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CUP★CHRONICLE

MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 2019 | ISSUE 8

ROUND 8 HIGHLIGHTS

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN

ROUND 8 RESULTS

♔ GM S. Karjakin	1
♚ GM M. Vachier-Lagrave	∅
♔ GM I. Nepomniachtchi	1
♚ GM L. Aronian	∅
♔ GM F. Caruana	½
♚ GM V. Anand	½
♔ GM M. Carlsen	½
♚ GM D. Liren	½
♔ GM S. Mamedyarov	½
♚ GM A. Giri	½
♔ GM H. Nakamura	½
♚ GM W. So	½

CURRENT STANDINGS

1. GM D. Liren	4 ½
2. GM I. Nepomniachtchi	4 ½
3. GM S. Karjakin	4 ½
4. GM V. Anand	4 ½
5. GM F. Caruana	4 ½
6. GM M. Carlsen	4
7. GM S. Mamedyarov	4
8. GM W. So	4
9. GM M. Vachier-Lagrave	3 ½
10. GM H. Nakamura	3 ½
11. GM A. Giri	3 ½
12. GM L. Aronian	3



SERGEY KARJAKIN VS. MAXIME VACHIER-LAGRAVE, ROUND 8
PHOTO BY JUSTIN KELLAR

After an exciting round 8, there is now a five-way tie for first place in the Sinquefeld Cup. Sergey Karjakin and Ian Nepomniachtchi joined the leaders with wins over Maxime Vachier-Lagrave and Levon Aronian respectively, while the rest of the leaders drew their games. The trio of Magnus Carlsen, Wesley So and Shakhriyar Mamedyarov remain half a point behind. As the tournament is reaching the finish line, there is more pressure than ever to start winning games. The next three rounds promise to be action packed!



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SERGEY KARJAKIN - MAXIME VACHIER-LAGRAVE

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN, ANALYSIS BY WGM DORSA DERAKHSHANI



GM S. KARJAKIN // JUSTIN KELLAR

Vachier-Lagrave was very critical of himself and called the result well-deserved, as he played a losing move too quickly only to remember the correct continuation a moment too late. The Frenchman once again essayed his beloved Grunfeld Defense and the players followed the game that Vachier-Lagrave played with the white pieces against Gelfand for 16 moves. As soon as Karjakin deviated on move 17, Vachier-Lagrave erred by playing too quickly and found himself in a very unpleasant opposite colored bishops endgame. The combination of Karjakin's dominating d5 bishop, the passed pawn on the "a" file and Vachier-Lagrave's weaker king was too overwhelming to save the game. The trade of rooks didn't ease the task for the Frenchman, as he was forced to give up his bishop for the passed pawn and allowed checkmate on the board for aesthetics.

- 1.d4 Nf6
- 2.c4 g6
- 3.Nc3 d5
- 4.cxd5 Nxd5

[Grunfeld is sharp choice and a good one for trying your chances for a win.]

- 5.e4 Nxc3

- 6.bxc3 Bg7
- 7.Bc4 c5
- 8.Ne2 Nc6
- 9.Be3 0-0
- 10.0-0 b6

[MVL has played this line 6 times before, once in 2018 Norway chess which lost to Karjakin!]

- 11.dxc5 Qc7
- 12.Nd4 Ne5
- 13.Nb5 Qb8
- 14.Bd5

[in 2018, Karjakin continued with 14.Be2]

- 14. Ng4
- 15.g3 Nxe3
- 16.fxe3 a6

[in 2013, MVL played this position against Gelfand]

- 17.Nd4 bxc5??

[17...Bh3 MVL said he should've played this but during the game and unfortunately he couldn't remember his lines and mixed up his move orders by taking on c5 first on move 17... 18.Bxa8

(18.Nc6 Qe (18...Qc7 19.cxb6) 19.cxb6 Rc8) 18...Bxf1 19.Qxf1]



- 18.Rb1 Qa7
- 19.Nc6 Qc7
- 20.Nxe7+ Qxe7
- 21.Bxa8 Bh3
- 22.Bd5 Bxf1
- 23.Qxf1 Bxc3

[taking the a pawn would be problematic for black since in long run, black has to watch out for the a file passed pawn.]

[23...Qe5 24.Rb7 Bf6; 23...Qg5 24.Qf4 Qh5]

- 24.Qxa6



[ideas such as Rb7 to dominate the 7th rank and put more pressure on f7 pawn.]

[24.Rb7—early Rb7 could be worth considering]

- 24. Qg5

[24...Rd8]

- 25.Qe2 Kh8
- 26.Kg2 f5

[Vachier-Lagrave is already in a very difficult position.]

- 27.Qd3 Be5
- 28.Rf1 Kg7
- 29.exf5 Rxf5
- 30.a4 Rxf1
- 31.Kxf1 Bd4

[trying to play tricky and exchange the bishops]

- 32.Bc4

[white is comfortable to keep his strong light squared bishop but give up the e3 pawn]

- 32. Bxe3
- 33.Qd7+ Kh6
- 34.Qh3+ Kg7
- 35.Qe6+-



[Great way to improve the queen position by making a power battery in a2-g8 diagonal and creating a dangerous attack.]

- 35. Bd4
- 36.Qf7+ Kh6
- 37.a5

[white is dominating the board. Attaching the black king in kingside while pushing the a file passed pawn on the queenside is deadly.]

- 37. Bf6

[37...Qc1+ 38.Kg2 Qc2+ 39.Kh3 Bg1 trying to create some counterplay. 40.Qf8+ Kh5 41.g4+ Kg5 42.Qd8+ Kh6 43.Qh4+ Kg7 44.Qe7+ Kh6 45.g5+ Kh5 46.Be2+ wins for white]

- 38.Kg2 Qd2+
- 39.Kh3

[in this queen and bishop vs. queen and opposite colored bishop, white's king is safe in h3 to avoid perpetual checks.]

- 39. Qg5
- 40.Qf8+ Bg7
- 41.Qf3 Bd4
- 42.a6 Qe7

[looking for check possibilities and stopping a7 for now]

- 43.Qa8!

[Strongest move. Supporting a7 even though taking the queen away from act and giving check chances to black, it is the best move.]

- 43. Bf6

[43...Qd7+ 44.Kg2 no more checks for black and white is dominating the position]

- 44.a7 Qd7+
- 45.g4 Qe7
- 46.Qf3 Qxa7
- 47.Qxf6 Qa3+

[careful not to get stalemate!]

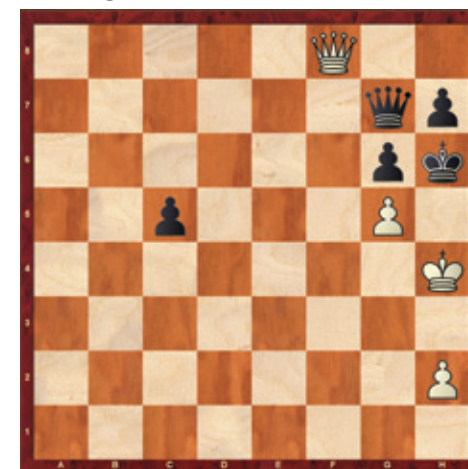
- 48.Bd3!!

[48.Kh4?? Qh3+ 49.Kxh3=]

- 48. Qxd3+
- 49.Kh4

[mate is coming...]

- 49. Qd4
- 50.Qf8+ Qg7
- 51.g5#



[Nice looking and rare to have mate on the board in these super tournaments.]

- 1-0

IAN NEPOMNIACHTCHI - LEVON ARONIAN

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN, ANALYSIS BY GM EVGENIJ MIROSHNICHENKO



GM L. ARONIAN // LENNART OOTES

Nepomniachtchi used the idea he wanted to play against Karjakin in Zagreb, which he felt was nothing special but was tricky for his opponent. In Giuoco Piano, he chose the line exchanging the pawns on d5 and expanding on the queenside. Nepomniachtchi had the upper hand in the strategic middle-game battle, as he had more space on the queenside and controlled the central squares with his three pawns on the third rank. After his knight landed on key c5 square, attacking his opponent's weak a6 pawn, Aronian felt the need to do something urgent to change the course of the game by playing f5, which left him with even more weaknesses. Nepomniachtchi allowed some counterplay but Aronian was in severe time trouble in the resulting queen endgame and lost without putting up too much of a fight.

- 1.e4 e5
- 2.Nf3 Nc6
- 3.Bc4 Nf6
- 4.d3 Bc5
- 5.0-0 d6
- 6.c3 a6
- 7.Re1 Ba7
- 8.Bb3 0-0
- 9.h3 Re8
- 10.Nbd2 Be6
- 11.Ba4!?



[It might be results-oriented thinking, but it feels that Black could

easily handle the position without making this committal move]

[11...Bd7!? 12.Nf1 Ne7]

- 12.Bc2 h6
- 13.Nf1 d5
- 14.exd5 Bxd5
- 15.Ng3

[We've reached the position which is quite typical for Giuoco Piano Italian with black pawn being on b5 instead of b7 - not a major difference, but it's in White's, if anyone's, favour. The following idea of transferring the knight from f6 to g6 looks a bit artificial and was criticized by Nepo after the game.]

- 15. Nh7?!
- 16.a4! Nf8
- 17.b4 Ng6
- 18.Be3 Bxe3
- 19.fxe3 Qd7?!



[This is where things really start to go wrong for Black.]

[19...Nce7!? 20.Nd2 Nh4 and White can't play 21.e4? Be6 22.Nb3? as after 22...Neg6! with Qg5 and Nf4 to come his king is in the serious danger]

- 20.Nd2 Nce7
- 21.Nb3 Qc6
- 22.Qd2 Nh4

[22...e4!? would have been an

interesting try to change the course of the game—black sacs a pawn but gets a nice outpost on e5. White is still better though - 23.Nd4 Qb7 24.Nxe4 Bxe4 25.dxe4 Ne5 26.Rf1]

23.e4 Qg6

[As ugly as it seems, parting with his bishop was perhaps Aronian's best chance: 23...Bxb3 24.Bxb3 Rad8 and Black can put up quite serious resistance (which doesn't deny the fact that White is much better)]

- 24.Kh2 Bc6
- 25.Nc5 f5
- 26.exf5 Nexf5
- 27.Nge4 Bd5?!
- 28.Re2 Rad8
- 29.Rf1 Nd6
- 30.Qe1 Nhf5?

[30...Nxe4!? 31.Nxe4 Nf5 (Ian has mentioned 31...Bxe4!? 32.dxe4 Qg5 33.Bb3+ Kh7 34.g3 Ng6 35.Rf5 Qe7 36.h4 with huge positional advantage—but it would still be better than the game) 32.a5 is still much better for White, but at least the game goes on]

31.a5

[There was nothing wrong with 31.Nxa6 and White is just up a pawn, eg 31...Re7 32.Nac5 bxa4? 33.g4+~]

- 31. Rf8
- 32.Ref2 Rf7
- 33.Rf3 h5
- 34.Nxa6 h4
- 35.Nac5

[White's positional advantage is overwhelming, so the rest should've been the matter of technique...]

35. Rdf8



- 36.Kg1 Qh6
- 37.Qc1 Ne3
- 38.Rxf7 Rxf7
- 39.Rxf7 Kxf7
- 40.Qe1

[Somewhat sloppy move, after which there was a glimpse of hope for Black once again]

[40.Bb3 Bxb3 41.Nxd6+ cxd6 42.Nxb3 would've been enough to stop any possible counterplay.; Nepo was considering 40.Bd1!? but he missed that after 40...Qf4 41.Bf3 Nxe2?? 42.Nxd6+ cxd6 43.Bxd5+ comes with a check (43.Qxf4+ Nxf4 44.Bxd5+ Nxd5 was the position Ian wasn't sure about)]

- 40. Nxc2
- 41.Qf2+ Ke8
- 42.Qxc2 Bxe4
- 43.Nxe4 Nxe4
- 44.dxe4 Qe3+
- 45.Kf1 Qf4+?

[Returning the favour]

[After 45...Kd7 Black king stops the a-pawn, and Black queen is incredibly well-placed, which makes White's win problematic (if at all possible)]

46.Qf2 Qc1+

[46...Qxe4 47.a6! Qa8 48.a7 and White should have no problem converting the advantage]

- 47.Qe1 Qf4+
- 48.Kg1 Kd8



49.Qf2

[It was still not too late to go wrong, as tempting queens exchange would lead to a draw - 49.Qd1+? Kc8 50.Qg4+?? Qxg4 51.hxg4 g5 52.Kf2 Kb7 53.Ke3 c6 54.c4 Kc7 and white king has no way to sneak in.]

- 49. Qc1+
- 50.Kh2 Qxc3
- 51.a6! Ke8
- 52.Qxh4

[The rest is easy]

- 52. Qa3
- 53.Qh5+ Kf8
- 54.Qf3+

1-0

FABIANO CARUANA - VISWANATHAN ANAND

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN



GM F. CARUANA // LENNART OOTES

Anand was still feeling jaded after his big miss yesterday and felt that he didn't play well today either. Caruana felt tempted by a pawn sacrifice in the middle game, but misplayed the follow up immediately and had to fight for equality. In the resulting position, Caruana had a bishop against the knight, which was blockading his opponent's extra pawn. The American felt that Anand was being ambitious and the game took a sharper turn. After Caruana declined a repetition, the former World Champion decided to give up the exchange for another pawn, entering an endgame. Caruana tried to find some resources but the position didn't have much to offer.



- 1.d4 Nf6
- 2.c4 e6
- 3.Nf3 d5
- 4.Nc3 Be7
- 5.Bf4 0-0
- 6.e3 b6
- 7.cxd5 Nxd5
- 8.Nxd5 Qxd5
- 9.a3 Ba6
- 10.Bxa6 Nxa6
- 11.b4 Bd6
- 12.Bg3 Nb8
- 13.Qd3 b5
- 14.e4 Qb7

- 15.d5 exd5
- 16.e5 Be7
- 17.Nd4 a5
- 18.Nf5 Re8
- 19.Nxe7+ Rxe7
- 20.0-0 Nd7
- 21.Qc3 axb4
- 22.axb4 Rc8
- 23.Rfc1 c6



- 24.f4 f6
- 25.Bf2 Qc7
- 26.Ra7 Qd8
- 27.Qh3 fxe5
- 28.fxe5 Rc7
- 29.Ra3 Nxe5
- 30.Bb6 Qc8
- 31.Bxc7 Qxh3
- 32.Rxh3 Rxc7
- 33.Re1 Nc4
- 34.Rf3 h6
- 35.Re6 c5
- 36.bxc5 Rxc5
- 37.h4 Nd2
- 38.Rd3 Ne4
- 39.Rb6 Kh7
- 40.g4 Rc1+
- 41.Kg2 Rc2+
- 42.Kg1 Rc1+
- 43.Kg2 Rc2+
- 44.Kg1 Rc1+

1/2-1/2

MAGNUS CARLSEN - DING LIREN

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN



CARLSEN VS. LIREN // LENNART OOTES

Ding received a lot of praise both from his opponent and the commentary team for his perfect defense. When asked what it takes to win a chess game, Carlsen responded with "a mistake from your opponent", something that didn't happen in today's game. The World Champion came to the round equipped with a well prepared sharp line in the Nimzo Indian, while his opponent was unsure if he had prepared it in the first place or had forgotten his homework. Carlsen sacrificed a pawn and had a ferocious attack even after trading queens, but was met with the best defense every move, until his attack lost its steam and the game petered out into a draw. He went on to explain that the downside of playing a sharp line is that the opponent is fine if he can calculate well, which isn't something that happens often—but certainly did in this game.

- 1.d4 Nf6
- 2.c4 e6
- 3.Nc3 Bb4
- 4.Nf3 0-0
- 5.Bg5 c5
- 6.Rc1 h6

- 7.Bh4 cxd4
- 8.Nxd4 d5
- 9.cxd5 g5
- 10.Bg3 Qxd5
- 11.e3 Qxa2
- 12.Qc2 Nd5



- 13.h4 Nxc3
- 14.bxc3 Qxc2
- 15.Rxc2 Be7
- 16.hxg5 hxg5
- 17.f4 Nc6



- 18.fxg5 Bxg5
- 19.Rh5 f6
- 20.Nf3 Bxe3
- 21.Re2 Bc1
- 22.Re4 e5
- 23.Bc4+ Kg7
- 24.Reh4 Kg6
- 25.Rh7 Bg4
- 26.Bd3+ f5
- 27.Nxe5+ Nxe5
- 28.Bxe5 Kg5
- 29.g3 Rg8
- 30.Rxb7 Rae8
- 31.Rb5 Rg6
- 32.Kf2 Rb6
- 33.Rxb6 axb6
- 34.Rh1 Rxe5
- 35.Rxc1 f4
- 36.gxf4+ Kxf4
- 37.Rb1 Rc5
- 38.Rb4+ Kg5
- 39.Rxb6 Rxc3
- 40.Ke3 Bf5
- 41.Rd6 Rxd3+
- 42.Rxd3 Bxd3

1/2-1/2

SHAKHRIYAR MAMEDYAROV - ANISH GIRI

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN



MAMEDYAROV VS. GIRI // JUSTIN KELLAR

Giri admitted after the game that he underestimated the line his opponent played against the Semi-Slav, trading the dark squared bishop for the f6 knight, putting a knight on e5, supporting it with the f4 pawn, and starting an attack against the Black king. The Dutch Champion spent over an hour on 4 moves in the opening, trying to remember and figure out what he needs to do—resulting in deep time trouble later in the game. Feeling the urgency to do something in order to avoid having both the queen and the kingside getting locked up, which would allow a strong attack, Giri decided to break through with the desperate f6 move, weakening his king. Mamedyarov sacrificed a piece but went astray as he couldn't find a direct win. Giri had one opportunity to play for the advantage, but as he had burned all his time in the opening and deciding to accept the sacrifice, he allowed a perpetual with a queen sacrifice.

- | | |
|--------|------|
| 1.d4 | d5 |
| 2.c4 | c6 |
| 3.Nc3 | Nf6 |
| 4.Nf3 | e6 |
| 5.Bg5 | h6 |
| 6.Bxf6 | Qxf6 |
| 7.e3 | g6 |
| 8.Ne5 | Bg7 |
| 9.f4 | Nd7 |
| 10.h4 | Qe7 |
| 11.Qc2 | 0-0 |
| 12.0-0 | Nxe5 |



- | | |
|---------|------|
| 13.fxe5 | Bd7 |
| 14.g4 | f6 |
| 15.Qxg6 | fxe5 |



- | | |
|---------|------|
| 16.Bd3 | e4 |
| 17.Nxe4 | Be8 |
| 18.Nf6+ | Rxf6 |
| 19.Qh7+ | Kf8 |
| 20.g5 | hxg5 |
| 21.hxg5 | Rf7 |
| 22.Qh3 | Rd8 |
| 23.g6 | Rf6 |
| 24.Qh8+ | Bxh8 |



- | | |
|----------|-----|
| 25.Rxh8+ | Kg7 |
| 26.Rh7+ | Kf8 |
| 27.Rh8+ | Kg7 |
| 28.Rh7+ | Kf8 |
| 29.Rh8+ | |

1/2-1/2

HIKARU NAKAMURA - WESLEY SO

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN



GM W.SO // JUSTIN KELLAR

Compared to the rest of the games, the all-American battle had the least amount of action. In the 5.Bf4 line of the Queen's Gambit Declined that has already occurred several times in this tournament, Nakamura chose the less popular line with 7.Rc1. The forced line initiated by Nakamura on move 13 led to liquidation of all the pieces except for a pair of rooks. The game ended with a repetition, as each player had four pawns on the same side of the board.

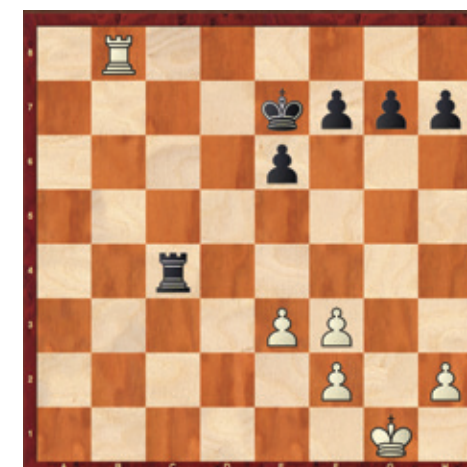
- | | |
|--------|------|
| 1.d4 | Nf6 |
| 2.c4 | e6 |
| 3.Nf3 | d5 |
| 4.Nc3 | Be7 |
| 5.Bf4 | 0-0 |
| 6.e3 | b6 |
| 7.Rc1 | Bb7 |
| 8.cxd5 | Nxd5 |
| 9.Nxd5 | Qxd5 |
| 10.a3 | c5 |
| 11.Bc4 | Qd8 |
| 12.0-0 | Bf6 |



- | | |
|----------|------|
| 13.dxc5 | Bxb2 |
| 14.Rb1 | Qxd1 |
| 15.Rfxd1 | Bxa3 |
| 16.Bd6 | Bxf3 |
| 17.gxf3 | Rc8 |



- | | |
|----------|------|
| 18.cxb6 | axb6 |
| 19.Bxa3 | Rxa3 |
| 20.Rxb6 | Rc3 |
| 21.Rbd6 | Kf8 |
| 22.Rd8+ | Rxd8 |
| 23.Rxd8+ | Ke7 |
| 24.Rxb8 | Rxc4 |



- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 25.f4 | Rc7 |
| 26.Ra8 | Rd7 |
| 27.Rb8 | Rc7 |
| 28.Ra8 | Rd7 |
| 29.Rb8 | Rc7 |

1/2-1/2



GM FABIANO CARUANA // JUSTIN KELLAR



GM DING LIREN // JUSTIN KELLAR

CURRENT STANDINGS

#GrandChessTour AFTER ROUND 8

POS.	PLAYER	ROUND 8 RESULT	SCORE
T-1	GM DING LIREN (CHN)	1/2	4 1/2 PTS
T-1	GM IAN NEPOMNIACHTCHI (RUS)	1	4 1/2 PTS
T-1	GM SERGEY KARJAKIN (RUS)	1	4 1/2 PTS
T-1	GM VISWANATHAN ANAND (IND)	1/2	4 1/2 PTS
T-1	GM FABIANO CARUANA (USA)	1/2	4 1/2 PTS
T-6	GM MAGNUS CARLSEN (NOR)	1/2	4 PTS
T-6	GM S. MAMEDYAROV (AZE)	1/2	4 PTS
T-6	GM WESLEY SO (USA)	1/2	4 PTS
T-9	GM M. VACHIER-LAGRAVE (FRA)	0	3 1/2 PTS
T-9	GM HIKARU NAKAMURA (USA)	1/2	3 1/2 PTS
T-9	GM ANISH GIRI (NLD)	1/2	3 1/2 PTS
12	GM LEVON ARONIAN (ARM)	0	3 PTS

PLAYER MATCHUPS

#GrandChessTour ROUND 9

WHITE	PLAYER	VS	PLAYER	BLACK
GM DING LIREN (CHN)			GM FABIANO CARUANA (USA)	
GM VISWANATHAN ANAND (IND)			GM SHAKHRIYAR MAMEDYAROV (AZE)	
GM ANISH GIRI (NLD)			GM SERGEY KARJAKIN (RUS)	
GM MAXIME VACHIER-LAGRAVE (FRA)			GM HIKARU NAKAMURA (USA)	
GM WESLEY SO (USA)			GM IAN NEPOMNIACHTCHI (RUS)	
GM LEVON ARONIAN (ARM)			GM MAGNUS CARLSEN (NOR)	

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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

Sinquefield 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.