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## **ROUND 5 RESULTS:**

□ GM Anish Giri	1/2
■ GM Levon Aronian	1/2
☐ GM Viswanathan Anand	1/2
■ GM Wesly So	1/2
☐ GM Veselin Topalov	1
■ GM Ding Liren	0
☐ GM Peter Svidler	1/2
■ GM Hikaru Nakamura	1/2
☐ GM Fabiano Caruana	1/2
■ GM M.Vachier-Lagrave	1/2

## **CURRENT STANDINGS:**

1 GM Veselin Topalov	3 1/2
2 GM Levon Aronian	3
3 GM Wesley So	3
4 GM Viswanathan Anand	3
5 GM Hikaru Nakamura	2 1/2
6 GM Fabiano Caruana	2 1/2
7 GM M.Vachier-Lagrave	2
8 GM Anish Giri	2
9 GM Ding Liren	2
10 GM Peter Svidler	1 1/9

## **CUP** \* CHRONICLE

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 10, 2016 | ISSUE 5

## **ROUND 5 HIGHLIGHTS**

By WGM Tatev Abrahamyan



GM Caruana and GM Vachier-Lagrave before the start of Round 5// Austin Fuller

After more than six hours of play, it seemed that the round would end with all peaceful results, but a dramatic finish left Topalov at the top of the leaderboard. The start of the round was very promising as several of the games were very complicated. Both Caruana – Vachier-Lagrave and Svidler - Nakamura were double-edged, but after some good defensive ideas, the matches ended in a draws.

Ding Liren sacrificed a pawn in the opening, but after hours of play, it looked like the game was going to end in a draw like the others. The Chinese grandmaster's nerves must have given out, as he found himself in a mating net after being so close to a draw. Going into the day off, Veselin Topalov is now leading the tournament with 3.5/5.

The players also took the time to talk about fitness and maintaining good health during the tournament. As it turns out, most of them are fitness enthusiasts and actually find the time to exercise either at the gym or outdoors. Anish Giri also joked that chess players like the idea of the general public thinking that chess players are enthusiastic about the game more than actually being enthusiastic about it. Tomorrow is a day off, so the fans are hoping for fireworks as the players have a full day to recuperate.



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2016

## GM ANISH GIRI - GM LEVON ARONIAN 1/2 - 1/2

By WGM Tatev Abrahamyan

The Armenian seemed to have recovered from his illness yesterday and came to fight today. He was able to get a slight edge but did not play the critical move to get the advantage because, as he put it, he did not believe it as it allowed the enemy queen into his camp. He seemed regretful in the postgame interview, though, as he admitted to not spending enough time on the move and realized that it would have given him an advantage. Giri felt lucky that he drew the game because he missed his opponent's idea that would have given Levon the advantage, but he realized it when it was too late. Fortunately for him, Aronian went for the line that was drawn. The Armenian grandmaster joked that he has a lot of energy reserved as most of his games were quick and he is now ready to fight.

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e5 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.g3 d5 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.Bg2 Nb6 7.0-0 Be7 8.Rb1 a5 9.d3 [the pawn structure looks like a reverse dragon | 9...0-0 10.Be3 Be6 11.d4 exd4 12.Nxd4 Nxd4 13.Bxd4 c6 14.f4 f5 [14...Bf6 15.Bc5 Be7 16.Bxe7 Oxe7 17.Od4 Nd5 18.f5 Nxc3 19.bxc3 Bxa2 20.f6 gxf6 21.Ra1 Bd5 22.Bxd5 cxd5 23.Rxf6 Qe4 24.Qd2 Rae8 25.Rxa5 Qe3+ 26.Qxe3 Rxe3 27.Rxd5 Rxe2 28.Rg5+ Kh8 29.Rf2 1/2-1/2 (31) Nakamura, H (2787) - Vachier Lagrave,M (2789) Paris 2016] 15.e4 Rf7 [Diagram 1 Giri really liked this move for black, as the rook protects the g7 square and is ready to join the game after Bf8-Rd7]



Diagram 1

drawn now. Aronian saw this line and went for it] 22...Re8 23.a3 Rxe4 24.axb4 axb4 25.Rbe1 Rxe1 26.Rxe1 Rxf5 27.Rd1 Rc5 28.Rxd4 Rc1+ 29.Kg2 Rc2+ 30.Kh3 [white will win the b7 pawn and the 3 vs 3 endgame is a draw]

16.Bh3 Bb4 17.Bxf5 Bxf5 18.exf5
Nc4 19.Qd3 c5 [19...b5 Aronian didn't believe in this move. He didn't like the idea of letting his opponent's queen get to e6 20.Rfd1 Rd7 21.Qe4 Nxb2 Anish initially missed this move and thought the position was good for him 22.Qe6+ Rf7 (22...Kh8? 23.Bxg7+!
Diagram 2 nice shot!) 23.Rd2
Nc4] 20.Qxc4 Qxd4+ 21.Qxd4 cxd4

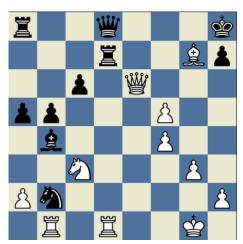


Diagram 2



**22.Ne4** [the position looks very

## GM VISWANATHAN ANAND - GM WESLY SO 1/2 - 1/2

By WGM Tatev Abrahamyan

Wesley So had a very interesting line prepared sacrificing a pawn that he was planning to play against Anish Giri in Bilbao last month, but was finally able to utilize it today. Anand called the pawn "half a pawn," because black had the pair of bishops and a lot of compensation for it. Anand was never able to find any advantage and the game resulted in an opposite color bishop endgame that was completely drawn. In the postgame interview, Anand did not seem to be bothered about being over-prepared and said it was only a matter of time before it happened. Wesley So was once again all smiles after the round and called the upcoming day off "a blessing."

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.0-0 Nf6 5.d3 0-0 6.c3 d5 [6...d6 the more standard move, keeping the position closed] 7.exd5 Nxd5 8.a4 [not the most popular move, but it has been fashionable in the top levels] 8...Nb6 [8...a5 9.Nbd2 Nb6 10.Bb5 Bd6 11.Ne4 Bg4 12.h3 Bh5 13.Re1 Ne7 14.d4 exd4 15.g4 Bg6 Anand - So played this in the Leuven leg of the Grand Chess Tour earlier this year] 9.Bb5 Ne7 [Diagram 1 interesting idea giving up the e5 pawn] 10.a5 [10.Nxe5 c6 11.Bc4 Bd6 12.Nf3 Nxc4 13.dxc4 black gets the bishop pair and gives white doubled pawns. Black has good compensation for the pawn] 10...c6 11.axb6 cxb5 12.Rxa7 Rxa7 13.bxa7 Bxa7 14.Nxe5 Bf5 15.Re1 [15.Be3 Bb8 16.d4 Ng6 17.Nxg6 hxg6 18.Nd2 Qd6 19.g3 Qd5



Diagram 1

Milliet - Hammer 2016 that ended in a draw as well] 15...Bb8
16.Na3 b4 17.cxb4 [17.Nc2 bxc3
18.bxc3 Ng6 (18...Bxe5 19.Rxe5
Qxd3 20.Qxd3 Bxd3 21.Rxe7 Bxc2
22.Rxb7 the opposite color bishop ending should be drawn but white can play it out for a while) 19.Nxg6
Bxg6 the two bishops offer enough compensation] 17...Qd5 18.Nec4
Bxd3 [even though black is down a pawn, the over simplifications help him] 19.Rxe7 Bxc4 20.Qxd5 Bxd5
[Diagram 2 once again we see a



Diagram 2

position where the bishop pair is very strong and offers enough compensation for the pawn] 21.Rd7 Bc6 22.Rd1 Ba4 23.Rd3 Bc7 24.b3 Bc6 25.f3 Rd8 26.Rxd8+ [So felt that exchanging the rooks was the most precise way of playing] 26...Bxd8 27.b5 Bd7 28.Kf2 Be7 29.Ke2 Bxa3 30.Bxa3 Bxb5+

 $\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}$ 



## GM VESELIN TOPALOV - GM DING LIREN 1 - 0

By WGM Tatev Abrahamyan

This was a 6.5 hour titanic battle. In the opening, Ding sacrificed a pawn that many of the players and the commentators were baffled by. Topalov won another pawn, but black had good drawing chances throughout. At the 6th hour, black managed to win one of the pawns back and exchanged a pair of minor pieces. The game was headed toward a draw when Ding made a critical error allowing white a winning attack in the endgame – a truly rare occurrence! Even more shockingly, Topalov failed to spot the right continuation and started repeating the position. After two repetitions, just one more before the game would be drawn by the rules of chess, Topalov checked from the different square allowing Ding to go back to the position where Topalov had the winning continuation. The Chinese Grandmaster failed to find the correct move and blundered again. This time, Topalov played the correct continuation and the game was over soon after. Ding Liren's heartbreak was palpable as he realized the cost of his mistake.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0–0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.c3 0–0 9.h3 Re8 10.d4 Bb7 11.Nbd2 Bf8 [the Zaitsev variation of the Ruy Lopez] 12.a3 h6 13.Bc2 Nb8 14.b3 Nbd7 [now it looks more like the Breyer after the night maneuver] 15. Bb2 Rc8N [15...g6 is the most common move int this position] 16.a4 b4? [all the players were confused by this move] 17.cxb4 exd4 18.Bxd4

[white is up a pawn and it's unclear where the compensation is] 18... **c5 19.bxc5 Nxc5 20.Qb1** [white is just up a clear pawn and his pieces are well placed] 20...a5 21.b4 axb4 22.Qxb4 Ba8 [defending the bishop, as Bc5 was a threat] 23.a5 d5 [opening up the f8 bishop] [23...Nfxe4 24.Nxe4 Nxe4 25.Bxe4 Bxe4 26.a6 Bxf3 27.Rxe8 Qxe8 28.gxf3 a crazy computer line, but the a6 pawn will decide the game] 24.Bxf6 [24. e5 Nd3 and things are messy now. White has as clear advantage so he wants to keep things under control] 24...Qxf6 25.e5 [typical idea, locking in the bishop on a8 and creating posting a knight on d4] 25...Qa6 26.Qg4 Ne6 27.Bf5 Rc5 28.Bxe6 [giving up both bishops, but the knight on d4 will be very strong and can't be kicked off] 28...Rxe6 29.Nb3 Rc4 30.Nfd4 Bb7 31.Qf5 Re7 32.e6 Bc8 33.exf7+ **Rxf7 34.Qxd5** [now white has two extra pawns, but it's tricky with the two bishops] 34...Bb7 35.Qe6 Rb4 36.Re3 Qa8 37.Rc1 Bd5 38.Rc8 Bxe6 39.Rxa8 Bc4 40.Rc8 Kh7 41.Rc3 Ba6 42.Rd8 Ra4 [even with the two extra pawns, black has good drawing chances 43.Ne6 Bb4 44.Rc6 Bb5 45.Rc1 Ra2 46.f3 Ba4 47.Nbd4 **Bxa5** [getting closer and closer to the draw | 48.Ra8 Bb6 49.Kh1 Bb3 50.Rb8 Bxe6 51.Rxb6 Bf5 52.Rd6 Bg6 53.Rd8 Bf5 54.Rd6 Bg6 55.Rc8 Rb7 56.Rdd8 Bd3 57.Ne6 Bf1?? [giving away the game] [57...Bf5 the bishop needs to stay on this diagonal] 58.Nf8+? [giving away the win] [58.Rh8+ Kg6 59.Nf4+ Kg5 60.Rhf8 Kh4 61.Rc1 Ba6 62.g3+

Kxg3 63.Rg1+ Kxf3 64.Nd5+ winning a rook] 58...Kg8 59.Ng6+ Kh7 60.Nf8+ Kg8 61.Ne6+ Kh7?? [now we are back where we started] [61... Kf7 62.Nf4 Bxg2+ 63.Nxg2 Rb1+ 64.Kh2 Rbb2 and the game should end in a draw] 62.Rh8+ [this time, Topalov goes for the winning line] 62...Kg6 63.Nf4+ Kg5 64.Rhf8 Rbb2 [64...Bxg2+ 65.Kh2!! Diagram 1 walking into a discovery check. Initially, Topalov did not see this idea 65...Bxf3+ 66.Kg3 and the threat of h4 check is devastating] 65.Rc7 g6 66.g3 [Diagram 2]

1 - 0

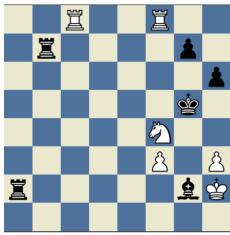


Diagram 1

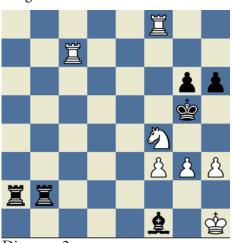


Diagram 2

## GM PETER SVIDLER - GM HIKARU NAKAMURA 1/2 - 1/2

By WGM Tatev Abrahamyan

It was clear that this game was going to be very complicated when Nakamura chose to play the King's Indian, one of the sharpest openings in chess. Svidler chose one of the quietest lines but the resulting position was very messy, with the computers not understanding what was going on, as well as the players. Svidler had an advantage but went for a position that he thought would keep his advantage, only to realize that it was actually dangerous for him. A few moves later, he missed a tactical shot that gave Nakamura the opportunity to draw the game easily.

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 g6 3.Nf3 Bg7 4.g3 0-0 5.Bg2 d6 6.0-0 Nc6 7.d4 a6 8.Re1 Rb8 9.Rb1 b5 10.cxb5 axb5 11.b4 e6 [11...e5 12.dxe5 dxe5 13.Be3 is the more common way of playing] 12.e4 Ne7 [this position hasn't been played since 2012. The strongest player to play it was Ding Liren] 13.Bf4 h6 14.h3 Bb7 15.g4 g5 16.Bg3 Ng6 17.Nd2 Nd7 18.Nb3 [Diagram 1 Svidler thought that at some point Nakamura will give up the b5 pawn and try to checkmate him.]



Diagram 1

[18.Nxb5 critical move, grabbing the pawn. The players shared their thoughts in the postgame interview 18...Ba8 (18...Bc6 19.Na7 Ba8 20.Nc4 Nf4 21.Bxf4 gxf4 22.b5 was one of Hikaru's calculations; 18...Ba6 19.Na7 Rb6 20.b5 Qa8 21.bxa6 Qxa7 Hikaru thought it's all very tricky and doubleedged) 19.a4 (19.Qe2) 19...Rxb5 20.axb5 Bxd4 Svilder felt that Black has a lot of compensation here and that the engines don't understand the position] 18...Ba6 [Nakamura didn't want to put his bishop here] [18...Nf4 Hikaru spent 20 minutes trying to make this move work but couldn't 19.Bxf4 gxf4 20.Qd2 Qg5 21.Ne2 e5 22.Rbc1 he wasn't sure how to defend the c7 pawn 22...Rbc8 23.Na5 Ba8 24.d5 looks quite ugly for black, as both bishops are locked in; 18...Nb6 19.Nxb5 Qd7 20.Nc3 f5 giving up the pawn but keeping the position sharp] 19.Na5 Rb6 20.a4 Nb8 21.axb5 Bxb5 22.Nxb5 Rxb5 23.Bf1 **Rb6 24.b5** [24.Nc4 Rb7 25.b5 and now there is no c6 25...Nd7 (25... c6 26.Nxd6 and the rook hangs) 26.Na5] 24...c6! [according to Svidler, this is a very strong move. He didn't realize how strong it is initially] 25.Nc4 Rxb5 26.Rxb5 [26. Bxd6 Rxb1 27.Qxb1 Bxd4 28.Bxf8 Kxf8 black will play c5, bring the knight to the game and should be fine] 26...cxb5 27.Nxd6 [Diagram 2at this point, Svidler was worried and started looking for a draw, as the passed pawn is quite strong and the d pawn is problematic] 27...b4 28.e5 Nc6 29.Bc4 Qb6 30.d5 [30.Re4



Diagram 2

defends the pawn and is less committal] 30...Bxe5 [the following sequence is all forced] 31.Bxe5 Ncxe5 32.dxe6 fxe6 33.Bxe6+ Kh8 34.Bf5 [black's king is very open but the b pawn will offer enough counter play] 34...b3 35.Qd5 b2 36.Rb1 Qc7 37.Bxg6 Qc1+ [forces the matters] 38.Kg2 Nxg6 39.Qd4+ Kg8 40.Qd5+ Kh8 41.Qd4+ Kg8

 $\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}$ 



## GM FABIANO CARUANA - GM M.VACHIER-LAGRAVE 1/2 - 1/2

By WGM Tatev Abrahamyan

This game was also complicated with white having the advantage most of the game. Both players made some unorthodox decisions in the opening, such as playing Kf1-g2 instead of castling. After several exchanges, the players found themselves in an opposite color bishop position. Interestingly enough, in the endgame, having the opposite colored bishops means that the game will most likely end in a draw; however, in the middle game, they can be quite dangerous, especially in attacking positions. Vachier-Lagrave should have given up a pawn, but instead he opened up the h-file, letting Caruana's rook attack his king. Unfortunately, the U.S. champion did not play energetically enough letting his advantage slip away after the queens were traded off. The resulting endgame was no trouble for the Frenchman.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 [tricky move order, avoiding the main lines of MVL's favorite Najdorf] 5...Nc6 [5...a6 6.c4 and now black can't play the Najdorf] **6.Nc3** [transposing into a classical sicilian] 6...e5 7.Nb3 Be7 8.Be3 Be6 9.Nd5 [9.Qd2 0-0 10.0-0-0 a5 now black is up a tempo in the Najdorf English attack] 9...Bxd5 10.exd5 Nb4 11.c4 a5 12.Be2 Na6 13.Nd2 0-0 14.Nb1 Nd7 15.Qd2 f5 16.Nc3 [nice maneuver by white, moving the knight to a better square] 16...Bh4+ 17.g3 f4 18.Bf2 Bg5 19.Qc2 Nac5 20.Kf1 [Caruana felt that this move was natural than 0–0, putting his king on g2 and playing h4]

20...Qe8 21.Re1 e4 [Diagram 1 sharpening up the position. It's a very double-edged move, as it is logical for black to try to open the position but attack the white king but at the same time that means that white's light square bishop will activate]



Diagram 1

**22.Bxc5** [winning the pawn isn't easy 22.Nxe4 Nxe4 23.Qxe4 Qxe4 24.fxe4 fxg3 25.hxg3 Be3 26.Bf3 Bxf2 27.Kxf2 Ne5 28.Re3 Ng4+3; 22.fxe4? fxg3 23.hxg3 Be3 and the whie king is in trouble | 22...Nxc5 23.Nxe4 [now there is no bishop on f2 to pin] 23...Nxe4 24.Bd3 fxg3 25.Bxe4 [in the endgame, having opposite color bishops means the game is drawn, but they are quite dangerous in the middle game and are excellent during attacks] 25... **Qh5?** [25...g2+ 26.Kxg2 Qh5 same idea, but now white doesn't have the h file to attack the black king. It's better to give up the pawn and keep the king safe] 26.Kg2 gxh2 27.Rxh2 Bh4 28.Bxh7+ Kh8 [28... Qxh7 29.Qxh7+ Kxh7 30.Rxh4+ Kg8 31.Re7 black's position is terrible] **29.Be4 Rf4 30.Kh1 Qe5 31.Rg1** [31.c5 Diagram 2 striking on the other side of the board as black is tied up on the king side 31...dxc5 32.Qxc5 g5 defending the bishop so the rook can move 33.Qb6 white has a passed pawn and can exploit the weakened black king]



Diagram 2

**31...g5 32.Qc3** [32.c5 is still good 32...dxc5 33.Qxc5 Rxe4 34.fxe4 Qxe4+ Caruana thought this was risky to play in time trouble 35.Rgg2 (35.Rhg2 Bg3!) 35...Re8 36.Rh3 white untangles] 32...Qxc3 33.bxc3 [white is hoping to win the b7 bishop and try to win the endgame, as the black bishop on h4 is out of the game] 33...Kg7 34.Rb1 Rf7 35.Rb6 Ra6! 36.Rhb2 [36.Rxa6 bxa6 the pawn structure is quite ugly but the exchanges help black] 36...Rxb6 37.Rxb6 Bf2 [giving up a pawn but bringing the bishop into the game] 38.Rxd6 Rf6 39.Rd8 Rf8 40.Rd6 Rf6 41.Rd8 Rf8 42.Rxf8 Kxf8 [without the rooks, the position is completely drawn] 43.d6 Bc5 44.d7 Ke7 45.Bf5 Be3 46.Kg2 Bd2 47.Kf2

 $\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}$ 

## **DAILY PUZZLE**

By FIDE Master Aviv Friedman

Each day, the Club provides a daily puzzle for all vistors to solve. Two \$25 gift cards to our store will be drawn daily among those who submit a correct solution.

Objective: White to move. Checkmate in two.

Yesterday's winner: Jonathan Yedidia and

Will Rhee

Solution: 1. Qb2



## **CROSSTABLE AFTER ROUND FIVE**

Rank	Player	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	R	Р
1	GM Topalov, Veselin (2761)					1/2	1/2	1/2		1	1	5	31/2
2	GM Aronian, Levon (2792)			1/2		-	1/2		1/2	1/2	1	5	3
3	■ GM So, Wesley (2771)		1/2		1/2	1	-	-	1/2	1/2	-	5	3
4	GM Anand, Viswanathan (2770)	-	-	1/2		1/2	1/2	1		1/2	-	5	3
5	GM Nakamura, Hikaru (2791)	1/2		0	1/2		-		1	*	1/2	5	21/2
6	GM Caruana, Fabiano (2807)	1/2	1/2		1/2	-		1/2	-	-	1/2	5	21/2
7	GM Vachier-Lagrave, Maxime (2819)	1/2	-	-	0		1/2		1/2	2	1/2	5	2
8	GM Giri, Anish (2769)	-	1/2	1/2	-	0	-	1/2		1/2	-	5	2
9	GM Ding, Liren (2755)	0	1/2	1/2	1/2	(4)		-	1/2		-	5	2
10	GM Svidler, Peter (2751)	0	0	-		1/2	1/2	1/2	-			5	11/2



#### **PAIRINGS - ROUND 6**

- ☐ **GM** Levon Aronian
- **GM M.Vachier-Lagrave**
- ☐ GM Hikaru Nakamura
- **GM Fabiano Caruana**
- ☐ GM Ding Liren
- **GM Peter Svidler**
- ☐ GM Wesly So
- **GM Veselin Topalov**
- ☐ GM Anish Giri
- **GM Viswanathan Anand**

## SINQUEFIELD CUP SIDE EVENTS

## SINQUEFIELD ACTION QUADS

Friday, August 12 | 6:30 - 10 p.m.

Rounds begin at 7 p.m.

Location: Chess Club Tournament Hall

G/20;d3

Three-round, quick-rated tournament

Entry Fee: \$10

Registration: 6:30 - 6:50 p.m.

Prize Fund: \$50 for first place in each

quad

#### Cup Chronicle Photo Credit: Austin Fuller | Lennart Ootes | Spectrum Studios





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# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 4

4:00 PM - 5:30 PM Autographs, Kingside Diner

THURSDAY, AUGUST 4

6:00 PM | Opening Ceremony\*

FRIDAY, AUGUST 5

1:00 PM | Round 1

SATURDAY, AUGUST 6

1:00 PM | Round 2

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 7** 

1:00 PM | Round 3

**MONDAY, AUGUST 8** 

1:00 PM | Round 4

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 9** 

1:00 PM | Round 5

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10

Rest Day

THURSDAY, AUGUST 11

1:00 PM | Round 6

FRIDAY, AUGUST 12

1:00 PM | Round 7

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13

1:00 PM | Round 8

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14

1:00 PM | Round 9

MONDAY, AUGUST 15

12:00 PM | Playoff

. .

MONDAY, AUGUST 15

6:00 PM | Closing Ceremony\*

TUESDAY, AUGUST 16

1:00 PM | Ultimate Moves

\*Private Event, World Chess Hall of Fame