

THE CALCHESS

JOURNAL



WINTER 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter from the Editor - Chris Torres	Page 2
About The Cover	Page 2
California's Chess Talents! - FM Kevin Pan	Page 3
The Chess Files - Jim Eade	Page 8
Meltwater Champions Chess Tour Finals in San Francisco – Chris Torres	Page 10
MSJE Wins Big in the States! - FM Kevin Pan	Page 26
What Will be in the Spring Edition	Page 28
Turning Back the Clock	Page 30
Bay Area Chess Tournament Results & Events	Page 32
CalChess Calendar & Board Members	Page 33



EDITOR CHRIS TORRES
ASSISTANT EDITOR KEVIN PAN

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR CHRIS TORRES

Here at CalChess, we celebrate all things California chess. From local clubs that meet weekly; to our weekend warriors who compete in hotel ballrooms, to national events and even tournaments that attract the strongest players in the world. All these goings-on are part of what makes Northern California a great place to live for chess players.

The best thing about being involved with CalChess is the opportunity to help build the local chess community, foster a sense of chess pride within Northern California, and make meaningful connections with other chess players who visit our state. CalChess plugs you into the power of Northern California chess community and gives you the chance to shine!

The CalChess Journal is the "glue" that hold our chess community together. All organizations, clubs, coaches and players are encouraged to submit articles for publication. Without your articles the meaningfulness of our magazine declines and less community members read your stories which are the stories of California's chess. So, enjoy this issue, join CalChess and consider sending your stories to The CalChess Journal. Together we will make Northern California the envy of the chess world!

ABOUT THE COVER

On the cover of this month's issue is a picture of Anushka and Samyak Patil with GM Magnus Carlsen at the Meltwater Finals in San Francisco, November 2022.

Send letters the
Editor, article
submissions,
photos/games to
Chris Torres by
emailing
DailyChessMusings
@gmail.com.



**CALIFORNIA'S
CHESS TALENTS!**
EPISODE #4
**WGM ROCHELLE
WU**
BY FM KEVIN PAN

Rochelle Wu is one of the most accomplished Californian juniors, winning gold on numerous occasions on the international stage and recently competing in the 2022 U.S. Women's Championship. Starting chess at the age of six, she rose to prominence in 2016 by winning the World Cadet Chess Championship. In 2019 at the age of 12, she became the youngest player ever to represent the U.S. in the Women's Olympiad team tournament, competing alongside the likes of IM Yip and WGM Foisor. Recently, Rochelle achieved her final norm for the WGM title. How does she handle all the pressure and balance her chess career with numerous other activities? I had the lucky opportunity to speak with Rochelle and gain valuable insight and advice.



[KP]: Hello, everyone. Today we have Women's Grandmaster Rochelle Wu with us today. Rochelle, congratulations on recently achieving your WGM title. How does it feel to hold one of the highest titles in chess?

[RW]: It feels pretty unreal, to be honest. Like when I first started, I had no idea I was going to be here, so it's like, it's a pretty cool experience.

[KP]: You achieved not only the WGM title but also the International Chess Federation (FIDE) Master title in 2022. You accomplished so much during the tail end of the pandemic while most chess players out there were unable to play over-the-board events. Can you share your journey? How were you able to keep playing high level tournaments during the pandemic?

[RW]: I think that when I was younger, I definitely played a lot more tournaments. I saw you at a bunch of tournaments, too, but I was basically playing tournaments like every single week. And the pandemic kind of cut down on how often I was able to play tournaments, too. But I think it was like a blessing in disguise because playing a bunch of tournaments honestly kind of wore me out. So, I'm definitely glad that I was not able to play as much. We definitely had to fly a lot more than usual. And I don't remember the last time I played a tournament in California.

We always just had to go out of state.

[KP]: So, you mentioned playing so many tournaments when you're younger. Now let's talk about how you got started. I noticed you started playing in 2012 when you were 6, and in four years you were rated over 2000. You also won gold in the World Cadet tournament that year. In those four years, you played around 200 tournaments, or almost one a week. Did you have any special tricks to keep yourself energized and focused?

[RW]: Honestly, just bring a milkshake for each game. It was definitely tiring, but I feel like as long as you have friends and people to socialize with during tournaments, it's not that bad. You kind of just have to find something that motivates you and excites you to keep going.

[KP]: Thinking 24/7 about chess doesn't really help, right? So, you have to, like, balance yourself.

[RW]: Yeah.

[KP]: Okay, cool. cool. So, was there any particular moment or any tournament that you felt frustrated in your journey and how did you get over it? Was there any particular moment, or any tournament, that you felt frustrated or challenged? How did you get over it?

[RW]: There were probably many tournaments that made me feel that way. Like, there's this one time I played in the US Cadets. I think it was in 2017 or 2018, and I got 0.5 out of 7. It was pretty discouraging, but I feel like you just have to change your viewpoint on tournaments. Like nowadays, whenever I have a bad result, I kind of just view it as a learning experience, like it happens for a reason - I wasn't prepared, or I should have studied more. It reminds me that I have a lot to learn and honestly, I don't view it as a bad thing anymore.

[KP]: So now moving on to a few more general questions. So, what part of chess do you like the most?

[RW]: Winning.

[KP]: Relatable. Is there anything you dislike about chess - losing?

[RW]: I dislike losing. Getting bad positions out of the opening. Not having anyone to hang out with during tournaments. Just like in a not ideal tournament situation, you know?

[KP]:. Yeah. So which chess players do you admire the most? And what do you like about them?

[RW]: Honestly, I admire, like, a lot of my friends who play chess. Especially like women in the chess world. They are people that I can

look up to and go to for guidance and advice. Not even in chess, but also in life too, because a lot of them, like they balance their school and chess life really well. And it's just really inspirational to see.

[KP]: Okay. So, returning to the 2016 world, because that tournament where you won gold. How did you feel winning that tournament? How did it influence you on and off the board? Like you were talking about the lessons outside of chess. Did you have any special memories of that event as well?

[RW]: Yeah, that event was definitely one of my favorite chess moments of all time. I remember after the last game; it didn't really sink in yet until like so many people told me congratulations. And I was just like I was in shock because my dad expected me to get last place or something. So, it was just like an unreal moment. It felt like a really special day. It's like your birthday times ten, you know?

[KP]: Did that inspire you to take chess even more seriously?

[RW]: A little, but I was like ten at the time, so I didn't really know what it meant for the future. Honestly, up until then, I kind of saw chess as more of just like one of my side hobbies. I also did some other extracurriculars. I didn't view

chess that seriously. I know I'm better at it than I was at swimming or whatever, but honestly. I think it kind of put a little bit more pressure on me, which did not feel great. But I mean, I don't really regret anything.

[KP]: All right. So, another special tournament you took part in was the 2019 Women's Team Olympiad tournament, where you were actually the youngest player ever to represent the US. So how was that experience and how did the unique team atmosphere feel?

[RW]: Oh, actually, it felt really interesting because I remember having my birthday during the event. It was really interesting to have an actual team dynamic because, you know, like the US amateur team events. I feel like there you're not really as connected with your team. It's just like you're playing side by side. But like in this kind of big event, you're eating dinner together. you're hanging out on the rest day; you're always preparing and giving each other pep talks and stuff. Like everything was really special. It's just a really unique environment.

[KP]: Since then, you have obviously continued to be very successful. You received the WIM title in 2019 and as I mentioned, the FM & WGM title in 2022. You also recently competed in the US Women's Championship. Was there a game or two that you particularly

liked in your entire chess journey that you remember?

[RW]: Honestly, I don't know about this one because my memory is not great. I know that there were definitely some games that stood out to me or have haunted me over the years. Like, there's nothing that I'm like, oh my God, I played so well in this game. I'm going to remember it forever, you know?

[KP]: Were there any games that you needed to win for a norm, or the title and you actually managed to win?

[RW]: The last game when I was getting my last WGM title, I remember I was so nervous for it before the game because I was like, Oh my God, if I don't win, Then I came here for nothing, and I'm literally never going to get it. So, I guess I put a lot of pressure on myself. But I, I actually think I played really well that game and I guess everything worked out. It was a pretty nice game in my opinion.

[KP]: So how does what you learn from chess apply to your life outside of chess?

[RW]: It definitely makes me more of a social person. One experience I had in chess was going to the Kasparov chess camps where you have to present six of your own games to the best player that ever lived. It was really

nerve-racking for me and like, I just wanted it to be over as soon as possible because I was just outside of my comfort zone. But it definitely helped me, like in school, because now I don't really get nervous talking or giving presentations standing in front of the whole class. I don't care if it makes me look dumb or whatever, because, you know, this experience has humbled me and it's like, what worse could happen, you know?

[KP]: So, I think we've already talked a little bit about women in chess. Obviously, you're a very strong player regardless of gender, but how do you think the chess community should encourage more women to start playing and possibly replicate your level of success? And if a young girl asks why she should play chess, what would your answer be?

[RW]: Honestly, I feel like they could add more female prizes to tournaments. I mean, it's kind of a male dominated sport. It's no secret that most women are lower rated in general compared to men. So, I feel like there could be more prizes targeted for women. And I think that, honestly, tournaments can be kinder to women as a whole, because the ratio between men and women is pretty bad and it can be really intimidating. So, I think as soon as the ratio becomes closer, then I think that it would definitely just make women more comfortable in playing halls in

general. And the second question was how would I encourage young girls to start playing chess?

[KP]: Yes, how would you encourage them and what would you say to them?

[RW]: I would tell them that it's pretty good for college. When you're doing your college apps, I think that it's a pretty unique hobby. It's not something that a lot of people in schools really pursue. And I think it's just a really nice way to meet new friends and live a second life, you know?

[KP]: Yeah. Okay. So final question. Let's look a little bit into the future. So, you're a WGM now. What's your next goal in chess? Do you plan to continue playing professionally after you graduate or when you become an adult?

[RW]: I honestly think that my goal right now is just to win the U.S. Juniors. I also want to qualify for the Olympiad and keep playing in the U.S. championship. And I actually plan on playing chess after I graduate. I'm just not sure if I want to do it professionally or as a hobby.

[KP]: Thank you, Rochelle, for giving all this advice and very interesting insight in your career. Thanks.

[RW]: You're welcome. Thanks.



2016 World Cadets Chess Championship Team USA. WGM Rochelle Wu is the 5th one from the left on the 2nd row; FM Kevin Pan is the 2nd from the left on the 2nd row.



We are always looking for volunteer coaches who are willing to donate their time and bring chess to another child in the world.

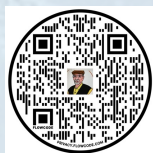
Eligibility:

- High school students*
 - Experienced tournament player rated > 1600*
 - Experience with teaching / coaching*
- Volunteer hour will be issued. Possibility to receive President's Volunteer Service Award at year end.*

THE CHESS FILES

The Answers are Out There

By James Eade
Eadefoundation.org



What's the best time control?

The answer is that it depends. Traditionalists will tell you that slow time controls are the best. Is that true? There was a time that people played without clocks. You needed strong glutes as well as patience to play in those days.

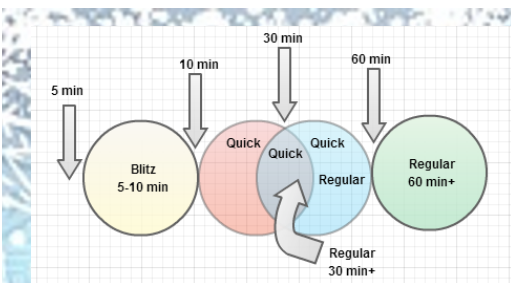
When I first started playing tournament chess the time control was 40 moves in 2 ½ hours and subsequent time controls were also fairly slow. Games could last quite a long time and adjournments were commonplace. Some still held on to that time control as the bast.

There was some commotion when it was accelerated to 40 moves in 2 hours! Can you imagine the complaints from those who were accustomed to one time control and were faced with change! Even those games were fairly long and only the most dedicated of chess fans could watch them in their entirety.

Blitz was always an alternative. Typically, each side would get five minutes for the entire game. If your flag fell, you lost. It was not considered serious chess except by those who were very good at it! The onset of digital clocks changed blitz to a large degree. Three minutes plus delays or increments became the norm.

Tournament chess time controls was still considered the only valid way of determining true chess strength by most chess fans. Blitz and Rapid ratings were more for fun and bragging rights. A funny thing happened to that perception.

The World Championship matches were determined by a series of game at the old time-controls, but if an outcome was undetermined, rapid, and even blitz games would enter into the picture. It used to be that the champion had draw odds. If you could not defeat the champion under the old time-controls, the champion retained the title. Some protested this change, but it became the law of the land despite these howls of complaint.



THE EADE FOUNDATION



Then a World Champion decided not to defend his title. The reasoning was that the old system needed to be modified. Games needed to be contested at different time controls went the argument. A series of matches needed to be played at various time controls.

No one wanted to watch a long series of games that were likely to end in a draw went the rationale. Faster time controls were far more likely to result in decisive games. People would watch those games, and eyeballs translated into marketing opportunities.

This would lead to more corporate sponsorship because people would have a viewer base large enough to justify marketing campaigns. Magnus Carlsen has demonstrated that this is plausible. Whether it is sustainable is another matter entirely, but it has been successful in the near term at least.

Will the chess world accept these types of matches to determine the best chess players in the world? Time will tell, but popularizing the game seems to be the prime directive. Faster time controls seem to be more popular. The competition is the thing. Leave the best moves for the computers to find.

The Eade Foundation wants to enhance chess literacy and chess excellence. Chess literacy means the ability to read and write chess notation. Reading notation opens the vast world of chess literature to the reader. Writing notation allows you to preserve your games for later study and to receive advice and counsel from other more advanced players. Chess excellence advances the state of the art and inspires others to achieve excellence on their own. The Foundation was established shortly after the death of Arthur Eade, who taught chess to James Eade. The Foundation gives a \$1,000 donation in his name to the best essay to earn the “Arthur Award.”

The Eade Foundation will provide chess sets and boards to organizations that cannot otherwise afford them. It considers chess to be a social good. Introducing or expanding chess literacy and chess excellence will lead to incremental improvement in any society. The Eade Foundation has provided chess sets and boards to organizations throughout the world, from Uganda to Nicaragua. If you are interested in supporting or contacting the Foundation, please send an email to eadefoundation@gmail.com

MELTWATER CHAMPIONS CHESS TOUR FINALS IN SAN FRANCISCO BY CHRIS TORRES

Chess fans around the globe were excited to watch some of our games biggest stars competing in the Meltwater Champions Chess Tour Finals in San Francisco. The prestigious event took place on November 14-20, 2022. The tournament was structured as a round-robin featuring eight elite chess competitors (GM Magnus Carlsen, GM Jan-Krzysztof Duda, GM Arjun Erigaisi, GM Anish Giri, GM Liem Quang Le, GM Shakhriyar Mamedyarov, GM Rameshbabu "Pragg" Praggnanandhaa and GM Wesley So). Each of the seven rounds consisted of four-game rapid (15 minutes with a 10-second increment) matches.

The San Francisco Bay Area is no stranger to top level chess. FM James Eade organized a famous super tournament in San Francisco in 1995 and the "City by the Bay" has several active chess clubs including one that is the oldest continuously running chess club in the United States. However, Meltwater Champions Chess Tour brings a different kind of energy by treating chess as an e-sport and its rapid paced structure captured the interest of a new generation of chess fans who enjoy watching chess streamers. Because of this

e-sport approach, players in the Meltwater Champions Chess Tour compete online while seated in state-of-the-art gaming chairs. Carlsen, Giri, Praggnanandhaa, and So played their games live from the San Francisco Ferry Building, while Duda, Erigaisi, Le, and Mamedyarov played remotely from their homes.

Day 1 started with a much-anticipated clash between Magnus Carlsen and Wesley So. After two draws, Magnus scored a win in their third game. In the other opening matches, Duda defeated Erigaisi, Mamedyarov won against Pragg and Giri defeated Le Quang in their blitz tiebreaker. It's worth noting that a win after a tiebreak yields just two points, with one going to the loser.

Standings After Day 1

#	Name	Rtg	Score
1-3.	Jan-Krzysztof Duda	2798	3
1-3.	Magnus Carlsen	2848	3
1-3.	Shakhriyar Mamedyarov	2756	3
4	Anish Giri	2732	2
5	Liem Quang Liem	2775	1
6-8.	Arjun Erigaisi	2733	0
6-8.	Wesley So	2774	0
6-8.	Praggnanandhaa R.	2750	0

Day 2 saw Magnus Carlsen and Jan-Krzysztof Duda again win their matches over Erigaisi and Mamedyarov without needing tiebreaks. Anish Giri won his match over Pragg but again needed the blitz playoff to complete the task. Liem Quang Le dominated Wesley So. Afterwards, So stated, "He's just very strong. He played some very good moves. I probably should have won game one, but other than

that, I think Liem played a near-perfect match."

Standings After Day 2

#	Name	Rtg	Score
1-2.	Jan-Krzysztof Duda	2798	6
1-2.	Magnus Carlsen	2848	6
3-4.	Anish Giri	2732	4
3-4.	Le Quang Liem	2775	4
5	Shakhriyar Mamedyarov	2756	3
6	Praggnanandhaa R.	2750	1
7-8.	Wesley So	2774	0
7-8.	Arjun Erigaisi	2733	0

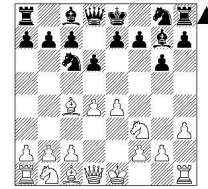
PIRC-ROBATSCH def.
Arjun E. - Magnus C.
0:1, 11/15/2022.

1. $\text{d}3$ $\text{g}6$ 2. $\text{d}4$ $\text{g}7$ 3. $\text{e}4$ $\text{d}6$ The players opt for a clash between classical and hypermodern styles in the Zukertort Opening. 4. $\text{c}4$ $\text{c}6$ 5. $\text{h}3$ Stopping Bg4 is important to preserve white's d4 pawn. Other options are castling or supporting the d4 pawn with pawn to c3.

[5. O-O $\text{f}6$ 6. $\text{e}2$ $\text{g}4$ 7. $\text{c}3$ $\text{e}5$ 8. $\text{b}5$ $\text{d}7$ 9. $\text{d}1$ O-O 10. $\text{xc}6$ $\text{bxc}6$ 11. $\text{h}3$ $\text{xf}3$ 12. $\text{xf}3$ $\text{exd}4$ 13. $\text{cxd}4$ $\text{c}5$ 14. $\text{e}3$ $\text{b}8$ 15. $\text{e}2$ $\text{cxd}4$ 16. $\text{xd}4$ $\text{xd}4$ 17. $\text{xd}4$ $\text{f}6$ 18. $\text{d}2$ $\text{c}5$ 19. $\text{c}3$ $\text{fe}8$ 20. $\text{ad}1$ $\text{a}5$ 21. $\text{d}5$ $\text{g}7$ 22. $\text{f}3$ $\text{f}5$ 23. $\text{c}4$ $\text{h}8$ 24. $\text{exf}5$ $\text{gxf}5$ 25. $\text{c}3$ $\text{xc}3$ 26. $\text{xc}3$ $\text{a}4$ 27. $\text{f}1$ $\text{g}7$ 28. $\text{e}1$ $\text{xe}1$ 29. $\text{xe}1$ $\text{f}4$ 30. $\text{d}5$ $\text{e}6$ 31. $\text{c}3$ $\text{b}4$ 32. $\text{e}2$ $\text{g}6$ 33. $\text{a}3$ $\text{c}4$ 34. $\text{d}3$ $\text{d}4$ 35. $\text{e}2$ $\text{c}4$ 36. $\text{d}3$ $\text{d}4$ 37. $\text{e}2$ $\text{c}4$ 1/2-1/2, Saurabh Anand (IND) 2303 - Maghsoodloo Parham (IRI) 2685 , Mumbai 1/ 2/2018 It "IIFL Wealth Mumbai Open";

5. $\text{c}3$ $\text{f}6$ 6. $\text{e}2$ $\text{g}4$ 7. $\text{bd}2$ O-O 8. $\text{h}3$ $\text{c}8$ 9. O-O $\text{h}5$ 10. $\text{d}1$ $\text{f}4$ 11. $\text{e}1$ $\text{e}5$ 12. $\text{xe}5$ $\text{xe}5$ 13. $\text{f}1$ $\text{f}6$ 14. $\text{h}2$ $\text{h}5$ 15. $\text{b}4$ $\text{a}6$ 16. $\text{a}4$ $\text{g}5$ 17. $\text{xf}4$ $\text{exf}4$ 18. $\text{d}5$ $\text{g}4$ 19. $\text{e}5$ $\text{e}7$ 20. $\text{e}4$ $\text{gxf}3$ 21. $\text{xf}3$ $\text{e}6$ 22. $\text{d}3$ $\text{fd}8$ 23. $\text{c}5$ $\text{a}5$ 24. $\text{b}5$ $\text{axb}4$ 25. $\text{cb}4$ $\text{d}7$ 26. $\text{xf}4$ $\text{e}7$ 27. $\text{ac}1$ $\text{h}7$ 28. $\text{e}4$ $\text{g}8$ 29. $\text{f}4$ $\text{h}7$ 30. $\text{e}4$ $\text{g}8$ 31. $\text{a}5$ $\text{ab}8$ 32. $\text{a}6$ $\text{xb}4$ 33. $\text{xc}7$ $\text{f}8$ 34.

$\text{g}5$ $\text{f}5$ 35. $\text{exf}6$ $\text{xf}6$ 36. $\text{h}7$ $\text{f}8$ 37. $\text{xe}6$ 1-0, Kovalenko Igor (LAT) 2684 - Shoker Samy (EGY) 2492 , Alma-Ata 6/18/2016 It "Eurasian Blitz Chess Cup"]



5... $\text{f}6$ 6. $\text{e}2$ $\text{e}5$ 7. $\text{dx}5$ $\text{xe}5$ 8. $\text{xe}5$ $\text{dx}5$ 9. O-O O-O 10. $\text{d}1$ $\text{e}7$ 11. $\text{h}2$ Erigaisi gets Magnus out of his prep with a unique innovation. More common approaches for white are 11. $\text{Nc}3$, 11. $\text{Bg}5$ or 11. $\text{b}3$.

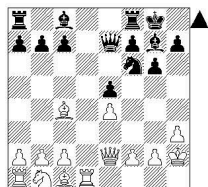
[11. $\text{c}3$ $\text{c}6$ 12. $\text{g}5$ $\text{h}6$ 13. $\text{h}4$ $\text{g}5$ 14. $\text{g}3$ $\text{h}5$ 15. $\text{e}3$ $\text{h}4$ 16. $\text{h}2$ $\text{h}5$ 17. $\text{d}2$ $\text{f}4$ 18. $\text{ad}1$ $\text{b}5$ 19. $\text{b}3$ $\text{a}5$ 20. $\text{a}4$ $\text{b}4$ 21. $\text{e}2$ $\text{a}6$ 22. $\text{xf}4$ $\text{exf}4$ 23. $\text{f}3$ $\text{ad}8$ 24. $\text{d}4$ $\text{xd}4$ 25. $\text{xd}4$ $\text{xd}4$ 26. $\text{xd}4$ $\text{c}5$ 27. $\text{d}5$ $\text{c}4$ 28. $\text{a}2$ $\text{c}8$ 29. $\text{h}5$ $\text{f}6$ 30. $\text{g}6$ $\text{g}7$ 31. $\text{xg}7$ $\text{hxg}7$ 32. $\text{xc}4$ $\text{e}6$ 33. $\text{c}5$ $\text{xc}4$ 34. $\text{xc}4$ $\text{d}8$ 35. $\text{f}1$ $\text{b}3$ 36. $\text{cb}3$ $\text{d}2$ 37. $\text{b}4$ $\text{xb}2$ 38. $\text{bxa}5$ $\text{g}6$ 39. $\text{a}6$ $\text{b}6$ 40. $\text{a}5$ $\text{xa}6$ 41. $\text{a}4$ $\text{f}7$ 42. $\text{e}2$ $\text{e}6$ 43. $\text{f}3$ $\text{f}5$ 44. $\text{exf}5$ $\text{xf}5$ 45. $\text{e}2$ $\text{e}5$ 46. $\text{d}3$ $\text{d}5$ 47. $\text{c}3$ $\text{g}4$ 48. $\text{xf}4$ $\text{g}3$ 49. $\text{fxg}3$ $\text{hxg}3$ 50. $\text{g}4$ $\text{e}5$...1-0, Szpar Milosz (POL) 2449 -



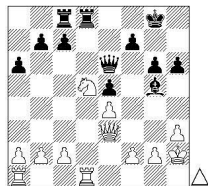
Behind the scenes viewpoint of Tania Sachdev interviewing Magnus Carlsen in San Francisco on November 18, 2022.

Anton Guijarro David (ESP) 2675 ,
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 (GRE) 2436 - Karaokcu Erkin (TUR)
 2256 , Neustadt a.d. Weinstrasse
 2/13/2018 It "Pfalz Open";

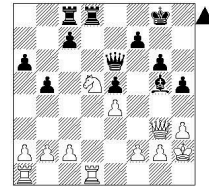
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 f4 34. ♗c4 ♗g7 35. ♗a3 h5 36. ♗e6
 ♗c8 37. ♗xd7 ♗xd7 38. ♙b7 ♗f6 39.
 ♙xd7 g5 40. ♙a7 ♗e6 41. ♙xa6 g4 42.
 hxg4 hxg4 43. ♙a8 ♗d7 44. ♙g8 g3
 45. ♙f8 ♗e6 46. ♗b4 ♗d7 47. a5 f3
 48. ♙xf3 ♗xc5 49. ♗xc5 ♗e6 50. ♙d3
 ♗d7 ...1-0, Robles Aguilar Enrique
 Alfonso - Starozhilov Leonid (UKR)
 2318 , Internet 5/26/2020 It "Titled
 Tuesday"]



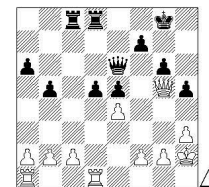
11... ♗e6 12. ♘c3 ♙fd8 13. ♗e3 a6 14.
 ♗xe6 ♞xe6 15. ♗g5 h6 16. ♗xf6 ♗xf6
 17. ♘d5 ♙ac8 18. ♞e3 ♗g5 Starting a
 series of threats and counter threats.



19. ♞b3 b5 20. ♘b4 ♞b6 21. ♞f3 h5 22.
 ♘d5 ♞e6 23. ♞g3 Erigaisi's knight is
 guarding against black pinning the queen
 to the king with Bf4.

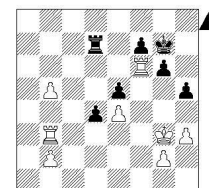


23... c6 So Magnus asks the knight to
 move. 24. ♞xg5 Capturing it is an obvious
 approach to dealing with the threatening
 bishop. 24... cxd5 Regains the material
 while fighting for control of the center.



25. c3 d4 26. ♙d3 ♙d7 27. a4 b4 28.
 cxb4 ♙c2 29. b5 ♙xf2 30. ♙c1 axb5 31.
 axb5 ♗g7 32. ♙c6 ♞e7 33. ♞xe7 ♙xe7
 34. ♙b3 ♙f6 35. ♗g3 ♙d7 36. ♙xf6?
 Erigaisi makes a mistake. 36. h4 was
 correct here.

[36. h4 d3 37. ♙c1 d2 38. ♙d1 ♙d8
 39. b6 ♙fd6 40. b7 ♙b8 41. ♗f2 ♙d7
 42. ♗e2 ♙xb7 43. ♙xb7 ♙xb7 44.
 ♙xd2 ♗f6 45. ♙c2 ♗e6 With a slight
 advantage to black but still well within
 the territory of a likely draw.]

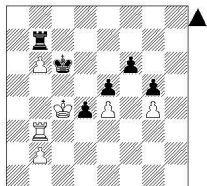


36... ♗xf6 37. ♗f2 ♗e6 38. ♙a3 ♙b7
 39. ♙a5 ♗d6 40. ♗e2 ♗c5 41. b6 ♗d6
 42. ♙d5 ♗e6 43. ♙b5 f6 44. g4 hxg4
 44... h4 seems to steer toward a draw.

[44... h4!? 45. ♖d3 g5 (45... ♕d6 46. ♗c4 g5) 46. ♗c4 ♕d6 Should result in a draw.]

45. hxg4 g5 46. ♕d3 ♕d6 47. ♗c4 ♗c6
48. ♖b3? Erigaisi makes an inaccuracy.
Correct was 48. b4.

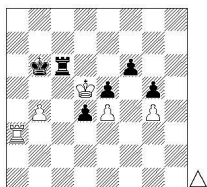
[48. b4 ♖xb6 49. ♖a5 ♗b7 50. b5 ♖d6
51. ♖a3 ♖d7 52. ♖f3 ♗a7 53. ♖a3
♗b8 54. ♖f3 ♗b7 55. ♖a3 ♖d6 56.
♕d3 ♗b6 57. ♗c4 d3 Will result in a
draw.]



48... ♖xb6 49. ♖f3 ♗c7 50. b4?! Better
was 50. Kc5.

[50. ♗c5!? ♖a6 But black still has a
decisive advantage.]

50... ♖c6 51. ♗b5 ♖d6 52. ♖a3 ♗b7
53. ♗c4 ♖c6 54. ♗d5 ♗b6!? Magnus
sets a trap!



55. ♖a6?? Erigaisi steps into it. Correct
was 55. Ra1.

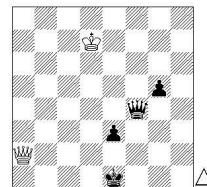
[55. ♖a1 ♗b7 Would have been a
draw.]

55... ♗xa6 56. ♗xc6 ♗a7 57. ♗c7 ♗a6
58. ♗c6 d3 59. b5 ♗a5 60. b6 d2 61. b7
d1=♖ 62. b8=♖ ♗a4?? Magnus Carlsen
makes a rare blunder that causes his
advantage to evaporate. With 62... Qd3,
black would still have been winning.

[62... ♖d3 63. ♖b6 ♗a4 64. ♖b2 ♖c4
65. ♗d6 ♖d4 66. ♖xd4 exd4 67. ♗e7
♗b5 68. ♗xf6 d3 69. e5 d2 70. e6
d1=♖ 71. e7 ♖d7 72. ♗f7 was
obviously crushing.]

63. ♖b5 Just like that, Erigaisi is right
back in the game! 63... ♗a3 64. ♖d5??
And back to losing again after this blunder.
With 64. Qc5 Erigaisi would have had a
draw.

64... ♖xg4 Magnus will make his
opponent pay this time. 65. ♖d3 ♗b2 66.
♖d2 ♗b1 67. ♖d3 ♗c1 68. ♖f1 ♗d2 69.
♖xf6 ♖xe4 70. ♗d6 ♖b4 71. ♗d7 ♖f4
72. ♖a6 e4 73. ♖e6 e3 74. ♖a2 ♗e1
Erigaisi resigns because:



[...]

[75. ♖g2 e2 76. ♗c6 g4 77. ♗d7 ♖f7
78. ♗d8 ♖g8 79. ♗c7 ♖c4 80. ♗b8
♖f4 81. ♗c8 ♖f5 82. ♗c7 ♗d1 83.
♖g3 e1=♖ 84. ♖d6 ♗e2 85. ♖a6 ♗f2
86. ♖a2 ♗f1 87. ♖a6 ♗g2 88. ♖a2
♖ef2 89. ♖a8 ♖5f3 90. ♖c6 ♖b2 91.
♗d7 ♖g7 92. ♗d8 ♗h3 93. ♖xf3 gxf3
94. ♗c8 f2 95. ♗b8 f1=♖ 96. ♗c8
♖ff8#]

[0:1]



Day 3: Magnus Carlsen
continued his winning ways by
making easy work of Shakhriyar
Mamedyarov. However, it was Jan-
Krzysztof Duda who stole the
spotlight on the third day of
competition by also maintaining
his perfect 9/9 score by way of
defeating Anish Giri with a
breathtaking brilliancy. Duda
spoke of his modern brilliance in
the post game interview stating
that “I’m very happy, of course. It’s
not every day you get to
checkmate your opponent. I mean,
not really checkmate. In a way, I
am disappointed that there was no

checkmate on the board, but the combination was so beautiful, so atypical, but also with checks. It's something extraordinary to me. I always could appreciate the beauty in chess, and it's very nice to be on the good side of things!"

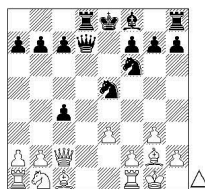
Praggnanandhaa bounced back to form by defeating Liem Quang Le with three straight victories. Finally, Wesley So defeated Arjun Erigaisi.

Standings After Day 3

#	Name	Rtg	Score
1-2.	Jan-Krzysztof Duda	2798	9
1-2.	Magnus Carlsen	2848	9
3-5.	Anish Giri	2732	4
3-5.	Liem Quang Liem	2775	4
3-5.	Praggnanandhaa R.	2750	4
6-7.	Shakhriyar Mamedyarov	2756	3
6-7.	Wesley So	2774	3
8	Arjun Erigaisi	2733	0

CATALAN SYSTEM Le Quang L. - R. P. 0:1, 11/16/2022.

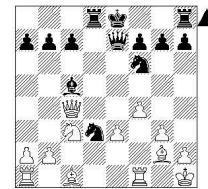
1. d4 ♘f6 2. c4 e6 3. ♘f3 d5 4. g3 dxc4
5. ♗g2 This move is the most popular.
5... ♗d7 could be met by 6. ♘e5 ♗c6 7.
♘xc6 ♘xc6 8. O-O ♖d7 9. e3 ♗d8 10.
♗c2 e5 11. dxe5 ♘xe5



12. f4? 12. Nd2 is better.

- [12. ♘d2 c6 (12... b5 13. a4 ♗b4 Interesting with a slight edge to white.)
13. ♘xc4 ♘xc4 14. ♗xc4 ♗e7 15. b3 ♗e6 16. ♗c2 O-O 17. ♗b2 ♗d6 18. ♗ad1 ♗e5 19. ♗a3 ♗d6 20. ♗c1 ♗fe8 21. ♗d3 ♗c7 22. ♗fd1 h5 23. ♗xd8 ♗xd8 24. ♗xd8 ♗xd8 25. ♗b2 h4 26. ♗d3 ♗c7 27. ♗d4 hxg3 28. hxg3 ♗b6 29. ♗e5 ♗d7 30. ♗f3 ♗d8 31. ♗b8 a6 32. ♗xf6 gxf6 33. ♗f4 ♗e7 34. ♗e4 ♗e6 35. ♗f5 ♗e5 36. ♗g4 ♗f8 37. ♗h7 ♗c5 38. ♗c8 ♗g7 39. ♗g8 ♗h6 40. ♗c2 ♗h5 41. ♗h8 ♗g5

42. ♗g7 1-0, Gelfand Boris (ISR) 2676 - Kryakvin Dmitry (RUS) 2594 , Internet 8/22/2020 It "PNWCC Online Blitz";
12. b3 ♗e7 13. ♘d2 ♗d3 14. ♗xd3 ♘xd3 15. ♘xc4 b6 16. ♗c6 ♗f8 17. ♗d2 ♗b4 18. ♗xb4 ♘xb4 19. ♘e5 g6
20. a3 ♘xc6 21. ♘xc6 ♗d3 22. b4 ♗g7 23. ♗fd1 ♗xd1 24. ♗xd1 a6 25. f3 ♗e8 26. e4 ♗e6 27. ♘b8 a5 28. b5 ♘e8 29. ♗d8 ♘d6 30. a4 ♘b7 31. ♗c8 ♘c5 32. ♘a6 ♘xa4 33. ♘xc7 ♗e5 34. ♘d5 f5 35. ♗c7 ♗f8 36. ♗c4 fxe4 37. fxe4 ♘b2 38. ♗c8 ♗f7 39. ♗c7 ♗e6 40. ♗c6 ♗f7 41. ♗f6 ♗g7 42. ♗xb6 ♗xe4 43. ♗b7 ♗h6 44. b6 ♗e1 45. ♗g2 ♘d3 46. ♗a7 ♗b1 47. ♗xa5 ♗b2 48. ♗f1 ♘e5 49. ♘e3 ♘c6 50. ♘g4 ♗g7 51. ♗a6 h5 ...1/2-1/2, Rodshtein Maxim (ISR) 2699 - Hovhannisyan Robert (ARM) 2595 , Tbilisi 9/ 4/2017 Cup World FIDE]
12... ♘d3 13. ♗xc4 ♗c5 14. ♘c3 ♗e7 15. ♗h1

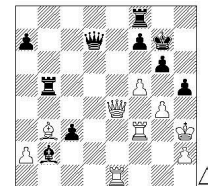


15... O-O?! Castling here is reasonable but 15... c6 is slightly stronger.

- [15... c6!? 16. ♗e4 ♘xe4 17. ♗xe4 ♗b6 Black has a significant edge.]

16. ♗xb7 ♗xe3 17. ♘d5 ♘xd5 18. ♗xd3 ♗xc1 19. ♗xd5 ♗xb2 20. ♗ad1 ♗d6 21. ♗fe1 ♗d7 22. ♗f3 ♗f6?! Slightly inaccurate.

[22... g6!? 23. ♗g2 With black's bishop having more maneuverability.]

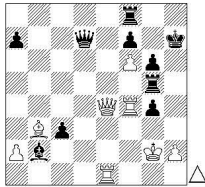


38. ♖g2? A costly mistake.

[38. gxh5 gxf5 39. ♖g1 ♕h7 40. ♖xf5 ♜xf5 41. ♞xf5 ♖xf5 42. ♔c2 ♕h6 43. ♔xf5 ♕xh5 44. ♔c2 ♖e8 45. ♖g7 f5 46. ♕g3 ♖e2 47. ♔xf5 c2 48. ♔xc2 ♖xc2 49. ♖xa7 Was a tricky path to a draw.]

38... hxg4 39. f6 ♕h7 40. ♖f4 ♖g5??
Black misses the game winning 40... Rf5.

[40... ♖f5 41. ♖xg4 ♖xf6 42. ♖d1 ♞b5 43. ♞c4 ♞xc4 44. ♖xc4 ♖e8 45. ♖d7 ♖e2 46. ♕g3 ♕h6 47. ♖xa7 ♖f1 48. ♖h4 ♕g7 Is easily winning for black.]

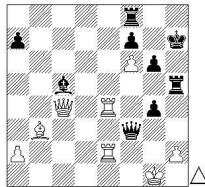


41. ♖e2?? A mistake which loses the game.

[41. ♞e7 ♞c6 42. ♕g3 ♖h5 43. ♞xf8 ♖h3 44. ♕f2 ♖xh2 45. ♕e3 ♖h3 46.

♕f2 Was the proper path to a draw.]

41... ♔a3 42. ♞e3 ♔d6 43. ♖e4 ♖h5 44. ♞xc3 ♞f5 45. ♞c4 ♞f3 46. ♕g1 ♔c5 White resigns as...



[...]

[47. ♞xc5 ♖xc5 48. ♖e1 g3 49. ♖h4 ♕g8 50. ♔xf7 ♕xf7 51. ♖e7 ♕xf6 52. ♖f4 ♞xf4 53. hxg3 ♞xg3 54. ♕f1 ♕xe7 55. ♕e2 ♖f2 56. ♕e1 ♞g1#]

[0:1]

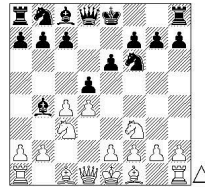
QUEEN'S gam. RAGOZIN SYSTEM

Jan-Krzysztof D. - Anish G.

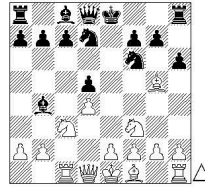
f.o. 11/16/2022.

1. d4 ♖f6 2. c4 e6 3. ♖f3 d5 4. ♖c3 ♔b4

The famous Queen's Gambit Declined, Ragozin Variation.



5. cxd5 exd5 6. ♔g5 A useful pin made possible by the fact that black's bishop is on b4 instead of e7. 6... ♖bd7 7. ♖c1 h6 Giri puts the question to white's annoying bishop.



8. ♔h4 Duda chooses to keep the pin. 8. Bxf6 and Bf4 were also possible.

[8. ♔xf6 ♞xf6 9. e3 c6 10. ♔d3 ♖b6 11. O-O ♔g4 12. h3 ♔xf3 13. ♞xf3 ♞xf3 14. gxf3 O-O-O 15. ♕g2 ♕b8 16. f4 ♔e7 17. ♖e2 ♖c8 18. f5 g6 19. fxg6 fxg6 20. ♖f4 ♖hg8 21. ♖xg6 ♖d6 22. ♕f3 ♖xg6 23. ♔xg6 ♖xg6 24. ♖g1



Chris Torres with GM Anish Giri

♖f6 25. ♗e2 ♘d6 26. ♖g8 ♗c7 27.
 ♖cg1 ♗f5 28. ♖1g4 ♗d6 29. ♖h8 ♖f7
 30. ♖gg8 a5 31. a4 ♗b6 32. ♖d8 c5
 33. ♖xh6 ♗c7 34. ♖hh8 cxd4 35. ♖c8
 ♗b6 36. h4 dxe3 37. fxe3 ♗e5 38.
 ♖he8 ♗g3 39. h5 ♘d6 40. ♖e6 ♖f2
 41. ♗d1 ♖h2 42. ♖g8 ♖h3 43. h6
 ♗c5 44. ♗e2 ♗h2 45. ♗f1 ♗b4 46.
 ♗g2 ♖h5 47. ♖g7 b6 ...1-0, Berkes
 Ferenc (HUN) 2647 - Eljanov Pavel
 (UKR) 2716 , Germany 2/28/2009
 Bundesliga 2008/09;

8. ♗f4 c6 9. a3 ♗xc3 10. bxc3 O-O 11.
 e3 ♖e7 12. a4 ♘h5 13. ♗e5 ♘xe5 14.
 ♘xe5 ♘f6 15. ♗d3 ♘d7 16. ♘f3 ♘f6
 17. ♖c2 c5 18. ♖b2 ♘e4 19. O-O ♗f5
 20. dxc5 ♗d7 21. ♗xe4 dxe4 22. ♘d4
 ♗xa4 23. ♖a1 ♗c6 24. ♖a5 ♖ac8 25.
 ♖xa7 ♖xc5 26. ♖fa1 ♖fd8 27. ♖7a5
 ♖e7 28. h3 ♖d5 29. ♖xd5 ♗d5 30.
 ♖a5 ♗c4 31. ♘f5 ♖c7 32. ♖a3 ♖d8
 33. ♖a8 ♗h7 34. ♖xd8 ♖xd8 35. ♘d6
 ♗e6 36. ♖b4 b6 37. ♖xe4 ♗g8 38.
 ♖d4 ♖g5 39. h4 ♖e7 40. ♗h2 ♖c7
 41. f4 ♖e7 42. ♗g3 ♖d8 43. e4 ♖b8
 44. f5 ♗b3 45. e5 ♖c7 46. ♗h2 ♖c6
 47. f6 ♗e6 ...1-0, Short Nigel D (ENG)
 2698 - Kosintseva Nadezhda (RUS)
 2546 , Caleta 1/29/2011 It (open)
 "Tradewise Gibraltar Masters"]

8... g5 Breaks the pin but also weakens
 black's kingside. **9. ♗g3 ♘e4** Giri knight
 adds pressure to the pin on c3 as well as
 threatens to eliminate white's bishop pair
 with Nxg3. **10. ♖b3** Handles black's
 threats on c3 nicely. **10... ♗xc3 11. bxc3**
♘b6 The knight on b6 supports d5 and is
 eyeing c4.

[11... c6 12. ♘e5 (12. e3 h5 13. ♘d2
 ♘xd2 14. ♗xd2 h4 15. ♗d6 ♖f6 16.
 ♗a3 ♖xf2 17. ♗e2 ♘f6 18. ♖cf1 ♘e4
 19. ♗d3 ♖xg2 20. ♖b4 c5 21. dxc5
 ♗g4 22. ♖b5 ♗d8 23. ♖e1 ♗xe2 24.
 ♖xe2 ♖xe2 0-1, Ipatov Alexander
 (TUR) 2644 - Sjugirov Sanan (RUS)
 2675 , Internet 9/27/2020 Tournament
 "US Collegiate Blitz") 12... h5 13. ♘xd7
 ♖xd7 14. f3 ♘xg3 15. hxg3 ♖d6 16.
 ♗f2 h4 17. gxh4 gxh4 18. e3 ♖g3 19.
 ♗e2 b6 20. ♖a4 ♖h6 21. ♗d2 b5 22.
 ♗xb5 cxb5 23. ♖xb5 ♗f8 24. ♖hg1
 ♖b8 25. ♖xd5 ♖b2 26. ♗d3 ♗a6 27.
 c4 ♖e6 28. ♖c5 ♗g7 29. d5 ♖eb6 30.
 ♖d4 ♗f8 31. ♖g4 ♖f2 32. ♗d4 ♖d2
 33. ♗e4 ♖b4 34. ♖g5 ♖b8 35. ♖h6

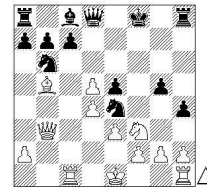
♗e7 36. ♖xa6 ♖xa2 37. ♖c6 ♖b3 38.
 d6 ♗f8 39. ♖c5 ♖xe3 40. ♖xe3 ♖e2
 41. ♖xe2 ♖xe2 42. ♗d4 ♖b2 43. ♗d5
 ♖b7 44. ♗e5 ♖d7 45. c5 ♖e6 46.
 ♗d4 ♖f6 47. ♗c4 ♖e6 48. ♗b4 ♖d5
 49. ♖gd1 ♖b7 50. ♗c4 ♗e8 51. ♖e1
 ...1-0, Pivonka Michael (CZE) 1612 -
 Kalvach Ladislav (CZE) 1924 , Ricany
 8/27/2014 It (open)]

12. e3 h5 Giri is threatening to trap White's
 bishop by playing h4 next and then, after
 white plays Be5, pawn to f6! **13. c4** Duda
 is unfazed and strikes back at the center
 threatening to open lines of attack against
 his opponent's dangerously placed king.

13... h4 Threatening the bishop which,
 again, will get trapped on e5 after pawn
 f7-f6. **14. ♗e5** Duda plays Be5 anyways.

14... f6 15. cxd5 fxe5 16. ♗b5 ♗f8?! Giri
 steps out of check to keep his light bishop
 on the board to support further pawn
 advances on the kingside. 16... Bd7 was
 definitely playable and perhaps even
 preferable.

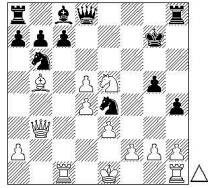
[16... ♗d7!? 17. ♘xe5 ♘d6 18. ♗xd7
 ♘xd7 19. e4 h3 20. gxh3 ♘f6 21. O-O
 ♘fxe4 22. ♖c2 g4 23. hxg4 ♖g5 24.
 ♖fe1 O-O 25. f3 ♘d2 26. h4 ♖f4 27.
 ♖g6 ♗h8 28. ♖h5 ♗g8 29. ♖g6 Is a
 draw by repetition.]



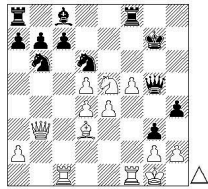
17. ♘xe5 Duda is down in material but has
 nice advantages in king safety, central
 space, and force. **17... ♗g7?** Giri plays
 inaccurately by trying to hard to hang onto
 his material advantage. Better is playing
 an immediate Qxd5 allowing white to trade
 his dangerous knight for black's rook on
 h8.

[17... ♖xd5 18. ♘g6 ♗g7 19. ♘xh8
 ♗xh8 20. ♖xc7 ♗e6 21. ♖xd5 ♘xd5 Is
 a key continuation which needs close

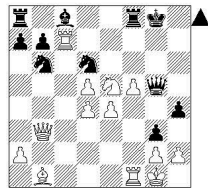
inspection.]



18. ♙d3 ♜d6 19. O-O White has given black a laundry list of problems for the cost of a little material. 19... g4 Giri continues on with pawn to g4 which, as you recall, is why he did not block check with his light bishop back on move 16. 20. f4 Threatening f5. 20... ♜f8 This stops white's pawn from advancing to f5. En Passant was not playable as it would allow white's rooks access down the f-file to attack black's king 21. e4 To support pawn to f5. 21... g3 Giri does not have enough force with access to the quadrant containing white's king for this kind of flank attack to work. 22. f5 ♞g5 The best attacking move that Giri could play but his attack just isn't strong enough.

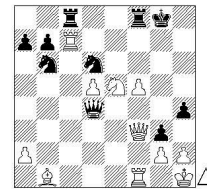


23. ♜xc7 ♝g8 24. ♙b1 An incredible move which gives Duda's Queen access to f3.

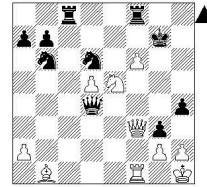


24... ♞d2 25. ♞f3 ♙xf5 Giri gives his extra piece back to allow the rook on a8 to finally enter the game. 26. exf5 ♞xd4 27. ♝h1 ♜ac8 Giri gets his rook into play but it leads to a mate in 11! Still better than 27... Qxe5 which would have black checkmated on move 30.

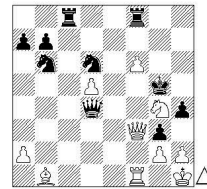
[27... ♞xe5 28. ♞g4 ♝h8 29. ♞h5 ♝g8 30. ♞h7\#]



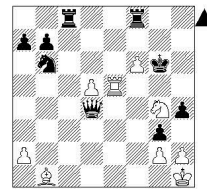
28. ♜g7 Hats off to Duda for spotting this in the heat of battle. 28... ♝xg7 29. f6



29... ♝h6 30. ♜g4 ♝g5



31. ♞f5 Amazing mastery on display here. 31... ♜xf5 32. ♜xf5 ♝g6 33. ♙e5 Giri resigns which sadly deprives Duda of the opportunity to finish one of the greatest mating combinations ever.



[...]

[33... ♜c2 34. ♙xc2 ♞e4 35. ♙xe4 ♝f7 36. ♙e7 ♝g8 37. ♜h6 ♝h8 38. ♜h7\#]

[1:0]

Day 4 of the Meltwater Champions Chess Tour Finals Magnus Carlsen distanced himself from the field. After defeating Anish Giri 3-0 Carlsen sported an impressive perfect 12 out of a possible 12 score. Jan-Krzysztof Duda was unable to keep up, losing his first tour finals match to Le Quang Liem. In the other matches, Arjun Erigaisi won for the first time over Shakhriyar Mamedyarov and Wesley So came out victorious over Pragg.

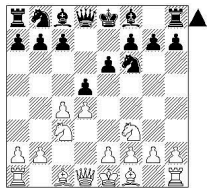
Standings After Day 4

#	Name	Rtg	Score
1	Magnus Carlsen	2848	12
2	Jan-Krzysztof Duda	2798	9
3	Le Quang Liem	2775	7
4	Wesley So	2774	6
5-6	Anish Giri	2732	4
5-6	Praggnanandhaa R.	2750	4
7-8	Shakhriyar Mamedyarov	2756	3
7-8	Arjun Erigaisi	2733	3

QUEEN'S gam. var. WITH
5.f4

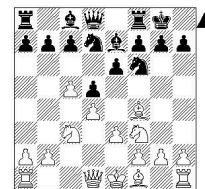
R. P. - Wesley S.
0:1, 11/17/2022.

1. d4 ♘f6 2. c4 e6 3. ♘f3 d5 4. ♘c3 Fans of a certain Netflix series were probably happy to see this game transpose into the Queen's Gambit Declined.



4... ♗e7 5. ♗f4 This is the QGD: Harrwitz Attack. 5... O-O 6. e3 ♘bd7 7. c5 And we have reached the Queen's Gambit Declined: Harrwitz Attack, Two Knights Blockade Line. The less committal 7. Qc2 is another option.

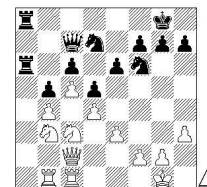
[7. ♞c2 c5 8. cxd5 ♘xd5 9. ♘xd5 exd5 10. ♗d3 ♞a5 11. ♞c3 ♞b6 12. a3 cxd4 13. ♞xd4 ♘c5 14. ♗c2 ♞b5 15. ♗e5 f6 16. ♗g3 ♞c4 17. ♞c1 ♞xd4 18. ♘xd4 a5 19. ♘b5 ♞d8 20. ♘c7 ♞a7 21. ♞d1 ♗f7 22. ♘xd5 b5 23. O-O ♗f8 24. ♗xh7 g5 25. h4 ♗e6 26. e4 gxh4 27. ♗xh4 ♗xd5 28. ♞xd5 ♞xd5 29. exd5 ♘a4 30. ♞c1 ♞d7 31. ♞c6 ♞xd5 32. ♞xf6 ♗g7 33. ♗c2 ♘xb2 34. ♞g6 ♗f7 35. ♞f6 ♗g7 36. ♞b6 ♗c5 37. ♞b7 ♗f8 38. ♗g6 ♗d4 39. ♗e7 ♗g8 40. ♗f6 1-0, Svidler Peter (RUS) 2760 - Adams Michael (ENG) 2727 , Geneva 7/ 9/2017 It "FIDE Grand Prix"]



7... c6 The players in this game must have been aware of the 7... Nh5 line as seen in Anand-Nakamura.

[7... ♘h5 8. ♗e5 c6 9. g4 ♘hf6 10. ♞g1 ♘xe5 11. ♘xe5 ♘d7 12. ♘xd7 ♗xd7 13. f4 b6 14. b4 a5 15. a3 axb4 16. axb4 ♞b8 17. g5 bxc5 18. bxc5 ♞b4 19. ♞c1 ♞a3 20. ♞d2 ♗d8 21. ♘d1 ♞xd2 22. ♗xd2 ♗a5 23. ♗e2 ♞b8 24. ♗f3 e5 25. fxе5 ♗f5 26. ♞g2 ♗e4 27. ♗f4 ♗xg2 28. ♗xg2 ♞a2 29. ♗f3 ♗d2 0-1, Anand Viswanathan (IND) 2803 - Nakamura Hikaru (USA) 2816 , Zuerich 2/19/2015 It (cat.22) (tie-break)]

8. h3 b6 9. b4 a5 10. a3 ♗a6 11. ♗xa6 ♞xa6 12. O-O ♞a8 13. ♞b1 axb4 14. axb4 ♞b7 15. ♞c2 ♞fa8 16. ♞fc1 b5 17. ♘d2 ♗d8 18. ♘b3 ♗c7 19. ♗xc7 ♞xc7 White has more space while blacks rooks control the a-file for now.



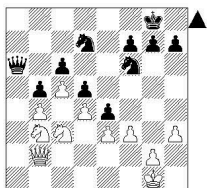
20. ♖a1 Pragg opts to challenge black in the a-file rather than start advancing on the kingside.

[20. f4 h6 21. ♖f1 ♖8a7 22. ♘a5 ♖a8 23. g4 ♘e4 24. ♘d1 ♖xa5 25. bxa5 ♗xa5 26. ♘b2 ♘df6 27. ♔g2 ♗a2 28. ♖fc1 ♖a3 29. ♖a1 ♗xa1 30. ♖xa1 ♖xa1 31. ♘d3 ♖a3 32. ♘b4 ♖xe3 33. ♗a2 ♘c3 34. ♗a8 ♔h7 35. ♘xc6 ♘fe4 36. ♘e7 ♖e2 37. ♔g1 ♖e1 38. ♔g2 ♖e2 1/2-1/2, Peng Zhaoqin (NED) 2402 - Mkrtchian Lilit (ARM) 2429 , Chisinau 6/23/2005 Ch Europe (w)]

20... e5 And Wesley responds by challenging white's advantage in space.

21. ♗b2 e4 22. ♖xa6 ♖xa6 23. ♖a1 ♗a7 24. ♖xa6 ♗xa6 25. f3 Pragg injects some life into the position. Trading queens in the a-file would undoubtedly result in a draw.

[25. ♗a1 ♗xa1 26. ♘xa1]

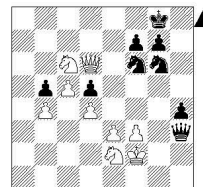


25... h5?! Wesley trades accuracy for complexity. The natural 25... exf3 was the more precise option.

[25... exf3!? 26. gxf3 ♗c8 27. ♗g2 ♘b8 28. ♘c1 ♗f5 29. e4 ♗d7 30. e5 ♘h5 31. ♘3e2 g6 32. ♗g4 ♗e8 33. f4 ♘g7 34. ♘g3 h5 35. ♗g5 With black maintaining a slight edge.]

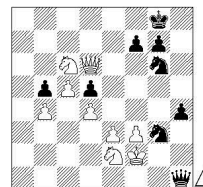
26. ♘a5 Knights on the rim are usually grim but not here. White's knight blocks the black queen while threatening black's weak pawn on c6. 26... exf3 27. gxf3 ♗c8 28. ♗h2 ♘f8 29. ♔f2 ♘g6 30. ♘d6 ♗xh3 31. ♘xc6 h4 32. ♘e2?? A mistake which costs the game. 32. Nxd5 should result in a draw.

[32. ♘xd5 ♘xd5 33. ♗d8 ♔h7 34. ♗xd5 f5 35. f4 ♗g3 36. ♔e2 h3 37. ♗f3 ♗h4 38. ♔f1 h2 39. ♗h1 ♗g3 40. ♘e5 ♘xe5 41. dxe5 g5 42. fxe5 f4 43. exf4 ♔g6 44. e6 ♗xf4 45. ♔g2 ♗xg5 46. ♔xh2 ♗h4 47. ♔g1 ♗e1 48. ♔h2 ♗h4 Draw by repetition.]



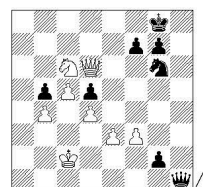
32... ♘h5! Wesley spots the punishment.

33. ♘g1 ♗h1 34. ♘e2 ♘g3 Forcing white to play Nxg3 to allow Qh2+.



35. ♘xg3 ♗h2 36. ♔e1 hxg3 Wesley So final combination is beautifully played out.

37. ♔d1 ♗h1 38. ♔c2 g2 In a now hopeless situation, Pragg resigns.



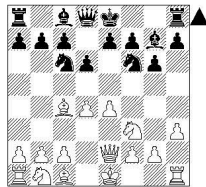
[0:1]



Pragg took a break from his chess games to hang out with Chris Torres and James Eade at Shack15 in San Francisco.

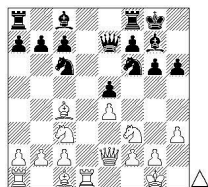
1. e4 g6 2. d4 $\text{g}7$ 3. $\text{f}3$ d6 4. $\text{c}4$ $\text{f}6$
5. $\text{e}2$ $\text{c}6$ 6. h3 White takes control of
g4. An alternative plan is supporting the d4
pawn with c3.

[6. c3 $\text{g}4$ 7. $\text{bd}2$ O-O 8. h3 $\text{c}8$ 9.
O-O $\text{h}5$ 10. $\text{d}1$ $\text{f}4$ 11. $\text{e}1$ e5 12.
dxe5 dxe5 13. $\text{f}1$ $\text{f}6$ 14. $\text{h}2$ h5
15. b4 a6 16. a4 g5 17. $\text{xf}4$ exf4 18.
 $\text{d}5$ g4 19. e5 $\text{e}7$ 20. $\text{e}4$ gxf3 21.
 $\text{xf}3$ $\text{e}6$ 22. $\text{d}3$ $\text{fd}8$ 23. $\text{c}5$ a5
24. $\text{b}5$ axb4 25. cxb4 $\text{d}7$ 26. $\text{xf}4$
 $\text{e}7$ 27. $\text{ac}1$ $\text{h}7$ 28. $\text{e}4$ $\text{g}8$ 29.
 $\text{f}4$ $\text{h}7$ 30. $\text{e}4$ $\text{g}8$ 31. a5 $\text{ab}8$
32. a6 $\text{xb}4$ 33. $\text{xc}7$ $\text{f}8$ 34. $\text{g}5$ f5
35. exf6 $\text{xf}6$ 36. $\text{h}7$ $\text{f}8$ 37. $\text{xe}6$
1-0, Kovalenko Igor (LAT) 2684 -
Shoker Samy (EGY) 2492 , Alma-Ata
6/18/2016 It "Eurasian Blitz Chess
Cup"]



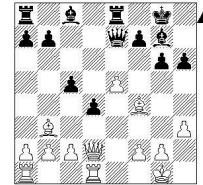
6... e5 7. dxe5 dxe5 8. O-O O-O 9. $\text{d}1$
 $\text{e}7$ 10. $\text{c}3$ h6 White had been scoring
well against this move recently. Another
choice for black worth looking into is 10...
Na5.

[10... $\text{a}5$ 11. $\text{d}3$ h6 12. b3 b6 13. a4
 $\text{b}7$ 14. $\text{b}5$ $\text{d}6$ 15. $\text{c}6$ $\text{b}8$ 16.
 $\text{a}3$ $\text{d}8$ 17. $\text{d}2$ a6 18. $\text{ad}1$ $\text{h}7$
19. $\text{d}3$ $\text{e}6$ 20. $\text{d}2$ $\text{f}8$ 21. $\text{xe}5$
b5 22. axb5 axb5 23. $\text{xb}5$ $\text{xb}5$ 24.
 $\text{xb}5$ $\text{fxe}4$ 25. $\text{f}4$ $\text{f}5$ 26. $\text{c}6$
 $\text{d}7$ 27. $\text{xd}8$ $\text{xb}5$ 28. $\text{xf}7$ $\text{g}7$ 29.
 $\text{xd}6$ cxd6 30. $\text{xd}6$ $\text{c}3$ 31. $\text{xc}3$
 $\text{xc}3$ 32. $\text{c}4$ $\text{xc}4$ 33. bxc4 $\text{g}7$ 34.
c5 $\text{e}4$ 35. f3 $\text{xc}2$ 36. c6 $\text{f}5$ 37. c7
 $\text{f}7$ 38. $\text{g}3$ 1-0, Kobalia Mikhail
(RUS) 2415 - Khropov Boris (RUS)
2288 , St. Petersburg 1994 Memorial
M.Chigorin]



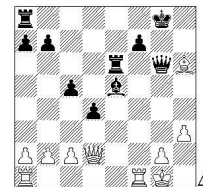
11. $\text{d}5$ $\text{xd}5$ 12. $\text{xd}5$ $\text{d}4$ 13. $\text{xd}4$
exd4 14. $\text{f}4$ $\text{e}8$ 15. e5 c6 16. $\text{b}3$ c5
17. $\text{d}2$?! Erigaisi targets h6 but it is an
inaccuracy. A better plan for white would
be striking at black's center with 17. c3.

[17. c3!? dxc3 18. bxc3 $\text{e}6$ 19. $\text{a}4$
 $\text{ed}8$ 20. $\text{b}3$ with equal chances for
both sides.]



17... g5 18. $\text{g}3$ $\text{e}6$ 19. $\text{xe}6$ $\text{xe}6$
20. f4 gxf4 21. $\text{xf}4$ $\text{g}6$ 22. $\text{f}1$ $\text{xe}5$
23. $\text{xh}6$ h6 falls but black gets more than
enough compensation with his control of
the center. 23... $\text{e}6$ Black can create a
dangerous passed pawn with either 23...
c4 or 23... d3. However, it would be quite
difficult/impossible to convert this passer
into a win.

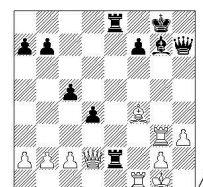
[23... c4 24. $\text{ae}1$ $\text{g}3$ 25. $\text{xe}8$
 $\text{xe}8$ 26. $\text{f}4$ d3 27. cxd3 cxd3 28.
 $\text{xg}3$ $\text{xg}3$ Is a draw for titles players.;
23... d3 24. cxd3 $\text{ad}8$ 25. $\text{ad}1$ c4
26. $\text{g}5$ $\text{h}7$ 27. $\text{xg}6$ $\text{xg}6$ 28. $\text{f}4$
cxd3 29. $\text{xe}5$ $\text{xe}5$ Will be drawn.]



24. $\text{f}4$ $\text{ae}8$ 25. $\text{f}3$ $\text{g}7$ 26. $\text{g}3$
 $\text{h}7$ 27. $\text{f}1$ $\text{e}2$? At first and even
second glance this looks very strong but

Mamedyarov has fallen into a trap. A
better move would have been Rg6.

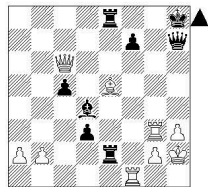
[27... $\text{g}6$ 28. $\text{g}5$ f6 Is roughly
equal.]



28. ♖a5! Erigaisi jumps on his opponent's mistake. 28... ♜xc2? This makes matters worse. Retreating the rook back to e6 was black's best hope.

[28... ♜2e6 29. ♖xc5 ♖e4 30. ♔d2 ♜g6 31. ♜e1 ♖c6 White needs to be accurate here. 32. ♖xc6 ♜xe1 33. ♔f2 ♜xc6 34. ♔xe1 And with accurate play white maintains the advantage.]

29. ♖xa7 ♔h8 30. ♖xb7 d3 The black pawn on d3 is getting dangerously close to its goal. 31. ♔h2 ♔d4 32. ♖c6 ♜ce2 33. ♔e5 The first move of a mate in 3. Mamedyarov recognises this and resigns.



[...]

[33... ♖g7 34. ♖h6 ♔g8 35. ♖xg7#]

[1:0]

Day 5: GM Magnus Carlsen won his fifth match in a row at the Meltwater Champions Chess Tour Finals. However, his hopes for a perfect score were shattered when defeating GM Le Quang Liem required a blitz playoff and an Armageddon tiebreak game. GM Le Quang Liem thus took one match point away from Carlsen, who still maintained a commanding lead over the rest of the field.

In fact, Magnus Carlsen's lead over Duda grew by another point as the Polish GM lost an exciting match against Pragg who only clinched victory by holding a draw as black in the Armageddon tiebreak game. Wesley So jumped to third in the standings by beating Shakhriyar Mamedyarov while Arjun Erigaisi defeated Anish Giri.

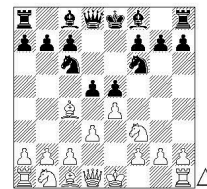
Standings After Day 5

#	Name	Rtg	Score
1	Magnus Carlsen	2848	14
2	Jan-Krzysztof Duda	2798	10
3	Wesley So	2774	9
4	Le Quang Liem	2775	8
5-6.	Praggnanandhaa R.	2750	6
5-6.	Arjun Erigaisi	2733	6
7	Anish Giri	2732	4
8	Shakhriyar Mamedyarov	2756	3

BISHOP'S OPENING Wesley S. - Shakhriyar M. 1:0, 11/18/2022.

1. e4 e5 2. ♘f3 ♘c6 3. ♔c4 ♘f6 4. d3 d5!? An uncommon idea that this scholastic chess coach has looked at in class. The main line continues 4... Bc5.

[4... ♔c5 5. c3 O-O 6. ♘bd2 d5 7. ♔b5 dxe4 8. dxe4 a5 9. O-O ♖e7 10. h3 ♜d8 11. ♖c2 ♘b8 12. ♜d1 ♘bd7 13. ♔f1 b6 14. ♘c4 ♔b7 15. ♜e1 a4 16. ♔g5 h6 17. ♔h4 b5 18. ♘cd2 g5 19. ♔g3 ♘h5 20. ♔h2 ♔c6 21. b4 axb3 22. axb3 g4 23. ♘h4 ♜xa1 24. ♜xa1 ♖g5 25. ♘f5 ♘xg3 26. fxg3 ♘f6 27. ♜d1 gxh3 28. ♘f3 ♘g4 29. ♔h1 ♜xd1 30. ♖xd1 ♘f2 31. ♔h2 ♘xd1 32. ♘g5 hxg5 33. b4 hxg2 34. ♔xg2 ♔f8 0-1, Maghsoodloo Parham (IRI) 2676 - Carlsen Magnus (NOR) 2862 , Internet 11/ 2/2020 It "chess.com Speed"]



5. exd5 ♘xd5 6. O-O ♘b6 6... Be7 and 6... Bg4 have also been tried.

[6... ♔e7 7. ♜e1 ♔g4 8. h3 ♔xf3 9. ♖xf3 ♘f6 10. ♔b5 ♖d6 11. ♘d2 O-O 12. ♔xc6 ♖xc6 13. ♖xc6 bxc6 14. ♜xe5 ♔d6 15. ♜e1 ♜fe8 16. ♜xe8 ♜xe8 17. ♔f1 ♘d5 18. a3 ♔e5 19. ♘c4 ♔f6 20. c3 ♜b8 21. ♔d2 h6 22. d4 ♔e7 23. b4 ♔d6 24. ♘a5 ♜e8 25. ♘xc6 a6 26. c4 ♘f6 27. ♜e1 ♜e4 28. ♜xe4 ♘xe4 29. ♔e2 ♘xd2 30. ♔xd2 ♔f4 31. ♔d3 ♔c1 32. a4 ♔a3 33. a5 ♔f8 34. b5 axb5 35. a6 bxc4 36. ♔xc4

1-0, Kramnik Vladimir (RUS) 2809 - Heshammarei, Internet 2001 Simultan; 6... g4 7. h3 h5 8. Ee1 e7 9. b2 O-O 10. e4 b6 11. b3 d4 12. g4 xf3 13. xf3 g6 14. g3 d6 15. xb7 e4 16. xe4 h4 17. xd6 hx3 18. g2 xg2 19. xg2 cxd6 20. f4 fd8 21. Ee7 a5 22. a4 c8 23. Ee7 d5 24. Ee1 Ea6 25. xd5 Eb6 26. Eb7 Exb7 1-0, Matlakov Maxim (RUS) 2700 - Smirnov Mikhail (RUS) 2176 , St. Petersburg 12/22/2013 Tournament (blitz) (prelim)]

7. b5 d6 8. xe5 White had a number of other good options here:

[8. Ee1 f6 9. d4 O-O 10. xc6 bxc6 11. dxe5 fxe5 12. h3 ff6 13. bd2 d5 14. e4 gg6 15. h4 ff7 16. e3 h6 17. c4 xe3 18. Ee3 xc4 19. h5 ff7 20. xf7 Exf7 21. Ee1 e6 22. xd6 Ee7 23. Ee5 xa2 24. hf5 Ead8 25. e7 gh7 26. xc6 Exd6 27. Exd6 Exd6 28. xa7 Ee1 29. gh2 Ee2 30. b5 Exb2 31. xc7 Exf2 32. d5 Ee2 33. f4 eb1 34. Ee7 ef5 35. h5 g6 36. xg7 ed7 37. e8 cf5 38. c7 ec6 39. Eg7 cf6 40. Eg3 Ea2 41. Eg8 Ea7 42. e8 ce5 43. g7 Ea2 44. h5 ef3 45. Eg3 exh5 46. Eb3 cf6 47. Eb5 ef7 ...0-1, Vlassov Nikolai (RUS) 2352 - Jumabayev Rinat (KAZ) 2654 , Internet 9/29/2020 It "Titled Tuesday";

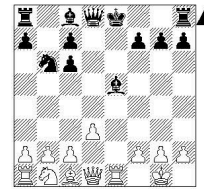
8. c3 O-O 9. xc6 bxc6 10. Ee1 g4 11. h3 h5 12. e4 d7 13. b3 f5 14. g3 g6 15. b2 Ee8 16. d2 ff4 17. f3 ff6 18. d2 ff8 19. h4 eb4 20. xg6 hxg6 21. c3 ed6 22. b2 Ead8 23. c3 c5 24. c4 ff7 25. xf7 cf7 26. f1 b6 27. d2 e4 28. dxe4 eh2 29. gh2 Exd2 30. exf5 Ee1 31. fxg6 cxg6 32. Ee1 Exc2 33. c1 Exf2 34. Ee6 Ee6 35. Ee5 Ee6 36. Eg5 cf7 37. e3 c4 38. bxc4 dxc4 39. xa7 b6 40. Eb5 Ee2 41. xb6 1/2-1/2, Drozdowski Konrad (POL) 2132 - Slonimskij Arkadij (RUS) 2138 , Pardubice 7/29/2017 It "Czech Open" (b);

8. d4 d7 9. Ee1 O-O 10. c3 xd4 11. xd4 exd4 12. fxd4 d5 13. e3 ef5 14. Eac1 g6 15. Eed1 c8 16. d5 e6 17. e4 gh2 18. gh2 c6 19. d6 c7 20. Ee5 cxb5 21. Eg3 c6 22. c4 bxc4 23. Exc4 Ea6 24. Ee1 Ead8 25. e4 Ea2 26. f4 Exb2 27. Ee1 c2 Ee5 28. Ee1 Ee3 29.

ff2 h5 30. g1 b5 0-1, Fernandez Ignacio (ARG) 2265 - Benedetti Julio (ARG) 2335 , Mar del Plata 4/11/2017 It (open);

8. xc6 bxc6 9. Ee1 O-O 10. xe5 ff6 11. f3 g4 12. bd2 Ee8 13. e4 gg6 14. d2 d7 15. xd6 cxd6 16. Ee3 f5 17. ff1 f4 18. Ee8 Ee8 19. Ee1 Ee1 20. xe1 f3 21. d4 b6 22. d3 fxd3 23. xd3 fxg2 24. xg2 ed1 25. b4 c5 26. dxc5 dxc5 27. c6 xc2 28. xa7 c4 29. c3 d6 1/2-1/2, Karetnikova Yulia (RUS) 1982 - Sakhina Marina (RUS) 1879 , Tomsk 11/ 9/2006 Ch UralFO (juniors) (under 16) (g)]

8... xe5 9. xc6 bxc6 10. Ee1 This pin is particularly unpleasant for black.

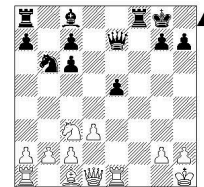


10... ff7

[10... f6 11. d4 O-O 12. dxe5 fxd1 13. Exd1 fxe5 Was another possibility.]

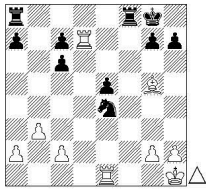
11. gh1 Wesley avoids allowing black to unpin the dark bishop with a check. 11... O-O 12. f4 f6 13. fxe5 fxe5 14. c3 14. Be3 was another good choice.

[14. e3 ? d5 15. d2 ef5 16. c3 Ee7 17. g1 g6 18. e4 a6 19. b3 ff4 20. h3 h6 21. Ee2 f4 22. Ee3 Eaf8 23. Ee1 d8 Where strong players would prefer white because of black longterm pawn weaknesses.]

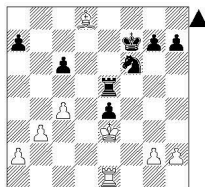


14... d5 15. e4 ef5 16. g5 Ee4 17. b3 d4 18. Ee1 xe4 19. dxe4 fxd1 20. Ecd1 c3 21. Ee7 xe4 ?! Mamedyarov makes a costly innacuracy. Much better was 21... Rf7 .

[21... Ee7 ?! 22. Exf7 cf7 23. a4 c5 24. g1 a2 25. cf1 h6 26. e3 c4 27. bxc4 c3 28. a5 e6 29. ef2 Ee8 30. a6 c5 31. h4 Where white can not make use of his extra pawn.]

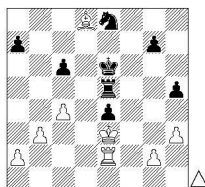


22. ♖e7 ♜f7 23. ♜xc7 ♘f6 24. ♗d6 ♜xc7 25. ♗xc7 e4 26. ♖g1 ♜e8 27. c4 ♖f7 28. ♖f2 ♜e7 29. ♗d8 ♜e5 30. ♖e3 Wesley So's wonderful technique is worthy of appreciation.



30... ♖e6 31. h3 h5 32. ♜e2 ♘e8 32... c5 also seems bad for black.

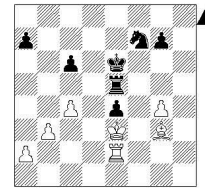
[32... c5 33. ♗xf6 ♖xf6 34. ♜f2 ♜f5 35. ♜d2 ♜g5 36. ♖f4 e3 37. ♖xe3 h4 38. ♖f2 ♜f5 39. ♖g1 g5 40. ♜d6 ♖e5 41. ♜a6 ♖f4 42. ♜xa7 Is resignable for black.]



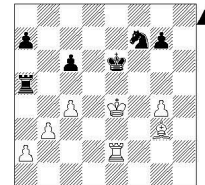
33. ♗h4 ♘d6 34. g4 hxg4 35. hxg4 ♘f7 36. ♗g3 36. Be1 was an alternate path to victory.

[36. ♗e1!? ♘h6 37. ♜g2 ♖d7 38. ♗c3 ♜e7 39. ♗d4 a5 40. ♜g3 ♖c7 41. ♖f4 ♖d6 42. ♗b6 c5 43. ♗xa5 e3 44. ♜xe3 g5 45. ♖f3 ♜xe3 46. ♖xe3 ♘xg4 47. ♖f3 ♘e5 48. ♖e4 g4 49. ♗e1 ♘f3 50. ♗f2 ♖c6 51. ♖f4 ♘d2 52. ♖xg4 ♘e4 53. ♗e1 From here an easy win for white. However, not nearly as pretty as

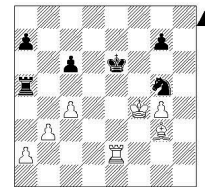
the actual game.]



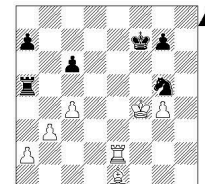
36... ♜a5 37. ♖xe4 Wesley So orchestrates a beautiful finale.



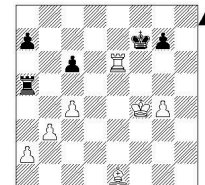
37... ♘g5 38. ♖f4



38... ♖f7 39. ♗e1



39... ♘e6 40. ♜xe6 Mamedyarov resigns after being outplayed in artistic fashion.



[1:0]

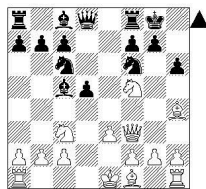
Day 6: Magnus Carlsen won his sixth straight match of the event over Pragg and, in doing so, clinched the the Meltwater Champions Chess Tour Finals a full day before the end of the event. Wesley So continued his ascent in the standings by beating Duda and claiming second place for himself. Also climbing the standings was Arjun Erigaisi who defeated Le Quang Liem to move into fourth place. Shakhriyar Mamedyarov ended his losing streak by defeating the struggling but always amicable Anish Giri.

Standings After Day 6

#	Name	Rtg	Score
1	Magnus Carlsen	2848	17
2	Wesley So	2774	12
3	Jan-Krzysztof Duda	2798	10
4	Arjun Erigaisi	2733	9
5	Le Quang Liem	2775	8
6-7	Praggnanandhaa R.	2750	6
6-7	Shakhriyar Mamedyarov	2756	6
8	Anish Giri	2732	4

1.g3, 1.b4, ...
Arjun E. - R. P.
1:0, 11/20/2022.

1. ♘c3 e5 2. ♗f3 ♘c6 3. d4 exd4 4. ♗xd4 ♗f6 5. ♙g5 ♙c5 6. e3 h6 7. ♙h4 O-O 8. ♗f5 d5 9. ♖f3



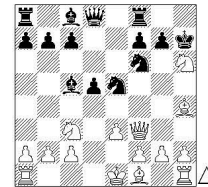
9... ♗e5? Not taking the knight on f5 is asking for trouble.

[9... ♙xf5 10. ♖xf5 ♙b4 11. ♙d3 ♖d7 12. O-O-O ♖xf5 13. ♙xf5 ♙xc3 14. bxc3 ♗e7 15. ♙d3 c6 16. f3 ♖fe8 17. g4 ♗d7 18. ♙g3 ♗g6 19. ♖he1 ♗ge5 20. ♙e2 ♗b6 21. ♖d4 ♖e7 22. ♖b4 ♖ae8 23. ♙h4 g5 24. ♙f2 ♗ec4 25. e4 ♖e6 26. h4 ♗d6 27. hxg5 hxg5 28. ♖h1 dxe4 29. ♙d4 f6 30. ♖b1 ♗d5 31. fxe4 ♖xe4 32. ♙d3 ♖e1 33. ♗b2 ♖xb1 34. ♗xb1 ♗e4 35. c4 ♗dc3 36. ♗b2 ♗a4 37. ♗a3 ♗ac5 38. ♖e1 ♖d8

1-0, Conquest Stuart (ENG) 2505 - Smejkal Jan (CZE) 2510 , Ostrava 1994 It (cat.11) "Radegast"]

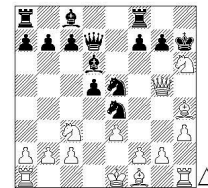
10. ♗xh6! ♗h7 The alternatives here are quite tactical and worthy of attention.

[10... gxf6? 11. ♖xf6 ♖xf6 12. ♙xf6 ♗d7 13. ♗xd5 ♗xf6 14. ♗xf6; 10... ♗h8 11. ♖g3 ♖d6 12. ♙xf6 ♖xf6 13. ♗xd5 ♖d6 14. O-O-O]



11. ♖f4 ♙d6 12. ♖g5 ♖d7 13. h3 ♗e4? 13... Ng6 was correct.

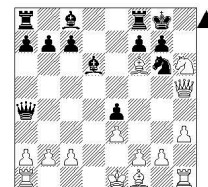
[13... ♗g6 14. ♙d3 ♗e4 15. ♙xe4 dxe4 16. ♗g4 ♙b4 17. ♙g3 ♙xc3 18. bxc3 b6 19. O-O ♖f5 20. ♖xf5 ♙xf5]



14. ♗xe4 dxe4 15. ♗g4 ♗g6 16. ♖h5 ♗g8 17. ♙f6 ♖a4?? A fatal mistake.

[17... ♖f5 18. ♖xf5 ♙xf5 19. ♙c3]

18. ♗h6 The start of a long mating sequence but Pragg resigned so it's only in the notes.



[...]

[18... ♗h7 19. ♗xf7 ♗g8 20. ♗h6 ♗h7 21. ♗f5 ♗g8 22. ♖xg6 ♙b4 23. c3 ♙xc3 24. bxc3 ♖d1 25. ♖xd1 ♖f7 26. ♖d8 ♖f8 27. ♖xg7#]

[1:0]

Day 7: Magnus Carlsen finished the Meltwater Champions Chess Tour Finals by winning his seventh straight and final match of the event over Jan-Krzysztof Duda. Wesley So lost his match against Anish Giri which came down to an exciting Armageddon tie breaking game. In a match featuring two of the brightest Indian chess stars, Praggnanandhaa R. beat Arjun Erigasi after Erigasi fell into an opening trap in their fourth game. Finally, Le Quang Liem defeated Shakhriyar Mamedyarov.

When the dust settled, Magnus Carlsen won the Meltwater Champions Chess Tour Finals and the \$50,000 "bonus" first prize in San Francisco, which added to his tour totals and meant the World Champion took home \$242,400 in total Tour earnings. If the Champions Chess Tour had been rated like traditional classical over the board chess tournaments, Carlsen's incredible 20/21 San Francisco display would have been categorized as a 2900 performance rating. However, as this hybrid format gains greater acceptance with the old guard, his achievement in San Francisco will go down in history as one of his best showings in his illustrious career.

Standings After Day 7 - Final

#	Name	Rtg	Score	Earnings
1	Magnus Carlsen	2848	20	\$50,000
2	Wesley So	2774	13	\$32,500
3	Le Quang Liem	2798	11	\$27,500
4	Jan-Krzysztof Duda	2775	10	\$25,000
5-6.	Arjun Erigaisi	2733	9	\$22,500
5-6.	Praggnanandhaa R.	2750	9	\$22,500
7-8.	Shakhriyar Mamedyarov	2756	6	\$15,000
7-8.	Anish Giri	2732	6	\$15,000



I enjoyed visiting with GM Wesley So and discussing a little California chess history.



Coach Tortoise was live in San Francisco for the chess event of the year.



FM James Eade talking with IM Tania Sachdev at the Meltwater Champions Chess Tour Finals in San Francisco.



Everyone was all smiles at the 2022 Meltwater Champions Chess Tour Finals in San Francisco, California.

MSJE WINS BIG IN THE STATES!

BY FM KEVIN PAN

The CalChess Grade Level Championship returned fully in person for the first time since 2019. Held over the December 17-18 weekend at the Sonesta Silicon Valley, 117 players competed for the title in the elementary school varsity sections. MSJE fielded 31 players, many of whom were playing their first tournament. This new generation of stars exceeded expectations and continued the storied success of MSJE chess. In the kindergarten section, 5 entirely new players led by Chun-Yen Lee (2.5/5), Saanvi Bala (2/5), and Jeffrey Wang (1.5/5) won the team championship. The 1st grade section saw the revival of the MSJE - Weibel rivalry. Again, three new players - Byron Li (2.5/5), Akshara Shanker (2/5), and Rishaan Arora (1/5) fought valiantly and managed to tie for first with Weibel. The most MSJE players competed in the 3rd grade section, dominating and winning first by a margin of two points. Notably, veteran MSJE player Luke Hong placed third individually with 4/5, falling just shy of the championship. The most impressive individual performance came from Pranavi Pramod in the 4th grade section. She won all 6 of her games and led the team to a second-place finish. Here is one of the best games from Pranavi's championship performance.

Pranavi Pramod,1405. 1405 - Vedant Brahmadathan 1-0

2022 CalChess Grade Level Championship,2022.12.18

D00: Queen's Pawn,Mason variation

1.d4 d5 2.♘f4 ♘f6 3.e3 c5 4.c3 ♘c6

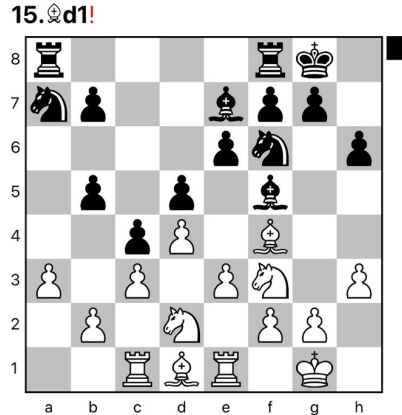
5. ♘f3 Pranavi opts for the solid London system 5...♚b6 6.♚b3

When you are leading the tournament queen trades are okay 6...c4 7.♚xb6 axb6 8. ♘bd2

♙f5 9.a3 b5 10.♖c1 e6 11.♙e2 ♙e7

12.O-O h6 13.h3 O-O 14.♖fe1 ♘a7

15.♙d1!

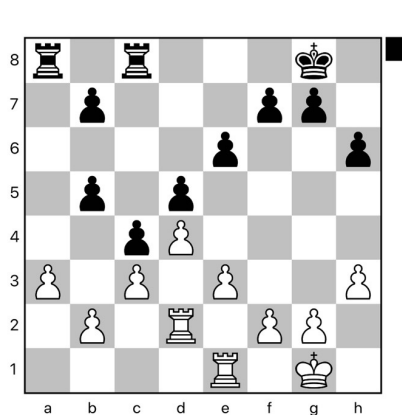


15... ♘c8 16.♙c2 Demonstrating great positional understanding to trade light-squared bishops 16...♙xc2 17.♖xc2

♙d6 18.♙xd6 ♘xd6 19.♙e5 ♘de4

20. ♘ef3 ♖fc8 21. ♘xe4 ♘xe4

22. ♘d2 ♘xd2 23.♖xd2



White is the only one with any real chances here 23...b4? 24.axb4 ♖a2

25.♖ee2 ♖a1+ 26. ♙h2 ♖ca8 27.e4

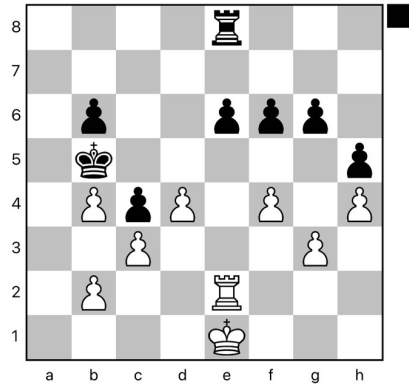
Beginning the pawn break 27... ♘d8

28.f3 ♙f8 29. ♙g3 ♙e7 30.f4 dxe4

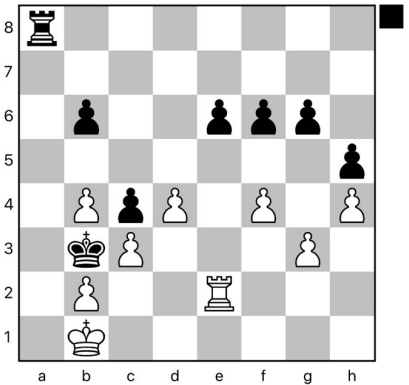
31.♖xe4 ♘d5 32.♖e5 ♙d6 33.♖xd5

+ ♙xd5 34.♖e2 b6 35. ♙g4 ♖f1

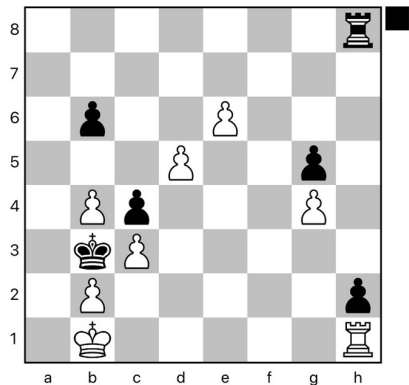
36. ♖g3 f6 37. ♜e3 g6 38. ♜e2 h5
 39. h4 ♜d1 40. ♜f2 ♜d3 41. g3 ♜d1
 42. ♜g2 ♜a1
 43. ♜f2 ♜a8 44. ♜f3 ♜e8 45. ♜f2
 ♜c6 46. ♜e1
 Better is...46. ♜e1 ♜d5 47. ♜a1
 Claiming the open file 46... ♜d6
 47. ♜f2 ♜d5 48. ♜f3 ♜c6 49. ♜f2
 ♜b5 50. ♜e1



50.d5! wins
 50... ♜a4 51. ♜d2 ♜b3 52. ♜c1 ♜a8
 53. ♜b1!

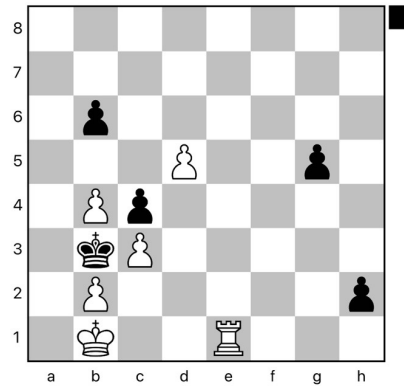


53... ♜e8 54. ♜e1 g5 55. hxg5 fxg5
 56. f5 h4 57. g4 h3 58. fxe6 h2
 59. d5 ♜h8 60. ♜h1



Black cannot stop the 2 pawns

60... ♜h4 61. e7 ♜xg4 62. e8=♚ ♜g1+
 63. ♚e1! ♜xe1+ 64. ♜xe1



1-0



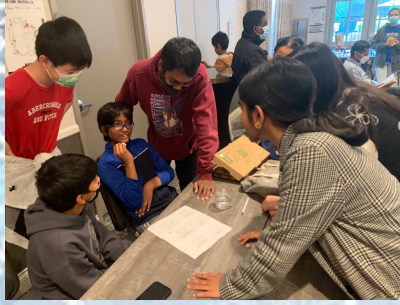
Caption: 4th grader Pranavi Pramod hoisting the trophy

The 5th grade section was a tight competition between MSJE and Weibel. Led by Arthur Wang (3.5/5), the team squeezed out the championship with just a 0.5-point margin.



Caption: MSJE Team with trophies from State Grade Level Champions hip





Caption: Coaches and players hard at work solving a puzzle

MSJE continued its tradition of hosting a team room to teach and encourage players between rounds. Current MSJE coaches Annapoorni Meyappian, Aghilan Nachiappan, Aditya Artula, Jason Liu, and Jolene Liu stayed for all six rounds, reviewing games and offering valuable advice. They were even aided by MSJE chess alumni, national masters Christopher Pan and Jeffrey Wei, who provided support with their years of teaching experience. Being the first in-person team event MSJE has competed in since the start of the pandemic, the results were outstanding. All our new players were eager to learn and compete, and the veterans performed magnificently. All in all, MSJE's performance at the grade-level championships was extremely promising. I'm sure all these players will continue growing and win even more championships in future events.

WHAT WILL BE IN THE SPRING EDITION

Complete coverage of 2023 US Amateur Team West Chess Tournament including a special report from Lauren Goodkind on the USATW Scholastic Championship

Results, photos and games from the 2023 CalChess Scholastic Championships

The fifth installment of "California's Chess Talents" by FM Kevin Pan

Plus, another installment of FM James Eade's "The Chess Files"

For more information on Mission360 and their tournaments, camps, and other activities, please visit their website

<https://www.mission360foru.org/home>.

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TURNING BACK THE CLOCK —



Garry Kasparov at Stanford University

by
Eric Schiller

Garry Kasparov with Jordy Mont-Reynaud, Philip Wang, Vinay Bhat, Alex Karnazes and Zachary Karnazes. Kasparov spent an hour answering questions at Stanford.

Photo by Eric Schiller



Garry Kasparov gave a Presidential lecture at Stanford University on April 22nd. His address drew an overflow crowd in the 700-seat hall. The fire marshalls had to intervene several times in an attempt to control the crowd. He started his day meeting with Chess City Magazine publisher Avery Cardoza and editor Eric Schiller. He addressed Stanford's Slavic department and lunched with faculty members and a few chessplayers including Stanford Chess Club President, National Master Adrian Keatinge-Clay. Then he entertained the chess club for an hour, discussing many issues in contemporary chess. We'll get to that later. Let's follow Kasparov's afternoon schedule.

Stanford's chess team finished third at the Pan American Intercollegiate, but beat champion UMBC on their home turf in a revenge match. With Phillip Wang joining the team next year, and other stars expressing interest, the team has grand aspirations. They are thrilled that Stanford is con-

sidering making chess a varsity sport! Left to right: Adrian Keatinge-Clay, Erik Stuart, Garry Kasparov, Etan Ilfeld, Mike Aigner.

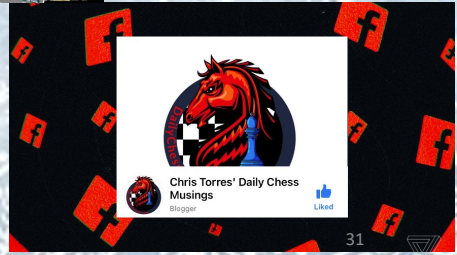
After the Kasparov chat, the players enjoyed an outdoor blitz tournament on the beautiful Stanford campus. Vinay took both games from me enroute to a convincing tournament win. It was a very strong tournament and I finished among the prize winners. Not bad for the "old man" in this prodigy filled event. Palo Alto has an abundance of chess activities, on and off campus.

Kasparov's address covered many topics, including the famous match against Deeper Blue, where he continues to voice suspicions about some of the moves, particularly the famous conclusion to game two. He reissued his challenge to any machine, but stipulates that this time the match must be played under fair rules, not exhibition conditions. He insists that Deeper Blue, now dismantled, never took its "drug test". Only by providing the uncensored print-

outs of the critical moments will IBM prove its slim match victory was an honest one. His main focus, however, was on the status of chess as a sport. He gave detailed evidence to support his contention that the pressure involved in a chess tournament, over a period of consecutive days or weeks, has physical effects which qualify chess as a bona fide sport.

Kasparov clearly scored some points! The members of the distinguished panel of academics readily agreed with him. Stanford Cardinal head football coach Troy Willingham may have surprised the audience when he agreed that chess should be considered as a varsity sport. Recognition by a prestigious athletic department, and Stanford is one of the best, would go a long way to help establishing chess at all college campuses. Willingham was clearly impressed with Kasparov's performance, and was an eager participant in this panel.

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RESULTS

EVENT	Date	Results
2362 - Kids Swiss (San Jose)	26-Feb-23	Rating
2361 - Kids Chess4Less (San Jose)	26-Feb-23	Rating
2360 - Kids Quads (San Jose)	26-Feb-23	Rating
2359 - Swiss60 (Milpitas)	25-Feb-23	Rating
2358 - Kids Swiss (Milpitas)	25-Feb-23	Rating
2357 - Kids Chess4Less (Milpitas)	25-Feb-23	Rating
2356 - Kids Quads (Milpitas)	25-Feb-23	Rating
2355 - Kids Swiss (Milpitas)	20-Feb-23	Rating
2354 - Kids Quads (Milpitas)	20-Feb-23	Rating
2353 - US National Amateur Team West Championship (Milpitas)	Feb 18-20, 2023	Rating
2353 - US Amateur West Kids Championship (Milpitas)	18-Feb-23	Rating
2352 - US Amateur West Open Blitz (Milpitas)	19-Feb-23	Rating
2351 - US Amateur West Kids Blitz (Milpitas)	18-Feb-23	Rating
2350 - Kids Quads (Palo Alto)	12-Feb-23	Rating
2349 - Swiss45 (Dublin)	12-Feb-23	Rating
2345 - Kids Swiss (Dublin)	12-Feb-23	Rating
2344 - Kids Quads (Dublin)	12-Feb-23	Rating
2348 - Quads75 (Sacramento)	11-Feb-23	Rating
2347 - Kids Quads (Sacramento)	11-Feb-23	Rating
2346 - Kids Chess4Less (Sacramento)	11-Feb-23	Rating
2343 - Swiss60 (Milpitas)	11-Feb-23	Rating
2342 - Kids Swiss (Milpitas)	11-Feb-23	Rating
2341 - Kids Chess4Less (Milpitas)	11-Feb-23	Rating
2340 - Kids Quads (Milpitas)	11-Feb-23	Rating
2339 - Swiss45 (San Jose)	5-Feb-23	Rating
2338 - Kids Quads (San Jose)	5-Feb-23	Rating
2337 - Kids Quads (Palo Alto)	4-Feb-23	Rating
2336 - Girls' Rating Level Championship (Milpitas)	29-Jan-23	Rating
2335 - Boys Swiss (Milpitas)	29-Jan-23	Rating
2334 - Boys PM Quads (Milpitas)	29-Jan-23	Rating
2333 - Boys AM Quads (Milpitas)	29-Jan-23	Rating
2332 - CalChess Age Level Blitz (Milpitas)	28-Jan-23	Rating
2331 - CalChess Age Level Championship (Milpitas)	28-Jan-23	Rating
2330 - Kids Swiss (San Jose)	22-Jan-23	Rating
2329 - Kids Chess4Less (San Jose)	22-Jan-23	Rating
2328 - Kids Quads (San Jose)	22-Jan-23	Rating
2327 - Swiss45 (Dublin)	22-Jan-23	Rating
2326 - Kids Swiss (Dublin)	22-Jan-23	Rating
2325 - Kids Quads (Dublin)	22-Jan-23	Rating
2324 - Swiss60 (Fremont)	21-Jan-23	Rating
2323 - Kids Swiss (Fremont)	21-Jan-23	Rating
2321 - Kids Chess4Less (Fremont)	21-Jan-23	Rating
2320 - Kids Quads (Fremont)	21-Jan-23	Rating
2319 - Kids Quads (San Jose)	16-Jan-23	Rating
2318 - Kids Swiss (San Jose)	15-Jan-23	Rating
2317 - Kids Chess4Less (San Jose)	15-Jan-23	Rating
2316 - Kids Quads (San Jose)	15-Jan-23	Rating
2315 - 2023 New Year Championship (Milpitas)	Jan 6-8, 2023	Rating
2314 - Kids Swiss (Milpitas)	8-Jan-23	Rating
2313 - Kids Quads (Milpitas)	8-Jan-23	Rating
2312 - 2023 New Year Blitz (Milpitas)	7-Jan-23	Rating
2311 - 2023 New Year Kids Blitz (Milpitas)	6-Jan-23	Rating
2310 - 2023 New Year Kids Championship (Milpitas)	6-Jan-23	Rating
2309 - Kids Swiss (San Jose)	1-Jan-23	Rating
2308 - Kids Quads (San Jose)	1-Jan-23	Rating
2307 - Swiss45 (San Jose)	31-Dec-22	Rating
2305 - Calchess Grade Level Championship (Milpitas)	Dec 17-18, 2022	Rating
2304 - Calchess Grade Level Blitz (Milpitas)	17-Dec-22	Rating
2303 - Swiss45 (Dublin)	11-Dec-22	Rating
2302 - Kids Swiss (Dublin)	11-Dec-22	Rating
2301 - Kids Quads (Dublin)	11-Dec-22	Rating
2300 - Swiss45 (Fremont)	10-Dec-22	Rating
2299 - Kids Swiss (Fremont)	10-Dec-22	Rating
2298 - Kids Chess4Less (Fremont)	10-Dec-22	Rating
2297 - Kids Quads (Fremont)	10-Dec-22	Rating
2296 - Kids Quads (Palo Alto)	3-Dec-22	Rating
2295 - Swiss60 (Milpitas)	3-Dec-22	Rating
2294 - Kids Swiss (Milpitas)	3-Dec-22	Rating
2293 - Kids Chess4Less (Milpitas)	3-Dec-22	Rating
2292 - Kids Quads (Milpitas)	3-Dec-22	Rating



**OUR OFFICERS
THE
VOLUNTEERS
THAT MAKE
CALCHESS WORK**

Saturday, March 18
Kids C4L Hexes (BAC @ Sacramento)
Kids Quads (BAC @ Palo Alto)
Kids Quads (BAC @ Sacramento)
Shoreview Chess Afternoon Swiss
Shoreview Chess Afternoon Swiss
CashDay Quads G/75 d5 (BAC @ Sacramento)
Saturday, March 25
Kids Quads (BAC @ Fremont)
Kids C4L Quads (BAC @ Fremont)
Kids Swiss (BAC @ Fremont)
CashDay Swiss G/60 d5 (BAC @ Fremont)
Saturday, April 1
2022-23 K-8 Scholastic State Championship
2022-23 K-8 Scholastic State Championship
Sunday, April 2
2022-23 K-8 Scholastic State Championship
2022-23 K-8 Scholastic State Championship
Saturday, April 15
2022-23 K-12 Scholastic State Championship
2022-23 K-12 Scholastic State Championship
Sunday, April 16
2022-23 K-12 Scholastic State Championship
2022-23 K-12 Scholastic State Championship



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Vice President
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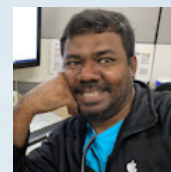
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Kumar
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Liu
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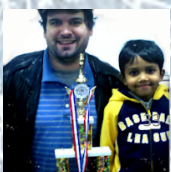
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Board Member-at-Large
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THANKS
FOR
READING



SEE YOU AGAIN
FOR THE SPRING
EDITION