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**82 play in Second Annual
Vancouver Open**

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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, Jeffrey Roland,
Jim Berezow, Chouchanik Airapetian

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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 and 2015 by Chess Journalists of America!

On the front cover:

Jerrold Richards (left) vs. WCF Scholastic Director David Hendricks in round one of the reserve section of the Vancouver Open. On the board next to them, Joseph Truelson (left) vs. Nathan Lee. Photo Credit: Rachna Soneji.

On the back cover:

Richard Gutman during round six of the 2013 Oregon Open. This photo has not been published or seen anywhere since it was taken, that is until now. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

Chesstoons:

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

Washington Chess News

Spokane Falls Open: A Personal Odyssey

By James Stripes

David Griffin often tells me about the beneficial consequences of winning the tournament in progress or the one about to start. These benefits include rating gain and qualification for the Spokane Contenders. He was doing so again on Saturday morning, August 15 before registration was complete for the Spokane Falls Open. At the time I was the second seed and had never won a weekend Swiss.

I told him that my thoughts were focused on round one. When it finishes, round two becomes the sole focus. Then, I would take my round three bye to go home and enjoy a bottle of viognier and some grilled mahi-mahi with my wife. Sunday morning, thoughts are not allowed any diversion from the round four game. Winning two games on Saturday and then again in round four, leads to an intensity of focus on round five. When that game ends, we will be able to discuss consequences.

Steve Merwin walked in the door a few minutes later, dropping me to the third seed.

The round one pairings revealed that it was time to deal with the long anticipated misfortune of playing against one of my underrated students. I had White against Braxton Casey. Sitting at the board, I told everyone within earshot that this game would be a win no matter what. Either I win as a player, or as a coach. Inside of myself, it was clear that winning as a coach would be bittersweet. Braxton will become better than me, but he is not there yet.

To give Braxton some problems, I opted for Bird's Opening, reasonably certain that he had limited experience against it. He developed his pieces well and then seized upon an error as an opportunity to win material. I spent some time deciding whether to give up a rook for a knight or give up a pawn. The pawn seemed a better choice. Later in the game, I was able to create some tension in the center.

Braxton's ...f6 was not his best choice. The material balance was restored and White gained the initiative. Eventually,

the initiative led to victory. I had survived the first round.

**James Stripes (1847) –
Braxton Casey (1298) [A03]**
Spokane Falls Open
Spokane, WA (R1), August 15, 2015
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.f4 d5 2.b3 c5 3.e3 Nf6 4.Nf3 Bf5 5.Bb2 e6 6.Nc3?!

Rectangular development in a triangular position. White's opening is aimed at control of the central dark squares, and on c3 the knight not only doesn't contribute to that effort, it also temporarily interferes on the long diagonal. Instead, 6.Bb5+!? Nbd7 7.0-0 Be7 8.d3 0-0 9.Bxd7 gets the light-square bishop involved in the struggle for e5, and plans the harmonious development of the knight to d2. Of course after 9...Nxd7 the position is only equal, but at least White has played thematically.

6...Nbd7 7.Be2 Be7 8.0-0 a6 9.Rc1?!

Rooks belong on open files, half-open files, and behind mobile pawns. Which of those is this? In any case, guarding the c-pawn is unnecessary, as after 9.Qe1 Bxc2?! 10.d3 Black would need to return the c-pawn to pry the bishop out of the hole: 10...c4 11.dxc4 dxc4 12.Bxc4 and White is not worse.

9...b5 10.Qe1 Rb8 11.Nh4 Bg4 12.Nf3 Bf5

Black makes it clear that a draw is acceptable.

13.Qg3 Nh5 14.Qf2 Bg4 15.h3 Bxf3 16.Bxf3?

This natural recapture is a blunder. 16.Qxf3



Position after 16.Bxf3

16...Bh4 17.g3

Else Black wins the exchange.

17...Nxg3

17...Bxg3? 18.Qg2 Ndf6 19.Ne2 Bh4 20.Be5! (20.Bxh5? Nxh5 21.Qg4

Bf6!±) 20...g6 (20...Rc8 21.Bxh5 Nxh5 22.Qg4+-) 21.Bxb8 Qxb8 22.c4±

18.Rfd1 Nf5 19.Qg2 Qf6

19...Bf6! leaves White with negative compensation for the pawn.

20.Rb1 Qg6 21.Qg4 Nf6

21...Bf6!?

22.Qxg6 hxg6 23.Kg2 g5

23...Nd7 Perhaps Black could be looking for ways to bring the bishop back into the center, and at the same time aim a knight at h4. 24.e4 dxe4 25.Nxe4 Bf6 26.Nxf6+ Nxf6+

24.Ne2 Nh5 25.Be5 Rc8 26.e4 f6?

Black introduces complications that generally appear to favor White. 26...dxe4 27.Bxe4 f6 28.Bb7 Kf7! offers the exchange. 29.Bxc8 Rxc8 30.Bb2 Nxf4+ 31.Nxf4 gxf4 gives a knight and two pawns plus a mobile pawn mass for the rook, which has to be more than enough.

27.exf5 fxe5 28.fxe5 exf5 29.Bxd5 Rc7 30.c4

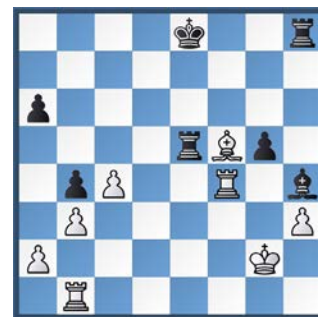
30.c3!?

30...b4

30...Re7!?

31.d4 Nf4+ 32.Nxf4 gxf4 33.Be6 cxd4 34.Bxf5 Rc5 35.Rxd4 Rxe5 36.Rxf4 g5

At least temporarily reduces the mobility and influence of the bishop, but as we'll see in future notes, offers some chances to advance ...g4.



Position after 36...g5

37.Bg6+ Ke7 38.Rf7+ Ke6 39.Rbf1 Re2+ 40.Kf3 Re5 41.Kg4 Re3 42.R1f6+ Ke5 43.Rf5+ Ke6 44.R7f6+ Ke7 45.Rf3 Re1 46.Rf7+ Ke6 47.Bh7 Rg1+ 48.Kh5 Rg3 49.R3f6+ Ke5 50.Rf5+ Ke6

[Diagram top of next page]

51.Kh6?

51.R7f6+ Kd7 (51...Ke7 52.Rxa6! Rxh7+? (52...Rxh3 53.Kg6 g4 54.Rf7+



Position after 50...Ke6

Ke8 55.Rg7!! with the point 55...g3 56.Kf5! when 56...Kf8 (Or 56...Rxb7 57.Rxb7 g2 58.Ra8+ Bd8 59.Rg7.) 57.Rd7 will mate quickly.) 53.Kg6 since 53...Rh8 54.Rf7+ Ke8 55.Ra8#) 52.Rd5+



(#Diagram-analysis after 52.Rd5+)

52...Ke7 a) 52...Kc8 leads to precarious rook endings, e.g.: 53.Rh6 Kc7 54.Rf5 Rxb3 55.Rf7+ Kb8 56.Rb6+! Kc8 57.Rxa6 Bg3+ 58.Kg4 R3xh7 59.Rxb7 Rxb7 60.Kxg3; b) Alternatively, 52...Kc7 53.Rf7+ Kc8 54.Kh6 g4 55.Rh5 Bd8 (55...Rxb3 56.Kg7 Bf6+ (56...Rxb7+ 57.Rxb7 Bd8 58.Rxb3 g4 59.Rf8 h2 60.Rh8) 57.Rxf6 Rxb5 58.Kxb8) 56.Kg7 Re8 57.Bf5+ Kb8 58.hxg4 The main things all of these lines have in common is that they are complex, and White pretty much wins.; 53.Rff5 Rxb3 54.Kg6 g4 55.Rfe5+ Kf8 56.Rd7 Rf3 57.Kh5 Bf6 58.Kxg4 Bxe5 59.Kxf3±

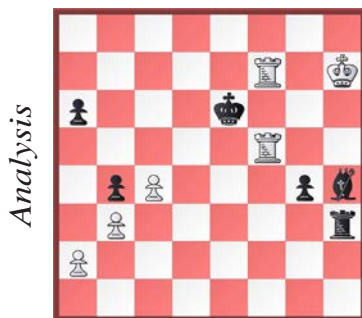
51...Rxb3

51...g4! 52.Kg7 (52.hxg4 Rxb3 is nothing: 53.Rf1 (53.Rf8 Rxf8 54.Rxf8 Bf6 55.Bg6 Rh4+ 56.Bh5 Rh2; 53.Kh5 Rg2 54.Kxb4 Rxb7+ 55.Rxb7 Kxf5 56.Rb7 a5 57.Rb5+ Kf4 58.Kh5 Rxa2) 53...Be7 54.Rg7 Rh4+



(L) James Stripes vs. Kairav Joshi.
Photo credit: David Griffin.

55.Kg6 Rg4+ 56.Kh6 Rh4+) 52...Rxb7+! (52...Re8 53.hxg4 Rxb7+ 54.Bg6 Re7±) 53.Kxb7 Rxb3



(#Diagram-analysis after 53...Rxb3)

54.Kg8 (We'll cover 54.Kg6 in the note to Black's move 52.; 54.Kg7 g3 55.Rf1 g2 56.Rg1 Rg3+ 57.Kf8 Bf6 58.Re1+ Kf5 59.Rg1 Ke6; 54.Rf1 g3 will transpose.) 54...g3 55.Rf1 g2 56.Rg1



(#Diagram-analysis after 56.Rg1)

56...Bf6! (56...Rg3+? 57.Rg7 Bg5 58.c5! distracts the black king and gives the white monarch a chance to centralize with decisive effect. 58...Kd5 59.Kf7 Kxc5 (59...a5 60.c6 Kxc6 61.Ke6) 60.Ke6 Kd4 61.Kf5 and Black must defend the nearly hopeless exchange-down ending with 61...Bf4, (since 61...Ke3 62.Rxg5 Rxg5+ 63.Kxg5 Kf2 64.Rxg2+ Kxg2 65.Kf4 is a winning pawn ending for White.) 57.Rxf6+ (57.Rh7? Rg3+ 58.Kf8 Bd4 and Black has all the chances.) 57...Kxf6 58.Rxg2 a5!



(#Diagram-analysis after 58...a5)

Black plans ...a4, breaking the chain, when White's winning hopes evaporate.

52.Kg7?

52.R7f6+! Ke7 53.Kg7 was the accurate move order for this idea. 53...Rxb7+ 54.Kxb7 g4 55.Rxa6 g3



(#Diagram-analysis after 55...g3)

56.Kg8!! g2 57.Rf7+ Ke8 58.Ra8+ Bd8 59.Rg7+—

52...Re8??

Necessary is 52...Rxb7+! 53.Kxb7 g4 54.Kg6 g3 55.Rf1 g2 56.Rg1 Rg3+ The point. 57.Kh5 Rh3! 58.Kg6 White must accept the repetition.(58.Kg4? Rh1! 59.Rxg2 Kxf7+ leaves Black with an extra bishop, though finding an actual winning plan may not be so easy.)

53.Rd5 Re7 54.Bf5# 1–0

There were no upsets in the first round. Victory in the only game not won by the higher rated player went to an unrated player, Anand Wadikar, over the provisionally rated Mitchell Kilayko. It was Kilayko's only loss in the event.

Louis Blair was my next opponent. A somewhat passive response to his opening failed to wrest the initiative from him, and suddenly Black's king faced deadly force.



Position after 18.Nxf7

It was clear that my king needed to take the knight, but I spent some time working out the follow-up. Was I getting mated? Blair exchanged his knight for my entire central pawn chain. His stunning move was not even a sacrifice. After a subsequent Kf8, the rook on h8 remained a spectator for much of the game. When Blair blundered away a pawn in the late middlegame, we entered an ending where I had a knight against two pawns.

According to the computer, Black had a clear win from this position.

[Diagram top of next page]



Position after 43.g4

It is a little harder to play this position as a human who is behind on the clock. I tried calculating matters after the correct Kc5, but it got a little murky about ten moves in so the win slipped from my grasp. Thankfully, Blair put it back in my hand. Several moves later, I spent ten minutes counting to six twice to verify that there was an elementary win.



Position after 50.Kb3

I finished the day with my expected but not so easily gained 2.5. Day one was 110 moves over seven hours in two difficult games.

There were upsets in round two. Fourth seed Mark Anderson gave up a draw to Garrett Casey. Romie Carpenter lost to Samuel Comi, whose play suggested that he should not remain in C Class much longer. Provisionally-rated Mythreya Dharani beat provisionally-rated Paul Mahugh. Daniel Hochee had a superior position against Kairav Joshi but failed to convert; Joshi managed to win after the scare. Wadikar suffered his only loss of the event in round two, losing to a traveler from Ohio, Brian Woods, who finished the tournament tied for second.

Woods' only loss came in round three to Joshi. Also in round three, Anderson gave up another draw to a lower rated player. This time it was Comi, who showed up Sunday morning expecting to play me.

The mahi-mahi was not thawed when I arrived home, so we ordered a pizza and drank cheap merlot. Sometime late that night, Griffin sent me the message that Merwin and Joshi both finished the day with 3.0, but that Joshi was taking a

fourth round bye. Merwin and I would be playing each other. Walking my dogs four miles on Sunday morning facilitated mental preparation for the tough battle ahead.

Before the round began, I showed Steve and a few others the endgame position that should not have required ten minutes. He assured me that round four would be more hard work, threatening a difficult endgame with a counting exercise.

James Stripes (1847) - Steve Merwin (1961) [D02]

Spokane Falls Open
Spokane, WA (R4), August 16, 2015
[James Stripes]

1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Nc6 3.e3 Bg4 4.Nbd2 e5

I realized here that I was playing a French Defense in reverse. The Burn variation had been my choice against higher rated players a decade ago. Having sat beside Merwin's opponents in several recent tournaments, I have gained an appreciation of his style. He is adept at taking players out of their comfort zone and making them play maddeningly complex positions. Even surrendering the initiative, I was happy to be playing a familiar structure.

5.dxe5 Nxe5 6.Be2 Nxf3+ 7.Nxf3

7.Bxf3 might be better.

7...Nf6 8.0-0 Bd6

Black's pieces are already more active than White's.

9.b3

Usually when I play b6 in the Burn, White has castled kingside.

9...Qe7 10.Bb2 0-0-0 11.a4 h5 12.Qc1

Steve thought that my queen was misplaced here.

12...Bxf3 13.Bxf3



Position after 13.Bxf3

13...Ng4

Steve considered 13...Bxh2+14.Kxh2 Ng4+ 15.Kg1

(I doubt that I would have found 15.Kh3!, which the computer says gives White an advantage. The engine's line is 15...Qd7 16.Qd2 Nxe3+ 17.Kh2 Nxf1+ 18.Rxf1.

I'm not certain that I agree that White is better. Silicon is usually right, of course, but it looks to me that White is down material.)

15...Qh4 16.Re1 Qxf2+ 17.Kh1 Qh4+= Steve told me after lunch that this line was the reason he rejected the sacrifice.

14.g3

The only move.

14...f5 15.c4 h4

At this point I was thirty minutes ahead on the clock, but Steve's 61 minutes would be more than enough if his attack succeeds.

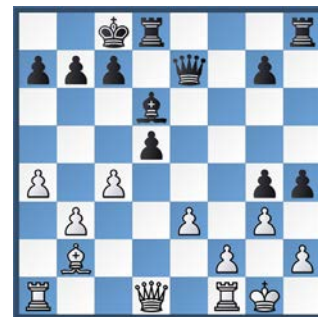
16.Bxg4

I was instantly certain that this move was necessary, but still spent ten minutes thinking about it. Fischer - Sherwin 1957 came into my memory while assessing Steve's threats. Fischer played 18.Nxh7 and commented, "tactics flow from a positionally superior game" (*My 60 Memorable Games*).

16.Qc2 Nxh2 17.Kxh2 hxc3+ 18.Kg1 gxf2+ 19.Rxf2 did not appeal.

16...fxg4 17.Qd1

A pawn is a pawn, and I am forking two.



Position after 17.Qd1

17...hxg3

The computer finds the line that Steve was seeking: 17...Qg5 18.Qxd5 Qh6 and Black appears better.

18.Qxg4+

I used eleven minutes to play the only move that doesn't lose.

18...Kb8 19.hxg3

This obligatory move occupied my thoughts during those eleven minutes.

19.fxg3 Qxe3+ 20.Kh1 Rxb2+ 21.Kxb2 Qd2+ 22.Kg1 Bc5+ 23.Kh1 Rh8+ 24.Qh4 and it's over for White.

19...dxc4 20.bxc4 Bxg3!

20...Rh6 is not as strong.

21.Qxg3

Once again, I had to play the only move that avoids catastrophe.

21.fxg3 Qxe3+ 22.Rf2 should lead to a

win for Black.



Position after 21.Qxg3

21...Qe4

Threatening mate in one. Steve was down to ten minutes after this move.

I anticipated 21...Rh5 22.f4 and here the line branches:

a) 22...Rd2 was mentioned by Steve after the game.

b) 22...Rdh8 was in my expected line.

c) 22...Qe4 is the engine's choice, and Black still has an edge. 23.Be5 (23.Bd4? Qe4+).

22.Qg2

Forced, but easy to find.

22...Qc2 23.Rab1

Finally, I have a comfortable position.

23...Rd6 24.Be5 Rg6 25.Bg3 b6 26.a5 Qxc4 27.Rfc1 Qd3 28.Bxc7+ Kc8 29.Bg3+ Kd7

While I was working out the fastest checkmate, Steve stopped the clock and pointed out Rd1.

1-0

Also in round four, Braxton beat Hochee, which ended up being the biggest upset of the tournament. Comi scored another draw against a higher rated player, Ronald Kirsch. That is three upsets in four rounds for Comi. Kirsch had lost to Merwin in round three. Garrett, the younger Casey brother, beat Blair. Garrett's playing strength is well above his rating, but this game was officially an upset. Carpenter gave up another upset, this time to Kilayko.

When Joshi arrived, he told me about his preparation for Merwin, only to learn that he would be playing me. We both knew that it would be a tough game and were each confident of victory. We joked a little about the consequences of a draw and checked the standings. Realizing that it would make a five-way tie for first possible shuttered any notions of détente. There must be a battle. Joshi knew he would be battling the French Defense. I tried to suggest that I have other responses to 1.e4, too. We both knew that I would

play the French.

The Merwin – Comi match-up on board two was the only game that could deprive Braxton of the biggest upset prize. Merwin put an end to Comi's streak of upsets. It was late in the round before we knew who else would finish with 4.0, including Joshi and I if we drew.

Joshi went for the Tarrasch variation. I played 3...Be7, aiming for flexibility. 3...Nf6 and 3...c5 had been my choices in other important games in the past.



Position after 13...Rb8

Joshi played Rg4+. After the game, Joshi thought that his rook should have stayed on the queenside. I did not disagree.

It was a long game, lasting 73 moves and the full four hours. The key battle was between his horses and my clerics. As I sought to liquidate his queenside pawns, I exchanged my dark-squared bishop for one of his knights. This small operation of liquidating three pawns required 25 moves.

My rooks became more active. Eliminating one set of rooks seemed that it would reduce his counterplay. Eliminating all of the rooks would have given his remaining knight the edge over my bishop.



Position after 38...Bd3

One set of rooks are coming off. Rxa1 would have been better than Rca2, which Joshi played.

Black won the c-pawn. After many more moves, we swapped minor pieces. Black had a one pawn advantage in the rook

ending. Even when he was down to ten seconds and playing on the increment, Joshi was finding tricks.

First place gave me \$120. My rating rose back over 1900 and I have qualified for the 2016 Contenders, as has newly-deposed City Champion Nikolay Bulakh.

The mahi-mahi and three Horse Ranch 2012 Vivacious (86% viognier, 14% roussanne) became a celebration dinner.

The other prize winners were as follows.

Second place: Steve Merwin and Brian Woods. Woods was also first u/1800.

U/1600: Garrett Casey, Sam Comi, and Mitch Kilayko.

U/1400 and unrated: Anand Wadikar.

Second place in that section: Braxton Casey and Ron Weyland. Casey also won biggest upset.

Braxton Wallace Casey (1298) – Daniel Hochee (1650) [B23]

Spokane Falls Open
(R4), August 16, 2015
[Braxton Casey]

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.f4 e6 4.Nf3 a6 5.a4?

5.d4 was better. Although this move preempts a potential ...b5, it weakens the b4 square, which Hochee takes advantage of later.

5...d5 6.e5 Nge7

6...Nh6 preparing ...Nf5 is more flexible, but they should transpose.

7.d4 cxd4?

7...Nf5! was better. The two knights pressure d4 and the bishop can recapture on c5 after 8. dxc5.

8.Nxd4 Nxd4 9.Qxd4 Nc6 10.Qf2

Preparing a potential kingside attack.

10...Qa5 11.Be3

11.Bd2 breaking the pin and preparing a discovery was better.

11...Bb4



Position after 11...Bb4

12.Bd2

Stockfish likes 12.Bd3!? aiming to spice things up with a pawn sacrifice. After 12...Bd7! (12...Bxc3+ 13.bxc3 Qxc3+ 14.Ke2 f6 15.exf6 Qxf6 16.Bc5 is about equal. White, though down a pawn, has the bishop pair and better developed and coordinated pieces and potential pressure on the b-file. Black will have trouble finding a good way to get his light square bishop out and coordinate his pieces. Black also, lacking a dark square bishop, has no good way to defend the dark square weaknesses in his camp.) 13.Bb6 Bxc3+ 14.Ke2! Qb4 15.bxc3! Qxc3 16.Qc5 Qxc5 17.Bxc5 White has compensation in the form of the bishop pair and dominance over the queenside dark squares. Black isn't harmoniously developed.

12...0-0 13.Bd3 Bc5?

With this move, Black hands over the initiative and advantage to White, all the while forcing White to attack.

14.Qh4 h6

Forced. 14...g6 15.Nxd5 Bf2+ 16.Qxf2 Qxd5 17.0-0±. White is up a pawn and has the bishop pair, while Black won't be able to defend his very weak dark squares.

15.Nxd5

15.Ne4? with the idea of keeping the d-file closed to prevent Black counterplay, while also controlling f2 fails to 15...Qb6!

15...Qd8?

15...Nb4 was better.

16.Nf6+ Kh8 17.f5

17.0-0-0 is another good option.

17...Qd4 18.Be4?

18.Ne4! was better, because it protects against any unpleasant checks on f2, thus hastening Bxh6.

18...exf5

[Diagram top of next column]

19.Rf1?

I played this move to prevent any unpleasant checks on the f2-square, such



Position after 18...exf5

as after 19.Bxh6? Qf2+! 20.Qxf2 Bxf2+ 21.Kxf2 fxe4 when White is clearly losing.; 19.0-0-0!! is best. I considered this move during the game, but didn't like the checks after 19...Ba3? (begin games editor comment... 19...Qf2! 20.Qxf2 (20.g3 Be3) 20...Bxf2 21.Bxc6 bxc6 22.Nh5 is an equal endgame. — Dubisch) 20.Bxh6! Qxb2+ However, after 21.Kd2 Qd4+ 22.Ke1! Black has run out of checks and White is winning.

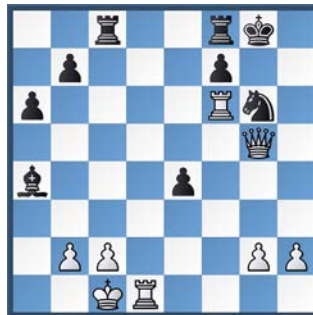
19...Nxe5?

19...Be7! and Black is better.

20.Bxh6 Ng6 21.Qh5 Qxf6 22.Bg5+ Kg8 23.Bxf6 fxe4?

23...Re8 was better. However, Black is still losing.

24.Qxc5 gxf6 25.Rxf6 Bd7 26.0-0-0 Rac8 27.Qg5 Bxa4?



Position after 27...Bxa4

28.Rd2?

Now Stockfish gives this as mate in 16 for White: 28.Rxg6+!! fxg6 29.Qxg6+ Kh8 30.Rd5 and Black can only delay the inevitable mate with checks and

sacrifices. However, those complications would be hard to work out over the board.

28...Kg7 29.h4 e3 30.Re2 Rfd8 31.h5 Bxc2!

This move creates the most problems for White.

32.Rxc2 e2 33.Rxg6+!

The familiar exchange sacrifice.

33...fxg6 34.Qxg6+ Kh8 35.Qh6+ Kg8 36.Qe6+

White wins the pawn and the game with it.

1-0

Vancouver Open

By Brian Berger

Vancouver, WA—August 22-23, 2015

For the second year in a row the Vancouver Open was held in the Red Lion Hotel Vancouver at the Quay, a spacious venue with a magnificent view of the Columbia River and its surrounds. Unfortunately, that magnificent view was marred this year by a lingering pall of smoke from a number of forest fires, causing an air quality alert for the area. The compromised view reminded me of when I was a young boy growing up in the Los Angeles of the 50s, when one struggled to see anything clearly beyond a few blocks, and breathing could actually be felt as a pain in the lungs. I guess that dates me!

The prize fund was based on 60 players attending, an estimation which proved too conservative, because when registration ended, 82 entrants were straining at the bit to get to their assigned boards, anxious to grab some portion of the \$1,630 in prizes—among them, seven Masters in the Open Section: Oregonians Nick Raptis (2363-2377), Lennart Bjorksten (2185-2173), and Phillip Seitzer (2191-2195); Washingtonians Joshua Sinanan (2234-2240), William Schill II (2281-2273), and Viktors Pupols (2204-2200); and Ray Kaufman (2333-2329) of California.

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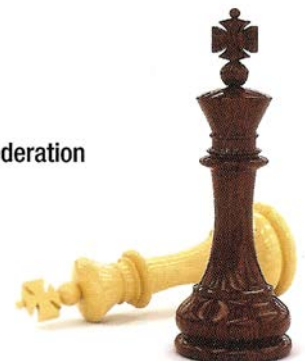


Joshua C. Sinanan

National Master
President, Washington Chess Federation

3610 218th St. SW
Brier, WA 98036

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





*Philip Tang (left) vs. Brandon Hitchcock in round two of the reserve section.
Photo Credit: Rachna Soneji.*

One more hoped-for entrant was the much talked about Morgan the Dog (2990) who, although on hand with his companion, Jerrold Richards (1397-1328), was not allowed to play due to some antiquated rules of the establishment, stating that dogs were not allowed! Obviously, these folks have not kept up with world events, when the most amazing chess player to ever have walked this earth on four feet (or two feet for that matter), could be summarily banned to spend the remainder of the tournament confined by a rope to one of the outside hotel pillars! Thankfully, a message from President Obama to the hotel manager soon got Morgan the Dog released; but alas, too late to join in the games.

Embarrassing as it was, Morgan has an understanding and forgiving nature, and was quickly back to looking for belly-rubs and chin-scratches from adoring passersby, and anticipating getting to show his stuff at the tournament next

year. And as for his companion, Jerrold "I Just Want To Reach 1600 Before It's All Over" Richards, well, without the encouragement of Morgan the Dog to rely on, the smoke from the forest fires was not the only smoke in the area for two days, wafts of which could be seen curling from Richards' ears as he struggled to post 1.5 points in the Reserve Section.

And speaking of the Reserve Section (after all, this is supposed to be a report on the tournament's results, and not a puff-piece for a Washington State celebrity) in which 47 players were entered, it was Oregon's Andrea Botez (1762-1789) who took the top prize of \$280, with a near perfect score of 4.5 points. And for those of you who might not know Andrea, or watched her play, she is the younger daughter of Andrei Botez (Alexandra Botez being the older of the two, and already a WFM) an intense player with a quick smile, and a wicked way with the pieces. Both girls are fortunate to have a dad who coaches

chess players (Silver Knights Chess Club in Happy Valley, Oregon), and is their biggest fan.

Tying for second place in the Reserve Section, each just a hair behind Botez with 4.0 points, were John Acken (1762-1789), Dan Mathews (1680-1724) who helped officiate, and Mu Lin (1650-1667), all three taking home \$60 for their efforts in this hard-contested section.

Other prizes in the Reserve Section went to Ari Bluffstone (1583-1596) and Joey Yeo (1524-1543), who tied for 1st U1600 with 3.5 points, and to Henry Romero (1321P-1523P), who also finished with 3.5 points, taking the first place prize of \$90 in the U1400, while upping his provisional rating more than 200 points! And the U1200 saw a three-way tie, with David Prideaux (1112-1151), Andy Tien (1111-1237) and William Nichols (831P-1074P) each turning in 2.5 points and skipping away with \$30; while Nichols, a provisional player, also added more than 200 points to his rating! (Watch out for these provisional players, they can surprise the you-know-what out of you!).

The Open Section, with a field of 33 players, saw Nick "The Raptor" Raptis (2363-2377) back to his old aggressive form (having had a few bumbles in an almost continuous flow of wins in recent tournaments), and sharing first and second place monies with Jason Cigan (2156-2178), both turning in scores of 4.5 points, and receiving go-crazy cash amounting to \$330 each. And taking another \$120 of prize fund money was Faris Gulamali (1933-1924), whose 3.0 points were good enough to capture first U2000, with Eric Zhang (1796-1815) and Jacob Mayer (1739-1796) taking the last of the moolah by tying for first U1800, receiving \$60 each.

Thanks must go to Chief TD Galen Pyle, Josh Sinanan, Dan Mathews and helpers, and the Washington Chess Federation who provided the sponsorship, for another great tournament—one that will again be anxiously awaited in 2016.




Neil Salmon

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**Bill Heywood (2000) –
Joshua Sinanan (2234) [A29]**

2015 Vancouver Open
Vancouver, WA (R2), August 22, 2015
[Ralph Dubisch]

**1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.g3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5
5.Bg2 Nb6 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.d3 Be7 8.0-0
Be6**

A reverse Sicilian Dragon, identical to Raptis-Sinanan from round five after eight moves. The position itself is roughly equal; the key lies in the plans chosen by both sides from this point.

9.a3 0-0 10.b4 f6 11.Bb2 Qd7 12.Re1

A bit passive, presumably intending to meet ...Bh3 with Bh1, as well as possibly defending the e-pawn against a later



*Josh Sinanan (left) vs. Bill Heywood.
Photo credit: Rachna Soneji*

...Nd4 or an opening of the e-file.

White's a3, b4, Bb2 is slightly slow, and presents a target for a well-timed ...a5. While this idea isn't losing by itself, White is now obligated to get his c-file play, especially including a maneuver of a knight to c5, rather quickly.

12...Rfd8

12...a5!?

13.Rc1



Position after 13.Rc1

13.Ne4 and White is still not noticeably worse. 13...a5 14.Nc5 Bxc5 15.bxc5 Nd5∞. Black looks to have most of the choices from here, but White has the bishop-pair and a flexible set-up well-suited for counter-punching.

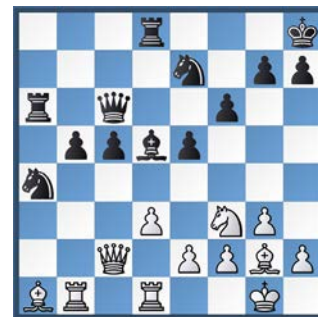
13...a5! 14.Ne4?

14.b5 Nd4 introduces significant complications, likely favoring Black by at least a little.

14...axb4 15.axb4 Bxb4

Now all the play belongs to Black, and White is slowly pushed off the board.

**16.Bc3 Bf8 17.Bd2 Na4 18.Qc2 Ra6
19.Rb1 Nb6 20.Nc5 Bxc5 21.Qxc5 Bd5
22.Be3 Na4 23.Qc2 Ne7 24.Bd2 c5
25.Bc3 b5 26.Ba1 Kh8 27.Red1 Qc6**



Position after 27...Qc6

**28.e4 Be6 29.Nd2 Qd7 30.Nf1 Rd6
31.Ne3 b4 32.Bf1 b3 33.Qc1 Rb8 34.Bb2
Nxb2 35.Rxb2 Qa7 36.Nc4 Rd4 37.Nd2
Qa5 38.f4 Nc6 39.Nf3 Ra4 40.fxe5 fxe5
41.Qg5 Qc3 42.Rbb1 b2 43.Nh4 Ra1
44.Nf5 Bxf5 45.exf5 Rxb1 46.Rxb1 Nd4
47.Bg2**

[Diagram top of page 11]

Washington Challenger's Cup

November 7-8, 2015

Highest finishing Washington resident in the Open Section seeded into the 2016 Washington State Championship

Site: Seattle Chess Club, 2150 North 107th Street, Seattle, WA 98133.

Two Sections: Open and Reserve (under 1800).

Open: 4 Round Swiss. **Time Control:** 40/120, SD/30, d10.

Reserve: 5 Round Swiss. **Time Control:** Saturday 30/90, SD/30, d10; Sunday 40/120, SD/30, d10.

Foreign ratings used for players with no USCF rating. Higher of USCF or foreign ratings used at TD discretion.

Prize Fund: \$1,550 (based on 50 paid entries).

Open: FIDE rated 1st \$350, 2nd \$250, 1st U2100 \$125, 1st U1900 \$125.

Reserve: 1st \$250, 2nd \$150, 1st U1600 \$100, 1st U1400 \$100, 1st U1200/Unrated \$100.

Entry Fee: \$65 if postmarked or online by 11/04, \$75 after 11/04 or at site. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs.

Registration: Saturday 9:00 - 9:45 AM.

Rounds: Open: Saturday 10:00 AM, 4:00 PM; Sunday 11:00 AM, 5:00 PM.

Reserve: Saturday 10:00 AM, 2:30 PM, 7:00 PM; Sunday 11:00 AM, 5:00 PM.

Byes: One half-point byes available (Open Section), two half-point byes available (Reserve Section).

Request before end of round 2. USCF and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships required, other states accepted.

Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points: 6. USCF Junior Grand Prix event. Northwest Chess Grand Prix event. NS. NC. W.

Entries: Make checks payable to Washington Chess Federation.

Mail To: Dan Mathews, 749 Somerset Lane, Edmonds, WA 98020-2646.

Phone: (425) 218-7529. **E-mail:** danomathews01@gmail.com.

Online Registration: www.nwchess.com/onlineregistration.



Washington Class Championships

A NW Grand Prix Event

November 27-29, 2015

Washington Class Championships Entry Fees and Prize Fund

\$6,000 based on 150 players
Medal-only entry fees count as
half entries.

**Entry fees listed as: Postmarked
by Oct 31 / By Nov 22 / At site**

Master (2200+) EF \$110/\$120/\$135
Prizes \$500, \$350, \$175, U2300 \$100, \$75

Expert (2000-2199) EF \$100/\$110/\$125
Prizes \$400, \$275, \$150, U2100 \$100, \$75

Class A (1800-1999) EF \$90/\$100/\$115
Prizes \$300, \$200, \$125, U1900 \$100, \$75

Class B (1600-1799) EF \$90/\$100/\$115
Prizes \$300, \$200, \$125, U1700 \$100, \$75

Class C (1400-1599) EF \$90/\$100/\$115
Prizes \$300, \$200, \$125, U1500 \$100, \$75

Class D (1200-1399) EF \$90/\$100/\$115
Prizes \$300, \$200, \$125, U1300 \$100, \$75

Class E (1199 & Under) EF \$80/\$90/\$105
Prizes \$200, \$125, \$100, U1000 \$100,
U800/Unrated \$75

Medal Only EF \$55 / \$60 / \$65
Medals awarded to top two in each class.
(Juniors Under age 21 only)

Reentry for 1/2 of your original entry fee.

Rated players add \$30 to play up one class
only (can't play up two classes).

Free entry to GMs, IMs, and WGMs.

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

Entries/Information:

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

E-mail: danomathews01@gmail.com

Make checks payable to
Washington Chess Federation.

Rev. 10/7/2015

North Seattle Community College
9600 College Way North
Seattle, WA 98103

Online Registration at www.nwchess.com/online/registration
Pay by credit/debit or PayPal.

Format: Seven class sections as shown at left, six round Swiss system. Sections may be combined if less than 12 players in a section. Late registrations may receive half-point byes for first round.

Rating: USCF rated. USCF November rating supplement will be used to determine class sections. Higher of USCF or foreign ratings used at TD discretion. Foreign ratings used for players with no USCF rating. Unrated players may only win 1st, 2nd, 3rd prizes in Master section, or unrated prize in Class E.

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

Rounds: 3-day schedule: Fri: 10:30 AM and 5:00 PM, Sat 10:30 AM and 5:30 PM, Sun 9:00 AM and 3:30 PM. 2-day schedule: Sat 9:00 AM, 11:45 AM, 2:30 PM, then join 3-day schedule with round 4 at 5:30 PM.

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. Other States Accepted. Memberships may be paid at time of registration. NW Grand Prix event. Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points: 10. Chess Magnet School JGP. No Smoking. No Computers. Wheelchair accessible.

Entries/Prizes/Info: See left column. Please use entry form (available on NWC web-site) for a list of all discounts and fees, and to indicate schedule, section, side events, and byes requested – or use online registration.

Washington Class Blitz Championship: Friday 11/27 at 8:30 PM. Format: 5 round Double Swiss in one section. Registration: 7:30-8:15 PM. Rounds: 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00 and 10:30 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 Blitz rated. Current USCF membership and WCF/OCF/ICA membership required.

Washington Class Scholastic (Nov 27): 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.



Position after 47.Bg2

47...Qc1+ 48.Rxc1 bxc1Q+ 0-1

Nick Raptis (2363) –
Joshua Sinanan (2234) [A29]

2015 Vancouver Open
Vancouver, WA (R5), August 23, 2015
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.g3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5
5.Bg2 Nb6 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.0-0 Be7 8.d3
Be6

See the comments to Heywood-Sinanan,
round two.

9.Be3

White moves much more quickly to take
control of c5 and the half-open c-file.

9...0-0 10.Qc1 f6 11.Ne4 Qd7 12.Be5

An interesting choice, exchanging the bad
black bishop in order to maintain a knight
on c5.

12...Rad8 13.Bxe7 Qxe7 14.Nc5 Be8
15.Qc2 Kh8 16.Rac1

16.Rfc1!?

16...Rfe8 17.a3 Nd7 18.b4



Position after 18.b4

18...Nf8?!

Here Black underestimates the tactical
opportunities provided by the c5-knight.
There's really not enough time for this
kind of maneuver; instead, 18...Nxc5
19.Qxc5 a6 is at most a slight edge for
White.

19.Qa4 a5 20.bxa5 Nxa5?!

20...Ne6 21.Nxe6 Bxe6 22.Qb5 (22.a6
Ra8∞) 22...Bd5 and though White clearly
stands better, Black has more tricky
chances than in the game. For example,
23.Qxb7? Nd4!±.



Mike Hasuike (R) was one of the 47 players in the reserve section.
Photo Credit: Rachna Soneji.

21.Qxa5 b6 22.Qc3 Qxc5 23.Qxc5 bxc5 30.f4 exf4 31.gxf4 Kf8 32.d4 Ke7 33.d5
24.Rxc5 Ne6 25.Rc3 Rd6 26.Rb1 Bd7 Nd8 34.Rbc4 1-0
27.Nd2 Ra6 28.e3 Ra7 29.Rb4 Kg8

NORTHWEST CHESS OPEN December 12-13, 2015

A Northwest Chess fundraising event.

USCF-rated, NWC Grand Prix.

State membership optional.

Format: 5 Round Swiss; TC 40/90, SD/30, no delay.

Playing site: Seattle Chess Club, 2150 N 107th St,
Seattle, WA. Registration 8:30-9:15 a.m.

Entry: Entry Fee \$25.00 in advance, \$30.00 at door.
Make checks payable to Duane Polich and send to
17317 Woodcrest Drive NE, Bothell, WA 98011, or
enter online at nwchess.com/onlineregistration.

Prizes: Prize fund \$550 based on 25 entries; 1st \$125,
2nd \$75, under 2000, \$75, under 1800 \$75, under
1600 \$75, under 1400 \$75, under 1200 \$50. Prizes
increased if over 35 entries. Additional books and
NWC magazine subscription prizes as entries permit.

For more information and details:

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

Idaho Chess News

Little Black Dress Club Report

By Adam Porth

Hailey, ID — September 5, 2015

This past week ended a very successful chess year for the children of the Blaine County School District (BCSD), culminating in the annual Chess Rage Day camp. This report highlights the impact of the Little Black Dress Club (LBDC) grant (\$3000) for the BCSD Chess Club and demonstrates the importance of this after school program that spans all year (even in summer) and engages kids from pre-school to 12th grade and beyond.

The Chess Club meets every Thursday, 3:30 - 5:30 pm in the Community Campus during the school year. Attendance at chess club is sporadic and varies from week to week, however the average in attendance across the year was 8.3 kids (not including adult attendance.) The

range is broad, 3 - 38 students. There were 597.6 contact hours with kids during chess club (not including tournaments) over the course of the year because of your support — without any cost to the children. There were an additional 14,000 contact hours with kids at tournaments with BCSD students! There were 58 different students that participated in various chess activities, conservatively. I am not compensated in any way for those hours.

Tournaments demonstrated the importance of competitive play for individuals wishing to enhance their chess skills. We provided 14 local tournaments and attended 9 tournaments elsewhere. Local tournament costs varied but were lower than previous years moving from \$10-15 to \$5 and average attendance was 13.2 students. The cost of running a tournament is typically \$150 and income is far from it. Running tournaments has always had a deficit with costs always exceeding income and any deficit made up by me personally. Organizers of the BCSD Chess Rage ensure that every student that

wants to play chess competitively may do so without financial hindrances. Five at risk high school students in particular would not have played in tournaments in Driggs, Salt Lake City, Boise, Twin Falls, and Columbus Ohio were it not that lodging, food, and tournament fees were supplemented with grant money. Overall, costs for the National High School Chess Championship were nearly a quarter less than previously and BCSD had five students participate.

These numbers do not reflect adequately the activity of our chess program as many more students benefited from the various side programs. Five tournament boards were provided to Alturas Elementary School to help their chess program and touched kids unable to attend chess club or tournaments. We also produced an Idaho Education Network Chess Class for high school students. This allowed students from Weiser High School to virtually interact with Silver Creek High School (SCHS) and Wood River High School students in chess matches and instruction. There were 24 students involved in that class. Outside help and tutoring from “old guys” from the Idaho Chess Association also enhance the program.

This past week featured seven high school student counselors mentoring elementary school students in a summer chess camp. Our program emphasizes the importance of age-integration as it does not matter what age you are, but rather your experience and skills. We had 18 students participate in this program and five were completely scholar-shipped in with no fees charged the students. One child asked his mom, “Why can’t we have camp all summer or instead of school?”

These successes are beyond the “trophy,” but we did a great job earning those as well and for students that are not engaged in other extra-curricular activities, these awards are precious to them. Only a small fraction (maybe 20%?) of our membership participates in other organized activities. We were 21st high school team nationally at the U1200 level but first place in West Jordan and Driggs. We earned first place in the State for the fifth time! And individually our students took home approximately 47 awards/trophies from tournaments.

Our enthusiasm as a club has attracted a few national donors that provided



The BCSD Chess Club mentoring kids new to chess through its summer chess camp held in August. Photo credit: Adam Porth

digital chess clocks and chess boards to the chess club. We are now an affiliate of the United States Chess Federation and can run rated tournaments. We were provided 50 free premium memberships for Chesskids.com for two months, as well. To continue that program however will cost us \$250/year. We partnered with the Idaho Chess Association to bring the Girl's State Championship to Hailey with over 20 girls participating. Because of this, Dylan Porth (SCHS), was selected as Idaho's representative to the National Girl's Invitational Championship held in Phoenix at the US Open this past month!

The chess program is a valuable extra-curricular program that touches numerous kids in ways that academic accountability drum-beaters are demanding of our educational system. Our chess club teaches the Idaho CORE curriculum. We do receive financial support from the school district and rely on the community to continue. Chess breeds independence and creativity, enhances reading and math scores and understanding, develops confidence and social skills, and many other benefits (contact me for the studies and research). I hope the LBDC chooses to support us again - I believe this was one of the best years ever.

Eastern Idaho Open

By Jay Simonson, Tournament Director

Jacob Nathan Defends Title And Becomes Co-Champion

Eleven year old Jacob Nathan of Idaho Falls tied for first place with Lloyd Landon, also of Idaho Falls, with a score of four out of five points in the Eastern Idaho Open, which was held September 19-20, 2015 at the Idaho State University (ISU) Student Union building in Pocatello, Idaho. Jacob's only loss was to Lloyd in round three, while Lloyd's loss came at the hands of Michael Rabadan of Yakima, Washington. Gary Owen of Evanston, Wyoming took home the third place prize in the Open Section with three points.

Michael Rabadan scored 3.5 points to capture first place in the Reserve Section. Brian Curtis took second place in the Reserve section and Owen Buffaloe won third place in the Reserve Section.

We had only eight participants, but each game was hard-fought and challenging for each person playing. We had two people from out of state, and three each from Pocatello and Idaho Falls. Everyone who played said they had fun and enjoyed the tournament. See you there next year.

BCC #10 Chess Tournament

The Boise Chess Club (BCC) #10 Chess Tournament was held September 26, 2015 at All About Games on Overland Road in Boise, Idaho. Jeffrey Roland was the tournament director.

The event equaled last month's club record for most players, at 16. The time control was Game/30 plus 30-seconds-per-move. There was no entry fee and it was open to all players. The only restriction, if it could be called that, was that all players had to be current members of U.S. Chess so that the games could be officially rated. The result was a well balanced event having players of all ages represented.

Chris Amen (1683, Boise) won the event with a perfect score of four points, setting another record of most club tournament victories to his name at four events. Nick Hawkins (1543, Boise) and James Inman (1823, Nampa), both hot off their exciting trips to the Oregon Open earlier in the month, tied for second-third place with three points each.

The rest of the line-up in order of tie-break was Jacob Nathan (1452, Idaho Falls), Alex Machin (1692, Boise), Ken Sanderson (1458, Boise), Jarod Buus (1723, Nampa) each with 2.5 points. James Liu (1158, Boise), David Zaklan (1474, Twin Falls), Matthew White (1067, Boise), Justin Siek (1161, Boise) each with two points. Shane Taylor (1539, Boise) had 1.5 points. Jean Mikel Etulain (626, Boise), Audrey Latulippe (Unr., Meridian), Patxi Etulain (282, Boise)

each had one point, and Oliver Nathan (213, Idaho Falls) had zero points.

The BCC would like to thank All About Games for their generosity in providing this great site to play not only on Monday nights at the regular weekly meetings, but also on the monthly Saturday dates when there are tournaments.

**Jarod N Buus (1723) –
Shane Taylor (1539) [B07]**
BCC #10 Boise, ID
(R3), September 26, 2015
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.f3 Bg7
5.Be3 0-0 6.Qd2 c6 7.Bh6 e5 8.Bxg7
Kxg7 9.0-0-0 Qc7 10.Nge2 b5 11.Ng3
a5 12.h4 h5 13.dxe5 dxe5 14.Qg5 Nh7?



Position after 14...Nh7

Best is 14...Na6±; The central development 14...Nbd7?? loses to 15.Nf5+ Kg8 16.Rd6!!

Why is this move so strong? Among other things, it threatens 17. Rxc6 Qxc6 18. Ne7+, 17. g4, and 17. Bxb5 cxb5 18. Nd5 Nxd5 19. Rxg6+.

There's not much for Black to do. After 16...Bb7 17.Rh3 Rfe8 18.Qh6 gxf5 19.



Jarod Buus (left) vs. Shane Taylor (right). Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

Rg3+ Ng4 20.exf5 White is smashing peas with a sledgehammer.

14...Be6?! 15.Nf5+ (15.Bxb5!? cxb5 16.Nd5 Bxd5 17.Nf5+ Kg8 18.Qxf6 gxf5 19.Qg5+ Kh8 20.Qxh5+ Kg8 21.Rxd5 f6 22.Qxf5 and there's still a lot to prove.) 15...Bxf5 16.exf5 Na6 17.fxg6 fxg6 18.Bd3 Qf7 19.g4±

15.Qe3?

15.Nxh5+! Chances are both players saw this, noticed that queen and knight would be hanging after the king retreats to h8, and stopped there. However... 15...Kh8 (15...Kg8 16.Nf6+ Nxf6 17.Qxf6 with h4-h5 coming.) 16.Nf6!! Nxg5? 17.hxg5+ Kg7 18.Rh7#

15...Be6 16.Bd3 a4?

16...Nd7 Black's bishop is better, and the queenside pawn storm looks more threatening than anything currently happening on the other wing.

17.Nf5+ gxf5??

17...Kh8 18.Qh6 Rg8∞

18.exf5 b4 19.f6+ Kxf6 20.Bxh7 Ke7?

20...Kg7 21.Qg5+! Kxh7 22.Qxh5+ Kg7 23.Qg5+ Kh7 24.Ne4 f6 25.Nxf6+ Rxf6 26.Qxf6+—

21.Ne4

21.Qc5+! Ke8 (21...Kf6 22.Qxf8) 22.Nb5 wins the black queen. 22...Qe7 (22...Qb7 23.Nd6+; 22...Qa5 23.Nd6+ Kd7 24.Nb7+) 23.Nd6+ Kd7 24.Nf5+

21...Nd7 22.Rxd7+

White picks the revolutionary breakthrough, well prepared to meet 22...Qxd7 with 23.Qc5+ Ke8 24.Nf6+. But the evolutionary method — the slow build-up of forces — with 22.Rd6 also looks very strong.

22...Kxd7 23.Rd1+ Kc8



Position after 23...Kc8

24.Nd6+?

24.Qc5 Rd8 25.Rxd8+ Qxd8 26.Qxc6+

Kb8 27.Nd6



Analysis

(#Diagram-analysis after 27.Nd6)

a) 27...Ra7 28.Qb5+ Kc7 29.Qc5+ Kd7 (29...Kb8 30.Qxb4+ Kc7 31.Nb5+) 30.Nxf7!+—;

b) 27...Bc8 28.Nxc8 (Or 28.Qb5+ Ka7 29.Qc5+ Qb6 30.Nb5+ Ka6 31.Nc7+ Ka7 32.Qxb6+ Kxb6 33.Nxa8+ .) 28...Qxc8 (28...Qc7 29.Qb5+ Kxc8 30.Bf5+ Kd8 31.Qd5+ Ke7 32.Qxa8) 29.Qb6+ Qb7 30.Qxb7+ Kxb7 31.Be4+ Kb8 32.Bxa8 Kxa8 33.g4+—;

c) 27...Qc7 28.Qb5+ Ka7 29.Qxa4+ Kb6 30.Qxb4+ Kc6 (30...Ka6 31.Bd3+) 31.Be4+ Kd7 32.Nb5 (32.Bxa8 Qxd6 33.Qxd6+ Kxd6 34.a4 is also simple and plenty good enough.) 32...Qb6 33.Bxa8 Qg1+ 34.Kd2 White will escape the checks and win easily.

24...Kb8 25.Qc5 Ra6?

25...b3! 26.Qb4+ (26.axb3 axb3 27.Qb4+ Ka7 28.Kd2 Qxd6+ 29.Qxd6 Rfd8 30.Kc3 Rxd6 31.Rxd6 bxc2 32.Bxc2 Rg8 and any perceived White advantage is completely due to momentum. The position is quite equal.; 26.a3 bxc2 27.Bxc2 Rg8) 26...Ka7 27.Qxa4+ Kb8 28.Qb4+ Ka7 29.cxb3 Qb6 White probably has enough compensation for the exchange, but can no longer claim an easy win.

26.Nb5! cxb5 27.Qxf8+ Ka7 28.Be4

Or 28.Qxb4.

28...Kb6

28...b3±

29.Qxb4 Bxa2

29...f5 30.Bd5 White should win.

30.Bf5 Be6 31.Be4?

31.Bxe6 fxe6 32.g4

31...Ka7?

31...f5 32.Rd6+ Ka7 33.Rxa6+ Kxa6 34.Bd3 Bc4 (34...Qc6 35.Qxa4±; 34...Qa5 35.Qd6+ Qb6 36.Qxe5±) 35.Bxf5. Even with an extra pawn, these endings are not trivial.

32.Qf8 Kb6

32...f5 33.Bxf5

33.Rd8 Ka5

33...f5 34.Rb8+ Ka7 35.Rb7+



Kenneth Sanderson. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.



Position after 33...Ka5

34.c3

34.b4+! axb3 35.Qa3+ Kb6 36.Rd6+

34...Kb6?

34...Bd7 35.Rb8

35.Rb8+ Ka7 36.Rxb5 Bc8 37.Rc5 Qb6 38.Qxc8 1-0

**Chris Amen (1683) –
James Inman (1823) [B12]**
BCC #10 Boise, ID
(R4), September 26, 2015
[Ralph Dubisch]

**1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.Nf3 e6 5.Be2
c5 6.Be3 Qb6 7.Nc3 Nc6 8.0-0 c4 9.b3
cxb3 10.axb3 Bb4 11.Na4 Qc7**



Position after 11...Qc7

12.c4±

12.c3!; or 12.Nh4±. The point of the former is that a bishop on e7 is in the way, inhibiting the development of the g8-knight, and a retreat to f8 is an obvious loss of time. Trying to stay on the queenside with 12...Ba5 loses the bishop pair, a bunch of queenside space, and leaves Black with essentially no place to play after 13.b4, intending to take when the bishop retreats to b6 and possibly advance b5 to confound the c6-knight.

12...Nge7 13.Nh4 Be4 14.f3 Bg6 15.Bg5?

15.Qc1 dxc4 16.bxc4 Rd8 17.Rd1 and White is better.

15...Rd8

15...dxc4! 16.bxc4 (16.Bxc4 a6±) 16...Rd8±

16.c5 Rd7

16...0-0

17.Bb5 Nf5?

17...0-0 18.Rf2∞

18.Nxf5 Bxf5



Position after 18...Bxf5

19.g4

19.Nb6!! See the next note.

19...Bg6 20.Be3

This is such a nice move. 20.Nb6!! axb6 (20...h6 21.Bh4 Bc3 (21...a6 22.Bxc6 Qxc6 23.Nxd7 Qxd7 24.Ra4 Qb5 (24...a5 25.Be1 Bxe1 26.Qxe1) 25.Be1 Bxe1 26.Qxe1 Qxb3 27.Rb4 Qd3 28.Rxb7 Qxd4+ (28...0-0 29.Qd1) 29.Qf2 Qxf2+ (29...Qxe5 30.f4) 30.Kxf2 0-0 31.c6) 22.Rxa7 Nxa7 (22...Bxd4+ 23.Qxd4! Nxd4? 24.Ra8+ Qd8 25.Rxd8#) 23.Bxd7+ Kf8 24.f4 Be4 25.f5 with attack.) 21.Ra8+ Nb8 22.cxb6 Qc8 23.Qc1 0-0 (23...Bc2 24.Qxc2!) 24.Qxc8 Rxc8 25.Bxd7 Rf8 26.Bb5+.

20...h5 21.g5 h4 22.Qe2 h3 23.Rad1 Ke7 24.Kh1 Rdd8 25.Rg1 Rh4 26.Bf2 Rh5 27.Bd3 Bxd3 28.Rxd3 g6 29.Rg3 Rdh8 30.f4 Kf8 31.Rdf3 Kg7 32.Qe3 Ne7 33.Rxh3 Nf5 34.Qd3 a6 35.Rxh5 Rxh5 36.Rh3 Rxh3 37.Qxh3 Qc6

[Diagram top of next column]

38.Qf3

38.Qd3 is a safer way to offer the return of



Position after 37...Qc6

the pawn: 38...Qb5 39.Qxb5 axb5 40.Nb2 Bc3 41.Nd3 b4 (41...Bxd4 42.Bxd4 Nxd4 43.b4; 41...Nxd4 42.Bxd4 Bxd4 43.b4) 42.Kg2 with an obscure but likely equal ending.

38...Qb5 39.Kg2

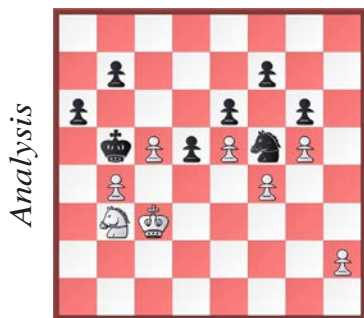
39.Qd1! Qa5! plans ...Bd2 or ...Be1, and appears the only way to gain entry. 40.Qd3 (40.Kg2? Bd2 41.Kf3 Qb4+) 40...Be1 (40...Bd2 41.Kg2 Bxf4 42.h4 Bd2 43.Kf1±) 41.Kg2 Bxf2 42.Kxf2 Qb4 43.Qc3! (43.c6 bxc6 44.Nc5 a5+) 43...Qxc3 44.Nxc3 Nxd4 45.b4 Now things get (even more) long-winded in order to follow plans involving bringing the kings to the other side of the board, not to mention lengthy promotion tactics, but it looks like White can hold this due to threats of counter-punching on the kingside if Black pushes too hard to go into the king and pawn ending. For example: 45...Kf8 46.Na2! Ke7 47.Ke3 Nf5+ 48.Kd3 Kd7 49.Nc1 Kc6 50.Kc3 Kb5 51.Nb3!

[Diagram top of next page]

51...d4+? If he wants to win, Black must do something about the white knight coming to a5, and at first blush this central diversion appears to give the



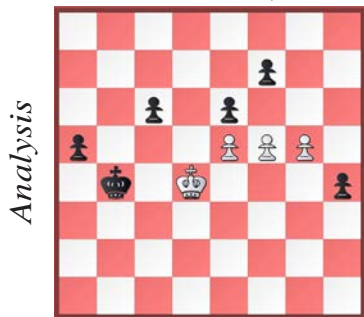
Chris Amen (left) vs. James Inman (right). Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.



(#Diagram-analysis after 51.Nb3)

black a-pawn a clear path to promotion. (Black's best is probably to acquiesce to a draw with something like 51...b6 52.cxb6 Kxb6 .) 52.Nxd4+ Nxd4 53.Kxd4 Kxb4 54.h4! a5 55.h5! You didn't forget about that h-pawn, did you? 55...a4

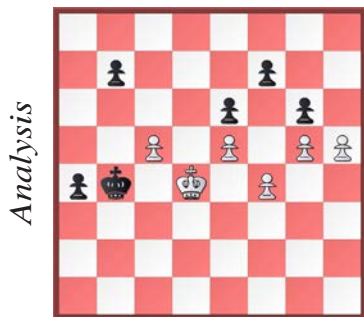
(55...gxh5 56.f5 h4 (56...a4? 57.c6! Clears the f8-a3 diagonal in case promotion with check might be useful, and clears the b-file for checks, too. 57...bxc6 58.g6 A classic pawn breakthrough. 58...c5+ (58...fxg6 59.f6; 58...a3 59.gxf7 a2 60.f8Q+ Kb3 61.Qb8+ Kc2 62.Qa7+- Obviously the stalemate traps in the corner won't work here, both because Black has pawns that can move and because the white king is too close.) 59.Kd3! a3 60.gxf7 a2 61.f8Q a1Q 62.Qb8+ Ka3 63.Qa7+ Kb2 64.Qxa1+ Kxa1 65.fxe6+-) 57.c6! bxc6



(#Diagram-analysis after 57...bxc6)

58.Ke3!! and White wins! 58...h3 (58...exf5 59.e6 fxe6 60.g6 h3 61.Kf2 a4 62.g7 a3 63.g8Q a2 64.Qh8) 59.Kf2 h2 60.Kg2 h1Q+ 61.Kxh1 exf5 62.e6 fxe6 63.g6 a4 64.g7 a3 65.g8Q and Black is too late.)

And now going back to 55...a4



(#Diagram-analysis after 55...a4)

56.Kd3!! Kb3 (56...a3 57.Kc2) 57.c6! bxc6 58.h6 a3 59.h7 a2 60.h8Q a1Q

61.Qb8+ Ka3 62.Qa7+ Kb2 63.Qb6+ Ka3 64.Qa5+ Kb2 65.Qb4+ Ka2 66.Kc2! and mates. Did I mention counter-punching on the kingside?

39...Bd2! 40.Nb6 Be3 41.Qd1 Bxf4 42.Nc8 Bxg5 43.Nd6 Qb4



Position after 43...Qb4

44.Nxf5+?!

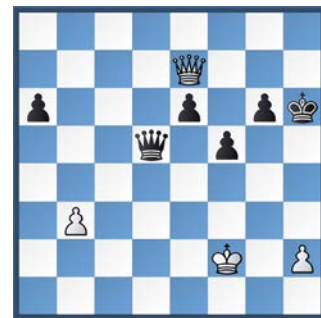
44.h4!? is at least a little tricky, with the idea of counter-play against f7: 44...Nxh4+ (Better is 44...Ne3+ 45.Bxe3 Bxe3, since the white king proves more of a liability. 46.Qf1 Qd2+ 47.Kg3 f5 48.exf6+ Kf8 49.Nxb7 Bxd4+ 45.Bxh4 Bxh4 46.Kh3! Bg5 47.Qf3 f5 48.exf6+ Kf8



(#Diagram-analysis after 48...Kf8)

49.Nxb7! Qxb7 50.Kg4! Bh6 (50...Bd2 51.Qh3 Qf7 52.Qh8+ Qg8 53.Qh2! e5 (53...Be3?? 54.Qd6+ Kf7 55.Qe7#) 54.Qxe5 (54.Qxd2 Qe6+ 55.Kg3 Qxf6 is less clear.) 54...Qf7 55.Qd6+ Kg8 (55...Ke8?? 56.Qb8+ Kd7 57.Qb7+ Ke6 58.Qc6#) 56.Qd8+ Kh7 (56...Qf8 57.Qxd5+ Kh7 58.Qe6±) 57.Qe7 Kg8 58.Qd8+) 51.Qh3 Qh7 52.Qh2! Kg8 53.c6 g5! 54.Qe5 Bf8! 55.Qxe6+ Kh8=, with complications that are likely to end either in perpetual check or a drawn king and pawn ending.; Another idea: 44.Qd3+ awaiting events.

44...exf5 45.Qf3 Qd2 46.Qxd5 Be3 47.Qf3 Bxd4 48.Kf1 Qc1+ 49.Kg2 Qxc5 50.Bxd4 Qxd4 51.e6 fxe6 52.Qxb7+ Kh6 53.Qe7 Qd5+ 54.Kf2



Position after 54.Kf2

54...Qxb3?

Allows perpetual check. 54...Qd4+ 55.Ke2 Qe4+ 56.Kd2 Qf4+ 57.Kd1 e5 makes progress while retaining an escape path for the black king.

55.Qh4+ Kg7 56.Qe7+ Kg8 57.Qe8+ Kh7 58.Qe7+ 1/2-1/2



L-R: Matthew White, Nick Hawkins. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

Oregon Chess News

Richard Gutman: A Rememberance

By Brian Berger

For some newer and younger members of the Portland chess community the recent passing (July 25, 2015) of one of their own, Master Richard Gutman (pronounced “Goodmin”), probably went mostly unnoticed. But for many of the area’s longtime members of the Portland Chess Club, Richard’s passing was both a surprise (some not knowing he had been battling brain cancer) and a sorrow.

Born Richard George Gutman in Casa Blanca Morocco in 1956, Richard took to the game of chess when only five years old, coming from a family whose father, Daniel, and his grandfather on his mother’s side, Facundo Garriga, were both passionate players. And Richard’s interest in the game seemed none the less passionate, as he grew and continued his interest in chess throughout his high school years at Orono High, in Maine.

His ability at the chessboard did not go unnoticed, catching the eye of George Cunningham, at the time Director of the chess club at the University of Maine. Under Cunningham’s guidance, Richard was entered to play in a number of the state’s tournaments, leading him to hold

the title of Junior Champion of Eastern Maine.

Later, as a young adult, Richard moved to the Boston, Massachusetts area, residing there for five years before finally moving to Oregon in 1984. As a computer programmer, he worked for Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) until his final days.

All the while Richard continued his passion for chess, his game getting stronger, and in 1993 at the Western States Open, held in Reno, Nevada, Richard achieved his National Master title, where his rating rose from 2172 to 2209, competing in a field of 70 players. Thereafter, his game continued at a high level, and although he dropped somewhat from that high-point in his chess playing career in the following years, Richard continued to have impressive tournament wins.

One such tournament was the Gresham Open in 2002, where against a tough field of players that included Carl Haessler (2273), Charles Schulien (2394), Richard Wood (2258) and David Bragg (2223), Richard took top honors, turning in a perfect 5.0/5. And as recently as 2013, Richard shared first place honors with Aaron Grabinsky and Alexandra Botez in the Oregon Open.

Longtime friend and fellow chess player Allen Chalfen perhaps knew Richard better than most, and although he did not say it while talking about Richard for this article, the profoundness of the loss could be seen in his eyes and heard in his voice. Thirty years is a long time to build up memories, the length of time that Allen had known Richard, and Allen’s own words say best what the strength of that friendship was, and more to the point, who Richard the man was.

“I’ve known (Richard) for over 30 years, and the best word I would use to describe him is ‘Mensch.’ He was graceful on and off the chessboard. When he met his second wife, Ivonne Medina (they married in 2010), his life turned around. His face brightened, and his chess got stronger. This fairytale romance I’m sure helped him win the 2013 Oregon Open (tied for first). In fact, his wife’s mother, Lupita, was visiting from Mexico and questioned him about his results after every round. His wife’s and her mother’s warm embraces—aside from his natural talent—I’m sure helped spur him on to victory...Richard had a stoical approach to life and a very even temper, enabling him to be able to deal with both success and failure with great equanimity.”

At a Celebration of Life Party for Richard, Allen recited this poem he had written for this man he knew so well, summing up those qualities he had admired during their long friendship:

*“Without self-congratulation
Nor a tear
Richard played chess without any fear
A man, a warrior, a human
So many loved Richard Gutman
I know for I am one
Fond memories of Richard are never
done.”*

Oregon Open

By Brian Berger

At first I thought the circus had come to town, as I approached the Lloyd Center DoubleTree Hotel, where milling about were what seemed like hundreds of oddly dressed persons, and that the performers had taken over the hotel for the duration of their tour. But then I thought, no, even circus performers have some taste in clothing. This grouping looked more like a gathering of contestants for the



Richard Gutman at the 2012 Oregon Open. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

absolutely, without a doubt, most awfully dressed persons on this planet—perhaps ANY planet!

Then I thought, how silly of me; I must have the wrong venue. Then I thought, no, the name on the hotel was correct, perhaps THESE people had the wrong venue. Neither was the case as I quickly found out, when I chanced to talk to one of these oddly dressed individuals, who assured me that it was safe to walk among them (at least at the moment), and that they were known as Hashers—intrepid souls who find trekking through unusual and exotic places, a healthy, fun, and inebriating experience.

I say inebriating because, at wherever their trek ends, barrels of beer await these consumers of scenery and suds—enough to get them in the mood to do, whatever! And though my knowledge of the aftermath of that “whatever” was limited, I could extrapolate based on the behavior of the returnees at day’s end—and it was, PARTY DOWN, DUDE! And so, as the sedate players of chess quietly moved their pieces in a farther wing of the hotel (thankfully insulated from the clamor of the returning hordes), pandemonium reigned in the lobby and hallways, as hairy men dressed in tutus mixed with women dressed as animals to the wee hours.

I’m not sure whether this scene was appropriate for the youngsters who attended the Oregon Open Scholastic Chess Tournament, being held in conjunction with the larger Oregon Open,

but I can wager that their learning curve on “adult” behavior was sped up a bit, and that many a parent was wishing that “La Dolce Vita” was not being performed in the same setting as their child’s more intellectual pursuits.

But chess is not without excitement, though of a different kind than beer-drinking animals and men dressed in tutus. Come to think of it, the combination of the two might make chess a more popular recreational game, but lend itself to a slow deterioration of strategic judgment, to say nothing of the distraction caused by an ill-fitting tutu, or an animal tail that would trail along the floor. But I digress. Actually, I haven’t—this has been all about Hashers! I need to concentrate on what I’m not being paid for, and that is bringing the latest chess news to those of you who eschew tutus and animal attire.

But let me digress a bit before I do. (I know, I know, the suspense of what the heck went on at the tournament is killing some of you—but hey, this is my article, and I’ll move along at MY pace). Word has come to me that a certain individual (or individuals) finds that focusing on anything but “serious” chess reporting somehow diminishes the stature and purpose of a chess magazine—specifically, any mention of a chess-playing dog!

I understand that this is a young man, passionate about a game he loves, who is highly displeased about the amount of precious reporting space being allotted to (all together now!) Morgan the Dog!!

Well, we all have our opinions, and the young seemingly even more so, even before they become fully aware of what life is all about. But I would say to this young man that, life without humor would be a pretty tough row-to-hoe. There is more than enough “seriousness” to go around, but humor, it seems, is in short supply. So, If I can be funny while still filling in the “serious” details of whatever subject I am covering, I will bend over backwards to do so, because I derive pleasure from adding more humor to a world sadly in need of more of it. So lighten up, and enjoy life’s humorous moments—it will make the burdens of later life more tolerable. And by the way, I can order you a Morgan the Dog T-shirt, the same one that Jeffrey Roland, editor of *Northwest Chess*, wore throughout the tournament.

So now we have reached the point in this article where I become serious—sort of. Each of 103 players and many parents somehow found a way to break through the tutu and animal-costumed crowd gathered in the hotel’s lobby, to reach the sanctuary of the chess rooms, there to find Chief TD Grisha Alpernas and Assistant TD Mike Morris busy taking entry fees and answering the questions posed to them. Add to that the above mentioned Oregon Open Scholastic Tournament, and the chess players had a sizable contingent of their own on the premises.

The Oregon Open for 2015 was a three-section tournament, with six Rounds and a time control of 40/120, SD/60, with a five-second delay. Two games a day were scheduled for the three days the tournament would run, covering September 5 through 7. At this generous time control one would expect the best play one had to offer. But alas, in some cases, this substantial gift of time was ignored, the games taking only an hour or two to complete—one opponent falling into the other’s quicker rhythm.

It was this rhythm I found myself (1520-1538) guilty of falling into in the last round, when face-to-face with the legend of looney openings, David Yoshinaga (1702-1700). Up to this point, I had utilized my time efficiently, managing to accumulate 3.5 points, and needing only this last win to put me in contention for some prize money. But nooo, Yoshinaga (playing White) opened with b4?, and quickly allowed me to orchestrate my own demise. I say quickly, because the game took less time than a G/25 would, and had me believing I was winning, until I wasn’t!! So SLOW DOWN guys, when given sufficient thinking time; and oh, be suspicious of anyone playing b4 in the opening.



(L) Life Master Carl Haessler and IM Leon Piasetski. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

But I'll get back to the Reserve Section later. Right now I want to cover the results of the Open Section, where a field of 70 players contended, ending with a four-way tie for first through third, with none of the four being the Oregon State Champion, Nick "The Raptor" Raptis (2376-2365). Fierce competition from British Columbia, IM Master, Leon Piasetski (2390-2400), Master, Carl Haessler (2239-2257), Washington's, Candidate Master, Michael MacGregor (2191-2211) and Expert, Clemen Deng (2018-2092), left each with a score of 5.0 points, and a money prize of \$300.

Unusual was the case that "The Raptor" would not see any of that money, and would in fact, sustain two draws and a loss in the process of trying. Draw number one came in the third round game against expert Michael Pendergast (2160-2162), the second in the last round against the very young Washington expert, Anthony Bi He (2059-2083). Those draws, and a loss to Piasetski in the fifth round, made for a cumulative loss of 2.0 points, a deficit from which no prize was within reach of the Raptor's talons.

First place U2200 was awarded to Washington player Sangeeta Dhinra (1909-1953), whose three wins and two draws were good enough to take home \$275 from the total prize fund; the other prize winners being Joshua Grabinsky (1888-1935) and Gavin Zhang (1779-1874), who split second and third U2000, amounting to \$162.50 each for their 3.5 points.

A slew of prize money was won in the Reserve Section, where 33 players butted heads for capital gain and personal glory, with Karl Stump (1650-1724) gaining the most in money (\$425) and glory by taking first place with a near perfect score of 5.5 points, just edging out the second place winner, Karl Wallulis (1526-1695) with his 5.0 points, giving him a return of \$250, and a humongous gain of 169 points in his rating! And also standing on the winners' platform was Alex Yeo, (1663-1676), whose score of 4.5 points reflected a near miss to tying Wallulis, having to settle instead for third, but profiting more (\$150) by doing so.

First through third prizes were combined to feed the fortunes of the 3 winners of the U1600 category, when Jason Hill (1557-1588), Mike Hasuike (1500-1515), and Michael Munsey (1337-1427) all turned in 4.0 points, splitting the prize money to the tune of \$108.33 each. And it was the little fella, Jeffery Kou (1258-1436), whom I had the pleasure of playing in the Vancouver Open, and luckily not losing to, that came all the way down

from Seattle to rack up 4.0 points at the expense of some tough players to capture first U1400—a performance that netted him \$175, and a huge gain in his rating.

Tying, and taking second and third in the U1400, were Rick Nicoski (1263-1389) and Henry Romero (1523P-1540P), with 3.0 points each, entitling them to pocket \$75—a little over the price of their entry fee. And Raj Kodithyala (1129P-1171) came in first in the U1200, his 2.5 points giving him access to US currency worth \$175, with Nikhil Samudrala (1129-1216) acquiring the the final distribution of the wealth (\$85) by taking second in the same category.

There were some extra games played, making up the third section of this tournament, with Michael Groves (1600-1624) beating Addison Lee (1670-1648), and Bill Boyd (1790-1780) tying with Michael Moore (1557-1570).

And there you have it, folks, another great tournament report, brought to you by the guy who's "Just Glad To Be Here," and *Northwest Chess*.

**Nick Raptis (2376) –
Michael J Pendergast (2160) [C12]**
Oregon Open (Open)
Portland, OR (R3), September 6, 2015
[Ralph Dubisch]

**1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Bb4
5.e5 h6 6.Bh4 g5 7.Bg3 Ne4 8.Nge2 f5
9.exf6?!**

9.f3

9...Qxf6 10.Qd3 Nc6 11.f3

11.a3 Nxc3 12.fxg3?!

**11...Nxc3 12.hxc3 Bd7 13.0-0-0 0-0-0
14.a3 Bf8 15.Qe3 Bg7 16.g4 Be8**

White's last two moves appear aimed at a tactical sequence to reposition the e2-knight to h5 via g3, and Be8 is a good move that both hits h5 and potentially improves the bishop to the b1-h7 diagonal.

It is worth noting, though, that White's "threat" doesn't actually work, as the queen on e3 is not protected. So 16...Rhe8 17.Ng3?! Nxd4 18.Nh5 Qe5 and White will have to claim this was all a gambit — though compensation seems suspect.

17.Nb1?!

[Diagram top of next column]

We never do get to see what White actually intended with this move, other than freeing up the c-pawn to guard d4 — a highly dubious opportunity in view of the weakened light squares around the king. If the knight is heading for c5 (Nb1-d2-b3-c5), there's a much faster route (Na4-c5). Based on the game position



Position after 17.Nb1

seven moves from now, it's possible he was planning to move his knights around and finally put them back on their starting squares! 17.Kb1 must be a better idea, removing the king from the tactic-laden c1-h6 diagonal, though it appears to be much easier to formulate active plans for Black, with his bishop-pair and useful attacking diagonals. 17...Kb8 waits, and White may need to start weakening operations with something like g3 in order to avoid going completely passive.

17...h5 18.gxh5 Rxc3

18...g4?!

19.Rxc3 Bxc3 20.Ng3



Position after 20.Ng3

20...Bf7

Presumably Black was worried about the complications in the lines where White challenges the bishop on the b1-h7 diagonal... but these actually favor Black: 20...Bg6 21.Bd3 Bxd3 22.Nh5 (22.Rxd3 Nxd4 23.Nh5 (23.Nc3 Rh8) 23...Nxc2! 24.Nxf6 Nxe3 25.Rxe3 Bxf6 26.Rxe6 Rf8 with extra pawn and better minor piece.) 22...Qg6! 23.Nxc3 Bxc2! 24.Qxe6+ (24.Rd2?? Bxb1; 24.Nxe6?? Bxd1) 24...Qxe6 25.Nxe6 Bxd1 26.Nxd8 Kxd8 27.Kxd1 Nxd4 and Black should be winning.

21.c3?

This should probably lose, but 21.Ne2 e5 is not inspiring either.

21...Bh6

21...g4?!

22.Ne2

22.Qf2 g4+ 23.Kc2 e5 and White is a wreck.

22...Bg6?

22...g4! guarantees open lines for the bishops. 23.f4 Bg6. Black threatens ...e5! (or ...Qf5, or ...Na5), meeting dxe5 with ...Nxe5. It's very hard to keep a cool defensive head facing this kind of pressure.

23.g4 Bh7?

23...e5 24.dxe5 Nxe5 25.Qxa7 (25. Nd4 Re8 26.Qf2 Kb8 (White's cheapo was 26...Nxc4?? 27.Bh3) 27.Qg3 Bf8, heading back to d6 with decisive effect.) 25...Nd3+



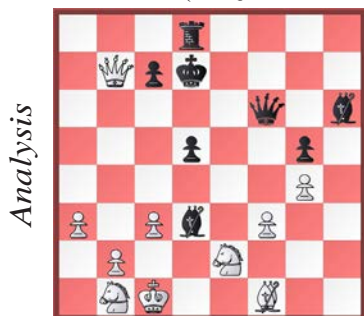
(#Diagram-analysis after 25...Nd3+)

26.Rxd3 a) 26.Kc2 Qxf3!-+ (26...Nf2+ is also strong.) 27.Kb3 (27.Nd4 Nf2+ 28.Kb3 Qxd1+; 27.b4 Nf2+ 28.Kc1 Bxb1 29.Kxb1 Nxd1 30.Qa8+ Kd7 31.Qa4+ c6 32.Qxd1 Rf8) 27...Re8 28.Nd2



(#Diagram-analysis after 28.Nd2)

28...Rxe2!! 29.Nxf3 (29.Qa8+ Kd7 30.Qxb7 Rxd2 31.Qb5+ Kd6 32.Rxd2 Qxf1-+) 29...Rxb2+ 30.Ka4 Be8+ 31.Ka5 Rb5+ 32.Ka4 Nb2#; b) 26.Kd2 Qxf3-+; 26...Bxd3 27.Nd2 (27.Qa8+ Kd7 28.Qxb7



(#Diagram-analysis after 28.Qxb7)

28...Qxf3 (Alternately, Black can grab even more material and weather the check storm: 28...Qe6 29.Nd2 Bxe2 30.Bxe2 Qxe2 31.Qxd5+ Ke7 32.Qc5+ Ke8 33.Qc6+ Rd7 34.Qg6+ Kd8 35.Qg8+

Qe8, when 36.Qxe8+ Kxe8 should be a technical win for Black, though accuracy is certainly required.) 29.Nd2 Qe3 30.Qxd5+ Ke7 31.Qf3 Forced. 31...Qxf3 32.Nxf3 Rf8 33.Nd2 Rxf1+ 34.Nxf1 Bxe2 35.Ne3 Kd7 (Even 35...Ke6 36.Nf5 Bxg4 37.Nxh6 Bh3 might work.) 36.a4 and Black's extra piece should be good enough.) 27...Qa6 (27...Re8!?) 28.Qxa6 Bxa6+

24.Ng1



Position after 24.Ng1

24...Ne7?

24...e5 25.Bd3 (25.dxe5 Qxe5 (25...Nxe5 26.Qxa7∞) 26.Qxe5 Nxe5 27.Nd2+ 25... Bxd3 26.Qxd3 exd4 27.cxd4 Bg7+

25.Re1 Rd6 26.Bd3 Bxd3 27.Qxd3 Ng6 28.Qe3

28.Nd2!? Nf4 29.Qc2 — intending 30.Ne2∞, but no doubt still a bit easier to play Black.

28...Bg7 29.Ne2 Nh4 30.Rf1 e5 31.dxe5 Qxe5 32.Qxe5 Bxe5 33.Nd2 Rf6 34.Kc2 Kd7 35.Kd3 Ke6 36.Ke3 Ng2+ 37.Kf2 Nf4 38.Nxf4+ Bxf4 39.Re1+ Kd6 40.Nf1 Re6

Black still has an edge.

A very complex and interesting struggle.

1/2-1/2

Lennart Bjorksten (2194) – Leon D. Piasetski (2390) [E45]

Oregon Open (Open)
Portland, OR (R3), September 6, 2015
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 b6 5.Nge2 Ba6 6.a3 Be7 7.Nf4 d5 8.cxd5 Bxf1



Position after 8...Bxf1

9.dxe6 Ba6 10.exf7+ Kxf7 11.Qb3+ Ke8

12.Ne6 Qd7 13.Nxc7+ Kd8 14.e4 Qg4 15.Ne6+



Position after 15.Ne6+

15...Kd7?!

15...Kc8 heads more quickly to relative safety on b7. The knight must still retreat to f4, as the g2-pawn must be protected against the threat of ...Nxe4. 16.Nf4 (16. Bf4? Nxe4 17.f3?? (17.h3 Qxg2 18.0-0-0 Bd6+ 17...Bh4+! 18.Kd1 Qxg2+) 16... Kb7 17.Be3∞

16.Nf4 c6 17.Be3

17.e5!? Ne8 (17...Nh5 18.h3 Qh4 19.g3 Nxc3 20.Rg1! Nh5 (20...Nf5 21.Qe6+) 21.Rg4+-) 18.Be3 with good compensation for the piece.

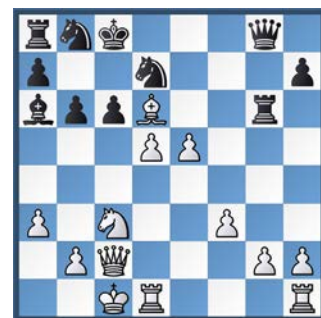
17...Rf8 18.f3 Qg8 19.d5 Bd6 20.0-0-0 Bxf4?!

20...Kc8

21.Bxf4 Kc8 22.Qc2 Nfd7 23.Bd6 Rf6

23...Re8 24.Kb1±

24.e5 Rg6



Position after 24...Rg6

25.dxc6?

25.e6! Nf6 26.Bg3+- . Compare the value of Black's "extra" piece on b8 with White's three mobile pawns to understand why.

25...Nxc6 26.Nd5 Kb7 27.Ne7 Qc4 28.Nxc6 hxc6 29.Qxc4 Bxc4 30.f4 Rc8 31.Kd2 Nd4 32.Ke3 Nb3?!

32...Nf5+±

33.h4 Be6 34.Rhf1?

34.Bb4 Rc2 35.Rd6±

34...Bg4 35.Rd3 Na5 36.b4?

36.b3±

36...Nc4+ 37.Kf2 Bf5 38.Rg3 Nd2
39.Re1 Ne4+ 40.Rxe4 Bxe4 41.Rg5



Position after 41.Rg5

41...Rh8?

41...Kc6 42.Ke3 Bb1 43.h5 gxh5 44.Kd4

42.Ke3?!

42.e6!±

42...Bb1 43.g3?!

43.g4 Rxh4 44.f5 Nxe5 a) 44...gxf5
45.Rg7 Kc6 (45...Kc8 46.Rg8+ Kb7
47.Rg7) 46.b5+ Kxb5 47.Rxd7 Rxg4
48.Rxa7. These variations all enter into
the world of rooks, opposite bishops,
equal pawns, and zero winning chances
for either side.; b) 44...Rh6 45.b5 Nc5
46.Bxc5 bxc5 47.e6 gxf5 48.gxf5. The
pawns are worth a piece.; 45.Bxe5 gxf5

43...Kc6 44.Kd4



Position after 44.Kd4

44...b5?

44...Nf6! 45.exf6 Kxd6 46.Re5 Rf8
47.Re7 a6± White's pawns are far less
threatening here, so Black can claim an
edge — though White should have little
trouble holding.

45.Be7?

45.e6! Kxd6 46.exd7 a6 (46...Kxd7
47.Rxb5) 47.h5! gxh5 48.Rxh5

45...Rh7 46.Bd6 Nb6 47.Bc5 Rd7+
48.Bd6 Nc4±

[Diagram top of next column]

49.a4?

49.g4 Rf7 a) 49...Nxa3 50.h5±; b)
49...Nxd6 50.exd6 Kxd6 (50...Rxd6+
51.Ke5±) 51.h5±; 50.e6 Rf6 51.Bb8 Rxe6
52.Rc5+ Kb6 53.Bc7+ Ka6 (53...Kb7
54.Rxb5+ Kxc7 55.Rc5+ Kd6 56.Rxc4±)



Position after 48...Nc4

54.a4±

49...Nxd6 50.exd6 Rxd6+ 51.Kc3 bxa4
52.Kb2 Bd3 53.h5 gxh5 54.Rxh5 Bb5
55.f5 Rd2+ 56.Kc1 Rf2 57.f6

57.g4 a3-+

57...Rxf6 58.Rc5+ Kb6 59.Kb2 a5 0-1

Aaron Grabinsky (2328) –
Clemen Deng (2018) [C44]

Oregon Open (Open)

Portland, OR (R6), September 7, 2015

[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Bc4 Bc5
5.c3 d3



Position after 5...d3

6.Ng5?

6.Qxd3±

6...Nh6

In a very similar position with the black
pawn still on d4, 6...Ne5! is unfortunate
due to a pseudo-sacrifice on f7 followed
by Qh5+, forking the king and bishop
on c5. Here, however, 7.Nxf7? (7.Bxd3
Nf6±) 7...Qf6-+

7.0-0 0-0 8.b4 Bb6 9.h3 Kh8 10.Kh2?

10.Nf3 f6 (10...Ng8 11.a4 a5 12.b5
Nce7 13.Bxd3±) 11.Qxd3± (11.Bxh6
gxh6 12.Bxd3±) 11...Nf7 12.Bxf7 Rxf7
13.Nbd2 d6 14.a4 a6 (14...a5 15.b5 Ne5
16.Nxe5 fxe5 17.Nc4 Be6 (17...Ba7
18.Nxe5) 18.Nxb6 cxb6 19.Be3±) 15.Nc4
Ba7 16.Be3 Bxe3 17.Nxe3±

10...d6

10...Nxb4!? 11.cxb4 Bd4 12.Nc3 Bxc3
13.Rb1 d5!±

[Analysis Diagram top of next column]

Some alternatives for White on move



(#Diagram-analysis after 13...d5)

(13...d6 14.Qxd3 Bf6 15.f4±) 14.— a)
A: 14.exd5 Bf5 15.Rb3 (15.Bxd3 Qxd5
16.Bxf5 Qxf5±) 15...Bf6 16.Nf3 Ng8±;
b) B: 14.Bxd3 f6 15.Nf3 d4 16.Bxh6?!
gxh6 17.Qc1?! Be6 18.Qxh6 Bxa2±; c)
C: 14.Qxd3 Be5+ 15.f4 Qxg5 16.Bxd5
Bd6 17.e5 Bf5 18.Be4 Bxe4 19.Qxe4
Qe7 20.Qc4 Nf5±;

11.f4 f5

11...f6! 12.Nf3 (12.Ne6 Bxe6 13.Bxe6
Nxb4±) 12...f5 13.exf5 Bxf5; 11...Nxb4?!
12.cxb4 Bd4 13.Nc3 Bxc3 14.Rb1 d5
15.exd5 Bf5 Compared to line A in the
previous note, Black has given up a whole
tempo (10...d6, 14...d5), and White's
extra move (11.f4) defended the knight
on g5. Now a bishop retreat to f6 does not
threaten the knight, so 16.Rb3 Bf6 17.g4
Qd6 18.Nf3 Be4 19.Nd2 Bg6 20.Bxd3±

12.Bxd3 Qf6 13.a3 Ng8?

13...a5 14.b5 Ne7 15.Qh5 Bd7 16.a4 Ng6

14.b5?

14.exf5 Bxf5 15.g4 Bxd3 16.Qxd3±

14...Nce7 15.a4 h6 16.a5 Bc5



Position after 16...Bc5

17.Nf3?!

17.exf5! Bxf5 (17...hxg5? 18.fxg5 Qe5+
19.Bf4 Qd5

[Analysis Diagram top of next page]

20.c4!! (20.Qh5+!? Nh6 21.gxh6 g6
22.fxg6! Qxh5 23.g7+ Kg8 24.Bh7+ Kf7
25.Bxd6+ Bf5 26.gxf8Q+ Rxf8 27.Bxc5
is, perhaps, a bit too exciting.) 20...Qd4
(20...Qf7 21.g6) 21.Qh5+ Nh6 22.gxh6
with a winning attack: 22...Bxf5 a) 22...
Qxa1? 23.hxg7+ Kxg7 24.Bh6+ Kg8
25.Qg5+ Kh8 26.f6; b) 22...Kg8 23.Nd2
Qxd3? (23...Bxf5 24.Nb3! Qxd3 (24...



(#Diagram-analysis after 19...Qd5)

Qb2 25.hxg7 Qxg7 26.Nxc5 dxc5 27.Bh6 Qg6 (27...Qf6 28.Bxf8 Rxf8 29.Rf3!) 28.Rxf5+-) 25.hxg7 Kxg7 26.Nxc5 dxc5 27.Be5+ Kg8 28.Qh6 Kf7 29.Rad1+-) 24.hxg7; 23.hxg7+ Kxg7 24.Bh6+ Kg8 25.Qg5+ Bg6 26.Nd2 Rxf1 27.Rxf1 Qe5+ 28.Qxe5 dxe5 29.Ne4+-) 18.Ne4

17...fxe4 18.Bxe4 c6 19.bxc6 bxc6 20.Nd4 d5 21.Bf3

21.Bc2±

21...Nf5 22.Nxf5

22.Nxc6?! Qxc6 23.Bxd5 Qg6 24.Bxa8 Ba6±

22...Bxf5 23.Bd2 Ne7 24.Na3 Ng6 25.g3 d4?

25...Rab8±

26.Qc1?

26.cxd4 Qxd4 27.Qc1 Rae8 28.Bc3∞, although this is rather cool: 28...Qe3 29.Nc4 (29.Qxe3 Rxe3 30.Bb2 Rfe8 31.Bxc6 Rb3+-) 29...Qe2+! 30.Bxe2?? (30.Kh1 Be4 31.Nd2 Bxf3+ 32.Nxf3 Re3 33.Qd2) 30...Rxe2+ 31.Kh1 Be4+

26...Rab8 27.Be2?!

27.Nc4 Bd3 28.cxd4 Bxd4 29.Ra3 Bxf1 30.Qxf1±

27...Rfe8 28.Re1 dxc3 29.Bxc3 Bd4 30.Bxd4 Qxd4 31.Bf3 Rb2+ 32.Kh1 Qf2?

32...Re4! 33.Nc4 Rc2!+-

33.Rxe8+ Kh7



Position after 33...Kh7

34.Qxb2??

34.Be2!! Rxe2 35.Rxe2 Qxe2 36.Qf1 and the only try for advantage appears to be 36...Qb2 37.Nc4 Be4+ 38.Kg1 Qd4+ 39.Kh2 Bd3 40.Rd1 Bxc4 41.Rxd4 Bxf1,

but 42.Re4! — threatens 43.f5 Nf8 44.Re7 a6 45.f6 — so Black must acquiesce to nearly complete equality, e.g. 42...a6 43.f5 Nf8 44.Re7 Kg8, etc.

34...Qxb2 35.Ree1

35.Rae1 Qxa3 36.R1e3 Qxa5+-

35...Bxh3

35...Qf2!

36.Kg1?

36.Be4±

36...Qc3 37.Kf2 Qd4+ 38.Ke2 Ne7 39.Nc2 Qc4+ 40.Kd2 Bf5 41.Bd1 Nd5 42.Ra3 Nb4 43.Rc3 Qd5+ 44.Ke2

44.Ke3 hangs on a (very) little bit longer.

44...Qg2+ 45.Ke3 Nd5+ 46.Kd4 Qd2+ 0-1

Camping In Oregon

By Leon Piasetski

I wasn't planning to play in the Oregon Open. A friend from Barcelona, Jordi Herms, had finally decided to visit me and see Canada for the first time. I live on the sunshine coast near Vancouver, BC, so considering the drought and fire warnings I thought a trip to Vancouver Island would be a good choice. However, we were camping and as soon as we started out the rains came. I checked the weather reports and saw that the central Oregon coast looked dry and sunny so we headed south. On the way, we heard about the Open from Canadian FM Jonathan Berry, who we briefly visited in Nanaimo and, since Jordi, a Catalan master, had never even been to a tournament in North America, he was interested in playing.

We stayed with Jason Cigan, who generously allowed us to camp out in his living room. I decided ahead of time to take a break after the third round since I was tired from driving and it seemed wise to have a break in the middle of the event. This turned out very well for me, especially after I was lucky enough to win a very lost game against Lennart Bjorkstren.

I chose to play solid but un-enterprising chess against Nick Raptis since I knew he was formidable and I figured a draw was ok if it came to that. The opening was a bit unusual with Nick keeping his options open as long as possible. He could've played d5 at any time but kept me guessing if and when this would happen. Finally, he went for a Maroczy bind structure which was a pleasant surprise for me since I've had good results in similar positions against strong players including GM Sabino Brunello.

Nick offered me a draw which I rejected because I felt the position was very safe for me and Black still had to play well to achieve a draw.

Then something strange happened. Nick started looking at me suspiciously when I came back from the bathroom and later I found out that he had talked to the arbiter about his concerns. It's an unfortunate fact that I often go to the bathroom during a game, usually after every move. It seems to be a combination of stress, nerves, habit and, of course, prostate/kidney issues. I was very sympathetic to Kramnik when he was accused by Topalov of cheating in the Toiletgate scandal at their world championship match. I always wondered if I might also be subject to this kind of scrutiny. However, my results have never justified any concerns till now :-). In fact, it's quite typical of me to win a game against a GM and then lose the next two to IMs or even lower rated players. In other words, I've never had the success one would expect from cheating!

After our game Nick was obviously still under the same impression and the TD couldn't alleviate his doubts. I hope he'll look at some of my games and come to realize that he was chasing the wrong rabbit! The amazing part was that my moves were all healthy and fairly easy to calculate — not the sort of game where brilliant tactics might make one suspicious. Nick offered me a draw when he played 22 ...Qc5 and his position was still ok. He really went astray with 23... Qb4, allowing me to trap his queen or gain material. Once one realizes that the queen is in jeopardy, finding the right moves to take advantage of the situation is a simple matter — in other words, one doesn't need Stockfish to figure out the moves, it's strategic not tactical.

Despite this weird experience I enjoyed the tournament and was pleased with my final result. I also had a nice time in Portland, visiting Powell bookstore and appreciating the relaxed, craft beer lifestyle. However, the best part of our trip was yet to come. We managed to visit Timberline Lodge, where some scenes of 'The Shining' were filmed and also circled round Crater Lake, an awesome experience for us. Oregon has amazingly diverse landscapes and it's been too long since my last visit, i.e. over 20 years. Hopefully, I'll be back sooner than that!

Leon Piasetski (2390) –
Nick Raptis (2376) [E61]

Oregon Open (Open)

Portland, OR (R5), September 7, 2015

[Leon Piasetski]

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 c6 3.e3 g6 4.d4 Bg7 5.Nc3 0-0 6.Be2 d6 7.0-0 Bf5 8.b3 Ne4 9.Bb2

Nxc3 10.Bxc3

There is a similar line in the KID Fianchetto where White maintains a tiny advantage; Piasetski-Spraggett, 1984, ended in a draw but I was nearly winning at one point.

10...Qc7 11.Rc1 a5

Too many choices for both sides! I should probably just play a waiting move like h3 which makes ...Nd7 impossible since the bishop on f5 would be in jeopardy, i.e. 12.h3 Nd7 13.g4 Be6 14.d5 or 13...Be4 14.Nd2 wins the bishop for a pawn. However, I was aiming for a simple position with little counterplay to conserve energy.

12.Bd3 Bxd3 13.Qxd3 Nd7 14.Rfd1 Rfd8 15.e4

White has the center but Black is fully developed and has no weaknesses. Furthermore, the center looks impressive but with fewer pieces Black can maneuver his pieces without problems. Here Black could play e5 to start hitting the center or a4 to open another front on the queenside.

15...c5?!



Position after 15...c5

16.a4!

However now that the pawn structure has changed into a Maroczy bind White is definitely better, even with fewer pieces. Black will have a hard time breaking the central grip, especially due to the b5 square weakness. Thus, White can maneuver endlessly, probing for weaknesses, without worrying about annoying counterplay.

16...Qb6 17.Rb1 cxd4 18.Bxd4 Bxd4 19.Nxd4 Ne5?!

This seems odd - why not put the knight on c5, its natural square, since b4 is not a threat? Perhaps Nick was worried about an f4, e5 advance to target the black king. However, this would take time to prepare and also create potential weaknesses in the White position.

20.Qe2 Nc6 21.Nb5 Rac8 22.h3 Qc5 23.Rd5

[Diagram top of next column]

23...Qb4??



Position after 23.Rd5

A serious blunder since the queen has no retreat and is in danger of being trapped.

24.Qe3! Ne5

Nick was probably relying on this move which threatens Nc4 and prepares Rc5. He probably overlooked my next move which seals the deal. 25 Nc3 protects the rook and so stops the Nc4 threat. It also enables Rb5, driving the queen further into my territory, and simultaneously targets the b7 and a5 pawns. Black is simply lost.

25.Nc3 Rc5 26.Rdd1

Now the problem is Nd5 winning the e7 pawn since Black cannot afford time to guard it and also save his queen. 26...e6 would prevent this but weaken the d6-pawn and lead to material loss after 26...e6 27.Nb5 Rc6 28.Qa7.

26...Nc6 27.Nd5 Qa3 28.Qc3 Qa2 29.Rb2 Qa3 30.Rbd2

Giving up the exchange on d5 would prolong the game but not change the result.

30...Nb4 31.Nxe7+ Kf8 32.Rxd6 Rxd6 33.Rxd6 Rxc4 34.Qh8+ 1-0

Scholastic Players at the Oregon Open

By Owen McCoy

Every year, the Oregon Open brings together the top chess players in not just Oregon, but the whole Northwest. While most of the players are adults, there is a rapidly growing number of scholastic players trying their luck in the Open and Reserve sections. Many of these players live in Portland, but quite a few traveled from central Oregon, southern Oregon, and even Washington. Some of them did very well, and had very interesting games.

Clemen Deng (2018-2092) is in 12th grade this year, and was one of the four who finished with 5.0/6, in the process bringing down some very strong players, including NM Aaron Grabinsky (2328-2317). For all I know, it was his best tournament ever. (His FIDE rating, by

the way, went up even more.) He will probably meet Aaron again at the Oregon Junior Closed, which is coming up quickly.

The next scholastic player was Kyle Haining (2173-2212) at 4.5/6, also defeating "The Grabinsky". Kyle is a Sophomore, and a very highly rated one! And of course, from looking ahead, you will see that I will probably mention the name Gavin Zhang in here somewhere. And indeed I will. But not here!

Aaron did, however, win all four of his other games to make a respectable 4.0/6. He is also a senior, and will be battling against Clemen (among others) in the Oregon Junior Closed. He has been a National Master for a few years now. Many players will finally have a chance to win after he and Clemen graduate. (Not that I'm waiting impatiently for that to happen.)

Becca Lampman (2136-2136), Derek Zhang (2104-2111), Anthony He (2059-2083), and Sangeeta Dhingra (1909-1953), all came down from Washington to beat up the Oregon players. And judging by their 4.0/6 scores, it worked!

Not to be left unnoticed is "CM" Joshua Grabinsky (1887-1935), who while achieving a plus score, pulled his rating ahead of mine. (Not for much longer!) He and I also play frequently on Chess.com, and... well... It's hard to say who's actually better. And also, Gavin Zhang (1779-1873) (told you so!) had a great result overall, raising his rating 94 points, and raising his FIDE rating to who knows where! (See the game below for a sample of his awesomeness.)

To be fair, Jason Yu (2026-2012) is in fourth grade, and scored 3.0/6. (I find it amazing that his rating is so high at such a young age.) He, CM Joshua Grabinsky, and I were all playing blitz in the skittles room at one point, and Jason Yu was the one to first bring down Jason Cigan. Speaking of myself, Owen McCoy (1917-1909) matched that score. Naomi Bashkansky (1848-1885) and Abhinav Brahmarouthu (1849-1847) also finished with a dead even score.

Jack Woo McClain (1598-1613) tried his luck in the Open section for the first time, and I don't think he was unsatisfied with his result! He played some great games, and gained some rating points, and played bughouse with me and Sean Uan-Zo-Li, while we were watching Olympic hide-and-seek. (Long story.) He and I are, by the way, Bughouse State Co-Champions, going by the name of "the Jalapeno banana mans". (Not sure where exactly



Some play between games. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

that came from. See July 2015 issue, page eight.)

Nathan Lee, an 8th grader from Portland, played in the Reserve section. "This tournament is really great because I get to play against higher level players and I can learn from them." True to his word, he lost his first two games against higher rated adults, but after a bye in round three, he won his last three games and bumped his rating up 51 points. James Hansen (1506-1522) started a great tournament with 2.0/2, but only scored one more point in the next four rounds. Eric Erard (994P-1628P, wow!) had an amazing tournament for a third grader!

All of these young players played to the best of their respective abilities, and though some might not have done great this year, they will be back! And actually, everyone who played did well. (I'll let Brian Berger get to that stuff.)

Below is one of Gavin's games, and one of mine. Enjoy!

**Gavin Zhang (1787) –
Nikolay Bulakh (1957) [B22]**

Oregon Open (Open)
Portland, OR (R3), September 6, 2015
[Owen McCoy]

**1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 e6 5.Nf3
Nc6 6.Bc4 Nb6 7.Bb3 d5 8.exd6 Qxd6
9.Be3 c4?!**

This takes all of the pressure off of d4, and suddenly White has a very comfortable position.

10.Bc2 Nd5?

This is a great spot for the knight, but he really needs to develop and castle!

11.Nbd2!

Gavin doesn't mind losing the bishop pair, instead pressuring c4, which somehow is very hard to defend now!

11...b5 12.a4 Ba6

Forced.

13.axb5 Bxb5



Position after 13...Bxb5

14.Ba4!

Gavin sees (correctly) that if the bishops are traded, c4 will fall very soon.

14...Ba6

This loses material, but so did everything else!

15.Ne5

Ouch. 15.Bxc6+!? was an alternative, getting an attack on the bishop. 15...Qxc6 16.Ne5 Nxe3! 17.Nxc6 Nxd1 18.Rxa6 Nxb2 is probably better for White, but Black can still fight on. Gavin's move should win faster.

15...Bb7 16.Ndxc4 Qc7



Position after 16...Qc7

16 moves into the game and White is a pawn to the good, and totally dominating the game. Gavin finishes off nicely with

17.Bxc6+??

Or, maybe not. Gavin upon sending me this game said to put the "??" on that move, saying that 17.Na5! is completely winning. And it appears to be true. After 17...Nde7 18.Qf3! is crushing.

**17...Bxc6 18.Nxc6 Qxc6 19.Qa4 Qxa4
20.Rxa4 Be7 21.Kd2 f6 22.Rha1**

And White wins a second pawn. The rest is easy.

**22...Rc8 23.b3 Nb6 24.Nxb6 axb6
25.Ra8 Kd7 26.R1a7+ Kd6 27.Rxc8
Rxc8 28.Bf4+ e5 29.dxe5+ Ke6 30.exf6
Bxf6 31.Rc7 Ra8 32.Be3 Kd6 33.Rb7
1-0**

**Owen McCoy (1917) –
Peter Prochaska (2200) [B26]**

Oregon Open (Open)
Portland, OR (R2), September 5, 2015
[Owen McCoy]

I decided to use this game because I only received one other!

1.e4 e6 2.d3 c5 3.g3 Nc6 4.Bg2 d6

This move makes it clear that he is not playing the French defense, so I played

5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.Qd2 Nge7 8.Bh6

Exactly what you do against the Sicilian Dragon.

8...0-0

In my next round, we reached the same position, and Elias Stern-Rodriguez played 8...Bxh6 against me. I eventually got outplayed in that game.

9.h4!

Why capture immediately?

9...Nd4

Forcing me to exchange.

10.Bxg7 Kxg7 11.h5

Starting to look scary! Peter played

11...Ng8

which looks ugly, but in fact he doesn't

have a lot of good options.

12.hxg6 fxg6



Position after 12...fxg6

13.Nd1!

A common idea in the Closed Sicilian. White retreats his Knight to be able to play c3, chasing away the Knight on d4. It also opens up the possibility of going to e3, and possibly onwards to g4, as actually happened in the game.

13...Qf6

Trying to defend his suddenly besieged King.

14.c3 Nc6 15.Ne3 Kh8 16.Ng4 Qg7 17.0-0-0 Ne5

Trade?

18.Ne3!

No way!

18...b5 19.f4 Nf7 20.Ne2 Bb7 21.Rh2 Rab8 22.Rdh1 Nf6 23.Rf1 c4!?

Trying to undermine d4.

24.Nd4

Targeting e6.

24...Rfe8 25.f5 exf5 26.exf5 Rxe3!

Good defense.

27.Qxe3 Ng4 28.Qg1 Nxh2 29.Qxh2



Position after 29.Qxh2

29...Ne5?

This natural move turns out to lose by force! 29...Bxg2! first was correct, and only after 30.Qxg2 Ne5! Black now has a strong attack, but the game remains unclear. The text allowed me to have some fun!

30.Ne6!

Ignoring the check on d3.

30...Nxd3+ 31.Kd2!?

I didn't like 31.Kb1?! Qf6 32.fxg6 Qxg6 and Black has a discovered check with the knight.

31...Qf6

By now there is no defense.

32.Qh6!!

This is why he should've captured on g2 first!

32...Qe7

32...Bxg2 got mated after 33.fxg6!! Forcing mate! (Another reason why I put my King on d2 is that 33...Qxf1 would not be check! White now has a nice choice of checkmates, with 34.Qg7# Being my favorite.

33.f6! Qf7

33...Qxe6 34.Qg7#

34.Qg7+! Qxg7 35.fxg7+

Black resigned, as he will be mated in two.

1-0

Oregon Open Scholastic Event

By Owen McCoy

The Oregon Open 2015 was held yet again at the Hilton Doubletree in downtown Portland, on September 5-7, 2015. This report is about a side event that I actually played in last year. The Oregon Open Scholastic Tournament. I have no clue how they organized it, but apparently, they had three sections (based on ratings) called McCall, Atiyeh, and West. (Where the heck did those names come from?)

Aaron Probst of Washington (1602-1617) came in as the obvious favorite. And indeed, he went unbeaten with 3.5/4 sharing first place with Brian Lee (1293-1443) who picked up 150 points. Victor Dossin (1526-1546) was the only player with 3/3 going into the last round, but had a disappointing loss against Aaron in the last round. He and Nathaniel Serl (1381-1436) tied for second.

In the Atiyeh section, four (yes, four!) people tied for first: Erik Kellogg (1200-1296), Kabir Rathore Muthu (1123-1192), Ishaan Rao (1092-1176), and Alejandro McClain (1062-1200), all scored 3.0/4 with 3 wins and 1 loss each. (From looking at the crosstable, it seemed that there were no draws in the whole section!)

In the West section, Zack Riccelli (727-933) beat the *west* of the players to finish



*Perry Rachmuth.
Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.*

in clear first with a perfect 4.0/4. Perry Rachmuth (662-833) came second with 3.5, and Pierre Erard (936-922) and Scout More Imboden (579-814) both tied for third.

In conclusion, everyone who competed did very well! I am sure that a lot of these kids will be back again next year for the scholastic or, some might move up to the reserve or open!

September 2015 PCC Quad 45

By Brian Berger

Portland, OR—September 19, 2015

My arrival at the Portland Chess Club at 9:00 am for the monthly Quad 45 gave no indication of what to expect in the way of turnout on a beautiful [Saturday](#) morning. No cars were in the parking lot save the one owned by Chief TD Micah Smith, who has of late been minus an Assistant TD, due to Mike Lilly's abrupt departure to deal with health and family problems, and the very reason I was there early, to help however I could.

My curiosity as to what to expect for the day's attendance was soon satisfied when one by one 16 players (some coming with family members) offered me their money to register—some paying additional to play in the Blitz tournament held immediately after the finish of the Quads.

Among the entrants was a new face, expert player Patrick Van Dyke (2128-2119), visiting from Seattle, who found our own Dagadu Gaikwad (1809-1909) a formidable obstacle in Quad One, even though Van Dyke was rated 200 to 300 points higher than his opponents—the other two being Moshe Rachmuth (1903-1880) and Gerald Weaver (1849-1833).

Gaikwad's perfect 3.0 clinched the Quad, propelling him 100 points closer to his goal of reaching Expert, a goal Gaikwad has been edging towards for some time. Perhaps having just seen the movie "Pawn Sacrifice," inspired him to greater efforts this tournament, having told me before hand that it was a great movie. If that is the case, I'll try seeing it three or four times—can't hurt.

Quad two was won with a 2.0 score by none other than yours truly (1538-1569), by somehow managing to beat the recent winner of the Reserve Section at the Oregon Open, Karl Stump (1724-1700), and "fidget-master" Aaron Probst (1447-1479), whose combinations of contortionist movements are mesmerizing in their measureless numbers, with a distraction factor that is off the charts for unwary opponents. Luckily, I have grown stoic to these performances, having met the "fidget-master" many times before—but take this as a warning those of you who might someday encounter this perpetual-motion machine.

Quad three saw Kushal Pai (1209-1284) again the winner of his section (in August, rather than a Quad, it was a Small Swiss), by posting a perfect 3.0, leaving Robert Bowden (1274P-1266P) second with a 2.0. Also playing were Kyriakos Kypriotakis (1083P-1069P) with a 1.0, and Erin Cheng (900-872), who found herself 0.0 at the end, but always keeps a winning smile.

In contrast to her sister Erin, Megan Cheng (876-895) took control of Quad four, winning all of her games against the field of Kyle Ledda-Lewaren (Unrated-667P), Perry Rachmuth (360-378)

and Ethan Truong (368P-321P), with respective scores of 2.0, 1.0 and 0.0.

The ten rounds of blitz (G/3;d2) drew six participants, with our visitor from Seattle, Patrick Van Dyke (2130-2155), easily dominating a strong lineup with a very convincing 9.5/10. Included in that lineup were Seth Talyansky (2152-2139—7.5), David Yoshinaga (1700P-1842P—6.0) — who, although not known for his blitz prowess, showed that his "mumbo jumbo" approach to regular chess also works at faster speeds—Dagadu Gaikwad (1847-1850—5.0), Gerald Weaver (1804-1738—1.5), and the one hopeful who was terribly out-gunned rating-wise, Robert Bowden (1107-1121—0.5), yet still managed, given the strength of the other players, to add 14 points to his blitz rating for that dazzling half-a-point finish.

PCC September 2015 Game 60

By Brian Berger

Portland, OR—September 26, 2015

"OUCH!" I'll come back to that later. "Did you ever have one of THOSE days?" This also ties into the above, which I will soon further elaborate on. "What the HECK am I doing?" Also note above comments, which I will fill-in in due course.

The day of the Portland Chess Club's September Game 60 started out bright and cheery, with sun and a mild temperature greeting the 22 players who soon settled in to go four rounds of fairly fast-paced chess—one hour per side with a five second delay. It is a time control the younger crowd seems to enjoy, but can get a bit taxing for those with slower working brain tissue—but I'm not naming names.

Among those 22 players was Jerrold Richards (1363-1402—2.0/4), whom most of you know as the keeper of Morgan the Dog—or is it the other way round? Anyway, Morgan brought Jerrold

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Also, check out nwchess.com/blog/

along for some chess exercise. Morgan is conscious of the fact that Jerrold needs to be walked and given mental stimulation if he is ever to attain his hoped-for goal of reaching 1600, before it becomes evident that he no longer recognizes what a chess board is used for.

Evidently, the routine seems to be paying off, as Karl Stump (1700-1655—1.5/4) could not fail to notice, Jerrold out-foxing the recent winner of the Reserve Section at the Oregon Open. Last I noticed, Stump was seeing if he could hire Morgan the Dog to walk HIM and perhaps pass on a few chess pointers while doing so.

And speaking of pointers, that brings me back to my opening comments. Paired against Raymond Fletcher (1971-1966—3.0/4), I (1569-1526—1.0/4) crashed and burned, though I thought I had put up a gallant effort—at least for the first five moves. Paired next to the young David Roshu (944-1003—1.0/4), I estimated my chances were 50/50 that I could beat this kid—and although I did, it wasn't easy.

The pairing computer then thought, with such a great victory, that I should then face Moshe Rachmuth (1880-1870—2.5/4). Be it said that this was a better game than I had against Fletcher, in that it took at least 10 moves before I found myself in trouble, and another 30 before it dawned on me that what I thought was merely trouble, was actually *real* trouble, and I could have saved myself some wasted playing around with the pieces by resigning.

So then, the computer decided that with this great defeat, I needed someone more in my real rating area, and so paired me with the sister of David Roshu—Cassandra Roshu (888P-974P—2.0/4).



Carl Haessler Chess Master

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



Nick Raptis taking his 1st place \$60 winnings from Chief TD Lennart Bjorksten.
Photo credit: Brian Berger.

Who was I to complain? I mean, if I beat her brother, more highly rated, how bad could this be? Please refer to the opening comments to find the answer.

Playing White, I opened with the Queen's Gambit and immediately grabbed myself a hanging knight. I saw the look of resignation in my young opponent's eyes, and for a moment, and only a moment, felt a bit sad for the action. Now emboldened by my superior position and piece advantage, I played some following moves in a cavalier fashion, not heeding that the resignation I thought I saw in those eyes was really a determination to get even! And so, slowly, I was led down the path of destruction by positional preparations that foreshadowed a threat of checkmate along the g-file, causing me to resign. Great game Cassandra!

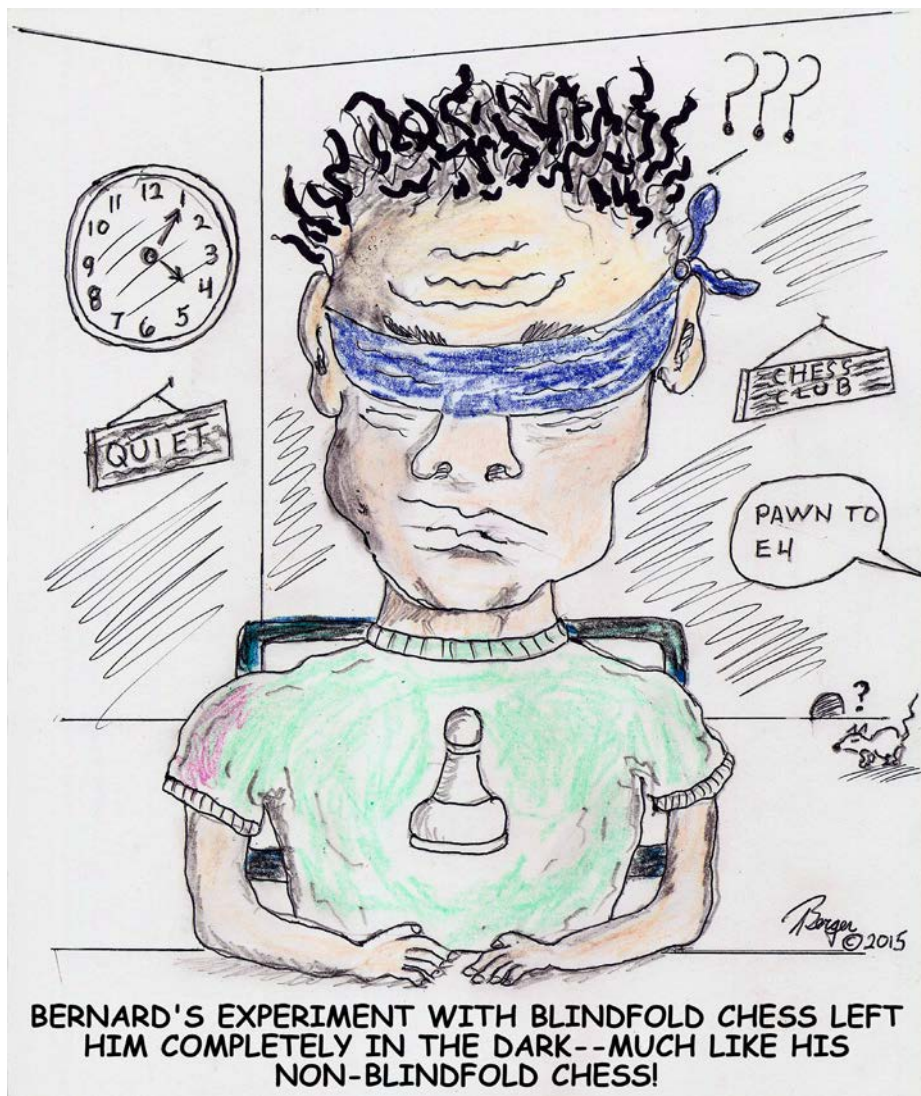
Okay, enough of my problems during the tournament—let's look at the lineup of winners for "Place" and "Class" prizes. First off, the winner of the whole shebang was none other than "The Raptor" himself, Nick Raptis (2379-2380—4.0/4), who seemingly spent more time looking at other players' games than he spent on his own, but still walked away \$60 richer for a perfect score.

Following in his footsteps were second and third place winners Raymond Fletcher, Steve Surak (1914-1931—3.0/4), David Murray (1851-1871—3.0/4) and Danny Phipps (1824-1847—3.0/4), the combination of \$40 second place and \$30 third place monies giving them \$17.50 each to brag about to whomever.

Lesser bragging rights went to the top U1800 players, Ethan Wu (1785-1777—2.0/4), Roland Eagles (1707-1700—2.0/4), Michael Moore (1570-1568—2.0/4), and Nicholas Brown (1545-1545—2.0/4), who split up the \$35 prize into four even smaller amounts of \$8.75 each—and come to think of it, what's to brag about?

Lastly, two players tied for the U1500 prize of \$35: Jerrold Richards, who I mentioned earlier, and Cassandra Roshu, she of the "get even don't get mad" philosophy. Their split came to \$17.50 each—Richards using his money to buy Morgan the Dog some special doggy treats for getting him in shape for this tournament, and Cassandra possibly using hers to celebrate taking away 43 rating points from an old man that beat her brother.

Lennart Bjorksten as Chief TD (and new at this position) did a great job of moving things along, given some assistance from Mike Janniro (2000-2002—1.0) who sat in for one game against Nicholas Brown.



The 2015 Elmars Zemgalis Memorial Northwest Chess Grand Prix

By Murlin Varner, Administrator

With three months to go, Michael Munsey still leads in Washington with 179.5 points, 31 ahead of Anthony He. In Oregon, Nick Raptis leads with the highest 2015 GP point total of 184.5. Mike Hasuike closely follows, just 16.5 points behind. In Idaho, we have our fourth leader in as many months, where the top two are both recent transplants from Washington. Jeremy Krasin, formerly of Washington, leads with 47 points, just 8.5 ahead of Travis Miller, formerly of Alaska, and 13 ahead of longtime Idaho resident Ron Weyland.

Altogether, we have had 600 people enter into one or more Grand Prix events during 2015. This is a little behind the record pace set in 2014 when 767 people had played by year's end. Still, there are many events on our calendar to draw in players to threaten that record, and every month brings back someone else who hasn't played in a long while. During the month of October, the opportunities to add players was rather limited, as there were only six GP events held, but one of them was the triple value Portland Fall Open.

November brings a larger opportunity, and the race to the finish will be in full stride by the time the month ends. The month begins with the Oregon Class Championship on Halloween weekend at the Lloyd Center Doubletree Hotel. This is a 2x event in five sections. No mention is made as to the wearing of costumes.

The next weekend (Nov. 7-8) offers another 2x event, the Washington Challengers' Cup at the Seattle Chess Club. The third weekend (Nov. 13-15) gives us the third 2x event in a row, the SCC Extravaganza!, as well as a 1x event in Twin Falls, the Southern Idaho Open. The weekend of the 21st and 22nd provides two regular events, the PCC Game/60 in Portland on Saturday and the SCC Tornado on Sunday. November then wraps up with the largest remaining GP event of the year, the 4x Washington Class Championship. With four of seven events carrying multipliers, and only one overlapping pair of events, no lead shown below is safe during November. Be sure to attend and get your share of all the GP points being handed out.

Standings below are current through October 7.

Northwest Grand Prix Standings

Idaho			Oregon			Washington					
last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.			
			Masters								
			1	Raptis	Nick	184.5	1	Schill	William J	118	
			2	Bjorksten	Lennart	75.5	2	Pupols	Viktors	115	
			3	Grabinsky	Aaron	64	3	Haining	Kyle	96.5	
			4	Haessler	Carl A	39	4	Tiglon	Bryce	58.5	
			5	Prochaska	Peter	31	5	Feng	Roland	56	
M/X/Class A			Experts								
1	Krasin	Jeremy A	47	1	Cigan	Jason	94	1	He	Anthony B	148.5
2	Bodie	Brad	31	2	Saputra	Yogi	71	2	Yu	Jason	125
3	Lucky	David	15	3	Talyansky	Seth D	62	3	Nagase	Toshihiro	74
4	Inman	James	12.5	4	Heywood	Bill	60	3	Lampman	Becca	68.5
5	Two Tied At	11	5	Roring	Tres	47	5	Zhang	Brendan	62.5	
Class B			Class A								
1	Miller	Travis J	38.5	1	Murray	David E	97	1	Baxter	Brent L	106.5
2	Roland	Jeffrey T	25	2	Phipps	Danny	88	2	Kuhner	Mary K	87.5
3	Griggs	Glenn	18	3	Zhang	Gavin	79	3	Bashkansky	Naomi	82
4	Hawkins	Nicholas B	16	4	Goffe	Michael P	65	4	Zhang	Eric M	78.5
5	Buus	Jarod N	11.5	5	Grabinsky	Joshua	54.5	3	Yeo	Noah	69.5

Idaho			Oregon			Washington					
last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.			
Class C			Class B								
1	Weyland	Ron	34	1	Hasuike	Mike L	168	1	Buck	Stephen J	83.5
2	Naccarato	Savanna	27.5	2	Eagles	Roland	95.5	2	Anthony	Ralph J	81
3	Jaroski	Jeffrey A	23.5	3	Samillano	Jazon	84	3	Puri	Ishaan	76
4	Lombardi	George	13.5	4	Wu	Ethan	62.5	3	Stump	Karl	71.5
5	Zaklan	David A	12.5	5	McClain	Jack W	56	5	Deng	Samuel	69
Class D			Class C								
1	Porth	Desmond	5	1	Berger	Brian F	101.5	1	Munsey	Michael R	179.5
2	Porth	Adam	4	2	Dietz	Arliss	61.5	2	Piper	August	121
3	Dominick	Matthew T	3	3	Kenway	Geoffrey W	53	3	Anand	Vignesh	113
3	Nyblade	Wesley, III	3	4	Hansen	James J	46	4	Richards	Jerrold	112
			5	Romero	Henry G	41.5	5	Xuan	Owen	94.5	
Class E and Below			Class D and Below								
1	Hiatt	Arlene	14.5	1	Buerer	Harry F	28.5	1	Tien	Sophie	61
2	Naccarato	Chris D	12.5	2	Gupta	Rohit	27	2	Casey	Braxton W	57
2	Fister	Joel S	9	3	Kypriotakis	Kyriakos	23	3	Mahajan	Rushaan	53
4	Nathan	Oliver E	5	4	Uan-Zo-Li	Sean A	21	4	Huang	Andy	53
5	Courtney	Caleb	4.5	4	Kodithyala	Raj	21	5	Jiang	Brandon	47.5
Overall Leaders, by State											
1	Krasin	Jeremy A	47	1	Raptis	Nick	184.5	1	Munsey	Michael R	179.5
2	Miller	Travis J	38.5	2	Hasuike	Mike L	168	2	He	Anthony B	148.5
3	Weyland	Ron	34	3	Berger	Brian F	101.5	3	Yu	Jason	125
4	Bodie	Brad	31	4	Murray	David E	97	4	Piper	August	121
5	Naccarato	Savanna	27.5	5	Eagles	Roland	95.5	5	Schill	William J	118
6	Roland	Jeffrey T	25	6	Cigan	Jason	94	6	Pupols	Viktors	115
7	Jaroski	Jeffrey A	23.5	7	Phipps	Danny	88	7	Anand	Vignesh	113
8	Griggs	Glenn	18	8	Samillano	Jazon	84	8	Richards	Jerrold	112
9	Hawkins	Nicholas B	16	9	Zhang	Gavin	79	9	Baxter	Brent L	106.5
10	Lucky	David	15	10	Bjorksten	Lennart	75.5	10	Haining	Kyle	96.5
11	Hiatt	Arlene	14.5	11	Saputra	Yogi	71	11	Xuan	Owen	94.5
12	Lombardi	George	13.5	12	Goffe	Michael P	65	12	Kuhner	Mary K	87.5

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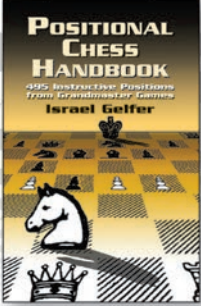
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How to Find the SCC

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.

January 3

Format: 4-SS. Open to U1200 and UNR. **TC:** G/75; d5. **EF:** \$11 by 12/30, \$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.

December 5

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

Nov. 22, Dec. 20

Format: 4-SS. **TC:** G/60; d5 (or G/64; d0). **EF:** \$18 (+\$7 fee for non-SCC). **Prizes:** 1st 35%, 2nd 27%, Bottom Half 1st 22%, 2nd 16% (\$10 from each EF goes to prize fund). **Reg:** 10:30-11:15 a.m. **Rds:** 11:30-1:50-4:10-6:30. **Misc:** USCF, WCF/OCF/ICA memb. req'd, OSA. NS, NC.

SCC Novice

Saturday Quads

Sunday Tornado

Music-Playing Chess Kids Alert

Concert planning has begun! Please contact kleistcf@aol.com if you are an elementary through college student and willing to share your instrument, i.e., play in the concert. Date and venue to be decided.

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!

November Rains: 11/6, 13, 20.

CLOSED (Go to WA Class): 11/27.

C.B. Bagley Mem.: 12/4, 11, 18.

CLOSED (Christmas Day): 12/25.

WCF @ SCC

Nov. 7-8 — WA Chal. Cup

8th SCC Extravaganza!!

November 13-15, 2015

A two-section, seven-round Swiss with a time control of **G/90; d5** (Two-day option — rounds 1 & 2 @ G/45; d5). The prize fund of **\$1000** is based on 60.

Open: \$200-140, U2200 100, U2000 100

Reserve (U1800): First \$140-100, U1600 70, U1400 70, U1200 60, UNR 20

Entry Fee: \$40 by 11/11 (\$30 for SCC members, \$35 for members of other dues-required CCs in WA, OR, & BC), \$48 at site (\$36 for SCC members, \$42 for members of other dues-required CCs in WA, OR, & BC).

Registration: Friday 7-7:45 p.m. Saturday 9-9:45 a.m. Rounds: Friday 8 p.m., Saturday 11-2:30-6, Sunday 11-2:30-6.

Two-Day Option: Rounds 1 & 2 Saturday 10-12. Byes: 3 available; 1 for rounds 5-7, must commit before round 3.

Miscellaneous: USCF & ICA/OCF/WCF membership required. OSA. NC, NS.

Ent/Info: SCC Tnmt Dir, 2420 S 137 St, Seattle WA 98168. 206-417-5405 (recorded message); kleistcf@aol.com.

Upcoming Events

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

♂ **Oct 31-Nov 1** Oregon Class Championship, **Portland, OR** (See <http://www.nwchess.com/calendar/TA.htm>)

♂ **Nov 7-8** Washington Challenger's Cup, **Seattle, WA.** (Half-page ad on page 9)

♂ **Nov 14** Southern Idaho Open, **Twin Falls, ID.** Site: Best Western Twin Falls, 1377 Blue Lakes Blvd N, Twin Falls, Idaho. Contact Amy Perkins for room rates, 208-736-8000. DO NOT RESERVE ROOMS ONLINE OR NO ROOM RATE DISCOUNT. 4SS. Game/60;d5. 2 Sections: "Open" and "U1400 Reserve" (Sections may be combined based on entries). Prizes (based on 30): Open: \$150, \$125, \$100, \$75. U1400 Reserve \$100, \$75, \$50. Entry Fee: \$30 (\$25 if under 18 or 60+ years old) if registered by November 8, 2015. Special Family Rate of \$60. \$5 more for all if received after November 8, 2015. E-mail entry will lock in advance entry rate. USCF Membership required. Registration: 8:00-8:30 a.m. Saturday, November 14, 2015. Round Times: Saturday 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 3:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m. Half-point bye (maximum 1) available rounds 1-3 only. First round byes must notify TD before round is paired, all others, before round 2 is paired. Entries: Barry Eacker, 963 Delmar Dr., Twin Falls, ID 83301. 208-733-6186 or email: mol64@cableone.net, www.idahocheessassociation.org. Make all checks payable to Idaho Chess Association. No Computer, No Smoking, Wheelchair access.

♂ **Nov 21/Dec 26** Portland CC Game in 60, Portland, OR. 4SS, G/60;d5. Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave., Portland, OR - Map. If 30 or more entries the field will be divided into 2 sections by ratings. 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: If one section (\$200/b20) \$60-\$40-\$30; U1800, U1500 \$35 each. If two sections - upper section \$75-50-25 (b/15); lower section \$65-35; U1400 \$50 (b/15). No tiebreakers (prizes split). OSCF State Qualifier. Info: e-mail email@pdxchess.org, phone 503-246-2978, website www.pdxchess.org.

♂ **Nov 27-29** Washington Class Championships, **Seattle, WA.** (Full-page ad on page 10)

♂ **Dec 12-13** Northwest Chess Open, **Seattle, WA.** Site: Seattle Chess Club, 2150 N 107th St, Seattle, WA. 5 Rd Swiss: TC = 40/90, SD/30, No Delay. Registration 8:30-9:15 a.m. 12/13 or preregistered. Rounds Saturday: 9:30, 2:00, 6:30, Sunday 10:00 and 3:00. Entry Fee: \$25.00 in advance, \$30.00 at door. Prize fund \$550 based on 25 entries; 1st 125, 2nd 75, under 2000, \$75.00, under 1800 \$75.00 under 1600 \$75.00 under 1400 \$75.00. Under 1200 \$ 50.00. Prizes Increased if Over 35 Entries. Additional books and *Northwest Chess* magazine subscription prizes as entries permit. Current USCF Membership is required, available at site or online at www.uschess.org. State membership not required, but of course we want to sign you up. This is a fund raising event for *Northwest Chess* magazine. 1/2 point bye available in advance or by the end of Round 1. TD - Duane Polich, Publisher NWC. Make checks payable to Duane Polich and send to 17317 Woodcrest Drive NE, Bothell, WA 98011, or enter online at www.nwchess.com/online-registration (when available). (Quarter-page ad on page 11)

♂ **Dec 12-13** Portland Winter Open, **Portland, OR.** Site: Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave, Portland, OR. Format: USCF-rated, two days, two sections (Open and U1800), 5-round Swiss. Time Control: 40/90, SD/30, d5. Byes: 2 half-point byes available if requested before 1st round. Entry fee: \$35, \$10 discount to PCC members. Registration: 9:00-9:45 a.m. on Saturday. Limited to first 50 entrants. Rounds: Saturday 10:00, 2:15 & 7:00; Sunday 10:00 & 2:15. Prizes: \$650 based on 40 total entries. Open: 1st \$150, 2nd \$100, U2000 \$75; Reserve: 1st \$100, 2nd \$75; U1600, U1400, U1200/unrated each \$50. No tiebreakers used, prizes split between players with the same results. Memberships: USCF and OCF/WCF required and can be purchased/renewed at registration, OSA. OCF Invitational Qualifier. OSCF State Qualifier.

♂ **Dec 19** Christmas Congress, **Tacoma, WA.** Place: 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 each Quad. Registration: 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, web: www.tacomachess.org.

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