

SASI, NEGI LOSE IN GM CHESS TOURNAMENT

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NEW DELHI: The inaugural Airports Authority of India (AAI) Grandmaster chess tournament got off to a rousing start, as all three games ended in a decisive manner at the AAI Officer's Institute on Wednesday.

The young and energetic field, with an average age of just over 20 years but 2662 in Elo Ratings, produced some exciting games. The Indian duo, however, had a disappointing start with both Krishnan Sasikiran (black) and Parimarjan Negi losing their games. Sasi (white) lost to Wesley So in 38 moves before the time control while Negi went down to top seed and World Junior No. 1, Fabiano Caruana in 47 moves.

So, the young Filipino, scored a fine win over Sasi just before the first time control, as the Indian facing a clear loss allowed the flag to fall as he had three more moves to make with three second left on his clock. Negi lost his way around the late stages against Caruana.

RESULTS (R1): P. Negi lost to F. Caruana; H. Yifan lost to V. Laznicka; W. So beat K. Sasikiran
DRAW FOR SECOND ROUND: F. Caruana (Ita) v K Sasikiran (Ind); V Laznicka (Cze) v W So (Phi); P Negi (Ind) v H Yifan (Chn)

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Negi, Sasi lose on the opening day

New Delhi: Indians made a disappointing start in the inaugural AAI Grandmaster chess tournament with both Parimarjan Negi and Krishnan Sasikiran losing their opening matches on the first day of the competition here on Wednesday.

Negi, the top Indian in the competition, went down to top seed and world junior number one Fabiano Caruana of Italy in 47 moves while Sasikiran was outplayed by Wesley So of Philippines in 38 moves before the time control. In the third game of the day, Viktor Laznicka of Czech Republic defeated women's world champion Hou Yifan of China. Delhi boy Negi, who five years ago became the youngest Indian Grandmaster ever, lost his way in the later stages of the middle game in a Ruy Lopez, Anti-Marshall.

In fact, there was a time when Negi seemed better off in an exchange game (rook for a minor piece). But the more experienced Caruana held out well. Sasikiran, on the other hand, was no match for Wesley So and the Indian, facing an imminent defeat, allowed the flag to fall as he had three more moves to make with three second left on his clock.

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