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2017 State Champions. Top (L) Matt Zavortink: Oregon.
Top (R) David Lucky: Idaho. Bottom Roland Feng (L) and
Nick Raptis (co-champions): Washington. Photo credits:
Grisha Alpernas, Adam Porth, and Josh Sinanan.

On the back cover:

T-Shirt showing back of Jeffrey Bret Hall at the 2017 Idaho
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From the Editor's Desk

This is a pretty special issue. It covers all three Northwest State Championships, which each year ends on the same day (this year, that was February 20, 2017).

There were some very interesting and well played games from these state championships. Corey Russell annotated every one of his nine games from the Oregon Closed Championship and every one of those is presented in this issue. And we don't stop there. There are lots of games and other things in this issue!

I don't have a lot to say at this time other than a lot of work went into the production of this issue. And I hope a lot of enjoyment can be taken from it.

I really appreciated all the contributions of material for this issue and I hope everyone continues to submit material to editor@nwchess.com.

Thank you!

IM Nikolay Mineev (1931-2017)

Seattle, WA — March 10, 2017

In Memoriam—IM Nikolay Mineev (1931-2017)—Sources say that Dr. Mineev passed away on the evening of March 10. He was born in Bulgaria in 1931, and was champion of his native country in 1953, 1965 and 1966. In the 1980s he emigrated to the United States and settled in the Seattle area. He was a regular contributor to Yasser Seirawan's fine magazine, *Inside Chess*. He was the author or co-author of over two dozen chess books. Among his best-known works were Mastering Tactical ideas and the outstanding two-volume biographical work on Akiva Rubinstein which he co-authored with John Donaldson. RIP Nikolay...

This happened after our March 5th deadline. It is hoped that we can bring a more detailed report next month.—Editor.

Oregon State Championship

By Grisha Alpernas

Oregon Closed 2017 started on Saturday, February 11, and finished on Monday, February 20. Total of 90 games were played in the Championship and Invitational sections, and the tournaments have been rated both by US Chess and FIDE.

Whites won 19 games in the

Championship section, with Blacks claiming 11 wins and 15 games ending in draw. Seth Talyansky had the most draws—five, but it does not at all indicated a peaceful nature of his game: he was fighting for the win every time, and the length of his games is the best proof of it with only one of them being shorter than 40 moves. Carl Haessler had the least number of draws—just one. The invitational section was more balanced between white and black pieces, with Whites claiming 14 wins, Blacks—12 wins, and 19 draws. Jerry Sherrard ended with a draw in six of his games, while the lowest number—just one draw—was in Sean Tobin and Jose Gatica final results.

As the Chief TD of Oregon Closed for the last several years, I expected some anomalies during the tournament. After all, the previous several years witnessed withdrawals, forfeits, re-scheduled games, complaints, cheating accusations, weather triggered schedule changes, and more disturbances that inevitably impacted the flow of the tournament. But despite all the weather challenges that we experienced this winter, the tournament was as smooth as any tournament may hope to be. Literally, we did not have any issues—other than over-the-board drama of missed opportunities, blunders, or pure brilliancy of the talented group of participants.

And we did have plenty of brilliancy, as well as some blunders and missed opportunities. We also had an interesting and tense intrigue in the run for the Championship: after 5 rounds it seemed that the road forward will be smooth for Seth Talyansky, who crossed the middle

point of the tournament with 4 wins and one draw, one full point ahead of the closest competitor—who he already had drawn in round 3. But the tables turned at that pivotal moment: while Seth could not get another win in the last four rounds, Matt Zavortink finished with strong four wins and not only eliminated a one point deficit, but finished the tournament one point ahead of the second place winner Seth. Congratulations to the new Oregon champion Matt Zavortink! Two veteran masters, Carl Haessler and Corey Russell, shared third place with 4.5 points, full two points behind Seth.

The Invitational Section did not have such an intrigue: Tres Roring was either sole leader, or part of the leadership group for the whole tournament, and finished in first place with 6.5 points, thus securing the seat in the Championship Section in 2018. Tres was the only player in that section that finished the tournament without losses. Phil Seitzer finished half point behind and took second place, while third place with 5 points was shared by two veteran experts—Mike Morris and Paul Shannon.

As with any tournament, some of the players were very happy with the results, while others were disappointed. Some players were happy with their play in at least some of the games, while others did not perform to the level of their own expectations. This is natural part of our chess life. But I would like to say that it was probably the first tournament in my TD experience over the last 15 years when regardless of the results, happiness or disappointments, all players showed real sportsmanship of the highest caliber—



Championship section. L-R: Steven Deeth, Ryan Richardson, Ben Smail, Joshua Grabinsky, Corey Russell, Lennart Bjorksten, Carl Haessler, Jason Cigan, and Matt Zavortink. (Missing: Seth Talyansky). Photo credit: Grisha Alpernas.

which made my role much easier to play. Big “Thank You” to all the players from me personally and on behalf of the Oregon Chess Federation.

**Steven Deeth (2112) –
Corey Russell (2205) [E84]**
Oregon Closed (Championship)
Portland, OR (R1), February 11, 2017
[Corey Russell]

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.f3
Nc6 6.Be3 a6**

Prior to this game, I had never lost with this line. That streak sadly is at an end. However, the result was good in a way—in part to this loss, I decided to play more classically vs. Carl Haessler, which turned out quite well.

7.Qd2 Rb8 8.Rc1

Here, White forfeits queen-side castling and basically declares he intends the positional approach. It made no more sense to delay castling for me.

8...0-0 9.Nge2 Bd7 10.Nd1

This position is not open and plus White has so much space is how white is getting away with such moves as this. It should be noted that ...b5 isn't all that great since then c5 is a good response.

**10...Ne8 11.Nf2 e5 12.d5 Ne7 13.g3 f5
14.Bg2**

[Diagram top of next column]

I was starting to get worried by this point. Black very nearly has no moves. I was a bit desperate, so tried something positionally suspect, but I really don't see an alternative to my text here.

14...c5 15.dxc6 Bxc6 16.0-0



Position after 14.Bg2

Simple and strong. Otherwise I could have done fun stuff like 16...fxe4 17.fxe4 Nf5! Now what?

16...Nf6

I don't like this move now—it blocks the bishop and rook for almost no gain. The alternative was 16...Nc7 but was worried about 17.Bb6. However now I see Black has the good rejoinder of 17...Nc8 18.Ba5 b6 19.Bb4 a5 followed by ...Na6 and ...Nc5. Black would have reasons to play on in that position.

17.Nc3 b5 18.b3!

The best response by White, once again denying Black play.

**18...b4 19.Nd5 Nexd5 20.cxd5 Bb5
21.Rfe1 Nh5**

White has a strong response to this idea. In hindsight, think 21...a5 is better.

22.Nh3 f4

Originally was thinking 23.gxf4 exf4 24.Nxf4? Bc3! and it looked fun! However, has so much better instead Nf4—Bd4 and Black is getting positionally steamrolled.

Thus I tried a rather desperate idea.

**23.gxf4 Bd7 24.fxe5 Bxh3 25.Bxh3 Bxe5
26.Be6+ Kh8 27.Bd4 Qf6 28.Bxe5 Qxe5**



Position after 28...Qxe5

29.Rc4

Unfortunately for me, a very strong move for White. White is definitely better here.

**29...Rxf3 30.Qd4 Nf4 31.Qxe5+ dxe5
32.Bg4 Rc3 33.Rc1 h5**

Probably the losing move. I overlooked White's strong reply. Instead ...Rxc1 first then the text was correct.

**34.R1xc3! bxc3 35.Bd1 Kg7 36.Rxc3
Kf6**

I could see White could win a pawn with Rc6 and Rxa6. However, I saw some perpetual check ideas using my king, rook and knight. White has been denying me counterplay the whole game, and he didn't stop now.

**37.Kf2 Kg5 38.Kg3 h4+ 39.Kf2 Rb4
40.Rc4 Rb6 41.a3 Rf6 42.Bf3 Nd3+
43.Ke2 h3 44.Rc6 Rf4**

This is kind of a mistake, as the black knight needs this escape square. But



Invitational Section. L-R: Jose Gatica, Paul Shannon, Karl Cosner, Mike Morris, Sean Tobin, Danny Phipps, Robert Hamm, and Tres Roring. (Missing: Jerry Sherrard and Phillip Seitzer). Photo credit: Grisha Alpernas.

there's still no saving the position after the slightly more accurate 44...Rf8.

45.Rc3!



Position after 45.Rc3

Uh-oh...

45...Nb2

White took a long time on this move. I was wondering what he was looking at—simply Kd2 and Kc2 and my knight is trapped. I was actually going to resign had he played it right away. So I started looking more deeply myself and saw what he was worried about: ...Kh4!, ...g5 and ...g4 and with the idea of Rf2 and Rxh2—even down a piece Black actually might be able to win that.

46.Rc2 Nd1

Surely 46...Nd3 is better threatening the cheapo ...Rxf3 and Ne1+

47.Rc6 a5 48.a4 Nb2 49.Re6 Rf8 50.d6

There's no more resistance after this. E.g., 50...Kf4 51.Rxg6 and Black's going to get mated with ...Rg4.

1-0

Corey Russell (2205) –

Jason Cigan (2230) [B95]

Oregon Closed (Championship)

Portland, OR (R2), February 11, 2017

[Corey Russell]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 Nbd7 7.Qd2

I could transpose into main-line type stuff with f4 and Qf3 but I think Black is fine in those lines. So I decided to try something different.

7...e6 8.f3 b5 9.0-0-0 Bb7 10.a3

The white QN is doing important work—any other square is a lot worse than where it is now—the white KB doesn't have anywhere good to go anyways, so took a time out to secure the knight here.

10...Be7

Kingside pawn storm didn't make much sense as Black hasn't declared himself yet. f4 is out of the question due to the pressure on e4. Therefore I chose the plan of the text.

11.g3 Rc8 12.Bh3 0-0!



Position after 12...0-0

Inviting White to sacrifice. I didn't see anything better and technically I win a pawn—however, due to Black's activity he certainly has compensation.

13.Bxe6 fxe6 14.Nxe6 Qa5 15.Nxf8 Kxf8

I would have liked to play Nd5 here but that loses material to ...Qxd2. But I can't wait around as ...Nd6-c4 is huge for Black.

16.Bf4 Ne5 17.Bxe5 dxe5

Nd5 still doesn't work—18.Nd5? Qxd2 19.Rxd2 (else d5 falls) Nxd5 20.exd5 Bg5 wins material for Black.

18.Kb1

This gives up a pawn, but it threatens Nd5—also in the coming endgame I thought White had the better chances (because in endgames, R+P are often better than the two minors—the two minors are usually better in the middle game.)

18...Bxa3 19.bxa3 Rxc3 20.Qd6+ Kf7 21.Rd3 Bc8 22.Kb2 Rxd3 23.Qxd3 Be6

24.Qc3

Forces the endgame with the dual threats on a5 and e5.

24...Qxc3+ 25.Kxc3 Bc4 26.Re1

To stop threat of ...Be2.

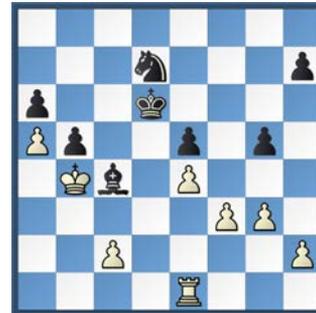
26...g5!

Limiting White's pawns certainly seems sensible.

27.a4 Ke6 28.Kb4 Nd7 29.a5

Trading seems drawish. This move can be risky but if I could ever win the a6-pawn, then my a pawn could be huge.

29...Kd6



Position after 29...Kd6

30.Rd1+?

A mistake. Instead 30.h4! gxh4 31.gxh4 with the idea of Rg1 and penetration on the g-file. Notice Black has to be careful, e.g. if White played Rg7 then ..Nf6, then Ra7 would win the a-pawn. After the text the game should be drawn.

30...Kc6 31.Rd2 h5 32.h4 gxh4 33.gxh4 Bf1 34.Rf2 Bh3 35.Rh2 Bf1 36.Rf2

A draw was agreed here. Any attempt to win by either side leads to likely loss. Note f4? seems dubious—e.g. 36...Bh3 37.f4?! exf4 38.Rxf4 Kd6 and Black's pieces cover everything, as well as threatens ...Ke5.

1/2-1/2

Carl Haessler (2233) –

Oregon Russell (2205) [E04]

Oregon Closed (Championship)

Portland, OR (R3), February 12, 2017

[Corey Russell]





Carl Haessler Chess Master
 503-875-7278 ■ carl@chessworksNW.com
 chessworksNW.com

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4

I've tried KID against Carl before, he always seems to get the upper hand. He's just too good with more space. Therefore, decided to get some space of my own.

2...e6 3.g3 d5 4.Bg2 c6 5.0-0 Nbd7

Threatens ...dxc4. I think Qc2 or b3 is needed here.

6.d4 dxc4

White ignored Black's threat. But now Black gets a really good game.

7.a4 a5!

An important move. e.g. 8.Qc2 b5 9.axb5 cxb5 10.Ne5 (threatens R on a8) then either Rb8 or a7 leads to fork on c6—but now Black has Ra6 and he's fine.

8.Qc2 b5 9.Bg5

Unless White intended to take on f6 (which he wasn't), a rather pointless move. To me here, Rd1 seems logical.

9...Bb7 10.e4

Threatens a kind of positional trap—e.g., if I did ...Be7 then e5 trade bishops then a White QN could come to d6—fortunately I knew about that so didn't allow it.

10...h6 11.Bf4 Be7 12.Nc3

White wanted to break d5—so I push his knight away to make that less desirable.

12...b4 13.Nd1 0-0



Position after 13...0-0

14.Re1

Carl of course was not going to fall for the obvious skewer with 14.Qxc4? Ba6.

14...c5

Because White's forces are somewhat in disarray with his knight on d1, now was the perfect time to open up some lines.

15.d5

Desperation. The pressure on e4 was annoying White, but e5 Nd5 gives White serious problems.

15...exd5 16.e5

Originally was going to play ...Ne8 but then noticed e6 would be very annoying—so blocked the file instead.

16...Ne4 17.Nd2

I spent a lot of time here. ...f5 seems problematic as e6 followed by f3 and that e-pawn would be a dagger at my throat and be very difficult to remove (would weaken g6 too). Note also 17...Ng5? 18.Bxg5 Bxg5 19.Nxc4! wins White a pawn. So eventually decided I'm up two pawns let's trade pieces.

17...Nxd2 18.Bxd2

Necessary—otherwise 18.Qxd2? g5! 19.Be3 Nxe5 is great for Black.

18...Nb6

I didn't want White to play e6 with tempo—the text also shores up defense of Black's pawns on d5 and c4.

19.f4 Ra7

This was played to prevent Ne3. White probably has to play f5 now, though Black easily has a clear advantage here.

20.Ne3



Position after 20.Ne3

20...c3! +- 21.bxc3 bxc3 22.Bxc3 d4 23.Red1 Qa8

This is the move I saw four moves ago—without it Black's not winning.

24.Rab1 Bd8

A little clumsy but we don't want the white knight coming to c4 for free. Once we win our material we'll work on un-jumbling our pieces.

25.e6 Bxg2 26.Nxg2 dxc3 27.exf7+ Raxf7 28.Qxc3 c4

Opening up the g1-a7 diagonal seemed like the fastest way to win and far better than pawn grubbing with ...Nxa4? 29.Qc4 which would give White counterplay.

29.Ne3 Qe4 30.Re1 Bf6 31.Qxa5 Bd4 32.Qd2 Nd5

Black's pressure is overwhelming. Carl decides it's time to throw in the towel here.

0-1

Steven B. Deeth (2112) –
Carl A. Haessler (2233) [D55]
Oregon Closed (Championship)
Portland, OR (R4), February 12, 2017
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bg5 Be7 6.e3 0-0 7.Bd3

The exchange line of the Queen's Gambit is often played these days with the Botvinnik/Kasparov plan of developing the g-knight to e2 and expanding in the center with f3 and e4.

7...b6?

The QGD is an odd, rather passive choice for someone with Haessler's style, and this move shows he's winging it.

More common, and much better, are defence of the d-pawn with 7...c6,; preparing the possible recapture ...Nxf6 with 7...Nbd7,; or tactically suggesting a possible e-file pin with 7...Re8, since 8.Bxf6 Bxf6 9.Qh5 g6 10.Qxd5 Bxd4 leaves Black happy.



Position after 7...b6

8.Nf3?

Rather casual opening play by both players. The bishop went to g5 why? In case there's an opportunity to take f6, of course. Instead we transpose into known theory, slightly favoring White, but usually reached when White plays Nf3 before Bd3. 8.Bxf6 Bxf6 9.Qh5 g6 10.Qxd5 is the opportunity, swallowing a center pawn, and leaving Black less than thrilled with the position.

8...Bb7 9.Qc2 Nbd7 10.0-0

10.0-0-0!?

10...c5 11.dxc5

11.Ne5!?, or 11.Rfd1±

11...bxc5 12.Be2

Anticipating ...d4, though White has other means of meeting this. For example: 12.Rfd1 d4 13.Bxf6 Nxf6 14.Be2 Bxf3 15.Bxf3 Rc8 16.Qa4∞. We might expect Carl to find a way to part with his queen for rook and minor in this line somewhere, but all attempts appear to be unsound.

12...Rc8 13.Rfd1 Qb6 14.Qb3 Bd6 15.Qxb6 axb6 16.Bb5

16.Nh4!?, aims at the f5-square while freeing f3 for a possible bishop to add pressure on the d5-pawn.

16...h6 17.Bh4 g5 18.Bg3 Bxg3 19.hxg3 Rfd8 20.Rac1 Kg7 21.a3 Nf8 22.Na4 Rd6

[Diagram top of next page]



Position after 22...Rd6

23.b4! Ne6 24.Ne5 Ne7 25.Bd3 Re6?!

25...Ne6!?±

26.Bf5 Rxe5 27.Bxc8 Bxc8 28.Nxb6 Bg4 29.f3 Bf5?!

29...Rxe3!?

30.Rxc5 Ne6 31.Rc3 g4 32.Kf2?

Now we see endless and highly complex maneuvering during which both sides miss apparent chances in irregular positions involving material imbalance, exposed king, and passed pawns.

Carl must have been ecstatic. 32.f4! Re4 33.Nxd5+—

32...Ng5 33.Rcc1 Be6

33...Bg6!∞ 34.e4 (34.Rd4!? Ne6 35.b5! Nxd4 36.exd4 is an odd line claimed to be dead equal by Stockfish.; 34.a4 Rf5 35.Ke2 gxf3+ 36.gxf3 Rxf3 37.Nxd5 Nxd5 38.Rxd5 Rxc3) 34...gxf3 35.gxf3 dxe4 36.f4 e3+ gives Black excellent play:

34.a4 Rf5 35.f4 Nge4+ 36.Ke2 Nxc3+ 37.Kd2?!

37.Kd3

37...Nfe4+

37...d4!∞ Black opens up quite a lot of piece play against the white king, but White can race the a-pawn toward the last rank.

38.Kc2 Ne2 39.Ra1 d4 40.exd4 Rxf4 41.d5

41.Rf1∞

41...Bf5 42.Kb3 Nd6



Position after 42...Nd6

43.Rd2

43.Rf1 Re4 44.Rfe1 g3!/? may give Black

an edge: 45.Rad1 (45.a5 and the knights dance: 45...Nd4+ 46.Kc3 N4b5+ 47.Kb3 Rf4 48.Re3 Nd4+ 49.Kc3 Bg6 50.Rae1 N4f5 51.R3e2 Nb5+ 52.Kb2 Rxb4+) 45...Bg4 46.Ka3 Rf4

43...Re4

43...Nd4+ 44.Kb2 Nc2! 45.Rxc2 Rxb4+ 46.Ka3 Rxb6 47.Rc6 Rxc6 48.dxc6 Be4 is close to winning for Black.

44.Rf1

44.a5 Nd4+ 45.Ka4 N4b5 46.a6 Re7∞

44...Ng3 45.Rc1 Re3+ 46.Ka2?

46.Kb2 Nge4 47.Rdc2

46...Nge4

46...Ne2! 47.Rh1 Be4 looks great for Black, with both g2 and d5 now vulnerable.

47.Rdc2 Rd3 48.Nc4 Rxd5

48...Nxc4 49.Rxc4 Nd6

49.Ne3 Re5 50.Nxf5+ Rxf5 51.b5

51.Kb3

51...Nxb5

Or 51...h5

52.axb5 Rxb5 53.Rc4

53.Rb1

53...Re5 54.Kb2 Kg6 55.Kc2



Position after 55.Kc2

55...Rc5

55...f5 It likely doesn't matter much here, but in principle Black should prefer keeping the rooks on the board. White's rooks duplicate action — in other words, they both move like rooks — while Black's rook is unique.

56.Rxc5 Nxc5 57.Kd1 Ne4 58.Ke2 Kg5 59.Ke3 f5 60.Ra1 h5 61.Rb1 h4 62.Ra1 Nf6 63.Ra5 Nh5 64.Kf2 Nf4 65.Ra8 h3 66.gxh3

66.Rg8+

66...Nxb3+ 67.Kg2 Nf4+ 68.Kg3 Nh5+ 69.Kg2 f4 70.Ra5+ Kh4 71.Ra3

71.Rf5 f3+ 72.Rxf3

71...Ng7 72.Ra7 Nf5 73.Rh7+ Kg5 74.Ra7 Nh4+ 75.Kh2 f3 76.Kg3 Nf5+ 77.Kf2 Nd6 78.Ra4 Kf5 79.Ra8 Ne4+ 80.Kf1

80.Ke3

80...g3

80...Kf4

81.Rf8+ Kg4 82.Rg8+ Kf4 83.Rf8+ Ke3

84.Re8 g2+ 85.Kg1 Kd3



Position after 85...Kd3

86.Rf8??

86.Rg8 Ke2 87.Rxg2+ is the drawing concept here.

86...Ke2

Now Black is winning.

87.Rf7 Ng5! 88.Re7+ Kd3 89.Kh2 Nh3! 90.Rg7 g1Q+ 91.Rxg1 Nxc1 92.Kxg1 Ke2 0-1

Corey Russell (2205) – Ben Smail (2206) [C18]

Oregon Closed (Championship)
Portland, OR (R4), February 12, 2017
[Corey Russell]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Qa5 7.Bd2 Qa4 8.Qb1



Position after 8.Qb1

Strange move perhaps but I had several reasons for this. Number one was Qg4 looked terrible—e.g., 8.Qg4?! Kf8 9.Ra2 Bd7! 10.Nf3 Bb5! and now I can't even castle! And just as bad, Bxb5 Qxb5 and he would threaten Qb1+ winning my rook! My move pretty much forces the text, since Bb5 is a powerful threat—by forcing the c-pawn to advance this relieves the pressure on my center.

8...c4 9.Nf3 Nc6 10.Be2 Nge7 11.0-0 b6 12.Re1

For sure a ...f6 or ...f5 is coming—the text prepares for the coming opening of lines.

12...Bd7 13.Bf1 0-0-0 14.h4

If I allow ...h6 and ...g5 I would have no play—I don't think so!

14...Rdf8 15.Qb2

I eventually want to put my KB on h3—but right away seems dubious since the opening of lines would tempo my knight on f3 who wouldn't be defended then. So I take the long term approach and give myself the possibility of doubling on the e-file.

15...f5 16.exf6 Rxf6 17.Bg5 Rf7 18.Bxe7 Rxe7 19.Ne5 Rf8 20.g3 Nxe5 21.Rxe5 Rf5 22.Rae1 Ref7 23.Rxf5 Rxf5 24.Bh3 Rf6 25.Qc1



Position after 25.Qc1

Threatens Qg5—which Black stops. In some lines a pawn on f4 needs to be defended so my move allows that as well.

25...h6 26.Re5 Kc7 27.Kg2 Qa5 28.Qb2 Kd6 29.f4 Qb5

Trading queens leads to equality I think, as then a ...Ba4 would force my rook to be passive forever.

30.Qa1 Qa4 31.Qc1 Qa5

I have to repeat moves or sac a pawn—I could see winning chances with g5 idea so decided to sac.

32.Qd2 Qxa3 33.g4 Qb2 34.g5 Rf8

Surely ...hxg5 was mandatory. Now White gets an attack!

35.f5! exf5 36.gxh6

White's idea is now clear—Black can't take since he would lose the rook on f8 to Qxh6+

36...g6

This seems like a losing move to me—...Rg8 was his best chance here.

37.Kh2 Rf7 38.Qf4 +

Clearly 38...Qxc2+ 39.Re2 discovered check is a powerful reply.

38...Kc6 39.Bg2 Kb5

The best try—hoping for 40.Rxd5? Ka6 and Black can play on. It should be noted a queen sac by Black doesn't work e.g., 39...Qxc2 40.Rxd5 Qxg2+ 41.Kxg2 Kxd5 42.Qe5+ Kc6 43.d5+! Kc5 45.Qg7 +- Note that if White did NOT play d5 then here Black could play ...Rxc7 and ...Be6 and he would be winning.

40.Bxd5 Qxc2+ 41.Kg1 Qb1+ 42.Kf2

Black sees 42...Qc2+ 43.Re2 Qxc3 44.Bxf7 he would lose his rook. But worse, he can't stop the h6-pawn from queening. Time to throw in the towel.

1-0

Joshua Grabinsky (2019) – Corey Russell (2205) [B90]

Oregon Closed (Championship)
Portland, OR (R5), February 18, 2017
[Corey Russell]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.h3 e5 7.Nde2 b5

I don't have time for this. Instead 7...Be7 8.Bg5 Nbd7 9.Ng3 h6! I think would be the right idea for Black.

8.g4 Bb7 9.Bg2

The problem with Black's schema is f5 is a huge hole, and quite frankly problematic. Also his idea fails to a brilliant idea by White.

9...b4



Position after 9...b4

10.g5!

White is basically saying we can both get queens but the problem is his queen is close to my king.

10...bxc3 11.gxf6 cxb2 12.fxg7 Bxg7 13.Bxb2 0-0 14.Qd2

Black has two huge problems here—the hole on f5 as well as the pressure on d6—he can't fix both only one.

14...d5 15.exd5 Qh4 16.Ng3 f5 17.Ba3 Rf7 18.Rb1 f4 19.Nf5 Rxf5 20.Rxb7 f3 21.Bf1



Position after 21.Bf1

21...Qe4+??

The losing move. Instead ...Rf7 and Black can play on though certainly worse.

22.Kd1 Rf7 23.Bd3 Qd4

Black is oblivious to the kill shot—...Qh4 is mandatory (so I can recapture f7 with the queen).

24.Bxh7+

There's no coming back from this shot—time to get ready for the next game.

1-0

Corey Russell (2205) – Matt Zavortink (2161) [C00]

Oregon Closed (Championship)
Portland, OR (R6), February 17, 2017
[Corey Russell]

1.e4 e6

My opponent and I had a recent battle at the Winter Open—that was a draw but he got a good position. I was hoping 2.d3 would throw him off balance—it didn't.

2.d3 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.Ng3 Bc5 5.e5 Nfd7 6.Nb3 Be7 7.g3

In the post-mortem my opponent said he was surprised by this. He said most players basically transpose to a 3.Nd2 position, except Black's game is great. As it happens, I play the French sometimes so am quite aware Black's position is great doing it that way. He said most players don't insist on g3 like I did.

7...c5 8.Bg2 Nc6 9.Qe2 Qc7 10.Bf4 b6 11.0-0 h6 12.h4 Bb7 13.Rfe1 0-0-0 14.Rad1 Rdg8 15.d4 g5 16.hxg5 hxg5 17.Bc1 c4



Position after 17...c4

18.Na1

Necessary. 18.Nbd2? g4 and Black wins the d4-pawn.

18...Nf8 19.Nh2 f6 20.exf6 Bxf6 21.c3

White must get his QN into the game immediately, hence the text to open up c2.

21...Qh7 22.Ng4 Bd8 23.Nc2 Bc7 24.Nce3 Rg6 25.Nf1

Now the g4-knight can move.

25...Kb8 26.b3

Not going to get anywhere in the center or king-side, so opening queen side lines made the most sense.

26...Nd7 27.Ba3 cxb3 28.axb3 a5

My opponent was getting very low on time—post mortem he said this was a mistake—I tend to agree as I am getting more chances now.

29.Qf3 e5 30.Nfe3

There are several important points to this move. First, the g4-knight can move since ...Qh2+ Kf1 is OK. Also for sure I don't want a black piece on e5 so keeping it covered with a pawn. And finally 30...e4 31.Qf5 gives Black a lot of problems.

30...exd4 31.cxd4 b5 32.b4!

This way Black doesn't get the f1-a6 diagonal. In addition, opens a-line (you know near the black king), as well as the bishop on b2 firmly blockades the black b-pawn.

32...axb4 33.Bb2 Ne7 34.Nf5 Nxf5 35.Qxf5 Nb6 36.Ne5 Qh2+ 37.Kf1 Rgg8 38.Nd7+!

Best chance for white. I also certainly don't want to allow ...Nc4.

38...Nxd7 39.Qxd7 Rh7 40.Re8+ Rxe8 41.Qxe8+ Bc8 42.Qxb5+ Bb7 43.Ra1

White needs the a6-square covered so the white queen can move.

43...Re7 44.Qxb4 Rf7



Position after 44...Rf7

White misses his win here—45.Qb5! with dual threats of Qe8 and Bxd5 Black can't defend both. E.g., 45.Qb5 Rf8 46.Ba3 and Black is out of moves. Instead White blunders and now Black is winning.

45.Qe1?? Bc6 46.Qe6 Bb5+ 47.Ke1 Qg1+ 48.Kd2 Qxf2+ 49.Kc3 Qxg3+ 50.Kb4 Qxg2

Unfortunately 51.Qxf7 Qxb2+ 52. Kc5 Bb6+!! wins because can't take because of the discovery winning my queen.

51.Kxb5 Qxb2+ 52.Kc5 Qc3+ 53.Kb5

Of course 53.Kxd5 Qb3+ is no improvement with my queen loss.

53...Qc4# 0-1

Ryan Richardson (2103) –
Corey Russell (2205) [A04]
Oregon Closed (Championship)
Portland, OR (R7), February 19, 2017
[Corey Russell]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6

My opponent probably noticed my Najdorf I had played earlier. I hadn't yet prepared a solution to the problems that game showed. So decided to change up and play this instead.

3.d3

Maybe White wasn't ready for main line ...e6. Or maybe he was hoping I would transpose to the d3 French—I don't think so!

3...Nc6 4.g3 d6 5.Bg2 g6 6.0-0 Bg7 7.c3

So now we are in a sort of hybrid part Closed Sicilian/part KID attack. I was happy to be playing the Black side of this.

7...Nge7 8.Re1 0-0 9.Nbd2 e5

Seems like the most promising line for an advantage. White was probably hoping for 9...d5 10.e5 and he's fine.

10.a4 h6

e6 is the natural square for my QB—need to prevent Ng5 then.

11.Nc4 Be6 12.Nh4



Position after 12.Nh4

12...d5

If 13.exd5 Nxd5 14.Nhf3 Qc7 15.Qe2

Rae8 we've transposed to KID but with colors reversed. However Black has a much stronger response—13...Bxd5! and he would have long term pressure on d3.

13.Ne3 Qd7 14.Qe2 Rad8 15.Rd1

Black definitely gets an advantage after this. 15.exd5 is probably necessary, though Black is probably a little bit better.

15...d4 16.Nc4

This loses material (because he can't recapture on c3 or he would lose a piece to ...Bxc4). I was expecting 16. Nc2 dxc3 17. bxc3 c4! 18. Bf1 followed by massive trades on d3, then rook swing to d8 and moves like ...Na5 and looked like I would get the initiative.

16...dxc3 17.Be3 Nd4

I had thought my protected passed pawn would win, but White firmly blockaded it. Instead 17...cxb2 18.Nxb2 (Qxb2? Bxc4 and then Black wins White's two rooks for a queen) ...b6 followed by ...Nb4 and

Black just has a great game.

18.Bxd4 exd4 19.b3 Nc6 20.f4 Bxc4

Probably dubious—both because now in an endgame it's opposite colors bishops and also makes the white KB quite powerful. Also Black has a better idea. Namely 19...b6 with the ideas of ...Rb8, ...a6 and ...b5 to get his queen side rolling.

21.bxc4 Nb4 22.Nf3 Rfe8 23.Ne1 Rb8 24.Rdb1 b6 25.Nc2 Bf8 26.Nxb4 cxb4 27.Bf3 a6 28.Qg2 b5 29.cxb5 Rec8 30.Bd1

White has consistently been maintaining a blockade—this also routes to the quite powerful diagonal of a2-g8.

30...axb5 31.a5 Ra8 32.Bb3 c2

A desperate bid for counterplay. I was also quite worried about f5, e5, e6 ideas with strong attacking ideas for White.

33.Bxc2 Rc3 34.Bb3

I didn't take it because of 34...Rxd3 35.e5 Ra6 36.e6! fxe6 37.Qe4 hitting d3 and g6.

34...Ra6 35.Qe2 Qc7 36.Rb2 Rc1+ 37.Rxc1 Qxc1+ 38.Kg2 Rxa5 39.Qc2 Ra1 40.Qxc1 Rxc1 41.Kf3 Kg7

White clearly understands the principle of blockade—I see no chances of a win, so offered a draw and being a pawn down White of course accepted.

1/2-1/2

Corey Russell (2205) –
Lennart Bjorksten (2123) [A05]
Oregon Closed (Championship)
Portland, OR (R8), February 19, 2017
[Corey Russell]

1.c3

This not an opening—but most likely it will transpose to some other main line. What I do depends on how Black responds. So the first few moves by both sides we are kind of playing a “secret” game trying to choose the best setup vs. the opponent. I have used this casually many times by now, and once already in tournament chess (in fact, the game was against Paul Shannon at the Bend Open which was published in *Northwest Chess* recently). Post mortem he said he doesn't bother preparing for me, because he never knows what exactly I will play.

1...Nf6 2.Nf3 b6 3.d3

Would like to go into a Benko Gamit/Benoni structure, but I need to provoke ...d5 first. I would love to gain space with e4—does Black let me?

3...d5

He doesn't. But now I am happy to fianchetto.

4.g3 e6 5.Bg2 Be7 6.0-0 0-0 7.b3

[Diagram top of next page]



Position after 7.b3

This is a strange looking move but quite useful. For one, if Black ever plays ...c5 and ...d4 I want to go Na3-c2. But I can't do it immediately as he can give me doubled, isolated a-pawns if I do. So instead I can now recapture with the bishop. Also, this move supports a c4-break. Finally, b2 is a good post for my QB.

7...Bb7 8.Na3 Nbd7 9.c4

If at all possible, I want him to recapture on d5 with a piece—since his last move threatened ...e5, now is the time for this push.

9...Re8 10.Bb2 c6

I need to be precise here. If I casually allow him to play 11...Bf8 and 12...e5, he would be better. Now seems to be time to capture on d5 since he can't recapture with the bishop.

11.cxd5 exd5

I was happy to see this. I might be able to get a knight on f5, plus his move opens up the h3-c8 diagonal. In addition, we easily can get a Tarrasch kind of position, and I like those for White. Finally, because our pawn chains are different, this creates an imbalance and thus increases winning chances (for both of us).

12.Rc1 Bd6

This sets up a threat (Qe7), but it is easily countered. Instead ...Bf8, with the idea of ...g6 and ...Bg7 seems promising in maintaining the balance.

13.Nc2 Rc8 14.Qd2

I was worried about a possible rook sac on e3 if I went Ne3 immediately. Besides that this is a far better post than where she was—before she had two legal moves, now she has nine.

14...c5 15.Ne3

Firmly denying any ...c4 ideas by Black. Trying to provoke ...d4 which allows a great outpost on c4. f5 is also possible.

15...Ne5 16.Nf5

This does several things. First, denies mass exchanges by Black, e.g. 16...Nxf3+ 17.Bxf3 Be5 18.Bxe5 Rxe5 19.Qg5 wins material. Also Qg5 is the threat anyways,

as it not only threatens g7 but also Nh6xf7 winning. I was expecting 16...h6 in reply. At the very least, White should be getting the bishop pair with this.

16...Nfg4 17.Nxd6 Qxd6 18.Nxe5 Nxe5 19.Qf4



Position after 19.Qf4

After this I felt like I had small advantage—not only the bishop pair, but it looked like I was going to be able to force him into an isolani (isolated Q-pawn, common in Tarrasch formations).

19...f6 20.d4 Nf7 21.e3

This does several things. It protects the e-pawn but also threatens to win a pawn with Qxd6, Nxd6, dxc5 bxc5 Ba3. Finally, it prevents mass trade on c8, as at the end the d5 pawn would fall.

21...cxd4 22.Qxd4 Ng5 23.Rfd1

Notice 23...Ne4?? is out of the question because of 24.Bxe4 Rxe4 25.Qxe4! dxe4 26.Rxd6.

23...Rcd8 24.h4 Nf7 25.Qf4

This sets up a positional threat of Rc7—notice White's rule of the c-file cannot be contested because of a possible Bh3.

25...Ne5 26.e4 Qb4



Position after 26...Qb4

Looks like White is winning after this, but required precise play.

27.exd5 Qxf4 28.gxf4 Ng6 29.Rc7

An inaccuracy. d6 is correct. Luckily, Lennart is in bad time pressure by this point and missed his last chance for life (29...Re7!)

29...Ba8 30.d6 Nxf4 31.d7 Rf8 32.Bxa8 Rxa8 33.Ba3 Rfb8 34.Bd6 Ne6

[Diagram top of next page]



Position after 34...Ne6

35.Rxa7!

Playing it this way gains a crucial tempo. Remember the black king is very close, if he can just get one-two moves in...

35...Rd8 36.Rxa8 Rxa8 37.Be7 Nd8 38.Rc1

Black has no defense to Rc8

38...Kf7 39.Rc8 Rxa2 40.Bxd8

Both sides made time control here. Not only is Black down a bishop, but in order to get the white d-pawn quickly, he must either trade rooks or lose more pawns from the skewer on the 7th rank. Also note White's bishop is the RIGHT one for the white h-pawn—time to hit the showers.

1-0

Corey Russell (2205) – Seth Talyansky (2189) [C68]
Oregon Closed (Championship)
Portland, OR (R9), February 20, 2017
[Corey Russell]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Bxc6 dxc6

I was hoping I would know this better than him, but based on the game, seems like we both know it equally well.

5.0-0 Bg4 6.h3 h5 7.d3

We both go deep into book—of course I don't feel like losing immediately with 7.hxg4?? hxg4 8.Nh2 Qh4.

7...Qf6 8.Nbd2 Ne7 9.Re1 Ng6 10.d4 Bd6 11.c3

According to a footnote in my NCO, this is all book. The book line is 11.O-O-O—either Seth doesn't know it or decides to vary first.



Position after 11.c3

11...c5 12.hxg4 hxg4 13.Nh2 Rxb2
14.Qxg4

I didn't take the rook because of ...Qxf2. The text is strong though, as it prevents the black QR from helping. Lots of traps here—for example, 14...exd4?? 15.e5! Bxe5 16.Nf3 Rh7 17.Nxe5 Nxe5 18.Bf4 Rh4 19.Bxe5! Rxb2 20.Bxf6 and White would be a piece up.

14...Qh4

There are quite a few bad lines for Black here—this is probably best.

15.Qxh4 Rxb2 16.Nf3 Rh7 17.dxe5
Bxe5 18.Be3

Of course not Nxe5? since then ...c4 and ...Nd3 would make Black better.

18...b6 19.Rad1 Ke7 20.Nxe5 Nxe5
21.Bf4 Rb8 22.Kf1 Rh1+ 23.Ke2
Rxe1+ 24.Rxe1 f6 25.Bxe5 fxe5



Position after 25...fxe5

...c4 and ...Nd3 were coming—I really needed to get rid of that knight.

26.Rd1 c6 27.f3 b5 28.Kf2 a5 29.Kg1
c4 30.a3 Rb8 31.Rc1 Kd6 32.Kh2 Kc5
33.Kg3 b4 34.axb4+ axb4 35.Kg4 Rd8
36.g3

It's important to note that an idea like Rc2 doesn't work e.g., ...b3, ...Rd1, ...Rc1, ...Rc2

36...Rd2 37.Rb1 bxc3 38.bxc3 Rc2



Position after 38...Rc2

39.f4

We are in a pawn race—I must be as fast as possible.

39...exf4 40.gxf4 Rxc3 41.Re1 Ra3
42.Kf5 c3 43.e5 Ra7 44.e6 Kd4

I could see it was going to play out to a draw with best play, but I made him prove

it.

45.e7 Rxe7 46.Rxe7 c2 47.Re1 Kd3
48.Kg6 Kd2 49.Rh1 c1Q 50.Rxc1 Kxc1
51.Kxg7 c5 52.f5 c4 53.f6 c3 54.f7 c2
55.f8Q Kb1 56.Qb4+ Ka2 57.Qc3 Kb1
58.Qb3+ Ka1 59.Qxc2

Seth played really accurately, I didn't see any chance to win—I had to play accurate just to draw, there were lots of ways for me to go wrong.

½-½

Sean Tobin (2148) –
Mike Morris (2029) [A08]

Oregon Closed (Invitational)
Portland, OR (R9), February 20, 2017
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d3 Nc6 4.g3 g6 5.Bg2
Bg7 6.Nbd2 Nge7 7.h4 h6 8.0-0 d5
9.Re1 0-0 10.c3 f5?!

10...b6 and play is equal.



Position after 10...f5

11.e5?!

White clearly favors keeping the position closed, however much more testing is 11.exd5 Nxd5 (11...exd5 12.Nb3 b6 13.Bf4±) 12.Nb3 (Or 12.Nc4 Qc7 13.Qe2 f4 14.g4, which leaves a highly unusual position, but I suspect it's also favorable to White.) 12...Qd6 13.d4 cxd4 14.Nfxd4± with a sneaky tactical idea preventing ...f4 (or other random move): 14...f4 (14...Nxd4 15.Nxd4 Nc7 16.Qb3 and White seems somewhat the happier player.) 15.Nxe6! Bxe6? 16.Rxe6!

11...Qc7

11...f4!?!∞

12.Qe2

12.Nb3! b6 (12...Nxe5?! 13.Nxe5 Bxe5 14.Bxh6 looks quite decent for White, with tactical opportunities on the e-file and kingside dark-complex weaknesses to exploit.) 13.Bf4± and White plans d3-d4.

12...b6 13.Nf1 Ba6 14.Bf4 Rad8

14...d4!?

15.Qd2 Kh7

15...d4!?

16.d4 Bxf1 17.Bxf1 c4 18.Be2

18.b4!?

18...b5



Position after 18...b5

19.a3

Now White can show some of the kingside rigidity created by 10...f5: 19.h5 or perhaps even better, the preparatory; 19.Kg2 b4?! (19...Rh8 20.h5±) 20.h5! when 20...g5?! is met by 21.Bxg5! hxg5 22.Nxg5+ Kg8 23.h6! Bxh6 24.Rh1 Bg7 25.Nxe6+—

19...Qd7 20.Kg2 a5 21.Rh1 Rh8

Black's position is getting precarious, but only if White takes action. Continued passive maneuvering will not bring results.

22.Rh2

22.h5! g5 23.Bxg5 hxg5 24.h6! Bf8

a) 24...Bxh6 25.Rxh6+ Kxh6 26.Qxg5+ Kh7 27.Rh1#; b) 24...Ng6 25.hxg7+ Kxg7 26.Qxg5 Qf7 (26...Qe7 27.Qxe7+ Nxe7 28.Ng5+-) 27.Nh4 Nce7 28.a4!+- White has an extra pawn and play on both wings.(28.Bh5 Rxb5! 29.Nxf5+! Qxf5 30.Rxb5 Qe4+ is overly complicated, and much less clear.);



Analysis

(#Diagram-analysis after 24...Bf8)

25.Nxg5+ Kg8 26.h7+ Kg7 27.Ne4! Not the only winning move, of course, but rather pretty. 27...dxe4 28.Qh6+ Kf7 29.Bh5+ Ng6 30.Qxg6+ Ke7 31.Qf7#

22...Kg8 23.Rah1 h5 24.Ng5 Rb8 25.f3
b4 26.axb4 axb4 27.g4?!

Although not immediately losing, this seems quite the wrong moment to lash out at the kingside. White has over-prepared on the h-file, only to have the h4-h5 break finally taken away from him. Now it's time to go challenge the queenside files, as the black queen is tied down to the defense of e6. 27.Ra1±

27...bxc3 28.bxc3 Nd8 29.gxh5 Rxh5
30.Bg3 f4!?

Certainly the best chance to break out of the bind.

31.Qxf4?

31.Bxf4 Nf5, but White still has things under control on the queenside.

31...Rb2

Exactly. One more active piece for Black, and the character of the game changes completely.

32.Kh3??

Into the lion's maw. 32.Kg1 offers opportunities for repetition: 32...Nf5 33.Bd1 Rb1 34.Kf2 Rb2+ 35.Kg1, for example.

32...Bh6! 33.Kg4?

33.Qc1 Rxe2! 34.Rxe2 Bxg5 35.f4 Bh6

33...Nf5



Position after 33...Nf5

Mike describes this position as unique. Indeed it is!

34.Bd1??

34.Qc1 still looks horrible, but may be more complicated.

34...Rxh2 35.Rxh2 Nf7

35...Bxg5 36.hxg5 Rxh2 37.Bxh2 Qh7 is more brutally direct.

36.Qd2 Nxg5 37.Bf4 Nf7 38.Bc2 Qe7 39.Bxf5 exf5+ 40.Kg3 Bxf4+ 41.Qxf4 g5

41...Nd8

42.hxg5 Rxh2 43.Kxh2 Qxg5 44.Qg3 Kf8 45.e6 Qxg3+ 46.Kxg3 Nd6 47.Kf4 Nb5 48.Kxf5 Nxc3 49.Ke5 Nb5 0-1

Washington State Championship

By Josh Sinanan

The 2017 Washington State Championship was held February 11-12, 18-20 at Microsoft Building 99 in Redmond. Forty players took part in four round-robin sections: Championship, Premier, Invitational, and Challengers. The tournament was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation and

organized by President Josh Sinanan. Fred Kleist directed the tournament and compiled the games bulletin for all nine rounds.

A panel of judges will judge the brilliancy prizes (\$100) for all four sections. Stay tuned for the brilliancy prize results in the May Issue of *Northwest Chess*. Thanks to everyone for taking part and making this such a wonderful event! Any feedback/suggestions to improve the tournament are welcome.

Advait Vijayakumar –
Anshul Ahluwalia [E11]

Washington Closed (Challengers)
Redmond (R1), February 11, 2017
[Advait Vijayakumar]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Bb4+ 4.Bd2

4.Nbd2 0-0 5.a3 Bxd2+ (5...Be7 and this may be best for Black to keep the two bishops.) 6.Bxd2 (6.Qxd2 and this is Feng-Sang Washington State Championship 2017) 6...b6 7.Bg5 Bb7 8.e3 h6 9.Bh4 a5 10.Bd3 d6 (10...c5 11.e4 g5 12.Nxg5 hxg5 13.Bxg5+-) 11.0-0 Nbd7 12.Nd2 c5± with the two bishops and a slight advantage to White.

4...a5

4...Bxd2+ 5.Qxd2 b6 6.Nc3 Bb7 7.g3 0-0 8.Bg2 d5 9.cxd5 exd5 10.0-0 Nbd7= with a complex middlegame ahead and mutual chances.

5.a3

5.e3 b6 6.Bd3 0-0 7.Nc3 d5 8.0-0 Ba6 9.Qe2 Bxc3 10.Bxc3 dxc4 11.Bxc4 Bxc4 12.Qxc4 Ne4 13.Rfd1± and a small edge to white with the center pawns and c-file pressure.

5...Bxd2+ 6.Qxd2 b6 7.Nc3 Bb7 8.g3

8.Qc2 d6 9.e4 h6 10.g3 0-0 11.Rd1 Nbd7 12.Bg2± and White controls the center more than Black.

8...0-0 9.Bg2 d6

9...Ne4 10.Nxe4 Bxe4 11.0-0 d5= looks good for equality.

10.0-0 Nbd7

10...Ne4 a key move for equal chances.

11.Qc2 Qe7

11...c6 12.Nd2 h6 13.Rfd1 Qc7 14.Rac1± a slight edge to White.

12.e4 e5 13.d5±

with the usual blocked center where White is somewhat better due to the space and Black has that passive bishop on b7 problem.



Position after 13.d5

13...Nc5?!

A weak move losing time and space. 13...Ba6 14.b3 h6 15.Rfd1 Ra7 (Komodo) if this is Black's best, there is something really wrong here for Black (coach) 16.Nh4 g6 17.Bf1 this is very good



WCF President Josh Sinanan (W) vs. Ray Kaufman (B) in round 8. Photo credit: Xuhao He.

Below are the final results of the 2017 Washington State Championship, Premier, Invitational, and Challengers sections in order of tie-breaks.

Championship

FM Nick Raptis 2430 6.5 =1st/2nd \$525 Washington State Co-Champion!

FM Roland Feng 2426 6.5 =1st/2nd \$525 Washington State Co-Champion!

NM Anthony He 2240 5.5 3rd \$225

FM Bryce Tiglon 2436 5.0 =4th/5th \$112.50

FM Tian Sang 2359 5.0 =4th/5th \$112.50

IM Ray Kaufman 2402 4.5

LM Josh Sinanan 2264 3.5

CM Kyle Haining 2268 3.0

FM Ignacio Perez 2296 3.0

FM John Readey 2302 2.5

Premier

NM Alikhan Irgaliyev 2307 7.0 1st \$450

Vikram Ramasamy 2117 6.5 2nd \$250

Dereque Kelley 2146 6.0 3rd \$150

Michael Lin 2157 5.0 =4th/5th \$75

Badamkhand Norovsambuu 2101 5.0 =4th/5th \$75

FM William Schill 2227 4.5

Joseph Truelson 1923 4.0

Brendan Zhang 2055 3.5

LM Viktors Pupols 2200 2.5

David Rupel 2060 1.0

Invitational

Timothy Moroney 2012 7.0 1st \$225

Eric Zhang 2017 6.5 2nd \$125

WFM Chouchanik Airapetian 2015 6.0 3rd \$75

Alan Bishop 2043 5.0 4th \$50

Travis Olson 1953 4.0 =5th \$6.25

Mark Smith 1880 4.0 =5th \$6.25

David Arganian 2013 4.0 =5th \$6.25

Damarcus Thomas 1963 4.0 =5th \$6.25

WCM Mary Kuhner 1956 3.0

Aryan Deshpande 2030 1.5

Challengers

Samuel Deng 1771 7.0 1st \$112.50

Anshul Ahluwalia 1813 4.5 =2nd-5th \$27.50

Vignesh Anand 1847 4.5 =2nd-5th \$27.50

Advait Vijayakumar 1663 4.5 =2nd-5th \$27.50

Rushaan Mahajan 1772 4.5 =2nd-5th \$27.50

Oscar Petrov 1787 4.5 =2nd-5th \$27.50

Owen Xuan 1707 3.5

Sophie Tien 1752 3.0

Sridhar Seshadri 1671 1.0

Carl Sloan 1858 1.0 (withdrew due to illness)

bringing the bishop back into play on a new diagonal. 17...Nh7 18.Ng2 Ng5 19.Ne1± because Black is left with that bad bishop on a6.

14.b4 axb4 15.axb4 Ncd7 16.Nb5± c5 17.dxc6 Bxc6 18.Nc3± Rfc8 19.Rfd1

19.Qd3!?± Nf8 20.Bh3 Rd8 21.Rfd1 Rxa1 22.Rxa1 Ra8 23.Rxa8 Bxa8 24.Ne1 Bc6 25.Nc2 g6 26.Nd5 Qd8 27.Nce3 Kg7± and White retains a slight edge with the space and Black is pinned down to protecting the isolated pawn on b6.

19...Bb7 20.Nd2 Nf8 21.Nd5

21.Qd3 is also worth a try here and is quite likely the best choice, why is this so? Because when you have more space (White), you don't want to trade pieces in many positions which in the note variation, Black did achieve equal play.

21...Nxd5 22.exd5 b5?

Black misses the tactical point 22...Nd7!? a key move clamping down on the c5-square. 23.Qd3 Okay, when in a pin, get out of it makes sense. 23...Rf8 24.Re1 g6 25.Rxa8 Rxa8 26.f4 Re8 27.g4 b5 28.cxb5 Qh4 29.Qg3 Qd8= 30.Qf2 exf4 31.Rxe8+ Qxe8 32.Qxf4 Qe2= and Black has enough counterplay for equal chances.



Position after 22...b5

23.c5! dxc5

Otherwise if White gets pawn to c6 in getting a protected passed pawn, it would be horrible for Black. 23...Rxa1 24.Rxa1 dxc5 25.d6 Qd7 26.Bxb7 Qxb7 27.bxc5± and white clearly has the superior pawns.

24.d6 Qd7 25.Bxb7 Qxb7 26.bxc5 Ne6 27.Nb3±

27.Rxa8!? Qxa8 28.Nb3 g6 29.d7 Rc7 30.Qd3 Nd4 31.Qe4! Nf3+ 32.Qxf3 the point! 32...Qxf3 33.d8Q++

27...Ng5 28.c6+- Nh3+

28...Rxc6 29.Rxa8+ Qxa8 30.d7 Ne6 31.Qxc6! Qxc6 32.d8Q+ Nf8 33.Qb8+- this variation shows the power of the passed pawns !

29.Kf1 Rxc6 30.Rxa8+ Qxa8 31.d7 Rd6 32.Qc8+

A very well played game, a slight improvement was 21.Qd3 avoiding the variation where Black might have

equalized in the note variation.

1-0

**Oscar Petrov –
Samuel Deng [B17]**

Washington Closed (Challengers)
Redmond (R1), February 11, 2017
[Samuel Deng]

**1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nd7
5.Ng5 Ngf6 6.Bc4 e6 7.N1f3?!**

Theory is 7.Qe2 to stop ...h6 because 7...
h6?? 8.Nxf7 Kxf7 9.Qxe6+ Kg6 10.Bd3+
Kh5 11.Qh3#

7...h6

Now Nxf7 (or Nxe6) is unsound.

**8.Nh3 Be7 9.Nf4 Nb6 10.Bd3 0-0
11.Ne5?!**

This is very unprincipled. O-O was better.

11...c5 12.Be3 Nbd5 13.Qd2?

This must be wrong. White's setup is
extremely suspicious.

13...Nxf4?

Going for the material, but there is a
better continuation. 13...Nxe3! taking the
bishop pair. 14.fxe3 Bd6 15.c3 b6 Black
is better.

14.Bxf4 cxd4

Now White has a positional bind and my
pieces are passive, blocked by my pawns.

15.0-0!

A very counterintuitive but strong
decision. White gets rid of my tactics
based on ...Nd5 and ...Bb4 and keeps the
positional bind. 15.0-0-0 Nd5 and Black
gets the bishop because of the pin on the
diagonal.

15...Re8?

The idea is to ask White whether he would
allow Bf8 preventing any sacrifices.
However, I missed his next move.

16.Bb5

Now interposing on d7 would get me
destroyed.

16...Rf8 17.Bd3?!

17.Rad1 Computer still likes Black very
slightly, but it's difficult to play and a
mistake would be very easy to make.

17...Nd5

This was not played to avoid a repetition.
Instead I was worried he would go Bb5
again and then Rad1. This is a very
complicated move that turns out to be
best.

18.Bxh6

[Diagram top of next column]

18...Nb4

Getting the bishop and simplifying into a
position where White is slightly better.



Position after 18.Bxh6

Far better was the computer move 18...
Qc7!! 19.Nf3 (19.Rfe1 f6! This is the
only move! 20.Ng6 Bb4 21.Qe2 gxh6
wins for Black) 19...f6! 20.Nxd4 gxh6
21.Rae1 (21.Qxh6 Bc5!) 21...Qf4 is again
winning.

19.Bf4

Best, because Be4 f5 doesn't work.

19...Nxd3 20.Qxd3 Qd5 21.Rfd1?!

The wrong rook to d1. White needs to
fight for the e5 square here, or else Black
is very comfortable.

21...Rd8 22.Nf3 Bf6 23.Qe2?!

23.Re1 intending Be5. Now Black is
slightly better.

**23...b6 24.Be5 Bxe5 25.Qxe5 Qxe5
26.Nxe5 Bb7 27.f4 f6 28.Nf3?**

A positional blunder. The knight goes on



Washington State Championship section (L-R): Kyle Haining, Roland Feng, John Readey, Josh Sinanan, Nick Raptis, Bryce Tiglon, Ray Kaufman, Tian Sang. Photo Credit: Chouchanik Airapetian.

d3 to block the d-pawn. Now I can inflict doubled isolated pawns.

28...Bxf3 29.gxf3 Rd5 30.Rd2 Rad8 31.Rad1 Kf7 32.Kf2 b5



Position after 32...b5

White should be able to hold this, but now he makes some mistakes.

33.b4?

Creating multiple weaknesses for no reason.

33...Rc8 34.Kg3 Ke7 35.a3 Rc4

We were down to about a minute here.

36.Kf2 Rc3 37.Ra1 Rc6 38.Ra2 a6 39.Rd3 Rh5 40.Rxd4?

A time pressure move that misses Rxd2. This loses the game.

40...Rxd4+ 41.Ke3 Rc3+ 42.Rd3 Rxc2 43.Rxc3 Rxc3+ 44.Ke2 Kf7 45.Ra1 Kg6 0-1

Ignacio Perez (2282) – Roland Feng (2425) [C13]
Washington Closed (Championship)
Redmond (R3), February 12, 2017
[Roland Feng]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 dxe4

A sideline that I've come to like. The positions that come out of this line have lots of dynamic potential, leading to chances for both sides.

5.Nxe4 Be7 6.Bxf6 gxf6 7.Nf3 f5 8.Ng3

Nc3 is more common.

8...Qd6

Eyeing the dark squares and getting the queen active.

9.Qe2

I thought this move was inaccurate. While the queen would block the rook on d1 after 0-0-0, Qd2 made more sense to me as it would allow give the f1 bishop to breathe as well as covering f4.

9...Nc6 10.0-0-0 Bd7 11.c4?

Too aggressive. While this move grabs space and tries to take advantage of my awkward queen placement, it weakens b4 and d4. 11.d5 exd5 there is no follow-up to the pawn sacrifice and Black will just continue with Be6 and 0-0-0. With the d5 pawn now defending e4, a timely f4 push will pose problems for the knight on g3.

11...0-0-0

[Diagram top of next page]

12.Qc2?

Clearly not Ignacio's day. This logically trying to clear the way to finish development of the bishop, but is tactically punished. 12.d5 exd5 13.cxd5 (13.Rxd5 Qf6+ Be6 is coming and Black will get the d-file. White can do nothing with the rook on h1 due to the bishop



Position after 11...0-0-0

being trapped by the queen.) 13...Nb4 14.a3 Nxd5+; 12.c5 Qd5 Despite all the pieces around the queen, White has no way to try to trap this and Black will just play against the backwards d4-pawn. 13.Kb1 Bf6

12...Nb4! 13.Qb1

Loses quickly, but Qb3 was not much better. 13.Qb3 Qa6 14.a3 (14.c5 Nxa2+ 15.Kb1 Qa4! 16.Qxa4 Bxa4 17.Kxa2 (17.Rd3 Nb4 18.Ra3 Bc6 19.Rxa7 Kb8 20.Ra3 Bxf3 21.Rxf3 Rxd4-+) 17...Bxd1-+) 14...Ba4+

13...Bc6

Suddenly, White's king is feeling very drafty as there's not much that can be done about Bxf3, the win of the d4 pawn, and most importantly, the opening of the d-file for my rooks.

14.d5

Hoping for exd5, when white can try to force some complications after a capture on f5 but...



Position after 14.d5

14...Bxd5! 15.cxd5

If White doesn't take, not much can be done about Qf4+ followed by a crushing attack building on the d-file. 15.Rxd5 Qf4+! 16.Kd1 Nxd5 17.cxd5 Rxd5+ 18.Bd3 Rhd8+; 15.a3 Bxf3!! 16.Rxd6 Bg5+ 17.Rd2 Bxd2#

15...Qc5+ 16.Kd2

16.Bc4 Qxc4+ 17.Kd2 Rxd5+ 18.Ke1 Nc2+

16...Rxd5+ 17.Ke2

17.Bd3 Nxd3+

17...Qc4+



Washington State Invitational section (L-R): Mark Smith, Travis Olson, Eric Zhang, Mary Kuhner, Tim Moroney, Damarcus Thomas. Photo Credit: Josh Sinanan.

And Ignacio resigned in view of 18. Ke3 f4# or 18.Ke1 Nc2, winning his queen. A strong attack by me, but it was definitely not Ignacio's day.

0-1

Anshul Ahluwalia (1813) – Owen Xuan (1769) [E00]
Washington Closed (Championship)
Redmond (R6), February 18, 2017
[Anshul Ahluwalia]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 Bb4+ 4.Bd2 Be7

The beginning of a Catalan opening.

5.Bg2 c5?!

Black does not want to enter this type of Benoni as the Bishop will get locked in on e7 and Black must move Rf8-e8, Be7-f8, g7-g6, Bf8-g7 to make the Bishop a strong piece. Better was 5...d5 6.Nf3 0-0 7.0-0 c6 8.Qc2 b6 9.Rd1=

6.d5 exd5 7.cxd5 d6 8.Nc3 0-0 9.Nf3

9.e4 Nbd7 10.Nge2 might be a better setup in which White aims to play f4 and e5 eventually.

9...Bf5 10.0-0 Qc8



Position after 10...Qc8

11.Bf4

11.Re1!? Aiming for e4 11...Bh3 12.e4 Bxg2 13.Kxg2 Nbd7±

11...Bh3 12.Re1 Bxg2 13.Kxg2 Nbd7 14.e4 Re8 15.Nd2 Nf8 16.Nc4 Qd7 17.a4?!

17.e5! was the best move in this position, White need not be afraid of his weak pawn on d5 if Black takes on e5 17...dxe5 18.Nxe5 Qc8 19.d6 Bd8 20.Qf3 White's space advantage and piece activity give him a clear edge over Black.

17...Ng6 18.Bc1 Bf8 19.h3

19.f4!? Restricting the move Ne5 and aiming for e5.

19...Rad8 20.Qf3 Ne5 21.Nxe5 dxe5

21...Rxe5 22.Bf4 Ree8 23.e5 dxe5 24.Bxe5±

22.g4

22.Bg5 Be7 23.Bxf6 Bxf6 24.Red1 White's superior minor piece and space advantage clearly give White an edge in this position.

22...Qd6 23.Bg5 a6 24.Bxf6 Qxf6 25.Qxf6 gxf6



Position after 25...gxf6

This endgame is almost winning for White because Black's Bishop is caved in by its own pawns.

26.Ne2 Bh6 27.Ng3 b6 28.Re2!?

To stop Bd2 after Nf5.

28...Rd7 29.Nf5 Bf8 30.Rc2 Red8 31.Kh2?!

An unnecessary move 31.f3 solidifies White's pawn structure and is a useful waiting move.

31...h6 32.h4 Kh7 33.h5

Making sure Black's king cannot get active.

33...Bd6 34.Nxd6 Rxd6 35.a5 Rc8 36.Rac1 Kg7 37.b4

The game is over at this point, White gets connected passed pawns and easily wins the endgame.

37...Kf8 38.axb6 Rxb6 39.bxc5 Rb4 40.Rc4 Rxc4 41.Rxc4 Ke7 42.c6 Kd6 43.Kg3 Rc7 44.Kf3 Ra7 45.Ke2 a5 46.Kd3 a4 47.Kc2 a3 48.Kb1 a2+ 49.Ka1 Kc7 50.Rc2 Ra4 51.Rxa2 Rxe4 52.Ra7+ Kb8 53.Rxf7 Re1+ 54.Kb2 Re2+ 55.Kc3 Rxf2 56.d6 Rf3+ 57.Kd2 Rf4 58.Rf8+ Ka7 59.c7 Rd4+ 60.Ke3 Rxd6 61.c8Q Kb6 62.Qb8+ Kc5 63.Qxd6+ Kxd6 64.Rxf6+ Ke7 65.Rxb6 Kf7 66.Rg6 1-0

Kyle Haining (2265) – Tian Sang (2359) [C60]

Washington Closed (Championship)
Redmond (R8), February 19, 2017
[Tian Sang]

It was the penultimate round of the tournament, when I had only remote chances to catch up with the leaders. Nevertheless, I was determined to play for a decisive result with black pieces. Surprisingly, this is my first game against Kyle (2016 national high school co-champion), though I have played his peers many times before.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nge7

The Cozio Defence, which I also employed in the first round draw against former state champion FM Perez.

4.0-0 g6 5.c3 a6

The Modern Variation is a popular choice.

6.Ba4 Bg7 7.d4 exd4 8.cxd4 0-0



Position after 8...0-0

9.h3!?

Kyle played this rare move quickly. Of course he had studied my previous game, and he tried to improve it by not committing the d-pawn advance. While keeping the central pawns flexible is usually desirable, it may not fit in this case, because Black can easily challenge White's center. 9.d5 Na5 10.Nc3 d6 11.Re1 b5 12.Bc2 Bb7 with a balanced game (Perez-Sang, 2017).

9...b5 10.Bc2

10.Bb3 d6 11.Nc3 Na5 12.Bc2 c5! Black is fine.

10...d5

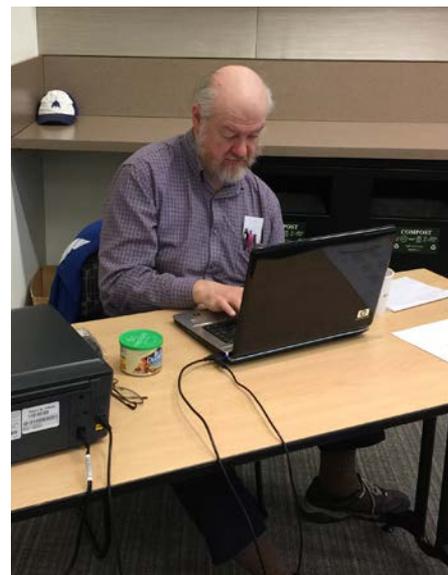
Simple and effective, Black follows an active plan.

11.e5 f6!

White's center is collapsing.

12.exf6

12.Re1 fxe5 13.dxe5 Nb4!?! Black's passed d-pawn looks no less dangerous than White's e-pawn.



WA State Championship Tournament Director
Fred Kleist. Photo Credit: Xuhaio He.

12...Bxf6

Slightly inaccurate. Recapturing with rook would give Black the quick control of the f-file, and then the exchange sacrifice on f3 is looming. $\triangle 12...Rxf6$ 13.Be3 (13.Bg5 Rxf3! 14.Qxf3 Nxd4 15.Qd1 Qd6 16.Nc3 Be6 with great compensation for Black.) 13...Bf5=

13.Nc3

13.Bg5? Bxg5 14.Nxg5 Qd6! 15.Bb3 Kg7 16.Re1 Qf6 17.Nf3 Bxh3+

13...Bf5

Tempting but a little bit too aggressive. The moderate bishop retreat seems quite good. 13...Bg7 14.Re1 Qd6 15.Bb3 Kh8 16.Bg5 Bd7 17.Rc1 Rae8 Black has no problems.

14.Be3

Solid but not the best. 14.Bb3! Qd6 15.Re1 Rad8± Black's bishop at f5 is somewhat misplaced.

14...Na5?!

Black knight heads to c4, whereas White has multiple ways to refute it. $\triangle 14...Bxc2$ 15.Qxc2 Bg7 16.Ne2 Qd7=

15.Bg5

A clever move that forces trading dark-square bishops, which will leave Black with some holes. Even stronger is 15.Bh6! Bg7 16.Bxg7 Kxg7 17.Re1± Black's position looks rather loose.

15...b4

15...Bxg5 16.Nxg5 Qd6! roughly equal, with mutual chances.

16.Bxf6?!

No need to rush. 16.Na4 Bxg5 17.Nxg5 Qd6 18.Re1± White has a long-term positional advantage.

16...Rxf6= 17.Na4



Position after 17.Na4

17...Nac6?!

Objectively speaking, Black should go for the exchange sacrifice with excellent compensation. 17...Bxc2 18.Qxc2 Rxf3! 19.gxf3 Nf5



(#Diagram-analysis after 19...Nf5)

20.Rad1 Qg5+ 21.Kh1 Qh5 22.Qxc7

Qxh3+ 23.Qh2 Qxf3+ 24.Qg2 Qh5+= However, I figured that it would be probably only good enough for a draw, so I decided not to simplify the position, even though White could be better.

18.Bb3!

No more exchange-sac allowed! White's position is very comfortable, while Black's pawn structure is fragile, besides other weaknesses.

18...Qd6 19.Re1?!

This natural development move is hardly a major mistake, but it is the start of a wrong plan, which eventually leads to White's defeat. White can seize the initiative with 19.Nc5! Raf8 20.Qd2 Kg7 21.Ne5 Bc8 22.Nxc6 Nxc6 23.Ba4!

19...Raf8

Black is already pleasant after developing the second rook to the semi-open f-file. Now Black is eyeing on all kinds of tactical tricks on White's kingside. For example, Bh3 is already a threat.

20.Ne5

The idea of White's previous move. The strong knight at e5 would completely block Black's kingside attack. Black should challenge the plan immediately. 20.Nc5 Kh8 21.Re3 Bc8 22.Rc1 g5!f

20...Bc8!



Position after 20...Bc8

Clearing f-file for the rooks! Black works around the e5 knight.

21.Re2?

Too slow, too passive. White must bring the idle knight back to the game at any cost. 21.Nc5! Kh8 (21...Rxf2?? 22.Ne4+-) 22.Ba4!? Rxf2 23.Bxc6 Nxc6 24.Rc1± White has considerable compensation for the pawn.; Or 21.f3 Rf4± Black wins the d-pawn, but White's king remains safe.

21...Rf4!

Black proves that e5 is not an outpost for White's knight, because the pawn supports it is too vulnerable.

22.Nxc6?!

Better is 22.Rd2 Kh8! 23.g3! R4f6 24.Nxc6 Nxc6 25.Qf1 g5!± Black's threat



The playing hall during round 5 of the WA State Championship. Photo Credit: Xuhao He.

of Rh6 looks scary.

22...Nxc6 23.Rd2



Position after 23.Rd2

It appears that White defends everything. However, that is pure illusion, as revealed by Black's next move.

23...Bxh3!!→

Beautiful imagination! Black starts the lethal attack by destroying the shelter of White's king. I was planning the punch several moves before, when I doubled the rooks. It took me half an hour to make the decision, as I had to sort out all the details and find the long path to the victory, which requires extremely precise and deep calculation. In fact, from here I accurately foresaw 10 moves ahead, all the way to the end of the game! Former world champion Tal famously said "First you sacrifice and then you calculate". However, I always rely on both intuition and calculation; nobody can play like Tal after all.

24.gxh3

What else? Almost on any other White's response, Black can sacrifice the bishop again on g2. For example, 24.Nc5 Bxg2! 25.Kxg2 Rh4+→

24...Nxd4!!-+



Position after 24...Nxd4

The imagination continues! Black sacrifices second piece only to further expose White's king! This is the most difficult decision, even more difficult than the first bishop sacrifice, because Black has so many seemingly good options, such as 24...Rh4, 24...Rf3, and 24...R8f5, etc. It is almost impossible to correctly evaluate all of them in limited time. Here the tactician's intuition dictates: I instantly picked Nd4 as the most promising line

to calculate first and once I confirmed it would win I did not need to dive deep into other complex lines. 24...Rf3 25.Nc5! Rxh3 26.Qg4! Qh2+ 27.Kf1 Kh8!±; 24...Rh4 25.Nc5 Kh8 26.Rd3 Nxd4 27.Rxd4 Rxf2!? 28.Kxf2 Qh2+ 29.Ke1 Qg3+ 30.Ke2=; 24...R8f5 25.Qe2 Rxf2 26.Qxf2 Rxf2 27.Kxf2 Qf4+ 28.Ke1 Qe3+ 29.Re2 Qg3+ 30.Kd2 Nxd4±

25.Rxd4

No good alternatives, White cannot afford Black's knight joining the attack. 25.Kg2 R8f5! 26.Qe1 Rg5+ 27.Kf1 Re5 28.Qd1 Qd7-+

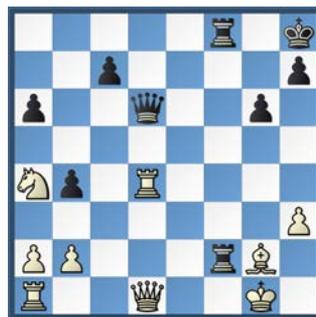
25...Rxf2

Threatening Qh2 checkmate

26.Bxd5+□ Kh8

Not the careless 26...Kg7? 27.Bg2 Qg3 28.Rd7+! Kh6 29.Qd5 R8f3 30.Qxf3 Rxf3 31.Rd2± Black still needs to convert the endgame.

27.Bg2□



Position after 27.Bg2

The only way to prevent Qh2 checkmate.

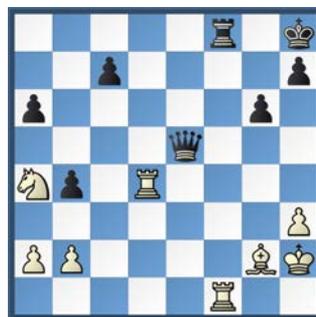
27...Qg3!

Now checkmate on g2 is inevitable, unless White gives up all the major pieces, yes, all!

28.Qf1□ Rxf1+ 29.Rxf1 Qe3+!

The final point in the long combination. Black wins White's rook by force, in addition to winning White's queen. 29...Rxf1+?? 30.Kxf1± Black would need hard work to convert it.

30.Kh2 Qe5+!



Position after 30...Qe5+

White resigns, for after 31.Kh1 Black will first trade White's f1-rook with check and

then take White's d4-rook. Black will be up huge materials after the 10-move long combination, which starts with two piece sacrifices. This game should belong to the Romantic Era of chess, when artistic expression was the ultimate goal. No doubt, it will be one of my most memorable games.

0-1

Chess Bios of Washington State Championship Players

(photos provided by the players and/or relatives)

Oscar Petrov



Although Oscar learned how to play chess when he was six years old and lived in New Jersey, he really only started playing on a regular basis three years later when he moved to Washington State. Besides being passionate about the game, he enjoys the social aspect of it, such as being able to instantly make friends (or foes) with people from different parts of the globe, with kids and adults alike. He feels fortunate to be in Seattle area now where he has access to Seattle Chess Club and being surrounded by such a wealth of professional chess players from whom he can learn.

Badamkhand Norovsambuu



My name is Badamkhand Norovsambuu. I was born and raised in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. My family moved to U.S about four years ago and I am majoring psychology in Bellevue College under transfer degree. I learned to play chess age of nine in my middle school. I played chess actively until I graduate my high school but I am trying to play chess as much as I can. I represented Mongolia to World and Asian youth tournaments for many times. Some of my compliments: In 2006, I won the first place of World School Championship in Czech under 13, in 2010, won the first place of Asian Youth Blitz tournament under 16, and won Mongolian Youth Championships for several times.

Sridhar Seshadri



FIDE 1557 US Chess 1671 CCF 1721, Peak US Chess 1805, FIDE RP (Rating Performance) Recent Rating performance 1911

Sridhar Seshadri was born in Hyderabad, India. He learned to play when he was five years old from his neighbor Ramakrishna (Ramu). At age 12, he started following Viswanathan Anand games. He left chess in 1994 after

winning the Trophy for his engineering college in Kurnool, he was also a School Champion from 1975-1986.

Some of his recent achievements are listed as follows:

U1800 Sole Winner at 3rd Larry Evans, Reno, Nevada Scoring 5.5 /6

He drew simul with Michael Lee Washington State Champion, drew Melikset Khachiyani, GM, and drew simul with Wesley So GM and USA number one player.

Was two-time champion for I love Chess too, conducted at the Washington State Elementary Chess Championship, won 2015 and 2016 standing first in the tournament.

Sridhar is now experimenting a new opening which he calls it as "SHIP" Opening he got this idea when he was traveling in Ferry from Edmunds to Kingston and thinking how come a ferry can take so much load and still is very stable in the journey. Why can't the same logic be applied to chess, he recently beat someone with this opening on chess.com. He now teaches kids new ways of playing chess under his academy brand Sri Chess Academy. His website is www.srichessacademy.com

Michael Lin



I learned how to play chess from my dad at a young age, but I only started taking the game seriously when I was in sixth grade. This was when my mom banned me from playing an online game called Runescape because she thought it would affect my grades. But on the Runescape website, they had a separate server for various other games, one of

which was chess. So instead of going to their website to play Runescape, I started going to their website to play chess and found out quickly that I had an affinity for the game. I am mostly a self-taught player, and learned most of what I know through a combination of books, engine analysis, and internet blitz. I also achieved my Master title in 2013. I'm most used to playing at the Mechanic's Institute in San Francisco, but have enjoyed playing the strong competition up here in the Pacific Northwest since moving here two years ago.

Mark Trevor Smith

Last year I wrote too much for my bio. All of it was true. This year I'll write too little. In the story of my life, chess is an addiction in which intuition is better than calculation, beauty better than science, heresy better than orthodoxy, persistence than brilliance, humility than confidence, defense than offense, two draws than loss/win. That's the story of my life. YMMV.

Eric Zhang



Eric started playing chess when he was four and a half, and he loves playing it. He won the second place in the 2013 Nationals K-12 Grade Championships Grade two section. Eric's highest US Chess rating is 1917.

Tim Moroney

I grew up in the Midwest where my brother taught me to play chess when I was eight years old. I learned about chess tournaments and fell in love with the game at the age of 11. My brother stopped playing against me as I quickly improved, and to this day he still proudly boasts his positive win rate against me. I found a love for the diversity of people and cultures chess brought together, and

each game I played or watched seemed to carry a spark of magic. I played in every tournament I could, including scholastic and adult national events, and was fortunate to earn a few championship titles along the way. At age 13, I started teaching chess to kids; I had found my passion.

In 2009 I had my best tournament result, scoring 6.5/9 at the U.S. Open. The following year I had a significant life result, getting married and moving 1,700 miles to Eastern Washington. For the next several years I reduced my focus on chess and turned that focus toward my family. Now with a daughter preparing to enter Kindergarten, I am returning to my other love and passion on the chess board. I am teaching again, working with the local organization Chess4Life to teach life skills to kids through the game of chess. This tournament formalizes my return to competitive play. I am thrilled and honored to have my first opportunity to compete in the Washington state championship.

Rushaan Mahajan



Rushaan got interested in chess when he was first introduced to it by his aunt when he was three and a half years old and from then on, there was no turning back.

Rushaan has participated in several state and national events and got first place in his section U1200 at Millionaire Chess Championship.

He considers himself lucky to be able to play and learn from the various chess champion colleagues and teachers.

He looks forward to Super Nationals this year and Washington State Championship.

In addition to chess, he loves and plays sports such as basketball, soccer and is on top of all happenings in the world of NFL and NBA.

Samuel Deng

I learned how to play chess when I was five years old but didn't know about tournaments until I was 13. Before that time, I became interested in chess when trying to beat the Chess Titans program on the computer.

Three years ago in seventh grade, I played in a tournament for the first time and won \$40! That year I studied Heisman's ChessCafe column, which helped me to win the Washington Class E (U1200) section at the end of 2014. In 2015, I started taking lessons from Josh Sinanan and increased my rating from 1266 to 1613 in less than three months! For the past year and a half, I have been playing board five for the Redmond High School chess team. At the RHS chess club, I play and analyze games with masters Daniel He and Samuel He every week. They help me to improve by reviewing some of my games. I also like studying chess books, including Silman's Reassess Your Chess and the Reassess Your Chess Workbook. I really enjoy Silman's ability to break down chess positions using simple strategic concepts. I also enjoy excessive opening preparation even if it doesn't help my game. Overall, my goal is to improve in all areas of the game and become an expert by the end of the year.

Anshul Ahluwalia

I learned chess when I was eight-years-old in India, where my cousin taught me. My interest in the game immediately perked and I started playing many scholastic tournaments such as the weekly Friday Night Quads at Chess4Life. I started taking chess seriously in seventh grade and started playing US Chess tournaments. I currently play many tournaments at Seattle Chess Club and also play board four for the Redmond High School Chess Team.

Kyle Haining

Kyle Haining is junior at Inglemoor High School where he is enrolled in the International Baccalaureate program. In September 2015 the US Chess Federation awarded Kyle the title of National Master. In April 2016 Kyle tied for first place in the National High School Chess Championship tournament. Kyle recently joined the Seattle Sluggers.

Kyle became interested in chess as a first grader when he saw a couple of students playing the game. Initially, Kyle's father taught him how to play, but Kyle quickly outpaced his father's playing ability and understanding of the game, so in 2008, when he was in second grade,

Kyle's father enrolled him as a member of the Seattle Chess Club. For several years Kyle studied chess under the tutelage of Matt Fleury. For a time Kyle studied with Ignacio Perez. Kyle then studied with GM Emil Anka for several years. Kyle is taking a break from chess lessons so he can focus on school.

Outside of school Kyle plays the piano and enjoys playing soccer in a recreational league.

Mary K. Kuhner

I played in my first tournament at 15 and was intrigued to discover that it was possible to be much better at chess than I was. I twice won the Junior Championship of Alaska, and during graduate school played in the 1987 US Women's Championship, coming in =4th-5th. I then realized I was about to flunk out of graduate school, and took a break that ended up lasting for 27 years. My father, tired of hearing me say I'd go back to competition "someday," gave me a US Chess membership for my birthday in 2014. In my comeback tournament I had a performance rating of 1300, but once again I was hooked.

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Registration: Thursday (4/13) 5 - 8 pm. - Friday (4/14) 9 - 10 am. Saturday (4/15) 9 - 10 am.

Round Times: Fri.- 12 Noon - 7 pm; Sat.-10 am - 7 pm; Sun.- 9:30 am - 4:30 pm

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Ask for code: CHESS417**

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

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Mail to: Sands Regency Casino Hotel - 345 N. Arlington Avenue - Reno NV 89501

PRINT Name _____ Daytime Phone _____ USCF/FIDE Rating _____

Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

USCF I.D. Number _____ Exp. Date _____ **All pre-registered players please check in at tournament desk on arrival.**

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

----- OPEN SECTION -----					"EXPERT"	"A"	"B"	"C"	"D and Under"	UNRATED
GM/IM	Masters	2000-2199	1999-Below		2000-2199	1800-1999	1600-1799	1400-1599	1399-Below	Free With USCF Dues
3-Day EF	Free	\$159	\$200	\$300	\$159	\$158	\$157	\$156	\$150	
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Revised 3/21/2017

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	Open	Reserve	Booster
1st	\$700	\$450	\$350
2nd	\$500	\$350	\$250
3rd	\$350	\$300	\$200
4th	\$300	\$200	\$150
5th	\$250	\$150	\$100
	U2100	U1650	U1200
1st	\$250	\$200	\$100
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	U1900	U1500	U1000
1st	\$250	\$200	\$100
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Reentry for 1/2 of your original entry fee.

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Entries/Information:

Send entries to: Dan Mathews
WCF Tournament Coordinator
749 Somerset Lane

Edmonds, WA 98020-2646

Phone: (425) 218-7529

Email: danomathews01@gmail.com

Make checks payable to
Washington Chess Federation.

Embassy Suites Seattle North/Lynnwood

20610 44th Avenue West

Lynnwood, WA 98036-7701, Phone (425) 775-2500

Online Registration at www.nwchess.com/onlineregistration

Pay by credit/debit or PayPal.

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

Rating: US Chess rated. Open Section also FIDE rated (except G/60 games). US Chess May 2017 rating supplement will be used to determine section eligibility. Higher of US Chess or foreign ratings used at TD discretion. Higher of US Chess or FIDE rating used for pairings and prizes in Open Section. Foreign ratings used for players with no US Chess rating. Unrated players may only win top five prizes in the Open Section or unrated prizes in Booster Section.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Idaho Closed State Championship

By Barry Eacker

Twin Falls, ID — February 18-20, 2017

David Lucky is now 18-0 while playing in the Idaho Closed State Chess Championship, an Idaho Chess Association record. Meanwhile, his classical tournament games winning streak stays alive at 42.

Please see a story about this consecutive games record in the January 2017 *Northwest Chess* magazine, pg 6-7. Interestingly, Lucky's winning streak combining classical and blitz consecutive US Chess rated tournament games now sits at an amazing 72-0!

Lucky, of Eagle, ID, buzzed through the event held on February 18-20 at the Shilo Inn in Twin Falls with a perfect 6.0/6 score for the third consecutive time, an ICA record. His three consecutive championship wins tie him with Joe Kennedy (1990-1992, Eagle) and Dick Vandenburg (1963-1965, Boise).

The record for most consecutive appearances on the championship plaque is a staggering seven, achieved by 18-time Idaho Chess Champion Larry Parsons of Boise from 1996-2002. Idaho chess legend Glen Buckendorf of Buhl is a ten-time championship winner. Lucky is already in elite company and looking to set more Idaho chess records in the coming years.

Finishing Second Overall with the tournament of his young life was BSU student Desmond Porth of Boise with 5.0/6 and an incredible 2003 tournament performance rating, 616 points above his 1387 rating! US Chess alerted me to address this anomaly so we could get the event rated! I told his dad, ICA President Adam Porth, that he probably wouldn't be defeating Dez again in a tournament any time soon...

Third Place Overall went to James Inman of Nampa, who tallied a 4.0/6 score, grabbing the trophy via Solkoff tiebreak over six other players in the score group. He gained the distinction of being the player who had the best game against David Lucky, playing to an endgame against the champion in round six, with many players seated and standing around the board to witness the exemplary technique by Lucky, bringing home the full point.

Other prize winners included:

Cody Gorman, Boise, 1st Class A

Dewayne Derrybery, Pocatello, 1st Class B

Jacob Nathan, Idaho Falls, Top Junior

Bill Arnold, Chubbuck, Top Senior

Jeffrey Roland, Boise, 2nd Class B

Wesley Nyblade, Heyburn, 1st Class C

Jeffrey B Hall, Buhl, 2nd Class C

Adam Porth, Bellevue, 1st Class D

Dylan Porth, Bellevue, Top Woman

Kevin Patterson, Boise, 2nd Class D

Levi Catangcatang, Bellevue, 1st Class E

River Shepard, Bellevue, 2nd Class E

For the last few years, since the passing of Glen Buckendorf, a special award has been handed out at the Idaho Closed and several other ICA tournaments affectionately known as "The Buckendorf Award". In the twilight of his career, Glen selected two or three books from his personal library to be handed out to the players who finished just "out of the money", if you will, in order to help encourage them to keep trying to excel at the royal game. In keeping with this great tradition, players who received books from Glen's personal library in this year's event were Kevin Xu, Alex Machin and Tom Booth.

Thirty-three players from 10 cities attended the tournament. Special thanks to Darlene Kulhanek with the Shilo Inn in Twin Falls who made everything with the site happen. Also many thanks to Assistant TD Adam Porth and the staff of TD's who helped me navigate the rule book; Jeff Roland, Jay Simonson, George Lundy, Cody Gorman and Alise Pemsler.

**Tom R. Booth (1641) –
Jeffrey T. Roland (1771) [D05]**

Idaho Closed (Championship)
Twin Falls (R2), February 18, 2017
[Jeffrey Roland], [RD=Ralph Dubisch]

The opportunity to play Tom Booth was one of my reasons for going to the Idaho Closed. The ICA Annual Business Meeting was the main reason, but there was also the hope that I might play Tom Booth. There is something about playing Tom that is right in Idaho. I have always felt like Tom exemplifies what it means to be in the ICA. Tom started playing during the Fischer boom of 1972, and Tom's attitude, respect, courtesy, and gentlemanly demeanor over-the-board, have given him the nickname "Grandmaster Booth". Not because he plays with the chess skill of a grandmaster (he's rated 1641), but because playing him feels like you are playing a grandmaster. He acts like one would expect from a world champion! I know that sounds a little weird, but that's how I feel about Tom Booth!

**1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e3 e6 4.Bd3 Bd6
5.Nbd2 Nbd7 6.0-0! 0-0! 7.c3**

After the game, Tom told me he was "mad" that I kept playing the same moves he did. Coming from Tom, though, that is actually a compliment... it means he thought it was good!

Actually, I just thought that these squares and piece placements were right. I can't remember ever playing this way before though. I do know that such a policy of simply copying your opponents good moves is not a good strategy because sooner or later, the "first player" will do something you can't copy, such as a capture, check or checkmate! I knew that whoever broke first with either e3-e4, or e6-e5 would probably stand better. But I didn't have the nerve to do it myself now, and I didn't want to play ...c6 and keep this agonizing (for me) strategy going (I didn't realize it was also agonizing for Tom too until after the game!)

So I kind of lost my nerve here and made sure we didn't have a completely identical set-up... and I let White be the first player to break in the center, right or wrong.

7...b6 8.e4 dxe4 9.Bxe4

9.Nxe4 seems more natural to me, however, the fact my rook on a8 is attacked still meant I needed to deal with that, and 9...Rb8 didn't look good to me at all, so naturally I go ahead and capture on e4.

9...Nxe4 10.Nxe4 Bb7 11.Nxd6

This relieved the tension in the position. After this move, I definitely felt better, so White probably shouldn't have done this just yet. Perhaps something like 11.Re1 first, with ideas of 12.Bg5 f6 and then 13.Nxd6 would be better for White.

Tom and I both have very similar temperaments in our games, historically. We of course like to win, and we like to attack, but we also respect the fact that chess is a balance between attack and defense. We tend to get into a lot of endgames.

Unfortunately for both of us, however, we tend to get to those endgames before we can really demonstrate an advantage! That's just my own personal opinion and observation of our historic tendencies when playing each other. This of course means nothing, as every game we start brand new a fresh battle, a new game, and a new chance to do something we've never done before... and of course, we love it!

11...cxd6 12.Bf4 Nf6 13.Bg5 h6 14.Bh4 Be4

[Diagram top of next page]

I played this move because if I am ever to even threaten to ever break that pin on my knight (without allowing White the opportunity of doubling my pawns),



Position after 14...Be4

the only way to do it is to play ...g5. If I did that now, however, he could sac on g5 and bust my kingside open, probably to his advantage. By placing my bishop here now, I give my kingside some much needed defense, and could, if needed block an attack so that he couldn't really sac on g5 and get enough for it.

15.Re1

Now he's threatening to simply take the bishop with his rook (since my knight is pinned), so I have to move the bishop. I don't want to block my ...g5 possibility, that's the main reason I played the bishop to e4 in the first place, and I didn't like the look of ...Bh7 as being kind of cramped and passive, and I could see e6 becoming weak.

I couldn't help but feel that if I didn't keep my bishop on the b1-h7 diagonal, I could never break the pin of the knight, so I played ...Bf5, even though I also felt it could not be maintained there very long.

15...Bf5 16.a4

This move looked really good to me at the time during the game! Tom told me after the game that he didn't know what to do here and that he read somewhere when you don't know what to do, play a4!

Well, that seems such an easy formula... and I wish I had read that book he read! I was simply scared at the way that move looked to me, and I couldn't really do anything about it... so I just continued to do what I was doing for the time being, but in the back of my mind I was thinking what is he going to do next on the queenside!

16...g5 17.Bg3 Ne4

Black is looking good here. I've never completely believed in the idea that bishops are better than knights, but sometimes they are for sure. In this case, however, I just wanted to not have a chance of a bishop-of-opposite color ending against Tom Booth!

18.Nd2 Nxc3 19.hxc3 Qd7 20.Ne4 Kg7 21.a5

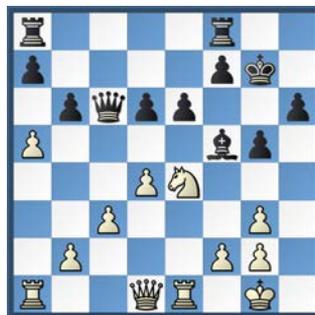
This move didn't scare me (while a4 did!)... if White does open the file, I figure it is Black that can take possession of the



Tom Booth during round two. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

a-file. The last couple moves have given me a good feeling that Black seems okay now.

21...Qc6



Position after 21...Qc6

[21...Qc6?! Better 21...d5]

22.d5

I saw this coming, which is why I played 21...Qc6. I appreciate Tom's idea though. It is a good pawn sacrifice to open lines. I probably would have done this too if I had been White. I knew the game is still on!

[RD: 22.d5!±]

22...exd5 23.Qd4+ f6

And here I was so glad I didn't prematurely move my rook to e8... right now the f6-square needs all the protection it can get!

24.Nd2 Qc5 25.Re7+

Yes, yes, yes... and now White will do a few exchanges to clarify the position. I still feel that Black has a fine game here in spite of the fact that White has a rook on the seventh!

[RD: 25.Nb3! guarantees White an advantage. Black's "extra" pawn is actually a liability, and a white knight on

d4, compared with the ineffective black bishop, is a plus that Nimzovich would well appreciate.]

25...Kg6 26.axb6

[RD: 26.g4! Bc2 27.Nb3! Anyway! Since 27...Bxb3?? (27...Qc4 28.Qe3 Qxb3 (28...Qxg4 29.Nd4) 29.Qh3+-) 28.Qd3+ f5 29.gxf5+ Kf6 30.Rae1 is overwhelming.; Or more simply 26.Nb3 still favors White.]

26...axb6

[RD: The intermezzo 26...Qxd4 27.cxd4 axb6± creates a static weakness on d4 that looks quite awkward to defend. It's not so much the extra pawn that's important here, as it is the bishop vs knight. Without a nice outpost that knight starts to have issues.]

27.Raa7



Position after 27.Raa7

Well, surely White can't think I'll let him keep doubled rooks on the seventh. I think the exchanges that happen here favor Black.

[RD: 27.Ra4!±]

27...Rxa7 28.Rxa7 Qxd4 29.cxd4 Rc8 30.Nf3 Rc1+ 31.Kh2 Rc2 32.Rb7 Rxb2

I see a protected passed b-pawn that could queen on b1 that is covered by a bishop. Unless I just totally screw this up, I was now feeling like Black was winning. The problem White has is that the rook kind of has to stay somewhat on that b-pawn and White's knight is a bit awkward too (d2, e5, h4, h2 are kind of not available to the knight right now, it only has g1 and e1 are even available as real moves to go to presently. Of course, this too could change in time, but a freeze frame right now, Black definitely feels good about this position!

33.Kg1 b5 34.Rb8 b4 35.Rb6 b3 36.Rxd6 Ra2

Well, I think 36...Rc2 was probably better, because then the knight can't get to d2 and hope to defend the queening square. But I was afraid that Ne1 would kick my rook again, but that's silly because I could play ...Rc1 with a completely won position. So I let something that didn't matter make me move to a less good square, but Black is still winning even now.

37.Ne5+

This move was definitely wrong because the knight has to go through one extra move to get back where it could even think of defending. But let's also be clear, by defending, I mean I think at the minimum White will have to lose his knight for the pawn, but I actually want more than that. My goal is to queen the pawn and have the queen stay on the board! But the move did look scary for a second, and it was unexpected...it was the one move of the game that came to me as a total shock, I hadn't seen that before it was actually made.

37...Kg7

Check, uncheck!

38.Nf3

Now that the pin of the f6-pawn is gone, the knight had to do this, but now the black pawn just moves to b2 and that puts Black one move closer than he would have been... so 37.Ne5 had only shock value.

38...b2 39.Nd2 Ra1+ 40.Kh2 Rd1 0-1

David Lucky (2389) –

DeWayne R. Derryberry (1717) [A90]
Idaho Closed (Championship)
Twin Falls (R5), February 20, 2017
[David Lucky]

1.d4 e6 2.c4 f5 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.g3 c6 5.Bg2 d5 6.Qc2 Bd6 7.0-0 0-0

DeWayne has chosen a very nice and solid line of the Stonewall Dutch. If White doesn't react accurately, then Black can end up with a very good position.

8.Ne5 a5 9.Nc3 Na6

9...Bxe5 would be an ambitious try here.

After that move, one possible line could be 10.dxe5 Ng4 11.b3 Nxe5 12.Ba3 Rf7 13.Rad1 Black's dark squares are weak, and White has a lot of compensation for the pawn. This could lead to an interesting struggle.

10.a3 Bd7

Black still has a similar option as to the previous note. A possible line from this position could be 10...Bxe5 11.dxe5 Ng4 12.cxd5 cxd5 13.Bf4 g5 14.Bd2 A very double-edged position arises. Black has a pawn, in turn for a weakened kingside, and weak dark squares.

11.Bf4 Qe7

If 11...dxc4 then 12.Nxc4 Bxf4 13.gxf4 and White has a slight positional plus, since Black has a lot of weakened dark squares.

12.Qb3

12.c5 now also gives White a slight edge, although the move played is a bit more aggressive.

12...Rfb8?!

I think this move leaves Black a bit too congested on the queenside. On the other hand, Black's game is not easy here, and it is difficult to suggest anything much better for Black.

If Black wants a rook on b8 to protect the b7-pawn, then it may be better to play 12...Rab8, since Black's rooks will have a bit more freedom. There are also some unforeseen tactical reasons why it's better to not leave his rook on a8. However, even in that case, White will maintain a slight edge. The a5-pawn is loose, and White has options of gaining space with 13.c5.



Position after 12...Rfb8

In this position I saw that I can simply play 13.c5, with a very nice long-term safe advantage. It would be a small edge, but an easy game for White to play. After 13.c5 Bc7, both 14.Nd3, or 14.Na4 are going to give White a good game. Although it's only a small edge, and the game goes on.

On the other hand, in this key position, I also had an idea of a piece sacrifice, which may lead to a bigger advantage. However, in order for me to make the

piece sacrifice, it was necessary for me to calculate a variation which goes 21 half moves (about 10 full moves deep.) After the end of the calculations, there was then a slightly messy position that needed to be evaluated. The question then becomes do you go for the easy safe edge, or sacrifice a piece, in a long calculated line, which could have some risks if miscalculated. This is the point of no return. Therefore...

13.cxd5! cxd5 14.Nxd7 Qxd7

If 14...Nxd7 15.Nxd5! wins easily.

15.Bxd5!!



Position after 15.Bxd5

The critical test that I had to calculate back on move 13, when choosing to play cxd5, was the following variation:

15...Nxd5

Obviously Black cannot throw in 15...Bxf4, since 16.Bxe6+ wins Black's queen. Then; 15...exd5 16.Nxd5 Now in this position, 16...Qf7 loses easily to 17.Nxf6+, 18.Qxf7+, and 19.Bxd6. (Likewise, 16...Nxd5 loses easily to 17.Qxd5+, followed by capturing Black's bishop on d6.; Therefore, in this variation after 15...exd5, 16.Nxd5, Black's best try was 16...Kh8 White now has two pawns for the piece, and can play the following: 17.Nb6 Qd8 18.Bxd6 Qxd6 19.Nxa8 Rxa8 20.Qxb7 Rb8 21.Qa7 Rxb2 22.Rab1 Rxb1 23.Rxb1



(#Diagram-analysis after 23.Rxb1)

This was the main line I had to calculate, before playing 13.cxd5, and committing myself to this line. I judged this position to be a big advantage for White. White has a Rook and two pawns for Black's two knights. However, White also has other additional trumps in the position, as follows. White has an immediate threat

of Rb6 winning one of Black's knights, and Black's pawn on a5 is weak and loose, and could fall at some point. In addition, Black has king safety problems with his back rank being exposed.

At some point Black may have to block a back-rank check with ...Ng8, which would only worsen his position, and keep him tied up. White's king is safe now, and it's hard for Black to attack White. Although the game is by no means over, it certainly appears that White has a big advantage there, after 23.Rxb1. Therefore, before playing the move 13.cxd5, I had to judge this position as much better for White. Otherwise, I would have been content with a small and safe edge, and played 13.c5.

Incidentally, I am giving the main line in this analysis, leading up to 23.Rxb1. Black has a few other sideline options along the way, but in either case, Black will always have the worse position, no matter what he does. Although, with my opponent's 15th move, he avoided the critical line, and got a bad position right away.

Back to the game.)

16.Nxd5

Now White will just be up a pawn, with a position edge as well.

16...b5

Obviously, 16...exd5? loses to 17.Qxd5+ and 18.Qxd6. Also, not 16...Bxf4 17.Nxf4 Qxd4? because 18.Nxe6 will win more material, since Black's queen is attacked and 19.Nc7 discovered check is threatened.

17.Bxd6 Qxd6 18.Nf4 Nc7 19.Rac1

At this point, the position is lost for Black. He is down a pawn, and has other weak pawns and weak squares. Meanwhile, White controls the only open file on the board and can continue to make threats.

19...a4 20.Qf3

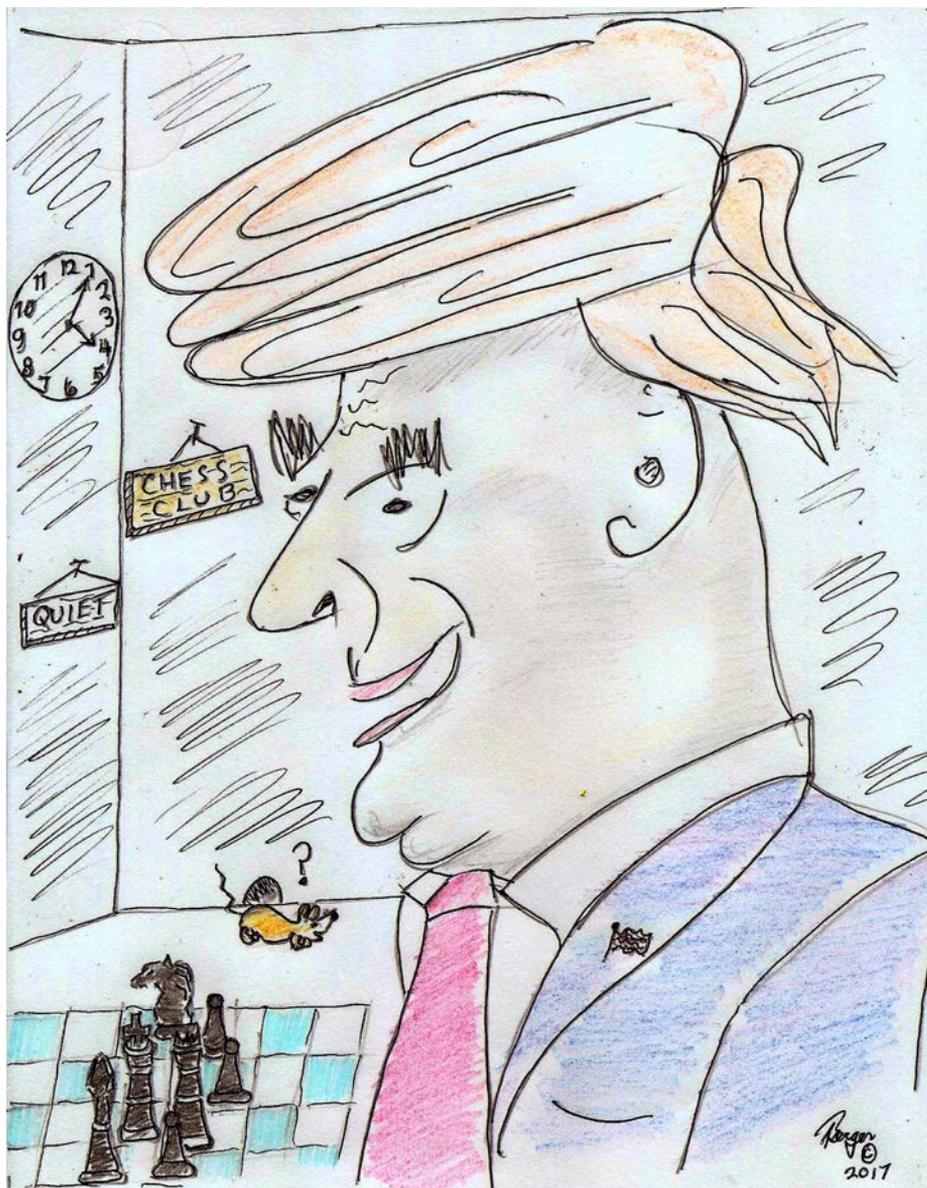
White now threatens 21.Rc6, followed by Rfc1.

20...Nd5 21.Nxd5 Qxd5 22.Qxd5 exd5 23.Rc5 Rd8 24.Rfc1!

There is no reason to play 24.Rxb5?!, since Black can then play 24...Rab8 25.Rxb8 Rxb8 26.Rb1 White would be up two pawns there, but his rook is very passive, and his queenside pawns are fixed. White may still win in the long run, but White should not play for such a position when 24.Rfc1 keeps control of everything.

24...Rab8 25.Rc7

White is preparing to play 26.Ra7, and then 27.Rcc7 placing both rooks on the seventh rank, wreaking havoc in Black's



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position. After the coming 26.Ra7, Black could play 26...Ra8, to prevent both of White's rooks coming to the seventh rank. In that case, White would then exchange a pair of rooks, and then play Rc5, picking up a second pawn, giving Black a hopeless position. Therefore... Black resigns.

1-0

**James Inman (1810) –
David Lucky (2389) [E11]**
Idaho Closed (Championship)
Twin Falls (R6), February 20, 2017
[David Lucky]

Coming into round six, I was expecting to play white in my last round. In the first five rounds, I had three blacks, and two whites. Therefore, I expected things to

even out, with a white in the last round. However, my opponent, Jim Inman, had black in rounds four and five, therefore, Jim needed to have white so that he wouldn't have three blacks in a row. Last round pairings can sometimes cause funny things to happen. Therefore, I would have to have my fourth black out of the six-round tournament.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Bb4+ 4.Bd2 Qe7 5.g3 Nc6 6.Nc3 Bxc3 7.Bxc3 Ne4 8.Qc2 d5

This is a theoretical position, and it is well known that Black has fairly easy equality after 8...Nxc3 9.Qxc3 Qb4 10.Qxb4 Nxb4 11.Kd2. Black is very comfortable, and doesn't have many problems here. However, trying to win with Black from that position, with the queens traded early,



L-R: James Inman, David Lucky. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

can be quite a challenge, even against a lower-rated player. I wanted to keep a dynamic position if possible, and to keep queens on for just a bit longer.

In order to properly explain this game, and to properly understand it, I need to explain some of the reverse dynamics that were going on in the background.

First of all, this was played in the last round of the Idaho State Championship. I had 5.0/5, and my opponent had 4.0/5. There was one other player in the tournament that had 4.0/5. Therefore, if you consider only the tournament standings then Black should be happy with a draw. A draw for Black would guarantee clear first place, with a score of 5.5/6.

Jim would then have 4.5/6, and nobody else could catch me with 5.5 points. On the other hand, if I were to make a gross blunder, and lose the game, then I would not win the clear title of State Champion. In that case, it would only be a shared, and diluted title, since Jim Inman would then have 5.0/6, and another player in the tournament could also get 5.0/6.

A loss could mean a three-way shared title, whereas a draw guarantees clear first place. Beyond that, I believe there is a moral responsibility for me to play the game to its logical conclusion, and to beat a lower-rated player. I've seen many tournaments where masters, or even grandmasters, will offer a quick draw in the last round if it guarantees them clear first place in a tournament. They don't want to risk anything when a draw gives them the maximum prize they can win.

Now, beyond all is this, there was another dynamic going on in the background. Before the start of this game, I had a

consecutive winning streak of 41 straight wins in classical tournaments, with no draw, and no losses. Morally, I feel honor-bound to try to continue to win, until someone breaks my streak.

Therefore, if it means risking a share of the State Championship title in order to keep my streak going, then I have to do that, and not worry about any titles. Lastly, I just wanted to play an interesting game, regardless of what happens.

9.Bg2 0-0 10.0-0 Bd7 11.Nd2 Nxd2 12.Qxd2 dxc4!?

Black's last move involves an exchange sacrifice, leading to an interesting and unbalanced position.

13.Bxc6 Bxc6 14.Bb4 Qd7 15.Bxf8 Rxf8



Position after 15...Rxf8

Here is the first critical position. Black has a pawn and some positional compensation for the exchange that he sacrificed. A computer may evaluate this as slightly better for White. However, from the human standpoint, it is not an easy position for White to play. Black has a very nice bishop along the long diagonal, and there are no immediate targets in which White can attack.

In addition, Black's king is very safe, and White will have to always be on guard for any attacks against his own king. Black already has some threats in the position, and it is hard for White to create threats against Black. From a practical standpoint, I believe that Black has decent chances here.

16.f3

It's natural for White to want to blunt Black's nice bishop diagonal. Although this move may be inevitable, it does create additional weaknesses around White's king position.

16...Rd8 17.b3 cxb3

Black cannot be too quick to play 17...Qxd4? otherwise, White will get an advantage after 18.Qxd4 Rxd4 and 19.Rd1! In that case, White seizes the d-file, and Black has problems on his eighth-rank being exposed. However, Black can continue to improve his position in other ways.

18.axb3 a6 19.Rad1 Bb5!

The black bishop finds a new diagonal, a new target, and a new way to harass White's pawns. Black can continue to attack White, while White is not able to make threats against Black in the same way. The move 19...Bb5 also frees up Black's c-pawn.

20.Rfe1 c5

Only Black has been able to create any type of threats in this position.

21.e3

Creating more weak squares and weak pawns.

21...Qd5



Position after 21...Qd5

22.e4?

White cracks slightly, under the pressure of Black's attack to his f3- and b3-pawns. This is not an easy position for a human to play on the white side. With some computer analysis, White can try 22.Qc2, and let Black play 22...Qxf3 23.dxc5 Rc8. The game goes on in this line, but Black can be happy that he is still rock solid, while White has a lot of weak pawns, and a slightly exposed king. Also, once the f3-pawn is removed, that long diagonal

becomes very strong for the black bishop.

With 22.e4, White sacrifices a pawn in order to trade queens and to stop all of Black's many threats. Although, in the coming endgame, it is only Black who has winning chances. After queens are traded, we are playing only for two possible results.

22...Qxd4+

22...Qxb3 is also good for Black. Play may continue 23.Re3 Qb4 24.d5. White is worse, but does have some counter-play with the pawn at d5. In the line chosen for Black, White will get no counter-play at all.

23.Qxd4

Not 23.Qf2?? since 23...Qxd1! 24.Rxd1 Rxd1+ 25.Kg2 Bf1+ leads to an easily won king and pawn ending.

23...cxd4 24.Rd2 e5!

Black is better in the endgame, and will continue to improve his position. White can only sit around and wait for the axe to fall, since Black has no targets that White can attack, and it's not easy for White to improve his position.

25.Rc1 Bc6!

White is not allowed any counter-play on with a rook coming into c7 and will have no entry squares into Black's position.

26.Kf2 f6 27.Ke2 Kf7 28.g4?!

White sees that Black is preparing an eventual ...f5, opening up things for Black's bishop, and creating more targets against White. 28.g4 is an attempt to stop a later ...f5 by Black, but only creates other problems. This is not an easy position to play for White!

28...h5!



Position after 28...h5

29.h3

If 29.gxh5, then ...Rh8 will leave White with a lot of weak pawns, and more targets.

29...hxg4 30.hxg4 Rh8 31.Rcc2 g6

Black wants to play ...f5, which will strengthen his bishop's diagonal, and create more targets against White's position on the kingside.

32.Kf2 f5!

At this point, Black's bishop on c6 is looking very powerful, and active. This is the exact type of position that Black was hoping for when he sacrificed the exchange back on move 12. Black's bishop is so strong, that White will soon have to consider sacrificing his rook for Black's bishop.

33.gxf5 gxf5 34.exf5 Kf6

34...Rh3 doesn't work here, due to 35.Kg2! Rxf3? 36.Rxc6. However, in this position, Black is slowly improving his position. Black is now threatening the following plan: 35...Kxf5, ...Kf4, ...Bxf3, etc. White is starting to feel desperate, and wants to react quickly, and avoid any slow death.

35.f4

White wants to break up Black's powerful central pawn structure. However...

35...e4!!



Position after 35...e4

36.Rxc6+

Only move to stay alive. If 36.Rxd4? then 37...Rh2+ wins the rook on c2. If 36.Kg3 then 36...Rg8+ 37.Kh3 d3, and Black's two connected center-pawns will win easily.

36...bxc6 37.Rxd4 Kxf5 38.Rd6?!

White has a very difficult ending, being down a pawn now, but 38.Rc4 is a better try here.

38...Rh2+ 39.Kg3 Rc2 40.b4 Rc3+ 41.Kf2 Kxf4 42.Rf6+ Ke5 43.Rf8 Kd4

Black sees an easy technical win, up two pawns with 43...Kd4. However, 43...Rf3+! forces a king and pawn ending, and wins sooner. Although with 43...Kd4 the result is not in doubt.

44.Ra8 Rc2+ 45.Ke1 Kd3 46.Rd8+ Ke3 47.Kd1 Rc4 48.Ra8 Rxb4

With a two-pawn advantage, the rest is very easy and simple.

49.Rxa6 c5 50.Ra3+ Kd4 51.Rh3 c4 52.Rg3 c3 53.Rh3

[Diagram top of next column]

53...e3

The white rook can help to stop one of



Position after 53.Rh3

Black's pawns from advancing, but not both pawns. One of Black's pawns will be coming in for a touchdown!

54.Rh8 Rb1+ 55.Kc2 e2 56.Rd8+ Kc5! 57.Rc8+

If 57.Kxb1 then 57...e1Q+ 58.Kc2 Qf2+ 59.Kxc3 Qf6+ picks up White's rook!

57...Kd6!

57...Kb6?? 58.Rb8+ wins.

58.Rxc3 e1Q 59.Rd3+ Ke5 60.Rd4?!

White is now down a full queen, with Black to move! Although Jim is showing some good sense of humor! White is hoping for 60...Kxd4?? Stalemate. However...

60...Rc1+ 0-1

Changes in the ICA point to a bright future

By Adam Porth

On the February 18-20, 2017 three-day weekend, the Idaho Chess Association held the annual Idaho Closed Championship in Twin Falls and crowned David Lucky as Idaho's top chess player for a third time. Despite the lack of change in Idaho chess champions, the Idaho Chess Association (ICA) experienced many adjustments and refinements over the previous year.

Changes began accruing last year with a newly elected Trustee for Scholastic Development, Alise Pemsler. Presidential duties were also passed on with Board of Director changes. As the scramble for new Board members ensued and the cache of responsibilities began to pile up, new decisions began shaking the status quo. Chris Naccarato joined the Board of Directors as Vice President while Adam Porth assumed Presidential responsibilities. Desmond Porth, BSU Computer Science student, took over management of the website while the ICA also established a social media presence



ICA President Adam Porth. Photo credit: Alex Machin.

on facebook and twitter via Richard Mussler-Wright.

A new philosophy emerged for scholastics and the ICA with an emphasis on consistency and future vision. The ICA adopted a new Vision, Mission, and Value statements:

The Idaho Chess Association's vision is to enrich the lives of all people and Idaho communities through the game of chess.

The mission of the Idaho Chess Association is to provide organized chess play, coordinate chess activities within the state, support and develop local chess clubs, encourage player development, and to enhance appreciation of chess.

The Idaho Chess Association values fair play and good sportsmanship, education through sharing and teaching, chess players with diverse abilities and skills, creating a variety of chess activities and opportunities, decisions using sound logic and forethought, and continued growth and learning through chess.

One of the first decisions by the

new board was to re-establish the Girls Scholastic State Championship. It was run and met with great success in April. An annual coaches meeting was another innovation offering chess clubs and coaches an opportunity to discuss the upcoming year. Other scholastic changes were investigated and a quality program offering more quality playing opportunities was adopted. Scholastic players need to qualify for the State Championships held in March through four regional scholastic tournaments. Tournament costs were also cut in half for scholastics.

The top three from each grade were invited to the State Scholastic Tournaments along with all players that scored 3.0 points or higher. Also, all Seniors were "grandfathered" into the tournament. Players that attended the Open tournaments offered by the ICA were also invited through an alternative qualifying process. The new requirements increased scholastic involvement in Eastern, Southern, and Western Idaho Opens. Thus, more players will earn US Chess ratings. The State Championships

are also now rated. These changes mean that the state competition is more legitimate and the games will be significantly better than previous years.

The Norman Friedman Memorial Tournament was also introduced which includes a Blitz, Scholastic and Standard Tournaments over National Chess weekend. The tournament offers guaranteed \$600 prizes donated from Joyce Friedman and friends, spreading prize money across all classes of player. Next year will feature even more prize money!

Tournaments were reorganized to bring future consistency to our offerings. The Southern Idaho Open was run over Veteran's Day with Vets appreciated and honored at the event. The SIO will be over Veteran's weekend every year now. The Western Idaho Open is now going to be held in one day due to venue costs, however, free venues are now sought after for *all* events. This will reduce costs and allow for a more fiscally responsible management of the ICA.

The ICA donned a new face on the internet, idahochessassociation.com, and received lots of praise from members. A TD Support area, online registration and payment options were introduced and new partnerships were established. Endgame Clothing, Wholesale Chess, and Chess Microbase have partnered with us to bring the best equipment and online opportunities to our members.

The Idaho History project was revitalized and cloud management of the ICA's files using the Google platform was also introduced. Printers for each region and a PA system was purchased. These changes make the ICA much more professional and allow for more involvement by ICA Membership.

At the two-hour annual business meeting, a round table discussion of many of the above topics allowed members to voice concerns and offer ideas. There were some Constitutional changes including a new Board of Directors structure. The Secretary/Treasurer was split into two positions and board positions for Trustees



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were removed with the Scholastic Trustee voting only on scholastic issues and the Tournament Trustee voting on all other issues. The second Tournament Trustee will be phased out over the next year. Additionally, the Board of Directors positions will remain vacant until suitable candidates are found. In other words, we will no longer fill positions to have them filled with inactive members.

Elections were relatively uneventful with no candidate speeches and Jay Simonson issuing all members ballots on blank sheets of paper. Adam Porth won President and Jay Simonson won Treasurer with no challenger. Alex Machin replaced Chris Naccarato as Vice President. The ICA wishes a warm welcome to Alex and also a tremendous thank you to Chris Naccarato for stepping up and helping out in the north.

With other subtle changes and a period of readjustment, patience, and flexibility, the Idaho Chess Association will continue to offer Idahoans quality opportunities to engage in chess activities that will foster improvement, learning, and participation.

Become A Prison Chess Volunteer

By Tom Booth

The heavy prison doors clanging shut after you enter are at first a bit intimidating. But you soon get used to it. Your visits to the prison become very enjoyable. Just good chess and friends, like any chess club.

If you have some extra time, become a volunteer at a prison. The chess is enjoyable, and you are greatly appreciated by the inmates. They realize that volunteers are giving up their time to help an unpopular group.

I've been a volunteer at the Snake River Correctional Institution in Ontario, Oregon. A large, well-run prison. It has been a very rewarding experience. One meets interesting people and avid chess players. The staff at this prison has been

very, very supportive.

Some prison systems are more supportive than others concerning volunteers. The Oregon Prison System has been exceptionally supportive. They have many volunteers for many different activities.

When you contact a prison, ask to speak to someone on the "prison volunteer staff" or, possibly, the "recreation staff." Just realize that you will be helping many appreciative inmates as well as society by your volunteering. Also, your chess game might improve. Mine did!

February 2017 PCC Quad 45

By Brian Berger

Portland, OR — February 4, 2017

A cold rain still lingered in the Portland area from a recent ice and snow storm on the day of the Portland

Chess Club's February Quad 45, as I and 24 other players took this window of opportunity between storms to safely venture out for our chess fix.

It would be a short window of opportunity, as another blast of cold air was expected to hit the area sometime late on Sunday. This cold air, when mixed with the steady rainfall was predicted to once again bring ice and snow to the valley floor—a storm pattern not seen in the area in recent years.

But for me, Brian "I'm Just Glad To Be Here" Berger, the day still held its dangers, in the very format of a Quad 45—a tournament with a short time control that has been my nemesis, seemingly, since I first started playing it on a regular basis some three years ago, after I volunteered to be an Oregon reporter for *Northwest Chess*.

So I entered the playing room with some misgivings, and only a small ray of hope, that I would not once again be



(L) James Bean vs Michael Olson. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

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paired with extreme youth, possessed with excessive talent—a combination that lurks at this time control and has drained rating points from me as a vampire might drain blood.

That ray of hope was a recent rise in rating that just might get me into a higher-rated quad, where I would more than likely be paired with older players carrying bona fide ratings. And thanks to Micah Smith, the Chief TD for this tournament (Mike Hasuike being the Assistant Chief TD, and who also played extra games with those who had byes), who uses “live” ratings (ratings posted after recent tournament activity, I WAS placed in a higher rated quad, away from the Munchkins of ratings mayhem.

Four quads, along with a seven-player Small Swiss containing the lowest-r Qated players, and an Extra Games section, made up the program—the Small Swiss, an attempt to keep family members from having to play each other. And as luck would have it (my experiences with luck and omens and hopes not being the best—as I mentioned in an earlier article), I was assigned to Quad Two—hopefully a fair test of my rating (1596) against others with ratings close to mine.

Fortune was in my corner this time, as I managed to beat a 1716 provisional player and also one rated at 1600, enough



(L) James Tsai ve Ian Fudalla. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

to share first place with Michael Olson (1593-1619—2.0/3), while upping my rating to 1621. For once in a long while I had escaped the wrath of the underrated and quick minded. Perhaps an “omen?”

Quad One saw NM Jason Cigan (2230-2226—2.5/3) take first place, his only blemish being a hard fought draw with the always determined Isaac Vega (1792-1781—0.5/3), whose close scrutiny of the board seems all-consuming—akin

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Misc: All equipment provided. Special \$139 room rate at the Executive Plaza 1-800-663-2878 (rate code “Keres Memorial Chess Tournament”. See website for further details.

Note: All dollar amounts are in Canadian dollars.

to watching someone mesmerized by something bewitching.

Roshen Nair (1553-1588—2.5/3) has seen his rating on the rise throughout his last nine US Chess-rated tournaments. Coming in first in Quad Three, he added another 35 points, while also receiving a chess book of his choice (a prize offered to all who won their section), and a small trophy for being a scholastic player managing to win with at least 2.5 points.

James Tsai (1481-1560—3.0/3), going through a period of trying to lift himself out of the lower-rated doldrums, showed in this tournament some of the fire that once had him rated as high as 1687, back in 2013. Turning in a perfect 3.0, he tacked on nearly 80 points, and won a chess book—perhaps a sign that he has shaken loose the doldrums and is on his way to reclaiming his previous peak rating.

In the same quad, seven-year-old Abbie Wu (1369-1425—2.0/3) scored two victories while coming in second. Her concentration behind the board exhibits a maturity beyond her chronological age, helped in part by her chess coach, NM Nick Raptis (better known to *Northwest Chess* readers as “The Raptor,” for his rapid dispatching of opponents). Nick has worked with both she and her brother, Kevin Wu, to better their board generalship—lessons that have boosted the ratings of both players, but especially that of Abbie, who just recently added 164 points during the January Tuesday Quads and another 55 points to her rating in this tournament.

Another player to score a perfect 3.0 was Avi Gupta (1287-1352—3.0/3), who won the Small Swiss, gaining 65 rating points, and also a large trophy for being a scholastic player who won his section—the selection of a chess book being an added bonus. And finishing second was Kevin Wu (1317-1297—2.0/3), with two games to his credit.

Mention must be made of a new player to the Portland Chess Club, Christopher Morrissey (100P-333P—1.5/3), a provisional player who, having played for only four games, added 235 rating points—his father, Patrick Morrissey (891P-885P—1.5/3), also a provisional player (and a dentist in the Lake Oswego area) was in the same Small Swiss.

Summing up this article I should mention that, Micah Smith has said, starting next month, the time control for the Quad 45 will change from a 15-second delay to a 15-second increment, and information on how to set this on your clock will be, for at time, on the Portland Chess Club website.

2017 Washington President's Cup

By Duane Polich

Seattle, WA — February 11-12, 2017

Congratulations to Naomi Bashkansky for winning the Washington State President's Cup event which was held at the Seattle Chess Club on February 11-12. Naomi finished with 4.5 points and had a hard fought draw with Jason Yu in the last round. Naomi's effort's netted her \$320 and follows up on her winning the 2016 World School Chess Championship in the Girls Under 13 category. Jason Yu took clear second with 4 points and good for \$220.00.

Other prize winners in the Open Section which had 30 players included Frank Fagundes, Michael Schemm, Munkhbileg Munkh-erdene, Jeffrey Yan, Daniel Shubin and Karthik Shaji.

Brandon Peng took first place in the reserve (Under 1600) section with a score of 4.5 points good for \$220. John Christy and Pranav Kurungod Anoop tied for 2nd /3rd with 4 points, each received \$125.

Other prize winners included Nithya Subramanian, Thomas Chung and Johan Karukayil. The reserve section had 21 players. The event was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation and directed by Dan Mathews and Duane Polich.

Bethel February Quads

By Owen McCoy

Eugene, OR — February 19, 2017

The reader may be glad to know that my introductory paragraph for the article will, for a change, have nothing whatsoever to do with weather.

These Quads were originally scheduled for the fifth of February. Any football fan would know why they were rescheduled. Immediately after saying I would watch the Super Bowl, I ran to the computer and frantically googled who was playing. Having heard enough about “Deflategate,” I opted to root for the Falcons. A few days later, I was watching the game with some friends. After the score reached 28-3 in the Falcons' favor, we called it good game and went to play our own version of football that involved mostly tackling and not much else. Yet somehow, Patriots QB Tom Brady and his team (and a coin toss) were able to pull off the greatest Super Bowl comeback in history in the first ever Super Bowl overtime.

What does this have to do with chess? Well, it means I have to find a game to include that was a comeback of equal merit. (Or close to equal.)

Quad 1 was, in terms of the players, almost an exact repeat of last month. However, it was acutely observed that Brian Schartz (1579-1598 — 1.0/3) was not Torrey Gage-Tomlinson (who was absent that day). Will Ravn (1946-1919 — 1.0/3), Cody Webb (1705-1705 — 1.0/3), and myself, Owen McCoy (2053-2065 — 3.0/3), all had the same colors against each other as last time. Nevertheless, the stars aligned for me and I fared a half-point better than before. This set my NWSRS rating at a new personal best, and left my US Chess rating (which is still about 2000) screaming “Wait for me!” as it was clearly not satisfied gaining nine points instead of 12.

If we're talking about comebacks, then let it be said; in the Ravn-Webb encounter of round 1, Cody put up a stodge defense in a noticeably inferior position, and then seized and converted the advantage after some slips by his opponent. Unfortunately for him, the same strategy was used against him successfully in Webb-Schartz of round 3.

Clifton Harris (1492-1510 — 2.5/3) and Ben Kurtz (1389-1446 — 2.5/3) tied for first in Quad 2, having ousted Andrei Kleshchev (1358-1344 — 1.0/3) and Jared Roe (1301-1256 — 0.0/3) before the peaceful resolution of their individual encounter.

It would seem that if Quad 3 was an election, Joseph Doerr (1146-1291 — 3.0/3) won unanimously, getting one vote from Jalen Wang (1131-1128 — 1.0/3), one from Harry Burleigh (1365-1312 — 1.0/3), and one from Jordan Mugford (1146-1134 — 1.0/3). Clearly there was some disagreement about who would be Vice President!

Yufei Su (1029-1088 — 3.0/3) certainly has a rating that precedes him, and was able to make it 59 points more impressive by winning Quad 4. That and his \$10 back, of course. Not so fortunate but still winning one game apiece were Aidan Cagle (807-805 — 1.0/3), John Roe (954-914 — 1.0/3), and Jason Dardis (801-801 — 1.0/3).

Bryce Newell (745-927 — 2.5/3) has pushed his rating from nothing to 927 (NWSRS) since November! Two wins and a draw was enough to win Quad 5 and gain 182 rating points! Kevin McCoy (970-976 — 2.0/3) finished à la Tigran V. Petrosian with a win and two draws, which was good for \$0 and 6 rating points. Better than nothing, I suppose!

My workload was eased somewhat in that 26 players came that day. (The

number is usually in the 30s.) Because of that, Quad 6 was made a Swiss 6, and Elliott Miller (824-868 — 3.0/3) won it convincingly.

Thanks to Mike Myers for running it as usual. Prepare for surprises next time, because clearly, anything can happen! (The Patriots winning the Super Bowl, snow in March, etc.)

John Donaldson Lecture

By Brian Berger

Portland, OR — February 23, 2017

The Portland Chess Club was filled to near capacity on a Thursday night in February, to hear IM John Donaldson (who was captain of the U.S. team) give a talk about his impressions of what took place during the 2016 Chess Olympiad, held in Baku, Azerbaijan, in September.

Donaldson, a chess historian who has written many books on the subject, and is the director of the Mechanics' Institute Library in San Francisco, California, has captained the U.S. team many times in the past. An astute observer of the world of chess, he has lectured widely and for many years was involved with *Inside Chess* magazine.

Introducing him to the avidly awaiting crowd was Casey Bush, a Senior Editor at *The Bear Deluxe Magazine* (a periodical dealing with environmental arts) and a well known poet in the area, who has also authored the book, "Grandmaster from Oregon: The Life and Games of Arthur Dake."

Those in the crowd ranged from the very young, eight-year-old Abbie Wu and her slightly older brother, Kevin, to the more age-advanced (me) and the many who fell within these extremes—all there to experience vicariously an event that has not been won by the US since 1976, when the Chess Olympiad was held in Haifa, Israel.

Interestingly, our own Oregon Grandmaster, James Tarjan, was a



IM John Donaldson talking to Rusty Miller and his wife. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

member of that 1976 team, along with other names mostly familiar to us older players: Robert Byrne, Lubomir Kavalek, Larry Evans, William Lombardy and Kim Commons—the US team winning the gold by a half point over the Netherlands.

Flash forward to 2016, and the world of chess has changed a great deal. The team that won the 1976 Olympiad did not have to face The U.S.S.R. and other Eastern Bloc nations due to tensions between them and Israel, nor had they the technology and new training methods that have been factors in creating the frightening young talents that frequent the upper echelon of chess players today.

With IM John Donaldson as their team captain, some of the best of that talent descended on Baku, in the persons of Grandmasters' Fabiano Caruana, Wesley So, Hikaru Nakamura, Sam Shankland and Ray Robson—team coach being Alex Lenderman. This powerhouse of players sported a team average of 2758 FIDE! Such was the strength of their play,

not a game was lost during this history making encounter with the world's chess elite.

Although somewhat controversial, the inclusion of Caruana in the U.S. lineup was brought about by Rex Sinquefeld, an investor of undetermined wealth who makes his home in Missouri. Hoping to straighten the American team, he convinced Caruana (who was born in Miami, but made his home in Europe and had been playing for Italy) to "switch his international allegiance" and play for the U.S.

Captained by Yasser Seirawan, the women's team of Irina Krush, Sabina Foisor, Katerina Nemcova, Nazi Paikadze and Anna Zatonskih were also on hand, giving a strong performance which resulted in a tie for 4th place, that then dropped to 6th on a tiebreak, placing them just behind 5th place India.

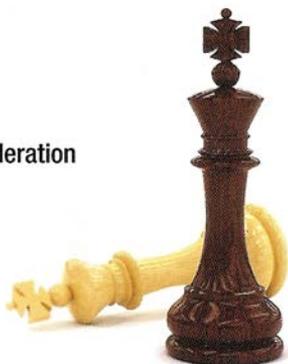
According to Donaldson, the host county spent some \$16 million dollars to

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make this an event worth remembering, incorporating stringent security measures (possibly as stringent as those Israel instituted back in 1976, but bolstered by modern technology), and offered one of the most spacious and best appointed of playing areas.

Not only were electronic devices barred from the playing hall, but there was even the possibility of being tested for drugs (those that could possibly increase mental focus or stamina), a recent implementation by FIDE, that has seen much resistance by those facing such testing, and which Donaldson implied was just demeaning and unnecessary.

When all was over, the victorious American team was awarded the winner's cup, which Donaldson carried on his 27-hour return to Berkley, saying of its condition, that it showed signs of wear, and also hubris, in the form of font sizes depicting earlier winners' ideas of their importance.

The Portland Chess Club wishes to thank, IM John Donaldson, for taking the time to relate his experiences concerning this historic event. And for a more detailed story of the Chess Olympiad, check out Donaldson's article for US Chess.

February 2017 PCC Game 60

By Brian Berger

Portland, OR — February 25, 2017

Although the Portland Chess Club's monthly Game 60 normally draws a crowd

in the upper 20s or low 30s, February's game drew a sparser number—19, to be exact. The reason for the low turnout could not be attributable to the weather, as this was one weekend, in quite a while, that did not threaten Portland with a biblical deluge or the need to travel by dogsled.

Aside from a glitch in the printer, which forestalled the pairings being posted on the cork board for the first round, all went well for the balance of the tournament, under the guidance of Chief TD Lennart Bjorksten, and his Assistant Chief TD Mike Hasuike—Hasuike also assuming a playing role in the tournament.

Conspicuous by his absence was Morgan The Dog, who generally likes to bring Jerrold Richards to these Game 60 tournaments, feeling it is a good test of what he has taught Richards about chess in the intervening weeks. But also, Morgan has a fondness for the players who people the Portland Chess Club, finding that they can be a source of tasty-treats, and numerous head-scratches and belly-rubs.

Morgan and Jerrold's absence most likely was caused by Morgan's schedule of appearances conflicting with this month's Game 60, wherein Morgan gives demonstrations on the latest computer findings in long established opening lines, and novelties he himself has discovered concerning positional subtleties.

As there were fewer than 30 players (30 or more require the tournament to be separated into two sections), only one

section needed pairing, resulting in first round match-ups that pitted lower rated players against much higher ones—both an opportunity and a bane, depending on your state of mind.

For me (1622-1659—2.0/4), it proved an opportunity to test my game against stiffer and “known” competition (I say “known,” because I've faced some pretty stiff competition from very young provisional players, that has taken me into some deep waters—much like an undertow draws its victim into inescapable depths), and perhaps elevate me to a rating level more in keeping with the one I fantasize I am capable of holding.

As luck would have it, I managed to win my first game against an expert—not by any extraordinary knowledge of what was best in a number of positions, but by just asking myself how I might be able to last a little longer before the hammer falls, against a player I highly respect.

Because of that win, I was then paired against a player I have written about in past tournaments—the very young, Eric Erard (1690-1662—2.0/4), who exhibits all of the qualities required of a player who hopes to be ranked in the upper percentile of the chess world. Luckily, but with a heavy heart (I could see the emotional toll), I also managed to fend off an extremely aggressive attack against my kingside, when a bishop sacrifice by Eric proved to be defendable.

My next two games proved not so lucky, as I was paired against Dave Murray (1835-1867—3.5/4) in the 3rd round, and Will Holloran III (1650-1726—3.5/4) in the 4th—who eventually split the first and second prizes for their 3.5 scores, to the tune of \$47.50 each.

Generally a common sight at these Game 60s, Murray has for some months been absent, but seemed not to have missed a beat in the quality of his game. And as for Holloran, his game grows stronger at each tournament, attacking like a tiger throughout.

Another player not seen at tournament play for a very long time was Sean Tobin (2010-2005—3.0/4), who together with Ray Fletcher III (1904-1905—3.0/4), shared in the third place winnings, each receiving \$14.25. It was Sean, who for some time ran a club out of the Cedar Hills Shopping Center in Beaverton, which drew an avid crowd of both beginning and advanced players (Nick “The Raptor” Raptis being one), that really got me interested in wanting to improve my game, being a natural teacher who made the learning of the game fun for young and old alike. Nice to have you back, Sean.



(L) Ray Fletcher III vs Geoff Kenway. Photo credit: Brian Berger.



(L) Kushal Pai vs Eric Erard at PCC Game 60. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

The U1800 prize was earned by Kushal Pai (1419-1596—3.0/4), a perpetually smiling young player who saw his rating soar by 177 points by drawing with a 1781 player, a 2003 player, beating a 1727 player, and winning his last game against a 1690 player! I've played against this boy a number of times, and he has always exhibited a talent for chess that seemed to indicate that he could go far—fast! Perhaps this tournament was a breakout statement of that talent.

Lastly, Zoey Tang (1179-1238—2.0/4), Geoff Kenway (1468-1490—2.0/4) and Fedor Semenov (1372-1396—2.0/4) tied for the U1500 prize, that when parceled out three ways, amounted to \$11.08 each—the 8-cents tacked on as a bonus to lure them to the next Game 60.

25th Dave Collyer Memorial

By Kevin Korsmo

Spokane, WA — February 25-26, 2017

The 25th Dave Collyer Memorial, held the weekend of February 25-26, was a reunion of sorts. Six of the former champions were in attendance, and quite a few of the “regulars” who have attended the event in years past turned out once more for a celebration of good chess and friendship.

John Donaldson recaptured the title of champion of the Dave Collyer Memorial, winning the event with a perfect 5.0 score. Second seed Jim Maki (4.5) took second place after defeating

Curt Collyer in the final game of the event. Third place (4.0) was shared by Carl Haessler and John Julian. With four master/international masters and another four experts, the top end was the strongest to ever compete in the Collyer. The field of 59 (plus two house players) was the same as the previous year.

The event began quietly enough, with but a single upset in the first round, although that (as is often the case) stood up as the biggest upset of the event. Nick Martonick scored a 454-point victory that claimed the prizes for biggest upset of the round and for the entire event. The second

round saw a few more upsets, including two experts falling, and there were a pair of large upsets involving provisionally-rated players that did not qualify for the upset prizes. Loyd Willaford's 371-point victory won the prize for the biggest upset of the round.

The main drama of the first day occurred after the second round when Jeremy Younker, son of tourney founder Gary Younker, had to be taken to the hospital due to a surprise onset of kidney stones. Mika Mitchell performed the emergency transport and returned in time for his third round game! Jeremy's event ended after the first two games, but he is on the road to recovery and feeling better.

The third round saw third seed Curt Collyer take a bye to deal with a persistent cold, but the other three top seeds were pushed into the late evening before winning. John Donaldson defeated Michael Cambareri in the night's last game. Donaldson's clock showed sixteen seconds remaining, to Cambareri's four seconds, when the IM completed a mate with a knight, bishop, and pawn. Expect to see that game written up in *Northwest Chess!* Missoula veteran Frank Miller won the upset prize for the round with a 371- point conquest.

Round four saw the six remaining perfect scores match-up: David Arganian against John Donaldson on board one, Jim Maki and Chris Kalina on board two, and Carl Haessler and John Julian on board 3. Donaldson won against the Seattle expert, while Maki drew Kalina, who was making his first Collyer appearance since 2009. In the next to last game of the round, Julian pulled out the victory over Haessler. That game also was the biggest



Bill Rottmayer, believed to be the oldest participant. Photo credit: James Stripes.



John Donaldson analyzing with Braxton Casey. Photo credit: James Stripes.

upset of the round.

Round five saw Donaldson work hard to defeat Julian, and the victory cemented a clear first with a perfect 5.0 score. Maki and Collyer played the last game of the tourney before Maki fended off Collyer's attack and claimed the victory and a clear second place. Haessler rebounded by defeating Kalina and shared third place with Julian. The two split that prize and the class A first prize. David Griffin achieved the top upset of the final round.

There were numerous other winners. Arganian and Kalina split the Expert prize with scores of 3.5. Five players shared second in class A with 3.5 scores: Scott Caldwell, Braxton and Garrett Casey, Mark Havrilla, and Karl Reutter. The two class B prizes were shared by Dan McCourt, Jim Skovron, and James Stripes. First place in class C went to youngster Jonathan Geyman (3.0) of Idaho, while Griffin and Martonick (2.5) shared the second place prize. Class D was won by Shancie Wagner (2.5), while William Merry (2.0) took second in the class. Youngster Varun Ambalavanan scored 2.0 in his very first US Chess tournament to win the class E/unrated prize, while second in that category was shared by Greg Callen and Cecelia Valeriotte (1.5). Another youngster, Arnav Wadikar, won the prize for best performance by a provisional player. His performance rating for the event was over 1,000 points higher than his rating! Kalina, a *Northwest Chess* veteran who now makes his home in Minneapolis, traveled the furthest for the event – driving from Minneapolis to Spokane in two days!

The weekend kicked off with the

traditional lecture and simul from John Donaldson at River Park Square on Friday, February 24. The topic of this year's lecture was the gold medal won by the U.S. team at the Chess Olympiad. John captained the team to its first gold in 40 years! Fifteen players took on the IM after the lecture, with the challengers scoring two victories (by Michael Cambareri and Jason Cross), and one draw (Alex Herron). For the rest of us, it was an opportunity to begin preparing for next year! In a sign of what was to come as he continues to knock the rust off his chess game, John Julian won the eight-player blitz tournament at RPS preceding the lecture.

One significant streak came to end, and one continued, in this year's event. Jim Waugh's retirement from chess (his 88th birthday is April 29), ended his streak of playing in the Collyer at 24. Dave Griffin is now the only person to have played in all 25 of the tourneys. He and Willaford were the only two from the original 1993 field of 31 to play in this year's event, while a third member, Kevin Korsmo, continued as director.

The event was sponsored once again this year by the Spokane Chess Club and the Gary Younker Foundation in memory of former chess organizers Dave Collyer and Gary Younker. A \$1,000 donation permitted a guaranteed prize fund of \$2,500 for the special occasion of the 25th tournament. Several players also made personal donations to the prize fund. Tito Tinajero once again obtained the use of the Millwood Presbyterian Church's Community Center for the event. He led a group of volunteers that included Ted Baker, Michael Cambareri, and James Stripes in setting up and taking down

the facility. That spirit of selflessness continues the legacy of Dave and Gary that we celebrate every year.

**John Donaldson (2412) –
John Julian (1993) [A48]**
25th David Collyer Memorial
Spokane (R5), February 26, 2017
[John Donaldson]

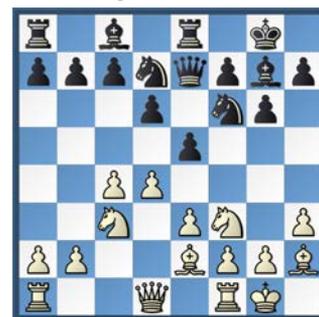
**1.Nf3 Nf6 2.d4 g6 3.Bf4 Bg7 4.e3 d6
5.h3 Nbd7**

5...0-0 6.Be2 Nfd7 7.c4 e5 8.Bh2 Nc6 9.Nc3 f5 10.0-0 g5 is one of the most critical tests of White's setup according to Cyrus Lakdawala in his book *Play the London System*.

6.Be2 0-0 7.0-0 Qe8

7...b6 8.c4 Bb7 9.Nc3 Ne4 enjoys a good reputation as Black is prepared to follow up with ...e5 or ...c5.; 7...Re8 8.c4 e5? 9.dxe5 dxe5 10.Nxe5 wins a pawn although Black gets some compensation.

8.c4 e5 9.Bh2 Qe7 10.Nc3 Re8



Position after 10...Re8

11.Rc1

The prophylactic 11.Re1! (Lakdawala) is the choice of the San Diego IM. The idea is to discourage ...exd4 and be able to meet ...e4 with a later f3 with the e-pawn receiving extra protection from the rook. Also White has the option of Bf1 to give the king extra protection. White has sharper choices in; 11.Nb5 e4 12.Nxc7 (12.Nd2) 12...exf3 13.Bxf3 and; 11.c5

11...e4 12.Nd2 c6 13.b4 h5 14.b5

14.c5! (Silman) 14...d5 15.b5 with Qa4 is stronger and more direct.

14...c5 15.Nb3 Rd8



Position after 15...Rd8

16.dxc5?

16.Qd2 intending Rfd1; 16.Bf4 with Bg5 to follow, were both stronger and would have made it harder for Black to get out his pieces.

16...Nxc5 17.Qc2 Bf5 18.Nd4 Be6
19.Rfd1 Rac8



Position after 19...Rac8

20.Bf4?

20.Nxe6 Qxe6 21.Na4 or; 20.Na4 would have preserved some advantage.

20...Nd3! 21.Nxe6



Position after 21.Nxe6

21...Nxc1?

21...Qxe6 22.Bxd3 exd3 23.Qxd3 Qxc4 24.Qxc4 Rxc4 25.Nd5 Rxc1 26.Nxf6+ Bxf6 27.Rxc1 Rd7 28.Kf1 keeps White's advantage to a minimum.

22.Nxd8 Nxe2+ 23.Qxe2 Rxd8 24.Nd5

24.Bg5 Qe5 25.Bxf6 Bxf6 26.Nd5 favors White. The idea is Qc2-a4 (Tangborn); 24.Qd2 Qc7 25.Bg5 Qxc4 26.Nd5 Nxd5! 27.Bxd8 Nc3 is fine for Black.

24...Nxd5 25.Rxd5 b6

Played to stop White's threat of 26.Qd2 Qc7 27.c5.

26.a4 Bf8 27.Qd2



Position after 27.Qd2



Jim Maki. Photo credit: James Stripes.

27...Qe6?

27...Qf6 had to be tried.

28.a5

28.c5! bxc5 29.Rxc5 was also quite good.

28...Be7

28...Rc8 29.axb6 axb6 30.Qd4 Rc5 31.Bxd6 Bxd6 32.Rxd6 Rxc4 33.Rd8+

29.axb6 axb6 30.Qd4



Position after 30.Qd4

Winning material.

30...Rc8 31.Bxd6 Bf6

31...Bxd6 32.Rxd6 Qxc4 33.Rd8+ Kh7 34.Qh8#

32.Be5 1-0

5th Annual Presidents Weekend Tournament

By Owen McCoy

Portland, OR — February 18, 2017

I arrived at Robert Gray Middle School on the morning of February 18, 2017, not tired as usual and ready for

chess. Fortunately, I was in the right place. 216 (!) other chess players had gathered there to compete for fabulous prizes and to play basketball between rounds. (Well, maybe not everybody was there for the basketball.)

The Roosevelt (Open/1400+) section had a number of highly rated scholastic players vying for some money. I, Owen McCoy (2042-2053—4.0/4), took the top honors for making sure that I didn't lose before trying to do anything else. (I've made too many dumb mistakes lately!) The hopes of all of those that finished with 3.0/4 were dashed by Roshen Nair (1641-1705—3.5/4) who also was undefeated. About that part about all the people with three, there were enough of them that I can say that. Liam Booth (1611-1658), Sean Uan-zo-li (1702-1739), Ian Vo (1566-1629), and Colin Liu (1721-1715) were among them, as well as Fedor Semenov (1408-1547), who took the U1550 class prize.

More big winners and rating gains listed below! (Not necessarily in tie-break order.)

Lincoln (U1400)

1st: Calvin Chang (1380-1474—4.5/5).

2nd/3rd: Daniel Anderson (1344-1422—4.0/5), and Joshua Bromley (1288-1392—4.0/5)

McKinley (U1100)

1st: Pahlychai Thao (1022-1250—5.0/5).

2nd-5th: Elijah Schaal (983-1128—4.0/5), Nikita Sastry (962-1141—4.0/5), Mitchell Kenny (1099-1153—4.0/5), and Vimal Adiraju (990-1107—4.0/5).



L-R: Kira Dobbins, Sophia Merrill, Annette Dietz, Ashley Eddy, Susan Jewell, and Ruha Moore. Photo credit: Sarah McCoy.



L-R: Olivia Cooper, Nikhil Samudrala. Photo credit: Sarah McCoy.

Jefferson (U900-A)

1st: Bryan Webster (720-976—5.0/5).

2nd-4th: Parker McCoog (805-967—4.0/5), Narasa Reddy Tumuru (819-898—4.0/5), and Valen Wilcox (789-900—4.0/5).

Madison (U900-B)

1st: Pace Lykins (737-996—5.0/5).

2nd-6th: Zen Hymer (707-863—4.0/5), Derek Tseng (719-814—4.0/5), Abdul Muqet Mohammed (796-875—4.0/5), Dev Udata (806-861—4.0/5), and Carter Lykins (774-831—4.0/5).

Washington (U600-A)

1st-4th: Akhil Mothukuri (544-690—4.0/5), Abdul Muqit Mohammed (615-692—4.0/5), Airose Solomon (483-611—4.0/5), and Oliver Immel (400-720—4.0/5).

Adams (U600-B)

1st: Keiden Cabanting (590-794—5.0/5).

2nd/3rd: Mats Fisher (580-669—4.0/5), and Aleah Sanchez (562-663—4.0/5)

Thanks a million to TDs Jeff Dobbins and Norm May, and all the other parent volunteers and TDs. Included below is my last round encounter with Sean Uan-zo-li. It was a very complex game, with chances for both sides the whole time. Hope you enjoy!

Owen McCoy (2042) –

Sean Uan-zo-li (1702) [B31]

Presidents Weekend Tournament
Portland, OR (R4), February 18, 2017
[Owen McCoy]

Going into the last round, Sean and I were the only ones with 3.0/3.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 g6 4.Bxc6 bxc6 5.0-0 Bg7 6.Re1 d6

This natural move is not actually played as often as one might think. 6...Nh6 is the main move. Jumabayev-Kamsky, Moscow, 2017 was a good example of this.

7.c3 Nf6

Again, 7...Nh6 is more frequently seen.

8.d4 cxd4 9.cxd4 0-0 10.Nc3

White scores very well after 10.h3

10...Rb8 11.h3 Nd7 12.b3 c5 13.Be3 Bb7 14.Rc1 Rc8 15.Qd3

[Diagram top of next column]

Apparently this was a novelty! 15.Qd2 had been played before in Caruana-Grischuk, Stavanger (Blitz), 2015.

15...Kh8!?



Position after 15.Qd3

Sean comes up with a much more interesting plan than Grischuk did. Whereas Grischuk was lost after eight more moves, this game gets really complicated.

16.Na4 f5!

The computer actually likes this move and says Black is slightly better now.

17.Ng5 fxe4 18.Nxe4 Nb6?!

18...cxd4 was preferable, with a highly imbalanced game arising.

19.dxc5! Nxa4 20.bxa4 d5 21.Ng5 d4 22.Bd2 Qd5 23.f3 e5 24.Ne4?!

There was no reason to move my knight immediately.

24...Rc6

Oddly enough, the computer doesn't want to take the pawn on a2, suggesting 24...Ba8!?

25.Qb3

Now I'm back in control.

25...Qd7 26.Rb1 Ba6 27.Rec1 d3

An understandable bid for counterplay, but the pawn turns out to be weak here.

28.Be3 Rc7 29.Qd1 Rfc8



Position after 29...Rfc8

30.Nd6

Finally! I've been taking my time to play this.

30...Rf8 31.Nb5 Rcc8? 32.Qd2?!

Returning the favor. 32.Rb3 was simple and strong.

32...e4?

It takes the computer a little while to realize how destitute Black's position is.

I'm almost winning now.

33.fxe4 Bxb5?

We were both getting in to serious time trouble by this point. This straightens my pawns and makes them unstoppable. 33...Be5 is still much better for White, but at least gives some justification to 32...e4.

34.axb5 Bd4 35.Qxd3 Bxe3+ 36.Qxe3 Rb8 37.a4 Qb7 38.Qd4+ Kg8 39.Qd5+

The queens come off and White has an easy win.

39...Rf7 40.Rf1 Rbf8 41.Rxf7 Qxf7 42.Rf1 Kg7 43.Rxf7+ 1-0

Miscellaneous Game

James Stripes (1791) – Michael Cambareri (1993) [E17]

SCC Winter Championship
Spokane (R4), February 9, 2017
[James Stripes]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 b6 3.c4 e6 4.g3 Bb7 5.Bg2 Be7 6.Nc3 0-0 7.Qc2

Anticipating a very difficult game with Michael, I had looked at more than a dozen Grandmaster games with each of Black's three most popular moves in this position.

7...c5

7...d5; 7...Na6

8.d5 exd5 9.cxd5 Nxd5

9...Bxd5 appears to be the necessary move.



Position after 9...Nxd5

10.Qe4!

It is wonderful to play a strong move that surprises one's opponent, especially when it results from having seen it in a nice miniature played by the likes of Sergey Karjakin. 10.Ng5 was played in a 1949 game that I had looked at before playing Michael.

10...Nb4

10...f5 was played in Lagno,K — Dzagnidze,N Tbilisi 2012, which was drawn in 52 moves. That game continued 11.Qc4 b5 12.Qxb5 Nb6 I showed these moves to Michael after the game.

11.Qxb7 N8c6 12.Bf4

Even though I had gone through Karjakin's game and a few reference games, I had to find this move over the board. My memory of Karjakin's fine miniature had become hazy. Nonetheless, my study left me with the confidence that the right moves existed if I could simply find them. I trusted the merits of my position. At the same time, I had some doubts that my skill would prove adequate to Michael's efforts to trap the queen. It's one thing for a player of Karjakin's caliber to send his queen on such a sortie, and quite another for a patzer like me to do so.

12...Nc2+!?

12...g5 13.0-0-0 gxf4 14.a3 1-0 Karjakin,S (2686) — Bindrich,F (2469), Dresden 2007. Finding this game in Encyclopedia of Chess Miniatures (2015) the day prior to my game with Michael led me to briefly look at the other two games referenced in these notes.; I was worried about 12...d6 but White seems to have an advantage after 13.Nd5 Nxd5 14.Qxc6

13.Kd2 Nxa1 14.Rxa1

And White has the upper hand, according to Karjakin, Chess Informant 99/368. Material is equal and White's king looks exposed, but Black's pieces lack mobility. Most of White's pieces are harmoniously deployed.



Position after 14.Rxa1

14...Rc8N

Gajewski,G (2515) — Hernandez Carmenates,H (2524), Calvia 2006 continued 14...Bf6 15.Rd1 Bxc3+ 16.bxc3 Qf6 17.Bh3 and White won in 33 moves. This game is presented in Karjakin's Informant annotations as far as White's move 14.

15.Nd5! d6

15...Bf6 16.Rb1 Nb4 17.Bc7 Qe8 18.Nxf6+ gxf6 19.Bd6

16.Rd1

Our postgame discussion included 16.Bh3 f5

16...Bf6

16...f5 17.Kc1

17.Bh3

Michael resigned after studying this position for 34 minutes. 17.Bh3 Na5 seemed Black's best option to me during the game 18.Qxc8 Qxc8 (18... Bxb2 19.Qxd8 Rxd8+-) 19.Nxf6+ gxf6 20.Bxc8 Rxc8 21.Kc3+-

1-0

Passing of the Torch for Olympic Chess Club

By William Bodnar

NM Kiven "Ken" Plesset operated the Olympic Chess Club in Port Angeles, Washington until his death in early 2012. The club dissolved in Ken's absence, but recently, organized chess has returned to this tiny town on the tip of the Olympic Peninsula.

In addition to earning the title of National Master, Ken Plesset's chess legacy includes some impressive game statistics, as well as, a list of strong tournament performances spanning four decades. Back in 1972, Ken tied for second at the Golden Knights event. Ken tied for first place at the 1981 Absolute tournament, and then took clear first at the 1996 edition 15 years later. In 1992, Ken also won the Las Vegas Open outright. In his time, Ken was revered as one of the strongest correspondence players in the country. Ken shared first place at the 5th US Correspondence Chess Championship. NM Plesset was also an accomplished tournament director with more than a dozen events under his belt. According to US Chess statistics, since 1991, Ken recorded 578 rated games. He won 296 of those games, while losing 150, and drawing 132. Plesset's resume also includes a clash against former World Champion Boris Spassky, back in 1984. Ken won his last game of chess, at what would be his final tournament, which was the 2001 Puget Sound Open in Tacoma, Washington.

Ken will be remembered for his dedication to chess in the Port Angeles area, and for his contribution to chess history with the recorded games he has left behind. With the grand reopening of Olympic Chess, the new club seeks to honor Ken's memory and his passion for the game. Weekly meetings are now taking place on Saturdays from 2PM-6PM in the clubhouse at Lincoln Park, just minutes from downtown Port Angeles. Sets are provided and free lessons are available for beginners and newcomers. Tournaments are being planned for later in the year, and to get things going, a community chess event is being organized for April 15th at

the Port Angeles Farmer's Market from 11AM-1PM. Inquiries can be directed to the club office at 360-504-2849, or by email to: (wbodnar88@gmail.com).

Bobby Fischer's Resting Place

By Tom Booth

Bobby Fischer was one of the reasons I took up chess in the '70's. For many of us older players, Bobby got us excited about chess. His chess development was astounding, from talented youngster to World Champion in Reykjavik in 1972.

Several years ago my wife and I found ourselves in beautiful Iceland, where Bobby spent his final years. I had just purchased the excellent book Bobby Fischer Comes Home by Helgi Olafsson, detailing Bobby's final years in Reykjavik. He had become a close friend of Bobby's.

The book mentions that Bobby often visited a bookshop in downtown Reykjavik. The Bokin Bookstore was close to our hotel, so I walked there on a sunny and windy morning. The two owners showed me where Bobby would sit for hours back in the stacks, reading about many different subjects. He was friendly, they said.

For awhile, I sat where Bobby would sit, nostalgic for any chess player. Helgi claims that Bobby's final years in Iceland were peaceful for him. He had frequent visitors. He is buried at his church. Any taxi driver can take you there to see his grave.

We've visited Iceland several times. Friendly people. Ships. Art. Volcanoes. And, Bobby Fischer. Iceland treated him well. It seems they understood his genius.



Tom Booth. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

Chess Princesses

By Mary McCoy

Watch out, boys! A recently formed all-girls chess club, taught by Sophia Dossin and Isabella Harker, is quickly growing — both in size and in skill. Recently named Princess Pride, this class has caught the attention of a number of girls in Eugene. Chess expert and tournament director Jerry Ramey, who hosts the class in his chess studio, stated: “This class has me very excited! For many years, I have tried to find ways to keep girls involved in chess, which is hard to do because of all the boy energy in most of the venues. This is the best idea yet!”

“You either win or you learn,” says Sophia Dossin, coach of Princess Pride. In her class, that’s definitely true! They usually start with a warm-up game, then talk about last week’s strategy focus. Then, Sophia will teach her class yet another useful tactic. During break, they get a chance to socialize (not that these girls don’t socialize during class) and eat treats that Sophia provides. She gives them homework for the week and they’re done!

Here are some thoughts on the class from Isabella Harker, the assistant to Sophia and an accomplished chess player:

What do you like most about being Sophia’s assistant?

It’s a good opportunity for me to learn more, and if I end up running it next year, her example will have been very valuable.

Where should you start if you are a girl who wants to play chess?

I would start by just learning the rules, and of course playing with other people. Tactics aren’t necessary at first, but I recommend them once you’ve gotten to know the game a little better.

When did you start playing chess?

I’ve kind of known how to play chess for almost my whole life, but I wasn’t really too serious about it until 4th grade.

Why do you like chess?

I like chess because it provides a good intellectual challenge, and the community of chess players in Eugene is wonderful to be a part of.

Is co-teaching this class something you’d like to continue in the future?

Yes, or even take over if Sophia goes off to college somewhere far away. Who knows, though.

What are some tactics girls often struggle with in this class?

Everything so far has been fairly simple, and none of them have seemed to have too hard of a time yet. I think that once they get a little more advanced, they might start to struggle with some things. Castling is one that is sometimes tricky, and calculating exchanges.

The Princess Pride Chess Club meets on Saturday afternoons in Eugene in the studio of Jerry Ramey. For more information, send an email to southsidechessclub@gmail.com.

Below and on the facing page are some various photographs of the girls club taken by Sarah McCoy.—Editor.





The students in the Princess Pride class love being taught by Sophia Dossin and Isabella Harker, both of whom are impressive chess players themselves! Photo credit: Sarah McCoy.



2017 BC Senior Championship
June 16 – 18, 2017





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

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

- All equipment provided.
- Foreign players welcome.

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

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

Contact: email pc-leblanc@shaw.ca

The 2017 Neil Dale Memorial Northwest Chess Grand Prix

Murlin Varner, Administrator

A new name for the Grand Prix means someone else has died. For this year, our contest will be named for the recently passed Neil Dale, a long time chess fixture in the Portland area. Long before I ever met Neil, I played correspondence chess with him. It was 1983, while I was a graduate student at WSU. Neil was always prompt with his moves and educational with his commentary. Neil was also one of the primary tournament directors in Portland. He will be missed. Also considered for the 2017 honor were Buz Eddy and John Braley.

Early in the year, it is not always possible to fill in all the spaces in the standings chart. This is especially true in the case of Idaho, where no Grand Prix events have yet been held. The fact that we have anyone in the standings for Idaho is due to the play of Idahoans in Spokane. Thirteen players from Idaho played in the recent David Collyer Memorial the end of last February. All in all, 221 people have played in GP events during the first two months of 2017. August Piper leads the pack, having played in seven events already this year.

There have been three multiplier events included in the standings below. Along with the above mentioned Collyer Memorial (4x), there were the Seattle City Championship and the Washington President's Cup (both 2x). Two more multiplier events will have happened by the time you read this, the Neil Dale Memorial (playing as I write) and the Seattle Spring Open the end of March. Both are 2x events. Coming up in April, The Clark Harmon Memorial Tournament will be held on the 1st and 2nd, with a 2x multiplier. There are eight other single value events during April as well, in Boise, Pocatello, Portland (2), Seattle (2), Spokane and Tacoma.

I failed to make mention last month of the amounts for all those prizes we gave out for 2016. In Washington, the winners in each class received \$154.72, with second place winners getting \$77.36. In Oregon, the amounts were \$102.28 and \$51.14, while in Idaho, they were \$20.00 and \$10.00. Overall winners in each state received an additional first place share.

Now, get out there and play! More players means larger prizes. Data below is current through 2/28/2017 and uses the highest ratings through March.

Northwest Grand Prix Standings

Idaho*			Oregon			Washington		
last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.
Masters								
			1	Haessler Carl A	24	1	Pupols Viktors	28
			2	Cigan Jason	9.5	2	Collyer Curt D	22
			3			3	Irgaliyev Alikhan	19
			4			4	Raptis Nick	6
			5			5		
Experts								
			1	Rachmuth Moshe S	14	1	Arganian David G	22
			2	Tobin Sean	5	2	Leslie Cameron D	20
			3	Richardson Ryan	4	3	Bashkansky Naomi	17.5
			4	Cosner Karl	3.5	4	Zhang Eric M	11
			5			5	Deshpande Aaryan H	6
Class A								
			1	Fletcher Ray, III	8.5	1	Shubin Daniel	28.5
			2	Vega Isaac	7	2	Reutter Karl H	27
			3	Murray David E	5.5	3	Yu Jason	26
			4	Jacobi Gunther J	4	4	Julian John	24
			4	Surak Steve S	4	5	Two Caseys Tied at	22
M/X/Class A								
1	Maki James J	26						
1	Cambareri Michael E	26						
3	Havrilla Mark A	22						
4	Roberts Joseph D	20						
4	Buus Jarod N	20						
4	Inman James	20						
Class B								

Idaho*			Oregon			Washington					
last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.			
Class C			Class B								
1	Weyland	Ron	20.5	1	Havrilla	Nich A	20	1	Stripes	James D	28.5
2	Geyman	Jonathan P	20	2	Berger	Brian F	14	2	Frostad	John C	26
3	Martonick	Nick	18	2	Bean	James R	14	3	Kirsch	Ronald B	24.5
4	Jaroski	Jeffrey A	15.5	4	Moore	Michael	11	4	Fagundes	Frank	24
5	Courtney	Caleb	14	5	Two tied at		10	5	Tinajero	Ernesto A	22
Class D			Class C								
1	Merry	William A F	16	1	Wu	Abbie	17.5	1	Piper	August	33.5
2				2	Falbo	Clement E	16	2	Griffin	David B	22
3				3	Pai	Kushal	9.5	3	Raffel	Brian	21.5
4				4	Nair	Roshen S	9	3	Herron	Alex W	21.5
5				5	Dietz	Arliss	8.5	5	Two Tied at		21
Class E and Below			Class D and Below								
1	Callen	Gregory D	14	1	Wu	Kevin	21.5	1	Chung	Thomas W	22
2				2	Falbo	Jean A	10	2	Wagner	Shancie J	18
3				3	Semenov	Fedor	7.5	2	Subramanian	Nithya	18
4				4	Beauchet	Pierre-Hadrien	6.5	4	Ambalavanan	Varun B	16
5				5	Radfarr	Darian	6	5	Two Tied at		15
Overall Leaders, by State											
1	Maki	James J	26	1	Haessler	Carl A	24	1	Piper	August	33.5
1	Cambareri	Michael E	26	2	Wu	Kevin	21.5	2	Shubin	Daniel	28.5
3	Havrilla	Mark A	22	3	Havrilla	Nich A	20	3	Stripes	James D	28.5
4	Weyland	Ron	20.5	4	Wu	Abbie	17.5	4	Pupols	Viktors	28
5	Roberts	Joseph D	20	5	Falbo	Clement E	16	5	Reutter	Karl H	27
5	Buus	Jarod N	20	6	Rachmuth	Moshe S	14	6	Yu	Jason	26
5	Inman	James	20	6	Berger	Brian F	14	7	Frostad	John C	26
5	Geyman	Jonathan P	20	6	Bean	James R	14	8	Kirsch	Ronald B	24.5
9	Martonick	Nick	18	9	Moore	Michael	11	9	Julian	John	24
10	Merry	William A F	16	10	Sato-Duncan	Takuma	10	10	Fagundes	Frank	24
11	Jaroski	Jeffrey A	15.5	10	Holloran	William T, III	10	11	Seven Tied at		22
12	Courtney	Caleb	14	10	Falbo	Jean A	10				
12	Callen	Gregory D	14								

* Idaho hasn't had a GP event yet this year. The names listed above played in the Collyer Memorial in Spokane in February.

**Remember to keep submitting
articles, games, and photos!**

Seattle Chess Club Tournaments

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

Please note that the *Adult Swiss*, originally scheduled for the weekend of April 8-9, will be moved to August 26-27 in order to accommodate the InterMat Candidates Tournament.

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!

April Showers: 4/7, 14, 21, 28.
Close Ratings 2: 5/5, 12, 19, 26.
It's Summertime!: 6/2, 9, 16, 23, 30.
Hot-as-Hades: 7/7, 14, 21, 28.

Apr. 1, May 6

Seattle Masters #6, #7
Format: 3-SS, 2 sec-- Master & Expert, FIDE-rated. **TC:** G/90; i30. **EF:** \$75 by 5 p.m., 3/3 (#5) or 3/31 (#6), afterwards \$90. **Prizes (b/15):** \$450-325-225-125. **Reg:** 9-9:45 a.m. **Rds:** 10-2:30-7. **Misc:** US Chess, WCF/OCF/ICA memb. req'd, OSA. NS, NC. **More details:** see www.nwchess.com or contact joshsinanan@gmail.com or call 206-769-3757

Apr. 2, May 7

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

Apr. 8

InterMat Candidates Tnmt.
 Invitational quads with a time control of G/90; +30. A WCF event.

April 14-16

SCC Team in Reno!
 Join the SCC Team(s) at the **Larry Evans Memorial**. We will compete against teams from San Francisco, Reno, Sacramento, and elsewhere!

April 23

SCC Novice
Format: 4-SS. Open to U1200 and UNR. **TC:** G/75; d5. **EF:** \$11 by 4/19, \$16 at site. (-\$2 SCC mem., -\$1 mem. other NW dues-req'd CCs). **Prizes:** Memb (SCC, WCF, US Chess). **Reg:** 9-9:45 a.m. **Rds:** 10-12:45-3:30-6. **Byes:** 1 (Rd 3/4-commit at reg.). **Misc:** US Chess memb. req'd. NS, NC.

Apr. 29 new date, May 20

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

SCC Annual Meeting, Fri. May 5

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

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.

Stop

You can register online
 for major SCC tournaments
 as well as make tax-
 deductible donations at <http://www.seattlechess.club>

Upcoming Events

♣ denotes 2017 Northwest Grand Prix event; for Seattle Chess Club events see page 46

- ♣ **Apr 1-2** Clark Harmon Memorial Open, **Portland, OR**. <http://www.nwchess.com/calendar/TA.htm>
- Apr 14-16** Larry Evans Memorial, **Reno, NV**. (See full-page ad on page 22)
- Apr 14-17** 11th Annual Grand Pacific Open, **Victoria, BC (Canada)**. <http://www.nwchess.com/calendar/TA.htm>
- ♣ **Apr 15/May 13** Portland CC Quad 45, **Portland, OR**. Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave., Portland, OR. 3-round quads, G/45;inc15. Some/all sections may run as a 3-round Swiss with more than four players. The most current ("live") US Chess regular ratings are usually used for section placement. On-site registration runs from 9-9:45am. Rounds are scheduled for 10am, 12:30pm, and 3:00pm. Rounds 2 and 3 can be started earlier if both players agree. Players who have a game go long can request extra time off before the next round. EF: \$15, PCC members \$10, \$5 discount for each additional family member who lives in the same household, free entry for players who are unrated in US Chess. US chess and NWSRS rated. US Chess membership is required and can be purchased during on-site registration. Winner of each section receives \$10 discount on the entry fee for one of the next three PCC Quad 45 or Tuesday Quads. If there is a six or seven player Swiss, the runner-up receives \$5 discount. Scholastic awards: trophy for winning section with 3 points; smaller trophy for winning or tie for first with 2.5; medal for winning or tie for first with 2 or 1.5. OSCF State Qualifier. <http://pdxchess.org/>
- ♣ **Apr 15** Tacoma CC Daffodil Open Tornado, **Tacoma, WA**. Format: 5 round Swiss. Time Control: G/30; d5. Entry Fee: Advance \$25, At the door \$30; Club members: Advance \$22, At the door \$27. Prize fund: 1st \$25, 2nd \$20; Top half & Bottom half. Rounds: 10:00, 11:15, 12:30, 2:00, 3:30. US Chess & state memberships required. W NS NC. One half-point bye available. Entries/Info: Gary J. Dorfner, 8423 E. B St., Tacoma, WA 98445. Phone (253) 535-2536 or email ggarychess@aol.com.
- ♣ **Apr 22** Idaho Open Chess Championships, **Pocatello, ID**. Format: 4SS, G/60;d5 rnds 1 & 2, G/90;d5 rnds 3 & 4. 2 Sections: Open and Reserve (U1400), may be combined for pairing purposes if low turnout. Site: ISU, Student Union Bldg., Salmon River Suites, 1065 S. 8th St., Pocatello, Idaho. US Chess mem. req., ICA mem. req., OSA. EF: \$30 (U18 & 60+ \$25), by 4/20, \$35 (all) after. Reg. & Check-in: 7:45-8:30 a.m. 4/22. If not checked in & paid by 8:30, may not be paired in 1st rnd. Rounds: 9, 11:15, 2, 5:15. ½ pt byes: Max 1, Rd 1-3 only. Request 1st & 2nd round byes before round is paired. All others commit by end of round 2. Prizes: \$\$ b/30; Open: \$200-100-75; Reserve: \$75-50-25. HR/ENT/INFO: ICA, 212 N. 3rd St., Bellevue, ID, 83313, idahochessassociation@gmail.com, <http://www.idahochessassociation.com>. NC, NS, W.
- ♣ **Apr 29/May 20** Portland CC Game in 60, **Portland, OR**. Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave., Portland, OR. 4SS, G/60;d5. If 30 or more entries the field will be divided into 2 sections by ratings. EF: \$20, \$5 discount for PCC Members. US Chess rated; OCF/WCF/ICA and US Chess membership required, OSA. No advance entries. Reg: 9:00-9:45 a.m. Byes: 1/2 point bye if requested at reg. Players who have a game go around the full time can request extra time off before the next round. Prizes: If one section (\$200/b20) \$60-\$40-\$30; U1800, U1500/unrated \$35 each. If two sections—upper section \$75-50-25 (b/15); lower section \$65-35; U1400/unrated \$50 (b/15). No tiebreakers (prizes split). OSCF State Qualifier. Info: email@pdxchess.org, phone 503-246-2978, <http://pdxchess.org/> (**Note: The PCC April G/60 is not an OSCF qualifier**).
- ♣ **Apr 29-30** Inland Empire Open, **Spokane, WA**. Site: Gonzaga University (Jepson Center) Rm. 109, Spokane, WA. Registration: Sat. 8:30-9:30 a.m. Rounds: Sat. 10:00-2:30-7:00 Sun: 9:00-1:30 or ASAP. Time Control: G/120 (with 5 second delay). E.F. \$23 if received by 5/28, \$28 at the door; 18 and under \$5 less. Telephone entries accepted. US Chess rated. \$750 prize fund based on 35, Class prizes based on at least five per section. Only one prize per person (excluding biggest upset). NS, NC, W. One ½ point bye if requested before proceeding round; Sunday byes must be requested before the end of round 3. Director reserves the right to use class pairings in the final round. Prizes: 1st Overall: \$175, 2nd Overall: \$140, 3rd Overall \$100. Class Prizes (A; B; C; D/E/unrated): 1st \$50, 2nd \$25. Biggest Upset: \$35 (non-provisional ratings). Misc.: Cookies & coffee provided. Entries: Spokane CC, c/o David B. Griffin, P.O. Box 631, Spokane Valley, WA 99037. For information: cell (509) 994-9739.
- ♣ **Apr 30** Boise Chess Club #13, **Boise, ID**. All About Games, 7079 W. Overland Rd., Boise, ID 83709. This is the first-ever Northwest Chess Grand Prix event for the BCC! 4SS, US Chess Rated, Game/30 + 30 second time increment per move. Jeffrey Roland will be Chief TD. Please register by e-mailing jroland@cableone.net. Email pre-registration is appreciated to speed up registration. Doors open at 9:00 a.m. Registration will be from 9-9:30 a.m. First round "should"/"could"/probably will start promptly at 9:30 a.m. Those coming late will get a first-round bye. One-hour for lunch taken after round 2. Estimated time for end of tournament is 6:00 p.m. Entry is Free!
- ♣ **May 13** Tacoma CC Pierce County Open Tornado **Tacoma, WA**. Format: 5 round Swiss. Time Control: G/30; d5. Entry Fee: Advance \$25, At the door \$30; Club members: Advance \$22, At the door \$27. Prize fund: 1st \$25, 2nd \$20; Top half & Bottom half. Rounds: 10:00, 11:15, 12:30, 2:00, 3:30. US Chess & state memberships required. W NS NC. One half-point bye available. Entries/Info: Gary J. Dorfner, 8423 E. B St., Tacoma, WA 98445. Phone (253) 535-2536 or email ggarychess@aol.com.
- May 20-22** Keres Memorial Open, **Richmond, BC (Canada)**. (See half-page ad on page 32)
- ♣ **May 27-29** Washington Open, **Lynnwood, WA**. (See full-page ad on page 23)
- Jun 16-18** 2017 Canadian Senior Championship, **Vancouver, BC**. (Quarter-page ad page 43)

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