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ROUND 6 RESULTS:

0
1
1/2
1/2
1
0
1
0
1/2
1/2

CURRENT STANDINGS:

1 GM Wesly So	4
2 GM Veselin Topalov	3 ½
3 GM Viswanathan Anand	3 ½
4 GM M.Vachier-Lagrave	3
5 GM Levon Aronian	3
6 GM Hikaru Nakamura	3
7 GM Ding Liren	3
8 GM Fabiano Caruana	3
9 GM Anish Giri	2 ½
10 GM Peter Svidler	1 1/2

CUP ★ CHRONICLE

FRIDAY AUGUST 12, 2016 | ISSUE 6

ROUND 6 HIGHLIGHTS By WGM Tatev Abrahamyan

GM Wesly So before the start of Round 6// Spectrum Studios

The rest day was exactly what the doctor prescribed, as the players were rejuvenated and came ready to fight. After three days of quiet games, Round 6 produced five exciting games and three decisive results. The most dramatic result of the round came when Wesley So beat Veselin Topalov, surpassing him by half a point and taking the sole lead of the tournament.

Ding Liren suffered a heartbreaking loss in Round 5, but came back today with a very nice victory defeating Peter Svidler, who hasn't been able to find his form this tournament. Maxime Vachier-Lagrave scored his first victory in the tournament over Levon Aronian. The Frenchman spent his rest day playing bullet against Daniel Rensch with the giant pieces outside of the World Chess Hall of Fame and jokingly attributed his success to the exercise he got from running back and forth to move the pieces.

Another exciting match-up was between Nakamura and Caruana, who became rivals and Olympiad teammates when the Caruana started playing under the U.S. flag a year ago. Caruana chose a very sharp Benoni line and then played down a very complicated line. In the endgame, Nakamura had winning chances but the U.S. Champion played very accurately and found some great defensive resources. Giri had some winning chances against Anand, but with only 4 seconds left on his clock to make his 40th move, he couldn't possibly calculate an accurate line and played a safe move, which lead to a draw.





GM LEVON ARONIAN - GM M.VACHIER-LAGRAVE 0 - 1

By WGM Tatev Abrahamyan

This game was played quite poorly by Aronian and was very one-sided. Aronian's computer crashed before the game, perhaps explaining his poor opening choice. The Frenchman played a fairly clean game winning several pawns, then giving two of them back just to trade down to a winning bishop vs. knight ending. Aronian missed one big opportunity in the game, which would have given him the opportunity to draw in a very unique way, but the rest of the game was also very well played by Vachier-Lagrave.

1.Nf3 c5 2.c4 Nc6 3.Nc3 e5 4.g3 g6 5.Bg2 Bg7 6.0-0 Nge7 7.a3 0-0 8.b4 d5 [8...cxb4 9.axb4 Nxb4 10.Ba3 Nbc6 11.Bd6 gives white a lot of compensation for the pawn, as the bishop on d6 is very annoying] 9.cxd5 Nxd5 10.Ng5N [10.Nxd5 Qxd5 11.Rb1 cxb4 12.axb4 e4 and black got an advantage in Gelfand-Karjakin 2009] 10... Nc7 [10...Qxg5 11.Bxd5 also possible. White will try to put pressure on the queen side 11... cxb4 12.axb4 Nxb4 grabbing the pawn is still bad 13.Ba3]11. Nge4 c4!? [Diagram 1] 12.d3 [Aronian spent 23 minutes on this move] 12...cxd3 13.Bg5? [unsound sacrifice] [13.exd3 Ne6 14.Bb2 white has the weak d3 pawn, but he should be able to defend it and create counter-



Diagram 1

play on the queen side]

13...f6 14.Be3 f5! [the most accurate move] [14...dxe2 15.Qxe2 even though white is down a pawn, the knight will land on c5 and the rooks have open files] 15.Bg5 [15. Nc5 looks natural, but doesn't work tactically 15...f4 16.Bd2 dxe2 17.Qxe2 f3 18.Bxf3 Rxf3 19.Qxf3 Qxd2-+] 15...Qd4 16.Be3 Qd8 17.Bg5 Qd7 18.Nc5 dxe2 19.Nxe2 Qxd1 20.Rfxd1 f4! [threatening to trap the g5 bishop] 21.gxf4 h6 22.b5 [22. Rac1 giving up the piece to grap pawns 22...hxg5 23.Nxb7 Bxb7 24.Bxc6 Rab8] 22...Nxb5 23.Rab1 Nxa3 24.Rb3 hxg5 25.Rxa3 [25.Nxb7 trying to keep things complicated 25...Bxb7 26.Rxb7 Rad8 27.Rxd8 Rxd8 (27...Nxd8 28.Bd5+ Kh7 29.Rb3 threatening both the knight and Rh3) 28.Bxc6 exf4 29.Rxa7 Nc4 black is still up a pawn, but the pawn trades gives white drawing chances] 25...exf4 26.Bd5+ Kh7

27.Ne4 Kh6 28.Nd6 Bf6 29.Bxc6 bxc6 30.Nxc8 Raxc8 31.Rd7 g4 32.Nxf4 Rcd8 33.Raxa7 Rxd7 34.Rxd7 c5 35.Ne6? [35.Rd6 a brilliant way to draw the game 35...Be5 36.Rxg6+ Kh7 37.Rg5 Bxf4 38.Rxc5 h3 and Rh5 is a threat, exchanging black's last pawn and going into a R+B v R ending 38...Kg6 39.Rc4 Kg5 40.Rc5+ Kh4 (40...Rf5 41.Rxf5+ Kxf5 42.Kg2 h3 the next move and it's a draw) 41.Kg2 Diagram 2 and black can't make progress!

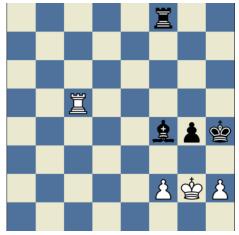


Diagram 2

White's idea is to play Rc3 and h3 exchanging the g4 pawn]

35...Rc8 36.Rc7 Rxc7 37.Nxc7 c4 [Black is now only up one pawn, but White pieces need to rush to the queen side to stop the c pawn, which will give black the opportunity to get the king side pawns] 38.Kf1 Kg5 39.Nd5 Be5 40.Ke2 Bxh2 41.Ke3 Be5 42.Nb4 Bd6 43.Nd5 Bc5+ 44.Ke2 Kf5 45.Nc3 Ke5 46.Nb5 Bb4 47.Ke3 g5 48.Nc7 Bc5+ 49.Ke2 c3

GM HIKARU NAKAMURA - GM FABIANO CARUANA 1/2 - 1/2

By WGM Tatev Abrahamyan

This was the battle that the American fans had been looking forward to the most. For the second time in the tournament, Caruana chose the sharp and principled Benoni Defense. After 20 moves of theory, Caruana forgot his preparation but was still satisfied with his position. After some maneuvering and trades, the U.S. Champion's queen had to defend against Nakamura's two rooks - one of the most interesting imbalances in chess. In the postgame interviews, the players who had already finished their games were even asked about the position. Most of the players felt that, in human hands, the two rooks should overpower the queen. Anish Giri had actually analyzed this type of endgame in depth after his wife had a similar position and he analyzed the position extensively to show drawing ideas. Caruana played the endgame masterfully, weakening his opponent's king and demonstrating why the queen is the most powerful piece on the board.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 c5 4.d5 d6
5.Nc3 exd5 6.cxd5 g6 [Caruana chooses the sharp Benoni for the second time in the tournament.]
7.Bf4 Bg7 8.Qa4+ Bd7 9.Qb3 b5
10.Bxd6 Qb6 11.Be5 0-0 12.e3 c4
13.Qd1 b4 14.Nb1 Rc8 15.Nbd2
Bb5 16.a4 bxa3 17.Rxa3 Bf8 18.Bd4
Qb7!? [offering a piece sacrifice]
19.Ra1 [accepting the sacrifice is dangerous 19.Bxf6 Bxa3 20.bxa3
(20.Ne4 Bb4+ 21.Bc3 Bxc3+
22.bxc3 Ba4) 20...c3 21.Ne4 c2
22.Qc1 Bxf1 23.Rxf1 Qxd5



Diagram 1

Diagram 1 and due to his c2 pawn and the white king being stuck in the center, black is much better] 19....Nxd5 20.Be2 [Caruana had looked at this line deeply but forgot his preparation at this point. He still thought that the position should be roughly even] 20...Nc6 21.0-0 Nxd4 22.Nxd4 a6 23.Bf3 Rd8 24.Ne4 Qb6 25.Nc3 Nxc3 26.bxc3 Rac8 [white's knight on d4 is quite strong and the bishop on b5 is stuck deefending the a6 and c4 pawns] 27.Qc2 Qf6 28.Rfb1 Rc5 29.Bd1 [29.Nxb5 axb5 even if black loses the b5 pawn, he would be very happy about this kind of exchange as now the opposite color bishop endgame will be drawish] 29...Bg7 30.Qe2 Qe7 31.Rb2 Qe8 32.Rba2 h5 33.Ba4 [very nice bishop maneuver by white. He wants to keep the strong d4 knight] 33... Bxa4 34.Rxa4 Bxd4 35.cxd4 Rxd4 36.exd4 Qxe2 37.dxc5 [a very interesting endgame that we don't see very often.] 37...c3 38.Rc1 c2 39.Rd4 Qb5 40.Rd2 Qxc5 41.Rdxc2 Qa3 [many of the players thought that

the two rooks should win, citing the first game of the Leko-Kramnik world championship match from 2004, where Kramnik's two rooks prevailed against the queen] **42.h4 a5 43.g3 a4 44.Re1 Qb3 45.Rce2** [to win the game, white needs to win the a4 pawn first then the f7 pawn, trading down to a 3 vs 2 king and pawn endgame] **45...Qc3 46.Re3 Qb2 47.R1e2 Qb4 48.Kh2 Kg7 49.Rf3 g5!** [Diagram 2 black needs to find counterplay, otherwise Ra2 and Rf4 win the a4 pawn]

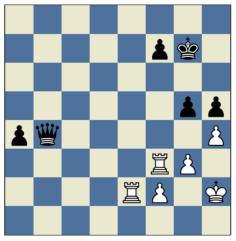


Diagram 2

50.hxg5 h4 51.Ree3 hxg3+ 52.Kxg3 Kg6 [now black has enough activity. The trade of the pawns favored black as the white king is now open, allowing the black queen to give a perpetual in case white goes after the a4 pawn] 53.Kh2 Qc4 54.Rg3 Qf1 55.Ref3 Qc4 56.Rf6+ Kg7 57.Rff3 Kg6 58.Rf6+ Kg7 59.Rff3

1⁄2 - 1⁄2

GM DING LIREN - GM PETER SVIDLER 1 - 0

By WGM Tatev Abrahamyan

It seems that the Russian is really struggling to find his groove in this event, as he has now suffered three losses. In the postgame interview, he shook his head and said that "something is not right." Not wanting to play a slightly worse symmetrical position, Svidler tried to create some active counterplay on the queen side, which only helped his opponent whose pieces were very placed. After some tactical misses, Svidler found himself with a rook and a bishop vs. a queen and defended tenaciously. All Ding Liren needed to seal the deal was another mistake from his opponent, which came later in the game.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 c5 4.d5 Bg7 5.Bg2 0-0 6.Nc3 d6 7.Nh3 [7.Nf3 e6 8.0–0 exd5 9.cxd5 transposing into a Benoni. Ding Liren played this line against Grischuk in 2015] 7...a6 8.a4 e6 9.Nf4 exd5 10.Nfxd5 Nxd5 11.Nxd5 Nc6 12.0-0 Re8 [12... Rb8 there is no need to waste time with Re8] 13.Ra2! [an unusual way of bringing the rook into the game] 13...Rb8 [13...Be6 14.b3 Bxd5 15.Bxd5 Nb4 16.Rd2 Bc3 17.Bxb7 Bxd2 18.Qxd2 Svidler had calculated this line and was worried about the queen and bishop battery on the a1-h8 diagonal, that only works because the queen takes on d2 18 ... Rb8 19.Bg2 the computer finds a defense that Svidler found impossible for a human being to find 19... Qb6 20.Bb2 Nc6 21.Bxc6 Qxc6 22.Qc3 Re5 23.f4 Rxb3!! Diagram 1 24.Qxb3 Rxe2 25.Rf2 Re1+ 26.Rf1 Re2 and white can't do anything

better than to repeat. Of course, the players couldn't possibly have calculated this out]

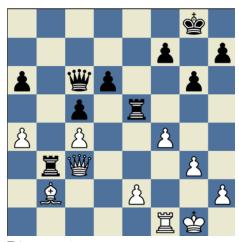


Diagram 1

14.b3 [this is the idea behind Rb2. White wants to play both Bb2 exchanging the bishops and Rd2 putting pressure on d6] 14...b5 [it's logical to create counter play, but it doesn't work tactically as it makes the bishop on g2 very dangerous and the knight on c6 very loose] [14...Be6 15.Nf4] 15.axb5 axb5 16.cxb5 Nd4 [16...Rxb5 17.Bg5! (17. Nf6+ Bxf6 18.Bxc6 Rb6 19.Bxe8 Qxe8 white is up the exchange, but black has the bishop pair and a move like Bh3 will be very annoying to deal with) 17...Qxg5 18.Nc7 Bd7 19.Nxb5 white still wins an exchange, but keeps his g2 bishop and the pressure on d6 pawn] 17.b6 Be6 18.e3 Nb5 19.Bd2 Bxd5 20.Bxd5 **Qxb6 21.Qf3 Re7** [safer is 21...Qc7] 22.Ba5 Qa7 23.Bd8! [Diagram 2] 23...Rxd8 [23...Qxa2 24.Bxe7 and it's impossible to defend the f7 pawn] 24.Rxa7 Rxa7 25.Bc4 [with good technique, white should win

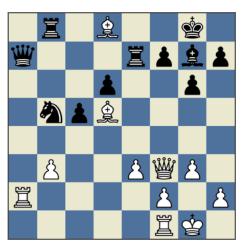


Diagram 2

this] 25...Nc3 26.Qc6 d5 27.Bd3 Ra3 28.Qb6 Rc8 29.Kg2 Bf8 30.Rc1 Na2 31.Ra1 Bg7 32.Rb1 Nb4 33.Bb5 Bf8 34.e4 Raa8 35.Bf1 Rab8 36.Qa7 Ra8 37.Qb7 Rab8 38.Qa7 Ra8 39.Qd7 c4? [the final mistake] [39...Rd8 black should just wait for white to make progress and not allow him to have a passed pawn] 40.bxc4 dxe4 [40... dxc4 41.e5 and all of a sudden the black king is in danger. For example: 41...c3 42.e6 fxe6 43.Bc4!! c2 44.Rxb4 c1Q 45.Rb7 and black is getting checkmated!] 41.Qb7 Nc6 42.Re1 Rab8 43.Qd7 Ne5 44.Qd5 Rc5 45.Qxe4 Rbc8 46.Rc1 R8c7 47.Be2 Rc8 48.f4 Nd7 49.Ra1 Nf6 50.Qf3 Re8 51.Ra8 Re6 52.Qd3 Kg7 53.Bf3 Rd6 54.Qc3 h5 55.h3 Kg8 56.Qb4 Nd7 57.Bd5 Rb6 58.Qd2 Rc7 59.f5

1 - 0

GM WESLY SO - GM VESELIN TOPALOV 1 - 0

By WGM Tatev Abrahamyan

The American played a long variation but did not get anything out of the opening since his opponent played all the correct moves. As he put it himself, "fortunately, the opening is not the only part of the game." So created some weaknesses just to keep the game going and to avoid the exchange of queens. Topalov made a very strange decision of allowing his opponent to have a protected passed pawn instead of capturing it, which he thought would equalize the position. So found a very precise continuation giving up a weak pawn just to trade the queens and get a winning ending, leaving his opponent helpless to create any counter play. Wesley So is now leading both the Sinquefield Cup and the Grand Chess Tour!

1.c4 e5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.Nc3 Nb6 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.0-0 Be7 8.d3 0-0 9.a3 Be6 10.Be3 [10.b4 is the most common move and has been played by Topalov himself] 10...Nd5 11.Nxd5 Bxd5 12.Qa4 Re8 13.Rac1 a6 14.Nd2 Bxg2 15.Kxg2 Nd4 16.Bxd4 exd4 17.Qb3 [this has only been played once before in correspondence chess] 17... Rb8 18.e4 dxe3 19.fxe3 Rf8 20.Ne4 [Wesley said that he had prepared up until now, but Topalov found all the right moves and the position is harmless] 20...Qd7 21.Rf3 Rbd8 22.d4 c6 23.Rcf1 Qd5 24.Qc2?! [it's safer to trade the queens] [24.Qxd5 Rxd5 25.Rf5 Rxf5 26.Rxf5 heading towards a drawn endgame] 24...g6 25.g4

[Diagram 1 this move looks very weakening, but white can't allow black to play f5]

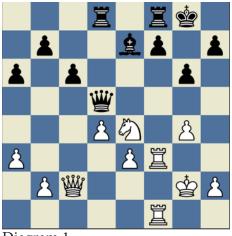


Diagram 1

25...Rde8 26.h3 Bd8 [rerouting the bishop to c7] 27.Nc3 Qe6 28.Na4 b6 29.Rc1 c5 [29...Qd5 30.Qxc6 Qg5 this position is quite dangerous for white. Black has a lot of compensation with h5 and the weak e3 pawn] 30.dxc5 b5 31.Nc3 Qc6 32.Qd2 Re5? 33.b4 Bg5 34.Rd1! [Diagram 2 instead of hanging on to the pawn, So is trying to exchange the queens and push his c6 pawn]

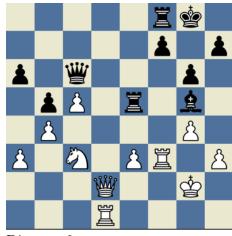


Diagram 2

34...Bxe3 [34...Rd8 35.Qa2 this is what Topalov missed but thought maybe this is what he had to do anyways. The f7 pawn is a big target] 35.Qd7 [white is winning now and the rest is a matter of technique] 35...Qa8 36.Nd5 Bg5 37.c6 Bh4 38.Rd2 [safer] [38.c7 Re2+ 39.Kg1 Rc2 40.Rdf1 the engines prefer this line, but it's hard for a human being to risk a completely won position and allow the black rook in the second rank] 38...Re1 39.Rc2 Kg7 [loses right away, but it's hard to suggest a good move for black] 40.Nb6 Qb8 41.Qd4+

1 - 0



GM ANISH GIRI - GM VISWANATHAN ANAND 1/2 - 1/2

By WGM Tatev Abrahamyan

The game started off with an English opening, but the structure resembled more the Alapin variation of the Sicilian, where white has a weak pawn but a lot of activity. The game was quiet for a while, until Anand blundered, letting his opponent's pieces penetrate his side of the board. The day off was counterproductive for the former World Champion, as he admitted to not getting enough sleep the night before and even feeling ready to fall asleep during the game. He joked that he was fully alert when he blundered, as he did not want to make any excuses for himself. Giri played the position too safe, mainly because he only had seconds left to make his 40th move. After the dust settled and the players got their additional hour on the clock, there was not much left to play for and a draw was agreed.

1.c4 c5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.g3 d5 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.Bg2 e6 7.0-0 Be7 8.d4 0-0 9.e4 Ndb4 10.dxc5 Bxc5 11.e5 **Bb6** [11...Be7 12.a3 Nd3 13.Qe2 Nxc1 14.Raxc1 Kortschnoj-Huebner 1981] 12.a3 Nd5 13.Qe2 Bd7 14.Rd1 Nxc3 15.bxc3 Qc7 [Diagram 1 this structure resembles the positions that arise from Alapin variations of the sicilian, except the bishop is on g2 except for d3. In the long term, white has structural problems because of the isolated c3 pawn, so he needs to be active] 16.a4 [16.Qe4 threatening Ng5 16... Ne7 17.Ng5 Ng6 18.Qxb7 Qxc3 19.Bd2 Qb2 and the position is very messy 20.Qxd7 Rad8 wins



Diagram 1

back the piece] 16...Ne7 17.Ng5 Bc6 18.Ba3 Bxg2 19.Kxg2 Bc5 20.Qe4 Ng6 21.Bxc5 Qxc5 22.Nf3 b6 23.Rd7 [white still has the c3 weakness, but he has very active pieces] 23...Qxc3 24.Rad1 Rac8 25.Rxa7 Rc4 26.Qb7 Rcc8 27.Re1 [27.Rd7 Diagram 2 looks more natural to have the rook on the 7th rank 27...Nxe5 28.Nxe5 Qxe5 29.Rxf7 Rxf7 30.Qxf7+ Kh8 31.Rb7 black's pieces are forced to protect the g7 and bank rank checkmate threats, allowing white to win a pawn and press for a win] 27...Rb8 28.Qe4 Qc5 29.Rb1 b5 [29...



Diagram 2

h6 stops the Ng5 move, so now the g6 knight can move] **30.Ra5 Qc4 31.Qxc4 bxc4 32.Rxb8 Rxb8 33.Rc5 Rb4 34.a5 Ra4 35.Nd2 c3 36.Rc8+ Nf8 37.Nb3 g5 38.Rxc3 Ra3 39.Kf3 Ng6 40.Rc8+** [Giri had 4 seconds left on his clock when he played this move] [40.Ke3 gives white winning chances. The rest are Giri's analysis 40...Nxe5 41.Kd4 Ng6 42.Kc4 Ne7 43.Rc1 Ra2 44.Kb5 Rb2 45.Kb4 Ra2 46.Ra1 Nd5+ 47.Kc5 Rc2+ 48.Kd6 Nb4 49.Nc5 Rxf2] **40...Kg7 41.Rc3**

1⁄2 - 1⁄2



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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.

Solution: 1. Bg3



CROSSTABLE AFTER ROUND SIX

Rank	Player	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	R	Р
1	📟 GM So, Wesley (2771)		1	1⁄2		1/2	1	1/2	•	1/2	-	6	4
2	GM Topalov, Veselin (2761)	0			1/2		1/2	1	1/2		1	6	31⁄2
3	GM Anand, Viswanathan (2770)	1/2			1		1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	-	6	31⁄2
4	GM Vachier-Lagrave, Maxime (2819)	-	1/2	0		1		-	1/2	1/2	1/2	6	3
5	GM Aronian, Levon (2792)	1/2	-	-	0			1/2	1/2	1/2	1	6	3
6	🚟 GM Nakamura, Hikaru (2791)	0	1/2	1/2	-			-	1/2	1	1/2	6	3
7	GM Ding, Liren (2755)	1/2	0	1⁄2	-	1/2	1.00			1/2	1	6	3
8	📟 GM Caruana, Fabiano (2807)	-	1/2	1⁄2	1/2	1/2	1/2				1/2	6	3
9	GM Giri, Anish (2769)	1/2		1⁄2	1/2	1/2	0	1/2	-	\geq	•	6	21/2
10	GM Svidler, Peter (2751)	-	0	-	1/2	0	1/2	0	1/2	-		6	1½

CARUANA SIGIRI NAKAMURA LIREN ANAND SVIDLER VACHIER-LAGRAVEL ARONIAN SO TOPALOV



PAIRINGS - ROUND 7

GM Viswanathan AnandGM Levon Aronian

□ GM Veselin Topalov ■ GM Anish Giri

□ GM Peter Svidler ■ GM Wesly So

□ GM Fabiano Caruana■ GM Ding Liren

□ GM M.Vachier-Lagrave ■ GM Hikaru Nakamura

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

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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