

 Lautier Joel (12.04.1973)



French Grandmaster (1990). Born in Canada, of a French father and a Japanese mother. Lautier is one of the strongest grandmasters in France and French best player between approximately 1990 and 2005. He has been married to [Almira Skripchenko](#) but they are now divorced.

World Junior Champion in 1988 (ahead of Ivanchuk) in Adelaide, Australia, at age of 15, still the youngest to have won that title to this day!

World Champion U14: Joel Lautier first received world attention in 1986 in [San Juan, Puerto Rico](#), where at the age of 13 he won the [Under-14 World Championship](#) ahead of [Sofia Polgar](#) and [Judit Polgár](#), who both tied for second (Sofia as second on tie-break).

French National Champion in 2004 and 2005. Champion of Paris in 2000.

Best results: Lautier has won about 10 major international tournaments: Lyon (Zonal) 1990, **Polanica Zdroj (Rubinstein Memorial) 1991, Pamplona 3rd Magistral 1992/1993** (surpassing amongst others top-seeded Kramnik who finished as joint third to seventh), **Amsterdam (9th Euwe Memorial) 1995** (clear first and undefeated, ahead of 2. Kasparov, 3. Topalov, 4. Piket, four players), **Ubeda, Spain 1997** (a stand-alone supertournament: <http://www.chessgraphics.net/ub001.htm>, probably Joel Lautier's greatest tournament achievement), **Malmö (Sigeman & Co.) 1998** (first shared), **Harplinge GM, Sweden 1998** (joint with Curt Hansen, ahead of Sutovsky), Bad Zwesten, Germany, Open 1999 (shared), **Enghien-les-Bains 1999**, Las Palmas, Open 2000, Mondariz, Spain (Zonal) 2000, **Poikovsky (6th Karpov Tournament) 2003** (joint with Svidler), **Odessa, Pivdenny Bank (Geller Memorial), Rapid 2006** (ahead of 2. Ivanchuk, 3./4. Korchnoi, Beliavsky, ten players).

At the Interzonal in Biel 1993 (the last one ever held, it was a swiss system, 73 players), Lautier qualified for the next stages as a Candidate, but lost the first round match against Jan Timman with 3.5:4.5, played at Wijk aan Zee in 1994.

At the traditional Wijk aan Zee tournament, Lautier participated three times, but never finished on the podium, neither did he win ie. Tilburg, Linares, Dortmund or Biel GMT.

Leading the French national team from 1990 until 2002, his major success in team event was the title of vice European champion in 2001. A member of the NAO team of Paris which won the European Club Team Championship in 2003 and 2004.

Joel Lautier has a (unique) positive score against Garri Kasparov 5½-4½ in classical games.

Lautier was an important second of [Vladimir Kramnik](#) during the [Kasparov-Kramnik World Championship Match \(2000\)](#).

He was President of the Association of Chess Professionals (ACP) 2004-05.

In 2006, Joel Lautier left professional chess and moved to Moscow to work as a consultant. Joel Lautier subsequently no longer classifies himself as a chess professional, but as a businessman working in Russia. He speaks perfectly fluent Russian.

Best Elo rating: 2687 in 2002, best ranking as =13th of the world in 1995 (January to June).

Famous games:

Kasparov, Garry (2805) - Lautier, Joel (2625), Linares 12th Linares (13), 1994
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d3 d6 6.Bb3 h6 7.h3 a6 8.Nbd2 Be6 9.Bc2 Ba7
10.Qe2 Qe7 11.b4 d5 12.a4 b5 13.O-O O-O 14.axb5 axb5 15.d4 exd4 16.e5 dxc3 17.exf6
Qxf6 18.Nb3 Nxb4 19.Bb1 d4 20.Rxa7 c2 21.Rxa8 cxb1=Q 22.Rxf8+ Kxf8 23.Qxb5 Qxb3
24.Qb8+ Ke7 25.Qxc7+ Ke8 26.Bd2 Qd8 27.Qe5 Kf8 28.Nxd4 Nd3 29.Qe3 Qc4 **0-1**
“Chess is mental torture”: <http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1070708>

Kasparov beaten by Lautier (Amsterdam, Euwe Mem 1995)
<http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1070781>

Karpov beaten by Lautier in an English (Dortmund 1993)
<http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1069027>

Bielisima: famous loss, Anand vs. Lautier 1-0 (Biel, 1997)
<http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1018785>



photos: cnc

Lautier vs. Kasparov, Moscow 2002

Trivia:

Apr-12-09 **wordfunph**: Little Joel Lautier was sent out of the press room by Great Gazza Kasparov in the French town Belfort when he indicated a mistake in analysis by Kasparov; and later the adult Lautier gains a positive score against Kasparov (chessgames posting)





At the European Chess Team Championship in Gothenburg (Swedish: Göteborg) 2005: Joel Lautier (France) plays Ivan Sokolov (Netherlands, left) as Viktor Korchnoi (far left) looks on: https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joël_Lautier#/media/File:ETC_Goteborg2005.jpeg.

Sources:

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Chessgames: http://www.chessgames.com/player/joel_lautier.html

Wikipedia (in english): https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jo%C3%AB1_Lautier

Wikipedia (in french): https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jo%C3%AB1_Lautier

Interview 2003: <http://en.chessbase.com/post/joel-lautier-frankly-speaking/4>

Interview Dr. René Gralla 2004: <https://de.chessbase.com/post/interview-mit-joel-lautier>

Interview Sagar Shah 2016 (part I and II):

<https://en.chessbase.com/post/a-school-drop-out-a-world-class-gm-and-a-ceo-1-2>

<https://en.chessbase.com/post/a-school-drop-out-a-world-class-gm-and-a-ceo-2-2>