🇺🇦 Volokitin Andrei (11.06.1986)

 Volokitin as title defender at Biel in 2006 (ChessBase from the Tournament Homepage)

Ukrainian Grandmaster (2001). **Ukrainian Champion in 2004 and 2015**. Ukraine U-12 Champion in 1997 and 1998. Silver medal in the World Championship U-12 in 1998. **World best rated U-20 in 2005**. Member of Ukraine which won the **team gold medal at the 2004 Olympiad in Calvià**. **Best individual player at the 2016 Chess Olympiad in Baku** (overall, by rating performance).
Won or shared first: 10th Open Valle d'Aosta, Italy 2002 (shared), Lausanne Young Masters 2005, **Biel GM Invitation 2005** (ex aequo joint with Boris Gelfand), **Donostia, Basque chess 2011/12**, Pfäffikon Swiss Rapid Chess Masters 2014 (tie-break), **Vidmar Memorial, Bled 2016** (clear first).
In a match, Volokitin beat Jan Timman in a friendly rapid 2½-1½ in 2005 at León (Spain).
Participated in the FIDE World Championship 2001, and multiple times in the FIDE World Cup.
Best ELO rating: 2725 in March 2013. Best ranking: 19th-20th in January 2005 at ELO of 2685.

http://www.grandcoach.com/en/students/9/photogallery/10/#48 (Photo album)
http://www.chessnc.com/biography/person-1943.html (CNC)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andrei_Volokitin (Wikipedia)
http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessplayer?pid=49244 (Chessgames)
http://en.chessbase.com/post/volokitin-wins-young-masters-in-lausanne (YM Lausanne 2005)
http://en.chessbase.com/post/volokitin-defeats-timman-in-leon (León, rapid match 2005)
http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chess.pl?tid=47369 (Biel Festival GMT 2005)
https://www.chess.com/news/volokitin-first-at-vidmar-memorial-4779 (Vidmar Memorial 2016)

Andrei Aleksandrovich Volokitin was born in Lviv, Ukraine, Jun-18-1986. He was tied for first at the U-12 World Championship in 1998 (Radjabov World Under-12 Champion on better tie-break) and achieved the grandmaster title in 2001, soon after he turned 15 years of age.

In 2004, Volokitin broke into the top 100 on the FIDE world ranking list, then won the 73rd Ukrainian Championship (2004), held in Kharkiv in top field including Ivanchuk, Karjakin, Eljanov, Moiseenko, Efimenko, Fedorchuk, Korobov, Kuzubov, Malakhatko, Malaniuk, Lahno, as well as the veteran players Kuzmin, Eingorn and Romanishin (swiss system). Same year, Voloktin helped his country on third board to the gold medal at the 36th Olympiad (2004).

On the January 2005 rating list he was ranked the top junior of the world, and 20th overall (at ELO 2685). In July he tied for first (ex aequo tiebreaks) at the 38th Biel Chess Festival (2005) with Boris Gelfand.

He won the Donostia Chess Festival (2011) in San Sebastian (Basque chess), defeating Viktor Laznicka in the final. Volokitin placed =2nd in the 13th European Individual Championship (2012), qualifying for the World Cup 2013 and enabling him to break the 2700 rating barrier for the first time after his rating & ranking slipped back slightly during some years.

In 2015, Volokitin won for the second time in his career the Ukrainian championship which was held in Lviv. In 2016, he took the jubilee 20th Vidmar Memorial (2016), played in Bled, and was on fifth board the individual best player of all boards at the Chess Olympiad (2016).

Andrei Volokitin's record against Magnus Carlsen in classical chess games stands at 4 wins and 2 draws for the six games they played between 2004 and 2008 (Source: Chessgames).

Basque chess !!

Photo by David Llada and Anastasya Karlovich

➔ **The birth of Basque chess** at Donostia (San Sebastián) 2011/12 (not to mix with the traditional Open Festival at same venue).

In the Basque city of Donostia (formerly known as San Sebastián), another **experimental knock-out system** was tried at a prestigious tournament. The simple idea, attributed to the late David Bronstein, was for the players to play not one but two games at a sitting, with opposite colours.

Each player faced his opponent on two boards simultaneously, playing White on one and Black on the other. This peculiar format, which was held for the first time in this event, was soon later named Basque chess. **Andrei Volokitin** emerged as eventual winner of the first ever Basque chess contest:

http://en.chessbase.com/post/che-magazine-basque-che-does-it-work-for-you- (John Saunders)
http://en.chessbase.com/post/double-game-tournament-in-donostia-san-sebastin
http://en.chessbase.com/post/volokitin-wins-double-game-tournament-in-donostia
https://www.chess.com/news/andrei-volotkin-wins-san-sebastian-201112-2369
http://www.chessvibes.com/?q=reports/volokitin-wins-in-san-sebastian
http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chess.pl?tid=76312&crosstable=2&kpage=2#kibitzing

One of the curiosities of Basque chess is that more often than not, the players are on different boards since when it is their turn on one board, it is usually the turn of their rival on the other.

Two games at the same time between the same players! That's what Basque Chess is. Showdown in St. Louis 2015: http://en.chessbase.com/post/showdown-in-stl-world-class-basque-chess.

Ukrainian Champion in 2015, a kiss by his wife Natalja (Hunonchess)

Viktor Korchnoi needs no introduction, ETCC 2009, playing 2.Qd3! in the first round (Grandcoach)