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# CUP★CHRONICLE

MONDAY, AUGUST 19, 2019 | ISSUE 2

## ROUND 2 HIGHLIGHTS

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN



GM VISWANATHAN ANAND, ROUND 2  
PHOTO BY JUSTIN KELLAR

## ROUND 2 RESULTS

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

## CURRENT STANDINGS

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

Viswanathan Anand remains on top of the leaderboard after a peaceful second day in Saint Louis. Although all the games ended in a draw, the results weren't indicative of the fights that ensued across the board. Ian Nepomniachtchi missed a golden opportunity to recover from his first round loss, after Fabiana Caruana blundered, whereas Anish Giri did not manage to convert his extra pawn against Levon Aronian. World Champion Magnus Carlsen extended his undefeated streak to 81 games after drawing his longtime rival Viswanathan Anand. Tomorrow, he will be facing his 2018 World Championship challenger Fabiano Caruana with the white pieces, while the leader of the tournament will have the black pieces against Levon Aronian.



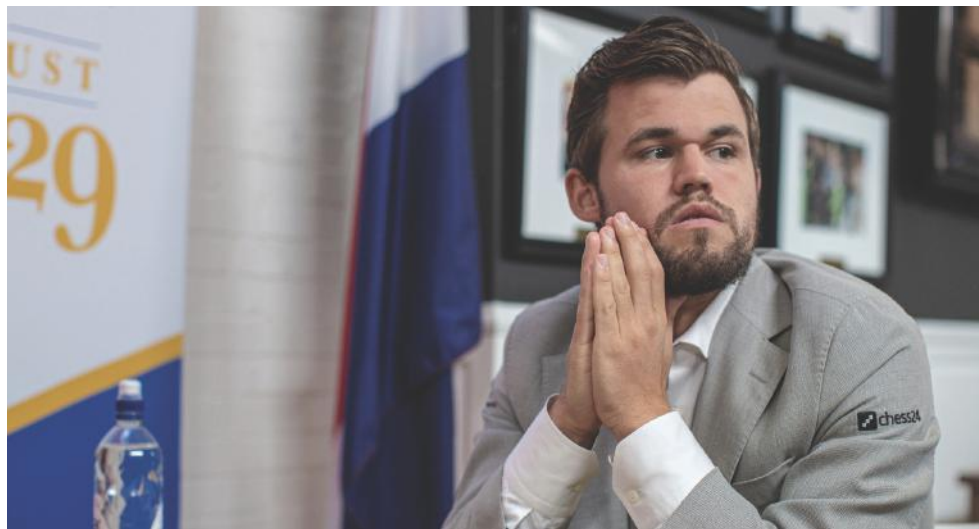
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# VISWANATHAN ANAND - MAGNUS CARLSEN

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN



GM M. CARLSEN // JUSTIN KELLAR

Anand opted out for the Rossolimo Variation in the Sicilian; surprisingly Carlsen recaptured the knight with the b pawn as opposed to with the d pawn which he prefers. Anand essayed a variation which he thought his opponent spent the least amount of time preparing, getting a lead in development. The turn of events prompted the World Champion to enter the confessional booth and share his thoughts, explaining that being two moves away from castling can be dangerous. In the postgame interview, the former World Champion explained that he had many continuations which would give him a pleasant position but there was no major hitter waiting. Amidst these choices, he missed a move by Carlsen which rendered his knights quickly. Sensing the long term danger, he quickly reacted, exchanging the minor pieces thus getting rid of his opponent's menacing bishop pair. The resulting endgame was completely equal, and quickly ended in a draw.

- 1.e4 c5
- 2.Nf3 Nc6
- 3.Bb5 g6
- 4.Bxc6 bxc6
- 5.d4 Bg7
- 6.dxc5 Qa5+
- 7.Nbd2 Qxc5

- 17.cxd6 c5
- 18.Qb3 cxb4
- 19.axb4 Qe6
- 20.Qxe6 Bxe6
- 21.Be3 a6
- 22.Rec1 Rfd8
- 23.Nd2 Bf8
- 24.Nc4 Rac8



- 25.Bc5 Bxc4
- 26.Rxc4 Nxd6
- 27.Rcc1 Rc6
- 28.f3 Nb5
- 29.Bxf8 Rxc1+
- 30.Rxc1 Kxf8



- 31.Nf1 Nd4
- 32.Rc4 Ke7
- 33.Ne3 Kd6
- 34.Rc5 Nc6
- 35.Rd5+ Ke7
- 36.b5 axb5
- 37.Rxb5 Rb8
- 38.Rxb8 Nxb8
- 39.Kf2 Ke6
- 40.g3 Nd7
- 41.Nc4 Nc5
- 42.Ke3 Nd7
- 43.Kf2 Nc5
- 44.Ke3 Nd7
- 45.Kf2

1/2-1/2

# SERGEY KARJAKIN - DING LIREN

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN



KARJAKIN VS. LIREN // JUSTIN KELLAR

The first 20 moves of this game followed the game between Wesley So and Ding Liren from the 2018 Candidates Tournament. While many players choose the anti Marshall, Karjakin did not shy away from facing Ding Liren's pet line in the Ruy Lopez, the Marshall Gambit. The Russian had the advantage due to his piece activity and superior pawn structure, but Ding maintained activity due to his bishop pair, always attacking white's h5 pawn. Karjakin did not know how to keep building his position as there was no way to maneuver his knight to a better square and decided to end the game with a threefold repetition.

- 1.e4 e5
- 2.Nf3 Nc6
- 3.Bb5 a6
- 4.Ba4 Nf6
- 5.0-0 Be7
- 6.Re1 b5
- 7.Bb3 0-0
- 8.c3 d5
- 9.exd5 Nxd5
- 10.Nxe5 Nxe5
- 11.Rxe5 c6
- 12.d3 Bd6
- 13.Re1 Bf5
- 14.Qf3 Qh4
- 15.g3 Qh3
- 16.Be3 Bxd3



- 21.axb5 axb5
- 22.Bxd5 cxd5
- 23.Ra5 Qxf3
- 24.Nxf3 Re8
- 25.b4 f6
- 26.Ra6 Bf8
- 27.Ra7 Ra8
- 28.Rxe8 Rxe8
- 29.h5 Be2



- 30.Kg2 Bd6
- 31.Rd7 Re6
- 32.Bc5 Be5
- 33.Bd4 Bd6
- 34.Bc5 Be5
- 35.Bd4 Bd6

1/2-1/2



## FABIANO CARUANA - IAN NEPOMNIACHTCHI

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN, ANALYSIS BY GM ALEJANDRO RAMIREZ



GM I. NEPOMNIACHTCHI // JUSTIN KELLAR

Nepomniachtchi had the perfect opportunity to bounce back from his tragic loss from round 1 as Caruana made a grave error on move 28. The game started as a complicated Najdorf, with opposite side castling and each side trying to attack the enemy king. The players reached an opposite colored bishop middle game, with both bishops restricted by the pawn structure. Caruana retreated his queen on move 28 in order to consolidate his position which gave black the opportunity to play a beautiful winning tactic. The combination was difficult to find as it involved a queen retreat, an atypical motif in an attacking line. Caruana actually found the line after playing his move but Nepomniachtchi did not and the game ended with a repetition a few moves later.

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.h3** [The h3 variation of the Najdorf has been one of the main lines for the past decade. Nepo himself

has essayed it regularly with white and black, but it is not one of Caruana's main weapons against this Sicilian.]

**6...e5 7.Nb3** [A move that is picking up some steam, while 7.Nde2 remains the main line.]

**7...Be7** [7...Be6 had been tried by Nepo against Van Foreest in Wijk aan Zee earlier this year, but the young Dutch player emerged victorious in that encounter.]

**8.g4 b5** [Played quickly by the Russian, but a far cry from what the engine recommended.]

[8...h6 still provides problems for White on occupying the d5 square. This move is more natural against the knight on b3, as f5 will not be occupied any time soon.]

**9.g5 Nfd7 10.h4 Nb6 11.Be3 Be6 12.Bxb6** [Committal but logical: White takes control of the light squares and the jump of the knight to d5 will be annoying. It wasn't the only strong way to play:]

[12.Nd5 Bxd5 13.exd5 is similar but White keeps more pieces on the board and tries to engage Black on all sides of the board.]

**12...Qxb6 13.Qf3!** [I liked this move when it was played, as it puts pressure on many lightsquares.]

**13...b4** [13...0-0 14.Nd5 (14.a4!? is feisty but without the kingside developed, might boomerang on White.) 14...Bxd5 15.exd5 f5! Was a better way of playing for Black, sensing the urgency of the weaknesses on the light squares and breaking out with this typical break in the kingside.]

**14.Nd5 Bxd5 15.exd5 Nd7 16.0-0-0 a5 17.Kb1 a4 18.Nd2** [While analyzing this game for the live audience, it seemed to us that White had a great position: Black has some prospects on the queenside, but it is also possible that he gets completely stuck in the position and White initiates a strong counter attack. After all, the light squares are in White's control and the bishop on e7 is not particularly strong.]

**18...Nc5 19.Bd3 b3** [Again, a committal decision]

[19...0-0 20.Ne4 starts to look dangerous unless black plays b3 anyway]

**20.cxb3 axb3 21.a3 Ra4** [Logical: the rook wants to safeguard some squares on the fourth rank.]

[21...0-0 22.Ne4 Na4!? Is a computer solution, trying to sacrifice on b2, however after 23.Qh5! g6 24.Qh6 White crashes through. 24...Qd4 25.Rd2 Qxe4!! a brilliancy, but insufficient 26.Bxe4 Rfd8 The queen cannot be saved, but White has another way 27.h5 Bf8 28.hxg6 Bxh6 29.gxh7+ Kh8 30.Rxh6]

**22.Ne4 Nxe4?** [Losing the thread a bit]



[22...0-0 seemed losing to me during commentary, but Black has fantastic resources: 23.Nf6+ Bxf6 (23...gxf6 24.Bxh7+ Kxh7 25.Qh5+ Kg7 26.gxf6+ is clearly mate.) 24.Bxh7+ Kxh7 25.Qh5+ Kg8 26.gxf6 and it looks like Black is getting mated, but actually there are a few options here, all of which are rather spectacular! 26...Qb4!! an amazing resource! Black creates his own problems (26...Ne6!! 27.fxg7 Nxg7 28.Rhg1 Qxf2 29.Rxg7+= and it is a perpetual.) 27.axb4?? (27.fxg7 Qe4+ 28.Ka1 Rxa3+ 29.bxa3 b2+ 30.Ka2 and shockingly this is nothing more than a draw!) 27...Rfa8 28.Kc1 Ne4 and Black checkmates by force.]

**23.Bxe4 0-0 24.Rhg1?** [Going on the wrong side!]

[24.Rd3! Pressuring the b-pawn and taking over the c-file with Rc1 in the next move is very strong. f5 never works tactically, and White simply dominates the position with his strong bishop.]

**24...Qa7 25.h5 g6** [Caruana gets an open h-file, but it is not enough to checkmate.]

**26.Rd3 Rb8 27.hxg6 hxg6 28.Qg2??** [A big slip!]

[28.Rh1 Bxg5 29.Qg2 is still complicated, even though the engines claim triple zeroes.]

**28...Bf8??** [28...Rxa3 was a winning resource! Caruana saw it during the game, after playing Qg2, but Nepo did not find it. 29.bxa3 Qxa3 30.f3 there is no other way to defend from Qa2+, and this is what Caruana was counting on. 30...Qa7!-+ And this amazing retreat finishes the game. Black threatens b2 with a killing attack (the position of two rooks vs. queen is hopeless for White with such a weak king) and because of the hanging rook on g1 White has no time for Qb2 himself.]



**29.f3 Rc4 30.Rh1 Qc7 31.Qh2** [Now it is difficult for either side to achieve anything. Even entering on c2 does nothing against Rd2, but White doesn't have anything tangible on the h-file.]

**31...Bg7 32.Qe2 Bf8 33.Qh2 Bg7 34.Qe2 Bf8 35.Qh2 Bg7** [A game with a tremendous amount of hidden resources!]

1/2-1/2



# ANISH GIRI - LEVON ARONIAN

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN



GM A. GIRI // JUSTIN KELLAR

The longest game of the round did not prove to be fruitful for Giri. After a long grind, the Dutchman won a pawn on the queenside in a rook and knight endgame but the conversion remained difficult. Giri gave up a pawn in order to create a potential mating on the kingside with the pawn structure. The critical moment in the game was on move 48, when Giri pushed his passed pawn all the way to 7th rank instead of exchanging the knight pair to enter a rook ending. The rook ending would have been winning, but Giri chose his continuation missing his opponent's defensive resource—he couldn't activate his king due to the mating net Aronian could create. With no winning resourced left in the position, the game ended in a draw with repetition.

- 1.e4 e5
- 2.Nf3 Nc6
- 3.Bc4 Nf6
- 4.d3 Bc5
- 5.0-0 d6
- 6.c3 a6
- 7.a4 0-0
- 8.Nbd2 Ba7

- 9.h3 h6
- 10.Re1 Re8
- 11.b4 Be6
- 12.Bxe6 Rxe6
- 13.Qc2 Qd7
- 14.Nf1 d5
- 15.Be3 d4
- 16.cxd4 Nxd4
- 17.Bxd4 Bxd4
- 18.Nxd4 Qxd4
- 19.Qxc7 Qxd3
- 20.Qxb7 Qd8
- 21.Red1 Qb8
- 22.Qxb8+ Rxb8
- 23.f3 Rxb4
- 24.Ne3 g6
- 25.a5 Rb5
- 26.Rdb1 Rc5
- 27.Rb6 Kf8
- 28.Ra2 h5
- 29.h4 Nd7
- 30.Rb7 Rc1+
- 31.Kh2 Nc5
- 32.Rb8+ Re8
- 33.Rb6 Re6
- 34.Nd5 Rxb6
- 35.axb6 Rb1
- 36.Ra5 Nd7



- 37.Rxa6 Rb2
- 38.Kg1 Kg7
- 39.Kh2 Kf8
- 40.Kg3 Kg7
- 41.Kh3 Kf8
- 42.g4 hxg4+
- 43.fxg4 Nc5
- 44.Ra8+ Kc7
- 45.g5 Nxe4
- 46.Rd8 Kh7
- 47.Rb8 Rb5



- 48.b7 Rb2
- 49.Ne7 Nd6
- 50.Ng8 Ne4
- 51.Ne7 Nd6
- 52.Nd5 Ne4
- 53.Ne7

1/2-1/2

# MAXIME VACHIER-LAGRAVE - WESLEY SO

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN



GM M. VACHIER-LAGRAVE // JUSTIN KELLAR

In a standard Giuoco Piano, So repeated the line Aronian played against Vachier-Lagrave just days ago in the Saint Louis Rapid and Blitz. The Frenchman deviated quickly, sacrificing a pawn in order to grab the center and centralize his pieces. The position blew up after the center opened and So's bishops developed, with Vachier-Lagrave offering a queen sacrifice. So did not want to enter the imbalanced position, and grabbed an exchange instead. In the endgame, Vachier-Lagrave had a rook, a bishop and an extra passed pawn for Black's two rooks. So decided to exchange his rook for the bishop and pawn, entering a drawn rook endgame.

- 1.e4 e5
- 2.Nf3 Nc6
- 3.Bc4 Bc5
- 4.c3 Nf6
- 5.d3 d6
- 6.0-0 a6
- 7.a4 Ba7
- 8.Re1 0-0
- 9.h3 Kh8
- 10.d4 Ng8
- 11.b4 exd4
- 12.cxd4 Nxb4
- 13.Nc3 a5



- 21.Qa3 Bxd1
- 22.Rxd1 Nf5
- 23.Nb5 Nd6
- 24.Bf1 Nxb5
- 25.axb5 Rxb7
- 26.Bd2 Nc2
- 27.Qa4 Nxd4
- 28.Nxd4 Qxd4
- 29.Qxd4 Bxd4
- 30.Bxa5 Bb6

31.Bxb6 Rxb6



- 32.g3 g6
- 33.Rd7 Rfb8
- 34.Bc4 R8b7
- 35.Rd8+ Kg7
- 36.Bd5 Rxb5
- 37.Bxb7 Rxb7
- 38.Kg2 h5
- 39.h4 Ra7
- 40.Rc8 Rb7
- 41.Rd8 Ra7
- 42.Rc8 Rb7
- 43.Rd8

1/2-1/2



## SHAKHRIYAR MAMEDYAROV - HIKARU NAKAMURA

BY WGM TATEV ABRAHAMYAN



GM H. NAKAMURA // JUSTIN KELLAR

In this game Mamedyarov played an enterprising move, 11.Rg1 in Queen's Gambit Declined after castling queenside—signaling his readiness to enter murky waters. He explained that it's a risky move, one that he would normally play in a rapid game but he was in the mood for a fight. Nakamura looked uncomfortable in the opening, as it is always an unpleasant feeling to walk into one's opponent's preparation. After a tactical battle, the players entered an endgame that was favorable for the white pieces due to black's misplaced knight and bad pawn structure. Mamedyarov felt that his position was always good and joked that it was the kind of position he would lose with the black pieces but can't win with white. Nakamura survived the storm by putting up an obstinate resistance and ultimately entering a drawn endgame with a tactical shot.

1.d4 Nf6  
2.c4 e6  
3.Nf3 d5  
4.Nc3 Be7  
5.Bf4 0-0  
6.e3 c5  
7.dxc5 Bxc5  
8.Qc2 Nc6

9.a3 Qa5  
10.0-0-0 Be7  
11.Rg1 a6



12.g4 dxc4  
13.Bxc4 b5  
14.g5 Nh5  
15.Bd3 b4  
16.Bxh7+ Kh8  
17.Be4 bxc3  
18.Bxc6 cxb2+  
19.Kb1 Qxa3  
20.Qxb2 Qxb2+  
21.Kxb2 Ra7  
22.Bd6 Bxd6  
23.Rxd6 Bb7  
24.Ne5 Bxc6  
25.Rxc6 Rb8+

26.Kc2 a5  
27.Rb1 Rd8



28.Rbb6 Kh7  
29.f4 Rda8  
30.Kb3 a4+  
31.Ka3 f6  
32.Nf3 Rd7  
33.Rd6 Rxd6  
34.Rxd6 Rc8  
35.gxf6 gxf6  
36.Rxe6 Nxf4  
37.exf4 Rc3+  
38.Kxa4 Rxf3  
39.Rxf6 Kg7  
40.Rb6 Rxf4+  
41.Rb4 Rxb4+  
42.Kxb4 Kg6  
43.h3 Kh5  
44.h4 Kxh4

1/2-1/2



GM WESLEY SO // LENNART OOTES





GM F. CARUANA // JUSTIN KELLAR



GM L. ARONIAN // JUSTIN KELLAR

### CURRENT STANDINGS

#GrandChessTour

AFTER ROUND 2

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

### PLAYER MATCHUPS

#GrandChessTour

ROUND 3

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

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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

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Thursday, August 15</b><br>6 PM Opening Ceremony,<br>World Chess Hall of Fame* | <b>Saturday, August 24</b><br>1 PM Round 7  |
| <b>Saturday, August 17</b><br>1 PM Round 1  | <b>Sunday, August 25</b><br>1 PM Round 8  |
| <b>Sunday, August 18</b><br>1 PM Round 2  | <b>Monday, August 26</b><br>1 PM Round 9  |
| <b>Monday, August 19</b><br>1 PM Round 3  | <b>Tuesday, August 27</b><br>1 PM Round 10  |
| <b>Tuesday, August 20</b><br>1 PM Round 4   | <b>Wednesday, August 28</b><br>1 PM Round 11  |
| <b>Wednesday, August 21</b><br>1 PM Round 5                                       | <b>Thursday, August 29</b><br>10 AM Playoff (If Necessary)                          |
| <b>Thursday, August 22</b><br>Rest Day  | <b>Thursday, August 29</b><br>2 PM Ultimate Moves                                   |
| <b>Friday, August 23</b><br>1 PM Round 6  | <b>Thursday, August 29</b><br>6-7 PM Closing Ceremony,<br>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.