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March 5 for the April issue; April 5 for May.

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**Judged Best Magazine/Newsletter for 2009 and
2014-2023 by Chess Journalists of America!**

Front Cover

NM Kyle Haining, co-winner of the
Washington Class Championships (Master section).
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

Back Cover

Seattle Chess Club President John Selsky playing in the
Adult Swiss event at the
Washington Class Championships.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

Submissions

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

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From The Editor's Desk



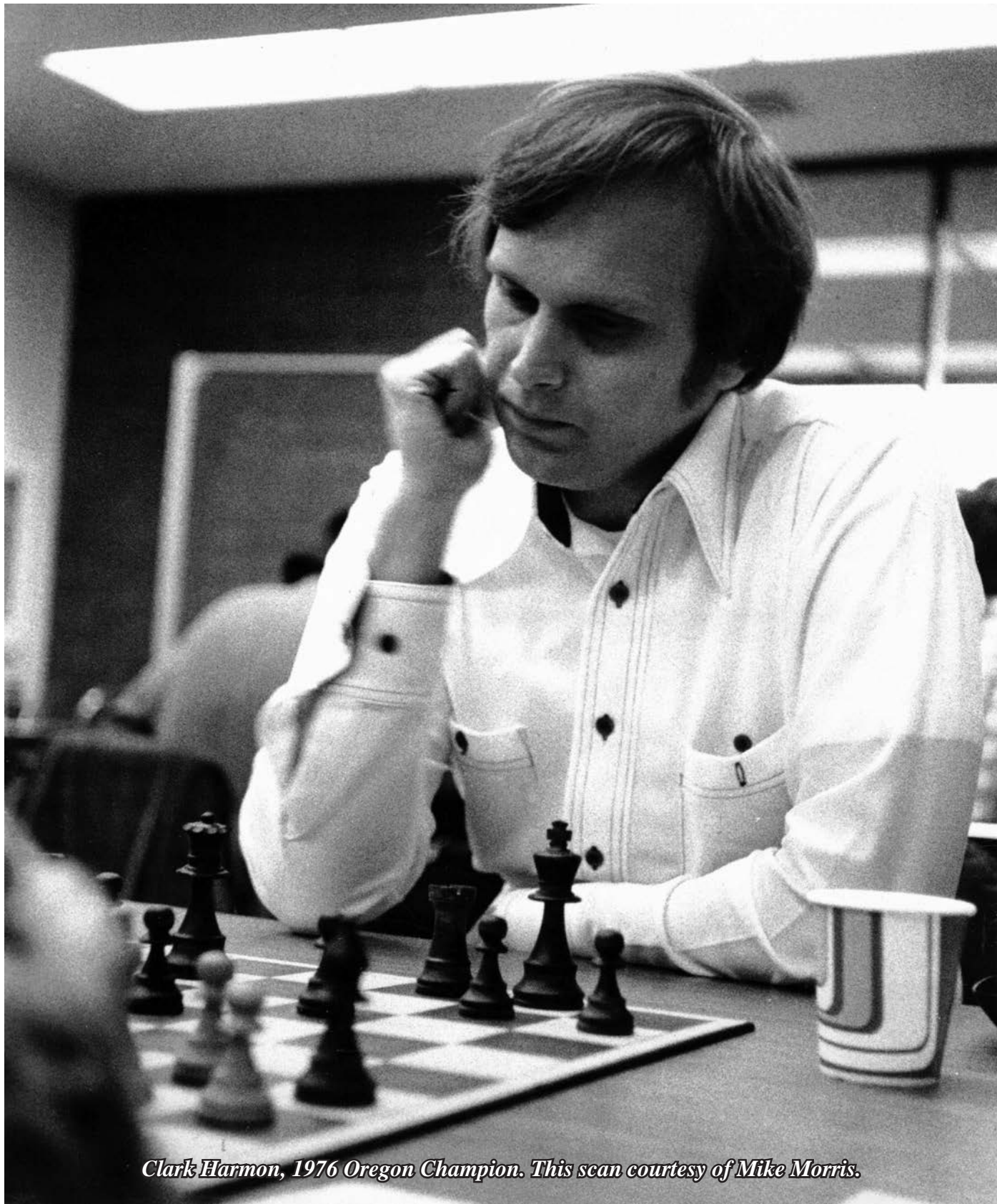
To the left is a photo that I took of August Piper at the Washington Open on May 24, 2014. At the time, I did not know who he was, but I liked the way he looked, and I took several pictures of him at the event.

To the right is a recent picture I took of my buddy, Storm. Storm is six years old going on seven. He doesn't play chess like Morgan The Dog did, but he supports me each month as I work on these issues.

When I call Ralph Dubisch on the phone, as we work on the issues, Storm always gets jealous!



—Jeffrey Roland, Editor



Clark Harmon, 1976 Oregon Champion. This scan courtesy of Mike Morris.

NORTHWEST CHESS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

CLARK HARMON

RALPH DUBISCH

The third inductee of the Northwest Chess Hall of Fame inaugural class is the late National Master Clark Harmon.

Clark was born in Portland, Oregon, in 1942. In the mid-1960s, after graduating Portland State University, he worked for Boeing in Seattle. In 1965 he served as President of the Washington Chess Federation. Returning to Oregon in 1966, he helped organize the Oregon Chess Federation and served as its first President in 1967.

Also in 1967, working with the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, Clark started the annual OMSI scholastic tournaments.

Harmon won the Oregon Championship a total of nine times: 1966 (6.5/7); 1967, on tie-breaks over Rick Ganong (6.0/7); 1969 (6.5/7); 1970 (7.0/8); 1971 (5.0/7); 1972 (5.5/7); 1976 (5.0/7); 1992, with Bill Lapham (5.0/7); 1994 (5.5/7). He was also part of a three-way tie in 1997, sharing first with Richard Wood and Carl Haessler with the score 4.5/7, but came in second to Wood in the double-round robin play-off.

Clark died of cancer in 2007, age 64.

Games

Walter S. Browne (2538) –
Clark Harmon (2239) [A52]

Western States Open
Reno, NV (R1), October 27, 1999
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e5!?

The Budapest Defense.

3.dxe5 Ng4 4.Nf3 Bc5 5.e3 Nc6 6.Nc3
0-0 7.Be2 Re8 8.0-0



Position after 8.0-0

8...Ncxe5

8...Ngxe5 9.b3 (9.Nxe5 Nxe5 transposes to the next note.) 9...Nxf3+ 10.Bxf3 Ne5 11.Bb2 a5 12.Ne4 Bf8±, but see the comment below.

9.Nd4

White goes his own way. Theory shows 9.Nxe5 Nxe5 10.b3 a5 11.Bb2 Ra6!?, when Black has delayed the development of the c8–bishop to allow some flexibility to retreat from c5 in either direction and to develop the a8–rook along the sixth rank. Stockfish will prefer White’s space edge in these positions, but human practice seems to be balanced, or even to slightly favor Black.

9...Nf6 10.b3 d5 11.cxd5 Nxd5 12.Nxd5 Qxd5 13.Bb2 Qe4 14.Kh1 Qh4 15.Nf3 Nxf3 16.Bxf3 Bd6 17.g3 Qe7 18.Bg2 c6 19.e4 f6 20.f4 Be6 21.Qc2 Rac8 22.Rad1 c5?

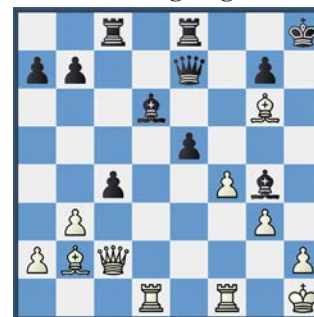
22...Rcd8 guards the d6–bishop and makes White’s attacking attempt far more

speculative: 23.e5 fxe5 24.Be4 h6 25.f5 Bf7 26.f6 gxf6, and while there are still attacking chances, it isn’t quite clear how to proceed.

23.e5! fxe5 24.Be4 c4

Now 24...h6 25.f5 Bf7? 26.f6! gxf6 27.Qd2 is a fork, and White is winning.

25.Bxh7+ Kh8 26.Bg6 Bg4



Position after 26...Bg4

27.Rde1?

Black has done well to make things complicated, and here the late six-time U.S. Champion goes slightly wrong, picking the safer-looking move to avoid the morass. 27.fxe5 Bxe5 (27...cxb3 28.Qe4 Bxd1 29.Rxd1 Qg5 (Saving the rook doesn’t work. 29...Red8 30.Qf5; Or 29...Rf8 30.Qg4 and mate follows shortly.) 30.Bxe8 Rxe8 31.Rxd6 bxa2 32.Kg2 and White’s extra bishop is just too powerful.) 28.Rde1 would win: 28...c3 29.Bxc3 Rxc3 (29...Bh3 30.Qd1 Qg5 31.Bxe8 Bxf1 (31...Rxe8 32.Bxe5 Bxf1 33.Bxg7+ Kxg7 34.Qd7+ Kh6 35.Rxe8+-; 31...Bxc3 32.Rf8+ Kh7 33.Qc2+ g6 34.Bxg6+ Qxg6 35.Re7+ Kh6 36.Qxg6+ Kxg6 37.Rxc8 Bxc8 38.Rc7+-) 32.Rxe5) 30.Qxc3 Bxc3? 31.Rxe7 and Black has back rank issues.

Trying to calculate all of these lines with multiple hanging pieces for both sides is incredibly difficult in a practical game.

27...cxb3 28.Qxb3 Rf8 29.fxe5?!

29.Qd3 Qd7 30.Bxe5 Bb4±, heading into an unclear ending.; 29.h3 Bf5 30.Bxf5 Rxf5 31.g4 Rff8 32.f5±

29...Bb4 30.Rb1 Be2

30...Qg5

31.Qe3??

White sees a checkmate, but it turns out to be a bit of a mirage. After 31.Rxf8+ Rxf8 32.Be4 the battle continues.

31...Bxf1 32.e6



Position after 32.e6

White threatens 33.Qh6+. One can almost see GM Browne performing his manic time-pressure jitter in his chair at this point.

32...Rf6

32...Kg8 also defends and wins.

33.Bxf6

33.Qe4 Rxg6 34.Qxg6 Bc4 35.Bxg7+ Qxg7 36.Qxg7+ Kxg7 37.Rxb4 b5-+

33...Qxf6 34.Be4 Bc5 35.Qb3

35.Qf4 Bc4+

35...Qf2



Position after 35...Qf2

Checkmate is forced. Bravo.

0-1

**Clark Harmon –
Gordon Taylor [E48]**
Seattle Futurity #2, June 8, 1983
[Ralph Dubisch]

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 0-0
5.Bd3 c5**



Position after 5...c5

Theory in the Rubinstein Nimzo-Indian is dense and extensive, so I'll just offer a few generally similar alternate lines that are available. 5...d5 6.Nf3 c5 could lead to the next note.

6.Nge2

6.Nf3 d5 7.0-0 dxc4 8.Bxc4 Nbd7 9.Qe2 b6 10.Rd1 cxd4 11.exd4 is one version with the Isolated Queen Pawn (IQP).

6...d5 7.a3

7.cxd5 cxd4 8.exd4 Nxd5 9.0-0 Nc6 is another.

7...cxd4 8.exd4 dxc4 9.Bxc4 Be7 10.0-0 Nbd7

10...Nc6 11.Qd3 b6 12.Rd1 Bb7 13.Qh3 Na5 14.Ba2 Rc8 15.Nf4 is an IQP that looks like the game, but with a queenside fianchetto for Black.

11.Qd3

11.Nf4 Nb6

11...Nb6 12.Ba2 Bd7 13.Rd1 Bc6 14.Qh3 Nbd5



Position after 14...Nbd5

This should look familiar to anyone who followed the previous notes. Black has

established a blockade on d5.

15.Bg5 Rc8 16.Rd3 Re8 17.Rad1 Nxc3 18.Nxc3 Nd5 19.Bxe7 Rxe7 20.Rg3 Nxc3 21.bxc3

The structure changes into the so-called hanging pawns, side-by-side on the half-open c- and d-files.

21...Bd5



Position after 21...Bd5

22.Bb1

White could start with 22.Qh6 with similar play, though White has the added option of retreat to d2. 22...Qf8

a) 22...g6 23.Rh3 f6 (23...f5 24.Qd2) 24.Bb1 f5;

b) 22...f6 23.Bb1 f5;

23.Bxd5 exd5 24.Qg5

22...f5 23.Re3 Rec7 24.Qg3

24.Bd3 Qd6

24...Qf6

24...Qf8

25.f4 Qf8 26.Rf1 Bc4 27.Rfe1 Qxa3

27...b5

28.d5! Qc5 29.dxe6



Position after 29.dxe6

29...Bxe6 30.Kh1 Bf7 31.Qg5 g6

31...h6 32.Qh4 (32.Qxf5 Qxf5 33.Bxf5 Ra8)

32.h4 Qa5

32...h6! 33.Qxh6 Qf8 34.Qg5 Qd8 forces a repetition.

33.Re5! Qxc3 34.Bxf5 Rb8

34...Rf8 35.h5±

35.h5 Rc6 36.hxg6?

36.Bd7±

36...hxg6 37.Be6



Position after 37.Be6

37...Rxe6?

The best defensive try is 37...Kg7, when there are several ways to continue the attack for White, but none leads to a clear advantage. 38.f5 (38.Bxf7 Rh8+! 39.Kg1 Qd4+ 40.R5e3 Rc1! 41.Qxg6+ Kf8 42.Qg3! Rxe1+ 43.Qxe1 Kxf7 44.Qc3; 38.R5e3 Qf6 39.Bxf7 Qxg5 40.fxg5 Kxf7 41.Re7+ Kg8 42.Rd7 Rc4 43.Ree7 Rh4+ 44.Kg1 seems to be no more than a draw.; 38.Bh3 Rh8 39.Re7 Rf6 40.Qe5 Rxh3+ 41.gxh3 Qxh3+ 42.Kg1 Qg3+) 38...Rh8+ 39.Kg1 Qd4+ 40.R5e3 Qh4 and all the complications appear to be heading for perpetual check or an equal rook ending.

38.Rxe6 Qh8+

38...Kg7 39.R6e3±

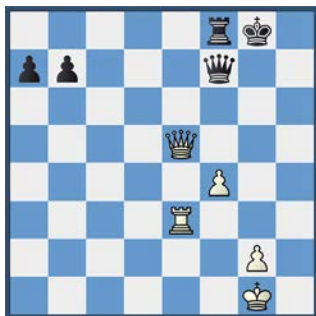
39.Kg1 Bxe6?

39...Qh5 40.Qxh5 gxh5 41.Re7±

40.Qxg6+

Or 40.Rxe6+-.

40...Qg7 41.Qxe6+ Qf7 42.Qe5 Rf8 43.Re3



Position after 43.Re3

43...Qf6?

43...Qg7 44.Qd5+ Rf7 (44...Qf7 45.Rg3+ Kh8 46.Qe5+ Kh7 47.Qg5 Kh8 48.Qh6+ Qh7 49.Qxf8+) 45.Re8+ Qf8 (45...Kh7 46.Qh5+ Qh6 47.Qxf7+) 46.Rxf8+; 43...Qg6 44.Rh3 Rf6 (44...Qg7 45.Qe6+ with a continuing attack.) 45.Rh5+-

44.Rg3+ Kh7 45.Qe4+ Qf5 46.Qe7+ Kh6 47.Qg7+ Kh5 48.Rg5+

1-0

Clark Harmon – Gary Basanta [A59]

Northwest Invitational Vancouver, B.C. (R4), May 9, 1989
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 c5 2.d5 Nf6 3.c4 b5 4.cxb5 a6 5.bxa6 Bxa6 6.Nc3 g6 7.e4 Bxf1 8.Kxf1 d6 9.h3 Bg7 10.Nf3 0-0 11.Kg1



Position after 11.Kg1

11...Na6

More common is a sequence such as 11...Nbd7 12.Kh2 Qa5 13.Re1 Rfb8 14.Re2 Ne8 15.Rc2 Nc7. There are plenty of ideas and transpositions in the Benko Gambit, but the general idea is Black will put pressure on the queenside pawns and central dark squares along the a- and b-files and the long diagonal.

12.Kh2 Nb4

Moving the knight around several times isn't usually part of the plan. Basanta was B.C. Champion in the late 1980s, and he carried the nickname "Chipper," for his tendency to set up the occasional tactical cheapo.

13.Be3 e6 14.a3 Na6?!

Better first 14...exd5 15.exd5, and only after the central exchange (15.axb4 Rxa1 16.Qxa1 d4 with complications.) 15...Na6

15.Qd2±

15.dxe6 fxe6 16.e5!± was perhaps a missed opportunity.

1-0

15...exd5 16.exd5 Re8 17.Bh6 Bxh6 18.Qxh6 Rb8 19.Rab1 Nc7 20.Rhd1 Nb5 21.Qd2 Nxc3 22.bxc3

22.Qxc3!?

22...Ne4?!

22...Ra8 could force White into a rather passive defense to keep the material.

23.Rxb8 Qxb8 24.Qc2 h6 25.c4 Qa7 26.Rd3 Qd7 27.Re3 f5 28.Qe2 Rb8 29.Ne1?

29.Nd2! Best, ignoring the threat of pinning along the second rank. 29...Nf6 (29...Rb2?? 30.Nxe4! Rxe2 31.Nf6+-) 30.Re7 Re8 31.Rxe8+ (31.Rxd7 Rxe2 32.Rxd6± is also possible.) 31...Nxe8, and White has both material and positional advantage.

29...Qg7! 30.Nd3



Position after 30.Nd3

30...g5?

Black's last chance to get into the game is to infiltrate with the rook: 30...Rb1, when activity compensates for material. If White proceeds as in the game with 31.f3?? then 31...Rh1+!+- shows the point.

31.f3! Ng3?

Living up to the nickname "Chipper." 31...Nc3 32.Qe1 poses some very difficult questions for Black, though.

32.Re8+!

Black was hoping for 32.Kxg3? f4+, of course.

32...Rxe8

32...Kh7 33.Kxg3+-

33.Qxe8+ Kh7 34.Kxg3 f4+ 35.Kh2 Qc3 36.Qe4+ Kg8 37.Qg6+ Kf8 38.Qxd6+ Kf7 39.Ne5+

Apparently Black lost on time, though Black must give up the queen to avoid mate in two here.

1-0



Harmon Memorial Chess Tournament



MARCH 2-3, 2024

LAKESIDE UPPER SCHOOL

14050 1ST AVE NE, SEATTLE, WA 98125

Highest performing WA players (by TPR) in the Open and Reserve sections seeded into the 2025 Washington State Premier + Challengers sections, respectively.

Format: A 5-round Swiss in two sections:

Open: NWSRS, US Chess & FIDE Tri-Rated (except for rd. 1, which is not FIDE rated)

Reserve U1700: NWSRS & US Chess Dual-Rated.

In case of a tie for 1st place, follow-up playoff games will determine the seed for the Premier or Challengers section of the 2025 Washington State Championship.

Schedule: Saturday 9 AM, 12:30 PM, 6 PM; Sunday 10 AM, 3:30 PM. Closing Ceremony: Sunday ~ 8 PM or asap. Players whose games run long may request a late start for the next round.

Time Control: Rd. 1: G/60; +15.

Rds. 2-5: 30/90, SD/30; +30. Late default: 60 min.

Prize Fund: \$3,600 (based on 90 paid entries)

Open: 1st-6th: \$450-375-300-225-150-125.

1st U2100/U1900: \$100

Reserve: 1st-4th: \$325-250-175-125.

1st U1500/U1300/U1100: \$100; 1st Unrated: \$70

Special Prizes (per section): **Biggest Upset Win:** \$10/round, **Best Female Player** (by TPR): \$50, **Best Dressed:** \$20/day, **Best Senior Players** (50+ & 65+, by TPR): \$50, **Biggest USCF Rating Gain:** \$25, **Best Annotated game:** \$25. Minimum of 3 qualifying players required per section in contention for each best female/senior prize to be awarded.

Entry Fee: \$80 by 2/24, \$95 after. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs & WIMs. Players rated 1500+ (in both NWSRS + USCF) may pay an extra \$40 play-up fee to play in Open section. Maximum of 100 players – please register early to reserve your spot.

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

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

Rating: US Chess and NWSRS Rated. Open section is also FIDE Rated (except for rd. 1). Highest of March FIDE, March US Chess Regular, or current NWSRS rating used to determine section, pairings, and prizes. If ratings differ by >200 pts., the avg. of current NWSRS and March. US Chess regular rating will be used.

Registration: Online at nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration
Pay by Credit/Debit/PayPal/SettleKing.

Registration and payment deadline: Fri. 3/1 @ 5pm. No registrations accepted or refunds offered after the deadline. Payment also available via Zelle (ID: WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com) or Venmo (ID: @WAChess).

Questions?

Josh Sinanan, WCF President,
206-769-3757,
WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

Remembering August Piper

John Selsky with Fred Kleist

The Seattle Chess Club regrets to announce the death of Dr. August T. Piper, Jr., on January 13, 2024, in Seattle. He was 80 years old.

August was the club's President for 19 years, from 2002 until his retirement in 2021. The club's board awarded him a Lifetime Membership in September 2021 for his many years of dedicated service. In addition, August was the club's Most Valuable Player for the majority of those years, participating in almost every event. He was profiled in Northwest Chess in March 2021, along with Carol Kleist, on the occasion of their retirements from the Seattle Chess Club board.

A native of St. Louis, Missouri, August graduated from Yale University in

1965 and received his M.D. degree from Howard University College of Medicine. He was a psychiatrist by training and completed his residency at the University of Washington in 1981. He was attached to Swedish Hospital and had a private psychiatry practice in Seattle for many years. He authored a number of academic papers and a book (*Hoax and reality: The bizarre world of multiple personality disorder, 1997*) on multiple personality disorder and periodically was an expert witness at trials regarding that condition. He served on the board of the Country Doctor Community Clinic, a Seattle health care organization founded by the local Black Panthers in the 1970s.

August Piper was a character, a rash and brash character in his signature red

beret. Fred Kleist, SCC's tournament director, recalls his first sighting of August back in the late 1980s. He was carpooling with three other players to the Keres Memorial in Vancouver, BC. As they were driving up I-5, a red sports car zoomed by, August at the wheel. Ten miles up the road they passed that sports car stopped on the shoulder with a stern-looking state patrolman looming over it. August got a speeding ticket. They all ended up at the same B&B in Vancouver, and as usual, August was late for breakfast.

At the Larry Evans Memorial in Reno, I remember seeing August copping a snooze lying across three side chairs before a game. I can also remember him rushing into the playing hall 58 minutes after a round started and making his first move just before timing out. That was something of a trademark of August's.

Despite the rather rough descriptors that he applied to fellow chess players, August was a genuinely kind and caring person. He would often give players rides to the bus station and would buy meals for those with less resources.

In his game, Fred recalls, August played the Queens Gambit Accepted, the Réti System and the Najdorf Sicilian. In fact, he used to call himself "Mr. Najdorf" on occasion. Coincidentally, I was August's opponent for his last US Chess rated game, on July 1, 2022.

August was debilitated in his later years with multiple health issues. Although wheelchair-bound, he visited the club at its Green Lake premises several times in 2022 with the assistance of his old friend Henry Louie. We at the Seattle Chess Club will greatly miss this dedicated and colorful man.



*August Piper at the 2018 Seattle Chess Classic.
Photo credit: Henry Louie.*

WA State Barber/Rockefeller

OPEN CHESS TOURNAMENT

Saturday, March 16, 2024

Chinook Middle School

2001 98th Ave NE, Bellevue, WA 98004



CLASSICAL SECTIONS

K-5 Rockefeller Open (Qualifier for Rockefeller Closed Event)

6-8 Barber Open (Qualifier for Barber Closed Event)

A 4-round Swiss. Longer time control for Intermediate to Advanced players. Dual NWSRS and US Chess Rated; US Chess membership required. Time Control: G/60; +10, except for rd. 1 (G/25; +5). Rounds: 9am, 10:30am, 1:30pm, 4:15pm. Awards ~ 6:45pm.

RAPID SECTIONS

K-1 U700, 2-3 U800, K-3 Open, K-8 U1100, K-8 U1500, 4-12 U1000, 4-12 Open.

A 5-round G/25; +5 Swiss. Shorter time control for players of all levels. Rounds: 9am, 10:30am, 11:45am, Lunch Time, 1:15pm, 2:30pm. Awards ~ 4pm.

ALL SECTIONS

NWSRS Rated. Open sections are also US Chess Rated, which requires clocks, notation, and US Chess membership. **All equipment is provided.** The U700, U800, U1000, U1100, and U1500 sections don't require clocks or notation, but a clock set for 10 mins +5 sec increment will be placed in unfinished games after 35 minutes of play.

ENTRY FEE

\$45 by March 9th, \$55 after.
Room for 250 players.

AWARDS

Section Prizes: Amazon Gift Cards awarded in each section:

1st - 5th: \$90-80-70-60-50.

Team Prizes: Amazon Gift Cards awarded to the top 4 players from the top 5 finishing teams (top 4 scores from same school comprise team score) across all sections:
1st - 5th: \$30-25-20-15-10.

Special Prizes (per section): Medals for first timers, best female player, and biggest upset win.

FOLLOW-UP INVITATIONAL EVENT

Top 12 finishing WA State residents in the K-5 Rockefeller Open and 6-8 Barber Open section (by tiebreaks) will qualify for the Rockefeller and Barber Closed Events on March 31 in Redmond. The winners of the 12-player closed (4-Round Swiss) events will earn a \$750 travel stipend (donated by the WCF) and will be the WA State representatives at the National Rockefeller (K-5) and Barber (6-8) Tournament of Champions, respectively, held concurrently with the US Open in early August.

THE DETAILS

Online Registration:

NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/
Pay by
Credit/Debit/PayPal/SettleKing.

100% pre-registered, no on-site entries or payments. **Entry + payment deadline Fri., March 15th @ 5pm.** No registrations accepted or refunds offered after the deadline. Unpaid players will be removed from the roster and waitlisted players will be offered a spot.

ELIGIBILITY

Open to all students in grades K-12 as of the 2023-24 school year. Out-of-state players welcome!

RATING

Highest of US Chess Regular March supplement, or current NWSRS rating used to determine section and pairings.

WA State Elementary Qualifier!

Questions?

Contact Josh Sinanan, WCF President at 206.769.3757 or WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

GM-Elect Bryce Tiglon Interview

By Ken Lee

Bryce Tiglon is Washington State's newest Grandmaster-elect after securing his final GM norm in Spain at the prestigious Sunway Sitges event. Bryce has been part of the Pacific Northwest chess community since he was seven years old. He currently is 23 years of age and finishing his final year at Stanford University.

Yasser Seirawan was the last home-grown GM, earning his title in 1980.

I had the opportunity to sit down with Bryce and chat about his journey into chess, medical research and more.

Ken: As a kid, why did you love playing chess?

Bryce: Sometimes I like to joke that the reason I fell in love with chess as a first grader was the pizza lunch and candy snack that always seemed to appear exclusively at scholastic chess tournaments. But, in all seriousness, I think I just really wanted to understand the game. In the beginning, it seemed possible to learn lesson A, then B, then C—and achieve complete mastery in due time. However, it turned out that this was not the case! Chess is just one of those things that's incredibly difficult; there is always more to learn.

I distinctly recall a moment in one of my first lessons at Wilder Elementary's before-school chess class. A coach was trying to demonstrate Legal's mate, but unfortunately, Black's knight was already developed on c6 (see diagram).



I remember questioning why Black

had to capture the queen after White's Nxe5. Couldn't Black instead play ...Nxe5 himself? It was moments like this that made me fall in love with chess. I wanted to understand everything.

Ken: How did you keep motivated as a kid when you lost?

Bryce: Personally, I don't think I ever had a problem with motivation. I know that losing games, especially as a kid, is extremely difficult. It's painful. But, as one matures, you realize that the losses are part of the growth process. If you want to get better, you have to be able to sustain yourself through those dry periods.

Ken: Did you work with a lot of chess coaches throughout your chess career?

Bryce: Actually, no. I worked very briefly with the late WGM Elena Donaldson and GM Emil Anka, but to be honest, I was kind of a feisty, independent kid and liked to work out problems on my own.

Ken: If you didn't work with coaches, how did you improve?

Bryce: Yeah, that's a good question. In the early years, I think I got better mostly by playing games on the Internet Chess Club (ICC). Of course, now ICC is more or less extinct and everybody uses chess.com or Lichess.

Much of my progress, though, likely resulted from my absolute love for chess. I remember in High School, on my one-hour bus rides to and from city—I typically devoured every article from ChessBase News.

Ken: How did you deal with setbacks over the course of your chess career?

Bryce: Well, I'm not really the type of person to give up. I've always loved chess and believed in myself 100%. I think one should deal with setbacks with dedication and hard work. It's as simple as that.

Ken: What are some defining moments in your life and chess career that you'd like to share?

Bryce: Well, one very clear defining moment was an interaction I had with a friend of mine, Siva Sankrithi, when I was in eighth grade. I've known Siva for a very long time—and in fact at just eleven years old—I even played Siva in the final round of the 2012 US Open. That

game ended in a draw.

Fast forward three years and I'm in eighth grade competing at High School Nationals in Columbus, Ohio. Siva, who is 13 years older than me, was coaching Lakeside there and kindly invited all Washington players to the team room between rounds. It was there that he encouraged me to apply to Lakeside School. He insisted that I would be a good fit—and I'm incredibly grateful that this conversation happened.

Later that year, I applied to Lakeside for ninth grade and was accepted. That turned out to be a major defining moment in my life as it set in motion several opportunities that might not have been there for me otherwise.

Ken: What other defining moments would you like to share?

Bryce: In 2019, I took a gap year between Lakeside and Stanford, deferring my admission. Originally, I had intended to spend my time on chess—but one day a sequence of thoughts shifted my attention towards molecular biology. I was thinking about my future and the limits of time with regards to how I could spend my time as an adult. This then led me to start seriously pondering the determinants of longevity and what happens on a molecular level to the human body.

Much like chess, aging seemed like a complex puzzle that I wanted to understand. Now that's the focus of my research at Stanford.

Ken: Any words of advice to aspiring chess players?

Bryce: I would just say that self-belief is the key to getting better at anything you want to pursue. Sometimes the great work you put in doesn't show in results right away, but it's crucial to trust the process, trust the work, and always believe in yourself. The results will surely follow.



2024 Western States Regional Chess Championship for Women and Girls



Sat-Sun, April 13-14th, 2024

Lakeside Upper School
14050 1st Ave. NE, Seattle, WA 98125

Format: A 5-Round Swiss in three sections –

Championship, Premier & Rising

Open to all female chess players. Maximum of 125 players, please register early.

Time Control: G/60; +10.

Late default: 30 min.

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

Entry Fee: \$50 if postmarked or online by 4/6, \$60 after or at site. Free entry for WGMs, WIMs, and WFM.

On-site Registration: Sat 8-8:30am.

Rounds: Sat. @ 9am, 1pm. Sun. @ 10am, 1pm, 4pm. Awards ~ 6:30pm or asap.

Prize Fund: \$2500 (based on 90 pd. entries).

Championship:

1st - 3rd: \$250, \$200, \$150

1st U1900/U1700/U1500: \$75

Premier U1400:

1st - 3rd: \$200, \$150, \$100

1st U1300/U1100/U900: \$75

Rising U800:

1st - 3rd: \$200, \$150, \$100

1st U700/U500/U300/unrated: \$75

Special Prizes (per section):

Biggest Upset Win: \$20/round

Best Dressed: \$10/day

Kindness & Spreading Joy: \$10/day

Rating: US Chess and NWSRS Dual Rated.

Highest of April US Chess or current NWSRS rating will be used to determine section, pairings, and prizes. Higher of US Chess or foreign ratings used at TD discretion.

Memberships: US Chess membership required. Membership must be paid at the time of registration.

WA State Elementary Qualifier!

Online Registration: nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration

Pay by Credit/Debit/PayPal/SettleKing.

Online registration and payment deadline: Fri. 4/12 @ 5pm.

Payment also available via Zelle

(ID: WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com) or Venmo (ID: @WChess).

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

Mail To: Washington Chess Federation

c/o Orlov Chess Academy –

4174 148th Ave. NE, Building I, Ste. M, Redmond, WA 98052

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

washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com

Fun Side Events!

Workshop for Girls and Women: Sat @ 12-1pm.

Includes complementary pizza lunch!

Puzzle Solving Competition: Sat @ 4:00-4:45pm. EF: \$10.

WIM Megan Lee Lecture + Q&A: Sat @ 5-6pm.

WIM Megan Lee Simul: Sat @ 6-9pm.

EF: \$25. Max 25 players, please register early.

Women's and Girls' Blitz Tournament: Sun @ 7-9pm. EF: \$25.



US CHESS
women

2023 Washington Class Championships

Josh Sinanan

The 2023 Washington Class Championships were held over Thanksgiving weekend November 24-26 at the Hyatt Regency Bellevue. Located in the heart of the swanky Bellevue Collection, the Hyatt Regency is a popular venue during the holiday season due to its proximity to many shops, hotels, and restaurants! Chess players from throughout North America, including parts of Washington, Oregon, Montana, British Columbia, Illinois, were represented in the three-day chess extravaganza. The event was hosted by Washington Chess Federation, directed by Senior TD Fred Kleist, National FIDE Arbiters Shri Humrudha and Suresh Balaji, WCF co-VP Rekha Sagar, WCF Member-at-Large Ani Barua, and Spokane Chess stud Chris Bruceri, and organized by WCF President Josh Sinanan. WCF Treasurer Robert Allen, Tournament Coordinator Valentin Razmov, and WCF Photographer extraordinaire Meiling Cheng assisted in running the event. 148 players participated in the three-day chess festival which spanned the holiday weekend and

paid out a prize fund of over \$12,000. The SPFNO, which attracted 408 scholastic players on Black Friday November 24, was held alongside the Washington Class on Friday and Saturday! Numerous fun side events including the Washington Class SCC Adult Swiss, "WaldowChess" Championship, Chess960 (Fischer Random) Championship, Rapid Championship, and "Knight Time" Blitz rounded out the immersive chess experience!

In the stacked 17-player Master section, two National Masters topped the standings, each with five points from six games: NM Kyle Haining (2293→2308, 5.0) of Lake Forest Park and NM Brandon Jiang (2183→2236, 5.0) of Bellevue. Soon-to-be master Austin Liu (2069→2133, 4.5) of Sammamish finished undefeated in third place. The complete standings and prize winners are listed below.

Two up-and-coming chess phenoms – Emerson Wong-Godfrey (1842→1928, 5.0) of Seattle and Jamie Zhu (1843→1953, 5.0) of Sammamish

– emerged victorious in the 15-player Expert section. Four players shared =third/first U2100/second U2100 honors a point-and-a-half back: Nicholas Whale (2093→2072, 3.5) of Mountlake Terrace, CM Matt Sellers (2013→2008, 3.5) of Portland, Vijay Patankar (1777→1858, 3.5) of Redmond, and Owen Xu (1819→1867, 3.5) of Bellevue.

In the 29-player Class A section, Bental "The Tiger" Tagor (1755→1930, 5.0) of Sammamish and Edward Cheng (1778→1863, 5.0) of Seattle emerged victorious, each with an undefeated five points from six games. Bothell chess kid Darsh Verma (1723→1801, 4.5) captured third place honors a half-point back.

A trio of chess kings – Andrew Rankin (1801→1805, 4.5) of Helena (MT), David Merrikin (1704→1719, 4.5) of Sequim, and Amana Demberel (1426→1618, 4.5) of Seattle – were regally crowned co-champions of the 26-player Class B section, though not without some controversy. For some reason, the Class B section always has a little extra drama, and this year was no

Washington Class - Master section

#	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Total pts	Prize
1	NM Kyle Haining	2298	W14	W13	B---	D2	H---	W8	5	=1st/2nd: \$536
2	NM Brandon Jiang	2186	W17	W5	W11	D1	W4	D3	5	=1st/2nd: \$536
3	Austin Liu	2072	W12	D7	W8	H---	W11	D2	4.5	3rd: \$326
4	NM Siddarth Sundaram	2462	D8	W12	D5	W10	L2	W9	4	
5	NM Daniel He	2357	W9	L2	D4	D8	W6	W11	4	
6	NM Stephen Willy	2203	W10	L11	W15	D7	L5	W13	3.5	1st U2300: \$233
7	CM Michael Omori	2152	D16	D3	W17	D6	L9	D12	3	=2nd U2300: \$37.40
8	CM Ryan Min	2115	D4	W16	L3	D5	W10	L1	3	=2nd U2300: \$37.40
9	CM Yiding Lu	2107	L5	L10	W12	W17	W7	L4	3	=2nd U2300: \$37.40
10	Ted Wang	2077	L6	W9	W16	L4	L8	B---	3	=2nd U2300: \$37.40
11	Vidip Kona	2019	B---	W6	L2	W14*	L3	L5	3	=2nd U2300: \$37.40 + Biggest Upset Win*
12	LM Viktors Pupols	2200	L3	L4	L9	W16	W15	D7	2.5	
13	Bertrand Wan	2044	B---	L1	L14	D15	X17	L6	2.5	
14	NM Timur Aliyev	2355	L1	B---	W13	L11	U---	U---	2	
15	Oscar Sprumont	2059	H---	H---	L6	D13	L12	D16	2	
16	Vihaan Jammalamadaka	2042	D7	L8	L10	L12	B---	D15	2	
17	CM Alexander Yang	2058	L2	B---	L7	L9	F13	U---	1	

exception! In a pivotal last-round game between Andrew Rankin and Robin Tu that had decisive implications for the final standings, a touch-move dispute occurred, and several “witnesses” had to be called in to testify about what they saw. In total, the proceedings lasted over an hour and eventually resulted in a gentlemanly draw between the two parties in question. The result of the game has since been appealed all the way up the chain of command to the US Chess Rules Committee and is awaiting a final decision. Yikes!

A trio of chess supernovas topped the 24-player Class C section, each with a “plus three” score: Irina Gavrysh (1334→1388, 4.5) of Brier, Arnav Gadde (1221→1377, 4.5) of Redmond, and Vincent Liu (1173→1347, 4.5) of Auburn. Rumor has it that Irina Gavrysh once won the Soviet Women’s Championship many years ago, around the same time that her husband Leonid was pursuing his IM norms on the European circuit.

In the 18-player Class D section, experience triumphed over youth for a change as adult chess improver Allen Chang (1024→1179, 5.0) of Mountlake Terrace won first place with an impressive 5.0/6 score. Two chess princes shared =second/third place honors a half-point back: Atharv Rao (901→1108, 4.5) of Bellevue and Daniel Polonsky (913→1007, 4.5) of Newcastle.

With most of the youngsters opting to play in the co-located SPFNO instead of the Washington Class, the 20-player Class E section had a much higher concentration of adults than it normally does. This made for an interesting dynamic in which adults got to play against other adults in a mature field that one would typically see in a tournament



around 30 years ago. Andrew Goupinets (unrated→1206, 6.0) of Bellevue emerged victorious with an astounding six points from six games. However, because he is unrated and doesn’t qualify for an overall prize in the Class E section, it was the lucky Olin Martin (1038→1055, 4.5) of Seattle who won the first-place prize. Nevertheless, Andrew was quite satisfied with his performance and looks forward to adjusting more to OTB chess, after having played mostly online to learn the game. Two chess dudes tied for =second/third place honors with four points apiece: Miles King (758→833, 4.0) of Kingston and Jack Dunham (945→974, 4.0) of Redmond.

In addition to the regular overall and class prizes, this year’s event once again featured a Mixed Doubles Competition in which the top three male-female two-player teams combined among all sections qualified for a prize. A total of eight mixed double teams were formed; some with siblings/spouses teaming up, and others with friends joining forces! Two mixed doubles teams shared first/second-place honors, each with a combined score of 7.5 points: Iryna and Leonid Gavrysh, a husband-and-wife team from Brier, and Te Wei and Brandon Jiang, a powerful team comprised of the 2023 Washington State Women’s Co-Champion (Wei) and the 2023 Washington State Champion (Jiang). The mixed doubles team of

Washington Class - Expert section										
#	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Total pts	Prize
1	Emerson Wong-Godfrey	1896	D6	W9	W11	W12	W5	H---	5	=1st/2nd: \$442.50
2	Jamie Zhu	1876	D3	W6	D5	W11	W7	W10	5	=1st/2nd: \$442.50
3	Nicholas Whale	2089	D2	D5	W13	D10	D6	D4	3.5	=3rd/1st U2100/2nd U2100: \$140
4	CM Matt Sellers	2042	H---	D14	W10	L5	W8	D3	3.5	=3rd/1st U2100/2nd U2100: \$140
5	Vijay Patankar	1816	W12	D3	D2	W4*	L1	D7	3.5	=3rd/1st U2100/2nd U2100: \$140 + Biggest Upset Win*
6	Owen Xu	1811	D1	L2	W15	H---	D3	W11	3.5	=3rd/1st U2100/2nd U2100: \$140
7	FM Paul Bartron	2034	W13	L11	H---	W9	L2	D5	3	
8	Leonid Gavrysh	2017	D14	L10	D9	W13	L4	B---	3	
9	Valentin Razmov	1879	D10	L1	D8	L7	W13	W14	3	
10	Siddharth Bhaskaran	1797	D9	W8	L4	D3	X12	L2	3	
11	Denis Pozharskii	1824	W15	W7	L1	L2	D14	L6	2.5	
12	Ryan Ackerman	1956	L5	W15	W14	L1	F10	L13	2	
13	Nikhil Ramkumar	1849	L7	B---	L3	L8	L9	W12	2	
14	Varin Nallabothula	1825	D8	D4	L12	D15	D11	L9	2	
15	Roger Hanson	2000	L11	L12	L6	D14	B---	U---	1.5	

Washington Class SCC Adult Swiss

The Washington Class SCC Adult Swiss took place November 24-26 alongside the main tournament and was open to all adults 18+. As a sage chess player once remarked, it's refreshing to play in a tournament where everyone has a driver's license! The six-round Adult Swiss attracted 13 players and featured a slightly faster time control of G/90;+30, which allowed for a slightly less intense schedule than the main tournament. The SCC Adult Swiss was run under the supervision of WCF Vice President Rekha Sagar, paired by Senior TD Fred Kleist, and sponsored by the Seattle Chess Club with a generous guaranteed prize fund of \$1000 thanks to SCC board member and chess benefactor Henry Yan. Two Canadian players, Paul Leblanc and Don Hack, made the trip down from B.C. especially for this event. Their decision paid off handsomely, with Paul Leblanc (1851→1861, 5.0) of Victoria and Erkan Chabuk (unrated→2247, 5.0) of Silverdale sharing first-place honors with five points each! Heading into the final



*Hunter Morgan ponders his next move in the Class D section.
Photo Credit: Meiling Cheng.*

Haituka Anandkumar and Siddarth M. Sundaram won the third place prize a half-point back with 7.0 points. We hope to see more mixed doubles teams register

for free in future events!

Congratulations to the winners!

Washington Class - Class A section										
#	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Total pts	Prize
1	Bental Tagor	1886	D3	W16	W20	D2	W4	W9	5	=1st/2nd: \$373
2	Edward Cheng	1841	D15	W3	W17	D1	W7	W4	5	=1st/2nd: \$373
3	Darsh Verma	1763	D1	L2	W28	W11	W23	W10	4.5	3rd: \$187
4	Dominic M Colombo	1961	W29	W13	B---	W5	L1	L2	4	
5	Miles Kuipers	1816	W26	W8	W9	L4	L10	W14	4	=1st/2nd U1900: \$46
6	Atharva Joshi	1800	D25	W14	D7	W8	L9	W17	4	=1st/2nd U1900: \$46
7	Saahil Gupta	1777	W21	D17	D6	W25	L2	W16	4	=1st/2nd U1900: \$46
8	Abhinav Mishra	1746	W22	L5	W27	L6	W18	W12	4	=1st/2nd U1900: \$46
9	Finnegan Flavin	1742	W11	W19	L5	W20	W6	L1	4	=1st/2nd U1900: \$46
10	Rishi Ramaswamy	1636	W12	D20	D18	W13	W5*	L3	4	=1st/2nd U1900: \$46 + Biggest Upset Win*
11	Travis Olson	1825	L9	W15	D16	L3	W26	W20	3.5	
12	Varnika Jammalamadaka	1767	L10	D28	W26	W21	D17	L8	3	Best Female Player
13	Timothy Campbell	1758	B---	L4	W24	L10	L16	W25	3	
14	Chad Boey	1756	D18	L6	D15	W27	W25	L5	3	
15	Ujwal Garine	1754	D2	L11	D14	L23	W19	W28	3	
16	Gabriel Razmov	1712	W23	L1	D11	D18	W13	L7	3	
17	Aarav Bharathy Mohan	1619	B---	D7	L2	W19	D12	L6	3	
18	Odysseus Rodriguez	1868	D14	D25	D10	D16	L8	H---	2.5	
19	Te Wei	1790	W27	L9	D21	L17	L15	W26	2.5	
20	Michelle Zhang	1777	W28	D10	L1	L9	W21	L11	2.5	
21	Shuyi Han	1642	L7	B---	D19	L12	L20	W27	2.5	
22	Vernon Vanpoucke	1827	L8	D26	L25	D28	L24	B---	2	
23	Hayul Lim	1803	L16	L27	B---	W15	L3	U---	2	
24	Severo Caluza	1800	H---	L29	L13	H---	W22	U---	2	
25	Leonardo Wang	1708	D6	D18	W22	L7	L14	L13	2	
26	Neevan Saddi	1724	L5	D22	L12	B---	L11	L19	1.5	
27	William Dann	1666	L19	W23	L8	L14	D28	L21	1.5	
28	Vineesh Nallabothula	1644	L20	D12	L3	D22	D27	L15	1.5	
29	Harishkumar Karthikeyan	1846	L4	W24	U---	U---	U---	U---	1	

round, Leblanc held a one-point lead over the field, as Chabuk had taken two half-point byes on Saturday. Chabuk prevailed in this must-win game to share the title with Leblanc in his first-ever regular-rated US Chess rated tournament, an impressive result! Austin Wentz (1410→1487, 4.0) of Seattle finished in third place a full point back. Two chess kings, John “Jack” Christy (1473→1502, 3.5) of Anacortes and Michael Rodney (1182→1332, 3.5) of Redmond tied for =first U2000/U1700 honors with three and a half points each. Renton chess dude Jeffrey Burgert (1340→1400, 3.0) captured first place U1400 plus the biggest upset win prize for his first-round knockout against the luckless Michael Hosford. Seattle Chess Club President Dr. John Selsky (667→664, 1.5) of Shoreline won the first U1100 prize for his perseverance, as he played much higher rated opponents in every round. Please find the full results below.

Washington Class “WaldowChess” Championship

The Washington “WaldowChess” Championship took place on Friday, November 24 in the afternoon starting

at 3:00 PM. “WaldowChess” is a chess variant invented by chess aficionado Mark Waldow of Spanaway in which play begins with White to move having already played e4 and d4. In return, Black receives draw odds and is allowed to swap his king and queen after White’s next move (and this does not count as a move). The generous \$2000 guaranteed prize fund attracted players ranging in rating from Unrated to Master, including five National Masters and a Women’s FIDE Master! In trying to find the exact playing room where the event would be held, several players could be overheard asking “Where’s Waldow?!” Players competed over the course of six rounds, which made for some quite imbalanced and exciting struggles! After the dust had settled, the results of the tournament were as follows: 23 white wins and 26 black wins, which suggests a balanced game!

Bellevue chess standout NM Vinesh



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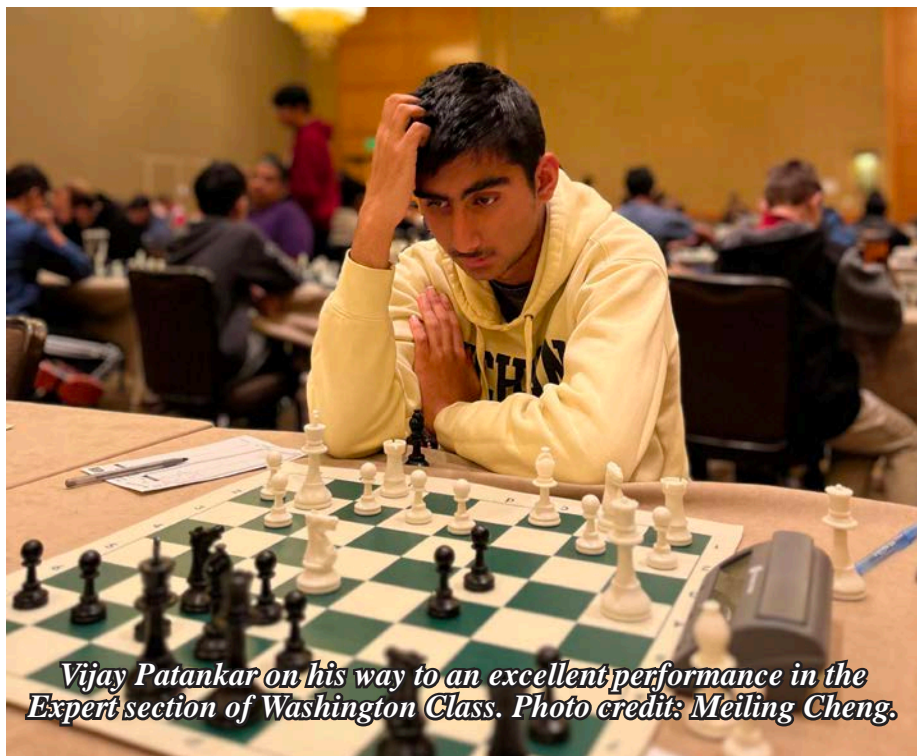
Josh Sinanan
President
joshsinanan@gmail.com

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

Ravuri crushed the field with a perfect six points from six games. NM Daniel He of Redmond finished in second place a full point back, dropping only one game to Ravuri in the penultimate round. NM Daniel Shubin of Redmond, a long-time student of IM Georgi Orlov’s, claimed third place honors with four and a half points. Everett chess man Damarcus Thomas won the first U2000 prize with four points, thanks to being the only non-master player in his score group. Two Seattle players shared second place U2000 honors with three points apiece: young Gabriel Razmov and WFM Minda Chen, who also won the best female player prize. A pair of up-and-coming chess ninjas — Noah Condit of Kirkland

Washington Class - Class B section

#	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Total pts	Prize
1	Andrew Rankin	1766	W25	W11	D4	D3	W9	D5	4.5	=1st-3rd: \$311
2	David Merrikin	1704	W13	W17	L3	W20	D5	W10	4.5	=1st-3rd: \$311
3	Amana Demberel	1614	D14	W8	W2	D1	D6	W12	4.5	=1st-3rd: \$311
4	Francisco Lopez	1799	W18	D6	D1	D15	W16	H---	4	
5	Robin Tu	1777	H---	W23	W22	D6	D2	D1	4	
6	Hans Kehl	1723	W26	D4	W10	D5	D3	D7	4	
7	Nihanth Tatikonda	1681	D23	L9	W18	W22	W15	D6	4	=1st/2nd U1700: \$92
8	Cedric Davies	1647	L20	L3	W13	W25	W24	W14	4	=1st/2nd U1700: \$92
9	David Juchau	1644	D21	W7	D15	W14	L1	W16	4	=1st/2nd U1700: \$92
10	Vijay Nallappa	1744	X---	D15	L6	W19	W11	L2	3.5	
11	Jeffrey L'Heureux	1610	W24	L1	W12	D16	L10	W17	3.5	
12	Davey Jones	1744	H---	H---	L11	W23	W20	L3	3	
13	Rhadean Rubaiyat	1599	L2	L19	L8	B---	W26	W24	3	
14	Karthik Bimod	1510	D3	D20	W17	L9	W22	L8	3	
15	Haituka Anandkumar	1494	W16*	D10	D9	D4	L7	D20	3	Biggest Upset Win*
16	Robert J Allen	1700	L15	W25	W24	D11	L4	L9	2.5	
17	Stephen J Buck	1672	W19	L2	L14	H---	W23	L11	2.5	
18	Sid Siddem	1603	L4	W26	L7	L24	W25	D21	2.5	
19	Abhay Sankar	1595	L17	W13	D20	L10	D21	D23	2.5	
20	Hiruna Devadithya	1519	W8	D14	D19	L2	L12	D15	2.5	
21	Samarth Bharadwaj	1465	D9	L22	L23	W26	D19	D18	2.5	
22	Pranav Kokati	1520	H---	W21	L5	L7	L14	D26	2	
23	Devansh Sharma	1477	D7	L5	W21	L12	L17	D19	2	
24	Rafael Palathingal	1440	L11	B---	L16	W18	L8	L13	2	
25	Benjamin Frederick	1565	L1	L16	D26	L8	L18	B---	1.5	
26	Noah Condit	1523	L6	L18	D25	L21	L13	D22	1	



Vijay Patankar on his way to an excellent performance in the Expert section of Washington Class. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

and Rafael Palathingal of Bothell — shared the first/second U1700 prizes with an even three-point score. Seattle chess guy Vahe Gul won the first U1400 prize with three points while Redmond chess gal Lydia Xiong earned the second U1400

prize a half-point back. David Merrikin of Sequim scored the biggest-upset win and requested to be paid in cash rather than PayPal so that his wife wouldn't go out and shop with his winnings! Chess Dad Xavier Palathingal of Bothell rounded out

the prize winners by virtue of winning the first U1100 prize, his first of many for the weekend.

Washington Class Rapid Championship

The Washington Class Rapid Championship, a five-round, G/15;+5 Swiss in two sections – Open and Premier U1600 – took place from 2:00-5:30 PM on Saturday, November 25. Players ranging in rating from Class E to Master competed over the course of the afternoon, which made for several entertaining battles! In the 14-player Open section, newly minted NM Stephen Willy (1698→1804, 5.0) of Sammamish emerged victorious with a perfect five points from five games. Two rising chess supernovas Vidip Kona (1582→1607, 3.5) of Redmond and Gabriel Razmov (1227→1463, 3.5) of Seattle shared second/third place honors a point-and-a-half back, each losing only to the wild Willy. Chad Boey (1681→1693, 3.0) of Seattle and Rishi Ramaswamy (1179→1357, 3.0) of Bellevue split the U2000/U1700 prizes a half-point back. Bothell chess prince Rafael Palathingal (1463→1460, 2.0) earned the biggest-upset win prize with his third-round knockout against Seattle-based lawyer Robin Tu.

In the sparse 10-player Reserve

Washington Class - Class C section										
#	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Total pts	Prize
1	Irina Gavrysh	1520	W24	D19	L6	W22	W16	W4	4.5	=1st-3rd: \$311
2	Arnav Gadde	1489	D7	W17	W16	D4	D3	W12	4.5	=1st-3rd: \$311
3	Vincent Liu	1487	L10	W24	W15	W13	D2	W5	4.5	=1st-3rd: \$311
4	Derek Adair	1593	W21	D6	W19	D2	W5	L1	4	
5	Kai Marcelais	1563	W20	W15	W10	W6	L4	L3	4	
6	Advait Krishnan	1507	W18	D4	W1	L5	D7	W13	4	
7	Bichen Liu	1552	D2	L16	W22	W21	D6	H---	3.5	
8	Michael Rabadan	1503	D22	L13	W17	D10	W15	D11	3.5	
9	Kate Wong	1425	L12	L11	D18	W24	W21	W16	3.5	=1st/2nd U1500: \$92
10	Veronique Joseph	1359	W3	W12*	L5	D8	L13	W18	3.5	=1st/2nd U1500: \$92 + Biggest Upset Win*
11	Deeksha Shankaranand	1345	L23	W9	L21	W17	W14	D8	3.5	=1st/2nd U1500: \$92
12	David Hendricks	1579	W9	L10	W14	D16	H---	L2	3	
13	Balbir Singh	1550	D17	W8	H---	L3	W10	L6	3	
14	Pablo Manzon	1533	L15	W20	L12	W19	L11	X21	3	
15	Luke Dale	1355	W14	L5	L3	W20	L8	W22	3	
16	Glen Dawson	1500	B---	W7	L2	D12	L1	L9	2.5	
17	Niranjan Prashant	1409	D13	L2	L8	L11	W24	W20	2.5	
18	Daniel Yates	1302	L6	D21	D9	H---	W22	L10	2.5	
19	Yuchang Yang	1252	X---	D1	L4	L14	L20	W24	2.5	
20	Rian Raja	1416	L5	L14	W24	L15	W19	L17	2	
21	Andra Marinescu	1477	L4	D18	W11	L7	L9	F14	1.5	Best Female Player
22	Arnav Bablani	1363	D8	B---	L7	L1	L18	L15	1.5	
23	Pranav Kokati	1520	W11	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	1	
24	Chen Yuan	1350	L1	L3	L20	L9	L17	L19	0	

U1600 section, youth triumphed over experience, as Kirkland chess warrior Noah Condit (1165→1206, 4.0) emerged victorious with an undefeated four points from five games. Condit's "Swiss Gambit Declined" paid off, as he was able to score three and a half points from his final four games after taking a first-round draw against the omnipresent Xavier Palathingal. Olympia-based chess prince Stephen Belgau (914→1074, 3.5) finished in second place a half-point back. A triumvirate of chess men shared =third/first U1400/first unrated honors with three points apiece: Vahe Gul (1232→1192, 3.0) of Seattle, Maxence Frenette (unrated→1099, 3.0) of Seattle, and Andrew Goupinets (1161→1094, 3.0) of Bellevue. Allen Chang (778→877, 2.0) of Mountlake Terrace scored the biggest upset win with his second-round knockout against second place finisher Belgau. Chess ironman Xavier Palathingal (705→734, 1.5) of Bothell won the first U1100 prize for his determined efforts.

Washington Class Chess960 (Fischer Random) Championship

The Washington Class Chess960 (Fischer Random) Championship took place on Sunday, November 26 from 2:00-4:00 PM between the last two rounds of the main tournament. Eleven intrepid chess gurus honored the legacy of Bobby Fischer as they scrambled up the back-rank pieces and played Chess960 from a different starting position each round! The starting position of the back

rank pieces was randomly generated each round, which produced some truly unorthodox permutations including: R K B R N B Q N (Pos #934), NRKNQBBR (Pos #270), QRBNKBRN (Pos #582), and QBBRNKRN (Pos #580). In this era of AI and worries about fair play due to the incredible strength of chess engines, such factors were non-existent in this format. This is partially because of the fast G/10;+3 time control, but more so because potential violators may have feared becoming haunted by the ghost of Bobby Fischer!

Two junior chess musketeers, NM Stephen Willy (2203) of Sammamish and Edward Cheng (1841) of Seattle, shared =first/second-place honors with an undefeated three and a half points from four games. They each won their first three games in grand Fischer style before drawing against each other in the fourth round. Seling Cheng (1526), Edward's younger sister, captured clear third place thanks to a clutch final round victory against the tricky Austin Wentz. Fischer Random diehard Gabriel Razmov (1712) of Seattle finished a half-point back and earned the first U2000 prize for his efforts. Dann Merriman (1674) of Duvall and Austin Wentz (1318) of Seattle split

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the first U1700/U1400 prize with an even two points apiece.

Washington Class "Knight-Time" Blitz

The Washington Class "Knight-Time" Blitz tournament, a popular annual side event at large WCF tournaments, took place late Sunday evening under the direction of Rekha Sagar and Ani Barua. The seven-round, single Swiss blitz tournament featured a time control of G/5; +2 and was divided into two sections, Open and Premier U1600. In the 19-player Open section, Bellevue National Masters Siddarth M. Sundaram (2323→2324, 6.0) and Vinesh Ravuri (2102→2120, 6.0) emerged victorious, each scoring six points from seven games. The two chess masters each got off to a blistering 3.0/3 start before facing off in the fourth round, with Sundaram winning their head-to-head encounter. IM Alexander Costello (2063→2074,

Washington Class - Class D section										
#	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Total pts	Prize
1	Allen Chang	1277	W14	W5	W7	W8	L2	W4	5	1st: \$466
2	Atharv Rao	1274	L4	W12	W15	W16	W1	D5	4.5	=2nd/3rd: \$234
3	Daniel Polonsky	1215	B---	W11*	D4	L5	X13	W9	4.5	=2nd/3rd: \$234 + Biggest Upset Win*
4	Vladimir Fedorov	1318	W2	W10	D3	D9	W8	L1	4	
5	Kyle Boddy	1285	W7	L1	W14	W3	D9	D2	4	1st U1300: \$159
6	Daniel Meyerzon	1281	L8	W18	L9	W15	W10	D7	3.5	=2nd U1300: \$58.50
7	Rushil Singh	1257	L5	W14	L1	X18	W16	D6	3.5	=2nd U1300: \$58.50
8	Hunter Morgan	1327	W6	W15	W13	L1	L4	F17	3	
9	Joshua Pantea	1306	W18	L13	W6	D4	D5	L3	3	
10	Vihaan Pai	1296	W11	L4	L16	W12	L6	W14	3	
11	Johanna Greisen	1397	L10	L3	W18	D13	W17	L15	2.5	
12	Breck Haining	1300	L13	L2	W17	L10	H---	W16	2.5	
13	Ishan Nair	1232	W12	W9	L8	D11	F3	U---	2.5	
14	Vilmos Foltenyi	1374	L1	L7	L5	W17	W15	L10	2	
15	Alfred Greisen	1298	W17	L8	L2	L6	L14	W11	2	
16	Vidur Ganesan	1270	U---	W17	W10	L2	L7	L12	2	
17	Andrew Smith	1218	L15	L16	L12	L14	L11	X8	1	
18	Leonid Zandanov	1244	L9	L6	L11	F7	U---	U---	0	



*(L) Alex Kaelin vs Tim Moroney at the Knight-Time Blitz.
Photo Credit: Meiling Cheng.*

annotated their games for the *Northwest Chess* readers to enjoy...

**Gabriel Razmov (1712) –
Hayul Lim (1803) [A45]**

WA Class Championships, Class A
Bellevue, WA (R1), November 24, 2023
[Gabriel Razmov]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.h4!?

This move was part of my preparation. It can present opponents with difficult choices about how to develop. Playing ...h5 can leave a hook that is easy to attack, but without it, White could simply castle queenside and then go for f3, g4, h5, with an attack on the Black king. Black has to carefully plan out their development.

4...Bg7 5.e3 c6 6.Bd3 a5N

A move most likely played to prepare for an opposite-sides castling position, where Black can have chances to attack before they lose the battle on the kingside. Theory is scarce here, but ...b5 and ...Bf5 have been played before, with similar ideas.

7.Nf3 Bg4 8.Be2 Na6?!

Now this is a small mistake. Black has committed their a-pawn, and so they can try to provoke early queenside weaknesses for White by 8...a4. After 8...a4, Black forces 9.a3 and after something like 9...Qa5 10.Qd2 (*10.Ne5* is also possible) 10...Nbd7. the position is comfortable for Black and close to equal.

9.Ne5 Bxe2 10.Qxe2 Nc7

5.0) of San Diego (CA), who is currently attending the University of Washington, and Edward Cheng (1737→1848, 5.0) of Seattle split the third/first U2000 prize a full point back. Two up-and-coming speed chess titans, Arjun Yadav (1277→1328, 3.0) of Sammamish and Rafael Palathingal (1265→1316, 3.0) of Bothell, shared the first U1700 prize with three points apiece. In the 15-player Premier U1600 section, fellow west-coaster Marvin T. Yee (1729→1730, 6.5) of Hayward (CA) topped the standings with an impressive six-and-a-half points from seven games, winning his final six games in a row after making a draw against Joshua Pantea (1306) in the first round. Kirkland wonderkid Noah Condit (1220→1419, 6.0) earned second-place

honors a half-point back, losing only a single game against Yee. Seattle chess femme fatale Selina Cheng (1358→1357, 5.0) finished in third place with five points thanks to winning her final three games in a row. A pair of chess kings shared the first U1400 prize a full-point back: Vahe Gul (1324→1306, 4.0) of Seattle and Joshua Pantea (835→1010, 4.0) of Renton. Zion Pantea (363→602, 3.5), the younger brother of Joshua, claimed the first U1100 prize with an even three-and-a-half-point score. Newcomer Ramunas Wierzbicki (1043→874, 2.0) of Bellevue took home the first unrated prize to round out the prize winners.

As part of the annotate games competition, several players have

Washington Class - Class E & under + Unrated section

#	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Total pts	Prize
1	Andrew Goupinets	unr.	W7	W2	W10	W9	W6	W4	6	1st Unrated: \$94
2	Olin Martin	1148	W16	L1	D6	W12	W15	W9	4.5	1st: \$466
3	Miles King	1170	D8	L7	W16	W18	D9	W6	4	=2nd/3rd: \$234
4	Jack Dunham	999	L15	W11	W7	W14	W13	L1	4	=2nd/3rd: \$234
5	Alexander Alvarado	unr.	L6	W16	L15	W17	W10	W13	4	
6	Skandha Raj	1043	W5	W8	D2	W15	L1	L3	3.5	
7	Alex Foltenyi	1016	L1	W3*	L4	W8	D14	X15	3.5	Biggest Upset Win*
8	Aakash Mishra	1006	D3	L6	W11	L7	W12	W14	3.5	
9	Eshaan Verma	881	W19	W20	W14	L1	D3	L2	3.5	1st U1000: \$159
10	Alex Ye	1075	W11	W15	L1	L13	L5	W18	3	
11	Xavier Palathingal	979	L10	L4	L8	X20	W17	W16	3	=2nd U1000: \$58.50
12	Riddhima Chauhan	820	L13	W18	W20	L2	L8	W19	3	=2nd U1000: \$58.50
13	Salome Jacob	unr.	W12	L14	W17	W10	L4	L5	3	Best Female Player
14	Killian Bates	994	W17	W13	L9	L4	D7	L8	2.5	
15	Stephen Weller	1093	W4	L10	W5	L6	L2	F7	2	
16	Marvin Wilbur	1002	L2	L5	L3	W19	W18	L11	2	
17	Atharv Singla	669	L14	W19	L13	L5	L11	B---	2	1st U800: \$94
18	Zion Pantea	549	D20	L12	W19	L3	L16	L10	1.5	2nd U800: \$47
19	Ethan Chong	566	L9	L17	L18	L16	B---	L12	1	
20	Audrie Eloise Gordon	789	D18	L9	L12	F11	U---	U---	0.5	

Now we begin to see the issues in Black's position—the knight on e5 attacks f7, which prevents a queenside castle, Black's queen cannot develop easily, and castling kingside seems dangerous as White is not in a particular danger on the queenside yet and can even delay their own castle thanks to the stable central pawn structure.

11.g4?!

Not the most precise continuation, as this begins to over-extend and create weaknesses in White's position, which would favor Black. However, Black must be accurate in this sharp position. 11.Bh2 is a safe and natural move. Play might continue 11...h5 12.0-0-0 a4 13.a3 Ra5± with some counterplay for Black on the queenside.



Position after 11.g4

11...Ne6?!

This move fails to open up the position via a pawn exchange, and allows White to regain an edge. 11...h5! was better here. If we want to keep the position open, we must play 12.gxh5 (12.f3 Nd7 and White hasn't really made any serious progress setting up their attack; it is hard to move forward here.) 12...Nxh5 13.Bh2

with a playable and complex position, unlike the pawn storm that ensues in the game.

12.Bg3?!

A natural move, sparing the bishop from an exchange. However, a potential exchange on f4 can only favor White, as they could then attack with more pawns (e.g., the e3-pawn didn't participate in the attack before), plus the e-file will be more open. 12.h5! would pose more challenges for Black. An illustrative line goes 12...Nd7 13.0-0-0 a4 (13...Nxe5 14.Bxe5 Bxe5 15.dxe5 Rf8∞) 14.a3 g5 15.Nxd7 gxf4 16.Ne5 Bxe5 17.dxe5 fxe3 18.Qxe3 d4 19.Qe4 Qb6 20.Ne2 c5 21.Nf4± and the position remains complex, with lots of opportunities. Both sides have extended on the wings, and even though Black can castle safely on the queenside, his kingside pawns are far from safe.; 12.Qf3 is another challenging option. After 12...Nxf4 13.Qxf4 Rf8 (13...0-0 14.h5) 14.h5± Black will have difficulties for a while due to the strong centralized knight and the ongoing pawn storm on the kingside.

12...h5!

This strong move now poses issues for White as to how to continue the attack. White decides to pursue it energetically, hoping to avoid a kingside castle (as the kingside is closing up) and trying to open up the f-file as an avenue for attack.

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13.g5 Nd7 14.f4?!±

An impatient move that weakens White's position as the dark-squared bishop loses scope. While the f-file can open up, it's not clear that White will have an attack, as Black can soon castle safely on the kingside. 14.Nd3 seems better, since after 14...Nb6 15.f4 a4 16.0-0-0!? we have an unclear position where both sides have chances to attack.

14...Nxe5?!

This wasn't the right continuation, even though it seems quite natural. White now gets five pawns on the kingside and center, which can pose serious issues. 14...Bxe5!± is the surprising best move here, according to the engine. The idea behind it is likely that the bishop isn't very useful on g7, while the knight on d7 can actually support ...c5 with a counterattack on the center and queenside. Even if 15.dxe5 there are attractive options that retain good chances for Black: 15...Ndc5 (15...a4 16.a3?! (16.0-0-0!? a3 17.b3 b5) 16...b5.) 16.0-0-0 Qc8. with good control for Black over the light squares.

Washington Class SCC Adult Swiss (no tiebreaks)

#	Name	USCF Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Total pts	Prize
1	Paul Leblanc	1851	X14	W8	W7	W5	W4	L2	5	=1st/2nd: \$175
2	Erkan Chabuk	unr.	W10	W4	H---	H---	W5	W1	5	=1st/2nd: \$175
3	Austin Wentz	1318	W9	L7	L4	W10	W12	W6	4	3rd: \$110
4	John P Christy	1472	B---	L2	W3	W11	L1	H---	3.5	=1st U2000/U1700: \$90
5	Michael Rodney	1174	X15	W6	W9	L1	L2	H---	3.5	=1st U2000/U1700: \$90
6	Henry Yan	1698	W11	L5	W8	L7	W9	L3	3	
7	Ralph Anthony	1580	W12	W3	L1	W6	U---	U---	3	
8	Jeffrey M Burgert	1340	W13*	L1	L6	L9	W10	W12	3	1st U1400 + Biggest Upset Win*: \$180
9	Francisco J Lopez	1734	L3	W10	L5	W8	L6	H---	2.5	
10	Don Hack	1325	L2	L9	W12	L3	L8	B---	2	
11	Henry Louie	1310	L6	B---	H---	L4	U---	U---	1.5	
12	John Selsky	579	L7	H---	L10	B---	L3	L8	1.5	1st U1100: \$90
13	Michael J Hosford	1836	L8	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0	
14	Stephan Shook	1423	F1	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0	
15	Fareed Zerifat	unr.	F5	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0	



Adult Swiss participants at Washington Class, with Don Hack (L) and Jeffrey Burgert (R) in the foreground. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

15.dxe5 Bf8?

This move is hard to explain, yet it underscores that Black would have been better off if they had exchanged that bishop on the previous move instead. Now the Black king is stuck in the center, which is what White had wanted. Also, it would take time to set up a blockade on the light squares due to the central lever e4 for White. 15...b5 instead would create a double-edged position. White can choose 16.0-0-0 and now 16...Qb8 is the right way to continue. (16...Qc7? looks more natural, but the relatively weaker b-pawn tells in the line 17.e4 d4 18.Nd5! cxd5 19.exd5 Nc5 20.Qxb5+ Kd8 (20...Kf8 21.Rxd4) 21.Rxd4 and the resulting position can be tough for Black

to defend.) 17.e4 d4 18.Nb1±

16.0-0-0!±

Now White's king is finally safe and the central-kingside pawn avalanche can start soon. The pin on the d-file also helps White with playing e4 and f5. Black is already in serious trouble and must tread very carefully.

16...Qc7 17.e4 d4 18.Nb1

Another interesting option would be 18.Na4 b5 19.f5! gxf5 20.exf5 Ng7 21.Nc5 e6 22.Ne4! Nxf5 23.Nf6+ Kd8 24.Bf2 Bc5 25.c3± with a serious advantage for White.

18...c5?

This move severely weakens the

queenside light squares, especially b5; it also makes pushing ...b5 impossible for the moment, rendering counterplay slow and ineffective. White smoothly converts from here. 18...0-0-0!? was perhaps a practical chance for Black, though their position remains difficult after 19.Qf3 Nc5 20.Bf2 e6 21.Bxd4±



Position after 18...c5

19.f5! Ng7

The other option was 19...Nd8 but it also loses due to a similar tactic to what followed in the game 20.e6! Qxg3? (20...Qb6 21.Na3 fxe6 22.fxg6 Bg7 23.Nc4 Qa6 24.a4 Nc6 25.Rhf1+- Notice White's control over the light squares.) 21.Qb5+ Nc6 22.Qxb7+- and the lack of development by Black takes its toll— White wins easily.

20.e6!+-

This move was made possible by ...c5; here, White's bishop is immune due to mate threats: 21. Qb5+ and 22. Qd7#.

20...Qb6 21.exf7+ Kxf7 22.Be5

Washington Class "WaldoChess" Championship

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Total pts	Prize
1	1	NM Vinesh Ravuri	2320	W9 (b)	W6 (w)	W3 (b)	W5 (w)	W2 (b)	W4 (w)	6	1st
2	2	NM Daniel He	2357	W16 (w)	W7 (b)	W4 (w)	W15 (b)	L1 (w)	W8 (b)	5	2nd
3	3	NM Daniel Shubin	2253	W10 (w)	W8 (b)	L1 (w)	W16 (b)	W14 (w)	H--- (-)	4.5	3rd
4	4-6	NM Eric Zhang	2230	W11 (b)	W14 (w)	L2 (b)	W10 (w)	W5 (b)	L1 (b)	4	
5		NM Stephen Willy	2203	W12 (w)	W15 (b)	W7 (w)	L1 (b)	L4 (w)	W16 (b)	4	
6		Damarcus Thomas	1960	W17 (w)	L1 (b)	L16 (w)	W14 (b)	W15 (w)	W7 (b)	4	1st U2000
7	7-12	WFM Miinda Chen	2003	W13 (b)	L2 (w)	L5 (b)	W9 (w)	W10 (b)	L6 (w)	3	Best Female Player
8		Valentin Razmov	1852	W18 (b)	L3 (w)	L10 (b)	W13 (w)	W11 (b)	L2 (w)	3	=2nd U2000
9		Gabriel Razmov	1712	L1 (w)	L12 (b)	W17 (w)	L7 (b)	W16 (w)	W15 (b)	3	=2nd U2000
10		Noah Condit	1523	L3 (b)	W18 (w)	W8 (w)	L4 (b)	L7 (w)	W17 (b)	3	=1st/2nd U1700
11		Rafael Palathingal	1440	L4 (w)	W17 (b)	L15 (w)	W12 (b)	L8 (w)	W14 (b)	3	=1st/2nd U1700
12		Vahe Gul	1343	L5 (b)	W9 (w)	L14 (b)	L11 (w)	W17 (b)	B--- (-)	3	1st U1400
13	13	Lydia Xiong	1255	L7 (w)	L16 (b)	W18 (w)	L8 (b)	B--- (-)	H--- (-)	2.5	2nd U1400
14	14-16	Harishkumar Karthikeyan	1846	X19 (-)	L4 (b)	W12 (w)	L6 (w)	L3 (b)	L11 (w)	2	
15		Travis Olson	1832	X20 (-)	L5 (w)	W11 (b)	L2 (w)	L6 (b)	L9 (w)	2	
16		David Merrikin	1731	L2 (b)	W13 (w)	W6 (b)	L3 (w)	L9 (b)	L5 (w)	2	Biggest Upset Win*
17	17	Xavier Palathingal	979	L6 (b)	L11 (w)	L9 (b)	B--- (-)	L12 (w)	L10 (w)	1	1st U1100
18	18	Ethan Chong	566	L8 (w)	L10 (b)	L13 (b)	U--- (-)	U--- (-)	U--- (-)	0	
19		Sam Lee	unr.	F14 (-)	U--- (-)	U--- (-)	U--- (-)	U--- (-)	U--- (-)	0	
20		Arush Tumkunta	unr.	F15 (-)	U--- (-)	U--- (-)	U--- (-)	U--- (-)	U--- (-)	0	

Further restricting Black's pieces, and now their king has no escape. Black loses material. 22.Rhf1+- is another strong continuation of White's attack.

22...Rg8 23.Qc4+ e6 24.Rhf1 Qa6 25.fxg6+ Kxg6?

This blunders into checkmate, though Black's position was already lost. 25...Ke8 avoids the immediate loss, though after 26.Qxa6 Rxa6 27.Rf7+- Black's position is completely tied up—their king, bishop, rook on g8, and knight cannot move at all. It'll be only a matter of time until White activates fully and wins material on the kingside.

26.Rf6+

My opponent resigned here, in view of 26... Kh7 27. Rh6#. This game turned out very interesting due to the sharp line that we chose early on. A complex middlegame position arose, which Black didn't handle well: a series of mistakes between moves 15–18 gave White a strong attack that quickly led to a win. The victory was important for me at the start of the tournament, as it helped me to gain confidence for some of the later rounds.

1–0

**Valentin Razmov (1879) –
Nikhil Ramkumar (1849) [D35]**
WA Class Championships, Expert
Bellevue, WA (R5), November 26, 2023
[Valentin Razmov]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.cxd5

The popular Exchange Queen's Gambit opening variation.

4...exd5 5.Bg5 c6 6.e3 Bf5


A known move in theory, but more popular are 6...Be7, 6...Bd6, and 6...h6 instead.

7.Qf3 Bg6

My opponent took an unusually long time to think here, which I interpreted to mean that he wasn't familiar with this line. In the meantime, I was trying to recall the main ideas from games in this line played by Kramnik, Carlsen, Anand, and others over the past several years. I knew that the line was solid, but Black had to play with care, patience, and persistence. 7...Be6 8.Bxf6 Qxf6 9.Qxf6 gxf6 10.Bd3 Nd7 11.Nge2 Bd6 12.0-0 f5± is another way to play on for Black.

8.Bxf6 gxf6?!

Usually queens get exchanged on f6 instead, so I reasoned that with his move my opponent wanted to seek active counterplay (in part using the preserved queen) against my less developed king-side and uncastled king, rather than trading down into a somewhat worse but solid endgame. The reality is that Black has the pair of bishops, while the doubled, isolated f-pawns are hard for White to target, so their potential weakness doesn't easily show. 8...Qxf6 9.Qxf6 gxf6 10.Nf3



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(10.h4)

9.h4!

Immediately setting out to provoke a weakening on Black's king-side. A typical idea in such positions, I remembered.

9...Qb6?!

Black is daring White to castle long or retreat. After some thought, I accepted the challenge, on principle. White would shortly net the f6-pawn as a "reward." 9...h5 is the usual response, leading toward 10.Rd1 Nd7 11.Bd3 Bd6 12.Nge2±

10.0-0 h5 11.Qxf6 Rg8 12.g3?!N

This was a moment of long deliberation for me, as I had to construct an effective plan for completing White's development and transitioning into a middlegame. I reasoned that although Black shows some promise to develop an initiative, White could keep their extra pawn and catch up over time. 12.Bd3! Nd7 *(12...Bxd3?! 13.Rxd3 Rxd2 14.Nh3!)* This strong move

Washington Class Rapid Championship: Open

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total pts	Prizes	
1	1	NM Stephen Willy	2203	W11	W5	W10	W2	W3	5	1st	\$100
2	2-3	Vidip Kona	2019	H---	W14	W5	L1	W6	3.5	=2nd/3rd	\$70
3		Gabriel Razmov	1712	D8	W7	W13	W10	L1	3.5	=2nd/3rd	\$70
4	4-6	CM Matt Sellers	2118	L5	W8	L6	W7	W10	3		
5		Chad Boey	1716	W4	L1	L2	W11	W9	3	=1st U2000/U1700	\$35
6		Rishi Ramaswamy	1636	W9	L13	W4	W12	L2	3	=1st U2000/U1700	\$35
7	7-8	NM Peter Yu	2128	D13	L3	W8	L4	W12	2.5		
8		Valentin Razmov	1852	D3	L4	L7	X14	W13	2.5		
9	9-12	Te Wei	1790	L6	L11	W14	W13	L5	2		
10		Kenneth Severson	1781	W14	W12	L1	L3	L4	2		
11		Robin Tu	1777	L1	W9	L12	L5	B---	2		
12		Rafael Palathingal	1440	B---	L10	W11*	L6	L7	2	Biggest Upset Win*	\$20
13	13	Neevan Reddy Saddi	1724	D7	W6	L3	L9	L8	1.5		
14	14	Jinshuo Zhang	unr.	L10	L2	L9	F8	U---	0		



*Coach Valentin Razmoy looking optimistic during his round five encounter in the Expert section of Washington Class.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*

I had missed in my deliberations, only focusing on 14.Qf3 Rg4, which didn't feel satisfying. 14...Nd7 15.Qf3 Rg7 16.Qxh5± 13.Qf3 0-0-0 14.Nge2±

12...Nd7 13.Qf3 Bb4 14.Nge2 0-0-0

14...Qa5 15.a3 Be7 16.Bh3 Nb6 17.Bf5 Nc4 18.Kc2±

15.Bh3

So far everything is going according to plan. Having missed the earlier opportunity to counter Black's light-squared bishop from d3, White is

preparing to shut down that bishop's diagonal via Bf5 now.

15...Rge8?!

"Activity, activity, activity" must have been the slogan behind that move. I expected instead that the Black king would step away from the pin, in a prophylactic king move, common after a long castle. 15...Kb8

16.Bf5 Qa6

Another small surprise, though it's clear that the Black queen seeks increased

activity, possibly leaving the b6-square for the knight, as soon as it becomes unpinned.

17.Rd2?!

It was White's turn to disregard common prophylaxis, paradoxically after I had fully expected my opponent to play that same king-move two moves earlier. I wanted to avoid yet another pin (in this case a self-pin) and its associated limitation on piece mobility, though in reality this pin (of the light-squared bishop) isn't as dangerous. Instead, I opted for the well-known "second-rank defense." 17.Kb1±; 17.a3±

17...Kb8 18.Rhd1?!

Connecting the rooks, but allowing Black to start developing their initiative now that their knight has been unpinned. 18.a3! forces Black to make a decision and resolves one of the pins on White's position 18...Bxc3 (18...Bd6 19.Bxg6 fxg6 20.Qf7) 19.Nxc3 Nb6 20.Rc2 Nc4 21.Kb1±

18...Nb6!

White's rooks are starting to feel uncomfortable in their limited space, given the ambitions of Black's knight to occupy the c4-square in the near future.

19.b3?

A tough move to make: it restricts the Black knight, but weakens the dark squares around the White king. 19.Kb1

19...c5?

Correct idea, to open the center and start an attack on the White king, but incorrect timing. As a result, Black's d5-pawn is weakened, and White's rooks suddenly turn from potential targets into a great strength. 19...Nc8!☞/= 20.Rc2 Nd6 21.Bxg6 fxg6 22.a4 Qb6 (22...b5?! 23.Kb2±) 23.Kb2±

Washington Class Rapid Championship: Premier U1600

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total pts	Prizes	
1	1	Noah Condit	1523	D9	W5	D2	W3	W4	4	1st	\$90
2	2	Stephen Belgau	1422	W4	L7	D1	W6	W3	3.5	2nd	\$70
3	3-5	Vahe Gul	1343	W10	W6	W7	L1	L2	3	=3rd/1st U1400/1st Unrated	\$38 Each
4		Maxence Frenette	unr.	L2	W9	W8	W7	L1	3		
5		Andrew Goupinets	1161	L6	L1	W10	W8	W7	3		
6	6-8	Christian Jordan	1350	W5	L3	W9	L2	L10	2		
7		Allen Chang	1277	W8	W2*	L3	L4	L5	2	Biggest Upset Win*	\$20
8		Ramunas Wierzbicki	unr.	L7	W10	L4	L5	W9	2		
9	9	Xavier Palathingal	979	D1	L4	L6	W10	L8	1.5	1st U1100	\$35
10	10	Ajay Sundaresh	unr.	L3	L8	L5	L9	W6	1		

20.dxc5 Bxc5 21.Kb1! Rd6?

A rook lift and a tactical trap (threatening ...Rf6). 21...Bb4±



Position after 21...Rd6

22.Bxg6!

Letting go of a liability (the pin) and setting up a potential trap too (Black's bishop is short on squares to move to).

22...fxg6 23.Nxd5?

After a long thought and calculation, White yields to the temptation to increase their material advantage. 23.Qf4! After this move, White's threats would simply be too much to deal with... For example: 23...Ka8 24.b4 d4 25.bxc5 dxc3 26.Qxd6 (26.Rxd6?? Qxe2) 26...Qb5+ 27.Ka1 cxd2 28.Rxd2 Nc8 29.Qc7! (29.Qd7 Qxd7 30.Rxd7 Re5) 29...a5 30.Rb2 Qa6 31.Nd4+-; 23.Nd4! Rd7! 24.Rc2 Rf8 25.Qe2 Qxe2 26.Ncxe2±

23...Nxd5 24.Rxd5 Rf6?

Keeping White's two rooks standing strong and owning the d-file, White forcing an improvement of White's knight is hardly a goal Black should strive for. 24...Rxd5 25.Rxd5 Rf8 26.Nf4 Ba3

27.Qd1 Qf6 This line was the main subject of White's calculations, resulting in a sense of assurance that the position is likely winning already. 28.Nd3!± (28.Qd4? Rc8 29.Nd3 Qxf2! 30.Qf4+ Qxf4 31.gxf4 (31.exf4?! Rc3∞) 31...Rc6±)

25.Nf4 Qb6 26.Qe2 Rc6 27.Qd2

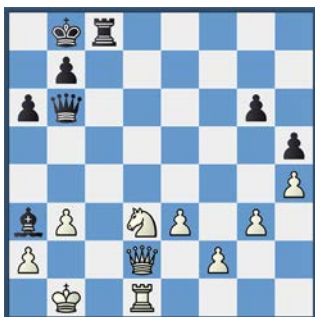
White is interested in trading, in order to reduce the pressure around their king, and to stabilize their advantage. 27.Nd3! Bd6 (27...Ba3? 28.Ne5!+-) 28.Nb2±

27...Rec8 28.Rd8 a6

28...Ba3!?

29.Rxc8+ Rxc8 30.Nd3 Ba3?!

30...Bd6



Position after 30...Ba3

31.Nb2?

Missing a strong continuation, but also



landing the knight on a square that at a glance appears helpful for the king's safety but in fact will not solve the potential back rank issues that White has... At this point, both sides had under 10 minutes left to complete the next 10 moves until the time control. 31.Ne5!+- Qe6 32.Qd4 b5 (32...Qf5+ 33.e4) 33.e4! (33.b4) 33...a5 34.Qd5+-

31...Bb4?

Black offered a draw here. I saw no reason to cut short the excitement. 31...Qe6! 32.Qd4 (32.Nc4? Qf5+± loses a pawn) 32...Qf5+ 33.e4±

32.Qd4 Qc6 33.Qf4+ Ka7 34.Qd4+

White sees an opportunity to repeat moves once and thus gain some time on the clock. 34.Qc4!+- was missed; it forces queen trades, which is in White's favor as a potential continuation.

34...Bc5! 35.Qd2?!

35.Qd5 Qf6 36.Rd2±

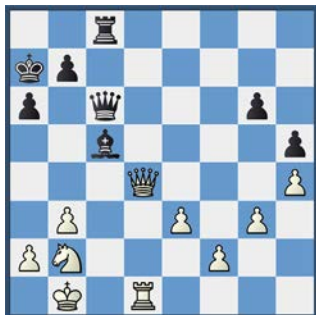
35...Bb4?!

Washington Class Chess960 (Fischer Random) Rapid

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Total	Prizes (total \$150)
1	1-2	Stephen Willy	2203	W8	W6	W5	D2	3.5	=1st/2nd: \$35
2		Edward Cheng	1841	W9	W4	W3	D1	3.5	=1st/2nd: \$35
3	3	Selina Cheng	1526	W11	W8	L2	W7	3	3rd: \$20
4	4	Gabriel Razmov	1712	W7	L2	W6	D8	2.5	1st U2000: \$15
5	5-7	Valentin Razmov	1879	H---	H---	L1	W9	2	
6		Dann Merriman	1674	W10	L1	L4	W11	2	=1st U1700/1st U1400: \$15
7		Austin Wentz	1318	L4	W10	W9	L3	2	=1st U1700/1st U1400: \$15
8	8	Rafael Palathingal	1440	L1	L3	W10	D4	1.5	
9	9-11	Vahe Gul	1343	L2	W11	L7	L5	1	
10		Xavier Palathingal	979	L6	L7	L8	B---	1	
11		Ethan Chong	566	L3	L9	B---	L6	1	

Black offered a draw again. Both players had three minutes each for the next five moves. 35...Qe4+

36.Qd4+ Bc5



Position after 36...Bc5

37.Qd7?!

Correct idea—an active queen would be preferable—but over pushing it a bit. An active and centralized queen would have been even stronger: 37.Qd5 Qf6 38.Rd2±

37...Qe4+ 38.Qd3 Qf3 39.Rd2!

Down to one minute for the final couple of moves, White finds a good move. 39.Rc1! Rc6 (39...Qxf2? 40.b4+-) 40.Rc2!

39...Bb4 40.Qd4+!

40.Rc2 Qh1+ 41.Qd1 Qe4 42.Qd4+

40...Bc5 41.Qd5 Qf6 42.Rc2 Qf8

42...Ba3!? 43.Qd4+ Qxd4 44.exd4 Rd8 45.Rd2 (45.Nc4! Bb4 46.a3 (46.Ne5 Rxd4 47.Nxg6 Ba3 48.Re2!+-)) 45...Bb4

46.Rd1±

43.Na4!

43.a4!+-

43...Ba3 44.Qd4+

Instead of trading rooks, White sees an even better opportunity—to trade queens (and possibly rooks too)!

44...Kb8 45.Qf4+! Qxf4

45...Ka7 46.Qxf8 Rxf8 47.Rd2 Rc8 48.Nb2 b5 49.Nd3!+-

46.Rxc8+!

An effective intermediate move that trades down to a simpler endgame where White can finally activate their king in the absence of any heavy pieces on the board.

46...Kxc8 47.exf4

The doubled f-pawns aren't a problem for White. After the king activates the break-through with f4–f5 will eventually become possible.

47...Kd7 48.Kc2 b5 49.Nc3 Ke6 50.Kd3 Kf5

50...Bc5 51.Nd1

51.Nd5 Kg4 52.Ke4!

Keeping the Black king at bay, above all, and thus not taking any risks.

52...Bd6 53.Ne3+ Kh3 54.f5

Settling for a pragmatic move after seeking but (correctly) not finding any

working mating ideas. The rest is simple and does not need commentary.

54...gxf5+ 55.Nxf5 Bc5 56.Kf3 Bf8 57.Nd4 b4 58.Ne6 Bh6 59.Nf4+

1–0

**Cedric Davies (1647) –
Karthik Bimod (1510) [C00]**
WA Class Championships, Class B
Bellevue, WA (R6), November 26, 2023
[Cedric Davies]

1.e4 e6 2.Nf3 d5 3.e5 c5 4.b4

The French Wing Gambit. This is the first time I've tried it in a tournament game. The idea is to give up a pawn to establish a strong central pawn chain.

4...cxb4 5.a3 Nc6 6.axb4 Bxb4 7.c3 Ba5 8.d4 Nge7 9.Bd3



Position after 9.Bd3

The gambit has done its job. For the cost

Washington Class "Knight Time" Blitz - Open section

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Total pts	Prize
1	1-2	NM Siddarth Meenakshi Sundara	2472	W4	W12	W5	W2	L3	W6	W9	6	= 1st / 2nd: \$100
2		NM Vinesh Ravuri	2320	W8	W13	W3	L1	W4	W14	W6	6	= 1st / 2nd: \$100
3	3-4	IM Alexander Costello	2353	W18	W6	L2	W7	W1	W12	L4	5	= 3rd / 1st U2000: \$53
4		Edward Cheng	1841	L1	W11	W16	W5	L2	W13	W3	5	= 3rd / 1st U2000: \$53
5	5-8	NM Stephen Willy	2203	W17	W7	L1	L4	L14	W15	W13	4	
6		CM Timothy Moroney	2025	W14	L3	W9	W12	W13	L1	L2	4	
7		Dominic M Colombo	1961	W15	L5	W8	L3	L12	W17	W16	4	
8		Neevan Reddy Saddi	1724	L2	W19	L7	W15	W18	L9	W12	4	
9	9-11	CM Matt Sellers	2118	H---	W10	L6	L18	W16	W8	L1	3.5	
10		WFM Minda Chen	2003	H---	L9	W11	L13	L17	B---	W14	3.5	
11		Robin Tu	1777	H---	L4	L10	L14	B---	W19	W18	3.5	
12	12-16	Vidip Kona	2019	W19	L1	W18	L6	W7	L3	L8	3	
13		Valentin Razmov	1879	W16	L2	W15	W10	L6	L4	L5	3	
14		Alex Kaelin	1705	L6	L18	W17	W11	W5	L2	L10	3	
15		Arjun Yadav	1532	L7	W17	L13	L8	W19	L5	B---	3	=1st U1700: \$20
16		Rafael Palathingal	1440	L13	B---	L4	W19	L9	W18	L7	3	=1st U1700: \$20
17	17	Gabriel Razmov	1712	L5	L15	L14	B---	W10	L7	D19	2.5	
18	18	Davey V Jones	1744	L3	W14	L12	W9	L8	L16	L11	2	
19	19	Rishi Ramaswamy	1636	L12	L8	B---	L16	L15	L11	D17	1.5	

of a pawn, White has a solid pawn chain, a strong bishop on d3 and possibly later a strong bishop on a3. The position is about equal, but I prefer to play as White. The moves come more naturally, and White has great chances to mount a kingside attack.

9...Bd7 10.Ba3 Qb6 11.0-0 h6

A good defensive move. If Black were to castle right away, he could run into some trouble. For example: 11...0-0 12.Ng5 g6 (12...h6 13.Nh7 Rfd8 14.Nf6+ gxf6 (14...Kh8 15.Bxe7 Nxe7 16.Nxd7 Rxd7 17.Qa4 Nc6 18.Bb5+-) 15.Qg4+ Kf8 16.exf6+-) 13.Qg4 Kg7 14.Qh4 h6 15.Nh3±

12.Qd2 0-0 13.g4!?



Position after 13.g4

Striking out at the h6 weakness with gusto! Perhaps better would have been to prepare further with moves like Ra2-b2, Kh1-Rg1, or even Bc2-Qd3. After playing this move, I started worrying of Black playing ...f6 or ...f5 and making use of the weakened f-file.

13...Rfe8?

It makes sense to want to get out of the pin, but the move is too passive. Much better here is 13...f6 14.exf6 Rxf6 15.Ne5 Be8 16.Bxe7 Nxe7 17.g5 hxg5 18.Qxg5 Nc6. With this potential for Black, I now feel that my g4 move was premature.

14.g5 h5 15.g6!

The pawn pushes on! I sacrifice another pawn to open up the g5-square for my queen. My attack is starting to come together. I was getting gleeful here of my attacking prospects, while underestimating ...Nf5 as a defensive resource. I also wasn't thinking of the possibility of Black counterattacking in the center by ...Bxc3 or ...Nxd4. It's important in chess to be able to objectively evaluate a position. I bet many of us suffer from being overly optimistic about our own chances. I certainly believed I was a few moves away from a crushing position.

15...fxg6

Better is 15...Nxg6 16.Qg5 (And not 16.Bxg6 fxc6 17.Qg5 Rf8! 18.Bxf8 Rxf8 19.Nh4 Qd8) 16...Bxc3 17.Nxc3 Nxd4 18.Nxd4 Qxd4 19.Bxg6 fxc6 20.Ne2±

16.Qg5 Rac8?

The computer evaluation jumps from +1.2 to +4.3 for White after this move. Better is 16...Rf8 17.Nh4 Bxc3 18.Nxc3 Qxd4 19.Bxe7 Nxe7 20.Rad1 Qg4+ 21.Qxg4 hxg4±

17.Nh4?

Here I made a big mistake, wiping away all of my advantage, according to the computer. I of course saw the position after Bxg6 Qxg6 (Black move) Ng5 and the danger it posed, but I couldn't see a direct mate, or how to continue. So, then I thought, maybe it's better to bring in another attacking piece, exchange knights on g6 and keep my queen-bishop battery. Here again, I'm thinking optimistically about my prospects, not seeing how he doesn't need to exchange knights and how well ...Nf5 works to block my bishop. Nh4 is too slow and diverts the knight away from its best square: g5. 17.Bxg6 Nxg6 18.Qxg6 And Black can only stop mate by giving up their queen. For example: 18...Ne7 19.Bxe7 Rxe7 20.Ng5 Ree8 21.Qf7+ Kh8 22.Qxh5+ Kg8 23.Re1! What I couldn't see in my head before playing Nh4. The rook comes into the attack to deliver the decisive blow 23...Qb2 24.Qf7+ Kh8 25.Re3 and Black can only stop mate with ...Qc1+ and ...Qxe3.

17...Nf5 18.Nxg6 Nfxd4



Position after 18...Nfxd4

Washington Class "Knight Time" Blitz - Premier U1600 section

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Total pts	Prize
1	1	Marvin Tan Yee	1569	D5	W7	W10	W2	W6	W4	W9	6.5	1st: \$100
2	2	Noah Condit	1523	W13	W9	W3	L1	W4	W6	W7	6	2nd: \$75
3	3	Selina Cheng	1526	X16	W8	L2	L6	W11	W9	W10	5	3rd: \$56
4	4-5	Vahe Gul	1343	L9	W13	W15	W14	L2	L1	W6	4	=1st U1400: \$20
5		Joshua Pantea	1306	D1	W11	L6	L7	W14	D8	W12	4	=1st U1400: \$20
6	6-8	Sarang Sankrithi	1376	W15	D10	W5	W3	L1	L2	L4	3.5	
7		Maxwell Sun	1165	D11	L1	W8	W5	L9	W13	L2	3.5	
8		Zion Pantea	549	W12	L3	L7	L9	B---	D5	W15	3.5	1st U1100: \$38
9	9-11	Ralph Anthony	1580	W4	L2	L14	W8	W7	L3	L1	3	
10		Benjamin Frederick	1565	W14	D6	L1	D11	D13	D12	L3	3	
11		Balbir Singh	1550	D7	L5	W12	D10	L3	L15	W13	3	
12	12-13	Siva Sankrithi	1472	L8	L14	L11	B---	W15	D10	L5	2.5	
13		Xavier Palathingal	979	L2	L4	B---	W15	D10	L7	L11	2.5	
14	14-15	Chris Bruceri	1266	L10	W12	W9	L4	L5	U---	U---	2	
15		Ramunas Wierzbicki	unr.	L6	B---	L4	L13	L12	W11	L8	2	1st Unrated: \$38
16	16	Braeden Travaglio	1137	F3	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0	

A complete shock! I was so focused on the kingside, I didn't consider Black blowing apart the center. I want to give Black a "!" for the idea, but not for the move as both ...Bxc3 and ...Ncx4 are better options. 18...Bxc3! 19.Nxc3 Ncx4 20.Qxh5 Rxc3 21.Rfb1= The position is quite dynamic. Black is two pawns up and his counterattack is gaining momentum, but White can force a draw by repetition. 21...Qc7 22.Qh8+ Kf7 23.Qh5 Kg8; 18...Ncx4 19.cxd4 Qxd4 20.Bxf5 exf5 21.Ne7+ Rxe7 The rook must take. Any king move leads to disaster. 22.Bxe7 Bc7 23.Bf6 Qg4+ 24.Qxg4 hxg4+-

19.Qxh5

The right thing to do is to ignore Black's sacrifice and continue on. Black is forced to spend the next move bringing the knight back to its defensive post on f5, otherwise he will face disaster.

19...Nf5

For example: 19...a6? 20.Nf8!! Black has to give up material to avoid mate. 20...Nb4 (20...Nf5 21.Qh7+ Kf7 22.Qg6+ Kg8 23.Nxd7+-; 20...Rxf8 21.Qh7+ Kf7 22.Bg6#) 21.cxb4 Nf5 22.Qh7+ Kxf8 23.bxa5+ Qc5 24.Rc1! Qxa3 25.Nxa3+-

20.Ra2



Position after 20.Ra2

In the game I was feeling quite bummed at this point. It seemed to me that my attack had fizzled. That darned knight was back on f5 blocking my bishop and I had no good way to remove it. Black now has counterplay in the center. My e5-pawn is suddenly looking weak. I was also low on time. About 12 minutes left to make the next 20 moves. Again, it's important to be objective and not let emotions control your position. My attacking chances are still there. The computer here gives a +1.8 pawn advantage to White. So, I really should have been feeling better about my position than I was. I see that my rooks aren't participating so I work towards

activating them.

20...Qb3?

Black has the idea to use his queen along the fourth rank, but it's a mistake, as it ends up trapped and not able to participate in the defense of his position.

21.Rb2 Qa4 22.c4?

I saw that Black had put his queen into a precarious position. If I play Bb5, the queen has an escape square on e4. And if I play Bc2, the queen can go to c4. So, I hit on the idea, which I thought was brilliant at the time, to play c4! He can't take it, because if he does, he takes away his c4 escape square, and I can trap the queen with Bc2. And if he doesn't take it, I eliminate my weakness and undermine the f5-knight by exchanging on d5. All well and good. But I should have calculated two levels deep to see that I could have indeed trapped the queen from this position. Much better is 22.Bb5 Qe4 23.Nd2+- And the queen is trapped.

22...Ncd4 23.cxd5 exd5 24.Bd6

I only have around five minutes left to reach move 40. Here I wanted to play Rxb7, but after Black plays ...Rc7, he eliminates my attacking piece. My idea

Washington Senior Championship



MAY 17-19, 2024

ORLOV CHESS ACADEMY - REDMOND

4174 148TH AVE NE BLD. I, STE. M, REDMOND, WA 98052

Info/Entries: Josh Sinanan, WCF President, 206-769-3757, WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

Registration: Online at nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration. Registration **deadline Thu. 5/16 @ 5pm.**

Memberships: Current US Chess and WCF membership required, other states accepted. Membership must be paid at time of registration.

Format: A 5-Round, G/90; +30 Swiss in two sections: Championship & Premier U1600.

Eligibility: Open to Seniors age 50+ (or reaching age 50 by August 1, 2024).

Rating: US Chess Rated. May 2024 US Chess Regular supplement will be used to determine pairings and prizes.

Entry Fee: \$50 by 5/10, \$60 after. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, or US Chess 2400+.

Rounds: Fri: 6:30 PM. Sat/Sun: 10 AM, 3 PM.

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

Prize Fund: \$750 (based on 20 pd. entries)

Championship: 1st/2nd: \$150-\$100. 1st U2000/U1800: \$80

Premier: 1st/2nd: \$100-\$70. 1st U1400/U1200/U1000: \$60

Highest finishing Washington resident in Championship receives the title of Washington State Senior Champion, a seed into the Invitational Section of the 2025 Washington State Championship, and a \$750 travel stipend from the WCF to attend the [2024 Irwin National Tournament of Senior State Champions](#), held concurrently with the U.S. Open in early August. If needed to break a tie for 1st place, two G/90 playoff games will be played later in the year.

was Bd6 stops Rc7 and now he might play b6, blocking the bishop from coming back to the defense, a small victory. I was also trying to tempt Black into exchanging away his f5-knight.

24...b5 25.Kh1

My queen's rook has been activated, though maybe with much effect. Now I work to activate the king's rook on the g-file.

25...b4?

This can't be the right move. The computer gives ...Nh6 with a slight edge to Black. After this move, the pendulum swings heavily in White's favor. 25...Nh6 26.Ne7+ Rxe7 27.Bxe7 Ne6 28.Bg5 Qd4 29.Rb3 Nxe5 30.Qxe5 Nf7.

26.Rg1 Bd8?

A losing move, but Black was already in a losing position.

27.Rxb4 Qc6 28.Rxd4 Nxd4

With the knight finally removed from f5, the end is near.

29.Ne7+

A clearing sacrifice. I've waited a long time to utilize the b1-h7 diagonal.

29...Bxe7 30.Qh7+ Kf7 31.Rxe7+ Ke6 32.Qg6+

Here Black resigned because it is mate next move.

32...Bf6 33.Qxf6#

An intense battle. The opening gambit gave me extra space on the kingside from which to launch an attack, which I did. Black had chances to strike back in the center, which he also did. I was able to activate my rooks to bring new pieces into the attack, and with one or two imprecise defensive moves by Black, emerged victorious. I hope you enjoyed the game.

1-0

**Breck Haining (1300) –
Vidur Ganesan (1270) [B06]**

WA Class Championships, Class D
Bellevue, WA (R6), November 26, 2023
[Breck Haining]

1.e4 g6

The Modern Defense with 1.e4. My son, Kyle, sometimes plays this defense as Black, a defense he learned from Ignacio Perez. Since retirement I have started playing more often on Chess.com. I

usually play 1...g6 now when playing as Black, trying to play as I've seen my son play, but I only know the first few moves. This is not a defense I typically encounter on Chess.com.

2.d4

I usually follow 1.e4 with 2.Nf3, 2.Nc3, or 2.Bc4, but I think my opponent intends to continue with the Modern Defense. Thinking back to the many times I have been crushed on Chess.com playing this defense as Black, what comes to mind is the major mistake I think I make is to allow my opponents to grab too much space, so I launch out with 2.d4.

2...Bg7

I've seen several people respond to 2...Bg7 with 3.f4, but this seems too aggressive to me. I have also had opponents play 3.c4. This seems better than 3.f4. I think one would need to know lines better to play 3.c4 or 3.f4.

3.Nc3

3.Nc3 seems reasonable to me.

3...d6

Okay, this was expected. I don't really know how to play against this defense



WASHINGTON OPEN

Sat-Mon, May 25-27, 2024

Redmond Marriott

7401 164th Ave NE, Redmond, WA 98052

Format: A 6-round Swiss tournament in 3 sections: **Open, Premier & Rising.**

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Fun Side Events:

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- Scholastic Championship
- Women's & Girls' Workshop
- Puzzle Solving Competition
- Rapid Championship
- Chess960 Championship
- "Knight-Time" Blitz
- And More...

Online Registration: nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration

but keep thinking “grab space.” I think about playing 4.Bc4, but don’t like how I see play continuing. I could play 4.Be2, which seems solid, but think at this point I want to allow my queen the freedom to move out along the diagonal. 4.Ng3 also seems solid, but depending on how my opponent plays I might want to try aggressively playing f4 before putting my knight on f3.

4.Bd3

The computer doesn’t like this move at all. The engine says I had a slight advantage before. Now the game is equal.

4...Nd7

I didn’t expect 4.Nd7. I think players usually go with 4.Nf6. The engine says I have regained my slight advantage.

5.Be3

If higher-level players are bothering to look at this game they’re probably having a good chuckle and probably won’t read any further. I’ve given back my advantage. Clearly, I’m hoping to create a battery to capture Black’s fianchettoed bishop.

5...e6

Too passive, in my mind.

6.f4



Position after 6.f4

I am emboldened and play 6.f4.

6...Ne7 7.Nf3

Now 7.Nf3.

7...h6

Again, too passive in my mind.

8.Qd2

I’ve prepared my battery and can castle either way, though I really have no thoughts of castling queenside.

8...a6

A good move, but I think my opponent will run into problems as I am controlling more space.

9.a4

The engine likes castling kingside better, but I plan to do so soon enough.

9...b6 10.0-0

My pieces are developed, and I am happy enough with my position.

10...Bb7 11.b4

The engine doesn’t much like this move, but I’m not playing an engine, I’m playing a real person, and I think with this opponent 11.b4 is going to help me. I’m grabbing more space.

11...Rc8 12.Ne2

12.Ne2 is not a line the computer likes. The engine thinks it is best to push a pawn, either 12.f5, 12.b5, or 12.e5. I’m thinking clear space for my c-pawn while brining my knight around for additional kingside protection.

12...c5 13.bxc5 bxc5 14.c3

The engine likes 14.Rab1 better, but 14.c3 is the next favored line.

14...Qc7 15.Rab1 Nb6

15...Nb6 is a mistake. I didn’t see it right away but did soon enough.

16.Qb2

My opponent is going to lose a minor piece, no two ways about it. I’m feeling much better about the game now. My opponent is in a tough spot now. He thinks for a long time.

16...Bxe4

The computer likes 16.c4 a bit better, but I think my opponent has found the best continuation, and I have to applaud his decision.

17.Bxe4 Nc4 18.Qc1 Nxe3 19.Qxe3

I don’t like losing my dark square bishop, but I’m still content with my play. By my count I’m up two points. The engine says I’m up just under two.

19...cxd4 20.cxd4 d5 21.Rfc1 Qa7

17.Qd8, 17.Qd7, and 17.Qd6 are better choices. I have enough defenders of the pawn on d4, and what I really want to do now is trade off more material.

22.Rxc8+ Nxc8 23.Bd3

I retreat. The engine says 23.Bxg6 is much better. 23.Bxg6 3.41/0 0-0 3.42/0 (23...fxg6 24.Qxe6+4.78/0)

23...Nb6 24.a5 Nd7 25.Qd2

The engine likes 25.Bg6 much better. I



Northwest legend NM Viktor's Pupols, well into his 80s, playing serious chess among many young masters at the Washington Class. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

guess that pawn on e6 is pretty weak. My plan is to go after the a-pawn after putting my king in the corner. My pawn on d4 is still protected well, but I want to free up my knights.

25...0-0

Better late than never? Kids don't try this at home. Castle earlier.

26.Kh1

I feel better with my king in the corner, but the computer says this wasn't such a good move. 26.Qc1, 26.Qc2, and 26.Qc3 are all considerably better moves.

26...Rc8 27.Ne5

The engine agrees, this is the best move.

27...Nxe5 28.fxe5

Yeah! The engine agrees I took back the right way!

28...h5



Position after 28...h5

The computer does not like this move. More importantly, I don't like this move. My opponent is not playing a computer. He's playing me. Advancing this pawn makes me a bit nervous. Now I don't like where my king is so well. I'm okay but need to pay attention and strive not to blunder.

29.Rb6

Best move, but it is fairly obvious.

29...Qc7 30.Bxa6 Rb8

Trading off rooks seems like an even trade, but I come out in a much better position. The engine adds 1.7 to my advantage.

31.Qb2

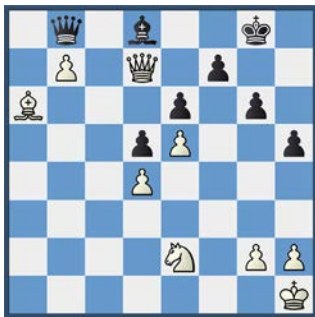
Unknowingly, I give up most of that advantage. Better would have been 31.Qc3.

31...Rxb6

At this point my opponent has completely lost, but I don't think he knows it. He fights on, which is commendable. I could

blunder, but I'm determined not to do so.

32.axb6 Qb8 33.b7 Bf8 34.Qb5 Be7 35. Qd7 Bd8



Position after 35...Bd8

The computer says mate in 18. Ha, ha, ha. Who can find a mate in 18? Do you want to try? Not me.

36.Qc8 Qc7 37.b8Q

1-0

**Henry Louie (1310) –
John Christy (1472) [B94]**
WA Class SCC Adult Swiss
Bellevue, WA (R4), November 25, 2023
[John Christy]

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6
5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 h6?! 7.Bxf6 gxf6 8.Qd2**

**Nc6 9.0-0-0 h5 10.Kb1 Bh6 11.Qd3
Ne5 12.Qe2 Bg4 13.f3 Bd7 14.Qf2 Rc8
15.Nf5 Bxf5 16.exf5 Qd7 17.Bd3 Rxc3
18.bxc3 Nxd3 19.cxd3 Qb5+ 20.Qb2
Qxf5 21.Qxb7 0-0 22.Qe4= Rb8+
23.Kc2??**

The losing blunder!

**23...Qa5!! 24.Ra1 Rc8 25.c4?? Qd2+
26.Kb3 Rb8+**



Position after 26...Rb8+

Henry actually resigned here. Checkmate is unstoppable, Henry knew it; and resigned.

27.Qb7

These are various variations, it's a mating attack. 27.Ka3 Qb4#; 27.Ka4 Qb4#

27...Rxb7+ 28.Ka3



*Nicholas Whale in the Expert section of Washington Class.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*

28.Ka4 Qb4#

28...Qb4#

0-1

Robin Tu (1777) –

Chad Boey (1716) [C30]

WA Class Rapid Championship, Open (R4), November 25, 2023

[Chad Boey]

This game is inspired by Greco, my favorite player.

1.e4 e5 2.f4 Nc6 3.Nf3 f5!?

Greco style

4.exf5 e4 5.Ng5?!

5.Ne5 is slightly better.

5...Nf6 6.Bc4?? d5 7.Be2 Bc5 8.Bh5+ Kf8 9.Nf7? Qe8 10.Nxh8 Nxh5 11.d3? Bxf5 12.g4?? exd3+ 13.Kd2 Qe3+ 14. Kc3



Position after 14.Kc3

I touch the d-pawn and almost took on c2. Then I noticed that ramming it into d2 was mate.

14...d2#

0-1



NM Brandon Jiang (L), co-winner of Washington Class (Master section) in an imbalanced game against expert Austin Liu (R). Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

Leonardo Wang (1708) –

Chad Boey (1756) [D32]

WA Class Championships, Class A Bellevue, WA (R5), November 26, 2023

[Chad Boey]

1.d4 e6

A waiting move. I want to see some clues to what white wants to do before I commit to ...d5 or ...f5 or ...Nf6. In the first round of this tournament, I committed to a Dutch Defense early. The result of that game was a draw in 56 moves after five hours of play.

2.c4 d5 3.Nc3

Now it is decided, this will not be an exchange Slav that I see happening so often here.

3...c5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.e3 Nf6 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Be2 Bd6

7...cxd4 was also considered. After 8.Nxd4 Bd6 9.Ncb5 Bb8 I believe Black's position is pleasant with chances for an attack later.

8.0-0 0-0 9.dxc5 Bxc5 10.Nb5

A routine maneuver for the knight to land on the d4-square where it will blockade the isolated pawn.

10...Re8 11.Nbd4 Bg4 12.Nxc6

I don't understand this move except that maybe White's long-term goal is to gang up on the weak c-pawn. The queen's knights are traded for no gain or loss.

12...bxc6 13.b3 Qe7 14.Bb2 Ne4

My only intention behind this move is to prevent White from exchanging another minor piece. I sensed an eagerness to simplify, and I did not want to cooperate.

15.Qc2 Rac8 16.Rfd1



Position after 16.Rfd1

The first mistake of the game and as it turns out, a fatal one. White's heavy pieces have abandoned the delicate f2-e3 structure. I took a long think here to calculate.

16...Nxf2! 17.Kxf2??

I calculated that this move leads to a mate in seven so I dismissed it and assumed White would play instead 17.Qc3 to which I planned to respond with 17...d4. However, I overlooked the possibility of 18.Rxd4! which seems to hold White's position together. The resulting exchanges that would follow would result in a position where Black is only a mere pawn up but in a dreadfully stale position.

17...Qxe3+ 18.Kg3 Qf2+

The king! Always the king!

19.Kxg4 Qxg2+ 20.Kh4 Bf2+ 21.Kh5 g6+ 22.Kh6 Bc3+ 23.Ng5 Bxg5#

0-1

Daniel He (2357) –

Stephen Willy (2203) [C11]

WA Class Championships, Master Bellevue, WA (R5), November 26, 2023

[Daniel He]

This game illustrates quite well the power of a dynamic advantage, which in my own terms consists of a lead in development and the opponent's weak king.

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e5

The French, Steinitz Variation, where White usually maintains a nice pawn center, but Black aims for pawn breaks at either c5 or f6 to chip at it.

4...Nfd7 5.f4 c5 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Be3 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Qb6

A sideline that immediately attacks the b2-pawn before White is able to 0-0-0

9.Na4 Qa5+ 10.Nc3 Qb6 11.Qd2

Sacrificing the b2-pawn for the initiative.

11...Qxb2 12.Rb1 Qa3 13.Bb5 Nxd4
14.Bxd4 a6 15.Rb3 Qe7 16.Ba4 Qd8



Position after 16...Qd8

16...b5 17.Bxb5. This is the point. Due to being behind in development, Black's king is stuck in the center and is all tangled up 17...axb5 18.Nxb5 Qd8 19.Qc3. White will win the exchange with Nc7+.

17.Bb6 Qh4+ 18.Bf2 Qd8 19.Bb6 Qh4+
20.g3 Qg4 21.Ne4!?

Offering the knight, but it cannot be taken.

21...Be7

21...dxe4 22.Rc3 The threat of Rxc8+ is deadly and Black's queen is offside and cannot help defend. 22...Bb4 23.Rxc8+ Rxc8 24.Bxd7+ Ke7 25.Qxb4+ Kxd7 26.Qd6+ Ke8 27.0-0! Simply threatening Rd1 and Black is helpless against it.

22.Nc5 Bxc5 23.Bxc5 b5 24.Ba3

Making room for Qb4 with the mate threat.



Position after 24.Ba3

24...Qg6?

24...Nxe5 The best move according to theory which can lead to a draw by repetition 25.fxe5 (25.Qb4!? Ng6. Quite a sharp position which is hard to evaluate, but the engine calls it dynamically equal.) 25...Qe4+ 26.Kf2 Qxh1 Black has a perpetual check as soon as White plays Qb4.

25.Re3 f5 26.exf6 Nxf6 27.f5

Giving up another pawn to open up the f-file. In such an open position, piece activity is far more valuable than pawns.

27...Qh6

I believe this is Black's best try, threatening Ne4 and Ng4. 27...Qf7 28.fxe6 Bxe6 29.0-0 A long-lasting initiative and Black is still unable to castle on either side. 29...bxa4 30.Qd4; 27...Qxf5 28.Rf1 Qg6 29.Qb4 Qf7 30.Bb3. I evaluated this as a bit better for White also keeping a long-lasting initiative. One idea from here is invade on the dark squares with a rook maneuver such as Rc3-Rc7.

28.Qc3

Active defense! Getting out of the pin and activating the queen.

28...Ne4 29.Qc6+ Kd8 30.Qb6+ Ke8
31.Qc6+

I was ready to play Rxe4, but given the extremely sharp nature of the position, the repetition of moves is strategic to speed up the game to move 40 for the second time control where more time is crucial for the necessary calculation.

31...Kd8 32.Qb6+ Ke8 33.Rxe4 dxe4
34.Qc6+ Kd8 35.Qb6+ Ke8 36.Qc5



Position after 36.Qc5

It is essential to play Qc5 when the king is on e8 instead of d8 so Black cannot play Bd7 and shield the king.

36...Qf6

36...Qg5 37.Qc6+ Kf7 38.0-0 If Black ever plays ...exf5, Bb3+ comes and another piece joins the action.

37.Qc6+ Kd8 38.Qb6+ Ke8 39.Qc6+
Kd8 40.Ke2

Black has no checks! The last piece, the Rh1, is activated.

40...Ra7 41.Qb6+

41.Rd1+ Rd7 stops my entire initiative, so I discarded this move.

41...Rc7

41...Ke8 42.Qxa7 Black could have played like this, but it's already dangerous 42...bxa4 43.Rd1 It's well known that opposite-colored-bishop endgames are often drawn, but with queens on, the attacking side has the huge edge. It's illustrated nicely here since Black's light-squared bishop is helpless on the dark squares where the threats lie.

42.Rd1+ Bd7 43.Bb3!



Position after 43.Bb3

I'm quite proud of this move! The bishop finally retreats after spending half of the game being left attacked on a4. I considered the immediate threat 43.Bd6, but 43...Qc3 looked unclear because it allows Black's queen some counterplay.

43...Qxf5??

Loses on the spot to a combination. 43...exf5 44.Rd6 ending with Be6 creates decisive threats. Black is unable to keep the checks 44...Qg5 45.Rxd7+ Kxd7 46.Be6+ Ke8 47.Qxc7 Qh5+ 48.Ke1 Black's checks run out.

44.Qb8+ Rc8 45.Rxd7+ Kxd7 46.Qd6+
Ke8 47.Qe7#

1-0

**Kyle Haining (2298) –
Ryan Min (2115) [C68]**

WA Class Championships, Master
Bellevue, WA (R6), November 26, 2023
[Kyle Haining]

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Bxc6 dxc6
5.0-0 Bg4 6.h3 h5**

Black goes for one of the sharper lines against the Exchange Ruy Lopez.

7.d3

Taking the bishop is not a good idea 7.hxg4? hxg4 8.Nh2 Qh4+ wins for Black.

7...Qf6 8.Nbd2 g5!?

A less-played move, which I missed in my opening preparation. Main line is 8...Ne7

9.Re1 Ng6 10.d4 with a balanced game.

9.Re1?!

White likes to play this move to threaten taking the bishop at some point. This was not the right response here however. Better was 9.Nc4 Bxf3 10.Qxf3 Qxf3 11.gxf3 f6 12.Be3.

9...Be6

If 9...Bd6? White can take the bishop 10.hxg4 hxg4 11.Nh2 Qh6 12.Ndf1!+-

10.d4

In view of such a fearsome kingside attack, White needs to strike in the center.

10...g4

If 10...exd4 computer gives the wild line 11.e5 Qg7 12.Ne4 g4 13.Nxd4 0-0-0 14.Bg5 with chances on both sides.

11.Nxe5 gxh3 12.Qf3 hxg2 13.Qxf6 Nxf6 14.f4



Position after 14.f4

Trying to blot out the Black bishop with f5.

14...Bg4 15.Kxg2 Bh6?!

The Black bishop ended up being rather useless here. To maintain the advantage, Black needed to play more aggressively with 15...Rg8 16.Kf2 0-0-0 jettisoning the



NM Kyle Haining.

f7-pawn. 17.c3 c5! 18.Nxf7 Rd7 19.Ne5 Rdg7. with active compensation.

16.Ndf3 Rh7

Guarding f7 and preparing to long-castle. White's position still looks shaky, but after a long think I realized that a series of exchanges favors me.

17.Nxg4 Nxg4



Position after 17...Nxg4

18.Ne5!?

A stabilizing move. Computer prefers others, but over the board it was nice to trade and reduce Black's play. 18.Nh4! 0-0-0 19.Nf5± would have been better, but Black can still try to get active.

18...Nxe5?

18...Rg7 Black needs to play this version of the endgame 19.Nxg4 Rxg4+ 20.Kf3 Ke7 21.Be3 Rag8 22.Rg1 the difference is now Black can play 22...f5! 23.exf5 Kf6.

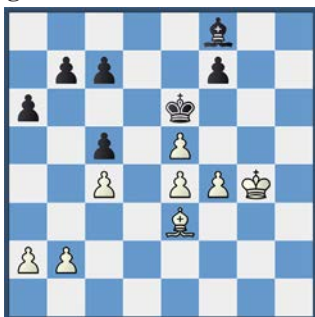
19.dxe5±

Now White has a pleasant endgame.

19...0-0-0 20.Be3 Rg8+ 21.Kf3 Rhg7 22.Rg1

White is in time to trade.

22...Rg4 23.Rxg4 hxg4+ 24.Kg3+- Kd7 25.Rh1 Bf8 26.Rh4 Ke6 27.Rxg4 Rxg4+ 28.Kxg4 c5 29.c4



Position after 29.c4

Fixing the pawn on a dark square.

29...b5 30.b3 Be7 31.Bf2 c6 32.Bh4 Bf8

33.Kh5 Bg7 34.Bf6 Bf8

34...Bxf6 doesn't work 35.exf6 Kxf6 36.Kh6 Ke6 37.Kg7 Ke7 38.f5 b4 39.e5 White will win the f7-pawn eventually.

35.a4

Black's bishop has run out of moves.

35...Kd7 36.f5 Kc7 37.Bh8 Kd7 38.f6 bxc4 39.bxc4 Ke6 40.Bg7 Kxe5

40...Bxg7 41.fxg7 and the pawn queens.

41.Bxf8 Kxf6 42.Bd6

1-0

Te Wei (1790) –

Rishi Ramaswamy (1636) [A03]

WA Class Championship Rapid, Open Bellevue, WA (R1), November 25, 2023

[Te Wei]



Te Wei.

1.f4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e3 Bg4 4.b3 e6 5.Bb2 c5 6.Bb5+ Nc6 7.0-0 Be7 8.d3 0-0 9.Bxc6 bxc6 10.Nbd2 a5 11.a4 Qc7 12.Qe1 h6 13.Ne5 Bf5 14.Ndf3 Kh8 15.Nh4

15.Kh1 Qb7 16.Rg1 Nd7 17.g4 Bg6 18.Nxg6+ fxg6 19.Qg3 Kh7 20.f5 g5 21.h4

15...Bh7 16.Qg3

Trying to bring more pieces for the attack.

16...Nh5 17.Qh3 Nf6 18.f5

18.g4 Probably better with g-pawn push acting as additional support for later f5. 18...d4 19.e4 Nd7 20.Nxd7 Qxd7 21.f5 h5

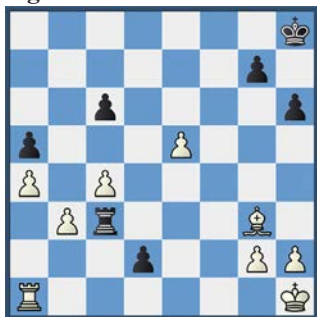
18...Nd7 19.Qg3?

Not good, could be much better if I play Nhg6. 19.Nhg6+ Bxg6 20.Nxg6+ Kh7 21.Nxf8+.

19...Bd6 20.d4 Nxe5 21.dxe5 Be7 22.fxe6?

Bad move, should play f6 utilizing the b2-h8 diagonal. 22.f6 Rg8 (22...gxf6 23.exf6 Qxg3 24.fxe7+) 23.fxe7

22...fxe6 23.Ng6+ Bxg6 24.Qxg6 Bg5 25.Qxe6 Bxe3+ 26.Kh1 Qc8 27.Qxc8 Raxc8 28.Rxf8+ Rxf8 29.Ba3 d4 30.Bxc5 Rf2 31.c3 d3 32.Bxe3 Re2 33.Bf4 d2 34.Bg3 Re3 35.c4 Rc3



Position after 35...Rc3

36.Rg1?

Bad move leading to resignation. 36.Bf4

0-1

Amana Demberel (1614) – Hans Kehl (1723) [C07]

WA Class Championships, Class B (R5), November 26, 2023

[Hans Kehl]

It's been about 30 years since I last played tournament chess, and then I only played in about three tournaments. After my first tournament I received a class B rating, I then entered the Washington Class Championships, where I took clear first in the Class B Section. My next tournament was in 1994, where I didn't do as well, and then I didn't play again... until now in 2023.

I randomly saw a notice for the Washington State Class Championships and I was telling my wife, "You know—I won that thing in Class B back in '91—I

Northwest Chess

wonder how much harder it would be now?" Well, I got my answer...

The level of play has improved or mine has gotten worse... Probably both.

So many great kids who know their openings. Except for this game, I was on the verge of being lost after the opening in *every* game that I played. Fortunately, I went through the tournament without a loss because of some good luck and some tactical shots in the middle game.

Here's the most interesting game I played, that I'd like to submit for the "Best Annotated Game" prize. Not saying the annotations are perfect, but it shows the thought process of a class B player.

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 c5

First big decision. I normally like closed positions and play ...Nf6 followed by 4.e5 Nd7 5.Bd3 c5 6.Nd2 Nc6. But the previous morning I had been tortured in a long closed game out of a queen pawn opening by a middle-school kid who had me completely crushed until he made a blunder (too many good choices to force

the win led to him choosing the only one where I had a tactic that allowed me to escape with a rook up—my position was so bad that it still took me 25 moves to untangle my pieces and grind out the win)... So today I chose to open things up.

4.c3 Nc6 5.Ngf3 cxd4 6.cxd4 dxe4 7.Nxe4 Nf6 8.Nxf6+ Qxf6



Position after 8...Qxf6

So far, so good. I've forced the isolated d-pawn, and now I have a pretty simple plan: complete development of my pieces, and then stack up on the d-pawn.

9.Bc4 Bb4+



Tacoma-based veteran Stephen Buck at the Washington Class, Class B section. Photo Credit: Meiling Cheng.

I think my opponent should play a3 to prevent my bishop from developing with check. It's also not clear that the bishop is well placed on c4 diagonal with the e6-pawn being solid as a rock. Then again, as I pointed out before, my openings are pretty weak, so what do I know?

10.Bd2 0-0 11.Bxb4 Nxb4 12.Qe2 Rd8

I wasn't sure why my opponent played Qe2, but he said later that he wanted to avoid the d-file when my rook inevitably moved over. I thought at the time he was doubling down on pressuring my e6-pawn, which seemed like a faulty plan, so I was happy.

13.Rd1 a6

I considered the immediate 13...b5 instead of ...a6 first, sacrificing the pawn to get the bishop on the b7-diagonal more quickly. But in the end, I figured I would be able to pick up the isolated pawn eventually, so I thought I'd be patient.

14.0-0 b5 15.Bd3 Nxd3

I was happy to trade off my knight for his bishop because White's king bishop is generally a fearsome attacker in the French...but I think I probably should have hung on to my knight. I considered 15...Nxa2, but thank goodness I saw 16.Bxh7+ Kxh7 17.Qe4+ winning my rook on a8. This is what finally convinced me to get rid of that darn bishop, but I think 15...Bb7 is a pretty reasonable alternative here.

16.Rxd3 Bb7 17.Rfd1 Rd6 18.Qe5 Rad8 19.Qxf6 gxf6

Let's take stock. I'm happy with the queen trade, and now my plan is to get a timely ...e5 to win that isolated d-pawn. I don't feel bad about the f6-pawn either, as it controls the g5 and e5 entries for the knight.

20.Ne1 Be4 21.R3d2 e5



Position after 21...e5

And here it is—I have my opponent's

knight dominated, and the d-pawn is going to fall. I feel great! However, this is the wrong idea, and actually the position is very even. "Winning" the d-pawn will leave me with isolated pawns on h, f, and d with a bishop against my opponent's knight. No victory there.

22.f3 Bf5 23.d5? Kf8

As an aside the immediate 23...Be6??, while being strategically correct, would have lost the game, as 24.dxe6! Rxd2 25.Rxd2 Rxd2 26.e7 and the rook can't get back and the King can't get over. I forgot how many tactics there are lurking even in the simplest positions!

24.Kf2 Be6

Now ...Be6 works.

25.Nc2 Rxd5 26.Rxd5 Rxd5 27.Rxd5 Bxd5 28.a3 f5

Entering the endgame, I'm feeling great! I've won that d-pawn which was my objective from the opening, and pawns on both sides of the board make my bishop reasonably strong against the knight. He of course isn't going to make it easy on me and is putting his pawns on the dark squares where they will be safe from my bishop. Unfortunately, while I've achieved my opening and middle game objectives, I'm not sure what my plan should be going forward, so I decide to get more space with ...f5.

29.Nb4 Bb7 30.Nd3 f6 31.Nc5? Bc8

I remember reading a *Chess Life* article back when I was a kid in the '70s, where the author, who was also a go-master, used the word *tesu-ji* to describe placing a bishop three squares in front of a knight to dominate the knight's squares. I'm happy with my bishop in the *tesu-ji* position I was hoping for when this sequence started on move 29. In reality, 31.f4 completely blockades the position, or leaves Black's pawns too isolated to be useful. Piece activity and outposts are great in the middle game, but endgames are a different kettle of fish.

32.g3 Ke7 33.Ke3 Kd6 34.b4 Kd5

Creating an outpost or the knight on c5 is the wrong idea as it can't really threaten anything. The knight needs to get active instead.

35.Kd2 a5 36.Kc3 e4 37.Nb3 a4?! 38.Na5? exf3

Then he obliges by putting himself back into the barn. 38.Nd4 was a much better, more natural looking move. Responding

to with 38...Bd7?? (using the *tesu-ji* idea) would be a terrible mistake as after 39.f4 the position is blockaded. The only way to win after 38.Nd4 is to play either 38...f4, sacrificing a pawn to prevent the f4 square from being blocked, or 38...exf3 with the same idea. This is the same idea my opponent should have followed on move 31. As it stands, I am now up two pawns, and my opponent's knight is trapped. At this point I was thinking "How can I possibly do anything but win this game? First place here I come—32 years later, no practice, and I still got it!" Something about counting my chickens before they hatch springs to mind.

39.Kd3 f2 40.Ke2 Be6?!

At this stage, I'm starting to drift a little. I know my opponent's plan is for his king to somehow trap my king on the a-file, with my bishop being the wrong color for the queening square. If that is not his plan he should just resign. Unfortunately for him, my bishop can control the c2-square, so this plan won't work. ...Be6 is an attempt to get my bishop on controlling the c2-square, and maybe even get on the h1-a8 diagonal and permanently get my opponents knight trapped in the barn. 40...Kd4, c3, b2, a3 is a simple, simple, win.

41.Kxf2 Kd4 42.Nc6+ Kc3 43.Ke3 Bc4

Trying to protect my b-pawn and control some of the access for my opponent's king.

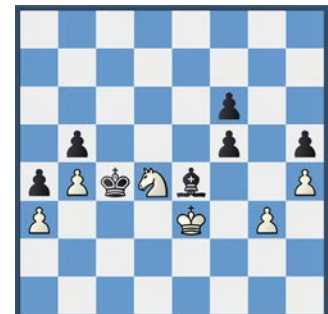
44.Nd4 Bd3 45.Nc6 Be4

Thinking that I need to control that c2-square so my king can march in, grab the a-pawn, and still escape.

46.Nd4 Kc4

Defending the b-pawn, but I don't think this is a good solution. The bishop needs to defend the pawn, as the king has another job—to take the a-pawn.

47.h4 h5



Position after 47...h5

I played ...h5 without thinking, but the reality is 48.g4 almost wins for White, as 48...fxg4 hangs the bishop, and after 48...hxg5 the black bishop barely gets back to stop the h-pawn from queening. Immediately after I played ...h5, I realized I should have at least calculated what was going on before playing it! A lesson for next time.

48.Ne2 Kb3 49.Kd2 Kxa3 50.Kc3 Ka2

Finally. My plan has worked. My bishop controls the c2-square, my king can escape. I can give up the a-pawn, and march my king over to the king side, pick off his pawns, and win the endgame. I was starting to congratulate myself on playing a decent opening and middle game and having executed the winning plan in the endgame.

51.Nd4



Position after 51.Nd4

51...Kb1??

The obvious correct move is 51...a3. I knew it, I had planned for it, and I just needed to play it. But somehow, I started thinking: “Well, if I play 51...a3, after 52.Nxb5 Bc6 53.Nd4 he is attacking my bishop, and he has a passed pawn as well. I then have to play something like 53...Be4 maintaining control of the c2-square for my king’s escape, and he’ll play 54.Nc2. I can’t play 54...Bxc2 because after king takes, my king is trapped, and his passed pawn wins. So, I’m stuck with a draw.” But the reality is after 53.Nd4 Kb1! my a-pawn will queen if he takes the bishop, so he has to play 54.Nb3, and after 54...a2 55.Nd2+ Kc1 56.Nb3+ Kd1 57.Kb2 Ke1 my king will pick off the kingside pawns, and my bishop will defend against his passed pawn. His king is just too far out of position, and still needs to take a move to kill my pawn on a2. Also, if I was really that uncomfortable with losing my b-pawn, I should have just played 50...Bd5 and avoided the whole mess. After 51...Kb1 it is a draw. At this point my back hurts, my head hurts, and I look

over at my opponent, a student over at Lincoln High School—he looks as fresh and relaxed as when we started. Youth is an unfair advantage!

52.Nxb5 Bc6 53.Na3+ Ka2 54.b5 Bd7?

OK. Now, after throwing away the win, I’m working hard on throwing away the draw. I need to maintain control of the h1-a8 diagonal as b7 is the last square that my bishop can defend his passed b-pawn.

55.Kb4 Kb2 56.Kxa4?



Position after 56.Kxa4

An understandable mistake that throws away any chances for my opponent to win (and thank goodness for that!). The right idea is to get the bishop off the h1-a8 diagonal and get the passed pawn moving before my king can start gobbling up his kingside pawns. Kxa4 leaves his pawn pinned by my bishop.

56...Kc3 57.Ka5 Kd4 58.b6 Bc6 59.Nb5+ Ke3 60.Nd6 Kf3 61.Nxf5 Kg4 62.Ng7 Bb7 63.Kb5 f5 64.Kc5

I ended up tied for second place, with two wins and four draws. My young opponent tied for first with three wins and three draws. After the tournament, his rating jumped by +193 points! Mine increased by +1 LOL. Maybe I’ll try the Washington State Class Championships again in another 30 years!

1/2-1/2



Benjamin Frederick, always in good spirits, at the Washington Class, Class B section. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

2024 East Idaho Regional Scholastic Qualifier

By Jay Simonson

Despite terrible, snowy, windy weather which caused the cancellation of many events and the closure of many school campuses, including the Idaho State University (ISU) campus, on January 12 2024, 42 students, from 25 different schools, plus home-schooled students, along with parents, coaches, and some friends braved the barely drivable roads to compete in the 2024 East Idaho Regional Scholastic Chess Qualifier. About 15 other students were planning on coming but didn't because of the weather.

This five-round, Swiss System event was held at the ISU Pond Student Union Building, Salmon River Suites, on January 13 2024. There were three sections, K-5, 6-8, and 9-12. Time control was game in 30 minutes with a five-second delay. The tie breaks were: Solkoff, Cumulative, Cumulative of Opposition, and Modified Median. Trophies were awarded to the top three in each section and to the first-place winner in each grade. Second and third-place winners in each grade received a medal. Jay Simonson was the Tournament



Director, with John Eisenmenger serving as Assistant TD.

Due to the confusion and delay caused by failure to register, not completing the payment process, and late registrants last year, The TD and organizer this year specified that registration and payment closed 48 hours before the start of the tournament. This resulted in a relatively smooth beginning. Pocatello High School lent us some clocks, so that we had a clock on every board.

In the K-5 Section, Arthur Xian, third grade, and his brother Cary, first grade, both from White Pine Charter School in Idaho Falls, tied for first and second place overall with four points. By tie breaks, Arthur won the first-place trophy and Cary won second. Owen Romrell, fifth grade, from Kershaw Intermediate School of Sugar Salem, and Nathan Abenroth, third grade, from John Evans Elementary School in Rupert, tied for third and fourth place overall. Tie breaks determined that Owen received the third-place trophy and Nathan won first place in third grade. This year there were no kindergarten students. Emma Abenroth, from John Evans Elementary, won first place in first grade, and Asher Swift, from Edahow Elementary School, in Pocatello, won second place. In the second-grade competition, Dominic Davis, homeschooled, from Albion, was first, and Rocco Maestas, also homeschooled in Albion, was second. As mentioned above, first place in third grade was won by Nathan Abenroth. The fourth grade first-place trophy went to Ace Maestas, homeschooled in Albion, and Agnes Swift, from Edahow won second place. In the fifth grade, there was a tie for first through third place. By tie breaks, Colton Wortley, from Wilcox Elementary School, in Pocatello, was first, Gavin Graham, from Grace Lutheran Elementary School, in Pocatello, won second, and Ruth Davis, homeschooled in Albion, took home the third-place medal.

Isaac Burke, eighth grade, Franklin Middle School, Pocatello, won clear first place in the 6-8 section with five points. Tied for second and third place with four points was Christian Swift, eighth grade, also from Franklin, and Sophie Ma, sixth grade, from Alturas Prep Academy, Idaho Falls. By tie breaks, Christian received the second-place trophy and Sophie received third. In the sixth grade, by tie breaks, first place went to Henry Johnson from Pocatello Community Charter

School, and Saxson Ackley, Blackfoot Heritage School, sixth grade, won second place. Grayson Wrathall, from American Heritage Middle School, Idaho Falls, won third place. Seventh grade winners were all tied for first through third places. The tie breaks gave Danger Maestas, homeschooled in Albion, first place; Aedan Wilde, Franklin, second place; and Bronx Martinez, Alturas Prep Academy, third place. The eighth grade also saw ties for the top three prizes. Joseph Foster, Eagle Rock Middle School, Idaho Falls, won first; Isaias Reyes Guillen, Madison Junior High School, Rexburg won second; and Raj Ramirez, from Taylor View Middle School, Idaho Falls, was third.

Hayden Egbert, ninth grade, Madison High School, Rexburg, with five points, was the clear winner of the 9-12 section. Adam Lindemood, ninth grade, Pocatello High School, and Ethan Swift, tenth grade, Highland High School, Pocatello, tied for second and third places. Adam was awarded second place and Ethan third place based upon tie breaks. In the ninth grade, the top three were also tied. First place went to Boston Rubert, from Sugar Salem High School; second place went to Tracy Gilbert from Pocatello High School; and third place was awarded to Jackson Taylor, also from Pocatello High School. Ethan Swift was the only tenth-grade student. Nolan Ma, from Skyline High School, Idaho Falls, won first place in eleventh grade; Sakiusa Tabakece, from Pocatello High, won second; and Julia Swift, from Highland High School, won third. No seniors competed in this year's tournament.

Franklin Middle School in Pocatello Idaho won the Top School trophy. Pocatello High School and White Pine Charter School were not far behind.

Your TD was not up to his usual performance during this tournament. Just as the tournament started, I found out that my wife's sister passed away earlier that morning. I needed to leave to take my wife to Rupert, where her sister lived, but had no TD's to take over. Because of the difficulty everyone had in getting there, I could not cancel. Because of this, I was distracted and didn't take pictures. Also, I neglected to note those who were not present to receive their awards. If you are named in this article and did not receive your award/trophy, please contact Jay at rooknjay@yahoo.com.

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Registration: Thursday (5/2) 5 - 8 pm. - Friday (5/3) 9 - 10 am. - Saturday (5/4) 9 - 10 am.

Round Times: (3-day Schedule) Friday - 12 Noon - 7 pm; Saturday - 10 am - 6 pm; Sunday - 9 am - 4 pm
(2-day Schedule) Sat.- Rd 1 - 10:30 am, Rd 2 - 12:45 pm, Rd 3 - 3 pm, Rd 4 merge with regular schedule - 6 pm

For more information: Call, Write or E-mail Organizer and Chief TD, N.T.D. Jerome (Jerry) Weikel,
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USCF ID# _____ Exp. Date _____ All pre-registered players check in at TD desk on arrival.

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IM Eric Tangborn Simul

Issaquah, Washington December 13, 2023

Josh Sinanan

As has now become a tradition, the Issaquah Highlands Chess Club and Washington Chess Federation teamed up to host a simul with a chess master on Wednesday, December 13 at the beautiful Blakely Hall in the heart of the Issaquah Highlands. This edition's honored guest was International Master Eric Tangborn, a former Washington State Champion who earned his IM title back in the 1970s! The evening opened with a brief introduction by Eric about his chess career while the players and spectators enjoyed some complimentary Flying Pie Pizza and soft drinks.

Several chess books that Eric has authored including *How Chessmasters Think* and *Chess Combinations of the World Champions: Steinitz to Tal* were raffled off to some lucky winners. The 25-board simul kicked off around 6:25 PM, with a few last-minute stragglers sneaking in to fill any empty boards that remained.

Players of all ages and ratings (unrated – 1861) participated in the simul, which lasted a total of three hours and 15 minutes! Eric was quite deliberate and took his time making the moves at each board, which allowed for only 20-25 moves to be played in each game when the simul concluded around 9:00 PM. When the dust had settled, Eric had won 12, drawn 10, and lost only three games. Several games still in progress at the cutoff time were adjudicated by WCF Vice President Duane Polich, who oversaw the proceedings. WCF Member-at-Large Ani Barua was also on-site taking photos and video coverage of the simul.

Congratulations to the following players who scored a half or full point against International Master Eric Tangborn! Draws were achieved by: Mary Kuhner (1805, Seattle), Odbayar Yondon (1767, Redmond), Chad Fondren



*IM Eric Tangborn (R) playing carefully against a wide variety of opponents at his simul event.
Photo credit: Ani Barua.*

(1588, Sammamish), Atharv Rastogi (1420, Issaquah), Yash Syal (1384, Sammamish), Sai Bulusu (1360, Bellevue), Mike Tie (1315, Sammamish), Olin Martin (1257, Seattle), Sambuddha S. Das (1149, Sammamish), Jude Merritt (unrated, Maple Valley).

Three fearless chess warriors managed to win against the International Master: Gabriel Razmov (1737, Seattle), Andrew Goupinets (1649, Bellevue), and Felicity Mei (438, Sammamish)! Eric, a true gentleman and amazing chess ambassador, graciously signed autographs and posed for photographs with the participants at the end of the simul.

Stay tuned for more simuls hosted by IHCC + WCF in 2024!

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*The playing hall at the Issaquah Highlands Chess Club during the simul event.
Photo credit: Ani Barua.*

2023 Washington Junior Invitational

By Josh Sinanan

The 2023 Washington Junior Invitational Chess Championship took place December 16-17 at Lakeside Upper School in Seattle concurrently with the co-located Washington Winter Chess Classic. As is the tradition, the Closed section consisted of a six-player round robin featuring the highest rated junior players in Washington State.

The 21-player Invitational section, a five-round Swiss, was run alongside the Closed and offered Tri-Rated games (NWSRS, US Chess, and FIDE) for the numerous ambitious youngsters taking part. The tournament was organized by Washington Chess Federation and directed by the WCF Dream Team: Vice President Rekha Sagar, Community Outreach Liaison and National FIDE Arbiter Suresh Balaji, and Member-at-Large Ani Barua.

Two teenage chess masters, Daniel Shubin of Redmond, and Ryan Min of Bellevue, tied for first place with four points apiece, each winning three games, drawing against fellow NM Stephen Willy, and drawing against each other. To decide the seed for the 2024 Washington State Championship, an excited blitz playoff was held, in which speed chess specialist Shubin triumphed in both games.

For his efforts, Daniel earns the seed into the Championship section of the 2024 Washington State Championship, taking place in February in Redmond! Sammamish chess studs NM Stephen



Washington Junior Invitational (Closed section) players — NM Daniel Shubin (L) vs local junior star, expert Ted Wang (R). Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

Willy and Austin Liu shared third/fourth place honors with 2.5 points each. In the Invitational section, Mongolian chess phenom Odbayar Yondon of Redmond and Bellevue chess prince Rishi Ramaswamy dominated the field, each scoring an impressive four points from five games. Yondon allowed only a single draw against the solid Arnav Gadde in the third round after taking a first-round half-point bye. Ramaswamy employed a more decisive approach, recovering well after a second-round loss against the dangerous Nirmalya Routray and winning his last three games in a row!

A quadruplet of players shared =third-sixth place honors a half-point back: Leonardo Wang of Fall City, Selina Cheng of Seattle, Dann Merriman of Duvall, and Rian Raja of Bothell. The future is certainly bright for each of these fine young chess players as the scholastic chess boom continues throughout the Pacific Northwest! Many thanks to all who contributed to this event and congratulations to the winners.



Pranav Kokati at the Washington Junior Invitational (Invitational section). Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

Washington Junior Invitational: Closed											
#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total pts	Prizes	
1	1-2	NM Daniel Shubin	2253	W 6	D 3	D 2	W 4	W 5	4	=1st / 2nd	
2		CM Ryan Min	2138	W 4	W 5	D 1	D 3	W 6	4	=1st / 2nd	
3	3-4	NM Stephen Willy	2232	D 5	D 1	W 6	D 2	L 4	2.5	=3rd	
4		Austin Liu	2128	L 2	D 6	W 5	L 1	W 3	2.5		
5	5	CM Yiding Lu	2121	D3*	L 2	L 4	W 6	L 1	1.5	Biggest Upset*	
6	6	Ted Wang	2099	L 1	D 4	L 3	L 5	L 2	0.5		

Blitz Playoff				
Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Total
NM Daniel Shubin	2253	W 2	W 2	2
CM Ryan Min	2138	L 1	L 1	0
Two G/5:+2 unrated blitz games.				



Newly minted master Ryan Min (L) vs. Stephen Willy at the Washington Junior Invitational (Closed section). Photo Credit: Meiling Cheng.

Washington Junior Invitational: Invitational										
#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total pts	Prizes
1	1-2	Odbayar Yondon	1767	H---	W 12	D 10	W 14	W 3	4	=1st / 2nd
2		Rishi Ramaswamy	1744	W 14	L 8	W 5	W 10	W 9	4	=1st / 2nd
3	3-6	Leonardo Wang	1695	D 15	W 19	W 8	W 4	L 1	3.5	=3rd-6th
4		Selina Cheng	1669	W 11	W 17	W 7	L 3	D 6	3.5	
5		Dann Merriman	1651	W 6	D 10	L 2	W 15	W 11	3.5	
6		Rian Raja	1372	L 5	W 18	W 13	W 7	D 4	3.5	
7	7-9	Vijay Nallappa	1734	W 18	W 9	L 4	L 6	W 13	3	=7th
8		Nirmalya Routray	1616	W 16	W 2	L 3	L 9	W 17	3	
9		Haituka Anandkumar	1559	W 21	L 7	W 12	W 8	L 2	3	
10	10-12	Arnav Gadde	1561	W 20	D 5	D 1	L 2	D 12	2.5	Biggest Upset W in*
11		Atharv Rao	1391	L 4	W 21	W 20	H---	L 5	2.5	
12		Miles King	1159	W 13*	L 1	L 9	W 18	D 10	2.5	
13	13-17	Andy Chen	1582	L 12	W 15	L 6	W 20	L 7	2	
14		Pranav Kokati	1518	L 2	W 16	W 17	L 1	U---	2	
15		Yuchen Zhou	1502	D 3	L 13	W 19	L 5	D 18	2	
16		Jeffrey Chien	1330	L 8	L 14	B---	L 17	W 19	2	
17		Sachin Miskelly	unr.	B---	L 4	L 14	W 16	L 8	2	
18	18-19	Sanjay Urali	1509	L 7	L 6	W 21	L 12	D 15	1.5	
19		Aakash Mishra	1032	H---	L 3	L 15	W 21	L 16	1.5	
20	20-21	William Zhao	1127	L 10	B---	L 11	L 13	L 21	1	
21		Solomon Levy	1092	L 9	L 11	L 18	L 19	W 20	1	



Washington Junior Closed participant Yiding Lu. Photo Credit: Meiling Cheng.

Blitz Playoff				
Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Total
Odbayar Yondon	1767	W 2	W 2	2
Rishi Ramaswamy	1744	L 1	L 1	0
Two G/5:+2 unrated blitz games.				

2023 Washington Winter Classic

By Josh Sinanan

The 2023 Washington Winter Classic was held December 16-17 at Lakeside Upper School in Seattle. Unlike last year, which saw the event split into two sections due to space constraints at the Orlov Chess Academies in Redmond and Seattle, all 38 players in this year's tournament were housed entirely in one location, the spacious Howard Wright Community Center in the heart of the Lakeside Upper School Campus.

The Washington Junior Closed and Invitational, a prestigious junior event, was held concurrently at the same venue. Both events were directed by the WCF Dream Team of Community Liaison/FIDE Arbiter Suresh Balaji, Member-at-Large Ani Barua, and Vice President Rekha Sagar, who paired the tournament remotely.

The Washington Winter Classic was run as a five-round Swiss tournament in two sections, Open and Reserve U1600, over two days with the popular FIDE-approved time control of game in 90 minutes with a 30-second increment.

The intense first-day schedule of three rounds in a single day resulted in many third-round half-point byes, as stamina definitely became a factor when playing the third game of the day. To entice some stronger players to come out, the highest finishing Washington residents in the Open and Reserve sections were seeded into the Premier and

Challengers sections, respectively, of the 2024 Washington State Championship.

In the 21-player Open section, experience trumped youth as the Ukrainian Chess Wizard, Leonid Gavrysh (1926 → 2007, 5.0) of Brier topped the field with a perfect five points from five games. For his efforts, Leonid is seeded into the Premier section of the 2024 Washington State Championship. A pair of chess aces, Thanh Tien Nguyen (2124 → 2120, 4.0) of Redmond and Brian Lee (1953 → 1969, 4.0) of Napavine tied for second/third place a full point back.

The key matchup between Nguyen and Gavrysh occurred in the penultimate round, with Gavrysh emerging the victor in a wild clash of the chess titans. Young Jamie Zhu (1953 → 1957, 3.5) of Sammamish captured the U2100 prize a half-point back, losing only to Gavrysh in the final round. Seattle chess king Chad Boey (1672 → 1737, 3.0) won the U1900 prize with three points after a clutch final

Washington Winter Classic : Open

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total pts	Prizes
1	1	Leonid Gavrysh	1981	W 7	W 9	W 10	W 2	W 4	5	1st
2	2-3	Thanh Tien Nguyen	2116	W 14	W 17	W 3	L 1	W 12	4	= 2nd / 3rd
3		Brian Lee	1954	W 15	W 16	L 2	W 7	W 6	4	
4	4	Jamie Zhu	1950	W 11	W 20	H---	W 13	L 1	3.5	1st U2100
5	5-7	Bental Tagor	1999	L10	W 18	L 7	W 9	W 15	3	
6		Emerson Wong-Godfrey	1937	L16	W 21	W 15	W 10	L 3	3	
7		Chad Boey	1727	L 1	W 19	W 5	L 3	W 13	3	1st U1900
8	8-12	Abhinav Mishra	1782	L20	L15	W 21	W 14	D10	2.5	
9		Christos Boulis	1776	W 12	L 1	D20	L 5	W 19	2.5	
10		Gabriel Razmov	1737	W 5*	W 13	L 1	L 6	D 8	2.5	Biggest Upset Win*
11		Shuyi Han	1634	L 4	W 14	L13	D17	W 20	2.5	Best Female Player
12		Arush Yadlapati	1453	L 9	B---	H---	W 20	L 2	2.5	
13	13-16	Damarcus Thomas	1960	W 18	L10	W 11	L 4	L 7	2	
14		Ujwal Garine	1754	L 2	L11	W 18	L 8	W 17	2	
15		Iris Zhang	1647	L 3	W 8	L 6	W 21	L 5	2	
16		Collin Dang	1625	W 6	L 3	W 17	U---	U---	2	
17	17-20	Robin Tu	1792	W 19	L 2	L16	D11	L14	1.5	
18		Andrew Goupinets	1649	L13	L 5	L14	H---	B---	1.5	
19		Don Hack	1555	L17	L 7	H---	B---	L 9	1.5	
20		Karthik Bimod	1540	W 8	L 4	D 9	L12	L11	1.5	
21	21	John Patrick Christy	1473	H---	L 6	L 8	L15	H---	1	

round win over fellow king Damarcus Thomas.

Up-and-coming Seattle chess prince Gabriel Razmov (1712 → 1748, 2.5) won the Best Upset Win prize thanks to his first-round knockout against Bental “The Tiger” Tagor. Rising Sammamish superstar Arush Yadlapati (1191 → 1241, 2.5) was the highest US Chess Rating points gainer with 50 rating points added to his Elo. Bellevue’s Shuyi Han (1612 → 1634, 2.5) claimed the Best Female Player prize with a tournament performance rating (TPR) of 1799. Classiness was on display throughout the weekend, with Andrew Goupinets (1206 → 1201, 1.5) of Bellevue and Chad Boey of Seattle especially dressing to impress and taking home the Best Dressed prizes on Saturday and Sunday, respectively.

In the Reserve U1600 section, Bellevue Chess Queen Nola Fung (1491-1536, 5.0) emerged victorious with an impressive five points from five games. Nola took care of business against her nearest rivals Koripella (1197), Liu (1347), and Burchall (1310) during her five-game rampage. Chess Dad Kefu Zhao (964 → 1130, 4.0) of Bellevue, whose son William was playing in the co-located

Washington Junior Invitational, finished in second place a full point back. Kefu played especially solid chess in the tournament and was the only other player besides Fung to finish undefeated! Sammamish chess aficionado Dheeran Koripella (1197 → 1232, 3.5) claimed third place honors a half-point back, losing only to Fung and drawing with Zhao along the way. Chess powerhouses Allen Chang (1179 → 1234, 3.0) of Mountlake Terrace and Laurion Burchall (1310 → 1318, 3.0) of Seattle shared the U1500 prize a half-point back. Chess stud Alex Foltenyi (919 → 989, 3.0) of Redmond won the first U1300 prize with a solid “plus one” score. Aaron Zhang (508 → 543, 2.0) of Redmond, who no doubt has been picking up some pointers from his older sister Iris (1569), won the U1100 prize with two points.

Youngster Ziliang Ma (2124 → 2120, 4.0), a student from Detective Cookie’s



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Chess Club in South Seattle, earned the Biggest Upset Win prize with a huge 165-point last round upset victory against James “Skip” Hamlett. Redmond’s Vilmos Foltenyi (1071 → 1079, 2.5) earned the highest US Chess Rating Gain prize with a solid eight-point ascent.

The Best Dressed Prizes were awarded to chess dudes Ziliang Ma on Saturday and Joshua Pantea (941 → 919, 2.0) on Sunday. Congratulations to the winners and many thanks to all who contributed to this fantastic event!

Washington Winter Classic : Reserve U1600

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total pts	Prizes
1	1	Nola Fung	1565	W 9	W 6	W 3	W 4	W 7	5	1st
2	2	Kefu Zhao	1206	W 7	W 14	D 4	D 3	W 8	4	2nd
3	3	Dheeran Koripella	1385	W 8	W 5	L 1	D 2	W 12	3.5	3rd
4	4-8	Vincent Liu	1538	W 10	W 11	D 2	L 1	D 6	3	
5		Evan Cen	1511	W 12	L 3	L 7	W 10	W 11	3	
6		Allen Chang	1471	W 17	L 1	D 10	W 14	D 4	3	= 1st U1500
7		Laurion Burchall	1396	H---	W 13	W 5	H---	L 1	3	
8		Alex Foltenyi	1050	L 3	B---	W 9	W 11	L 2	3	1st U1300
9	9-10	Ziliang Ma	1344	L 1	W 15	L 8	D 16	W 14*	2.5	Biggest Upset Win*
10		Vilmos Foltenyi	1313	L 4	W 17	D 6	L 5	W 16	2.5	
11	11-13	Jeb Stroud	1393	W 16	L 4	W 12	L 8	L 5	2	
12		Joshua Pantea	1303	L 5	W 16	L 11	W 13	L 3	2	
13		Aaron Zhang	956	B---	L 7	L 16	L 12	W 15	2	1st U1100
14	14-16	James Hamlett	1509	W 15	L 2	H---	L 6	L 9	1.5	
15		Neil Kossuri	1278	L 14	L 9	H---	B---	L 13	1.5	
16		Nathan Zhang	1104	L 11	L 12	W 13	D 9	L 10	1.5	
17	17	Lakshana Anand	1269	L 6	L 10	U---	U---	U---	0	

Issaquah Highlands Chess Club & Washington Chess Federation Present...



Eastside Open

Sat. March 30, 2024



Blakely Hall – 2550 NE Park Dr. Issaquah, WA 98029

Format: A 5-round Swiss tournament in three sections: **Open**, **Reserve** U1600, and **Rising** (unrated).

Entry fee: \$45 by 3/23, \$55 after. \$25 play-up fee if rated under 1600 and playing in Open section. Free entry for players rated 2000+. Maximum of 100 players, please register early to reserve your spot!

Schedule: Registration & Check-in: 9-9:45am. Rounds (5): 10am, 11:30am, 1:30pm, 3:00pm, 4:30pm. Closing Ceremony + Blitz Tournament: ~ 6:00pm or asap.

Time Control: G/30; +5 sec. increment per move starting from move 1.

Rating: Open and Reserve U1600 section are Dual NWSRS + US Chess Rated. Higher of March US Chess or current NWSRS rating will be used to determine section, pairings, and prizes. Rising section is unrated, with no memberships required.

Memberships: US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships required for Open and Reserve sections, other states accepted. No memberships required for Rising section.

Prize Fund: \$2,500 based on 100 paid entries.

Open: 1st – 3rd: \$250-200-150. 1st U2000/U1800: \$100

Reserve U1600: 1st – 3rd: \$225-180-150, 1st U1400/U1200/U1000: \$100

Rising (unrated): 1st – 4th: \$200-150-125-100.

Special Prizes (per section):

Biggest Upset Win: \$35, Best Female Player (by TPR): \$35, Best Dressed: \$20.

Byes: Up to 2 half-point byes available if requested before the end of round 2.

Registration: Online at nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration. Pay by Credit/Debit/PayPal/SettleKing.

Registration + payment deadline: Fri, Mar 29 @ 5pm. Unpaid players will be removed from the roster after the deadline, and players from the Waitlist will be offered a spot. At-site registration: 9-9:45am.

On-site payment available by cash, check made out to "WCF", Zelle (ID: washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com), or Venmo (ID: @WACHess).

Blitz Tournament: Time: 7-9pm (after rd. 5 of main tournament). Entry Fee: \$20. Format: A 7-Round Single Swiss in one section, 2 half-point byes available. US Chess Blitz rated. TC: G/4; +3. On-site registration: 6:00-6:45pm. Rds. @ 7pm, 7:15, 7:30, 7:45, 8, 8:15, 8:30. Closing Ceremony ~ 8:45pm or asap. Current US Chess membership required. Higher of March 2024 US Chess Blitz or Regular rating used to determine pairings and prizes. Prize Fund: **\$500** (based on 50 pd. entries)

1st – 3rd: \$120-80-50, 1st U1900/U1700/U1500/U1300/U1100/Unrated: \$30. Biggest upset win: \$10/rd.



Questions – Josh Sinanan, WCF President, 206-769-3757, washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com

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contact@seattlechess.club

Apr. 20-21 **SCC Adult Swiss**
Format: 4-SS, open to those born before 4/22/2006. **TC:** G120; +30. **EF:** Free for SCC members. \$12 for non-members.
Prize Fund: \$320 gtd. **Prizes:** \$100-70, U1800 50, U1600 45, U1400 40, U1200 & Unrated 15. **Reg:** Sat. 10-10:45 a.m.
Rds: Sat. 11-4:30, Sun. 11-4:30. **Byes:** 1 available. Rounds 3 or 4 must commit at registration. **Misc:** US Chess memb. req'd. NS, NC. **Sponsored by Henry Yan.**

Mar 9, Mar 30, Apr 27 **Saturday Quads**
Format: 3-RR, 4-plyr sec. by rtg. **TC:** G/100;+15. **EF:** \$9 (+\$7 fee for non-SCC). **Prizes:** Free quad entry. **Reg:** 9-9:45 a.m.
Rds: 10:00-2:15-6:30. **Misc:** US Chess memb. req'd. NS, NC.

Mar 10 **G/20 Hexes**
Format: 5-RR in 6- or 5-player sections. **TC:** G/20;+8. **EF:** \$12 (+\$6 fee for non-SCC). **Prize Fund:** \$54 b/6. **Prizes:** \$36-18. **Reg:** 12-12:45 p.m. **Time Frame:** 1 to ~6:30 p.m.
Byes: 0. **Misc:** US Chess memb. req'd. NS, NC.

Mar 16, Apr 28 **SCC Novice**
Format: 4-SS. Open to U1200 and UNR. **TC:** G/60;+15. **EF:** \$20 (-\$2 SCC members). **Prizes:** SCC membership(s). **Reg:** 9-9:45a.m. **Rds:** 10-12:45-3:30-6. **Byes:** 1 (Rd 3/4—commit at reg.). **Misc:** US Chess memb. req'd. NS, NC.

Mar 17, Apr 14 **Sunday Tornado**
Format: 4-SS. **TC:** G/50;+10. **EF:** \$18 (+\$7 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 memb. req'd. NS, NC.

Wednesdays are for casual play

Seattle Spring Open

March 23-24, 2023

A five-round Swiss with a time control of G/100 plus 15 seconds per move. The prize fund of \$500 is based on 24 paid entries, 3 per prize group.

First	\$150	Second	\$100	U1900	\$70
U1700	\$60	U1500	\$50	U1300	\$40
		Unrated	\$30		

Entry Fees: \$40 if rec'd by 3/20 (\$28 SCC memb.), \$52 after the 20th (\$38 SCC memb.). **Unrated**—Free with purchase of 1-yr US Chess & 1-yr WCF.

Registration: Sat. 9-9:45am. **Rounds:** Sat. 10-2:30-7, Sun. 11-3:30.

Byes: 2 (Sunday rounds, commit at registration). **Miscellaneous:** US Chess & WCF membership req'd. No smoking.

