

Local kids win at National Open!

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The Riviera on the Strip.

By Michael Aigner

National Open at the Riviera hotel on the Las Vegas Strip is the largest annual adult chess tournament west of the Rocky Mountains with about 700 entries, and 2005 was no exception. The open section featured 10 Grandmasters and several more International Masters while the class sections featured adults and kids, sandbaggers and overrated players alike. Most people attended with two goals: to have a good time and perhaps to win part of the \$50,000+ prize fund.

GM Nick De Firmian, IM Ben Finegold, GM Dmitry Gurevich and GM Dashzeveg Sharavdorj all tied for first with 5.0 out of 6 in the Open section. Gurevich won the Edmondson Cup in a round-robin blitz playoff. Local masters were shut out of the prize money, but IM John Donaldson and FM Alan Stein could be frequently seen on the top boards.

Two South Bay juniors managed to achieve greater success. Rohan Agarwal scored 5.5 out of 6 in the under 1600 section, merely giving up a draw in the fifth round to another local player. Charles Sun also scored 5.5 out of 6, but that was sufficient only for a share of first place in the under 1400 section. Congratulations to both Rohan and Charles!

Local players were also successful in the side events. NM Albert Rich defeated the three Polgar sisters (Susan, Sofia and Judit) in a simultaneous exhibition. The sisters alternated moves and faced 81 opponents. This author scored well against titled players in the blitz and G/10 championships, picking up a win against the young southern Californian GM Varuzhan Akobian. Polgar sisters -- Rich, Albert (2207)

Simultaneous exhibition

1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. Nf3 Nf6 4. e3 Bg4 5. Nbd2 Nbd7 6. Bd3 e5 7. cxd5 Nxd5 8. O-O exd4 9. exd4 Be7 10. a3 Bh5 11. Qc2 Nf4 12. Bc4 Nb6 13. Bb3 Ne2+ 14. Kh1 Bg6 15. Qd1 Nxd4 16. Nxd4 Qxd4 17. f4 Nd5 18. Qf3 Bd3 19. Re1 f5 20. Bxd5 Qxd5 21. Qe3 Qd6 22. b4 Kf7 23. Nf3 Be4 24. Ne5+ Kg8 25. Bb2 Bf6 26. Rad1 Qe6 27. Rd2 h6 28. Qg3 g5 29. Red1 Bd5 30. Re2 Rh7 31. Qf2 Be4 32. Red2 gxf4 33. Rd6 Qb3 34. Rxf6 Qxd1+ 35. Qg1 Qe2 36. Rg6+ Rg7 37. Rxc7+ Kxc7 38. Bd4 Rg8 39. Nd3+ Kf7 40. Nxf4 Qd2 41. Be3 Rxc2 42. Bxd2 Rxd2+ 43. Ng2 Rxc2 44. Qxc2 Ke6 0-1

Akobian, Varuzhan (2646) -- Aigner, Michael (2298)

US G/10 Championship (5)

1. d4 f5 2. Nc3 d5 3. Bf4 Nf6 4. e3 g6 5. Bd3 Bg7 6. Nf3 c6 7. O-O O-O 8. h3 Ne4 9. Ne2 Nd7 10. c4 e6 11. Qc2 h6 12. Ne5 Bxe5 13. Bxe5 Nxe5 14. dxe5 Nc5 15. Nd4 Nxd3 16. Qxd3 g5 17. c5 Qe7 18. Qc2 f4 19. Rfe1 Bd7 20. Rad1 Qh7 21. Rd3 Qg7 22. Rb3 Rab8 23. Ra3 Qxe5 24. Rxa7 Qg7 25. Nf3 e5 26. exf4 e4 27. Ne5 gxf4 28. Nxd7 f3 29. g4 Qxd7 30. Qc3 Qc7 31. Qb3 Rf7 32. Re3 h5 33. a4 hxg4 34. a5 gxh3 35. a6 Rg7+ 36. Kh1 Rg2 0-1



GM Judit Polgar (#8 in world)



GM Susan Polgar



IM Sofia Polgar



GM Varuzhan Akobian vs fpawn.