

Northwest Chess \$3.95
August 2020



Northwest Chess
August 2020, Volume 74-08 Issue 871

ISSN Publication 0146-6941

Published monthly by the Northwest Chess Board.

To see the games online in this issue click:

http://www.nwchess.com/articles/games/published/published_games.htm

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Office of Record:
Northwest Chess c/o Orlov Chess Academy 4174 148th Ave NE,
Building I, Suite M, Redmond, WA 98052-5164.

Periodicals Postage Paid at Seattle, WA
USPS periodicals postage permit number (0422-390)

NWC Staff

Editor: Jeffrey Roland,
jeffreyroland9@gmail.com
Games Editor: Ralph Dubisch,
chesscoaching@gmail.com
Publisher: Duane Polich,
publisher@nwchess.com
Business Manager: Eric Holcomb,
eric@holcomb.com

Board Representatives

Chouchanik Airapetian, Eric Holcomb,
Alex Machin, Duane Polich, Ralph Dubisch,
Jeffrey Roland, Josh Sinanan.

Entire contents ©2020 by *Northwest Chess*. All rights reserved.
Published opinions are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor or the *Northwest Chess* Board. *Northwest Chess* is the official publication of the chess governing bodies of the states of Washington and Idaho.

Event Announcement Rates
(Upcoming Events listings)

\$40 for three consecutive listings of the same event. \$30 for two consecutive listings of the same event. \$20 for one listing, or \$20 per month for events held every month (may include dates for current month and next month).

Grand Prix events must be advertised in an Upcoming Events listing or in a 1/4-page or larger display ad.

Please arrange payment for ads and Grand Prix fees of \$1.00 per player with the Business Manager.

Advertising & Copy Deadline

Ads and submissions must be received by the 5th of the month for the items to appear in the next issue (e.g., **August 5 for the September issue; September 5 for the October issue**).

Submit all ads, donations, payments, changes of address & subscriptions to:

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

Judged Best Magazine/Newsletter for 2009 and 2014-19
by Chess Journalists of America!

On the front cover:

(L-R) Roger Hunter, Jef Leifeste, and Alex Machin playing on a Sunday afternoon in Eagle, Idaho.
Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

On the back cover:

Chess packrat nesting material. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

Chesstoons:

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

Submissions

Submissions of games (PGN format is preferable for games), stories, photos, art, and other **original** chess-related content are encouraged! Multiple submissions are acceptable; please indicate if material is non-exclusive. All submissions are subject to editing or revision. Send via U.S. Mail to:

Jeffrey Roland, NWC Editor
1514 S. Longmont Ave.
Boise, Idaho 83706-3732
or via e-mail to:
jeffreyroland9@gmail.com

Northwest Chess Knights

Please donate today to help Northwest Chess!
Patrons, 2018-2020

Ralph Dubisch, Washington Chess Federation,
Josh Sinanan, Murlin Varner, Duane Polich,
Stephen Buck, Dale Wentz, Kent McNall, Corey Bloom.

Subscriptions / Memberships

Individual residents of Washington only.
Washington residents please add sales tax.
Idaho residents see
<https://www.idahocheessassociation.com/>

		Rate
Adult	1 year	\$ 30.00
	3 years	\$ 80.00
Junior	1 year	\$ 24.00
	<i>Age U/21 at expiration</i>	2 years \$ 43.00
Scholastic	6 months	\$ 14.00
Senior	1 year	\$ 25.00
	<i>Age 65 or over</i>	3 years \$ 65.00
Additional Family Members	1 year	\$ 10.00
	<i>Residing at same address</i>	2 years \$ 18.00
		3 years \$ 25.00
Tournament/Trial	1 month	\$ 12.00
Non-Member Subscriptions		
<i>Check online for any U.S. promotional rates.</i>		
U.S. addresses	1 year	\$ 30.00
	3 years	\$ 80.00
Canada	1 year	\$ 40.00
Foreign	1 year	\$ 60.00



Table of Contents

Roger Hunter, Jef Leifeste, and Alex Machin Jeffrey Roland.....	Front Cover
Tips For The Aspiring King-Hunter Josh Sinanan	3
Musings On Women In Chess Karen Schmidt.....	4
Viktors Pupols Honored By US Chess John Donaldson	6
Apropos Open Swiss #1 (Full-Page Ad) online via Chess.com Aug 8-9	8
Apropos Adult Swiss #2 (Half-Page Ad) online via Chess.com Sep 12-13	9
Apropos Junior Swiss #1 (Half-Page Ad) online via Chess.com Sep 26-27	9
WCF Online Chess Testimonials Kent McNall and Don Hack	10
Northwest Chess Webinars (Full-Page Ad) online via Zoom Aug 3, 10, 17	12
Washington vs Oregon Chess Match (Full-Page Ad) online via Chess.com Aug 8.....	13
4th Annual Seattle Chess Classic (Full-Page Ad) online via Chess.com Aug 12-16.....	14
WA State Elementary Championship WSECC Organizers.....	15
Washington Closed Brilliancy Prizes Samual He, Daniel He, Isaac Vega, and Brendan Zhang	16
Washington Women's Championship (Half-Page Ad) online via Chess.com Sep 18-20	16
Emerald City Open Derek Zhang	22
2020 Susan Polgar Foundation Girl's Invitational Minda Chen	25
15th SPF National Open for Boys & Girls (Full-Page Ad) Bellevue Oct 3-4	27
Northwest Chess Grand Prix Murlin Varner	28
SCC Full-Page Ad.....	30
Upcoming Events	31
Chesstoon Brian Berger	31
Chess packrat nesting material Jeffrey Roland.....	Back Cover

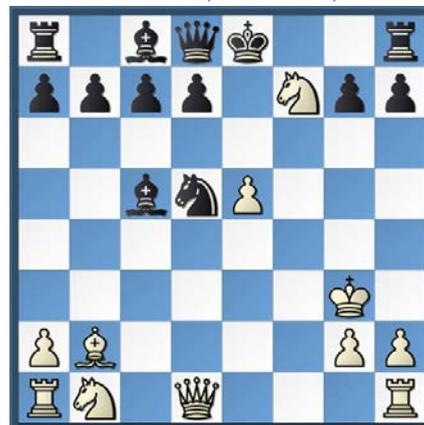
Tips For The Aspiring King-Hunter

By Josh Sinanan (from webinar Monday, June 22, 2020)

From The King Hunt, by John Nunn & William Cozens.

- 1) In most cases, material sacrifice will be required to drive the enemy king into the open.
 - a. If the attack looks promising, don't be too lazy to calculate it to a conclusion, one way or the other.
 - b. In quiet positions, one can often rely on one's instinct, but there is no substitute for concrete calculation in a king-hunt.
- 2) Unless you are under threat of immediate mate yourself, it may be better to play a quiet move than to keep checking.
 - a. Cutting off the wandering king's escape route is often the best way to tighten the noose.
- 3) King-hunts can lead to a bewildering thicket of variations, yet the same mating patterns often arise in different lines.
 - a. Try to reduce the burden of calculation by noting transpositions and spotting ways you can force the play into previously calculated variations.
 - b. You may miss the quickest mate, but better a slow mate than no mate at all.
- 4) Don't over-sacrifice.
 - a. The temptation to add the icing on the top of the cake may be hard to resist, but a switch to simple chess may be better than a dodgy "brilliancy." Happy king-hunting!

F Alexander Hoffmann – Alexander Petrov [C54]
Warsaw Match, November, 1844



Position after White's 12th move.

12...0-0!! 13.Nxd8 Bf2+ 14.Kh3 d6+ 15.e6 Nf4+ 16.Kg4
Nxe6 17.Nxe6 Bxe6+ 18.Kg5 Rf5+ 19.Kg4 h5+ 20.Kh3
Rf3# 0-1

Musings On Women In Chess

By Karen Schmidt

For lack of an interviewee this month, due to the Covid-19 crisis, I decided to put down a few thoughts about women in the world of chess.

I learned to play chess in Yakima during the 1960s, from a neighbor boy who was in high school. He was several years older and a good platonic friend who also taught me Morse code! We spent many happy hours in my family's breakfast nook after school, playing chess. (Chris Custer, are you out there? Thank you for instilling the passion for chess in me.)

I loved the game, but when his family moved away, I literally put away the chess board for decades. No one in my family, group of friends, or neighborhood played chess. I don't think there was a chess club in my junior high or senior high school.

I kind of followed the 1972 Fischer-Spassky World Championship match... enough to know that the American beat the Russian! But I didn't play the game again until the 1990s.

I spent a few years being an avid "chess mom" when my son was old enough to learn the game. In fact, I taught him how to play and within a

year he could beat me. Then I really enjoyed the scholastic chess circuit, and I am proudly storing his 30 or 40 trophies for him.

My own chess life didn't fully resume until 2015. I had been taking a weekly private lesson for a couple years, from my son's former coach. I also began playing in "novice tournaments" (U1200) at the Seattle Chess Club (SCC). I formed a strong friendship there with Carol Kleist. She is married to the club's president, Fred Kleist (a top Seattle player) and she is an amazing chess player and woman in her own right. She and I share a love of music. I play three instruments plus harmonica, and it is a source of amazement to me that as a former public school orchestra teacher/conductor, she plays EVERY instrument.

On that note (pun intended), a thought about the math-music-chess connection. It is a well-known fact that people proficient in one of these areas are usually proficient in all three areas. Some musicians have never played chess, but

if they did, chances are they would have an aptitude for it. Same with math. And the same vice versa...for example, chess players, mathematicians or engineers who have never played a musical instrument. I observed a good illustration of this phenomenon when I sat in on the UW Chess Club for several years. I was the only female and probably the token "mother figure." Most of the college guys and grad students were majors in math, some branch of engineering or physics, IT or computer fields, etc. And many



(L-R) Ali, Karen, and Branko at Pioneer Square Starbucks, January 1, 2020. Photo courtesy of Karen Schmidt.



Pioneer Square Starbucks chess scene. (L) Isais, (R) Clemente. Photo credit: Karen Schmidt.

were musical; I know because I asked, as a matter of personal interest.

In the tournaments at SCC, I had to become accustomed to playing men and boys 99% of the time. At first I found this very intimidating. It was especially unnerving if I happened to be winning a game, and there were an additional three to six men and boys standing around watching my game. Over time, my coping mechanism was learning to play the board — and pay no attention to the age or gender or ethnicity of my opponent. This took time and effort. I well remember one novice tournament when I had a goal of coming in first place. I had had a difficult week, and I lost round one to a boy about 10 years old. I ran into Carol (the TD) in the hall and told her tearfully that I was thinking of dropping out. She heartily and compassionately encouraged me to stay and play. That was the day I implemented my new philosophy: don't pay attention to any opponent; just play the board. I went on to win the next three rounds and tied for first place.

It has always bothered me that there is a common misconception that “girls just aren't very good at chess.” I firmly believe that females worldwide have simply never been encouraged to play chess. (After all, for centuries worldwide, females were never allowed to become anything other than wives, cooks, housekeepers, and baby-makers.)

I remember reading in Jennifer Shahade's book, *Chess Bitch: Women In The Ultimate Intellectual Sport*, that one of current female GMs was actively discouraged from even attempting to learn chess. Her father told her that girls were “just not good at chess.”

On the other hand, as pointed out to me by my chess friend Eugene Rozenfeld, Laszlo Polgar never discouraged his three daughters from playing chess. Quite the opposite, he was determined to turn his children into geniuses. As mentioned in the Shahade book, “Laszlo was also convinced that girls, if raised shielded from sexist cultural biases, could achieve at the same level as men.”

In 2015 I finally found a place to play casual chess (all men, of course) at the 1st & Yesler Starbucks. In 2016 I discovered outdoor chess at Westlake Park, in downtown Seattle. Westlake remains my favorite place to play, and I can't wait until casual chess over-the-board can resume. I am always the only female but I just love it. Having to play at a faster pace there has greatly improved my game. No one will sit around while you take 15

minutes to decide on your next move! I have run into a few instances of men who won't play me because I am a woman — and who say so to my face! The first time this happened I was speechless for several seconds. There were only two possible replies, and I chose “Thank you.” There is another guy at Westlake who won't play me “because of my pink and white vinyl board!” (David, you know who you are.) In all fairness, there are many male players at Westlake who have encouraged me, given me tips, and helped me improve my game over these last few years.

I would love to see more girls and women playing locally — casually and in tournaments. Just come down to Westlake and give it a try! Playing chess at Westlake Park reminds me of the great movie “Searching for Bobby Fischer.”

There are lots of male players like Vinnie there (the Laurence Fishburne character) who will help you improve your game. I also encourage you women and girls to join the SCC, get a private chess coach, and take lessons. Chess.com is another good way to study tactics and puzzles and play online games with people from all over the world. I would advise you to turn off the “chat room” feature when playing on chess.com, especially if you have a female-sounding chess “handle.”

In conclusion, the game of chess is a wonderful pastime, hobby, or even passion. It will help you remain sharp and smart, and it teaches you good etiquette and important life skills: how to look at all options and plan your next move, in all areas of your life.

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

Periodicals Postage
PAID
Seattle, WA



Back cover of the February 2018 issue of Northwest Chess featuring David Zaklan (not the David mentioned in the article) proudly playing on a pink set. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

Viktors Pupols Honored By US Chess

By John Donaldson

Our one and only Viktors was recently awarded the US Chess Federation's Outstanding Player Achievement Award along with Grandmaster Dmitry Gurevich and International Michael Brooks. This award is given to players who have had successful careers over an extended period and Viktors checks all the boxes having set many records that will never be approached much less broken.

Viktors moved to Washington in September of 1953 and two months later was playing in his first state championships. He has now played in 49 (!) of these annual round robin events including 2020.

Results are one thing, but achieving them with a distinctive style is even more special. Anyone who has played Viktors a

few games will discover he has a penchant for late castling. In the following game only serious time pressure denied a then world record for longest delayed castling. This was all in a day's work for Pupols who once castled queenside on move 40 (Pupols-Meyers, Lone Pine 1976).

The late Vladimir Malaniuk was a strong Grandmaster (2635 FIDE in 1993) and a fixture on the Ukrainian Olympiad team in the 1990s.

Viktors Pupols
Vladimir Malaniuk [A80]
World Open Philadelphia
June 23, 1990

1.d4 f5 2.Bg5 h6 3.Bh4 g5 4.Bg3 Nf6 5.e3 Bg7 6.Bd3 d6 7.c3 Nc6 8.Qc2 e6 9.Nd2 Qe7 10.Ne2 Bd7 11.b4 0-0 12.h4 Ng4 13.hxg5 hxg5 14.Bc4 b5 15.Bb3

15.Bd3 a5 16.Rb1 maintained equal chances.

15...a5 16.a3 axb4 17.cxb4 Ra7

17...Nxb4 18.Qxc7 Rfc8 19.Qxd6 Qxd6

20.Bxd6 Nd3+ 21.Kf1 Ndx2 was good for Black.

18.Ra2 Nd8 19.e4 f4 20.e5 Nh6 21.exd6 cxd6 22.Bh2



Position after 22.Bh2

22...Ndf7

22...d5 followed by ...Nc6 was still better for Black.

23.Qd3 e5?

This gives up the central White squares (e4 and d5), 23...Rfa8 was better.

24.dxe5 dxe5 25.Nc3 g4 26.Nd5 Qd8 27.Bg1 Bf5 28.Ne4 Rc7 29.f3



Viktors Pupols and fellow Latvian American Master Ivars Dahlbergs in the late 1960s.

The bishop returns to the game and now it's White who is winning!

29...Rb7

Correctly realizing that 29...Rc1+ is easily met by 30.Kd2 and the rook has to backpedal. 30.Kd2.

30.Bc5 Kh8 31.Qe2



Position after 31.Qe2

White could capture on f8, but sees no compelling reason to do so. With a clear positional advantage but a time control of 30 moves in 90 minutes followed by sudden death in one hour, Pupols decides the initiative is the most important factor in the game.

31...gxf3 32.gxf3 Re8 33.Ndc3 Be6 34.Bxe6 Rxe6 35.Rd2 Qe8 36.Bf2 Rb8 37.Rd5 Rc6 38.Nc5 Rd6 39.Qd3 Rbd8 40.Rxd6 Rxd6 41.Qxb5

Viktors now has achieved material gain without cashing in his positional chips.

41...Qa8 42.N3e4 Rd8



Position after 42...Rd8

43.Bh4?

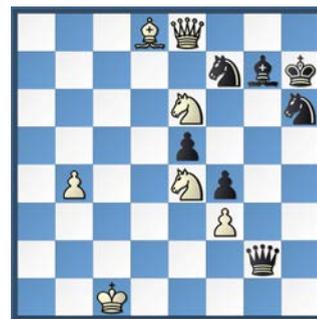
With 43.a4! followed by castling a few moves later Viktors could have set a new record for the longest delay in castling. At the time this game was played the record was 46 moves in Bobotsov-Ivkov, Hoogoven 1966 — it's currently 48 moves according to Tim Krabbe. Of course, kingside castling is more than a little drafty and allows the knight on h6 to enter the game via f5 which might not be pleasant for White in a mad time scramble with no increment.

43...Qxa3 44.Bxd8

This accepts that the game is going to be a draw but with 44.0-0! White would preserve a small advantage. For example 44...Rg8 45.Kh1 Nf5 46.Qd7 N7h6 47.Be1 Qa2 48.Rg1 Qf7 49.Qxf7 Nxf7 50.Bc3.

44...Qc1+ 45.Kf2 Qxh1 46.Qe8+ Kh7 47.Ne6 Qh2+ 48.Ke1 Qg1+ 49.Kd2 Qg2+ 50.Ke1 Qg1+ 51.Kd2 Qg2+ 52.Kc1 Qf1+ 53.Kd2 Qg2+ 54.Kc1 ½-½

[Final position diagram next column]



Position after 54.Kc1

US CHESS FEDERATION		186 ROUTE 9W NEW WINDSOR, NY 12550		OFFICIAL SCORE SHEET	
EVENT		DATE			
WORLD OPEN FUTURITY, PHILADELPHIA		06.23.1990			
ROUND	BOARD	SECTION	OPENING		
1					
WHITE	PAIRING NO.	BLACK	PAIRING NO.		
V. PUPOLS		GM VLADIMIR	MAGNIUK		
WHITE	BLACK	WHITE	BLACK		
1	d4	31	Qe2	g1	
2	Bg5	32	g1	Rb8	
3	Bh4	33	Ndc3	Be6	
4	Bg3	34	Bxe6	Rxe6	
5	e3	35	Rd2	Qe8	
6	Bd3	36	Bf2	Rb8	
7	c3	37	Rd5	Rc6	
8	Qc2	38	Nc5	Rd6	
9	Nd2	39	Qd3	Rbd8	
10	Ne2	40	Rxd6	Rxd6	
11	b4	41	Qxb5	Qa8	
12	h4	42	N3e4	Rd8	
13	hg	43	Bh4	Qxa3	
14	Bc4	44	Bxd8	Qc1+	
15	Bb3	45	Kf2	Qxh1	
16	a3	46	Qe8+	Kh7	
17	cb	47	Ne6	Oh2+	
18	Rg2	48	Ke1	Qg1+	
19	e4	49	Kd2	Qd2+	
20	e5	50	Kc1	Qf1+	
21	ed	51	Kd2	Qg2+	
22	Bh2	52	Kc1		
23	Qd3	53			
24	de	54			
25	Nc3	55			
26	Nd5	56			
27	Bg1	57			
28	Nelt	58			
29	f3	59			
30	Bc5	60			
CIRCLE CORRECT RESULT		WHITE WON		DRAW	
SIGNATURE		SIGNATURE			

US-20 6/84

COMMERCIAL OFFSET PRINTERS, NEW WINDSOR, NEW YORK

Viktors' scoresheet

UPDATED- 2 Sections!
Apropos Open Swiss #1
August 8-9 2020
via Chess.com
USChess RATED!!



Open to ALL players with USChess and WCF* membership and a USChess rating. OPEN Section is for all players with a USChess rating. RESERVE is for Unrated players and is optional for players under 1600. Under 1600 may enter either section.

Format: 5-round Swiss System online tournament. Pairings will be made offline by the TD, games started automatically.

Entry Fee: There is no entry fee for the tournament.

Rounds: Saturday 10am/2pm/6pm Sunday 10am and 2pm

Time Control: G/90 +5

Prize Fund: Open: \$750 Guaranteed. 20% added if 30 or more players, 30% added for 50 or more players with all prizes bumped proportionally. 1st/2nd/3rd \$150-\$100-\$50, 1st/2nd U2000 \$100-\$50, 1st/2nd U1800 \$100-\$50, 1st/2nd U1600 \$100-\$50.

Reserve: 1-2 \$100/\$50 Top Unrated \$50

Byes: One ½ point bye available by end of day August 7th.

Ratings – USChess RATED!! USChess rating required and used for pairing.

Zoom: All players will be required to use Zoom throughout the tournament, no exceptions.

Memberships and Accounts: Current USChess and WCF* memberships required and must be paid 1 day before Round 1. Working chess.com account required.

Registration: Register online at <https://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration> by Friday August 7th at 6pm. Late registrations accepted at TD discretion. ALL memberships must be current before end of day August 7th.

Apropos Chess Events is hosting this tournament and a series for no-entry free online events to promote online chess, adult and junior chess, and to vigorously advocate for USChess OTB ratings to be used online. New USChess online classical rating used for this tournament.

TD: Kent McNall, kent.mcnall@gmail.com
206-853-8624.

Please Contact Kent McNall at Apropos Chess Events with Questions 206-853-8624

*WCF Membership not required for out-of-state players

Apropos Adult Swiss #2
September 12th-13th
via Chess.com
USCHESS RATED!!

Open to players age 18+

Format: 4-round Swiss Online

Entry Fee: None!

Rounds: Sat/Sun 10am and 2pm

Time Control: G/90 +5

Prize Fund: \$500+ Guaranteed! See full flyer at <http://nwchess.com> for details.

Ratings – USChess Rated! USChess Online Classical rating system used.



Byes: One ½ point bye available by 9/10

Zoom: All players will be required to use Zoom throughout the tournament, no exceptions.

Memberships and Accounts: Current USChess and WCF memberships require; Chess.com Account Required

Registration: Register online at <https://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration>

TD: Kent McNall, kent.mcnall@gmail.com

Apropos Junior Swiss #1
September 26th-27th
via Chess.com
USCHESS RATED!!

Open to players under age 18

Format: 4-round Swiss Online TC G/90+5

Entry Fee: None!

Rounds: Sat/Sun 10am and 2pm

Time Control: G/90 +5

Prize Fund: \$500+ Guaranteed! See full flyer at <http://nwchess.com> for details.

Ratings – USChess Rated! USChess Online Classical rating system used.



Byes: One ½ point bye available by 9/25

Zoom: All players will be required to use Zoom throughout the tournament, no exceptions.

Memberships and Accounts: Current USChess and WCF memberships required; Chess.com account required.

Registration: Register online at <https://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration>

TD: Kent McNall, kent.mcnall@gmail.com

WCF Online Chess Testimonials

A Hello from **Kent McNall**
Past WCF President
USCF Life Member

Fellow Chess Enthusiasts,

I'm sure that like me, many of you play chess online on one or more of the popular servers — chess.com, lichess, ICC, playchess, etc. Also like me, I'm sure that a lot of that play is blitz chess or other faster time controls. Personally, I find this enjoyable but not wholly satisfying.

I don't think our younger players need much convincing to try online tournaments, so these thoughts are aimed a bit more at our veteran players.

In recent years since retiring in 2018, I've played in a few tournaments, but not as many as I thought I would. Chess has changed quite a bit, and I found a few barriers to the enjoyment I used to take in tournament chess.

The first barrier of course was my own diminishing skills at the game (which was never all that high). We all deal with that! Second was the buzz-saw of young chess players mowing down the old guard left and right. It's tough losing to a nine year old. My better self is happy to see so many young players, and their high level of skill, but it still stings! Many have worked tirelessly to build a great scholastic program here in the Northwest successfully.

I've also found tournaments to be more of a chore, as I don't drive due to eyesight issues. I also noticed an unmistakable drop-off in adult play that again made me feel less comfortable. Hence, I really haven't played as much as I thought I would — and just as I was getting the itch to play again, COVID-19 comes along and pretty much stops all tournament play.

Some of you among the adult chess community may have experienced one or more of these things as well.

Have you considered playing in classical tournaments online? I'm here to share

with you that this may be a great way to go for you, as I have found it to be.

I played in my first online classical event a few weeks ago. Aside from a bumpy first round (due to server issues caused by a massive influx of online tournaments), that first experience was quite good. I'm not talking about my play (atrocious), but the experience of the tournament. It was the Washington Senior Championship, so nothing but veteran players...and I was surprised to see that even the most senior were handling all of the online technology quite well.

The registration process was basically the same as for any other tournament on nwchess.com, easy and fast. The communication of "what to do" from the TD's was good going into the tournament, which was held on chess.com. You really don't need much computer power to play — really just a web browser. I may play my next tournament on my Ipad!

All players were required to e-sign a Fair Play Agreement. "Zoom" was used during the tournament by the directors to have an eye on everyone during play, just one of the anti-cheating measures taken to ensure fair play, which is a valid concern with online play. All of the rounds started on time (except the first). Your games are automatically created by the TD, so there's not much you have to do except play.

The second tournament I played in had no hitches whatever 40 players enjoyed six rounds of competitive chess. Every round started on time, the wall charts were quickly up to date, and the TD (Jacob Mayer) did an excellent job.

Playing in a tournament online is different from a "real life" tournament, but it is still a great experience. Zoom makes it possible to see your opponent throughout the game (if you want to!). You're in the comfort of your own home. You don't have to travel or try to get home between rounds. If you happen to lose to a youthful player (like me) it takes a little of the sting away — but seriously, you also start playing the position and not the young or older person across from you. For some it may not be their cup of tea, but I enjoy the online tournaments and will be playing more than I would "in real life" I think.

Currently the tournaments are not USChess rated, so you can take a test drive without risking rating points. This is something I'd like to change.



Kent McNall taken June 2020. Photo credit: Anne McNall.

There's really nothing to fear on the technical side of playing online, it's quite easy and the TD's like Jacob are very helpful.

One more factor to consider for our adult chess community: It's an important time to support online chess, and especially to support getting USChess to allow the online classical games to be rated. I value my USChess rating very highly, and it's important that a lot of games be played with the rating system. It could be some time before we get to enjoy in-person chess again. If we get active with online chess, it could be a lasting resource even after in-person tournaments return.

If you're missing chess, why not take this great opportunity and sign up for the Washington Open? See you there!

A message from **Don Hack**
Life-long Chess Player
From Surrey, B.C.

I had no interest in playing on-line tournaments. None. On-line tournaments invoked feelings of boring, cheating, not rated, and sterile.

I like over-the-board play; more like an event, more sociable, and more special than staring at a screen for hours.

But what's a boy to do? All OTB play has been cancelled. I was looking to play real chess, wanted to test my new skills, and it was looking like Fall — at best — for normal play.

I put a toe in and signed up for the Harmon Memorial. Told myself if the experience stunk, I would walk away – no harm, no foul. However, I walked away impressed. I was impressed with the organization, TD, play oversight, and I actually enjoyed my games. So pleased, that I have played in two more WCF online events since and am signed up for more.

Here are the experiences that changed my mind:

- With a longer game duration, the play is sharp. Nothing like a feel of a blitz game, much closer to OTB play.
- The bathroom and fridge are closer.
- You can improve your play and a bad game does not trash your rating.

Northwest Chess

- You will be more ready for the future tournaments by keeping your edge now.
- I've developed a nemesis. He won the first game. I *gave* him the second game by freeing him from the virtual headlock. Hmmm, will I have a third chance?
- There is nowhere else to go.

Let's look at my initial feelings...

1. Boring. Not! The focus and emotions are real.
2. Cheating. I believe that *if* it occurs, it is an outlier, the TD has it under control, and does not affect my game.

My stoic opinion is “shame on them” if they cheat, but I need to learn how to play against the best moves.

I will improve and they will not. Plus, my rating is protected.

3. Not Rated. Yea, it is not so cool to have a good tournament and not see your rating rise. The upside I see is when OTB play returns, you will be a *Tyrannosaurus Rex* chewing through the players who did not improve over the past months. You could be a chess monster winning millions of prize dollars as the world's most underrated player!!

4. Sterile. Yes, still a bit sterile. But I have met new players and had good games. The post-game skittles room experience is missing. But, with most of the world in the same situation, there are not a lot of options.

Consider trying a WCF online tournament. WCF is more than capable of delivering a good online experience. The only way to know for sure is to give “real” online chess a try. I bet you will like it.



*Don Hack October 2019 at the Grand Canyon on a backpack trip.
Photo courtesy of Don Hack.*



Northwest Chess Webinars



Mondays 5-6pm via Zoom

		
NM Rushaan Mahajan	FM Roland Feng	Jacob Mayer
Redmond	Seattle	Seattle
USCF 2208	USCF 2459	USCF 1827
<i>Washington State's newest National Chess Master</i>	<i>4-time National Champion</i>	<i>Member of Seattle Sluggers PRO Chess Team</i>
<i>Organizer of online chess tournaments</i>	<i>4-time and youngest ever Washington State Champion</i>	<i>Former WA State Elementary Champion</i>
<i>Founder of Learn2Chess</i>	<i>9-time member of the All-American Chess Team</i>	<i>Active WA Chess Coach</i>

Entry Fee	\$10/webinar. Free entry for Northwest Chess subscribers!
Register	Register online: nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration . Max 99 attendees. Zoom info will be emailed to all registered attendees prior to each webinar.
Schedule	Arrival 4:50-5:00pm, Lecture 5:00-5:50pm, Q/A 5:50-6:00pm.
Webinar Topics	8/3 – NM Rushaan Mahajan: Analyzing Karpov's Best Chess Games. 8/10 – FM Roland Feng: TBD... 8/17 – Jacob Mayer: Getting into trouble (and how to escape)!

Questions? Josh Sinanan | WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com | 206.769.3757

2020 Washington vs Oregon Chess Match



Saturday August 8, 2020

Online via  Chess.com



Organizing Teams:

- Washington Chess Federation (Josh Sinanan, Jacob Mayer)
- Oregon Chess Federation (Mike Morris, Micah Smith)
- WA Team Captain: Josh Sinanan
- OR Team Captain: Mike Morris

Format: The first two registered WA players from each rating class (Class E-Master) compete against the first two registered OR players from the same rating class. All games will be played online via Chess.com due to the COVID-19 situation. 14 players per team, maximum of two from each rating class. Participants selected on a first come, first serve basis.

Eligibility: Open to all current US Chess members residing in Washington and Oregon. Players must have a Chess.com and Zoom account.

Schedule: Arrival – 9:50am, Round 1 – 10:00am. Round 2 – 2:30pm. Closing Ceremony – 6:30pm or ASAP.

Time Control: G/90; +30 sec. Play two games, one as white and one as black. US Chess rules apply. Notation is not required, no takebacks due to mouse-slips.

Entry Fee: \$10.

Registration: Please register online via [online registration](#). We will take the first two players from WA and OR in each rating class who register and pay by the deadline of August 1. No refunds issued after the deadline.

Rating: NWSRS rated, US Chess unrated. US Chess August 2020 rating supplement will be used to determine team composition and pairings.

Memberships: WCF/OCF state membership required. US Chess membership required.

Fair Play Policy: All players and parents (if U18) must sign the [WCF Fair Play Agreement](#) prior to the start of the match. WCF's fair play committee may review any suspicious games on a case-by-case basis.

Tournament Director: Jacob Mayer, 206.697.5625, Jacob.MayerChess@gmail.com

Questions? Josh Sinanan | WCF President | 206.769.3757 | JoshSinanan@gmail.com

4th Annual Seattle Chess Classic



August 12-16, 2020

Online via 



Format: A 9-round Swiss in two sections: Open and Reserve U1800.

Entry fee: \$90 by 8/5, \$100 after. \$40 Play-up fee if rated under 1800 playing in Open section. Free entry for GM/IM/WGM or US Chess Rating 2400+.

Schedule:

Wednesday 8/12	Players Meeting & Round 1	6pm & 6:15pm
Thursday 8/13	Rounds 2 & 3	10am & 3pm
Friday 8/14	Rounds 4 & 5	10am & 3pm
Saturday 8/15	Rounds 6 & 7	10am & 3pm
Sunday 8/16	Rounds 8 & 9	10am & 3pm
Sunday 8/16	Closing Ceremony + Blitz Tournament	~7pm or ASAP

Time Control: G/100; +30. **Late Default:** 10 minutes.

Prize Fund: (\$2,500 based on 60 paid entries)

Open: 1st \$400, 2nd \$300, 3rd \$200 1st U2200/U2000: \$150

Reserve: 1st \$250, 2nd \$200, 3rd \$150 1st U1600/U1400/U1200/U1000: \$100

Biggest upset: \$50 per section.

Annotated Brilliancy Prize Competition: \$100 per section. Submit one annotated game that you consider to be *Brilliant*. A panel of judges will select the winner in each section.

Rating: Higher of US Chess August 2020 supplement or foreign ratings used at TD discretion. US Chess unrated. NWSRS rated.

Registration: Please register online at nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration. Registration deadline Tues. 8/11 @ 5pm. \$25 Late Fee for payments received after the deadline. No check-in since this is an online tournament. Unpaid players will receive a zero-point bye for round 1.

Byes: Up to 3 half-point byes available for rounds 1-9 if announced before the start of round 2.

Memberships: Current US Chess and WCF membership/Northwest Chess subscription required. Memberships must be paid at time of registration. A Chess.com and Zoom account are required.

Miscellaneous: This is a Northwest Chess Grand Prix event.

Procedure: Pairings will be released prior to the start of each round. Games will be started automatically by the TD in the [Live Chess](#) area. Players must report their result upon completion of the game.

Fair Play Policy: All players and parents (if U18) are required to sign the [WCF Fair Play Agreement](#) prior to the start of the tournament. All players will be monitored by Zoom during the games. WCF's Fair Play Committee will review any suspicious games on a case-by-case basis. Cheating of any kind is strictly prohibited.

Tournament Director: Jacob Mayer, 206.697.5625, Jacob.MayerChess@gmail.com

Questions? Josh Sinanan, WCF President, 206.769.3757, JoshSinanan@gmail.com

WA State Elementary Championship

By WSECC Organizers

May 2, 2020

The 2020 Washington State Elementary Chess Championships is the largest online state chess championship in US history, featuring a whopping 1170 players! At a time when most local and national events were cancelled due to COVID-19, members of the Pacific Northwest chess community collaborated with ChessKid.com on Saturday May 2 to host the Washington State Elementary Chess Championships online. Chief organizer Jacob Mayer orchestrated the day's festivities, which included a live stream, raffle contest, virtual Zoom help desk, real-time tournament standings, and an online chess store featuring local vendors. The Facebook live stream, hosted by Randy Kaech, contributed to the event's prestige with a star-studded cast of special guest speakers including Seattle Seahawk K.J. Wright, former World Champion GM Susan Polgar, Washington State Attorney General Bob Ferguson, and local chess stars IM Bryce Tiglon and WFM Alexandra Botez. Despite some first round hiccups caused by a server crash, over 1,000 players completed the marathon seven-hour, seven-round extravaganza.

Hosting an event of this magnitude *online* presented several logistical challenges and was only possible thanks to the tremendous efforts of the WSECC Organizers, the ChessKid Team, and the local chess families. All games were played from home over the internet using custom accounts created by ChessKid's team to incorporate the players' local NWSRS (Northwest Scholastic Rating System) ratings to ensure proper Swiss pairings. Due to high traffic volume on the ChessKid website, many players experienced connectivity problems and subsequently reported them post-event via a feedback form. A joint effort between the ChessKid team and the WSECC Fair Play Review Team resulted in impartial adjudication of all games in

question and players' scores in affected games were adjusted accordingly for points fairly earned.

To ensure honest play and fair games, each player signed a Fair Play Agreement before the start of the tournament in which they promised to play their own moves without outside assistance. A systematic three-pronged approach consisting of ChessKid analysis, engine analysis, and human analysis was used to check all suspicious games for fair play violations. Only the players found by all three methods to have violated the Fair Play Agreement were forfeited from the tournament. For the most part, the fair play rules were followed, as less than 1% of total players were found to have violated fair play.



After 3,721 games and 254,340 moves in seven-plus hours of play, only the most courageous chess warriors survived the marathon experience! Special congratulations to the following State Champions: Kindergarten – **Ted Wang**, 1st Grade – **Sharvesh Arul**, 2nd Grade – **Shrey Talathi**, 3rd Grade – **Keshav Beegala**, 4th Grade – **Derek Heath & Erin Bian**, 5th Grade – **Derin Goktepe & Jack Miller**, 6th Grade – **Owen Xuan, Kai Marcelais & Christos Boulis**, 7-8th Grade – **Sonia Devaraju & Brandon Peng**, I Love Chess Too – **Anne-Marie Velea**.

Congratulations to all who have contributed to this record-breaking event!

About Washington State Elementary Chess Championships

The Washington State Elementary Chess Championships (WSECC) is largest annual scholastic chess event in the Pacific Northwest. Starting with only a few hundred players in the early 1990s, the tournament now attracts as many as 1,500 scholastic chess players from throughout Washington State each year. WSECC rotates between the western, southern, and eastern regions of the state on a three-year cycle. Starting 2020, the event is run by the WSECC Organizing Committee, a group of experienced chess

leaders and organizers from throughout Washington State. This committee, appointed by the nonprofit Chess Enrichment Association, is tasked with running the highest possible quality event each year. The committee's goal is to provide the opportunity for local scholastic chess players from all backgrounds to compete in a fun, large-scale festival of chess. For more information, please visit: <https://wsecc.org/>.

About Chess Enrichment Association

Chess Enrichment Association (CEA) is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit corporation based in Lynden. Its purpose is to support and host chess

tournaments, camps, programs, and other events that promote chess for children, primarily focusing on elementary scholastic chess programs. CEA was founded in 2004 by Elliott Neff and now oversees the organization of WSECC starting from 2020.

Contact

To learn more about this record-breaking event, please contact:

Jacob Mayer, Chief Organizer
Benjamin Radin, Pairings Director

Jacob.MayerChess@gmail.com
Ben@chessreg.com

Washington Closed Brilliance Prizes

Championship Section

By Samuel He

1. Derek Zhang – Ignacio Perez (0-1). Playing through this game immediately brought back flashbacks of trying to initiate an opposite-side castling battle against Ignacio's King's Indian in a very similar line and getting blown off the board before I could even make a dent with my attack. The game begins as a Makagonov King's Indian where Ignacio doesn't hold back his intention of attacking on the queenside with an early a5-a4 push and positioning his queenside minor pieces accordingly. Derek doesn't sense any danger and castles queenside anyway, though in hindsight, castling kingside would have probably been a wiser plan, with future ideas of queenside expansion with b2-b4 made easy thanks to the overextended pawn on a4. Ignacio comes up with the clever queen maneuver Qd8-b8-a7-a6, pressuring the weak c4 pawn, which becomes a real thorn in the

position, forcing Derek to give up his good dark-squared bishop in the process of defending it. The next few moves, Derek maneuvers his pieces with the sole idea of preventing b7-b5 from Black, reasoning that an effective attack from Ignacio would be very difficult if this move were not possible. Despite the b5 square being covered four times, Ignacio manages to play b5 anyway as a sacrifice! Moves 22...a3 and 23...e4 by Ignacio were very strong, creating weaknesses around White's king and opening up the diagonal for the g7-bishop. When the dust cleared on move 26, to my surprise, the computer gives Black only a slight edge, but I am extremely skeptical that any human would share this assessment from a practical standpoint as Black's powerful minor pieces and exposed white king makes it extremely difficult to hold this position over the board for very long as White. With some strategic maneuvering, Ignacio managed to break through successfully, with the final position being particularly picturesque.

**Derek Zhang (2266) –
Ignacio Perez (2230) [E71]**
Championship Kirkland
(R4), February 9, 2020

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.h3

0-0 6.Be3 Nbd7 7.Bd3 e5 8.d5 a5 9.Qd2 a4 10.Nge2 Nc5 11.Bc2 Bd7 12.0-0 Qb8 13.f3 Qa7 14.g4 Qa6 15.Bxc5 dxc5 16.Bd3 Ne8 17.Nb1 c6 18.Na3 cxd5 19.exd5 Nd6 20.Nc3 b5 21.Ncxb5 Bxb5 22.Nxb5 a3 23.b3 e4 24.Nc7 Qa7 25. Nxa8 exd3 26.Qxd3 Rxa8 27.Rde1 Qb6 28.h4 Qd8 29.g5 Nf5 30.f4 Qd6 31.Re4 h5 32.Qh3 Bd4 33.Rhe1 Kg7 34.Qh2 Qb6 35.Qh3 Qb4 36.Rd1 Bf2 37.Rf1 Ng3 0-1



Final Position after 37...Ng3

2. Joseph Levine – Ignacio Perez (1-0). Brilliant play from start to finish by Joseph, who had total control over the position and managed to deny any sort of counterplay from Ignacio. Joseph chooses a very solid line against Ignacio's

Washington Women's Championship

September 18-20, 2020

Highest finishing Washington resident seeded into the Premier section of the 2021 Washington State Championship.

Site: Chess.com: All games will be played online via Chess.com due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Format: A 5-Round Swiss in one section. Open to all female chess players regardless of residence. US Chess and NWSRS Dual Rated. Playoff round if needed to break tie for 1st place will be resolved later in the year by a G/90 playoff game. Pairings will be sent to all players before the start of each round and games will be started by the TD. All players will be monitored via Zoom and observe fair-play rules.

Time Control: G/90; +30. US Chess September 2020 rating supplement will be used to determine pairings and prizes. Foreign ratings used for players with no US Chess rating. Higher of US Chess or foreign ratings used at TD discretion.

Entry Fee: \$50 if postmarked or online by 9/16, \$60 after. Free entry for WGMs, WIMs, or US Chess 2200+.

Online Registration: nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration/.

Prize Fund: \$750 (based on 25 paid entries).

1st \$200, 2nd \$150, 3rd \$100

1st U1800/U1600/U1400/U1200/U1000: \$60

Rounds: Friday 6:00 PM; Saturday 10:00 AM, 3:00 PM; Sunday 10:00 AM, 3:00 PM.

Byes: Two half-point byes available. Request before end of round 2. US Chess and WCF membership/Northwest Chess subscription are required. Memberships must be paid at time of registration. A Chess.com and Zoom account are required.

Info/Entries: Make checks payable to Washington Chess Federation.

Mail To: Josh Sinanan, 3610 218th Street SW, Brier, WA 98036. **Phone:** (206) 769-3757.

Email: WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

Tournament Director: Rekha Sagar, (425) 496-9160, RekhaSagar04@gmail.com

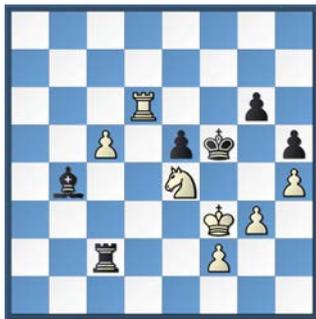
Pirc and very quickly pursues a creative plan of prioritizing quick expansion on the queenside involving putting his rooks on the a- and b- files and following up with a2-a4-a5 and b2-b4-b5. Ignacio falls behind in development after being unsure of how to best position his pieces, forcing him to make swaps that are not ideal strategically to prevent his position from immediate collapse. A key position is reached on move 20, when White has an active c4-bishop, control over the weak d5 square, and access to the b6 square for the rook when it can attack the weak a6-pawn. Further swaps occur in the next several moves which benefit White, resulting in a position where White has a good knight vs Black's bad bishop. A queen-trade only emphasizes the minor piece disparity, with Ignacio soon realizing that he cannot avoid being mated if he does not sacrifice the exchange.

Joseph Levine (2142) – Ignacio Perez (2230) [B08]
Championship Kirkland (R7), February 16, 2020

1.e4 d6 2.d4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.h3 c5 6.dxc5 Qa5 7.Bd3 Qxc5 8.Be3 Qa5 9.0-0 Nbd7 10.Qd2 0-0 11.Rfb1 a6 12.a4 Qc7 13.a5 e6 14.Bd4 e5 15.Be3 Nc5 16.b4 Ne6 17.b5 Nc5 18.Bxc5 dxc5 19.bxa6 bxa6 20.Bc4 Bb7 21.Nd5 Bxd5 22.Bxd5 Nxd5 23.Qxd5 Rad8 24.Qc4 Rd6 25.Rb6 Rxb6 26.axb6 Qxb6 27.Rxa6 Qb1+ 28.Kh2 Qc1 29.g3 Kh8 30.h4 h6 31.Kg2 Qd1 32.Qxc5 Qe2 33.Qc6 f5 34.Ra4 Kh7 35.Qc4 Qd1 36.Ra7 Qd6 37.Ra6 Qb8 38.Rc6 Qb7 39.Qd5 fxe4 40.Qxe4 Rf6 41.Rc4 Qxe4 42.Rxe4 Rc6 43.c4 Kg8 44.Kf1 Rc5 45.Ke2 Kf7 46.Nd2 Ra5 47.Re3 Bf8 48.Ne4 Ra2+ 49.Kf3 Ke6 50.Rb3 Ra6 51.Kg4 Rc6 52.Rc3 h5+ 53.Kf3 Bb4 54.Rc2 Ra6 55.Rb2 Kf5 56.Rb3 Be7 57.Rc3 Bb4 58.Rd3 Ra2 59.c5 Rc2 60.Rd6

[Diagram top of next column]

60...Rc3+ 61.Nxc3 Bxc3 62.Ra6 Bd4 63.c6 Ke6 64.c7+ Kd7 65.Rxg6 Kxc7 66.Rh6 Kd7 67.Rxh5 Ke6 68.Rh6+ Kd5



Position after 60.Rd6

69.Ra6 e4+ 70.Ke2 Ke5 71.h5 Kf5 72.h6 Kg5 73.h7 1-0

3. Joseph Levine – Rushaan Mahajan (0-1). A very well played strategic game by Rushaan that took me several replays to fully understand and appreciate its depth. Throughout, Rushaan's moves were very simple, provoking and taking advantages of weaknesses created in White's position. The game begins as a King's Indian Attack, with queens being swapped early on, resulting in an endgame with a very imbalanced pawn structure. Joseph chooses the dubious plan of building up his center with 18.c3 and 19.d4, when Black's pieces are clearly better positioned for the opening of the c-file. 23...Ba6 was a particularly strong move, which looks very simple on the surface, but is actually quite bothersome for White and forces him to make the uncomfortable decisions of trading off his good bishop and ceding the c-file to not fall victim to any looming tactical ideas. 28...Bc4 was a key move to provoke b2-b3, cutting off the white rook from getting counterplay on the queenside with Ra3. The bishop maneuver Bc4-e2-g4 was very clever, freezing the white knight on g5 and preventing any potentially disruptive ideas like f4-f5. By move 32, White is almost in a zugzwang situation, leaving little hope left but to swap minor pieces with 33.Nf3, hoping the adage "All rook endings are drawn" would come to

the rescue. Unfortunately in this case, Black is clearly much better situated with the more active king and cleans up the weak pawns one-by-one. The rest is very straightforward.

Joseph Levine (2142) – Rushaan Mahajan (2179) [C00]
Championship Kirkland (R5), February 15, 2020

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d3 Nc6 4.g3 Nf6 5.Bg2 d5 6.Nbd2 Be7 7.0-0 b6 8.Re1 Bb7 9.e5 Nd7 10.h4 Qc7 11.Qe2 h6 12.Nf1 g5 13.hxg5 hxg5 14.Bxg5 Bxg5 15.Nxg5 Qxe5 16.Qxe5 Nxe5 17.f4 Ng4 18.c3 Kf8 19.d4 cxd4 20.cxd4 Rc8 21.Rac1 Kg7 22.Bf3 Ndf6 23.Kg2 Ba6 24.Bxg4 Nxg4 25.Rxc8 Rxc8 26.Ne3 Nxe3+ 27.Rxe3 Rc2+ 28.Kg1 Bc4 29.b3 Be2 30.a3 Bg4 31.Kf1 b5 32.Ke1 Kg6 33.Nf3 Bxf3 34.Rxf3 Kf5 35.Re3 Ra2 36.b4 a6 37.Kd1 Rg2 38.Re5+ Kg4 39.Rg5+ Kf3 40.Rg7 Rxg3 41.Rxf7 Ke4 42.Rf6 Kd3 43.Kc1 Re3 44.f5 exf5 45.Rxf5 Kxd4 46.Kb2 Re6 47.Rh5 Kc4 48.Rh3 d4 49.Kc2 Re2+ 50.Kd1 Re3 51.Rh6 Rxa3 52.Rd6 Kd3 53.Kc1 Kc3 54.Kb1 d3 55.Rd8 and Black won in a few more moves 0-1

4. Ignacio Perez – Daniel Shubin (1-0). The Winawer French has always been an opening that has mystified me from both the white and black side, and looking over this game certainly didn't ease any of those feelings. After witnessing the brutal outcome of the game for the first time, it left me scratching my head wondering where exactly Daniel went wrong. Ignacio chooses to avoid the sharp theory-heavy variations and opts for a seemingly harmless setup, but one with a lot of attacking potential. 8... Qb6 by Daniel seems like a logical plan in the French Defense, but the drawback is that White has the bishop-pair and Black lacks his dark-squared bishop, which makes the crucial difference. Ignacio is quick to capitalize on this and immediately opens up the position with



20405 123rd Ave NE
Bothell WA 98011

Also classes in Sammamish, Redmond and Bellevue

We train kids with age groups 6 and above.

Monday to Friday 6:30pm-8:00pm

Saturday and Sunday 9am-9pm

Contact: Sridhar Seshadri, Ph 425-492-4176

Email: SSeshadri@srichessacademy.com

Orlov Chess Academy

IM Georgi Orlov

2540 US Chess

Offers time-tested program,
challenge and quick progress!

Chess Camps, Tournaments
Chess Classes, Private Lessons

info@chessplayer.com

www.chessplayer.com

(206)-387-1253



dx5, creating threats in all areas of the board. Moves like 11.Rb1 and 12.Ng5 emphasize that Black's king isn't safe in any area of the board, with very little that could be done against the oncoming attack, which Ignacio executes flawlessly and forcefully, forcing resignation on move 23. In hindsight, it seems that 8...c4, closing up the position and depriving the white bishop of his diagonal would've been the stronger plan, giving Black's knights greater potential and allowing Black the simple plan of pressuring the c3-pawn and creating play on the queenside.

Ignacio Perez (2230) – Daniel Shubin (2150) [C19]
Championship Kirkland (R1), February 8, 2020

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Ne7 7.Nf3 Nbc6 8.Bd3 Qb6 9.dxc5 Qxc5 10.0-0 Bd7 11.Rb1 Na5 12.Ng5 h6 13.Qh5 g6 14.Qh4 Qxc3 15.Nxf7 Rh7 16.Nd6+ Kd8 17.Bxg6 Rg7 18.Nf7+ Ke8 19.Bh5 Qxc2 20.Bxh6 Rg8 21.Nd6+ Kd8 22.Bg5 Rg7 23.Bf7 1-0

5. Tian Sang – David Levine (1-0).

Overall, the game was smoothly executed by Tian who managed to restrict his opponent's counterplay while gradually maneuvering his own pieces to their optimal squares. The game began as an Italian, with David choosing to go for a hybrid plan and play it like a Ruy Lopez, with the bishop on a7 instead of its usual placements on either e7 or g7. This may not have been the most accurate plan as Tian manages to take advantage of this oddity and seals the bishop's diagonal with 18.c4, and from that point on, David finds all of his pieces on poor squares with little activity or coordination. 15...f6 was not great by David as it deprived the square for his knight and weakened his kingside. Offering to trade light-squared bishops seemed to be straw that broke the camel's back, although a sensible try as the previous few moves David had been

shuffling around with little progress. Tian was happy to go for the swap, recognizing the newly created weak light squares in David's position. It is interesting to note that the bishop on a7 never managed to find its purpose throughout the remainder of the game after getting shut in with 18.c4.

Tian Sang (2352) – David Levine (2210) [C54]
Championship Kirkland (R8), February 16, 2020

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.c3 a6 6.Bb3 Ba7 7.0-0 0-0 8.Nbd2 Re8 9.Nc4 d6 10.Be3 b5 11.Ncd2 Na5 12.Bc2 c5 13.Re1 Nc6 14.a4 Ng4 15.Bg5 f6 16.Bh4 Be6 17.axb5 axb5



Position after 17...axb5

18.c4 Nb4 19.h3 Nh6 20.cxb5 Bd7 21.Bb3+ Kf8 22.Bc4 Bb6 23.Rxa8 Qxa8 24.g4 g5 25.Bg3 Ng8 26.Nh2 Ne7 27.Nhf1 Kg7 28.Ne3 Rh8 29.f3 Qe8 30.Qb3 h5 31.Kg2 Bxb5 32.Bxb5 Qxb5 33.Qe6 Bd8 34.Ndc4 Nxd3 35.Nxd6 Qxb2+ 36.Kf1 Rf8 37.Nef5+ Nxf5 38.Nxf5+ Kh8 39.Qd7 Rg8 40.Qf7 Nf4 41.Bxf4 Qb5+ 42.Kf2 Qe8 43.Qxe8 Rxe8 44.Be3 hxg4 45.hxg4 Bb6 46.Rb1 1-0

Premier Section

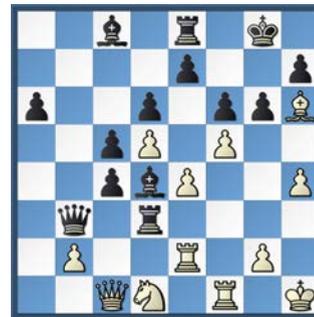
By Daniel He

1. Joseph Frantz – Yevgeniy Rozenfeld (0-1). A model game by

Yevgeniy that illustrates the dangers of Black's queenside expansion in King's Indian and Benoni structures! As soon as Black pushed b5, the open b-file and the long diagonal proved to be much too strong as his fianchettoed bishop and rook on b8 applied immense pressure on the center and queenside. White ultimately was forced to give up either the a- or b-pawn, which allowed Black's queen to safely enter. Black maintained a strong initiative using just his bishop, rook, and queen. What's brilliant is that this all happened in the middle of White's own territory! The final checkmate tactic is just beautiful!

Joseph Frantz (2044) – Yevgeniy Rozenfeld (2047) [E81]
Premier Kirkland (R2), February 8, 2020

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.f3 0-0 6.Be3 a6 7.Qd2 Nbd7 8.Nh3 c5 9.d5 Ne5 10.Nf2 Qa5 11.Be2 b5 12.f4 Nxc4 13.Bxc4 bxc4 14.0-0 Rb8 15.Rae1 Nd7 16.Re2 Nb6 17.f5 Na4 18.Nxa4 Qxa4 19.Nd1 Qxa2 20.Bh6 Bd4+ 21.Kh1 Re8 22.h4 f6 23.Rf3 Rb3 24.Rf4 Rd3 25.Qc1 Qb3 26.Rf1



Position after 26.Rf1

26...Rh3+ 0-1

2. Chouchanik Airapetian –

Joseph Frantz (1-0). Great instructive game by Chouchanik which shows the power of knights on outposts and when to be patient with the attack if the opponent is paralyzed! The game started off as a

Supporting and promoting chess related activities throughout Washington State since 1946.

Josh Sinanan
President
joshsinanan@gmail.com

(206) 769-3757
4174 148th Ave NE, Building I, Suite M, Redmond, WA 98052

Chess4Life

- Premium Center Classes
- Private Chess Lessons
- After School Clubs
- Rated Tournaments
- Chess Camps
- Workbooks & Materials

LEARN LIFE | IMPROVE CHESS | HAVE FUN

KIDS@CHESS4LIFE.COM | 425-283-0549 | WWW.CHESS4LIFE.COM

Join Us Today!

normal Breyer Ruy Lopez until Black got overambitious and played 18...g5?! instead of the thematic f5-pawn break. This created too many holes on the light squares and White very accurately maneuvered both knights around to take advantage of those squares while Black could do nothing but passively wait. Since Black could not create any counterplay whatsoever, White slowly repositioned all her pieces to the most ideal squares (including maneuvering the king) before starting the dangerous pawn break on the h-file, which led to a winning advantage.

Chouchanik Airapetian (2041) – Joseph Frantz (2044) [C95]

Premier Kirkland (R6),
February 15, 2020
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 0-0 8.c3 d6 9.h3 Nb8 10.d4 Nbd7 11.Nbd2 Bb7 12.a4 Re8

12...c5 is a little more common. Two main choices on move 13.--

a) 13.Bc2 Re8 (or 13...Qc7 14.d5 c4 15.Nf1) 14.d5 c4 15.Nf1 (15.b3!? cxb3 16.Nxb3 Qc7 17.Bd2±) 15...Bf8 16.Ng3 g6 17.Bg5 transposes into a much more popular line, often continuing 17...h6 18.Be3 Nc5 19.Qd2±;

b) 13.d5 c4 14.Bc2 Nc5 15.Nf1 with a typically unclear Ruy Lopez/Spanish position.

13.Ng5 Rf8 14.Qe2 b4

14...c5 is a normal Spanish idea.

15.Ng3 c5 16.d5 Nh5

The loose knight on the rim could cause some problems (see next note). 16...a5±

17.c4?!

17.Nc4 bxc3 (17...Nf4 18.Bxf4 exf4 19.a5±) 18.bxc3 a5 (18...Nf4 19.Bxf4 exf4 20.a5±) 19.Nfxe5±

17...Nf4 18.Qf1



Position after 18.Qf1

18...g5?

The kingside pawn storm must have

looked imposing at the time, but in reality White is well-positioned to repel Black's attempt, and a little later the advanced black pawns will help White when she is ready to open kingside lines for her own attack. 18...Nf6 19.g3 Ng6±

19.g3 Ng6 20.Bc2 Kh8 21.Nh2 Bc8 22.Ndf3 Rg8 23.Ng4 Kg7 24.Ne3 f6 25.Nf5+ Kh8 26.Nh2 a5 27.b3 Ra6 28.Qe2 Bf8 29.Ng4 Ne7 30.Nge3 Bg7 31.Bd2 Nf8 32.Qf3 Nfg6 33.Kf1 Ra7 34.Ke2 Nxf5 35.exf5 Ne7 36.Be4 Rf8 37.Rh1 Bd7 38.Rh2 Ng8 39.Rah1 h6

Black's lack of space and poor coordination has allowed White complete freedom to prepare the kingside break for the last 20 moves. Now it's time.

40.h4 Rf7 41.Ng4 Be8 42.Qe3 Bd7 43.hxg5 fxe5 44.Qxg5 Qxg5 45.Bxg5 Bxf5 46.Bxf5 Rxf5 47.Bxh6 Nxh6 48.Nxh6 Rf8 49.Nf5+ Kg8 50.Nxd6 1-0

3. Timothy Moroney – David Rupel (1-0).

Great attacking game by Timothy from start to finish! White noticed Black's questionable setup on the kingside with the weak dark squares and decides to castle queenside and launch a pawn storm on the other end. White kept his initiative throughout, which included the crucial knight sacrifice on d5. 31.Nf6 is a great find, which traps the king up and threatens the deadly Qc5+.

Timothy Moroney (2032) – David Rupel (2058) [B12]

Premier Kirkland (R8),
February 16, 2020

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 a6 4.Bd3 c5 5.c3 cxd4 6.cxd4 Nc6 7.Ne2 g6 8.Nbc3 e6 9.h4 h5 10.Bg5 Be7 11.Qd2 Kf8 12.Qf4 Kg7 13.0-0-0 Nh6 14.f3 f6 15.exf6+ Bxf6 16.g4 hxg4 17.fxg4 Nf7 18.Bxf6+ Qxf6 19.Qg3 g5 20.Rdf1 Qe7 21.Kb1 Nb4 22.hxg5 Rxh1 23.Rxh1 Nxd3 24.Qxd3 Qxg5 25.Qh7+ Kf8 26.Rf1 Qg7 27.Qh5 Bd7 28.Nf4 Ke7 29.Ncxd5+ exd5 30.Nxd5+ Kf8



Position after 30...Kf8

31.Nf6 Bb5 32.Qc5+ Nd6 33.Qxd6+ Kf7 34.Nh5+ Bxf1 35.Qd7+ 1-0

4. Thanh Tien Nguyen – David Rupel (1-0). White took advantage of Black's slow start by launching an immediate kingside attack. Great coordination of White's pieces with a devastating rook lift at the end, leading to unstoppable mate. A great example of how to actively punish your opponent when they are behind in development.

Thanh Tien Nguyen (2070) – David Rupel (2058) [C10]

Premier Kirkland (R2),
February 8, 2020

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 e6 4.Ngf3 dxe4 5.Nxe4 Be7 6.Bd3 Nf6 7.0-0 Nxe4 8.Bxe4 Nd7 9.Re1 Nf6 10.Bd3 b6 11.Ne5 Bb7 12.c3 0-0 13.Qf3 Qe8 14.Qh3 Kh8 15.Bg5 g6 16.Re3 Nd5 17.Bxe7 Nxe7 18.Qh4 f6 19.Rh3 1-0

5. Timothy Moroney – Thanh Tien Nguyen (1-0).

Black was ready to sacrifice any material in order to launch an attack on White's king, but Timothy cautiously accepted the material and defended well against any threats. Right when it seemed like Black found a brilliancy with ...Bxb3, White plays the even more brilliant Re8+ and it is game over.

Timothy Moroney (2032) – Thanh Tien Nguyen (2070) [B09]

Premier Kirkland (R5),
February 15, 2020

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.f4 Bg7 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be3 Ng4 7.Bg1 e5 8.dxe5 Nc6 9.h3 Nh6 10.exd6 cxd6 11.Qd2 f5 12.Bc4+ Kh8 13.0-0-0 Qa5 14.Nd4 fxe4 15.Nxc6 bxc6 16.Qxd6 Nf5 17.Qxc6 Bxc3 18.Qxa8 Bg7 19.Qxa7 Qb4 20.Bb3 e3 21.Bxe3 Be6 22.Rhe1 Rc8 23.Bd2



Position after 23.Bd2

23...Bxb3 24.Re8+ Rxe8 25.Bxb4 Bg8 26.g4 Ng3 27.Rd7 Ne2+ 28.Kd2 Bf6 29.g5 Bxb2 30.c3 Nxf4 31.Qd4+ 1-0



Invitational Section

By Isaac Vega

1. Advait Vijayakumar – James Colasurdo (1-0). Brilliant and accurate play from the Bear Cub himself! He successfully gets an advantage out of the opening and realizes this by a well-timed center thrust with e4.

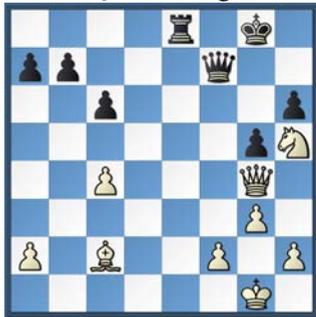
He opens the bishop-pair to eye at James' king. He builds a lethal attack. Most of the middle game, Advait finds an intermediate move to accelerate his attack and waste the least possible time. Ultimately, he finds an exchange sac 23.Rxe6! and later rips the defenses of the black king to nil.

His most clever move 30.c5!! with the idea of 30...Qxa2 31.Qd1!! instantly winning. But with the other idea of getting the bishop into the attack by controlling the a2-g8 diagonal. Also just an endgame space move to fix Black's pawns too. Ultimately James survives the attack and enter an endgame. However, Bear Cub already obtains a decisive advantage and converts the win with zero difficulties. Overall brilliant attacking play from the Bear Cub himself!

I really enjoyed this game and my personal favorite. This game wins the brilliancy prize for the Invitational section.

Advait Vijayakumar (1996) – James Colasurdo (2028) [D30]
Invitational Kirkland (R2),
February 8, 2020

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Bg5 c6 5.e3 Nbd7 6.Bd3 Qa5+ 7.Nbd2 Bd6 8.0-0 0-0 9.e4 dxe4 10.Nxe4 Nxe4 11.Bxe4 h6 12.Bd2 Qc7 13.Bc3 e5 14.Re1 exd4 15.Qxd4 Nf6 16.Bc2 Rd8 17.Qh4 Be7 18.Be5 Qb6 19.Qf4 Ng4 20.Bd4 Bc5 21.Rad1 Bxd4 22.Rxd4 Be6 23.Rxe6 Rxd4 24.Nxd4 fxe6 25.Qxg4 Qxb2 26.g3 Re8 27.Nxe6 Qf6 28.Nf4 g5 29.Nh5 Qf7



Position after 29...Qf7

30.c5 Kf8 31.Bb3 Qg6 32.Qf3+ Ke7 33.g4 Kd8 34.Ng3 Kc7 35.Nf5 Qf6 36.Qg3+ Qe5 37.Nxh6 Qxg3+ 38.hxg3

Re5 39.f4 Rxc5 40.Nf7 b5 41.Nxg5 Rc1+ 42.Kg2 c5 43.Bg8 Kd6 44.Ne4+ Ke7 45.f5 c4 46.f6+ Kf8 47.f7 Rc2+ 48.Kf3 Rh2 49.Nf6 1-0

2. Alan Bishop – Brian Lee (1-0). Excellent attacking play from Alan. After Brian plays 10...d5? instead of more accurate 10...Nc6, Black becomes worse as d5 creates issues on the d-file. Alan realizes this advantage and play accurately throughout the game. He finds the clever 17.Qb2! idea and puts pressure on d-file and eventually e-file pressure against Brian's King. Ultimately his attack becomes too powerful and wins.

Alan Bishop (2000) – Brian Lee (1849) [B80]
Invitational Kirkland (R5),
February 15, 2020

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 e6 7.f3 b5 8.Qd2 Bb7 9.g4 b4 10.Na4 d5 11.g5 Nfd7 12.exd5 Bxd5 13.Bg2 Ne5 14.b3 Nbc6 15.0-0-0 Nxd4 16.Qxd4 Nxf3 17.Qb2 Qe7 18.Nb6 Rd8 19.Nxd5 exd5 20.Bf4 Nxg5 21.Bxd5 Rc8 22.Kb1 Ne6 23.Rhe1 Rg8 24.Bd6 Qf6 25.Be5 Qe7 26.Bd6 Qf6 27.Be5 Qe7 28.Re4 Qg5 29.Bb7 Rc5 30.Bf4 Qf6 31.Qc1 Be7 32.Qd2 Nxf4 33.Qd8# 1-0

3. Ryan Min – Alec Beck (0-1). An opposite castling King's Indian Defense, where attacking possibilities should exist for both sides. However, not in this game. White becomes slightly worse with the inaccurate 11.Qc2? instead of 11.Qd2. Alec does a fantastic job realizing this advantage and turning it in something bigger and ultimately an attack. He plays on all three sides of the board to achieve the finishing attack on Ryan's King. Great game overall.

Ryan Min (1898) – Alec Beck (1916) [E90]
Invitational Kirkland (R6),
February 15, 2020

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.h3 e5 7.d5 a5 8.g4 Na6 9.Be3 Nd7 10.Be2 Ndc5 11.Qc2 f5 12.gxf5 gxf5 13.Bg5 Qe8 14.Rg1 Kh8 15.Nd2 Qf7 16.0-0-0 h6 17.Bh4 Nb4 18.Qb1 fxe4 19.a3 Nbd3+ 20.Kc2 Nf4 21.b4 axb4 22.axb4 Na4 23.Ndxe4 Nxc3 24.Nxc3 Bf5+ 25.Bd3 Nxd3 26.Rxd3 Bxd3+ 27.Kxd3 e4+ 28.Kc2 Qf5 29.Kb3 Qe5 30.Rg3 Rf3 31.Rxf3 exf3 32.Qd3 Qf4 33.Bg3 Qc1 34.Na4 Qa1 0-1

4. Alec Beck – Yu-Cheng Liang (0-1). Yu-Cheng shows excellent endgame

play in this game. He achieves a pawn ahead and successfully exists into a better endgame. He does a great job converting the advantage by trading pieces while finding active defense moves such as 18.. Nxf3. I really enjoy his rook endgame play. He crafts the advantage in the rook endgame successfully to victory.

Alec Beck (1916) – Yu-Cheng Liang (1899) [D07]
Invitational Kirkland (R7),
February 16, 2020

1.d4 d5 2.c4 Nc6 3.cxd5 Qxd5 4.Nf3 e5 5.Nc3 Bb4 6.dxe5 Qxd1+ 7.Kxd1 Bg4 8.e3 Nxe5 9.Be2 0-0-0+ 10.Kc2 Nxf3 11.Bxf3 Bxf3 12.gxf3 Ne7 13.a3 Bxc3 14.bxc3 Nc6 15.Rg1 g6 16.e4 Ne5 17.Bf4 Rhe8 18.Bg5 Nxf3 19.Bxd8 Nxg1 20.Rxg1 Kxd8 21.f3 Re5 22.Rd1+ Ke7 23.Rb1 b6 24.Kd3 Ra5 25.Ra1 Rg5 26.Ra2 h5 27.Ke3 Ra5 28.f4 Ra4 29.Kd3 b5 30.f5 gxf5 31.exf5 Kf6 32.Kc2 c5 33.Kb3 Kxf5 34.Rf2+ Rf4 35.Rd2 Kg5 36.Rd5+ Rf5 37.h4+ Kg4 38.Rxf5 Kxf5 39.a4 bxa4+ 40.Kxa4 Ke4 41.Kb5 Kd5 42.c4+ Kd4 0-1

5. Yu-Cheng Liang – Jeffrey Yan (0-1). This game has some interesting positional endgame play. Jeffrey does a great job controlling c4 and fixing the weakness on c3 throughout the game. Overall, a good win by positional and excellent endgame play.

Yu-Cheng Liang (1899) – Jeffrey Yan (1958) [E32]
Invitational Kirkland (R2),
February 8, 2020

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 0-0 5.Nf3 d5 6.cxd5 exd5 7.e3 Re8 8.Be2 c5 9.dxc5 Ne4 10.0-0 Bxc3 11.bxc3 Qa5 12.Bb2 Qxc5 13.Qd3 Bd7 14.Qd4 Nc6 15.Qxc5 Nxc5 16.Rad1 Be6 17.Nd4 Na5 18.Bb5 Rec8 19.Nxe6 fxe6 20.Rd4 a6 21.Be2 b5 22.Rc1 Na4 23.Ba1 Nc4 24.e4 Rc5 25.exd5 exd5 26.Rcd1 Ncb6 27.Bf3 Re8 28.Kf1 Nxc3 29.Bxc3 Rxc3 30.Bxd5+ Nxd5 31.Rxd5 Rc2 32.R5d2 Rec8 33.Ke1 a5 34.Rxc2 Rxc2 35.Rd2 Rc8 36.Ke2 Kf7 37.Ke3 Ke6 38.f3 Rc3+ 39.Kf2 a4 40.f4 Rc5 41.g3 a3 42.Ke3 Rc1 43.Rd3 b4 44.Kd4 Rc2 45.Rb3 Rxh2 46.Rxb4 Rxa2 47.Ke4 Re2+ 48.Kf3 a2 49.Ra4 Rb2 50.Ra5 Kd6 51.Ke4 Kc6 52.Kd4 Kb6 53.Ra3 Kb5 54.Kc3 Rg2 55.Kd4 Kb4 56.Ra8 Kb3 57.Rb8+ Kc2 58.Ra8 Kb1 59.Rb8+ Rb2 60.Re8 a1Q 61.Re1+ Ka2 62.Rxa1+ Kxa1 63.g4 Rg2 64.g5 h5 65.gxh6 gxh6 66.f5 Rf2 67.Ke5 h5 68.f6 h4 69.Ke6 h3 70.f7 h2 71.Ke7 Rxf7+ 72.Kxf7 h1Q 0-1

Challengers Section

By Brendan Zhang

1. Felicity Wang – Duane Polich (0-1). Throughout the opening and middlegame phases of the game, Black is able to take advantage of the unorthodox positioning of the white pawns in the middle of the board, developing both of his knights to active squares after 8...Nh5. From there, Duane realized the weaknesses present on the a7-g1 diagonal, playing 13...f5 to first, undermine the central pawn structure of Felicity Wang and second, trade off the c5-knight in order to gain access to the diagonal for the queen.

As a side note, this idea came at the precise time because White has ideas of b4 in the very near future, presenting Black with many challenges regarding where to put the c5-knight. From there, Black employs an interesting idea by trading the queens, further exacerbating the weak IQP that is too far advanced. Black nicely finishes off the game with a series of active moves and the beautiful 29...Rf1+, removing the only defensive piece away from the lethal e4-bishop.

**Felicity Wang (1639) –
Duane Polich (1861) [B06]**
Challengers Kirkland (R6),
February 15, 2020

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.f4 d6 4.Nf3 Nd7 5.Bd3 e5 6.c3 Qe7 7.0-0 Ngf6 8.Qe2 Nh5 9.fxe5 dxe5 10.d5 0-0 11.c4 Nf4 12.Qd1 Nc5 13.Bc2



Position after 13.Bc2

13...f5 14.Nc3 fxe4 15.Nxe4 Nxe4 16.Bxe4 Qc5+ 17.Kh1 Qxc4 18.Bc2 Qe2 19.Qxe2 Nxe2 20.Re1 Nd4 21.Nxd4 exd4 22.Bb3 Kh8 23.Bd2 Bf5 24.Re7 Bd3 25.Rxc7 Rf2 26.Rd1 Raf8 27.Rcc1 Be4 28.Bb4 Rxc2 29.Re1 Rf1+ 0-1

2. Daniel Matthews – Duane Polich (1-0). This game is interesting because Black equalizes very quickly after an early 6.Bxd4 inaccuracy by Dan.

However, just as Black is attempting to realize his advantage with the dubious 14...h5 his position suddenly falls apart! Dan is able to take the commanding initiative and proceeds to sacrifice the bishop on h5 to open up the now vulnerable black king, and finishes the game off with a rook lift in nice fashion.

**Daniel M Matthews (1688) –
Duane Polich (1861) [B06]**
Challengers Kirkland (R7),
February 16, 2020

1.e4 g6 2.d4 d6 3.Be2 Bg7 4.Be3 c5 5.c3 cxd4 6.Bxd4 Nf6 7.Bf3 Nc6 8.Be3 0-0 9.Ne2 Ne5 10.Ng3 b6 11.Be2 Bb7 12.f3 Rc8 13.0-0 Qd7 14.Nd2 h5 15.Bg5 Qc7 16.Bxf6 Bxf6 17.f4 Nd7 18.Bxh5 gxh5 19.Nxh5 Kh7 20.Qg4 Rh8 21.Rf3 Rcg8 22.Nxf6+ Nxf6 23.Rh3+ 1-0

3. Stephanie Velea – Duane Polich (1-0). Duane seems to be a frequent visitor on this list...The remaining games I chose to include on this list are not brilliant from a tactical sense, but brilliant from a positional lens.

As quickly as move ten in this game, the entire kingside becomes closed and a prime fight for queenside control is correctly assumed. Interestingly enough, as White castles queenside, Black decides to keep the king in the center and instead put the queen on b8!

Possibly hoping for some miracle tactic along the b-file, Black soon finds himself in a lot of trouble and the game quickly turns in Whites favor. A nice example of how Stephanie slowly improves her position when faced with dubious moves from Black.

**Stephanie Velea (1699) –
Duane Polich (1861) [B06]**
Challengers Kirkland (R3),
February 9, 2020

1.e4 g6 2.d4 d6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.Be3 Nd7 5.f3 e5 6.d5 Ngf6 7.g4 a6 8.Qd2 h6 9.h4 Ng8 10.h5 g5 11.0-0-0 Bf8 12.Nge2 Ndf6 13.Kb1 Bd7 14.Ng3 Ne7 15.Rc1 Qb8 16.Nd1 c5 17.dxc6 bxc6 18.c4 c5 19.Nc3 Nc6 20.Nd5 Nxd5 21.exd5 Nd4 22.Bxd4 cxd4 23.Bd3 a5 24.Bf5 Qb7 25.Bxd7+ Qxd7 26.Nf5 Qa4 27.Rhe1 Kd7 28.Qe2 Rb8 29.c5 Qb5 30.Qh2 f6 31.cxd6 Qxd5 32.Rc7+ Kd8 33.Rec1 Bxd6 34.Qc2 Qe6 35.Qc6 Rxb2+ Time Forfeit 1-0

For the next two games, I will only describe the game in a few sentences.

4. Erin Bian – Edward Li (1-0). This game was another nice example of

great positional play as White seemed to understand the demands of the position with the knight maneuver from b1 to g3. However, I liked this game more than most because Black actually showed what happens if the white side is not patient in a slightly better position.

Black ended up with a significant advantage but ended up tossing in the towel after an elementary blunder which cost him the game.

**Erin Bian (1677) –
Edward Li (1644) [C74]**
Challengers Kirkland (R3),
February 9, 2020

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 d6 5.c3 Nf6 6.Bc2 Bg4 7.h3 Bh5 8.0-0 Be7 9.Re1 0-0 10.d3 Qd7 11.Nbd2 Rad8 12.Nf1 Rfe8 13.Ng3 Bg6 14.d4 exd4 15.cxd4 d5 16.e5 Ne4 17.Nxe4 dxe4 18.Bxe4 Nxd4 19.Nxd4 Bxe4 20.Rxe4 c5 21.Be3 cxd4 22.Rxd4 Qb5 23.Qg4 Qxb2 24.Rad1 Rxd4 25.Bxd4 Qc2 26.e6 f7 26.3 Qg6 28.Qf3 Qc2 29.Qd5 Kf8 30.Rc1 Qe2 31.Qe4 Qxa2 32.Qxb7 Qxe6 33.Rc6 Qd5 34.Rxf6+ 1-0

5. Felicity Wang – Stephanie Velea (1-0). This game took a similar turn as the last one as both sides struggled to find a plan to improve their positions.

Later, when the position opened up it quickly became a complex queen middlegame and Felicity's queen ultimately was the more active piece and ended up converting a nice game.

**Felicity Wang (1639) –
Stephanie Velea (1699) [B51]**
Challengers Kirkland (R1),
February 8, 2020

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Nd7 4.c3 a6 5.Ba4 Ngf6 6.Qe2 e6 7.0-0 Be7 8.d4 b5 9.Bc2 0-0 10.Re1 Re8 11.Nbd2 Qc7 12.Nf1 Nf8 13.Ng3 Bd7 14.h3 Reb8 15.Nh2 b4 16.Be3 bxc3 17.bxc3 cxd4 18.cxd4 Rb2 19.Rec1 Rc8 20.Bd3 Qb8 21.Qf3 Rxc1+ 22.Bxc1 Rb4 23.Be3 Bb5 24.Qe2 Bxd3 25.Qxd3 Qb5 26.Qd2 Rb1+ 27.Rxb1 Qxb1+ 28.Nhf1 Nxe4 29.Nxe4 Qxe4 30.Qa5 Qb7 31.Nd2 Nd7 32.Nb3 Qb6 33.Qc3 Nf6 34.Qe8+ Bf8 35.d5 Qb4 36.dxe6 fxe6 37.Qxe6+ Kh8 38.Qe8 Kg8 39.Qxa6 Qe1+ 40.Kh2 d5 41.Qe6+ Kh8 42.Qc8 Qb4 43.Be5 Qf4+ 44.g3 Qe4 45.Qxf8+ Ng8 46.Bd4 Qg6 47.a4 h5 48.a5 Kh7 49.Qxg7+ Qxg7 50.Bxg7 Kxg7 51.a6 Nf6 52.a7 Ne4 53.a8Q Nc3 54.Qb7+ Kf6 55.Qc6+ Ke5 56.Qxc3+ d4 57.Qxd4+ Kf5 58.Qd5+ Kg6 59.Qe5 h4 60.Nd4 hxg3+ 61.Kxg3 Kf7 62.Qd6 Kg8 63.Qd7 Kf8 64.Ne6+ Kg8 65.Qg7# 1-0

Emerald City Open

By Derek Zhang

Sixty players hailing from eight states, Canada, and Armenia participated in the 2020 Emerald City Open, held June 20-21 online on Chess.com. The five-round, two-section G/90/+10 tournament was co-hosted by the Washington Chess Federation and the Seattle Chess Club. Derek Zhang directed, assisted by Jacob Mayer and Brandon Peng.

The Open section featured few upsets early on, but things started to heat up as the tournament progressed. In Round 3, FM Nick Raptis defeated top seed GM Aleksandr Lenderman in a tense game, leaving the section wide open. Raptis, IM David Shahinyan, and NM Rushaan Mahajan all entered the last round with 3.5/4, where Shahinyan, playing quickly and aggressively on the white side of a French Tarrasch, beat Raptis, earning him the solo tournament win and \$300 when Mahajan fell to Lenderman. What makes Shahinyan's win even more impressive is that he played the entire tournament from Armenia, where he had to stay up past 3 am local time on both days of the event!

Lenderman and expert Derek Jin finished with 4.0/5 to tie for second-third. Michael Moore won the U2000 prize with 3.5/5, with his only loss coming to Lenderman. Ananth Gottumukkala finished first U1800 with 3.0/5, coming back to claim the prize with three straight wins after starting the tournament with two losses.

In the Reserve (U1700) section, third seed Justin Trey won four straight games following a first round draw to finish first with 4.5/5, ending the weekend \$250 richer. Andrew Martin, Saket Singh, Iris Zhang, and Luca Tessiore all finished with 4.0/5, with Martin and Singh sharing the second place prize, Zhang taking home the U1400 prize, and Tessiore winning the Unrated prize. Aadi Hetamsaria won the U1200 prize with an undefeated 3.5/5, an outstanding performance considering he played up every round!

This was my first time running a WCF event, and I'm pleased to report that the tournament ran exceptionally smoothly, with all participants displaying a high level of integrity (Chess.com did not close any accounts for fair play violations during or after the event) and sportsmanship. A special shout-out goes out to Nicholas Liotta, who asked the TD to restart his fourth round game when his opponent made a queen-dropping mouse slip, despite Nicholas needing a

win to remain in prize contention. Thank you to all the participants who made this tournament a huge success in these times of great uncertainty!

**Corey Bloom (1780) –
Michael Moore (1950) [A03]**
Emerald City Open
Chess.com (R2), June 20, 2020
[Michael Moore]

I am Black and my opponent is White.

1.f4

I haven't faced the Bird's very often. I was considering playing the From's gambit but I have had bad tournament results with it. They have multiple ways to decline the gambit, or otherwise accept it, and in all cases White is always standing healthy.

1...d5

Now I play based on pattern recognition (see comments after 2...Bg4)

2.Nf3

Against an opponent like me, I feel like 2.e3 would be a practical improvement. Here I would probably just try to play normal after 2...Nf6, and decide whether to go g6 or to try for c6→Bg4→Nbd7 stuff. However, the knight being on f6 wouldn't allow me to play my pretty attacking idea that I did in the game! 2.e3! Nf6 3.Nf3 when d5 is defended, therefore not allowing the position I got in my game. That wasn't in my thoughts during the game of course.

2...Bg4

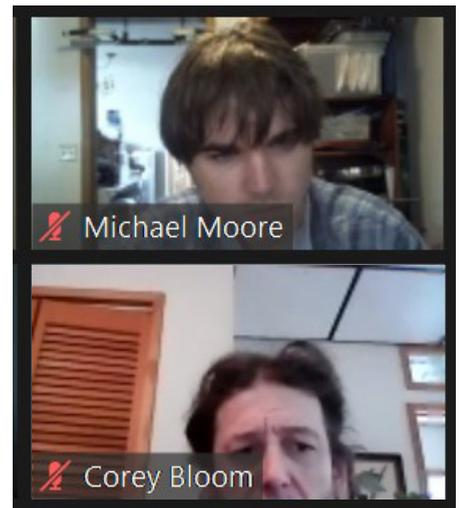
I also play the White side of 1.d4 f5 2.Bg5 as well as 1.d4 f5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Bg5, so this feels like "my" territory. I was somewhat worried about Ne5 actually, in terms of theoretical evaluation, since it looks so "testing" for White. Well, I guess I would have just played Bf5 followed by f6, and try to break for e5.

3.e3

If any other move besides e3 or Ne5, then I would just take on f3 and try to think of whether putting knight on d7 (instead of c6) is an improvement or not. 3.Ne5 Bf5 4.g4 f6 5.gxf5 fxe5 6.fxe5 e6 This was the line I was considering after Ne5. Looking at it now, I assess it as good for Black. White should probably play h4 to stop Qh4+, but then I go Be7 and his king will have to find the best way to lose castling rights.

3...Nd7

Well, I "know" to make this kind of move just because I also play 1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 Bg4 with Black, and Nd7 is very thematic to have a chance to play e5 (or otherwise



play normal with e6) without the knight being on c6...which would disrupt coordination.

4.h3

Giving up the bishop and allowing White to recapture with the queen was slightly disappointing for me, so as a result I come up with an aggressive idea!

4...Bxf3

Looks forced? The knight on f3 would otherwise be controlling h4, therefore I don't have any Bh5 g4 e6 ideas.

5.Qxf3

I expected this and not gxf3, since h3 provokes a trade under a special condition which is that it brings the queen out in the open. Well, in a way that is.

5...e5!?



Position after 5...e5

Maybe the first key moment of the game! I don't actually know how sound this is, however I have seen this broad idea a lot against the Dutch. I also saw Leela beat Stockfish's Dutch with 1.d4 f5 2.e4 quite recently. In that game, Stockfish didn't play the opening correctly. Nonetheless, this led me to be more comfortable with aggressive ideas where you try to break open the position with moves like e5 whenever a pawn is on f4. Of course it is a different circumstance, since the point

is that the d5 pawn is hanging. However, looking at these games certainly allow my creativity to grow. (Note that I looked at the database and engine after the game, as I always do, but I am trying to talk in a past tense narrative as if I had just finished playing the game. This has been played in ten games according to my database, on the app Chessify).

6.Qxd5

If White doesn't take the pawn, then I feel like Black has an advantage thanks to Black being able to achieve all the classical-style developing moves with no problems, against White's unusual setup.

6...Ngf6!?

I also feel like this counts as a second critical moment, because I could have also just played c6 first and I feel like after Qf3, my position will be quite solid. Also, I had to think about Qh4+... I have no idea what is the best move here, but I wouldn't be surprised if it is Qh4+ followed by c6. If I were to play Qh4+ then it is certainly not with the intention of recapturing the pawn on f4; first of all my b7 pawn would be hanging awkwardly (along with my c7 pawn) and this is giving too much I feel. Second of all, I wanted to sacrifice something this game. Alas I allowed him to take a second pawn with Ngf6. 6...c6 7.Qf3 Ngf6± I am down a pawn but I feel like there must be light compensation. Maybe it is objectively poor but that is why Qh4+ needs to be considered as well.; 6...Qh4+ 7.Kd1 c6 8.Qf3 Ngf6∞ Interesting position, and White has no way to stop my ability to castle queenside with an interesting initiative. I would assess it as unclear. However, I am scared about my queen on h4. (8...0-0± The idea is to allow the queen to escape via e7 before playing Ngf6, but the problem here is that White might have fxe5 Nxe5 Qf5+. Maybe I had something better than castling queenside, after all I don't have to rush it.)

7.Qxb7

He takes the second pawn! The onslaught begins now.

7...Rb8!?

Offering a third pawn!! First, if he retreats then I am satisfied with how tied down White's position is. The b2-pawn is a bit weak, and if it moves to b3, well there is no way that I will by force have to allow White time to develop his queenside in a harmonious way with Ba3 or something. I just play Bc5 and Qe7 in that case. Now, what if he takes the pawn? Well, I didn't really calculate this, I just assumed that I have very dangerous compensation if he

does. I was probably going to just play Bc5 and look for if there are any ways to trap the queen. I guess there isn't, but I can also play Ne4 after Bc5, with Qh4 ideas of course.

8.Qf3

Well, he wisely retreats the queen, trying to acknowledge that he can make something with his two pawn advantage. I was hoping he would take my a7 pawn, but I still get an interesting position. 8.Qxa7? Bc5 9.Qa6 Ne4! Note that exf4 wouldn't be good because of d4 ideas. (9...exf4? 10.d4!)

8...exf4

This seems obligatory, and I also had Qxf4 Bd6 in mind.

9.exf4

After either recapture, I have mixed feelings. I don't like the fact that I am two pawns down without any concrete tactical threats in the position, but I have different, fun ways to attack with concrete strategies depending on White's response. 9.Qxf4 Bd6. Maybe it was better for White than what happened in the game, and I admit that maybe White just keeps an advantage. It still looks scary though, it is very hard for White to advance his central pawns. Plus, the g3 square is annoying for White. 10.Qh4 c6± with the idea of Qc7.

9...Bc5

I just want to stop d4, provoke c3 (which would make me happy to see), and stop castling, while castling myself. Pretty self explanatory. The reason why I would be happy to see c3 is because White would have made another pawn move in the opening while I would get to develop and start tying down his pieces right away. I wouldn't be so worried about a d4 advance I think.

10.Nc3

This move slightly annoyed me, and I thought it was good. He might harass my bishop with Na4, plus I no longer have any immediate Ne4 motifs. I was not worried about Qe2+, because it would trap in his f1 bishop, and I was kind of happy to play Kf8. 10.c3 0-0 11.d4 Re8+ 12.Be2 Bb6 Castling looks extremely risky after c5. I didn't really look this deep during the game, but I just kind of know from experience that resources like these can exist with danger. 13.0-0 c5∞; 10.Qe2+?! Kf8∞ Not only is the bishop on f1 stuck, but the f4 pawn is a target. Surely I can just play Nd5, Qf6 (or Qh4+ if allowed), and put the b rook on e8?

10...0-0

Self explanatory. My queenside is already positioned!

11.Bd3

I think this could be his best move, to really tie down on the e4 square. However, blocking the d pawn like that looks so awkward and I felt like White has to be extremely articulate with his moves here. He could play d3 as well, but then that gives me the e3 square and it is more passive. 11.d3 Re8+ 12.Be2 Nb6∞ I want my knights to go to d5 so that one will control e3. I assess this as good for Black.

11...Re8+

I guess I could have also considered Nb6, but it just looks so natural to disrupt his castling rights. 11...Nb6!? Interesting and I don't know how to assess.

12.Kd1

It suddenly came to my realization that he can try to simplify the position with Re1. I absolutely wanted to stop this, so I played Qe7 instead of Nb6. This check was quite good I think, because if Be7 then that just allows me to realize my plan with Nb6 in a satisfactory way. He wouldn't be able to simplify with Re1, and his king would still be quite stuck. The same applies after Ne2, which looks even worse for White of course. If Kf1 then I guess I would also go Nb6, because the h1 rook is quite trapped. 12.Be2 Nb6∞ I assess this as unclear.; 12.Kf1 Nb6∞ I also assess this as unclear.

12...Qe7



Position after 12...Qe7

Once again, stopping Re1. It also turns out that I have a new idea with Rb6 to try to play for mate. 12...Nb6 13.Re1± This is probably just a decisive advantage for White.

13.b3 Rb6

b3 would, in principle, restrict a knight on b6, although with the b6 knight I was headed to d5. Anyway, I decided that I should switch plans and go Rb6, because I felt like I can include Re6 now and then Nb6 later anyway! Plus, I absolutely

didn't want him to escape with Bb2, Kc1, and like Qd1 or something.

14.Bb2

I kind of wonder if he can just ignore it by blocking later with Be2 or Ne2. Well okay, I guess Be2 would be bad because of Bd4, but then this means Ne2 instead. Maybe this was better and I would have felt hopeless.

14...Re6

As planned.

15.Kc1

See my variation with Ne2. 15.Ne2 Ba3 16.Kc1 Bxb2+ 17.Kxb2 Rxe2 18.Bxe2 Qxe2 19.Qxe2 Rxe2 20.g4± This was definitely a better try for White. I have two knights for a rook, which isn't good compensation if he can force the trade of one of the rooks. Besides, he is two pawns up! I evaluate this position as objectively won for White.

15...Re1+

I just want to create something and supposedly prevent Ne2.

16.Rxe1

Forced.

16...Qxe1+

Forced.

17.Nd1

I think this is better than Qd1, because otherwise I go Qf2 and threaten Re1, as well as the g2 and f4 pawns. Therefore, I would say this is practically forced. 17.Qd1 Qf2 I guess this is equal at worst. I will probably equalize my material situation, and White's coordination is not very good. Well the reason it is not good coordination is because he cannot do anything unless he repositions his pieces.

17...Ne4??

Here is another critical moment! Ne4 is a strategic idea with a tactical blunder! About the strategy part, okay so first my idea was to invite my opponent to make a mistake. I had seen in advance that Qe2 would fail in view of Nf2, and if Qxe1 then Rxe1 wins at least the knight! Alongside inviting my opponent to make a blunder, I also threaten Nf2 anyway as well as Nxd2 or Qxd2. Finally, my d7 knight felt kind of stuck so I wanted to maybe bring it to f6. The reason why it is a tactical blunder is because of Bxe4 Rxe4 Qg4! I completely missed this idea, but the tactic is simple.

18.Bxe4

Definitely the best move due to tactics.

Again I was threatening Nf2 stuff, on top of the Nxd2 or Qxd2 stuff.

18...Rxe4

Forced. Qxe4 also suffers the Qg4 problem, so it is not even worth trying to invite an anyway-losing queen trade. This could be one of my more miraculous saves in my classical chess career!



Position after 18...Rxe4

19.c4??

Missing the tactic and allowing me to get back in the game! I understand the idea of course, he wants to unpin his knight with Kc2. However I allow him no time to do this. 19.Qg4+- I saw this after I recaptured the bishop on e4, but thankfully my opponent didn't see it. This would win on the spot, of course, for I do not see any way to sufficiently parry both Qxd7 and Qxg7 mate. I guess I was going to try to play Ne5 or something, but actually I am just so low in material that I have no firepower.

19...Re2

Stopping Kc2, eyeing down g2, and contemplating a future attack on d2 with my knight and bishop.

20.Qd3?

This move Qd3 made me kind of happy, since I now saw that I had the queen as a target of attack with tempo with my knight. I am not sure what else he should try, maybe just Bc3. I think this was better than Qd3. If Bc3 then I guess I would go Bd4 possibly. However, Qd3 would improve in that case. 20.Bc3! Bd4 21.Qd3± I evaluate this as holding for White and therefore either winning or drawn.

20...Bb4!

Obviously, the d7 knight is poisoned. Also, Nc5 is coming! The onslaught is almost finally finished.

21.Bc3

This is the only move.

21...Nc5 22.Qd4

22.Qd8+ Re8 23.Qd4 Improving his line,

although the access to the e2 square could possibly come in handy for the c5 knight? I still think this is a much better line though, because I don't have immediate pressure on d2. I would evaluate the assessment as unclear. 23...Bxc3∞ (23...Ne6? This is one of the points of inserting the check first. Ne6 is no good anymore! Now I must take via Bxc3. 24.Qe5! Forcing a queen trade, since b4 also hangs. If Ba3+ then the knight gets unpinned and White must be winning. 24...Ba3+ 25.Kc2 Qf1 26.Ne3+-)

22...Ne6!

This is a pretty move and part of the reason I am proud of this game. This has a dual protection on g7 and on d8. It also attacks the f4 pawn allowing me to come in with d3! This feels like an Alekhine move... Alekhine has amazing geometric vision and this is one of those cool geometric moves. It is not as spectacular as Alekhine's game where he works out a geometric bishop-based tactic basically ten moves in advance and wins material at the end of the line, but it just has that nature where there is a dynamic and strategic idea on top of it. Not only I attack the queen and protect all the necessary squares, but also if my knight comes to f4 then I have a strong future attack based around the e2 and d3 squares! I think that Qd4 was inaccurate. Instead, maybe he should have played Qd8+ anyway.

23.Qd7

This looks sensible of course, but I feel much better. I think that my Ne6 move must have just forced a win.

23...Bxc3!

The point is that I wanted to take without ever allowing a queen recapture. Now that the queen doesn't guard the bishop, I hurt White's pawns and occupy the second rank. At last, the assault continues thanks to the occupied file. A check like Qc8+ just makes it all worse, because after Nf8 dxc3, there is simply Qd2 mate incoming. The White queen must help monitor some defensive duties.

24.dxc3

24.Qc8+?? Nf8 25.dxc3 Qd2+ 26.Kb1 Qc2#

24...Nxf4

One of my plans was to move the rook back somewhere like e8, so that I could play Ne2. Therefore, my opponent's move in the game, Qd8+, only helped me. By the way, I had worked out that after a move like Re8, there is no satisfactory square on the d file for the queen. This

leads to the crux of the beauty of the entire game! The queen has no good home on the d file! See my comments after Qd8+ Re8 for a further explanation.

25.Qd8+?

Helping me get my knight to e2 in the near future.

25...Re8



Position after 25...Re8

Here we go! Where does the White queen go now? If she goes anywhere that is not on the d file, then Nd3+ Kc2 Re2+ Kxd3 Qd2 just mates. Okay, which squares on the d file can she go? She cannot go to d6, d5, d4, or d3. In the game White went to d4 but that gets forked by Ne2+ of course. This leaves the squares d7, and d2. What is the problem with Qd2? Well, I had calculated a very cute combination. Qd2 Qxd2! Kxd2 Re2+ Kc1 Nb3+ Kb1 Rd2! I think this is the only way to tie White down, but as it turns out, he cannot save

the knight. If the knight ever moves then there is Rb2 mate! Okay, what happens after Qd7? Then I just play Qe2 and now my typical Nd3 ideas are coming. This is clearly decisive and doesn't require any calculation to find a winning path when the path comes.

26.Qd4??

My opponent probably made this fork blunder under intense pressure of being attacked all the time. 26.Qd7 Qe2! Any move besides Qd2 fails to parry Nd3+ followed by Qxd1. However, Qd2 would transpose to the original Qd2 variation. 27.Qd2 Qxd2+-; 26.Qd2 Qxd2+! 27.Kxd2 Re2+ 28.Kc1 Nd3+ 29.Kb1 Rd2! There is nothing White can do! 30.Ne3? Rb2#

26...Ne2+

Michael Moore won by resignation. This game was very fun, because I essentially crafted the double pawn sacrifice on d5 and on b7 over the board. I also managed to carry on a very unsound yet uncompromising attack very quickly. Throughout the game, I was making threat after threat, which is unusual to have. I did not want to let a Bird's player to get away with playing the Birds! It is clearly a move that you don't want to believe is actually sound. I am that kind of player, at least. I am the kind of player that is normally very obsessive about the objective or concrete evaluation of the

opening outcome rather than the practical implications it reaps. I have lost many games from unsound opening ideas or early middlegame ideas, because I knew they weren't good if I hadn't seen it before, thus I didn't take them as seriously. I think from this game I can learn that I should not take the opening so seriously! I think most of my preparation stuff should be focused on things like tactical geometry, how to seize control of the position, and endgames. The middlegame skills should totally translate to my opening skills. I think I should be able to play a creative opening idea with precision over the board without any troubles if I just improve my overall ability to play "random positions" and stuff like that. On the other hand, I still believe I need to work on studying the patterns that arise from the middlegame out of a specific opening structure. All in all, instructive game for me, and I am quite proud of it! I took quite a big risk against a 1700–1800 rated player. Often times I've heard the advice that a higher rated opponent should play simple against a lower rated opponent. I decided to break that advice this game and see what happens.

0–1

Space being an issue, there will likely be many more games from this event next month. Many players submitted annotated games!—Editor.

2020 Susan Polgar Foundation Girl's Invitational Online Tournament

By Minda Chen

June 21, 2020

This year's installment of the prestigious Susan Polgar Foundation Girl's Invitational tournament was a far cry from the one I had participated in a couple years ago, but it was every bit as memorable. Usually, around 70 girls representing all the states and US territories get to play against one another in the famous chess center at Webster University. For obvious reasons, this year the tournament could not proceed like previous years, and so was moved online. The format was a seven-round G15/+2 with two sections, the Championship where prizes were available and a Zoom was necessary for security purposes, and the Open where no Zoom was necessary.

A week before playing in the SPFGI, I had played in another all-girls online blitz tourney that had a small prize fund, free entry, and had been advertised with the participation of GM Irina Krush and WGM Jennifer Yu. That tournament had a turnout of about 30 girls, and so I thought the SPFGI would have a similar turnout. The night before the tournament started the registration list came out and my jaw dropped after clicking on the link. I just kept scrolling and scrolling and scrolling. Not only were there over 400 girls registered, but there were also over 60 titled players!

The top four prizes of sizeable scholarships to Webster had attracted attention from around the world and a multitude of countries were represented in this tournament. I got to play people from five different countries, including my sixth round opponent, a WIM from Mongolia, who finished playing at 3 AM her time!

The tournament was amazing in that it provided the opportunity to play girls from all around the world which normally

would be very hard to accomplish. A huge thanks to the Susan Polgar Foundation for organizing this event (I heard some of the organizers pulled all-nighters trying to figure the kinks out the night before)! I had a ton of fun playing and I'm very thankful that amid this crazy time tournament chess is continuing onwards.

The annotated game below was my fourth round game against an FM from Bulgaria. While I blundered in time pressure and it was rapid so the quality of the game was not the highest, it was still very interesting and I thought it'd be fun to share.

Girgana Psycheva – Minda Chen [E48]

2020 SPFGI Online, June 20, 2020

[Minda Chen]

1.d4

G15/+2 seconds increment. After three rounds, there was only a group of about 30 people still on perfect scores. I had played down the first three rounds and as expected was paired up.

1...Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 0–0 5.Bd3

c5 6.Nge2 cxd4 7.exd4 d5 8.cxd5 Nxd5 9.0-0 Nc6 10.Bc2 Re8 11.Qd3 g6

The first real divergence from theory, but still a very reasonable move. Rd1 is the most popular continuation.

12.Ne4 Be7!?

12...Bf8 Another possibility that I quickly dismissed in the game, thinking that Bg5 was a serious hindrance, even though it wasn't 13.Bg5 f6 14.Bd2 Bg7

13.a3 f5 14.N4c3 Bf6 15.Bb3 Nxc3 16.bxc3 Kh8

To get away from the diagonal. Kg7 seems to invite Qh3.

17.Rd1 b6?!

My light squared bishop looks very awkward, but b6 also looks a bit compromising. I also just wanted to make a move as I had almost four minutes less than my opponent already, which considering this was rapid, was a lot.

18.Bb2?!

Her bishop was probably better placed elsewhere, possibly e3.

18...Na5 19.Ba2 Qc7 20.Rac1 Bb7 21.c4 Rad8 22.Bc3 Be4?!

I guess I had some vague ideas about harassing her rooks with my bishops, and allowing the bishop capture on a5 with the plan of exploiting the b-file with my rooks.

23.Qg3 Qg7±

23...Qxg3 24.Nxg3 Bc6 25.Bxa5 bxa5 26.Ne2=

24.Bxa5 bxa5 25.Qc3 Bg5 26.Ra1 Bf6 27.Bb3 Rb8 28.Ba4 Red8

It was around here that I thought my opponent didn't really have a plan. However, I only had three minutes remaining compared to her.

29.h3 g5?!

Probably would not recommend this in a classical game, but it was rapid so I guess it's alright?

30.Bb5 f4 31.f3?!

She was probably concerned with me playing f3 the next move, but the engine doesn't mind the ruined pawn structure and would just take the pawn. 31.Rac1 f3 32.gxf3 Bf5

31...Bf5 32.Kh2 h5

Now it looks like I have something going.

33.Qxa5?

33.Ba4 g4 34.Bc2

33...g4 34.Nxf4??



Minda Chen. Courtesy of Minda Chen.



Position after 34.Nxf4

34...Bxd4??

With less than a minute on my clock, I missed my one clear chance to get a winning advantage. The position still looks very complicated though, and while there aren't clear material gains, in some lines there are mates in 34...gxf3! 35.gxf3 Rxd4 36.Rxd4+ White's king is too exposed, and Black's bishop pair looks amazing (36.Nxh5 Be5+ 37.f4?? Rxf4 38.Nxg7 Rg4+ 39.Kh1 Be4# would've been a very cool finish) 36...Bxd4 (36...Rg8 37.Qe1 Bxd4) 37.Rd1

35.Nxh5 Qe5+ 36.f4 g3+?!

Some serious time trouble induced panic moves up ahead.

37.Kh1 Qe4?? 38.Nxg3 Qxf4 39.Nxf5+- Bxa1??

Whelp there goes my rook.

40.Rxd8+ Rxd8 41.Qxd8+ Kh7 42.Qh4+ Qxh4 43.Nxh4 Be5 44.Nf3 Bd6 45.Nd4 e5 46.Nf5 Bxa3 47.Kg1 Kg6 48.g4 Kg5 49.Kg2 Kf4 50.Bd7 e4 51.Bc6 Be5 52.Ng3 e3 53.Ne2+ Ke5 54.Kf3 Bb6 55.g5 Kf5 56.h4 a5 57.Bd7+ Kg6 58.Kg4

The game was a fun one, but I didn't manage my time well and had very little time to think on the complicated positions. I finished the tournament on 5/7, which was pretty decent, although due to the large pool, I don't think I played anyone within 200 points of my rating. My opponent actually got third after an extra day of playoffs the next day so congrats to her!

1-0



15th Susan Polgar Foundation National Open for Boys & Girls



Saturday-Sunday, October 3-4th 2020

Hyatt Regency Bellevue: 900 Bellevue Way NE, Bellevue, WA 98004

Info: spfno.com Register: nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration

Email: WCF.Tournaments@gmail.com Call: 206.769.3757

2-day Championship Sections

Open	Girls
K-5	K-5
K-8	K-8
K-12	K-12

Format: 6SS, G/60; d5. Dual NWSRS and US Chess rated.

Rounds: Sat/Sun @ 9:30am, 12:00pm, 2:30pm.

Prizes include \$100,000 in Scholarships to Webster University!

1-day Sections (Saturday-only)

Open	Reserve
K-3	K-1 U800
4-8	2-3 U800
9-12	4-8 U900

Format: 5SS, G/30; d5. Dual NWSRS and US Chess rated Open Sections, NWSRS rated Reserve Sections.

Rounds: Sat @ 9:30am, 11am, 12:30pm, 2pm, 3:30pm.

WA State Elementary Qualifier.

Fun Side Events: Saturday: 11am-12pm – Parents & Coaches Seminar, 2-3pm – Girls Workshop, 5:30-8pm – Simul and Q&A. Sunday: 8:30-9:30am – Breakfast w/ Susan, 10am-4pm – Polgar Chess Camp, 5-5:30pm – Puzzle Solving Competition, 5:30-7pm – Blitz Championship.

All Sections:

Registration deadline Fri. Oct 2nd @ 5pm. Check-in required only for those that did not pre-pay: 8 – 8:45am. Unpaid players not checked in by 8:45am will receive a zero-point bye for any missed rounds. Trophies for top-scoring individuals and teams. Higher of US Chess or NWSRS rating will be used to determine section and pairings.

Hotel Information:

Hyatt Regency Bellevue, address above. Phone: 425.698.4250, request the Polgar Chess block. For online hotel reservations: <https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/BELLE/G-POLG> Cut-off date for discounted hotel reservations is 09/06/2020.

The 2020 Mike Neeley Memorial Northwest Grand Prix

Murlin Varner, Administrator

One new event in the standings this month: the online Emerald City Open, a Seattle tradition. Being online, it drew from out of state better than the usual. Along with 40 Washingtonians, there were another 19 players from Armenia, Canada (4), California, Illinois, Massachusetts (2), New Jersey (2), New York (3), and Oregon (5). With the Grand Prix fee sharing plan, that means this event added another five dollars to the Oregon prize fund. While previous online events have included players from Idaho, this one, with a rather short notice on the *Northwest Chess* website, did not.

In past years, by the end of June, we would have had over 40 Grand Prix events. The pandemic has put a damper on things, and we are only at 14 events so far this year. Prizes are going to be smaller as a result, unless we start drawing more attendance to our online events. I understand that Idaho is working on some online events for the near future, but I do not know at this time which, if any, are going to be included in the Grand Prix. Stay tuned.

As of this writing, the schedule for July showed three events at the Seattle Chess Club which probably didn't happen. We need stage three of four before we can try in person events again, and it doesn't look good for July. The SCC will try again in August, but we may not yet be there by then, either. This left us with the online stuff, still plenty of opportunities to play. The nice thing about the online events in that almost every one has had a multiplier. In July, there were the Seattle Seafair Open with a 3x multiplier, held July 18-19. The next weekend, there was the Vancouver Open online, with a 2x multiplier.

August has at least two more events to look forward to. The first is the online Apropos Open Swiss #1, with no entry fee and a \$750 prize fund! This is one of a series of events being sponsored by former WCF president Kent McNall. It will be held on the weekend of August 8 and 9, and you can register online at the *Northwest Chess* website. The second event currently scheduled is the Seattle Chess Classic, scheduled to run August 12 to 16. This is a 3x event that is currently scheduled at the Seattle Chess Club, with the possibility of being moved to online if King County hasn't yet moved to stage four. I'm thinking it will end up on line, but keep your eye on the *NWC* website to find out for sure. Should we get to the point of allowing in person events, you can count on the return of the SCC Quads and Tornados. As for other events, keep checking the web site. They are coming, I am sure.

Data below are current through July 1.

2020 Memorial Northwest Grand Prix Standings

Idaho			Oregon			Washington					
last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.			
Masters											
			1	Raptis	Nick	53.0	1	Mahajan	Rushaan	47.0	
			2	Tarjan	James	19.5	2	Pupols	Viktors	24.5	
			3	Lebovitz	Andrew E	11.0	3	Orlov	Georgi	22.5	
							4	Kaufman	Ray	19.5	
							5	Levine	David	5.5	
M/X/Class A			Experts								
1	Cambareri	Michael E	21.0	1	Vega	Isaac	35.0	1	Vijayakumar	Advaith	54.0
2	Nathan	Jacob A	20.5	2	Bjorksten	Lennart	12.0	2	Shubin	Daniel	31.5
3	Maki	James J	19.5	2	Tang	Zoey	12.0	3	Leslie	Cameron	30.0
4	Erickson	Kenneth	15.0	2	Wu	Ethan	12.0	4	Bell	Harry	29.0
5	Wei	James	6.5	5	Janniro	Mike E	10.0	5	Jiang	Brandon	24.5
Class B			Class A								
1	Machakos	Seth D	21.5	1	Moore	Michael	59.5	1	Razmov	Valentin N	67.0
2	Herr	Griffin G	16.5	2	Murray	David E	37.5	2	Tien	Sophie	64.5
3	Kircher	Caleb P	15.0	3	Lu	Ryan	21.0	3	Qian	Daniel	43.5
3	Martonick	Nick	15.0	4	Sherrard	Jerry	18.0	4	Roberts	Theodore (Teddy)	39.0
5	Rainey	Samuel W	12.0	5	Kedjejian	Nareg	15.0	5	Chang	Eddie	33.5
				5	Mamaril	Jonathan	15.0				

Idaho			Oregon			Washington					
last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.			
Class C			Class B								
1	He	Justin	24.5	1	Pai	Kushal	21.0	1	Johar	Mudit	43.5
2	Porth	Adam	18.5	2	Roshu	David L	16.0	2	Bloom	Corey	34.5
3	Gilton	Terry	15.0	3	Five Tied At		10.0	3	Lainson	Silas	34.0
4	Zeng	Forrest	5.5					3	Wang	Felicity	34.0
4	Porth	Desmond	5.5					5	Velea	Stephanie	33.0
4	Aderogba	Temiloluwa D	5.5								
Class D			Class C								
				1	Gabunia	Davit	18.0	1	Singh	Saket	56.5
				2	Roshu	Cassandra	16.0	2	Li	Emma	55.0
				3	Markowski	Greory A	9.0	3	Chan	Ethan	48.0
				3	Samudrala	Nikhil	9.0	4	Stein	Daniel J	47.5
				5	Three Tied At		8.0	4	Brown	Northern	47.5
Class E and Below			Class D And Below								
1	Porth	Darwin A	13.5	1	Wang	Jalen	30.0	1	Ruff	Lois	55.5
2	Brown	Alexander J	10.5	2	Midson	Tony	14.0	2	Shanmugam	Meera	53.5
3	Wei	Luke	4.5	3	Kenway	Geoffrey	13.0	3	Willy	Stephen	53.0
3	Gao	Emma	4.5	4	Holbrook	Aidan	12.0	4	Devadithya	Hiruna	51.5
5	Three Tied at		4.0	4	Wang	Jeremy	12.0	5	Kona	Vidip	51.0

Overall Leaders, by State

1	He	Justin	24.5	1	Moore	Michael	59.5	1	Razmov	Valentin N	67.0
2	Machakos	Seth D	21.5	2	Raptis	Nick	53.0	2	Tien	Sophie	64.5
3	Cambareri	Michael E	21.0	3	Murray	David E	37.5	3	Singh	Saket	56.5
4	Nathan	Jacob A	20.5	4	Vega	Isaac	35.0	4	Ruff	Lois	55.5
5	Maki	James J	19.5	5	Wang	Jalen	30.0	5	Li	Emma	55.0
6	Porth	Adam	18.5	6	Lu	Ryan	21.0	6	Vijayakumar	Advaith	54.0
7	Herr	Griffin G	16.5	6	Pai	Kushal	21.0	7	Shanmugam	Meera	53.5
8	Erickson	Kenneth	15.0	8	Tarjan	James	19.5	8	Willy	Stephen	53.0
8	Kircher	Caleb P	15.0	9	Sherrard	Jerry	18.0	9	Devadithya	Hiruna	51.5
8	Martonick	Nick	15.0	9	Gabunia	Davit	18.0	10	Kona	Vidip	51.0
8	Gilton	Terry	15.0	11	Roshu	David L	16.0	11	Chan	Ethan	48.0
12	Porth	Darwin A	13.5	11	Roshu	Cassandra	16.0	12	Stein	Daniel J	47.5
13	Rainey	Samuel W	12.0	13	Kedjejian	Nareg	15.0	12	Brown	Northern	47.5
14	Brown	Alexander J	10.5	13	Mamaril	Jonathan	15.0	14	Mahajan	Rushaan	47.0



Seattle Chess Club Tournaments

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

SCC Annual Meeting, Fri. August 7

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

SCC Adult Swiss #2

August 15-16, 2020

A four-round Swiss open to those born before 7/20/1999 with a prize fund of \$240 guaranteed.

First	\$68
Second	\$40
U2000	\$36
U1800	\$34
U1600	\$32
U1400/Unr	\$30

Time Control: G/120; +30.

Entry Fees: Free for *SCC members*. Others—\$10.

Registration: Sat. 10-10:45 a.m. **Rounds:** 11-4:30, 11-4:30.

Byes: 1 (Sunday rounds, commit at registration).

Miscellaneous: US Chess & WCF membership req'd (OSA). No smoking. No computers.

☞ **August 1, 8, 22, 29**

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

☞ **August 2, 23, 30**

Sunday Tornado ☞
Format: 4-SS. **TC:** G/60; d5. **EF:** \$18 (+\$8 fee for non-SCC). **Prizes:** 1st 35%, 2nd 27%, Bottom Half 1st 22%, 2nd 16% (\$10 per EF to prize fund). **Reg:** 10:30-11:15 a.m. **Rds:** 11:30-1:50-4:10-6:30. **Byes:** 1 (Rd 3/4—commit at reg.). **Misc:** US Chess, WCF/ICA memb. req'd, OSA. NS, NC.

August 9

SCC Novice
Format: 4-SS. Open to U1200 and UNR. **TC:** G/75; d5. **EF:** \$13 by 6/10, \$18 at site. (-\$4 SCC mem., -\$2 mem. other NW dues-req'd CCs). **Prizes:** SCC membership. **Reg:** 9-9:45a.m. **Rds:** 10-12:45-3:30-6. **Byes:** 1 (Rd 3/4—commit at reg.). **Misc:** US Chess memb. req'd. NS, NC.

The SCC remained closed in early July. As of July 6, King County is in Stage Two of a four-stage reopening. The SCC will have to wait till disinfection protocols are less stringent, Stage 3, perhaps. Please check our website for details. Once again, we present a cautiously **optimistic schedule**

If you would like to help the SCC pay its rent, you can **make a tax-deductable donation** or **join the club** through our website. **Microsoft employees** can also donate, and have their donations matched, through Microsoft. Stay healthy!!

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.

SCC 2020 Wknd. Schedule (rev.)

Novice: Aug 9, Oct 25. **Quads:** Aug 1, 8, 22, 29; Sep 26, Oct 24, Nov 21, Dec 19. **Tornado:** Aug 2, 23, 30; Sep 6, Oct 4, Nov 1, Dec 6.

Seattle Fall Open

18-20 Sept.

Extravaganza

6-8 Nov.

Upcoming Events

♞ denotes 2020 Northwest Grand Prix event.
Seattle Chess Club events see page 30.

Aug 3-10-17 Northwest Chess Webinars. **Online via Zoom.** Full-Page Ad Page 12.

Aug 8 Washington vs Oregon Chess Match, **Online via Chess.com.** Full-Page Ad Page 13.

♞ **Aug 8-9** Apropos Open Swiss #1, **Online via Chess.com.** Full-Page Ad Page 8.

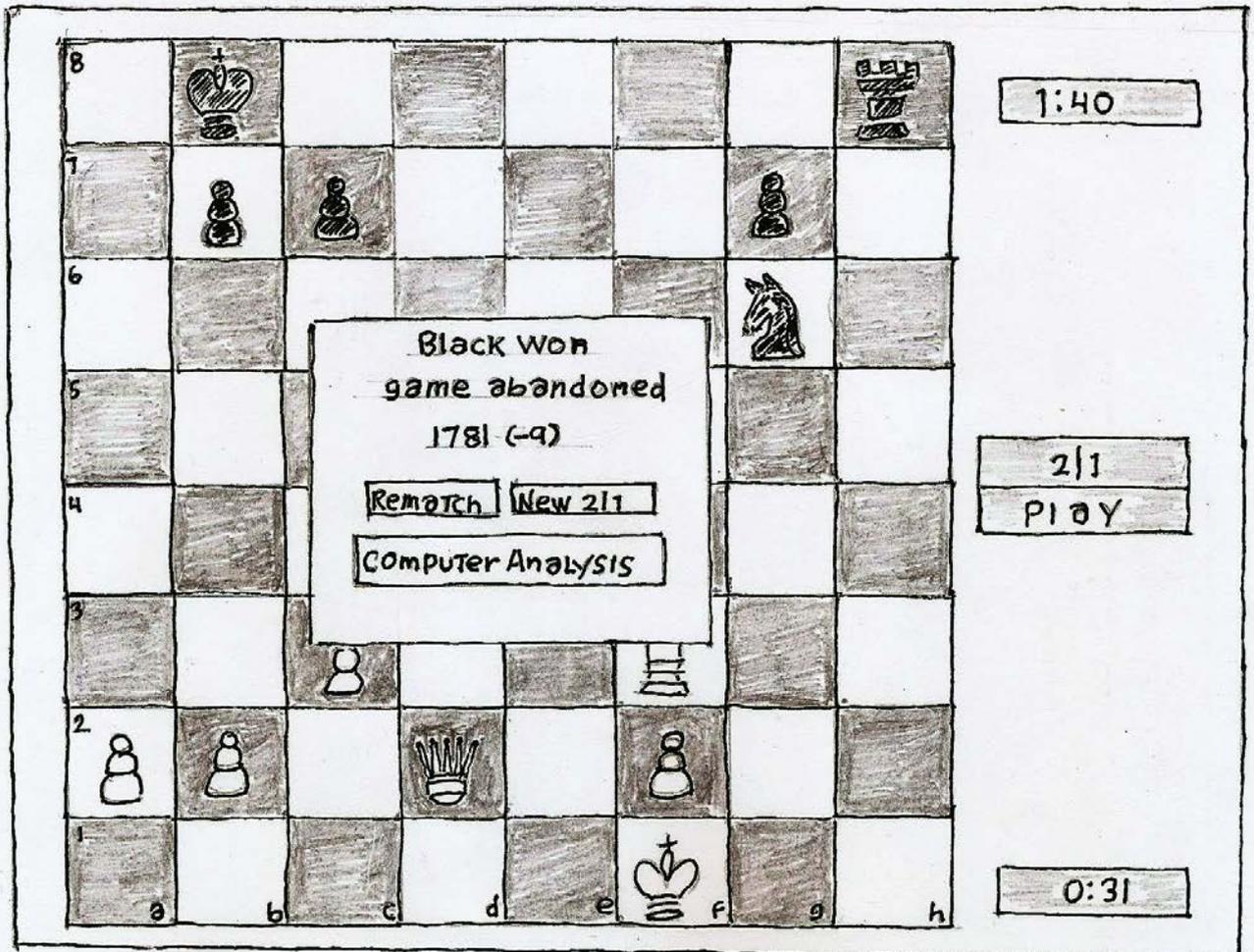
♞ **Aug 12-16** 4th Annual Seattle Chess Classic, **Online via Chess.com.** Full-Page Ad Page 14.

Sep 12-13 Apropos Adult Swiss #2, **Online via Chess.com.** Half-Page Ad Page 9.

Sep 18-20 Washington Women's Championship, **Online via Chess.com.** Half-Page Ad Page 16.

Sep 26-27 Apropos Junior Swiss #1, **Online via Chess.com.** Half-Page Ad Page 9.

Oct 3-4 15th Susan Polgar Foundation National Open for Boys & Girls, **Bellevue, WA.** Full-Page Ad page 27.



COVID-19 CRISIS CRISIS

Rogers © 2020

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

Periodicals Postage

PAID

Seattle, WA

