

GREEK CHESS FEDERATION

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Georgian grandmaster Tamas Gelashvili became the sole leader of the "Acropolis 2008" international tournament after the 4th round games, thanks to his emphatic victory against Spaniard Ivan Salgado Lopez. Gelashvili took advantage of the draw between the other two former leaders, Smirin and Parligras, who are now half a point behind. Tied with them are former Greek champion Hristos Banikas, who quickly beat Spanish IM Jacobo Caselas, Russian Alexander Rakhmanov, who won a tightrope encounter against Bulgarian Atanas Kolev, as well as Georgian Nana Dzagnidze, who scored the upset of the day beating German grandmaster Alexander Graf in the longest game of the round.

Other noteworthy results were the win of Hungarian WGM Anna Rudolf against the Georgian IM Nikoloz Managadze, the victory of Fragiskos Sigalas over the French IM Hugo Tirard and the wins of Kostas Kordis (against Lopez), Michail Angelis (against Lorin D'Costa and Marianna Stefanidi (against Tasos Pavlidis). These games were among the most interesting of the round. It is also worth mentioning the draw of young Greek player Aggelos Sandalakis with Ukrainian Natalia Zhukova. Aggelos has had a very satisfactory start in the tournament and is well on his way to an IM norm.

For yet another day the spectators were treated to several combative and fascinating games! Apart from those already mentioned, one should also take a look at the games Danielian-Secer, Panagiotopoulos-Ant.Pavlidis and P.Galopoulos-Goumas. Some interesting endgames also occurred, such as those in Pountzas-Burtasova, Atakisi-Romanishin and Papadopoulou-Gazis.

The battle at the top is expected to heat up in tomorrow's 5th round games, as the highest rated player of the tournament, Ilija Smirin, is facing Gelashvili with white, Parligras plays against Rakhmanov and Banikas against Dzagnidze. Further down the pairings list one also finds Danielian-Svetushkin, Salgado Lopez-Atakisi, Romanishin-Dembo, while Sandalakis faces an uphill task with black against the Armenian GM Kotanjian.

"Acropolis 2008" is organized by the Greek Chess Federation and the Prefecture of Athens, which actively supports the event for the second consecutive year. The Hellenic Post Bank is the sponsor of the tournament.

The event is held at President Hotel (43 Kifissias Avenue, "Europa" Hall) and will last until August 17th. Starting time everyday is 17.00' (14.00' at 17/8). Admittance for spectators is free. The event is covered by the GCF website (www.chessfed.gr/acropolis2008) with results, standings, games, photos as well as live transmission of the most important games of each round.