

## Chess

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Three major U.S. events finished in the last week of 2007. In Las Vegas, Hikaru Nakamura and David Pruess shared first place at the North American Open, scoring six points in seven games. Alexander Ivanov won the Eastern Open at the Westin hotel in downtown Washington. He ended with seven points in eight games, a full point ahead of his nearest rivals. In Miami, defending champion University of Texas at Dallas won the 2007 Pan-American intercollegiate team championships, winning five matches and drawing one.

### Paoli's Monument

The traditional round-robin tournament in Reggio Emilia, Italy, celebrated its 50th anniversary this year. A brainchild of the legendary Italian grandmaster and composer Enrico Paoli (1908-2005), it reached its heights in 1992 when Visly Anand triumphed over nine former Soviet stars, including Garry Kasparov and Anatoly Karpov. This year's victory went to the top-rated grandmaster Zoltan Almasi of Hungary. He scored six points in nine games, edging grandmasters Vugar Gashimov of Azerbaijan, Pentala Harikrishna of India and Ni Hua of China by a half-point.

Gashimov defeated the former candidate of the world championship, Sergei Tiviakov of the Netherlands, in one of the most exciting attacking games of the event. In the Scandinavian defense, the black king and queen could not find any refuge during the relentless pounding of the white pieces.

### Gashimov-Tiviakov

*1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qd6 (Tiviakov made this retreat his lifeline recently.) 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 c6 6.Ne5 Nbd7 7.Bf4 Nd5 8.Nxd5 Nxe5?!* (A new idea. Earlier in the event, Tiviakov suffered a painful defeat against Ni, playing 8...Qxd5. After 9.Nf3!? Nf6 10.Be2 Bg4 11.0-0 e6 12.h3 Bxf3 13.Bxf3 Qd7 14.c4 white had a clear advantage and won in 41 moves.) *9.Ne3 Nd3+ 10.Qxd3 Qxf4 11.d5 exd5?!* (The pawn hunting 11...Qb4+ 12.c3 Qxb2 brings too many white pieces into play after 13.Rb1 Qxa2 14.Be2, followed by 15.0-0. But 11...e6 is playable.) *12.Qxd5 e6?* (An overly optimistic move. The black king now stays in the middle under fire from the white pieces, but even after 12...a6 13.0-0-0 Qc7 14.Be2 e6 15.Qd4 Bd7 16.Rd3 white has powerful pressure.) *13.Bb5+ Ke7 14.Qd2 Qd6 15.Qe2 Kf6 16.Qf3+ Ke7 17.Qe2 Kf6 18.Qf3+ Ke7 19.0-0* (White finished his development and the black king blocks his own pieces.) *19...Qc5 20.Ba4 g6 21.Rfe1 Bg7 22.Rad1* (Having achieved an ideal setup for all his pieces, Gashimov is ready for the final assault.) *22...Bxb2?* (It looks like a blunder, but black does not have much of a choice. For example, after 22...Rd8? 23.Rxd8 Kxd8 24.Qxf7 white wins; or after 22...a5 23.Rd5! exd5 24.Nxd5+ Kd6 25.Qf4+! Kxd5 26.Qxf7+ Kd6 27.Qe7+ Kd5 28.c4+! Qxc4 29.Bb3 white wins.)

*23.c3!* (Black's dark bishop is cut off from the action, since 23...Bxc3? loses to 24.Nd5+.) *23...f5 24.Rb1 Ba3* (After 24...Qa5 25.Bb3 Ba3 26.Qf4 the white queen moves in quickly.) *25.Rb5 Qc6 26.Qg3!* (The queen reigns on the weak dark squares, threatening to win with 27.Nxf5+ gxf5 28.Qg7+.) *26...Bd7 27.Nxf5+! Kd8* (White wins by force after 27...gxf5 28.Qg7+ Kd6 29.Rd1+ Kc7 30.Rxd7+ Qxd7 31.Rxb7+ etc.) *28.Rb4 Qc7 29.Qh4+ Kc8 30.Bxd7+ Kxd7* (White wins after 30...Qxd7 31.Rc4+ Kb8 32.Qf4+) *31.Qe7+* (After 31...Kc8 32.Nd6+ wins.) *Black resigned.*