

We expect a dramatic finish!

The players continue to fight for the title of European Women Chess Champion. Because of the rainy weather, the players cannot fully enjoy the beauty of the city Prague. On the other hand, it is ideal for game preparation and players can concentrate on the game. That might be also a reason for the low number of draws noticeable at the tournament. Regarding federations, the players from Azerbaijan are doing very well, in the 9th round there will be five of them playing on the first six boards.

From the available results up to now is noticeable that some names are starting to come up for the champion title and we can already start to predict which names will appear at the top of the ranking list. The most noticeable name is without a doubt Monica Socko from Poland, who is constantly in the leading position from the start of the championship. After a surprisingly short game in the 8th round, when she won against Gunay Mammadzada from Azerbaijan, she became a solo leader again. If she would continue in this trend, it wouldn't be a surprise that we would know the winner sooner than on Wednesday, the day of the last round. We can also witness some good games played by Maria Gevorgyan from Armenia, who was seated 63rd but is climbing up the ranking list towards the leading ladies.

After the 6th round, the players had the opportunity to relax because of the free day. The main program visited by players and also opened to visitors was Women Chess Conference Prague 2022. The whole conference was recorded and is still available to watch on YouTube. The visitors heard some interesting speakers, such as Elina Danielian, Lilian Hahn, Eva Repkova, and Laura Unuk. They presented their chess life and their experiences in the chess community. The visitors had a chance to hear how difficult is to manage and coach a chess team, how to attract girls to chess, the scientific view of the gender gap in chess, why you want to be an arbiter as well as the development of women's chess in the Czech Republic.

We also kindly invite you to the YouTube channel of the Czech Chess Federation. You can find videos with live commentary from every round (plus the replays). Every day you can also see the live streams from the playing hall and the top 5 boards. You can also check photos and videos made by organisers of the tournament on YouTube, our website, or our Instagram.

To the predictions from the initial press release – the longest game yet was around 5.5 hours, so we didn't reach the bar of 6 hours yet. We will see if the games will be longer in the second half of the tournament, or we will witness some interesting quick endgames. At the beginning of the 7th round, the mascot was looking at the first move done by Dana Reizniece-Ozola, Deputy President of the ECU and FIDE Managing Director. Last, but not least we can't see the huge lead yet, but it can change anytime. The players still have 3 rounds to be ahead of their competitors and gain the title of European Women Champion.

Ave chess team