

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Anand - Vachier-Lagrave	2
Aronian - Svidler	3
Nepomniachtchi - Carlsen	4
Karjakin - So	5
Caruana - Nakamura	6
Current Standings	7
Round 9 Pairings	7
Schedule of Events	8

CUP★CHRONICLE

FRIDAY, AUGUST 11, 2017 | ISSUE 8

ROUND 8 HIGHLIGHTS

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN



ROUND 8 // LENNART OOTES

ROUND 8 RESULTS

♔ GM V. Anand	½
♔ GM M. Vachier-Lagrave	½
♔ GM L. Aronian	½
♔ GM P. Svidler	½
♔ GM I. Nepomniachtchi	½
♔ GM M. Carlsen	½
♔ GM S. Karjakin	1
♔ GM W. So	∅
♔ GM F. Caruana	½
♔ GM H. Nakamura	½

CURRENT STANDINGS

1. GM L. Aronian	5
2. GM M. Vachier-Lagrave	5
3. GM V. Anand	5
4. GM M. Carlsen	4 ½
5. GM S. Karjakin	4 ½
6. GM F. Caruana	4
7. GM P. Svidler	3 ½
8. GM I. Nepomniachtchi	3
9. GM H. Nakamura	3
10. GM W. So	2 ½

Round eight of the Sinquefield Cup did not bring any changes to the top of the leaderboard. Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, Viswanathan Anand, and Levon Aronian all drew their games and remain ahead of the field by half a point. Sergey Karjakin had the only decisive result of the round and has joined Magnus Carlsen in the chase, as the two are half a point behind the leaders. One of the most shocking results of the tournament has been the struggle of last year's winner, Wesley So, who has lost four games already and finds himself in last place. It will all come down to the final round as there are several possible scenarios for this tournament to end, including a four-way tie!



GRAND CHESS TOUR™
2017
GRANDCHESSTOUR.ORG | @CCSCSL
@GRANDCHESSTOUR | #GRANDCHESSTOUR



GM VISWANATHAN ANAND - GM MAXIME VACHIER-LAGRAVE

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN



Position after Move 13

GM VISWANATHAN ANAND VS. GM MAXIME VACHIER-LAGRAVE // AUSTIN FULLER

The former World Champion chose the English Opening, an unusual choice for him. He usually opts for 1.e4, which would have allowed his opponent to play his favorite Najdorf yet again. Vachier-Lagrave was not expecting to face the English but actually ended up surprising Anand with his reply. White had a slight edge as he had the better development, but a rapid series of exchanges simplified the position into a drawn endgame.

1.Nf3 [already somewhat of a surprise, as Anand is an avid 1.e4 player]

1...c5 [giving his opponent one more chance to play the Sicilian]

2.c4 [2.e4 would transpose back to a Sicilian]

2...Nf6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 d5 [this move surprised Anand]

[Anand has tried this move himself some time ago 4...Nc6 5.g3 g6 6.Bg2 Bg7 7.0-0 8.Nc3 Nxd4 9.Qxd4 d6 10.Qd3 a6 11.Be3 Bf5 12.Qd2 Qd7 13.Bd4 Bh3 14.Bxh3 Qxh3 15.Bxf6 Bxf6 16.Nd5 Qf5 17.Qe3 e6 18.Nxf6+ Qxf6 19.Qb6 Qe5 20.b3 Qxe2 21.Rfd1 Qb2 22.Qxd6 a5 23.Qd4 Qa3 24.Rd3 a4 25.c5 axb3 26.Rxb3 Qa7 27.Rab1 Rac8 28.Rxb7 Qxc5 29.Qxc5 Rxc5 30.Ra7 Rfc8 31.Kg2 Rf5 32.Rb2 Rc3 1/2-1/2 (32) Aronian,L (2750)-Anand,V (2791) Nice 2009]

5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.e4 Nb4 [Anand was surprised in the opening but he was aware of this game 6...Nf6 7.Bb5+ Bd7 8.Qe2 e5 9.Nf3 Bb4+ 10.Bd2 Bxd2+ 11.Nbxd2 Qb6 12.a4 a6 13.Nc4 Qc5 14.Bxd7+ Nbx7 15.0-0 0-0 16.Rfd1 Rac8 17.Nd6 Rc6 18.Qd2 Qb6 19.b4 Qc7 20.Rac1 Nb6 21.Rxc6 Qxc6 22.Nxe5 Qxa4 23.Rc1 Qb3 24.Qd4 Qe6 25.Nxb7 Re8 26.f4 Nbd7 27.Nd6 Rf8 28.Nc6 Nb8 29.Na5 Nbd7 30.Nc6 Nb8 31.Na5 Nbd7 32.Rd1 Nh5 33.e5 Qg4 34.Rf1 g5 35.h3 Nxf4 36.hxg4 Ne2+ 37.Kf2 Nxd4 38.Rd1 f6 39.e6 1/2-1/2 (39) Giri,A (2769) -Svidler,P (2741) Shenzhen 2017]

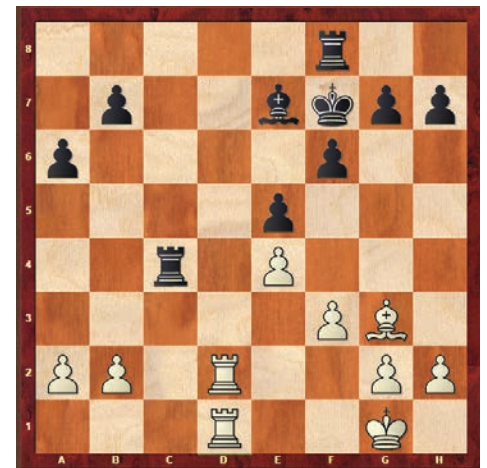
7.Bb5+ Bd7 8.Bc4 N8c6 9.Nxc6 Nxc6 10.0-0 [White has a slight edge as he is ahead in development but the closed e file won't allow him to launch an attack]

10...e6 11.Nc3 Be7 12.Bf4 0-0 13.Qd2 Be8 14.Rfd1 [14.Qe3 will allow White to keep the advantage 14...e5 15.Bg3?]

14...Qxd2 15.Rxd2 Rc8 16.Nb5 e5 17.Bg3 Na5 [17...Nd4 Black would like to play this move, but it doesn't work out 18.Nxd4 Rxc4 19.Bxe5 MVL couldn't find a way to equalize]

18.Bf1 Bxb5 [18...Nc4 it would be great for Black if this move would work out 19.Nxa7 Nxd2 20.Nxc8 Bc5 21.Rc1 Nxe4 22.Bd3 Bd7 (22...Nxc3 23.Rxc5) 23.Ne7+! Bxe7 24.Bxe4 and White's bishops are monstrous]

19.Bxb5 f6 20.Rad1 [better was 20.Bd7 Rc7 (20...Rfd8? 21.Rd5 winning a piece) 21.Be6+ Kh8 22.Rad1?]



20...Kf7 21.f3 a6 22.Bf1 Nc4 23.Bxc4+ Rxc4= [finally, Black has equalized]

24.Rd7 Rb8 25.Kf1 Ke8 26.Be1 Rd8 27.Rxd8+ Bxd8 28.Ke2 Rc2+ 29.Rd2 Rxd2+ 30.Bxd2 Kd7

1/2-1/2

GM LEVON ARONIAN - GM PETER SVIDLER

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN, ANNOTATIONS BY GM CRISTIAN CHIRILA



GM PETER SVIDLER
// LENNART OOTES

Svidler repeated the same line Nepomniachtchi played against Aronian in round 1. Even though that game ended in a sparkling win for Aronian, he chose a different line knowing that his opponent would be well prepared. The game became extremely complicated when the players decided to repeat the position instead of entering the wilderness of the variations. The computers disapproved of their decisions but the lines were too unnatural for humans to play over the board and a peaceful result was reached.

[An incredibly sharp game that ended way too quickly. Aronian once again proved that he is one of the most dynamic players in the circuit by choosing an extremely dangerous opening, which could have backfired badly if only Svidler would have found a brilliant combination at the end. Let's get into the action!]

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e3 Nxc3 6.bxc3 g6 7.h4!? [7.Bb5+ Bd7 8.Rb1 Bg7 9.0-0 0-0 10.d4 Qc7 11.Bxd7 Nxd7 12.e4 Rfd8 13.Qe2 Rac8 14.Bg5 Nb6 15.Rfc1 h6 16.Be3 Qd7 17.d5 f5 18.exf5 Qxf5 19.c4 e6 20.dxe6 Qxe6 21.Kf1 Rf8 22.Rb5 Rf5 23.h3 Qc6 24.Qd3 Nd7 25.Rd1 Nf8 26.Rb3 b6 27.Ra3 Rc7 28.Qc2 Rcf7 29.Rad3 Kh7 30.Rd6 Qb7 31.Nh4 R5f6 32.R6d5 Rd7 33.Nf3 Rxd5 34.Rxd5 Rf7 35.Ne5 Bxe5 36.Rxe5 Qd7 Anton Guijarro, D (2650)-Gelfand, B (2721) Caleta 2017 1-0 (72)]

7...Bg7 [7...h6!]? This is my proposal, not allowing h5 to be an eternal nuisance on the kingside 8.d4 (8.h5 g5 9.d4 Bg7 10.Bd3 0-0 11.0-0 Be6 12.Rb1 b6 13.Qe2 Nd7÷) 8...Bg7 9.Rb1 0-0 10.Bd3 Qc7 11.h5 g5 12.Nd2 b6 13.0-0²]

8.h5 Nc6 [Where have we seen this before? One only has to go back a few rounds, the game between Aronian and Nepomniachtchi from round one was a masterpiece!]

9.Be2N [9.Rb1 Qc7 10.hxg6 (10.d4 Bd7 11.Bd3 Rd8 12.Qc2 Bg4 13.Ng5 cxd4 14.Qb3 e6 15.exd4 Rd7 16.Ne4² 1-0 (66) Svidler, P (2740)-Nepomniachtchi, I (2702) Nizhnij Novgorod 2013) 10...hxg6 11.Rxh8+ Bxh8 12.Qb3 b6 13.Ng5 e6 14.d4 Na5 15.Bb5+ Kf8 16.Qd1 Bb7 17.Qg4 Qh2 18.e4 cxd4 19.Qf3 f5 20.cxd4 Kg8 21.Ke2 Rc8 22.Bf4 fxe4 23.Nxe4 Qh5 24.Qxh5 gxh5 25.Nd6 Rc2+ 26.Kd3 Rxf2 27.Be3 Rxa2 28.Nxb7 Nxb7 29.Bc4 Ra3+ 30.Kd2 Nd8 31.Rb5 Ra5 32.Rxa5 bxa5 33.d5 exd5 1/2-1/2 (33) Bauer, C (2632)-Howell, D (2655) Reading 2017; 9.Ba3 Qa5 10.Rh4 Bd7 11.Qb3 0-0 12.Qxb7± Aronian vs Nepomniachtchi -0 2017 Sinquefeld Cup, Round 11]



9...Bf5 10.Qb3 b6 11.Ng5 e6 12.f4 [12.Qa4! Rc8 13.Bb5 Qxg5 (13...Qd6 14.e4 Bg4 15.h6 Be5 16.Rh4 f6 (16...f5 17.d4+-) 17.d4 cxd4 18.Ba3 Qd7 19.Rxg4 fxe4 20.cxd4+- The pair of bishop is simply irresistible) 14.Bxc6+ Kf8 15.Bb7 Rd8 16.Bf3 Bd3 17.Qxa7 Greed sometimes is good, especially in chess! 17...b5 18.a4 b4 19.a5±]

12...h6 13.Qa4 Rc8 14.Ne4 [14.Bb5 Same idea does not work anymore because of 14...hxg5 15.Bxc6+ Kf8 16.Bf3 g4 17.Be4 Rxh5μ]



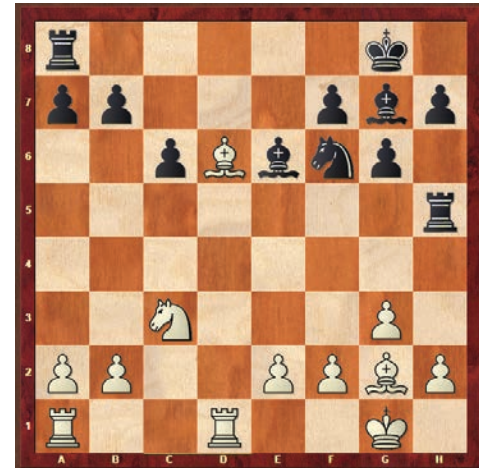
14...g5 15.Bb5 Qd5 16.Nf2 Qd6 [16...Qxg2!! Would have led to out of this world complications! 17.Bf1 (17.e4 0-0 18.Bxc6 Rxc6!! 19.Qxc6 g4 Despite his extra rook, white is almost lost due to the weakness of his king and the lack of coordination among his pieces 20.Rf1 g3 21.Bb2 gxf2+ 22.Rxf2 Qg1+ 23.Rf1 Qg3+ 24.Rf2 Bh3-+) 17...Qg3 18.fxg5 0-0 19.gxh6 Bf6 20.Bh3 Nd4!! 21.exd4 Bh4-+]

17.Ne4 Qd5 18.Nf2 Qd6 19.Ne4 [A game that had the potential of becoming the best game of the tournament, if only Svidler would have spotted the hidden gem after Qxg2!]

1/2-1/2

GM IAN NEPOMNIACHTCHI - GM MAGNUS CARLSEN

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN



Position after Move 16

GM IAN NEPOMNIACHTCHI VS. GM MAGNUS CARLSEN // AUSTIN FULLER

The World Champion needed to win this game to have a chance to catch the leaders. He found an interesting idea where his rook got adventurous roaming all over the board. At one point, Carlsen needed to play more solidly and make a draw but he knew he needed to win thus he chose a risky line. This decision put him in a worse position but Nepomniachtchi did not press enough and the game ended in a draw.

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nc6 [2...Bb4 Carlsen tried this move earlier this year 3.Nd5 Bc5 4.Nf3 c6 5.Nc3 d6 6.e3 Qe7 7.d4 exd4 8.Nxd4 Nf6 9.Be2 0-0 10.0-0 d5 11.cxd5 cxd5 12.Nb3 Bb4 13.Nxd5 Nxd5 14.Qxd5 Rd8 15.Qh5 Nc6 16.a3 Bd6 17.Nd4 Be5 18.Nxc6 bxc6 19.Bc4 g6 20.Qe2 Be6 21.Bxe6 Qxe6 22.Rb1 Rab8 23.b4 c5 24.Bb2 Qa2 25.Rfe1 Bxb2 26.Qxb2 Qxb2 27.Rxb2 a5 28.Kf1 1/2-1/2 (28) Nepomniachtchi,I (2767)-Carlsen,M (2840) Wijk aan Zee 2017]

3.Nf3 Nf6 4.g3 g6 5.d4 exd4 6.Nxd4 Bg7 7.Bg2 0-0 8.Bf4 Nh5 [8...Re8 9.Nxc6 bxc6 10.Qd2 Ba6 11.b3 d5 12.0-0 Qe7 13.Rac1 Rad8 14.cxd5 cxd5 15.Rfe1 c6 16.Na4 Ne4 17.Qa5 Bb5 18.Bxe4 dxe4 19.Nc3 Bd4 20.Nxb5 Bb6 21.Qa3 cxb5 22.Qxe7 Rxe7 23.Bg5 f6 24.Bxf6 Bxf2+ 25.Kxf2 Rf7 26.Rc6 Rdf8 27.Ke3 Rxf6 28.Rxf6 Rxf6 and the game eventually ended in a draw: 1/2-1/2 (90) Mareco,S (2574)-Bacrot, E (2720) Tromso 2014]

9.Nxc6 dxc6 [A basic chess principle is to capture towards the center. 9...bxc6 leaves White in a better position, whereas in the game Carlsen found a forcing line that equalized.]

10.Qxd8 Rxd8 11.Bxc7 Rd4 [interesting idea]

12.c5 [12.Rd1 Be6 leads to a crazy line (12...Rxc4? 13.Rd8+ Bf8 14.Bd6+-) 13.b3 Rd7 14.Rxd7 Bxc3+ 15.Rd2 Rc8 16.Bd6 Rd8 17.c5 b6 Black will get the material back and White has some issues with the pin]

12...Rc4 13.0-0 Rxc5 14.Rfc1 Nf6 15.Bd6 Rh5 16.Rd1 Be6 [the position looks almost normal, except the rook is on h5 which is somewhat misplaced. If the rook were on d8, the position would be equal]

17.Bf3 Ra5 [17...Bg4 this move is natural, but Carlsen wanted to keep the position complicated to have some winning chances]

18.Rd2 h6 19.Rad1 Ra6 20.e4 Bg4 [20...Ng4 Black needs to put a piece on e5]

21.Bxg4 [oversimplifies the position]

[21.Be2! and White manages to put the pawn on e5 21...Bxe2 22.Rxe2 Rd8 23.e5²]



21...Nxg4 22.Kg2 Ne5 23.b3 Nc4! [exchanging another set of pieces]

24.bxc4 Bxc3 25.Rc2 Bg7 26.c5 Re8 27.e5 b5 28.cxb6 axb6 29.Rxc6 Rxa2 30.Re1 b5 31.Rb6 Rd2 32.Rxb5 [they agreed to a draw here but let's see what happens if Black takes the piece]

32...Rxd6 33.exd6 Rxe1 34.Rb8+ Kh7 35.d7 Bf6 36.d8Q Bxd8 37.Rxd8

1/2-1/2

GM SERGEY KARJAKIN - GM WESLEY SO

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN



GM SERGEY KARJAKIN
// SPECTRUM STUDIOS

The opening that was played yesterday in a Ding Liren vs Anish Giri match was repeated here until Karjakin deviated on move 12. The game was balanced for a while until move 38 when So made a dubious move opening the c file, which only allowed his opponent's rook to become active. The resulting endgame was better for Karjakin, who converted masterfully without ever letting the advantage slip or giving his opponent any chances.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.0-0 Nf6 5.d3 0-0 6.h3 d6 7.c3 a6 8.a4 Ba7 9.Re1 h6 10.Nbd2 Be6 11.Bxe6 fxe6 12.b4 [this is an improvement on a game that was played yesterday. Clearly, these players are working hard on chess! The idea of this move is to stop the a5 idea as demonstrated in the game below]

[12.Nf1 Nh5 13.Be3 a5 14.Bxa7 Rxa7 15.d4 Qf6 16.Re3 Nf4 17.h4 Qg6 18.g3 Raa8 19.dxe5 Nxe5 20.Nxe5 dxe5 21.f3 Rad8 22.Qc2 Nh5 23.Kh2 Rf6 24.Rd1 Rdf8 25.Rdd3 Qf7 26.Qd1 Rg6 27.Qe1 Qe7 28.Kh3 Rxc3+ 29.Nxc3 Nf4+ 30.Kh2 Qxh4+ 31.Kg1 Rf6 32.Rd8+ Kh7 33.Rd2 Rg6 34.Rg2 h5 35.Rh2 Rxc3+ 36.Kh1 Qg5 37.Qf1 h4 38.Re1 h3 39.Rd1 Qh5 40.Rd7 Qxf3+ 41.Qxf3 Rxf3 42.Rhd2 Kh6 43.Rd8 Kh5 44.Rh8+ Kg4 45.Rd1 Ne2 0-1 Ding, Liren - Giri, Anish 2017]

12...Qe8 13.Nf1 Nh5 14.Be3 Bxe3 15.Rxe3 Nf4 16.Rb1 [Black's advantage is on the kingside where he has the open f file and the knight on f4. White's advantage is on the queenside where he can advance with the pawns]

16...b5 17.Ra1 [since the a file will open, it makes sense for the rook to go back]

17...Qg6 [17...d5 since White wasted some time moving the rook, Black can start playing in the center 18.d4 exd4 19.Nxd4 Nxd4 20.cxd4 Qg6 21.Ng3 h5³]

18.Ng3 Qf6 19.Ne2 Ng6 20.Qb3 Kh8 21.Rf1 [White wants to be able to move the f3 knight]

21...Rab8 22.g3 Qf7 [22...Nf4!? 23.axb5 axb5 24.Nxf4 exf4 25.Ree1 Ne5³]

23.Nh2 d5 24.Rf3 Qd7 25.axb5 axb5 26.Kg2 Rxf3 27.Nxf3 Rf8 28.Neg1 [so far White has stabilized his kingside, taken control of the f4 square and will slowly start his own play on the queenside]

28...Ra8 29.Rc1 Qd6 30.Ne1 Nge7 31.Ngf3 [maneuvering the knights around. The e1 knight will go to e3]



31...Ng8 32.Nc2 Nf6 33.Re1 Rf8 34.Na3 Rb8 35.Nc2 Rf8 36.Na3 Rb8 37.Nb1 Nd7 38.Nbd2 d4? [The big mistake of the game. All this move does is open the c file for the White rook] [38...Ra8]

39.Rc1 dxc3 40.Qxc3 Rb6 [Now Black has issues on the c file as the c6 knight can't move since the c7 pawn will hang. Karjakin's technique is quite flawless]

41.Nb3 Nxb4 [Black is trying to simplify the position but this will cost him some pawns]

[41...Ra6 trying to stay solid]

42.Qxc7 Kh7 43.d4! Qxc7 [43...exd4 44.Nfxd4 either the b5 or e6 pawn will fall and White has no structural weaknesses]

44.Rxc7 Nf6 45.Nc5 Na6 46.Rc8 Nxc5 [46...exd4 47.e5 Nd5 (47...Nxc5 48.exf6) 48.Nd7 and the e6 pawn falls 48...Rb7 49.Nf8+ Kg8 50.Nxe6+ Kh7 51.Nfxd4+]

47.dxc5 Ra6 48.Nxe5 Nxe4 49.c6 [the c pawn will be unstoppable]



49...Ra2 50.Kf3 Ng5+ 51.Ke3 Nxb3 52.Rb8 Rc2 53.f4 [defending the knight and keeping the Black knight out of the game]

53...h5 54.Rxb5 Nf2 55.Kd4 [once the king gets in, the game is over]

55...Rd2+ 56.Kc5 Ne4+ 57.Kb6 Rc2 58.c7 Nd6 59.Rb3 Ne8 60.Nc6 Nxc7 61.Kxc7 Rc4 62.Kd6 h4 63.Ne5

1-0

GM FABIANO CARUANA - GM HIKARU NAKAMURA

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN, ANNOTATIONS BY GM CRISTIAN CHIRILA



GM HIKARU NAKAMURA
// AUSTIN FULLER

Nakamura chose one of his favorite openings, the King's Indian Defense, which is one of the sharpest opening choices that requires a lot of theoretical knowledge. Caruana completely mishandled the opening and the middle game, finding himself in a worse position with the white pieces. Nakamura had the bishop pair and the type of position where he could play for a long time trying to squeeze the win. Right before making time control, Nakamura blundered but Caruana returned the favor right away as he allowed a perpetual.

[The importance of the clash between the two Americans can't be understated. During this round, Fabiano was still in mathematical contention and with a victory he could have pushed his position only half a point behind the leaders, allowing him to dream about regaining the title until the last moment. Unfortunately for him, Hikaru had other plans...Let's get right into the action!]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.h3 [A very flexible approach against the KID, not committing the position of some of the light pieces for the moment]

5...0-0 6.Bg5 c6!? [6...c5 is considered the main line 7.d5 e6 8.Bd3 exd5 9.cxd5 (9.exd5 Nbd7 10.Nf3 Re8+ 11.Kf1 Ne5 12.Nxe5 dxe5 13.Qd2 Bd7 14.Re1² 1-0 (45) Damljanovic,B (2567)-Atalik,S (2550) Tekirdag 2016)]



7.Nf3 d5 [7...a6 8.a4 a5 9.Be2 Na6 10.0-0 e5 11.Re1 exd4 12.Nxd4 Nc5 13.Qc2 Re8 14.Bf3 Qb6 15.Be3 Bd7 16.Rad1 Rad8 17.g4 Bc8 18.Bg2 Qb4 19.b3 h5!?! ÷ 1/2-1/2 (90)]

8.cxd5 [8.e5!?! Ne4 9.Be3 Qa5 (9...Nxc3 10.bxc3 c5 11.dxc5²) 10.cxd5 Nxc3 11.Qd2 cxd5 12.Bd3 b6 13.bxc3 Ba6 14.0-0÷]

8...cxd5 9.Bxf6 [Accepting the sacrifice!]

9...exf6 10.exd5 b6N [10...Nd7 11.Qb3 Nb6 12.a4 Re8+ 13.Be2 Bf5 14.a5 Nc8 15.Qxb7 Nd6 16.Qa6² 1/2-1/2 (40)]

11.Be2 Na6 12.0-0 Nc7 13.Qb3 Bb7 14.Bc4 Rb8 15.a4 a6² [Black is gearing up for the break on the queen side and the forceful removal of white's central pawns. He currently enjoys more than enough compensation for the material deficit]

16.Rfe1 b5 17.axb5 axb5 18.Bd3 b4 19.Ne4 f5 20.Ned2 [20.Nc5 Bxd5 21.Bc4 Bxf3 22.Qxf3 Qxd4 23.Rac1 Kh8³]

20...Nxd5 21.Bc4 Nb6 22.Qxb4 Nxc4 23.Qxc4 Bd5 24.Qc3 Qb6 25.b3 Rfd8 [Despite white's extra pawn, the quality of Black's pieces is clearly superior. Black also has the option of always regain his material by giving up on or both his Bs. The game is within the realm of equality, with Black enjoying a slight plus]

26.Rac1 Bh6 27.Rc2 Qb7 [27...Bxf3 28.Nxf3 Qxb3 29.Qxb3 Rxb3 30.Rd1=]

28.Qd3 Qa8 29.Qf1 Qb7 30.Rc5 Qb4 [30...Bf8!?! 31.Rc2 Bb4 32.Ra1 Ra8 33.Rxa8 Qxa8 34.Ne5 Qa7³]

31.Rc2 Ra8 [31...Bf4 32.Qd3 Kg7 33.Qc3 Qb7 34.Ne5 Rdc8 (34...Bxg2? 35.d5! Qxd5 36.Nd3+±) 35.Nec4 Kg8 36.f3 (36.g3 Bh1 37.d5 Qxd5 38.f3 Bxd2 39.Rxd2 Qxf3 μ) 36...h5,]

32.Rd1 Qb7 33.Re1 Rd6 34.Rc5 Ra2 35.Re8+ Kg7 36.Qe1 Bf4 37.g3 Bxf3 38.gxf4 Be4? [An inaccuracy that could have costed Nakamura the full point]

[38...Rd7! Keeping full control over the 7th rank is of crucial importance, after this move black maintains a slight advantage due to his safer K]

39.Nxe4 fxe4 40.Qc3 Qa6 41.d5+ Kh6 42.Rg8? [A slip that allows black to equalize instantly. A better try would have been]

[42.Rxe4! Ra1+ 43.Re1 Rxe1+ 44.Qxe1 Qd3 45.Qe3 Rxd5 46.Rxd5 Qxd5 47.b4 Qd1+ 48.Kg2 Qd5+ 49.Kg3±]



42...Ra1+ 43.Kh2 Rh1+! [Forcing the perpetual]

44.Kxh1 [44.Kg3?? Qd3+ 45.Qxd3 exd3-+ And the d pawn is unstoppable]

44...Qf1+ 45.Kh2 Qxf2+ 46.Kh1 Qf1+ 47.Kh2 Qf2+ 48.Kh1 Qf1+

1/2-1/2



CROSS TABLE

#GrandChessTour

AFTER ROUND 8



POS.	PLAYER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	SCORE
1	GM LEVON ARONIAN 2787 (URS)		.5	.5		.5	0	.5	1	1	1	5
2	GM M. VACHIER-LAGRAVE 2789 (URS)	.5		.5	1	.5	.5	.5		.5	1	5
3	GM VISWANATHAN ANAND 2771 (URS)	.5	.5		.5	.5	1	.5	1	.5		5
4	GM MAGNUS CARLSEN 2850 (URS)		0	.5		1	.5	.5	.5	.5	1	4.5
5	GM SERGEY KARJAKIN 2770 (URS)	.5	.5	.5	0		.5	1	.5		1	4.5
6	GM FABIANO CARUANA 2774 (URS)	1	.5	0	.5	.5			.5	.5	.5	4
7	GM PETER SVIDLER 2744 (URS)	.5	.5	.5	.5	0			.5	.5	.5	3.5
8	GM IAN NEPOMNIACHTCHI 2744 (URS)	0		0	.5	.5	.5	.5		1	0	3
9	GM HIKARU NAKAMURA 2798 (URS)	0	.5	.5	.5		.5	.5	0		.5	3
10	GM WESLEY SO 2781 (URS)	0	0		0	0	.5	.5	1	.5		2.5



SINQUEFIELD CUP

PLAYER MATCHUPS

#GrandChessTour

ROUND 9



WHITE	PLAYER	VS	PLAYER	BLACK
	GM M. VACHIER-LAGRAVE 2789 (URS)	—	GM I. NEPOMNIACHTCHI 2767 (URS)	
	GM WESLEY SO 2781 (URS)	—	GM VISWANATHAN ANAND 2771 (URS)	
	GM HIKARU NAKAMURA 2798 (URS)	—	GM SERGEY KARJAKIN 2770 (URS)	
	GM PETER SVIDLER 2744 (URS)	—	GM FABIANO CARUANA 2774 (URS)	
	GM MAGNUS CARLSEN 2850 (URS)	—	GM LEVON ARONIAN 2787 (URS)	

SPONSORED BY:

explore **st.louis**

DAILY CHESS PUZZLE

BY DANNY MACHUCA

Submit your solution to our front desk staff for a chance to win a gift card to the store at the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis!

Each day, two \$25 gift cards will be drawn among those who submit a correct solution.

Objective: White to move

White: Nakamura, Hikaru
Black: Grischuk, Alexander

2015 Sinquefield Cup



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

TUESDAY, AUGUST 1

4-5:30 PM Autograph Session, Kingside Diner

TUESDAY, AUGUST 1
6 PM Opening Ceremony & *PINNED! A Designer Chess Challenge* Unveiling, Windows on Washington

MONDAY, AUGUST 7
Rest Day

TUESDAY, AUGUST 8
1 PM Round 6

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2
1 PM Round 1

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9
1 PM Round 7

THURSDAY, AUGUST 3
1 PM Round 2

THURSDAY, AUGUST 10
1 PM Round 8

FRIDAY, AUGUST 4
1 PM Round 3

FRIDAY, AUGUST 11
1 PM Round 9

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5
1 PM Round 4

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12
1 PM Playoff *(If Necessary)*

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6
1 PM Round 5

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12
6 PM Closing Ceremony*

*Private Event, World Chess Hall of Fame

SIDE EVENT HIGHLIGHT

Sinquefield Action Quads

FRIDAY, AUGUST 18

3 Rounds | Game in 20; 3 second delay

Entry Fee
\$10

Registration
6-6:45 PM

Space is limited to the first 40 registrants.

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.