qd4 43.Qh7+ Kc6 44.Qxh6+ Kb5 45.b3 Kxa5 46.Qc6 Qc3 47.Qd5+ Kb6 48.Qe6+ Kc5 49.Kh4 a5 50.g4 a4 51.Qe7+ Kb6 52.Qe6+ c6 53.bxa4 b3 54.Qe8 b2 55.Kh5 Qd4 56.Qa8 Kc7 57.Qa5+ Kd7 58.Qe1 Qd3 59.Qxe5 Qh7+ 60.Kg5 Qe7+ 0-1

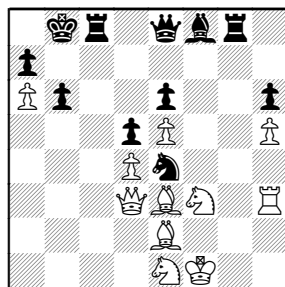
**Jimenez,Fidel (2618)**  
**Raptis,Nicholas (2401)**  
 National Open (4) 2018  
 1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.h4 h6 5.g4 Bd7 6.h5 Qc8 7.Be2 e6 8.f4 c5 9.c3 Nc6 10.Nf3 Qc7 11.Na3 Qb6 12.Kf2 0-0-0 13.Nc2 cxd4 14.cxd4 f6 15.Be3 fxe5 16.fxe5 Nge7 17.b4 g6 18.a4 gxh5 19.Rxh5 Kb8 20.Qd2 Be8 21.a5 Qc7 22.b5 Bxh5 23.gxh5 Nf5 24.bxc6 Qxc6 25.Rb1 Qe8 26.Qd3



**26...Rc8**  
 The computer says it is safe to take the pawn. Would you? 26...Qxh5 27.a6 b6 28.Qb5 Qf7 27.a6 b6 28.Rh1 Rg8 29.Nce1



29...Ng3! 30.Rh3 Ne4+ 31.Kf1



31...Rc3 32.Qb5 Qxb5 33.Bxb5 Rxe3 34.Bd7 Bb4 35.Nc2 Rb3 36.Nxb4 Rxb4 37.Bxe6 Rf8 38.Kg1 Rb1+ 39.Kg2 Rb2+ 40.Kg1 Nc3 41.Kh1 Ne2 42.Bg4 Nxd4 43.Nh2 Rff2 44.Kg1 Rg2+ 45.Kh1 Rgc2 46.Nf1 Rc1 0-1



IM John Bryant vs. GM Dariusz Swiercz, board 3 in round 4



FM Nick Raptis having fun on the top boards

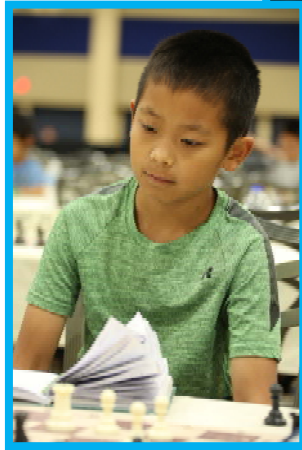


## International Youth Championship Photos!





## International Youth Championship Photos!





## National Open Round 5 Leaves All To Play For

Round 5 of the National Open saw all the different schedules merge finally getting everyone together. On the top board GMs Cristian Chirila and Illia Nyzhnyk were happy to agree to a quick draw to save some energy for the final rounds but that also gave the chance for others to get within range.

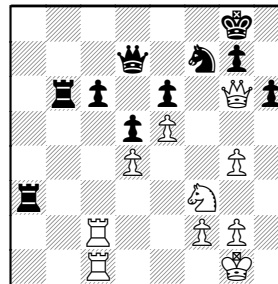
Catching the leaders was GM Dariusz Swiercz who beat GM Tigran Petrosian, the highest scorer from the 2-day schedule.

All 3 of the leaders currently have 4.5 points and they are half-point ahead of a group of 4 GMs on 4 points, Alex Shimanov, Elshan Moradiabadi, Carlos Hevia Alejano and Nikola Mitkov.

Sunday should be fun!

**Swiercz,Dariusz (2753)**  
**Petrosian,Tigran (2710)**  
 National Open (5) 2018  
 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d3 0-0 6.0-0 d6 7.h3 Bb6 8.a4 h6 9.Re1 a6 10.Nbd2 Re8 11.b4 Ba7 12.Rb1 Bd7 13.b5 axb5 14.axb5 Na5 15.Ba2 c6

16.bxc6 bxc6 17.Nf1 Be6 34.g5 hxg5 35.Nxg5 Nxg5  
 18.Bxe6 fxe6 19.Be3 Qc7 36.Qxg5 Ra4 37.Qg4 Qe8  
 20.Bxa7 Rxa7 21.Ne3 Nb7 38.Rc3 Rba6 39.Rg3 Ra7  
 22.Ng4 Nd8 23.d4 Nxg4 40.Rh3 Ra3 41.Rh6 Re7  
 24.hxg4 Nf7 25.Qb3 exd4 42.Rh5 Rd3 43.Qh4 Qg6  
 26.cxd4 Qd7 27.Rbc1 Rea8 44.Rxc6 Qe4 45.Rh8+ Kf7  
 28.Qc3 Ra6 29.e5 d5 46.Qh5+ 1-0  
 30.Rc2 Qe7 31.Rec1 Rb6  
 32.Qd3 Ra3 33.Qg6 Qd7



## National Open 2-day Schedule Draws 9 Grandmasters

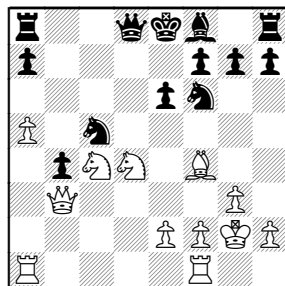
As mentioned yesterday, the 2-day schedule for the Open Section was brutal. Out of 12 entries, 9 of them were Grandmasters and 2 were International Masters.

It was cut-throat edge of the seat stuff, Game/30 (+5 second increment) at its best!

Here is some of the fun I managed to capture.

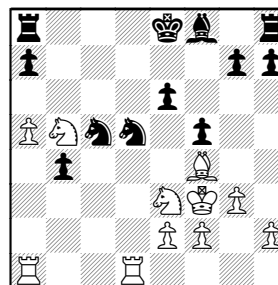
**Hevia Alejano,Carlos (2565)**  
**Negi,Parimarjan (2731)**  
 National Open (1) 2018  
 1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.c4 d5 4.g3 c6 5.Bg2 dxc4 6.0-0 b5 7.a4 Bb7 8.b3 cxb3 9.Qxb3 b4 10.a5 c5 11.Na3 Nbd7 12.Nc4 cxd4 12...Rc8 13.Bb2 Be7 14.dxc5 Bxc5 15.Rfd1 0-0 16.Nfe5 Bxg2 17.Kxg2 Rc7 maintains some sanity from a weird position and should

be good for Black.  
 13.Bf4 Bd5 14.Nxd4 Bxg2 15.Kxg2 Nc5



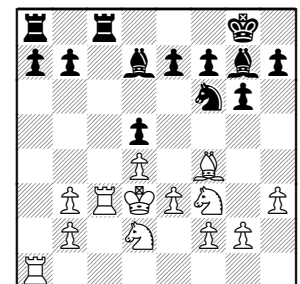
16.Qf3 16.Qxb4 Qxd4 17.Nd6+ Qxd6 18.Bxd6 Bxd6 gives Black 3 pieces for the queen and is equal according to the computers. To my eyes it is very messy, not what you want in a Game/30 time control.  
 16...Qd5 17.Nb5 Qxf3+ 18.Kxf3 Nd5 19.Rfd1 f5?! Obviously worried about an e4 push kicking the knight. However, 19...f6 20.Rac1 g5

21.Ncd6+ Bxd6 22.Bxd6 Nb3 still gives White an edge but Black is fighting.  
 20.Ne3  
 20.Rac1! first appears to be better according to Stockfish.



20...0-0-0?  
 20...Nxf4! 21.Nc7+ Kf7 22.Nxa8 Be7 23.gxf4 Rxa8 and although Black is theoretically down a pawn, there is still a lot of play left.  
 21.a6! Rd7 22.Nxd5 exd5 23.Rac1 Kd8 24.Bg5+ Ke8 25.Be3 1-0

**Pakleza,Zbigniew (2575)**  
**Petrosian,Tigran (2710)**  
 National Open (4) 2018  
 1.d4 d6 2.Bf4 Nf6 3.e3 g6 4.h3 Bg7 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 c5 7.c3 cxd4 8.cxd4 Qb6 9.Qb3 Qxb3 10.axb3 Be6 11.Bc4 Rc8 12.Nbd2 d5 13.Bd3 Nc6 14.Ke2 Nb4 15.Rhc1 Nxd3 16.Kxd3 Bd7 17.Rc3



17...Ne4!  
 This move seemed to come as a bit of a shock to Pakleza.  
 18.Rxc8+ 18.Nxe4 dxe4+ 19.Kxe4



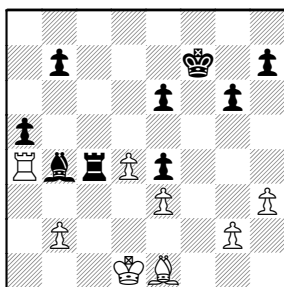
## National Open 2-day Action Continued

Bf5+ Let the king hunt begin!  
20.Kd5 e6+ 21.Kd6 Rd8+  
22.Kc7 e5! and there is no  
good way to stop the mating  
threat of ...Rd7, 23.Nxe5  
Bxe5+ 24.Bxe5 Rd7#

18...Rxc8 19.Ke2

The pawn obviously cannot  
be taken 19.Rxa7 Bb5+

19...Bb5+ 20.Ke1 a6  
21.Nxe4 dxe4 22.Nd2 f5  
23.Nc4 Bxc4 24.bxc4 Rxc4  
25.Kd2 Bf8 26.f3 e6 27.fxe4  
fxe4 28.Kd1 Bb4 29.Bg3  
Kf7 30.Ra4 a5 31.Be1



31...b5!

I guess this move is obvious  
because of the threat of b3  
but it is the only move that  
cements the win in this posi-  
tion.

32.Ra1 a4 33.Bg3 Rc8  
34.Be5 Ke7 35.Bg3 Kd7  
36.Be5 h5 37.Bg3 Kc6  
38.Be1 Bxe1 39.Kxe1 Kb6  
40.Kd2 Rc6 41.Rf1 b4  
42.Rf8 b3 43.Rb8+ Ka6  
44.Kd1 Rc2 45.Ra8+ Kb5  
46.Rb8+ Kc4 0-1

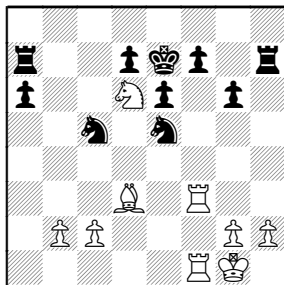
Mitkov, Nikola (2537)

Jakubiec, Artur (2564)

National Open (4) 2018

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 a6 3.f4 b5  
4.d4 cxd4 5.Qxd4 Bb7  
6.Nf3 e6 7.Bd3 Qc7 8.Qf2  
Nf6 9.e5 b4 10.Na4 Ne4  
11.Qb6 Qxb6 12.Nxb6 Ra7  
13.Be3 Bc5 14.Bxc5 Nxc5  
15.0-0 Ke7 16.a3 Bxf3  
17.Rxf3 Nc6 18.axb4 Nxb4

19.f5 Nc6 20.Nc4 g6  
21.fxg6 hxg6 22.Raf1 Rh7  
23.Nd6 Nxe5?  
23...Nxd3



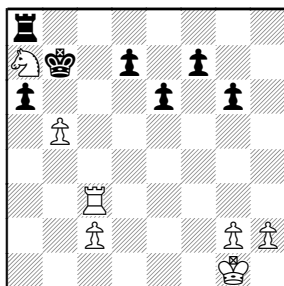
24.Nc8+!

I spoke to Nikola after the  
game and he told me he  
spent a lot of his precious  
little time checking this line  
all the way to its conclusion  
on move 31.

24...Kd8 25.Nxa7 Nxf3+  
26.Rxf3 Kc7 27.b4 Nxd3  
28.Rxd3 Rh8 29.b5 Ra8

Actually 29...a5 is a better  
try here but it is more obvi-  
ous that the knight escapes  
capture 30.c4 Kb7 (30...Ra8  
31.c5) 31.Rxd7+

30.Rc3+ Kb7



31.Nc8! 1-0

31.Nc8 Rxc8 32.bxa6+ Kb8  
33.a7+

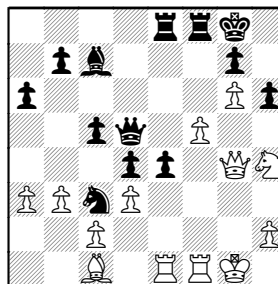
Blatny, Pavel (2472)

Krutt, Valer (2361)

National Open (4) 2018

1.b3 d5 2.e3 c5 3.Bb2 a6  
4.f4 Nf6 5.Nf3 Bg4 6.Be2 e6  
7.0-0 Nc6 8.Ne5 Bxe2

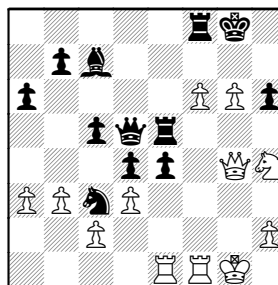
9.Qxe2 Rc8 10.d3 Be7  
11.Nd2 0-0 12.Ndf3 Nd7  
13.Nxd7 Qxd7 14.g4 f5  
15.g5 Bd6 16.Nh4 Rce8  
17.Qg2 d4 18.e4 Bc7  
19.Rae1 fxe4 20.Rxe4 Nb4  
21.a3 Nd5 22.Bc1 Nc3  
23.Ree1 Qd5 24.Qg4 e5  
25.f5 e4 26.g6 h6



27.Bxh6

27.f6! Rxf6 28.Rxf6 gxf6  
(28...h5 29.Qh3! gxf6 30.Nf5  
e3 31.Qxh5 Qd7 32.Qg4  
Rd8 33.g7 Kf7 34.h4+-)  
29.Nf5 Re5 30.dxe4 Qe6  
31.Qh5+-

27...gxh6 28.f6 Re5



29.Nf5?

29.f7+ Kg7 30.Rf5 Qd6  
31.Rxe5 Qxe5 32.Nf5+ Kf6  
33.g7 Qxh2+ 34.Kf1 Qh1+  
35.Kf2 e3+ 36.Rxe3  
(36.Nxe3? dxe3+ 37.Rxe3  
Nd1+) 36...dxe3+ 37.Nxe3  
(37.Kxe3? Qe1+ 38.Kf3  
Qe2#) 37...Qh2+ 38.Kf1  
Kxf7 39.gxf8Q+ Kxf8  
40.Qf5+=

29...Rxf5?

29...Rxf6! 30.Nxh6+ Kg7

31.Rxf6 Rg5+-

30.Rxf5 Qd6?

30...Qe6! 31.Qh5 Rxf6  
32.Qxh6 Rxg6+ 33.Rg5  
Rxg5+ 34.Qxg5+ Kf8  
35.Rf1+ Ke8 36.Rf6 Qh3!  
37.Qg8+ Kd7 38.Qf7+ Kd8  
39.Qf8+ Kd7 40.Qf7+=

31.Qh5?

31.Qh4! keeping f6 protect-  
ed is key 31...Nd5 32.Qxh6  
Nxf6 33.Rh5+-

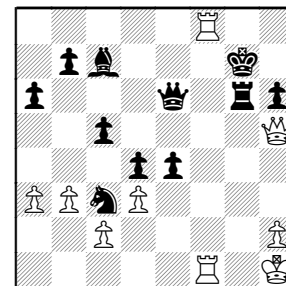
31...Rxf6 32.Ref1 Rxg6+

32...Rxf5 33.Rxf5 exd3  
34.cxd3 Qe6 and Black has  
some threats that White may  
find hard to defend at this  
time control.

33.Kh1 Qe6

33...Qxh2+! 34.Qxh2 Bxh2  
35.Kxh2 e3 and the threat of  
the e-pawn queening  
means White has to force a  
draw.

34.Rf8+ Kg7



35.Qxc5! Bb6 36.Qc8

36.Qxb6 is the obvious  
move here.

36...Qxc8 37.R1f7# 1-0



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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 (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.



## NATIONAL OPEN

### Ballroom A-C

Sunday R6: 10 am R7: 4:30 pm

### Ballroom F-G

Sunday Winners' Circle Cash Bar 9 pm

### BEGINNERS

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 South

### 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



**SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!**

**JUNE 11-16, 2019**

## LECTURES

### Conference Room 11

### Sunday

2 pm *Making Chess More Accessible,*  
US Chess Accessibility & Special  
Circumstances Committee

## BLITZ SECTIONALS

### Ballroom D

Sunday, 10 pm RR sections of 8 players  
Reg ends 30 minutes before start times!

## SPIRIT OF CHESS INVITATIONAL BLITZ

### Ballroom F

Come check out some top Grandmasters playing blitz in the Spirit of Chess Invitational Blitz Tournament scheduled for Sunday at 10:00 pm. The event is sponsored by the



## ANALYSIS OF YOUR GAMES

### Conference Room 1



**GM Melik Khachiyan** will analyze National Open games 2 hours after the start of each round. National Open players age 14 and under are eligible for the Fredie Best Game Award. Those who wish to have a game considered must bring it to one of the first six analysis sessions. Only rounds 1-6 will be considered.