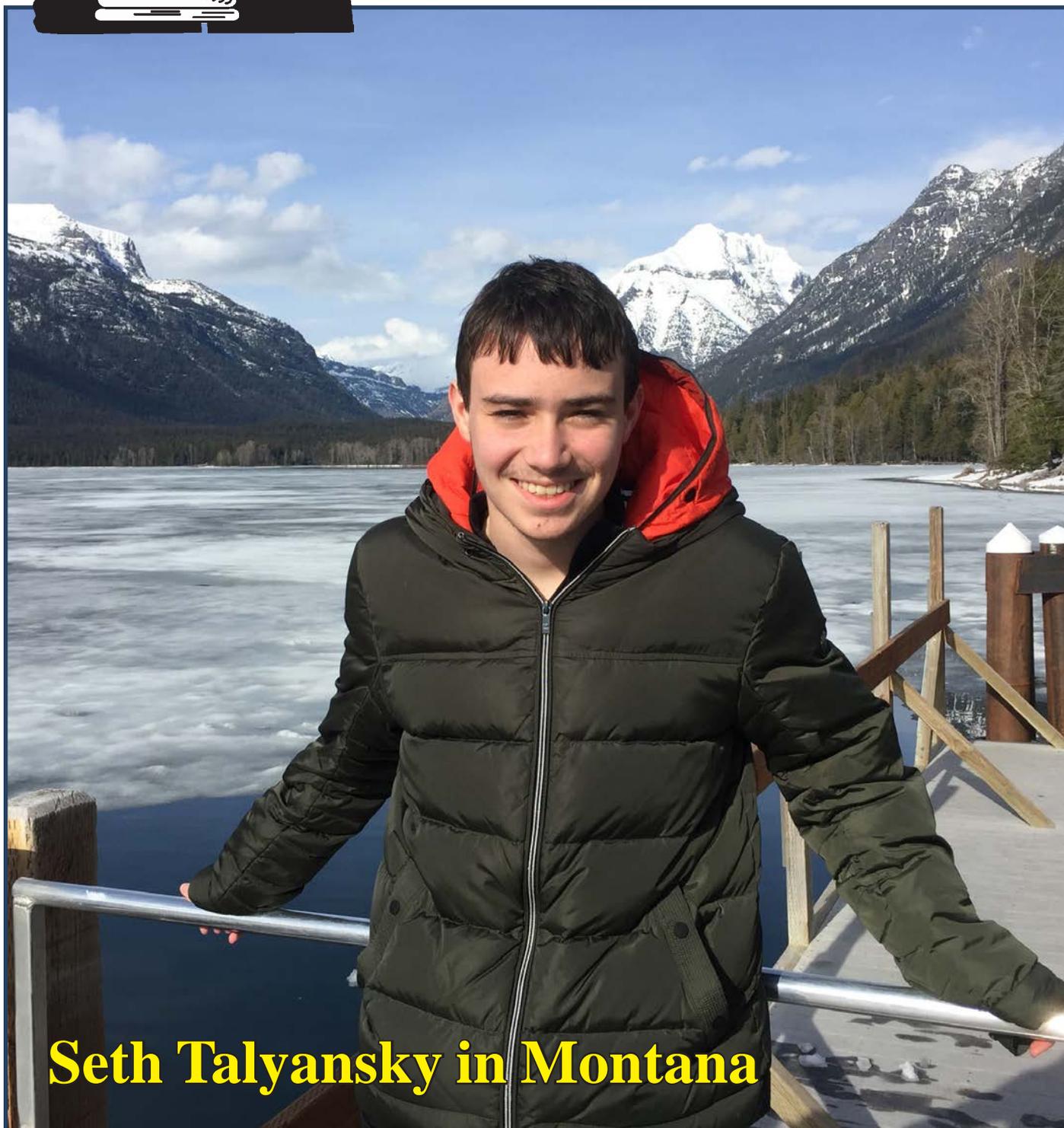




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**May 2017**

**Nikolay Minev (1931-2017)  
Report by John Donaldson**



**Seth Talyansky in Montana**

# Northwest Chess

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## On the front cover:

Seth Talyansky at Lake McDonald in Glacier National Park.  
Photo credit: Roza Kotlyar. (p. 23)

## On the back cover:

The Three Amigos.  
L-R: Steven Segal, John Goodman, and Mel Gibson hang  
out during filming of the latest ill-conceived remake of a  
Hollywood Classic. Photo credit: Philip Peterson. (p. 23)

## Chesstoons:

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## From The Editor's Desk

I started this issue the day after completing the very difficult 48-page April issue. Why didn't I rest after that? I just didn't want to lose the momentum I had going for me after finishing that issue. I also had a lot of material already in hand so why rest?

Thank you for submitting material. That really is the secret of what makes our magazine special, fresh, and new... not to mention personal!

I had this issue "basically" done on Sunday, April 9 at around 11:00 a.m., only four days after the submissions deadline (April 5). Because I just couldn't stop... it was so fun to work on this issue.

Actually, each issue is different—a true adventure. And this issue, like all others before it, is not the end destination, but part of a journey that keeps going and going, much like we, as chess players, experience in our "chess careers!" Who knows what is coming for next month's issue? Nobody knows. I just have to find out... by doing it!!

I got super-charged when more than one person on my team actually told me that the front cover was "great!" This was/is music to my ears... I need to hear that! I work in an "editor's cave" so I value the input I get from my team.

And I know they were telling me the truth because at the same time they were raving about the front cover, they also didn't like the back cover I had originally chosen—and it was one of my favorite chess pictures ever, and it was one I took... so there is no "Emperor's New Clothes" mentality here! What is on the back cover now, is actually my third attempt.

They respect my editorial decisions, and I respect their opinions—and in the end, hopefully we get to the best issue.

Dear reader, please enjoy this issue!

# Nikolay Mineev (1931-2017)

By IM John Donaldson

Few individuals have had as big an impact on the chess world as International Master Nikolay Mineev. Dr. Mineev died on March 10, 2017, in Seattle, Washington.

Mineev, who was born on November 8, 1931, in Ruse, Bulgaria, didn't take chess seriously until he was 15, but made quick progress tying for first in the 1951 Bulgarian Championship. He lost the playoff but would go on to win the title in 1953, 1965, and 1966. Mineev further cemented his position as one of the top Bulgarian players of the 1950s and 60s by representing his country in six Olympiads where he often played first board and met the likes of Mikhail Botvinnik, Tigran Petrosian, and Bobby Fischer. He was also a member of four Bulgarian entries in the Student Team Olympiads, including the one in 1957 that finished second behind a Soviet team headed by Tal, Spassky and Polugaevsky.

Mineev received the International Master title in 1960, but was never a professional player. He received his medical degree in 1956 and practiced medicine until 1972 when he was named editor of the Bulgarian national chess magazine *Shakmatna Misl*, a position he held until 1979 when he took a position as a trainer in Greece. Mineev founded the Bulgarian national toxicology lab in Sofia. This accomplishment and his considerable chess successes were achieved despite never being a member of the Bulgarian Communist party.

Previous to this move to Greece Mineev had combined his editorial responsibilities with training Ivan Radulov, who became the top Bulgarian player of the 1970s. Mineev enjoyed even greater success in Greece, a country which in 1979 had no Grandmasters and few International Masters. He played an important role in the development of future Grandmasters Efstratios Grivas, Vasilios Kotronias, and Spyridon Skembris, who were the beginning of a chess renaissance in Greece.

Mineev and his wife Elena were supposed to return to Bulgaria in 1983, but tired of living under communism they instead defected, ended up settling in the United States after a short stay in Vienna. The chess community in Seattle was the beneficiary of their move and not long after settling in his new homeland Mineev was editing *Northwest Chess* and writing for *Players Chess News* and *Theory and Analysis*. When Yasser Seirawan started

*Inside Chess* in 1988 he turned to his good friend Nikolay Mineev to be one of the key contributors for the new magazine. Mineev's column on tactics proved to be particularly popular as he had a knack for writing instructive material that was also entertaining.

While Mineev could engage the club player he could also appeal to the very strongest. Garry Kasparov gave his highest praise to Mineev's 1980 work on rook and pawn endings, *Ednotopovni Endtspili*, a portion of which was later published as *A Practical Guide to Rook End Games*. This book served as the basis

for the volume on rook and pawn ending in the *Encyclopedia of Chess Endings* series. Mineev was closely involved in the *Encyclopedia of Chess Endings* project and the *Encyclopedia of Chess Openings* series, continuing a longtime relationship with *Chess Informant*. All told he was the author of over thirty books on all aspects of chess.

Mineev was in in his fifties when he settled in the United States, but that didn't stop him from tying for first in the 1983 American Open and winning the Oregon Open on three occasions in the 1980s. Mineev taught much more than he



Nikolay Mineev at work in his study. Photo by Derrick Robinson.

played after settling in Seattle and among his pupils was two-time Washington State Champion and current Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson and the late Kent Pullen, another Washington State Champion and prominent politician.

Nikolay and Elena settling in Seattle was pure chance. Neither had been to the United States before and knew only a handful of Americans. It was just luck their Bulgarian sponsor lived in Lynnwood, Washington.

I played Nikolay twice in the beginning of 1983 in Norway and didn't think it likely our paths would cross again. Imagine my surprise and theirs when just a half year later I ran into Nikolay and Elena in front of the Neptune Theater just off 45<sup>th</sup> Street and University Way in Seattle's University District. They had been understandably tight-lipped about their plan to leave Bulgaria and I had no inkling prior to our meeting they had settled in Seattle.

One of my fondest memories of Nikolay is him giving group lessons on the endgame to many of Seattle's best players. These weekly classes were much-appreciated and a rare chance to receive instruction from a top-level endgame expert.

Nikolay Minev was a person of the highest integrity who will be sorely missed by his many friends around the world.

Those wishing to learn more about this remarkable individual may wish to go to the website <http://www.thechesslibrary.com/minev.html> which is a worthy tribute to him by his long-time friend and student Phil McCready.

**Nikolay Minev – Viktor Korchnoi [B22]**

World Students Team Championship  
Oslo 1954

1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 cxd4 5.cxd4 Nc6 6.Nf3 e6 7.Nc3 Nxc3 8.bxc3 d6 9.exd6 Bxd6 10.Bd3 Be7 11.0-0 0-0 12.Qe2 Bf6 13.Re1 Qd5 14.Bf4 Rd8 15.Rad1 Bd7 16.Ne5 Be8 17.Qh5 g6 18.Ng4! Be7 19.Qh6



Position after 19.Qh6

19...Qh5

19...Qxa2 is strongly met by 20.Re3!. 19...f5 was relatively best. After 20.Ne5 Bf8 21.Qh4 Nxe5 22.Bxe5 White has a clear advantage, but nothing decisive.

20.Qxh5 gxh5



Position after 20...gxh5

21.Ne5

A strong move but even better was the computer idea 21.Nh6+! Kh8 22.Rb1 Rd7 23.Rb5 h4 24.d5! with the point that 24... Rxd5 (24...exd5 25.Bf5) 25.Rxd5 exd5 is met by 26.Rxe7!.

21...Rac8 22.Nxc6 Bxc6 23.Re5



Position after 23.Re5

25...Ba4?

23...Rd5 had to be played.

24.Rc1! Ba3

24...Rd5 25.Rxd5 exd5 26.Bf5 with a clear advantage.

25.Rb1 Rxc3 26.Re3 Rdc8?

26...Kf8 had to be played.

27.Rg3+ Kf8 28.Rxb7

The threat of Bh6+ and Rg8+ is impossible to meet.

28...Rc1+ 29.Bf1 1-0

Wolfgang Uhlmann was one of the top players in the world in the 1960s and early 1970s (he qualified for the 1971 Candidates matches), but Nikolay had his number with a lifetime score of 5-3 (+2, =6).

**Nikolay Minev – Wolfgang Uhlmann [C06]**

East Berlin (11) 1962

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.Bd3 c5 6.c3 Nc6 7.Ne2 Qb6 8.Nf3 cxd4 9.cxd4 f6 10.exf6 Nxf6 11.0-0 Bd6

12.Bf4 Bxf4 13.Nxf4 Qxb2 14.Rb1



Position after 14.Rb1

14...Qa3?

14...Qxa2 is now the preferred way to play for Black, but that was not known when this game was played. Uhlmann, one of the great experts on the French Defense, now finds his king subjected to a fierce attack.

15.Ng5 Qd6 16.Nfxe6 Bxe6 17.Nxe6 Qxe6 18.Re1 Ne4 19.Bxe4



Position after 19.Bxe4

19...dxe4?

19...0-0-0 20.Bf3 Qf7 21.Re6! Qc7 (21...Rhe8 22.Rxc6+! bxc6 23.Bg4+ Kc7 24.Qd2) 22.Qa4 is much better for White.

20.d5 Qe5 21.dxc6 bxc6 22.Qb3 Qd5 23.Qb4 Kf7 24.Qb7+ Kg6 25.Red1 Qe6



Position after 25...Qe6

26.Qc7 Rac8 27.Qg3+ Kh5 28.Rd6 Qg4 29.Qe3 Rhf8 30.Rc1 g6 31.Rc5+ Rf5 32.h3 Qg5 33.g4+ 1-0

# Honors at Idaho Scholastic 9-12 Championship

By Jeffrey Roland

Boise, ID — March 4, 2017

Eleven players participated in the 2017 Idaho Scholastic 9-12 Championship held at the Riverside Hotel in Boise, Idaho on March 4, 2017. This was the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Idaho Scholastic Championship event.

I was working on the April 2017 issue of *Northwest Chess* (actually entering games into PGN from the images of score sheets of the Oregon Closed Championship Section at the time) when I thought to myself, “Why not go down and check out the action of the Idaho Scholastic Championship, maybe even take some pictures for the magazine?” I have always had a special place in my heart for this annual event (which is why I have been involved in 35 of the last 38 events).

The Idaho Scholastic Championship of 1980 was where I played in my first-ever tournament (the five-round qualifying tournament was held February 23, 1980 and the four-round Final was held March 29, 1980), where I was a 17-year-old senior, placed 9<sup>th</sup> out of 14 players, and where I met my life-long friend, the late Dick Vandenburg, who was the creator, inventor, and founder of the Idaho Scholastics in 1980. Dick was amazing; he inspired all the kids, but for me personally, he started me on the road to a lifetime of loving and playing



L-R: Alex Goodwin, Talar Robinson (seated), Jared Smith, Dylan Porth, Jeff Gorven, Thomas Reisig, Wesley Nyblade III, Seth Machakos (seated), Ian Lockhart, Andrew Kitterman, Nathan Phipps. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

chess—and I am so glad! It’s something that you can’t just keep inside; you have to share something like that!

At the 2017 event, I was given two very high honors. Adam Porth asked if I would make the first move on the top board of the first round to kick off the tournament. That was Alexander Goodwin (White) versus Wesley Nyblade III (Black). The joke was what if I played 1.g4, would he be stuck with that? I don’t know, maybe, maybe not, but I wouldn’t do that to anybody! I asked him what he wanted to do and honored that request. For those who like to know everything,

the move was 1.e4, which I think is a very good move!!

The other honor was that I was asked to actually play a rated game as a house player for the first round since there was an odd number of players. This is the first time in my whole life that I have played anywhere as a “house player” and I loved it. My opponent was Jeffrey Gorven and I could tell he was a bit nervous. But as I remembered from 1980, this was a chance to really inspire and encourage a young player and so for me this game was a very important encounter. It didn’t count against the player either as he scored a one-point bye no matter what, but this game was a chance to play a rated game and gain experience.

I then went home but couldn’t get myself motivated to enter more games from the Oregon Closed into PGN because I just had to know what was going on at the tournament... so I went back!! I got to play yet another game in round five as a house player, this time against Andrew Kitterman. And I witnessed that the new Idaho Scholastic Champion and Denker representative from Idaho would be Seth Machakos, who won with a perfect 5.0/5 score.

**Jeffrey Gorven (616) –  
Jeffrey T. Roland (1771) [A45]**  
Idaho Scholastic 9–12 State Ch.  
Boise, ID (R1), March 4, 2017  
*[Jeffrey Roland]*

**1.d4 Nf6 2.e3 e6 3.c3**

This is cramped. It will be hard to develop both the bishop on c1 and the knight on b1 to good squares because of White’s last two moves. The bishop on c1 really looks



L-R: Alex Goodwin, Jeffrey Roland, Wesley Nyblade III. Photo credit: Adam Porth.

caged in and now so does the knight.

**3...b6 4.Nf3 Bb7 5.Na3**

I think White now should have developed his KB and castled. The choice to deal with this knight right now at this point was not sound judgment in my opinion.

**5...c5 6.Nb5? a6 7.Na3 Be7**

The folly of 6.Nb5 now results in Black actually getting two moves for free (...a6 and ...Be7).

**8.Qb3 Nc6 9.Ne5**

I actually “thought” this was a good move, sort of, under the circumstances because it doesn’t give me time to do what I want to do. But then again, on the other hand, it is still moving pieces twice before being fully developed, and it doesn’t actually hurt Black.

**9...Na5 10.Qa4 0-0 11.h4 d6 12.Nec4**



Position after 12.Nec4

12.Nf3 made more sense to me. Oddly enough, now it looks like White is putting too many pieces over on the Queenside, the h4-pawn looks a bit of a target without the Knight being on f3, and so now I’m looking to clear a line for the bishop-queen battery on the h4-pawn

and some other attack... so naturally I’m starting to get ideas of ...Nxf2 and ...Bxh4 given also the B on b7 still has pressure if White plays g3 to defend the pawn on h4. Again... ideas... but I still need to deal with things first.

**12...Nxc4 13.Qxc4 Ne4 14.Bd3 Nxf2?**

Even when I played this, I knew I was taking a risk and it didn’t seem quite sound. But I didn’t want him to get away either! So I guess I just had to do it, though 14...Bxh4 might have been better. I’m only fortunate that my opponent also cracked at the same time I did!

**15.Kxf2 Bxh4+ 16.g3?? Bxh1 17.gxh4 Qxh4+ 18.Kg1 b5 19.Qb3 c4 20.Nxc4 bxc4 21.Bxc4 Be4 22.Be2?**

This just gives Black a quicker win.

**22...Qe1+ 23.Bf1 Qg3+ 24.Bg2 Qxg2# 0-1**

**Jeffrey T. Roland (1771) – Andrew Kitterman (Unr.) [C05]**  
Idaho Scholastic 9–12 State Ch.  
Boise, ID (R5), March 4, 2017  
[Jeffrey Roland]

**1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.f4 Nc6**

Well, ...c5 is normally how Black attacks White in a French Defense, so placing the Knight there now makes that harder.

**6.Ng3 Be7 7.c3 b5? 8.Bxb5 Bb7 9.Qa4 Ndb8 10.0-0 0-0**

It’s clear to me now that I’m not really going to make any more meaningful progress with my pieces on the queenside, so I play to eventually bring my Queen to c2, bishop to d3, but I have that “superfluous knight” problem thingy! Fortunately for me though, Black is kind

of tangled up with his own mess thanks to his c7-pawn being blocked and unable to play ...c5!

**11.Nb3 f6 12.Be3 fxe5 13.fxe5 a6 14.Bd3 Qe8 15.Nbd2 Bd8 16.Qc2**

Now I’m happy... White has great development, everything is where it needs to be, and this is the kind of position I like to have in French as White.

**16...g6 17.Bh6 Rf7**



Position after 17...Rf7

**18.Ng5**

*18.Bxg6 hxg6 19.Qxg6+ Kh8 20.Bg7+! Kg8 21.Bf6+ Kf8 22.Qh6+ Kg8 23.Qh8# is faster—Dubisch.*

**18...Rxf1+ 19.Rxf1 Bxg5 20.Bxg5 Ne7 21.Bh6 Nf5 22.Bxf5 exf5 23.g4 Bc8 24.Nf3 Qe7 25.Ng5 Ra7?**

Not good. Tactically, this gives me material as both d5 and b8 are unprotected from a Queen at b3! Black’s game falls apart quite rapidly now.

**26.Qb3 Nc6 27.Qxd5+ Kh8 28.Nf7+ Kg8 29.Nd8+ Be6 30.Nxe6 1-0**

**Dylan Porth (1144) – Seth Machakos (1205) [E06]**  
Idaho Scholastic 9–12 State Ch.  
Boise, ID (R4), March 4, 2017  
[Ralph Dubisch]

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.g3 Be7 5.Bg2 0-0 6.0-0 b6 7.Nc3 Ba6 8.Ne5 Bb7?!**

By planning a recapture on d5 with the c-pawn, Black can offer to create a balanced pawn structure and equality. This would, at least, attempt to justify the odd 7...Ba6. Retreating to b7 does not, and Black loses a tempo, as Ne5 is a likely move by White in any case. 8...c6 9.cxd5 (9.Re1 Bxc4!? 10.Nxc4 dxc4∞ with the bishop-pair and center compensating for the missing pawn.) 9...cxd5 10.Bf4 Nfd7!

**9.Bf4± Nh5 10.Be3 f5?!**

[Diagram top of next page]

This turns e5 into a true outpost.

**11.Bf3**

11.cxd5 exd5 12.Qc2 causes Black some problems due to the loose f5-pawn if the h5-knight retreats to f6, as well as possibly creating tactics along the c-file.



L-R: Andrew Kitterman, Jeffrey Roland. Photo credit: Adam Porth.



Position after 10...f5

For instance: 12...c6 13.Bf3 Qe8?? (13... Nf6 14.Qxf5; 13...g6 14.Bxh5 gxh5) 14.Nxd5!! cxd5 15.Qc7+-

11...Nf6 12.Qb3 c6 13.Rac1 Nbd7 14.Nxd7?!

14.Nd3±

14...Qxd7 15.cxd5 cxd5 16.Nb5 Ba6?

16...Bc6∓

17.Nc7

Possibly stronger: 17.Rc7!

a) 17...Qd8 18.Rxa7 Rxa7 19.Nxa7 Qc7 (19...Bc4 20.Qa4 threatens b2-b3.) 20.Nb5 is just an extra pawn;

b) 17...Qe8 18.Rxa7 Qxb5 19.Qxb5 Bxb5 20.Rxe7 Rxa2?! 21.Rxe6 Rxb2?! 22.Rxb6± Black can't attempt to unpin with 22...Rb3 due to 23.Rxf6!+-;

c) 17...Qxb5 18.Qxb5 Bxb5 19.Rxe7± bishop-pair.

17...Bc4

[Diagram next column]

18.Qd1??

It's clearly necessary to sacrifice the



Seth Machakos in his fourth round game vs. Dylan Porth. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.



Position after 17...Bc4

exchange here: 18.Rxc4 dxc4 19.Qxc4 Rac8 20.Qxe6+ Qxe6 21.Nxe6± White has two pawns and the bishop-pair for the rook, which should confer an advantage.

18...Rac8

18...Qxc7 19.b3 b5 20.bxc4 bxc4 is also a simple (protected, passed) pawn plus.

19.b3 Bxb3?!

Better to make the extra pawn passed on c4. 19...Rxc7 20.bxc4 dxc4∓ The game line allows White to claim at least a little compensation in the form of the bishop-pair and some c-file play.

20.Qxb3 Rxc7 21.Rxc7 Qxc7 22.Rc1 Qd7 23.Bf4 Bd6

Or 23...Rc8.

24.Bxd6 Qxd6 25.e3 Qd7 26.Be2

26.Qc2∓

26...Rc8 27.Rb1 Ne4 28.Rb2 Qc6

28...Rc3 29.Qd1 Qc6∓

29.Ba6 Rc7 30.Kg2 Qc3 31.Qb5 Nd6 32.Qb3 Qxb3 33.Rxb3 Rc2 34.Ra3



Position after 34.Ra3

34...Ne4

34...b5! is a finesse that threatens to round up the bishop, e.g. 35.h4 (35.Rb3 Rxa2 36.Bxb5 Ne4 looks an improved version of the next note for Black. 37.Bd3 Nxf2, for example.; 35.Ra5 Ne4 36.Rxb5 Nxe3+ 37.Kf3 Ng4 is another point.) 35...



Dylan Porth in her fourth round game vs. Seth Machakos. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

Rc6 36.Kf3 Rb6 intending ...Nc4.

### 35.Kh3?

35.Bd3 Rxf2+ 36.Kg1 Rb2 37.Bxe4 fxe4 38.Rxa7, and though this is still very good for Black, we're maybe not quite finished.

35...Nxf2+ 36.Kh4 Ne4 37.h3 g5+ 38.Kh5



Position after 38.Kh5

### 38...Kg7

38...Rh2! 39.Bf1 Kg7 avoids any complications possible in the next note. ...Kf6 and ...Nxc3 are coming.

### 39.Bd3 Rh2 40.Rxa7+

40.Bxe4 holds out longer and offers more chances to go wrong for Black:

a) 40...fxe4? 41.Kxg5 Rxh3? 42.Rxa7+ and White is not worse;

b) 40...Kf6 41.Bxf5 exf5?! (41...Kxf5 42.h4 a5 is better.) 42.h4 a5? 43.Rb3;

c) 40...Rxc3+ 41.Kxg5 Rxc3+ is the way to go, when two or three extra pawns should do the trick.

40...Kf6 41.h4 Nxc3+ 42.Kh6 Rxc3# 0-1

## Idaho Scholastic Chess

By Adam Porth and Alise Pemsler

Idaho is stepping up its scholastic game with a number of changes to the program. The most visible change is that students are attending regional qualifiers in order to qualify to compete in the State Scholastic Championships that are designed to choose Idaho's representatives for the Barber and Denker Tournament of Champions. The representative for the National Girls Tournament of Champions and the Susan Polgar Foundation Girls Invitational will be named at the Idaho Girls' Championship. Another addition is the use of ratings for pairings to insure a more equitable tournament.

There were a variety of opportunities to qualify for the Idaho State Scholastic Championships. Players were qualified to play in the championship if they scored 3.0 or above in any of the



Colton LaTulippe. Photo credit: Adam Porth.

regional qualifiers (ERST, WRST, NRST, SCRST), first-third place in your grade at the qualifiers, or were in their senior year of high school. The Idaho Chess Association (ICA) also offered alternate means of qualification by playing in one of the Idaho rated open tournaments, or simply playing in the Idaho Closed.

The State Scholastic Championships are now separated into a K-8 grade tournament, 9-12 grade tournament, and a State Team Championship. Organizer and Scholastic Coordinator, Alise Pemsler reaffirmed that the level of scholastic chess has actually increased and says,

“There are now more opportunities for kids to play at a variety of different levels.”

The 9-12 grade Scholastic State Championship was held at the Riverside Hotel in Boise on March 4 for eleven competitors. The high schoolers were all pleased to only be playing other high schoolers as the tournament room was quieter and the skittles area was less chaotic. The room and setting befitted the importance of the event and players felt privileged to be there. All players were also fitted in an Endgame T-shirt gifted to them by the Endgame T-shirt company.



*Kevin Xu. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.*

Jeffrey Roland, former ICA President, attended and was the guest of honor that opened the tournament with the first move, 1. e4. Jeff was also a participant in the very first ICA scholastic tournament over 30 years ago! Seth Machakos, from Boise High School won the tournament with a perfect score of 5.0/5 points. Dylan Porth and Thomas Reisig tied for second-third place. Seth will be able to attend the National Denker Tournament of Champions held in Norfolk, Virginia this summer. Top players in each grade:

- 9 Wesley Nyblade
- 10 Nathan Phipps,  
Andrew Kitterman
- 11 Jeffrey Gorven
- 12 Ian Lockhart

In the K-8 grade Scholastic State Championship held March 11, 83 players competed to be Idaho's National Barber Tournament of Champions representative and grade level state champions. Kevin Xu and Forrest Zeng of Boise won the tournament with a perfect 5.0 score and

be the Barber representative based on tie-breaks.

The venue proved to be excellent with the top three boards played on the stage of the Boise Senior Center community room. There were several rooms available for the families and friends of the players. The top players for each grade included:

- K Colton LaTulippe
- 1 Luke Wei
- 2 Daniel Yang,  
Miles Hollist,  
Daniel Liu
- 3 Audrey LaTulippe
- 4 James Wei
- 5 Sara Hollist,  
Yadira Fernandez,  
John Bueno,  
Andrew Baumann
- 6 Daniel Fernandez
- 7 Temiloluwa Aderogba,  
River Shepard,  
Otto Olson,  
Samuel Pinson,  
Celeste Hollist,  
James Liu
- 8 Jonathan Geyman

The next tournament will be the Girls' State Championship on April 29, to be held at the Community Campus in Hailey. Team Championships are May 6 at Jerome High School. The Idaho State Scholastic Champion of Champions will be selected from the winner of an invitational tournament among Seth Machakos, Thomas Reisig, Dylan Porth, Kevin Xu, Forrest Zeng, and Bryan Li.

are Co-champions. Bryan Li followed closely with 4.5/5 points. Kevin Xu will



*ICA President Adam Porth with lots of caffeine. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.*



**SUDDENLY, FRANCIS WAS 70, AND FOR THE FIRST TIME PERCEIVED THAT, WHAT HE HAD THOUGHT WAS AN APTITUDE FOR CHESS, WAS INSTEAD, NOTHING MORE THAN A CRUEL, COSMIC JOKE.**

# Ethan Bashkansky Earns National Master Title

By Guy Bashkansky

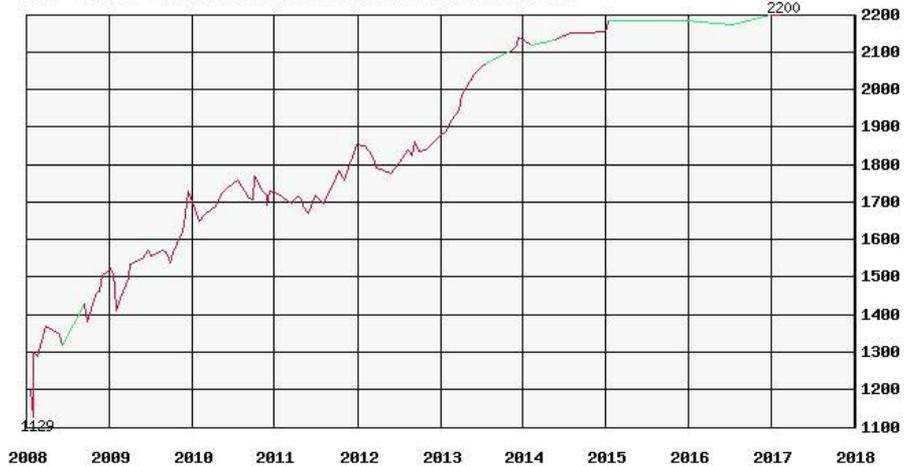
Bellevue, WA — February 15, 2017

*It all started with him*

Free will is a useful illusion to make people behave better, but of course it does not really exist. We are conceived with a specific random mix of our parents' genes. Every aspect of our subsequent life is determined by these genes, environment, nutrients, upbringing and random events. Even though many of their factors are unknown, or too complicated to account for, they are all incompatible with free will. As Schopenhauer said: "Man is free to do what he wills, *but he cannot will what he wills.*"

Thirteen years ago Ethan (then five) is taken by his grandma to an activities fair at a local school. He sees a checkered board at one table, and thinks he knows the game because his nanny has already taught him how to play checkers. But here the pieces are weird — one looks like a horse, another like a tower, others wear crowns. And each kind of piece moves differently, unlike in checkers. Ethan wants to learn how they move.

USCF Regular Rating History for 13871356 ETHAN BASHKANSKY



At home, we don't even have a chess set, despite our presumed cultural heritage. Ethan's mom buys a small chess set with printed visual instructions, Ethan learns the moves, and *voilà* — our life is predetermined from now on, for many years to come. No free will at all. Just random recombination of chromosomes, and a series of random events. *We cannot will what we will.*

We sign up Ethan for that local school chess circle, and at first it does not look like anything serious. A bunch of kindergarteners with five-second attention spans, totally unimpressed by the desperate efforts of their martyr chess coach Vladimir. "Don't *capture*

the king!!!" he yells in desperate wrath. The concept of *checkmate* is the first real hurdle. Ethan does not speak much, and like all kids he does not look concentrated at all. But he gets the concept of checkmate right away, maybe a sign of things to come.

During a chess game, he transforms. For the first time in life, we see him sitting in one place for more than 30 seconds. Then two minutes. Then five minutes. We fight the desire to run check his pulse. He moves a piece. We breathe out.

In a few months, tournament medals start to flow. A trickle initially — first place in class, then school, then district. Then more and more. In a few years, he's a top player in his grade level, and a chess champion. Coach Vladimir teaches in the school chess club, while Coach Nahum gives Ethan private chess lessons.

At first, it's mostly local events. Gradually it turns out you need to go outside our city to find worthy opponents. Medals and trophies fill the walls and shelves in our home. We move to a larger home far away. In the new school, chess skills bring Ethan much appreciation, as he helps his school chess team win first place.

When Naomi becomes five, she takes after Ethan into chess, in what she disarmingly describes to a newspaper correspondent as "I like to win trophies and dollars."

Free will? Nah... just big brother's example and similar genes. A five-year-old girl is no freer to *will what she wills* than a Schopenhauer's "man."

Ethan and Naomi play at many local tournaments. They study chess with GM Greg Serper. Coaches are integral to their success.

Both Ethan and Naomi win first places at the State Elementary Chess Championship, in grades five and K. It's destiny.



Ethan is US official representative at 2016 Pan-American Youth Chess Championship U18.  
Photo credit: Guy Bashkansky.

Bit-by-bit, *Chess Travel* becomes a big part of our lives. All four of us travel to multiple chess tournaments in Vancouver, Las Vegas, Orlando, Silverdale, Columbus, Atlanta, San Francisco, Dallas, Tacoma, Langley, Newport, Rio de Janeiro, Montevideo.

With time, it becomes a well-drilled routine. We find a tournament, register both kids, buy four air tickets online, book a hotel room. Then we fly, check in, find the playing venue. Drop off the kids when a round starts, parents go sightseeing, then come back, wait for the kids to finish a game, feed them, repeat for each round, make sure the kids sleep plenty. We typically stay in a two queen-bed room, parents in one bed, kids in another.

Some of our chess travel is recurring annually, like the WA - BC Internat. Some of it is local, like the Washington High School Team Championship, which Ethan's school team wins in 2014. And sometimes we go to very very faraway places like Montevideo, Uruguay for the 2016 Pan-American Youth Chess Championship.

In 2014, after finishing 10th grade, Ethan (then 16) gets accepted into the university, two years early! The rigors of academic life keep Ethan busy and take their toll on chess. For two years his chess rating hovers just a few points short of the National Master US Chess rating 2200.

At the July 2016 Pan-American Youth Chess Championship, Ethan is the official US representative, and he plays well. The resulting FIDE rating bump is converted into US Chess rating, and brings him to 2196, so tantalizingly close to the US National Master level — just four points short.

In December 2016 Ethan plays at the Washington Game/60 Championship and gets to 2199. And then... *drumbeat...* in February 2017 at the Super Bowl Tornado he squeezes another point and gets to 2200! A National Master! Job well done.

Phew... we can breathe again. The kid will have on his resume both "Chess NM" and "Math BA." All four of us in the

family are now *Masters* — Dad is M.Sc. Computer Science, Mom is M.Sc. Civil Engineering, Naomi is Woman FIDE Master, and Ethan is US National Master.

Are we Masters of our destiny, though? There is no free will, still.

## Chess Bio of Washington State Championship Player

*This bio was accidentally left out of last month's issue—Editor.*

### Advaith Vijayakumar



My name is Advaith Vijayakumar and I am ten years old. I was introduced to the game of chess by my grandfather and I am really passionate about it. I started playing chess when I was eight years old. My most recent accomplishment is becoming a national champion in the Age ten category at the National Junior Chess Congress in January 2017. I feel really privileged and honored to be nominated by WCF to play in the Challengers section of the Washington State Championship 2017.

## Washington State Girls Championship

By David Hendricks

Bellevue, WA — March 4-5, 2017

Congratulations to Naomi Bashkansky for winning the Washington State Girls Championship held March 4 and March 5 in Carnation and Bellevue libraries. Naomi, an eighth-grader attending Odle Middle School and rated 2005 US Chess, finished with a perfect 4.0/4 score. Naomi wins the prize money of \$750 donated by the Washington Chess Federation to assist her in attending a National or International tournament of her choosing this year. There was a four-way tie for second-fifth place between Stephanie Velea, Minda Chen, Anne-Marie Velea, and Sophie Velea, each girl scoring 3.0/4. These four girls split the \$250 prize fund donated by the Chess4Girls organization, or \$62.50 each. David Hendricks was the Tournament Director.

## 1st Annual Neil Dale Memorial

By Brian Berger

Portland, OR — February 4-5, 2017

It seemed a long time coming, but finally the day of the 1st Annual Neil Dale Memorial Open arrived. I say "seemed a long time coming" because this tournament, originally scheduled for the January 7-8, and historically known as the Gresham Open held on the campus of Mt. Hood Community College in Gresham as an annual January event, had to be postponed and rescheduled for February (I'll get to that in a minute).

Not only had the tournament been postponed, but the Gresham venue had been previously changed to the Portland Chess Club, and the event renamed the New Year's Open, which was once again renamed in honor of the passing of longtime TD Neil Dale.

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(L) Jon Strohhahn vs Eric Erard. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

Unfortunately, the Gresham location was not always a good one when held in January, as winter weather and the Columbia Gorge winds could play havoc with road conditions, as it did in 2016, when the area was hit by a sneaky snow storm, followed by icy roads—a weather event that prompted nearly half of the registered players of this two-day tournament to stay safely at home (me included).

Also, the cost of the Gresham venue was not penciling-out, as fewer players were attending each year; and so it was decided to give up this long-attended location for a nearer, and presumably more weather-friendly venue. And now I get to the real reason for the delay this year—the weather. Yes, the weather!

It seems Mother Nature is not picky about where she disturbs the weather, and so, Gresham's weather could not be escaped, as the streets of Portland and other areas were turned into precarious

patches of ice and snow, causing the postponement of which I mentioned above. Rescheduled, the tournament finally took place over February 4-5.

Under the capable guidance of Chief TD Micah Smith, and his Chief Assistant TD Danny Phipps, the 37 players who made up the field of what is to be an annual tournament to be held in the first weekend of January (weather permitting), were quickly paired into two sections—a Reserve and an Open. And with no further ado, it was Game On!

Conspicuous amongst the players were Jerrold “I Just Want To Make 1600 Before it’s Over” Richards (1489-1385—1.0/5) and his celebrity sidekick, Morgan The Dog—Richards looking to get a little closer to that hoped-for rating number, and Morgan looking to see familiar faces whom he remembered were good back-scratchers and belly-rubbers, and also, at times, could be depended on (when Richards was not looking) to slip him a

treat or two (the worst of the guilty parties being me).

Whether Morgan has been distracted too much of late in living the good life to prepare Richards for this tournament (invitations to jet-set parties, hobnobbing with chess world elites, helping GM Timur Gareyev prepare for his world record blindfold simul, or other such matters) is hard to say, but Richards' rating took a heavy hit, dropping almost 100 hard-won points, leaving him wondering if his goal will ever be obtainable.

My own experience (Brian “I’m Just Glad To Be Here” Berger 1647-1641—2.5/5), was not much better, though the final score would leave you to believe otherwise. Choosing to play in the Open section because of my new-found confidence in my skill level (becoming a B-player once again), I ran into forces beyond my control—two of those being Danny Phipps (1978-1961—2.0/5) and Isaac Vega 1768-1780—2.5/5), who showed me I still have a ways to go before I can comfortably settle-in with the big boys.

So how did I end up with 2.5 points? Well, I had taken out a small insurance policy in the form of a half-point bye in the third round that, combined with a mandatory full point bye in the fourth round (a surprise that greeted me on Sunday morning due to the mysteries of the pairing system), eventually added up to 2.5 when I won (thankfully) my last game. So my one win showed on paper as a 50-percent finish. I could have only gotten luckier if I had won a prize for winning one game!

Staying with the Open section, it was Jose Gatica (2093-2109—4.0/5) and Washington’s William Lapham (2053-2067—4.0/5) who split the first and second place prizes, taking home \$185 each (an amount that would have been much greater had the player count reached 50, the figure needed to guarantee a \$1500 prize fund).

Another split occurred when Karl Cosner (2050-2062—3.5/5) and Scott Levin (1852-1860—3.5/5) divided up the

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third and U2000 prizes, which combined to give each \$83.25. That left Ethan Wu (1889-1907—3.0/5) to claim the second place U2000 money, amounting to \$55.50 (a prize I would have liked to have claimed if I could have figured out another way to add more points to my score without having to play a game).

There were some tough struggles in this Open section, one of the toughest and most exciting being Jason Cigan (2204-2183—2.0/5) against Sean Tobin (1997-2010—3.0/5), where time played a crucial factor in a position in which, in its end stages, Cigan was trying to run Tobin's clock down or somehow maneuver his king into a perpetual check position with some annoying queen checks.

Earlier in the game there had been the loss of Tobin's queen, leaving him a rook and a knight for compensation (Tobin saying, "I was crushed seven ways to Sunday in that game!"). By the time they reached the late stage, time crucial position, Tobin had somehow managed to keep two rooks, a bishop and two pawns on the board, one of which was a passed-pawn, but only had three seconds on the clock.

Somehow, in his eagerness to keep checking Tobin's king, Cigan made an illegal move with his queen (Tobin had checked Jason's king with a rook, and Jason replied with a queen check on Tobin's king, ignoring Tobin's last check) which allowed Tobin to add two minutes more to his time—time enough with astute maneuvering of the pieces Tobin had surrounded himself with, that the passed pawn could only be stopped by Cigan giving up his queen, thus forcing a resignation.

Interestingly, the game might have taken a different course if Sean had not settled for a two minute addition to his clock, because "touch move" rules say that the piece touched must be moved, and the queen was the only piece he could move to block the check—Tobin saying that he was "so revved up from all of the (blitzing) stress," that he "totally forgot about that rule."



(L) Danny Phipps vs Isaac Vega. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

The Reserve section saw the only perfect score of the tournament, that by Valentin Molchanov (1741-1808—5.0/5), who eclipsed by one point a very determined unrated player, Anthony Neises Jr. (Unrated-1693P—4.0/5). For Molchanov, it meant keeping the \$111 first prize money all to himself; and for Neises Jr., it meant becoming a provisional B-player in his first rated tournament, sweetened by a second place prize of \$74.

The Reserve section also had its share of split prizes, the first being between Konner Feldman (1634-1652—3.5/5) and Zoey Tang (1238-1438—3.5/5), who shared the money from the third place and U1600 fund, each receiving \$55.50, with Tang also adding an amazing 200 points to her rating.

The second split was between three players: Hugo Hartig (1500-1517—3.0/5), Abbie Wu (1397-1526—3.0/5) and Ian Fudalla (1422-1436—3.0/5), all

dividing the prize money for 2nd U1600. Not only did they all pocket \$12.34, but Wu, who recently turned eight, also gained a 129-point rating boost. So all I can say is watch out for Tang and Wu if you happen to be playing in the Reserve section anytime soon, as these young girls exhibit a more mature understanding of the board than their age would have you believe.

The last split of the Reserve involved Kevin Wu (1264-1276—2.0/5) and Neena Feldman (1280-1304—2.0/5), who shared in the the 2nd U1400 prize, both walking away with \$18.50 to invest in their next tournament.

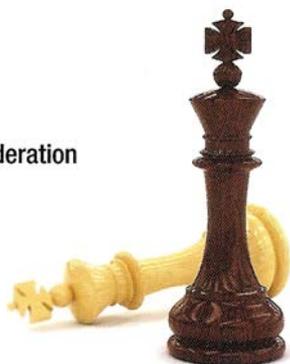
The last two uncontested winners were Harry Buerer (1194-1274—2.5/5) and Austin Tang (766P-786P—1.5/5), Buerer taking the 1st U1400 prize of \$55.50, and Tang getting the same amount for coming in 1st in the U1200. And as there was no one eligible for the 2nd U1200, the prize went unclaimed.

## Joshua C. Sinanan

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# American Chess Magazine #1, Fall-Winter 2016/2017

## A review by Ralph Dubisch

To anyone familiar with chess publishing in the United States, the first question that will come to mind on hearing that there's a new, glossy, GM games and analysis packed, 152-page quarterly American Chess Magazine should be, "are they crazy?" A close second is, "will they actually publish four issues?"

Although answering the first question about any chess players is a risky proposition, this magazine is "powered by Chess Informant." In other words, they've got plenty of experience publishing periodicals. They clearly have quite a few Grandmasters knocking on their door to write theoretical and experiential articles, so finding enough content won't be a problem, especially as, despite the American label, they aren't really shy about getting some materials from across the pond. Paying for that content could be an issue, but again, we're talking Chess Informant.

That they're willing to spend some money on quality comes across right away. This is, as advertised, a big, glossy magazine. This is not far removed from the kind of weird specialty magazines you sometimes see on racks in grocery stores. Although the content definitely has plenty of appeal for the more serious tournament chess player, there's quite a bit of entertaining text that could be appreciated by people whose chess exposure is significantly more casual. Like with the Ferrari magazine, there's actually stuff to read, and when you get to the engine specifications, it's not too hard to just skip over the dull bits without losing the cachet of following along with the big names. You don't have to be a GM, or own a Ferrari, to get a boost from paging through either of these.

Clearly the timing is inspired by the U.S. team winning the Chess Olympiad. "Now," you can almost hear them say, "now

the American people will finally find the kind of inspiration from chess that happened when Bobby Fischer played for the World Championship! Now is the time to launch a new magazine. Print is the new digital!" Actually, I think they did say something like that last on their web page. On the cover, "It's cool to be smart."

Maybe. I haven't seen one of these in my local supermarket yet. It is being marketed at major tournaments, via email and a nice modern website, through the US Chess catalog, and even here (see facing advertisement). ACM has a partnership with chess.com as well. If you are going to subscribe, please use the code supplied here so Northwest Chess gets its cut.

As to the second question from the first paragraph above: right on schedule they printed issue #2, Spring 2017, with

Wesley So on the cover, coming out coincidentally on the same day my review copy of issue #1 arrived. It seems clear that they're well-enough financed to produce at least a full year of these things, and we'll just need to see after that. My guess is they're just a bit optimistic about the demand, but that they've done some business planning, have a good handle on the costs, and they are a good gamble for a subscription.

Cost? Rather high, actually. Single issue is \$30, a four-issue subscription is \$99. This feels a bit like European sensibilities on pricing. People in Europe tend to be used to higher prices, and tend to take chess more seriously than Americans. These two factors may be the downfall of ACM...

...but not in the short term. Right now, this is a chess magazine to savor, with gorgeous layouts and super-high-quality, entertaining chess material with an American slant. Why not toss the cynicism

out the window for awhile, and just go with the dream that American chess is about to have its Renaissance?

Check out [acmchess.com](http://acmchess.com) for all the details.

"I AM SO PROUD OF TEAM USA!" — ANNOTATIONS BY JEFFERY XIONG, 2016 WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPION

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<b>Booster (U1400)</b>	EF \$100 / \$110 / \$120
<b>Medal Only</b>	EF \$55 / \$65 / \$75

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3rd	\$350	\$300	\$200
4th	\$300	\$200	\$150
5th	\$250	\$150	\$100
	<b>U2100</b>	<b>U1650</b>	<b>U1200</b>
1st	\$250	\$200	\$100
2nd	\$150	\$100	\$60
	<b>U1900</b>	<b>U1500</b>	<b>U1000</b>
1st	\$250	\$200	\$100
2nd	\$150	\$100	\$60
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**Rating:** US Chess rated. Open Section also FIDE rated (except G/60 games). US Chess May 2017 rating supplement will be used to determine section eligibility. Higher of US Chess or foreign ratings used at TD discretion. Higher of US Chess or FIDE rating used for pairings and prizes in Open Section. Foreign ratings used for players with no US Chess rating. Unrated players may only win top five prizes in the Open Section or unrated prizes in Booster Section.

**Registration:** Saturday 8:30-9:30 AM for 3-day schedule, or 3:00-3:30 PM if entering with one half-point bye. Sunday 8:00-8:30 AM for 2-day schedule, or 8:30-9:30 AM if entering 3-day schedule with two half-point byes. Two half-point byes available at registration or before end of round 2. Play any two days, if taking two half-point byes.

**Rounds:** 3-day schedule: Sat 11:00 AM and 5:30 PM, Sun 11:00 AM and 5:30 PM, Mon 9:30 AM and 3:30 PM. 2-day schedule: Sun 9:00 AM, 11:45 AM, 2:30 PM, then join 3-day schedule with round 4 at 5:30 PM. WCF annual meeting and elections at 2:00 PM Monday, May 29, 2017.

**Time Controls:** 3-day schedule: 40/120 and SD/30 with 10-second delay. 2-day schedule: G/60 with 10-second delay (rounds 1-3), rounds 4-6 same as 3-day schedule. Please bring tournament chess set, board, and digital clock.

**Miscellaneous:** Current US Chess membership and WCF/OCF/ICA membership required in all sections. Other States Accepted. Memberships may be paid at time of registration. NW Grand Prix event. Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points: 40. US Chess Junior Grand Prix. No Smoking. No Computers. Wheelchair accessible.

**Hotel Info/Rates:** see Northwest Chess website or contact Dan Mathews.

**Washington Open G/15 Championship:** Sat 5/27 at 8:00 PM. Format: 5 round Swiss in one section. Registration: 7:00-7:45 PM. Rounds: 8:00, 8:40, 9:20, 10:00 and 10:40 PM. TC: G/15;d0. EF: \$25. Prize Fund: \$400/b20. 1st \$130, 2nd \$90, 1st U2000 \$60, 1st U1700 \$60, 1st U1400 \$60. US Chess Quick rated. Current US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships required.

**Washington Open Blitz Championship:** Sun 5/28 at 9:00 PM. Format: 5 round Double Swiss in one section. Registration: 8:00-8:45 PM. Rounds: 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30 and 11:00 PM. TC: G/5;d0. EF: \$25. Prize Fund: \$400/b20. 1st \$130, 2nd \$90, 1st U2000 \$60, 1st U1700 \$60, 1st U1400 \$60. US Chess Blitz rated. Current US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships required.

**Washington Open G/45 Championship:** Mon 5/29 at 11:30 AM. Format: 4 round Swiss in one section. Registration: 10:30-11:15 AM. Rounds: 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, and 5:30 PM. TC: G/45;d0. EF: \$25. Prize Fund: \$400/b20. 1st \$130, 2nd \$90, 1st U2000 \$60, 1st U1700 \$60, 1st U1400 \$60. US Chess Dual rated. Current US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships required.

# Oregon High School Chess Team State Championships

By Nancy Keller

Hillsboro, OR — March 4, 2017

This weekend, there were major battles in progress as high schools from all over the state competed to destroy each other's armies. The battles were silent with only mental screams and pained faces demonstrating the fates as kings and queens were destroyed. It was the annual Oregon High School Chess Team State Championships hosted at Hillsboro High School to determine the 2017 Oregon Chess Team Champion.

All high schools from 2A to 6A played each other as they competed to become the 2017 Oregon High School Chess Team Champion. They also competed for their respective OSAA classification champion status. A new team from Catlin Gabel (see half-page ad on page 27), a 3A school rose to the top after defeating LaSalle 5A, Crescent Valley 5A and defeating Lincoln 6A who has dominated the Oregon Champions for the last two years. Catlin Gabel did draw Jesuit 6A and Crescent Valley 5A but at the end, Catlin Gabel had four out of five points in the Swiss tournament. Lincoln, Jesuit, Wilson, and Crescent Valley each had 3.5 points resulting in a four-way tie, but based on strengths of teams they played tiebreakers gave them their ultimate places of second, third, fourth, and fifth respectively.

Winning the championship earned each of the five members of the Catlin Gabel team a small scholarship to the college of their choice. The scholarship was mostly funded by First Community Credit Union, which supports intellectual sports and local communities.

Last year Seth Talyansky, Mathus Leungpathomaram, Hansen Lian, and Avi Gupta started a chess club at Catlin Gabel. Seth Talyansky is currently the top scholastic player in Oregon



Catlin Gabel wins the 2017 Oregon High School Chess Team Championships. L-R: Jimmy Maslen, Hansen Lian, Duncan Soiffer, and Seth Talyansky. Missing from the Varsity team are Ari Bluffstone and Avi Gupta. Photo credit: Jed Wright.

and has earned the title of National Master through the United States Chess Federation. Through local competitions and at their chess club, Seth was able to help his teammates develop their chess skills. Starting last year, the Catlin Gabel chess team played in the Portland Chess League consisting of teams from Northern Oregon and Southern Washington, and won the League two years in a row. This year, for the first time, they brought a Varsity and Junior Varsity Team to the State competition. Their games were long and intense, often running right up to the time limit and developing a silent crowd of onlookers. The varsity team's overall win shows a small school can take on the big schools in the field of chess.

But it was not just Catlin Gabel's Varsity team that was strong. Their B team in the Junior Varsity section also dominated. After the flurry of five rounds of chess, there was a three way tie for first place, each with four out of five points. Catlin Gabel High School became co-champions with Wilson High School and Happy Valley Middle School. These top three teams were very strong with their only loss being to one of the other co-champions.

The Oregon High School Chess Team Association (OHSCTA) is hoping to draw even more schools to the 2018 championships which will be held at Roseburg High School late February or early March. Visit OSCF (Oregon Scholastic Chess Federation) and check out High School Chess Team news. Teams are encouraged to play in their local leagues.

## Oregon Varsity Team Champions

- 1<sup>st</sup> Catlin Gabel 3A
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Lincoln 6A
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Jesuit 6A
- 4<sup>th</sup> Wilson 6A
- 5<sup>th</sup> Crescent Valley 5A

## 6A Class Champion

Lincoln

## 5A Class Champion

Crescent Valley

## 2A-4A Class Champion

Catlin Gabel



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## Oregon JV Team Co-Champions

Catlin Gabel  
Wilson High School  
Happy Valley Middle School

## 6A Class Champion

Wilson High School

## 2A-5A Class Champion

Catlin Gabel

## Open Teams

1<sup>st</sup> place: LaSalle  
2<sup>nd</sup> place: Willamette  
3<sup>rd</sup> place: Hillsboro

## Individuals

1<sup>st</sup> place: Jason Chen  
2<sup>nd</sup> place: Wesley Trieu  
3<sup>rd</sup> place: Nathaniel Veimau

# March 2017 PCC Quad 45

## By Brian Berger

Portland, OR — March 18, 2017

It was a “hard rain a-falling” the March morning of the Portland Chess Club’s monthly Quad 45 tournament. This ongoing phenomenon is bringing about the evolution of a new breed of aquatic chess player, inured to the rigors of constantly commuting under waterfall-like rains, and dealing with the sopppiness of the landscape.

Looking closely, one can just barely discern the minute gill openings beginning to form just behind the ears of avid players, and also the faint signs of webbing between the fingers. They are signs that Kevin Costner’s fictional “Waterworld” might indeed become a world reality, given the changing weather patterns of global warming and the rise in sea level.

Indications are that these adaptations evidencing themselves on the bodies of our players denote the passion to play chess whatever obstacles need



(L) Danny Phipps vs Carl Haessler. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

be overcome; and so, Quad 45 drew a respectable 28 attendees—some probably needing to canoe from their homes to the venue.

At least one of those attendees has shown no signs of evolving along the lines mentioned above, or along ANY lines that would indicate adaptation or improvement—somewhat like Neanderthal man, who rose to his level of incompetence and then disappeared—that attendee being, Brian “I’m Just Glad To Be Here” Berger (1641-1602—0.0/3).

The rating loss above is an example of what I am talking about, where in Quad 2 I was paired against two players who were substantially higher in rating—Aaryan Deshpande (1856-1879—3.0/3 and Chris Burrell (1749-1727—2.0/3), and one, James Bean (1600-1652—2.0/3), who was about 40 points lower—and found ways to lose to all three.

Deshpande, who lives in the Seattle area, won this quad with a perfect score, and was awarded with a chess book (which he took), and a trophy (which he declined) for being a scholastic player who won his section. I on the other hand, went to Powell’s Books to see if I could find a copy of “The Peter Principle,” which deals entirely with reaching your level

of incompetence.

Before I continue with the results of the other six quads that formed this seven-quad, 28-player field, I want to mention that Micah Smith (as always) was the Chief TD, ably backed by his Chief Assistant TD, Danny Phipps, who

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(L) Ken Hines vs Zoey Tang. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

was also a player in this tournament. And also to be mentioned is the new time control enacted this month, that changed what was a G/45 with a 15 second delay, to a G45; increment 15 time control.

The reasoning follows as thus: that a time delay of 15 seconds (the old time control) penalizes a player who might be quicker (say, using only two seconds on his clock for a move), by still leaving him/her the same amount of time for the remainder of the game as a player who

might use the entire 15 seconds, which Micah felt to be somewhat unfair.

Incremental settings, however, prove to be more fair when one is under time pressure, and make for more interesting endgames, by giving players “a little bit more overall time for their games.” That being the case, the extra time required changing the round times of the last two games, so that from now on the rounds will be at 10:00 am, 12:30 pm and 3:00 pm.



Chief TD Micah Smith doing pairings. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

Okay, back to who won what. LM Carl Haessler (2214-2206—2.0/3) won Quad 1, but suffered a loss to the very skilled Moshe Rachmuth (1971-1977—1.5/3), who had just recently pushed his rating into the expert class but suffered a few setbacks in recent tournaments. With this win against Haessler he has shown his gaining an expert rating was well deserved, and it should be regained soon.

James Tsai (1560-1604—2.5/3) is showing himself to be back in his old form, winning Quad 3, after experiencing a bit of a slump. This is the second Quad 45 win for him in as many months, gaining him a book and 44 rating points, and might be an indication that he will soon reach a rating he achieved some years back, his all-time high of 1687.

The very young Zoey Tang (1430-1495—2.5/3) has hit the US Chess scene like a small meteor, elevating her 993 rating, obtained at the beginning of last September, to a most respectable 1495, after recently gaining 200 points in the 1st Annual Neil Dale Memorial Open, and then adding another 57 points for winning Quad 4—the result of which earned her a choice of a chess book and also a small trophy to add to her collection, which will undoubtedly in time contain many more.

Quad 5 saw Robert Bowden (1355-1394—2.5/3) claim top honors with two wins and a draw, while in Quad 6 and Quad 7, both made up of unrated and provisional rated players, Thomas Rolfs (1165P-1174P—3.0/3) captured first place with a perfect 3.0, as did Max Alberhasky (Unrated-1221P—3.0/3) in the last quad.

It was Alberhasky’s first US Chess rated tournament, for which he was given a choice of a chess book for his win, as was Rolfs for his win. While Bowden (because he was also a scholastic player who won his section with at least 2.5 points) received a small trophy and a book.

## March 2017 PCC Game 60

By Brian Berger

Portland, OR — March 25, 2017

There was almost a need for a parking attendant at the Portland Chess Club’s monthly Game 60, as a near-record crowd poured in to spend the day in chessic-battle. Numbering some 37 players, it was the first time in nearly a year that Game 60 edged over the 30-player mark, requiring the field to be split into two sections—the Upper, paired with an even 18 combatants, and the Lower, containing 19.



(L) Steve Surack vs Matt Zavortink. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

As has usually been the case at these Game 60s, the appearance of Morgan The Dog was avidly awaited, his Oregon and Washington fans sometimes traveling many miles just to catch a glimpse of this world-famed canine, known for his prodigious command of those mysterious 64 squares. And they were not disappointed, as Morgan made a grand entrance with his live-in companion, Jerrold “I just Want To Reach 1600 Before it’s Over” Richards (1385-1406—2.0/4).

Unfortunately, Morgan The Dog has apparently been traveling too extensively of late, giving simulms and lectures, which have taken time away from trying to improve Richards’ game—which was somewhat obvious in most of his games this tournament, except for one, that is—Richards vs Brian “I’m Just Glad To Be Here” Berger (1602-1546—0.5/4).

If anyone needs to be schooled by Morgan—it’s me. Seemingly stripped of any remembrance of how to play this game, I have lately suffered loss after loss, managing only a draw this tournament, and this to a player rated 100 points lower than me.

But getting back to Richards, after suffering two losses, he was forced to take a full point bye in the third round, the details of which are obscure to me. So there he was, one point up and paired to me in the 4th round. And it turned out to be one of THOSE games, where you KNOW you are winning, with a pawn poised on the seventh rank ready to queen, and somehow, you blow your chance and crash in flames—that kind of

game.

Now that I have that episode out of my system, I need to mention that Lennart Bjorksten was Chief TD, helped in his efforts by Assistant Chief TD Mike Hasuike (who also was a player), the two of them having a bit of trouble in the first pairings. Whatever was the reason, it was quickly resolved, and the tournament was underway only a short time after the scheduled start.



(L) David Yoshinaga vs Brian Lee. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

Unusual for Game 60 was that four Masters decided to enter—something I have not seen since I can’t remember when (never?). Leading the scramble for the pot of gold (\$90), was NM Jason Cigan (2183-2200—3.5/4), whose three wins and a draw were decisive in gaining him top money and (now) hard to get rating points.

Hard on his heels were NM Seth Talyansky (2208-2212—3.0/4) and NM Matt Zavortink (2227-2229—3.0/4), each with three points, and each, \$45 richer for splitting second and third place monies. Whereas LM Carl Haessler (2206-2200—2.5/4), the fourth of the four Masters, and who has been top dog in a number of recent events, could only muster a draw with Zavortink, and suffered a loss to Cigan.

In the Lower section it was James Wei (1288-1384—3.5/4) of Idaho, who bested the field with his three wins and a draw, pocketing \$78 to help defray his travel costs, and adding substantially to his rating. (It must have been one heck of a boring chess weekend in Idaho, to push Wei to travel to Oregon to get his chess fix.)

It is interesting that in a four-way tie for second place, among Jon Strohbahn (1474-1503—3.0/4), Ian Fudalla (1438-1434—3.0/4), Mason Bagoyo (1172-1268—3.0/4), and Robert Bowden (1394-1416—3.0/4), that the computer chose to split the second and third place money with Strohbahn and Fudalla, giving each of them \$21, while it split the U1400 prize with Bagoyo and Bowden, earning

them \$9 more (\$30). This time having a lesser rating made for a bigger payday.

Two players stand out for gaining substantial rating points, neither of which won a prize—John Kong (176P-309P—2.0/4) and Pierre-Hadrien Beauchet (418-712—2.5/4).

## 82<sup>nd</sup> Montana Open

By Seth Talyansky

Missoula, MT — April 1-2, 2017

The 82nd Montana Open took place in the quaint Ruby's Inn in Missoula during the first two days of April. Memorabilia decorated the walls, including an assortment of amusing postcards (e.g. "It's not heaven—it's Montana!") and current and century-old maps of the vast state. Pastel tableaus depicted chalky goats and jet-black bears gamboling on the lush slopes beneath arêtes in the tranquil Glacier and Yellowstone National Parks. Mountains dominated the literature, and understandably so, for the snow-laden peaks rising above the Missoula Valley imbued the air with a crispness that galvanized, especially for the players after the twelve-hour, three-round first day.

Forty-two of us hailed from only five states, though, with the tournament located in Montana, the total hours of travel far exceeded these numbers: several players drove from each of Spokane, WA (three-and-a-half hours); Whitefish, MT (two-and-a-half hours); Kalispell, MT (two hours); Billings, MT (five-and-a-half hours); Helena, MT (two hours); Coeur d'Alene, ID (three hours); Great Falls, MT (three hours), among other cities within an eight-hour

drive radius. I was out of state but took comfort in western Montana's glorious past—comprising the Oregon Territory circa 1848. Kevin Chen of New Jersey and I were the only contenders who flew (I would tingle with shame telling eight-hour-drivers that the flight from PDX to Missoula lasted not ninety minutes), and we faced each other in the fourth round. I stood on 3/3 and he on half a point less. I missed opportunities in a pawn-up but cramped rook-and-minor-piece ending and needed to concede half a point, and then another half-point by taking a bye in the final round to make the early evening plane to Portland. Kevin won in the meantime, and no one else caught me, so the two of us shared first place with 4.0/5.

From the welcoming chess community to the surrounding sights, Montana provides an idyllic chess adventure! Check the Montana Chess Association's website ([montanachess.org](http://montanachess.org)) for upcoming tournaments in Big Sky Country, where the sky is big, but the chess is even bigger!

Seth Talyansky (2212) –  
J. Michael Jensen (1858) [B42]  
Montana Open (R3)  
April 1, 2017  
*[Ralph Dubisch]*

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6  
5.Bd3 Qc7 6.0-0 Nf6 7.Qe2 d6 8.Kh1

8.c4 is more common here.

8...b6

8...g6 9.f4 Bg7

9.f4 Nbd7 10.a4

10.c4!?±

10...Bb7 11.Nc3 Be7 12.Bd2 0-0  
13.Rae1 Nc5 14.b4 Nxd3 15.cxd3 Rac8

16.Rc1 Qb8 17.b5



Position after 17.b5

A tense opening battle results in rough equality. White has some space, Black the bishop-pair.

17...a5?

Both missing some tactical points and weakening b5 (yes, b5!). Either 17...Qa8!? with extra protection of c6; or 17...Rfe8 guarding the e7-bishop make the Nc6 tactics less attractive for White.

18.f5! e5 19.Nc6!

Excellent! This works because the e7-bishop is loose.

19...Bxc6

19...Rxc6 20.bxc6 Bxc6 is the lesser evil here. Black gets partial compensation for the exchange and forces White to work hard to convert the point.

20.bxc6 Rxc6 21.Nd5 Nxd5 22.Rxc6 Nb4 23.Bxb4 axb4 24.Qa2 d5

Black feels the squeeze and decides to part with more material to improve the dark-square bishop, but it's too little, too late. 24...Rc8 25.Rfc1

25.Qxd5 Bc5 26.a5 Rd8 27.Qc4 Qb7 28.Qb5 Bd4 29.axb6 b3 30.Rd6 Qb8

30...Rb8 31.Qxb3 Bxb6 32.Rb1+-

31.Rxd8+ Qxd8 32.b7 1-0

## The Kids' Texas Vacation

By Ralph Dubisch

Originally we plan to fly to Texas for Philip Peterson's wedding. At least he says he is getting married in February. By the time we get there his plans have changed — they decide to marry in Las Vegas in March. Well, weddings are too formal to be much fun anyway. Duane and Elaine Polich are coming for part of the time, too. What else can we do in San Antonio?

It starts with my children's first airplane trip. My son Roy gets to watch the wing flaps moving, and skeptically makes me explain the concept of lift often enough that even I start to doubt that



(L) Kevin Chen vs. Seth Talyansky. Photo credit: Roza Kotlyar.



*Mission San Jose, San Antonio, Texas. Photo credit: Ralph Dubisch.*

going forward faster could really make a big piece of metal filled with people go up. Two-year-old Joyce is fine with an extra harness thing that straps to the seat, and she enjoys hours of reading. I'm sure all the surrounding adults really appreciate hearing her books, too. Transfer in Phoenix, no problems, arrive in San Antonio where Philip is waiting. We install the car seat and drive to his apartment.

The next night, after returning to the apartment following a pizza dinner with Philip, Duane, and various family members who come along to listen patiently to us reminiscing, my cell phone starts honking at me. This is not my normal ringtone. Our first tornado alert, how exciting! "Imminent extreme alert." That line in red. "Tornado Warning in

this area til 11:15 PM CST. Take shelter now." We're on the third floor; what shelter? After an hour or so of high winds and horizontal rain so dense it is nearly opaque, with constant lightning that make the wall of rain flash and glow, my phone honks again! This time it is a flash flood warning: "Imminent severe alert." More red. "Flash Flood Warning this area til 1:30 AM CST. Avoid flood areas." Good thing we didn't make it into a storm cellar. The kids sleep through the whole thing.

For the rest of the trip everyone seems to be apologizing for the earlier weather. "It isn't usually so wet here." Hey, some of us remember Washington. We know wet.

We do the Alamo, of course, and River Walk, as they are close together downtown. We don't really walk River

Walk, opting instead for a rather pleasant boat tour. The guide is an actual historian, and adds personality to the standard tour.

There's nice walking, sightseeing, and even some tree climbing (horizontal, ground-hugging Honey Mesquite) at San Antonio Missions National Historical Park. In the evening Roy, Duane, and I watch Philip and his fiance lose a mixed-doubles tennis match. They would have done better if Philip's knees worked.

At the Natural Bridge Caverns all the teenage girl tour guides admire my ocarina and insist I play Zelda songs — and the cafeteria crew sings along. The acoustics inside the caves are pretty cool, too. Next time I'll have something spooky prepared when they turn out the lights.

It's a little hike to a pretty waterfall at Hamilton Pool, though the real adventure is driving there: Philip's Garmin GPS insists our route is right through someone's ranch-style house. Eventually a system of backtracking and randomly driving around finds an alternate access along an actual road. On the way back we pause at the Chess Club Cafe, which is, alas, closed.

We go for a nice five-plus mile hike in Government Canyon; there are supposed to be dinosaur tracks at the end, though it turns out these are harder to see when they are under a few feet of muddy water.

At Fort Sam Houston we see peacocks, both normal and pure white varieties, perched in a giant oak tree, then hand-feed them on the ground. Then we explore the military museum, searching for tiny toy soldiers hidden in the displays.

The Japanese Gardens, renamed the Chinese Gardens during WWII, then restored to their original ethnicity decades later, make a pleasant diversion.

On Friday night a short walk to a Starbucks on Northwest Military Highway finds chess players doing the blitz thing. I join in for four games, then leave when the clock-owner starts to grumble. Perhaps I should not have beaten him in eleven moves. My opponents remain anonymous, mostly because I never ask their names, nor do they ask mine.

**RD – opp1 [E73]**

Friday night Starbucks (G1)

February 24, 2017

[Ralph Dubisch]

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Be2 0-0 6.Bg5 Nbd7 7.Qd2 c5 8.Nf3 a6 9.h4?!**

Hey, it's blitz. I think 9.0-0 is theory, and 9.d5 can't be too bad.

### 9...Qc7?

Black should definitely react in the center with 9...cxd4 when facing this kind of wing attack before the center is fixed. 10.Nxd4 Nc5 11.Bf3∞

### 10.0-0-0?!

10.h5! cxd4 (10...Nxb5 11.Nd5+-; 10...gxh5 11.Bh6 with attack.) 11.Nxd4±

### 10...cxd4 11.Nxd4 h5

11...b5 12.Kb1±

### 12.f4?!

12.g4! hxg4 13.h5 looks promising.

### 12...Nc5?!

12...b5!?

### 13.Bf3

13.Bxf6 never occurred to me.

### 13...Rb8 14.f5 e5? 15.fxe6?!

15.Nde2

### 15...fxe6?!

15...Bxe6 16.Bh6∞



Position after 15...fxe6

### 16.Nc2?

I actually thought this was a good plan, distracting Black with pressure on d6 while adding a body along the c-file to mitigate pins. 16.b4! Another move that failed to occur to me. This one would have won material.

### 16...Rd8??

After 16...b5! White doesn't really have time to grab the d6-pawn: 17.Qxd6 (17.cxb5 axb5 18.b4 may be better, but the white king looks pretty airy.) 17...Qxd6 18.Rxd6 b4 19.Nd1 Nfxe4 20.Bxe4 Nxe4 with a fairly clear advantage.

### 17.e5!

Of course.

### 17...Ng4

Bad, but 17...Ne8 18.Bxd8 Qxd8 19.exd6 is also clearly winning.

### 18.Bxd8 Qxd8 19.Bxg4 hxg4 20.Qxd6 Bd7? 21.Qxc5 1-0



Chess Club Cafe on US Hwy 281, Blanco, Texas. Photo credit: Ralph Dubisch.

### opp2 – RD [A10]

Friday night Starbucks (G2)

February 24, 2017

[Ralph Dubisch]

### 1.Nf3 d6 2.c4 Bg4 3.g3 Bxf3 4.exf3 e5 5.Nc3 c6 6.Bg2 f5 7.Qb3

White has an opportunity to toss in 7.d4 here, changing the structural equation and opening the position for the bishops.

### 7...Qc7 8.0-0 Nd7 9.Qc2 g6 10.Re1 Ngf6 11.d3

11.d4

### 11...Bg7 12.Be3 0-0 13.Rac1

13.d4

### 13...a6 14.a4 a5

I took a page from the Old Indian Defense here, playing ...a6 to threaten/feint at ...b5, then immediately "losing" the tempo with ...a5 in response to White's a4. The point is b4 is weakened, and my plan is to reroute the d7-knight to fill the outpost.

### 15.Qd2?!

This can't be right, and probably I could jump ...Nc5 right away to prove it. But I have a plan, and in a blitz game a plan that gives you several decent quick moves is worth something.

### 15...Nb8 16.Bh6?!

16.d4

### 16...Na6

16...Bxb6 17.Qxb6 first? It's not like the queen can threaten anything by herself.

### 17.Bxg7 Kxg7 18.Nb5??



Position after 18.Nb5

My first thought was, "That doesn't do anything — I can just play ...Qd7 or ...Qd8, and the knight has to retreat." My second thought was, "Hey, isn't that a free piece?"

### 18...cxb5 19.cxb5 Nc5 20.d4 exd4 21.Qxd4 Rae8 22.Red1 Re6

This looks awkward, but there's madness in my method. Or vice versa.

### 23.Bf1 Qe7 24.Bc4 Re5 25.Qxd6??

See? White forced me off the defensive square, winning the d6-pawn.

### 25...Re1+!

Oh.

### 26.Kg2 Qxd6 27.Rxd6 Rxc1 0-1

### opp1 – RD [E32]

Friday night Starbucks (G3)

February 24, 2017

[Ralph Dubisch]

### 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 0-0 5.e4 c5 6.e5 cxd4 7.Bg5??

7.a3 is necessary.

7...dxc3 8.bxc3



Position after 8.bxc3

Now of course Black can retreat ...Be7 and keep a clear pawn as well as significant structural advantage. But...

8...Qa5!

Even better. Much better. Game over better.

9.cxb4?

9.Ne2 Ba3+

9...Qxe5+ 10.Be3 Qxa1+ 11.Kd2? Qxf1 0-1

RD – opp2 [A57]  
Friday night Starbucks (G4)  
February 24, 2017  
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.f3 d6 5.e4 g6 6.cxb5 a6 7.Nc3 Bg7 8.bxa6

I intended to play 8.a4 here, but didn't. I'm pretty sure I planned the development of the other knight to c3, too, with the b1-knight heading somewhere via a3. None of that happened. Blitz.

8...Bxa6 9.Bxa6 Nxa6 10.Nge2 Nd7 11.Be3 0-0 12.0-0 c4 13.Bd4 Ne5 14.b3 cxb3 15.axb3 Nb4 16.Na4 Ned3 17.Bxg7 Kxg7 18.Kh1 Qc7 19.Qd2 Qa7 19...Qc2!?



Position after 19...Qa7

20.Qc3+

Perhaps this is the time to get rid of the pesky knights. I didn't play 20.Nc1 because I had a blind spot, thinking the d3-knight could just retreat, leaving me with a c1-knight that would need to reposition.

I overlooked the rather obvious fact that the queen on d2 is attacking the b4-steed, so retreats from d3 are out of the question. 20... Nxc1 21.Rfxc1 Rfb8 22.Rc4+

20...Kg8 21.Qd4 Nc2??

White definitely has a small plus after 21...Qxd4 22.Nxd4, but those black knights are doing a good job blockading and generally interfering with White activity.

22.Qxd3 Nxa1  
23.Rxa1 Rab8  
24.Nd4 Rfc8?  
25.Nc6 Qf2  
26.Nxe7+ Kf8  
27.Nxc8 Rxc8  
28.Rd1 Rc2  
29.Qf1 Qe3 30.b4 Rf2 31.Qg1 Qe2  
31...Rxf3 32.e5  
32.Rb1 Qc2



Position after 32...Qc2

Now I'm quite sure I had prepared the simple 33.Rb2 here, winning more or less instantly. However I made the mistake of looking at the clock, and for some reason seeing 45 seconds freaked me out. Perhaps I forgot there was a five-second increment. Or perhaps I'm just so rusty that I forgot I could win the position in a third of that time. Or perhaps I had another blind spot, thinking the b-pawn was further advanced.

Anyway, for whatever reason, instead of playing any of the good moves like 33.Rb2, 33.Rc1, or 33.Ra1, I shot forward with

33.b5??

And after

33...Rxxg2 34.Qxxg2 Qxb1+ 35.Qg1 Qxb5

I missed 36.Qd1.

36.Nc3 Qd3

Even here 37.Qe1 is probably still winning.

Instead I gave away the knight(!), and played Q+4 vs Q+4. This shortly turned into a four vs four K+P ending, where Black played ...h5-h4(?), and after my king headed to g4 to munch the h-pawn and the white pawns advanced f4, e5, Black exchanged on e5, giving me a protected passed d-pawn. So I won a K+P ending after being up a rook.

Worse, at the end I had almost two minutes on my clock. Blitz.

1-0

The fifth game is played online, and I include it here, well, just because.

RD – opp3 [E73]  
Online blitz 5/05 FICS (1)  
February 28, 2017  
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Be2 0-0 6.Bg5 h6 7.Be3 Nbd7 8.Qd2 Kh7 9.h4 e5

Plans for Black involving ...c5 in the last few moves are much more promising.

10.d5 Nc5 11.f3 a5 12.g4 b6 13.h5 g5

**2017 BC Senior Championship**  
**June 16 – 18, 2017**





**Location:** Comfort Inn and Suites, 3020 Blanshard Street, Victoria BC.

**Entry Fee:** C\$50 up to May 15; C\$60 up to June 12 then C\$75. **Format:** 5 Rounds: Fri. 6pm, Sat. 10am and 3pm, Sun. 10am and 3pm.

- All equipment provided.
- Foreign players welcome.

**Further Details and Registration:**  
<http://victoriachessclub.pbworks.com>

**Accommodation:** Comfort Inn, 250-382-4400. C\$139/night; free parking, internet and hot breakfast. Mention Victoria Chess when booking.  
<http://www.comfortvictoria.ca/>

**Contact:** email [pc-leblanc@shaw.ca](mailto:pc-leblanc@shaw.ca)



Position after 13...g5

This is exactly what White was hoping for.

Black's normal King's Indian kingside play is completely gone now, and the attempt to blockade the dark squares on the queenside is doomed. Shereshevsky suggested a plan for White here involving Nh3, 0-0, Nf2, Nh1(!), Ng3, and Nf5. My feeling is White shouldn't be in too much of a hurry to plop into that outpost. Black will take, changing the pawn structure.

Breaking through with a c4-c5 juggernaut is much more satisfying.

14.Nh3 Ng8 15.Nf2 f6 16.Nd3 Rf7 17.b3 Bf8 18.0-0 Ba6 19.Rab1 Qc8 20.a3 Rb8 21.b4 axb4 22.axb4 Nd7 23.Nf2 Ra8 24.Nh1 Bb7 25.Ng3 Ne7 26.Rfc1 Bg7 27.Nb5 Ra4



Position after 27...Ra4

28.c5 bxc5 29.bxc5 dxc5 30.Bxc5 Nxc5 31.Rxc5 Ng8 32.Nd6 1-0

The week ends with a return flight to San Jose via Phoenix, and a taxi home. Quite the adventure. Roy says all the other kids in his kindergarten class go to Tahoe for vacations; nobody else does Texas. "When can we go back?"

## Anthony He Earns FIDE Master Title

By Xuhao He

Anthony He became Washington State's youngest ever FIDE Master on February 20, 2017, by scoring 5.5/9 at the 2017 Washington State Chess Championship in Redmond. He gained 93.6 points to boost his FIDE rating over

2300. Anthony achieved the title four days after he turned age 12. Anthony is currently the US number one FIDE-rated player in his age group (U-12). Congratulations, Anthony!



FM Anthony He.  
Photo Credit: Xuhao He.



## Catlin Gabel Chess Summer Camp

July 10-14, 2017

Hosted by: National Master Seth Talyansky, Hansen Lian, and founder of ChessVision and local coach, Tony Hann.  
Location: Catlin Gabel School, 8825 SW Barnes Rd, Portland, OR 97225.

*Catlin Gabel Chess Club*

Cost: \$175  
Ages: 8-13

*Catlin Gabel Chess Club*

Registration: Online at <http://www.catlin.edu/page.cfm?p=1003>  
Email [talyanskys@catlin.edu](mailto:talyanskys@catlin.edu) or [lian@catlin.edu](mailto:lian@catlin.edu) with questions.

Misc: Opportunity for scholastic immersion in Portland.  
Players of all skill levels welcome.  
Spread word to your friends and family!



Catlin Gabel

# The 2017 Neil Dale Memorial Northwest Chess Grand Prix

Murlin Varner, Administrator

As of the end of March, we had completed 19 Grand Prix events without yet involving Idaho. This changed in April, with the Idaho Open in Pocatello and the Boise Chess Club #13 coming on-board as a Grand Prix event. April also exceeded the output of each of the first three months with nine events, as compared to an average of 6 per month thus far in 2017. Along with the Idaho events, there were Events in Spokane, Tacoma, Seattle (2) and Portland (3), including the double value Clark Harmon Memorial on the first weekend of April.

May reverts to the earlier form, with six events, none of which are in Idaho. They are in Tacoma, Portland (2), Seattle (2) and Lynnwood. The one in Lynnwood is the biggie, the Washington Open, with \$7,000 in guaranteed prizes and a 5x multiplier for the Grand Prix. I invite all our Idaho friends to join us and carry all sorts of Grand Prix points home with you (no, I'm not offering lodging).

So far this year, 287 players have entered GP events 539 times. These include 14 Idahoans, 91 Oregonians, and 168 Washingtonians. Throw in another 14 from places like Canada, California, Montana, Minnesota, New York, and Rhode Island (this may be the first I've seen from that tiny state). August Piper and Viktors Pupols have each entered 8 events already this year. It is time for you (and me) to join into the fun. I'll see you at the Washington Open, if not before.

The data below are current through March 31, and use the peak ratings through April.

## Northwest Grand Prix Standings

Idaho*			Oregon			Washington		
last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.
<b>Masters</b>								
			1 Haessler	Carl A	32.5	1 Pupols	Viktors	32.5
			2 Cigan	Jason	19	2 Irgaliyev	Alikhan	29
			3 Zavortink	Matt	5	3 Collyer	Curt D	22
			3 Talyansky	Seth D	5	4 Tiglon	Bryce	11
			5			5 Two Tied at		6
<b>Experts</b>								
			1 Rachmuth	Moshe S	22	1 Julian	John	24
			2 Tobin	Sean	19.5	2 Arganian	David G	22
			3 Cosner	Karl	14.5	3 Zhang	Eric M	20
			4 Gatica	Jose M	12	3 Leslie	Cameron D	20
			5 Richardson	Ryan	4	5 Bashkansky	Naomi	17.5
<b>Class A</b>								
			1 Vega	Isaac	16	1 Anand	Vignesh	33
			2 Levin	Scott A	14.5	1 Shubin	Daniel	33
			3 Wu	Ethan	14	3 Yu	Jason	31.5
			3 Molchanov	Valentin I	14	4 Casey	Garrett W	29
			5 Surak	Steve S	12	4 Casey	Braxton W	29
<b>Class B</b>								
			1 Berger	Brian F	27.5	1 Kirsch	Ronald B	45.5
			2 Bean	James R	21	2 Beck	Alec W	31
			3 Havrilla	Nich A	20	3 Lopez	Fransisco J	30
			4 Holloran	William T, III	19	4 Velea	Stephanie	27
			5 Feldman	Konner	18.5	5 Two Tied at		26
<b>M/X/Class A</b>								
1 Maki	James J	26						
1 Cambareri	Michael E	26						
3 Havrilla	Mark A	22						
4 Roberts	Joseph D	20						
4 Buus	Jarod N	20						
4 Inman	James	20						
<b>Class B</b>								
1 Martonick	Nick	18						
<b>Class C</b>								
1 Weyland	Ron	20.5						
2 Geyman	Jonathan P	20						
3 Jaroski	Jeffrey A	15.5						
4 Courtney	Caleb	14						

Idaho*			Oregon			Washington					
last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.			
<b>Class D</b>			<b>Class C</b>								
1	Merry	William A F	16	1	Wu	Abbie	34	1	Piper	August	39.5
2	Wei	James	5.5	2	Tang	Zoey	23.5	2	Richards	Jerrold	30
3				3	Fudalla	Ian	21.5	3	Raffel	Brian	28.5
4				4	Hartig	Hugo J	18.5	4	Christy	John P	28
5				5	Two Tied at		16	5	Jiang	Brandon	27.5
<b>Class E and Below</b>			<b>Class D and Below</b>								
1	Callen	Gregory D	14	1	Wu	Kevin	33.5	1	Chung	Thomas W	26.5
2				2	Tang	Austin	15	2	Wagner	Shancie J	18
3				3	Feldman	Neena	11.5	2	Subramanian	Nithya	18
4				4	Beauchet	Pierre-Hadrien	11	4	Three Tied at		16
5				5	Falbo	Jean A	10				
<b>Overall Leaders, by State</b>											
1	Maki	James J	26	1	Wu	Abbie	34	1	Kirsch	Ronald B	45.5
1	Cambareri	Michael E	26	2	Wu	Kevin	33.5	2	Piper	August	39.5
3	Havrilla	Mark A	22	3	Haessler	Carl A	32.5	3	Anand	Vignesh	33
4	Weyland	Ron	20.5	4	Berger	Brian F	27.5	3	Shubin	Daniel	33
5	Roberts	Joseph D	20	5	Tang	Zoey	23.5	5	Pupols	Viktors	32.5
5	Buus	Jarod N	20	6	Rachmuth	Moshe S	22	6	Yu	Jason	31.5
5	Inman	James	20	7	Fudalla	Ian	21.5	7	Beck	Alec W	31
5	Geyman	Jonathan P	20	8	Bean	James R	21	8	Lopez	Fransisco J	30
9	Martonick	Nick	18	9	Havrilla	Nich A	20	8	Richards	Jerrold	30
10	Merry	William A F	16	10	Tobin	Sean	19.5	10	Irgaliyev	Alikhan	29
11	Jaroski	Jeffrey A	15.5	11	Cigan	Jason	19	10	Casey	Garrett W	29
12	Courtney	Caleb	14	11	Holloran	William T, III	19	10	Casey	Braxton W	29
12	Callen	Gregory D	14								

\*The Idaho Closed was not a Grand Prix event this year, so all of the below have played in Washington or Oregon. The first Idaho event of the year happened in April.

**REMEMBER TO KEEP  
SUBMITTING ARTICLES, GAMES,  
AND PHOTOS!**

# Seattle Chess Club Tournaments

Address ↙  
 → 2150 N 107 St, B85 ←  
 Seattle WA 98133  
 ↗ Infoline ↖  
 206-417-5405  
 seattlechess.club  
 kleistcf@aol.com  
 Address for Entries  
 SCC Tnmt Dir  
 2420 S 137 St  
 Seattle WA 98168

**May 6, June 3** **Seattle Masters #7, #8**  
**Format:** 3-SS, 2 sec— Master & Expert, FIDE-rated. **TC:** G/90; i30.  
**EF:** \$75 by 5 p.m., 5/5 (#7) or 6/2 (#8), afterwards \$90. **Prizes (b/15):**  
 \$450-325-225-125. **Reg:** 9-9:45 a.m. **Rds:** 10-2:30-7. **Misc:** US  
 Chess, WCF/OCF/ICA memb. req'd, OSA. NS, NC. **More details &**  
**eligibility:** see [www.nwchess.com](http://www.nwchess.com) or contact [joshsinanan@gmail.com](mailto:joshsinanan@gmail.com)  
 or call 206-769-3757

☞ **May 7, June 4** **Sunday Tornado** ☞  
**Format:** 4-SS. **TC:** G/60; d5. **EF:** \$18 (+\$7 fee for non-SCC). **Prizes:**  
 1st 35%, 2nd 27%, Bottom Half 1st 22%, 2nd 16% (\$10 from each EF  
 goes to prize fund). **Reg:** 10:30-11:15 a.m. **Rds:** 11:30-1:50-4:10-6:30.  
**Misc:** US Chess, WCF/OCF/ICA memb. req'd, OSA. NS, NC.

☞ **May 20, June 10** **Saturday Quads** ☞  
**Format:** 3-RR, 4-plyr sections by rating. **TC:** G/120; d5. **EF:** \$9 (+\$7  
 fee for non-SCC). **Prizes:** Free entry for future quad. **Reg:** 9:00-9:45  
 a.m. **Rds:** 10:00-2:15-ASAP. **Misc:** US Chess, WCF/OCF/ICA memb.  
 req'd, OSA. NS, NC.

**July 16** **SCC Novice**  
**Format:** 4-SS. Open to U1200 and UNR. **TC:** G/75; d5. **EF:** \$11  
 by 7/12, \$16 at site. (-\$2 SCC mem., -\$1 mem. other NW dues-req'd  
 CCs). **Prizes:** Memb (SCC, WCF, US Chess). **Reg:** 9-9:45a.m. **Rds:**  
 10-12:45-3:30-6. **Byes:** 1 (Rd 3/4—commit at reg.). **Misc:** US Chess  
 memb. req'd. NS, NC.

## SCC Annual Meeting, Fri. May 5

Come elect the SCC Board of Directors for the next twelve months!!

## Emerald City Open

June 23-25

A two-section, five-round Swiss with a time control of 40/120 & SD/60;d5 (Rd 1 of 2-day schedule – G/60;d5). The prize fund of \$1000 is based on fifty-eight entries.

*a Northwest Grand Prix event*

Open		Reserve (U1700)	
First	\$250	First	\$175
Second	\$160	Second	\$110
U1950	\$120	U1450	\$80
		Unr	\$25

**Upset (rds 1-4) \$20**

**Entry Fees:** \$36 if rec'd by 6/21, \$45 at site. **SCC members**—subtract \$10. Members of other dues-required CCs in BC, ID, OR, and WA—subtract \$5. **Unr**—free with purchase of 1-year US Chess and WCF. **Add \$1 to any EF for 2-day schedule.**

**Registration:** Fri. 7-7:45 p.m., Sat. 9-9:45 a.m.

**Rounds:** Fri. 8, Sat. (10 @ G/60;d5)-12:30-6:45, Sun. 11-5.

**Byes:** 2 (for Sunday rounds, commit at registration).

**Miscellaneous:** US Chess & WCF membership req'd. No smoking. No computers.

## May 13 Scrabble

See [www.seattlescrabble.org](http://www.seattlescrabble.org) for details.

## How to Find the SCC

Look for the Northway Square East Building, just across I-5 from Northgate Mall, with a large sign proclaiming "Northwest Kidney Centers." The main entrance is reached by turning east on N. 107th Street from Meridian Ave. N. The club is on the lower level.

*WooHoo!!*

*You can now register online for full-weekend SCC tournaments and make your tax-deductable donations at [www.seattlechess.club](http://www.seattlechess.club)*

# Upcoming Events

☞ denotes 2017 Northwest Grand Prix event; for Seattle Chess Club events see page 30

☞ **May 13/June 17** Portland CC Quad 45, **Portland, OR.** Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave., Portland, OR. 3-round quads, G/45;inc15. Some/all sections may run as a 3-round Swiss with more than four players. The most current (“live”) US Chess regular ratings are usually used for section placement. On-site registration runs from 9-9:45am. Rounds are scheduled for 10am, 12:30pm, and 3:00pm. Rounds 2 and 3 can be started earlier if both players agree. Players who have a game go long can request extra time off before the next round. EF: \$15, PCC members \$10, \$5 discount for each additional family member who lives in the same household, free entry for players who are unrated in US Chess. US chess and NWSRS rated. US Chess membership is required and can be purchased during on-site registration. Winner of each section receives \$10 discount on the entry fee for one of the next three PCC Quad 45 or Tuesday Quads. If there is a six or seven player Swiss, the runner-up receives \$5 discount. Scholastic awards: trophy for winning section with 3 points; smaller trophy for winning or tie for first with 2.5; medal for winning or tie for first with 2 or 1.5. OSCF State Qualifier. <http://pdxchess.org/>

☞ **May 13** Tacoma CC Pierce County Open Tornado **Tacoma, WA.** Format: 5 round Swiss. Time Control: G/30; d5. Entry Fee: Advance \$25, At the door \$30; Club members: Advance \$22, At the door \$27. Prize fund: 1st \$25, 2nd \$20; Top half & Bottom half. Rounds: 10:00, 11:15, 12:30, 2:00, 3:30. US Chess & state memberships required. W NS NC. One half-point bye available. Entries/Info: Gary J. Dorfner, 8423 E. B St., Tacoma, WA 98445. Phone (253) 535-2536 or email [ggarychess@aol.com](mailto:ggarychess@aol.com).

**May 20-22** Keres Memorial Open, **Victoria, BC (Canada).** <http://www.nwchess.com/calendar/TA.htm>

☞ **May 20/June 24** Portland CC Game in 60, **Portland, OR.** Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave., Portland, OR. 4SS, G/60;d5. If 30 or more entries the field will be divided into 2 sections by ratings. EF: \$20, \$5 discount for PCC Members. US Chess rated; OCF/WCF/ICA and US Chess membership required, OSA. No advance entries. Reg: 9:00-9:45 a.m. Byes: 1/2 point bye if requested at reg. Players who have a game go around the full time can request extra time off before the next round. Prizes: If one section (\$200/b20) \$60-\$40-\$30; U1800, U1500/unrated \$35 each. If two sections—upper section \$75-50-25 (b/15); lower section \$65-35; U1400/unrated \$50 (b/15). No tiebreakers (prizes split). OSCF State Qualifier. Info: [email@pdxchess.org](mailto:email@pdxchess.org), phone 503-246-2978, <http://pdxchess.org/>

☞ **May 27-29** Washington Open, **Lynnwood, WA.** (See full-page ad on page 18)

☞ **June 10-11** Portland Summer Open, **Portland, OR.** Site: Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave, Portland, OR. Format: US Chess rated, two days, two sections (Open and U1800), 5-round Swiss. Time Control: 40/90, SD/30, d5. Byes: 2 half-point byes available if requested before 1st round. Entry fee: \$35, \$10 discount to PCC members. Registration: 9:00- 9:45 a.m. on Saturday. Limited to first 50 entrants. Rounds: Saturday 10:00, 2:15 & 6:30; Sunday 10:00 & 2:15. Players who have a game go around the full time can request extra time off before the next round. Prizes: \$650 based on 40 total entries. Open: 1st \$150, 2nd \$100, U2000 \$75; Reserve: 1st \$100, 2nd \$75; U1600, U1400, U1200/unrated each \$50. No tiebreakers used, prizes split between players with the same results. Memberships: US Chess and OCF/WCF/ICA required and can be purchased or renewed at registration, OSA. OCF Invitational Qualifier. OSCF State Qualifier.

**June 16-18** 2017 Canadian Senior Championship, **Vancouver, BC.** (See Quarter-page ad page 26)

☞ **June 17** ICA & ICU Players’ Memorial, **Mountain Home, ID.** 4SS, Time Control: G/30 d5. Sections: Open (Rocky Mountain Rated). Site: Mountain Home Public Library, 790 N 10th E St, Mountain Home, Idaho. EF: Free! Donations only. Check in: 10-11am. Rd. times: 11am, 12pm, 1pm, 2pm. 1/2 pt bye avail: Max 1, Rds. 1-3 only. 1st Rd., before Rd. 2 is paired. Prizes: 1st-3rd Chess Books. INFO: ICA, Contact: [idahochessassociation@gmail.com](mailto:idahochessassociation@gmail.com), Online registration at [www.idahochessassociation.com](http://www.idahochessassociation.com).

☞ **June 17** Evergreen Empire Open, **Tacoma, WA.** Site: Metro Parks Community Center, 3515 Portland Ave. E., Tacoma, WA. Format: 3 round Swiss. Time Control: G/90;d5. Entry Fee: Advance \$25, at site \$30; TCC members: Advance \$22, at site \$27. Prize fund: 1st \$25.00, 2nd \$20.00, Top half & Bottom half. Rounds: 10:00, 1:30, 4:45. US Chess & WCF memberships required. W, NS, NC. Entries/Info: Gary J. Dorfner, 8423 E. B St., Tacoma, WA 98445, phone (253) 535-2536 or email [ggarychess@aol.com](mailto:ggarychess@aol.com).

**July 10-14** Chess Camp at Catlin Gabel School, **Portland, OR.** (See half-page ad page 27)

Northwest Chess  
c/o Orlov Chess Academy  
4174 148th Ave NE, Building I, Suite M  
Redmond, WA 98052-5164

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