

## **GREEK CHESS FEDERATION**

### **PRESS RELEASE 5**

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The 5th round of the "Acropolis 2008" international tournament saw dramatic changes at the top of the standings. Israeli GM Ilia Smirin beat the overnight leader, Georgian GM Tamas Gelashvili, in the last game to finish, and dethroned him. Alongside is Romanian GM Mircea Parligras, who won a nice game against the young Russian GM Alexander Rakhmanov.

The battles at the top were fascinating, with only one draw occurring on the first six boards. Important victories were scored by two women, Armenian Elina Danielian (against Moldavian GM Dmitry Svetushkin) and Serbian Alisa Maric (against Greek GM Thanos Mastrovasilis), who thus reached Georgian Nana Dzagnidze on 4 points. Other players with the same amount of points are Banikas, Gelashvili, Salgado Lopez, Romanishin and Zubarev.

Yesterday we wrote that young Greek Aggelos Sandalakis was on his way to an IM norm. It turns out, after today's draw against the Armenian GM Kotanjian, that he can very well set his sights on a higher goal, that of a GM norm! Other noteworthy results were the wins of Vasilis Sarandos vs the Indian IM Saravanan, Kostas Georgiou vs Russian WIM Anna Burtasova and the draw achieved by Hungarian WGM Anna Rudolf against the strong Danish IM Allan Rasmussen.

For yet another day, those who followed the games live on the Internet or at the playing hall were treated to a healthy dose of spectacle! Apart from the victories of Parligras and Danielian, other remarkable games were Zubarev-Aloma Vidal (with a very complicated endgame!), Saravanan-Sarandos and Nikolaidis-Iordanidou, while a special mention must be made of the pretty queen sacrifice executed by young Antonis Pavlidis from Kavala, who thus beat the experienced master Nikos Skiadopoulos.

Tomorrow's 6<sup>th</sup> round match-ups see the two leaders playing with black, Smirin against Banikas and Parligras against Gelashvili, while the remaining six players on 4 points also face each other.

"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 17<sup>th</sup>. 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](http://www.chessfed.gr/acropolis2008)) with results, standings, games, photos as well as live transmission of the most important games of each round.