

CalChess Women on Roll in San Diego: Baginskaite Stuns Nakamura

Posted by fpawn on Monday, March 06 @ 01:32:05 CST



WGM Camilla Baginskaite (from U.S. Champ website)

The U.S. Championship in San Diego has been turned upside-down by upsets, including two in the third round by local women. Batchimeg Tuvshintugs continued her hot streak by crushing GM Boris Kreiman in merely 27 moves. She has played three Grandmasters so far, losing only to GM Yuri Shulman. Way to go!

Surprisingly, this impressive result represented merely the second biggest upset involving a local player. Congratulations to WGM Camilla Baginskaite for stunning the reigning U.S. Champion GM Hikaru Nakamura. Baginskaite, who won the U.S. Women's Championship in 2000, showed no fear of her talented opponent and captured first one pawn and then another. The resulting endgame was just a simple matter of technique.

These superb results leave both women at 2.0 out of 3. Moreover, they are in the lead for the women's championship at this point. Of course, six more rounds remain to be played. Hopefully both women can keep up the good work!

Check out the [complete standings at the U.S. Championship website](#). GM Alex Onischuk has the only perfect 3-0 score and thus leads the A section. Five players have 2.5/3 in the B section: GMs Shabalov, Gurevich, Novikov, Christiansen and Shulman. Local GM Alex Yermolinsky stands at an undefeated 2.0/3 while "Mr. Six-Time" GM Walter Browne has to settle for a 50% score. Surprisingly the defending champion GM Nakamura languishes at a disappointing 0.5/3 and now has virtually no chance of retaining his title.