

GREEK CHESS FEDERATION

PRESS RELEASE 3

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There was no lack of interest in the proceedings of the 3rd round of the "Acropolis 2008" international tournament. On the top five boards only one game ended in a draw, while in the other four games the rating favourites scored convincing wins. These four grandmasters (Smirin, Gelashvili, Parligras and the 17-year-old Salgado Lopez) now share the lead with three wins out of three games.

The content of today's games was once again very exciting. The win of young Spanish FM Robert Aloma Vidal against the Armenian GM Tigran Kotanjian, apart from being a significant upset, was a wonderful creation by the winner. Fascinating to the last move was also the battle between the Russian WIM Anna Burtasova and the Greek GM Dimitris Mastrovasilis, which finally ended in a draw after five full hours of play. Panagiotis Galopoulos scored a pretty victory over Antonis Pavlidis, while his brother Nikos and the Serbian FM Josip Asik played a completely crazy game, where the advantage was changing hands with almost every move. Taking into account the sheer complexity of the game, the final result (draw) appears to be fully justified!

Although results at the top were more or less expected, several upsets happened in matches at the lower boards. Young Greek Giorgos Kanakaris beat the English FM Lorin D'Costa and Romanian WIM Mihaela Sandu did the same against IM Alexandros Grigoriadis. Another success story of the day was the win of Dimitris Exizoglou against the Irish FM Alex Lopez, as well as the win of WIM Ioulia Makka against FM Stathis Gazis. It was a good day for Greek female junior players as well: Zoe Iordanidou scored a quick and significant victory against Paminos Kourousis, as did Maria Manelidou against Kostas Kokolias.

Among tomorrow's 4th round match-ups, the clashes between the leaders stand out: Smirin-Parligras and Gelashvili-Salgado Lopez. The leading female player, the Georgian IM Nana Dzagnidze, faces an uphill task against German GM Alexander Graf, while of interest is also the all-GM clash between the young Russian Alexander Rakhmanov and the Bulgarian Atanas Kolev.

"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.