

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

MVL - Nepomniachtchi	2
Carlsen - Aronian	3
So - Anand	4
Nakamura - Karjakin	5
Svidler - Caruana	6
Crosstable	7
Final Standings	7
Schedule of Events	8

GM MAXIME VACHIER-LAGRAVE WINS 2017 SINQUEFIELD CUP

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN



POST-GAME INTERVIEW WITH GM MAXIME VACHIER-LAGRAVE AND GM MAURICE ASHLEY // AUSTIN FULLER

ROUND 9 RESULTS

♔ GM M. Vachier-Lagrave	1
♚ GM I. Nepomniachtchi	∅
♔ GM M. Carlsen	1
♚ GM L. Aronian	∅
♔ GM W. So	1/2
♚ GM V. Anand	1/2
♔ GM H. Nakamura	1/2
♚ GM S. Karjakin	1/2
♔ GM P. Svidler	1
♚ GM F. Caruana	∅

FINAL STANDINGS

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

The standing tradition of the Sinquefield Cup of no repeat winners continues as Maxime Vachier-Lagrave emerges as the winner of the 2017 tournament! Entering the round, the eventual winner was tied with Viswanathan Anand, and Levon Aronian with Magnus Carlsen and Sergey Karjakin just half a point behind the leaders. The day started off well for the Frenchman as Anand quickly drew against Welsey So, while Aronian was already suffering in Carlsen's hands. Vachier-Lagrave did his part by converting his advantage against Ian Nepomniachtchi on the white side of the Najdorf. He was officially crowned the winner once Aronian accepted the inevitable and resigned. For his efforts, Vachier-Lagrave collected \$75,000 and 13 Grand Chess Tour points. He is now only three tour points behind Carlsen in the overall standings.



SINQUEFIELD CUP
SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI

GRAND CHESS TOUR™

2017

GRANDCHESSTOUR.ORG | @CCCSL
#GRANDCHESSTOUR | #GRANDCHESSTOUR

CHESS CLUB
AND SCHOLASTIC CENTER
of Saint Louis

GM MAXIME VACHIER-LAGRAVE - GM IAN NEPOMNIACHTCHI

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN



GM VACHIER-LAGRAVE // LENNART OOTES

For once, Vachier-Lagrave was facing the Najdorf instead of playing it with the black pieces. He played a very instructive game where he had a very classical example of a good knight against a bad bishop after exchanging all the right pieces. He converted masterfully as his opponent never had chance to threaten or possibility to defend his position. This important move also boosted Vachier-Lagrave to the number two spot on the live rating list.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 [Vachier-Lagrave is on the White side of his beloved Najdorf!]

6.Be2 e5 7.Nf3 Be7 8.Bg5 Nbd7 9.a4 0-0 [Vachier-Lagrave was on the losing side of this variation 9...b6 10.Nd2 h6 11.Bxf6 Nxf6 12.Nc4 Bb7 13.a5 b5 14.Nb6 Nxe4 15.Nxe4 Bxe4 16.Bf3 Bxf3 17.Qxf3 Ra7 18.c4 d5 19.cxb5 Bb4+ 20.Ke2 Bxa5 21.Nxd5 axb5 22.b4 Bb6 23.Rxa7 Bxa7 24.Ra1 Bb8 25.Qd3 0-0 26.Qxb5 e4 27.g3 Be5 28.Rd1 Qg5 29.Kf1 f5 30.Qe2 Kh8 31.f4 exf3 32.Qxe5 Qh5 33.Nf4 Qxh2 34.Ng6+ Kh7 35.Nxf8+ Kh8 36.Ng6+ Kh7 37.Nh4 Qh1+ 38.Kf2 Qxd1 39.Qxf5+ 1-0 (39) Carlsen,M (2832) -Vachier Lagrave,M (2796) Paris 2017]

10.Nd2 Nc5 11.Bxf6 [White is giving up the bishop for the knight to take control of the crucial d5 square]

11...Bxf6 12.Nc4 Be7 13.a5 [13.0-0 Be6 14.a5 Rc8 15.Nb6 Rc6 16.b4 Nd7 17.Nbd5 Bg5 18.Na4 Bxd5 19.exd5 Rc7 20.c4 e4 21.c5 dxc5 22.d6 Rc8 23.Bg4

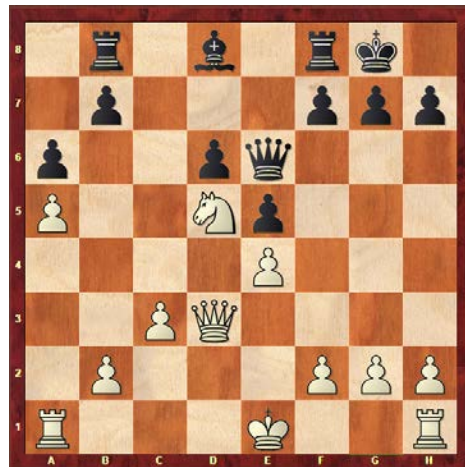
cxb4 24.Bxd7 Qxd7 25.Nb6 Qc6 26.Nxc8 Rxc8 27.Rb1 e3 28.fxe3 Rd8 29.Qb3 Qd7 30.Qxb4 Qxd6 31.Qxb7 Bxe3+ 32.Kh1 Rf8 33.Rbd1 Qh6 34.Qxf7+ 1-0 (34) Carlsen,M (2832)-Nepomniachtchi,I (2732) Leuven 2017]

13...Rb8 14.Nb6 Nd7 [14...Be6 developing the last piece]

15.Ncd5 Nxb6 16.Nxb6 Be6 17.Bc4 [White wants to exchange the light square bishop and have a classical good knight vs a bad bishop position. The e7 bishop is bad because of the d6 and e5 pawns]

17...Qc7 18.Qd3 Bd8 19.c3 Qc6 20.Bd5! [20.Bxe6 doesn't make sense as after 20...fxe6 the d5 square is covered]

20...Qe8 21.Bxe6 Qxe6 [21...fxe6 22.Qxd6; 21...Bxb6 is another option to go for the opposite color bishop position but after 22.Bd5 Ba7 23.0-0 White still maintains the advantage as his bishop is a monster]



22.Nd5 [White finally got what he wanted: establishing a knight on d5 and leaving Black with the bad bishop]

22...f5 23.0-0 Rc8 24.Rfd1 fxe4 25.Qxe4 Qf5 [White has several options here:]

26.Qe2 [this is one of the options which is perfectly fine for White]

[26.f3 Qxe4 27.fxe4 leaves White with a potential weakness; 26.Qxf5 Rxf5 27.b4 and White's position is still strong]

26...Kh8 27.c4 [White is slowly going to build up his position and start pushing the queenside pawns]

27...Bh4 28.g3 Bg5 29.Ra3 Rce8 30.h4 [taking full control of the dark squares]

30...Bd8 [the bishop is useless here]

31.b4 Qg6 32.h5 Qf5 33.Ne3 Qe6 34.Rad3 [the d6 pawn is the target]

34...Be7 35.Nd5 Bd8 36.Rf3 Rxf3 37.Qxf3 Kg8 38.Kg2 [38.Qe4 would have taken full control of the position and not allowed Black to push e4]

38...e4 39.Qe2 Qe5 40.Ne3 Bg5 41.Rd5 Qf6 42.Nf5 [Once again, we see that the d6 pawn is the target and now it is even harder to defend it as the bishop is on g5]



42...Re6 43.c5! dxc5 44.Qc4 [Black has a lot of issues on the diagonal now]

44...Qf7 [44...Kh8 45.Rxc5 Re8 46.Rc8 Rf8 47.Rxf8+ Qxf8 48.Qxe4 White won a pawn, the bishop is still not great and the b7 pawn is a problem now]

45.Rxc5 h6 46.Rc8+ Kh7 47.g4 [defending the pawn. Rc7 is a big threat now]

47...Re7 48.Qd4 Re6 49.Qd5 [White is still threatening Rc7 and Re7 is now impossible as Ne7 will defend the d5 queen. A fine game by the Frenchman]

1-0

GM MAGNUS CARLSEN - GM LEVON ARONIAN

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN



GM CARLSEN VS. GM ARONIAN
// LENNART OOTES

The Armenian Grandmaster's dreams of winning were destroyed as his opponent played a high-class game. Aronian tried to create an imbalance in the position by changing the pawn structure to get activity. Carlsen defended against his opponent's threats and the resulting position was advantageous for him. Black's position fell apart as he had too many weaknesses and no real counterplay. This was truly a heartbreaking way to end the tournament for Aronian who played creative and inspiring chess throughout.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 0-0 8.a4 [White challenges the queenside immediately and forces Black to make decisions]

8...b4 [8...Bb7 is another possibility]

9.a5 [fixing the structure on the queenside]

9...d6 [Aronian had tried this aggressive move a long time ago 9...d5 10.exd5 e4 11.dxc6 exf3 12.d3 fxg2 13.Qf3 Rb8 14.Bc4 Ne8 15.Bf4 Bf6 16.Nd2 Bxb2 17.Rab1 Bc3 18.Bg5 Bf6 19.Rxe8 Rxe8 20.Ne4 Rxe4 21.Bxf6 Qxf6 22.Qxf6 gxf6 23.dxe4 Kf8 24.Kxg2 Ke7 25.Rd1 1/2-1/2 (25) Ponomarev,R (2703) -Aronian,L (2741) Moscow 2006 CBM 116 [Marin,M]]

10.d3 Be6 11.Bxe6 fxe6 12.Nbd2 Rb8 13.c3 Qe8 14.Nc4 [Novelty. d4 has been tried before, but Carlsen chooses to keep the position closed]

14...Qg6 15.h3 Nd7 16.Be3 d5?! [Black destabilizes his pawn structure to create active counterplay. The move in and of itself isn't bad, but the follow up is]

17.Ncd2 bxc3 [17...Bc5 18.Bxc5 Nxc5 would have been better]

18.bxc3 Nc5 19.Bxc5 Bxc5 20.Qa4 Rb2 [this was Black's idea]

21.Rf1! [now White position is really great]

[21.Qxc6? Bxf2+ 22.Kh1 (22.Kxf2 Rxd2+ 23.Re2 (23.Ke3 Qh6+ 24.Ng5 Qxg5#) 23...Rxe2+ 24.Kxe2 Qxg2+) 22...Bxe1 23.Rxe1 Rxf3!! 24.gxf3 Rxd2 and Black is winning]



21...Na7 [Black decides to give up a pawn for counterplay]

[21...Qe8 22.Rab1 Rxb1 23.Rxb1 and now Black is stuck defending the e5 pawn and cannot move his pieces]

22.Nxe5 Qh6 23.Ndf3 Nb5 24.Rae1! [foreseeing the danger]

24...Nxc3 25.Qc6 [and now there is no Ne2 check, hence the Rae1 move]

25...Bb4 [25...Ne2+ 26.Rxe2 Rxe2 27.Qxc5+]

26.Kh1 [the safer option]

[26.Nd7 Rxf3 27.gxf3 Qxh3 28.Qa8+ Kf7 29.Ne5+ Kf6 30.d4 White is winning but why make things complicated? This isn't how Carlsen wins games!]

26...dxe4 27.dxe4 Ne2 28.Rb1 Rxb1 29.Rxb1 Bd6 30.Qxa6 [better was 30.Ng4 Qg6 (30...Qh5 31.e5 Be7 32.Qxe6+ collecting another pawn) 31.Nfe5 Qg5 32.Nd7 Rd8 33.e5 once again winning the e6 move]

30...Nf4 31.Qb5 c5? [the final mistake]

[31...c6 32.Qxc6 Bxe5 33.Nxe5 Qg5 34.Ng4 h5 35.Ne3 Nd3 36.Qxe6+ Kh7 and Black has some counterplay]



32.a6 [the passed pawn is too strong now]

32...Bxe5 33.Nxe5 Qg5 34.Ng4 h5 35.Ne3 [and now there is no Nd3 as the Queen is on b5!]

35...Nxc2 [desperate]

36.Nxc2 Rxf2 37.Rg1 Kh7 38.Qd3 [White is completely winning. The rest is just a matter of time]

38...Qe5 39.Qe3 Ra2 40.Qf4 Qc3 41.Ne3 Qf6 42.Qxf6 gxf6 43.Rc1 Rxa6 44.Kg2 Ra2+ 45.Rc2 Ra5 46.Kf3 Kg6 47.h4 Rb5 48.Ra2 Rb1 49.Rc2 Rb5 50.Rc3 f5 51.exf5+ exf5 52.Rd3

1-0

GM WESLEY SO - GM VISWANATHAN ANAND

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN



GM WESLEY SO VS. GM VISWANATHAN ANAND // LENNART OOTES

The American has had a disastrous performance and it was clear that he simply wanted to play a solid game and end the tournament. He got a nice advantage in the middlegame but did not put any pressure on his opponent. It was an unfortunate situation for Anand who needed the win as Vachier-Lagrave had the white pieces and a good chance to score a victory. In the postgame interview, Anand was in good spirits and felt good about his play overall.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 [This was a surprise for Anand as So usually chooses 3.Nf3]

[3.Nf3 d5 4.g3 Bb4+ 5.Bd2 Be7 6.Bg2 0-0 7.0-0 Nbd7 8.Qc2 Ne4 9.Bf4 c6 10.Nc3 g5 11.Bc1 f5 12.b3 b6 13.Bb2 Bb7 14.Rad1 Qe8 15.Nd2 Nd6 16.Ba3 Rc8 17.Rfe1 Nf7 18.Qb2 Nf6 19.Bxe7 Qxe7 20.b4 Rfd8 21.e3 g4 22.cxd5 cxd5 23.b5 Rc7 24.Rc1 Rdc8 25.Ne2 Nd6 26.Rxc7 Rxc7 27.Rc1 Rxc1+ 28.Nxc1 Nfe4 29.Bxe4 dxe4 30.Ne2 Bd5 1/2-1/2 (30) So,W (2822)-Nakamura,H (2793) Saint Louis 2017]

3...Bb4 4.Qc2 0-0 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.Qxc3 [This is one of the main lines of the Nimzo. White spend a long time to recapture on c3 with a piece and get the bishop pair, but it puts him behind in development.]

6...d5 7.Nf3 dxc4 8.Qxc4 b6 9.Bg5 Ba6 10.Qa4 h6 11.Bh4 c5 12.dxc5 bxc5 13.Rc1 Qb6



14.Bxf6 gxf6 [Black compromises his pawn structure and kingside but he is still ahead in development and it is not so easy for White to develop the kingside]

15.Rc2 c4 [this move is somewhat counterintuitive as it blocks the a6 bishop. The problem is that with the bishop on a6, it was hard for White to play e3 and finish developing]

[15...Nc6 simply developing a piece 16.e3 Bxf1 17.Rxf1 Rfd8 18.Ke2 Na5 19.Nd2 Qd6 20.Rfc1 Nc6 21.f4 f5 22.Nf3 Ne7 23.Kf2 Nd5 24.Rxc5 Nf6 25.Kg1 Ng4 26.R5c3 Qb6 27.Rb3 Rac8 28.Re1 Qc5 29.Rc3 Qb6 30.Rb3 Qc5 31.h3 Nf6 32.Rc3 Qb6 33.Rxc8 Rxc8 34.Qd4 Nd5 35.Qxb6 Nxb6 36.Kf2 Na4 37.Re2 Rcl 38.Rd2 Nc5 39.Rd8+ Kg7 40.Ke2 Ne4 41.Nd4 Rg1 42.g4 Rg2+ 43.Kf1 Rxb2 44.Rd7 fxg4

45.hxg4 Nd2+ 46.Ke1 Nc4 47.Nxe6+ Kg6 48.Nd8 Nxe3 49.f5+ Kg5 50.Nxf7+ Kxg4 51.f6 Kf5 52.Nxh6+ Kxf6 1/2-1/2 (52) Hera,I (2567)-Boruchovsky,A (2441) Riga 2013]

16.e3 Bb5 17.Qb4 Rc8 18.Be2 Nd7? [18...Na6 19.Qc3 Ba4 20.Rd2 Nc5 defends the pawn tactically 21.Qxf6? Ne4]



19.0-0 Rab8 20.Rfc1 a5 21.Qc3? [the queen is uncomfortable here as it will be attacked by the knight]

[21.Qe1² at first glance, this move looks strange as it is putting the queen on the back rank. However, the queen is very safe here and Nd2 will cause Black a lot of problems]

21...Kg7 22.Qd4 [this equalizes the game]

22...Qxd4 23.Nxd4 Ba6 [23...c3!? 24.bxc3 (24.Bxb5 cxb2 25.Rxc8 Rxc8 26.Rxc8 b1Q+; 24.Nxb5 cxb2 25.Rxc8 Rxc8 26.Rxc8 b1Q+) 24...Bxe2 25.Nxe2 Rb3 26.Ra1 Nb6 and one of White's pawns will fall]

24.Kf1 Ne5 25.Ke1 f5 26.Nf3 Nxf3+ 27.gxf3 Rb3 28.Bxc4 [the game is headed towards a draw]

28...Rxc4 29.Rxc4 Bxc4 30.Rxc4 Rxb2 31.Rc5 Rb1+ 32.Ke2 Rh1 33.Rxa5 Rxh2

1/2-1/2

GM HIKARU NAKAMURA - GM SERGEY KARJAKIN

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN, ANNOTATIONS BY GM CRISTIAN CHIRILA



GM HIKARU NAKAMURA
// SPECTRUM STUDIOS

After his win yesterday, Karjakin had some mathematical, albeit unlikely, chances of still tying for first. Nakamura played an enterprising and quick b4 in a relatively new variation of the reverse Sicilian English. Karjakin had to find some precise moves to equalize the game as he found his bishop quite offside. However, once the bishop was retrieved, the Russian considered he had no problems. The logical conclusion led to massive exchanges and the draw.

[Karjakin was basically forced to win this game if he hoped to have a mathematical shot at winning the title. Unfortunately for him, playing as black against any player in this field for a win is an incredibly daunting task. Let's see how he fared!]

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e5 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.g3 d5 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.Bg2 Bc5 [Where have we seen this peculiar move being played in this tournament? Anand vs Caruana, in which Fabiano showed very good opening preparation but failed to spot a killer tactic that allowed Anand to end the game in brilliant fashion.]

[6...Nb6 Is the main line by far 7.0-0 Be7 8.a3 a5 9.d3 0-0 10.Be3 Be6 11.Rc1 a4 12.Nd2 f5 13.Bxb6 cxb6 14.Nxa4 Bg5 15.Nc3 e4 16.Rb1 Ne5 17.Nb3 Ng4 18.Qc2 Be3 19.dxe4 Qg5 20.fxe3 Qxe3+

21.Kh1 Qh6 22.h3 Ne3 23.Qd2 f4 24.gxf4 Nxf1 25.Rxf1 Bxb3 26.e5 Rae8 27.Ne4 Kh8 28.Kh2 Bg8 29.e3 Re6 30.Nd6 Qh4 31.Qd4 Rg6 32.Rf3 Qe1 33.f5 Rg5 34.h4 Rh5 35.Rg3 Be6 36.fxe6 Nepomniachtchi,I (2742)-Aronian,L (2809) Geneve 2017 1-0]

7.0-0 0-0 8.Nxd5 [8.d3 Was seen in the aforementioned game 8...Bb6 9.Bd2÷]

8...Qxd5 9.d3 Bb6 10.b4N [A very combative novelty. Kudos to Nakamura for trying to create imbalances in the position and offer the viewers a worthy spectacle in the last round. Karjakin was surely pleasantly surprised to see this move on the board, as it offers him extra chances to materialize on his chance of winning the event.]

[10.Qa4 Bd7 11.Qh4 Qd6 12.Bd2 Rfe8 13.Bc3 Nd4 14.Rae1 c5 15.Nd2 Bd8 16.Qh5÷ 0-1 (39)]



10...e4 11.Ng5 Qd4 12.Be3 Qxb4 13.Nxe4 Bg4 14.h3 [14.Rb1 Qe7 (14...Qa3 15.Qc2) 15.Qc2 Rfe8 16.Rfc1 Rad8 17.h3 (17.Nc5 Bxe2! 18.Qxe2 Bxc5 19.Rxb7 Nd4=) 17...Bxe3 18.fxe3 Bc8 19.Qc4÷]

14...Bh5 15.Rb1 Qe7 16.Qd2 Rad8 17.Nc3 [17.Rb5 Trying to create some imbalances on the 5th rank could have proved a more potent attempt 17...f5 (17...Bg6 18.Rc1²) 18.Bg5 Qe8 19.Bxd8 fxe4 20.Bg5 exd3 21.exd3 Nd4÷]

17...f6 18.Nd5 Qd7 19.Rfc1 Bf7 20.Bxb6 axb6= [Now the game fizzles out into a draw after massive exchanges will occur]

21.Nb4 Nd4 22.Nc2 [22.e3 Nf5 23.a4 c6 24.d4 c5 25.Nc2 cxd4 26.Nxd4 Nxd4 27.Qxd4 Qxd4 28.exd4 Rxd4 29.Rxb6 Rxa4 30.Rxb7=]



22...Nc6 23.Nb4 Nd4 24.e3 Nf5 25.d4 c5! [Cleverly, does not allow white to solidify his superior center presence]

26.Nc2 cxd4 27.Nxd4 [27.Rd1 Qa4 (27...Qc7 too passive 28.Nxd4 Nxd4 29.exd4 Rd6 30.Rb4 Rfd8 31.a4²) 28.Nxd4 Nxd4 29.exd4 Rd6 (29...Qxa2 30.Rxb6 Qxd2 31.Rxd2 Bd5 32.Bxd5+ Rxd5 33.Rxb7 Rfd8 34.Ra2±) 30.d5 Ra8 White maintains a slight edge due to his superior structure but black should be very close to equality]

27...Nxd4 28.exd4 Qxd4 29.Qxd4 Rxd4 30.Rxb6 Bxa2 31.Rxb7 Rdd8 32.Ra7 Be6 33.Re7 Rfe8 34.Rxe8+ Rxe8

½-½

GM PETER SVIDLER - GM FABIANO CARUANA

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN, ANNOTATIONS BY GM CRISTIAN CHIRILA



GM PETER SVIDLER // LENNART OOTES

With an offbeat opening, the players quickly found themselves in uncharted territory. Svidler was ahead in development and played precisely to keep his advantage. In a critical moment, he shied away from sacrificing a piece and admitted in the confession booth that he probably should have gone for the complications. His intuition was correct as the sacrifice would have ended the game before move 30. He went on to win the game anyway, as he still had a slight advantage and Caruana's poor form did not allow him to put up a tenacious defense to bring home the half a point.

[A game that did not bear the potential for standings disruption at the top of the table was the game between Svidler and Caruana. Both of them being experts in the Grunfeld, one could safely expect a brilliant theoretical and tactical battle. Let's see what happened!]

1.c4 e5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 c6 4.Nf3 [An interesting variation that has gained some serious traction in the past year. The lines going forward are extremely sharp and precision is crucial for both colors in order to survive the detailed nuances of this already imbalanced position.]

4...e4 5.Nd4 Qb6 6.Nb3 [6.e3 I tried it myself in the game against one of the most promising talents in the world, America's own Awonder Liang. 6...d5 7.Nc3 Bb4

8.cxd5 cxd5 9.Qb3 Bxc3 10.bxc3 0-0 11.Ba3 Would have been better, giving me a sizable advantage in the ensuing endgame (11.c4 dxc4= 1/2-1/2 (40) Chirila,I (2536)-Liang,A (2488) Saint Louis 2017) 11...Re8 12.Qxb6 axb6 13.Bd6!±]

6...a5 7.d3 a4 8.N3d2 d5 [Three games have been played in this position, one being a recent game between Topalov and Caruana, a fact surely known in advance by Svidler]

9.cxd5 [9.dxe4 dxe4 10.e3 Bg4 11.Qc2 Nbd7 12.Nc3 Bb4 13.Ndxe4 Nxe4 14.Qxe4+ Be6 15.0-0 0-0÷ 0-1 (35) Topalov,V (2749)-Caruana,F (2808) Paris 2017]

9...exd3 10.0-0 cxd5 11.exd3 Be7N [11...Be6 12.Nc3 Qa5 13.Nf3 Nc6 14.Bd2 Be7 15.Ng5 Bg4 16.Bf3 Bxf3 17.Nxf3 0-0 18.Ne2 Qb6 19.Bc3 Rfd8 20.Ned4 Nxd4 21.Bxd4 Bc5 22.Bxc5 Qxc5 23.Rc1 Qb4 24.Rc2 Rac8 25.Re1 h6 26.a3 Qg4 27.Kg2 Rxc2 28.Qxc2 Rc8 29.Qd2 Re8 30.Rc1 Rc8 31.Ne5 Qe6 32.Rxc8+ Qxc8 33.Qb4 Qf5 34.Qd6 Qe6 35.Qb8+ Kh7 36.Nf3 Qb6 37.Qe5 Qb3 38.Qd4 Nd7 39.Nd2 Qb5 40.Nf1 f6 41.Ne3 Lenderman,A (2593)-Karavade,E (2421) Douglas 2016 1/2-1/2 (69)]

12.Nc3 Qa5 13.Re1 Nc6 14.b4! [A brilliant move by Svidler, taking full advantage of the fact that Fabiano's K is still in the center. Playing with initiative at its best!]

14...axb3 [14...Qxb4 15.Nxd5 Nxd5 16.Bxd5 0-0 17.Rb1 Qc5 18.Be4? White's pieces are much better placed, giving him a comfortable edge]

15.Bb2 Qd8 [15...0-0?? No time to hide the king! 16.axb3+-]

16.Qxb3 Be6 17.Ne2 Bb4 [Fabiano really playing with fire with this move, and could have been severely punished if Svidler had gone for Nf4!]

18.Red1 [18.Nf4!! Bxd2 19.Nxe6 fxe6 20.Rxe6+ Kf8 (20...Kf7 21.Bxf6 gxf6 22.Re2 Every move with tempo! 22...Bh6 23.Bxd5+ Kf8 24.Rae1 Bg7 25.Qxb7 Qxd5

26.Qxa8+ Kf7 27.Qb7+-) 21.Qxb7 Rb8 22.Qxc6 Rxb2 23.Rd6+- The Black K simply can't find shelter]



18...0-0 19.Nf4 Bc5 20.Nf3 Bg4 21.Rac1 Bxf3 22.Bxf3 Nd4? [Despite the missed brilliancy shot, White maintains serious pressure with his B pair and weaknesses in his opponent's camp]

23.Bxd4 Bxd4 24.Rc2 b6 25.Bxd5 Ra7 26.Bf3 Re8 [26...Nd7 27.Nd5 Ne5 28.Be4 Qd6 29.Kg2 Rd8 30.a4±]

27.Ne2 [Black's pieces are being removed from their ideal squares]

27...h5 28.Nxd4 Qxd4 29.Rc4 Qe5 30.a4± Qa5 31.Kg2 Rd8 32.d4 [And the extra pawn starts its march. There is simply no escape for Black now.]

32...Nd5 33.Rdc1 g6 34.Rc8 Rad7 35.Qc4 Kg7 36.Rxd8 Rxd8 37.Rb1 Nf6 38.d5 Ra8 39.d6 Ra7 40.Rd1 Nd7 41.Bc6 Qc5 42.Qd4+ Qxd4 43.Rxd4 Kf6 44.Re4 [Precise opening and middlegame play gives Svidler his first win of the tournament and allows him to finish on a very powerful note. Fabiano will try to forget this tournament as soon as possible, the Rapid and Blitz starts in just a few days and he will surely look to bounce back with a vengeance there!]

1-0



CROSS TABLE

#GrandChessTour

AFTER ROUND 9



POS.	PLAYER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	SCORE
1	GM M. VACHIER-LAGRAVE 2789 (URS)		1	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	1	1	6
2	GM MAGNUS CARLSEN 2850 (URS)	0		.5	1	1	.5	.5	.5	1	.5	5.5
3	GM VISWANATHAN ANAND 2771 (URS)	.5	.5		.5	.5	.5	1	.5	.5	1	5.5
4	GM LEVON ARONIAN 2787 (URS)	.5	0	.5		.5	.5	0	1	1	1	5
5	GM SERGEY KARJAKIN 2770 (URS)	.5	0	.5	.5		1	.5	.5	1	.5	5
6	GM PETER SVIDLER 2744 (URS)	.5	.5	.5	.5	0		1	.5	.5	.5	4.5
7	GM FABIANO CARUANA 2774 (URS)	.5	.5	0	1	.5	0		.5	.5	.5	4
8	GM HIKARU NAKAMURA 2798 (URS)	.5	.5	.5	0	.5	.5	.5		.5	0	3.5
9	GM WESLEY SO 2781 (URS)	0	0	.5	0	0	.5	.5	.5		1	3
10	GM IAN NEPOMNIACHTCHI 2744 (URS)	0	.5	0	0	.5	.5	.5	1	0		3



GRAND CHESS TOUR 2017

FINAL SINQUEFIELD CUP POINTS & PRIZES



POS.	PLAYER	GCT POINTS	PRIZE MONEY
1	GM M. VACHIER-LAGRAVE	13	\$75,000
T-2	GM MAGNUS CARLSEN	9	\$45,000
T-2	GM VISWANATHAN ANAND	9	\$45,000
T-4	GM LEVON ARONIAN	6.5	\$27,500
T-4	GM SERGEY KARJAKIN	6.5	\$27,500
6	GM PETER SVIDLER	5	\$20,000
7	GM FABIANO CARUANA	4	\$15,000
8	GM HIKARU NAKAMURA	3	\$15,000
T-9	GM WESLEY SO	1.5	\$15,000
T-9	GM IAN NEPOMNIACHTCHI	1.5	\$15,000

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!

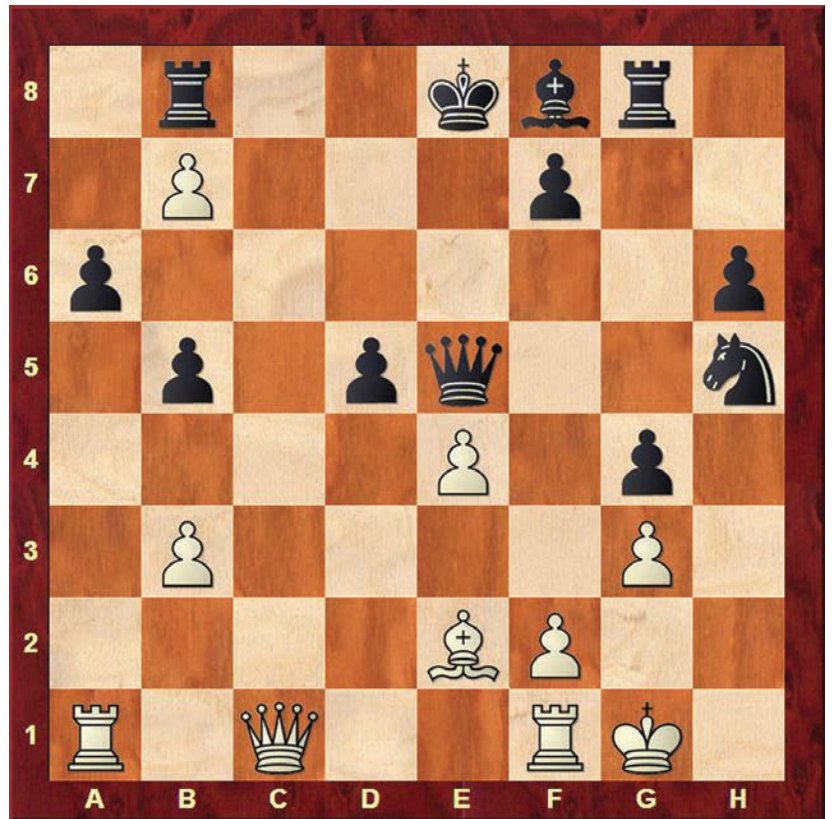
Each day, two \$25 gift cards will be drawn among those who submit a correct solution.

Objective: White to move

White: Nakamura, Hikaru

Black: Ding, Liren

2016 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.