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ROUND 5 RESULTS

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

CURRENT STANDINGS

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

CUP★CHRONICLE

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28, 2019 | ISSUE 10

ROUND 10 HIGHLIGHTS

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN



GM DING LIREN AND GM ANISH GIRI, ROUND 5
PHOTO BY LENNART OOTES

After an exceedingly close tournament, a new face emerges as the sole leader of the tournament. Ding Liren sits on top of the leaderboard after drawing with Levon Aronian using the black pieces and his closest rival, Ian Nepomniachtchi lost his game today. World Champion Magnus Carlsen scored his first victory of the tournament and is half a point behind the sole leader along with Sergey Karjakin, Viswanathan Anand and Ian Nepomniachtchi. With only one round left, any one of these players can still clinch the title.



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IAN NEPOMNIACHTCHI VS MAXIME VACHIER-LAGRAVE

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN



GM VACHIER-LAGRAVE // CRYSTAL FULLER

Vachier-Lagrave called this result a payback for his opponent playing so fast in every game, as Nepomniachtchi made the deadly blunder in 26 seconds. In a theoretical line in the Symmetrical English, Nepomniachtchi sacrificed a pawn in return for quick development and initiative. He had the opportunity to win the exchange, giving his opponent the bishop pair and two connected passed pawns on the queenside, which Vachier-Lagrave thought was complicated. Instead, the Russian Grandmaster chose to stay down a pawn and was meaning to play a move that would force the game into a draw, but instead moved his knight to the wrong square where it got trapped. In order to rescue it, he had to give up several pawns, entering a lost endgame which Vachier-Lagrave converted without any difficulties.

1.Nf3 c5
2.c4 Nf6

3.Nc3 d5
4.cxd5 Nxd5
5.e4 Nb4

[MVL is not the one to steer clear from his pet lines]

6.Bb5+

[6.Bc4 Nd3+ 7.Ke2 Nf4+ 8.Kf1 Ne6 9.b4 is the popular main line]

6. N8c6

[6...Bd7 Nepomniachtchi himself has played this with Black]

7.d4 cxd4
8.a3 dxc3
9.Qxd8+ Kxd8
10.axb4 cxb2
11.Bxb2 f6
12.e5 Bd7



[this has been played several times before. White is playing for the initiative as he's ahead in development]

13.Bc4 e6
14.0-0

[14.exf6 White had the option of grabbing the exchange 14...Bxb4+ 15.Ke2 gxf6 16.Bxf6+ Kc7 17.Bxh8 Rxh8 MVL thought that he would have enough compensation and that the position remains complicated, but the engines give white a big edge]

14. Be7
15.b5 Nxe5
16.Bxe5

[16.Nxe5 fxe5 17.Bxe5 Bf6 18.Bxf6+ gxf6 19.Rfd1 even though White is down a pawn, there is enough compensation for it]

17.Rfd1 16...fxe5
Ke8

[17...Bf6 18.Bxe6 Ke7 19.Bxd7 e4 20.Rac1 exf3 21.Rc7 also looks equal]

18.Nxe5 Bc8
19.b6 Bc5
20.Bb5+ Ke7
21.Nd7??



[huge blunder that gets the knight trapped. Nepo later tweeted that he meant to play Nc6 instead]

[21.Nc6+ bxc6 22.Bxc6 Bb7

23.Bxb7 Rad8 24.Rxd8 Rxd8 25.bxa7 Bxa7 with a draw. MVL went into the confessional booth to say that he expected this line and to shake hands shortly]

21. Bd6
22.Rac1 Rd8

[22...Bxd7 23.Bxd7 Kxd7? Black can still return the favor! 24.Rc7+ Ke8 25.Rxd6 winning for white]

23.Nc5 Bxc5
24.Rxd8 Kxd8
25.Rxc5 axb6



[White saved his piece, but the resulting endgame is completely lost]

26.Rc1 Ra5
27.Rb1 Bd7
28.Bd3 h6
29.Rxb6 Ra1+
30.Bf1 Kc7

[even with one extra pawn, Black is completely winning. The rest is just a matter of time]

31.Rb2 b5
32.f3 Kb6
33.Kf2 Bc6
34.Bc4 e5
35.Bd3 Ra3
36.Bb1 Rc3

37.Ke2 Rc4
38.Kd2 b4
39.Ba2 Rd4+
40.Kc1 e4
41.fxe4 Rxe4
42.g3 Bb5
43.Kd1 Kc5
44.Rf2 Bc4
45.Bb1 Re7
46.Kd2 Rf7

0-1

MAGNUS CARLSEN VS WESLEY SO

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN



CARLSEN VS. SO // CRYSTAL FULLER

Carlsen hasn't been happy with his play in the tournament so far, but he was certainly pleased with this win. After the standard opening moves in the Giuoco Piano, the game took an interesting turn with the change of the pawn structure. Carlsen ruined his own structure, finding himself saddled with an isolated pawn as well as isolated doubled pawns on the queenside. The pawn weaknesses couldn't be attacked, however, and served the function of controlling his opponent's pair of knights. So set up a fortress but unfortunately for him, Carlsen showed a bishop maneuver which would have put So in zugzwang, forcing him to lose a pawn. Carlsen was critical of his handling of the resulting rook endgame as he allowed too much counterplay. It appeared that by that point So had already collapsed and made an immediate blunder, allowing the World Champion's passed pawns quickly run down the board.

- 1.e4 e5
- 2.Nf3 Nc6
- 3.Bc4 Bc5
- 4.0-0 Nf6
- 5.d3 0-0
- 6.c3 d6

- 7.h3 h6
- 8.Re1 a6
- 9.a4 a5

[this move has been played many times by Karjakin]

- 10.Nbd2 Be6
- 11.Bb5 Na7
- 12.d4 Nxb5
- 13.dxc5 Na7
- 14.b3 Re8
- 15.cxd6 Qxd6
- 16.Ba3 c5
- 17.Nc4!?

[Carlsen changes the pawn structure, giving himself a lot of weaknesses on the queenside. However, his ruined structure will keep his opponent's knights at bay while giving himself the open b file]

[17.Qe2 b6 18.Nc4 Bxc4 19.Qxc4 was the game between Vachier-Lagrave and Karjakin from 2018 Saint Louis Rapid and Blitz]

- 17. Qxd1
- 18.Raxd1 Bxc4

- 19.bxc4 b6



[we reach this fascinating position. White has a dark squared bishop which is limited by Black's pawns and 3 isolated pawns on the queenside, but all these weaknesses control all the key squares, rendering Black's knight duo quite useless, whereas White's pieces have big potential in improving as the World Champion demonstrates in the game]

- 20.Nh4 Rad8
- 21.f3 g6
- 22.g3

[the idea is to eventually transfer the knight to d5 via g2 and e3]

- 22. Nh5
- 23.Kf2 Nc6
- 24.Bc1 Kg7
- 25.Be3

[with the bishop on e3, the rook can move to the b file, as Rd2 is no longer possible]

- 25. Rxd1

[perhaps Wesley shouldn't trade rooks and give up the file]

[25...Na7 26.Rb1 Rd6 is another way of trying to hold on to the queenside]

- 26.Rxd1 Rd8
- 27.Rb1 Rb8
- 28.Ng2 Nf6
- 29.Ke2 Ne8
- 30.Bf2 Nd6
- 31.Ne3 Ne7
- 32.Nd5



[the knight has successfully landed on its dream square]

- 32. Nxd5
- 33.cxd5 Rb7
- 34.Kd3 f5

[34...f6 Black can try to wait like this but White will eventually break through 35.c4 g5 36.Be1 Kf7 (36...f5 Magnus showed a beautiful zugzwang here 37.g4 f4 38.Bc3 Kf6 39.Rb2



and Black can't move a piece without losing a pawn!) 37.Bc3 and eventually f4 will be deadly for Black]

- 35.c4 fxe4+
- 36.fxe4 Rf7
- 37.Rxb6 Rxf2
- 38.Rxd6 Rf3+
- 39.Ke2?

[Magnus was very upset with himself about this reckless move]

[39.Kd2 not allowing Rc3 39...Rg3 40.Rc6 Rxh3 41.Rxc5 White's connected passed pawns will be a lot faster]

- 39. Rc3

[now Black gets some chances]

- 40.Re6 Rxc4
- 41.Rxe5 Rxa4
- 42.Re7+ Kf6??

[giving the game away immediately]

[42...Kf8 and Magnus wasn't sure if this is winning any longer]

43.d6

1-0

LEVON ARONIAN VS DING LIREN

WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN



GM LIREN // CRYSTAL FULLER

With Nepomniachtchi losing, a draw was enough for Ding Liren to take the sole lead of the tournament. Aronian's opening choice was surprising: he essayed the 4.Ng5 variation against the two knights opening, an extremely rare occurrence at the top level chess. Ding must have been very surprised and admitted to forgetting the correct way to equalize. In this line, White grabs a pawn but get behind in development and has to put his pieces on awkward squares. Aronian remained up a pawn throughout the game, but Ding always had enough counterplay against the extra pawn as well as with his bishop against the knight, creating another target on the queenside. The game petered out into a draw after the material equalized and the remaining pieces were traded off.

- 1.e4 e5
- 2.Nf3 Nc6
- 3.Bc4 Nf6
- 4.Ng5 d5
- 5.exd5 Na5
- 6.Bb5+ c6
- 7.dxc6 bxc6



- 8.Bd3 Nd5
- 9.Nf3 Bd6
- 10.0-0 Nf4
- 11.Nc3 Nxd3
- 12.cxd3 0-0
- 13.b3 c5
- 14.Ba3 Nc6



- 15.Ne4 Nb4
- 16.Bxb4 cxb4
- 17.Re1 Bb8
- 18.Ng3 Qxd3
- 19.Nxe5 Bxe5
- 20.Rxe5 Be6
- 21.Re3 Qd4
- 22.Ne2 Qd6
- 23.d4 a5
- 24.h4 Rfd8
- 25.Qd2 a4
- 26.Rd1 axb3
- 27.axb3 Ra5



- 28.Rg3 Rf5
- 29.Ra1 Bd5
- 30.Qe3 h6
- 31.Rg4 Rf6
- 32.Ng3 Qe6
- 33.Qxe6 Bxe6
- 34.Re4 Bxb3
- 35.d5 Rb6
- 36.Rb1 Bxd5
- 37.Rexb4 Rxb4
- 38.Rxb4 Be6
- 39.f3 Ra8
- 40.Kh1 Rd8
- 41.Kg1 Ra8
- 42.Kh1 Rd8
- 43.Kg1

1/2-1/2

SERGEY KARJAKIN VS VISWANATHAN ANAND

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN



GM ANAND // CRYSTAL FULLER

The critical game for the standings was a wild affair in a less popular line of the Queen's Gambit Declined. Anand sacrificed a pawn, forcing his opponent castle "by hand" and getting ahead in development. The former World Champion had reviewed the line in the morning before the game and was well versed in the subtleties. The game became completely chaotic with mutual attacks as Karjakin's queen and rook penetrated the seventh rank while Anand's rook was on the second rank. The remaining of the game was played perfectly with both players calculating the complicated lines with utmost precision. The final position where Anand gave a perpetual looks like a miraculous save, as it is hard to believe that White isn't simply getting checkmated.

- 1.d4 Nf6
- 2.c4 e6
- 3.Nf3 d5
- 4.Nc3 Be7
- 5.Bf4 0-0
- 6.e3 b6
- 7.Be2 Ba6

- 8.cxd5 Nxd5
- 9.Nxd5 Qxd5
- 10.Bxc7 Qa5+
- 11.Kf1 Bxe2+



- 12.Qxe2 Nd7
- 13.h3 Rac8
- 14.Bg3 Rc6
- 15.Kg1 Rfc8
- 16.Kh2 Rc2
- 17.Qd3 g5
- 18.Rhb1 h5
- 19.Kg1 g4
- 20.hxg4 hxg4
- 21.Ne1 Rd2
- 22.Qe4 Nf6
- 23.Qb7 Re8
- 24.Rc1 Qf5
- 25.Rc7 Bd6



- 26.Rxf7 Bxg3
- 27.Rg7+ Kh8
- 28.fxg3 Rf2
- 29.Nd3 Qxd3
- 30.Kxf2 Ne4+
- 31.Kg1 Qxe3+



- 32.Kh1 Qh6+
- 33.Kg1 Qe3+
- 34.Kh1 Qh6+
- 35.Kg1 Qe3+

1/2-1/2

SHAKHRIYAR MAMEDYAROV VS FABIANO CARUANA

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN



MAMEDYAROV VS. CARUANA // CRYSTAL FULLER

To a less experienced player the line Caruana chose in the 4. Qc2 variation of the Queen's Indian Defense would look terrifying but he described it as a "theoretical line you choose when you want to test your opponent's memory or you don't really want to play that day." He admitted that he forgot his preparation but played normal looking moves relying on his general knowledge of the position. The position required handling with care by both players as White was up a pawn but could find himself under considerable amount of pressure. Mamedyarov gave up the exchange and found an excellent continuation forcing the game into a perpetual.

- 1.d4 Nf6
- 2.c4 e6
- 3.Nc3 Bb4
- 4.Qc2 0-0
- 5.e4 d5
- 6.e5 Ne4
- 7.Bd3 c5
- 8.Nf3 cxd4
- 9.Nxd4 Nd7
- 10.Bf4 Qh4
- 11.g3 Qh5
- 12.0-0 g5
- 13.cxd5 Bxc3



- 14.bxc3 gxf4
- 15.dxe6 Nxe5



- 16.Bxe4 Ng4
- 17.exf7+ Rxf7
- 18.h4 fxg3
- 19.fxg3 Ne3
- 20.Qb3 Nxf1

- 21.Rxf1 Kg7
- 22.Rxf7+ Qxf7
- 23.Qb4 Bh3
- 24.Bf5 a5



- 25.Qb5 Bxf5
- 26.Nxf5+ Kf6
- 27.Nh6 Qg6
- 28.Qb6+ Kg7
- 29.Nf5+ Qxf5
- 30.Qxb7+ Qf7



- 31.Qxa8 Qxa2
- 32.c4 Qb1+
- 33.Kg2 Qc2+
- 34.Kh3 Qf5+
- 35.Kg2 Qc2+
- 36.Kh3 Qf5+
- 37.Kg2 Qc2+

1/2-1/2

HIKARU NAKAMURA VS ANISH GIRI

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN



GM H. NAKAMURA // CRYSTAL FULLER

- 21.Be1 Ng6
- 22.Ba5 Ne7
- 23.Be1

1/2-1/2

What could have been a long strategic battle came to an abrupt end with a threefold repetition after Giri decided to give up the bishop pair. In the quieter line of the Ragozin Defense, Black grabbed more space in the center, closing the queenside which gave him the opportunity to start advancing with his queenside pawns, leaving the difficult task of finding counterplay up to his opponent. After he gave up his dark squared bishop, Nakamura's own bishop came to life and the players settled for a draw with an unusual repetition.

- 1.d4 Nf6
- 2.c4 e6
- 3.Nf3 d5
- 4.Nc3 Bb4
- 5.Bd2 0-0
- 6.e3 b6
- 7.cxd5 exd5
- 8.Bd3 Bb7
- 9.0-0 Bd6
- 10.Rc1 c5
- 11.Ne5 Nc6
- 12.Ng4 Nxe4
- 13.Qxg4 c4
- 14.Bb1 Ne7
- 15.Nb5 f5
- 16.Qe2 a6



- 17.Nxd6 Qxd6
- 18.f3 b5
- 19.Be1 Ng6
- 20.Ba5 Ne7





GM A. GIRI // CRYSTAL FULLER



SINQUEFIELD CUP ROUND 10 // CRYSTAL FULLER

CURRENT STANDINGS

#GrandChessTour

AFTER ROUND 10

POS.	PLAYER	ROUND 10 RESULT	SCORE
1	GM DING LIREN (CHN)	1/2	6 PTS
T-2	GM IAN NEPOMNIACHTCHI (RUS)	0	5 1/2 PTS
T-2	GM MAGNUS CARLSEN (NOR)	1	5 1/2 PTS
T-2	GM VISWANATHAN ANAND (IND)	1/2	5 1/2 PTS
T-2	GM SERGEY KARJAKIN (RUS)	1/2	5 1/2 PTS
T-6	GM M. VACHIER-LAGRAVE (FRA)	1	5 PTS
T-6	GM FABIANO CARUANA (USA)	1/2	5 PTS
T-6	GM S. MAMEDYAROV (AZE)	1/2	5 PTS
T-9	GM HIKARU NAKAMURA (USA)	1/2	4 1/2 PTS
T-9	GM ANISH GIRI (NLD)	1/2	4 1/2 PTS
T-11	GM WESLEY SO (USA)	0	4 PTS
T-11	GM LEVON ARONIAN (ARM)	1/2	4 PTS

PLAYER MATCHUPS

#GrandChessTour

ROUND 10

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

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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 24 1 PM Round 7
Saturday, August 17 1 PM Round 1	Sunday, August 25 1 PM Round 8
Sunday, August 18 1 PM Round 2	Monday, August 26 1 PM Round 9
Monday, August 19 1 PM Round 3	Tuesday, August 27 1 PM Round 10
Tuesday, August 20 1 PM Round 4	Wednesday, August 28 1 PM Round 11
Wednesday, August 21 1 PM Round 5	Thursday, August 29 10 AM Playoff (If Necessary)
Thursday, August 22 Rest Day	Thursday, August 29 2 PM Ultimate Moves
Friday, August 23 1 PM Round 6	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.