

2017 Columbus Open Report

By: Kelly M. Bloomfield

The 2017 Columbus Open was held June 23-25, 2017 on the campus of The Ohio State University at the beautiful Ohio Union. Some of the headline players, out of the 94 players, were GM Pavel Blatny (2435) from the Czech Republic pictured below:



IM Ronald Burnett (2421) from Tennessee, and OSU Sophomore Mika Brattain (2471). GM Blatny scored 4.5 out of 5 to take clear first at this year's Columbus Open. A last round draw between GM Blatny and Brattain left the grandmaster waiting around for the last round game between IM Burnett and James Mills from Indiana. If somehow Mills could have pulled out a win against IM Burnett he would have tied the grandmaster for first place, but alas it was not meant to be. IM Burnett came through with the win in the final round to split second place with Mika Brattain both having

scored 4.0 out of 5. The following game is the last round game between Mills and Burnett as annotated by Komodo 11:

(1) Mills, James – Burnett, Ronald [A10]

2017 Columbus Open, 25.06.2017

[Komodo 11 64-bit (15m)]

1.c4 b6 2.Nc3 Bb7 3.Nf3 e6 4.d4 Bb4 5.g3 c5 6.Bg2 cxd4 7.Qxd4 Nf6 8.0-0 Nc6 9.Qh4 Na5 10.Bd2 Rc8 11.b3 d5 12.Rfd1 Be7 [12...Qe7!? 13.Ne5 dxc4 14.Bxb7 Nxb7 15.Nxc4 0-0=] 13.cxd5± Nxd5 14.Qh3 [14.Qa4+!? Bc6 15.Qg4±] 14...Bf6= 15.Rac1 0-0 16.Nxd5 Bxd5 17.Bb4 Rxc1 18.Rxc1 Re8 19.Rd1 [19.Ne1 g6=] 19...Qc7 [19...Nc6 20.Be1 Qc7 21.Qg4=] 20.Ne1 [20.Bxa5 bxa5 21.Ne1 a4=] 20...Nc6 21.Bd2 Nd4 [Black threatens to win material: Nd4xe2] 22.e3 [White threatens to win material: e3xd4] 22...Ne2+ 23.Kh1 Rd8



24.e4?? [letting the wind out of his own sails] [⊔24.Qg4 and White can hope to live 24...Nc3 25.Bxc3 Bxc3 26.Bxd5 Rxd5 27.Rxd5=] 24...Bb7± 25.Qg4 Ba6 26.Bf3 [26.Bf1 Nxc3+! Discovered attack: e2, Ba6xf1 27.hxc3 Bxf1+] 26...Nd4 [⊔26...Nc3!? 27.Bxc3 Qxc3 28.Rxd8+ Bxd8+] 27.Rc1± Qb8 [27...Qe7 28.Be3±] 28.Bf4 e5 29.Be3 Bc8 30.Qh5 g6 31.Qh6 Bg7 [Black threatens to win material: Bg7xh6] [31...Nxf3!? 32.Nxf3 Qb7±] 32.Qh4± [White threatens to win material: Qh4xd8] 32...Be6 [32...Bb7 33.Rd1±] 33.Bg2 Ne2 [33...Re8±] 34.Ra1 [34.Rc2 Nd4 35.Rc1 Rc8±] 34...Rd7 [34...Nc3

35.Nf3 f6 36.Bh3♣] **35.Bf3** [35.Bh3 Bxh3 36.Qxh3 Qb7♣] **35...Nd4 36.Bg2 f6** [36...Qb7 37.Rc1♣] **37.Rc1** [37.Bh3 Qb7 38.Bxe6+ Nxe6♣] **37...Qe8** [37...Rc7 38.Rxc7 Qxc7 39.Bh3♣] **38.g4** [38.Bh3 f5♣] **38...Ne2 39.Rc2 Nf4** [39...g5 40.Qh3 Nf4 41.Bxf4 exf4 42.Qf3♣] **40.Bf3** [40.f3 Qd8 41.Bf1 Bf8♣] **40...Qd8♣ 41.Qg3 g5 42.Rc1** [42.Qg1 Bf8♣] **42...Bf8 43.Qg1 Ba3 44.Rb1 Bc5 45.Bxc5?** [♣45.Nc2♣] **45...bxc5+ 46.Qf1** [46.Bg2 cannot change what is in store for White 46...Qa5 47.a4 Rb7-+] **46...Rd2 47.Qb5** [47.Rc1 a fruitless try to alter the course of the game 47...Rxa2 48.Rd1 Qb6-+] **47...Rxf2** [47...Qd4 seems even better 48.Qf1-+] **48.Rd1 Rd2** [♣48...Qa5! and Black can already relax 49.Be2 Qxa2 50.Qb7 Rxh2+ 51.Kg1 Nh3+ 52.Kxh2 Qxe2+ 53.Ng2 Qxd1 54.Qa8+ Kf7 55.Qxa7+ Kg6 56.Kxh3 Bxg4+ 57.Kh2 Qxb3 58.Qxc5 Qh3+ 59.Kg1-+] **49.Rc1 Qb6** [♣49...c4 and Black takes home the point 50.h4 Rxa2-+] **50.Qe8+ Kg7 51.Qe7+ Bf7 52.Rxc5** [52.Qxc5 doesn't change anything anymore 52...Qa6 53.Bg2 Qxa2-+] **52...Ng6** [52...Qa6 53.Qxf7+ Kxf7 54.Bg2 Rxc7 55.Rc4 Qxa2 56.Rc7+ Kg6 57.Rxh7 Kxh7 58.Nd3 Rxh2+ 59.Kg1 Qg2#] **53.Qc7+ Qxc7** [♣53...Qa6 and Black has it in the bag 54.Rc4 Nh4-+] **54.Rxc7 Rxa2 55.Kg1 Kf8** [55...Nf4 56.Nc2-+] **56.b4 Nh4 57.Bg2** [57.Bh1 a6-+] **57...a6** [♣57...Re2!? 58.Kf1 Rb2 59.Rxa7 Rxb4-+] **58.Bf1♣ Bg6** [Black threatens to win material: Bg6xe4] [58...Rb2 59.Bxa6 Rxb4 60.Bd3♣] **59.Rc6** [Attacks the isolani on a6] **59...Kg7** [59...Ke7 60.Rxa6 Rb2 61.Ra7+ Kf8 62.b5 Bxe4 63.Bc4♣] **60.Rxa6** [60.Rc7+!/? deserves consideration 60...Kf8 61.Rc6♣] **60...Rb2♣ 61.Ra7+ 0-1**

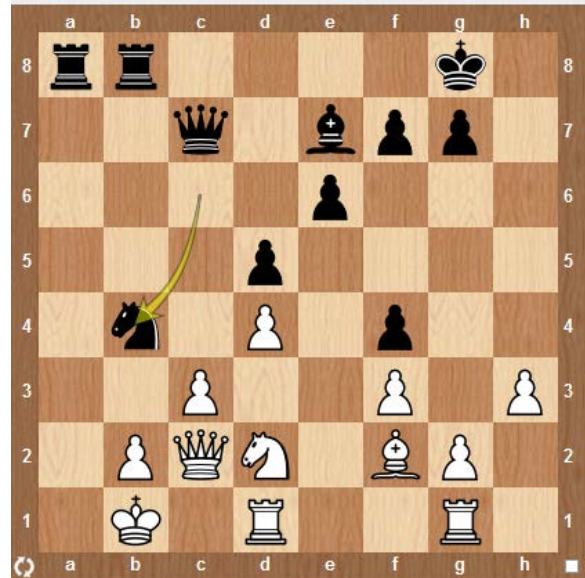
The largest upset of the tournament was a round 1 game in the Open Section, which lasted 24 moves between Carl Boor (2401) and Isaac Steincamp (2136) a rating difference of 265 points. The following is their game annotated by Komodo 11:

(2) Boor, Carl (2401) – Steincamp, Isaac (2136) [D00]

2017 Columbus Open (1), 24.06.2017
[Komodo 11 64-bit (15m)]

1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 Nf6 3.e3 c5 4.c3 cxd4 5.exd4 Bf5 6.Qb3 Qc8 7.Nd2 Nc6 8.Ngf3 e6 9.Nh4 Be4 10.f3 [Controls g4] [10.Nxe4 dxe4 11.g3 Nd5=] **10...Bg6= 11.Nxg6 hxg6** [White has the pair of bishops] **12.Bd3** [12.g4 a6=] **12...Be7** [12...Nh5 13.Be3 Ng3=] **13.a4** [13.g4!/? = is worth looking at] **13...Nh5♣ 14.Be3 Ng3** [Black threatens to win material: Ng3xh1] **15.Rg1 Nf5 16.Bxf5 gxf5 17.h3** [17.g4 fxg4 18.Rxg4 g6♣] **17...Qc7♣ 18.0-0-0** [18.Kd1 Rc8♣] **18...f4 19.Bf2 a6 20.Kb1 b5 21.axb5?** [♣21.Qc2♣] **21...axb5+ 22.Qxb5** [22.g3 is one last hope 22...0-0 23.gxf4-+] **22...0-0 23.Qb3** [23.Qd3 does not improve anything 23...Rfb8 24.Rc1 Qa7-+] **23...Rfb8 24.Qc2** [24.Rge1

doesn't get the cat off the tree 24...Qa7 25.Kc2 Rxb3-+] **24...Nb4!** [Mate attack] **0-1**



There was a three way tie for fourth place in the open section between Grant Xu (2354), Scott Ramer (2328), and Ryan Clayton (2314) all finishing with 3.5 out of 5 while Apurva Virkud (2260) and James Mills (2200) split the first and second place prizes of the U2300 players with a score of 3.5 out of 5.

In the U2100 section Surya Parasuraman (2077) and Chip Kraft (1996) tied for first place with a score of 4.5 out of 5 while David Demetruk (1984) and Jason Zheng shared third place with 4 out of 5. David Rohlfing (1815) and Nick Schwerin (1779) were the top finishers in the U1900 scoring 3.5 out of 5.

With the U1700 section we had Ajay Subramanian (1588) and Adeti Mohanselman (1474) taking top honors with Peter Galupo (1568) and Edison Liu (1532) tying for third place with 3.5 out of 5. Karthik Kallam (1489) took clear first in the U1500 with 3.5 out of 5,

while Arjun Krishna (1368) and Vijay Subramanian (1404) split the second place prize with 3 out of 5.

The results were much clearer in the U1300 section with Alina Niu (1155) taking clear first with a score of 4 out of 5, Atharva Vin Sapre (1268) took second with a score of 3.5 out of 5, and Matt Wang (1244) tied Richard Vail (747) for third place with scores of 3 out of 5.

The 2017 Columbus Open was a great success even though our numbers were a little down due to a competing Ohio tournament. Digital clocks, wooden boards, and pieces were provided on the top 20 boards while boards 21-50 were provided weighted pieces, vinyl boards, and digital clocks. Many players commented “on how nice this was to just show up and play in such nice conditions”and “that it felt like a real professional tournament.” Another nice feature of the tournament was that all scoresheets were completed and collected by the organizer. When the tournament was finished all the games were turned into a pdf document and emailed to all registered players with a valid email.

Next year I am hoping to move the Columbus Open to a hotel site to try to accommodate more of the out of town players and still provide all the sets and clocks like I did this year. I hope you will all consider playing in next year’s Columbus Open and help us grow this event into something special.