



\$3.95

April 2024



Northwest Chess

April 2024, Volume 78-04 Issue 915

ISSN Publication 0146-6941

USPS publication 422390

Published monthly by the *Northwest Chess* Board.
To see the games from this issue online click:

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POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to the Office of Record:

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

Periodicals postage paid at Seattle, Washington
USPS periodicals postage permit number (0422-390)

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

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Brian Lee at the Inland Classic in Spokane.
Photo credit: James Stripes.

Back Cover

Walter van Heemstede Obelt at the Inland Classic in Spokane. Photo credit: James Stripes.

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*Look for coverage of the
2024 Washington State
Championship in the
May issue.—Editor.*

2024 Inland Classic

Kevin Korsmo

A new tournament launched the final weekend of February, 2024 – the Inland Classic, Spokane’s replacement for the Dave Collyer Memorial. The new event saw a familiar format and lots of familiar faces, but many newer players emerged to challenge the traditional powers. Michael Cambareri and Brian Lee scored 4.5 to win the 67-player event.

Lee led a contingent of a half dozen players from WSU, several of whom had rediscovered tournament chess years after establishing fairly low ratings in their scholastic days. Buffed up by computers and strong club competition, they returned to this event to gobble up rating points and rack up several large upsets. The chief “upsetter” was Drew Bunch, who scored upset victories over a Class A player in round one, an Expert in round three, and two high Class B players on his way to scoring four points and tie for third place. He raised his rating from 1258 to 1556 and grabbed the largest upset prize along the way.

The field was led by IM John Donaldson, graciously returning to Spokane once again. He gave a lecture about the FIDE candidates tournament on Friday night, and then scored 17.5 of 19 in the ensuing simul. Another veteran presence on third board was Eric Billaux, the winner of the first two Collyer Memorial tourneys while a grad student at WSU in the early 90s. He returned to Washington last year, settling in the Tri-Cities, after a quarter century in Colorado. Tacoma Expert Paul Bartron came over once again and was seeded fourth.

As is typical in a large open tournament, the chief upsets occur in the early rounds when the rating disparities between opponents are the largest. There were a half dozen upsets in round one, which saw three Class A players fall. The last game of the round saw Ben Shedlock (1404)—always a good bet for last game of the round in any event—upend Mark Havrilla (1953) on board seven. Facing mate in one with seconds remaining on his clock, Mark sacrificed his rook and

attempted to force mate with queen and knight. Living on the five second delay, he chased Ben’s king from kingside to queenside before a safe location was obtained. No one was keeping score in the scramble, but I hope they were able to recreate the last dozen moves. It was an adrenaline rush for the spectators!

The upset trend continued in round two, with another Class A player falling among the several upsets. Bunch continued his winning ways, defeating Leonardo Wang (1785) in a battle of up-and-coming young players. Wang had played in the Washington Junior Invitational in December and followed that up by gaining 172 points in the North American Open in Las Vegas at the end of the year to sit on the cusp of Class A at the beginning of this event.

The top six boards won their opening two games and seemed immune from the upset fever, although that would change in round three. There were 21 evening round byes, further compacting the field for the round. The chief contest of the night occurred on board one, with Lee playing white against Donaldson. That one ran until the end of the round, with Lee claiming victory with ten seconds left on each clock. In the time scramble, Donaldson made a mistake and lost a drawn rook and pawn endgame. The victory did not even crack the top five largest upsets. Board three also saw an upset, with newlywed Owen McDevitt, a post-doctorate student at WSU (via Vanderbilt) and recent Collyer contestant, scoring a draw against Billaux. Bunch upended Bartron on board four to stay atop the leader board.

Round four saw Cambareri and Lee collide on board one, while Bunch, the only other perfect score, played Cam Leslie on board two. Leslie worked hard and scored the victory to stop Bunch’s



The playing hall. Photo credit: James Stripes.

run, although the setback did not derail Bunch for long. Lee and Cambareri engaged in a long back and forth affair with a draw finally being agreed upon with a small amount of time left on each clock. Wang and Donaldson also played a lengthy contest with the IM prevailing in a bishop and pawn endgame. Billaux played an entertaining game against Jeremy Younker, who carried over his tradition of playing only in the Collyer Memorial started by his father to this event. The ending drew quite a number of spectators, with both players having mate threats and very limited time. Jeremy lost his queen to a touch move violation with less than 10 seconds to go in the time scramble, sealing the game for Eric.

There were no perfect scores entertaining the final round, with seven players sitting at 3.5 on the top four boards. One of them, Jim Skovron, had the fortune to be paired against Donaldson, and that game was the first of the round to complete. The IM quickly triumphed and the two spent much more time in the hallway conversing than they did playing! (I know I can expect some tough pairings in October at Jim's Chinook Open in Great Falls...)

Board one saw Cambareri match up against Dave Rowles in one of numerous encounters the two have had in the past year since Dave retired and returned to weekly club activity. The opening was wild and Cambareri eventually forced resignation. On board two, Billaux and Lee mixed it up until quite late in the round before Lee came out on top. Erickson and Leslie engaged in another match of local veterans and fought to the end of the round before agreeing to a draw. Bunch got back to his "upsetting" ways by toppling high schooler Ben Patterson (1743) to make it four upsets in five rounds. The competitive nature of the event was demonstrated by the fact that the final game on board 22 featured a lengthy endgame that didn't conclude until all the prizes had long been decided.

The winners: Cambareri and Lee were first with 4.5/5. Five players tied for third place with 4.0/5: Brad Bodie, Bunch, Donaldson, Erickson, and Leslie. The class A prizes went to Bodie and Erickson, with the B prizes (3.5/5) split among Curtis, Skovron, and Younker. Eshan Reddy, an eighth-grade student at St. Georges School in Spokane, scored 3.5/5 to claim the top class C prize. Second in the class (3.0/5) went to Declan Pham



Michael Cambareri. Photo credits James Stripes.

(a Missoula eighth grader) and Odysseus Rodriguez of Wapato. Bunch claimed the first D prize, while second place in the D and under section (3.0/5) was shared by Eastern Oregon newcomer Arlen Calley (who obtained a 1586 provisional rating from this event) and Adam Porth. Porth took a first-round bye to run the scholastic tournament held during the first round in the skittles room. Calley's travel partner, Benji Johnson of Elgin, Oregon, scored the second largest upset prize (713 points).

From an organizer's perspective, the event was a total success. We required pre-registration of all entrants so that a sufficient number of tables could be delivered to the playing site. That took away the problem of numerous late entries (there were 23 first timers at the final Collyer, and most turned up the morning of the event seeking to join US Chess and play in the tourney) and made everything much easier. Deon Goodwin's assistance with the building and on the floor was invaluable. I depart for a lengthy trip (four-six months) with the expectation that the tournament committee will approve a second Inland Classic during my absence and that I will again be writing about this continuing event next year.

See you in the fall!

A New Tradition And Some Challenges

Launching a new event can be a challenge, and the challenges can be multiplied when the newbie is starting out in the shadow of a successful predecessor. And not all challenges are related to the conduct of the tournament.

The final two Collyer Memorials had set attendance records, with the 115 players who showed for the final event exceeding the old record by over 50%. The venues were inadequate, and a new location needed to be found for the successor tournament if we had any hope of maintaining the strong turnout of the final Collyer events. And that was a big challenge. During the pandemic shutdown, many hotels and organizations that previously had rented or made space available changed policies that limited access, reduced available space, or significantly raised rental costs. The result was a dearth of affordable, reasonable tournament space. Having observed these challenges when searching for a new home for the club's weekly meetings, we knew that finding a large weekend venue would be difficult.

Deon Goodwin's return to chess after two decades proved to be the good fortune we needed. A music teacher for the

Lakeland School District in Rathdrum, ID, Deon observed the problems and had a solution—his middle school. A former high school built in the early 1960s, Lakeland Junior High provided a nice, quiet space for chess, but it is 35 miles from downtown Spokane. Many club members declined to drive from Spokane for the event—it is far enough away to be inconvenient, but not far enough away to justify an overnight stay. The nearest hotel is ten miles away, and the bulk of the available hotels are further away. Also, Rathdrum is small, with limited food choices or winter entertainment.

Nonetheless, the school provided an excellent playing venue. The gym was spacious, bright, and quiet. Everyone I surveyed enjoyed the location. A large skittles room was available after the first round. In all, the site was a huge improvement over the space available at the last two hotels.

As in any tournament, little things came along to shake up my complacency. One problem that threw some folks off was the school's renaming! After we signed the contract for use and posted the tournament announcement, the school district renamed the school Lakeland Middle School. Several folks drove past the site in search of a junior high, only to find a high school a few blocks away. No one was late for the first round, so all turned out well.

Another rare problem arose later in the day. On the verge of the third round, when the need for coffee is at its greatest, the club's coffee pot shorted out and died after 24 years of service. (It had been purchased by the player, also present for this tourney, who had snapped off the spigot by accident in 2000). We borrowed a small pot from the office for the third round (thankfully Deon had the keys!)

and Adam Porth came to the rescue with his tournament pot the next day. Problems solved.

Numerous people helped to make the Collyer a success, and the same type of cooperation is present for the Classic. I hope this was the first of many.

**Brian Lee (1969) –
John Donaldson (2414) [D19]**
Inland Classic Spokane, WA
(R3), February 24, 2024
[Brian Lee]

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 dxc4
5.a4 Bf5 6.e3 e6 7.Bxc4 Bb4 8.0-0 0-0
9.Qe2 Nbd7 10.e4 Bg6 11.Bd3 Bh5**

Here is where my theoretical knowledge ended, but we continued to play moves that had been played before for a few more moves.

12.e5 Nd5 13.Ne4 c5 14.Ng3

John told me after the game he had played Black in this line before and his opponent played 14.Bg5 Qc7 15.Rac1 h6 I rejected this line because if White plays 16.Bh4 (16.Bd2 Qa5) 16...Nf4 and White loses the bishop pair.

**14...Bg6 15.Bxg6 hxg6 16.Bg5 Qa5
17.h4 cxd4 18.h5**



Position after 18.h5

18...Rfe8

18...gxh5 19.Nxh5 looks scary, but Black has enough defensive resources. 19...Rfc8 20.Qe4 d3 21.Qxd3 N5b6 22.Qe4 Rc4 is a funny engine line that keeps White from getting his Queen to the kingside to cause trouble.

The text move allows White to damage Black's kingside structure, although I didn't take advantage of this very effectively.

19.hxg6 fxg6 20.Qe4

Stronger is getting more pieces involved with 20.Rfd1 Rac8 21.Rxd4 White can double rooks on the d-file and also has ideas like Rh4 and Qe4 making Black's king very uncomfortable.

20...Nf8 21.Nxd4

21.Rfd1 is again a little stronger but White is still better after the text move.

21...Rac8 22.Rad1 Rc4

22...Qxa4; 22...Bc5 23.Nb3 Qb4 24.Nxc5 Rxc5

23.Rd3

23.Qe2 gets out of the pin and hits the rook.

**23...Bc5 24.b3 Rxd4 25.Rxd4 Bxd4
26.Qxd4 Rc8 27.Ne4 Nc3 28.Re1 Nxe4
29.Qxe4 Qc7??!**

It is better to keep the queen on a5 to meet White playing Re3 with Rc3.

30.Re3

I also considered 30.Rc1 Qd7 31.Rxc8 Qxc8 32.Be7 but 32...Qc3 33.Bxf8 Kxf8 34.Qxg6 Qxe5 is dead equal.

30...b6 31.Rd3

My move is not bad, but I'm not sure why I didn't play 31.Rh3. White is threatening 32.Qh4. 31...Nh7 32.Bd2 Qc2 33.Qxc2 Rxc2 34.Rd3 Kf7 35.Bb4 Ke8 36.Bd6. This is similar to what happened in the

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game, except Black's knight is out of play on h7 instead of on d7.

31...Qc2 32.Qd4 Qc5?! 33.Qxc5 Rxc5
34.Be7 Rc7 35.Bd6 Rc1+ 36.Kh2 Nd7



Position after 36...Nd7

Here John offered me a draw, and I started having flashbacks to our round five game at the 2022 Collyer Memorial. In that game, John offered me a draw when I was in a slightly better position, which I declined and then went on to lose. I thought for a few minutes and decided to decline since there was very little risk of me losing this position (although that's also what I thought about our previous game).

37.f4 Kf7 38.Ba3 Rc7 39.g4 g5!

Undermining the e5-pawn and stopping White from playing Kg3-Kh4-Kg5. Black has now fully equalized.

40.Kg3 Nc5 41.Bxc5 gxf4??

I was surprised to see this move as I thought things were starting to fizzle out to a draw, but now White is suddenly clearly better if not winning. 41...bxc5 42.a5 gxf4+ 43.Kxf4 Kg6 White's king has been kept out of g5 and his rook has been kept off the seventh rank.; 41...Rxc5 42.Rd7+ Kg6 43.Rxa7 Rc3+ 44.Kf2 Rxb3 White's king has been pushed back and Black has activated his rook.

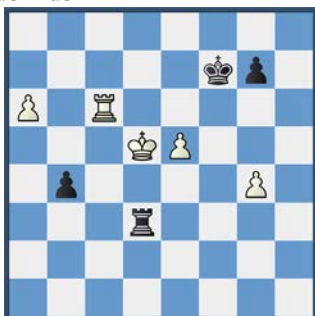


Brian Lee. Photo credit: James Stripes.

42.Kxf4 Rxc5

42...bxc5 43.Kg5 c4 44.Rc3 Rc5 45.Kf4 g5+ 46.Ke4+-

43.Rd7+ Kg6 44.Rxa7 Rc3 45.Re7 Rxb3 46.Rxe6+ Kf7 47.Rc6 b5 48.a5 Ra3 49.a6 b4 50.Kf5 Rf3+ 51.Ke4 Ra3 52.Kd5 Rd3+



Position after 52...Rd3+

53.Ke4

Here I realized after 53.Kc4 Rc3+ 54.Kb5 Rxc6 55.Kxc6 b3 56.a7 b2 57.a8Q b1Q although White promotes first, it's not clear there is a win, since 58.Qb7+ loses.

Therefore, White would have to try 58.Qa7+, but I didn't even try to calculate beyond this because if there is a win it is much more complicated than the line I chose.

Tablebase confirms the position is drawn.

53...Ra3 54.Rc7+ Kg6 55.a7 b3 56.Kd3!

White's king stops the b-pawn and it's all over.

56...Ra2 57.Kc3 Rc2+ 58.Kxb3 Rxc7 59.a8Q

1-0

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**Eric Billaux (2057) –
Brian Lee (1969) [B82]**
Inland Classic Spokane, WA
(R5), February 25, 2024
[Brian Lee]

Although my game against John Donaldson was my highest quality game from the tournament, this was my most exciting.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6
5.Nc3 a6 6.Bd3 e6 7.f4 Nbd7 8.a4 b6
9.0-0 Bb7 10.Kh1 Qc7 11.Bd2 Be7
12.Qe1 0-0 13.Qg3 Nc5



Position after 13...Nc5

14.e5?

This opens up the position in Black's favor. White will lose the bishop pair after Black takes on d3, and the a8-h1 and a7-g1 diagonals are wide open for Black's bishops.

14...Nh5 15.Qe1?

15.Qe3! looks awkward but it is the only way not to lose a pawn 15...dxe5 16.fxe5 Nxd3 17.cxd3 Bc5 18.Nce2 a5 (to prevent 19. b4) 19.Qg5. Black is better, but White has avoided disaster.

15...dxe5 16.fxe5 Nxd3 17.cxd3 Rfd8?

Wrong rook, which should have been obvious to me since the f-file is half open and I need this rook for defense. This gives almost gives up my whole advantage but

fortunately my opponent didn't exploit my mistake. 17...Rad8 18.Be3

18.Nb3??

The knight is completely misplaced, and Black has some tactics here that I saw but didn't quite solve. 18.Qf2! is the only move to keep the balance, immediately taking advantage of Black's rook not being on f8.

18...g6?

18...Rxd3 19.Qe2 I spent a ton of time trying to find a good continuation here. I looked at 19...Rh3 (I also looked at 19...Rg3 but again after 20.Rf2 I couldn't find a good continuation.; I also briefly looked at throwing in 19...Qc6 but didn't see how this changed anything after 20.Rf2 My rook and knight are still both hanging. So I reluctantly rejected taking on d3. What does Stockfish say? All three moves win of course! Each line, however, involves the same idea of playing Rh3 (either immediately or after Rg3 or Qc6) followed by simply Rh4. I kept looking for a crushing blow, got tunnel vision, and missed this relatively simple move.) 20.Kg1 Bc5+ 21.Nxc5 Qxc5+ 22.Qf2 and couldn't find a good continuation.; 18...Qc6 was also a strong option. 19.Qf2 f5 20.exf6 Nxf6+–

19.d4?

Once again missing 19.Qf2

19...Ng7 20.Qf2?!

This move has no bite now since Black can play Nf5

20...Nf5 21.Be3 Qc6 22.d5?! Rxd5!

A strong and forced exchange sac. 22...exd5?? Is positionally horrific and justifies White's last move. The a8-h1 diagonal, is closed and White establishes a blockade on d4. 23.Nd4 Qd7 24.Nxf5 Qxf5 25.Qxf5 gxf5 26.Bxb6 Rd7 27.Bd4±

23.Bxb6

23.Nxd5 Qxd5+– Black has more than enough compensation for the exchange and should win.

23...Rxe5?!

23...Bh4 is stronger, but Black is still winning after my move.

24.Na5 Rxa5!

Sacrificing the exchange again, and this time White is forced to accept it.

25.Bxa5 Ne3??



Position after 25...Ne3

26.Rg1??

White misses his last opportunity to take advantage of my rook not being on f8. 26.Qxf7+ Kh8 27.Rf3 (If 27.Ne4 immediately, then 27...Qxe4 28.Rf3 Bg5 29.Bc3+ e5 Apparently this is equal, but to me it just looks like a mess; 27.Rf2) 27...Rf8 28.Qxe7 Rxf3 29.Ne4! I missed this move, and I assume it's what my opponent missed too because without it Black is still better, but now White wins.

26...Bc5

26...Nc4 wins a piece, but my move still wins. 27.b4 Nxa5 28.bxa5 Qxc3

27.Qe2 h5 28.Rac1 Ng4 29.h3 Qd6!

A nice way to finish the game.

0-1

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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:

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

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

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

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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

2024 Oregon Girls Championship

(Zoey Tang wins her fourth title to qualify for the Haring Tournament of Girls State Champions)

Wilson Gibbins

The Oregon Girls Championship drew 56 players this year, up from 50 in 2023. Was it the free entry this year donated by the [Roshen Nair Foundation](#)? Maybe it was the pink water bottles provided by Puddletown Chess. The free keychains provided by Chess4Girls PDX couldn't have hurt. The players probably see the trip to Dairy Queen as an entitlement by now – it has been funded by Rose City Chess for three years in a row. But probably these young ladies were here for the serious chess. Whatever it was, we had another great turnout and another great tournament.

The G/45 format in the Championship section makes the games a little tense, but Zoey Tang kept her cool and won all four games to become the Oregon nominee for the Haring Tournament of Girls State Champions this summer. It included a second-round win over second-place winner and 2023 co-champion Anisha Sripada. Emel Bayrambeyli and Laasya Lanka tied for third with 2.5/4 points, with Emel getting the third-place trophy on tiebreaks. Zoey has won at least a share of four Oregon Girls Championships in a row.



Eesha Juneja won Under 900 section with a perfect 5.0/5 score. Soumya Salapati and Ankita Badri tied for second and third, with Soumya getting second on tiebreaks.

Alicia Le won the Under 600 section with 4.5/5 points. Aarna Dhar, Leighann Elim Parker, Maily Quach, Anisha Jain, and Sharanya Pingale finished in a five-way tie for second with four points. Aarna and Anisha won the second and third place trophies on tiebreaks respectively.

Thanks to Dave Murray for organizing and directing the tournament. Thanks to Nesara Shree, Roshen Nair, Lilly Tang, Robert Hecht, and Chad Lykins for providing the promotion to make this a successful event. And thanks to the Portland Chess Center for providing a great venue for this event.

Neha Narendran (1366) – Zoey Tang (2332) [B23]
Oregon Girls Championship
(R1), February 4, 2024
[Zoey Tang / Wilson Gibbins]

Variations provided by Zoey Tang, words provided by Wilson Gibbins.

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 d6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 Nc6 5.Nge2 e6 6.h3 Be7 7.0-0 d5 8.exd5 exd5 9.Bb5 0-0



Position after 9...0-0

10.Ng3

10.Bxc6 keeps things closer to equal than the game continuation—White gets to double Black's pawns in exchange for giving up the bishop pair. In the game continuation White gets stuck with the doubled pawns.

10...Nd4 11.a3 a6 12.Ba4 b5 13.Bb3 Bb7 13...Nxb3 14.cxb3 d4 14.Nce2 Nxb3 15.cxb3 d4 16.Nf4 g6!

Eliminating the h5-square as a destination for White's knights.

17.Re1 Qc7 18.Qe2



Position after 18.Qe2

18...Bd6

Black wins a knight, the reward for her move 16...g6.

19.Nfh5

Ok, so 19.Qd2 retains the knight for a little while, but after 19...Rae8 20.Nfe2 Qc6 21.f3 Re3 White is awfully tied down, and 22.Qc2 Rxf3 23.gxf3 Qxf3 leads to bad things happening in the neighborhood of White's king.

19...Nxb3 20.Nxb3 gxf3 21.Qxf3 Kh8 22.Qf5 f6 23.Bh6 Rf7 24.Re2 Rg8 25.f3 Qd7 26.Qh5 Rg6 27.Kf2 Re7 28.Rae1 Rxe2+ 29.Rxe2 Be5 30.Kf1 c4 31.bxc4 bxc4 32.dxc4 d3 33.Re1 d2 34.Rd1 Qd3+ 35.Kg1 Qe2

0-1

Co-hosted by Western WA University & WA Chess Federation



Bellingham Open

Sunday, April 21, 2024



Western WA University – Viking Union Building: Multipurpose Room
516 High Street, Bellingham, WA 98225

Highest finishing WA resident in the Open Section seeded into the 2025 WA State Championship – Challengers section.

Format: A 5-round Swiss tournament in two sections: Open and Reserve U1700.

Entry fee: \$35 by 4/14, \$40 after. Free entry for WWU students. Need-based scholarships are available upon request. Maximum of 150 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 ~ 6pm or asap.

Time Control: G/30; +10 sec. increment per move starting from move 1.

Rating: Dual US Chess and NWSRS Rated. Higher of current NWSRS or April 2024 US Chess Regular Rating will be used to determine section, pairings, and prizes.

Memberships: US Chess membership required.

Prize Fund: \$1,400 (based on 80 paid entries)

Open: 1st – 3rd: \$240-\$180-\$120. 1st U1900/U1800/U1700: \$50

Reserve U1700: 1st – 3rd: \$140-\$100-\$80, 1st U1500/U1300/U1100/U900: \$50, 1st Unrated: \$50

Special Prizes (per section): Best Upset Win: \$25, Best Female Player (by TPR): \$25, 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. **Online registration + payment deadline: Sat, April 20 @ 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", SettleKing, PayPal/Zelle (ID: WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com) or Venmo (@WACHess).

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

2024 Idaho Closed

Jeffrey Roland

The 78th Annual Idaho State Chess Championship (Idaho Closed) was held at the Riverside Inn in Boise, Idaho on February 17-19, 2024. The tournament Directors were Adam Porth (Chief TD), Kyra May Schoenwald (Chief Assistant TD), and Tilly Backstrom (Assistant TD).

This year had a heavy turnout with 51 players participating in the main event. That's actually down from last year's 54 players, but still a great turnout. Last year's co-champion, James Wei, who last year scored four wins and two draws to end up in a three-way tie, this year improved that to be a clean 6.0/6 sweep and sole winner of the Idaho State Championship title. His road to victory this year were wins against Andrew Beck, Michael Presutti, Candice Liang, Cody Gorman, Fin Belew, and Alex Machin. Congratulations James!

Other winners were:

2nd Overall - Cody Gorman

3rd Overall - Josh Price

1st Class A - Finn Belew

2nd Class A - Caleb Kircher



James Wei

Photo credit Jeffrey Roland

- 1st Class B - Alex Machin
- 2nd Class B - Candice Liang
- 1st Class C - Linus Wannamaker
- 2nd Class C - Tyler Yazzie
- 1st Class D - Andrew Beck
- 2nd Class D - Michael Buongiovanni
- 1st Class E/Below - Thomas Hines
- 2nd Class E - Braeden Weber
- 1st Unrated - Nathan Hines

**Seth Machakos (1822) –
Alex Machin (1758) [C77]**
Idaho Closed (State Championship)
Boise, ID (R5), February 19, 2024
[Ralph Dubisch]

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6
5.d3 b5 6.Bb3 Bb7 7.c3 Bc5 8.Bg5 h6
9.Bh4 d6 10.0-0 g5 11.Bg3 Qe7 12.h3?!**

Weakens g3 and provides a hook for Black's intrepid g-pawn. White does better to avoid kingside advances and press in the center and queenside, meeting ...h5 with h4 as needed.

12...Ba7 13.Nbd2 Nh5?!

13...0-0-0∞ Black should be pretty happy about the opening.



Position after 13...Nh5

14.Bh2?!

The retreat must have seemed necessary, but in fact White has a small tactical opportunity: 14.Nxe5! Nxg3 (14...Nxe5

15.Qxh5 Nxd3 16.a4± with dynamic play.) 15.Nxc6 Bxc6 16.Re1 and not only does the knight have no immediate escape route, the loose bishop on c6 can also be exploited if Black tries to extricate the steed: 16...g4 17.d4! Nh5? (better 17...gxh3 18.fxg3±) 18.Bd5! Qd7? 19.Bxc6 (or 19.Qxg4 Qxg4 20.hxg4+-) 19...Qxc6 20.Qxg4 Nf6 21.Qg7 Ke7 22.e5! with dangerous attack to compensate for the small material invested.

14...Nf4 15.Bxf4 gxf4



Position after 15...gxf4

After the exchange on f4, Stockfish grants White a positional advantage, presumably based on the doubled black f-pawns and isolated h-pawn. While these features do exist, I disagree with the practical evaluation. Both sides have the same general plan: to break through and attack the other guy's king. Black now has the bishop-pair, generally aimed in the right direction, and the open g-file with available rooks to double on it.

The position may be objectively unclear—it may even favor White, in the universe of computer chess—but between human beings Black has a far easier time finding and executing his plan.

**16.Bd5 Rg8 17.d4 Rg7 18.Kh2 0-0-0
19.a4 Rdg8 20.Rg1 b4 21.Qe2 Kb8
22.Qc4 Qd7 23.cxb4?!**

Better to continue maneuvering.

23...Bc8



L-R: Seth Machakos, Alex Machin. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

A direct threat. Black could also try 23...Nxd4 24.Bxb7 Kxb7 25.Nxd4 Bxd4 26.Qe2 f5

24.Nh4?

24.Kh1 Nxd4 25.Nxd4 Bxd4 26.Bc6 Qe7 27.Bd5 threatens Qc6. Black can accept repetition with ...Qd7, or try something more radical to avoid the draw, such as 27...c5!??; Of course not 24.Qxc6?? Rxc6+! 25.Rxc2 Qxh3+ 26.Kg1 Qxc2#

24...Nxd4 25.b5?

Missing the main threat, but by now even 25.Nf5 c6! 26.Bxc6 (26.Nxc7 cxd5) 26...Qxc6 27.Nxc7 Rxc7 is still a big plus for Black.



Position after 25.b5

25...Rxc2+!! 26.Rxc2 Qxh3+ 27.Kg1 Rxc2+ 28.Nxc2 f3! 29.Nxf3

29.Ne3 Ne2+

29...Nxf3+ 30.Kf1

and resigns, due to the fork coming on d2.

0-1

Michael Henderson (1800) – Brian Lange (1507) [B01]

Idaho Closed (State Championship)
Boise, ID (R4), February 18, 2024
[Brian Lange]

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6

This invites White to play into the Icelandic Gambit. Black appears to over-attack the d5-pawn with the knight and queen and tempts White to protect it by playing 3.c4. White is a pawn up but watch out for what happens next. If instead white plays 3.Nf3, then we slide into a standard Scandinavian opening with 3...Qxd5 4.Nc3.

3.c4 e6 4.dxe6 Bxe6

Let's go! Gambit accepted! Now Black has to prove that the accelerated development is worth losing a central pawn.

5.Nf3 Nc6

Black should play 5...Qe7, which is hard to swallow as the f8-bishop is stuffed in the corner. I wanted to focus on rapid development and chose ...Nc6 instead.

6.b3?

Better is 6.Be2 or 6.d4. Piece development is about to be completely lopsided!

6...Bc5

Four pieces out for Black! Bishops have wide-open diagonals and knights are poised for central outposts.

7.Be2 Qe7

Five pieces out for Black! The queen x-ray attacks the white king and protects

the c5-bishop.

8.0-0 0-0



Position after 8...0-0-0

Black has completed development with the queen-side castle and also provides an open file for the rook on d8! White's d2-pawn is now pinned against the queen and all the queen-side pieces are still on their original squares.

9.a3?

White threatens a pawn storm to push the bishop on c5 off its strong square. Black doesn't want the bishop to retreat to b6 where White's pawns can cancel the bishop. If you play a gambit, you have to play to push the attack!

9...Ne4

Threatens f2 to potentially trade White's rook and pawn for a knight and bishop. With the d2-pawn pinned, White's knight on b1 has nowhere to go. ...Rhe8 is also really tempting with rooks on open central files.

10.b4

The pawn storm continues but still no more pieces are being developed by White.

10...Qf6

The rook on a1 is hanging like fruit from a low-hanging branch. Now the c1-bishop has nowhere to go either.

11.Ra2

White's only good move and begins the counter-play with Bb2 finally freeing the bishop. Black's bishop is hanging on c5, so the choice was between 11...Nxf2 12.Rxf2 Bxf2 or 11.Bd6. Black's knight and bishop are very active, and White's rook and pawn are very passive. This alone was enough for me to keep the bishop and knight and hope for more active attacks, even though my friend Stockfish says this is a blunder.

11...Bd6?? 12.Bb2 Ne5

Although White is starting to wake up, Black has a beautiful southern-cross formation in the middle of the board...

13.c5??

...which provokes White to blunder with c5. Possibly hoping for Be7? leaving the e5-knight unprotected, but there are many attacking lines for Black to take advantage of here. Now the fireworks start!



Position after 13.c5

13...Bxa2

Haymaker!

14.cxd6

Counterpunch!

14...Nxf3+!

Upper cut!

15.Bxf3

Another counterpunch!



Adam Porth.
Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

15...Qxb2

Left hook!

16.Bxe4

Body blow!

16...Rxd6!

Another upper cut! As the dust starts to settle, Black's formation is gone but he's up the exchange and the rook on d6 is waiting to be doubled with ...Rhd8. Will White be able to deliver an effective counterattack?

17.Qg4+ Be6

Kb8 is considered better, but I felt this was a good opportunity to bring the bishop back into the game, hitting White's queen for an extra tempo.

18.Qf3

Bishop battery aiming at b7 and check.

18...c6 19.Nc3



Position after 19.Nc3

19...Qxa3?

I thought 19...Qxd2 looked bad due to 20.Rd1 hitting the queen with the rook hanging, but 20...Qxc3 21.Rxd6 Qe1++.

20.Rb1

White's pieces are all pointing at b7, so I felt it was time to skedaddle my king away. But be careful! If the king goes to any of the black squares like c7 or e7, White can play Nd5+! and the black queen is gone.

20...Kd7 21.b5

White has pulled together an effective plan for a counterattack. b5 is a natural continuation.

21...cxb5 22.Bxb7?

I thought Rxb5 was coming but determined that the bishop taking the b7-pawn wasn't an issue since the c6- and c8-squares are both double-covered by the rooks, so the king is safe.

22...b4!

Protecting the queen and attacking the knight. Now I can trade queens and White's attack fizzles.

23.Nb5 Qxf3 24.Bxf3 Rxd2

Although White's knight was forking the queen and rook, Black was able to escape.

25.Nxa7

White probably was averse to moving the rook to prevent a back-row mate, but the b4-pawn was the best thing to grab as now it's an advanced passed pawn.

25...b3 26.Nb5 b2

White said he had seen enough. I threw everything I could at White and we shook hands. I thought Michael was a very gracious player and was glad I could try out a rare gambit opening on a strong opponent and have it pay off with a win for Black!

0-1

Linus Wannamaker (1533) – Alex Machin (1758) [A29]

Idaho Closed (State Championship) Boise, ID (R4), February 18, 2024

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.g3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.Bg2 Nb6 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.0-0 Be7 8.d3 0-0 9.Be3 f5 10.Rb1 Be6 11.a3 a5 12.Na4 e4 13.Ne1 Nd5 14.Bd2 Nd4 15.e3 Nxe3 16.Bxe3 Bb3 17.Qd2 Bxa4 18.dxe4 Nb3 19.Qc3 Kh8 20.e5 f4 21.gxf4 Ra6 22.Kh1 Rg6 23.Be4 Rg4 24.Nf3 Rgxf4 25.Bxf4 Rxf4 26.Rbd1 Qf8



Position after 26...Qf8

27.Ng5 Bxg5 28.Bg2 c6 29.e6 Be7 30.Rd3 h6 31.Re3 Nd4 32.Qxa5 Bb5 33.Rd1 Nf5 34.Rf3 Rxf3 35.Bxf3 Ne3 36.Bh5 Nxd1 37.Bf7 Nxf2+ 38.Kg2 Ng4 39.a4 Bc4 40.Qh5 Bd5+

0-1

2024 Idaho Closed (State Championship)

#	Name	Rtng	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Rd4	Rd5	Rd6	Total	Solkoff	Cumul	Op. Cumul.	Mod. Med.
1	James Wei	2094	W16	W20	W9	W2	W5	W4	6	24	21	89	21
2	Cody Austin Mitchell Gorman	1852	W34	W17	W12	L1	W7	W10	5	23	18	82.5	20.5
3	Josh Price	1925	W21	L39	W16	W41	W9	W8	5	20.5	16	72.5	17.5
4	Alex James Machin	1758	W33	W13	D22	W6	W10	L1	4.5	23.5	18	87.5	21
5	Finn Belew	1840	W25	W11	W15	W22	L1	H	4.5	19	18	70	19
6	Linus Quinn Wannamaker	1533	W48	D10	W24	L4	W23	W18	4.5	18.5	15.5	69	17.5
7	Tyler Yazzie	1460	W46	L9	W37	W12	L2	W20	4	18.5	14	65.5	17
8	Caleb Kircher	1922	W19	D24	W41	H	W11	L3	4	18	15.5	63	18
9	Candice Liang	1712	W18	W7	L1	W31	L3	D19	3.5	24.5	14.5	85	22
10	Seth Machakos	1822	W31	D6	W35	W39	L4	L2	3.5	22.5	15.5	83	20
11	Brian S. Lange	1507	W23	L5	W27	W14	L8	D15	3.5	21.5	13.5	77.5	18.5
12	Emory Andrew Christensen	1654	W28	W30	L2	L7	D21	W31	3.5	20	13	70	17.5
13	Tom R. Booth	1500	W37	L4	D30	W25	D15	D14	3.5	18.5	12.5	67	16.5
14	Michael Henderson	1800	L30	W38	W21	L11	W33	D13	3.5	18	11.5	63	15.5
15	Jeffrey T. Roland	1700	W27	W32	L5	H	D13	D11	3.5	17	13.5	61.5	17
16	Andrew Beck	1376	L1	W45	L3	W42	H	W30	3.5	17	9.5	57	17
17	Nobel Ang	1565	W40	L2	L31	W45	D30	W33	3.5	15.5	11	56	14
18	Michael Scott Buongiovanni	1214	L9	W46	W32	W24	H	L6	3.5	15	12.5	53	15
19	Adam J. Buchholz	1362	L8	W50	W20	H	D22	D9	3.5	14.5	11.5	56.5	14.5
20	Michael J. Presutti	1600	W45	L1	L19	W35	W27	L7	3	20.5	11	69	13
21	Jamie Lang	1366	L30	W42	L14	W37	D12	D29	3	19	9.5	61.5	12
22	Larry R. Parsons	2000	W26	W29	D4	L5	D19	U	3	18.5	14	66	14
23	Nathan Hugh Hines	Unr.	L11	D25	W40	W38	L6	D26	3	18	10	57	12
24	Zackary Thomas Semancik	1585	W50	D8	L6	L18	W43	D25	3	16.5	11	61	11.5
25	Tanner Hunter	1352	L5	D23	W47	L13	X38	D24	3	16	8	55.5	11.5
26	Tilly Backstrom	1371	L22	L35	W46	D28	W36	D23	3	16	8	51	11
27	Luke Makovsky	1209	L15	W49	L11	W32	L20	W43	3	14.5	9	54.5	10.5
28	Thomas Morris Hines	1124	L12	D36	H	D26	W34	D32	3	14	8	44	10.5
29	Barry D. Eacker	1600	W47	L22	D34	H	D31	D21	3	13.5	10.5	45.5	10
30	Adam Porth	1314	W14	L12	D13	D44	D17	L16	2.5	21	10.5	67	17.5
31	Luke Wei	1323	L10	W48	W17	L9	D29	L12	2.5	18	10	66.5	14.5
32	Corey K. Longhust	1414	W36	L15	L18	L27	W35	D28	2.5	18	8.5	58.5	14.5
33	Dru Wright	1225	L4	H	W36	W34	L14	L17	2.5	16.5	9	55	12
34	David Allen Zaklan	1361	L22	W40	D29	L33	L28	W46	2.5	16.5	8	53	11.5
35	Braeden Weber	682	D38	W26	L10	L20	L32	W50	2.5	15.5	9	52.5	12
36	Brandon Weber	Unr.	L32	D28	L33	W48	L26	W45	2.5	13.5	6.5	40	10.5
37	Timothy Cole Wanless	Unr.	L13	X	L7	L21	H	W47	2.5	12.5	5.5	40	8.5
38	Bradley Fick	1535	D35	L14	W43	L23	F25	W40	2.5	12	8	42.5	8.5
39	Jack Johnson	1596	W42	W3	H	L10	U	U	2.5	10.5	12.5	36.5	5.5
40	Ryan Michael Nisson	699	L17	L34	L23	B	W42	L38	2	14	4	42	10.5
41	Olivia Ding	1622	W51	W43	L8	L33	U	U	2	13	11	39.5	8
42	Ian Weber	785	L39	L21	W49	L16	L40	W48	2	13	5	37.5	9.5
43	Marcella Maya Whitecloud	659	B	L41	L38	W50	L24	L27	2	12.5	8	40.5	9.5
44	Daniel Looney	1422	W49	H	U	D30	U	U	2	3	9.5	10.5	0.5
45	Anthony Kenji Nakashima	901	L20	L16	W48	L17	H	L36	1.5	13.5	4.5	40	10
46	Casey Alan Drehmel	Unr.	L7	L18	L26	W49	H	L34	1.5	13.5	3.5	42.5	9.5
47	Kyra M. Schoenwald	828	L29	H	L25	U	W50	L37	1.5	8	4	25.5	5
48	Griffin Rhys Baldwin	Unr.	L6	L31	L45	L36	W49	L42	1	13.5	2	41.5	9
49	Allison O'Healy	Unr.	L44	L27	L42	L46	L48	B	1	11	0	29	7.5
50	Jay L. Simonson	706	L24	L19	H	L43	L47	L35	0.5	12.5	1.5	43.5	9
51	Trevor Thomsen	967	L41	U	U	U	U	U	0	3	0	11	0

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Section "A" (1800-1999) EF: \$193 (2-day EF: \$190) \$1,800-900-500-300-200

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Thursday 5/2: 6 - 7:15 pm - Lecture by IM John Donaldson (FREE)

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

Saturday 5/4: 3 - 4:30 pm - FREE Game/Position Analysis - IM John Donaldson



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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Mail to: WEIKEL CHESS, 6578 Valley Wood Drive, Reno NV 89523

PRINT Name _____ Phone# _____ USCF Rating _____
Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
USCF ID# _____ Exp. Date _____ All pre-registered players check in at TD desk on arrival.

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2000-2199 1800-1999 1600-1799 1400-1599 1399-Below Free With

3-Day EF	Free • \$194 • \$250 • \$300	\$194	\$193	\$192	\$191	\$180	USCF Dues
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2-Day EF	\$190	\$190	\$190	\$190	\$190	USCF Dues
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FEES ALSO ENCLOSED FOR:

- \$30 Wed. Clock Simul GM Kudrin
- \$20 Thu. Simul GM Khachiyani
- \$25 Thursday Blitz (G/5 d0)
- \$20 Discount - Sr 65+ Age _____

POSTMARK BY April 5, 2024. Add \$11 after 4/5. Add \$22 on site.

Do not mail after 4/26 or email after 4/30. Make check / m.o. payable to WEIKEL CHESS or provide credit card info and signature. \$5 service charge on credit card entries. Visa Master Card Am.Ex
Expiration Date _____ Zip Code _____
Credit Card# _____ CVV Code _____
Signature _____

- Check Enclosed
- Charge My Card

TOTAL FEES: \$ _____

Washington Girls Championship



MAY 18-19, 2024

ORLOV CHESS ACADEMY - SEATTLE
7212 WOODLAWN AVE NE, SEATTLE, WA 98115

Highest finishing Washington resident in the Championship section receives the title of Washington State Girls Champion and a \$750 travel stipend from the WCF to attend the 2024 [Haring National Girls Tournament of Champions](#), held concurrently with the US Open in early August.

Format: A 5-round Swiss in two sections: Championship and Challengers. Maximum of 30 players total & maximum of 20 players in a section - please register early to secure your spot. Great training for upcoming National events!

- **Championship:** A 2-day, 5-round G/90; +10 Swiss tournament. Open to all girls desiring to play for the title of WA State Girls Champion. Dual US Chess and NWSRS rated. US Chess membership required. Rounds: Sat. 9am, 1:30pm, 6pm. Sun. 10am, 2:30pm. A tie for first place in the Championship section will be resolved later in the year by two G/90 playoff games.
- **Challengers U1400:** A 1-day, 5-round, G/25; +5 Swiss tournament. NWSRS rated, US Chess Unrated. US Chess membership not required. Rounds: Sat. 9am, 10:15am, 11:30am, Lunch Time, 1:30pm, 2:45pm.

Eligibility: Open to all girls in grades K-12 as of the 2023-24 school year. Out-of-state players welcome! Players must be under the age of 19 as of Sept 1, 2024.

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

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

Entry Fees: Championship: \$50 by May 11, \$60 after. Challengers: \$25 by May 11, \$30 after. Free entry for WGMs, WIMs, WFM, or US Chess 2000+.

Registration: Online registration available at nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration Pay by Credit/Debit/PayPal/SettleKing. **Registration + payment deadline is Wednesday, May 15 by 5pm.** No registrations or payments will be accepted after the deadline. Unpaid players will be removed from the roster, and spots will be offered to players on the waitlist.

Prizes: Amazon Gift Cards prizes awarded in each section (based on 30 paid entries).

Championship: 1st - 3rd: \$100, \$80, \$60, 4th - Chess book.

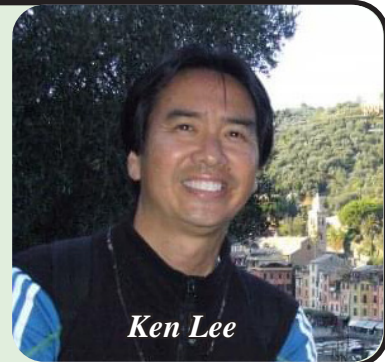
Challengers: 1st - 3rd: \$50, \$40, \$30, 4th - Chess book.

Special Prizes (per section): Best Upset Win - Medal, Best Dressed - \$10 gift card, Kindness + Spreading Joy - \$10 gift card.

Questions? Contact Josh Sinanan, WCF President, washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com

Interview With Attorney General Bob Ferguson

Ken Lee



Ken Lee

Attorney General Bob Ferguson has had a lifelong love of chess. He achieved a FIDE rating of 2320 and a US Chess rating of 2350 and was crowned Washington State Chess Champion in both 1984 and 1987.

I sat down with Bob Ferguson over Zoom to discuss chess, law and politics.

Ken Lee: When did you first start playing chess and what about the game inspired you?

Bob Ferguson: I was about nine when I asked for a chess set for Christmas.

I remember the first thing I did. I took one of the knights and I put it in the toaster to see what would happen! Fortunately, my chess improved from that early start.

I was really fortunate that, although my father didn't play chess, he had a real gift for what it took to feed my interests as a child.

My father worked at Boeing, and he quickly found out that the company had a chess club which was open to Boeing employees and their families.

My dad enrolled me in the chess club and that's how it started.

It was the Boeing Employee Chess Club that really taught me the fundamentals of chess and supported my early efforts.

I was the only kid playing. It was all adults, so they sort of took me under their wing. It was around 1974 or 1975 and kids weren't really playing chess that much like they do today.

Ken Lee: Did you have some early

coaches who were instrumental in your progress?

Bob Ferguson: There was a member of the club who was one of the stronger members of the club. He was an English gentleman named Angus Pitt.

As my first chess coach, he would come home, and we'd have a lesson. It was very casual back in those days.

I played in all the local tournaments I could compete in at a reasonably high level. Somewhere between 12 or 13 years of age, I would still work with Angus but then I also started working with John Donaldson.

John Donaldson was an International Master and had won the State Championship.

Ken Lee: Who else was influential in your chess development?

Bob Ferguson: I never was interested in chess puzzles or books.

I really enjoyed endgames and always felt, throughout my career, if I got to an endgame then I would be in good shape.

I'm not exactly sure where that came from, but I always felt that after 15 moves I could compete and get to the endgame.

I was heavily influenced by Yasser Seirawan. He was a local guy who became a grandmaster and a US Champion. I got to know him personally which was obviously huge for me as a kid.

Yasser played the English Opening

all the time and so I played the English Opening from the time I was 13 or 14 years old for many years.

Ken Lee: How has chess helped you in your legal and political profession?

Bob Ferguson: I often say that, outside of my family, chess is the most formative experience of my life.

I just don't think you can spend thousands of hours thinking about, dreaming about, and studying something, without it having a huge influence on your life, especially during the formative ages of a young person between nine and 20.

I'm sure my legal team rolls their eyes sometimes, but I often use chess metaphors in my job. I phrase it so that anyone, even if they don't know anything about chess, would understand it.

Here are some examples.

Being Objective

In chess and the law, you need to anticipate your moves correctly and if your opponent makes a move that you don't anticipate or you don't anticipate the rationale behind it, that's a big problem.

My job is to get inside my opponent's head and anticipate what's going on. To do that successfully one has to be very objective.

I've heard chess masters say after they've lost a game: "I lost my objectivity, and I got caught up in what I was doing."

I often say that my chess training taught me how to be objective. It's about concentrating on what's in front of you and forcing yourself to not just think about what your opponent might be doing but put yourself in their shoes.

That type of deep thinking is ideal training for the law.

I think that being objective about

"Outside of my family, chess is the most formative experience of my life."



*Bob Ferguson giving 17-board-Simul July 28, 2019.
Photo credit: Duane Polich.
Click here for Simul event highlights*

things is a strength of mine and I'm sure it came from chess.

Ken Lee: What else has chess taught you?

Bob Ferguson: Lawyers tend to be cautious by nature.

Taking Calculated Risks

Chess taught me about the importance of taking calculated risks.

If you're playing an opponent of equal strength, your readers know that White has a slight advantage.

There's often a moment in the game between players of equal strength, where you're faced with a choice of playing it safe or making a move that's going to change the nature of the game. I've trained myself to ask, "What's it going to take to sharpen my position?"

Sometimes we need to take a chance. I tell my staff: "Yes, I hear what you're saying that our odds of winning this case are not that good, but we can't win if we don't file."

I can't tell you how many cases we have won where the team thought, oh man, this is not going to end well.

My chess coaches taught me to take calculated risks.

I remember Angus Pitt talking to me after a big game.

I was playing against a kid at the National Elementary Championship, and I agreed to a draw in the final round.

I got a draw against the number one rated kid, and I remember Angus looking at the game afterwards and saying: "You should not have agreed to a draw. There's a lot more to play."

I was probably 12 years old, and it stuck with me all these years later.

Ken Lee: Any other examples of chess metaphors you use with your team?

Bob Ferguson: I give a talk every year to all the new attorneys in the office.

The Importance of Working as a Team

I talk about the importance of treating everybody in the office with equal respect. That's not just the lawyers; it's the entire staff.

In the game of chess, some people think of the queen as the most powerful piece or the king as the most important piece.

I tell them there's a phrase that *pawns are the soul of chess*.

Even though the pawns are the weakest piece on the board, every chess master understands that the structure of the pawns controls the safety of your king.

Ken Lee: Do you currently play chess?

Bob Ferguson: I have not played in a tournament in a long time.

I do play speed chess online by speed chess, 10 minutes per side. I like to do that in the evening right before the kids are getting ready for bed.

Ken Lee: What plans do you have for chess in the future?

Bob Ferguson: I thought that at some point in my life, especially once the kids go to college, I might have a bit more bandwidth. I do hope to return to tournament chess.

That may still be in the future, but I've often thought it would be fun to play during my retirement years.

I have zero doubt when I retire, I'll be playing in tournaments.

In some ways I look forward to it like when I was when I was younger.

I sort of feel now I could play and, in some ways, love it even more.

I'm not going to be a Grandmaster. I'm not going to be the US Champion.

But I feel like I could still be competitive. I think it might be, in a certain respect, even more enjoyable.



Bob Ferguson. Photo courtesy of AG Bob Ferguson's office.



WASHINGTON OPEN

Sat-Mon, May 25-27, 2024

Redmond Marriott

7401 164th Ave NE, Redmond, WA 98052

\$11,500 Prize Fund
(based on 175 paid entries)

Main Event:

Format: A 6-round Swiss event across 3 sections: Open, Premier (U1800), Rising (U1400).

Time Controls:

- **3-day:** 30/90, SD/30; +30. Late default: 60 minutes.
- **2-day:** G/55; +15 (rds. 1-3), rds. 4-6 same as for 3-day.

Schedule:

- **3-day option:** Sat @ 10 AM, 5:30 PM; Sun @ 10 AM, 6 PM; Mon @ 10 AM, 4 PM.
- **2-day option:** Sun @ 9 AM, 11:45 AM, 2:45 PM, then join 3-day schedule @ 6 PM (from round 4 onward).
- WCF Annual Meeting & Elections: Mon @ 3 PM.

Note: We encourage you to play in the Main Event *and* take part in side events too (see next page). The schedule permits doing this with minimum or no half-point byes!

Entry Fee: \$130 by Sun, 04/28; \$140 by Sun, 05/12; and \$150 after 05/12 or on-site. Less \$50 for Seniors (age 50+). Playing up one section is allowed (for \$80 extra) if the player's ratings (*both* NWSRS and USCF) are within 200 points of the section's lower limit (i.e., min 1600 for Open, min 1200 for Premier). Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, WIMs, and USCF 2400+. Re-entry for ½ of original entry fee. Canadians may pay CAD\$ at par.

Rating: Dual rated (USCF & NWSRS), plus Open section is FIDE rated (except G/55 games). Highest of May 2024 USCF, May 2024 FIDE, and current NWSRS ratings used to determine sections, pairings, and prizes – unless USCF and NWSRS ratings differ by >200 pts, in which case their avg is used. Foreign ratings used for players w/o USCF rating.

Registration, Information & Payment:

- **Before event:** Online (by Thu, 05/23 @ 5 PM) at NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/ (pay by credit / debit / PayPal / SettleKing) or make checks payable to Washington Chess Federation. Mail to: Josh Sinanan, 4174 148th Ave NE, Building I, Suite M, Redmond, WA 98052. Info: washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com, 206-769-3757
- **On-site:** Sat, 05/25 @ 8-9 AM for 3-day schedule, or 4:30-5 PM if entering with 1 half-point bye. Sun, 05/26 @ 8-8:30 AM for 2-day schedule, or 9-9:30 AM if entering 3-day schedule with 2 half-point byes. Late registrations may receive a half-point bye for round 1. 2 half-point byes available; request before the end of round 2.

Hotel Info:

Redmond Marriott, \$125-\$135/night + tax. One King or two Queens or Doubles, single or double occupancy. Call (800) 228-9290 to request the WA Chess Federation block, or use the [online reservation](#). Group codes: WCFWCFQ or WCFWCFR. Cut-off date for discounts: Fri, May 03, 2024.

Prizes:

- **Open:** \$1000, \$800, \$600, \$500, \$400, \$300; U2100: \$225, \$175; U1900: \$225, \$175
- **Premier (U1800):** \$500, \$400, \$350, \$300, \$250; U1650: \$175, \$150; U1500: \$175, \$150
- **Rising (U1400):** \$400, \$350, \$300, \$250, \$200; U1200: \$175, \$150; U1000: \$175, \$150; Unr.: \$175, \$150

Championship Seeds: Highest finishing Washington resident in the Open and Premier section is seeded into the 2024 Washington State Championship, in the Championship and Challengers sections, respectively. Ties for a seed will be resolved by post-event playoff games.

Mixed Doubles Prizes: Best male-female 2-player team's combined score: 1st \$200, 2nd \$150, 3rd \$100. Average team rating must be under 2000; may play in different sections. Register (no extra fee) before round 3. Players may win a Mixed Doubles prize in addition to other prizes.

Special Prizes (per section):

- **Best Female Player*:** \$50. Requires min 3 eligible players.
- **Best Senior Player* (age 50+):** \$50. Requires min 3 eligible players.
- **Highest (USCF) Rating Gain*:** 1st \$50, 2nd \$25. Requires an established (non-provisional) rating. May not be combined with Biggest Upset Win.
- **Biggest Upset Win (per round):** \$25. Max 2 per player.
- **Fair-Play, Kindness, Spreading Joy:** \$25. Please share your nominations.
- **Best Dressed (per day):** \$25. May not win repeatedly.
- **Best Annotated Game:** 1st \$75, 2nd \$50, 3rd \$25. Submit one annotated game that you consider to be interesting or well-played. A panel of judges will select winners.

Note: * = May not be combined with higher prizes.

Miscellaneous / Procedures:

Current US Chess and WCF / OCF / ICA memberships required; other states accepted. Memberships may be paid at the time of registration. Wheelchair accessible. Please bring a digital clock, if available. Pairings and standings will be posted before each round in the hallway near the play area.

WASHINGTON OPEN, May 25-27 (cont.)

Fun Side Events!

(many run between rounds of the Main Event)

Washington Open Abdusattorov Scholastic

Sat, 05/25 @ 9 AM – 4 PM (during round 1)

Format: Dual sections – Open and Reserve:

- Open sections: A 4-round G/40; +5 Swiss in two sections: **K-3 Open** and **4-12 Open**. For intermediate to advanced players. Dual Northwest and US Chess rated. US Chess membership required. Clocks and notation required. Rounds: 9:15 AM, 10:45 AM, lunch, 12:45 PM, 2:15 PM. Awards presentation: ~4 PM.
- Reserve sections: A 5-round G/30 Swiss in two sections: **K-3 U800** and **4-8 U900**. For novice to low intermediate players. Northwest rated only. US Chess membership not required. No clocks used from the start, but a G/10; +5 clock will be placed into unfinished games after 35 minutes. Rounds: 9:15 AM, 10:30 AM, lunch, 12 PM, 1:15 PM, 2:30 PM. Awards presentation: ~4 PM.

Eligibility: Open to all students registered in grades K-12. Out-of-state players welcome!

Entry fee: \$45 if registered by Sat, 05/18, or \$55 after. Room for 132 players – please register early.

Awards:

- Overall prizes (per section) in Amazon e-Gift Cards: 1st \$65, 2nd \$60, 3rd \$55, 4th \$50, 5th \$45.
- Special prizes (per section): Medals for first-timers and biggest upset win.
- Top performing player (by TPR) in K-3 Open and 4-12 Open sections wins free entry into the 2-day option of the 2024 Washington Open (Main Event) (see previous page).

Rating: Higher of May 2024 US Chess or current NWSRS ratings used to determine sections and pairings.

Registration: 100% pre-registered (NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/ - pay by credit / debit / PayPal / SettleKing); no on-site entries or payments. Registration & payment deadline: Wed, 05/22 @ 5 PM. Unpaid players will be withdrawn from the event.

Washington Open Adult Novice Swiss

Sat, 05/25 @ 11 AM – 4 PM (during round 1)

Format: A 4-Round Swiss in one section, 1 half-point bye available.

Eligibility: U1200 or unrated adults (age: 18+). No memberships required. Unrated. TC: G/30; +5. EF: \$25. Registration: 10:30-10:50 AM. Rounds at 11 AM, 12:15 PM, 1:30 PM, and 2:45 PM. Prize fund: \$400/b20. 1st \$150, 2nd \$100, 3rd \$60, 1st U1000 / U700 / Unrated \$30.

Washington Open Fischer Chess960 Rapid

Sat, 05/25 @ 2:15 PM – 4:30 PM (between rounds 1 & 2)

Format: A 4-Round Swiss in one section, 1 half-point bye available. Unrated. TC: G/10; +3. EF: \$20. Registration: 1:30-2 PM. Rounds at 2:15 PM, 2:50, 3:25, and 4:00 PM. No memberships required. Higher of May 2024 US Chess and current NWSRS ratings used to determine pairings and prizes. A new (randomized) opening position for each round. Players will have 2 minutes before clocks start to examine the opening position. Prize fund: \$300/b20. 1st \$80, 2nd \$60, 3rd \$40, 1st U2000 / U1700 / U1400 / Unrated \$30.

Washington Open Robson Puzzle Solving

Sat, 05/25 @ 4:30 PM – 5:15 PM (between rounds 1 & 2)

Format: Solve 15 chess puzzles in 45 minutes. Write solutions on paper. Evaluation based on accuracy and completeness. EF: \$15. Registration: 3:30-4:15 PM. No memberships required. Prize fund: \$150/b20. 1st \$50, 2nd \$35, 3rd \$20, 1st U1700 / U1400 / Unrated \$15.

Washington Open Kosteniuk Chess Workshop for Girls & Women

Sat, 05/25 @ 6 PM – 8 PM (during round 2)

Format: Workshop led by WFM Chouchan Airapetian (Chornyaa@msn.com, 206-914-4252), experienced chess coach, organizer, and promoter, former US Women's Championship contender, WCF Girls' and Women's Chess Director. Registration: 5:45-6 PM. Entry fee: Free! Schedule: 6-7 PM: "How to develop & cultivate girls' and women's chess." 7-8 PM: Q&A, complimentary pizza & refreshments, and ladies' bughouse.

Washington Open Carol Kleist Memorial Adult Swiss

Sun-Mon, 05/26-27 @ 11 AM and 4:30 PM (during rounds 3-6)

Sponsored by *Seattle Chess Club* with generous support from Henry Yan. Format: A 4-round Swiss in two sections: Botvinnik (Open) and Korchnoi (U1500); may be merged if too small. 1 half-point bye available. US Chess rated only. TC: G/120; +30. EF: \$50 online (by Sat, 05/25 @ 5 PM) or \$60 on-site; EF waived for unrated players who purchase memberships. Registration: Sun, 05/26 @ 10-10:30 AM (unless entering with a half-point bye). US Chess membership and WCF/OCF/ICA membership required. May 2024 US Chess rating used to determine section, pairings, and prizes. Gtd. prize fund: \$1,000. Botvinnik: 1st \$240, 2nd \$150, 3rd \$120, 1st U1650 \$80; Korchnoi: 1st \$120, 2nd \$100, 3rd \$80, 1st U1300 \$60, 1st Unrated \$50.

Washington Open Carlsen Rapid

Sun, 05/26 @ 2 PM – 5 PM (between rounds 3 & 4)

Format: A 4-Round Swiss in two sections: Kasparov (Open) and Anand (U1600); may be merged if too small. 1 half-point bye available. US Chess Quick rated. TC: G/15; +5. EF: \$35 online (by Sat, 05/25 @ 5 PM) or \$40 on-site. Players rated 1400+ may play up into Kasparov section for a \$10 fee. Current US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships required. Registration: 1-1:45 PM. Rounds: 2 PM, 2:45, 3:30, 4:15 PM. Higher of May 2024 US Chess Quick and current NWSRS ratings used to determine section, pairings, and prizes. Prize fund: \$700/b25. Kasparov: 1st \$100, 2nd \$80, 3rd \$60, 1st U2000 / U1700 \$40, Biggest Upset Win: \$25; Anand: 1st \$90, 2nd \$70, 3rd \$50, 1st U1400 / U1100 / Unrated \$40, Biggest Upset Win: \$25.

Washington Open Firouzja Bullet

Sun, 05/26 @ 5 PM – 6 PM (between rounds 3 & 4)

Format: A 6-Round Swiss in one section. 2 half-point byes available. Unrated. TC: G/2; +1. EF: \$10. No memberships required. Registration: 4:30-4:55 PM. Rounds: 5 PM, 5:10, 5:20, 5:30, 5:40, 5:50 PM. Higher of May 2024 US Chess Blitz and current NWSRS ratings used to determine pairings and prizes. Prize fund: \$200/b20. 1st \$50, 2nd \$40, 3rd \$30, 1st U2000 / U1600 / U1200 / Unrated \$20.

Washington Open Ignacio Perez Memorial Blitz

Mon, 05/27 @ 8 PM – 10:15 PM (after round 6)

Format: A 9-Round Swiss in two sections: Nakamura (Open) and Tal (U1600); may be merged if too small. 3 half-point byes available. US Chess Blitz rated. TC: G/3; +3. EF: \$30 online (by Sun, 05/26 @ 5 PM) or \$35 on-site. Players rated 1400+ may play up into the Nakamura section for a \$10 fee. Current US Chess membership and WCF/OCF/ICA membership required. Registration: 7-7:45 PM. Rounds: 8 PM, 8:15, 8:30, 8:45, 9, 9:15, 9:30, 9:45, and 10 PM. Higher of May 2024 US Chess Blitz and current NWSRS ratings used to determine section, pairings, and prizes. Prize fund: \$600/b25. Nakamura: 1st \$100, 2nd \$80, 3rd \$60, 1st U2000 / U1700 \$40; Tal: 1st \$80, 2nd \$60, 3rd \$40, 1st U1400 / U1100 \$35, 1st Unrated \$30.

2024 Oregon Closed

Wilson Gibbins

In Oregon, most of the growth in chess can be attributed to young players. The 2024 Oregon Closed did not reflect that, as only three of the sixteen players could be described as youthful. Well, except for the winner's circle – young players named Tang won both the Championship and Challengers section in convincing fashion.

Zoey Tang's win in 2023 was a minor upset, as Nick Raptis and Matt Zavortink outrated her. But in 2024 she was the strong favorite and dominated throughout, with only second-place finisher Steven Breckenridge able to hold her to a draw. Matt Zavortink finished third.

Austin Tang's won the Challenger's section. Austin won this event in 2022 to qualify for the Championship in 2023, but in that year, he finished with 4.5 points and needed tiebreaks over Ishaan Kodarapu to get the qualification. This year he left nothing to chance, winning all seven games for a 1.5-point lead over second-place finisher Robert Fiset. Michael Pendergast finished third with 4.5 points.

Thanks to Dave Murray for his tireless work assembling the 16 players. Thanks to Dave, Greg Markowski, and Milo Tang for directing. And thanks to Zoey Tang, Steven Breckenridge, Michael Omori, Austin Tang, Corey Russell, and Carl Haessler for providing games and analysis.

**Zoey Tang (2333) –
Carl Haessler (2200) [D20]**
Oregon Closed (R4), February 18, 2024
[Zoey Tang]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.e4 e5 4.Nf3 Bb4+
5.Bd2 Bxd2+ 6.Nbxd2 exd4 7.Bxc4 Nh6
8.0-0 0-0 9.Nb3 Qe7 10.Nbxd4 Qxe4
11.Bd3 Qf4 12.Qc2 Na6?! 13.Bxh7+
Kh8 14.Bd3 Nb4 15.Qc5 Qd6 16.Qxd6
cxd6 17.Bc4 Bd7 18.Rfd1 Rac8 19.Bb3
a6 20.h3 Rfd8



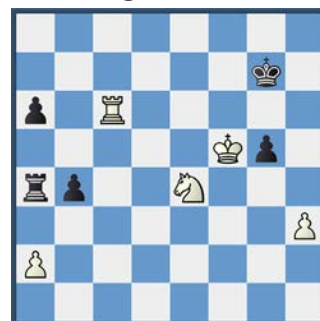
Position after 20...Rfd8

21.g4

Another idea is 21.Ng5 Kg8 22.Rd2 Nc6
23.Rad1 Na5 24.Bd5.

21...Kg8? 22.g5 Nf5 23.g6 Nxd4 24.
gxf7+ Kf8 25.Rxd4 Nc2 26.Bxc2 Rxc2
27.Rxd6 Rc6 28.Rd3 Rg6+ 29.Kh2 Rf6
30.Ne5 Rxf2+ 31.Kg3 Re2 32.Rxd7
Rxd7 33.Nxd7+ Kxf7 34.Nc5 Rxb2 35.
Rf1+ Kg6 36.Rf2 Rb5 37.Ne6 Ra5 38.

Rb2 b5 39.Kg4 Kf6 40.Nf4 g5 41.Nd5+
Kg6 42.Nc3 Ra3 43.Rc2 Kh6 44.Ne4
Ra4 45.Kf5 b4 46.Rc6+ Kg7 47.Rc7+
Kh6 48.Rc6+ Kg7



Position after 48...Kg7

49.Rb6

49.Rc7+ rook & knight mate 49...Kh6
50.Kf6 Rxa2 51.Rc8

49...Ra5+ 50.Kg4 Rxa2 51.Rxb4 a5
52.Rb7+ Kg6 53.Rb6+ Kg7 54.Kh5 a4
55.Rb7+ Kf8 56.Nf6

1-0

**Carl Haessler (2200) –
Steven Breckenridge (2281) [C54]**
Oregon Closed (R3), February 17, 2024
[Wilson Gibbins]

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4

Carl usually gets off the beaten path early in the opening, and it initially appears that this game will be no exception.

2...Nf6 3.d3 Bc5 4.Nf3 d6 5.c3 Nc6
6.Bb3 a6 7.0-0 Ba7 8.Nbd2 0-0 9.h3

Surprise! The game has transposed back to a mainstream Slow Italian variation that could have begun 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.0-0 Nf6 5.d3

9...Be6 10.Kh2?! h6 11.Ng1? d5

Steven increases his central influence.

2024 Oregon Closed Championship Section											
Place	Name	Rating	State	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Total
1	Zoey Tang	2333	OR	W4	W3	W8	W7	W5	D2	W6	6.5
2	Steven Breckenridge	2281	OR	D3	W8	W7	D5	W6	D1	D4	5
3	Matt Zavortink	2287	OR	D2	L1	D4	D6	W8	W7	D5	4
4	Michael Omori	2173	OR	L1	D6	D3	W8	W7	L5	D2	3.5
5	Jason Cigan	2157	OR	W8	L7	D6	D2	L1	W4	D3	3.5
6	Wilson K Gibbins	2201	OR	D7	D4	D5	D3	L2	W8	L1	3
7	Carl A Haessler	2200	OR	D6	W5	L2	L1	L4	L3	L8	1.5
8	Corey John Russell	2217	OR	L5	L2	L1	L4	L3	L6	W7	1

12.Qe2 Qd7

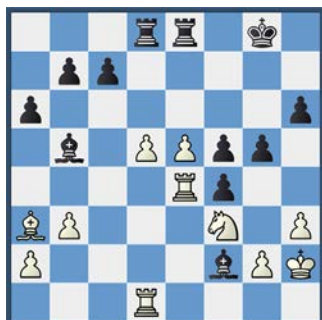


Position after 12...Qd7

13.f4?

Initiating a kingside attack, but Steven's central control and solid development allows him to repel the barbarians at the gate.

13...dxe4 14.dxe4 exf4 15.e5 Nd5 16. Bxd5 Qxd5 17.Ngxf3 Bf5 18.Nb3 Bd3 19.Qd1 Rad8 20.Re1 Qc4 21.Nbd4 Nxd4 22.cxd4 Bc2 23.Qd2 g5 24.b3 Qd3 25.Qxd3 Bxd3 26.Ba3 Rfe8 27.Rad1 Bb5 28.d5 Bf2 29.Re4 f5



Position after 29...f5

Black's two bishops' control of the board means that White will have to part with an exchange.

0-1

Zoey Tang (2333) –

Steven Breckenridge (2281) [E73]

Oregon Closed (R6), February 19, 2024

[Wilson Gibbins]

Going into this round six game, both players are undefeated, but Steven has conceded two draws leaving Zoey a full point ahead. Steven needs a win, and Zoey can be content with a draw. We can expect Steven to try to create complexity, and Zoey to try to keep control.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 0-0 5.Be2



Zoey Tang. Photo credit: Wilson Gibbins.

Black is trying to tempt White into playing 5.e5 but after 5...Ne8 Black is well on his way to equality, and sometimes more. The best-known example of this is 6.f4 d6 7.Be3 c5 8.dxc5 Nc6 9.cxd6 exd6 10.Ne4 Bf5 11.Ng3 Be6 12.Nf3 Qc7 13.Qb1 dxe5 14.f5 e4 15.fxe6 exf3 16.gxf3 f5 17.f4 Nf6 18.Be2 Rfe8 19.Kf2 Rxe6 20.Re1 Rae8 21.Bf3 Rxe3 22.Rxe3 Rxe3 23.Kxe3 Qxf4+ 0–1 Letelier Martner, R-Fischer, R Olympiad–14 Preliminaries D Leipzig 1960 (8) if 24.Kxf4, then Bh6 is checkmate.

5...d6 6.Be3 c6 7.h3 e5 8.d5



Position after 8.d5

8...b5!?

This move illustrates the character of the King's Indian Defense. If the game degenerates into a positional grind, White's space advantage gives her the advantage. But King's Indian players always have opportunities to unleash chaos and Steven's move captures the spirit of the defense.

9.dxc6 b4 10.Nd5 Nxc6

White's space advantage has been reduced, at the cost of a backward d-pawn.

11.Bg5 Nd4 12.Nf3 Nxe2 13.Qxe2 Be6 14.Rd1 Bxd5 15.Rxd5

Despite Steven's best efforts, Zoey has maintained control of the position.



Position after 15.Rxd5

15...b3

Steven is still finding ways to create confusion. With White's king still in the center, an accident still might occur.

16.axb3 Rb8 17.Qc2 Qb6 18.Bxf6 Bxf6 19.0-0

Zoey eliminates the king safety risk.

19...Qxb3 20.Qxb3 Rxb3 21.Rxd6 Kg7 22.Ra1 Rxb2 23.Rxa7 Re2 24.Raa6 Bd8 25.Ra8 Be7 26.Rxf8 Bxd6



Position after 26...Bxd6

Despite the reduced material and Zoey's extra pawn, Steven is still trying to stir up trouble. Zoey can't keep the extra pawn, and maybe Steven can coordinate his bishop and rook to win Zoey's f-pawn.

27.Rc8

Nope—Zoey quashes Black's play by preventing Black's bishop from reaching the c5-square.

27...Rxe4 28.Kf1 Bb4 29.g3 h6 30.c5 Kf6 31.g4 Rc4 32.Rc6+ Kg7 33.Nxe5 Rxc5 34.Rxc5 Bxc5

½–½

Wilson Gibbins (2201) – Michael Omori (2173) [A10]
Oregon Closed (R2), February 17, 2024
[Michael Omori]

All variations and notes provided by Michael Omori unless prefixed by WG, indicating Wilson Gibbins.

1.c4

I was happy to get a rematch with Wilson with colors reversed. WG—Michael beat me with White last June at the Portland Summer Open in game where I was never able to create any problems for him to solve.

1...b6

A rare first move against the English

2.Nc3 Bb7 3.e4 Nf6

I go for the sharpest line, though probably

not the best.

4.e5!

The best move in the position, putting the question to the knight.

4...Ne4 5.Nxe4

5.Qf3 Nxc3 6.Qxb7 Nc6 7.dxc3 a6 8.g3 Ra7 9.Qxc6 dxc6 10.Bg2

5...Bxe4



Position after 5...Bxe4

6.Nf3

6.Qg4 makes the most sense putting pressure on the g-pawn and kicking the bishop with tempo, but it does put the queen at some risk 6...Bb7 7.d4 Nc6 8.Nf3.

6...c5!?

This move is a little slow and helps White gain pressure on the d-file later on in the game. 6...Nc6 This natural developing move would've been slightly better with a very interesting exchange sack plan 7.Be2

a) 7.Ng5 Bf5 8.Qf3 (8.Be2) 8...e6;

b) 7.d3 Bxf3 8.Qxf3 Nxe5;

7...Bxf3 8.Bxf3 Nxe5 9.Bxa8 Qxa8 10.0-0 Nd3 11.Qe2 Nf4 12.Qg4 Qe4 13.Kh1 h5 14.Qf3 Qxf3 15.gxf3

7.Be2 Bb7?!

7...Qc7 8.d4

8.d4 cxd4 9.Qxd4 Nc6 10.Qf4 Qb8

I played Qb8 instead of Qc7 because I was afraid of e6, but I had nothing to worry about according to the engine. 10...Qc7 11.e6 Qxf4 12.exd7+ Kxd7 13.Bxf4 f6 14.0-0-0+ Ke8 15.Rhe1 e5 16.Bg3 Rd8 17.Rxd8+ Kxd8

11.Bd2

A good prophylactic move to support the e5-pawn with the bishop.

11...g6 12.Bc3 Bg7 13.Qe3

Stepping out of the pin and preventing f6.

13.0-0 f6

13...0-0



Position after 13...0-0

14.0-0

WG—I looked at 14.Rd1 and in retrospect, wished I had played it.

14...Rd8?!

14...d6; 14...f6 another possibility I considered, where Black will have two central pawns, but they will be hard to push due to White's control of the center 15.Rfd1 Qc7 16.exf6 Bxf6 17.Rac1

15.Rad1 Qc7 16.Rd2?!

16.h4 h5 17.Rd2 Rac8 18.Rfd1 Na5 19.b3 Bxf3 20.Bxf3 Nc6 21.Rd5 d6 22.e6 Bxc3

16...d6

Relieving the tension and getting rid of the pesky e5-pawn.

17.exd6?!

17.e6 f6 White's pawn on e6 looks a little loose but is a huge thorn in Black's camp and cannot be easily removed.

17...Rxd6 18.Rxd6 Qxd6 19.Rd1 Qc7 20.Bxg7 Kxg7 21.h4

White has a slight edge, controlling the open files, while Black's king is slightly weak and has to worry about potential h5 h6 possibilities.

21...Rd8 22.Rxd8 Nxd8



Position after 22...Nxd8

The purpose of this move, instead of capturing with the queen, was to prevent c5 22...Qxd8 23.h5 f6 24.h6+ Kf7 25.c5

23.Nd4

23.h5 f6 24.h6+ Kf7 25.Nd4 Qe5 26.Qxe5 fxe5

23...Qc5

Inviting the chance to get into a tricky position with Qc3.

24.Nc2

24.Qc3 e5 25.Nb5 Nc6 26.Bf3 (26.a3 a6 27.b4 Qe7) 26...Nd4

24...Qxe3 25.Nxe3

Wilson trades into an equal endgame.

25...Ne6 26.b4 h5 27.g3

WG—My attempt to allay my greatest fear, his king invading on e5 and d4, will be to try to control e5 with a pawn on f4.

27...Kf6

27...Nd4 28.Bd1 e5 would've been slightly better according to the engine to gain space and give the e-pawn its chance to promote down the line.

28.f4 Nd4 29.Bd3 e5 30.fxe5+?!

The most natural move, but to my surprise, the engine says Black now has

a comfortable game. This is probably because Black's king is invading now. WG—Yeah, I should have remembered my greatest fear that I described in the note to move 27. 30.Kf2 exf4 31.gxf4 Ne6 32.Kg3 Ba8 33.a3 Bc6 34.Nc2 Bb7 35.Ne3 Nd4 36.Kf2 Ke6

30...Kxe5 31.Kf2 Ne6?!



Position after 31...Ne6

A waste of a tempo, but my idea was ...Kd4 31...Be4 32.Bf1 (32.Bxe4 Kxe4 This variation would've given Black a comfortable game, although it is still probably drawn with best play 33.c5 bxc5 34.bxc5 Nc6 35.g4 hxg4 36.Nxg4 Kd5 37.Ke3 Kxc5 38.Kf4 Kd6) 32...Nc6 33.a3 Kd4 34.g4 Ne5 35.gxh5 gxh5 36.c5 bxc5 37.bxc5 Kxc5 38.Ng2

32.Nc2 g5 33.hxg5 Nxg5 34.Ke3 Be4 35.Nd4 Bxd3 36.Kxd3 Ne4 37.Nc6+ Kf5 38.Ne7+

38.Nxa7 Nxg3 This variation was an alternative but is still equal and more complicated 39.c5 bxc5 40.bxc5 Ke5 41.c6 Kd6 42.Ke3 Nf5+ 43.Kf4 Nd4 44.Kg5 Nxc6 45.Nxc6 Kxc6 46.Kxh5

38...Ke5 39.Nc6+ Kf5 40.Ne7+ Ke5 41.Nc6+

1/2-1/2



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Carl Haessler (2200) –
 Corey Russell (2217) [B06]
 Oregon Closed (R7), February 19, 2024
 [Corey Russell]

All unattributed comments, variations and evaluations are the work of Fritz Chess Software (mostly version 19), with my comments noted by my initials, cjr.

1.e4 g6 2.Nf3 Bg7 3.Bc4 d6 4.0-0 e6
 5.Re1 Nd7 6.d4 h6 7.Nc3 Ne7 8.a4

White is slightly better.

8...a6 9.Ne2 d5 10.exd5

Note Black can't play 10...exd5?
 11.Bxd5! Nxd5 12.Nf4+ Ne7 13.Nd5 and
 White's winning. -cjr.

10...Nb6 11.Bb3



Position after 11.Bb3

And now d5xe6 would win.

11...Nbxd5 12.c4 Nb4 13.a5 0-0 14.Ng3
 c5! 15.Be3



Position after 15.Be3

Threatens to win with d4–d5.

15...cxd4 16.Nxd4 Nec6 17.Nxc6 Nxc6
 18.Qc1 Nxa5 19.Ba4 b5↑

Black has some pressure.

20.Rd1

20.cxb5= axb5 21.Bc2

20...Qh4? 21.cxb5 axb5 22.Bc2

Of course White plays this instead of
 22.Bxb5? Nb3 is deadly. -cjr.



Austin Tang. Photo credit: David Murray.

22...Bb7 23.Rd7

23.Bd2? Nc4 24.Bc3

23...Bc6+ 24.Rc7

This traps the rook. Better is 24.Rd1 but
 Black is still better. -cjr.

24...Be5 25.Rxc6 Nxc6 26.Rxa8 Rxa8
 27.f4

27.Bd3 Na5 28.Nf1

27...Bd4 28.Be4?

28.Bxd4 Nxd4 29.Be4

28...Qxf4

The point is White can't take due to the
 pin, but Black is threatening either mate
 or win of White queen and there is no
 defense. -cjr.

0-1

Austin Tang (2059) –
 Preston Polasek (2000) [B07]
 Oregon Closed (R6), February 19, 2024
 [Austin Tang]

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 c6 4.f4

4.Nf3 Bg4 5.h3 Bh5 6.Be2 (6.g4 Bg6
 7.Qe2 e6 8.h4 h5 9.g5 Nfd7) 6...e6 7.0-0
 Be7

4...Qa5 5.Bd3 e5 6.Nf3 Bg4 7.Be3 Nbd7
 8.h3 Bxf3 9.Qxf3 Be7 10.0-0 0-0 11.Kh1
 11.Ne2

11...Rac8 12.g4 exf4 13.Bxf4 Ne8
 14.Rae1 a6 15.e5 d5 16.Bh6 Qd8 17.g5
 Nc7 18.Bxg7 Ne6 19.Qf5 Nxf5 20.Bxf8
 1-0



2024 Oregon Closed Challengers Section											
Place	Name	Rating	State	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Total
1	Austin Tang	2059	OR	W7	W3	W5	W2	W4	W6	W8	7
2	Robert Fisette	2062	OR	W4	W8	D3	L1	W6	W7	W5	5.5
3	Michael James Pendergast	2088	OR	W8	L1	D2	W6	W7	L5	W4	4.5
4	Roger Tabet	2112	OR	L2	D6	W7	W5	L1	W8	L3	3.5
5	Michael Swearingin	1890	OR	D6	W7	L1	L4	D8	W3	L2	3
6	Mr. Preston Polasek	2000	OR	D5	D4	W8	L3	L2	L1	D7	2.5
7	Pace Lykins	1751	OR	L1	L5	L4	W8	L3	L2	D6	1.5
8	Jerry Sherrard	1900	OR	L3	L2	L6	L7	D5	L4	L1	0.5

Washington Junior Open & Reserve

By Josh Sinanan

The 2024 Washington Junior Open & Reserve chess tournament took place on MLK Monday, January 15, at Interlake High School in Bellevue. An impressive turnout of 310 scholastic chess players in grades K-12 participated in the chess extravaganza from cities throughout the Pacific Northwest, including Redmond, Sammamish, Bothell, Woodinville, Lynnwood, Monroe, Bellevue, Newcastle, Seattle, Kirkland, Tacoma, Issaquah, Everett, Renton, Spanaway, Stanwood, Lake Stevens, Medina, Tahuya, Clyde Hill, Fircrest, Mercer Island, Portland, Auburn, Maple Valley, University Place, Snoqualmie, Lake Forest Park, Mill Creek, Bellingham, Mukilteo, Milton, Kenmore, and Camas! The event was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation, paired by WCF Chief Tournament Director Rekha Sagar, and directed by Vijay Sankaran, Advait

Vijayakumar, Siva Sankrithi, and Ani Barua. Other volunteers and floor TDs included Peter Zou, Gabriel Razmov, and Sanjana Medikurthi. As usual, amazing photographs were taken throughout the day by Meiling Cheng. The dual-format Swiss tournament was split into eight sections parsed by grade level and rating: K-1 U700, K-3 U800, K-8 U900, K-12 U1200, K-3 Open, 4-12 Open, U1500, and Open. The Open and U1500 sections featured a longer time control of G/50;+5 for intermediate to advanced players, while the other sections were conducted at a typical rapid pace of G/25;+5.

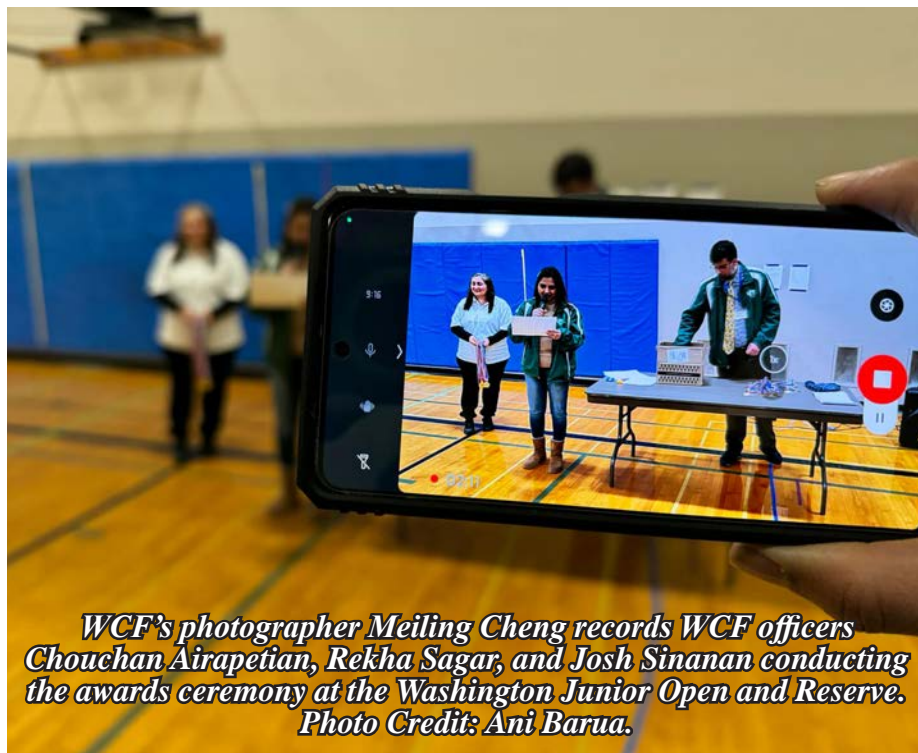
Congratulations to the wonderful chess players who participated in this event! Chess has a unique way of transcending boundaries and bringing people of all cultures and backgrounds together. It's always a joy to observe kids relate to one another through a common love and passion such as the royal game. For many chess families, it was a wonderful way to celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King. As WCF President Josh Sinanan mentioned before the start of the first round, "Chess is not just about competition and winning, it's also about making lifelong friendships!" Congratulations to all who contributed to this fantastic event, and special congratulations to everyone!

Washington High School Individual

By Josh Sinanan

The 2024 Washington State High School Individual Chess Championship was held Friday-Saturday, January 19-20, at Lakeside Upper School in Seattle. A coincidental total of 64 chess players in grades 9-12 participated in the two-day tournament from high schools throughout Washington state, including Abeka Homeschool, Archbishop Murphy, Blaine, Bush, Columbia River, Eastlake, Franklin, Garfield, Gig Harbor, Inglemoor, Ingraham, Interlake, Issaquah, Lakeside, Lincoln, Newport, North Creek, North Kitsap, Redmond, Science and Math Institute, Seattle Prep, Shorecrest, Skyline, Stanwood, Tesla STEM, and Thomas Jefferson. Due to wintry weather conditions throughout Washington, sizable teams from Hanford, Ferndale, and Sehome were forced to cancel at the last minute, which resulted in the tournament losing about a third of its players! The event was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation, organized by WCF President Josh Sinanan, and directed by WCF Chief Tournament Director Rekha Sagar, Ani Barua, and Vijay Sankaran. Amazing photographs were taken throughout the two-day chess fest by North Kitsap Coach Justin Johnson and Meiling Cheng. The dual-format Swiss tournament was split into three sections parsed by rating: Championship (1500+), Premier (1000-1499), and Reserve (U1000).

Top players taking part in the star-studded 22-player Championship section included National Masters Advait Vijayakumar (North Creek) and Ryan Min (Interlake), Experts Bertrand Wan (Newport) and Eddie Chang (Interlake), and Class A players Dominic Colombo (Gig Harbor), Edward Cheng (Garfield), Atharva Joshi (Skyline), and Carson Roesch (Blaine). Congratulations to Carson Roesch, an 11th grade student from Blaine High School just south of the Canadian border, for winning the Championship section with an undefeated 4.5/5 points! Carson allowed only a single draw against Edward Cheng



WCF's photographer Meiling Cheng records WCF officers Chouchan Airapetian, Rekha Sagar, and Josh Sinanan conducting the awards ceremony at the Washington Junior Open and Reserve. Photo Credit: Ani Barua.

(1909) in the fifth round to secure the title. Congratulations to Carson, the 2024 Washington State High School Champion! Carson will represent Washington state at the 2024 Denker Tournament of High School State Champions, which will be held concurrently with the US Open in early August. Eddie Chang from Interlake High School in Bellevue finished in second place a half point back. Edward Cheng from Garfield and Bohan Zhang from Eastlake shared third-fourth place honors with 3.5/5 points apiece. Four players finished on a “plus one” score to round out the individual Amazon e-gift card prize winners: Atharva Joshi from Skyline, Albert Eksarevskiy from Lakeside, Sam Maurer from Interlake, and Amana Demberel from Lincoln.

In the sizable 24-player Premier section, a double Swiss format was used, in which players play two games—one as White and one as Black—against the same opponent in each round. Junior juggernaut Nash Heo from Thomas Jefferson High School emerged victorious with an impressive 7.5/10 score, besting fellow co-champions Andy Laporte from Seattle Prep and Caian Davis from Franklin in blitz tiebreakers! Two chess kings shared fourth/fifth place honors a full point back with 6.5/10 points: Newport’s Austin Deng, and Garfield’s Arnav Pedapalli. Chess warriors Raymond Wang from Franklin, Hana Mullen from Science and Math Institute, and Cory Maxwell from Archbishop Murphy rounded out the prize winners and shared sixth/seventh

place honors with six points apiece.

The modest 18-player Reserve (U1000) section provided an opportunity for newer players to compete on the state level. Two Thomas Jefferson chess studs, junior Aj Aister and sophomore Nathan Nguyen, shared first/second place honors, each with 7.5/10 points after splitting their final round match against one another. As is the tradition, a speed chess playoff consisting of two games of G/3;+2, was conducted immediately following the final round to determine first place, with Nguyen ultimately prevailing. Two players shared third/fourth place honors a half-point back with 7.0/10 points each: Vainoa Martin from Thomas Jefferson and Noah Roberts from Seattle Prep. Seattle Prep’s Blake Koehler finished in



*North Kitsap High School freshman Miles King struggles to find his next move at the Washington State High School Individual Chess Championship.
Photo Credit: Justin Johnson.*

fifth place with six points. A quadruplet of chessmen shared sixth/seventh honors to round out the prize winners: Sihaan Aujla from Blaine, Liam Healey from Ingraham, Pedro R. Mejia from Thomas Jefferson, and newcomer Tristan Ye from Inglemoor.

Congratulations to the winners!

Washington Winter G/60

By Josh Sinanan

The Washington Winter G/60 Championship was held on Saturday, January 20, concurrently with the Washington State High School Individual Chess Championship at Lakeside School in Seattle. A solid turnout of 33 winter chess warriors competed in the two-section, four-round dual US Chess & NWSRS rated tournament, from cities including Spokane, Redmond, Sammamish, Mill Creek, Tacoma, Bellevue, Seattle, Brier, Tenino, Mercer Island, Maple Valley, Bothell, Kingston, Blaine, Issaquah, and Snoqualmie. The field was evenly split between two sections, with nineteen players in the Premier and fourteen in the Challengers U1600. WCF Vice President Rekha Sagar and Member-at-Large Ani Barua directed the tournament with assistance from Vijay Sankaran, whose son Advait was playing in the High School tournament.

Amazon chess stud Pratik Thorwe (4.0, 1938 → 2004) of Seattle eclipsed the Premier section with a perfect four points from four games. Along the way, Pratik dispatched his nearest rivals LM Viktors Pupols and Leonid Gavrysh in the third and fourth rounds, respectively. A trio of chess kings, NM Stephen Willy (3.0, 2215 → 2206) from Sammamish, Leonid Gavrysh (3.0, 2050 → 2054) from Brier, and Rafael Palathingal (3.0, 1645 → 1721) from Bothell shared second/third/U1900 honors a full point back. Three up-and-coming chess supernovas split the U1700 prize with two points apiece: Selina Cheng (2.0, 1533 → 1543) from Seattle, Neevan Reddy Saddi (2.0, 1561 → 1551) from Issaquah, and Andy Chen (2.0, 1397 → 1419) from Bellevue.

In the Challengers U1600 section,

youngster Terrick Evin (4.0, 1196 → 1310) from Redmond tore through the field with an impressive four-point score. Along the way, Terrick scored victories against his rivals Dheeran Koripella (1435) in round three and Kanav Shah (1451) in round four. Bellevue chess wizards Andrew Goupinets (3.0, 1201 → 1211) and Zoe Xu (3.0, 1207 → 1217) shared second/third place honors with three points apiece. Redmond-based chess player Kanav Shah (2.5, 1127 → 1191) captured the first U1500 prize with a solid “plus one” score. Bellevue chess prince Lewis Ma (2.5, 916 → 979) was awarded the first U1300 prize for his efforts. Killian Bates (0.5, 672 → 657) from Mill Creek claimed the first U1100 prize to round out the prize recipients. Congratulations to all!

Presidential Scholastic

By Josh Sinanan

The 2024 Presidential Scholastic chess tournament was held on President's Day Monday, February 19, at Chinook Middle School in Bellevue. A robust turnout of 271 scholastic chess players in grades K-12 participated in the event from throughout the Pacific Northwest, including the cities of Issaquah, Sammamish, Bothell, Mercer Island, Monroe, Redmond, Mill Creek, Bremerton, Olympia, Bainbridge Island, Kirkland, Snoqualmie, Lake Forest Park, Everett, Gig Harbor, Renton, Stanwood, Clyde Hill, Port Hadlock, University Place, Woodinville, Granite Falls, Bellingham, Snohomish, Milton, Edmonds, and Ravensdale! The event was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation, paired by WCF Scholastic Director Rekha Sagar, and directed by floor TDs Ani Barua, Valentin Razmov, and Josh Sinanan.

The five-round Swiss tournament was divided into eight sections parsed by grade level and rating: Kindergarten, 1-2 U700, K-2 Open, 3-4 U700, 5-12 U900, 3-12 U1200, 3-6 Open, and 7-12 Open. Due to the dual format of Northwest-only and dual NWSRS and US Chess rated sections, the tournament was split into two gymnasiums, with the dual rated games happening the in main gym and the

Northwest-only games taking place in the auxiliary gym.

Despite the best efforts of the custodian and organizers, the hourly school bell system with a corresponding pop music soundtrack could not be turned off, which made for a rhythmic but slightly distracting chess playing experience! Volunteers and judges included Peter Zou, Kai Pisan, Angela Chen, Evan Cen, and Oliver Wakeman. Amazing photographs were taken throughout the day by talented chess mom Meiling Cheng.

Local face painter [Gabby Carrillo](#) was on site for four hours offering her fantastic face painting services, which resulted in many happy and smiling faces! National Master Eric Zhang, Lakeside senior and Captain of the Lakeside Chess Team, was on-site throughout the day analyzing games and playing time-odds blitz against all comers!

Champions

Kindergarten, Suryen C. Vinu; 1-2 U700, Dhruv Bangard; K-2 Open, Bihe Liu; 3-4 U700, Ren Wadhvani; 5-12 U900, Tristan Ye; 3-12 U1200, Rudran Srimurugan & Leonid Zandanov; 3-6 Open, Atharv Rao; 7-12 Open, Stephen Belgau.

Top Finishing Teams

1. Detective Cookie Chess Club Endeavour ES; 2. Samantha Smith ES; 3. Open Window; 4. Somerset ES; and 5. Kokanee ES.

Special Prize Winners

Best Female Player

(By Tournament Performance Rating)

Kindergarten, Norah Kumar, 1-2 U700, Marina Zhang; K-2 Open, Kaiyi Han; 3-4 U700, Maya Burmistrov; 5-12 U900, Cristina Juarez-Caballero; 3-12 U1200, Raimi Bell; 3-6 Open, Alisa Rachiba; 7-12 Open, Niharika Vutukuri.

Biggest Upset Win

Kindergarten, Kyle Zhang, 1-2 U700, Andy Sang; K-2 Open, Atul Srinivasan; 3-4 U700, Mukund Mavila; 5-12 U900, Victoria Wright; 3-12 U1200, Abraham Muscutt; 3-6 Open, Sreeram Murari Kakarlapudi; 7-12 Open, Sasmit Chatterjee.

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SCC Annual Meeting

On a Friday to be designated in May: Come elect the SCC Board of Directors for the next twelve months!!

Adult Swiss

April 20-21, 2024

A four-round Swiss open to those born before 4/22/2004 with a prize fund of \$270.

First	\$90
Second	\$60
U1800	\$40
U1600	\$35
U1400	\$30
U1200/Unr	\$15

Time Control: G/120; +30.

Entry Fees: Free to SCC members. \$12 for non-members.

Registration: Sat. 10-10:45 a.m.

Rounds: 11-4:30, 11-4:30.

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

Miscellaneous: US Chess req'd. NS. NC.

Sponsored by Henry Man.

Apr 14, May 12

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.

Sunday Tornado

Apr 27

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.

Saturday Quads

Apr 28

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

SCC Novice

New Event

May 5

Format: 3-RR. Open to players 18 or older. **TC:** G/60;+30. **EF:** \$16 (+\$7 fee for non-SCC). **Prize Fund:** \$48 b/6. **Prizes:** \$48. **Reg:** 9-9:45 p.m. **Rounds:** 10-2-6. **Byes:** 0. **Misc:** US Chess memb. req'd. NS, NC.

Adult Quads



SCC Fridays

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

April Showers: 4/5, 12, 19, 26.

May Flowers: 5/3, 10, 17, 31.

Closed, Go to WA Open: 5/24.

It's Summertime! (close ratings): 6/7, 14, 21, 28.



Our source for photo: Legacy.com

Howard Chin (1947-2021)

By John Donaldson

Howard “Howie” Chin, who played a key role in promoting chess in Washington high schools in the late 1960s and early 1970s, died on April 24, 2021. He was 73 years old.

Howie attended Everett High where he won the school championship in 1966-67 ahead of 25 other competitors. This qualified him to play board one for his team which he led to a third-place finish in the 1967 Washington State High School Championship. These results and Chin’s efforts to promote high school chess through a monthly column in the *Northwest Chess Letter* (as *Northwest Chess* was then known – the magazine changed to NWC in May of 1968) led to him being the first recipient of a college chess scholarship from the Washington State Chess Federation.

While attending Seattle University, Chin continued to write his column and coached the chess teams at O’Dea and Lynnwood High Schools. His greatest contribution was helping to organize a chess team at Kennedy High School in Burien, which previously hadn’t had one. Two of its earliest members were Duane Polich and D. Leo Stefurak, individuals who have made significant contributions to chess in Washington State the past half century and are still active. Had Howie not organized a team at Kennedy, they might not have become lifelong chess players. This is truly a great legacy to leave.

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.



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