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ROUND 8 RESULTS

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堂	GM F. Caruana	Ø
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堂	GM I. Nepomniachtchi	1
స్థ	GM V. Anand	1/2
堂	GM S. Mamedyarov	1/2
స్థ	GM A. Giri	1/2
堂	GM S. Karjakin	1/2
స్థ	GM L. Aronian	1/2
ġ	GM M. Carlsen	1/2
స్థ	GM M. Vachier-Lagrave	1/2
ġ	GM H. Nakamura	1/2

CURRENT STANDINGS

1.	GM D. Liren	5 1/2
2.	GM I. Nepomniachtchi	5 1/2
3.	GM V. Anand	5
4.	GM S. Karjakin	5
5.	GM F. Caruana	4 1/2
6.	GM M. Carlsen	4 1/2
7.	GM S. Mamedyarov	4 1/2
8.	GM W. So	4
9.	GM M. Vachier-Lagrave	4
10.	GM H. Nakamura	4
11.	GM A. Giri	4
12.	GM L. Aronian	3 1/2

CUP*CHRONICLE

TUESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2019 | ISSUE 9

ROUND 9 HIGHLIGHTS

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN



GM DING LIREN, ROUND 9 PHOTO BY LENNART OOTES

The tension is rising, as two players have separated themselves from the pack of leaders. Ding Liren defeated his immediate rival Fabiano Caruana in a well played game and was joined on top of the leaderboard by Ian Nepomniachtchi, who won against Wesley So with the black pieces. The two grandmasters are now half a point ahead of Viswanathan Anand and Sergey Karjakin, both of whom drew their games today. As the tournament enters the penultimate round tomorrow, the pressure is mounting with only two rounds left in the tournament.



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DING LIREN - FABIANO CARUANA

This was a crucial win for the

Chinese player, as he was tied for first

with Caruana going into the round.

The game itself was a great example of

putting pressure on the opponent until

they crack. Ding's position always looked

slightly better out of the opening but he

felt it became unclear after his 31.f4 as

his king became weaker, allowing some

attacking chances for his opponent.

Caruana had a way of tactically

exchanging pieces, initially heading

into an equal endgame but ultimately

found himself under a huge attack after

a few reckless moves. The combination of the queen and the knight is known to be deadly in chess, as Ding masterfully

Nf6

e6

d5

Be7

0 - 0

b6

[7.cxd5 Was played by Ding against

Carlsen in the STL Rapid and Blitz just

last week. Ding went on to win the game

in nice fashion 7...Nxd5 8.Nxd5 exd5

9.Bd3 c5 10.b3 Nc6 11.0-0 Be6 12.Rc1

demonstrated in this game.

1.d4

2.c4

3.Nf3

4.Nc3

5.Bf4

6.e3

7.Bd3

a5 13.h3 g6 14.Bb5]

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN, ANALYSIS BY GM VAR AKOBIAN



LIREN VS. CARUANA // LENNART OOTES

7.	dxc4
8.Bxc4	Ba6
9.Bxa6	Nxa6
10.Qe2	Qc8
11.0-0	Qb7

[A novelty by Caruana, but the position quickly transposes back into known territory]

[11...c5 is considered to be the mainline, with a drawish tendency]

12.a3	c 5
13.Nb5	Rac8N

[The real novelty of the game! This deviates from Carlsen-Nakamura 2018]

[13...Ne4 Was previously played by Carlsen, however black equalized quite easily 14.Rac1 Rac8 15.Ne5 Nd6 16.Nxd6 Bxd6 17.Qg4 cxd4 18.Rxc8 Rxc8 19.Nxf7 Bxf4 20.Qxe6 Nc5 21.Nh6+ Kh8 22.Nf7+ Kg8 23.Nh6+ Kh8 1/2–1/2 (23) Carlsen,M (2835)-Nakamura,H (2746) St Petersburg 2018]

14.b4!?

[Not the computer's top choice, but very interesting and dynamic. It is clear

that Ding wanted to put pressure on Caruana from the get-go]

14. Nd5

[14...cxb4?! was not played as white would be thrilled to open the a-file 15.axb4]

15.bxc5	bxc5
16.Rab1	Rc6?!



[The first inaccuracy by Caruana. This leads to disharmony in the black pieces.]

[16...Qa8 was the necessary move to maintain equality 17.Bd6 Rfd8 18.Bxe7 Nxe7=]

17.Be5	Rb6
18.a4	Nac'
19.dxc5	Bxc
20.Rbc1!	

[A very important move. The idea is to get out of the pin along the b-file and exert pressure against black's minor pieces along the c-file. The next few moves are relatively forced.]

20.	Nxb
21.Rxc5	Nd6
22.a5	Rc6
23.Bxd6	Rxd
24.Rfc1	h6
25.h3	

[While the position appears to be

somewhat symmetrical, white has a nagging advantage due to the control of the c-file, the potential for Ne5 and the further advanced a-pawn.]

25.	Rfd8
26.Ne5	Nf6
27.Nc6	R8d7
28.a6	Qb6
29.Ne5	Rd8
30.Rc8	Qa5?!

[30...Nd7!? is a better attempt to equalize 31.Nxd7 R6xd7 32.R1c6 Rxc8 33.Rxc8+ Rd8=]

31.f4 Rd2

[31...Nd7! it's very important for black to remove white's powerful knight on e5. This should now lead to equality.]

32.Qf3 R2d5 33.R1c7

[33.Rxd8+ Rxd8 34.Qb7 Qd2 35.Qxf7+ Kh8 36.Rc4 Qxe3+ 37.Kh2 Would have offered white a larger advantage]

33.	Kh7
34.Kh2	Rxc8
35.Rxc8	Qxa6
36.Ra8	-

[36.Rf8! Nd7 37.Nxd7 Rxd7 38.Qe4+ f5 39.Rxf5! exf5 40.Qxf5+ Qg6 41.Qxd7 a5 in the post-game interview, Ding thought that black would have good drawing chances in this endgame]

36. Qb7 37.Rf8 Rb5?

[The blunder which cost Caruana the game.]

[37...Qb4 38.Rxf7 Qb1 39.Qg3 Nh5 40.Qg4 Rd1 41.Qxh5 Rh1+ 42.Kg3 Qe1+ 43.Kg4 Qe2+ 44.Kh4 Rxh3+!! A fantastic resource which would have

allowed Caruana to escape with a draw 45.gxh3 Qf2+ 46.Kg4 Qg2+ 47.Kh4=]

38.Qf1!



[A very strong move which leads to a winning advantage for white. The point is if black plays Rb1, white has Qd3+followed by Qd8 with a mating attack]

38.	Qd5
39.Nxf7	Nd7
40.Rd8	Rb8
41.Rxb8	Nxb8
42.Qb1+	Qf5
43.Qb7!	



[Ding does not loosen his grip on the position! The conversion of his advantage was simply flawless.]

43. Nc6 44.Nd6 Qc5 45.Ne4 Qc2 46.Nf6+ Kg6 47.Ne8 Qc3 48.e4!

[Another strong move to secure the f5–square so that the black king cannot escape towards the center.]

48.	a5
49.Qd7	a 4
50.Qxe6+	Kh7
51.e5	Nd4
52.Qd7	Kg6
53.Qxg7+	Kf5
54.Nd6+	Kxf4
55.Qf6+	Ke3
56.e6	Kd3
57.e7	

[A model game by the Chinese superstar! This once again shows why he is one of the most consistent elite players in the world and boasts the number 3 world ranking.]

1-0

WESLEY SO - IAN NEPOMNIACHTCHI

RECAP AND ANALYSIS BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN



In a theoretical Symmetrical English line, So made a positional long term pawn sacrifice. In return, he had the better minor piece, initiative, and superior pawn structure. Nepo was happy to reciprocate in order to finish his development and enter a queen endgame, which he thought would end in a draw. The American blundered a pawn the following move, but still maintained good drawing chances. Unfortunately, his mistakes started accumulating as he got very low on time. Nepomniachtchi's king traveled from g7 to c8 to g4 then back to the queenside again, escaping his opponent's checks. The marathon game ended in 132 moves after So could no longer stop his opponent's passed pawn from queening.

1.Nf3	c5
2.c4	Nc6
3.Nc3	g6
4.e 3	Nf6
5.d4	cxd4
6.exd4	d5
7.cxd5	Nxd5
8.Qb3	e6

[8...Nxc3 9.Bc4 e6 10.bxc3 Bg7 is another way of playing this line, but Nepo wanted to leave his opponent with an isolated pawn]



GM W. SO // JUSTIN KELLAR

9.Bb5	$\mathbf{Bg7}$
10.0-0	0-0
11.Bxc6	bxc6
12.Na4	Qd6
13.Re1	Rb8
14.Qd1	

[14.Qd3 c5 15.Nxc5 Nb4 16.Qc3 Bb7 17.a3 Nd5 18.Qd3 Ba8 was played between Radjabov and Nepomniachtchi in 2017]

Ne7
Nf5
Rd8
Nxd4
Bxd4
Qxd4
Qf6

[All of this has been played before]

21.Rxd8+

[21.Qc3 Rxd1 22.Rxd1 e5 23.Qa5 Bf5 is how the other game developed]

21.	Qxd8
22.Rd1	Qe8

[White is playing for the initiative. His knight is the better minor piece and the a6 and c6 pawns are very weak]

25.Qa5

[25.Qd6 Bf5 26.Nc5 completely controlling the position]

25.	Kg7
26.Rd8	Qe7
27.Nb6	Qxd8

[Black is happy to give the pawn back but to exchange his useless rook for his opponent's more active one]

28.Qxe5+ Qf6 29.Qxb8 Be6



30.Qg3?!

[30.Qd6 A better square for the queen keeping an eye on the pawn weaknesses]

30.	h5
31.Na4	Qa1+
32.Kh2	Qxa2

[Nepo grabs a pawn. Wesley still has the dark squares but is down material]

33.Nc5	Qe2
34.Qc3+	Kg8
35.Qd4	Bd5
36.Nd7	Qe6
37.Nf6+	Kf8
38.b4	Qd6+
39.Kg1	Ke7
40.Ng8+	Ke6
41.Qf6+	Kd7
42.Qd4	Qb8
43.Nf6+	Ke6
44.Ne4	Bxe4
45.Qxe4+	Kd7
46.Qc4	

[46.Qd4+ White can win one of the pawns back or force a perpetual 46...Ke6 47.Qc4+ Ke7 48.Qe4+ Kf8 49.Qxc6 Qxb4 50.Qxa6 Qe1+ 51.Qf1 Qxf1+ 52.Kxf1=]

46.	Qe8
47.Qd4+	Kc8
48.Qb6	Qe1-
49.Kh2	Qe5-
50.g 3	Qb5

[So was starting to get low on time]

55.Kg1 Qd5 56.Kh2 Kc7	52.Qc5 Qc7 53.h4 Kb7 54.Qf8 Qd7
	54.Qf8 Qd7 55.Kg1 Qd5

[Black's task isn't easy, but it feels like he's making progress]

57.Kg1 Kd

59.Kg1 Qe6 Qe2 60.Qc5 61.Qd4+ Ke6 Qb5 62.Qc5 63.Qe3 +Kf6 64.Qc3+ Ke7 65.Qd4 Ke6 66.Qe3+ Kd7 67.Qa7+ Ke8 68.Qd4 Qd5 69.Qb6 Qc4 70.Qb8+ Ke7 71.Qe5+ Kd7 72.Qb8 Ke6 73.Qe8+ Kf5 74.Qe7 Qd5 75.Qe2 Qb5 76.Qe7 Qc4 77.Qe8 Qe6 78.Qd8 Ke4 79.Qd2 Qc4 Kf5 80.Qe3 +

81.Qe7

58.Kh2

Qc4



Kg4

[the king marches to the other side of the board]

82.Qd7+	Kf3
83.Qd2	f6
84.Qe3+	Kg4
85.Kg2	Kf5
86.Kh2	g5
87.hxg5	fxg5
88.Qd2	Qd5
89.Qe2	Qd4
90.Kg1	Qxb
91.Of3+	Ke5

92.Qxh5 Qb1+ 93.Kg2 Qf5 94.Qd1?

[94.Qh8+ Kd5 95.Qa8 attacking the a6 pawn while keeping the c6 pawn pinned 95...Qd3 96.Kh3 with Kg4 to take g5]

94.	a5
95.Qd8	Ke4
96.Qd2	Qd5
97.f3 +	Kf5
98.g4+	Ke6
99.Qc2	Kd6
100.Kg3	Qe5-
101.Kg2	Qf4
102.Qg6+	Kc7
103.Qh7+	Kb6
104.Qb1+	Qb4
105.Qc1	Qc5
106.Qb2+	Ka6
107.Qa2	Qb5
108.Qg8	a4

109.Qa8+ Kb6

[now the pawn starts moving]

103.200	1200
110.Qd8+	Kb7
111.Qe7+	Ka6
112.Qf8	Qe2+
113.Kh3	Qe3
114.Qa8+	Kb5
115.Qb7+	Qb6
116.Qg7	Qc5
117.Qb2+	Ka6
118.Qe2+	Ka7
119.Qd2	a3
120.f4	gxf4
121.Qxf4	Qc3+
122.Kh4	Qh8+
123.Kg5	Qg8+
124.Kh5	Qd5+
125.g5	a2
126.Qa4+	Kb6
127.Qb4+	Qb5
128.Qd4+	Ka6
129.Qd8	Qe2+
130.Kh6	Qe6+
131.g6	Qh3+
132.Kg5	Qg2+
-	
0–1	

VISWANATHAN ANAND - SHAKHRIYAR MAMEDYAROV

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN



15.Nf3

16.Nh4

This was yet another disappointing draw for the former World Champion. Anand improved on the Giuoco Piano line played between Vachier-Lagrave and Mamedyarov from round 7 of this tournament, getting the advantage with a dangerous initiative in the opening. Much to his credit, Mamedyarov found creative counterplay by sacrificing a pawn in order to avoid getting suffocated in the normal course of action. Anand was up a pawn but the nature of the position changed to where Mamedyarov had active play. Anand couldn't keep control of the position and after allowing his opponent's rooks penetrate the second rank, he had to force a perpetual.

1.e4	e 5
2.Nf3	Nc6
3.Bc4	Bc5
4.c3	Nf6
5.d3	d6
6.0-0	h6
7.Re1	0-0
8.Nbd2	Ne7
9.d4	Bb6
10.a4	c6
11.dxe5	Ng4
12.Rf1	Nxe5
13.Nxe5	dxe5
14.Qh5	Qd6

32.Qxe4 33.Bf4 34.Qb7 35.Qxc7 36.Qc5 37.Rf2 38.Raf1 39.Kg2



Qd6

Qd7

Re2

Rfe8

Ree2

a5 Rxb2

Qxd3

A B C	D
40.Qxa5	Kh7
41.h4	Ne3+
42.Bxe3	Qxe3
43.Qf5 +	Kh8
44.Qf8+	Kh7
45.Qf5+	Kh8
46.Qf8+	Kh7
47.Of5+	

1/2-1/2

GM V. ANAND // LENNART OOTES

Bc7

b5

17.axb5	cxb5
18.Bxb5	Bb7
19.Qe2	Bb6
20.Ba6	Bc6
21.Nf3	f5
22.Bd3	Rae8
23.exf5	Nxf5
24.Be4	Kh8
25.Nd2	Qe6
26.Kh1	Bd7
27.Bd3	e4
28.Nxe4	Bc6
29.f3	Qe5
30.Bd2	Bc7
31.g3	Bxe4
-	

ANISH GIRI - SERGEY KARJAKIN

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN



GM S. KARJAKIN // LENNART OOTES



13.a3 Bd6 14.Nf3 Nb6 15.Qc2 Re8 16.h4 h6 17.Nd4 Bc8 18.Nf5 Bf8 19.e4 Be6 20.d4 a4 21.d5 Bxf5 22.exf5 Bd6 23.Bf3 Ra7 24.Kg2 Nd7 25.Rd1 Qe7

26.Rd4 Rea8

27.Re4 Qf8 28.Qc3 Re8 29.Rxe8 Qxe8 30.Bb2 Qf8 31.Re1 Ra8 32.Bd1 Nf6 33.Qc4 **b**5 34.Qxb5 Rb8 35.Qe2 Re8 36.Qd2 Rxe1 37.Qxe1 Bxa3 38.Bxf6 gxf6 Qe7 39.Bxa4 40.Qxe7 Bxe7 41.Bb3 Bc5 42.Ba4 Be7 43.Bb3 Bc5 44.Ba4 Be7

1/2-1/2

The English Opening has become one of the most popular guests at the top level, with Giri essaying it in this game. An interesting imbalance occurred, with Giri having the central pawns while Karjakin held the queenside majority. The Dutchman always had the advantage but Karjakin demonstrated once again why he has earned the nickname of the "minister of defense." Patiently, he found the most accurate moves, at times putting his pieces in their original positions thus slowly bringing the equilibrium as Giri's advantage fizzled out. The game ended in an opposite-colored 12.Rb1 a5

1.c4	Nf6
2.Nc3	e 5
3.Nf3	Nc6
4.g3	Bb4
5.Bg2	0-0
6.Nd5	Bc5
7.b4	Nxb4
8.Nxb4	Bxb4
9.Nxe5	d5
10.cxd5	Nxd5
11.0-0	Be6

bishop endgame.

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LEVON ARONIAN - MAGNUS CARLSEN

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN



ARONIAN VS. CARLSEN // LENNART OOTES

The World Champion came very close to scoring the full point he's been searching for this entire tournament. After a 30 minute think in a balanced position, Aronian played an enterprising move, giving up his central pawn in order to collect his opponent's queenside pawns. Quickly after he made the move, he realized that the resulting position would be very difficult for him to defend, finding the line that the engines were suggesting. Fortunately for him, the idea did not occur to Carlsen at all. Once the critical moment passed, the game petered out to a draw quickly as the pieces came off the board.

1.e4	c5
2.Nf3	Nc6
3.Bb5	g6
4.c3	Nf6
5.Qe2	Bg7
6.0-0	0-0
7.d4	cxd4
8.cxd4	d6
9.h3	Nd7
10.Rd1	a6
11.Bxc6	bxc6
12.Be3	a5
13.Qc2	c 5
14.Nc3	cxd4



15.Bxd4	Bb7
16.Bxg7	Kxg7
17.Nd4	Rc8
18.Qd2	Re8
19.Qe3	Qb6
20.e5	dxe5



A B C	D E
21.Nb3	Nc5
22.Qxe5+	Kg8
23.Qe3	Qc6
24.Nd5	Nxb3
25.axb3	Qc5
26.Rac1	Qxe3
27.Nxe3	Rxc1
28.Rxc1	Rb8



29.Rc5	Bc8
30.Nd5	Be6
31.Nxe7+	Kf8
32.Nc6	Rxb3
33.Nd4	Rxb2
34.Nxe6+	fxe6
35.Rxa5	h5
36.Ra6	Kf7
37.Ra5	Rb1+
38.Kh2	Rb2
39.Kg1	Rb1+
40.Kh2	Rb2
41.Kg1	

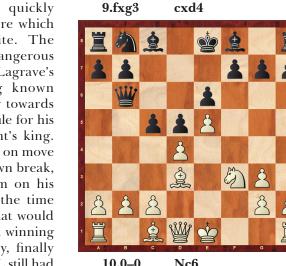
1/2-1/2

MAXIME VACHIER-LAGRAVE - HIKARU NAKAMURA

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN



GM H. NAKAMURA // LENNART OOTES



10.0-0	INCO
11.Qe2	h6
12.a3	Bd7
13.g4	Be7
14.b4	a6
15.Rb1	Na7
16.Bb2	Nb5
17.Qf2	Qc7
18.Nxd4	0-0
19.Ne2	f6
20.Qe3	fxe5
21.Bxe5	Bd6
22.Bxd6	Nxd
23.g5	Nf5
24.Bxf5	exf5



after move 19

25.gxh6 Rae8 26.Qd2 Qb6+ 27.Nd4 Qxh6 gxh6 28.Qxh6 29.Rf3 Re4 30.c3 Kg7 h5 31.h3 32.Rbf1 Kg6 33.g3Rc8 34.Kh2 **b6** f4 35.h4 36.gxf4 Bg4 37.Rd3 Kf6 38.Rf2 Re7 39.Nf3 Bf5 40.Rxd5 Rxc3 41.Ng5 Rc6 42.a4 Rec7 43.b5 axb5 44.axb5 Rc2 45.Kg2 Rxf2+ 46.Kxf2 Rc2+ 47.Ke3 Rc3+48.Kd2 Rc2+ 49.Kd1 Rc4 50.Rd6+ Ke7 51.Rxb6 Rxf4 52.Rb7+ Bd7 53.Kd2 Rxh4 54.Ke3 Rb4 55.Ne4 Rxb5 56.Rxb5 Bxb5 57.Ng3 h4 58.Nf5+ Kf6

59.Nxh4

Nakamura's Caro-Kann quickly turned into a French structure which looked favorable for White. The position looked extremely dangerous for Nakamura after Vachier-Lagrave's 9.fxg3 recapture, breaking known chess principles of capturing towards the center but opening the f file for his rook, aiming at his opponent's king. Nakamura's main mistake was on move 19, when he played the f6 pawn break, fearing the impending doom on his kingside. Instead of taking the time to calculate the sharp lines that would have given Vachier-Lagrave a winning attack, he played too quickly, finally trading into an endgame. MVL still had the advantage as the resulting endgame was a classical example of a good knight versus a bad bishop, but Nakamura was able to find enough counterplay to pull the game into a drawn territory.

1.e4	c6
2.Nf3	d5
3.Nc3	Nf6
4.e5	Ne4
5.Ne2	Qb6
6.d4	e6
7.Ng3	c5
8.Bd3	Nxg3

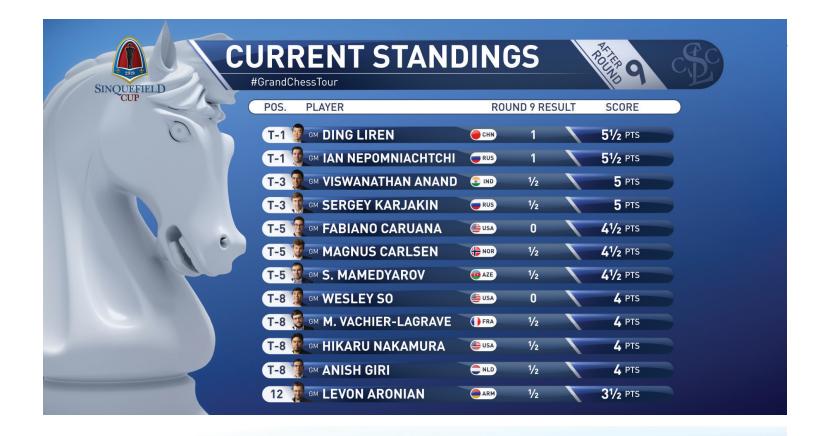
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GM IAN NEPOMNIACHTCHI // LENNART OOTES



GM DING LIREN // JUSTIN KELLAR





explore St. OUS

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ULTIMATE MOVES

AUGUST 29

Following the conclusion of the Sinquefield Cup, the Saint Louis Chess Club will host an Ultimate Moves Exhibition with all players on August 29 at 2pm. The event will include Saint Louis Chess Club founder Rex Sinquefield, President of Spectrum Studios Randy Sinquefield, legendary World Champion Garry Kasparov, and the Sinquefield Cup players in a team vs. team matchup. All tournament players will compete in this fun-spirited event where players swap out after every fifth move and are encouraged to talk amongst each other and their opponents throughout the match. Free admission!



2018 ULTIMATE MOVES // AUSTIN FULLER

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, August 15

5-6 PM Autograph Session, Kingside Diner

Thursday, August 15

6 PM Opening Ceremony, World Chess Hall of Fame*

Saturday, August 17

1 PM Round 1

Sunday, August 18 1 PM Round 2

Monday, August 19 1 PM Round 3

Tuesday, August 20 1 PM Round 4

Wednesday, August 21

1 PM Round 5

Thursday, August 22 Rest Day

> Friday, August 23 1 PM Round 6

Saturday, August 24 1 PM Round 7

Sunday, August 25 1 PM Round 8

Monday, August 26 1 PM Round 9

Tuesday, August 27 1 PM Round 10

Wednesday, August 28 1 PM Round 11

Thursday, August 29
10 AM Playoff (If Necessary)

Thursday, August 29 2 PM Ultimate Moves

Thursday, August 29 6-7 PM Closing Ceremony, World Chess Hall of Fame*

*Private Event

SIDE EVENT HIGHLIGHT

Singuefield Action Quads

FRIDAY, AUGUST 30

3 Rounds | Game in 20; 3 second delay

Entry Fee \$10

Registration

6-6:50 PM

Space is limited to the first 50 players.

Round 1 7:00 PM

Winner of each quad receives \$36.

Quick Ratings will be used for Pairings and Prize purposes.

Free Entry for GMs and IMs. USCF membership required.

Arbiter has the discretion to appoint ratings.