

August 2021



\$3.95

# Northwest Chess

August 2021, Volume 75-08 Issue 883

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/NWC\\_2021\\_Published\\_Games\\_cb.htm#202108](http://www.nwchess.com/articles/games/published/NWC_2021_Published_Games_cb.htm#202108)

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)

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(L-R) Michael Cambareri, Antonius Raelund at "The Heck with Covid" tournament. Photo credit: Adam Porth.

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Darren Su at Troff Simul. Photo credit: Adam Porth.

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Darren Su at Kayden Troff Simul  
Adam Porth.....Back Cover

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## From The Editor's Desk

We seem to be at a crossroads at this time regarding the question of over-the-board versus online play. I was impressed by the submission of the article "OTB vs Online" by seven-year-old Sarang Sankrithi, which you will find on page 16. He may be the youngest person to submit an article since I have been editor. In his brief but fine article he very simply and brilliantly gets to the point—and with the innocence and insight of a beginner, he totally gets it! He nails it!!

I also really liked the photos submitted by various sources for this issue. There was some very colorful photos submitted. Take for example the photo on the cover taken by Adam Porth. It reminded me of the Paul Simon song "Kodachrome" particularly with regard to the reference to "they give us those nice bright colors, give us the greens of summers, makes you think all the world's a sunny day, oh yeah." And this wasn't just in my head. I was on the phone with Ralph Dubisch, working very hard on this issue, even he began to sing "Kodachrome," (yes, he can sing!) so I know it wasn't just me, he was thinking the same thing!

We have a corrected crossword puzzle on page 28, so if you noticed a few minor errors in the July print-issue, now you can try again with a corrected puzzle.

Each issue, including this one, is only possible because of the efforts of devoted readers, fans, subscribers, chessplayers, family, friends, organizers, officers, editors, business managers, and photographers to submit material, to subscribe, to read, and to enjoy... anyway, I hope you enjoy this issue, which I really want to call, "The Greens Of Summer" because it speaks to me like that, but I've never given a title to an issue before... and this is not an official title now—maybe it is just me and Ralph. You decide!

—Jeffrey Roland, Editor

# A Northwest Chess Grand Prix Event

## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Seattle Chess Classic



August 13-15, 2021

Online via  Chess.com

**Format:** A 9-round Swiss in two sections: Open and Reserve U1800. Hosted by the Washington Chess Federation. Dual US Chess Online and NWSRS Rated.

**Entry fee:** \$90 by 8/6, \$100 after. Non-members of WCF/OCF/ICA add \$15. \$40 Play-up fee if rated under 1800 playing in Open section. Free entry for GM/IM/WGM or US Chess Rating 2400+.

**Time Control:** G/75; +15. Late Default: 10 minutes.

**Schedule:** Fri./Sat./Sun. @ 10 AM, 2 PM, 6 PM.

**Prize Fund:** (\$1,800 based on 40 paid entries)

Open: 1st \$300, 2nd \$200, 3rd \$150, 1st U2200/U2000: \$100, Best NW Player (by TPR): \$50

Reserve: 1st \$200, 2nd \$150, 1st U1600/U1400/U1200/U1000: \$100, Biggest upset: \$50

Annotated Game Competition: \$50 per section. Submit one annotated game that you consider to be well-played or interesting. A panel of judges will select the winner in each section.

**Registration:** Please register online at [nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration](http://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration). Registration **deadline Thurs. 8/12 @ 5pm**. \$15 Late Fee for payments received after the deadline. 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 end of round 2.

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

**Rating:** Highest of current US Chess, US Chess Online, or NWSRS rating will be used to determine section, pairings, and prizes.

**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.

**Fair Play Policy:** All players 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. Fair play standards will be strictly enforced.

**Info/Entries:** Make checks payable to Washington Chess Federation. Mail To: Washington Chess Federation: c/o Orlov Chess Academy, 4174 148<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE, Building I, Ste. M, Redmond, WA 98052.

**Contact:** Josh Sinanan, WCF President, 206-769-3757, [WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com](mailto:WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com)

# 2021 Mini-Teams Summer Kickoff

By Josh Sinanan and Siva Sankrithi

On Saturday June 26th, 70 players played the five-round Mini-Teams Summer Kickoff event, hosted on Chess.com, competing in K-3, 4-6, and 7+ sections. Chessplayers of all ages and levels participated from throughout the US, including parts of Washington, Oregon, California, Arizona, Texas, and Hawaii! The event was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation, organized by Chess Dad Siva Sankrithi, streamed by Ryan Ackerman ([twitch.tv/chesswithryan](https://www.twitch.tv/chesswithryan)) on Twitch, and directed by online chess extraordinaire and WCF Scholastic Coordinator Jacob Mayer. The sum of three individual scores made up the team score but unlike past Mini-Teams events, this event was individually paired, and the sum of the three individual team members' scores made the team score.

In the K-3 section, excitingly no team scored a perfect 3-0 score in the first round, showcasing the parity in the field. Ultimately, "The Indefeasible Chess Team" of Michael Xiong (1447 → 1471, 5.0), Yohan Ghosh (1334 → 1412, 3.5), and Derek Wang (1261 → 1244, 2.5) took the title, with 11 points. In second place with 9.5 points was the "We Are Bad" team of Dann Merriman (1602 → 1606, 4.5), Yuchen Zhou (1481 → 1434, 3.0), and Michael Lin (1554 → 1504, 2.0). Half-a-point back in third place were "The Chess Cats" team of Selina Cheng (1299 → 1323, 4.0), Ivy Edmond (1206 → 1197, 3.0), and Alec Edmond (1314 → 1261, 2.0).

In the 4-6 section, "The Tough Cookies" team of Shashank Seela (1517 → 1541, 4.0), Luke Yu (1427 → 1515,

4.0), and Austin Liu (1772 → 1741, 3.5) won first place with 11.5 points from 15 games. The "Somerset Orcas," Owen Xu (1572 → 1556, 3.5), Lucas Liu (1562 → 1530, 3.0), and Aaron Guo (1340 → 1309, 2.5), a group of strong K-3 players who opted to play up, captured second place on tiebreaks with nine points. Taking third on tiebreaks were the "Brilliant Minds" of Paras Shah (1254 → 1431, 4.0), Vijay Nallappa (1496 → 1485, 3.0), and Advait Vangala (766 → 901, 2.0). The "Cheesy Checkmate" team of Ayush Khandelwal (1490 → 1521, 4.0), Neel Borate (1386 → 1373, 3.0), and Vihan Dudala (1336 → 1295, 2.0) scored nine points as well and earned fourth place on tiebreaks.

In the 7+ section, several Lakeside alumni came to play, and their teams ended up taking the top three spots, with 14, 8.5, and eight points respectively. "Lakeside 1," IM Bryce Tiglon (2498 → 2497, 4.5), Hawaii State Champion Michael Omori (2141 → 2143, 4.5), and Quentin Chi (1946 → 1998, 5.0) did not lose a game, with Quentin earning five wins, and Bryce and Michael each conceding a single draw! The top 7-12 team was "The Paradoxical Square Shifters" team of Drew Bunch (1705 → 1744, 3.5), Kairui Cheng (1419 → 1513, 2.5), and Edward Cheng (1700 → 1659, 2.0), who also earned eight points. The top combined score between a linked adult team and student team was 20.5, between "Lakeside 1" and 7-12 team BIL of Bohan Zhang (1464 → 1589, 3.0), Isobel Chi (1238 → 1270, 2.0), and Lakshya Wahi (1207 → 1206, 1.5).

The chess action was exciting and fast-paced throughout the tournament, with many daring attacks launched by wild chess warriors, brilliant sacrifices, and innovative defenses in every round!

We are excited to offer more Mini-Teams events in the 2021-2022 school year.

This game was played in round four by National Master Satyajit Malugu, member of the "Bandar Dads," and International Master Bryce Tiglon, member of "Lakeside 1," annotated by Satyajit.

**Satyajit Malugu (2156) – Bryce Tiglon (2498) [B45]**  
Mini-Teams Summer Kickoff  
Chess.com, June 26, 2021  
*[NM Satyajit Malugu]*

It's been a long time I scored a draw against an IM, I am annotating this game without the help of an engine and with my son to explain some concepts to him.

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3**

This is not my main opening line. After this point, I am on my own.

**5...Nc6 6.Be3**

While this move looks natural, this is not the main line and my opponent started applying pressure immediately.

**6...Bb4**

Thematic attack on the e4 starts with this move.

**7.Nxc6**

7.Bd3 d5 8.Nxc6 (8.exd5 Nxd5?) 8...bxc6 9.e5 d4 I didn't like the positions after this move eg: 10.exf6 dxc3 11.fxg7?? cxb2+ 12.Kf1 bxa1Q 13.gxh8Q+ (13.Qxa1 Rg8 14.Bxh7 Ba6+ 15.Kg1 Rxc7 16.Qxg7 Qd1#) 13...Qxh8.

**7...bxc6 8.Qf3**

I honestly thought this was a book move, I was hoping for a line like this.

**8...d5**

8...0-0 9.Bd4 d5 10.Bxf6 Qxf6 11.Qxf6 gxf6 12.0-0-0 where I can fight to get equality.

**9.exd5 exd5**

9...cxd5 even though this looks more natural, it is the wrong way to capture 10.Bd4 now White is fine or even better; 9...Nxd5 10.Bd2 after this retreat (10.Bd4 c5 will cause troubles) 10...Qa5 11.Bc4 Bxc3 (11...Nxc3?? 12.Qxc6+ Kf8 13.Qxa8+) 12.bxc3 White should be okay.

**10.Bd4**

10.Bd2 0-0 11.Be2 Bg4. White still has opening problems to solve.

**10...0-0 11.Bxf6**

11.0-0-0? Bg4 12.Qd3 Bxd1



### 11...Re8+

I missed this zwischenzug. 11...Qxf6 12.Qxf6 gxf6 13.0-0 Bxc3 14.bxc3 is what I was hoping for.

### 12.Be2

12.Kd2 gxf6 13.a3 Qa5 14.Be2 Bd6 is rather unpleasant for White with his king in the center and with Black's two bishops.

### 12...Qxf6

12...gxf6 13.0-0 Bxc3 14.bxc3, but White has solved his opening problems.

### 13.Qxf6 gxf6



Position after 13...gxf6

### 14.Kd1!

This is the only move that doesn't lose on spot. 14.f3!? d4 (14...Ba6 15.Kf2) 15.a3 Bxc3+ 16.bxc3 Ba6; 14.Rd1? Bxc3+ (14...Ba6 15.Kf1 (15.Rd2 d4 the pins will bleed out White) 15...Bxc3 16.Bxa6 Bxb2) 15.bxc3 Ba6 16.Rd2 Rab8+.

### 14...Bf5 15.Bd3 Bxd3 16.cxd3 Bxc3 17.bxc3 Rab8

I think last few moves my opponent played rather inaccurately; he should have had something better than this minute advantage.

### 18.Re1 Rxe1+ 19.Kxe1 Rb2

Black is definitely better here with rook on seventh rank and White's king tied down defending the f2-pawn and the rook is very passive. But the question is, is it enough to win?

### 20.a4 a5 21.Ra3



Position after 21.Ra3

### 21...f5

Not allowing g4. 21...c5 would have been more correct because c3- and d3-pawns are stuck and hence the rook on a3.

### 22.d4

Stopping ...c5. 22.g3!? c5 23.Kf1 c4 (23...d4 24.c4 Rc2 25.Rb3 Rc3?? this is the move I was afraid of during the game, but looks like now it is a blunder and loses for Black: 26.Rxc3 dxc3 27.Ke2) 24.dxc4 (24.d4 Rb3) 24...dxc4 25.Kg2 Rb3 (25...Rc2 26.Kf3).

### 22...Kg7 23.g3 Kf6 24.Kf1 Ke6 25.Kg2 Kd6 26.Kf3 c5 27.dxc5+

27.Ke3 c4 I wanted to shut down the ...Rb3 idea so I captured. 28.h3 Rb3 (28...Rb1) 29.Rxb3 cxb3 30.Kd3

### 27...Kxc5 28.Ke3 Kc4

I felt like the IM got the best of me.

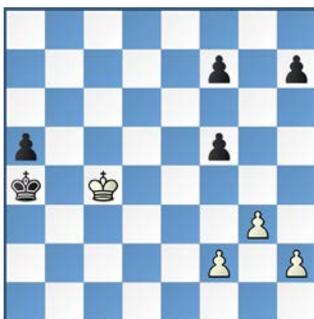


Position after 28...Kc4

### 29.Ra1

I put a Hail Mary trap here.

### 29...Kxc3 30.Rc1+ Rc2 31.Rxc2+ Kxc2 32.Kd4 Kb3 33.Kxd5 Kxa4 34.Kc4



Position after 34.Kc4

I honestly thought this position was drawn and didn't know why my opponent allowed it.

### 34...Ka3 35.Kc3 Ka4 36.Kc4 f6

Now if I don't run out of pawn moves before my opponent, I can draw, otherwise I lose.

### 37.f3 h5 38.f4

38.h4 f4 39.gxf4 f5 40.Kc3 Kb5 41.Kb3 Kc5 42.Ka4

### 38...Ka3 39.Kc3 Ka2 40.Kc2 Ka3 41.Kc3 a4 42.h3 Ka2 43.Kc2 Ka1 44.Kc1 Ka2 45.Kc2 a3 46.h4

Now I have exhausted all my pawn moves, but luckily so has Black.

### 46...Ka1 47.Kc1 Ka2 48.Kc2 Ka1 49.Kc1 Ka2

49...a2 50.Kc2

### 50.Kc2

Game drawn by repetition.

1/2-1/2

## 2021 Northwest Regional Scholastic Chess Championship

By Josh Sinanan

The 2021 Northwest Regional Scholastic Chess Championships were held on Saturday, June 12 online via Chess.com. Scholastic chessplayers in grades K-12 participated from throughout the US, including the cities of Kirkland, Bellevue, Sammamish, Redmond, Seattle, Shoreline, Everett, Auburn, Camas, Gig Harbor, Renton, Portland (OR), Austin (TX), Beaumont (TX), Chandler (AZ), Phoenix (AZ), Parker (CO), Englewood (CO), Cumming (GA), and Charlotte (NC)! The event was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation and directed by WCF Scholastic Coordinator Jacob Mayer with assistance from Lakeside chessplayer Toby Black. A total of 58 players competed across four sections separated by grade-level and rating: K-3 U1000, K-3 Open, 4-12 U1200, and 4-12 Open.

Neel Yadatore, a home-schooled first grader from Seattle, won the 19-player K-3 U1000, the tournament's largest section, with an impressive 5.0/5! Two out-of-state players shared second place honors with four points each: Ashrith Arjun Nistala from Colorado and Preash Vadher from Texas. David Xiao, a third grader from Meridian Park Elementary in Seattle, won the K-3 Open with a perfect five points from five games! Vincent Liu from Ilalko Elementary in Auburn captured second-place accolades with four points, a full-point ahead of third place finisher Agasthya Guduru, who had the best tiebreak score among the three 3-point scorers. Mercer Island's Hugh Borden, a seventh grader from Islander Middle School, emerged victorious in the 4-12 U1200 with an undefeated 5.0/5! He was trailed by seventh-grader Rishi

Chowdhury, who finished in second place with four points. Newcomer Arav Gupta, a fourth grader from Bellevue, claimed the third place prize with 3.5 points, half-a-point ahead of Chloe Miller, Atharva Raje, and Sri Sai Aaryan Rapaka. Stephen Willy, a fifth grader from Margaret Mead Elementary in Sammamish, dominated the 4-12 Open with a strong 5.0/5 first place result! Second place on tiebreaks was awarded to Seattle fifth grader Gabriel Razmov, who scored four points from five games. Lucas Liu, a third grader from Somerset Elementary in Bellevue, rounded out the prize winners also with four points, taking third on tiebreaks. Congratulations to the winners!

## IM Guha Wins Inaugural Rusty Miller Memorial

By Josh Sinanan

The first Inaugural Rusty Miller Memorial Chess Tournament took place online via Chess.com on Father's Day weekend, June 19-20, 2021. The event was held in honor of Russell "Rusty" Miller (1942-2020), the Godfather of *Northwest Chess* and longtime Washington State chess patriarch. The five-round, two-day tournament was co-hosted by *Northwest Chess* and WCF under the direction of WCF Adult Chess Director Rekha Sagar. A total of seven players participated remotely in one open section from locations including Redmond, Seattle, Mukilteo, Vancouver (WA), Surrey (BC), and India!

International Master Mitrabha Guha from India won first place with an undefeated 4.5 points from five games, winning his first four games before taking a half-point-bye in the last round. Aaron Nicoski from Vancouver (WA) finished in second place a full-point back at 3.5, scoring an impressive three wins from his final four games. A trio of players shared first U2100/U1900/U1700 honors

a full-point back at 2.5 points: Seattle's Selina Cheng, Surrey's Don Hack, and Mukilteo's Jackson Speer. Jai Budhraj, a third grader from Ella Baker Elementary School in Redmond, captured the U1500 prize with 1.5 points. The inimitable Lois Ruff, Chess Queen of Seattle, rounded out the prize winners with one point and claimed the U1300 prize. Congratulations to the winners!

**Mitrabha Guha (2451) – Aaron Nicoski (1807) [D10]**  
Rusty Miller Memorial  
Chess.com, June 19, 2021  
*[Ralph Dubisch]*

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.cxd5 cxd5 5.Bf4 a6 6.e3 Nc6 7.Rc1**

Most common is something like 7.Bd3 Bg4 8.Nge2 e6 9.0-0 Be7 10.Rc1 0-0 11.Na4 Nd7.

**7...e6**

Black could also attempt to bring the bishop outside the pawns: 7...Bf5 or 7...Bg4.

**8.Bd3 Bd6**

This allows White to set up a Stonewall attacking formation. 8...Be7 9.h3 0-0 10.Nf3 Bd7 11.0-0 b5 12.Ne5 is a little bit different.

**9.Bxd6 Qxd6 10.f4 b5**

10...0-0 11.Nf3 b5 12.0-0 Bb7 13.Ne5 Ne7 14.Qf3 is still theory, though it appears to favor White.

**11.Nf3 Bd7 12.Ne5 Rc8 13.0-0 0-0 14.Qf3 Rc7 15.Qh3 g6**



Position after 15...g6

**16.Bxb5!**

White snags a pawn with a tactic, and the rest goes fairly smoothly.

**16...Rb8 17.Bxc6 Bxc6 18.Qh4 Ne8 19.Rf2 Bb5 20.Rfc2 Rbc8 21.h3 Qd8 22.Qxd8 Rxd8 23.Nxb5 Rxc2 24.Rxc2 axb5 25.b3 Nd6 26.Rc7 Rc8??**

Why two question marks? Aside from the general guidance to avoid exchanges when down material, it's specifically better to exchange the minor pieces than rooks here.

When down one pawn, many rook endings are drawn; knight endings, though, tend to resemble king and pawn endings, especially in terms of outside passed pawns being hard for knights to handle.



Position after 26...Rc8

Best is to force the white rook to retreat: 26...Ra8 27.Rc2±. (Not 27.Rd7? Nf5∞ and too many white pawns are en prise.)

**27.Rxc8+ Nxc8 28.Nc6**

28.a4 immediately is strong.

**28...Kf8 29.g4 Ke8 30.g5 Nd6 31.Kf2 Kd7 32.Ne5+ Ke7 33.Ke1 Nf5 34.Kd2 h5 35.a4**

35.gxh6 Nxh6 36.Kc3 works.

**35...bxa4 36.bxa4 Nd6 37.a5 Kd8 38.Kc3 Kc7 39.Kb4 Kb7 40.Kc5 Ne4+ 41.Kb5 Nd6+ 42.Kb4 Ka6 43.Kc5 Nf5 44.Nxf7 Nxe3 45.Nh8 Nf5 46.Nxg6 Kxa5 47.Nf8 Ng7 48.Kd6**

**1-0**

### Official Final Standings. Rusty Miller Memorial Chess Tournament

#	Place	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total
1	1	Mitrabha Guha	30023743	2451	W2	W4	W5	W3	H---	4.5
2	2	Aaron Nicoski	12797931	1807	L1	W3	H---	W4	W7	3.5
3	3-5	Selina Cheng	17236746	1330	D5	L2	W7	L1	B---	2.5
4		Don Hack	16687214	1306	W7	L1	W6	L2	D5	2.5
5		Jackson Speer	30209173	932	D3	W7	L1	D6	D4	2.5
6	6	Jai Budhraj	30053137	802	U---	B---	L4	D5	U---	1.5
7	7	Lois Ruff	12559533	1252	L4	L5	L3	B---	L2	1

# 71<sup>st</sup> Oregon Open: September 4-6, 2021

## \$10,000 prize fund based on 150 players

Sponsored by the Oregon Chess Federation and Portland Chess Club

**FORMAT:** 6-round US Chess rated Swiss in four sections, Open, U2000, U1600, and U1200. The official September US Chess OTB regular ratings are generally used for section eligibility, pairings, and prize eligibility. Unofficial US Chess OTB regular ratings or alternate ratings (with adjustment if necessary) are generally used for players with no official US Chess OTB regular rating. **The Open section has one schedule, 3-day. The other sections have a choice between a 3-day and 2-day schedule.** Up to two half point byes are available if requested before round one.

**TIME CONTROL:** G/100; inc30 (one-hour forty minutes per player with a thirty second increment added for each move), The first three rounds of the 2-day schedule are played at G/50; inc15. **Please bring an increment capable digital clock as well as a set and board (none supplied).**

**SCHEDULE: 3-day:** A players meeting is at 10am on Saturday. The rounds are at 10:30am and 4pm on Saturday, 10:30am and 6pm on Sunday, and 10:30am and 4pm on Monday. **2-day:** A players meeting is at 8:45am on Sunday. The first three rounds are at 9am, 11:45am, and 2:30pm on Sunday, then the schedule merges with the 3-day for round four at 6pm on Sunday.

**ENTRY FEE:** \$105 if you pre-register by the end of the day on Thursday, September 2, \$135 on-site. Free entry for GM's and IM's if pre-registered by September 2 (up to \$105 is deducted from any prize won). Players in the U1200 section may pay a lower rate, \$25 if pre-registered by September 2, \$35 on-site, and compete for trophies instead of money. US Chess membership is required for all players. State membership is required for Oregon and Washington residents.

**REGISTRATION: Please pre-register** for the tournament at [nwchess.com/online/registration](http://nwchess.com/online/registration). To complete your pre-registration, we must receive your entry fee and any membership fees either online or through the mail to Mike Morris, 2344 N.E. 27<sup>th</sup> Ave., Portland, OR 97212 by September 2 (**simply putting your name on the online roster without paying does not pre-register you and will have to pay the higher rate on-site**). If you don't pre-register, on-site registration is available from 9:30-10am Saturday for the 3-day schedule and 8:30-8:45am Sunday for the 2-day schedule (only cash or check payable to Portland Chess Club is accepted on-site).

### OPEN SECTION PRIZES:

1<sup>ST</sup>, 2<sup>ND</sup>, 3<sup>RD</sup>: \$1500-900-600; U2200: \$500-325-225

### U2000 SECTION PRIZES:

1<sup>ST</sup>, 2<sup>ND</sup>, 3<sup>RD</sup>: \$500-325-225; U1800: \$500-325-225

### U1600 SECTION PRIZES:

1<sup>ST</sup>, 2<sup>ND</sup>, 3<sup>RD</sup>: \$500-325-225; U1400: \$500-325-225

### U1200 SECTION PRIZES:

1<sup>ST</sup>, 2<sup>ND</sup>, 3<sup>RD</sup>: \$500-325-225; U1000: \$325-225 Unr: \$150

Unrated players are limited to the place prizes in the Open section and the unrated prize in the U1200 section. Players winning \$600 or more must complete an IRS form with SSN before payment. Foreign players may be subject to withholding taxes. Players in the U1200 section choosing the lower entry fee option will win a trophy instead of money by scoring at least 5 if they are rated 1000 or higher, at least 4 if they are rated between 800 and 999, and at least 3.5 if they are rated under 800 or unrated.

**OTHER:** The tournament is a qualifier for the Championship and Challengers sections of the Oregon Closed and a qualifier for the OSCF State Championship. Send an email to [email@pdxchess.org](mailto:email@pdxchess.org) if you have any questions or need to withdraw during the event. Check [www.pdxchess.org](http://www.pdxchess.org) a week prior to the event for the COVID-19 protocols that will be in effect.

**SIDE EVENTS: Blitz-**onsite registration runs from 3-3:20pm Sunday. Play starts at 3:30pm and will likely last until around 5:30pm. 5-round double Swiss in one section. The higher of a player's official US Chess regular and blitz rating is generally used. Unofficial US Chess regular or blitz ratings based on at least four games or alternate ratings (with adjustment if necessary) are generally used for players with no official US Chess regular or blitz rating. G/3;inc2, US Chess blitz rated, \$20 entry fee, prize fund: \$220 based on 20-1<sup>st</sup> \$65, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$45, 1<sup>st</sup> U2100-\$35, 1<sup>st</sup> U1900-\$30, 1<sup>st</sup> U1700-\$25, 1<sup>st</sup> U1500-\$20; unrated players are eligible for all the prizes. **OCF annual membership meeting-Sunday at 3:30pm.**

**LOCATION:** Lloyd Center DoubleTree Hotel, 1000 NE Multnomah St, Portland, OR 97232. There is free parking in the hotel parking garage. A limited number of hotel rooms are available at a special chess rate of \$114 plus tax for a single and \$124 plus tax for a double, call 1-800-996-0510 **The rate lasts until the block of rooms sell out or until August 11, whichever comes first.**

# 2021 WA State High School Chess Team Championship

By Josh Sinanan and Randy Walther

The 2021 Washington State High School Chess Team Championship took place May 21-22 online via Chess.com. The tournament drew 18 teams from 16 high schools throughout Washington. The Washington Chess Federation and the Washington High School Chess Association co-organized the event, which was directed by WCF Scholastic Coordinator Jacob Mayer with assistance from National Master Derek Zhang.

Top players taking part in the star-studded field included National Master Eric Zhang (Lakeside), Women's International Master Naomi Bashkansky (Newport), US Chess Experts Aaryan Deshpande (Interlake), Sophie Tien (Lakeside), Teddy Roberts (Interlake), and Pranav K. Anoop (Interlake). The two top teams by seeding, Interlake A and Lakeside A, faced off unexpectedly early in the second round to avoid Lakeside A playing against Lakeside B, per the tournament rules. Despite the close matchup on paper, the Interlake A used the white pieces to deadly effect on boards one, three, and five, and steamrolled Lakeside A by a score of 4.5-0.5!

Fortunes changed quickly in the third round, however, as third-seeded Newport pulled off a surprise upset victory and downed Interlake A 3-2! With the tournament now wide open, Newport looked to be in prime position to make a title run, but they would still have to face Seattle powerhouses Garfield and Lakeside A in the final two rounds. After a tense fourth round draw with Garfield, Newport had the white pieces vs Lakeside A in the fifth and final round, while Interlake A squared off against Garfield in an epic Metro League (Seattle) vs Kingco

League (Bellevue) finale! Unfortunately for Newport, their undefeated streak came to a crashing halt at the hands of Lakeside A, who walloped them 5-0! Interlake A vanquished Garfield 3.5-1.5 to maintain their lead and win the tournament by 1.5 points. Congratulations to Interlake High School, the 2021 WA State High School Chess Team Champions!

Many thanks to all who contributed to this successful event. The great 55-year tradition of HS State Team lives on!

## Team WA Wins 30th WA vs BC Intermat

By Josh Sinanan, Team WA Captain

The 30th Annual WA vs BC Intermat ended in a narrow 28-24 victory for Team WA! The Washington vs British Columbia International Scholastic Chess Match, known informally as the Intermat, was moved online for the second consecutive year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. All 26 players from each team, two in each grade level, played their games from home via Chess.com with Zoom monitoring. To accommodate the players, parents, and team captains, two virtual "Team Rooms" and a "Playing Hall" were created using Zoom's "breakout room" feature. This allowed for a quiet playing area in which players were monitored during their games via Zoom with webcam on and mic muted. Meanwhile in the team rooms, captains and players met to kibitz and analyze the match games in progress. This year's Intermat featured a colorful cast of wild characters who played many lively games featuring bold attacks, courageous sacrifices, and ingenious defenses!

Team WA played Black on all boards in the first round and gained a strong 15-11 lead due to an impressive performance by our K-6 players, who managed to score an astounding 12.5/14 on the lower boards! No doubt this was due to many players working hard on their chess during the

pandemic and fine tuning their skills over the past few weeks in our weekly Intermat training sessions. In the middle and high school grades, games were much closer and hard fought, with several going deep into the endgame. Notable upset victories were achieved by high school players Oscar Petrov in grade 11 and Daniel Stein in grade 12. Special thanks to Selina Cheng and Varnika Jammalamadaka, who filled in for Edward Cheng and Teddy Roberts at the last minute! The only two draws of the first round were achieved by Lucas Liu and Felicity Wang. For Lucas, it was a lucky draw down a piece in a minor piece ending after his knight got stranded on the edge of the board. Felicity's raging middlegame attack won her opponent's queen, but they were able to put up stiff resistance in a queen vs rook+bishop ending and held the draw.

Team WA struck again early in the second round, with a 13-move knockout by second grade phenom Vidip Kona! This was followed by a quick string of victories, all in under 30 moves, rattled off by Vayu Kakkad (Kindergarten), Yiding Lu (fourth grade), Nikash Vemparala (fifth grade), Austin Liu (sixth grade), and Derin Goktepe (sixth grade). The BC players defended well with the black pieces and managed to tie the second round 13-13 with six games ending in draws and many close struggles. The top two rated Team BC players, National Masters Andrew Hemstapat (2245) and Patrick Huang (2247), were stopped by Team Washington's Oscar Petrov and Sophie Tien! Sophie defended tenaciously in a worse middlegame position in which her opponent had the initiative and a space advantage, eventually forcing a draw with her queen by perpetual check! In a wild French McCutcheon, Oscar got the better of the complications and crashed through with a brilliant queenside attack against Andrew, his former bughouse partner. Oscar's huge win propelled Team WA to the magical 26.5 points total and sealed the match victory! With several games

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still in progress, the Team WA players and captains showed great team spirit and closely followed the remaining games, cheering on each player until the very end!

Special congratulations to our Team Washington All Stars, each of whom scored 1.5 or two points from two games: Vayu Kakkad, Vidip Kona, Sharvesh Arul, Yiding Lu, Neeraj Harish, Nikash Vemparala, Derin Goktepe, Austin Liu, Oscar Petrov, and Daniel Stein!

It was a pleasure for the captains to analyze games with the players and follow the match games while keeping tabs on how everyone was doing. Congratulations to the players from both teams on an exciting and close match once again! Special thanks to BC Captains Michael Lo and Eric Gu, and to our wonderful tournament directors Stephen Wright and Jacob Mayer for all their hard work in setting up this online Internat. Since the match took place virtually across both WA and BC, the organizers from both teams decided to co-host this year's Internat, and I can say that it truly was a collaborative effort! Thank you also to all the players and parents for their patience and flexibility with the online format under the circumstances. We look forward to continuing this great tradition, hopefully in-person again, for many years to come!

**Frank Zhou (1434) –  
Austin Liu (1772) [B73]**  
WA vs BC Internat  
Chess.com (R1), May 15, 2021  
*[Austin Liu]*

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.Be2**

White plays the Classical Variation, a quiet response to the Dragon.

**7...0-0 8.0-0 Nc6 9.Qd2**

9.Nb3 is the theoretical main line, stopping d5.

**9...d5**



*Position after 9...d5*

Once Black gets the d5-break, he has

basically achieved equality.

**10.exd5 Nxd5 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Rad1 Qc7!**

Preparing ...Rd8, after which White's pieces are awkwardly placed.

**13.Nxd5 cxd5 14.c3**

14.Qxd5 Be6 15.Qc5 Qxc5 16.Bxc5 Bxb2 17.Bxe7 Rfc8!= and Black is winning the pawn back and has equality.

**14...Rd8 15.Bd4?!**



*Position after 15.Bd4*

Allowing Black to take the center with tempo.

15.Bf3 is better.

**15...e5 16.Be3 Be6 17.Bf3 Rac8**

Preparing a potential ...d4-break later on, after which Black will go ...Qc2.

**18.Rc1?!**

18.Be2 is a better try, allowing White to move his f-pawn later to give an escape square for his bishop. 18...f5

**18...f5!**

White's bishop is suddenly finding itself short on squares.

**19.Bg5 Rd7**



*Position after 19...Rd7*

**20.Rfd1?**

20.Bh6 was the last chance.

**20...f4**

Threatening ...h6 and ...g5, trapping the bishop.

**21.Qe2**

With the threat of Bxf4!, winning the pawn.

**21...Rf8**

Covering f4.

**22.Bg4 Bxg4 23.Qxg4 h6**

White is now forced to give up his bishop.

**24.Bxh6 Bxh6 25.Qxg6+ Bg7 26.c4?!**

26.Qe6+ Rff7 27.Rxd5 Rxd5 28.Qxd5 is better, but after 28...Qb7 29.Qxb7 Rxb7 30.b3 e4+ White's pawns are rather immobile, so Black has a clear advantage.

**26...Rd6 27.Qd3 e4 28.Qd2 f3 29.cxd5 Qd7 30.Qg5 Rff6**

Preparing ...Rg6.

**31.g3 Qh3 32.Rc8+ Qxc8**

**0-1**

**Austin Liu (1772) –  
Ryan Yang (1812) [C78]**  
WA vs BC Internat  
Chess.com (R2), May 15, 2021  
*[Austin Liu]*

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 b5 6.Bb3 Be5 7.c3 d6 8.d4 Bb6 9.a4**

The most popular option, immediately striking at Black's queenside.

**9...Bg4**

9...Bb7 is an alternative option.

**10.Bg5**



*Position after 10.Bg5*

**10...exd4?**

This natural move actually loses on the spot.

**11.Bd5!**

Taking advantage of several pins. Both knights are pinned, while ...Qd7 fails to axb5, revealing a pin on the a-file.

**11...Bd7 12.Nxd4?!**

12.cxd4 is a bit more accurate, since the threat of e5 is very unpleasant.

**12...Bxd4 13.cxd4 h6**

13...Rb8 tries to get out of two pins but

White has 14.e5! opening up the e-file.  
14...dxe5 15.dxe5 Nxe5 16.Re1 Qe7  
17.f4!+-

#### 14.Bxf6! gxf6

14...Qxf6 loses immediately to 15.axb5+-

#### 15.Qh5!



Position after 15.Qh5

Black has no good way to defend f7.

#### 15...Qe7?!

15...Rh7+- was a better try, but Black's position remains in tatters.

#### 16.axb5 Nxd4 17.Bxa8 Bxb5 18.Re1

Giving back an exchange but forcing Black to spend several valuable tempos.

#### 18...Nc2 19.Nc3! Nxe1 20.Nxb5 Nxb2

20...axb5 21.Qxb5+ Kf8 22.Rxe1+-

#### 21.Kxg2 Rg8+ 22.Kf1

White's king is completely safe.

#### 22...Kd7 23.Qd5! Rg5

23...axb5 24.Bc6+ Kd8 25.Ra8#

#### 24.Bc6+ Kc8 25.Rxa6!

A final finesse.

#### 25...Rxd5 26.Ra8#

1-0

**Ryan Yang (1812) –  
Derin Goktepe (1978) [C54]**  
WA vs BC Intermat  
Chess.com (R1), May 15, 2021  
[Derin Goktepe]

#### 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.0-0 d6 6.c3 h6 7.h3 0-0 8.Re1 Bb6

A move I played to prepare for bringing my knight to e7 and then g6. However, if I played 8...Ne7, White would get a pleasant position after 9. d4.

#### 9.Nbd2 Ne7 10.Nf1 Ng6 11.Ng3 c6 12.Bb3

This was an interesting move because I expected my opponent to play a move like 12.d4 to apply some pressure in the center, but instead he chose to retreat his bishop.

#### 12...Re8 13.d4 Qc7

I thought of ...Qc7 because in the future, I might want to bring one of my rooks to d8. However, ...Be6 was probably a better move to attempt to trade the bishops.

#### 14.Qc2 d5?

For the past few months, I have come across many positions similar to this in my games and I have studied it deeply, and I remembered the move ...d5 as a good move in some of those situations. So even though it was a mistake in this position, I believed it was a good move during the game and I played it.

#### 15.Kh2??



Position after 15.Kh2

Because of my queen pinning the white king, my opponent was in big trouble. Now, I had multiple ways to win material with moves such as 15...dxe4 or 15...exd4.

#### 15...dxe4 16.Nxe4 Nxe4 17.Rxe4 Bf5

And now, my opponent would be losing an exchange. If he instead played 17.Qxe4 to avoid losing the exchange, he would lose his queen after 17...exd4+, which is another negative effect of Kh2.

#### 18.dxe5 Bxe4 19.Qxe4 Nxe5 20.g3 Nxf3+ 21.Qxf3

From here, I still had to be a little careful since my opponent had two very active bishops, but the position was still lost for white.

#### 21...Rad8 22.Kg2 Qe7 23.a4 a5 24.h4 Rd7 25.Bc2 Qe5 26.Qg4 Qd5+ 27.Kh2 Re1 28.f3 Re2+ 29.Kh3 Bg1



Position after 29...Bg1

Here I could have just simply taken the bishop, but then I noticed that my opponent would be forced to play 30.Qf5 after 29...Bg1, and after the line 30...Rh2+ 31.Kg4 Qxf5+ 32.Bxf5 Rd1 33.b3 g6 34.Bc8 Rc2 35.Bb2 Rxa1 36.Bxa1 Ra2, the bishop would be trapped and White would be completely lost.

#### 30.Qf5 Rh2+ 31.Kg4 Qxf5+ 32.Bxf5 Rd1 33.b4 g6 34.Bc8 Rc2 35.bxa5

I expected my opponent to play something like Bb2 here as one last trick, but instead he played bxa5.

#### 35...Rdxc1 36.Rxc1 Rxc1 37.Bxb7 Rxc3 38.a6 Be3 39.h5 f5+ 40.Kh4 g5+ 41.Kh3 Rc4 42.a5 Ra4 43.Bxc6 Rxa5 44.Bb7 Kf7 45.g4 Kf6 46.gxf5 Ra2 47.Kg4 Bf4 48.Bd5 Rg2+ 49.Kh3 Rh2+ 50.Kg4 Rh4#

0-1

**Sophie Tien (2042) –  
Patrick Huang (2247) [B06]**  
Intermat 30th (online)  
chess.com (R2), May 15, 2021  
[Ralph Dubisch]

#### 1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nf3 d6 4.Nc3 a6 5.Be2 b5 6.a3

6.0-0 Bb7 7.Re1 Nd7

a) 7...e6;

b) 7...b4 8.Nd5 (8.Na4 Bxe4 9.Bc4);

8.Bf1 c5 9.a4

#### 6...Bb7 7.0-0 Nd7 8.Re1 c5 9.Bf1 cxd4 10.Nxd4 Ngf6 11.Bg5 h6 12.Bh4 0-0 13.Qd2 Nb6

An interesting idea here is 13...Nc5 14.f3 c5 15.Nb3 Nfxe4..

#### 14.Rad1 Kh7 15.Bg3

White spends quite a few moves burying this bishop. Perhaps it's better to solidify the e-pawn and give the bishop a more active retreat with 15.f3.

#### 15...Rc8 16.Qc1

16.e5!?



Position after 16.Qc1

### 16...e5

Here and on the next move Black could (and should) have gone for the thematic exchange sacrifice on c3. After 16...Rxc3! 17.bxc3 Nxe4+ Black is for choice.

In the Dragon it's usually correct to give up the exchange for a pawn and queenside weaknesses—it is not necessary for White to have castled queenside. Black's g7-bishop gains activity and White will be hard-pressed to defend along the c-file.

### 17.Nb3 Qc7

Again, 17...Rxc3! 18.bxc3 Nxe4+ is the next best thing to winning for Black.

### 18.h3

18.f3!?

### 18...Na4?!

Other, likely better, ideas: 18...Nh5 19.Bh2 f5 20.exf5 gxf5 21.Be2 Nf6+; 18...d5 19.exd5 Nfxd5 20.Nxd5 Bxd5+.

### 19.Rd3

19.Nxa4 bxa4 20.Nd2 Qxc2 21.Qxc2 Rxc2 22.Nc4∞ Nxe4 (22...d5 23.exd5 Bxd5 24.Ne3 Rc5 25.Bxe5 Bb3 26.Bd6 Bxd1 27.Bxc5±) 23.Bd3 Rxc4 24.Bxc4 Nxg3 25.fxg3 e4, and Black has some compensation for the exchange.

### 19...Nxc3 20.Rxc3 Qb6 21.Rxc8 Rxc8 22.Bd3 d5 23.Nd2?!

23.Bxe5 dxe4 24.Bf1∞

### 23...dxe4 24.Nxe4 Nxe4

24...Nh5!?

### 25.Bxe4 Bxe4 26.Rxe4 f5 27.Re2 f4 28.Bh2 Qd4

28...Rd8.

### 29.c3 Qc4 30.Qe1

30.Rd2∞

### 30...Rd8 31.g3??

31.Rd2+

### 31...Rd3?

31...f3! 32.Rd2 Rxd2 33.Qxd2 Qe2+

### 32.gxf4 Qd5?!

32...exf4! 33.Rd2 (33.Re4? Qd5-+; 33.Qf1 g5+ 33...Rhx3+)

### 33.Qf1 exf4 34.Bxf4 Rd1 35.Re1 Rxe1 36.Qxe1 Qf5 37.Qe3 g5 38.Bh2 Qb1+ 39.Kg2 Qxb2 40.Qe4+ Kg8?!

40...Kh8

### 41.Qe8+

41.c4!? Qd4 (41...bxc4? 42.Qxc4+ Kh7 43.Qd3+ Kg8 44.Qxa6±) 42.Qe6+ Kh8 43.cxb5 axb5 44.Qc8+ Kh7 45.Qf5+ Kg8 46.Qxb5±

### 41...Kh7 42.Qe4+ Kg8 43.Qe8+

1/2-1/2

Oscar Petrov (1848) –  
Andrew Hemstapat (2245) [C12]  
Intermat 30th (online)  
chess.com (R2), May 15, 2021  
[Ralph Dubisch]

### 1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Bb4 5.e5 h6 6.Be3 Ne4 7.Qg4 g6 8.a3 Bxc3+ 9.bxc3 c5 10.Bd3 cxd4?!

Theory branches here based on whether Black chooses to advance some kingside pawns first, or simply capture on c3. The former seems less clear; the latter tends to favor White.

10...h5 11.Qf4 g5 12.Qf3 Nxc3 13.dxc5 d4 (13...Nc6 14.Qg3 Qa5 15.Bd2 Qxc5 16.Nf3) 14.Bd2 Nc6 15.Qf6 Qxf6 16.exf6 Na4 17.Bxg5 Nxc5 18.Nf3 Nxd3+ 19.cxd3 b6 20.Rc1 Bb7; 10...Nxc3 11.dxc5 Nc6 (11...Qa5 12.Qb4) 12.Nf3 Qa5 13.0-0 Qa4 14.Qh3

### 11.cxd4 Qa5+ 12.Ke2 Nc3+ 13.Kf1 Qc7 14.Nh3 b6 15.g3 Ba6?!

15...Nc6±

### 16.Kg2 Qd7 17.Qh4 Qe7 18.Bg5! Qf8 19.Bd2 g5 20.Qg4 Ne4 21.Bb4 Qg8 22.c4!?

22.Qe2 Bb7 23.f3 g4 24.Nf2 gxf3+ 25.Qxf3±

### 22...Nc6 23.Rhc1



Position after 23.Rhc1

### 23...Bb7

23...Nxd4 24.Qd1 threatens Bxe4/Qxd4 and Qa4+/Qxa6; 23...Qg6 24.cxd5 Bxd3 25.Rxc6 and it's hard to see any defense.; 23...f5 24.Qd1 dxc4 25.Bxc4 Bxc4 26.Rxc4 Nxb4 27.axb4.

White's control of the c-file combined with the exposed black king will prove decisive.

### 24.cxd5 Nxb4 25.axb4 Nd2 26.Bb5+ Kd8 27.Bc6 Bxc6 28.Rxc6 Rc8 29.Rxa7 Rxc6 30.dxc6 Qh7 31.Nxg5!

Flashy. 31.Qe2+- is also crushing.

### 31...hxg5 32.Qxg5+ Kc8 33.Ra8+ Kc7 34.Rxh8 Qd3

34...Qxh8 35.Qxd2+- is more mundane.

### 35.Qe7+ Kxc6 36.Rc8+ Kb5 37.Qd7+ Kxb4 38.Qd6+ Kb5 39.Qc6+ Ka5 40.Qc3+

Or 40.Ra8+ Kb4 41.Qxb6+ Qb5 42.Qxb5+ Kxb5 43.h4.

### 40...Qxc3 41.Rxc3 b5 42.h4 b4 43.Rc8 Kb5 44.Rb8+ Kc4 45.h5 Ne4 46.f4!

The knight is contained.

### 46...Nc3 47.Rxb4+!?

An amusing way to highlight the knight's inability to handle the distant white pawn.

### 47...Kxb4 48.h6 Nd5 49.h7 Ne3+ 50.Kf3 Nf1

1-0

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# José And Tony—We Will Miss You

Karen Schmidt

I took a bus ride to Pioneer Square in downtown Seattle over Memorial Day weekend and met up with six of my chess friends who used to play chess there at a Starbucks, and also at Westlake Park a few blocks away. It was our first attempt since Covid to get our casual chess club back together again in person. Our Starbucks appears to have closed for good, so we met at a large, spacious coffee shop called Cafe Umbria Occidental about 11 a.m. and stayed until their 4 p.m. closing time. It was so good to see everyone in person that I almost cried!

I invited a good friend of mine, Wendy, to come down too...so for once, I was not the lone female. We sat inside since it was a cool, cloudy and breezy Seattle day. Happily, the staff did not seem to mind us commandeering two tables in the front corner of their roomy cafe. We bought plenty of coffee, caught up with each other and played chess.

Our group of seven was quite diverse: one player originally from Mexico; one player of Filipino roots; one player originally from Morocco; two women seniors; and two senior men. An eighth person was intently watching our games, so eventually we invited him to join us. He turned out to be from Miami on vacation in Seattle, but from Russia originally. I am happy to say that I won my game, and I can tell that my chess has actually improved during the pandemic. I have been religiously playing two weekly online chess games against stronger players, and since we also analyze the online games, it is a good learning experience every week—whether I win, lose, or draw the game.

I was extremely saddened to learn that two elderly men who played all the time downtown with us had both passed away in the last year. I knew them well and had played many fine games of chess with both over a five-year period, before

the pandemic hit us and closed down over-the-board chess in Seattle.

José Lopez Vargas was over 80 years old, and regularly played at Westlake Park. He always wore a black flat-top leather cowboy hat, so it was easy to tell from a distance whether he was at the park on any given day. He loved to play on the big board, but he also played regular chess at the cafe tables. He never had any objection to playing on my shocking pink and white vinyl board! José and I were pretty evenly matched, and we went back

varieties.

José's English was quite good, but our chats were also an opportunity for me to keep brushed up on my Spanish—which I took in high school in Yakima, and for four years at the UW. He was always a very positive, friendly person, and a good role model, especially considering he was well over 80 years old. I hope I am a friendly, approachable, life-loving chessplayer when I am in my eighties. (Or hopefully nineties!)

I also learned that we lost Tony Johnson during the past year. Tony was a member of the Makah Nation. Before coming to Seattle, he had lived in Neah Bay—a former Makah whaling village—at the extreme Northwest tip of Washington state.

Tony was at least in his 70s, with long flowing gray hair, and a very vibrant personality. He usually showed up at Westlake Park riding a small mountain bike. He characteristically wore bright tie-dyed T-shirts. Tony was one of the first Westlake players to befriend me—always the lone female—and make me feel welcome. Sometimes I won a few games if he was having an off day, and sometimes he was “on” and impossible to beat. I got a real kick out of his trademark comment when his opponent made a good move such as a fork,

etc. He would say “THAT wasn't very nice!” with a big smile.

Tony was a joy to be around. He was a great storyteller, but also interested in hearing the stories of others. He was always upbeat and welcoming of regulars and newcomers alike at Westlake.

I feel honored to have been friends with both José and Tony, and they'll be greatly missed by the downtown chess community, but also remembered with great fondness by many. May they rest in peace.



*L-R Gilbert Lomboy, Wendy Harper, Karen Schmidt, Isaias Oregel, Photo credits Ali Habboula.*

and forth in terms of wins and losses. He was very sociable, and we often sat and chatted either before or after our games.

José lived in South Seattle in the Tukwila area, in a mobile home park. I never learned whether he was a widower, but he lived alone. We both loved gardening, and he used to tell me about his crazy neighbor lady who was always stealing tomatoes and other vegetables from his garden. We usually caught each other up on which varieties of tomatoes we were growing in our gardens, and how they were doing: cherry, Roma and larger

# 2021 Barber/ Rockefeller Closed

By Jacob Mayer

The WCF hosted its first ever hybrid event to determine who would represent the state at the National Barber and Rockefeller Tournament of Champions. In the Rockefeller (K-5) Qualifier Section, two players opted to play from home, and their opponents could opt to play online from their house, or to bring their computer to the site and play under TD supervision. In the Barber (6-8) Qualifier Section all players opted for in-person competition, marking WCF's first over-the-board event in over a year! The event took place in Redmond, Washington, under the supervision of TD Jacob Mayer, on June 5-6.

The Rockefeller tournament started out with a first round upset, with Stephen Willy taking down Erin Bian. Stephen Willy went off to a 3-0 start and was in clear first place after the first day of play. However, a round four loss to Vihaan Jammalamadaka meant that he, Vihaan, and Erin all would have three points (from four rounds) going into the fifth and final round. Vihaan and Erin won their final round to set up a playoff for the Rockefeller seed! In the playoff Vihaan bid for the black pieces and an epic game ensued. Vihaan managed to force a R+P v Q fortress, but accidentally stumbled into a checkmate with Erin's clock having about 30 seconds left. Since the game was online, all the players (from both sections) were watching the game on the TD's laptop. Congratulations to all our players, and good luck to Erin Bian as she will represent Washington in the National Rockefeller Tournament of K-5 Champions this summer.

The Barber Event also started out strong with the top two seeds, NM Rushaan Mahajan and NM Joseph Levine, playing against one-another. In a wild game, Rushaan played into an endgame with his queen versus Levine's three minor pieces. Rushaan had one pawn too many and forced Joseph to sacrifice his minors in a time scramble, from which Rushaan went on to win the game. Fast forward to the last round and the top two seeds, Mahajan and Levine had beaten all their competition, with Rushaan needing just a draw to win the tournament. However, an oversight on his part was just the break his fifth-round opponent, Brandon Jiang, needed to pull the upset and create *another* tiebreak. This tiebreak would be played in person, with



*Rockefeller Qualifier Closed Tournament.  
Photo credit: Jacob Mayer.*

everyone watching in anticipation. Joseph Levine would bid for the black pieces and draw odds. The tiebreak produced a very closed position, with both players using their clock, where Rushaan's time advantage proved sufficient as Joseph

went on to flag and lose the tiebreak. Congratulations to all our players, and good luck to NM Rushaan Mahajan as he will represent Washington in the National Barber Tournament of 6-8 Champions in New Jersey this summer.



*Rushaan Mahajan (L) plays Joseph Levine (R) in an Armageddon playoff to determine the Barber representative for Washington. Photo credit: Jacob Mayer*

## Washington Women's Championship

September 10 - 12, 2021

*Highest finishing WA resident seeded into the Premier section of the 2022 WA State Championship.*



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

**Mail To:** Washington Chess Federation  
c/o Orlov Chess Academy  
4174 148<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE  
Building I, Ste. M  
Redmond, WA 98052

**Contact:** Josh Sinanan, WCF President  
**Phone:** 206-769-3757

**Email:**  
WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

**Registration:** Online at  
[nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration](http://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration)

**Site:** Orlov Chess Academy, 7212 Woodlawn Ave.  
NE Seattle, WA 98115.

**Format:** A 5-round Swiss in one section. Open to all female chess players. Maximum of 25 players, please register early.

**Time Control:** G/90; +30. Late default: 10 min.

**Prize Fund:** \$750 (based on 25 paid entries).  
1<sup>st</sup> \$200, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$150, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$100  
1<sup>st</sup> U1800/U1600/U1400/U1200/U1000: \$60

**Byes:** Two half-point byes available, request before end of round 2.

**Entry Fee:** \$50 if postmarked or online by 9/5, \$60 after 9/5 or at site. Free entry for WGMs and WIMs.

**Registration:** Friday 6:00-6:45 PM.

**Rounds:** Friday 7:00 PM; Saturday 10:00 AM, 3:00 PM; Sunday 10:00 AM, 3:00 PM.

**Rating:** Dual US Chess and NWSRS Rated. Higher of current US Chess or NWSRS rating 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.

**Memberships:** US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships required, other states accepted.

**Covid Procedures:** Face masks are required for all players and spectators. Please bring your own mask, limited number supplied. Chess equipment will be sanitized between rounds.

# Over-the-Board vs Online Chess

Sarang Sankrithi (Age Seven)

In January 2020, I started playing over-the-board (OTB) chess tournaments. As a beginning player, I only won one game. Then, Coronavirus (Covid-19) struck. All tournaments moved online.

Now, nearly 1½ years later, most tournaments are still online, but OTB is coming back as more and more people get vaccinated. In fact, I played my first OTB tournament of 2021, and I won it as the lowest seed! Let us compare and contrast these two tournament types.

The best thing about playing online is staying home! Other things I prefer about online chess: no touch move; no need to set up and clean up; no need to notate; and more time with family between rounds. Also, it is easier to share digital PGNs with remote coaches to analyze.

The best thing in OTB is making new friends! Other things I prefer about OTB chess: no screens allowed; playing with kids that I know; physically moving the pieces; and analyzing games with friends after playing. It also feels like a more complete chess experience because it really is all chess, all the time, at the tournament.

While both online and OTB chess have their pros and cons, I just love playing competitive chess. I love having fun, improving, and learning, and luckily, both online and OTB offer that.



*Sarang Sankrithi (7). Photo credit: Siva Sankrithi.*



*Sarang Sankrithi (then 6). Photo credit: Siva Sankrithi.*



*Sarang Sankrithi (7) and brother Vivaan Sankrithi (3). Photo credit: Siva Sankrithi.*



# Coaching Corner

Ralph Dubisch

Someone reading more carefully than I was writing last month might have noticed one of the terms I planned to define was fianchetto—pronounced fee-ahn-ketto, with perhaps a slight emphasis on the “ke”—and that after including it in the vocabulary list I failed to mention it again. True. So, to perhaps make up for that oversight, this month I plan to discuss not only what it is, but also consider why it is used, and some of its strategic implications.

A fianchetto is a development of a bishop to one of the long diagonals. The pawn in front of the knight moves forward one square (though there are extended cases in which the pawn advances further), and the bishop develops to what old-timers might have called “knight two.” There are obvious advantages to development on the long diagonal, including targeting a rook way down in the corner and influencing central squares of the bishop’s color. Whole openings are based on this development, such as the Queen’s Indian Defense, King’s Indian Defense, Grunfeld Defense, King’s Indian Attack, Sicilian Dragon, Reti Opening, Larsen’s Opening, Modern Benoni, Benko Gambit, Leningrad Dutch, and probably a bunch more that aren’t coming to mind at the moment.

In its pure form, an early fianchetto attempts to control central squares. For example, White might play g3, Bg2, c4, Nc3, and d3 with plenty of influence on the central light squares, which may be augmented by pinning a knight on f6 with the c1-bishop, thus indirectly exerting influence. The queen might choose to hop out to b3 to pressure d5 and b7.

Often a kingside fianchetto is seen in more blocked-in positions, with the e-pawn advancing two squares. This may allow expansion with the f-pawn after castling on that wing. The e-pawn may advance, but even in cases when it does not it adds control to the central squares of the fianchettoed bishop’s color.

I read somewhere that the fianchetto creates a strong defensive castled position. To quote Hagrid, “Codswallop, in my opinion.” Although the triangular formation of the pawns does reduce diagonal threats to h7 or h2, it also puts the g-pawn one square further forward, more vulnerable to attack by an advancing h-pawn intending to open the h-file, weaken g3, or even advance further down the board. It requires a bishop to defend the weakened squares, so exchanges of that piece must be carefully considered and consequences weighed; the bishop itself can become a target for advancing pawns and fancier tactics. No, the kingside fianchetto is fundamentally an aggressive attacking formation.

The queenside fianchetto, though, is sometimes a defensive idea. In a Queen’s Indian, for example, b6 and Bb7 are usually essayed by Black to neutralize or exchange a white bishop on g2. If White continues without a countering kingside bishop development, the b7 prelate has some potential to become an attacking beast along the long diagonal.

Here are three example games showing: the power of the bishop (even if it doesn’t stay in the fianchetto); the positional risks of a counter-fianchetto; and some dangers facing a castled king along an open h-file. All three of these games are included in Michael Stean’s excellent book aimed at club-level players, *Simple Chess*.

**Mikhail Botvinnik –  
Gyorgy Szilagyi [A07]**  
Amsterdam, 1966  
[Ralph Dubisch]

**1.g3 d5 2.Nf3 c6**

Black is attempting to build an impenetrable wall against the fianchetto.

**3.Bg2 Bg4 4.d3 Nd7 5.h3 Bxf3**

5...Bh5 doesn’t save the bishop-pair, but may encourage White to compromise

pawn structure in order to exchange the knight for the bishop. 6.g4 Bg6 7.Nh4

**6.Bxf3 e5 7.Nd2 Ngf6 8.e4 dxe4 9.dxe4 Bc5 10.0-0 Qe7 11.c3 0-0 12.b4 Bb6 13.a4 Rfd8**

13...a5!

**14.Qc2 Rac8 15.Be2! c5?**

Black clearly underestimates the power of the outpost on d5 and the blockade square c4 created by this move.

**16.b5 Ne8**

16...c4 loses a pawn, of course, due to White’s foresight in playing 15.Be2. If not for that, however, this would be a great positional idea, taking away the blockade square and creating outposts on b3 and d3.

**17.Nc4 Nd6**

Black challenges the knight—usually the best piece to place on outpost squares such as d5—and plans to meet Ne3 with ...Nf6, protecting d5.



Position after 17...Nd6

**18.Bg5!!**

A sublime positional tactic.

**18...f6**

18...Nf6 19.Ne3; 18...Qxg5 19.Nxd6 Rb8 (19...c4!? 20.Kg2 Rc7 21.Rad1±) 20.Bc4+

**19.Be3 Nxc4 20.Bxc4+**

The bishop, originally developed to g2, takes over the light squares from c4.

20...Kh8 21.a5 Bc7 22.Rfd1 Nf8 23.Qa2!

By guarding a5 with the queen, White allows the a1-rook freedom to recapture on d1. Not to mention the added authority on the a2–g8 diagonal.

23...Rxd1+ 24.Rxd1 Rd8 25.Rxd8 Bxd8 26.a6 b6 27.Kg2 Qd7 28.Qe2 Ng6 29.Bb3 Ne7 30.Qc4 h6 31.Qf7 Kh7 32.Be4 Qd6 33.h4 Qd1 34.Qe8



Position after 34.Qe8

34...f5

A blunder, perhaps, but White's h5, Bf7, and Bg6+ was unstoppable.

35.exf5 Nxf5 36.Bg8+ Kh8 37.Bf7+ 1–0

Mikhail Botvinnik –  
Johannes H. Donner [A14]  
Amsterdam, 1963  
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Bg2 Be7 5.0–0 0–0 6.b3 b6 7.Bb2 Bb7 8.cxd5

8.e3

8...Nxd5 9.d4 c5

9...Nd7 is now preferred.

10.dxc5 Bxc5 11.Nbd2 Nd7 12.a3 N5f6?!

12...a5!?

13.b4 Be7 14.Nd4!



Position after 14.Nd4

Aiming for the c6–square. The exchange of bishops on the long diagonal helps to weaken c6.

14...Bxg2 15.Kxg2 Qc7 16.Qb3 Rfc8

Northwest Chess

17.Rfc1 Qb7+ 18.Qf3 Nd5!



Position after 18...Nd5

Exchanging queens makes the defense of c6 more difficult. 18...Qxf3+ 19.Kxf3±

19.e4 N5f6 20.b5

White finally establishes real outposts—for both players. White's are more advanced and accessed more quickly, so we can say White has the initiative.

20...a6?!

20...Ne5!?

21.Nc6! Bf8 22.a4 axb5 23.axb5 Rxa1 24.Rxa1 Ra8 25.Rd1 Ne8?! 26.Nc4 Nc5 27.e5!



Position after 27.e5

Another outpost, this one on d6, with a knight already threatening occupation.

27...Rc8 28.Ra1! Rc7

28...Ra8 29.Rxa8 Qxa8 30.Ne7+

29.Ra7 Qxa7 30.Nxa7 Rxa7 31.Nxb6

1–0

Pal Benko –  
Miguel Najdorf [E92]  
Los Angeles, 1963  
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 d6 4.Nc3 g6 5.e4 Bg7 6.Be2 0–0 7.Nf3 e5

7...e6 8.0–0 exd5 9.cxd5 reaches normal positions in the King's Indian and Modern Benoni.

8.Bg5 h6 9.Bh4 g5 10.Bg3 Nh5 11.h4 Nf4 12.hxg5 hxg5 13.Bf1 Bg4?!

[Diagram top of next column]

August 2021



Position after 13...Bg4

Black's plan to exchange the bishop on f3 would make sense in terms of securing the f4–outpost (notice all the outposts in these games?), but there's an important factor that the Argentinian Grandmaster appears to miss.

14.Qc2 Bxf3? 15.gxf3 Nd7 16.0–0–0!



Position after 16.0-0-0

And this is the point. The outposts on f4 and f5 are equally advanced, and Black has even occupied f4 with a knight already. However, the more important factor here is proximity to the king, and White's king has just left the building.

16...Re8 17.Bh3 Nxb3

Otherwise White builds up with Bf5, Rh2, Rdh1, Nd1, Ne3...

18.Rxh3 Nf8 19.Rdh1 Ng6 20.Nd1 Rc8 21.Ne3 Rc7 22.Nf5 Rf8 23.Qd1

23.Rh7 is also strong: 23...Bf6 (23...f6 24.Rxg7+ Rxg7 25.Nh6+) 24.Nh6+ Kxh7 25.Nxf7+

23...f6 24.f4 exf4 25.Qh5 Ne5 26.Qh7+

26.Qh7+ Kf7 27.Qxg7+ Ke8 28.Qxf8+ Kxf8 29.Rh8+ Kf7 30.Rxd8

1–0



Photo credits Ralph Dubisch.

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# The Heck With Covid

By Adam Porth

June 12, 2021 was the date that the Idaho Chess Association planned to hold four tournaments simultaneously in each region of the state to declare that over-the-board was back in business. Despite the plans, only one region was able to make it happen, the North. "The Heck with Covid Tournament" was held in the Coeur d'Alene City Park on a beautiful summer day with some incredible chess being played by 18 competitors that included players from Spokane, Kalispell, Moscow, Post Falls, Athol and Coeur d'Alene.

The tournament format was four rounds of G/45;d5 played under the canopy of a pavilion for two rounds and then under the blue sky for rounds three and four. The top-rated players to show up included Antonius Raelund (2002), Michael Cambareri (2015) and Kenneth Erickson (1852). There were many unrated and scholastic players in the multi-generational event.

Everyone felt they were rusty in the three dimensional format, but the games were rather good. They will be posted soon on the ICA website. Antonius



*Photo credit: Adam Porth.*

Raelund won first place with four wins, and Michael Cambareri, Kenneth Erickson, and Mr. Luke Zasadny won second place with 3.0 points. Mr. Luke came to the tournament unrated but ended with a provisional rating of 1610. One unrated player played two unrated games against Griffin Herr, who won, and Ryder

Pimental, who lost against Mr. Richard Sweney.

## Girls' State And Women's Championship

By Adam Porth

On April 10, twelve Idaho ladies battled in a tournament designed to select Idaho's top girl and woman chessplayer. This year, due to COVID restrictions, the tournament was held online and eight scholastic players and three women played in an open section so that five rounds could be played in the scholastic and older women's sections. Games were 30 minutes plus a five-second increment as many of ICA's tournaments. Sina Heineck handily won the 2021 Girl's Scholastic Championship with 4.5/5 points. She will additionally be nominated for the Ruth Haring National Tournament of Girls State Champions to be held in Cherry Hill, New Jersey over-the-board the weekend before the US Open in July. She will also be nominated for the Susan Polgar Tournament of Girls Invitational Championship, however, we have not heard about what the Polgar tournament will do this year. Dylan Porth, former Girls State Champion and representative also played and won the Women's State Champion title. Congratulations to all participants and we hope to see you at the next tournament.



*(L-R) Darwin Porth, Alistair Smith. Photo credit: Adam Porth.*

Hosted by Washington Chess Federation & Susan Polgar Foundation



# 16<sup>th</sup> Susan Polgar Foundation National Open for Girls & Boys



October 2-3, 2021

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

**Info:** [spfno.com](http://spfno.com) **Register:** [nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration](http://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration)

**Email:** [WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com](mailto:WashingtonChessFederation@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, and 2:30pm.

**Prizes include \$100,000 in Scholarships to [Webster University](http://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, 11:00am, 12:30pm, 2:00pm, 3:30pm.

**WA State Elementary Qualifier.**

**Fun Side Events:** Saturday 10/2: 11am-12pm – Parents & Coaches Seminar, 2-3pm – Girls Workshop, 5:30-8pm – Simul and Q&A. Sunday 10/3: 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 1 @ 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-SPOL> Cut-off date for discounted hotel reservations is 9/3/2021.

# Kayden Troff Simul

By Adam Porth

Pocatello, Idaho—June 26, 2021

Utah's only grandmaster, GM Kayden Troff, was invited by chess student Nobel Ang to Pocatello to provide the Idaho Chess Association with a 20-board simultaneous exhibition and a lecture. Though twenty chessplayers were encouraged to participate, Idaho was only able to field 17 players from Coeur d'Alene, Twin Falls, Boise, Idaho Falls, Pocatello, and other Idaho smaller communities. Idaho State University donated the quad-room to feature this unique and historic event; only two other grandmasters have touched an Idaho chess event in the past 30 years (GM Alex Yermolinsky and GM Timur Gareyev)!

The games started at 11:15 am and continued until approximately 3:30 when the last player, Nobel Ang, succumbed to GM Troff's skills and abilities. In fact, of the 17 participants, only one, Darren Su, was able to score a draw against Kayden. During the lecture, the Grandmaster revealed that he was not up for fighting back to regain the two pawns he was down and figured a draw was appropriate. An ecstatic Darren accepted. In the preceding boards, Nobel Ang, Desmond Porth, Andrea Chimenton, and Niall McKenzie were giving Kayden some grief and complex boards that stretched their abilities, however, Kayden was able to wear them down using his mantra/advice that was emphasized in his lecture, "give your opponent every opportunity to mess up while you provide pressure that doesn't wreck your position."

The day drew many spectators that were able to closely observe the games and also an alumni from 40 years ago that was an ISU Chess Club participant, Don Pitchford.

GM Troff's lecture involved many questions from interested participants and lasted another 1½ hours! He shared some advice after thinking about the games he witnessed: avoid playing passively and look for some way to improve your position while wrecking your opponent's. "If you give me enough time, I'm going to attack you." He continued and shared his favorite game between Karpov and Kasparov which demonstrated simple moves that apply pressure. Another game, Gligoric vs Padevsky, demonstrated how to recognize critical moves and squares where equal numbers of attackers and defenders exist.



*Kayden Troff. Photo credits Adam Porth.*

The day ended with a quick meal where stories were shared about starting chess and the other grandmasters that GM Troff had the pleasure to play such as Hikaru Nakamura, and Fabiano Caruana. Kayden learned how to play chess at age three, "which is hard to remember," he

said, and he began playing competitively at age six. He currently is focused on spreading his wealth of knowledge by coaching and is not thinking of playing any time soon. But we in Idaho know that he is truly a player—and a winner!

**Kayden Troff –  
Darren Su [D02]**

Kayden Troff Simul  
Pocatello, Idaho, June 26, 2021  
[Ralph Dubisch]

**1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Bf5 3.Bf4 e6 4.e3 c5  
5.Bxb8**

This looks very concrete, but the loss of castling privilege proves relatively unimportant to Black here. The main alternative is 5.Bb5+ Nc6 (5...Nd7 6.c4 Ngf6 (6...dxc4 7.Ne5 Ngf6 8.Bg5± looks like complications favoring White.) 7.Bxd7+ Qxd7 8.Ne5±) 6.c4 Bd6 (6...a6 7.Bxc6+ bxc6 8.Qa4±) 7.cxd5 exd5 8.Bxd6 Qxd6 9.dxc5 Qxc5 10.Nc3±

**5...Qxb8 6.Bb5+ Kd8 7.Ne5?!**

The one-move threat has no follow-up, and the knight will be driven back with loss of time. Or will it?

**7...Qc7! 8.c3 Bd6 9.0-0?**

9.Nf3.

**9...Bxe5 10.dxe5 Qxe5± 11.Nd2 a6  
12.Be2 Nf6 13.Bf3 Ne4?!**

13...Ke7±

**14.Bxe4 Bxe4 15.f4?!**

15.Nc4 Qc7 (15...Qg5 16.f3) 16.f3 Ke7  
17.fxe4 dxc4 18.Qf3 and things are less

than completely clear.

**15...Qf5 16.g4 Qg6 17.f5? Bxf5 18.Qa4  
Rc8 19.Kh1 Qxg4 20.Qxg4 Bxg4  
21.Rxf7 Rc7 22.Rf4 Bf5-+**

½-½

**Kayden Troff –  
Nobel Ang [A11]**

Kayden Troff Simul  
Pocatello, Idaho, June 26, 2021  
[Ralph Dubisch]

**1.c4 e6 2.b3 Nf6 3.Bb2 e6 4.g3 Be7  
5.Bg2 d5 6.e3 Nbd7 7.Ne2 0-0 8.0-0  
b6 9.d3 Bb7 10.Nd2 Rc8 11.e4 dxe4  
12.Nxe4 Nxe4 13.dxe4 Nc5 14.Qc2**

14.Nd4!?

**14...Qc7**

14...Qd3!?

**15.Nf4?!**

15.Qc3 f6 (15...Bf6 16.e5 Be7 17.Rad1±  
(17.Nd4!?) Qxe5?? (17...Nd7∞)  
18.Nxc6!+-)) 16.e5!± claiming space.

**15...e5 16.Qc3 f6 17.Ne2 Rfd8 18.Rad1  
Rxd1 19.Rxd1 Rd8 20.Rd2 Rxd2 21.  
Qxd2 Qd8 22.Qxd8+ Bxd8 23.Bc3 Be7  
24.Nc1 Ne6 25.Nd3 c5 26.f4 exf4 27.  
gxf4 Kf7 28.Kf2 a6 29.Ke3 Nc7 30.Bf3**

**g6 31.b4 cxb4 32.Bxb4 a5 33.Bc3 Ba6  
34.Bd4 Bxc4 35.Bxb6 Nb5 36.a4 Nd6?!**



Position after 36...Nd6

36...Nc3 is complete equality. Black probably feared 37.Kd4 (37.Nb2 Bb3; 37.Nc5 Bxc5+; 37.Bxa5 Nxa4) 37...Nxa4 38.Bxa5 (38.Kxc4 Nxb6+ 39.Kb5 Nd7) 38...Bxd3

**37.Kd4 Bb3 38.Nb2 Nc8?**

38...f5! 39.e5 Ne4 40.Bxe4 fxe4 41.Bxa5 Ba3 42.Nc4 Bc1± offers more opportunities for confusion.

**39.Bxa5 Ba3 40.Kc3 Bxb2+ 41.Kxb3  
Bc1 42.Bc7 Ke7 43.a5 Kd7 44.Bb8 Nd6  
45.a6 Nb5 46.Be2 Nd4+ 47.Ka4 Nc6  
48.Bb5 Kc8 49.Bd6 Nd8 50.Bc4 Be3  
51.Kb5 Kd7 52.Bc5**

1-0

## 2021 Norman Friedman Memorial Tournament (FIDE Event!)



Date: Friday – Sunday, Oct. 8 – 10, 2021

Round Times: Friday, 7:00 pm, Saturday 9:00 am, 2:00 pm, Sunday 9:00 am, 2:00 pm

Location: Riverside Hotel, 2900 W Chinden Blvd, Garden City, Idaho 83714

Format: 5SS G/90; +30

Sections: Open Section

Registration fee: \$60/non-members, \$50/ICA members, \$40/scholastic.

Requirements: US Chess membership, chess equipment provided but feel free to bring your own.

Prizes: Guaranteed prizes! 1st place (\$300), 2nd place (\$200), 3rd place (\$100). Class prizes: 1st place (\$50) for each Class B, C, D, E, UNR. 1st - 3rd place scholastic player trophies.

Other Info: Mention chess if staying at hotel; (208) 343-1871.

Side Event: Blitz, Saturday, Oct. 9, 7:00 pm, 7 SS, G/5;+3, \$10 for ICA Members, \$15 for non-members, prizes: \$75/1st place, \$50/2nd place, \$25/3rd place. Payment on site only.

**THIS IS A FIDE and US CHESS RATED EVENT — US CHESS MEMBERSHIP IS REQUIRED**

Sponsored by the Idaho Chess Association

Details or questions: Adam (208) 450-9048 or [idahochessassociation@gmail.com](mailto:idahochessassociation@gmail.com)

# Chronicle of a Loss Foretold: Review of GM Kayden Troff Simul

Nobel Ang

On Saturday June 26th, 17 players from across Idaho gathered at the Pond Student Union on the Idaho State University campus in Pocatello to play a simul with GM Kayden Troff, Utah's only grandmaster. According to Idaho chess veterans like ICA President Adam Porth, this simul is a historic event: Troff is only the third GM to have stepped onto Idaho soil in the last 30 years, the other two being GM Alex Yermolinsky and GM Timur Gareyev. Why is this? I don't know: Maybe soil that is good for growing potatoes is not so good for GMs to step on.

Since this event is so historic, let's delve a little into how it all came about. I believe that when all is said and done, this event actually owes its existence to... Indian food! Let me explain: Over the Memorial Day weekend, I ate a little too much Indian food, which messed with my digestive system. In my digestive-distress-induced state of delirium, it suddenly occurred to me that a really good and hard game of chess would help with my digestion. The strongest player that I personally knew was GM Troff, from whom I had been taking lessons on and off for the last year-and-a-half (now you know how I spent my stimulus checks). Since I am nowhere close to getting any GM norms in this lifetime, the only way to play a game with him would be in a simul. And voila! The idea of a simul in Pocatello was thus born out of my stomach troubles. I had totally no idea that I (or my stomach) was actually making history at that time. I proceeded to contact Kayden, who told me his conditions (available dates, appearance fee etc.) for the simul. Having zero experience with organizing such an event, I then got in touch with somebody who does have such experience (Adam Porth). One thing led to another, and thanks to Adam's leadership ability and organizational skills, we were able to put the event together in less than three weeks. Isn't it strange how history gets made? For thirty years, we've had a dearth of GMs in Idaho. And then somebody gets stomach trouble and ends

up bringing a GM here. Moral of the story: Chessplayers should have stomach troubles more often.

But I digress. Let's get back to the event itself. As I was saying, the simul took place at the Pond Student Union at ISU. After some welcoming remarks by Adam and some encouraging words from GM Troff himself ("I never intentionally go easy on anybody in a simul"), the games started at around 11:30 a.m. and lasted until almost 3:30 p.m., when the last surviving player (me) finally resigned after blundering away his dark-squared bishop in an already losing endgame. (Here's a side-question for future investigation: Are players more likely to blunder when they are on the last board still playing, and there are a bunch of spectators watching their game?) At the end of the day, Kayden defeated 16 of

the 17 players present. Darren Su of Twin Falls was the only player who managed a draw. I was actually playing the board next to Darren's, and saw first-hand how Darren, being two pawns up, offered Kayden a draw. Kayden thought for a couple of moments, and then accepted. Makes me wonder how things would have turned out if Darren had chosen to soldier on and play for a win instead... All in all, this has been a most enjoyable and successful simul, and I'm confident that all those who were present would share my sentiments here. Besides having the distinction of being the last person to lose to GM Troff that day (shouldn't they give out prizes to the last losers at simul's?), I also gleaned a couple of valuable chess insights from participating in this event.

"Always give your opponent every opportunity to mess up, by putting



*(L) Nobel Ang checks out Darren Su game.  
Photo credit: Adam Porth.*

pressure on his position in a way that doesn't compromise or weaken your position."

Besides emphasizing this mantra at several different points during the post-simul lecture, Kayden also put this into practice in his own games during the simul itself. I can't speak for other players, but my game with him was pretty much equal for most of the game. By consistently applying pressure on my position, however, he was eventually able to get me to slip up during the endgame, which allowed him to obtain a protected outside passed pawn. The rest, as they say, is history.

"That which is true, good, and correct is sometimes ugly."

I think it was Plato who said that it is beauty that leads to truth and goodness. Plato obviously didn't play chess. If he did, he would have recognized that sometimes we can only arrive at the good and the true by way of the ugly. As so many chess-players know, very often the correct move in a game is one that is totally ugly. I was reminded of this during my game with Kayden. Consider my position after I played 16...f6:



Steinitz is probably turning in his grave right now. I had to play 16...f6 in order to shut down his Kingside attack involving his queen-bishop battery and his knight on f4. As a result, I had pawns on g7, f6, and e5, turning my dark-square bishop into a tall pawn on e7. Very ugly position, I'm sure you would agree.

Unlike Plato, however, the chess gods do not always favor the beautiful. When I ran this position through Stockfish, the score was actually -0.55, slightly favoring Black! In the actual game, I went on to successfully fend off his attack and trade down into a very playable minor pieces endgame. I then went on to misplay the endgame, as I mentioned above. But that's another story. The point here is that, in order to grow and progress in chess, one has to let go of and unlearn preconceived notions of beauty. In chess, as in life, the truth is often ugly.

When I first started playing chess tournaments a few years ago, I totally disliked the idea of playing in a simul. The whole idea of publicly playing somebody against whom I have no practical chance of winning and making an exhibition of myself in the process just seems... silly. Why would I (or anybody else) want to publicly embarrass myself in this way? But perhaps as a result of my growth as

a chessplayer, I am now able to see that the whole point of playing in a simul is not to win. Even if the conclusion of the game is a foregone one, a simul is the only opportunity most of us amateurs would have to play a GM, and is therefore a valuable learning experience... then again, one might also get lucky and get a draw, right? 😊

US CHESS			888.512.4377 (CHESS)		OFFICIAL SCORE SHEET
www.USCFSales.com					
EVENT				DATE	
ROUND				OPENING	
WHITE		BLACK		PAIRING NO.	
WHITE		BLACK		WHITE	
BLACK		WHITE		BLACK	
1	c4	c6	31	b4	cxb4
2	b3	Nf6	32	Bxb4	a5
3	Bb2	e6	33	Bc3	Ba6
4	g3	Be7	34	Bd4	Bxc4
5	Bg2	d5	35	Bxb6	Nf5
6	e3	Nbd7	36	a4	Nh6
7	Ne2	0-0	37	Kd4	Bb3
8	0-0	c6	38	Nb2	Nc8
9	d3	Bb7	39	Bxa5	Ba3
10	Nd2	Rc8	40	Kc3	Bxb2+
11	e4	axe4	41	Kxb3	Bc2
12	Nxe4	Nxe4	42	Bc7	Ke7
13	axe4	Nc5	43	a5	Kd7
14	Qc2	Qc7	44	Bb8	Nd6
15	Nf4	e5	45	a6	Nd5
16	Qc3	f6	46	Be2	Nd4
17	Ne2	Rfd8	47	Kf4	Nc6
18	Rad1	Rxd2	48	Bb5	Kc8
19	Rxd2	Rxd8	49	Bd6	Nd5
20	Rd2	Rxd2	50	Bc4	Be3
21	Qxd2	Qd8	51	Kb5	Kd7
22	Qxd4	Bxd8	52	B	
23	Bc3	Be7	53		
24	Nc1	Ne6	54		
25	Nd3	c5	55		
26	f4	exf4	56		
27	gxP4	Kf7	57		
28	JkP2	ab	58		
29	Ke3	Nc7	59		
30	RA3	g6	60		
CIRCLE CORRECT RESULT:			WHITE WON		DRAW
SIGNATURE			SIGNATURE		

# Oregon Senior Open (over-the-board at last!)

Mike Morris

The Oregon Senior Open was held June 11-13 as an over-the-board event—the first at Portland Chess Club in 15 months! An enthusiastic group of 29 seniors got a first chance to brush off the dust and resume in-person play.

Wilson Gibbins successfully defended his title but had to share it with Lennart Bjorksten. Both had 4.5/5 but Wilson's tiebreaks qualified him as the Oregon representative to the National Senior Tournament of Champions. Other prize winners were Anthony Gross (U2000), William Dwyer (U1800) and Ken Harry, Cameron DeYoung and Henry Louie (U1600 & U1400). Cameron was quite pleased to do so well in his first rated tournament.

**Wilson Gibbins (2221) –  
James Nelson (1678) [E09]**

Senior Open  
Portland, OR (R1), June 11, 2021  
[Wilson Gibbins]

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.g3 c6 4.d4 d5 5.Qc2  
Be7 6.Bg2 Nbd7 7.0-0 0-0 8.Nbd2 b6  
9.e4 dxe4 10.Nxe4



Position after 10.Nxe4

The repertoire books love this position for White, but I generally struggle to get anything going in this position.

10...Bb7 11.Rd1 Nxe4 12.Qxe4 Nf6  
13.Qc2 h6 14.Bf4 Nh5 15.Be3 Rc8  
16.Ne5 Nf6 17.Qe2

17.Rab1

17...Qc7 18.Bf4 Bd6 19.c5!?

A standard idea in these positions. White is trying to keep Black's bishop on b7

passive, but has to give up the d5 square to Black's knight.

19...Bxe5 20.Bxe5 Qd8 21.h4



Position after 21.h4

I followed Bent Larsen's advice "When in doubt, push a rook's pawn." But I guessed the wrong rook pawn. 21.a4 is a little better.

21...Nd7 22.b4 Nf6 23.a3

Bent's advice still works, the best plan was 23.a4 Nd5 24.a5 Nxb4? (24...bxa5 25.bxa5 Nc3 26.Qg4 f6 27.Bd6) 25.axb6 axb6 26.Ra7 Qd7 27.Rb1 Nd5 28.Bxd5 exd5 29.Rxb6.

23...Nd5 24.Rac1 Qd7 25.Bd6 Rfe8  
26.Be4 f5 27.Bf3 Qf7 28.Re1

I should spend some time weakening Black's kingside position with 28.Bh5 g6 29.Bf3.

28...b5 29.Qd2 Ra8 30.Re5

I later regretted putting the rook on this square, as it would have been nice to retreat the bishop to e5 on move 34. But the engines don't mind.

30...Kh7 31.Rce1 Bc8 32.Bxd5!?

Good, but committal. Unfortunately, I have a bad follow-up in mind.

32...cxd5 33.c6?!

I thought I was tying down Black's bishop and perhaps getting a pawn to c7. Instead, I am dropping the c-pawn because I am undefending my bishop on d6, and it doesn't have good retreat squares. 33.Qc2; 33.g4!?

33...Rd8! 34.Bc5 Re8?

34...Qc7! 35.g4 and White is attacking, but Black has a pawn as compensation for his defensive challenges.

35.Qe2 Rb8



Position after 35...Rb8

36.Rc1?!

These are just the kind of shaky moves old folks make during the Friday night round of Senior tournaments. 36.Rxd5!

36...Qc7 37.Rxf5 Qxc6 38.Rf7 Rb7  
39.Rxb7

I am lucky to still have an edge after all my questionable play. 39.Rf4 keeps more pieces on the board, and more chance of an attack.

39...Qxb7?

Black's queen on c6 was pinning White's bishop on c5. This kept White's Bishop from reaching e5 and White's rook from invading on the c-file. 39...Bxb7 is still better for White, but not nearly as much.

40.Bd6!



Position after 40.Bd6

This allows White's bishop to get to the e5 square and the rook access to the c-file.

#### 40...Qb6?

Stockfish likes 40...Qf7 so Black's queen can defend the king, even if it drops the pawn on b5; Leela prefers sacrificing a pawn with 40...e5 which might be the best practical move, trying to make me suffer on the white squares as much as he is on the black squares. But if White plays the accurate moves 41.Rc7 Qb6 42.Qc2+ e4 43.Be5 Black still has problems, though if I were playing Black I would still be hoping for some sort of accident based on White's weak squares around his king and a fast moving passed d-pawn. 43...Rxe5 44.dxe5.

#### 41.Be5!

No more sacrifices on e5.

#### 41...Bd7

Giving up a pawn with 41...Qd8 42.Qxb5

#### 42.Qd3+ Kg8 43.Rc7

43.Qg6 Re7 44.Rc7 Be8 45.Rc8 is also strong.

#### 43...Re7 44.Qc3

44.Qg6

#### 44...Rf7 45.f4

Since Black has no counterplay, White can advance his kingside pawns without worry. 45.g4 is probably more accurate.

#### 45...Be8 46.Rc8 Rf8 47.g4 Bd7 48.Rc7 Rf7 49.g5

49.h5

#### 49...hgx5 50.hgx5 Be8 51.Rc8 Rf8 52.Qh3 Bd7 53.Rc7 Rf7 54.g6

1-0

**Bill Heywood (2000) –**

**Wilson Gibbins (2221) [B22]**

Oregon Senior Open  
Portland, OR (R4), June 13, 2021  
[Wilson Gibbins]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.c3 Nf6 4.e5 Nd5 5.d4 cxd4 6.cxd4 d6 7.Nc3 Nxc3 8.bxc3 Qc7 9.Bd2 Nd7 10.exd6 Bxd6 11.Bd3 0-0

11...b6

12.0-0

12.Qe2 b6 13.Qe4 Nf6 14.Qxa8 Bb7 15.Qxa7 Ra8 16.Qxa8+ Bxa8

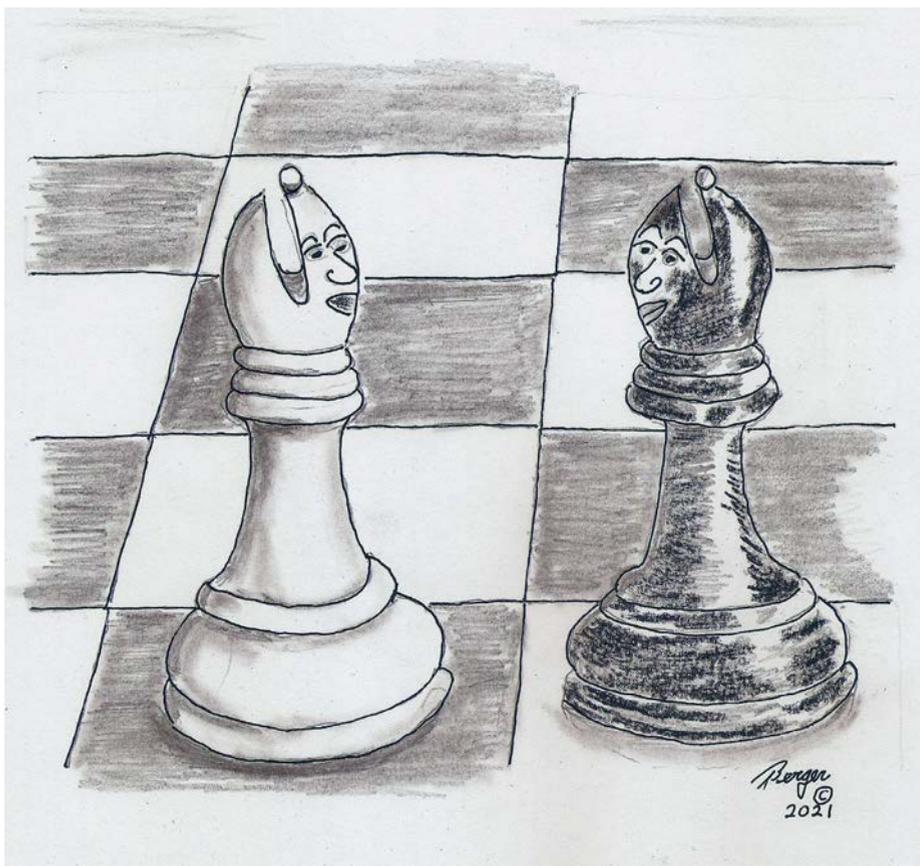
12...b6 13.Qe2

13.Re1

13...Bb7 14.h3 Bf4 15.Be3 Rac8

15...Bxe3 16.fxe3 Qxc3 17.Rac1 Qa3 18.Ng5

16.e4 Nf6



## DO YOU EVER GET THE FEELING YOU'RE BEING MANIPULATED?

16...Rfe8

17.Rac1 Rfd8 18.Rfd1 Qb8 19.Nd2 h6 20.Nf1 Re8 21.Qd2 Bxe3 22.fxe3 e5 23.Qf2 Be4 24.Ng3 exd4 25.exd4 Qd6 26.Nf5 Bxf5 27.Bxf5 Re7 28.Bc2 Rce7 29.c5 bxc5

29...Qc7

30.dxc5 Qc7 31.Rd2 Re5 32.Bf5 Nd5 33.g3?



Position after 33.g3

33...g6?

33...Rxf5 34.Qxf5 Qxg3+ 35.Kh1 Re1+ 36.Rxe1 Qxe1+ 37.Kh2 Qxd2+

34.Bb1 h5

34...Re3 35.Rd3 (35.Rxd5 Rxg3+ 36.Kh1 Rxh3+ 37.Kg1 Ree3)

35.Red1 Nc3 36.Rd7 Qxc5 37.Qxc5 Rxc5 38.Rf1 Nxb1 39.Rxf7 Re2 40.Kf1 Re6

40...Rce5

41.Rg7+ Kf8 42.Rdf7+ Ke8 43.Rxa7 Rf5+? =

43...Nd2+ 44.Kg2 (44.Kf2 Rf5+) 44...Re2+

44.Kg1 Re1+ 45.Kg2 Re2+ 46.Kg1 Re1+

1/2-1/2



# Mainly Chess, Music, And Love

Carol Kleist, Assisted by Fred Kleist

Note: Revised Puzzle to correct some slight errors in the July print issue version.

The solution will appear next month in the September 2021 issue; solving contest extended to August 18, 2021.

In accordance with Dr. Siegbert Tarrasch, whose famous quote tells us that "Chess, like music, like love, has the power to make men happy."

User Friendlier (easier)

## Across

1. No chess tmnts. reserved for this kind, but if females keep getting better?
5. Do this to 'em and win 'em
8. Coming through the \_\_\_\_
11. Adeste fidelis, let us \_\_\_\_ Him
13. Acknowledging your debt
14. No notes? Play it by \_\_\_\_?
15. Term in philosophy and religion
16. Orchestra quiets, soloist shows his technique
18. For travel safety
20. In music, the tonic chord will bring you home in order to \_\_\_\_ the piece.
21. You'll make them in over the board chess.
25. In a Swiss Sys, Rd 1, you could play a beginner or a \_\_\_\_ Abbr.
27. Hic, \_\_\_\_, hoc; basic Latin practice
28. Ars as in ars longa, vita breva, only English

29. Yasser's wife with apology for Abbr.
31. With a circumflex we have the French soul
32. Neither's companion
33. Female activist associated with a Beatle
34. \_\_\_\_ me your ears
36. Helps solve crime
37. Silent
38. What you owe compared to what you earn
39. Size of our most important star
41. How many \_\_\_\_ are in the tmnt.?
43. Works for Dithers Abbr.
44. What Marie Antoinette said instead of cake?
48. Little fairy tale character
52. Top card for card games
53. E-mail Company
54. North territory
55. Possesses
56. Takes \_\_\_\_ to tango
57. Not crazy

9. Friendliest great GM in chess, Seattle sometime home, abbr.
10. Large unit of time
12. To exist, to be (Latin)
17. The wish for what another has
19. Only Kasparov can match this player's number of World Championships
21. Capablanca, \_\_\_\_ for his endgame
22. If your tmnt. has this, you get a second or third chance
23. UAV: Drone in Turkish
24. Strip along the beach
26. Good for camping and the circus
27. Active in US Chess, has held many tmnts in Eastern area
30. \_\_\_\_ the mark!
35. Queen of Carthage, self immolation when her lover, Aeneas, leaves her to fulfill his destiny as true founder of Rome
37. Great player with this great given name
40. Hungarian village in Eastern section of country
42. Rude language to the cat
44. \_\_\_\_ Humbug!

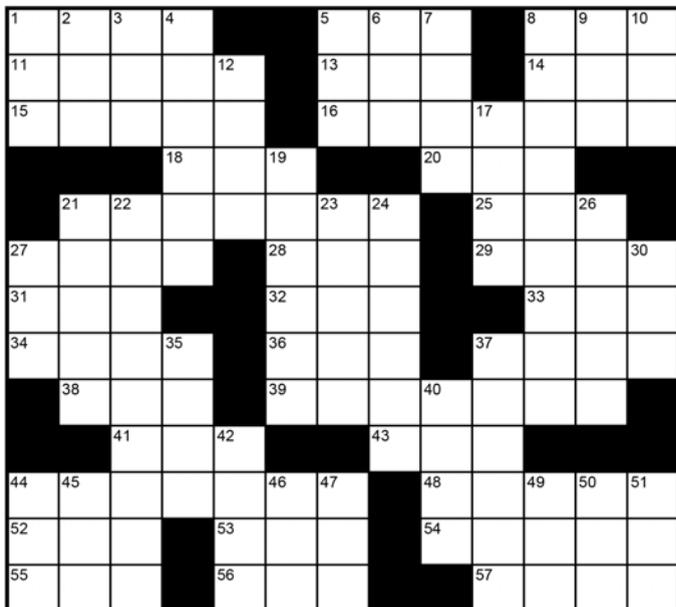
## Down

1. Prefix indicating bad
2. Without further \_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_ into your account
4. Sapho, ancient female Greek poet, wrote this kind of poetry
5. Photo or other, for example, abbr.
6. \_\_\_\_ debt, unspecified
7. Descending the staircase by Duchamp
8. Tristan and Isolde, under a spell, hold this
9. Big makers and marketers of recordings in 20th century
46. \_\_\_\_ now, Brown Cow?
47. Foreign chess rating system
49. Agrees, but with unusual spelling
50. 1st weekday of the week, abbr.
51. Easterly wind, but more specifically, abbr.

## Prize For Solving

Every solver will receive one \$5 discount on the entry fee to any over-the-board Seattle Chess Club tournament. Solutions must be received by August 18, 2021.

Send solutions to kleistcf@aol.com, drop off at the SCC, or mail to Carol Kleist, 2420 S 137 St, Seattle WA 98168.



# Seattle Chess Club Tournaments

## Address

7212 Woodlawn Ave NE  
Seattle WA 98115

## Info

[www.seattlechess.club](http://www.seattlechess.club)

[kleistcf@aol.com](mailto:kleistcf@aol.com)

## Addresses for Entries

SCC Tnmt Dir  
2420 S 137 St  
Seattle WA 98168

---or---

[www.seattlechess.club](http://www.seattlechess.club)

The Seattle Chess Club is up and running!! The SCC is temporarily subletting at the Orlov Chess Academy at Green Lake. **Thanks, Georgi!!!** Thus far, the SCC has been open for four Mondays, our new day for casual chess, and three Fridays (rated play). Average attendance for both days has been about eighteen (The site can comfortably accommodate about twenty, which is why advance sign-ups are required.).

The SCC is now ready to resume weekend events. By the time you read this, the first Saturday Quads of 2021 should have taken place.

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

## SCC Fridays

One US Chess-rated round per night (free to SCC members, \$5 per night for others) played at a rate of 40/90 followed by 30/60. Drop in for any round!

**Dog Days:** 7/23, 30; 8/6, 13, 20

**Close Ratings I:** 8/27; 9/3, 10, 17, 24.

**SCC Champ.:** 9/10, 17; 10/1, 8, 22, 29; 11/12.

**Autumn Leaves:** 10/1, 8, 15, 22, 29.

**Close Ratings II:** 11/5, 12, 19.

**Closed (Go to WA Class!):** 11/26.

**Package Express (G/50, inc.10):** 12/3, 10, 17.

## August 14

**Format:** 3-RR, 4-plyr sec. by rtg. **TC:** G/120;d5. **EF:** \$10(+\$8 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; OSA. NS, NC.

## Saturday Quads

## August 22

**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; OSA. NS, NC.

## Sunday Tornado

We

intend to hold

the Seattle Fall Open on the weekend of September 24-26. However, a larger site must be found. Check our website or next month's *NWC* for more info.

## SCC Championship

Sept. 10, 17; Oct. 1, 8, 15, 29; Nov. 12

**Format:** 7-rd Swiss held on Friday evenings. **TC:** 35/100 and 25/60. **EF:** \$32 if rec'd by 9/5, \$45 thereafter. SCC memb. req'd—\$30 special tnmt memb. **Prize fund:** 75% of EFs. **Prizes:** 23%-16%, U2000 9%, U1800 8%, U1600 7%, U1400 6%, Unrated 3%, Endurance 3%. **Reg:** Fri. 7-7:45 p.m. **Rds:** Fridays 8 p.m. **Make-up Games for Rds 1-4:** G/75;d5 make-ups may be scheduled for any Monday 9/20 through 10/11. **Byes:** 4 (1 in rds 5-7, commit by 10/11). **Misc:** SCC/US Chess memb. req'd. NS. NC.

# The 2021 Russell “Rusty” Miller Memorial Northwest Grand Prix

Murlin Varner, Adding Machine

Well, the novelty may have worn off for online chess. The Rusty Miller Memorial Open was the only Grand Prix event on our calendar for June, and it drew all of seven entrants. Now, among those seven entrants were three of the top four in the Washington side of the Grand Prix, and two of the top five among the “others”. Little change in the standings resulted, as all five were in the top of their classes, with four firsts and a second. (The other two players were participating in their first GP event of the year. Welcome, welcome, be sure to come again.)

The Northwest Chess calendar shows three more Grand Prix events at the time of this writing. These include the Vancouver Open on the last full weekend of July (OTB, currently limited to 30 players), the Seattle Seafair Open the following weekend (currently scheduled to be online at Chess.com, the Seattle Chess Club being basically homeless right now), and the 5th Annual Seattle Chess Classic (also online at Chess.com, at least for now). No events past August are shown on the website, but I have it on good authority that the Washington Chess Federation is planning at least four more GP events between Labor Day and the end of the year. The Spokane Chess Club is also planning one or two but are still waiting on final confirmation from Gonzaga University, their site host. Anyone else?

I imagine the Oregon Chess Federation is still planning on having their traditional Labor Day weekend Oregon Open, but nothing has been advertised with Northwest Chess at this time. Idaho has advertised their first OTB event of the post-pandemic era (it is not really over, inasmuch as many people are choosing to risk the Delta variant over getting a little shot or two, but we are all acting as if it is), the Norman Friedman Memorial in Garden City, Idaho, a suburb of Boise (October 8-10). As neither state is participating in the Grand Prix this year, neither event is really a concern for this page, but we still like to see and promote an active chess community.

Anyway, be sure to get out there and play, or, as has been the case for many months, stay home and play. And if you are a chessplayer in the Olympia area, please let me know what kind of chess activity goes on there, as I am planning to move to Tumwater in August. (If there isn't any, I may just have to start something.)

Data to the right is current through July 1.

## Errata

The July 2021 printed version of the issue used the wrong table on page 31. The online version corrected this and used the correct table.

Since the table is cumulative, what you see to the right should be sufficient to go forward.

—Jeffrey Roland, Editor.

Washington			Other Places					
last	first	pts.	last	first	state	pts.		
<b>Masters</b>			<b>Masters</b>					
1	Perez	Ignacio	41.5	1	Mitrabha	Guha	IND	76.5
2	Porter	Ryan	26.0	2	Lenderman	Aleksandr	NY	51.0
				3	Talukdar	Rohan	CAN	44.0
				4	Shahinyan	David	ARM	30.5
				5	Bernadskiy	Vitaliy	UKR	23.0
<b>Experts</b>			<b>Experts</b>					
1	Vijayakumar	Advait	32.0	1	Jorajuria Me	Algol	MEX	22.0
2	Levine	Joseph	31.0	2	Guha	Eshan	NJ	11.0
3	Whale	Nicholas	20.0					
4	Shubin	Daniel	10.0					
5	Deshpande	Aaryan	4.0					
<b>Class A</b>			<b>Class A</b>					
1	Razmov	Valentin N	32.0	1	Vega	Isaac	OR	30.0
2	Bell	Harry	31.0	2	Murray	David E	OR	18.0
3	Ackerman	Ryan	24.0	3	Yin	Benjamin	MA	3.0
4	Chang	Eddie	22.0					
4	Van Weerdhuiz	Lane	22.0					
<b>Class B</b>			<b>Class B</b>					
1	Nicoski	Aaron M	49.0	1	Ingram	Richard	CAN	38.0
2	Vemparala	Nikash	26.0	2				
2	Szeto	Sophie	22.0	3				
4	Lu	Yiding	21.0	4				
5		Three Tied at	18.0	5				
<b>Class C</b>			<b>Class C</b>					
1	Cheng	Edward	53.0	1	Vasey	Daniel	OR	25.0
2	Zhu	Jamie Z	28.0	2	Wei	Brian	OR	13.0
3	Devadithya	Lavindu	25.0	3	Kypriotakis	Kyriakos	OR	11.0
4	Cordero	Rowland	24.0	4	He	Justin S	TX	8.0
5	Liotta	Nicholas J	22.5	5	Metzmaker	Robert D, Jr.	IL	4.5
<b>Class D and below</b>			<b>Class D and below</b>					
1	Cheng	Selina	54.5	1	Hack	Don	CAN	35.0
2	Ruff	Lois A	49.5	2	Kulkarni	Ojas	CA	24.0
2	Kamel	Yaseen	36.0	3	Krzykawski	Tomasz	OR	20.0
4	Razmov	Gabriel	35.0	4	Winter	Gordon	CA	4.0
5	Devadithya	Hiruna	32.0	5	Guan	Marie	CAN	2.0
<b>Overall standings</b>								
1	Cheng	Selina	54.5	1	Mitrabha	Guha	IND	76.5
2	Cheng	Edward	53.0	2	Lenderman	Aleksandr	NY	51.0
3	Ruff	Lois A	49.5	3	Talukdar	Rohan	CAN	44.0
4	Nicoski	Aaron M	49.0	4	Ingram	Richard	CAN	38.0
5	Perez	Ignacio	41.5	5	Hack	Don	CAN	35.0
6	Kamel	Yaseen	36.0	6	Shahinyan	David	ARM	30.5
7	Razmov	Gabriel	35.0	7	Vega	Isaac	OR	30.0
8	Vijayakumar	Advait	32.0	8	Vasey	Daniel	OR	25.0
8	Razmov	Valentin N	32.0	9	Kulkarni	Ojas	CA	24.0
8	Devadithya	Hiruna	32.0	10	Bernadskiy	Vitaliy	UKR	23.0
11	Levine	Joseph	31.0	11	Sharikov	Alexander	RUS	22.0
11	Bell	Harry	31.0	11	Jorajuria Me	Algol	MEX	22.0
11	Ejsing	Simon K	31.0	13	Krzykawski	Tomasz	OR	20.0
14	Zhu	Jamie Z	28.0	14	Murray	David E	OR	18.0
14	Karthikeyan	Harishkumar	28.0	15	Wei	Brian	OR	13.0
14	Suess	Wade	28.0					

# 38th Annual Sands Regency RENO - WESTERN STATES OPEN

## Oct 15-17 or Oct 16-17, 2021, 3 Day or 2 Day Schedule

US Chess  
150 GPP (Enhanced)

**\$27,500!!** (b/275)

**\$17,000!!** (Guaranteed)

F.I.D.E. Rated  
OPEN Section

6 Round Swiss ♦ 6 Sections ♦ 40/2 - G/55 min - d5 ♦ 2 Day (Rds 1-3) G/1 - d5 ♦ Rooms: \$65.30 / \$117.51

**Open Section (2200 & above) EF: \$179, (2000-2199) \$250, (1999/below) \$300; GMs and IMs free but must enter by 9/18 or pay late fee at door. Guaranteed (Prizes 1-7 in Open Section plus 1/2 of all other prizes).**

\$2,000 - 1,000 - 900 - 800 - 700 - 600 - 500, (2399/below) \$1,000 - \$500, (2299/below) \$1,000 - \$500 (If there is a tie for 1st then a playoff for \$100 out of prize fund plus trophy).

<b>Section Expert</b>	(2000-2199)	EF: \$179 (2-day EF: \$175)	\$2,000-1,000-500-300-300
<b>Section "A"</b>	(1800-1999)	EF: \$178 (2-day EF: \$175)	\$1,800-900-500-300-300
<b>Section "B"</b>	(1600-1799)	EF: \$177 (2-day EF: \$175)	\$1,700-800-400-300-300
<b>Section "C"</b>	(1400-1599)	EF: \$176 (2-day EF: \$175)	\$1,500-700-400-300-300
<b>Section "D/Under"</b>	(1399-below)	EF: \$165 (2-day EF: \$175)	\$1,000-500-300-200, (1199/below) \$300

**Top Senior (65+) - \$200; Club Championship - \$600 - 300.**

**Wednesday 10/13: 7:00 pm - GM Sergey Kudrin - Clock Simul w/ complete analysis of YOUR Game (Only \$30!)**

**Thursday 10/14: 6 - 7:15 pm - Lecture by IM John Donaldson (FREE)**

**7:30 pm - GM Enrico Sevillano Simul (\$20); Blitz (G/5 d0) Tourney \$25 - 80% of entries = Prize Fund**

**Saturday 10/16: 3 - 4:30 pm - FREE Game/Position Analysis - IM John Donaldson**



**Registration: Thursday (10/14) 5 - 8 pm. - Friday (10/15) 9 - 10 am. - Saturday (10/16) 9 - 10 am.**

**Round Times: (3-day Schedule) Friday - 12 Noon - 7 pm; Saturday - 10 am - 6 pm; Sunday - 9:30 am - 4:30 pm**

**2-day Schedule: Sat.- Rd 1 - 10:30 am, Rd 2 - 12:45 pm, Rd 3 - 3:00 pm, Rd 4 merge with regular schedule - 6:00 pm**

**For more information: Call, Write or E-mail Organizer and Chief TD, N.T.D. Jerome (Jerry) Weikel,**

**(H) 775-747-1405 OR (Cell) 775-354-8728 • 6578 Valley Wood Dr., Reno, NV 89523 • wackykl@aol.com**

**Room Reservations: Call the Sands Regency - 1-866-FUN-STAY • Reserve by 10/1 for Chess Rate, code: CHESS2021**

**For TLA and to confirm receipt of entry see player list at: [www.renochess.org](http://www.renochess.org)**

### ENTRY FORM - 38th Annual Western States Open - Reno, Nevada - October 15-17 OR October 16-17, 2021

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

PRINT Name \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_ USCF/FIDE Rating \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

USCF ID# \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ All pre-registered players please check in at TD desk on arrival.

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

----- OPEN SECTION -----      EXPERT    "A"      "B"      "C"      "D/Under"    UNRATED

GM/IM Masters 2000-2199    1999-Below      2000-2199    1800-1999    1600-1799    1400-1599    1399-Below    Free With

<b>3-Day EF</b>	Free	\$179	\$250	\$300	\$179	\$178	\$177	\$176	\$165	USCF Dues
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<b>2-Day EF</b>	\$175	\$175	\$175	\$175	\$175	USCF Dues
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**FEES ALSO ENCLOSED FOR:**

- Hotel Deposit \$65.30\* (Sun-Thu)
- Hotel Deposit \$117.51\* (Fri & Sat)
- \$30 Wed. Clock Simul GM Kudrin
- \$20 Thu Simul GM Sevillano
- \$25 Thursday Blitz (G/5 d0)
- \$20 Discount - Sr 65+ Age \_\_\_\_\_

**HOTEL INFORMATION:**

- No Room Needed
- Made By Phone
- Please Make Me a Reservation\*
- Arrival Date \_\_\_\_\_
- Departure Date \_\_\_\_\_
- One Bed     Two Beds     S     NS

**POSTMARK BY September 18, 2021**

Add \$11 after 9/18. Do not mail after 10/8. \$22 on site. Make check / m.o. payable to THE SANDS REGENCY or provide credit card info and signature. \$5 service charge on credit card entries.

Visa     Master Card     Am.Ex  
Credit Card# \_\_\_\_\_  
Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Check Enclosed

Charge My Card

**TOTAL FEES:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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