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NWC Staff

Editor: Jeffrey Roland,
editor@nwchess.com

Games Editor: Ralph Dubisch,
chesscoaching@gmail.com

Publisher: Duane Polich,
publisher@nwchess.com

Business Manager: Eric Holcomb,
eric@holcomb.com

Board Representatives

David Yoshinaga, Josh Sinanan,
Grisha Alpernas, Marty Campbell,
Jeffrey Roland, Jim Berezow, Chouchanik
Airapetian (alternate for Marty Campbell)

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Business Manager, Northwest Chess
Eric Holcomb
1900 NE 3rd St, STE 106 PMB 361
Bend, OR 97701-3889
Eric@Holcomb.com
www.nwchess.com

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Selected Best State Magazine/Newsletter in 2014 by Chess Journalists of America!

On the front cover:

Too cool Morgan the Dog being given his own star in Hollywood. Photo credit: Lisa Kuhlman and Brian Berger.

On the back cover:

Chesstoon of a dog trying to at least look like Morgan the Dog by Brian Berger.

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Chess cartoons drawn by local artist Brian Berger, of West Linn, Oregon.

Northwest Chess Knights

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Jeffrey Roland, NWC Editor
1514 S. Longmont Ave.
Boise, Idaho 83706-3732
or via e-mail to:
editor@nwchess.com

Northwest Grand Prix Administrator

Murlin Varner
13329 208 Ave NE
Woodinville, WA 98072
MEVjr54@yahoo.com
425-882-0102

Morgan the Dog Interview

By Brian Berger



While in Moscow Square, Morgan the Dog takes on all comers while catching up on his research into the origin of chess. Photo credit: Lisa Kuhlman and Brian Berger.

As told to Brian Berger by way of Jerrold Richards, who translated Morgan the Dog's answers in an interview conducted at Jerrold and Morgan's home in Washington's Columbia River Gorge.

Deluged by fan letters wanting to know more about this most miraculous of canines, this reporter approached Jerrold Richards (Morgan the Dog's owner?) about the possibility of further revelations about Morgan's life. Although preferring to remain tight-lipped about himself, Morgan the Dog has come to realize that his days of anonymity are behind him, and the recent revelation of his dominating chess game against Mike Goffe only further fanned the flames of speculation about his origin.

What will be revealed in this interview will seem farfetched, perhaps impossible to imagine, but Morgan the Dog's vivid and detailed descriptions will leave no one of you doubting the veracity of his tale—a tale which will take you on a journey across many lands, in search of arcane knowledge hidden from mankind for untold centuries; a journey of self-discovery that transformed forever Morgan the Dog's perceptions of who he is and his place in this world; a world

headed on its own unimaginable journey through the vastness of the cosmos.

Brian: First off, Jerrold, let me say it is quite an honor to be the first person allowed to interview Morgan the Dog, as I understand many segments of the media have been offering large sums of cash to get an exclusive on Morgan.

Jerrold: Yes Brian, I have been besieged by offers and counter-offers to obtain exclusive rights to Morgan the Dog's life story; but Morgan insisted that that privilege should go to you, as a reporter for *Northwest Chess*, because you were the first to recognize that there was something exceptional about him.

Brian: That is very nice of Morgan. Please let him know that I am very excited about conveying his life story to our readers.

Jerrold: Oh, I don't need to translate that to Morgan, as he understands English perfectly well. In fact, Morgan understands at least five languages, having needed the use of those in searching down the true origin of chess.

Brian: My, that is impressive! And he is self-taught?

Jerrold: Oh yes! But then Morgan the Dog is a genius, with a photographic memory, and so whatever interests him he excels at; the mysteries of chess being a driving force that has dominated his thoughts since he was a pup.

Brian: Fascinating! But I am sure the readers would like to know how you communicate with Morgan the Dog, so as to translate Morgan's own words for this interview.

Jerrold: Ah, yes! Well, it was not easy at first to know what Morgan was trying to tell me. When he first wandered into my life some years ago, I was having a bite to eat while watching the Columbia River flowing in a silvered light—a sight which is awesome to behold, and humbling, in making one realize the power of Nature's forces.

Anyway, there was Morgan the Dog, who suddenly appeared through a line of fir trees and sauntered over to look at my sandwich with a hungry eye. There was something about Morgan (a name, by the way, that Morgan later chose for himself) that bespoke of an unnatural intelligence for a dog, and I felt compelled to give him the rest of my lunch. Finishing it in a gulp or two, he then seemed to motion me to take a walk with him, which I again felt drawn to comply with, and we headed for a wooded area that could not be readily seen from the roadway.

It was then that Morgan the Dog revealed to me his reason for wanting to be away from prying eyes, by smoothing out the dirt of the forest floor and slowly spelling out the word "Hello" with his paw. To tell you that I was stunned would be to use a word that does not come near to what I really felt, but will suffice for the moment. I must have stood there for more than a minute before I was able to comprehend what had just taken place. Morgan, on the other hand, was quite aware of the impact he had made, and with some effort erased the word "Hello" and slowly wrote, "Stay calm."

By this time, staying calm seemed not an option, and I blurted out to myself, "What the heck just happened?" Then, feeling both foolish and scared at the same time, I addressed Morgan directly about what just took place. I could see it was with great effort that Morgan was able to answer with some further words scrawled

in the dirt, enough to let me know I was not going crazy, but not enough to explain his strange gift or where he came from.

By this time, I had calmed down enough to know I had not gone off the deep end, but was conversing with some miracle canine specimen, the breed of which eluded me. Then, through means that did not entail spelling in the dirt, Morgan led me to understand he would like to go home with me, and there he has resided with me ever since.

Brian: My gosh, Jerrold, that is some story. I am sure it would have taken me longer to get over the shock of a dog who could write out his thoughts. But you indicated that Morgan the Dog cannot readily converse by spelling, it taking him too long to get his thoughts across. How then do you two communicate?

Jerrold: Well, that brings me back to why I said it was not easy at first. We converse by a combination of guttural sounds and a form of sign language, the sounds and signs of which Morgan painstakingly taught me. With these two forms of communication, we can carry on lively discussions, unhampered by the tedious slowness of Morgan's spelling.

Brian: And so through this process, I will get Morgan's replies to my questions?

Jerrold: Verbatim!

Brian: Thank you so much, Jerrold. I will hereafter address Morgan the Dog



*Morgan on his journey through France.
Photo credit: Lisa Kuhlman and Brian Berger.*



Morgan stops for a time in Bavaria. Photo credit: Lisa Kuhlman and Brian Berger.

directly. Can you tell me, Morgan, where you were born and how you first came to know that you were not like other dogs? (After a short exchange of strange sounds and hand and paw signing, Morgan answered the question through Jerrold).

Morgan: I was born in Russia, in a small village footing the Crimean Range, where it drops suddenly to the Black Sea. My mother bore six of us, and so I have two brothers and three sisters. I never knew my father. As to when I knew that I was not like other dogs, it was during the last days of being weaned. I realized then that my brothers and sisters were not like me; that they were not as conscious as I about our surroundings, nor of the family that fed us.

I had by that time taken notice of how the humans around me communicated, and so, by watching their reactions while conversing, I came to understand their language. But what I was most intrigued by was a game they played every evening, consisting of 64 squares on a flat board, on which small wooden figures would be moved at differing intervals. By paying close attention, I learned the movements of the figures, and how they determined the outcome of the game.

Surprisingly, the sudden understanding of how this game was played came as a greater revelation to me than the fact that I was most probably unique among my species. Having been born this way, I simply took as normal; not for a time knowing otherwise. But this game captivated me, and I was determined to find out as much as I could about its creation, and the best way to master it.

Brian: How then, Morgan, did you go about discovering more about this game you were growing to love, thereafter putting that knowledge to use to become the extraordinary chess player that you are?

Morgan: Most people would believe that the internet would have been my primary source of information; but I must reveal something further about my uniqueness, that until this time I have not confided to anyone—even Jerrold Richards. I do not age as other dogs do; nor can my lifespan be compared to that of a human. In appearance, one would think me to be no more than a six year old dog—but in truth, I was born in 1886!

Brian: Holy cow! How can that be? That would make you 128 in human years, and 896 in dog years!

Jerrold: Holy cow!

Morgan: It is a mystery to me also, just as it is a mystery to me still that I am gifted with an intelligence that far surpasses most humans. I long ago stopped trying to understand my extraordinary biological makeup, and have come to accept it.

Brian: Astounding!

Jerrold: Mind-boggling!

Morgan: Indeed. But you asked about my search for knowledge concerning the game of chess, and as I had not the resources of the internet my quest was only answerable by extensive travel and copious reading. I discovered that some attempts had been made to document the



Morgan the Dog in his travels across America. Photo credit: Lisa Kuhlman and Brian Berger.

origin of the game and trace its spread, but I wanted only source material, so set about learning Arabic in order to read ancient manuscripts, which in turn, led to my wanderings in India, where dust-laden documents pinpointed its probable origination there in the sixth century.

From there I was led to visit Persia, where for many months I sought a manuscript authored by an unknown hand, which was said to have been penned sometime around 750 AD, that placed the game's appearance there at about 550 AD. Sometime thereafter, having exhausted further writing on the subject, I spent months trekking across barren lands into China, where my studies indicated that the game had become known there by sometime late in the eight century.

Brian: What incredible scholarship! How was it that you were able to access such rare source material without arousing suspicion, while keeping your understanding of many languages a secret?

Morgan: Unlike today, where every great library has multi-layered security from unauthorized access, the libraries of the 1800's were an "open book," so to speak. Little in the way of protection for their contents was then thought needed—after all, if somebody wanted a book, they could just borrow it. Even a dog wandering through the stacks was not much noticed, so the wealth of knowledge I sought was there for the reading. But rarer material which I needed to further my research could only be located in the dusky rooms of long unvisited monasteries, where hand illuminated vellum toms stood chained

to their bookshelves; or in Tibetan caves harboring ancient scrolls. How I gained knowledge of these hidden resources, and then was able to access them, would be long in the telling, requiring a book to do them justice—a project which I have been working on for some time, and is apt to change the accepted history of this most ancient of games.

Brian: And so you followed lead after lead, which I imagine you pursued up to your own time in the 19th century?

Morgan: Correct, Brian. After tracing the game through Korea and Japan, I found solid evidence that it reached Europe sometime around 900 AD. The game as we know it today is quite different from when it first appeared—the rules and the pieces evolving through time, until the present uniformity of piece names, shapes, and governing rules.

Brian: After you satisfied yourself that you had unearthed the true origin of the game, and the history of its worldwide dissemination—which I would guess must have taken many years—how then was your life changed?

Morgan: My search was surely long, covering many years and untold miles, fraught with danger and intrigue at nearly every turn. But what I learned governed the later direction of my life, choosing to become the best chess player the world has ever seen. To accomplish this, I set upon a final task for myself—locate the world's strongest players, and observe

their playing skills. And so it was that I was able to witness the tactical brilliance of Steinitz; the incredible calculating skill of Lasker; the true genius of Capablanca; the esthetic beauty of the games of Alekhine; the speed and almost hypnotic power of Tal; up to the present, with my attendance at the World Chess Championship in Sochi, Russia, where I helped in preparing Magnus for his match against Anand.

Brian: Stunned must be the word I am searching for, Morgan. Never again will I take for granted the supposed limited intelligence of our animal friends—even though I am almost sure of your uniqueness amongst the animal kingdom.

Morgan: Thank you, Brian.

Brian: Now that the world has been informed of your existence, what are you planning to do with all of the attention?

Morgan: Fame has no interest for me. I am just pleased to be treated as a friend by Jerrold Richards; assist in making him a better chess player; visit with all my fans at the Portland Chess Club, and if I am invited, play with some of the world's elite players.

Brian: Thank you, Morgan, for giving me the opportunity to conduct the greatest interview of my life—and to you, Jerrold, for making it possible.



After polishing off Jazon Samillano, Morgan the Dog shows Mike Goffe how to really play the game of chess.. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

Oregon Chess News

Recent Games

**Jason Cigan (2159) –
Brian Esler (2194) [B80]**

Oregon Closed (R2), February 7, 2015
[Jason Cigan]

1.e4 c5

I was a bit surprised to see Brian play the Sicilian. Though it suits his aggressive style well, he also plays the Black side of the Ruy Lopez and Open Games very well, and I had expected to face 1...e5. I had put in extra work to prepare something concrete and practice it there, because I usually have to expend more effort to make good chess decisions in slower positions.

2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Bg5 e6 7.Qd2 Be7 8.0–0 0–0 9.f3 Qb6?!

This is dubious, as White is not only able to force the desired transposition, but is able to get it with a misplaced black queen. A loss of time can be deadly in the Scheveningen English Attack, as even one extra tempo can be enough for White's kingside play to violently break through. 9...Nxd4 10.Qxd4 Qa5 is the typical way to keep the game in Rauzer/Classical Sicilian waters.

10.Be3 Qc7

The bishop has taken two tempi to reach e3, where it belongs in this structure. But the queen has taken two tempi to reach c7, which is a questionable square for it in this position type. A queen on c7 is typical in this Sicilian pawn formation, but matters are concrete when opposite-side attacks are in play, and it would do well to have stayed on d8 until its proper square was clear. Often it goes to aid in the attack from a5 — as it later does, with loss of tempo.

11.g4

11.Ndb5 aiming to win a pawn would not work out so well, as after 11...Qb8 12.Nxd6 Rd8 White is forced to go in for a double-edged and, I judged, unnecessary queen sacrifice: 13.Nxc8 Rxd2 14.Nxe7+ Nxe7 15.Rxd2 White looks better to me, but matters are far from clear.

11...a6

The transposition is now completed, it is as if we began from a Najdorf move order with 6.Be3 e6, and Black decided on an early ...Qc7. As we will see, this does not mix well with the early ...Nc6. I also

sometimes get this position when Black decides on an early ...d6 and ...0–0 from the Black side of a Taimanov English Attack.

12.g5

12.Nxc6 was worth considering, as it cuts across Black's standard idea of capturing on d4. Generally White should take his opportunities to favorably exchange on c6 in this structure. 12...bxc6 (12...Qxc6 13.g5 Nd7 14.h4 looks even worse with no b-file for Black to try tricks along.) 13.g5 Nd7 14.h4 and White's attack looks imposing.

12...Nd7

The typical knight maneuver in these positions. 12...Nh5 may have been worth considering. I had planned 13.Nb3 followed by a march of the f-pawn.

13.h4 Nxd4 14.Bxd4 b5

Black's typical means of creating counterplay.

15.h5!

Now we begin to see why the black queen should still be on d8 — it would have helped up this hyper-aggressive advance, and would avoid losing a tempo shortly.

15...b4 16.Na4 Qa5

White had to see what to do here in advance, with both the knight and the g-pawn hanging.

17.g6!?



Position after 17.g6

It is unclear if this move, offering a poisoned piece, is objectively best, but I felt it gave White better chances in all lines.

17...Qxa4?!

Falling for the trap. 17...Bg5! is the best defense. One sample line runs 18.f4 Bh6 19.b3 Bb7 20.Bg2 Bc6 21.Kb1 Bxa4 22.bxa4 Kh8 when Black has definite counter-chances, but White's buildup looks a bit more purposeful. I would

slightly prefer White in this unclear position.

18.h6!+-

Suddenly, Black is absolutely busted. The g6-h6 combo is a typical way to crash through against slow queenside play by Black in this structure — even if it is only slow by a move or two!

18...fxg6

The best practical try. 18...gxh6 19.gxh7+ Kxh7 20.Rxh6+ Kg8 21.Rh8# is no way out.; 18...hxg6 19.hxg7 is destined to fail: 19...f6 20.Qh6 Kf7 21.Rg1! is the end of the story.; 18...Qxa2 19.gxh7+ Kxh7 20.hxg7+ Kg8 21.Rh8# demonstrates the immediate White threat.; 18...Nf6 19.gxh7+ Nxh7 20.hxg7 Re8 21.Qh2 also does not work.

19.hxg7 Qxa2 20.Qh6



Position after 20.Qh6

Here Black resigned—one move prematurely, we later realized. An interesting “White to play and win immediately” puzzle could have arisen after 20...Kf7, when taking the rook leads to a mere advantage for White but 21.Bc4!! is lights out! The idea is to deflect the queen, so that after 21...Qxc4 22.Qxh7 is now playable, with no specter of ...Bg5 and mate. 22...Rg8 23.Qxg8+ Kxg8 24.Rh8+ Kf7 25.g8Q# is the point. A wild and exciting attacking game.

1–0

Mike Lilly (1155) –

Arliss Dietz (1552) [A03]

Tuesday Quads February 2015

Portland, OR (R2), February 10, 2015

[Ralph Dubisch]

1.f4 d5 2.Nf3 c5 3.g3 Nf6 4.d3 g6 5.Bg2 Bg7 6.0–0 0–0 7.Nc3 Nc6 8.e3 a6 9.Qe1 Re8 10.e4 dxe4 11.dxe4

[Diagram top of next page]

11...Qc7?

11...e5 is positionally indicated here.



Position after 11.dxe4

12.e5 Nd7 13.Bd2

13.Nd5! Qb8 14.e6!? fxe6 15.Qxe6+ Kh8±, but White must be at least a little bit circumspect. Full steam ahead overlooks a big Black threat: 16.Ng5?? (16.Qe2) 16...Nde5! and the white queen is trapped. 17.Nf7+ Nxf7 18.Qxf7 Rf8 doesn't help.

13...e6?!

Leaves some seriously weak dark squares in its wake. 13...Nb6 14.Qf2±; 13...Nf8!?

14.Ne4 Bf8 15.a3 b6 16.Rd1 Bb7 17.Bc3 Na5??

17...Nd4 18.Nxd4 cxd4 19.Bxd4±



Position after 17...Na5

18.Rxd7! Qxd7 19.Nf6+ 1-0

PCC Spring Open

By Brian Berger

Portland, OR — March 14-15, 2015

With the wind whipping through the trees with the greatest of ease, accompanied by periods of pouring skies—they came—31 resolute souls, each with a pummeling-purpose—to take home prize money in either the Open or Reserve Section of the Portland Chess Club's annual Spring Open. And may it be said that few reached such a lofty goal, but the battles that were fought inside the club's interior were at times as fierce as the storm outside.

As an example of such, I will touch on my Round 5 game against Jerrold Richards (1430-1486)—he of Morgan the Dog owner fame—who must be fast assimilating the teachings of Morgan, as



L-R: Brian Berger, Jerrold Richards. Photo credit: Moshe Rachmuth.

he showed patience and skill by nursing what at first was a one pawn advantage (later to be two pawns) into a won game. Try as I might (and I did try, with what I thought was all my might) to regain the deficit, taking the game into complicated areas, trying to corner him with my queen and rook, or just run his clock down came to no avail; he managed to evade all my efforts. So kudos to Jerrold—and that dang dog!

My loss to Jerrold Richards could only be called, at best, a mini-upset—Jerrold coming in with a 1430 rating, against my recently elevated 1614. But in the Open Section, Kian Patel (1639-1727), who decided to play up, showed he was not just delusional by taking on Jason Cigan (2152-2139) in Round 5 and scoring a win over one of Oregon's most solid players, in what could only be called a maxi-upset! Apparently, his previous Round 4 victory against a fast rising, tough-as-nails to beat, Dagadu Gaikwad (1814-1800) just whetted his appetite for bigger game. With a score of 3.0 points at tournament's end, Kian was only a half point away from tying for 1st U-2000, with Brent Baxter (1917-1955), who took that prize, and its purse of \$71.25.

Also not winning a prize in the Open

Section, but showing the hours of dedication he has put into fast-tracking himself to A player status, David Murray (1793-1851) showed the driving force that first propelled him into the 1800's (only recently encountering a blip or two in his continuing rise) with a convincing win over Sean O'Connell (1953-1942), a player of equal dedication who nearly mirrors Murray's climb in the ratings. Round 3 saw him draw against Michael Parsons (1882-1870), and in Round 5, chalk up another win against the always tough Richard Gutman (2039-2000). After seeing how pleased Murray was with himself, it was easy to surmise what he was thinking—"I'm back!"

Continuing with upsets in the Open Section, Jerry Sherrard (2033-2068) showed himself to be a giant killer by sitting across the table from the most feared of Oregon players, Nick (King Kong) Raptis (2402-2389), and besting



him on his own feeding grounds! This, and three other wins, cemented Sherrard in 2nd place, giving him a story to tell to his grandchildren (if any), and \$90.50 to boot.

The loss to Jerry Sherrard, and a draw against the winner of the Open Section and \$129.25, Lennart Bjorksten (2178-2196), placed Raptis out of contention for any prize money, leaving him with 3.5 points, and absent dinner money. But like all top-of-the-food-chain predators, he will shake the dust off of this encounter, sharpen his incisors, and look hungrily for his next meal.

The only comparable upset in the Reserve Section was the tie for 1st between Jack Woo McClain (1566-1622), and Conor O'Sullivan (1270p-1477), each ending with 4.0 points and \$80.75, but where O'Sullivan added 207 points to his provisional rating and became a full fledged C player. A win against Roland Eagles (1762-1724), Danny Phipps (1634-1641), and Carl Wallulis (1526-1547), sent a message to other Reserve Section players that this player is on his way up—and fast!

Finally, Danny Phipps, with 3.5 points, captured the U-1600 prize, with \$51.75 in winnings helping to mitigate the loss of his game with O'Sullivan. Also, there was an extra game played between John Dimick (1733p-1740p) and Tony Midson (1404-1399), and Kian Patel (1727-1734) against Conor O'Sullivan (1477-1468), with both of the first mentioned names being the winners.

Much thanks goes to Chief TD Micah Smith and Assistant TD Michael Lilly, for running this fun tournament, also made exciting by some surprising outcomes.

**Nick Raptis (2402) –
Jerry Sherrard (2033) [A21]**
PCC Spring Open
(R5), March 15, 2015
[Jerry Sherrard]

1.Nf3 f5 2.d3 d6 3.g3 e5 4.Bg2 Nf6 5.c4 Be7 6.Nc3 0-0 7.b4 Qe8 8.Bg5

This move is not in my database. So far we have been following some line in a English vs. Dutch set up. Apparently the main move is 8.Bd2, but we are in such an obscure position I can't say there is much theory here. This type of position was my goal in playing this way so that we can reach an original position as soon as possible. Going into a theoretical debate with someone as experienced as Nick is clearly suicidal!

8...a5

8...h6, immediately forcing the exchange

on f6, is possibly more accurate. After the next few moves in the game, White secures a small plus.

9.b5 c6?! 10.Rb1 Nbd7 11.0-0 h6

The moment of truth for the Bishop.

12.Bxf6?!

Retaining the Bishop pair was probably a bit better, with 12.Be3 being a solid candidate.

12...Bxf6?!

I returned the favor, giving White a free hand on the Queenside. 12...Nxf6 was natural and best, offering equal chances with an ...e4 break having ample support to counter White's initiative on the Q-side.

13.bxc6 bxc6 14.Na4 e4?

I desperately wanted to counter White's pressure on the Q-side, and lashed out with this horrible pawn sacrifice. Even calling it a sac seems wrong. It's actually just a loss of a pawn after 15.dxe4 fxe4 16.Nd2!, but my opponent played...

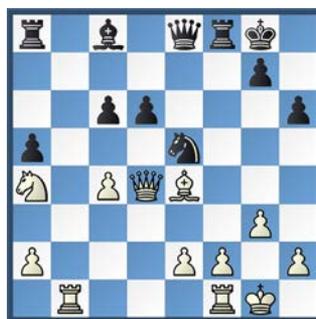
15.dxe4 fxe4 16.Nd4?!

This lets me back into the game after the correct 16...Nc5!, however, I continued...

16...Bxd4? 17.Qxd4 Ne5

At this point I could see that I'm almost totally losing in this position. 18.Nb6 looms, and I'm also losing a pawn with no compensation after...

18.Bxe4



Position after 18.Bxe4

The next few moves constitute both sides (especially me!) playing one inaccuracy after another according to Stockfish. I must say though, that I expect any player made of non-silicon material would have trouble playing this position! In the end my opponent succumbed to the confusion I created over the board...

18...Bh3 19.Bg2 Qh5 20.f3 Be6 21.c5 dxc5 22.Qxc5 Bd5?

This is just a bad move. At least it has the merit of setting up some sneaky tactics along the fifth rank if White gets careless. In reality, my position is close to lost, with just a few cheap tricks left. I felt that if I'm going to lose anyway, I might as well set up as many roadblocks as possible!

23.Nb6 Rad8



Position after 23...Rad8

Continuing in sacrificial style. The a-pawn is untouchable. After a quick glance and a short think, Nick boldly played...

24.Qxa5?!

Oops! Here comes the shot...

24...Bxf3!

Now Black is winning in all lines!

25.Nc4

This move loses a piece, but White was basically lost anyway. Unbelievably, Stockfish gives this move as the second best move, offering 25.Nd7 (?) as the best try, so I can't criticize this attempt. "Normal" moves lose faster. Just a couple of example lines: 25.Kh1 Bxg2 26.Kxg2 Qxe2, or 25.Rf2 Bxg2 26.Kxg2 Rxf2 27.Kxf2 and Black can choose between 28...Qxh2 forcing mate in a few moves, or 28...Nd3 winning the Queen. If White tries to defend with a move like 25.Qa6 there follows something along the lines of 25...Bxg2 26.Rxf8 Rxf8 27.Kxg2 Ng4 28.Qc4 Kh8, and White has run out of ideas. The double threat of ...Rf2 and ...Qxh2 are too strong to meet.

25...Nxc4 26.Qxh5 Bxh5 27.Rxf8+ Kxf8 28.Bxc6 Rd2 29.Bf3 Bxf3 30.exf3 Rxa2 31.Rc1 Ne5 32.Rc3

Now the tactics are over and we have the aforementioned ending. Black needs to make a passed pawn, but how to proceed?

32...Kf7 33.h3 Rd2 34.f4 Rd3 35.Rc7+ Rd7 36.Rc3 Ng6 37.Kg2 h5

This move seemed clever at the time, but the direct 37...Rd2! was stronger, intending 38.Kf3 Rh2, or keeping the King on the back rank if it retreats. The move I played doesn't throw the win away, but makes the task harder. The idea of pushing the h-pawn to h4 was too appealing for me to resist.

38.Kf3 Ne7 39.g4 h4

Now I've achieved the goal. The h3-Pawn is fixed and could turn out weak. Simply put, I want to win this pawn and promote my h-pawn.

40.Ke4 Rd1 41.Rb3 Re1+ 42.Kf3 Rf1+

I was drifting a bit here, trying to work

out a win of the h-pawn, when I should have been focusing on activating my King: 42...Nd5! 43.Kf2 Rd1 44.f5 Kf6 and the Black King will enter on e5.

43.Ke4 Rg1 44.f5 Rf1 45.Rb7 Rh1

My moves reflect a frustrated state of mind.

46.Rb3

White calmly defends his pawn. How to win?

46...Kf6

Activate the King!

47.Rb6+ Kg5 48.Rb7 Re1+ 49.Kf3 g6 50.fxg6 Nxg6 51.Rh7 Rf1+?!



Position after 51...Rf1+

Missing a quick finish: 51...Ne5! 52.Kg2 (52.Kf2 Rh1 53.Kg2 Rd1 and the King invades on f4) Re2 53.Kf1 Rd2, and nothing can prevent the Black King from invading via f4.

52.Kg2?

There was one last chance to get some action with 52.Ke4!?, which would allow White to achieve a lot for his money if Black goes after the h-pawn. Here's one way I could go wrong: 52...Rh1 53.Rh5 Kf6 54.Ra5 Rxh3 55.g5! Kf7 56.Ra7 Ne7 57.g6! Kg5 58.g7 and I'm still not quite winning here either! I could easily find myself in a drawn Rook ending if I have to give up my Knight for a pawn or two.

52...Rf4 53.Rh5+ Kf6 54.Ra5 Re4 55.Kf3 Rb4 56.Ra6+ Kf7 57.Ra7+ Kf6 58.Ra6+ Kg7 59.Ra7+ Kh6 60.Ra5

After the series of checks my King is much safer, and most importantly, it's my move!

60...Rb3+ 61.Ke4 Rxh3 62.Rh5+ Kg7 63.g5 Rg3 64.Kf5 Rf3+ 65.Kg4 Rf4+ 66.Kh3 Ra4 67.Rh6 Ra8 68.Kg4 Rh8

White can't avoid the exchange of Rooks which leads to an easily won K+N+P v K ending.

0-1

March PCC Quad 45

By Brian Berger

Portland, OR — March 21, 2015

Northwest Chess

With Spring Break just breaking, and families gearing up for mini-vacations and other family-time togetherness, 18 chess players found they were irresistibly drawn to spend some of that time attending the Portland Chess Club's March, Quad 45—three fast games, not for the faint-of heart! It is a time control favored by restless, Kamikaze-style players, who oft times seem in constant blitz mode, trying not to lose on time, and also hoping to intimidate their opponents by the quickness of their moves.

This tournament used for the first time the new 10 second delay, being adopted nationally, which doubles the old delay time of 5 seconds. For the quick player hoping to run his opponent's clock down, this time control helps level the playing field for the slower mover. It should be a time control welcomed by all who want to see fewer games lost for want of a few seconds more on the clock. But check your opponent's clock settings carefully, as the burden falls on you if his/her clock lacks the proper delay, and you lose on time.

A case in point was a game I played in this tournament. Digital clock settings baffle me still (that's why I prefer the old analog versions), so I relied on my opponent to have programmed the new delay time of 10 seconds—bad mistake. It seems that he either forgot, or just decided it was too much trouble, and so left the old 5 second delay in the program—the consequence of which, was a loss on time, when I thought I had more available. The position was unclear at that point, and I might have lost anyway; but the point is, you want the extra time you are entitled to; and if your opponent wins because of his inattention to following the time control rules—you suffer, and he/she is not held accountable. So double check yours and your opponent's clocks!

Chief TD Micah Smith, and Assistant TD Michael Lilly had the tournament up and running pretty much on time, and as has been the case in recent Quad 45's, three quads made up the bulk the tournament, with a Small Swiss of 6 players contending in the very lowest rated group.

It was a hard fought three games in the Section 1 Quad, with Jason Cigan (2139-2131) and the lowest rated of the quad, Moshe Rachmuth (1842-1888), ending with scores of 2.0 points—each with

two draws and one win—with Gerald Weaver (1930-1935) and Mike Goffe (1944-1941 coming in 3rd and 4th, with 1.5 points and 0.5, in that order.

In the Section 2 Quad, the young Praveer Sharan (1591-1666) beat out Colin Liu (1618-1617) and Jeff Austin (1813-1796), finishing with 2.5 points—drawing only with Brian Berger (1578-1557), who ended with a well-earned 0.5 score for having survived this chess titan of great patience, housed in a small boy's body.

The fighting Filipino, Jazon Samillano (1543-1562), struggling to rise from the ashes of some recent ratings'-rendering defeats, emerged triumphant in the Section 3 Quad, posting 2.5 points, against Marcus Leung's (1469-1485) 2.0 points, and Patrick Le's (1404-1415) 1.5 points—leaving Byron Wong feeling it was "pointless" to have entered.

Which brings us to the Small Swiss, and the win by the unrated (post 1304p) Nathaniel John, who finished with 2.5 points, besting a field of five other players that included Byron Wong's son, Egan Wong (1075-1070), who came away with 2 more points than his dad, and in a previous tournament had a win against a 1700-plus player.

Capping the day was a six player, 10 round, round robin blitz tournament, for those who can't get enough chess, and who think Game 45 is still too slow for their prodigious calculating talents! Blitz juggernaut Jason Cigan (2133-2151) crushed all in his path, finishing with a perfect 10.0, with Mike Goffe (2047-2041) taking 2nd with 8.0 points. And hanging in with the Big Boys for a short time was Patrick Le (1415p-1556p), who, considering a 1415 provisional rating, managed to finish with a respectable 4.5 points.

Well, I bet you thought I forgot to mention the weather that day. It was 61 degrees and mild—so there!



Carl Haessler Chess Master

503-875-7278 ■ carl@chessworksNW.com
chessworksNW.com

PCC March Game/60

By Brian Berger

Portland, OR — March 28, 2015

The day started in pure sunshine, but toward noon the rapid advance of a dark flotilla of clouds had near covered that sea of blue sky—an omen for some of the many players who attended March's Game 60 at the Portland Chess Club. For as the weather had goeth, so goeth a number of the games that day, the sunshine of confidence turning quickly into a darkening disillusionment.

But before getting into winners and losers, let me first mention a couple of conspicuous absentees, the first being TD Neil Dale, whose usual spot was taken over in this tournament by Mike Lilly, assisted ably during registration and pairings by Mike Morris and Jason Cigan. It was assistance much needed, considering the many players who came pouring into the club near the last day of Spring Break—a sizable crowd of 39 that took up much of the club's table space.

Even with the added assistance in the registering process, the opening games ran about 15 minutes behind schedule. Very soon afterwards, Mike Lilly was on his own, Mike Morris needing to be elsewhere that day. Although a highly capable TD, Mike Lilly has not yet mastered the art of crowd control, an art-form perfected by Neil Dale. Were Neil to have been in charge, the sounds of "Yes sir" and "No sir" would have been the extent of any conversation or controversy, as respect for Neil is in direct proportion to the fear of him—a man known to single-handily subdue packs of marauding hyenas, piles of Nile crocodiles, and with one or two grizzlies thrown in just to keep himself in shape.

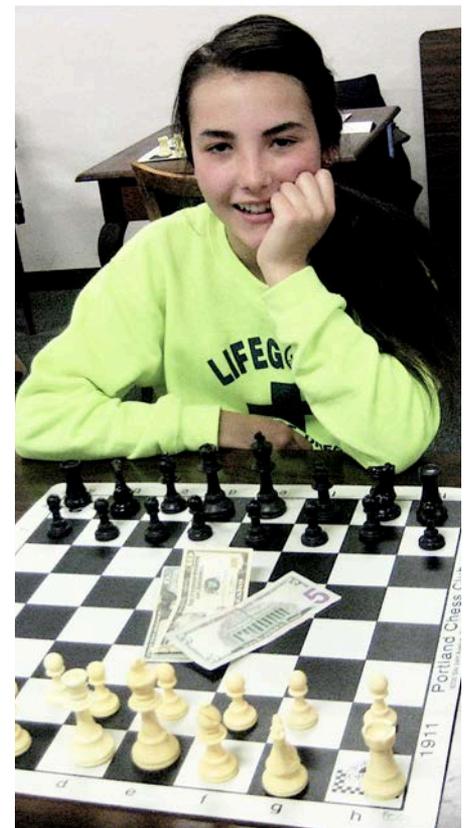
As it was, crowd control became a major issue for Mike. Besieged as he was

with the typical questions heard at most tournaments—more so in this one because of the number of people playing—he also had to deal with a lack of respect from some of the younger players, a number of whom he had asked more than once to quiet down, a task made harder by the absence of parental guidance—some of the parents of the younger players not being in attendance for a good part of the tournament. This was an unneeded burden for Mike, burdened as he already was by needing to get the pairings out in a timely manner, and dealing with the general details required of a TD. So this to the youngsters—RESPECT your TD, he/she is there on a VOLUNTEER basis, to make your playing experience fun and trouble-free, but needs your cooperation to do so.

Also absent was the club's mascot, and recent *Time* and *NW Chess* magazines' cover personality-of-the-year—Morgan the Dog! Rumor was, he and his (owner?) Jerrold Richards, had been approached by CBS, ESPN, the Late Show, the Morning Show, CNN, etc., to be interviewed, having already been scooped by Brian Berger writing for *NW Chess*. It was later learned that, on the day of the tournament, Morgan the Dog and Jerrold Richards were sitting in the makeup department of CNN's studio, waiting for just such an interview which, later we found out, captured the largest audience share that CNN had ever generated!

Now we get on to the important business of who won what. The who and co-who for 1st, were (apex predator) Nick Raptis (2389-2393), and (hard to miss in any room) Carl Haessler (2203-2209), both with 4.0 points, generating shared pooled winnings of \$117(1st place) and \$78 (2nd place) prize monies, amounting to \$97.50 each. Jason Cigan (2131-2127), taking clear 3rd place with his 3.5 points, shared none of his \$58.50 earnings.

Class prize money was awarded to Colin Liu (1617-1635) and Andrea Botez (1813-1824) for posting 3.0 points each, that when split, gave each \$34.12, to recklessly go on a spending spree—as long as it was at the Dollar Store. And the last of the class prize money was earned by Michael Moore (unrated-1755p), Aaron Probst (1496-1485), and David Roshu (774p-857p), who all made 2.0 points, and found



Andrea Botez with her prize money on board
Photo credit: Brian Berger

their efforts' worth \$22.75—a sum some might call modest, but still has some spending power at the afore-mentioned establishment.

Lastly, a pairing controversy caused a bit of give-and-take among some of the top players in the 4th round, an issue that saw some words exchanged on Facebook. But Mike Lilly's lawyer skills enabled him to cite chapter and verse from the USCF rules, settling the matter for the questioning few. And for those of you who might have an interest in such esoteric details, I end this report with Mike Lilly's own explanation of this oddity of pairing.

"Going into the fourth and final round, three Masters were tied with perfect 3-0 scores. The next three players were tied with 2.5-0.5 scores. This resulted in an odd looking pairing situation for the final round. Ordinarily, in a score group with an odd number of players, the lowest rated player in the score group plays the highest rated player in the next score group down. So one might have expected Haessler (3.0) to be paired against Cigan (2.5), and the other two players in the 2.5 score group to be paired against each other. But in this case the other two players in the 2.5 score group had already played each other, so they could not be matched against each other again. Consequently if Haessler and Cigan had been paired then both of the

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other 2.5 players would also have to have been paired outside their score group.

In the circumstances, the rules indicated Haessler should be paired with the second highest player in the 2.5 score group. SwissSys, the pairing software being used at the tournament also recommended this pairing. For further details see USCF rules 29D, 29D1a, and especially 29D1b for the somewhat arcane set of rules that drove this decision.”

Lennart Bjorksten New Master

By Brian Berger

Portland, OR — April 2, 2015

Oregon has added a new chess Master to its ranks, Lennart Bjorksten, who recently (at the finish of March’s Tuesday Quads at the Portland Chess Club) passed the 2200 barrier, achieving a post-tournament rating of 2209.

The road to Master has been a rather long one for Bjorksten, who between the ages of 4 and 5 learned the game from his father. On turning 10, he moved with his family to Finland, where both

of his parents had been born. Between then and finishing high school, his rating had climbed to the mid-2000’s, strong enough to help his high school team win the Finnish High School Team Championship. That win caused his team to be chosen to represent Finland against teams of the other Nordic countries, in which they took second place, with the team’s top scorer, Bjorksten, playing on board 3.

Thereafter, Bjorksten returned to the United States to attend college, continuing to play chess and pushing his rating into the 2100+ area. Playing off and on until 1992, Bjorksten found that his game was not improving as rapidly as he had hoped, due partly to lesser competition than he had faced in Helsinki, and partly to not putting in enough study time. Not wanting chess to feel like a chore, he chose to move on to other things. So, at the age of 26, Bjorksten quit chess for 20 years, returning to its lure in 2012, when he decided that he needed to take care of some “unfinished business.”

Feeling he still had the skill and the drive to reach Master level, Bjorksten set that as his goal. Even though much of what he had learned of openings had become fuzzy during his long hiatus, he found himself still playing well enough

to continue playing at 2100 strength. Although in 2014 he experienced some set-backs, causing him to drop nearly 100 rating points, Bjorksten shook off the loss in points, and came back fighting like a lion for the balance of 2014 and early 2015, gaining his lost points and many more during 8 consecutive tournaments, the last pushing him to his goal of Master.



Lennart Bjorksten.
Photo credit: Brian Berger

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Go to: <http://www.nwchess.com/>

Click on the “Calendar” navigation button

Scroll down to June and find the Newport event

Click on “See flyer / entry form”

Or email H.G. Pitre, hgpitre@gmail.com

Idaho Chess News

BCC #6 Chess Tournament

Last year, inspired by the long-established monthly USCF-rated Game/60 tournaments held at the Portland Chess Club in Portland, Oregon, Jamie Lang and others (Peter Olsoy, Katie Sorenson, Jeffrey Roland, and Jarod Buus) formed the new Boise Chess Club (BCC) with the idea of having monthly rated tournaments in Boise. However, the monthly events didn't always happen when there was also an Idaho Chess Association (ICA) event held in the month (in Boise.)

The sixth BCC tournament called "BCC #6" was held March 8, 2015 at All About Games at 7079 W. Overland Road in Boise. Entry was free and open to everyone. Prizes were nothing except the joy of chess and the thrill of the competition. This is the case with every BCC tournament to date, and likely for all future events as well. Idaho Chess Union (ICU) also has never charged an entry fee at any of their events since that organization was formed in 2005. This "free" format is very popular in Idaho, keeping the emphasis not on money, but on chess itself.

Eleven players attended the event in a field that included two former Idaho



Chief Tournament Director Jamie Lang running his first USCF-rated event.
Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland



Chris Amen holding his first-place prize of a \$5 discount at the USCF online store.
Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland

State Chess Champions, the 2015 Idaho Scholastic K-8 Champion, and the elite of Boise chess that usually attend the weekly Monday night club meetings (that are also held at All About Games on Overland from 5:00 p.m. to closing, which is currently 10:00 p.m.)

BCC President Jamie Lang was Chief Tournament Director, even more noteworthy as this was his first event as an official USCF tournament director, and he was assisted by BCC Treasurer Jeffrey Roland. Another noteworthy thing about this tournament was the unusual (for Idaho) time control. The time control was Game/15 plus 10 seconds per move. Notation was not required but was encouraged. All players did record their moves until they got down to five minutes when most players then stopped recording.

Chris Amen (Boise) won the event with a perfect 6 points and clearly established himself as the player with the most BCC tournament victories to his credit. Including this event, he has won three events. Chris Amen's USCF Quick Rating went from 1695 to 1804 based on his performance in this tournament alone. It was decided on the fly to give Chris Amen a prize after all in the form of a \$5.00 off coupon from USCF Sales that would expire on March 31, 2015.

Former Idaho State Chess Champion Caleb Kircher (Nampa) was second place with 5 points. Three players tied for third through fifth place between Dale R. Bowden (Boise), James Inman (Nampa), and Jarod Buus (Nampa), each with 3.5 points.

Jamie Lang input most of the games into Chess Base between and during rounds as the event was taking place and Jeffrey Roland input the rest, keeping that tedious process up to date and making it easier to go through those games quickly and easily for consideration to be published in *Northwest Chess*.

After the event was over, Jamie Lang sent out a survey to the players asking them for input, ideas and suggestions that would be used to shape future BCC events. Many players responded with their ideas and suggestions, so it will be good to see what happens in the future.

The next BCC tournament (BCC #7) is going to happen on May 30 at All About Games on Overland in Boise. It will be a four-round Swiss with a time control of Game/30 +30 second per move time increment. All other details are the same as BCC #6 except Jeffrey Roland will be the tournament director.



L-R: Caleb Kircher, Chris Amen from round 2. This proved to be the decisive game of the tournament. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland

Chris Amen (1695) – Caleb Paul Kircher (1783) [B01]
 BCC #6 Boise, ID (R2), March 28, 2015
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qd6 4.Nf3 c6 5.d4 Nf6 6.Ne5 Nbd7 7.Nc4 Qc7 8.Qf3 Nb6 9.Ne5 Be6 10.Bf4 Nbd5 11.Nxd5

11.Nxf7?! Nxf4 12.Nxh8 g6 should be slightly in favor of Black.

11...Bxd5 12.Qh3 Be6 13.Qd3 Qb6 14.b3?!

Creates slight dark-square weaknesses and costs a tempo. Black isn't really threatening much on b2.

14.c4 Qxb2?! 15.Rb1 Qxa2 16.Rxb7 must give White adequate compensation for the pawn, and it's hardly the only good line.; For example, 14.Be2 Qxb2?! 15.0-0 and White simply stands better.



Position after 14.b3

14...0-0-0?!

14...Nd5 aiming to fianchetto and castle

kingside looks fairly level. The queenside castle is more precarious here. 15.Bd2 g6 16.Be2 Bg7 17.0-0-0 may even be very slightly =+. Black has potential pressure on the d-pawn, possible tempo-gain with ...Bf5 at some point, and perhaps a chance to gain the bishop-pair with a timely ...Nb4.

15.c3 Nd5 16.Bg3

16.Nc4! is a finesse, keeping the black queen from the useful a5-square.

16...f6?

16...Qa5! is probably better, at least tagging some white pawns, though 17.Rc1 Qxa2 18.Be2 f6 19.Nc4 h5 20.0-0! points up the over-extended black queen before the kingside pawn advance can show any dividends. 20...Qxb3 21.Rb1 Qxc3 22.Qe4 with two serious threats.

17.Nc4± Qa6



Position after 17...Qa6

18.Qf3

18.Qe4 could be fun: 18...Bd7 19.Nd6+ exd6 20.Bxa6 Re8 21.Qxe8+ Bxe8 22.Bd3 Nxc3 when White has the exchange for a pawn.

18...b5 19.Nd2 g6?

19...h5!?

20.Ne4 Qa3 21.Bd3?

21.Be2±

21...h5! 22.h3



Position after 22.h3

22...g5??

22...Bg4!! 23.hxg4 hxg4 24.Qxg4+ f5 25.Rxh8 fxg4 looks at least =+.

23.Nc5 Bd7?

Under-protecting d5 gives White another route to victory.

23...Bf7 is objectively only slightly better, but White's best plan may not be obvious: 24.0-0! (24.Bf5+?! e6 25.Nxe6 (25.Bxe6+? Bxe6 26.Nxe6 Qe7) 25...Qe7 26.0-0 Bxe6 27.Rfe1 Bxf5 28.Rxe7 Nxe7 with an obscure material imbalance, though Black's king position and weakened advanced pawns look to be deciding factors in White's favor.) 24...e6 25.c4 with attack.



Position after 23...Bd7

24.Bf5?

24.Bxb5! topples the house of cards.

24...e6 25.Nxe6 Re8 26.0-0

[Diagram top of next page]

26...Bxe6??

26...Rxe6! 27.Bxe6 Bxe6 28.c4 bxc4 29.Qe4! Bd7 30.bxc4 Nc3∞

27.Bxe6+ Rxe6 28.Qf5

Now the pin wins for White.



Position after 26.0-0

28...Qe7 29.Rfe1 Kd7 30.c4! Nf4 31.d5 cxd5 32.cxd5 Nxd5 33.Qxd5+ 1-0

Driggs Invitational

By Adam Porth

Driggs, Idaho — March 7, 2015

At the 2014 Western Idaho Open, I discovered that John Carr (1995 Idaho State Champion) started a chess club at Teton High School under the beautiful shadow of the Grand Tetons. I couldn't resist suggesting that we travel there to play their new team — not to dominate or be competitive with, but to build camaraderie and expand the chess world of the high school players at both schools.

Our group of players at Silver Creek High School (formerly Wood River High School) is well known for the positive teaming, friendliness, and willingness to teach other beginners. We have good players but very little money to attend important tournaments (nearly all of my players are at-risk or alternative learners) but will jump at any opportunity to travel and play other teams or clubs without the costs of normal travel. Our school supports the club by allowing us a mini-bus without cost. We also like to have fun.



Johnny Carr in the Indian headdress. Photo credit: Adam Porth



Group shot of everyone. Photo credit: Unknown photographer, but taken with Adam Porth's camera.

This past month, in preparation for the Scholastic State Championship, we traveled to Victor/Driggs, Idaho. John did some prep work so that we could camp out in the high school gym, and he met us at the school totting pizzas and refreshment after our 5 ½ hour ride at 11:00 PM. We awoke on the hard floor to a dumbfounded baseball team standing in the doorway wondering what on earth we were doing sleeping on the floor of their practice field!

When John's players arrived, I promptly entered names into WinTD and began the show. It was a very friendly affair with my team showing how to avoid some of the pitfalls of some traps and some of their students providing tough and challenging games for my team. I worked to help the Teton students learn about tournament etiquette and frequently used rulings.

We started with a G/30;d5 5SS and then topped it off with a couple rounds of blitz and bughouse. We paused during the third round for cake and a birthday party for one of the Teton players and then all sat outside gazing at the ski hill under the peaks of the Tetons for lunch. By the end of the day, an outsider would have guessed that all the players knew one another.

Though the BCSD (Blaine County School District) Chess Rage students earned the top five places, all the players were more concerned with deciding which Boise hotel we were all going to meet up at in Boise at the State Tournament a week later. Our impromptu tournament completed, we loaded the bus and began a sightseeing trip of the area.

36th Annual Idaho Scholastic Championship

The Idaho Scholastic Championship was held on March 14, 2015 at the Vineyard Boise at 4950 Bradley Street in Garden City, Idaho. 228 students attended this year's event, and for many, this is the premier event in Idaho for the entire year.

Individual Prize Winners

Overall Winners – Nathan Jiang and Carmen Pemsler became co-champions with each scoring 5.5 points. Nathan was Idaho Scholastic Champion in 2013 too, and this year Nathan's tie-break is slightly better than Carmen giving first choice of going to the Denker Tournament of High School Champions to him, however both are equal co-champions in every other



The overall winners. L-R: Nathan Jiang, Elijah Hill (in back), Carmen Pemsler. Photo credit: Adam Porth.

way. Elijah Hill was third place overall with 4 points.

Grade 12 – Savanna Naccarato was first-place with 4 points, Desmond Porth was second-place with 4 points and Levi Catangcatang was third-place with 3 points.

Grade 11 – Andre Murphy was first-place with 3 points. Wesley Brimstein was 2nd place with 3 points. Johnny Carr was third-place with 3 points.

Grade 10 – Jaide Tzompa was first-place with 1.5 points. Luis Tzompa was second-place with 1 point.

Grade 9 – Jo Wang was first-place with 3 points. Dylan Porth was second-place with 2.5 points. Diego Tzompa was third-place with 2 points.

Grade 8 – Isaac Blake was first-place with 4 points. Katelyn Genta was second-place with 4 points. Emmett Cleere was third-place with 4 points. Garrett Strickler was fourth-place with 3 points. Nick Brown was fifth-place with 3 points.

Grade 7 – Kevin Yang was first-place with 5 points. Brian Krahn was second-place with 4 points. Connor Parrott was third-place with 4 points. Nathan Avey was fourth-place with 3 points. Amelia Mussler-Wright was fifth-place with 3 points. Lance Thrall was sixth-place with 3 points. Jeremy Zieba was seventh-place with 3 points. Alex Goodwin was eighth-place with 3 points. Jeremiah Scott was ninth-place with 3 points. Andras Britschgi was tenth-place with 2.5 points. Liam Owens was eleventh-place with 2 points. Justin Thompson was twelfth-place with 2 points.



Andre Murphy. Photo credit: Adam Porth

Grade 6 – Ryan Ripley was first-place with 5 points. Rosie Hill was second-place with 4 points. Braden Kim was third-place with 4 points. Lian Barrett was fourth-place with 4 points. Aidan Daley was fifth-place with 3.5 points. Austin Li was sixth-place with 3 points. Nathaniel Adams was seventh-place with 3 points. Everett Hansen was eighth place with 3 points. Jonah Banta was ninth-place with 2.5 points. Chris Schimanski was tenth-place with 2.5 points. Seth Dempsey was eleventh-place with 2.5 points. Preston Danforth was twelfth-place with 2.5 points. Madeline Aubrey was thirteenth-place with 2 points. Max Palmer was fourteenth-place with 2 points. Cameron Coulson was fifteenth-place with 2 points.

Grade 5 – Darci DeAngelis was first-place with 5 points. Celeste Hollist was second-place with 4 points. River Shepard was third-place with 4 points. Morgan Parrott was fourth-place with 4 points. Vincent Giordano was fifth-place with 3.5 points. Michael Hernandez was sixth-place with 3 points. Drew Fethke was seventh-place with 3 points. Colin Dempsey was eighth-place with 3 points. Ryan Parekh was ninth-place with 3 points. Logan McDougal was tenth-place with 3 points. Quentin Van Law was eleventh-place with 3 points. Brian Daley was twelfth-place with 3 points. Zoe Vandergrift was thirteenth-place with 2.5 points. Keegan Bruce was fourteenth-place with 2.5 points. Quinten Carney was fifteenth-place with 2 points.

Grade 4 – Kevin Xu was first-place with 4.5 points. Justin He was second-place with 4 points. Wency Suo was third-place with 4 points. David Walker was fourth-place with 4 points. Daniel Fernandez

was fifth-place with 3.5 points. Owne Stitt was sixth-place with 3.5 points. Connor Clemons was seventh-place with 3.5 points. Ben Siegenthaler was eighth-place with 3 points. Zoey Bandhauser was ninth-place with 3 points. Darwin Porth was tenth-place with 3 points. Quentin Trull was eleventh-place with 3 points. Tyler Erben was twelfth-place with 3 points. Mason Benoit was thirteenth-place with 2.5 points. Alex Wong was fourteenth-place with 2 points. Gabe Hildreth was fifteenth-place with 2 points.

Grade 3 – Mechitas Fernandez was first-place with 5 points. Lucas Coltrin was second-place with 4.5 points. Jared Wasden was third-place with 4 points. Ethan Montalbano was fourth-place with 4 points. John Bueno was fifth-place with 4 points. Elijah Hildreth was sixth-place with 4 points. Nathan Smith was seventh-place with 4 points. Nathan Li was eighth-place with 3.5 points. Graham Goodwin was ninth-place with 3.5 points. Ethan Li was tenth-place with 3 points. Wyatt Crumrine was eleventh-place with 3 points. Forrest Zeng was twelfth-place with 3 points. Cord Gibson was thirteenth-place with 3 points. Ben Fethke was fourteenth-place with 3 points. Noah Thornton was fifteenth-place with 3 points.

Grade 2 – James Wei was first-place with 5 points. Daniel Zhang was second-place with 4 points. Tristan Trevino was third-place with 4 points. Max Hollist was fourth-place with 4 points. Josiah Crow was fifth-place with 4 points. Talan Rudley was sixth-place with 3.5 points. Samuel Li was seventh-place with 3 points. Ollie Vandergrift was eighth-place with 3 points. Oliver Nathan was ninth-place with 3 points. Izak Bengoechea Little

was tenth-place with 3 points. Yuji Huff was eleventh-place with 3 points. Kevin Parsons was twelfth-place with 3 points. Patxi Etulain was thirteenth-place with 3 points. Ethan Boles was fourteenth-place with 2.5 points. Leam Van Law was fifteenth-place with 2.5 points.

Grade 1 – Anagh Iyer was first-place with 5 points. Jonathan Zhang was second-place with 4 points. Kallista Smith was third-place with 3.5 points. Ben Miner was fourth-place with 3.5 points. Colin Chou was fifth-place with 3 points. Colin Knauf was sixth-place with 3 points. Jace Santy was seventh-place with 3 points. Marcus Hernandez was eighth-place with 2.5 points. Raymond Lee was ninth-place with 2.5 points. Kenneth Lancaster was tenth-place with 2.5 points. Lydia Clark was eleventh-place with 2 points. Sofia Thornton was twelfth-place with 2 points. Wes Guyton was thirteenth-place with 2 points. Henry Blatz was fourteenth-place with 2 points. Matthew Barkdull was fifteenth-place with 2 points. Stephan Crow was sixteenth-place with 1.5 points. Gwyneth Schroder was seventeenth-place with .5 point. Shelbie Meacham was eighteenth-place with .5 point.

Kindergarten – Daniel Yang was first-place with 5 points. Jacob Smith was second-place with 3 points. Maxwell Thrall was third-place with 3 points. Tristan Walker was fourth-place with 3 points. Miles Hollist was fifth-place with 2.5 points. Bethany Jensen was sixth-place with 1.5 points. Joshua Grey was seventh-place with 1.5 points. Avonlea Hildreth was eighth-place with .5 point.

Team Awards

While the tournament focuses primarily on individual awards, there are also team awards.

Championship

First-place – Silver Creek High School (Hailey) 10 points.

Second-place – Eagle High School (Eagle) 9 points.

Third-place – Teton high School (Driggs) 7.5 points.

Fourth-place – Renaissance High School (Meridian) 6 points.

8th Grade

First-place – Ambrose School (Meridian) 7 points (35 Solk Tie-Break)

Second-place – Eagle Middle School (Eagle) 7 points (27 Solk Tie-Break)



Silver Creek High School (First-place Team.) L-R: Wesley Brimstein, Andre Murphy, Orion Rogers, Levi Catangcatang, Desmond Porth, Journey Iverson, Dylan Porth, Jordan Pulliam, Kevin Cabrito. Plus, in front L-R: Darwin Porth, River Shepard. Photo credit: Adam Porth

7th Grade

First-place – Eagle Middle School (Eagle) 9 points.

Second-place – Ambrose School (Meridian) 8 points.

Third-place – Riverglen JHS (Boise) 7 points.

6th Grade

First-place – Lowell Scott Middle School (Boise) 12 points.

Second-place – Lewis And Clark Middle School (Meridian) 8 points.

Third-place – Eagle Middle School (Eagle) 6.5 points.

Fourth-place – Sage International Charter School (Boise) 3.5 points.

5th Grade

First-place – Cecil Andrus Elementary (Boise) 8.5 points.

Second-place – Alturas Elementary (Hailey) 7 points.

Third-place – Westside Elementary (Payette) 6.15 points.

Fourth-place – Sage International Charter School (Boise) 6 points.

4th Grade

First-place – Collister Elementary (Boise) 12 points.

Second-place – Cecil Andrus Elementary (Boise) 8 points.

Third-place – Summerwind STEM Academy (Boise) 7.5 points.

Fourth-place – Riverstone International (Boise) 6 points.

3rd Grade

First-place – Pioneer School of Arts (Boise) 10 points.

Second-place – Ambrose School (Meridian) 8.5 points.

Third-place – Riverstone International (Boise) 8 points (40 Solk Tie-Break)

Fourth-place – Washington Elementary (Boise) 8 points (38.5 Solk Tie-Break)

2nd Grade

First-place – Pioneer School of Arts (Boise) 10.5 points.

Second-place – Ambrose School (Meridian) 9 points.

Third-place – Cecil Andrus Elementary (Boise) 8 points.

Fourth-place – Sage International Charter School (Boise) 7.5 points.

1st Grade

First-place – Washington Elementary (Boise) 7.5 points.

Second-place – Payette Primary (Payette) 6.5 points.

Third-place – Sage International Charter School (Boise) 5.5 points (30.5 Solk Tie-Break).

Fourth-place – Cecil Andrus Elementary (Boise) 5.5 points (28 Solk Tie-Break).



Chief Tournament Director of the Event, Craig Barrett announces awards. Photo credit: Adam Porth

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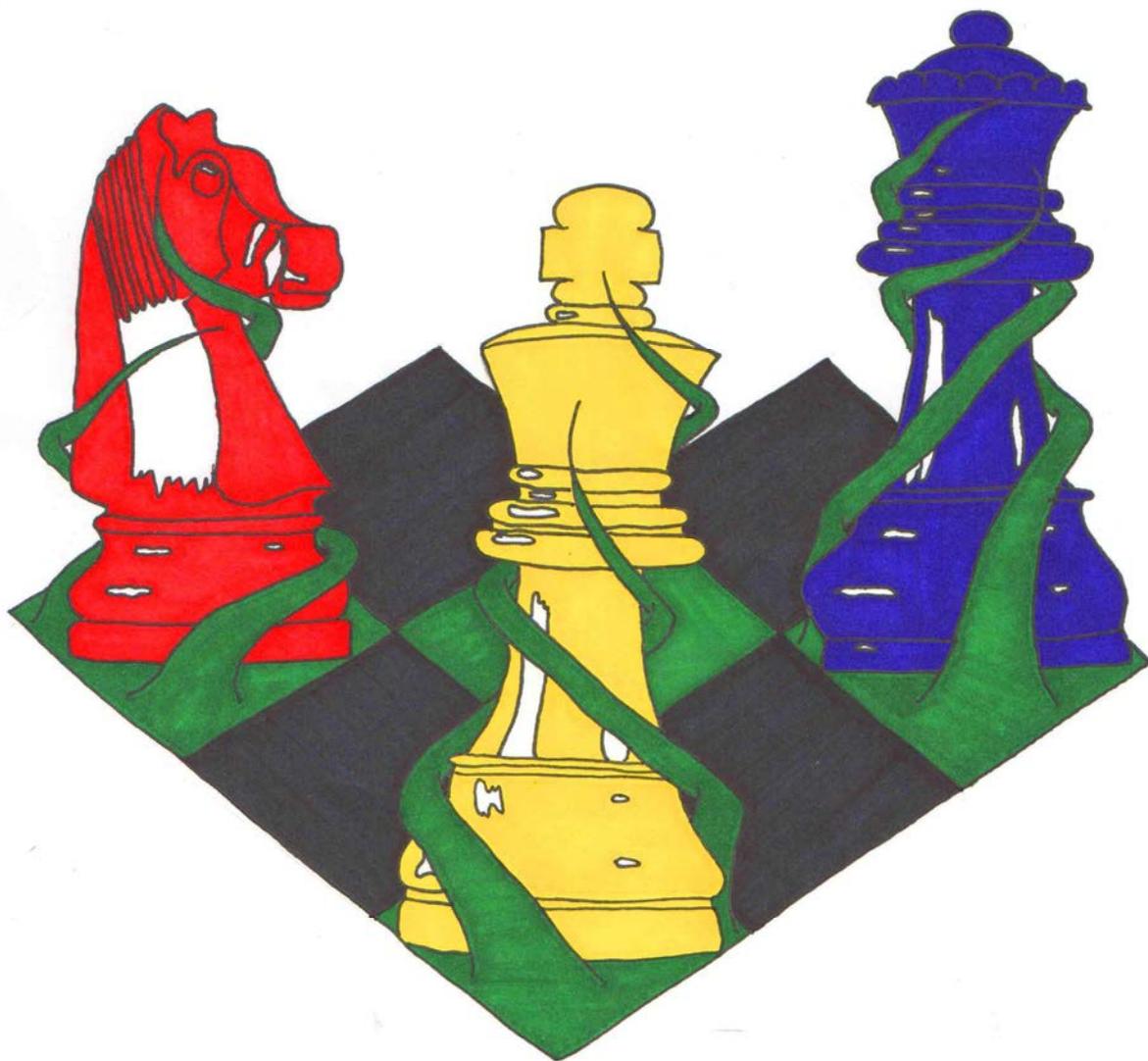
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Washington Open

A NW Grand Prix Event

May 23-25, 2015

Revised 3/18/2015

Highest finishing Washington resident in the Open Section seeded into the 2016 state championship.

Washington Open Entry Fees and Prize Fund

\$7,000 Prizes based on 170 entries
Medal only fees count as half entries.

Entry fees listed as: Postmarked
by April 25 / May 16 / at site

OPEN

EF \$100 / \$110 / \$125

PREMIER (U2000)

EF \$90 / \$100 / \$115

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EF \$80 / \$90 / \$105

BOOSTER (U1400)

EF \$70 / \$80 / \$95

Medal Only

EF \$50 / \$55 / \$60

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(Juniors under age 21 only.)

Reentry for 1/2 of your original entry fee.

Free entry to GMs, IMs, and WGMs.

Canadians may pay C\$ at par (no coins) for
entry fee only.

	Open	Premier	Reserve	Booster
1st	\$700	\$300	\$250	\$200
2nd	\$550	\$250	\$200	\$150
3rd	\$350	\$225	\$175	\$125
4th	\$250	\$200	\$150	\$100
5th	\$200	\$150	\$100	\$75
	U2150	U1850	U1550	U1100
1st	\$350	\$200	\$150	\$120
2nd	\$250	\$150	\$125	\$80
3rd	\$150	\$125	\$100	\$120(*)
4th	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$80(*)

(*) Prizes for unrated players.

All prizes will be mailed starting 6/1/2015.

Entries/Information:

Send entries to: Dan Mathews
WCF Tournament Coordinator
749 Somerset Lane
Edmonds, WA 98020-2646
Cell Phone (425) 218-7529
danomathews01@gmail.com

Make checks payable to
Washington Chess Federation.

Lynnwood Convention Center

3711 196th Street SW

Lynnwood, WA 98036-7701, Phone (888) 778-7155

Format: Four sections as shown at left, six round Swiss system. *Late registrations may receive half-point byes for first round.*

Rating: USCF rated. Open Section also FIDE rated (except G/60 games). USCF May 2015 rating supplement will be used to determine section eligibility. Higher of USCF or foreign ratings used at TD discretion. Higher of USCF or FIDE rating used for pairings and prizes in Open Section. Foreign ratings used for players with no USCF rating. Unrated players may only win top five prizes in the Open Section or unrated prizes in Booster Section.

Registration: Saturday 8:30-9:30 AM for 3-day schedule, or 3:00-3:30 PM if entering with one half-point bye. Sunday 8:00-8:30 AM for 2-day schedule, or 8:30-9:30 AM if entering 3-day schedule with two half-point byes. Two half-point byes available at registration or before end of round 2. Play any two days, if taking two half-point byes. Please use entry form (available on NWC website) for a list of all discounts and fees, and to indicate schedule, section, side events, and byes requested – or use online registration at www.nwchess.com/online/registration. Pay by credit/debit or PayPal.

Rounds: 3-day schedule: Sat 10:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Sun 10:00 AM and 5:30 PM, Mon 9:00 AM and 3:30 PM. 2-day schedule: Sun 9:00 AM, 11:45 AM, 2:30 PM, then join 3-day schedule with round 4 at 5:30 PM. WCF annual meeting and elections at 2:00 PM Monday, May 25, 2015.

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

Miscellaneous: Current USCF membership and WCF/OCF/ICA membership required in all sections. NW Grand Prix event. Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points: 20. ChessMagnet-School.com JGP. No Smoking. No Computers. Wheelchair accessible.

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

Washington Open Bughouse Team Championship: Sat 5/23 at 6:00 PM. Format: 5 round Double Swiss in one section. Registration: 5:00-5:45 PM. Rounds: 6:00, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30 and 8:00 PM. TC: G/5 (no delay). EF: \$20 per person. Trophies to top teams.

Washington Open Blitz Championship: Sat 5/23 at 9:00 PM. Format: 5 round Double Swiss in one section. Registration: 8:00-8:45 PM. Rounds: 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30 and 11:00 PM. TC: G/5 (no delay). EF: \$25. Prize Fund: \$400 based on 20 entries. 1st \$130, 2nd \$90, 1st U2000 \$60, 1st U1700 \$60, 1st U1400 \$60. Miscellaneous: USCF Quick rated. Current USCF membership and WCF/OCF/ICA membership required.

Washington Open Scholastic (May 23): A separate flyer/entry form/online registration link will be published on the NWC website for this event, or contact: David Hendricks, WCF Scholastic Coordinator, 2439 220th Place NE, Sammamish, WA 98074-6418, phone: (425) 868-3881, e-mail: DavidCHendricks@comcast.net.

Washington Chess News

Marcell Szabo National Master

Marcell Szabo, an 8th grader at Hamilton Middle School in Seattle, became the Northwest's newest USCF National Master on January 25, 2015. He scored 3.5/4 at the Seattle Chess Club January Tornado and gained 18 points to boost his USCF rating to 2217! Along the way, he beat Anthony He (1979) and FM Roland Feng (2325). Congratulations, Marcell!

**Marcell Szabo (2199) –
Roland Feng (2325) [C01]**
SCC January Tornado Seattle, WA
(R3), January 25, 2015
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.c4 Nf6
5.Nc3 Bb4 6.Bd3 dxc4 7.Bxc4 0-0
8.Nge2 Re8 9.0-0 Be6 10.Bxe6 Rxe6
11.Bg5 Be7 12.Re1



Position after 12.Re1

12...c6 13.Ng3

13.Qb3!?

13...Rxe1+ 14.Qxe1 Nbd7 15.Nf5 Bb4
16.a3 Qa5 17.axb4 Qxf5 18.Bxf6 Nxf6
19.Qe7



Position after 19.Qe7

19...Re8

19...Qc8±

20.Qxb7 Ng4 21.Rf1 h5

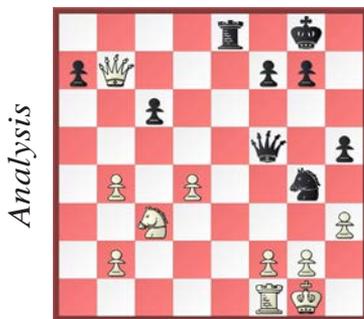
21...Qf4 22.g3 Qxd4 23.Qxc6∞



Marcell displaying his National Master certificate. Photo credit: Anita Marton

22.Qxc6?!

22.h3!?



Analysis

(#Diagram-analysis after 22.h3)

22...Nxf2! (22...Nf6 23.Qxc6±) 23.Qc7!
with messy complications that appear to
favor White.

22...Re1! 23.Nd1?

23.Ne4 Qxe4 24.Qxe4 Rxe4 25.f3 Rxd4
26.fxg4 Rxg4 with some advantage for
Black.

23...Rxd1! 24.Rxd1 Qxf2+ 25.Kh1

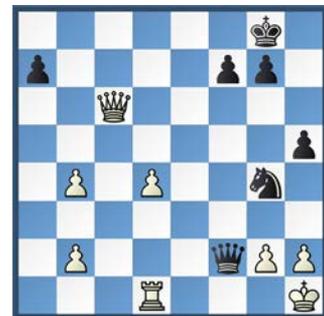
[1st Diagram top of next column]

25...Qe3??

25...Qf4! 26.g3 Qf2

[2nd Diagram top of next column]

27.Qg2 (27.Qa8+ Kh7 28.Qe4+ g6
29.Qg2 is marginally better, as the
black king is a bit more distant, but still



Position after 25.Kh1

Analysis



(#Diagram-analysis after 26...Qf2)

insufficient.) 27...Qxg2+ 28.Kxg2 Ne3+
29.Kf3 Nxd1+ Black's knight nimbly
deals with split pawns.

26.Qc8+! Kh7 27.Qf5+ Kh6 28.Rf1!
Qe2 29.h3 Ne3 30.Qf4+ Kh7 31.Rg1

Or 31.Rf2 Qe1+ 32.Kh2 f6 33.Rf3+—

31...Nd1 32.d5 Nf2+ 33.Kh2 Nd3
34.Qf5+ Kg8 35.d6 g6 36.Qf6 Ne5
37.Rc1 Kh7 38.Rc8 1-0

Collyer Report 2015

By Kevin Korsmo

A California connection won Spokane's premiere chess event, the Dave Collyer Memorial, played for the 23rd time the weekend of February 28—March 1. International Master John Donaldson, formerly of Tacoma and currently of the San Francisco area, and Darren Russell, a recent California transplant to Spokane, shared top honors this year with scores of 4.5. Donaldson triumphed in his first four rounds before drawing with Tim Moroney in round 5. Playing the old "Swiss gambit," Russell was held to a first round upset draw and then won his final four games to tie for the title. There was a four way tie at 4.0 for third place that also collected the Expert and Class A prizes, among Tim Moroney, Alan Bishop, Steve Merwin, and David Dussome. Bishop lost to Donaldson in round four, but put up a nice fight in an extended battle.

Unlike last year's event, this year the upsets started in the early going. There were four upset draws and two first round losses by players in the upper division. The second round saw an upset on board two and also saw two class A players downed by class C players. Round three was fairly quiet due to the large number of players taking an evening bye, but still saw a pair of upset defeats in class A. Round four saw Moroney held to a draw by Nikolay Bulakh. Donaldson's victory over Bishop left him atop the field heading in to the fifth round. The draw between Donaldson and Moroney left an opportunity for a victor on board two to share the Collyer crown. Russell prevailed in a lengthy game with James Stripes to ultimately share first place.

There were several young chess players at this year's event — and they made their mark! Sandpoint, Idaho high school star Savanna Naccarato scored 3.5 and handed Dussome his only defeat in round two. In turn, Savanna's only loss only was to Steve Merwin in round 4. Merwin, whose only loss was to Donaldson in round 3, pulled out the game with only 18 second remaining on his clock after the youngster let the pieces get traded off in a complex position only to see the veteran grab several of her pawns as his clock was winding down. In the following round, Savanna stopped Jeremy Younker who himself had had a fine tournament to that point, highlighted by knocking off NM James Maki (2333) in round two. Maki,



Ted Baker, Spokane Chess Club Secretary. He also arranges the excellent facility that this tournament uses, the St. Anne's Children's Center. Photo credit: James Stripes

limited to a single day's action while he battled a cold, has moved to Coeur d'Alene from San Diego and is working his way back into tournament chess shape; expect him to be a force in regional chess.

Savanna's successful weekend added 220 points to her rating! Another successful youth was Garrett Casey, who scored three points to easily claim the Class E first prize. His play was punctuated by a nice save of a queen and pawn endgame in round five. Down a pawn to Missoula, Montana veteran Sherwood Moore, Garrett was able to force a draw by repetition to salvage the half point.

There were a host of other winners. Steve Fabian (3.5) was first in class B, while six others shared second place: Dan McCourt, Ron Kirsch, Sherwood Moore, Doug Sly, Dave Griffin, and Dan Hochee. The Class C prizes were shared by Peter Schumaker, Ted Baker, and Alex Popescu with scores of 3.0. First place in Class D went to Savanna Naccarato (3.5), while second in the class was split by Jeff Jaroski and Pat Kirlin (2.0). The Class E section was won by Garrett Casey (3.0), while Michael Munsey (2.0) finished second. Jeremy Younker (573 points) took the biggest upset prize, while Savanna claimed the second prize (521 points).

A total of 56 players entered this year's event, which again featured a guaranteed prize fund of \$1800 that was co-sponsored by the Gary Younker Foundation. The late Gary Younker first organized the Collyer Memorial in 1993 in honor of his late friend, and Spokane chess organizer, Dave Collyer. The event has grown into eastern Washington's largest tournament.

As customary, the weekend featured a Friday night lecture by Donaldson. This year's topic was the Tromso Olympiad. He then played a 15-board simul, winning 13 and drawing one. For the second year in a row, the event was kicked off by a blitz tourney. Nikolay Bulakh (6.0) edged Darren Russell (5.5) in this eight-player round robin event.

**John Donaldson –
Kevin Korsmo [A00]**
Spokane Simul, February 27, 2015
[John Donaldson]

I managed to tie for first in the 23rd David Collyer Memorial, but my most interesting game of the weekend was played on Friday night in a simul preceding the tournament. Among my opponents in the exhibition was tournament director Kevin Korsmo whose day job is serving as Presiding Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals for Washington State.

**1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.c4 Bb4+ 4.Nc3 c5
5.e3 0-0 6.Bd3 Nc6 7.0-0 cxd4 8.exd4
d5 9.Re1 b6 10.Bg5 Be7 11.Rc1 dxc4
12.Bxc4 Bb7 13.a3 Nd5**

This is more precise than the commonly played 13...Rc8.

14.Bd2

14.Bxd5 Bxg5 15.Nxg5 Qxg5 16.Be4 Rad8 17.d5 Ne7 leads nowhere for White, while 14.Bxe7 Ncxe7 is quite comfortable for Black. 14.h4!? is an interesting try, but it is hard to believe it promises White an advantage.

14...Bf6

14...Nf6 was equally good as is 14...Nxc3: e.g., 15.Bxc3 Bf6 16.d5 ½-½ Gligoric--Karpov, Tilburg 1977.

15.Nxd5

15.Bxd5 exd5 16.Bf4 Rc8 17.Qd3 with equal chances in Kveinys-Jakubiec, Polanica Zdroj 2005.

15...exd5 16.Ba2

16.Bd3 Nxd4 17.Nxd4 Bxd4 18.Bb4 Re8 19.Bxh7+ Kxh7 20.Qxd4 is at best just a tiny bit better for White.

16...Nxd4 17.Nxd4 Bxd4 18.Bb4 Qh4?!

18...Bc5 19.Bxc5 bxc5 20.Rxc5 Qb6 21.Qd4 offers White only a small advantage.

19.Qd2?!

19.Qe2! Bc5 20.Bxc5 bxc5 21.Qe7 with a clear advantage in the endgame.

19...Rfe8?

19...Rfc8 solves all of Black's problems as there are no back rank issues since the queen is not on e2.

20.Rc7! Rxe1+ 21.Qxe1 a5



Position after 21...a5

The only try as 21...Rb8 22.Rxb7 Qxf2+ 23.Qxf2 Bxf2+ 24.Kxf2 Rxb7 25.Bxd5 and 21...Ba6 22.Bxd5 both win for White.

22.Be7?

22.Bc3! wins as 22...Bxc3 23.bxc3 Ba6 is met by 24.Bxd5 Rf8 25.Rxf7. The text looks crushing but allows Black a hidden resource.

22...Re8?

Natural, but Kevin misses the great tactical shot 22...Qh6! with the point that 23.Rxb7? is met by 23...Qc6! It's true the rook can be saved with 24.Bd8, but after 24...Rxd8 Black is a pawn up with a clear

advantage.

23.g3

23.Rxb7 Bc5 24.Bxd5 Bxe7 25.g3 Qf6 26.Qe3 was equally strong.

23...Qh5?!

23...Qf6 24.Rxb7 Bc5 25.Bxd5 Bxe7 26.Qe3 transposes to the last variation. The text should allow White to win more easily.

24.Rxb7 Bc5 25.Qd2

25.b4! Bd6 26.Rd7 Qg6 27.Bxd5 ends all resistance.

25...Bxe7 26.Qxd5 Qxd5 27.Bxd5

White went on to grind out a win in the ending thanks to his pressure against f7.

1-0

**Steve Merwin (1947) –
Savanna Naccarato (1340) [C56]**
Dave Collyer Memorial
(R4), March 1, 2015
[Steve Merwin]

Naccarato had knocked off two A-players in the first two rounds, and she was a girls high school champion in Idaho, so her low rating (which was almost two years old) meant nothing.

1.e4 e5 2.d4 exd4 3.Bc4 Nc6 4.Nf3

The Scotch Gambit, by transposition.

4...Nf6

And now the Two Knights Defense.

5.e5 d5 6.Bb5 Ne4 7.Nxd4 Bc5!

The exclamation point is given for the boldness of this move. Most players reply with the automatic Bd7, giving Black a perfectly playable game after 8. Bxc6 bxc6 9. O-O Bc5. But Savanna spent 40 minutes pondering the complications after 8. Nxc6 and decided it was worth the risk. And her analysis was spot on, because after 8...Bxf2+ 9. Kf1 Qh4! 10. Nxa7+ c6 11. Nxc8 Rxc8 White has nothing better than to accept the draw with 12. Be2 Bc5 13. Qe1 Bf2 14. Qd1 Bc5 etc.

8.Be3!

But I knew the line, and I felt no desire to test whether she would find all the right moves to force the draw. Had I known what I was in for, however, I might have reconsidered!

8...Bd7 9.Bxc6 bxc6 10.0-0 h5!?

On the surface this advance might be dubious, but Savanna's attacking character is now loud

and clear.

11.f3 Ng5 12.f4 Bg4?!

Unnecessarily allowing the Queen to move to a better square.

13.Qe1?!

But I did not find the optimal square, which was d3.

13...Ne4 14.Nxc6?!

Allowing Black too much compensation for the pawn. Better was Nd2 with a solid edge.

14...Qd7 15.Bxc5 Qxc6

I now spent a personal record 60 minutes on the next move, trying to make 16. Ba3 Qxc2 17. Qb4 and the ensuing mate threat work to my advantage. But after 17...c5 18. Qb5+ Bd7 19. Qb7 Rc8! 20. Qxd5 Qe2! Black has turned the tables, and I would have needed to find 21. Qb3! just to survive. And it's a good thing I rejected this line, because Black can ignore all this nonsense and simply play 16...Qb6+ with advantage. I could have saved a lot of time had I noticed this obvious reply. To make matters worse, my opponent spent those entire 60 minutes at the board, so she was well prepared for whatever my response turned out to be.

16.Bd4 h4?!

I had anticipated 16...Qxc2 17. Qc1 Qxc1 18. Rxc1 with a slight edge for White.

17.Nc3 h3 18.g3 Qc4 19.Qe3!

The point is that 19...c5 isn't possible due to 20. Nxe4, and the bishop can't be taken due to the check on d6 and a big plus for White.

19...Rd8 20.b3 Qc6 21.Nxe4 dxe4 22.Rf2

White now has a comfortable edge.

22...0-0 23.f5 Bxf5!?

I got lucky here, because if 23...Qd7 I had planned 24. f6 Qxd4 25. Qg5 and assumed I had a forced mate. But my rook on a1 is hanging and Black could have forced a perpetual check instead! Given my clock situation I'm not sure whether I would have noticed this in time to play the much better 24. Bc5 with advantage.

24.Bc5!

Now, despite my clock situation, I had to find this move because after 24. Rxf5 Rxd4! 25. Qxd4 e3! and Black's mate threat is enough to force a draw despite being a full rook down. For example, 26. Kf1 Qxc2 27. Rf4 Qxh2 28. e6 fe 29. Rxf8+ Kxf8 and the best White has is perpetual check.

24...Bg4 25.Bxf8 Rxf8 26.Raf1 Bf3 27.Rxf3?

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simplify the situation, but it only serves to throw away any real winning possibilities.

27...exf3 28.Qxf3 Qxc2 29.e6 Qc5+



Position after 29...Qc5+

Oops, the f8 square is covered, so the planned 30. Kh1 actually loses. Now I must accept the queen trade and fight for a draw.

30.Qf2 Qxf2+ 31.Rxf2 fxe6 32.Re2 Rf6

A beginning of a series of missteps by Savanna, who is now in time trouble of her own. While 32...Kf7 doesn't win outright, White can't trade rooks and will need to play precisely to draw – a tough task with less than a minute left on the clock.

33.Rc2 Rf7 34.Rc6 Re7 35.Kf2 Kf7 36.Ra6 Kf6 37.Rxa7 Kg5 38.Ra4 e5 39.Rh4 e4 40.Ke3 c5 41.Rxe4 Rxe4+?

...Ra7 would have maintained drawing chances, especially had I responded with the impulsive 42. a4? rather than the correct 42. Ra4.

42.Kxe4 Kg4 43.a4

Kudos to Savanna, who despite this tough loss went on to win the final round with relative ease and score a very impressive 3.5 out of 5!

1-0

Cheyenne Zhang (1514) – August Piper (1500) [A21]
WA President's Cup Seattle WA (R3), February 14, 2015
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 f5 3.g3 Nf6 4.Bg2 c6 5.d3 Na6 6.Nf3 d6 7.e3 Nc7 8.0-0 Be7 9.b4 h6?

Creating a nice hole on g6, while defending only against illusions involving the g5-square. 9...0-0

10.Nh4± 0-0 11.Ng6 Re8 12.f4?!

12.b5±

12...exf4 13.Rxf4 Kh7

13...Ng4 14.h3∞

14.Nxe7 Qxe7 15.e4 g5

15...a5±

16.Rf1



Position after 16.Rf1

16...fxe4?

16...d5 17.exf5±

17.Nxe4 Rf8 18.Nxf6+

18.Bb2! Nce8 19.Qe2 Kg6 20.Rae1+

18...Rxf6 19.Be4+

19.Bb2 Rxf1+ 20.Qxf1 Be6 21.Qe2+

19...Kg8 20.Re1 Qf7?

20...Bh3 21.Bxc6± (21.Bd5+ Nxd5 22.Rxe7 Nxe7 23.Bb2 Rf1+ 24.Qxf1 Bxf1 25.Rxf1 Rf8±)



Position after 20...Qf7

21.Bb2 Rf2

21...Re6? 22.Rf1 Qe8 23.Qd2+

22.Bd4 Rf6 23.Bxf6 Qxf6 24.Rf1 Qd4+ 25.Kh1 Bh3 26.Re1 Rf8?

26...Be6

27.Qh5 Bf5

27...Be6 28.Qxh6 Qg7 29.Qxg7+ Kxg7+

28.Bxf5 Rxf5 29.Qg6+ 1-0

And now, the final brilliancy prize game from this year's Washington Championships (the other three were printed in last month's issue.)—Editor.

Ryan Ackerman (1842) – Alan Bishop (2000) [E73]
WA Invitational Seattle (R6), February 14, 2015
[Alan Bishop]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Be2 0-0 6.Bg5

The Averbakh Variation of the King's Indian Defense. I hadn't studied this in awhile, and I very rarely face it. I knew that I could play an immediate 6...c5, or

prepare a future ...e5 with 6...Na6. I chose the latter.

6...Na6 7.Qd2 Qe8

More common is 7...e5. With c7 defended, there is nothing to fear from 8.dxe5 dxe5 9.Qxd8 Rxd8 10.Nd5 Rd6 . I suppose I was looking for a middlegame with queens on, and ...Qe8 is a common move in the Averbakh in any case, e.g. 7...e5 8. d5 Qe8.

8.0-0 e5 9.d5 Nc5 10.f3 a6

10...Nh5 is more common here.

11.h4 Bd7 12.h5!? b5!?

Maybe objectively best is capturing the pawn, as my engine tells me. But I was all set up to counterattack with ...b5 and didn't want to delay it. I did consider 12...Nxh5 13. g4 Nf4!, returning the pawn for play on the long diagonal, and dark squares in general. 12...Nxh5 13.g4 Nf4! (13...Ng3 14.Rh3 Nxe2+ 15.Ngxe2 helps White develop, with compensation for the pawn) 14.Bxf4 exf4 15.Nh3 b5! 16.Nxf4 b4 17.Nb1 b3! 18.a3 Na4 19.Nd3 c6! and Black has strong pressure.

13.Bh6?!

Too slow, and hands the initiative over to Black. 13.hxg6 fxxg6 14.b4! Nb7 (14...Na4!?) 15.Nh3 bxc4 16.Bxc4 a5 17.b5 a4 is roughly even.

13...b4 14.Bxxg7 Kxxg7

But not 14...bxc3? 15.Qh6 cxb2+ 16.Kb1! and White is better.

15.Nb1 Ba4!

Avoiding 15...Nxh5? 16.Rxxh5 gxxh5 17.Qg5+ Kh8 18.Qf6+ Kg8 19.Qg5+ with perpetual check.

16.hxxg6 fxxg6

Forced; of course not 16...hxg6?? 17.Qh6+ and mate on h8, and taking on d1 allows 17. Qh6+ followed by either 18. g7+ or 18. gxxh7+ (depending on where Black's king goes), resulting in serious material loss in the first case, and mate in the second.

17.Rf1

Interesting is 17.b3 Bxb3! 18.Qh6+ Kg8 19.axb3 Nxb3+ 20.Kb2 Nc5 (20...Nd4 21.Bd3 a5 22.Ne2 Nxe2 23.Bxe2 Rf7 24.Nd2 a4 with compensation for the material) 21.Nh3 a5 22.Ng5 Qe7 23.Qh3 Nh5 24.g4 Nf4 25.Qh2 (25.Qxxh7+ Qxxh7 26.Nxxh7 Nxe2 27.Nxxf8 Rxxf8 28.Rh6 Rxxf3 is good for Black) 25...Rfb8 26.Nxxh7 a4 and Black stands well despite the material deficit, due to his excellent piece placement and the strong a- and b-pawn duo.

17...Nh5 18.g4 Nf4!

Losing is 18...Ng3?? 19.Qh6+ Kf7 20.Qxxh7+ Kf6 21.Qh4+ , but possible

was 18...b3 19. a3 Nf4. I wanted to save the b3 square for my bishop.

19.Nh3 Bb3!

This move doesn't even make it in Rybka's top 5, preferring 19...b3 and 19...a5 among others. Maybe it's not objectively best, but it forces the following sequence and gives Black good practical chances (we're not machines after all!). Plus, in time pressure it was just too tempting!

20.Nxf4 Rxf4 21.Qxb4 Bxa2 22.Nd2!



Position after 22.Nd2

22...Rb8?

I had planned the correct 22...Bb3! 23.Nxb3 Rb8, but in time pressure I forgot and screwed up the move order.

23.Qa5!

Forking the Ba2 and c7 pawn.

23...Na4!

Making the best of a bad turn of events.

24.Bd1

24.Qxc7+! Rf7 25.Qxd6 Rxb2 26.Bd1 Rbb7 (26...Rfb7? 27.Bxa4 Qxa4 28.Rxh7+! Kxh7 29.Rh1+ Kg7 (29...Kg8 30.Qd8+ Kg7 31.Qh8+ Kf7 32.Rh7#) 30.Qxe5+ Kf8 31.Rh8+ Kf7 32.Rh7+ Kf8 33.Qh8#) 27.Bc2 (27.Qxa6 Nc5! 28.Qxa2?? Nd3+ is similar to the game finish) 27...Nb6 28.c5 Rfd7 29.Qc6 Nc4 30.Rf2 Nxd2 31.Rfh2! h5 32.gxh5 Nxf3 33.Rg2 g5 34.Qg6+! Qxg6 35.hxg6 Rdc7 36.c6 Ra7 37.Bd1 Nd4 38.Rxa2 Kxg6 39.Rah2 wins for White.

24...Nxb2!



Position after 24...Nxb2

25.Qxa2??

Also losing is 25.Qxc7+? Rf7 26.Qxd6 Bxc4 27.Nxc4 Nxc4 28.Qxa6 Rc7, despite

being up a passed pawn, as White's king is too exposed, e.g. 29.Bc2 Ra8 30.Ba4 Qf8! and Black will either mate or win White's queen for starters.; Correct is 25.Bc2! Bxc4 26.Nxc4 Nxc4 27.Qxc7+ Rf7 28.Qxc4 a5 29.Kd2! and White is much better, up a bishop for a pawn.

25...Nd3+

He saw too late that he loses his queen after 26. Kc2 Nb4+. White resigns.

0-1

Washington State Girls Championship

By David Hendricks

Congratulations to Sangeeta Dhingra who won the Washington State Girls Championship held March 28-29, 2015, in Redmond and Bellevue. Sangeeta is a 9th grader attending the International Community School and was rated 1891 USCF. Sangeeta upset Becca Lampman rated 2103 and the winner of this tournament for the prior 3 years with a round 3 upset, trapping her queen in 19 moves. Then Sangeeta and Naomi Bashkansky drew in round 4 and ended tied after 4 rounds with a score of 3.5 each.

An Armageddon style playoff round decided the winner with Sangeeta playing Black with draw odds and 12 minutes against Naomi playing white with 15 minutes, both with a 5 second delay — Sangeeta finished with a checkmate. Sangeeta wins \$500 to reimburse her travel expenses to the Susan Polgar Invitational later this year. Naomi qualifies to be the Washington representative to another national tournament where each state can send one girl.

Sangeeta Dhingra

Sangeeta started playing chess when she was in 3rd grade but she had shown an interest before. She has gotten 2nd twice at Girls nationals (2010 and 2012). She has recently tied for 3rd in the North American Open in the U1900 section. Sangeeta is currently a freshman at the International Community School in Kirkland and is rated 1910. Besides chess, she also enjoys swimming, playing the violin, and Netflix.

Sangeeta Dhingra (1891) – Becca Lampman (2103) [B47]
WA State Girls Championship (R3), March 29, 2015
[Sangeeta Dhingra]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6



Sangeeta Dhingra holding her winner's trophy. Photo credit: David Hendricks.

5.Nc3 Qc7 6.f4 a6 7.Nb3

Slightly better is 7. Be3 or Be2. Nb3 wastes a move.

7...b5 8.Bd3 Bb7 9.0-0 d6

9...Nf6 10.e5 b4 would have given me less advantage.

10.Bd2 Nf6 11.a3 Be7 12.Qf3 h5 13.Rae1 Rd8

She should have played 13...Ng4 14.h3 Qb6+ 15.Kh1 Bf6

14.Qe2 e5?

Now she has a weak d5-square and I have multiple ways of breaking through. Better is to just castle.

15.Nd5! Nxd5??

The losing move. 15...Qc8 or 15...Qd7 would have still kept the game going for a bit more.

16.exd5 Nd4 17.Nxd4 exd4 18.Ba5 Qd7 19.Bf5 1-0

Neo Olin

A short bio on Neo Olin was printed in the April 2015 issue of *Northwest Chess*. Here is a recent game from the Washington State Scholastic Championship annotated by Neo.



Vikram Ramasamy (1887) – Neo Olin (1927) [B22]
 WA State Scholastic Chess Champ
 (R4), March 8, 2015
[Neo Olin]

1.e4 c5

To win Swiss tournaments, you really need to go for the win. The Sicilian does just that.

2.c3

Playing against the Alapin always leaves me uneasy because of the center White can form.

2...Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 e6

Keeping solid, and preparing for development.

5.c4

Seizing space on the board.

5...Nb6

If 5...Nc7, the more popular move, I feared that after d5, ...d6 may come later with tempo, placing me in an awkward, and cramped position. On b6, the Knight wields more influence anyways.

6.d5 d6

With his now over-extended pawns, I hoped to chip them off while gaining a lead in development.

7.exd6 Bxd6 8.Nc3 0-0 9.Nf3 Re8

With a safe king, and good piece placement, I believe that here I have completely equalized, if not in possession of an advantage.

10.Be2 exd5 11.cxd5 Be5

I regretted this move as soon as I made it. An attempt to snap the isolated pawn on d5 can easily be foiled by my weak back rank. 12. Nxe5, Rxe5, 13. Bf4, and my rook would have to retreat to e8. If Rf5, Bg3, and a the rook is in an extremely uncomfortable position, ready to be harassed by White's pieces.

12.Nxe5 Rxe5 13.f4

Here I breathed a sigh of relief. If Bf4 had been played, I would be at a sore disadvantage I believe, with White's dark bishop tearing down the g3-b8 diagonal.

13...Re8 14.0-0 N8d7 15.Bf3 Nf6

My plan now was to gang up on the d5 pawn and take it out.

16.a4

Trying to kick my knight, an attacker of d5.

16...Bf5

Developing and controlling the b1-g6 diagonal.

17.a5 Nc4 18.Qa4 Nd6 19.Rd1 c4

Providing an outpost for my bishop and restricting the queen.

20.Qb4

This is a mistake. One that would cost Vikram the game. Notice how the queen on b4 is a loose piece.

20...Bc2

Questioning the rook. If Rf1, then Bd3 with a tempo and attacking prospects

in mind. But what he played was even worse.

21.Rd2

Abandoning the back row.

21...Re1+

Boom!

22.Kf2

This move appears to attack my rook, while my bishop on c2 is still hanging.



Position after 22.Kf2

22...Qe7

This, however, defends the rook and threatens Nde4+! with a discovery on the queen. Moving the queen would allow for Qe3+, with checkmate nearby.

23.Qxd6 Qxd6

Just a mop-up job.

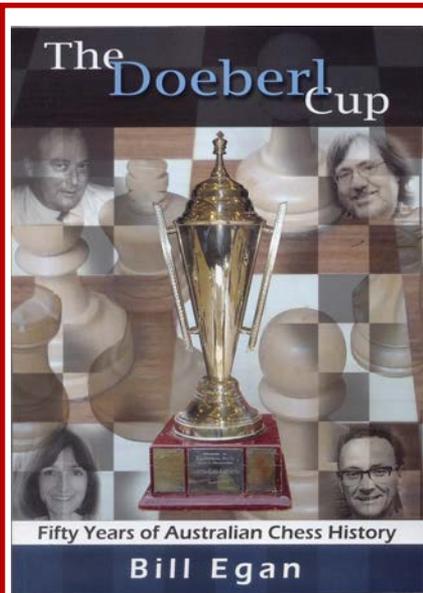
24.Kxe1 Bd3 25.Kf2 Qxf4

If Rxd3, with a discovered attack on the queen, Qh4+, g3, Qxh2+, and after the king moves, I take the rook.

26.Ne2 Ng4+ 27.Ke1 Re8 28.Rd1 Rxe2+ 29.Bxe2 Qf2+ 30.Kd2 Qxe2+ 31.Kc3 Qc2+

And Vikram resigned.

0-1



The Doeberl Cup: Fifty Years of Australian Chess History. (Author Bill Egan) Limited edition collector's item, 336 pages, games, diagrams, 46 profiles of greats who won one of the world's longest continually running tournaments – Purdy, Miles, Christiansen, Rogers, Arakhamia, Akobian and more. CD with 6,000+ games. Amazon, post-free \$39.95. Search "Doeberl Cup".

Jeremy Silman says:

"If you are an Australian then this is a must own book. But if you love chess history, annotated games, wonderful photos, and the ups and downs of a seemingly endless parade of great players, then you'll find that the \$39.95 price tag is money well spent, no matter what country you're from."

See full review at: <http://tinyurl.com/knd9h2z>

John Donaldson says:

"A first-rate account of this event which has come to mean so much for Australian chess. The book comes with a bonus in the form of a DVD which contains over 6,000 games from the 50 years of competition, most of which are not to be found in ChessBase. **Recommended.**"

See full review at: <http://tinyurl.com/llfnppa>

Chess Groovies

By NM Daniel He and NM Samuel He

Richard Rapport

Hello readers! This month's focus will be Richard Rapport, one of the youngest GMs ever, achieving the title at only age 13, 11 months! Every time I look through top games on the Internet Chess Club, I always look forward to looking at Rapport's games, which almost always have some kind of strange opening, with white and black alike! We will be analyzing 2 of his creative games, one from the recent Aeroflot Open and one from 2014.

Richard Rapport (2720) – Alexander Donchenko (2501) [B20]
Dortmund GER 2014
[Samuel He]

1.e4 c5 2.Na3!?

Already by move 2, Rapport has played a crazy looking move! To my surprise, this has been tried at least 13 times by US GM Alexander Shabalov.

2...g6 3.h4!?



Position after 3.h4

I thought such moves were only playable in bullet! While this move looks ridiculous, with closer analysis, this makes some sense. Such h-pawn attacks are usually unplayable if Black is able to open up the center, the most important area of the board. However, if Black plays ...d5, exd5 Qxd5 and eventually Bc4! And here, it is evident that the knight on a3 serves an important purpose!

3...Bg7

From my own bullet experience, the best move for Black is hard to choose from. If ...h5, Black gives up the g5-square for my knight. If ...h6, then after h5 by White, Black's kingside is weakened. If ...Bg7, then White continues with h5 and successfully opens up the h-file for an attack. Here, however, White doesn't have any immediate threats, so ...h5 or ...h6 would be an unnecessary weakening

of the kingside.

4.h5 Nc6 5.Bb5

The position now looks similar to a Grand Prix attack, except with a few glaring differences. While there are obvious drawbacks to having the knight on a3 rather than c3, this difference also allows White to get rid of the knight if it chooses to go to d4 with c3. Also, the far advanced h-pawn also has its positives and negatives. If Black can open up the position successfully, White would be far behind in development. However, if White can manage to keep his position solid and aggressive, then he would have the advantage.

5...d6 6.d3 Rb8 7.Nc4!?



Position after 7.Nc4

Rapport improves the knight position to join in on any future attacks. It is important to note that if ...a6, then Bxc6 bxc6 and White can choose to change plans to a more strategic one against the doubled c-pawns. Right now, it seems that Black was unable to open up the position, which gives Rapport the better (and more enjoyable!) position.

7...e6 8.Qf3!

This sneaky move is very annoying to face. White has lots of potential threats, such as Qg3 and Bf4, happily taking advantage of the fact that the c6 knight is pinned and cannot jump to the superior square of d4!

8...e5

While this move definitely looks dubious, with a closer look, Black is in some kind of a weird zugzwang! The advantage of the advanced h-pawn is clear seeing that the g8-knight cannot move! If Ne7, then h6! and Black's bishop has to move to an awkward square. If ...Nf6, still h6! gives White a large advantage.

9.Ne2 Be6 10.Bd2 a6

Black finally realizes that he is out of

moves and has to try something.

11.Bxc6+ bxc6 12.b3!

Now White has obtained a strong positional advantage on the queenside... and Black's g8-knight still can't get out!

12...d5

Seeing that he is worse off on both the queenside and the kingside, Black attempts to open up the center and claim an advantage in that area of the board.

13.Na5!

Definitely not ...exd5?? when White is close to losing as Black has the bishop-pair, a strong center, and active bishops. Rapport's move also threatens Nxc6.

13...Rb6 14.c4!



Position after 14.c4

White has achieved a favorable Nimzo-Indian-like pawn structure where White will be planning to win the weak c5-pawn in the future.

14...Nf6

The black knight finally decides he is safe to come out, but by now, Rapport has already achieved a strong position on the queenside that it doesn't matter too much anymore.

15.h6 Bf8 16.Nc3 Bg4



Position after 16...Bg4

As long as White doesn't exchange in the center, the pawn structure would always favor white as the doubled c-pawns for

Black would be difficult to protect, if at all.

17.Qg3 dxe4 18.Qxe5+!

This move came as a surprise to me when I first looked at it, but it makes a lot of sense. Black is very far behind in development that White is able to win a pawn even with his king in the center. Despite this, the normal dxe4 recapture is also very strong and the move that I would've probably played.

18...Be7 19.Nxe4

Rapport has successfully won a pawn, and still has the doubled c-pawns to win in the future! Black's only hope for some play is to quickly develop and take advantage of White's king in the center. But this is not so simple.

19...0-0 20.Bg5

Making it hard for Black to continue his plan. For example, if ...Re8, then Bxf6! wins.

20...Qxd3

A scary looking move which threatens mate in one! But of course, just because a move threatens mate in one doesn't mean it is any good.

21.f3! Bxf3

Desperate try for some play.

22.gxf3 Qxf3 23.Bxf6 Qxh1+ 24.Kf2



Position after 24.Kf2

Even though Black has won a rook, Black's queen is attacked and White will eventually get mate on the black king. This was a very unique and creative game by Rapport which was also very instructive! I hope this game inspires you to study more of Rapport's style and games in the future, which has brought me lots of rewarding wins in bullet :)!

1-0

The following game of Rapport's was played just a few days ago at the Aeroflot Open in Moscow.

GM Sethuraman – GM Rapport [B43]

2015 Aeroflot International Open
Moscow (R5) March 31, 2015
[Daniel He]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 a6

The O'Kelly Sicilian leads to active positions if White plays d4 cxd4 Nxd4 Nf6 Nc3 e5. It's an improved version of the Najdorf because the Bf8 is not blocked in and can come to b4 later on, putting pressure on Black. However, at the very top levels, 3.c3 lessens the effectiveness of a6.

3.Nc3 b5 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 e6

The opening transposes to a more dynamic variation in Kan Sicilian which goes e4 c5 Nf3 e6 d4 cxd4 Nxd4 a6 Nc3 b5. Although it creates immediate threats of b5-b4, the b5-pawn could be overextending Black's position once White plays a4. In these dynamic openings, it's important to get the initiative.



Position after 5...e6

6.Bd3 Qb6 7.Nf3 Qc7 8.0-0 Bb7 9.Re1

A typical idea for White in many Sicilians, especially the Kan, is to place a rook or queen on the e-file and play Nd5. If Black takes the knight, white opens up the e-file and causes black lots of trouble to the uncastled king. As a Kan Sicilian player myself, I found these positions very hard to defend as Black, even though White doesn't have any forced wins. Rapport's next move stops any immediate Nd5 threats.

9...Be7 10.e5 f5

This is a key move, which stops White from trading light squared bishops with Be4. Black wants to keep his Bb7 for a future attack. Rapport eventually used his bishop to create pressure on the kingside.

11.a4 b4 12.Na2 Nh6!?



Position after 12...Nh6

Is Rapport just allowing Bxh6 and giving

him doubled h pawns? Yes, but it will also open up the g-file for the rook. So white does not capture the knight.

13.Bd2 Nc6 14.c3 b3!?

A creative idea. Black is planning on playing ...Nf7, which will give Black play on the kingside, if White takes the pawn.

15.Nb4 Nf7 16.Nxc6 Bxc6 17.Nd4 Bd5

It's important not to trade off the strong light squared bishop as it will be very useful in attack.



Position after 17...Bd5

18.Qe2 0-0 19.f4 Kh8 20.Be3?

This natural looking move is actually a mistake. Judging from Black's last move, it's evident he's planning on playing ...Rg8 and ...g5, but Be3 does not stop the plan, and it becomes passive. The bishop would be better placed on the a1-h8 diagonal to create more danger for Black when or if he plays ...g5. c4 Bb7 Bc3 would've been an improvement.

20...Rg8 21.c4 Bb7 22.c5 Nd8

At this point, Black is preparing ...g5, and opening up the g-file to attack White's king. ...Nd8 stops any ideas of c6 by White on the queenside.

23.Rac1 g5 24.fxg5 Bxg5 25.Bxg5 Rxg5 26.Nf3 Rg7

Black has succeeded in opening up the file, and the Bb7 is aiming straight at the kingside. Black will next double his rooks and put even more pressure on White.

27.Qe3 Nf7 28.c6!?

A good try to complicate the position. White can't directly trade bishops, so he finds this tricky move c6, which follows with Bxc6 Bb5, which forces the trade.

28...Bxc6 29.Bb5 axb5 30.axb5 Rag8 31.Re2?

Too passive of a move, which loses to Black's next moves. White should've let Black take on g2 with bxc6 Rxc6+ Kh1. White still has chances.

31...f4 32.Qc5 Bxf3

If Qxc7, then ...Bxe2 is up material for Black.

0-1

The 2015 Elmars Zemgalis Memorial Northwest Chess Grand Prix

by Murlin Varner, Administrator

The month of March lacked any significantly large Grand Prix events, so the changes to the standings are small. In Idaho, they are almost nonexistent, as there were no events in Idaho nor in Spokane. The only real change there was that Savanna Naccarato moved up a class in her rating, going from first in Class D to first in Class C. In Oregon and Washington, there were the usual reshufflings of position, but the changes were limited by having just single-value events. This changed in April, with the 4x Clark Harmon Memorial Open in Portland. Not in my statistics yet, since my deadline is the fifth of the month, but when you next see these standings, the Harmon should have caused significant changes. The ICA Spring Open in Pocatello should provide a bit of roiling to that state's stats, too.

Upcoming in May is an additional event to cause the numbers to jump. That would be the annual Washington Open, in Lynnwood over Memorial Day weekend. This is also a 4x multiplier, with a based-on prize fund of \$7,000. Attendance is usually very good for this event, and should add 50-75 players making their 2015 Grand Prix debut. In addition to that event, we have the Pierce County Open in Tacoma on the 9th, the Inland Empire Open in Spokane on the 16th and 17th, as well as our monthly SCC Tornado and Quads and PCC Game/60.

Anyone can compete for Grand Prix prizes; it is just a matter of getting out and playing in the tournaments. Last year, Mike Hasuike, a Class B-C player, made a major push to play as often as possible and came away with the top prize in Oregon. This year he is still going strong, leading Nick Raptis by five points for Oregon's top spot. This year in Washington, we are seeing the emergence of another contender in Michael Munsey, a Class D player, who has attended nine events through March 28th and taken a 4.5 point lead over past winner Ralph Anthony. You see, all it takes to make yourself a name in the Grand Prix is the resolve to get out and play. Heck, I even did it once, playing mainly in multiplier events to take second in Washington's Class C. If I can do it, so can you.

The statistics below are through April 5th. At the time of this writing, two events, the SCC Quads (March 28) and the Daffodil Open (April 4), had not yet been rated and are not included.

Northwest Grand Prix Standings

Idaho			Oregon			Washington					
last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.			
			Masters								
			1	Raptis	Nick	36.5	1	Pupols	Viktors	34.5	
			2	Grabinsky	Aaron	12	2	Schill	William J	20.5	
			3	Prochaska	Peter	11	3	Bragg	David R	18	
			3	Haessler	Carl A	11	4	Szabo	Marcell	11.5	
						5	He	Samuel	10.5		
M/X/Class A			Experts								
1	Bodie	Brad	8.5	1	Talyansky	Seth D	21	1	He	Anthony B	44.5
2	Lucky	David	8	2	Bjorksten	Lennart	18.5	2	Haining	Kyle	22.5
3	Kircher	Caleb P	6.5	3	Sherrard	Jerry D	15	2	Bishop	Alan	22.5
4	Maki	James J	6	4	Saputra	Yogi	12	4	Moroney	Timothy M	21.5
5	Landon	Lloyd	5	5	Two tied at		11	5	Nagase	Toshihiro	17.5
Class B			Class A								
1	Griggs	Glenn	13.5	1	Gaikwad	Dagadu B	19.5	1	Dussome	David E	27
2	Inman	James	6.5	2	Murray	David E	19	2	Russell	Darren	26.5
3	Carr	John B	6	3	Goffe	Michael P	13	3	Zhang	Eric M	24.5
3	Machin	Alex J	6	3	Rachmuth	Moshe S	13	4	Yu	Jason	24
5	Four tied at		5.5	5	Botez	Andrea C C	12	4	Bonrud	Neal	24

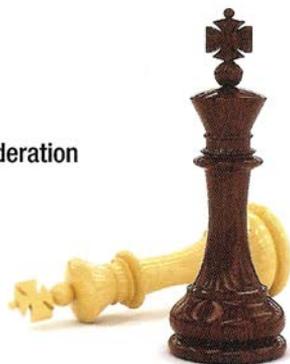
Idaho			Oregon			Washington		
last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.
Class C			Class B					
1	Nacarato Savanna	16.5	1	Hasuike Mike L	41.5	1	Anthony Ralph J	48
2	Weyland Ronald M	15.5	2	Eagles Roland	28	2	Puri Ishaan	25.5
3	Lombardi George	13.5	3	Samillano Jazon	26	3	Fabian Steve	21.5
4	Zaklan David A	5	4	McClain Jack W	22.5	3	Tu Robin L	21.5
5	Three tied at	4.5	5	Phipps Danny	19	5	Two tied at	20
Class D			Class C					
1	Jaroski Jeffrey A	15.5	1	Berger Brian F	23.5	1	Piper August	45
2	Porth Desmond	5	2	Sharan Praveer	18	2	Petrov Oscar	25.5
3	Porth Adam	4	3	Kenway Geoffrey W	17	3	Frostad John C	22
4	Dominick Matthew T	3	4	Hansen James J	12.5	4	Zhang Cheyenne	21
			5	Three tied at	12	5	Ahluwalia Anshul B	20
Class E and Below			Class D and Below					
1	Fister Joel S	9	1	Gupta Rohit	11	1	Munsey Michael R	52.5
2	Nacarato Chris D	7.5	2	Frias Corbin M	8	2	Anand Vignesh	26.5
3	Hiatt Arlene	5	2	Wong Egan	8	3	Burney James L	15
4	Courtney Caleb	4.5	4	Wong Byron	7	3	Casey Garrett W	15
5	Three tied at	4	5	Lilly Michael J	6	5	Valeriotte Cecelia A	14.5
Overall Leaders, by State								
1	Nacarato Savanna	16.5	1	Hasuike Mike L	41.5	1	Munsey Michael R	52.5
2	Weyland Ronald M	15.5	2	Raptis Nick	36.5	2	Anthony Ralph J	48
2	Jaroski Jeffrey A	15.5	3	Eagles Roland	28	3	Piper August	45
4	Griggs Glenn	13.5	4	Samillano Jazon	26	4	He Anthony B	44.5
4	Lombardi George	13.5	5	Berger Brian F	23.5	5	Pupols Viktors	34.5
6	Fister Joel S	9	6	McClain Jack W	22.5	6	Dussome David E	27
7	Bodie Brad	8.5	7	Talyansky Seth D	21	7	Anand Vignesh	26.5
8	Lucky David	8	8	Gaikwad Dagadu B	19.5	7	Russell Darren	26.5
9	Nacarato Chris D	7.5	9	Phipps Danny	19	9	Puri Ishaan	25.5
10	Kircher Caleb P	6.5	9	Murray David E	19	9	Petrov Oscar	25.5
10	Inman James	6.5	11	Bjorksten Lennart	18.5	11	Zhang Eric M	24.5
12	Three tied at	6	12	Sharan Praveer	18	12	Two tied at	24

Joshua C. Sinanan

National Master
President, Washington Chess Federation

3610 218th St. SW
Brier, WA 98036

Cell: (206) 769-3757
joshsinanan@gmail.com



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 Seattle WA 98168

☞ **May 17, June 7** **Sunday Tornado** ☞
Format: 4-SS. **TC:** G/60;d5. **EF:** \$18 (+\$7 fee for non-SCC). **Prizes:** 1st 35%, 2nd 27%, Bottom Half 1st 22%, 2nd 16% (\$10 from each EF goes to prize fund). **Reg:** 10:30-11:15 a.m. **Rds:** 11:30-1:50-4:10-6:30. **Misc:** USCF, WCF memb. req'd, OSA. NS, NC.

☞ **May 30, June 27** **Saturday Quads** ☞
Format: 3-RR, 4-plyr sec's by rtg. **TC:** G/120;d5. **EF:** \$9 (+\$7 fee for non-SCC). **Prizes:** Free entry for future qd. **Reg:** 9:00-9:45 a.m. **Rds:** 10:00-2:15-6:30. **Misc:** USCF, WCF memb. req'd, OSA. NS, NC.

July 19 **SCC Novice**
Format: 4-SS. Open to U1200 and UNR. **TC:** G/75;d5. **EF:** \$11 by 4/8, \$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.

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!

Close Ratings: 5/1, 8, 15, 22, 29.

It's Summertime: 6/5, 12, 19, 26.

Fireworks Quads (G/21): 7/3.

Hot as Hades: 7/10, 17, 24, 31.

Emerald City Open

June 12-14

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

a Northwest Grand Prix event

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

Upset (rds 1-4) \$20

Entry Fees: \$33 if rec'd by 6/10, \$42 at site. SCC members—subtract \$9. Members of other dues-required CCs in BC, ID, OR, and WA—subtract \$4. Unr—free with purchase of 1-year USCF and WCF. Add \$1 to any EF for 2-day schedule.

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

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

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

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

Your contribution to the SCC is now tax-deductable! That's right, what you give to the Seattle Chess Club can lower your federal income tax bill!

How to Find the SCC

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

Visit our new website,
www.seattlechess.club

Upcoming Events

☞ denotes 2015 Northwest Grand Prix event; for Seattle Chess Club events see page 30

☞ **May 9** Pierce County Open, **Tacoma, WA**. Site: Metro Parks Community Center, 3513 Portland Ave., Tacoma, WA. Format: 3 round Quads. Time Control: G/90; d5. Entry Fee: \$25, \$22 for Tacoma Chess Club members. Prize Fund: 1st \$40.00 each Quad. Reg. 9:00-9:45 a.m. Rounds: 10:00, 1:30, 4:45. Byes: 1 half-point bye available. USCF and state membership required. NS NC. Wheelchair Accessible. Entries/Info: Gary J. Dorfner, 8423 E. B St., Tacoma, WA 98445, phone (253) 535-2536, email ggarychess@aol.com.

☞ **May 16-17** Inland Empire Open, **Spokane, WA**. Gonzaga University (Schoenberg Center) Rm. 201 & 202, N. 800 Pearl Street, Spokane, WA 99208. Registration: Sat. 8:30am-9:30am. Rounds: Sat. 10:00-2:30-7:00, Sun: 9:00-1:30 or ASAP. Time Control: G/120 (with 5 second delay). E.F. \$23 if received by 5/15, \$28 at the door; 18 and under \$5 less. Telephone entries accepted. USCF rated. \$725 prize fund based on 35, Class prizes based on at least five per section. Only one prize per person (excluding biggest upset - both players must have established ratings). NS, NC, W. One ½ point bye if requested before proceeding round; Sunday byes must be requested before the end of round 3. Director reserves the right to use class pairings in the final round. Prizes: 1st Overall: \$160, 2nd Overall: \$130, 3rd Overall \$100. Class Prizes: 1st (A; B; C; D/E/unrated) \$50, 2nd (A; B; C; D/E/unrated) \$25. Biggest Upset: \$35 (non-provisional ratings). Cookies & coffee provided. Entries: Spokane CC, c/o David B. Griffin, P.O. Box 631, Spokane Valley, WA 99037. For information cell (509) 994-9739.

☞ **May 23-25** Washington Open, **Lynnwood, WA**. (see full-page ad on page 19)

☞ **May 30/June 27** Portland CC Game in 60, **Portland, OR**. 4SS, G/60;d5. TD may switch to 5SS and G/45;d5 if more than 25 entries. Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave., Portland, OR Map. EF: \$20, \$5 discount for PCC Members. OCF/WCF/ICA and USCF membership required, OSA. No advance entries. Reg: 9:00-9:30 a.m. Byes: 1/2 point bye if requested at reg. Prizes: (\$200/b20) \$60-\$40-\$30; U1800, U1500 \$35 each. No tiebreakers (prizes split). OSCF State Qualifier. Info: e-mail email@pdxchess.org, phone 503-246-2978, website www.pdxchess.org.

June 6 Boise Chess Festival, **Boise, ID**. (see full-page ad on page 18)

☞ **June 6** Evergreen Empire Open, **Tacoma, WA**. Site: Metro Parks Community Center, 3513 Portland Ave., Tacoma, WA. Format: 3 round Quads. Time Control: G/90, d5. Entry Fee: \$25, \$22 for Tacoma Chess Club members. Prize Fund: 1st \$40.00 each Quad. Reg. 9:00-9:45 a.m. Rounds: 10:00, 1:30, 4:45. Byes: 1 half point bye available. USCF and state membership required. NS, NC, Wheelchair Accessible. Entries/Info: Gary J. Dorfner, 8423 E. B St., Tacoma, WA 98445. Ph. 253-535-2536, email Ggarychess@aol.com.

☞ **June 13-14** Newport June Open, **Newport, OR**. (see half-page ad on page 11)

☞ **June 20-21** Idaho Open, **Boise, ID**. 5SS, Time Control: G/120,d5. 2 Sections: Open and Reserve (U1400). Site: La Quinta Inn & Suites, 7965 W. Emerald St., Boise, ID 83704. USCF mem req., EF by 6/15 \$30 (U18 & 60+ \$25), Special Family Rate of \$60. \$5 more for all if received after 6/15. Email entries OK. Register & check in: 8-8:45 am 6/20. Rd times: Sat 9 am, 1:30 pm, 6 pm; Sun 9 am, 1:30 pm. 1/2 pt byes: Max 1, any round. Must commit before Rd 2 pairing. Players arriving for round 2 may take a retroactive R1 1/2 pt bye as long as they arrive by 1:15 pm. Prizes: \$\$ b/30; Open: \$200-100-75; Reserve: \$100-75-50. HR/ENT/INFO: ICA, www.idahocheessassociation.org. Contact: Jeffrey Roland, 1514 S. Longmont Ave., Boise, ID 83706. jroland@cableone.net. NC, NS, W.

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From Our Business Manager

Using the online registration system to register for the WA Open or another event? - Please be sure your mailing address and other information are up-to-date. If your address changes, also send an email to info@nwchess.com. Currently the online registration database is not the same database used for magazine mailing.

Back issues - Some back issues of *Northwest Chess* and *Chess Life* from the time period Sept. 1997 to Sept. 2005 are available from a former member at a reasonable price. If interested, please email info@nwchess.com or call the business manager at 541-647-1021 this month to leave a message.