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***The 2012 Dr. Ralph Hall
Northwest Chess Grand Prix
results are in...***

FM Nick Raptis



Northwest Chess

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Nick Raptis at the 2012 Western Idaho Open. Photo credit: Jeff Roland.

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From the Business Manager's Desk

by Eric Holcomb

On behalf of everyone at Northwest Chess, I'd like to welcome you to another year of chess activity, albeit a month late since you won't be reading this until around the end of January. 2012 was a big year, highlighted by the U.S. Open in Vancouver, Washington. I was unable to attend, but Frank Niro stepped up as Interim Editor to produce a wonderful 48-page special edition of *Northwest Chess* for those who did attend. By the end of the year, Jeff Roland of Idaho took over as Editor, and he's doing a great job; probably the most dedicated editor we've ever had! Jeff has also spearheaded the inclusion of the Idaho Chess Association as a full partner in Northwest Chess, and Idaho joined the Northwest Chess Grand Prix in 2012. (The 2012 GP was named in honor of Ralph Hall; the 2013 GP will likely be named in honor of Elena Donaldson Akhmylovskaya.)

Back issues of *Northwest Chess* are now available in full color as PDF files three months after publication, and a total of about 300 issues of *Northwest Chess* and *Washington Chess Letter* dating back to 1947 are now available online, with the expectation that we'll add about another 100 issues this year. Take a look; some of these back issues are quite interesting, even if you're a bit rusty on the old descriptive chess notation. Included in the 300 issues are all the 1972 magazines with the Fischer-Spassky world championship games. Speaking of games, Jeff is also compiling PGN and ChessBase files of games appearing in *Northwest Chess* beginning last December. This makes it much easier if you would like to follow and analyze the printed games with your favorite chess software. (Click on the "Games" tab on the NWC website to access this feature.)



*Eric Holcomb at the 2012 Oregon Open.
Photo credit: Jeff Roland*

Beginning this year, the new Northwest Chess blog at <http://www.nwchess.com/blog/> will be the primary means of reporting many local tournament results, aside from the official USCF crosstables, which will usually be linked to in the blog post. The change in reporting will free up my time to perform other tasks, while providing much greater flexibility in tournament reporting since blog posts can be longer and can be written by multiple bloggers with greater knowledge of the events they report on. If you would like to be a NWC blogger, please let me know. Of course more detailed reports, photos and annotated games will continue to appear in *Northwest Chess* magazine each month.

Northwest Chess budget – While not as momentous as our Federal Government's "Fiscal Cliff," Northwest Chess could face its own financial shortcoming in 2013. Since late 2010, NWC has sold discounted three-year memberships with great success, however many of those memberships aren't due for renewal until 2014 or 2015, so I am projecting a potential budget shortfall of up to about \$4,000 in 2013, which would wipe out our current budget reserve and perhaps delay magazine publication.

To partially address this situation, the NWC board is considering raising some of the discounted membership and advertising rates effective April 1, 2013. Members would be encouraged to renew at the old rates before then, generating extra revenue. For example, the adult membership/subscription rate would remain at \$25 for one year, but increase from \$60 to \$65 for three years. The junior membership/subscription rate would increase to \$19 for one year and \$45 for three years. By the March issue, I should be able to let everyone know what rate changes have been implemented. But if you haven't taken advantage of the three-year rates yet, or you want to add another three years now, by all means do so before it's too late! You can mail a check or money order, or use PayPal online. Thanks!

A few people have expressed an interest in subscribing to an online-only edition of *Northwest Chess*. At present, we are too small to make this practical. If the number of copies printed and mailed were reduced from the present 600 to say 300 per month, the cost per printed and mailed copy (which is now very reasonable) would become too high. In addition, there are many people who enjoy having a paper copy in their hands for reading or study at the chessboard, and the printing process we use is likely far more economical than ink for your printer at home! Nonetheless, we understand the importance of online editions as noted above, and a few years down the road that might be the only way to go. For now, continue to enjoy the feel of paper and that little bit of ink that rubs off!

One final thing – the state chess championships will be held in February for all three of our NWC states (See page 20 for more details). Washington and Oregon are invitational events – see links on the NWC website calendar for the special webpages I've set up for these events. The Idaho championship is "closed" to outsiders but open to all Idaho residents – see the ICA website for details.

Eric

The 2012 Dr. Ralph Hall Northwest Chess Grand Prix Final Results

by Murlin Varner, chess statistician

Well, here they are -- the final standings of the 2012 Dr. Ralph Hall Memorial Northwest Chess Grand Prix. Player points were accrued in 79 events held in 11 cities throughout the Northwest. At every event points were awarded based on the player's final score, plus a two point bonus for completing the schedule. Byes and HPBs were ok and preserved the bonus, withdrawals, forfeits and zero-point byes did not. In examining the prize list, it is remarkable how many prizes were decided by three points or less, some by as little as half a point! Caleb Kircher, Cody Gorman, Adam Porth, Savanna Naccarato, Lloyd Blake, Dagadu Gaikwad, Arliss Dietz, and Andrea Botez all claimed their prizes by three points or less!

The overall winners were not so close, however. In Idaho, Jeffrey Roland outdistanced Cameron Leslie by 11 points (19.6%). Washington's Stephen Buck exceeded Marcell Szabo by 42.5 points (18.4%). And Nick Raptis scored the largest margin of victory in Oregon, gaining 79.5 points more than Yogi Saptura (48.9%). Nick's margin would have been larger except we had to back out the Portland Chess Shop Rapid for failure to pay the GP fee. Both Raptis and Buck are repeat winners for their respective states. Roland is the winner in the inaugural year of the GP in Idaho.

There are cash prizes in each state for first and second in each class, with an additional prize for the first overall equal to the first place class prize. The prizes are determined by the attendance at tournaments within that state throughout the year. A player can gain points by playing in GP tournaments in any of the three states, but the credit for turnout at a tournament stays with that state. This year, the prizes were as follows: in Idaho, \$20.20 and \$10.10; in Oregon \$49.00 and \$24.50; in Washington \$118.36 and \$59.18. There is no prize for players from outside our three state area, other than that warm feeling that comes with bragging rights. Daniel McCourt of Montana has earned those rights this year.

Now it is time to make your move for the 2013 Grand Prix. Some people already have. On the first weekend of January, 48 players turned out for the 2x Gresham Open. Our early leaders are Becca Lampman of Washington with 13 points and clear first in Gresham, Jason Cigan, Michael Morris and Yogi Saptura of Oregon with 12 points each, and Cameron Leslie of Idaho with 10 points. Of course, the weekend after I write this, there will be a 2x event in Seattle, too, but if you didn't know that already, you missed it. For February, our biggest event is the annual Dave Collyer Memorial in Spokane, a triple points event.

Northwest Grand Prix Standings

Idaho			Oregon			Washington		
last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.
Masters								
			1 Raptis	Nick	162.5	1 Feng	Roland	135.5
			2 Haessler	Carl A	50	2 Pupols	Viktors	122
			3 Gay	Daniel Z	38	3 Sinanan	Joshua C	97.5
			3 Movsisyan	Movses	24	4 Collyer	Curt D	73
			5 Prochaska	Peter	4.5	5 Bragg	David R	69
M/X/Class A								
1 Leslie	Cameron D	45	1 Saputra	Yogi	83	1 Bartron	Paul R	142.5
2 Kircher	Caleb P	36	2 Esler	Brian J	56.5	2 He	Samuel F	104.5
3 Havrilla	Mark A	33	3 Tezcan	Yaman	50.5	3 Lee	Nathan Y	98
4 Joshi	Kairav	27.5	4 Janniro	Mike E	47.5	4 He	Daniel M	89.5
5 Johnson	Paul M.	22	5 Gutman	Richard G	47	5 Lee	Megan	80

Class B			Class A								
1	Roland	Jeffrey T	56	1	Sherrard	Jerry	61	1	Buck	Stephen J	230.5
2	Gorman	Cody A	42.5	2	Cigan	Jason	51.5	2	Szabo	Marcell	186
3	Bodie	Brad	39.5	3	Bannon	David T	44	3	Nagase	Masayuki	125.5
4	Niro	Frank A	29.5	4	Sun	Maxwell S	37	4	Krasin	Jeremy	93.5
5	Olsoy	Peter J	26	5	Eagles	Roland	35	5	Fields	Noah D	89.5
Class C			Class B								
1	Weyland	Ronald M	43.5	1	Gaikwad	Dagadu B	80.5	1	Ramesh	Jothi N	142.5
2	Brown	Nicholas R	22	2	Sato-Duncan	Takuma	78.5	2	Nagase	Toshihiro	138
3	Pemsler	Carmen	18	3	Hasuike	Mike L	46.5	3	Wang	James	113.5
4	Ruberry	Samuel J C	13.5	4	Burris	Christopher E	43	4	Dutton	Carl	113
5	Bruck	Nick J	8.5	5	Mueller-Warrant	Alexander G	38.5	5	Davis	Frederick A	102
Class D			Class C								
1	Jaroski	Jeffrey A	38	1	Doddapaneni	Venkat S	53	1	Piper	August	121
2	Porth	Adam	34	2	Dietz	Arliss	48.5	2	Cherepakhin	Olga	84
3	Patterson	Kevin R	31	3	Murphy	Dmitri M	48	3	Deshpande	Aaryan H	80.5
4	Hollingsworth	Gary M	27.5	4	Stevens	Matthew	45	4	Bashkansky	Naomi	71
5	Lang	Jamie	22.5	5	Sharan	Praveer	41.5	5	Li	Jiangyu	70
Class E and Below			Class D and Below								
1	Naccarato	Savanna	30.5	1	Buerer	Harry F	57	1	Richards	Jerrold	116
2	Blake	Lloyd W	30	2	Botez	Andrea C C	40	2	Chalasanani	Sujatha D	98
3	Buus	Jarod N	27.5	3	Wu	Ethan	39.5	3	Thakur	Asher	80.5
4	Nathan	Jacob A	24.5	4	Aditya	Neal	28	4	Thakur	Eamon	78.5
5	Two tied at		22.5	5	Uan-Zo-Li	Sean A	27	5	Haining	Breck	76.5
Overall Winners, by State											
1	Roland	Jeffrey T	56	1	Raptis	Nick	162.5	1	Buck	Stephen J	230.5
2	Leslie	Cameron D	45	2	Saputra	Yogi	83	2	Szabo	Marcell	186
3	Weyland	Ronald M	43.5	3	Gaikwad	Dagadu B	80.5	3	Bartron	Paul R	142.5
4	Gorman	Cody A	42.5	4	Sato-Duncan	Takuma	78.5	3	Ramesh	Jothi N	142.5
5	Bodie	Brad	39.5	5	Sherrard	Jerry	61	5	Nagase	Toshihiro	138
6	Jaroski	Jeffrey A	38	6	Buerer	Harry F	57	6	Feng	Roland	135.5
7	Kircher	Caleb P	36	7	Esler	Brian J	56.5	7	Nagase	Masayuki	125.5
8	Porth	Adam	34	8	Doddapaneni	Venkat S	53	8	Pupols	Viktors	122
9	Havrilla	Mark A	33	9	Cigan	Jason	51.5	9	Piper	August	121
10	Patterson	Kevin R	31	10	Tezcan	Yaman	50.5	10	Richards	Jerrold	116
11	Naccarato	Savanna	30.5	11	Haessler	Carl A	50	11	Wang	James	113.5
12	Blake	Lloyd W	30	12	Dietz	Arliss	48.5	12	Dutton	Carl	113

More NWGP Final Reports continued on page 7

2012 Dr. Ralph Hall Northwest Chess Grand Prix Overall State Winners

Nick Raptis, Oregon Winner



*Nick Raptis, at the 2012 Western Idaho Open.
Photo credit: Jeff Roland.*

Featured on this month's cover is FM Nick Raptis, Oregon's highest rated player with a USCF rating of 2353 at the beginning of 2013. Nick, who is a member of the Portland Chess Club, had a banner year in 2012. He played in 52 USCF sanctioned tournaments during the year.

Nick started the year on a strong note, winning the 2012 Gresham Open in January with a score of 4½-½. Fellow master Steven Breckenridge provided plenty of competition at Gresham, but Steven came in second with four points. In March Nick won the Portland Chess Club's 2012 Spring Open with a perfect score of five straight wins. On the Labor Day weekend, Nick won the Portland Chess Club sponsored 2012 Oregon Open then followed up in October by winning his home club's Portland Fall Open with a score of 4-1. Nick finished the month of October by winning five straight games to take the Portland Chess Club Championship. He capped off the year by taking second in the Western Idaho Open, with a score of 4-1, losing

only to Grandmaster Alex Yermolinsky, who won the tournament. Following is a list of Nick's NWGP record since 2002:

- 2002 – OR 1st Master and overall
- 2003 – OR 1st Master and overall
- 2004 – OR 1st Master and overall
- 2005 – WA 1st Master
- 2006 – WA 1st Master and overall
- 2007 – OR 1st Master
- 2008 – OR 1st Master and overall
- 2009 – OR 1st Master and overall
- 2010 – OR 1st Master and overall
- 2011 – OR 1st Master and overall
- 2012 – OR 1st Master and overall

Nick does not limit his chess playing to games for blood. Occasionally he can be found demonstrating a love for the game at the Portland Chess Club's Casual Nights on Wednesdays, patiently showing a beginner how the pieces move or respectfully discussing a puzzle solution with a novice.

Jeff Roland, Idaho Winner



Jeff Roland, taken at the Nampa Chess Club. Photo credit: Jeff Roland and Katie Sorenson.

This is Idaho's first year in the NWGP. Jeff Roland of Boise, Idaho, whose current rating is 1700, was not in the lead throughout most of the year. Jeff was

not even in the top 10 until the report in the October 2012 issue of *NWC*. Leslie Cameron of Moscow, Idaho, was in the lead throughout most of the year. In fact, it was not until last month's January 2013 issue that Jeff finally topped the list knocking Leslie down to second place at the finish line. Jeff played in every over-the-board tournament he could (15 USCF sanctioned tournaments in 2012), and his individual tournament results suffered because he was also Chief Tournament Director in many of those events.

The high point of the year for Jeff as a player was likely the first round of the U.S. Open held in Vancouver, WA, in August (but that didn't count toward the NWGP). It was there that Jeff got a chance to play David Rupel for the first time since losing to him at the 1984 Washington Open – a game that profoundly affected Jeff and taught him a very valuable lesson in chess and in life about over-confidence and humility. To get a chance to play David Rupel again after all that time (27 years) was a major event for Jeff. The result of this new game was that Jeff never offered a draw (in 1984, it was events surrounding offering a draw that essentially cost him the game), and he played hard the entire game, having the utmost respect for his opponent, and was able to earn a well-deserved draw in a well-played game. Jeff made a new friend at the same time too (Rupel), which is one of the main reasons Jeff plays chess in the first place. And it was during that game that Jeff first saw Nick Raptis (who seemed very interested in the game, even when watching from a couple tables away). At that time Jeff didn't know Nick by sight. It was not until the next day that Jeff learned that it was none other than Raptis who was watching his game with Rupel.

The Oregon Open, held only a few weeks after the U.S. Open, put Jeff into the top 10 for Idaho's NWGP race for the

first time and is probably the next most significant experience as a player for him during the year. Jeff played up into a section where every player was rated at least 200 points higher, giving him great experience, and was very enjoyable. One might recall the “battle of the Rolands” game that was at the bottom of page 10 of the October issue of *Northwest Chess*. That was a nice game to finish off that event. This event has given Jeff a longing to go back to Oregon and play more chess there.

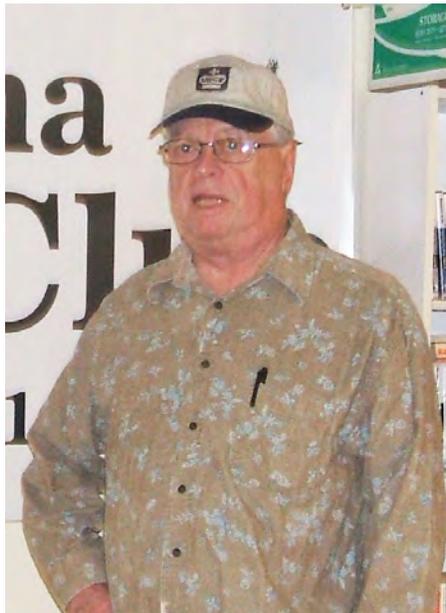
Following is a list of Jeff’s NWGP record:

2012 – ID 1st Class B and overall

The most significant tournament in Idaho in 2012 was undoubtedly the Western Idaho Open, which was the last tournament in Idaho for the year. As organizer and Chief TD of the event, Jeff worked very hard on it for several months before the event was actually played. In addition to the more common tasks associated with organizing a chess tournament, Jeff also obtained donations from several of his friends enabling a higher prize fund to be guaranteed without being based on entries. This gave it the status of a USCF Grand Prix which made the event more attractive to out of state players. It was also the first FIDE-rated event ever held in Idaho as well as the first time a GM competed in a USCF-rated event in Idaho. Eight scholarships were offered to allow students to play for free (yet only three took advantage of that opportunity). It will probably be remembered as one of Jeff’s most memorable achievements as a tournament organizer. As a player, Jeff scored only two points out of five and tied for 15th-19th place. And yet, it was this result that put Jeff over the top in terms of points to win the overall competition for NWGP for 2012.

Stephen J. Buck, Washington Winner

Stephen came to Washington circa 1992 and was originally from the Boston area. Stephen resides in Tacoma and has a current USCF rating of 1708. He



*Stephen J. Buck, taken at the Tacoma Chess Club.
Photo credit: Gary Dorfner.*

was Vice President of the Tacoma Chess Club, then later became President. Stephen played in 40 USCF sanctioned tournaments during 2012. Stephen attends the Tacoma Chess Club frequently.

Stephen did a lot of traveling in 2012 playing all throughout the Northwest. Some of his highlights include the Gresham Open, 20th Dave Collyer Memorial, Clark Harmon Memorial (where he placed second in his section), Washington Open, Oregon Class Championship, Oregon Senior Open, Oregon Open, Seattle Fall Open, Oyster Bay Inn Classic, and the Challengers Cup. He also played in many other NWC tournaments throughout the year.

Stephen ended the year with a pretty commanding lead in NWGP points in a state that is very active in chess. The NWGP program is set up to reward participation in over-the-board tournaments, so it is no small achievement for him to win the top honors for Washington in 2012 with so many active players also going for the top honors.

Following is a list of Stephen’s NWGP record since 2003:

2003 – WA 1st Class A and overall
 2004 – WA 1st Class A
 2005 – WA 1st Class B
 2006 – WA 1st Class A
 2007 – WA 3rd Class A (no prize)
 2008 – WA 1st Class B and overall
 2009 – WA 1st Class B
 2010 – WA 3rd Class A (no prize)
 2011 – WA 1st Class A and overall
 2012 – WA 1st Class A and overall

So this is his 8th 1st place in a class and 4th overall!

More NWGP Final Reports continued from page 5

Players from Other Places					
	last	first	state	rating	pts.
1	McCourt	Daniel J	MT	1803	55.5
2	Anthony	Ralph J	TN	1660	43
3	Sellers	Matthew B	MI	2149	32
4	Gedajlovic	Max	CAN	1160	30
5	Landingin	Jofrel	CAN	1968	28
5	Donaldson	John	CA	2408	28
7	Kennedy	Tim	MT	1496	26
7	Le Blanc	Paul	CAN	1856	26
9	Doknjas	Neil	CAN	1095	24
9	Roback	Joe	CAN	1903	24
11	Shan	Botao	LA	1655	23
12	three tied at				22

Players in GP Database: 2012					
class	Idaho	Oregon	Washington	Other	totals
Master	0	5	16	5	26
Expert	0	16	34	7	57
Class A	9	25	58	17	109
Class B	22	27	80	15	144
Class C	6	30	44	9	89
Class D & below*	41	47	130	8	226
Totals	78	150	362	61	651

* in Idaho, 8 participants are in Class D and 33 are in Class E & below.

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of Chess Life, or visit www.renochess.org/fwo

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(2199/below) - \$1000 - 500 - 300 - 200 (If a tie for 1st then a playoff for \$100 out of prize fund plus trophy).

Sec."A" - (1800-1999) EF: \$136; \$1,000-500-400-300-200-100-100.

Sec."B" - (1600-1799) EF: \$135; \$900-500-400-300-200-100-100.

Sec."C" - (1400-1599) EF: \$134; \$700-500-400-300-200-100-100.

Sec."D"/under - (1399-below) EF: \$133; \$600-400-300-200-100-100-100;

Top Senior (65+) - \$200; **Club Champ.** - \$400-200.

Thursday 3/28: 6 - 7:15 pm - Lecture by IM John Donaldson (FREE).

7:30 pm - GM Sergey Kudrin- Simul. (\$20)

7:30 pm - Blitz (5 min) Tourney (\$20) 80% entries = Prize Fund

Saturday 3/30: 3 - 4:30 pm - FREE Game/Position Analysis - IM John Donaldson

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Ask for code: CHESS0329

For TLA and to confirm receipt of entry see player list at: www.renochess.org/fwo

ENTRY FORM - 13th Annual Larry Evans Memorial (formerly Far West Open) - Reno, Nevada - March 29-31, 2013
Mail to: Sands Regency Casino Hotel - 345 N. Arlington Avenue - Reno NV 89501

PRINT Name _____ Daytime Phone _____ USCF/FIDE Rating _____
Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
USCF I.D. Number _____ Exp. Date _____ **All pre-registered players please check in at tournament desk on arrival.**

ENTRY FEE ENCLOSED: (CIRCLE SECTION AND FEE BELOW) BYE(S) REQUESTED FOR ROUND(S): (CIRCLE) 1 2 3 4 5 6

----- OPEN SECTION -----			"A"	"B"	"C"	"D and Under"	UNRATED
GM/IM	Masters/Experts	1999-Below	1800-1999	1600-1799	1400-1599	1200-1399	Free With
Free	\$137	\$151	\$136	\$135	\$134	\$133	USCF Dues

FEES ALSO ENCLOSED FOR:
 Hotel Deposit \$30.38* (Weekday) or
 Hotel Deposit \$47.40* (Fri. & Sat.)
 \$20 Thursday-Simul. GM Sergey Kudrin
 \$20 Thursday Blitz (5 Min.)
 USCF Dues - \$49
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Oregon Chess News

Portland Winter Open

The rainy weather might have encouraged the good attendance. 42 players showed up for the Portland Chess Club event on December 15 & 16, 19 in the Open section and 23 in the Reserve. There were plenty of surprises and upsets. In the Open section Steve Breckenridge of Gresham, and Andrew Larson (a B player from Clackamas) shared 1st/2nd with four points each. Breckenridge took a half-point bye in round four, and drew Bill Heywood of Portland in the last round. Heywood, Alfred Pechisker, and James Chan (the latter two from Vancouver, B.C.) finished with 3½ each. The U-2000 honors and prize money were split between Becca Lampman of Vancouver, WA, Sam R. O'Bar from Tennessee and Matt Dalthorp of Albany, with three points each.

Dillon Murray of Gresham, was the clear winner in the reserve section with a perfect 5–0 score. Bradley Bogle and Valentin Molchanov of Beaverton, scored four points each for a tie for 2nd/3rd. The U-1400 prize was claimed by Andrea Botez of Happy Valley, with 3½, while Patrick Le of Happy Valley, and E. Stern-Rodriguez of Portland shared the U-1200 prize with three points each.

—Neil Dale, Tournament Director

The following is a letter from a student at Happy Valley Middle School about his first tournament experience at the Portland Winter Open.—Editor

“My First Rated Tournament”

By Patrick Le (contributing reader)

December 21, 2012

I started playing chess when I was six, but never played in any USCF-rated tournament until at the age of 13. My first USCF tournament, the Portland Winter Open, was held at Portland Chess



Patrick Le in his first USCF rated tournament, the Portland Winter Open. Photo credit: Andrei Botez

Club from December 15–16, 2012.

Waking up on the day of the tournament felt surprisingly calm. I wasn't feeling scared or nervous but rather excited and confident going into the tournament. I knew my playing strength was strong and I would play to the best of my ability.

When I arrived at the Portland Chess Club, I was the underdog. I was the only unrated player in the tournament. In my first match against Praveer Sharan of Lake Oswego, I was confused about the time control. The time control was 30 moves in 90 minutes; sudden death in 30 minutes with five second delay. I thought I had to checkmate the opponent in 30 moves within 90 minutes. So when I had the winning position, I had to carefully think which way was the fastest way to checkmate the opponent. I won later only using 27 moves in 44 minutes. After the match while waiting

for my next pairing, I talked to my school club coach about my thought of the time control during my last match. He laughed when hearing about this and explained to me how the time control worked.

Later on in the day, I drew my second round and took a bye in the third round. I came home with two points and looked forward to the next day of the tournament. The following day was more difficult as I moved to higher boards. I played against Adam Culbreth of Portland in the fourth round where I had only one minute and 30 seconds left on the clock after playing almost two hours, I secured the win and moved on to my final round. In my final match I blundered and lost the game. My rook got captured, an important piece of my defense and attack against the opponent.

At the end of the tournament, I had three points out of five and received a small prize. I also received my first rating of 1631, and my goal was achieved and accomplished. I was very happy with the result at my first USCF-rated chess tournament.

“A Back And Forth Upset”

By Dave Prideaux (contributing reader)

I like to play with emotion while at the same time doing sound and smart moves. When those two styles combine into one, seamless strategy, I'm happy. I'm a holistic gamer, and not so much a cold-as-steel calculator. I'm still learning how to study a board.



At a recent Oregon event, the Portland Winter Open, I faced a formidable opponent. His rating loomed well beyond my reach and he might have intimidated me psychologically. But I held my own. I was tickled pink. After having racked up enough tournament experience, I've now learned to keep my emotions under control. The following game shows much back-and-forth tension. The "lead" changed several times. In the end my strong opponent saw I had accumulated a small, significant advantage. Graciously he resigned – with a smile – and was a good sport. He didn't make me "prove it" (show that I knew how to close the deal).

Dave Prideaux (1093) – Dan Dalthorp (1703) [B14]
Portland Winter Open Portland
R1, Dec. 15, 2012
{Notes by Dave Prideaux
{or Ralph Dubisch where indicated}}

1.e3 c5

I've won a number of tournament games lately with this irregular opening e3. I'm still experimenting with its variations. I sometimes think of it as a "reverse French". Why do I do it? I like going off the beaten track.

2.d4 cxd4 3.exd4 d5 4.c4 Nf6 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.Nc3 e6 7.Bg5 Be7

{The "irregular" 1.e3 has transposed into a normal line of the Panov-Botvinnik Attack in the Caro Kann. – Dubisch}

8.Bd3 h6 9.Bf4 0–0 10.0–0 Bd6

So far, both sides are making solid moves. Now Black has begun to try to wrest the initiative away from White.

{This is a serious positional error by Black. The dark-square bishop is his good bishop, so he should not want to exchange it. Further, part of White's strategy in this opening is to create and use a queenside pawn majority by advancing c4-c5. So White should take advantage by playing 11.Bxd6 Qxd6 12.c5, all with tempo, and claim a clear advantage. – Dubisch}

11.Qd2 dxc4 12.Bxc4 Qc7

I'm feeling defensive here. Should I or

should I not be conservative? I thought about my style. I decided "Why not go for it?" Bold often wins the day.

13.Bxh6

I'm willing to sacrifice a bishop for two pawns, gaining a good position and keeping the initiative.

13...gxh6 14.Qxh6 Nh7

A sound and careful move by Black.

15.Bd3

{Maybe best is 15.Nb5 Qe7 16.Nxd6 Qxd6 17.Ng5 Nxe5 18.Qxe5+ Kh7 and White can force a draw right away. – Dubisch}

15...f5 16.Rae1

Perhaps Qg6+ was better here - ?

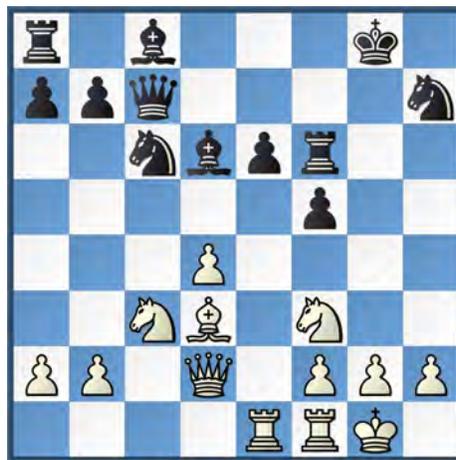
{16.Nb5 helps a little. – Dubisch}

16...Rf6

A good move; now he has the initiative.

17.Qd2

Prepares for Qe2 next



17...Bf4

{17...Nxd4! 18.Nxd4 Bxh2+ 19.Kh1 Bf4 wins the queen with the threat of ...Rh6+, ...Bh2+, ...Bg1+, and ...Qh2#. – Dubisch}

18.Qe2 Rh6

He has kept his momentum going since

two moves ago.

19.g3 Bd6

By driving his piece backward and protecting my king, I have been able to swing the momentum again to White's favor and to my liking.

20.d5

This proved a good move and made him back up further. Up through his 23rd move I remained in control.

20...Ne7 21.dxe6 b6 22.Nb5 Qd8 23.Nxd6

{23.Rd1 creates complications that really do favor White. – Dubisch}

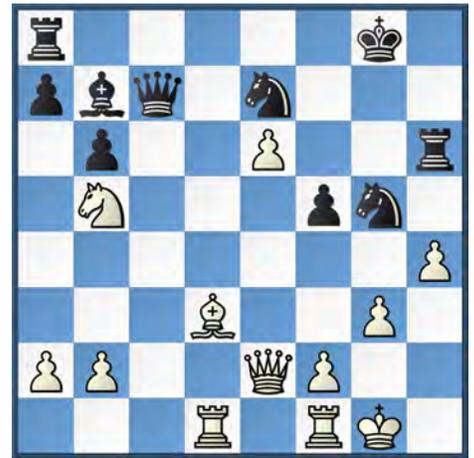
23...Qxd6

He evens the score.

24.Rd1 Qc7 25.Nd4 Ng5 26.h4 Bb7

I knew I had to be very careful in this position. And his next move did scare me.

27.Nb5



27...Nf3+

Carefully analyzing this, I made the right move here with Qxf3. When the exchanging ended, I was ahead by a minor piece! Pretty exciting stuff for a lower-rated underdog.

{Black wins the house or forces mate with 27...Rxh4!! i.e. 28.Nxc7 (28.gxb4 Nb3#; 28.f3 Qxe3+ 29.Qg2 Nb3+ 30.Kb1 Nj2+ 31.Kg1 Rb1#; 28.f4 Qc5+ 29.Nd4

Qxd4+ 30.Qe3 Qxe3+ 31.Rf2 Rb1#) 28... Rh1# – Dubisch}

28.Qxf3 Bxf3 29.Nxc7 Rc8 30.Rc1 f4 31.Bb5 Rf8 32.Bd7 Bg4

{White won back the minor piece he sacrificed earlier, which leaves him up by three pawns. His next move starts giving some of them back. – Dubisch}

33.f3 Bh3

We have been making give and take, repeat threats since 29. ...Rc8.

34.Rfe1 fxg3

Now he's on the march again. I've got to come up with something to slow him down. After considerable weighing of options I again decided to "go for it" and create some commotion. I trusted the resulting action would carry me along.

35.Nd5 Nxd5

A knight sacrifice clears the way for my pawn's advance.

{Unfortunately it also gives away all of White's advantage and then some, offering two minor pieces and a pawn for a rook. – Dubisch}

36.e7 Bxd7

I wanted to wipe out his rook and break up threats down f, g and h files.

37.exf8Q+ Kxf8 38.Re4 Rf6

As we have now pulled even in material, we begin to jockey for position again. The strain and drama is emotional and I'm holding my own. I stay firm and resolute.

39.Kg2 Nf4+

I think he made a mistake here, letting me get a pawn up again.

40.Kxg3 Nd3 41.Rd1 Rg6+

I like the feeling of some momentum coming my way now.

42.Kh2 Nc5 43.Rf4+ Kg7

Here I pause to consider a rook exchange. This could reinforce the advantage I'm sensing. I like the idea of "rook and 4 pawns versus knight, bishop and 2 pawns."

44.Rg1

{The rook exchange on g1 is only roughly equal. White can try to work the overloaded black pieces with 44.b4 Ba4 forced to avoid material loss. 45.Re1 Ne6 (45...Nd3 46.Re7+ Kb6 47.Rd4 and White's active rooks hit the a7-pawn and cause problems for the black knight.) 46.Rg4 hoping to exchange on g4 instead, getting the pawns back together. – Dubisch}

44...Rxc1

Yet again, I choose to "go for it." Seems reasonable enough, I think. My intuition says "yes."

45.Kxg1 Be6 46.b3

Protects a2

46...a5 47.h5 Bf7

His moves Be6 and a5 seem relatively weak. So I am emboldened to counter with h5. It feels strong and assertive.

48.h6+

Black resigns. His defensive move Bf7 led me naturally to consider a check. It was an intuitive hunch, a flash of insight. He can't take the pawn because I'll snap up his bishop. Also, he can't move out of check because my pawn will make its way on down to h8. He saw I had a clear, winning position. But still, I was surprised when he resigned because I was prepared to "fight to the end" by paring down his material. Now the bishop. Later the knight, a pawn, etc. 1-0

Becca Lampman wins Gresham Open

Becca Lampman of Vancouver, WA defeated Carl Haessler of Lake Oswego in the last round to claim the title, the \$240 first prize, and most importantly a place in the chess history of the Pacific Northwest. She is the first of the fair sex (hope this term is not sexist) to win this

tournament. Lampman finished with 4½ points, winning all her games, but she took a half-point bye in round three. Four players tied for second through fifth with four apiece: Jason Cigan of Portland, Mike Morris of Portland, Yogi Saputra of Albany, and Matt Zavortink of Eugene. Dillon Murray was clear winner of the U-1800 prize with 3½, and Andrew Larson of Clackamas was second with three. Other prize winners with 2½ were Harry Buerer of Portland, Peter Donchenko of Portland, and Joshua Grabinsky of Coquille. Four players with two points even snagged a little prize money.

An unusual situation worth mentioning: In round one Andrew Larson had knight and bishop against Carl Haessler's lone king, but could not effect a mate. In round two Haessler had the bishop and knight against Corey Tache of Portland and his lone king. Carl did manage to win.

There were plenty of upsets in this tournament which attracted 48 players. The event was sponsored by the Portland Chess Club. The organizers want to thank all who came. Also thanks are due to Mt. Hood Community College for providing the site, and to the weather gods who kept the ice and snow away.

—Neil Dale, Tournament Director

**Jason Cigan (1921) -
Blake Salisbury (1977) [B30]**
Gresham Open, R5, Jan. 6, 2013
[Notes by Jason Cigan]

Notes by Jason Cigan {and where indicated, by Ralph Dubisch}. This game was played in the final round of the Gresham Open, with a share of second place on the line. Between my exhaustion from the previous four rounds ("last-round syndrome"), the tense middlegame, high stakes, and the wild finish, it was one of the most difficult and enjoyable games I have played.

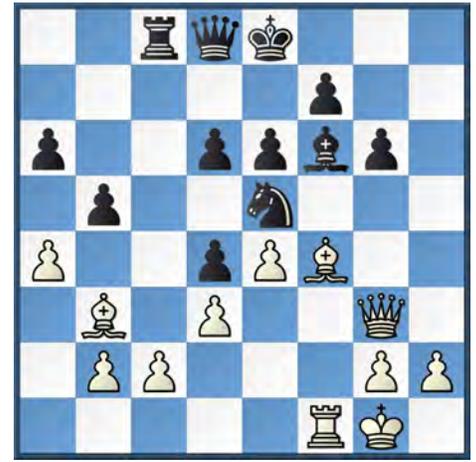
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nd4

A rare line. Black's position will be sound but his counterplay will be a bit slow. Main lines are 3... e6, 3... g6, 3... Nf6, and 3... d6.

4.Nxd4 cxd4 5.0-0 g6 6.d3 Bg7 7.f4



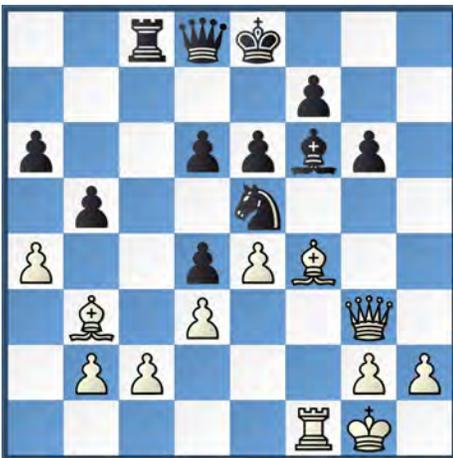
Carl Haessler (left) vs. Becca Lampman (right) in the game that decided first place. Photo credit: Andrei Botez



reasonable move while avoiding the tempting variation 22.Bxe6 fxe6 23.Bxe5 Bxe5 24.Qxg6+ Kd7 25.Rf7+ Kc6 26.Qxe6 Kb6 27.Qd5 Rc7, when White's initiative has dried up and the Black bishop looks at least as strong as White's three pawns.

The pawn structure calls for a kingside buildup with d2-d3, f2-f4, then possibly a transfer of the queen to the kingside—much like in the Sicilian Grand Prix Attack.

7...Nf6 8.Nd2 a6 9.Ba4 b5 10.Bb3 d6 11.Nf3 Bg4



Indirectly defending d4.

12.Qe1

Attacking d4 again, while possibly shifting the queen to the kingside

{While the queen shift is thematic, White also has the interesting 12.e5! dxe5 (Or 12...Bxf3 13.Qxf3 Nd7 14.Bxf7+ Kxf7 15.e6+ Kxe6? (15...Ke8 16.exd7+ Kxd7±) 16.f5+ with forced mate.) 13.Bxf7+! Kxf7 14.Nxe5+ netting a pawn and disrupting the black king. – Dubisch}

12...Bxf3 13.Rxf3 Nd7 14.f5 Ne5 15.Rh3

Rf1 looked more natural, but I liked the idea of preventing kingside castling—which is now unthinkable in view of Qh4 with a mating attack.

15...Qb6

Deduct ten points for 15...0-0 16.Qh4 h5 17.fxg6+- .

16.a4

There is not much more to accomplish on the kingside so I look for a second front. An opening of the a-file may prove useful later...

16...Rc8 17.fxg6 hxg6 18.Rxh8+ Bxh8 19.Bf4

I do not like this move, which allows Black to put the breaks on White's transfer of forces to the kingside.

19...Bf6

Sensibly preventing Qh4.

20.Qg3 e6 21.Rf1 Qd8

[Diagram top of next column]

22.Qh3!

The exclaim is mostly for making a

22...Qe7 23.axb5 axb5 24.Ra1 Nc6 25.Rf1 Kd7

{I'd be interested to know what White had planned after the repetition 25...Ne5 – Dubisch}

26.Qf3 Be5

{26...Na5 dramatically improves Black's position, since 27.Bxd6? Kxd6 28.Qxf6 Qxf6 29.Rxf6 Nxb3 30.cxb3 Rc1+ 31.Rf1 Rxf1+ 32.Kxf1 Kc5 wins for Black, despite the temporary pawn minus: 33.Ke2 Kb4 34.Kd2 Kxb3 35.Kc1 f5! – Dubisch}

27.Bxe5

The text is good enough for an advantage, but the flashy 27.Bg5! offers more. None of Black's options keep him in the game: 27...Qxg5 (27...f6 28.Bxf6 sheds a pawn and does nothing to stop White's initiative. The flashy 27...Bxb2+, with the idea of giving check on h8 to save Black's rook before capturing on g5, fails to the cool 28.Kh1!+-) 28.Qxf7+ Qe7 (28...Ne7 29.Bxe6+ does not change much) 29.Bxe6+ Kc7 30.Qxe7+ Nxe7 31.Bxc8 with a close to winning position for White.

{I'm not convinced by this line, as the final position looks far from clear to me. I'd choose the game line. – Dubisch}

27...Nxe5 28.Qf2

This was my idea; Black has to give up a pawn as d4 cannot be held.

28...f5 29.Qxd4 Nc6 30.Qb6

To lure Black's rook off the open file.

30...Rb8 31.Qe3 Qf6 32.exf5?!

It is hard to see how this exchange can help White, and cracking open the g-file figures to aid Black's bid for counterplay. The immediate 32.c3± was simple and strong.

32...gxf5 33.Ra1

{33.c3 is again better. – Dubisch}

33...d5

Though the text move is reasonable, Black had strong alternatives. 33...f4 offers strong counterplay, 34.Qf2 (34.Qb3 must be a better try) 34...Qxb2 35.Ra7+ Ke8 offers White nothing; Black even seems to be able to get away with 33...Qxb2, as my planned 34.Ra7+ does not offer more than a draw after 34...Nxa7 35.Qxa7+ Kc6! (wisely avoiding 35...Kc8?? 36.Bxe6+ with mate) 36.Qxb8 Qc1+ 37.Kf2 Qd2+ 38.Kg3 (38.Kf3 Qd1+ 39.Kf4 Qd2+=) 38...Qe3+ with perpetual check. (34.Bxe6+ or; 34.Qxe6+ should keep a small plus)

34.c3



34...b4??

The losing move. Black had been holding on largely due to the passivity of White's pieces, but now the rook and bishop are

activated with deadly force.

35.Ba4!+- bxc3

35...Rc8 36.Qa7+ Rc7 37.Qb6 would not have helped, as the threat of Bxc6+ followed by Ra7+ is too much to stand; 37...e5 38.cxb4 wins for White, as Rc1 is on the menu.

36.Qa7+

The natural follow-up. As both players approach time pressure, White is set to win a piece while keeping a winning attack. The game is about to become extremely sharp, but the game will be decided by White's initiative, his extra material, or both in all lines.

36...Kd6 37.Bxc6 Rxb2 38.Qd7+

Not the most accurate. 38.d4! forms a mating net and wins right away.

38...Kc5

38...Ke5 is no escape either: 39.Re1+ Kd4 (39...Kf4 40.Qb7!+- catches the Black king) 40.Qa7+ Kxd3 41.Qa6+ Kd4 42.Bb5! and there is no good answer for the threat of Qb6 and mate.

39.Qa7+ Kd6

If 39...Rb6 then the cleanest finish is 40.Ba4 when the mating attack and the threat of Rb1 are too much to take.

40.Bb5!

The attack hits home. The idea of Bb5 is to clear the sixth rank for a rook while covering the d3 square, which could have been an fire escape for Black in some lines.

40...Qg5

40...Rxb5 41.Ra6+ Ke5 42.Qe3# is the point.

41.Ra6+ Ke5 42.Qc7+ Kd4 43.Qb6+

Here the importance of covering d3 is clear.

43...Ke5 44.Qxe6+ Kd4 45.Ra4+ Black resigned. 1-0

Becca Lampman (1973) - Erik Skalnes (1851) [D46] Gresham Open Gresham, OR R4, Jan. 6, 2013

[Notes by Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 e6 5.e3 Nbd7 6.Bd3 Be7 7.0-0 0-0 8.b3 b6 9.Bb2 Bb7 10.e4 dxe4 11.Nxe4 c5 12.Qe2 Qc7 13.Rad1 Rad8 14.Rfe1 Rfe8 15.dxc5

15.d5 exd5 (15...Nxe4 16.Bxe4 exd5 17.Bxd5 Bxd5 18.Rxd5±) 16.Nxf6+ Nxf6 17.Bxf6 gxf6 18.cxd5 Bxd5 (18...Rxd5 19.Bxb7+ Kxb7 20.Rxd5 Bxd5 21.Qd3+) 19.Bxh7+ Kxh7 20.Rxd5 Rxd5 21.Qe4+ Kg7 22.Qxd5±

15...bxc5

15...Nxc5 16.Nxf6+ (16.Nxc5 Bxc5 (16...Qxc5) 17.Bxf6 gxf6 18.Be4=) 16... Bxf6 17.Bxf6 gxf6 18.Bc2 Qf4=

16.Neg5 h6? 17.Nxf7! Bxf3

17...Kxf7 18.Qxe6+ Kf8 19.Bg6

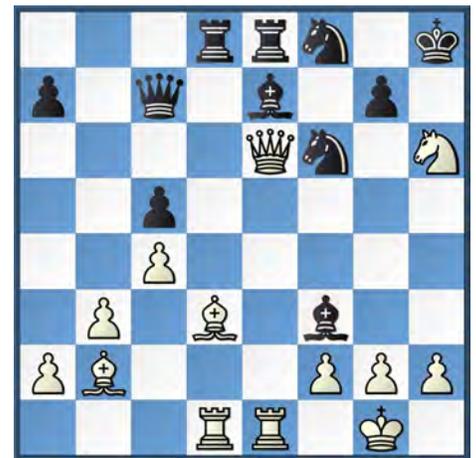
18.Qxe6

18.gxf3+-

18...Nf8

18...Bh5 19.Ne5+ Kh8 20.Bg6 Nxe5 21.Bxh5±

19.Nxh6+ Kh8



20.Qg8+ 1-0



Harry Buerer with a chess tie at the Gresham Open.
Photo credit: Andrei Botez

Portland CC G/60

The December 29th G/60 event at the Portland Chess Club had 22 players. Yogi Saputra of Albany Oregon won the event with 3½-½. Congratulations to Clemen Deng of Portland, who achieved a Class A norm by beating a player rated 2060 and drawing a player rated 2042. See explanation of USCF norms at <http://www.glicko.net/ratings/titles.pdf>.

Gregori Alpernas of Lake Oswego Oregon handled the TD tasks.

Carl Haessler
Chess Master

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carl@chessworksNW.com

Portland CC G/60 Crosstable

December 29, 2012

(Source: www.uschess.org, Tournament ID: 201212292902)

Pair Num	Player Name USCF ID / Rtg (Pre->Post)	Total Pts	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4
1 OR	YOGI SAPUTRA 13838368 / R: 2042 -->2037 Q: 1943 -->1935	3.5 N:3	W 18	W 11	D 2	W 6
2 OR	CLEMEN DENG 14375153 / R: 1652 -->1721 Q: 1261 -->1419	3.5 N:1	W 19	W 10	D 1	W 5
3 OR	DMITRI M MURPHY 14249740 / R: 1293 -->1438 Q: 1218 -->1359	3.0 N:3	W 16	W 7	L 5	W 12
4 OR	RAHUL Y MAJUMDAR 14193326 / R: 1119 -->1297 Q: 959 -->1167	3.0 N:4	D 8	D 9	W 11	W 13
5 OR	RICHARD G GUTMAN 10028167 / R: 2060 -->2038 Q: 2139 -->2116	2.5 N:4	W 20	D 12	W 3	L 2
6 OR	PETER DONCHENKO 13564870 / R: 1554 -->1552 Q: 1290 -->1301	2.5	D 9	W 21	W 8	L 1
7 OR	PHILLIP W CARSON 12434390 / R: 1559 -->1545 Q: 1268 -->1305	2.5 N:4	W 17	L 3	D 12	W 16
8 OR	HANSEN LIAN 14667780 / R: 1381 -->1408 Q: 1209 -->1264	2.5 N:4	D 4	W 15	L 6	W 17
9 OR	LEO DENG 14579900 / R: 1311 -->1324 Q: 1170 -->1179	2.5	D 6	D 4	W 21	D 10
10 OR	DAVE PRIDEAUX 14685331 / R: 1148 -->1281 Q: 954P21-->1124P25	2.5 N:4	W 13	L 2	W 18	D 9
11 OR	RYAN WALCH 14938717 / R: 1413P4 -->1393P8 Q: 1252P4 -->1256P8	2.0	W 22	L 1	L 4	W 19
12 OR	JAMES YU CHEN 13588311 / R: 1351 -->1378 Q: 1168 -->1206	2.0 N:4	W 14	D 5	D 7	L 3
13 OR	LISA C STILL 12571079 / R: 1387 -->1361 Q: 1322 -->1281	2.0	L 10	W 19	W 14	L 4
14 OR	SEAN ALEXANDER UAN-ZO-LI 14644498 / R: 990 -->1121 Q: 759 --> 930	2.0	L 12	W 20	L 13	W 18
15 OR	MIKE L HASUIKE 10505216 / R: 1500 -->1500 Q: 1546 -->1501	1.5	H	L 8	L 16	W 21
16 OR	BRIAN F BERGER 12509220 / R: 1437 -->1418 Q: 1565 -->1516	1.5	L 3	D 17	W 15	L 7
17 WA	JERROLD RICHARDS 13590457 / R: 1269 -->1279 Q: 1153 -->1163	1.5	L 7	D 16	W 20	L 8
18 OR	ETHAN WU 14915830 / R: 1414 -->1364 Q: 1293 -->1236	1.0	L 1	W 22	L 10	L 14
19 OR	WILLIAM SERCOMBE 12743861 / R: 1330 -->1299 Q: 1216 -->1179	1.0	L 2	L 13	W 22	L 11
20 OR	NATHAN JEWELL 13277977 / R: 1340 -->1295 Q: 1206 -->1159	1.0	L 5	L 14	L 17	W 22
21 OR	CRAIG A STILL 12918563 / R: 835 --> 829 Q: 748 --> 739	1.0	B	L 6	L 9	L 15
22 OR	OLEG DONCHENKO 12961068 / R: 1153P9 -->1088P13 Q: 1111P9 -->1019P13	0.0	L 11	L 18	L 19	L 20

22nd Annual North American Open

PNW Players Results

645 players took part in the seven section event held December 26-30 at Bally's Casino Resort, Las Vegas.

Players from Washington, Oregon and Idaho.

Open Section

FM Luke Harmon-Vellotti Boise ID 5-4
Carl Harmon-Vellotti Boise ID 3-6

Under 2300 Rating Section

Tian Sang WA 5.5-1.5
Carl Haessler Lake Oswego OR 5-2
Roland Feng Seattle WA 4.5-2.5
Rudy Vrana Seattle WA 4.5-2.5
Megan Lee Bellevue WA 4.5-2.5
Samir Sen Vancouver WA 4-3
Corbin Z. Yu Lake Oswego OR 4-3
David Roper Lynnwood WA 3.5-3.5
Nathan Lee Issaquah WA 3.5-3.5
Bryce Tiglon Redmond WA 3-4
Fred Kleist Seattle WA 2.5-4.5
Dereque Kelley Seattle WA 1.5-5.5

Under 2100 Rating Section

Yaman Tezcan Portland OR 5.5-1.5
Daniel He Redmond WA 5-2
Samuel He Redmond WA 4-3
Bill Heywood Portland OR 4-3
Daniel Ho Vancouver WA 3.5-3.5
Alec Ho Vancouver WA 3.5-3.5
Joseph Kiiru Tacoma WA 3-4
Marcus Robinson Portland OR 2.5-4.5
Kairav Joshi Moscow ID 2-5
H. G. Pitre Seattle WA 2-5
Brian Liou Bellevue WA 2-5

Under 1900 Rating Section

Quentin Chi Seattle WA 5.5-1.5
Ethan Bashkansky Bellevue WA 5.5-1.5
Masayuki Nagase Redmond WA 5-2
Juan Perez Bellingham WA 4.5-2.5
Gordon Higbie Woodinville WA 4-3
Toshihiro Nagase Redmond WA 4-3
Dan Mayers Sun Valley ID 3.5-3.5
Ritchie Duran OR 3.5-3.5
Cody Gorman Eagle ID 3.5-3.5
Michael Goffe OR 3-4
Taylor Bailey OR 2.5-4.5
John Carr Victor ID 2.5-4.5
Lon Brusselback Newport OR 2.5-4.5

Under 1700 Rating

Carl Dutton Seattle WA 5-2
Peter Sherman Seattle WA 4.5-2.5
Michael Quan Bellevue WA 4-3
Naomi Bashkansky Bellevue WA 4-3
Carmen Pemsler Eagle ID 2.5-4.5
Aaryan Deshpande Redmond WA 2-5

Under 1500 Rating Section

Jonathan Gamble OR 5-2
Thomas Thongmee Seattle WA 5-2
Bernard Spera OR 4-3
Geoffrey Kenway Troutdale OR 4-3
Eugene Chin Bellevue WA 4-3
Carol Mayer-Kleist Seattle WA 3.5-3.5

Under 1250 Rating Section

Will Huiras OR 5-2
Konstantin Velichko Sammamish WA 4.5-2.5
Jeffrey Tiglon WA 4-3
Gene Milener WA 3.5-3.5
Alan Baur OR 3-4
Omar Saldana WA 2-5

Compiled from the USCF Crosstable and the January 1 NWC Blog posting by Russell Miller at <http://www.nwchess.com/blog/>.

7th Annual Grand Pacific Open

C\$5000 GUARANTEED Prize Fund

Easter: March 29-April 1, 2013

Location: Hotel Grand Pacific, 463 Belleville St, Victoria, BC.

Round Times: Friday 6:00pm, Sat. 12:00 / 6:00pm, Sun. 12:00 / 6:00pm, Monday 10:00am.

Time Control: Game in 90 minutes plus 30 second per move increment.

Sections: Open (FIDE and CFC rated); U1800 (CFC rated).

Entry Fees: C\$75 by Feb. 22, C\$85 by Mar. 25, C\$95 on site. Discount C\$20 if rated U1400 or unrated. Add C\$20 if U1700 AND playing up a section. Family discounts available.

Prizes: C\$5000 guaranteed.

Registration: on line at www.grandpacificopen.com or by cheque payable to Victoria Chess. Mail to Paul Leblanc, 1012 Spiritwood Place, Victoria, BC V8Y 1C6.

Transportation: Clipper jet boat from Seattle and Coho ferry from Port Angeles both dock across the street from the playing site. Round times are set up to match the sailing schedule.

Misc: Equipment provided. C\$99 room rate at Hotel Grand Pacific 1-800-663-7550 (rate code "MAR13CHESS"). See www.grandpacificopen.com for further details and side events.

Washington Chess News

Christmas Congress

(Source: www.uschess.org, Tournament ID: 201212097472)
Tacoma, December 8-9, 2012
Tournament Director: Gary Dorfner

Pair Num	Player Name USCF ID / Rtg (Pre->Post)	Total Pts	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4
1 WA	ALAN BISHOP 11311016 / R: 2000 -->2020	3.5	H	W 6	W 2	W 4
2 WA	VIKTORS PUPOLS 10511186 / R: 2208 -->2200	3.0 N:2	W 8	W 7	L 1	W 5
3 WA	JOTHI NORIO RAMESH 14097364 / R: 1718 -->1735	3.0	W 4	W 5	H	H
4 WA	RALPH J ANTHONY 12487500 / R: 1623 -->1646	2.0 N:3	L 3	W 8	W 6	L 1
5 WA	NEIL CHOWDHURY 14876553 / R: 1452 -->1483	2.0	W 7	L 3	X	L 2
6 WA	STEPHEN J BUCK 10428700 / R: 1700 -->1700	1.5	W 9	L 1	L 4	D 7
7 WA	JAMES WANG 14454683 / R: 1748 -->1723	1.0	L 5	L 2	H	D 6
8 WA	DANIEL REISINGER 12672587 / R: 1660 -->1645	1.0	L 2	L 4	F	W 9
9 WA	GARY J DORFNER 10511780 / R: 1161 -->1155	1.0	L 6	U	B	L 8

The usual TD, Gary Dorfner of Tacoma, in the usual place, the Tacoma Chess Club held the Christmas Congress on December 8-9 with just nine players. Alan Bishop of Tacoma took a 1/2-point first round bye and then won the rest of his games for a 3.5-.5 score including a win over NM Viktors Pupols (3-1) of Kingston, WA

Seattle December Tornado

December 16, 2012
Tournament Director: Frederick Kleist

24 players took part in the event on Dec 16th. Fred Kleist of Seattle was the tournament director. From the USCF website, he sure has run a lot of events since 1991.

Tournaments as Chief Director 680 (since Jan. 1, 1991)

Sections Directed 1699 (in 688 events since Jan. 1, 1991)

Other Events Worked 26 (since Jan. 1, 1991)

Total Sections Worked 1908 (in 729 events since Jan. 1, 1991)

Now for the tournament results.

There was a tie for first place between Patrick Van Dyke of Maple Valley and Bryce Tiglon of Redmond at 3.5-.5. They drew with each other in round four. Three players had 3-1: Daniel and Samuel He of Redmond plus Noah Fields of Tacoma.

Posted by Russell Miller on NWC Blog on December 19.

Christmas Chaos

(Source: www.uschess.org, Tournament ID: 201212200932)
Spokane, December 13-20, 2012
Tournament Director: David B. Griffin

Pair Num	Player Name USCF ID / Rtg (Pre->Post)	Total Pts	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4
1 WA	DAVID B GRIFFIN 12469398 / R: 1551 -->1640 Q: 1567 -->1605	3.5	H	W 8	W 6	W 5
2 ID	RONALD M WEYLAND 12657609 / R: 1417 -->1523 Q: 1394 -->1441	3.0 N:3	L 5	W 3	W 8	W 6
3 WA	LOUIS F BLAIR 12454599 / R: 1503 -->1500 Q: 1259 -->1288	2.5	D 4	L 2	W 9	W 8
4 WI	JEFFREY A JAROSKI 12923852 / R: 1354 -->1332 Q: 1416 -->1384	2.5	D 3	L 7	B	W 9
5 ID	BRAD R BODIE 12609108 / R: 1750 -->1722 Q: 1507 -->1492	2.0 N:4	W 2	L 6	W 7	L 1
6 WA	TED BAKER 12936996 / R: 1597 -->1588 Q: 1329 -->1362	2.0 N:4	W 7	W 5	L 1	L 2
7 WA	JAMES WAUGH 12425667 / R: 1107 -->1157 Q: 1286 -->1285	2.0	L 6	W 4	L 5	B
8 WA	WALTER F VAN HEEMSTED E OBELT 14937798 / R: 1502P21 -->1460P25 Q: 1404 -->1356	1.0	W 9	L 1	L 2	L 3
9 ID	ARLENE HIATT 14927958 / R: 656 --> 653 Q: 550P14 --> 547P17	1.0	L 8	B	L 3	L 4

SCC Year End Event

Seattle Chess Club, December 28-29, 2012
Tournament Director: Frederick Kleist

Quad A was won by Peter Lessler of Seattle with 2.5 points.
Quad B was won by Dan Kramlich of Seattle with three points.
Quad C was won by Anthony He of Sammamish with 2.5 points.
6-man Mini Swiss was won by Neil Chowdhury of Bellevue with 2.5 points.

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Washington Junior Closed

Redmond, WA January 4-6, 2013

David Hendricks, Tournament Director

#	Name	ID	Rtng	Team	Grd	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	Nathan Lee	12890382	2131	ISM	11	W5	D2	W3	W6	W4	4.5
2	Roland Feng	13631615	2218	THU	6	W3	D1	W4	D5	W6	4.0
3	Michael Omori	12852397	2153	LSS	12	L2	W6	L1	W4	W5	3.0
4	Michael Wang	12909669	2164	INT	11	W6	W5	L2	L3	L1	2.0
5	Kyle Haining	13869267	1939	KEL	7	L1	L4	D6	D2	L3	1.0
6	Casey Xing	13099265	2067	NJH	10	L4	L3	D5	L1	L2	0.5

Nathan Lee of Issaquah won the six player round robin event with 4.5-.5 score. As the winner he get's a seed into the Washington State Championship. The event was held at three different sites. Friday night the 4th at David Hendricks house in Sammamish. Saturday at the Library in Carnation, WA and on Sunday the 6th at the Redmond Library in Redmond. Roland Feng of Seattle was 2nd with 4-1. Lee and Feng drew their game.



Front row left to right: Roland Feng, Nathan Lee, Michael Wang, Kyle Haining
Back row left to right: Josh Sinanon WCF President, Michael Omori, Casey Xing,
David Hendricks WCF Scholastic Director. Photo credit: Duane Polich.



Nathan Lee, winner. Photo credit: Duane Polich.

We present this very interesting game un-annotated.

Michael Wang (2164) – Nathan Lee (2131) [A13]
Washington Junior Closed Redmond, WA R5, Jan. 6, 2013

1.c4 e6 2.Nf3 d5 3.g3 Nf6 4.Bg2 c6 5.b3 d4 6.0-0 Be7 7.d3
c5 8.e3 Nc6 9.exd4 cxd4 10.a3 a5 11.Re1 0-0 12.Bb2 Qd6
13.Nbd2 e5 14.b4 Bg4 15.b5 Nd8 16.h3 Bxf3 17.Nxf3 Nd7
18.Qe2 Bf6 19.a4 Ne6 20.Ba3 Nec5 21.Nd2 Qc7 22.Ne4
Nxe4 23.Qxe4 Rfb8 24.Qd5 Nb6 25.Qd6 Qd8 26.Qxd8+
Rxd8 27.Bc5 Nd7 28.Bd6 b6 29.Bxa8 Rxa8 30.Rab1 Rc8
31.c5 Nxc5 32.Bxc5 bxc5 33.b6 g6 34.b7 Rb8 35.Rb5 Kg7
36.Reb1 e4 37.dxe4 c4 38.Rc5 c3 39.e5 Bxe5 40.Kf1 d3
41.Ke1 c2 42.Rb3 Bd6 43.Rcc3 Bb4 (Time Forfeit) 0-1

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Oyster Bay Inn Classic 2012

By Kris Dietsch

Joe Eversole of Bremerton again held the annual West Sound "Classic," using H.G. Pitre's traveler-friendly format, with Kris Dietsch of Bremerton as Tournament Director.

The turnout was only 27, perhaps good considering that some players that attended the U.S. Open in Vancouver, WA, may have been taking a deserved break. H.G.'s first Classic, held at the Silverdale Beach Hotel in 2009, had 30; 2010's had 39; Oyster Bay Inn (Bremerton) 2011 had 30.

NM Bill McGeary for the fourth time provided free coaching for entrants between rounds and held a free simultaneous exhibition before round one. He won that 7-0 with one-quarter of the players participating.

The separate building, a view chalet, was again the skittles/analysis room, though I noticed some were engrossed in a sports event on the television out there.

After the event a player kindly donated \$100 to be added to next year's prize fund. This year's prize winners were as follows: Open Section: 1st, Mike MacGregor of Tacoma, \$108; 2nd, Paul Bartron of Tacoma, \$54; 3rd Mike Murray of Port Townsend, and David Rupel of Olympia, \$27 each. Premier Section: 1st, Jothi Ramesh of Shoreline, \$54; 2nd, Matt Nill of Washington, \$37.50; 3rd Ralph Anthony of Mukilteo, Stephen Buck of Tacoma, Richard Golden of Bainbridge Island, and Davey Jones of Seattle, \$7.40 each; under 1700, Aaryan Deshpande of Redmond, \$40.50. Reserve Section: 1st, Jeremiah Dennehy Jr. of Portland, \$54; 2nd-3rd, Ronald Purbaugh of Vaughn, WA, and Konstantin Velichko of Sammamish, \$33.75; and all six received a \$6.75 rebate since there was no one to claim the announced unrated prize.

In the Reserve youngster Dennehy also won third last year, and Purbaugh had been playing G/25 at the Bremerton Library, returning to chess after a long absence. Young players were also notable

in the Premier Section, with Ramesh a clear first and Deshpande an "up" player who qualified for the Reserve. In the Open Section, Larry Sivitz of Washington also had been away from tournaments for some time. The "up" players in the Open helped with the two advance requested byes in rounds one and three; without them there would have been an odd number of players in each, and they reduced already-played pairing distortions. One of these, Noah Fields of Tacoma, 1st Premier, Silverdale 2010, had to play a higher score and class player in the final round, Rupel, but drew anyway.

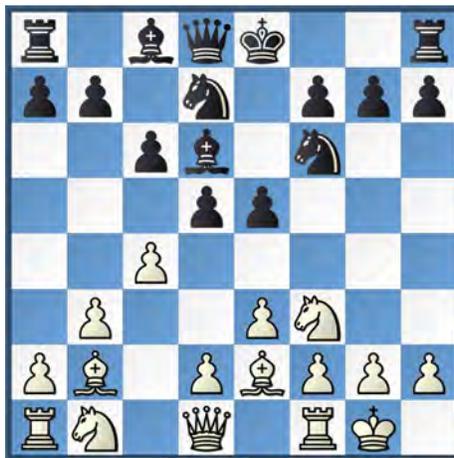
In the following game the overall Open winner played strongly after an opening advantage.

Paul Bartron – Mike MacGregor [A06]

Oyster Bay Inn 2012, R3, Oct. 7, 2012

[Notes by Ralph Dubisch]

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 c6 3.b3 d5 4.Bb2 e6
5.e3 Nbd7 6.Be2 Bd6 7.0-0 e5



8.d3

Other options in this fluid position: 8.d4 At first glance this seems to leave the kingside underpopulated, but White has resources. For example, if Black tries to set up the classic bishop sacrifice with 8...e4 9.Nfd2

A) 9...0-0 10.Ba3 looks like a roughly equal reverse French Defense where White has managed to liquidate the bad French bishop;

B) 9...Qe7 10.Nc3 h5 11.cxd5 Bxh2+ (11...cxd5) 12.Kh1 Ng4 13.Ncx4 cxd5 14.Nc3 Bd6 15.Nf3 Ndf6 16.Nb5 Ne4

17.Nxd6+ Qxd6 18.Kg1∞;

C) 9...h5!? White grabs a key diagonal (or forces a critical exchange of minor pieces):

C1) Walking into the Black combination without specific ideas on defense is not such a good idea:

10.Nc3? Bxh2+ 11.Kxh2 Ng4+

C1a) 12.Kg1 Qh4 13.Bxg4 hxg4 14.f3 g3-+;

C1b) 12.Kg3 h4+ 13.Kh3 (13.Kxg4 Ne5+ 14.Kf4 Qf6#) 13...Ndf6 14.Bxg4 Nxe4 15.Qe2 Qd6 16.Rh1 (16.f4 exf3-+; 16.Qxg4 Bxg4+ 17.Kxg4 Qe6+ 18.Kf4 Rb5 19.g4 g5#) 16...Nxf2#;

C1c) 12.Kh3 Nde5 13.dxe5 Nxe3+! 14.Kh2 Qh4+ 15.Kg1 Ng4! and the classic checkmate pattern is back.;

C2) 10.Ba3! But now the sacrifice is simply unsound: Bxh2+? (Better are either exchanging the bishops or putting up with a white bishop on the a3-f8 diagonal for quite awhile: 10...Bxa3 11.Nxa3 Qa5 12.Qc1±; 10...Bb8 11.cxd5 cxd5 12.Qc2± though in this last line it's a bit hard to see where Black might castle.) 11.Kxh2 Ng4+ 12.Kg1 Qh4 13.Bd6+-;

8.cxd5 cxd5 (8...Nxd5 9.Nc3) 9.Nc3 a6 (9...e4 10.Nd4 Ne5) 10.Rc1 0-0=;

8.c5?! Bb8 (Or 8...Bxc5 9.Nxe5 Bd6 10.Nxd7 Bxd7 11.d3±) 9.Qc2 Qc7 10.g3 e4 11.Nd4 Ne5 12.f4±

8...Qe7 9.cxd5 cxd5 10.Nc3 a6 11.a4 0-0 12.e4?! d4 13.Nb1 Nc5 14.Nfd2 Be6 15.Na3 Rfb8 16.Nac4 b5 17.Nxd6 Qxd6 18.Ba3 Qb6

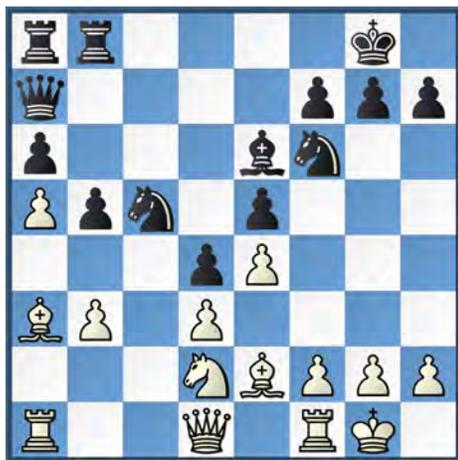
18...b4!? 19.Bc1 (19.Bb2 a5 20.Rc1 Rb8 21.f4 exf4 22.Nc4 Bxc4 23.Rxc4 Ne6±) 19...Nfd7 20.f4 exf4 21.Nc4 Bxc4 22.bxc4 g5!±

19.a5 Qa7

[Diagram top of next page]

20.Bxc5?!

This brings the black queen into range of the weak queenside pawns on a5,



b3, and d3, and more or less concedes control of the c-file and the critical c3-square. White's counterplay involves removing the base of the e5-d4 chain, then pressuring the remaining weak d-pawn. On balance this exchange seems to favor Black, however. 20.f4 Ncxe4! 21.dxe4 d3+ 22.Kh1 dxe2 23.Qxe2 exf4 24.Rxf4 (24.Bd6!? Qe3 25.Qd1 (25.Qxe3 fxe3 26.Bxb8 exd2 27.Bf4 (27.Rxf6 gxf6 28.Bf4 Bxb3 29.Bxd2) 27...Nxe4+) 25...Re8 26.Bxf4 Qd4) 24...Qd4

20.Bb4!? looks logical, trying to maintain some control of the c3-square while blockading the b5-pawn. 20...Rc8

20...Qxc5 21.f4 exf4 22.Rxf4 Rc8 23.Bf3?!

23.Nf3 perhaps, but still favoring Black.

23...Rab8

23...Qe5! 24.g3 g5 25.Rxf6 Qxf6 26.e5 Qxe5 27.Bxa8 Qe3+ 28.Kg2 Rxa8+

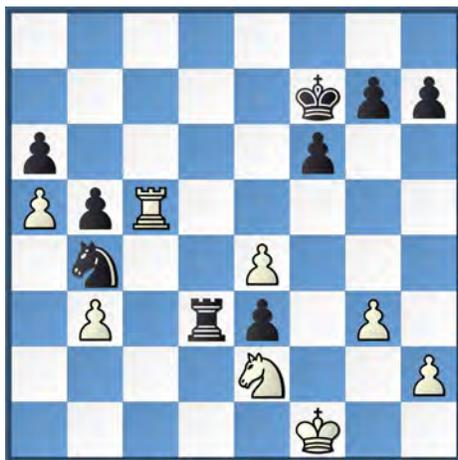
24.g3 Nd7 25.Bg4 Bxg4 26.Qxg4 Ne5 27.Qe2 Qc3 28.Raf1 f6 29.Rf5 Nxd3 30.Rd5 Nb4 31.Rd7 Rd8 32.Rxd8+ Rxd8 33.Rf5 Qe3+ 34.Kf1 Rc8 35.Qxe3 dxe3 36.Nf3 Rc2 37.Nd4 Rd2 38.Ne2 Kf7

38...Nc6 39.Rc5 Nxa5+

39.Rc5

White hangs on by his fingernails. He's now trying to penetrate to the seventh rank, where he may gobble some pawns or conjure up a perpetual check with rook and knight.

39...Rd3



39...Rc2 leads to an interesting and tricky knight ending; 39...Ke6 seems consistent to Black's 38th.

40.Rc7+

40.Nf4 Rxb3 41.Rc7+ Ke8 42.Ke2 Black still has some problems to solve. (42.Ne6 Rb2 43.Nxg7+ Kf8 44.Ne6+ Kg8 45.Rg7+ Kb8 46.Rd7 b5+)

40...Kf8 41.Nf4 Rd2 42.Rc8+

42.Ne6+ Kg8 43.Rxg7+ Kh8 44.Rc7 e2+ 45.Ke1 Nc2+ 46.Rxc2 Rxc2 47.Nd4 Rb2+

42...Ke7 43.Rc7+ Rd7

43...Kd6+

44.Rc3 g5 45.Nd5+

White's best chance may be to keep the knights on: 45.Ng2 Rd1+ 46.Ne1 Kd6 47.Rxe3 Rb1 when material is actually even again! Of course all of Black's pieces are better placed, White has decisive structural issues, and zugzwang will soon start costing White pawns, but still...

45...Nxd5 46.exd5 Rxd5 47.Rxe3+ Kd6 48.Re8 Kc5 49.Re6 Rd6 50.b4+ Kd5 51.Re7 Kc4 52.Rb7 Kxb4 53.Rb6 Kc5 54.Rb7 h5 55.Rh7 Kb4 56.Rxh5 Kxa5 57.h4 gxh4 58.gxh4 Rd4 59.Rh8 b4 60.h5 b3 61.h6 b2 62.Rb8 Rb4 0-1

Mike MacGregor –
Mike Murray [C10]

Oyster Bay Inn 2012, R4, Oct. 7, 2012
[Notes by Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3

The bane of the Nimzovich Defense. White simply asks to transpose into a double king pawn opening. If Black wanted that, he would have played 1...e5! So what to do?

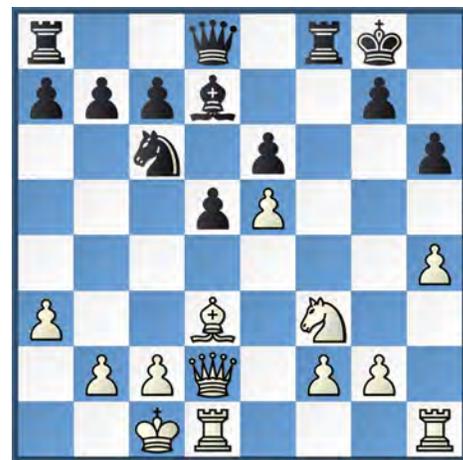
2...e6 3.d4 d5 4.Nc3

4.e5 is an Advance French where Black has self-blocked his natural pawn-chain attack (...c5).

4...Nf6 5.e5 Ne4

Black chooses an unusual line of the French Defense, hoping it is improved by the knight on c6, which helps pressure the d-pawn in the event of an exchange on e4.

6.Bd3 Bb4 7.Bd2 Nxd2 8.Qxd2 f6 9.a3 Bxc3 10.Qxc3 fxe5 11.dxe5 0-0 12.0-0 Bd7 13.h4 h6 14.Qd2



All pretty natural so far, with White maintaining the somewhat better chances.

14...Rxf3?!

A fairly radical attempt to change the course of the game.

15.gxf3 Nxe5 16.Qf4 Nxd3+?!

Normally Black should avoid major exchanges, but this position seem to offer little choice. Slightly better is 16...Qf6 17.Qxf6 gxf6 18.f4 Nxd3+ 19.Rxd3 Kf7 20.Rg1 Rg8 21.Rxg8 Kxg8 22.f5±

17.Rxd3

Now Black will come under kingside

attack, and can't even offer the queen exchange due to the hanging pawn on c7.

17...c5

17...Qf6 18.Qxc7+-

18.Rg1 Qe7

18...Kh8 19.Qf7+-

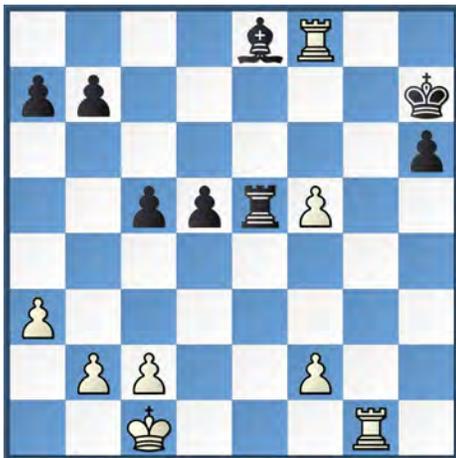
19.Qxh6 Rf8 20.f4 Rf6 21.Qg5 Qf8
22.Rdg3 Bc6 23.Qe5 Kh7 24.h5 Rf7
25.h6 gxf6 26.Qxe6 Rf6 27.Qe5 Rf7
28.f5

An even faster winning plan is to overwhelm the h-pawn: 28.Rg6 c4 29.Qe6 Be8 30.Rh1

28...Re7 29.Rg8

Still winning, of course, but not the most efficient way to go about it. Immediately decisive is 29.Qf4 Re4 30.Qd6

29...Rxe5 30.Rxf8 Be8



31.Kd2

31.f4! Re4 32.f6! Bg6 33.f5! is an amusing execution by doubled f-pawn.

31...d4 32.Re1?!

Now the ending becomes a longer technical exercise. 32.f4 is similar to the last note.

32...Rxe1 33.Kxe1 Bc6 34.Rf7+ Kg8
35.Rc7 h5 36.f4 h4 37.Kf2 c4?!

Unnecessarily creating a weakness. Better to hang tough with 37...Kf8 though of course White will still win.

(Continued on page 23)

State Championships

Following is a brief outline of the three State Championship tournaments that are happening in February in the various states. Spectators are welcome at the events.

Washington

Set to take place February 9-10 and 16-18 at the Seattle Chess Club at 2150 N 107 St. in Seattle.

Format:

Three invitation-only 10-player Round Robins by rating: Championship, Premier, and Invitational. The field of each section will be determined by seeding and by the highest rated players to respond to an invitation sent out by WCF President, Josh Sinanan. The invitation is based on the January 2013 USCF rating list. All sections will be USCF rated; the Championship and Premier will be also be FIDE rated. Fred Kleist will be the TD for all three sections.

Rounds 1-8: Feb. 9, 10, 16, 17 at 10:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M.

Round 9: Feb. 18 (President's Day) at 5:00 P.M.

The drawing of lots will take place Feb. 2 at 12:00 noon at Northgate Mall. Attendance is optional, though encouraged.

Seeds:

Championship

IM Georgi Orlov 2523

(Open Champion)

NM Tian Sang 2288

(Challenger's Cup Champion)

NM Roland Feng 2218

(Premier Champion)

Igor Ummel 2187

(Championship Runner-up)

Nathan Lee 2131

(Junior Closed Champion)

Premier

NM Michael MacGregor 2211

(Premier Runner-up)

Daniel He 2040

(Invitational Champion)

Kyle Haining 1939

(Junior Open Champion)

Invitational

FM Paul Bartron 2149

(Senior Champion)

WFM Chouchanik Airapetian 2131

(Women's Champion)

Becca Lampman 1973

(Girl's Champion)

Oregon

The Oregon Invitational Championship will be held at the Portland Chess Club at 8205 Southwest 24th Ave., Portland. The Tournament Director will be Grisha Alpernas. The rounds will be 2/9, 2/10, 2/16 and 2/17 at 10:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M., and on 2/18 at 5:00 P.M. Single RR. Players were selected according to the OCF Bylaws.

Oregon Invitation Championship 2013 final roster:

Name (Home City) – Rating (2012 Annual List)

Nick Raptis (Portland) – 2353

Daniel Zachary Gay (Tigard) – 2204

David Wen (Corvallis) – 1932

Carl A. Haessler (Lake Oswego) – 2214

Corey J. Russell (Medford) – 2200

Brian John Esler (Portland) – 2136

Steven B. Deeth (Beaverton) – 2113

Richard Gutman (Lake Oswego) – 2060

Sean Tobin (Portland) – 2057

Robert Herrera (Hillsboro) – 2053

First Alternate: Mike E. Janniro

(Portland) – 2051

Idaho

Idaho's State Championship is simply a 6-round Swiss System tournament held over President's Weekend that is open to all residents of Idaho. See the Idaho Closed State Championship tournament ad on the back cover for details.

Scholastics



Marcell Szabo at the National K-8 Championship in Orlando. Photo courtesy of Csaba Szabo.

On my way to 2050

by Marcell Szabo

(contributing reader from Seattle)

I set the following chess goals for myself for 2012: to win a National Championship, and to qualify for next year's World Youth Chess Championship. For the latter, USCF sets the cut-off ELO rating in my section (U12) is 2050. For most of the year, my rating was hovering in the mid-1900 area, but since this fall I have decided to put more effort into openings and tactics, and forced myself to play more patiently. I also took some regular online lessons with IM John Watson and with NM Dan Heisman, who improved some of my opening systems and my time management. As a result, I won the Expert Section of the Washington Class Championship in November and won the Grade Level Chess Championship in Orlando, Florida (Sixth Grade Section) in December. With these wins, plus some good results in the Seattle Chess Club's fall tournaments, I reached my goals for the year. Below, I have put together a collection of my games from the last two months of 2012, on the way to 2050 ELO.

Playing "fruity"

In one of the SCC tournaments I played Nick Pazderic of Seattle at the Seattle Chess Club. I felt during the game that I have made pretty good moves, but even I was surprised when I got home, entered my game into the computer and analyzed the game using a strong chess program called "Fruit". Almost all of my moves were the same as the ones Fruit thought were the best. My dad calls this "playing fruity".

**Nickola Pazderic (1927) –
Marcell Szabo (1961) [B70]**

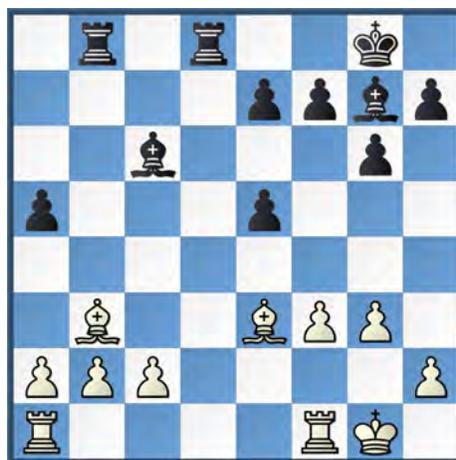
SCC Extravaganza Seattle
R2, Nov. 4, 2012

[Notes by Marcell Szabo]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.g3 Bg7 7.Bg2 0-0 8.0-0 Nc6 9.Nxc6 bxc6 10.e5 dxe5

Nick is really good with this system and he has beaten me with it several times this spring. However, I have studied the Dragon quite a bit over the last few months, and this time I came better prepared.

11.Qxd8 Rxd8 12.Bxc6 Rb8 13.Ba4 Bf5 14.Bb3 Ne4 15.Nxe4 Bxe4 16.Be3 a5 17.f3 Bc6



According to my computer, both of us played reasonable moves, but somehow I managed to build a very small advantage and kept building on it move by move.

My opponent's f3 square is a weakness I can go after.

18.a4 e6 Fruity! 19.Bg5 Rd7 Fruity!
20.Rad1 Rd4 Fruity! 21.Rxd4 exd4
Fruity! 22.Bd2

I think Bd2 was too passive. Bf4 would have held the position better.

22...d3 Fruity! 23.Bc1 dxc2 24.Bxc2
Bxb2 25.Bd2 Bd4+ 26.Kg2 Rb2

White resigns. I liked my "fruity moves" all the way. Nick's 23 Bc1 was a bit passive, and I managed to convert my positional advantage into a win. 0-1

The story of the "kamikaze pawn"

In another local tournament at the Seattle Chess Club, I played Harley Greninger of Aberdeen. He is a past Northwest Champion and a very strong player. I knew I had to come up with something special in order to stand a chance against him. I like to "push pawns" in blitz tournaments or in internet games, but to do that in a regular tournament took some "nerve". However, post-game computer analysis showed that this particular pawn push was actually working all the way. I am very proud of this game.

**Marcell Szabo (1961) –
Harley Greninger (2175) [B35]**

SCC Challenger's Cup Seattle
R2, Oct. 27, 2012

[Notes by Marcell Szabo]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
g6 5.Nc3 Bg7 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Bc4 Qa5
8.0-0 0-0 9.Bb3 d6 10.h3 Bd7 11.f4
Qh5 12.Qf3 Qxf3 13.Nxf3 b5 14.e5
Ne8 15.Rad1 Na5

15...b4 16 Ne2 or Ne4 would have been more accurate and would have prevented my future knight attack and pawn push on e/d.

16.Nd5 e6 17.Ne7+ Kh8 18.exd6 Bxb2

19.Bd4+ Bxd4+ 20.Rxd4 f6 21.Re1
Nxb3 22.cxb3

I took with c and not a, because I was hoping I could invade with my rook on the c file.

22...Rf7 23.Rc1 a5 24.g4 Ra6



Ra6 allowed me to try a “pig”. There was 24...Kg7 25 g5 Nxd6 26 Rxd6 Rxe7 27 Rc7 Rd8, but even in this line I would be the one pressuring.

25.Rc7 Nxc7 26.dxc7 Rxe7 27.Rxd7
Re8 28.Nd4 g5 29.Rd8!!

I have calculated this to 5 moves ahead; all variations were winning for me; in the worst case, my kamikaze pawn would queen and be immediately killed. Then I would trade off all the pieces, keep my knight, and make a new queen with another pawn.

29...Ra8 30.Nc6

Black resigns. Possible continuations are 30...Rxd8 31 cxd8=Q Rxd8 32 Nxd8 or 30... gxf4 Nb8. 1-0

“It would have been my best move, if...”

Paul Bartron of Tacoma was my last opponent in the Expert Section of the Washington Class Championship. I have already drawn another Sicilian Dragon game against him earlier this fall in Portland at the Oregon Open. Once again, we played a hard-fought game. I managed to force a draw, which secured clear first in our section. My best move of the game was the one that was not played!

Paul Bartron (2150) –
Marcell Szabo (1993) [B73]

Washington Class Championship Seattle
R6, Nov. 25, 2012

[Notes by Marcell Szabo]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.Be2 0-0
8.0-0 Nc6 9.h3 Bd7 10.f4 Rc8 11.Nb3
a6 12.Qd2 b5 13.Bf3 Ne8

Hmm. Up to this point, we stayed sort of “in the book”. However, nobody in my database has played my wimpy 13... Ne8. Deep Rybka thinks this is actually one of the best moves, and Black almost equalizes with it. Most people in the database, of course, played ...Na5, and it gives a 50–50% result.

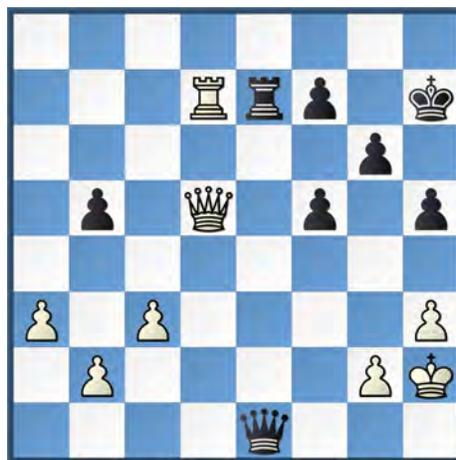
14.Nd5 Rb8 15.Nd4 e6 16.Nxc6 Bxc6
17.Nb4 Bb7 18.c3 a5 19.Nc2 Nf6
20.Qd3 Qd7 21.Rad1 Rfd8 22.Bd4 Bc6
23.Qe3 Qc7

Slowly, slowly, both sides are trying to build something, but it’s really hard in this position. Neither side wants to risk too much.

24.e5 Nd5 25.exd6 Qxd6 26.Qd2 Nb6
27.Qf2 Bxf3 28.Qxf3 Bxd4+ 29.Nxd4
Qc5 30.Kh1 Nd5 31.f5 exf5 32.Nb3
Qc6 33.Nxa5 Qb6 34.Rxd5 Qxa5
35.Rfd1 Re8 36.a3 Qa4 37.Qg3 Qc2
38.R1d2 Qe4 39.R5d4 Qe6 40.Rb4
Rb6 41.Qf2 Reb8 42.Rbd4 h5 43.Qf4
Kg7 44.Kh2 Re8 45.Rd6 Rxd6 46.Rxd6
Qe1 47.Qd4+ Kh7

Finally, after almost three hours of play, we have ventured into each other’s “territory”. But the position remains drawn.

48.Qd5 Re7 49.Rd7



Had he taken the “free” pawn (49 Qxb5), I would have had a deadly silent move that wins: 49...Re3. Unfortunately, my opponent did not take the pawn, and I did not see the Re3 move either until I was sitting at my computer at home analyzing the game. Thus, Re3 remains my best move of this game, with two small blemishes: a) I did not come up with and b) I did not play it.

49...Rxd7 50.Qxd7 Qe5+

Draw by repetition. ½–½

The story of the slightly poisoned rook

In early December, I played at the National Grade Level Championship, and I ended up as the clear winner of my section with 6.5 points out of seven. In most games, I was playing lower-rated opponents and I was in control almost from start to finish. But I got into some middle-game trouble in the game against my buddy Albert Lu from California. However, I managed to equalize and win the game.

Albert Lu (2170) –
Marcell Szabo (2023) [E61]
National K–12 Championship
Orlando R5, Dec. 2, 2012
[Notes by Marcell Szabo]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.c4 Bg7 4.Nc3
0-0 5.Bg5 d6 6.e3 h6 7.Bh4 g5 8.Bg3
Bf5

I am almost “out of the book” already... and I am probably violating all of the basic chess principles... Not surprising, since I have only started playing the King’s Indian this year, and I don’t have a good feel for it yet.

9.Bd3 Bg6 10.Bxg6 fxg6 11.d5 c5
12.0-0 Nbd7 13.Qc2 Qe8

Not so good; I am going to get cramped in. I should have taken Albert’s bishop on d3 a couple of moves earlier and should have kept together my position.

14.Nb5 Qf7 15.Nc7 Rac8

Now I am really getting cramped in. 15.Nc7 Rab8 16.Ne6 Rfc8 should have been better.

16.Ne6 Rfe8 17.Nfxg5 hxg5 18.Nxg5 Qf8 19.Qxg6 Red8

It's a bit of a "dirty trick" that I am trying here, out of desperation. I am offering a bad rook for his good knight, I am really hoping that after trading queens, he will go for the exchange, because this might stop the pressure on my kingside and I might have a chance to equalize later on.

20.Ne6 Qf7 21.Qxf7+ Kxf7 22.Nxd8+

He took my (slightly) poisoned rook! Now it's going to be a game again...if and when I start developing.

22...Rxd8 23.f3 Nh5 24.Rab1 Nxg3 25.hxg3 Kg6 26.Kf2 Ne5 27.b3 a6 28.e4 b5 29.f4 Nd3+

I like my pawn structure and my active knight against his passive rook. I have

16 points versus his 18 if we just add up piece values, but I can feel that I will have an equal play from now on.

30.Ke2 Nb4 31.a3 Nc2 32.a4 Na3 33.Rbc1 bxc4 34.bxc4 Rb8 35.e5 dxe5 36.Rf3 Nb1 37.Kd3

fxe5 would have kept up some pressure; with Kd3 I think I started to control things.

37...e4+ 38.Kxe4 Nd2+ 39.Ke3 Nxf3 40.Kxf3 Rb4 41.Ke4? Rxa4

Albert started to get into some time trouble here. With more time on his clock, he probably would have found something like a5, which would have kept him in the game. After Rxa4, and I am really comfortable.

42.d6? exd6 43.Kd5 Ra2 44.Kxd6 Bd4 45.Re1 Rxg2 46.Re6+ Kf5 47.Kd5 a5 48.Ra6 Ra2 49.g4+ Kxf4 50.Rc6 Kxg4 51.Ke4 a4 52.Kd3 a3 53.Ra6 Ra1 54.Kc2 a2

White resigns 0-1



Marcell Szabo with his two trophies at the National K-8 Championship in Orlando. The trophies are for Blitz K-6, 1st (left) and 6th Grade, 1st (right). Photo courtesy of Csaba Szabo.

Oyster Bay Inn Classic 2012 (Continued from page 20)

38.Rc8+ Kg7 39.Rd8 d3 40.cxd3 cxd3 41.Rxd3 Kf6 42.Rh3 Kxf5 43.Rxh4 Ke4 44.Ke2 a5 45.Kd2 a4 46.Kc3 Kf5 47.Kd4 Bf3 48.Ke3 Bc6 49.Rh5+ Ke6 50.Re5+ Kf6 51.Kd4 Bd7 52.Kc5 Bc6 53.Kb6 Bf3 54.Rc5 Ke6 55.Rc4 Bd1 56.Rd4 Bb3 57.Kxb7 Kf5 58.Kb6 1-0

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Idaho Chess News

Winter Solstice Round Robin

by Barry Eacker

Luckily, the cosmos continued their engineered movements and did not succumb to apocalyptic fear; otherwise, Fred Bartell of Twin Falls might not have won eight games en route to an 8.0/10 result, thereby winning the 2012 version of the Winter Solstice Round Robin held December 29 at Barnes & Noble in Twin Falls, ID. Steve Hinton (Twin Falls) accumulated a 7.5/10 result to finish clear second. Both received a copy of "Alekhine in the Americas," autographed by chess author extraordinaire IM John Donaldson. Many thanks, John.

Eleven players participated in the event, tucked away in the cozy environs of the bookstore about ten steps away from mochas, lattes and toasted bagels with cream cheese. Two players made the trek from Ada County and one from snowy Bellevue while the rest of the players were from the Twin Falls area, including a couple that have not dipped their toe in the icy water of over-the-board play for several years. G/15 controls made for fast paced, tactical activity, and endgames did not receive the proper allotment of calculation time. As one player stated, "Gee, I had ten minutes left a second ago."

Special thanks to Barnes & Noble and especially manager Michelle Daley and her staff who have gone out of their way to make sure all chess players are treated very well in their establishment. This event was sponsored by Magic Valley Chess Club and rated by Rocky Mountain Chess.

Respectfully submitted
Barry D Eacker, TD

Winter Solstice Round Robin Twin Falls, Idaho, December 29, 2012

Tournament Director: Barry Eacker

No.	Name	St	Rate	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Score
1.	Fred Bartell.....	ID	1675	x	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	8.0
2.	Steve Hinton.....	ID	1555	0	x	-	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	7.5
3.	Barry D. Eacker.....	ID	1610	1	-	x	1	0	1	=	1	=	0	1	6.5
4.	Daniel S. Looney.....	ID	1624	0	0	0	x	1	1	=	1	1	1	1	6.5
5.	Gary Dugger.....	ID	1259	1	0	1	0	x	0	1	1	1	0	1	6.0
6.	James Wray.....	ID	1437	0	1	0	0	1	x	1	0	1	1	1	6.0
7.	Tom Booth.....	ID	1572	0	0	=	=	0	0	x	1	1	1	1	5.0
8.	Adam Porth.....	ID	1262	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	x	1	1	1	4.0
9.	Quay Marshall.....	ID	1362	0	0	=	0	0	0	0	0	x	1	1	2.5
10.	Aleksandr Vereshchagin.....	ID	1284	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	x	0	2.0
11.	Lacy Dean.....	ID	1000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	x	1.0



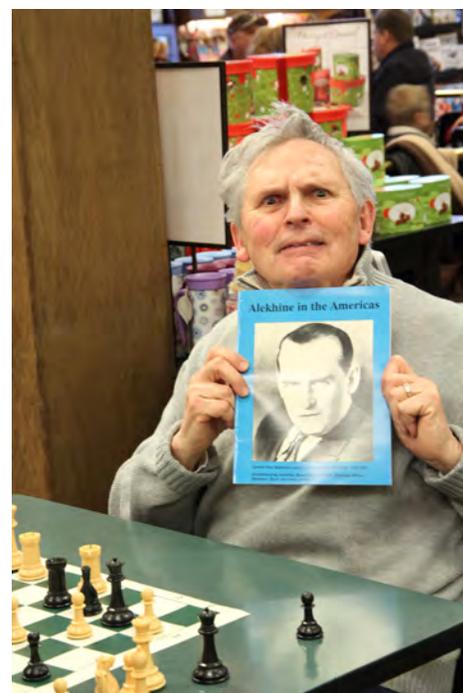
Four players that haven't been seen at the same table for about 15 years. Front Board (L-R) James Wray Aleksandr Vereshchagin, Back Board (L-R): Quay Marshall, Dan Looney
Photo credit: Barry Eacker



L-R: Barry Eacker, Lacy Dean
Photo credit: Adam Porth



The historic chess equipment case used at the Twin Falls Chess Club circa 1970 and is still being used today!
Photo credit: Barry Eacker



Fred Bartell, First Place winner
Photo credit: Adam Porth

More games from the Western Idaho Open (see January issue for first report).

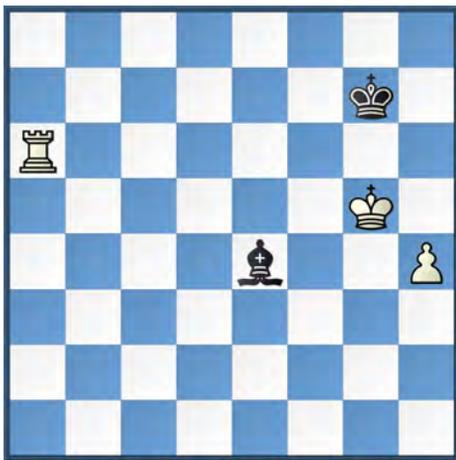
Nick Raptis (2349) – Caleb Kircher (1834) [D01]

WIO (Open) Boise, R3, Dec. 8, 2012
[Notes by Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 d5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Bg5 h6 4.Bh4 e6 5.Nf3 Bb4 6.Bxf6 Bxc3+ 7.bxc3 Qxf6 8.e3 0–0 9.c4 c6 10.Bd3 Nd7 11.0–0 Re8 12.cxd5 exd5 13.Rb1 b5 14.Re1 Nb6 15.Ne5 Nc4 16.Bxc4 bxc4 17.c3 Bf5 18.Rb7 Bg6 19.Qa4 Rxe5 20.dxe5 Qxe5 21.Qxc6 Qxc3 22.Rbb1 Rd8 23.Rbd1 Qa5 24.a4 c3 25.Qb5 Qxb5 26.axb5 Kf8 27.Rd4 Ke7 28.e4 dxe4 29.Rxd8 Kxd8 30.Re3 Kc7 31.Rxc3+ Kb6 32.Ra3 Bf5 33.Ra6+ Kb7 34.Rd6 Be6 35.Rd4 Kb6 36.Rxe4 Kxb5 37.Kf1 a5 38.Ke2 a4 39.Kd2 a3 40.Kc3 Kc5 41.Ra4 a2 42.Ra5+ Kd6 43.Kd4 Kc6 44.h4 h5 45.f3 g6 46.g4 Kb6 47.Ra3 Kb5 48.Kc3 hxg4?!

48...Bd5 and it's hard to see where White will make progress.

49.fxg4 Bxg4 50.Rxa2 Kc5 51.Rd2 f5 52.Rd8 f4 53.Rd4 Bh5 54.Rxf4 Kd5 55.Kd3 Ke5 56.Ke3 Bd1 57.Rf8 Bg4 58.Ra8 Bh5 59.Ra5+ Ke6 60.Kf4 Bd1 61.Kg5 Bc2 62.Ra7 Bd3 63.Rg7 Be4 64.Rxg6+ Kf7 65.Ra6 Kg7

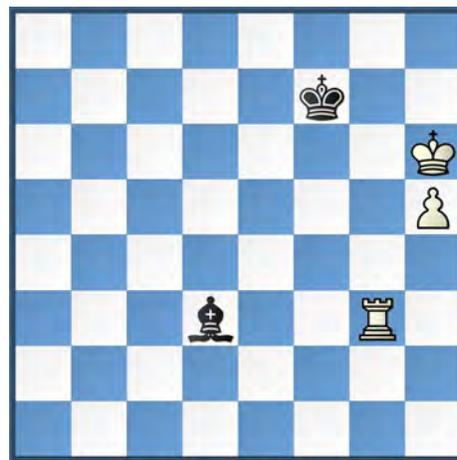


66.h5??

The ending with rook and pawn vs bishop is normally fairly easy. There are, however, exceptions. With an a- or h-pawn, and the defending king in front, it's critical not to advance the pawn

too far. Specifically, the position is still winning with the pawn on h4, as White can drive the black king back, then out of the corner with his own king on h6 and the rook on the g-file. Finally he needs to engineer the king's escape from the h-file without allowing the black king to cross back over the g-file, and to do that requires the use of the h5-square. For the technically inclined, I recommend finding a book that explains the whole process, as it's surprisingly complex. Once the pawn advances to h5, as here, the position is a theoretical draw! Therefore better is 66.Ra7+

66...Kh7 67.Ra7+ Kg8 68.Re7 Bd3 69.Kh6 Bf5 70.Re8+ Kf7 71.Re5 Bd3 72.Re3 Bc2 73.Rg3 Kf8 74.Rc3 Be4 75.Rc7 Kg8 76.Rc4 Bd3 77.Rg4+ Kh8 78.Rd4 Bh7 79.Rd8+ Bg8 80.Kg5 Kh7 81.Rd7+ Kh8 82.Kh6 Be6 83.Rh7+ Kg8 84.Re7 Bf5 85.Re8+ Kf7 86.Re5 Bd3 87.Re3 Bc2 88.Rc3 Be4 89.Rc7+ Kg8 90.Rg7+ Kf8 91.Rg6 Kf7 92.Rg4 Bd3 93.Rg3



93...Be4??

93...Bc2= 94.Kg5 Kg7 95.h6+ Kh7

94.Kg5! Bd5 95.Kf4 Ba2 96.h6 Bb1 97.Rg7+ Kf8 98.Kg5 Bd3 99.Kf6 Be4 100.h7 1–0



Nick Raptis during Round 3 at the 2012 Western Idaho Open. Photo credit: Jeff Roland.

Nick Raptis (2349) – Joshua Sinanan (2252) [A25]
WIO (Open) Boise, R5, Dec. 9, 2012
[Notes by Ralph Dubisch]

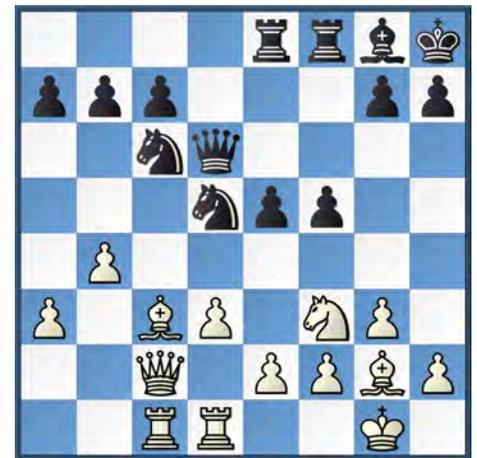
1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.g3 f5 4.Bg2 Nf6 5.d3 Bb4 6.Bd2 0–0 7.a3 Bxc3 8.Bxc3 d5

Black takes the game into a reversed Sicilian Dragon, with classical kingside castling (not the more aggressive Yugoslav attack plan against the Dragon with colors reversed), and having gone out of his way to exchange bishop for knight on c3. Computers tend to evaluate the rather complex middle game that arises as even, though there are plenty of chances to create material and positional imbalances.

9.cxd5 Nxd5 10.Qc2

10.Qb3 Be6 11.Qxb7 Qd6 with compensation in development and central presence.

10...Kh8 11.Nf3 Qd6 12.0–0 Be6 13.Rac1 Rae8 14.Rfd1 Bg8 15.b4



15...a6

Last chance to take the bishop. 15...Nxc3 16.Qxc3 f4 17.gxf4 exf4 18.b5 Nd8 19.Qxc7 Qxa3 is unclear.; 15...e4!? starts another unclear tactical sequence: 16.dxe4 fxe4 17.Ng5 Qg6 18.Nxe4 Nxc3 19.Nxc3 Qxc2 20.Rxc2 Bb3 21.Rcd2 Bxd1 22.Bxc6 bxc6 23.Rxd1 when, despite the exchange minus, it's hard to believe that White stands worse.

16.Ba1 Qh6 17.Qc5 Nf6 18.b5

18.Bxe5 Nd7 19.Bf4 Nxc5 20.Bxh6 Nb3 21.Rxc6 bxc6 22.Be3 is another

exchange vs weaknesses idea, though the nearly-trapped knight adds a wrinkle.

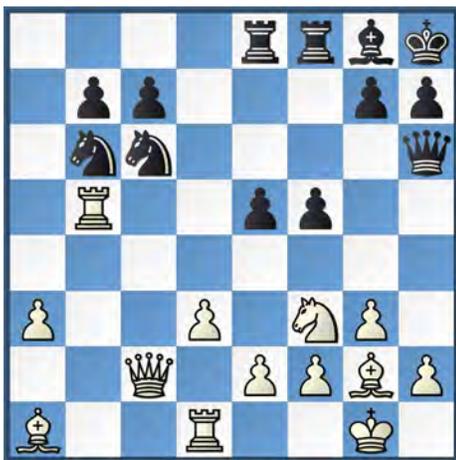
18...Nd7 19.Qc2

19.Qxf8 Nxf8 20.bxc6 b5 21.Bxe5 with again an unclear material imbalance.

19...axb5 20.Rb1 Nb6±

20...Qd6 21.Rxb5 b6 22.Rc1 Na7 23.Rxe5 Nxe5 24.Nxe5 c5 could lead to yet another exchange for pawn imbalance.

21.Rxb5



White piles pressure on the black center pawns.

21...e4?

Opening the long diagonal for the black bishop looks pretty fishy.

22.Nh4

22.dxe4 fxe4 23.Nh4 e3 24.Nf5 exf2+ 25.Kh1 Rxf5 26.Rxf5 Qg6 27.e4 Qxf5 28.exf5 Re1+ 29.Bf1 Bd5+ 30.Rxd5 Nxd5 (30...Rxf1+ 31.Kg2 Rxa1 (31...Nxd5 32.Qc5 threatens mate on f8.) 32.Rd1!) 31.Bxg7+ Kxg7 32.Qxf2+-

22...Qe6 23.Bh3

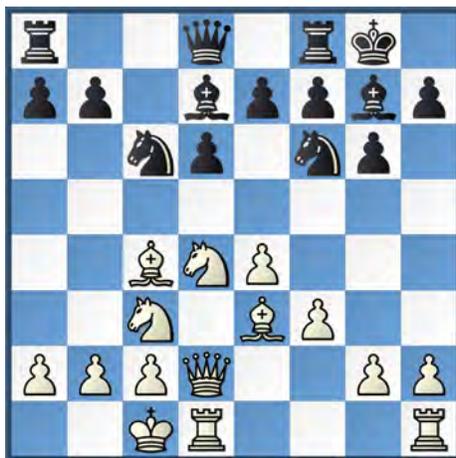
23.dxe4 fxe4 24.Rg5 Re7 25.Bxe4+-

23...exd3 24.exd3 Qd7 25.Nxf5+- Be6 26.Nxg7 Bxh3 27.Nxe8+ Nd4 28.Qc5 1-0

Frank Niro (1700) –
Peter Olsoy (1694) [B78]
WIO (Open) Boise, R4, Dec. 9, 2012

[Notes by Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 0-0 8.Qd2 Nc6 9.Bc4 Bd7 10.0-0-0



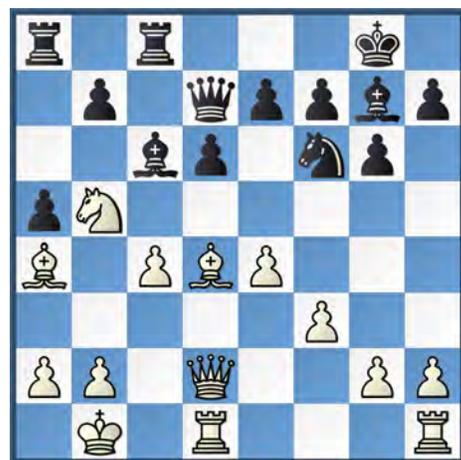
10...Nxd4?!

Standard plans for Black involve maneuvering this knight to c4 via a5 or e5, probably backed up by a rook on c8. Once it lands on c4, White is generally obliged capture with the light-square bishop, and Black continues play along the half-open c-file, putting pressure on c3 -- the intersection of the c-file and the long diagonal. Alternately (or concurrently) Black can advance the queenside pawns. In contrast, the exchange on d4 solidifies White's center and makes the Black game more passive.

11.Bxd4 Qc7 12.Bb3 Bc6 13.Kb1 a5 14.Ba4?!

White's opening choice, the Yugoslav Attack, is designed to facilitate a kingside attack, with the f3-pawn supporting e4 and defending against ...Ng4. White often continues with attempts to open the h-file and route major pieces against the black king. By getting distracted with a blockading plan on the queenside, White delays the kingside push and makes it far less potent. 14.a4 looks better, as there's no way for Black to take advantage of the weakened b4-square. Black can try to continue his own pawn storm with something like 14...b5 (14...Nd7 15.Bxg7 Kxg7 16.b4 leaves White with a solid grip on d5 and a looming kingside initiative.) 15.axb5 a4 16.Bxa4 Bb7 but it's by no means clear that the attack is worth the material invested.

14...Rfb8 15.Nb5 Qd7 16.c4 Rc8



17.g4? Nxe4 18.fxe4 Bxe4+ 19.Ka1

Perhaps a little better is 19.Bc2 Bxh1 20.Bxg7 Kxg7 21.Qc3+ Kg8 22.Rxh1 Qxg4+ as it avoids the possibility of 19...Rxc4 mentioned in the next note.

19...Bxh1

19...Rxc4 20.b3 Rxd4! 21.Nxd4 b5--+

20.Bxg7 Kxg7 21.Qc3+ Kg8 22.Rxh1 Qxg4+ 23.b3?!

23.Na3 though not completely saving the White position, allows the a4-bishop a bit more freedom.

23...d5 24.Qe5 Qe4

24...dxc4 25.Qxe7 Qf3 26.Rb1 c3--+

25.Qxd5 Qxd5 26.cxd5 Rc5 27.d6 exd6 28.Nxd6 b6

28...Ra6 29.Nxb7 Rc7 30.Nd8 Rd6 31.Nc6 Rdxc6 32.Bxc6 Rxc6--+

29.Rf1 f5

29...Rh5 30.Rf2 Rd8

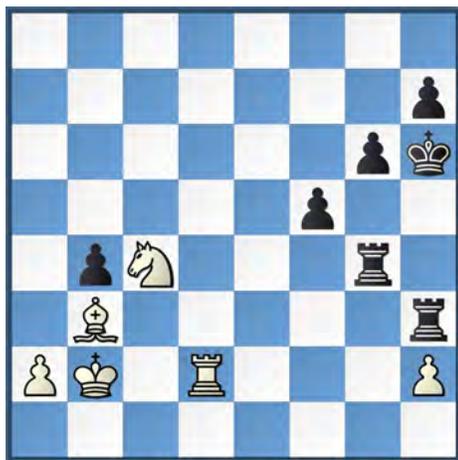
30.b4 axb4 31.Bb3+ Kg7 32.Re1 Rc3 33.Kb2 Rh3 34.Re2 Ra7

34...Rd8

35.Ne8+ Kh6 36.Nf6 Kg5 37.Nd5 Rd7 38.Rg2+ Kh6 39.Nxb6 Rd4 40.Nc4 Rg4 41.Rd2

[Diagram top of next page]

Wood River High School Events



Adam Porth, ICA Secretary/Treasurer, has run the scholastic chess program at Wood River High School (WRHS) since 2006. Every year Adam has a whole new group of students, and each class brings something new and special to Idaho chess. His students usually go to the open (adult) statewide tournaments too, and many of the WRHS tournaments are open to everyone. We present the following crosstables/results to these events which were not USCF rated.

2012 Christmas Blitzkrieg, Hailey, ID, December 13, 2012 Adam Porth, Tournament Director

No.	Name	Rate	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Score
1.	Porth, Desmond (3)	1000	W14	W7	W2	W4	W6	W3	W5	W8	8.0
2.	Reidy, Matt (2)	1022	W9	W5	L1	W3	W4	W6	W7	W11	7.0
3.	Clark, Riley (1)	1064	W8	W6	L4	L2	W5	L1	W12	W9	5.0
4.	Brimstein, Wesley (4)	950	W15	W11	W3	L1	L2	W8	W9	L5	5.0
5.	Moffett, Kalen (5)	939	W16	L2	W10	W7	L3	W11	L1	W4	5.0
6.	Hartdegon, Nash (6)	901	W10	L3	W12	W9	L1	L2	L11	W13	4.0
7.	Avila, Tyler (8)	894	W12	L1	W11	L5	L9	W10	L2	W14	4.0
8.	Porth, Darwin (9)	859	L3	L12	W15	W10	W13	L4	W16	L1	4.0
9.	Weatherly, Colten (10)	837	L2	W16	W14	L6	W7	W13	L4	L3	4.0
10.	Stouffer, Owen (16)	nnnn	L6	W13	L5	L8	W16	L7	W14	W15	4.0
11.	Stouffer, Nathan (15)	nnnn	W13	L4	L7	W12	W15	L5	W6	L2	4.0
12.	Stouffer, Garrett (14)	nnnn	L7	W8	L6	L11	W14	W15	L3	W16	4.0
13.	Van Law, Quentin (7)	900	L11	L10	W16	W14	L8	L9	W15	L6	3.0
14.	Durdle, Aiden (11)	nnnn	L1	W15	L9	L13	L12	W16	L10	L7	2.0
15.	Stouffer, Emmett (13)	nnnn	L4	L14	L8	W16	L11	L12	L13	L10	1.0
16.	Hurtado, David (12)	nnnn	L5	L9	L13	L15	L10	L14	L8	L12	0.0

2012 Family & Friends Team Tournament, Hailey, ID, December 27, 2012 Adam Porth, Tournament Director

Plc	Name (Players:Top 2 used)	Score	Solk	Cum	CumOp	SBx2
1	Best Ever (Kitt Connor & Danny Mills)	9.5	27.5	29.0	82.0	51.5
2	PWN (Desmond Porth & Jake Whitlock)	6.5	26.5	20.0	79.0	28.5
3	People Eaters (Adam Porth & Tyler Avila)	6.0	29.0	19.0	91.0	26.0
4	SKY (Kalen Moffett & Jennifer Moffett)	5.0	29.0	14.0	84.0	18.0
5	Life of the Party (Dylan Porth & Heidi Mungall)	5.0	23.5	18.0	74.0	14.0
6	Healies (Darwin Porth & Lynnet Porth)	5.0	22.5	15.0	74.0	12.0
7	Pirate Booty (Quentin Van Law & Sierra Money)	4.0	22.0	12.0	64.0	12.0
8	Leaping Lizards (Melissa Young & Collin Young)	3.0	23.5	7.0	68.0	4.0
9	Rockin' Rollers (Deb Van Law & Liam Van Law)	1.0	21.5	1.0	59.0	2.0

41...Rg1

41...Rgh4-+

42.Ne5 Rh1 43.Nf7+

43.Bd5 R1xh2 44.Rxh2 Rxh2+ 45.Kb3
g5 46.Kxb4 g4 47.a4 g3 48.a5 g2 49.Nf3
Rh3 50.Ng1 Rh1 51.Ne2 g1Q 52.Nxg1
Rxxg1-+

43...Kg7 44.Ng5 R3xh2 45.Rxh2
Rxh2+ 46.Kc1 h6 47.Ne6+ Kf6 48.Kd1
g5 49.Ke1 f4 50.Nd4 g4 51.Nc6 f3
52.Nxb4 g3 53.Bd5 Rh1+ 54.Kd2 Rf1
55.Bxf3 Rxf3 56.Nd5+ Kg5 57.Ne3
Rxe3 58.Kxe3 Kh4 59.Kf3 Kh3 0-1



This picture was posted to the Portland Chess Club Facebook page during the fourth round of that tournament to say "hi" and show support for Northwest Chess over-the-board events. L-R in the back row: Peter Olsoy, Paul Holsinger, Jeff Roland, Gary Derr, Jarod Buus, Roger Hunter, and Kory Puderbaugh is in the front row. Photo credit: Jeff Roland and Katie Sorensen.

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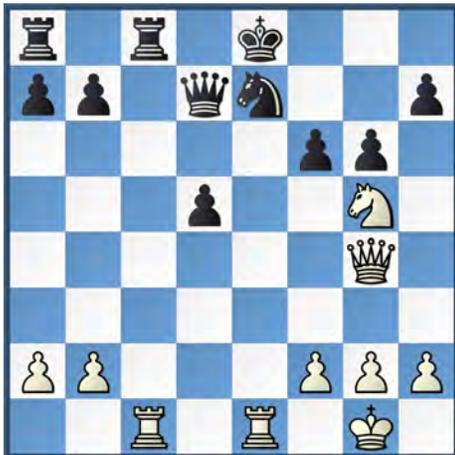
The Modern von Bardeleben

by Matt Wilson (contributing reader)

“Von who?” you may ask. You know who. The guy who lost that incredible game to Steinitz. The game where Steinitz put all his pieces *en prise* while facing a mate in one, and still won brilliantly.

**William Steinitz –
Curt von Bardeleben [C54]**
Hastings, Aug. 17, 1895

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d4 exd4 6.cxd4 Bb4+ 7.Nc3 d5 8.exd5 Nxd5 9.0-0 Be6 10.Bg5 Be7 11.Bxd5 Bxd5 12.Nxd5 Qxd5 13.Bxe7 Nxe7 14.Re1 f6 15.Qe2 Qd7 16.Rac1 c6 17.d5 cxd5 18.Nd4 Kf7 19.Ne6 Rhc8 20.Qg4 g6 21.Ng5+ Ke8



22.Rxe7+! Kf8 23.Rf7+! Kg8 24.Rg7+! Kh8 25.Rxh7+! 1-0

Unfortunately, it became clear to me that unlike Steinitz, I would never win the World Championship, nor revolutionize the understanding of chess. But perhaps I could imitate his superb combinational skill. I searched through my games and came across the following gem:

Wilson – Mathews, WA Open 2010

[Diagram top of next column]

16.exf5! Bxf5 17.Qd5+! Kh8 18.g4!!

Diverting Black's knight from the queenside.

18...Nf6 19.Qb7!!

Oh wait... that isn't a brilliancy. That's a



cheap pawn grab, albeit a Fritz approved one. But even when given the chance to play a real combination, I still bungled it:

Wilson – Milner, WA Class 2007



32.Rxd6!! Rxd6 33.Nxd6 Qxd6 34.Qc8+! 1-0

Because 34...Kh7 35.e5+! wins the queen.

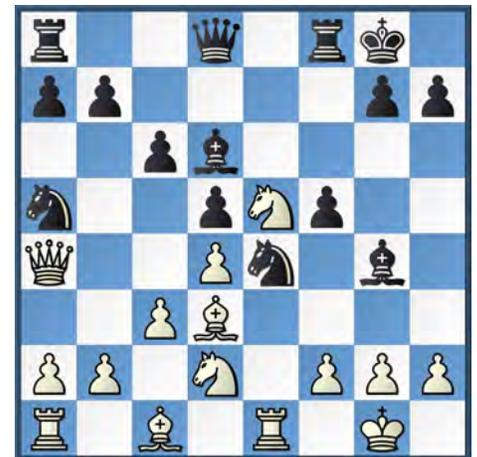
Swelling with pride, I plugged the game into Fritz, eagerly waiting for it to validate my genius. But Fritz was unimpressed with 32.Rxd6, since 32...Ne6 and even 32...Rxd6 33.Nxd6 Be8 hold for Black. Correct was 32.Nxd6! and White is winning.

I was crushed. No great combinations. No novel positional insights. And certainly no world championship title. The next Steinitz would have to be someone else. But on closer inspection of my play,

I found that I had lost a number of brilliant games, especially to computers. Like an ancient foot soldier admiring the great craftsmanship of the sword that just impaled him, I recognized that my losses, though painful, were occasionally quite beautiful. Perhaps I could be the next von Bardeleben, famous solely for losing to an amazing combination. For example:

**Matthew Wilson (1900) -
IM_Ignazio [computer](2450) [C42]**
World Chess Live, Jun. 4, 2008

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.d4 d5 6.Bd3 Nc6 7.0-0 Be7 8.Re1 Bg4 9.c3 f5 10.Nbd2 0-0 11.Qb3 Na5 12.Qb5 c6 13.Qa4 Bd6 14.Ne5?



A strong and natural move, I thought. White gains a foothold in the center and threatens 15.f3, so at the very least Black will have to move his e4-knight to a less attractive square. But then I was blown out of the water with a spectacular combination:

14...Bxe5! 15.dxe5 Nxf2! 16.Kxf2? Qh4+ 17.Kf1 Be2+! 18.Bxe2 Qxa4

A shell-shocked White resisted for ten more moves, but had to admit defeat then. Who would have thought that my undefended a4-queen would be the fatal flaw in my position?

Not wanting to be a tactical punching bag, I switched to correspondence games against the computers. Then I

would have plenty of time to think, and could avoid any future von Bardeleben moments. But extra thinking time proved to be no compensation for my dearth of talent, and fate would not be cheated:

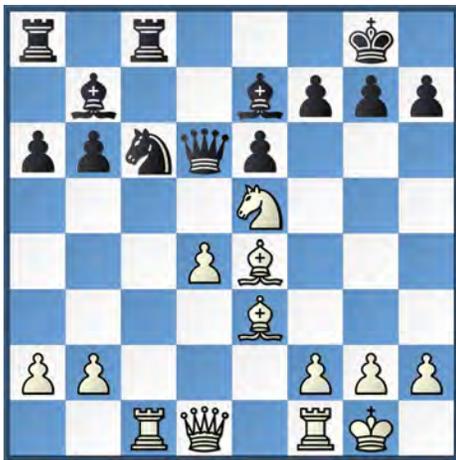
Fritz 5.32 (2550) -

Matthew Wilson (1900) [B22]

Matt vs. Machines 2007, Mar., 2008

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 a6 3.c3 d5 4.exd5 Qxd5 5.d4 Nf6 6.Be2 e6 7.0-0 cxd4 8.cxd4 Nc6 9.Be3 Be7 10.Nc3 Qd6 11.Rc1 0-0 12.Bd3 b6 13.Ne4 Nxe4 14.Bxe4 Bb7 15.Ne5 Rfc8?

Quite cunning, I had thought. Now if 16.Bf4, 16...Bf6! and since 17.Ng6 no longer hits the rook, White has no good discovered attacks. But...



16.Bxh7+!

“Yay! It must want a draw from 16...Kxh7 17.Qh5+ Kg8 18.Qxf7+ Kh7 19.Qh5+ Kg8 20.Qf7+, repeating the position,” I thought naively.

16...Kxh7 17.Qh5+ Kg8 18.Qxf7+ Kh7 19.Bh6!!

The key move I had missed.

19...Bf6 20.Qg6+!

Not settling for 20.Qxb7 Rab8 21.Rxc6 Rxc6 22.Qxc6 Qxc6 23.Nxc6 Rc8 24.Bxg7 Kxg7 25.Rc1 Bxd4

20...Kg8 21.Bxg7!!

With the idea of 21...Bxg7 22.Qf7+ Kh7 23.Rc3 and wins.

21...Nxe5 22.dxe5 Bxg7 23.exd6 Bd5 24.Rxc8+ Rxc8 25.d7 Rf8 26.Rc1 1-0

After working on my tactics, I managed to play quite a number of non-catastrophic games. Maybe the von Bardeleben days were gone, just a speed bump on the road to mastery. And then grand-mastery. And then world champion!! Yes, after beating Magnus Carlson, the disgustingly talented prodigy I never was, they would interview me, asking breathlessly, how did I do it. And then the newly crowned champion GM Wilson would tell of his humble beginnings as a weak amateur, whose king was mauled on a regular basis. “Upon being paired with this Matt Wilson, the masters would lick their chops, eagerly awaiting a sure-fire brilliancy prize. No more,” the next Bobby Fischer would say to the enthralled audience. “The hapless pawn grabber from the Northwest who would never amount to anything is now World Champion!” The crowd went wild... But alas, the ghost of von Bardeleben had not departed. Once again I was clobbered in a game I still remember well. After resourcefully saving a draw against “IM_Ignazio,” who had slaughtered me so badly in one of the above games, I challenged the “GM_Petya” computer program:

GM_Petya (2700) -

Matthew Wilson (1944) [A47]

ICC Internet Chess Club, Oct. 16, 2010

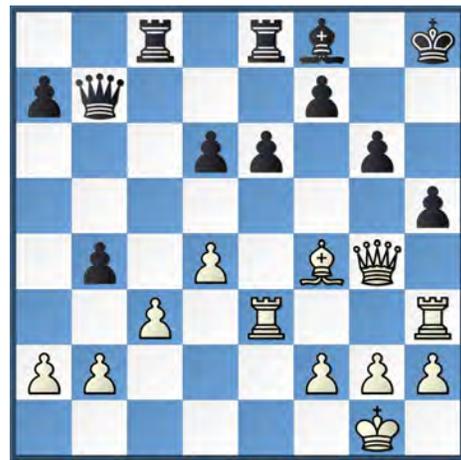
1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.e3 b6 4.Bd3 Bb7 5.0-0 c5 6.Nbd2 cxd4 7.exd4 Be7 8.Qe2 0-0 9.Nc4 d6 10.Bf4 Re8 11.Rfe1 Bf8 12.Rad1 Qc7 13.Ng5 h6 14.Ne4 Nxe4 15.Bxe4 Bxe4 16.Qxe4 Nd7 17.Qe2 Rac8 18.Ne3 Nf6 19.c3 Qb7 20.Ng4 Nxc4 21.Qxc4 Kh8 22.Rd3 b5 23.Rg3 g6 24.Rh3 h5 25.Ree3

Rare indeed is the occasion in which I can play so many non-atrocious moves in a row. After 25...Bg7, Fritz offers the line 26.Bxd6 Qd5 27.Be5 Qxa2 28.Rxh5+ Kg8! 29.g3 Qxb2, and Black is hanging on. But just as von Bardeleben must have dismissed 22.Rxe7+!! in his calculations, I took no heed to that silly 26.Rxh5+ move, and carried on with my minority attack.

25...b4?

[Diagram top of next column]

26.Rxh5+! gxh5 27.Qxh5+ Kg8 28.Rg3+ Bg7 29.Rxg7+!! Kxg7



30.Bh6+ Kh7 31.Bg5+ Kg8 32.Bf6! 1-0

There is no stopping 33.Qh8#.

Perhaps someday, dear reader, we will meet over a chess board. I will endeavor with all my might to defeat you. But my feeble mind will overlook something, and you will play the greatest game of your life, a game you will show to your friends for many years to come. And the modern von Bardeleben will smile weakly as he adds another masterpiece to his game collection.

This is YOUR magazine!

Much of the material used in *Northwest Chess* is thanks to readers who contribute games, pictures, and stories from recent events.

I appreciate the cooperation and willingness to share that I have seen so far from so many people.

Thanks also to the TD's and to the photographers at events for collecting the games and for taking and sharing the photographs with *Northwest Chess*.

Remember, to contribute just send material to editor@nwchess.com.

Thank you.

—Editor.

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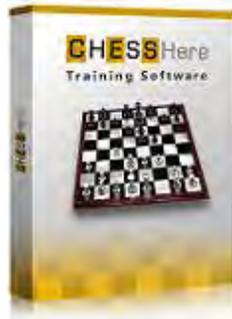
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Upcoming Events (continued from back cover)

☞ **Mar 9-10 Northwest Open, Tacoma, WA.** Site: Tacoma Chess Club, 409 Puyallup Ave. E., in the DTI Soccer Store Building across from Alfred's Cafe & 2 blocks down the hill from the Tacoma Dome. Format: 4 round Swiss, 1 section. Time Control: 40/90, SD/60 +5 second delay. Entry Fee: Adults \$25.00 Advanced, \$30.00 at the door, Jr.'s \$20.00. Registration: 9:00-9:45 A.M., Rounds: Sat. 10:00, 4:00, Sun. 10:00, 4:00. PRIZE FUND: 60% of entry fees. 1st 25%, 2nd 15%, U2000, U1700, U1400 20%. Byes: 2 half point byes available. USCF/WCF Memberships required. NS, NC, NW. ENTRIES/INFO: Gary J. Dorfner, 8423 E. B St., Tacoma, WA 98445, (253) 535-2536, ggarychess@aol.com.

☞ **Mar 16-17 Portland Spring Open, Portland, OR.** Site: Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave, Portland, OR. This USCF-rated, two-day tournament is played in two sections, has five rounds, and offers long time controls and lots of cash prizes: Time Control: 40/90 SD/30, 5 second delay if clock allows. Two half point byes available for Rounds 1-4 if requested at registration. Entry Fee: \$35; members of the Club get \$10 discount. Memberships: USCF and OCF/WCF required and can be purchased/renewed at registration (other state memberships OK for out-of-area players). Registration: 9:00-9:45am on Saturday. Rounds at 10, 2 and ASAP on Saturday, 10 and ASAP on Sunday. Prizes: based on 40 entries and adjusted proportionally if different number of players, total prize fund is \$650 (each section's prize fund \$325). Open section: 1st place - \$150, 2nd place - \$100, best result for rated under 2000 - \$75. Reserve (U1800) section: 1st place - \$100, 2nd place - \$75, best results for rated under 1600, under 1400, and under 1200 or unrated - \$50 each. No tiebreakers used, prizes split between players with the same results.

Mar 29-31 (Easter weekend) 2nd Annual Larry Evans Memorial Tournament, **Reno, NV.** See full page ad on page 8.

Seattle Chess Club Tournaments

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

SCC Fridays

Typical Friday fare is one round of an ongoing tournament (free to SCC members, no prizes) played at a rate of 40/90 followed by 30/60. Drop in for any round!

Cabin Fever: Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22.
SCC G/15 Championship: Mar 1.
March Winds: Mar. 8, 15, 22, 29.
April Showers: Apr. 5, 12, 19, 26.
Close Ratings: May 3, 10, 17.
Pre-WAO Blitz (G/5): May 24.
It's Summertime: May 31; June 7, 14, 21.
Firecracker Quads (G/25): June 28.

How to Find the SCC

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

Attendance at 2012's events

3-Day Wknd Tnmts (6)–ave. 44.3; *Tornados* (13)–ave. 19.2; *Quads* (10)–ave. 16.6;
 2-Day Wknd Tnmts (2)–11.5; *Octagonals* (1)–9; *Novice* (4)–ave. 7.

Seattle Spring Open

March 22-24 or 23-24

A two-section Swiss (4 rounds – Open, 5 rounds – Reserve) with a time control of 40/2 and SD/1 (two-day Reserve schedule – Round 1, G/64). The prize fund of \$950 is based on 50 paid entries, 6 per prize group.

a Northwest Grand Prix event

Open		Reserve (U1950)	
First	\$200	First	\$120
Second	\$150	Second	\$80
U2100	\$100	U1750	\$65
		U1550	\$55
		U1350	\$45
		Unrated	\$15

Plus Score Pool – \$120

Entry Fees: \$33 if rec'd by 3/20 (\$24 SCC memb., \$29 memb. of other dues-required CCs in the NW), \$42 at site (\$33 SCC memb., \$38 memb. of other dues-required CCs in the NW). **Unrated**—Free with purchase of 1-yr USCF & 1-yr WCF. **Add \$1 to any EF for 2-day schedule.**

Registration: **Open**—Sat. 11- noon; **Reserve**—Fri. 7-7:45pm, Sat. 9-9:45am.

Rounds: **Open**—Sat. 12:30-6:45, Sun. 11-5; **Reserve**—Fri. 8, Sat. (10 @ G/64) 12:30-6:45, Sun. 11-5.

Byes: 1 in Open, 2 in Reserve (Sunday rounds, commit at registration).

Miscellaneous: USCF & WCF membership req'd. No smoking.

Feb. 23, Mar. 16 Saturday Quads

Format: 3-RR, 4-plyr sections by rating. **TC:** G/120. **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:** USCF, WCF/OCF memb. req'd, OSA, NS, NC, NWGP.

March 1 SCC G/15 Championship

Format: 4-7 rounds depending on entries. **TC:** G/15. **EF:** \$8 (+\$5 fee for non-SCC). **Prize Fund:** \$6 from each EF. **Prizes:** 1st 40%, 2nd 30%, Bottom Half 30%.

1st Rd: 8:00 p.m. **Misc:** USCF memb. req'd. NS, NC.

Mar. 3, Apr. 7 Sunday Tornado

Format: 4-SS. **TC:** G/64. **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:** USCF, WCF/OCF memb. req'd, OSA, NS, NC, NWGP.

April 14 SCC Novice

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

Upcoming Events

☞ denotes 2013 Northwest Grand Prix event; for Seattle Chess Club events see page 31

☞ **Feb 2** Groundhog Day Mini-Swiss, **Tacoma, WA**. See back cover of January issue of *Northwest Chess* or www.nwchess.com/calendar/ta.htm.

☞ **Feb 16-18** Idaho Closed State Championship, **Twin Falls, ID**. IDAHO RESIDENTS ONLY! Chief TD: Barry Eacker. Shilo Inn, 1586 Blue Lakes Blvd No., Twin Falls, ID 83301. 6SS, 30/120, SD/60. Annual ICA Business meeting beginning at 8 AM prior to rnd 3. Rounds: 9, 4, 10, 4:30, 8, 3. One ½ pt Bye, Rounds 1-5. Must Notify TD before rnd 2. Reg & Ck in: 7:30-8:30 Sat Feb 16. One Section: Open. EF (USCF and ICA memb req.): \$35 (includes \$10 ICA Membership) if registered by February 13. \$30 (includes \$10 ICA Membership) for Seniors (60+) and Juniors (under 18) if registered by February 13. \$50 (includes \$10 ICA Membership) for EVERYONE if registered after February 13. Prizes: Trophies or plaques, 1st, 2nd, 3rd Overall – 1st X; 1st-2nd, A thru F; 1st Junior; 1st Senior; 1st Unrated. HR: \$79 incl tx, 1-4 persons, \$15 ea additional person. FREE bkfst ea hotel guest. 866-539-0036. Ask for Darlene or mention State Chess Championship. Contact: Barry Eacker, mol@q.com, 208-733-6186, 963 Delmar Dr., Twin Falls, ID 83301. www.idahocheessassociation.org. NC, NS, W.

Feb 16-17 President's U2000 Open, **Tacoma, WA**. Site: Tacoma Chess Club, 409 Puyallup Ave E, in the DTI Soccer Store Building across the street from Alfred's Café & 2 blocks down the hill from the Tacoma Dome. Format: 4 round Swiss, U2000. Time Control: 40/90, SD/30, 5 second delay. Registration: 9:00-9:45, Rounds: Sat. 10:00 & 4:00, Sun. 10:00 & 4:00. 2 half point byes available. Entry fee: Adults \$30.00 advance, \$35.00 at the door, Juniors \$20.00. Prize Fund: \$375.00/B16, \$75.00 1st Class A, B, C, D, E. WCF/USCF membership required. NS, NC, NW. Entries/info: Gary J. Dorfner, 8423 E. B St., Tacoma, WA 98445. ggarychess@aol.com, (253)535-2536.

☞ **Feb 23** Portland CC Game in 60. **Portland, OR**. 4SS, G/60. TD may switch to 5SS and G/45 if more than 25 entries. Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave., Portland, OR. EF: \$20, \$5 discount for PCC Members. OCF/WCF and USCF memb req'd, OSA. No advance entries. Reg: 9-9:30. Byes: ½ point bye if requested at reg. Prizes: (\$200/b20) \$60-\$40-\$30 U1800, U1500 \$35 each. Info: e-mail portlandchessclub@gmail.com, phone 503-246-2978, website www.pdxchess.com.

☞ **Feb 23-24** The 21st Dave Collyer Memorial, **Spokane, WA**. The Spokane Chess Club and the Gary Younker Foundation, in memory of former presidents Dave Collyer and Gary Younker, proudly present the Twenty-First Dave Collyer Memorial tournament. Location: Basement Conference Room, St. Anne's Children's Center, 25 W. Fifth Ave., Spokane. A computer-paired, five-round Swiss System event. Registration: 8:30-9:30, February 23, 2013. Mandatory player meeting at 9:45 (except for sleep in). Rounds: 10 (or 12)-2:30-7; 9-1:30 or ASAP. Time control: Game/115. Entry fee: \$27 if received by 2/22, \$33 at the door; under 19 \$5 less. Telephone entries accepted. All registrants must check in by 9:30 unless a first-round bye was granted or player is playing in the "sleep in" section. Late arrivals might not be paired in first round. Special "Sleep In" option: Anyone interested in sleeping in can play their round one game commencing at noon under g/60 time control and join the regular event for round two. Registration for this option ends at 11:40 a.m. February 23. \$1,800 GUARANTEED prize fund. Class prizes based on at least 5 per class; classes may be reconfigured if less than five class entries. Only one prize per player (excluding biggest upset). NS, NC, W. One ½-point bye available if requested by end of prior round; Sunday bye must be requested by end of round 3. Director reserves the right to use class pairings in final round. There will be a special door prize for every entrant. PRIZES: 1st \$350, 2nd \$225, 3rd \$125. Class Prizes: Top Expert \$100; \$100 first, \$70 second: A; B; C; D; E/unrated. Biggest Upsets: \$100 & \$50 (non-provisional ratings). Entries: Spokane CC, c/o Kevin Korsmo, N. 9923 Moore, Spokane, WA 99208-9339. For information please call (509) 270-1772. Check website for updates & directions: www.spokanechessclub.org.

Upcoming Events (continued on page 30)