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# CUP★CHRONICLE

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22, 2018 | ISSUE 4

## ROUND 4 HIGHLIGHTS

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN



GM MAGNUS CARLSEN, ROUND 4  
PHOTO BY LENNART OOTES

## ROUND 4 RESULTS

♔ GM F. Caruana	1
♚ GM H. Nakamura	0
♔ GM V. Anand	1/2
♚ GM M. Carlsen	1/2
♔ GM W. So	1/2
♚ GM S. Karjakin	1/2
♔ GM A. Grischuk	1/2
♚ GM M. Vachier-Lagrave	1/2
♔ GM S. Mamedyarov	1/2
♚ GM L. Aronian	1/2

## CURRENT STANDINGS

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

Magnus Carlsen's prediction of four draws and one long decisive game came true. While the leaders drew quickly, Fabiano Caruana's win over his countryman Hikaru Nakamura allowed him to join the pack. There is now a five-way tie for first, an uncommon occurrence at highly contested top level events. Interestingly enough, none of the leaders will be facing off in round five. As tomorrow is the final round before the day off, the players are expected to exhaust every resource in order to score a full point and break away from the pack. Stay tuned for an exciting day!



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## FABIANO CARUANA - HIKARU NAKAMURA

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN, ANALYSIS BY GM ALEJANDRO RAMIREZ



CARUANA // LENNART OOTES

Fabiano Caruana had a novelty prepared months ago and was finally able to unleash the surprise weapon against his Olympic teammate. Caruana thought that his opponent played logical moves but not necessarily the best ones and found himself in an unpleasant position. The big mistake came on move 36, when an incorrect pawn capture by Nakamura ruined his pawn structure. In addition, his uncoordinated pieces and weak king, made the resignation inevitable.

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 Be7 5.g3 dxc4 6.Bg2 0-0 7.Ne5 Nc6 8.Bxc6 bxc6 9.Nxc6 Qe8 10.Nxe7+ Qxe7 11.Qa4 c5 12.dxc5 Qxc5 13.Be3 Qc7 14.0-0-0!** [A fascinating novelty, that Caruana said to have prepared months ago. The position is well-known, but castling queenside changes things: first it allows White to throw his pawns forward on the kingside with ease, and second, the king on c1 actually defends the pawns on the queenside!]

[14.Rd1 was Svidler-Nakamura, 2017.]

**14...Ng4 15.Rd2 Nxe3 16.fxe3 Rb8 17.Rhd1** [Caruana played all of it instantly, as he had this specific position before in a blitz game a few months back.]

**17...a5 18.Kb1 h6 19.Ka1**



[Caruana favored his king safety, hoping to arrange his pieces in powerful squares to stifle the bishop on c8, which becomes a bad piece in the long run. His pawn structure on e3 and e2 only seems weak but it isn't easy to attack it.]

**19...Rb4 20.Qc2 Rb8 21.Qe4 Bb7 22.Qd4 Ba8 23.e4 Rfc8 24.Qf2 Bc6 25.Qc5** [Time for decisions for black.]

**25...Be8?!** [25...Qb7 26.Qxc4 sacrifices a pawn, but it is hard to say how valuable that pawn on c4 is. The open c-file might be enough to justify giving it away.]

**26.Qxc7 Rxc7 27.Rd6!?** [27.Rd8 exchanging a pair of rooks also makes sense.]

**27...Kf8 28.Ra6 Rc5 29.Ra7 Rbc8 30.Kb1** [The position is unpleasant for black because of the weaknesses of his pawns. Despite some pressure on the kingside, it is much harder to find moves for the black rooks than the white ones.]

**30...Rh5 31.h4 Re5 32.Kc2 g5 33.Rf1 Kg7 34.Rb7 Kg6 35.Kd2 f5?!** [35...Rec5 is a computer move that is too patient for a human to make.]

**36.hxg5 fxe4 37.Ke3! Bc6 38.Re7** [Black has some serious problems. First,

the bishop is not great on c6 - actually it's a constant tactical weakness. The king on g6 is very weak, and if that wasn't enough, all of black's pawns are weak.]

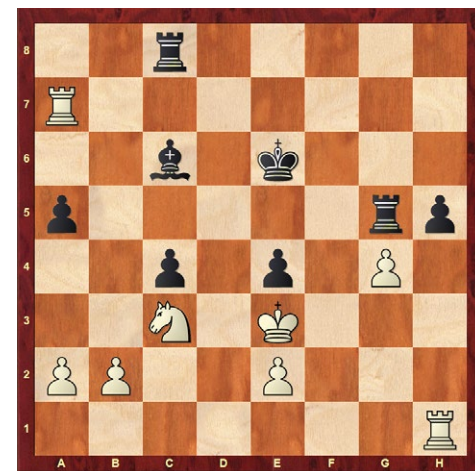
**38...Rxc5** [38...h5 is a computer move that I don't understand, but seems to be best for tactical reasons.]

**39.Rxe6+ Kg7 40.Re7+** [40.Rff6!?

**40...Kg6 41.Rd1** [Caruana calculated the following sequence accurately]

**41...Kf6 42.Ra7 Ke6 43.Rh1 h5?!** [43...Rxc3+ 44.Kd4 Rg6 45.Rh5±]

**44.g4!** [Black's position is falling apart.]



**44...Be8** [44...hxg4 45.Rh6+ Ke5 46.Rxa5+ gets mated.]

**45.gxh5 Bxh5 46.Nxe4 Rf5 47.Ra6+ Ke7 48.Nd6 Re5+ 49.Kd4** [Black's position is losing material by force, so Nakamura resigned.]

1-0

## VISWANATHAN ANAND - MAGNUS CARLSEN

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN, ANALYSIS BY GM CRISTIAN CHIRILA



ANAND // SPECTRUM STUDIOS

Besides Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, the World Champion is the only other player to have essayed the sharp Sicilian defense. Anand decided to avoid the main lines of the Open Sicilian and played a popular sideline. Carlsen was happy to have been able to take the one chance to play actively, thus avoiding a worse position. His kingside attack looked dangerous but due to the lack of pieces and Anand's excellent defensive knight, it was impossible to achieve progress. The game petered out into a drawn endgame.

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5** [An early "surprise" as Anand generally opts for the open Sicilian. Dealing with Carlsen's Shveshnikov might not have been his ideal game nonetheless...]

**3...g6 4.Bxc6 dxc6** [4...bxc6 has been the recent trend, nevertheless the game continuation is equally strong and principal. 5.0-0 Bg7 6.Re1 Nh6÷]

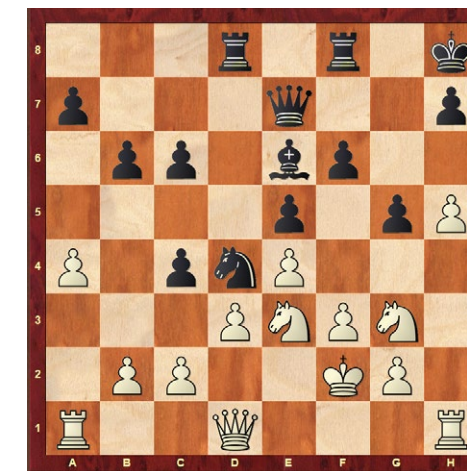
**5.d3 Bg7 6.h3 Nf6 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be3 b6 9.Qd2 e5** [Despite the present blockage of the B on g7, Black is getting ready to transfer the N to the newly create haven on d4.]

**10.Bh6 Qd6 11.Bxg7 Kxg7 12.a4 Ne8**

**13.Nh2 Nc7 14.Ng4 f6 15.f3 Ne6 16.h4 Nd4 17.h5 g5 18.Ne3 Be6 19.Ne2 Kh8 20.Ng3 Rad8 21.Kf2?!** [A modest decision by Anand, Black now obtains another potential attacking avenue via the "f" file.]

[21.Qf2 h6 22.0-0 Qc7 23.b3<sup>2</sup> would have led to a balanced, yet pleasant position for White.]

**21...Qe7 22.Qd1 c4! 23.dxc4 f5** [23...Nb3 would lead to a difficult position for Black, not the type of game Carlsen feels comfortable in. 24.cxb3 Rxd1 25.Raxd1 Qb4 26.Rd3<sup>2</sup>]



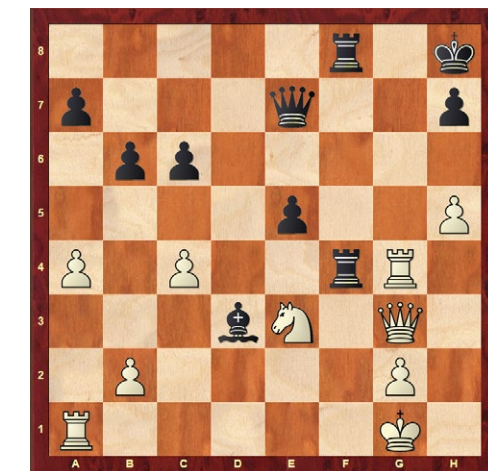
**24.exf5 Nxf5 25.Ngxf5 Bxf5 26.Qe2 g4** [Now we see why placing the K on f2 was not the best idea. White

is now forced to start pulling the breaks and try to liquidate the material.]

**27.Kg1?!** [27.Rad1 gxf3 28.gxf3 Rxd1 29.Qxd1 Be6 30.b3 Qf6 31.Rg1÷]

**27...gxf3 28.Qxf3 Bxc2 29.Qg3 Bd3** [29...Rg8! 30.Qh4 Qxh4 31.Rxh4 Rd2<sup>3</sup>]

**30.Rh4 Rd4 31.Rg4 Rxc4** [31...Rdf4 was perhaps the last chance to keep the game alive 32.Re1 Qf6 (32...h6 was mentioned by Anand during the official broadcast 33.b3 Qf6 Black maintains some pressure, as White can't force any piece exchange.) 33.Rg5 e4÷]



**32.Nxg4 e4 33.Qe5+ Qxe5 34.Nxe5 Kg7 35.Rd1 Rd8 36.Nxc6 Re8 37.Kf2 e3+ 38.Ke1 Bxc4=** [The game has entered the liquidation path. All the pieces will now be exchanged almost by force.]

**39.Rd4 Bf7 40.g4 a5 41.b4 axb4 42.Rxb4 Be6 43.g5 Bf7 44.h6+ Kg6 45.Rb5 Ba2 46.Re5 Rxe5 47.Nxe5+ Kxg5 48.Nd7 Bb3 49.Nxb6 Bxa4 50.Nxa4 Kxh6 51.Nc3 e2 52.Nxe2 Kg5 53.Ng3 h5 54.Nxh5**

1/2-1/2

## WESLEY SO - SERGEY KARJAKIN

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN, ANALYSIS BY GM VARUZHAN AKOBIAN

So far, both players have been struggling in the event, but having the white pieces, Wesley So was looking for his first win. So got a pleasant position, which commentator Yasser Seirawan believed he could win 80% of the time, but Karjakin disagreed, thinking that he was only slightly worse. The American chose the wrong plan, centralizing his rooks instead of committing to a kingside attack. This allowed Karjakin to quickly find counterplay on the queenside and solidify his position. The opening of the structure was the beginning of the many trades that led to an opposite color bishop ending that quickly ended in a draw.

**1.c4** [As both players have not been performing well so far, it was clear that Wesley came to fight for a win.]

**1...Nf6 2.Nc3 e5 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.e3 Bb4 5.Qc2 Bxc3 6.Qxc3 Qe7 7.d4** [Not the most popular move and has only been played 64 times out of nearly 900 games.]

[7.a3 The most commonly played move which typically leads to a reverse Open Sicilian position where white is happy to have an extra tempo. 7...d5 8.cxd5 Nxd5 9.Qb3=]

**7...Ne4 8.Qd3 exd4 9.Nxd4 0-0 10.Be2 Qb4+ 11.Kf1** [Optically this looks quite bad for white as he lost castling rights, but on the other hand he has the bishop pair. In near future, white plans b3 and Bb2 leading to a situation where the dark squared bishop will be very powerful.]

**11...Qe7 12.f3 Nc5 13.Qd2 a5N** [The first new move of the game. The only previous game featured 13...d6 and was played by a good friend of mine, FM Doug Eckert, who also happens to be a board member of the STL Chess Club.]

[13...d6 14.Nxc6 bxc6 15.b3 Re8 16.Qc3 a5 With a roughly equal position 1-0 (56) Homa,S (2285)-Eckert,D (2152) Chicago 2017]



**14.b3 d6 15.Nxc6 bxc6 16.Bb2** [If only white could swap the king and h1 rook, So would have a significant advantage!]

**16...Re8 17.Kf2 Nd7 18.h4?!** [This move is overly ambitious as it's weakening to the kingside. White could have obtained a comfortable edge by playing in a more controlled manner.]

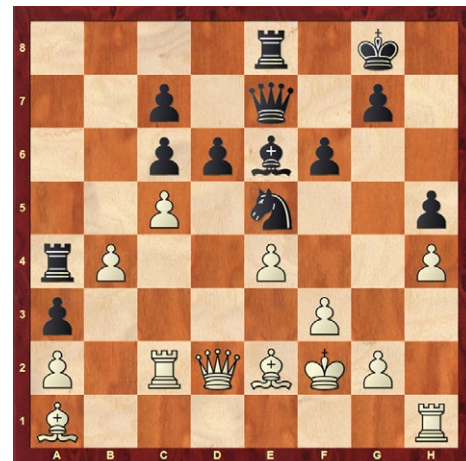
[18.Rhe1 c5 19.e4 Bb7 20.a4!<sup>2</sup> Fixing the pawn on a5 which could be a long-term weakness as Bc3 is looming.]

**18...h5 19.e4** [19.Rag1!? With the idea of g4 to open the g-file and organize a strong attack against the g7 pawn]

**19...Ne5 20.Rae1?!** [20.Qg5! f6 (20... Qxg5? 21.hxg5 g6 22.g4 hxg4 23.f4! A devastating tactical blow as the knight cannot move due to Rh8#) 21.Qxh5 Be6 22.Rhd1<sup>2</sup>]

**20...a4 21.b4 a3!** [After this strong advance, black has enough counterplay for equality and perhaps even an advantage]

**22.Ba1 f6 23.Rc1 Be6 24.Rc2 Ra4 25.c5!?** [So tries to open the position so the two bishops can come to life]



**25...Rb8 26.cxd6 cxd6 27.Bc3 c5** [Another interesting try for black would have been 27...d5 28.exd5 Bxd5 29.Rd1=]

**28.bxc5 dxc5 29.Rd1 Nc4 30.Bxc4 Rxc4 31.Ba1** [The beginning of many trades which leads to a dead drawn opposite-color bishop endgame]

**31...Rxc2 32.Qxc2 Rd8 33.Rd3 Rxd3 34.Qxd3 Qd7 35.Qxd7 Bxd7 36.Bc3 Be6 37.Bd2 Bxa2 38.Be1 c4 39.Bxa3 c3 40.Ke3 Bc4 41.Kd4 Bf1 42.g3 Bg2 43.Kxc3 Bxf3 44.Kd4 Bg4 45.Kd5 Bf3 46.Kd4 Bg4 47.Kd5 Bf3 48.Kd4** [Interesting game! After a slightly unusual opening, Wesley So put himself in a situation to perhaps execute a strong attack. However, after a few slow moves, the position liquidated and both players seemed content with a draw.]

1/2-1/2

## ALEXANDER GRISCHUK - MAXIME VACHIER-LAGRAVE

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN



MVL // SPECTRUM STUDIOS

Once again, the Frenchman's beloved Najdorf was put on trial. Grischuk repeated the line that Anand played against Vachier-Lagrave in round two. Black deviated from that game, repeating a line he had played during the Grand Prix last year. Vachier-Lagrave played a novelty and the game became very complicated, allowing White to sacrifice a full rook for compensation and an attack. Grischuk took a long time at the critical moment but decided to repeat the position instead of entering the unnecessary complications.

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6** [MVL stays loyal to his beloved Najdorf]

**6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 h6 8.Bh4 Qb6 9.a3 Be7 10.Bf2 Qc7 11.Qf3 Nbd7 12.0-0-0** [Grischuk repeats the same line Anand played in round 2]

**12...b5 13.g4 Bb7** [MVL has played this move four times before]

[13...g5 was tried by Nakamura. Caruana's showed his excellent preparation to annihilate his opponent 14.h4 gxf4 15.Be2 b4 16.axb4 Ne5 17.Qxf4 Nexg4 18.Bxg4 e5 19.Qxf6 Bxf6 20.Nd5 Qd8 21.Nf5 Rb8 22.Nxf6+

Qxf6 23.Rxd6 Be6 24.Rhd1 0-0 25.h5 Qg5+ 26.Be3 Qf6 27.Nxh6+ Kh8 28.Bf5 Qe7 29.b5 Qe8 30.Nxf7+ Rxf7 31.Rxe6 Qxb5 32.Rh6+ 1-0 (32) Caruana,F (2823)-Nakamura,H (2779) London 2016]

**14.h4 Nc5 15.Bd3 h5** [MVL repeats the move he played against Giri last year during the Grand Prix]

[15...Nxd3+ MVL played this move two rounds earlier against Anand. The game continued: 16.Rxd3 d5 17.e5 Ne4 18.Be1 0-0-0 and eventually ended in a draw 19.Qd1]

**16.g5 Ng4 17.Rhg1 Qb6** [Novelty]



[17...g6 18.Rxg4 hxg4 19.Qxg4 e5 20.Nf3 Rc8 21.fxe5 dxe5 22.Kb1 Rd8 23.Nd5 Bxd5 24.exd5 Nxd3 25.Rxd3 0-0 26.h5 Qc4 27.Qh3 Qc8 28.Qxc8 Rxc8 29.Nxe5 Bxg5 30.d6 Bf4 31.d7 1/2-1/2 (31) Giri,A (2762)-Vachier Lagrave,M (2796) Palma de Mallorca 2017]

**18.Kb1 b4** [this was the idea behind Qb6. Black starts his counterplay on the queenside quickly]

[18...Nxd3 19.Rxd3 e5 20.Rxg4 hxg4 21.Qxg4 exd4 22.Bxd4 White has sacrificed a full rook but the pawn avalanche and Black's inability to castle

give him enough compensation. The position remains very complicated]

**19.axb4 Qxb4 20.Rxg4 hxg4 21.Qxg4 Rb8 22.Na2 Qa4 23.Nc3** [here White has the option to repeat the position. Grischuk considered several alternatives:]



[23.g6 looks like a straight forward way to attack 23...0-0 is the move Grischuk considered (23...f5 was MVL's idea 24.exf5 Bd5 25.Nc3 Rxb2+ 26.Kxb2 Qb4+ 27.Kc1 Qxc3μ) 24.f5 fxg6 25.fxg6 Rxf2 26.Qh5 Bf6 27.Qh7+ Kf8 28.Qh8+ Ke7 29.Qxb8 Bxd4-+; 23.f5 e5 24.Nc3 Qb4 25.Nb3 Nxb3 26.cxb3 Qxb3 27.Qe2÷]

**23...Qb4 24.Na2 Qa4 25.Nc3 Qb4**

1/2-1/2

# SHAKHRIYAR MAMEDYAROV - LEVON ARONIAN

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN, ANALYSIS BY GM ALEJANDRO RAMIREZ



ARONIAN // SPECTRUM STUDIOS

Neither player showed up with a great will to fight. Aronian essayed the variation of the Queen's Gambit declined that is named after him, a line that is ultra solid for black. Mamedyarov either did not have anything prepared against this or he felt that consolidating his position in the tournament was more important. In any case, Aronian had no problems equalizing with black and a quick repetition of moves sealed the draw in 52 minutes.

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3** [If one were to assign a "tabiya", or a starting battle position, in the modern queen's gambit, than this would be it. The possibilities starting from this position have truly exploded in the past few years.]

**4...Be7** [4...Bb4 is the Ragozin variation, but Aronian prefers the alternative.]

**5.Bf4 0-0 6.e3 Nbd7** [Known as the Aronian variation, and for good reason. The Armenian superstar has employed this system to an unbelievable level of success.]

**8...Ba7 9.a4 0-0 10.Nbd2 Re8** [10...Ne7 transferring the knight to the kingside is another idea 11.Bb3 Ng6 12.Nf1 Be6 13.Bxe6 fxe6 14.Be3 Bxe3 15.Nxe3 Qe7 16.g3 a5 17.Nd2 axb4 18.cxb4 d5 19.Qb3 c6 20.b5 Kh7 21.a5 Nd7 22.bxc6 bxc6 23.Rec1 Qf6 24.Rf1 Nf4 25.gxf4 exf4 26.Nc2 f3 27.Kh1 Qh4 28.exd5 cxd5 29.d4 Nf6 30.Qd3+ Ne4 31.Ne3 Kh8 32.Nxe4 dxe4 33.Qb3 Rf6 34.a6 e5 35.Qb7 Re8 36.dxe5 Rxe5 37.Qb8+ 1-0 (37) Anand,V (2782)-Kovalev,V (2639) Riadh 2017]

**7.c5** [7.Be2 dxc4 8.0-0 is a different way of dealing with the position, which is also very complicated.]

**7...c6 8.Bd3 b6 9.b4 a5 10.a3 Ba6 11.0-0** [11.Bxa6 Rxa6 12.b5 cxb5 13.c6 was an incredibly famous game: Anand-Carlsen, 2014: the only game that Anand won against Carlsen in a World Champion match! Since then, this has been analyzed and black is supposed to be ok.]

**11...Qc8 12.h3 Qb7 13.Qc2 Bxd3 14.Qxd3** [Not the most critical variation: black is supposed to be ok. It seems like Mamedyarov was uncomfortable with the situation and allowed Black to equalize without trouble.]



**14...axb4 15.axb4 Rxa1 16.Rxa1 Ra8 17.Qb1 Rxa1** [Despite not being the most common move, it is the most solid. Mamedyarov found nothing in the position.]

**18.Qxa1 bxc5 19.bxc5** [The locked pawn structure and the lack of targets means that grinding out a win is almost impossible. The draw is a natural result, despite it being so early.]



**19...h6 20.Qb1 Qa8 21.Qa2 Qb7 22.Qb1 Qa8 23.Qa2 Qb7 24.Qb1**

1/2-1/2

## CURRENT STANDINGS

#GrandChessTour AFTER ROUND 4

POS.	PLAYER	ROUND 4 RESULT	SCORE
T-1	GM FABIANO CARUANA	1	2.5 PTS
T-1	GM MAGNUS CARLSEN	.5	2.5 PTS
T-1	GM LEVON ARONIAN	.5	2.5 PTS
T-1	GM S. MAMEDYAROV	.5	2.5 PTS
T-1	GM ALEX GRISCHUK	.5	2.5 PTS
T-6	GM VISWANATHAN ANAND	.5	2 PTS
T-6	GM M. VACHIER-LAGRAVE	.5	2 PTS
8	GM WESLEY SO	.5	1.5 PTS
T-9	GM HIKARU NAKAMURA	0	1 PTS
T-9	GM SERGEY KARJAKIN	.5	1 PTS

## PLAYER MATCHUPS

#GrandChessTour ROUND 5

WHITE	PLAYER	VS	PLAYER	BLACK
	GM LEVON ARONIAN 2794		GM VISWANATHAN ANAND 2771	
	GM MAGNUS CARLSEN 2866		GM WESLEY SO 2794	
	GM SERGEY KARJAKIN 2791		GM ALEX GRISCHUK 2782	
	GM M. VACHIER-LAGRAVE 2796		GM FABIANO CARUANA 2785	
	GM HIKARU NAKAMURA 2812		GM S. MAMEDYAROV 2782	

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# 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 Saint Louis Chess Club!

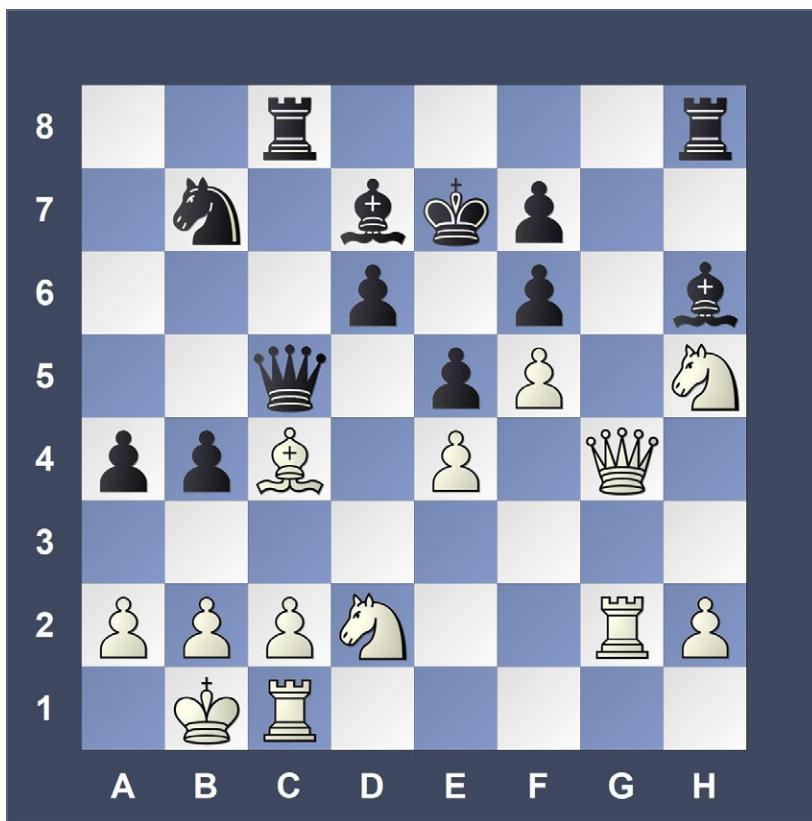
Each day, two \$25 gift cards will be drawn among those who submit a correct solution.

**Objective:** White to move

White: Viswanathan Anand

Black: Anton Demchenko

World Championship Rapid 2017



## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 17

4-5:30 PM Autograph Session, Kingside Diner

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 17

6 PM Opening Ceremony, World Chess Hall of Fame\*

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 18

1 PM Round 1

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 19

1 PM Round 2

### MONDAY, AUGUST 20

1 PM Round 3

### TUESDAY, AUGUST 21

1 PM Round 4

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22

1 PM Round 5

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 23

Rest Day

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 24

1 PM Round 6

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 25

1 PM Round 7

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 26

1 PM Round 8

### MONDAY, AUGUST 27

1 PM Round 9

### TUESDAY, AUGUST 28

1 PM Playoff (If Necessary)

### TUESDAY, AUGUST 28

5:30 PM Closing Ceremony, World Chess Hall of Fame\*

6:30 PM Chess Club 10

Year Documentary Premiere, Chase Park Plaza

\*Private Event

## SIDE EVENT HIGHLIGHT

### Sinquefield Action Quads

#### FRIDAY, AUGUST 24

3RR | Game in 20; 3 second delay

#### Entry Fee

\$10

#### Registration

6-6:50 PM

Space is limited to the first 50 registrants.

#### Round 1

7:30 PM

#### Prize for each quad \$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.