



Federazione
Scacchistica
Italiana

54° Torneo Internazionale di Capodanno



Reggio Emilia

27 dicembre 2011 - 6 gennaio 2012



The 54th edition of Reggio Emilia's tournament has begun and this year the tournament has a double prestige: great protagonists and a parallel woman tournament, in which three Italian stars will against three strong WGM from Eastern Europe.

Ippogrifo chess club from Reggio Emilia, the participation of the omnipresent Ezio Montalbini and Accademia Internazionale di Scacchi have organized the whole event.

In the main tournament we have three players from the past edition: our Fabiano Caruana, who has recently won the Italian championship in Perugia by finishing with 10 points out of 11 and who is ready to reach the top 10 in the world, Vassily Ivanchuk, who is always ready to delight the audience with his creativity and number 6 of the world, Alexander Morozevich, who has come back among the giants of chess this year, the American hard-fighting Hikaru Nakamura, who is living a golden period just few weeks ago he got a second place behind Kramnik at the London chess classic and he is number 10 in the world, last but not least we find two rising stars Nikita Vitiugov and the dutch GM Anish Giri.

In the parallel tournament there are Marina Brunello who is leading the Italian forces composed by Maria De Rosa and the local player Marianna Chierici.

Draw of lots this morning gave Ivanchuk number one (and spoke to the audience in Italian).

First round give a great battle between Ivanchuk-Giri and turns immediately interesting, it seems that Ivanchuk can win against the young opponent, but that's not how the game went, after a series of exchanges (not all of them forced) the dutch player successes in maintaining the position and finally draws.

Analysis will tell us if and how white could have won.

The first result is extraordinary: Nakamura wins against Vitiugov. Probably white has played a doubtful Bb5, but the black crucial move is certainly Qf6.

In defiance of the classical rules on the structure, black doubles his pawns on the F file after few moves he

forces the opponent to give up. Old players' memories go to the famous Smyslov- Reshevsky, Moscow 1948, where the great Russian champion didn't play the same moves but similar ones.

The most important game of the round it's certainly Caruana- Morozevich, which has attracted IM Giulio Borgo's attention in the analysis room.

The sharp Zajchev variation of the Spanish opening. After the theoretical sacrifice of a pawn the Russian gets a positional compensation but not enough to reach more than equality. In the crucial moment Caruana has given back the pawn to achieve an advantage, but the time pressure could have taken away to Fabiano the right reward for the great expressed play. The tough rule of Zeitnot has taken a heavy tool, on the last moves, before the fortieth, white was losing control and lost too. Damage!

The woman tournament: in the derby between De Rosa-Chierici the black sacrifice hasn't outcome and with a good play De Rosa gets the victory. Marina has a bad day e loses an interesting game against Guramishvili. A mistake in calculation has betrayed Videnova, who lost with white against Sharevich.

It's just the first round but the matches are already extremely exciting. Two of the favorites have already won with black pieces. We will see what happens, we're just at the beginning...



Nakamura wins with black by continuing his golden period.