

## Negi & Sasi lose on Day 1

INDIANS Krishnan Sasikiran and Parimarjan Negi suffered losses on the opening day of the inaugural Airports Authority of India Grandmaster chess tournament in the Capital on Wednesday.

Sasikiran (white) lost to Wesley So of the Philippines in 38 moves before the time control while Negi (black) went down to top seed and World Junior No. 1 Fabiano Caruana in 47 moves.

Sasikiran allowed the flag to fall when he had three more moves to make with three seconds left on his clock.

"I have played Sasi before four years ago in Macau, but that time we drew and I had black. I was a bit surprised to see him play Four Knights in the Sicilian and I thought he would play Najdorf variation. I realised

I was winning about three or four moves before he resigned," Wesley said.

Sasikiran, who won three gold at the 2007 Asian Indoor Games, said: "It was disappointing. I missed a queen move around the 34th. Anyway there is a long way to go in the tournament."

Negi lost his way in the late stages of the middle game against top-seed Caruana.

In fact, there was a time when Negi seemed better off as he was an exchange (rook for a minor piece) up. But Caruana held out well and used his double bishops against Negi's double Knights. "I was actually trying to gain equality and then it is not clear where he made a mistake," said Caruana.

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