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Front Cover

Dominic Colombo, winner of the 2024 Bellingham Open.
Photo Credit: Josh Sinanan.

Back Cover

Megan Lee makes her move against Selina Cheng in the 11-board simul on a sunny Seattle afternoon.
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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Newsflash

Ted Wang Becomes Washington’s Youngest Ever National Master

Newsflash

By Josh Sinanan

Ted Wang, a fourth grader from St. Thomas School in Medina, became Washington State’s youngest ever master on June 15, 2024. Ted achieved the title at the age of ten years, six months, and 26 days, breaking the previous record held by IM Anthony He (11 years, three months, 20 days). Ted scored 2.0/2 at the Seattle Chess Club June Quads, hosted at the Seattle Chess Club in Greenlake and gained 21 points to boost his US Chess rating to 2211, scoring wins against LM Viktors Pupols (2200) and NM Yiding Lu (2231). Congratulations Ted!



(L) Sharath Radhakrishnan vs Ted Wang during the fifth round of the K-5 National Championship.
Photo Credit: Courtesy of US Chess.



Ted, in full concentration mode, won all seven of his games to clinch the National K-5 Championship title.
Photo Credit: Courtesy of US Chess.

74th Oregon Open

August 31-September 2, 2024, Labor Day Weekend

Sponsored by the Oregon Chess Federation (OCF) and Portland Chess Club (PCC)

FORMAT: The tournament is a 6-round Swiss paired event with two rounds per day and is open to everyone, regardless of residency or age. Up to two half point byes are available if requested before round one.

SECTIONS: There are five sections: 2000+, U2000, U1700, U1400, and U1100. **Players may play up one section for a \$25 play-up fee (can't play up more than one section).** The official August US Chess over-the-board regular ratings are generally used for section eligibility, pairings, and prize eligibility. Unofficial US Chess over-the-board regular ratings, US Chess online regular ratings, or converted foreign ratings are generally used for players with no official US Chess over-the-board regular rating.

TIME CONTROL: G/100;inc30 (one-hour forty minutes per player with thirty seconds added for each move). **PLAYERS MUST SUPPLY THEIR OWN BOARD, SET, AND INCREMENT CAPABLE DIGITAL CLOCK FOR TOURNAMENT PLAY.** A limited number of sets and boards will be available to purchase at the tournament for \$20 each. Players are responsible for knowing how to set their clock. Notation sheets and pens/pencils are provided for tournament play only.

SCHEDULE: A players meeting is at 9:45am on Saturday. There is no need for registered players to "check-in" prior to round 1. The rounds start at 10am and 3:30pm each day.

RATED: All the sections are US Chess regular rated. The 2000+ and U2000 sections are also FIDE standard rated.

ENTRY FEE: \$130 if registered by Friday, August 9; \$140 from August 10 until Friday, August 30 at noon. Free entry for GM's and IM's with up to \$130 deducted from any prize won. US Chess membership is required for all players. Oregon Chess Federation membership is required for Oregon residents.

PRIZES: \$13,000 total prize fund based on 150 players. The prize fund is adjusted proportionally if there are a different number of players except \$6500 is guaranteed.

2000+ Section: 1st-\$1550, 2nd-\$1250, 3rd-\$900
U2150: 1st-\$400, 2nd-\$300, 3rd-\$200

U2000 Section: 1st-\$500, 2nd-\$400, 3rd-\$300
U1850: 1st-\$400, 2nd-\$300, 3rd-\$200

U1700 Section: 1st-\$500, 2nd-\$400, 3rd-\$300
U1550: 1st-\$400, 2nd-\$300, 3rd-\$200

U1400 Section: 1st-\$500, 2nd-\$400, 3rd-\$300
U1250: 1st-\$400, 2nd-\$300, 3rd-\$200

U1100 Section: 1st-\$500, 2nd-\$400, 3rd-\$300
U950: 1st-\$400, 2nd-\$300, 3rd-\$200

Unrated players are eligible for all the prizes in their section except the U950 prizes in the U1100 section. Prizes are combined and/or split if there is a tie. Players winning \$600

or more must complete an IRS form with their Social Security number before receiving their prize. Foreign players may be subject to withholding taxes. Prizes are paid via check or PayPal.

QUALIFIERS: The 2000+ section is a qualifier for both the Championship and Challengers sections of the Oregon Closed and all the sections are a qualifier for the Oregon Scholastic Chess Federation (OSCF) State Championship.

LOCATION: Lloyd Center DoubleTree Hotel, 1000 NE Multnomah St, Portland, OR 97232. There is free parking in the hotel parking garage, Hotel rooms for any of the nights of August 30- September 3 are available at a special chess rate of \$149 plus tax per night for either a room with one king bed or two queen beds. **The hotel chess rate is not guaranteed to be available after August 7, or even earlier if the rooms are sold out.** Use [this link](#) or call 1-800-996-0510 to reserve a room. If reserving by phone, use the following group SRP code: OOC.

REGISTRATION: Register online at onlineregistration.cc (no mailed or on-site registrations are allowed). **The deadline to register is Friday, August 30 at noon.** Email support@oregonchessfed.org if you encounter any issues while trying to register online, need to withdraw after having already registered, or are unable to pay the entry fee online via credit card, debit card, or PayPal.

TOURNAMENT RULES: The FIDE rules are used in the 2000+ and U2000 sections while the US Chess rules are used in the U1700, U1400, and U1100 sections. The following applies to all sections: **1) Players are not allowed to have a phone or other electronic device capable of chess analysis or communication on their person during their games.** Any such device a player has with them must be turned off and stored in the player's bag (backpack, chess bag, etc.). The penalty for possessing such a device is at the discretion of the chief tournament director. **2) You must let the tournament staff know at least thirty minutes prior to the start time of the next round if you decide to withdraw from the tournament or skip that round.** If you decide to withdraw or skip a round and are not on-site, send us an email to support@oregonchessfed.org letting us know. Any player who forfeits a game without a valid reason in the judgement of the chief tournament director will not be allowed to play in the Oregon Open next year.

SIDE EVENT: Blitz - starts at 8:30pm on Saturday, August 31. There will be \$450 in prizes based on 30 entries, \$225 guaranteed. See detailed information at oregonchessfed.org or pdxchess.org.

QUESTIONS: Send an email to support@oregonchessfed.org if you have any questions.

2024 Oregon Senior Open

Wilson Gibbins

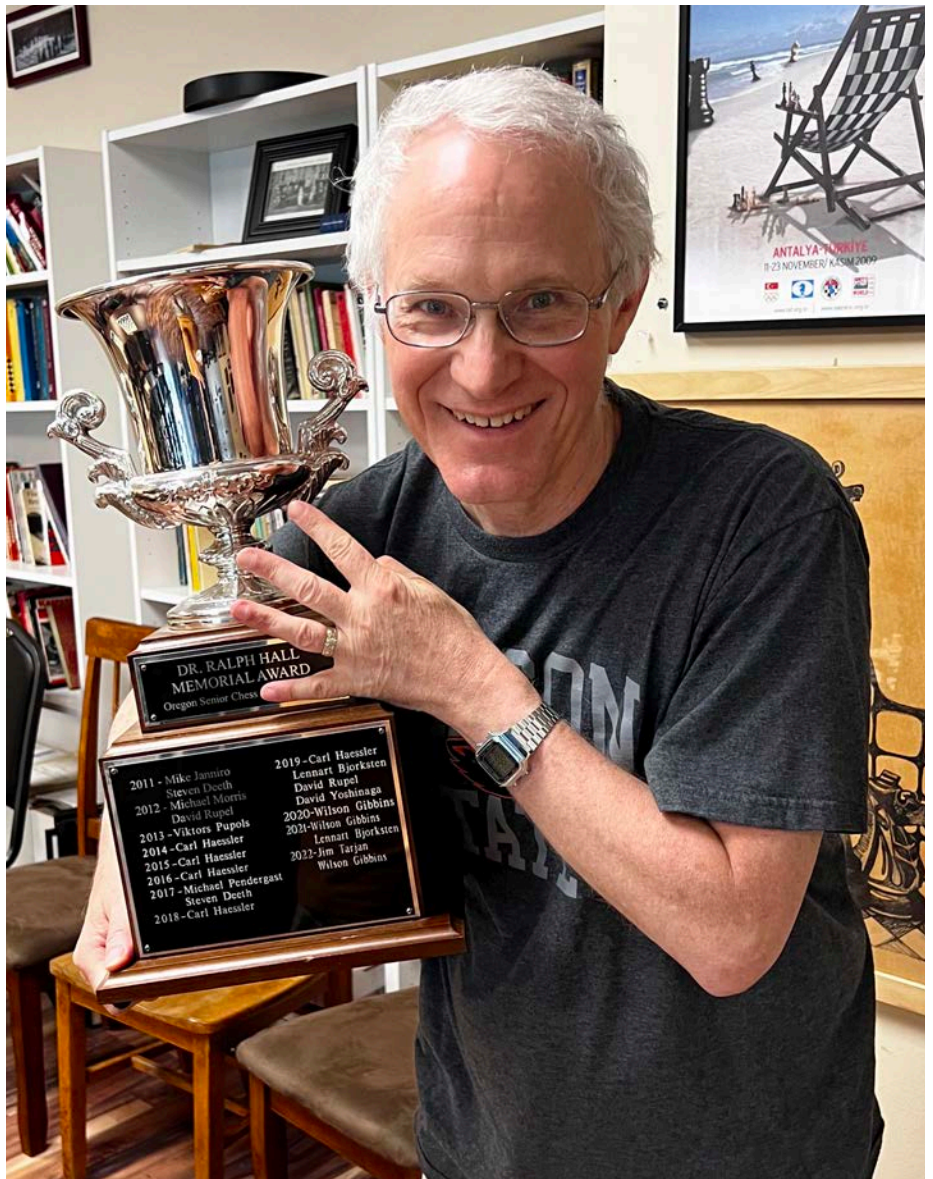
The Oregon Senior Open provides a welcome break from blundering won games to eight-year-old kids in the fifth hour of play. While the younger players have injected much vitality into our venerable game, it is fun to pretend that the older ways of playing are still valid, at least for a weekend. Twenty-six senior players agreed with that assessment, our largest turnout since 29 players competed in 2021, our first post-COVID lockdown tournament in Portland. Four States were represented—the usual Oregon and Washington, but also California (thanks Stewart Katz) and Florida (thanks Dugg Smith).

It looked like a year for a new champion, as Carl Haessler reeled off four straight wins, while your author was struggling, drawing Jose Miguel Gatica in round three and relying mostly on luck to win rounds two and four—see the games section below.

Carl needed only a draw in the last round to win the championship. We were well on our way to that draw, reaching the following position (Carl being White and I, Wilson, being Black) on move 19 with White to move.



Carl can continue the journey towards the draw with slightly awkward but fully equal 20.Rxd4, but instead chose the more natural 20.Qxd4? which unfortunately loses to 20...Re1+, as 21.Rxe1 Qxd4



Wilson Gibbins, Oregon Senior Open winner for the fourth consecutive year. Photo credit: Ellen Silva. (also, it was the front-cover photo for the July 2023 issue). Now let's just imagine Wilson Gibbins holding up five fingers instead of four, and we have this year's photo which wasn't taken!—Editor

drops the queen and 21.Kg2 Qxd4 22.Rxd4 Rxa1 drops a rook. Kids, if you have read this far, keep doing your daily puzzle rushes and puzzle storms.

Carl finished in a three-way tie for second at 4.0/5 with Jose Miguel Gatica and Rickie D Likens. Rickie lost to Carl in round one but roared back with four wins to tie for second and win the under 2000 prize.

Jon Strohhahn won the under 1800 prize. Michael Shaw won the under 1400 prize. Ken Hines won the Under 1400/ unrated prize. And Mike Morris won the over 70 prize.

Thanks to Dave Murray for organizing and directing this tournament. As he pointed out at the tournament, he has taken responsibility for two tournaments that he is ineligible to play in—the Girls' Championship and the Senior Open.

Thanks to Mike Morris for managing the tournament finances.

And thanks to the Portland Chess Club for allowing us to use their location for this annual event.

Wilson Gibbins (2200) – Darrel Bourne (1875) [A30]

Oregon Senior Open (R2), May 4, 2024
[Wilson Gibbins]

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.g3 b6 4.Bg2 Bb7 5.0-0 c5 6.Nc3 Be7 7.d4 cxd4 8.Qxd4 d6 9.Rd1 a6 10.b3 Nbd7 11.e4 e5!?

Darrel was proud of this move, and rightfully so. It looks ugly and Stockfish is unimpressed. But from a practical perspective, the resulting position gives Black lots of mini plans from which to choose, while in the short run White's main advantage is the opportunity to gloat over the weak d5 square. White now

has the burden of checking to see if the advance b6–b5 is playable every move. The threat is stronger than the execution.

12.Qe3 0-0 13.h3 Qc7 14.Bb2 Rac8 15.Rac1 Qb8 16.Qe2 Nc5

Maybe this knight will go back to e6 then bounce to d4. White has his advantage to defend.

17.Ne1 Qa8



Position after 17...Qa8

18.f3?

I thought I had to protect the e-pawn. I was more-or-less forced to take this uncomfortable approach in round four, but here I should be working harder to avoid blocking my bishop and weakening the squares around my king. The pawn on g3 is less well defended after my move. It doesn't look like it will be too much of a problem but check back on move 23. 18.b4 Ncxe4 19.Nd5! Nxd5 20.Qxe4

18...Nh5

Already targeting the weak g3-pawn, as well as clearing the way for the advance of the f-pawn. 18...b5 is also interesting.

19.Kh2 Ne6 20.Nc2?

Dragging a piece away from my king. Zoey Tang would take this as an invitation to attack. So would Darrel Bourne. 20.Nd5± keeps the advantage.

20...f5 21.exf5

21.Nd5= is still best, but now only gives White equality.

21...Rxf5

21...Nxc3!? can be played as a speculative sacrifice. 22.Kxc3 Nf4 23.Qf2 Rxf5 24.Ne3 Rg5+ 25.Kh2 Nxc3 26.Nxc2 Bxf3 27.Nh4 Bxd1 28.Rxd1

22.Nd5?

I played this quickly, as I felt the need to clog the long diagonal. 22.Ne3!± Bxf3? (22...Nxc3 is best, but not as strong as it would have been in the game continuation.) 23.Nxf5 Bxe2 24.Nxe7+

22...Bxd5 23.cxd5 Nef4?

After I made my 23rd move I noticed that 23...Nxc3! is winning for Black. My opponent used roughly 15 of his remaining 20 minutes on this move, so I assumed he would find it. I missed wearing a COVID mask—it would have helped cover my emotional reaction. 24.Kxc3 Nf4 25.Qf1 Rg5+

24.gxf4 Nxf4 25.Qe4 Rg5 26.Bf1 Rc5 27.Ne3 Qc8 28.b4 Rxc1 29.Rxc1 Qe8 30.Bc3 Qh5 31.Be1

1-0

Wilson Gibbins (2200) – Mike Morris (1900) [E63]

Oregon Senior Open (R4), May 5, 2024
[Wilson Gibbins]

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.d4 g6 3.c4 Bg7 4.g3 d6 5.Nc3 0-0 6.Bg2 Nc6 7.0-0 a6 8.h3 Rb8 9.e4 h6

Not in the books, but Mike wanted to stop White's Nf3–g5 ideas after White pushes the e-pawn to e5 and e6.

10.Be3 b5 11.cxb5 axb5 12.d5?

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I should sacrifice a pawn to damage Black's pawn structure. 12.e5 dxe5 13.dxe5 Nd7 14.e6 fxe6 15.Qe2

12...Na5

12...b4 13.Ne2 (13.dxc6 bxc3 14.bxc3 Nxe4) 13...Na5 14.Nfd4 e5

13.Nd4

I have burned a lot of clock to get to this mediocre position—I have about 50 minutes left. I will be behind on the clock for the rest of the game.

13...b4 14.Nce2 Bd7 15.Rc1 Qc8



Position after 15...Qc8

After the game, Mike pointed out that his move prepares 16...e5. Playing it now leads to 15...e5 16.dxe6 fxe6 17.Nf4 and White is threatening to take on e6 or g6. Mike's move over-protects the e6-pawn square so when we play out this sequence he only needs to protect the g6-pawn.

16.Kh2 e5 17.dxe6 fxe6 18.b3

I should play 18.f4 but I am keeping the option to defend the e-pawn with f2–f3, which as we learned from the previous game rarely works out well for me.

18...e5 19.Nc2?

Creating knight disharmony. Notice how Black's pawns on b4 and e5 dominate my knights. 19.Nf3! 20.Qd5+

19...Kh7 20.Qd2?

20.Bd2 Nc6 21.f4=

20...Qb7 21.f3

I am using the same kingside approach that led to my disastrous position in round two.

21...Rfd8

21...c5!? 22.Qxd6 c4 gives Black plenty of play for the pawn.

22.Rfd1?

22.g4

22...Be6 23.Qe1

I am down to about 35 minutes.

23...d5?!

23...c5 and Black will play Nc6 and Nd4

24.exd5

24.f4!?

24...Nxd5?

Best is 24...Bxd5 I thought White was worse, but it turns out that White is fine if he is tactically alert 25.Nxb4! Qxb4 (25...Bxf3 26.Na6 Qxa6 27.Bxf3 e4) 26.Bd2 wins the piece back.

25.Bf2

25.f4!±

25...h5

25...Nc6

26.f4!

I thought I might have some kingside threats, as many of his pieces are scattered on the queenside. Check back at move 33 when many of Mike's pieces have found their way back to take aim at my king.

26...Nc6 27.fxe5?

27.Ne3!±

27...Nxe5 28.Nf4 Bf7 29.Ne3?

29.Rxd5! Bxd5

30.Nxd5 Rxd5

31.Nxb4

29...c6 30.Nexd5 cxd5 31.Qh1?

Too clever by half. 31.Rc5±

31...Qa6= 32.Rc2 Rbc8 33.Rcd2 Qf6 34.Bd4

34.Nxd5 Bxd5

35.Bxd5 Rc3

Black's pawn deficit

will be irrelevant in short term, but his active pieces will give White plenty to worry about. The only move that keeps White even is 36.Bd4

34...h4 35.Qe1 Qf5 36.Re2 hgx3+?

After 36...g5 the only move White has to maintain equality is 37.Ne6

37.Qxg3± g5 38.Nd3

38.Rf1! gxf4 39.Rxf4 Qg6 (39...Qe6 40.Rxe5) 40.Bxe5

38...Ng6?

38...Nxd3 39.Rxd3±; 38...Nf3+ 39.Bxf3 Bxd4 40.Bg4 Qf6 41.Bxc8 Rxc8 is better for White, but Black has plenty of cheapo potential, just what King's Indian Defense players live for.

39.Bxg7 Kxg7 40.Rf1

With all the action occurring on the kingside, snapping a pawn on the queenside seems to miss the point. 40.Nxb4, but check back with me later, say around move 53.

40...Qd7 41.Qxg5+- Re8 42.Qf6+ Kg8 43.Ref2 Re7 44.Nf4 Rc6 45.Qg5 Re5 46.Qg3 Qe7

46...Rc3 47.Rf3 Rxf3 48.Bxf3 Qd6 49.Rg1 Kf8 50.Bh5±

47.Nd3 Re3 48.Rxf7?

48.Qb8+! Qe8 (48...Kg7 49.Rxf7+) 49.Qxe8+ Bxe8 50.Bxd5+

48...Rxg3 49.Rxe7 Rxg2+?

Gaining time, but eliminating the less dangerous minor piece. 49...Rxd3±

50.Kxg2 Nxe7 51.Nxb4 Rc3 52.Rf3 Rc1 53.Rd3 Kf7 54.Nxd5 Nxd5 55.Rxd5 Rc2+ 56.Kg3 Rxa2 57.Rd3

And White carefully advanced his pawns to secure the win.

57...Rb2 58.Kf4 Re2 59.Re3 Rd2 60.Ke4 Ke6 61.Rd3 Rb2 62.Kd4 Rc2 63.b4 Kd6 64.Rc3 Rb2 65.Kc4 Kc6 66.Rg3 Rc2+ 67.Kb3 Rh2 68.Rg6+ Kb5 69.Rg5+ Kb6 70.Rh5 Rh1 71.Kc3 Rc1+ 72.Kd3 Re1 73.h4 Kc6 74.Kd4 Rd1+ 75.Ke4 Rb1 76.b5+ Kd6 77.Rh6+ Ke7 78.b6 Kf7 79.Kd5 Kg7 80.Rc6 Rd1+ 81.Kc5 Rb1 82.Kd6

1-0





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Seattle Seafair Open



JULY 13-14, 2024

LAKESIDE UPPER SCHOOL

14050 1ST AVE NE, SEATTLE, WA 98125



Co-hosted by Seattle Chess Club and Washington Chess Federation.

Format: A 5-round, US Chess Rated Swiss in one section.

Schedule: Saturday 9 AM, 1 PM, 5 PM; Sunday 10 AM, 3 PM. Closing Ceremony: Sunday ~ 7 PM or asap. Players whose games run long may request a late start for the next round.

Time Control: G/90; +10. Late default: 60 min.

Prize Fund: \$4,000 (based on 100 paid entries)

1st-6th: \$600-500-400-350-300-250.

1st U2100/U1900/U1700/U1500/U1300/U1100/U900: \$160

1st Unrated: \$160

Special Prizes: **Biggest Upset Win:** \$20/round, **Best Female Player** (by TPR): 1st \$40, 2nd 20, **Best Dressed:** \$20/day, **Best Senior Players** (50+, by TPR): 1st \$40, 2nd \$20, **Best Annotated game:** 1st \$40, 2nd \$20. Minimum of 3 qualifying players required per section in contention for each best female/senior prize to be awarded.

Entry Fee: \$80 by 7/6, \$90 after. \$10 discount for SCC members. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs & WIMs. Maximum of 150 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 Rated. US Chess July 2024 rating supplement will be used to determine pairings and prizes. Foreign ratings used for players with no US Chess rating. Higher of US Chess or foreign ratings used at TD discretion.

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

Registration and payment deadline: **Fri. 7/12 @ 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

Second Annual Eastside Open

Josh Sinanan

The Issaquah Highlands Chess Club (IHCC) and Washington Chess Federation (WCF) co-hosted the second annual Eastside Open on Saturday, March 30 at Blakely Hall, a spacious lodge-style event space located in the heart of the Issaquah Highlands.

To encourage more out-of-region participation, this year's edition was shortened to a one-day rapid event with a time control of game in thirty minutes with a five-second increment instead of the two-day classical format used in 2023. This seemed to work, as attendance increased to 102 players, an increase of twenty-three from last year. Chess players from throughout the Pacific Northwest were represented from cities including Puyallup, Sammamish, Redmond,

Tacoma, Shelton, Bellevue, North Bend, Gig Harbor, Seattle, Kirkland, Bothell, Shoreline, Everett, Fall City, Bellingham, Edgewood, Renton, Sultan, Spanaway, Maple Valley, Lynnwood, Mountlake Terrace, Olympia, Newcastle, University Place, Rochester, Issaquah, Mercer Island, Lake Forest Park, Woodinville, Portland, and Medina.

The tournament was directed by WCF co-Vice President Rekha Sagar with assistance from IHCC co-founders Chad Fondren and Dan Kaseumsouk, and WCF President Josh Sinanan. Photographer extraordinaire Meiling Cheng chronicled the day's festivities with many fantastic photos and video footage. The field was split between three sections, with 29 in the Open, 60 in the Reserve U1600, and 11 in the Rising (unrated) section. Those

with an insatiable chess appetite who hung around until the very end concluded the evening with a fun blitz tournament!

NM Siddarth M. Sundaram, a software engineer based in Bellevue, topped the Open section with a perfect five points from five games, a full point ahead of his nearest rivals. Along the way, Siddarth scored victories against CM Tim Moroney (2102), Daniel Qian (1889), and Neevan Reddy Saddi (1734), despite arriving late from lunch with only a few minutes left for his third-round game with Saddi. Four chess kings shared Second/Third/First U2000/First U1800 honors with four points apiece: Yuchen Zhou of Bellevue, CM Tim Moroney of Mountlake Terrace, Daniel Qian of Bellevue, and NM Luis Rodriguez of Rochester, who was playing in his first tournament since 2003!

Several special prizes including biggest upset win, best female player (by tournament performance rating), and best dressed player were also awarded in each section. The Open section winners were: Yuchen Zhou, who scored the biggest upset win (446 pts.); Te Wei, the best female player with a TPR of 1731; and Te Wei and Kshitij Narkhede, easily the two classiest players in the Open section.

Mercer Island high school student Leo Saloranta dominated the massive Reserve U1600 section with a perfect 5.0/5. On his way to the title, Saloranta sailed to victory with consecutive clutch upset victories against up-and-coming stars Terrick Evin (1505), Walter Guity (1557), and Daniel Polonsky (1370). Mike Tie of Sammamish drew only one game against Jai Budhrajia to finish in second place a half-point back with 4.5 points.

A duo of chess dudes, Terrick Evin of Redmond and Adam Kozyra of Sultan, shared third place honors with four



(L) Aryan Deshpande attempts to defend a difficult rook ending against Daniel Qian in round four.
Photo Credit: Meilig Cheng.

points each. Young Daniel Polonsky of Newcastle, who also finished with four points, took home the First U1400 prize by winning his first four games only to be stopped by Saloranta in the final round.

A quadruplet of chess gentes—Haibo Zhang of Issaquah, Shen Gong of Kirkland, Arjun Moghe of Redmond, and Shawn Xu of Portland—split the First U1200/First U1000 prize with a solid “plus one” score. The special prizes were awarded to Tanvisree Inampudi for the best upset win (492 pts.), Zara Zong for the best female player (TPR: 1166), and the two classy, well-dressed fellas: Yash Syal and Anay Agrawal.

The 11-player Rising section, which was unrated and did not require any memberships, also saw one player emerge victorious with a perfect five-point score—Kurt Von Laven of Seattle. Von Laven first hit his chess stride in late 2023 at the inaugural Veteran’s Day Open, where he tied for first place in a similar unrated section. Samuel Acevedo of Puyallup finished in second place a full point back with four points and immensely enjoyed playing in his first official chess tournament.

A quintuplet of rising chess stars finished in a shared third/fourth place tie with three points apiece: William Case of Tacoma, Shresth Gupta of Redmond, Keegan Lonyo of Spanaway, Saahan Chadha of Sammamish, and Luna Lin of Kirkland. Special prizes were awarded to Saahan Chadha for the biggest upset win (500 pts.), Luna Lin for the best female player (TPR: 840), and to a pair of well-dressed gentlemen, Scott Jordan and Kurt Von Laven.

Immediately following the last round, a 27-player, seven-round, US Chess Blitz rated speed chess tournament took place to round out the day’s festivities.

Sammamish chess master and blitz aficionado NM Stephen Willy emerged victorious with an impressive seven points from seven games, winning against fellow titled players NM Daniel Shubin (2274), NM Siddarth M. Sundaram (2428), and FM Peter Yu (2100) along the way. A trio of chess studs shared second/third place honors with five points apiece:

NM Siddarth M. Sundaram of Bellevue, NM Daniel Shubin of Redmond, and former Washington State High School Champion Dominic Colombo of

Gig Harbor. Bellevue-based high school senior Daniel Qian captured the First U1900 prize a half-point back. Five emerging speed chess superstars split the U1700 prize with a solid “plus one” score: Dmitrii Miroschnichenko of Sammamish, Te Wei of Kirkland, Benjamin Frederick of Laurelhurst, Selina Cheng of Seattle, Yuchen Zhou of Bellevue.

Talented youngster Vihaan Pai of Sammamish was declared the winner of the First U1500 prize with his even 3.5-point score. A trio of chess ninjas shared the First U1300 prize with three points each: Jashyant Sikhakolli of Bellevue, IHCC Co-Founder Dan Kaseumsouk of Issaquah, and Yang Xu of Bothell.

Seattle chess man Kyle Haynie earned the First U1100 prize also with an impressive three-point score despite playing up every round. The biggest upset wins were achieved by Samarth Bharadwaj (round one), Kyle Haynie (rounds three and five), Dmitrii Miroschnichenko (rounds four and seven), and Te Wei (round six). Congratulations to the winners, and many thanks to all who contributed to this fantastic event!

Seafair Hand & Brain Blitz



Saturday, July 13, 2024

Lakeside Upper School

14050 1st Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98125



Co-hosted by Seattle Chess Club and Washington Chess Federation.

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

Registration: Online at
nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration.
Online registration and payment
**deadline @ 5pm on Friday, July
12**, or else register at site.

Schedule: At-site registration:
Sat. 7-7:45pm. Rounds: 8 PM,
8:15, 8:30, 8:45, Awards ~ 9 PM.

Eligibility: Open to all junior +
adult players.

Format: A 4-Round, G/5; +2 sec. increment,
single Swiss team event in one section.

Entry Fee: \$15/player if postmarked or online by
7/6, \$20 by 7/13, \$25 at-site. \$5 discount for SCC
members. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, WIMs.

Prize Fund: \$230 (based on 10 teams).

Team Prizes: 1st – 3rd Place Teams: \$50 - \$40 - \$30.
1st U1800/U1500/U1200 (by avg. team rating): \$20

Special Prizes: Happiest Teammate: \$5, Most
Patient Teammate: \$5, Brainiest Player: \$5, Most
Dexterous Player: \$5, Best Dressed Team: \$5
each, Best Teamwork: \$5 each, Best Mixed Team:
\$5 each.

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

Memberships: No memberships required.

Rating: Unrated. Highest of July 2024 US Chess
Blitz, US Chess Regular, or current NWSRS rating
will be used to determine pairings and prizes.
Average team rating must be <2000.

Useful Hand & Brain links:

♣ <https://www.chess.com/terms/hand-and-brain-chess>
♣ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hand_and_brain

Rules violations incur a 1-min penalty (added to the
other team’s clock) with up to 3 violations per game
allowed after which the offending team forfeits.

SEATTLE *SUMMER SIZZLER*

CHESS TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 2024

LAKESIDE UPPER SCHOOL

14050 1ST AVE NE, SEATTLE, WA 98125



FORMAT

A 6-Round G/25; +5 Swiss
in five sections:

K-1 U600

2-3 U700

K-3 Open

4-6 U900

4-12 Open

SCHEDULE

Rd 1 - 9:00am

Rd 2 - 10:15am

Rd 3 - 11:30am

Lunch Time

Rd 4 - 1:30pm

Rd 5 - 2:45pm

Rd 6 - 4:00pm

Awards ~ 5:30pm

ELIGIBILITY

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

ENTRY FEE

\$45 before 8/10, \$55 after.
Maximum of 100 players.
Please register early to
guarantee your spot.

AWARDS

Amazon Gift Card Prizes
awarded in each section:
1st - 5th: \$55, \$50, \$45, \$40,
\$35. Medals for first-
timers, biggest upset win,
and best female player.

RATING

Dual NWSRS and US
Chess rated, with US
Chess membership
required in all sections.
Higher of current NWSRS
and US Chess Regular
rating will be used to
determine section and
pairings.

REGISTRATION

Register online at
NWChess.com/OnlineRegistration/

Pay by Credit/Debit/PayPal/SettleKing.

100% preregistered, no on-site entries or
payments. **Entry + payment deadline
August 16 @ 5pm.** No registrations
accepted or refunds offered after the
deadline.

CLOCKS + NOTATION

Chess clocks set to G/25; +5 will be used
from the beginning in all games. Chess
notation required in all sections except
for K-1 U600 and 2-3 U700. All
equipment is provided courtesy of WCF.

QUESTIONS?

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

Second Annual Bellingham Open

Josh Sinanan

Western Washington University (WWU) and the Washington Chess Federation (WCF) once again teamed up to co-host the Second Annual Bellingham Open on Sunday, April 21 in the spacious multi-purpose room of the Viking Union Building of the WWU campus. Despite the overcast weather, participants and spectators enjoyed a splendid view of Bellingham Bay from the playing hall.

This year's attendance of 66 players was slightly down from the 81 who came out last year, likely due to the packed schedule of chess events in Western Washington during the busy spring chess season.

Chess players from throughout the Pacific Northwest were represented in the two-section, G/30;+10 5-round Swiss from cities including Lynnwood, Lake Stevens, Bothell, Bellingham, Tacoma, Seattle, Camano Island, Renton, Shelton, Anacortes, Gig Harbor, Richmond (British Columbia), Kirkland, Vancouver (British Columbia), Snohomish, Eagle River (Alaska), Stanwood, Mercer Island, Ferndale, Mukilteo, Duvall, Olympia, Redmond, Blaine, Lynden, Edmonds, SeaTac, Burlington, Kenmore, Fall City, and Bellevue.

The tournament was co-organized by former Western Washington University Chess Club President Harrison Toppen-Ryan and Washington Chess Federation President Josh Sinanan, who also served as the tournament director. The field was split evenly between two sections, with 27 players in the Open and 39 in the Reserve U1700, which was also US Chess rated this year after only being NWSRS rated last year.

A short awards ceremony immediately following the last round concluded the event. The fast-paced schedule of five games in one day, each

spaced about an hour and half apart, made for a fun and exciting day of chess for players ranging from unrated to Class A, including three players rated above 1900.

Dominic Colombo, a senior at Gig Harbor High School and former Washington State High School Chess Champion, emerged victorious with an impressive 4.5 points from five games, allowing only a single draw against young Leonardo Wang in the third round. Colombo finished strong with clutch wins against the dangerous speed chess expert and Philidor aficionado Chad Boey and Canadian whiz-kid Justin Gao on his way to the title.

Two rising chess stars, Carson Roesch of Blaine and local star Owen Scollon of Bellingham, shared =second/third place with four points apiece.

A trio of chess kings — Justin Gao of Vancouver, Leonardo Wang of Fall City, and Chad Boey of Seattle — split the U1900/U1800 prizes a half-point back. Five chess guys finished on a solid “plus one” score with three points to claim a share of the U1700 prize: Dave Juchau of Seattle, Dann Merriman of Duvall, Sharad Cornejo Altuzar of Bellingham, Keyan Khaleghi of Mukilteo, Judah Taitano of Burlington.

The usual “special” prizes were also up for grabs, for such distinguished honors such as biggest upset win, best female player, and best dressed. The fortuitous recipients included Slava Shinkarev of Edmonds for biggest upset win (888 points), Joanne Wangluo for best female player (TPR: 1396), and two classy fellas Balbir Singh of SeaTac and Harrison Toppen-Ryan of Kirkland for best dressed.

In the Reserve U1700 section, David Hirschowitz, a popular chess teacher based in Mercer Island, dominated the field with a perfect five wins from five

games. David scored key victories against his nearest rivals Bert Rutgers (1615), Boris Weinfurt (1053), and newcomer Zachary Lubetkin (unrated) along the way, displaying his versatility as a player, in addition to being a prominent chess coach and organizer in the local community.

A quadruplet of chess dudes shared the combined second/third/U1500 prize a full point back: Ignatius Frost of Sehome, Brian Gradin of Bellingham, Zachary Lubetkin of Bellingham, and Kevin Aitken of Lynnwood.

Two players, Blane Hildenbrand of Stanwood and Liam Britt of Camano Island split the U1300 prize with a solid 3.5 points apiece. Seattle's Boris Weinfurt earned the first U1100 prize with three points for his efforts, winning his first three games in a row before his rampage was stopped by Hirschowitz and Frost in the last two rounds.

Young Alexei Cornejo Arriaga from the host city of Bellingham claimed the U900 prize with two points by virtue of winning his last two games in a row. Local chess aficionado Jesse North of Bellingham won the unrated prize with an impressive three points, no doubt establishing a rating that will likely continue heading north in the events to come.

The skillful special prize winners in the Reserve U1700 section included Boris Weinfurt's biggest upset win (416 points), Megan Holmes of Stanwood as the best female player (TPR: 1305), and the classy, best dressed gentleman Jacob Herr, who came all the way from Eagle River in Alaska!

Congratulations to the winners, and many thanks to all who contributed to this fantastic event. We look forward to hosting more events in Whatcom County in the years to come!

**Leonardo Wang (1795) –
Dominic Colombo (1907) [D87]**
2nd Annual Bellingham Open
(R3), April 21, 2024
[Dominic Colombo]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5
5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Bc4 c5 8.Ne2
0-0 9.0-0 Nc6 10.Be3 Qc7 11.Rc1 Rd8
12.Qa4 Bd7 13.dxc5 Ne5

Gave up the c5-pawn for activity and pawn structure advantages. This idea is usually good in the Gruenfeld.

14.Bb5 Bxb5 15.Qxb5 Ng4 16.Bf4 Be5
17.Bxe5 Qxe5 18.Ng3 Rab8 19.Qe2 Nf6
20.Qe3 Nd7 21.c6

Nd7 reroutes the knight to attack the c5-pawn. c6 is an interesting response which I did not consider.

21...bxc6 22.Qxa7 Ra8 23.Qb7 Qe6 24.
Qb3



Position after 24.Qb3

24...Nc5

The line 24...Rxa2 25.Qxe6 fxe6 26.Rfd1 may have been interesting, but the best

it achieves is a draw where Black has a slightly worse pawn structure for some activity. At the time, I was also worried about the knight being temporarily pinned.

25.Qxe6 fxe6

I wanted to keep the knight able to go to a4 to get the pawn back and keep pressure on e4.

26.Rc2 Ra3 27.f3 Rd3 28.Rfc1 Na4
29.c4

Due to quick chess time pressure the notations is a bit mixed up here and at the end. The position ended up looking similar to this. I was lower on time and agreed to a draw since I was down a pawn and a draw was going to be the best result.

1/2-1/2



*(L) Leonardo Wang and Dominic Colombo play out a tricky double rook ending during the third round of the Bellingham Open.
Photo Credit: Josh Sinanan.*

**Harrison Toppen-Ryan (1947) –
Dave Juchau (1672) [B01]**
2nd Annual Bellingham Open
(R3), April 21, 2024
[Harrison Toppen-Ryan]

The third round. Also, the third time playing Dave so far. I knew that my opponent had had a major upset in the previous round against a player 300 points higher rated than him, so I knew I needed to be cautious.

1.e4 d5 2.Nc3!?

An unusual surprise move already. I wanted to throw my opponent off early. With this being a rapid game, this could be to my benefit.

2...d4 3.Nb1!?

What sort of blasphemous heresy is this? Is this a farce? Nope. This is a real line where White brings the knight back to its starting square on move three. Again, I used my rapid time to blitz out an unorthodox line to try and confuse my opponent.

3...c5 4.Bc4 e5 5.d3 Nf6 6.f4

Now we've transposed to a Vienna game structure for White. However, Black doesn't have the same options with the pawns on d4, e5, and c5 with the dark-square bishop on f8.

6...Nc6 7.Nf3 Bg4 8.h3 Bxf3 9.Qxf3 b5?!?

Already complications are introduced. I spent some time calculating here and concluded that I'm fine allowing Qa5+ since I'll either win the piece back or get a massive attack either way. 9...Bd6=

10.Bxb5! Qa5+ 11.Nc3!! Rc8 12.0-0 dxc3 13.Bxc6+ Rxc6 14.fxe5 Be7



Position after 14...Be7

Black has to give back the piece or else. 14...Nd7 15.Qxf7+ Kd8 16.Bg5+

15.exf6 Rxf6 16.Qe2 Rxf1+ 17.Qxf1 Bf6?!?

17...c4 18.d4 Qb4 was better trying to dispute White's queenside.

18.b3 0-0?!?

18...Bd4+ 19.Kh1 h6 20.Qf5 Qa6 21.Bf4 Qe6 22.g4 Kd7 23.Rf1 Qxf5 24.gxf5 Rg8

25.Kg2 is the line given by the engine, but White is still comfortably better.

19.Be3 Bd4 20.Qf2 Qa3?! 21.Bxd4 cxd4 22.Qf4?!?

22.Rf1 Qd6 23.Qf4 Qe7 24.Qf5 Rd8 25.a4 h6 26.Qa5 g6 27.e5 Rd7 28.Qb5 h5

22...Qb2?!?

22...f6 23.Qf2

23.Qc1 Qxc1+

23...Rc8 was a better try since 24.Qxb2 cxb2 25.Rb1 Rxc2 is winning for Black.

24.Rxc1 f6 25.a4 Kf7 26.Rf1 Ke6?

The final nail. After my next move converting this with a clean pawn up was fairly easy and was without incident. 26...g6 27.b4 a6 28.g4 Rb8 29.Rb1 Ra8 30.Kf2 h6 31.Ke2 Ke7 32.Kf3 Ke6 33.Kg3

27.Rf5 Rd8 28.Kf2 g6 29.Rb5 h5 30.Rb7 Rd7 31.Rxd7 Kxd7 32.b4 Kd6 33.Ke2 Kc6 34.Kd1 a6?! 35.Kc1 Kd6 36.Kb1 f5 37.exf5 gxf5 38.h4 Kc6 39.Ka2 f4 40.Kb3

1-0

**Justin Gao (1795) –
Harrison Toppen-Ryan (1947) [B23]**
2nd Annual Bellingham Open
(R4), April 21, 2024
[Harrison Toppen-Ryan]

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.f4 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Bc4 e6 6.d3 Nge7 7.0-0 0-0 8.Qe1 Nd4

Too early. Better was the immediate 8...d5 9.Bb3 Nd4 10.Nxd4 cxd4 11.Ne2 dxe4 12.dxe4 a5 13.a4 d3! 14.Nc3 (14.cxd3?? Qb6+-) 14...Nc6 15.Be3 Nd4=

9.Nxd4 cxd4 10.Ne2 d5 11.exd5 exd5 12.Bb3 Nf5 13.Qf2 Re8 14.Bd2 a5 15.a4 Ne3 16.Rfe1 Ng4?! 17.Qf3 Be6?!?



Position after 17...Be6

Here my position is already unpleasant. After the next few moves the weakness



*Western Chess Club officers contemplate a chess piece at the Bellingham Open.
L-R: Drake Wilson, Arlo Breslauer, Harrison Toppen-Ryan, Chris Gilbert.
Photo Credit: Peyton Perdue @peytontakespics*

on e6 and d5 will become too much for Black to handle. 17...Bd7 18.Bxd5 Rc8 19.c4 dxc3 20.bxc3 Nf6 21.Bxb7 Qb6+ 22.d4 Rc7

18.h3 Nh6??

18...Ne3 19.Bxe3 dxe3 20.d4 Bf6 21.Qxe3 Bh4 22.g3 Bf6 23.Qf3 Qb6 24.Rad1 Bd7 25.Kg2

19.g4 f5?! 20.g5 Nf7 21.Ng3?

21.Qf2!

21...Qd7 22.Re2 Kf8 23.Rae1 Nh8?!

Just admitting a bad position.

24.h4 Bf7?! 25.Rxe8+ Rxe8 26.Rxe8+ Qxe8 27.Bxd5?! Qxa4?! 28.Bxf7 Nxf7 29.Qxb7 Qxc2?

29...Kg8 30.b3

30.Bxa5 Qa4?! 31.Bb4+ Kg8??

31...Nd6 32.Bxd6+ Kg8 33.Nf1 Qe8 34.Qd5+ Qf7 35.Qa8+ Bf8 36.h5 gxh5 37.Bxf8 Qxf8 38.Qd5+

32.Qb8+

1-0

Harrison Toppen-Ryan (1947) – Judah Taitano (1287) [D34]
2nd Annual Bellingham Open (R5), April 21, 2024
[Harrison Toppen-Ryan]

Don't be fooled by my opponent's rating. In the previous rounds, he had beaten three 1700-rated players. Three major upsets. I knew I had to be careful and not underestimate him.

1.d4 e6 2.c4 d5 3.Nc3 c5

Tarrasch Defense

4.cxd5 exd5 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.g3 Nf6 7.Bg2 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Bg5 c4 10.Ne5! Be6

We've played the most popular moves

so far. I believe my opponent knew these kinds of positions better than I did so I decided to play some less popular moves here to try and exploit Black's weaknesses on the d5- and e5-squares.

11.Qd2 h6 12.Bxf6 Bxf6 13.f4!

Playing this like a stonewall structure. I like White better since Black can't access the e4-square as easily as the e5-square.

13...Rb8 14.Kh1?!

14.Rf2 Ne7

14...Qa5?

My opponent almost reached and touched the b7-pawn to play 14.b5. He realized his mistake at the last moment and quickly played this move instead. 14...Bxe5 15.dxe5 d4 16.Ne4 Qd7 17.Qc2 Bd5 18.Nd6 Nb4 19.Qd2 Qc6 20.Bf3 c3 21.Qxd4

15.Rad1 Rfd8?

15...Rbd8 16.a3

16.e3??

A lazy move. Better was the aggressive but tricky 16.f5! Bc8 17.Ng4 Bxd4 18.Nxh6+!! Kf8 19.Nxf7!! Kxf7 20.Qg5 Rd6!! 21.Rxd4 Nxd4 22.f6 gxf6 23.Bxd5+ Ke7 24.Qg7+±

16...Bf5?

16...Bxe5

17.a3??!

Stopping Nb4 Ne3 ideas but the comp liked a pawn storm on the kingside. 17.g4 Bxe5 18.fxe5 Be6 19.Qe2 Nb4 20.g5 hxg5 21.Qh5 Nd3 22.Qxg5 Nxb2 23.Rc1 Nd3±

17...Bxe5 18.fxe5 Bd3 19.Rf4 Rd7 20.Bh3 Re7 21.b4?

21.Qg2 Ree8 22.Qxd5 Qxd5+ 23.Nxd5 Ne7 24.Bg2 b5 25.Nb4 Bg6 26.d5 Bd3

27.d6 Ng6

21...Qxa3 22.Nxd5 Ree8 23.Bf1 Bxf1?! 24.Rdxfl Rbd8 25.Rxf7?!

Here I was getting low on time and decided I needed to gamble a bit if I wanted to go for the win. This position is equal according to the engine, but that will soon change as the next few moves were played quickly due to time trouble, and hence won't be the most accurate.

25.Qf2

25...Rxd5 26.Rxb7?

26.Qe2

26...Nxe5 27.Qf2?! Qd3?

27...Qa6! 28.Rc7 Qb6 29.Rf7 Qc6 30.dxe5 Rd2+ 31.Qf3 Qxf3+ 32.R7xf3 c3 33.R3f2 Rc8 34.Rg2

28.dxe5 Qg6??

Black panics here. Allowing the two rooks on the seventh rank turns the tide in White's favor. Better was 28...Rd7 29.Rxd7 Qxd7=

29.Qf7+ Qxf7 30.Rxf7 Rdx5 31.Rxg7+ Kh8 32.Rge7?! Rxe3 33.Rxc4?!

33.Kg2 a6

33...Ra3??

33...R3e7 34.Rxe7 Rxe7

34.Kg2 Ra2+ 35.Kh3 a5 36.b5 Rb2 37.b6 Rb4?! 38.Rxb4 axb4 39.Rc7 b3 40.Rc3 Rb8 41.Rxb3 Rb7 42.Kg4 Kg7 43.Kf5 Kf7 44.g4 Ke7 45.Kg6 Kf8 46.Kxh6 Kg8 47.g5 Kf7 48.g6+ Kg8??

48...Kf6

49.Rc3 Kf8 50.g7+ Ke7 51.Rc7+

1-0



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Herr - Toppen-Ryan, Bellingham 2024

SEATTLE CHESS CLASSIC



SAT-SUN, AUGUST 17-18, 2024

LAKESIDE UPPER SCHOOL

14050 1ST AVE NE, SEATTLE, WA 98125

Format: A 6-round Swiss in two sections:

Tiglon Open & Seirawan U1600.

Maximum of 75 players, please register early to guarantee your spot.

Schedule:

Rounds (6): Sat/Sun @ 9am, 1:30pm, 5:30pm.

Time Control: G/70; +30 sec increment.

Late default: 1 hour.

Prize Fund: \$4,000 (based on 60 paid entries)

Tiglon Open:

1st - 3rd: \$530 - \$440 - \$320

1st U2100/U1900/U1700: \$200

Seirawan U1600:

1st - 3rd: \$360 - \$320 - \$260

1st U1500/U1300/U1100: \$200

1st Unrated \$150.

Special Prizes (per section):

Biggest Upset Win: \$20 per round

Best Female Player (by TPR, provided at least 3 qualifying players): \$50.

Best Dressed: \$20/day

Entry Fee: \$125 by Aug 10, \$150 after. \$50 play-up fee if rated U1600 and playing in Tiglon Open. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, WIMs, or US Chess 2400+.

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

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

Rating: Dual US Chess and NWSRS Rated. Highest of August US Chess, current NWSRS, or August FIDE rating will be used to determine section, pairings, and prizes. Foreign ratings used for players with no US Chess rating. Higher of US Chess or foreign ratings used at TD discretion.

Registration: Online at nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration **Registration + payment deadline: Fri, Aug 16 @ 5pm.** No registrations accepted or refunds offered after the deadline. Payment also available via SettleKing, Zelle (ID: WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com) or Venmo (ID: @WACHess).

Unpaid players will be removed from the roster after the deadline, and players from a waitlist will be offered a spot.

Info: Josh Sinanan, WCF President, 206.769.3757,

washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com

SEATTLE CLASSIC SCHOLASTIC

CHESS TOURNAMENT

Sunday, August 18, 2024

Lakeside Upper School

14050 1st Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98125



FORMAT

A 4-round G/45; +5 Swiss in four sections:

K-3 U800

K-3 Open

4-8 U1000

4-12 Open

SCHEDULE

Rd 1 - 9am

Rd 2 - 11am

Lunch Time

Rd 3 - 2pm

Rd 4 - 4pm

Awards ceremony ~ 6pm.

RATING

Dual US & NWSRS Rated. US Chess membership and clocks required in all sections. Notation required in all sections except for K-3 U800. All equipment is provided courtesy of WCF.

ENTRY FEE

\$45 by August 11, \$55 after. Room for 100 players; please register early to reserve your spot.

AWARDS

Amazon Gift Cards awarded in each section:

1st \$80

2nd \$70

3rd \$60

4th \$50

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

RATING

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

ELIGIBILITY

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

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 Sat. Aug 17 @ 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.

Highest finishing player in the K-3 Open and 4-12 Open sections will earn free entry into the 2024 SPFNO, set to take place October 25-27 in Bellevue.

Questions?

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

Rockefeller + Barber Closed

(Wonderkid Wang and Wild Willy Shine in Washington State)

Josh Sinanan

The 2024 WA Barber and Rockefeller Closed Chess Championships took place on Saturday, April 6, at the Orlov Chess Academy in Greenlake. The fields of each section were determined by the top 12 finishing players from the Washington State Barber and Rockefeller Open events, which took place on March 16 at Chinook Middle School in Bellevue.

The winners of the closed events, conducted as four-round Swisses, each earned a \$750 travel stipend donated by the WCF and will be the Washington State representatives at the National Rockefeller (K-5) and Barber (6-8) Tournaments of Champions, respectively, held concurrently with the US Open in Norfolk, Virginia in late July through early August.

Both sections were dual NWSRS and US Chess rated and played at a time control of G/70 with a ten-second increment. The talented youngsters taking part appreciated the strong competition and longer time control as many of them prepared for Spring State and National competitions. The tournament was organized by Washington Chess Federation and directed by WCF Member-at-Large Ani Barua, who recently earned his local tournament director certification.

Mid way through the tournament, the players wished WCF President Josh

Sinanan a happy birthday with a short video greeting, which he was delighted to receive via text message while he was away coaching the Lakeside High School chess team at the National K-12 Championship in Baltimore.

In the 11-player K-5 Rockefeller section, Ted Wang, a fourth grader from St. Thomas School in Medina, emerged victorious with a perfect four points from four games, winning against his nearest rival, Vidip Kona, in their critical third-round encounter.

Ted's excelled understanding of classical chess strategy when playing white and tactical counterattacking style when playing Black threw his opponents off, with many of them unaware when Ted's next attack is coming. For his victory, Ted becomes the official Washington State representative at the 2024 Rockefeller Tournament of National K-5 Champions, taking place July 27-30 in Virginia. Congratulations Ted!

Many thanks to all who contributed to this event and congratulations to the winners. Rosa Parks Elementary fifth grade phenom Vidip Kona captured the second place prize with three points, recovering well from his third round loss against Ted with a win against the dangerous Michael Lin and in fourth round. Two players shared third place honors a half-point back, each with three draws and a win: Odbayar Yondon

from Sammamish and Aarav Bharathy Mohan from Bothell.

The 6-8 Barber section was a bit more modest in size, with only seven players taking part and vying for the coveted seed into the Barber Tournament of National Middle School Champions. This was due in part to a conflict with High School K-12 Nationals, which was taking place over the same weekend in Baltimore, Maryland.

Several would-be contenders for the Barber seed, including Vihaan Jammalamadaka and NM Nikash Vemparala, opted to play in High School Nationals instead, where they sought strong competition in the K-12 Championship section. This opened the door for top seed and rating favorite, NM Stephen Willy, to score a perfect 4.0/4 and claim the first-place prize, along with the seed into the Barber Tournament of National Middle School State Champions.

Along the way, Stephen scored a clutch third-round victory against the only other player with a perfect score, Owen Scollon, to guarantee himself at least a share of first place. Scollon, who traveled all the way down from Bellingham, would finish in second place with three points.

Timberline Middle School eighth grader Abhinav Mishra rounded out the prize winners by capturing third place honors with 2.5 points, a remarkable recovery after suffering a first-round loss against wild Willy.

2024 WA Barber + Rockefeller Closed: K-5 Rockefeller

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Total	Prize
1	1	Ted Wang	2130	W6	W5	W2	W9	4	\$200
2	2	Vidip Kona	2076	W7	W8	L1	W5	3	\$150
3	3-4	Odbayar Yondon	1812	D4	D9	D7	W10	2.5	\$62.50
4		Aarav Bharathy Mohan	1612	D3	W10	D9	D7	2.5	\$62.50
5	5-9	Michael Lin	1765	W11	L1	W8	L2	2	
6		Max Cao	1742	L1	L7	B---	W11	2	
7		Rafael Palathingal	1736	L2	W6	D3	D4	2	
8		Arnav Gadde	1602	W10	L2	L5	B---	2	
9		Deeksha Shankaranand	1553	B---	D3	D4	L1	2	
10	10-11	Neevan Reddy Saddi	1770	L8	L4	W11	L3	1	
11		Andy Chen	1574	L5	B---	L10	L6	1	

2024 WA Barber + Rockefeller Closed: 6-8 Barber

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Total	Prize
1	1	Stephen Willy	2214	W3	W5	W2	W6	4	\$200
2	2	Owen Scollon	1809	W6	W7	L1	W5	3	\$150
3	3	Abhinav Mishra	1720	L1	W4	D7	B---	2.5	\$125
4	4	Selina Cheng	1603	L5	L3	B---	W7	2	
5	5-7	Darsh Verma	1812	W4	L1	D6	L2	1.5	
6		Bichen Liu	1539	L2	B---	D5	L1	1.5	
7		Benjamin Frederick	1501	B---	L2	D3	L4	1.5	

Selina Cheng (1603) – Benjamin Frederick (1501) [C77]
 2024 WA Barber Closed
 Greenlake, WA (R4), April 6, 2024
[Selina Cheng]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 d6 5.h3 Be7 6.d3 Nf6 7.Nc3?!

7.c3 0-0 8.0-0 Re8 9.Re1 b5 10.Bc2 h6 11.a4 Bd7

7...b5 8.Bb3 h6 9.a3 Be6 10.Nd5 0-0

10...Nxd5 11.exd5 Fork

11.Be3 Na5 12.Ba2?!

12.Nxf6+ Bxf6



Position after 12.Ba2

12...c6??

12...Nxd5 13.exd5 Bf5 14.b4 Nb7 15.c4 Bg6 16.0-0 Bh5 17.g4 Bg6 18.Kh2 Qe8 19.Rg1

13.Bb6 Qd7?!

13...cxd5 14.Bxd8 Bxd8 15.exd5 Bf5 16.0-0 Bb6 17.b4 Nb7 18.c4 bxc4 19.Bxc4 Rfc8 20.Re1

14.Nxe7+ Qxe7 15.Bxe6 fxe6 16.Bxa5 Qf7 17.0-0 Nh5 18.Bd2 Nf4 19.Bxf4 Qxf4 20.Qd2

I want to trade queens since I'm up a knight.

20...Qf6 21.c4 Qg6

...Qg6 has the idea of ...Rxf3, taking the knight back.

22.Qe3

I defend my knight.

22...Rf4 23.cxb5 axb5 24.Nd2 Raf8 25.Rac1 c5 26.b4

I want to open the c-file.

26...cxb4 27.axb4 d5 28.Rc7 d4 29.Qg3

I try to trade queens.

29...Qf6 30.f3 h5?!

I think this move doesn't help him.

31.Ra1 h4 32.Qe1 Rf7 33.Rxf7

Northwest Chess

I simplify.

33...Qxf7 34.Nb3 Qg6 35.Ra8+ Kh7 36.Nc5



Position after 36.Nc5

I want him to take the f-pawn, as I can play Qxh4 and win the rook.

36...Rxf3??

36...Qh6 37.Ra1 Rf7 38.Qc1 Qf6 39.Qd2 Rc7 40.Rf1 Rf7 41.Qa2 Re7 42.Kh1 Qf4 43.Nxe6

37.Qxh4+ Qh6 38.Qxh6+ Kxh6 39.gxf3

And I capture his rook.

39...g5 40.Nxe6 g4 41.hxg4 Kg6 42.Rf8 Kh6 43.Rf6+ Kh7 44.g5 Kh8??

44...Kg8 45.g6 Kh8 46.Rf8#

45.g6 Kg8 46.Rf8#

1-0



(L) Ted Wang and Stephen Willy, winners of the Rockefeller K-5 and Barber 6-8 Closed Championships, respectively. Photo Credit: Ani Barua.

Seattle Chess Club Second Annual Friday Night Championship Invitational

John Selsky and Fred Kleist

For the second year running, the Seattle Chess Club held an invitational tournament among the winners and co-winners of the club's twelve Friday evening monthly tournaments during 2023.

There were ten monthly champs invited and five took up the challenge (participated in **bold**): Chad Boey (defending 2022 Champion, February, August), Christos Boulis (May), Eric Harris (July), Boas Lee (October), **Jason Loving** (September, October, November), **Devin McPoland** (March, June), **Jonathan Nakagawa** (June), Nikhil Shankar (March), **Matthew van Eerde** (April, December) and **Austin Wentz** (January, June).

The pairing was, well, Swiss-ish, and the time control was the normal Friday 40 moves in 90 minutes, followed by 30 in 60 and continuing if needed. Four rounds were conducted between March 29 and May 10, with a tie-breaker round to be scheduled if needed. Cash prizes for the winner and second place finisher were offered by the SCC Board.

After the dust settled following the four rounds, Jason Loving and Matthew van Eerde were tied with 3.0 points. That somewhat surprising result prompted a fifth round, which TD Nicholas Liotta called a "slow Armageddon playoff." A baseline time control was set at G/120; d5.

The TD called for Jason and Matt to submit bids for time to be played in the tie-breaker; the lower bid is assigned to Black with draw odds. (i.e., in case of a draw, Black wins the title), and the higher bid is assigned to White, who has to win to claim the title. Jason strategically bid high (see below) and played White.



*Jason Loving (L) and SCC President John Selsky at the awards ceremony.
Photo credit: Timon Nguyenphuoc.*

In a hard-fought game annotated by him below, he emerged the winner. At a fabulous ceremony the following Friday Jason Loving was proclaimed 2023 Friday Night Champion and was awarded \$100, a plaque and year-long bragging rights.

Matt van Eerde was proclaimed “Vice-Champion” and was awarded \$40 and half-bragging rights for the year.

The Seattle Chess Club hopes to make the annual Friday Night Championship Invitational a club tradition.

**Jason Loving (2067) –
Matthew van Eerde (1798) [B94]**
SCC Friday Night Playoff
Armageddon Game
Seattle, WA, May 10, 2024
[Jason Loving]

Matt had held me to a draw in an earlier game, leading to us tying for first place and playing this Armageddon game for first. [The rules specified a single winner of the Championship. —John Selsky] Initially, I had planned to bid an hour and fifteen minutes to take Black and get draw odds, but after more reflection I realized both Matt and I played the Najdorf Sicilian exclusively as Black (a fighting and double-edged opening).

So instead, I bid one hour and 43 minutes (which was almost certain to give me the white side). By taking White, I would be forcing him to either choose an opening he didn't know as well as the Najdorf, or he would play the double-edged Najdorf (not ideal when all you need is a draw).

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6

The Najdorf Sicilian. Black plays 5...a6 with the plan to play ...e5 in the near future. While the d6-pawn is a backwards pawn, Black's activity compensates.

6.Bg5

The “old” mainline (More common is Be3 nowadays). As I understand it, this isn't played at the highest levels anymore as after 6...e6 7.f4 Qb6!? 8.Qd2 Qxb2 9.Rb1 Qa3, Black has played the “Poison Pawn Variation” which has been analyzed extensively to be a draw with accurate play. However, I haven't yet run into anyone who has found it valuable enough to memorize 30 moves for a forced draw, so I still play it.

6...e5

Against Be3, Be2, and other common tries by White, this is the “automatic” move. As I understand it, it's not preferred against Bc4 or Bg5 because White already has extra control over the d5-square.

7.Bxf6

This was where my preparation ended. The idea is that while I'm giving up the bishop pair, my control over d5 is going to be unparalleled (making the weakness on d6 very aggravating for Black) and Black will almost be required to give up his light-squared bishop for my knight.

7...gxf6

Avoiding moving the queen twice. The move ...gxf6 looks odd, but it often is played in different lines. 7...Qxf6 8.Nd5 Qd8 9.Nf5 Bxf5 10.exf5 is a position I've had before. The computer rates it as roughly equal, though I'd prefer the white side.

8.Nf5 Bxf5

The knight on f5 is too strong to be ignored with its pressure on d6 and caging effect on the f8-bishop.

9.exf5

Black is slightly behind in development and doesn't have control over d5, but given a few turns, can fix these problems; so White needs to play actively.

9...Nd7 10.Bc4 Nb6 11.Bb3 Qd7 12.Qh5 d5 13.0-0-0

The last few moves have been very natural from both sides. Both are looking to develop and castle as quickly as possible, while trying to contest the d5-square.

13...d4

An unfortunate necessity. Black would love to castle queenside, but then d5 falls. While this move keeps the d-pawn, it releases White's bishop.

14.Ne4 Qe7

I thought 14...Bg7 was a try, but Matt pointed out after the game that it loses immediately to 15.Bxf7+!, as if 15...Qxf7 16.Nd6+ wins.

15.Rhe1

A soft move by me that doesn't contest Black's lack of development enough. Instead, 15.Be6! prevents Black from castling, e.g., 15.Be6 Nd7 16.Bxd7+ Kxd7 17.c3 Rc8 18.Kb1 Kc7 19.cxd4 exd4 20.Rxd4. Compared to the game, Black still needs one more turn to get his king to safety and I've claimed the central pawns, instead of the measly f7-pawn.

15...0-0-0!

It's important to understand that Black can't stay in the center any longer due to threats of Rxd4, Be6, c3, or f4. This gives up the f7-pawn, but resolves Black's biggest concern, the lack of development.

16.Bxf7 Bg7



*Jason Loving (L) and Matthew van Eerde as Loving considers his 13th move.
Photo credit: Nicholas Liotta.*

Analyzing afterwards, Matt was self-critical about this move. While it's not an ideal square for the bishop, it does allow Black to complete development; I'm inclined to think it's fine.

17.Kb1

The most pressing continuation is the immediate f4 to challenge Black's center, but without immediate threats from Black, I took the time to better protect my king.

17...Kb8

Clearly Matt had the same idea.

18.f4

If not this, it's hard to find another path forward for White. Black's center is strong and, given a few spare moves, he could begin a queenside attack (his pawns are pointing there) with doubling the rooks on the c-file, ...Nc4, and ...Qb4.

18...Rd7

Freeing up squares for the h8-rook and preparing to put pressure on the c-file.

19.Be6 Rc7 20.Qh4

This move was difficult for me to decide on. There seemed to be many options—20.Rd3 or 20.g4 both seemed like

plausible ideas, but I wanted to remain flexible. My queen is far away from the rest of the army and not contributing. This puts pressure on Black's center and gives the ability to swing to the queenside via g3 quickly, if needed.



Position after 20.Qh4

20...Na4?

Black has a difficult position after a more pedestrian 20...h5, but the text makes the position much harder, as now the Bishop can come to b3 with tempo after 21.fxe5 fxe5 22.Qxe7. After 20...h5 21.fxe5 fxe5 22.Qxe7 Rxe7 23.Rf1 Rh6, White's got the upper hand with the extra passed f-pawn, but Black isn't in immediate danger.

21.fxe5 Qb4

A necessity, as Black loses material with 21...fxe5? 22.Qxe7 Rxe7 23.Bb3 and, after the knight moves, 24.f6.

22.Bb3 fxe5 23.f6

Pushing the passed pawn and burying Black's bishop and rook, which slows down my opponent's potential attack on the queenside.

23...Bf8 24.Qg3

Threatening e5, keeping Black's h8-Rook holed in, and adding another defender to c3 to avoid sacrifices by Black.

24...Qb5

Protecting e5.

25.f7

Threatening Qg8, if Black isn't careful. Matt pointed out after the game that White can immediately cash in with 25.Bxa4 Qxa4 26.Qxe5.

In the game, I didn't like that Black would be able to get in ...Qxc2+, but Black is in a difficult position afterwards.

Matt pointed out that this was still good for White. After 27.Ka1, Black has to play

Seattle Seafair Blitz

Sunday, July 14, 2024

Lakeside Upper School

14050 1st Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98125

Co-hosted by Seattle Chess Club and Washington Chess Federation.



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

Registration: Online at
nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration.
Online registration and payment
**deadline @ 5pm on Saturday,
July 13**, or else register at site.

Schedule: At-site registration:
Sun. 6:30-7:15pm.
Rounds: 7:30, 7:40, 7:50, 8, 8:10,
8:20, 8:30. Awards ~ 8:45 PM.

Format: A 7-Round single Swiss in one section.

Time Control: G/3; +2 sec. increment.

Entry Fee: \$25 if postmarked or online by 7/7,
\$30 by 7/13, \$40 at-site. \$10 discount for SCC
members. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs,
WIMs.

Prize Fund: \$500 (based on 30 paid entries).
1st \$125, 2nd \$80, 3rd \$50. 1st Unrated: \$30.
1st U1900/U1700/U1500/U1300/U1100: \$30

Special Prizes: Best Female Player: \$10,
Best Senior Player (50+): \$10,
Best Dressed: \$10, Biggest Upset Win: \$5/rd.

Eligibility: Open to all junior + adult
players.

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

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

Rating: US Chess Blitz Rated. Highest of
July 2024 US Chess Blitz, US Chess Regular,
or current NWSRS rating will be used to
determine pairings and prizes.

27...Bh6 to prevent Rc1, e.g., 28.Qxd4 Rhc8 29.a3 and White is up two pawns.

25...Bh6??

This forfeits control over d6. Before this, Black's position was tough, but playable. Now, it's no longer playable. 25...Bb4 26.Rf1 Rhc8 was what I had calculated, thinking that 27.Qg8 might be a shot, but after 27...Bf8!, Black is still in the game: White's queen is misplaced and Black has finished development to target White's queenside. Instead, 27.Rf5 is the right idea to keep pressing Black's center.

26.Nd6

This forks Black's Queen and c8. While there's nothing on c8 currently, Black needs to be able to play ...Rcc8 to defend against Qg8. Now that's no longer an option.

26...Qc5 27.Qg8+

And Black is losing at least a rook. If the King moves, the rook on h8 falls. If 27...Rcc8, then 28.Nxc8 Qxc8 29.Rxe5! and Black is down an exchange and will lose significantly more material after Re8 is played.

1-0

Surreal

By Glen O'Harra

*A chessboard was my nook, men robed in red and white,
Which one was a rook, which one was a knight?*

*How should I attack, how do I defend?
Which piece should I sac, who's my foe, my friend?*

*Was I some lowly pawn, who plods along the way?
A sturdy rook and strong, secludes my king away?*

*Where was the cavalry, my rusty, trusty knight?
Who was my enemy, whom was I meant to fight?*

*Where was the queen, that lovely maiden fair?
Oh, she can't be seen, she could be anywhere!*

*Saintly bishops soon I spied, studying some book,
A battle plan they eyed, thought I'd take a look!*

*It was plain they knew the game, asked me to take a chair,
Told them I just had come, they said I'd best beware!*

*And so I played the game, and so I fought the war!
I thought this insane, not going anywhere!*

*I did not understand, much less realize,
There was a subtle plan, much to my surprise!*

*Often men are removed, from game and set aside,
One may feel subdued, while pieces on board slide!*



Vancouver Open

July 20 - 21, 2024

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

Registration: Online at nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration.

Site: Hampton Inn & Suites, 315 SE Olympia Drive, Vancouver, WA 98684. (360) 891-3000.

HR: \$169 Standard King/Double Queen Room. Cut-off date July 6, 2024. Book online [here](#).

Format: A 5-round, US Chess Rated Swiss in two sections: Lewis Open and Clark U1700. Maximum of 70 players, please register early.

Time Control: Rd. 1: G/60; +10,
Rds. 2-5: 40/120, SD/30; +10.

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

Lewis Open: 1st - 3rd: \$400, 300, 200.
1st U2000/U1800: \$120

Clark U1700: 1st - 3rd: \$300, 200, 150.
1st U1600/U1400/U1200: \$120, 1st Unrated: \$90.

Special Prizes (per section): Biggest Upset win: \$25,
Best Female Player (by TPR): \$25, Best Dressed:
\$15/day (may not win repeatedly).

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

Entry Fee: \$75 if postmarked or online by 7/13, \$85 after or at site. \$35 play-up fee if rated U1700 and playing in Open. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, WIMs.

At-site registration: Saturday 9 - 9:30 AM.

Rounds: Saturday 10 AM, 12:30 PM, 6 PM
Sunday 10 AM, 3:30 PM.

Rating: US Chess Rated. US Chess July 2024 rating supplement will be used to determine pairings and prizes. Foreign ratings used for players with no US Chess rating. Higher of US Chess or foreign ratings used at TD discretion.

Memberships: US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA membership are required, other states accepted.

Western States Regional Chess Championship For Women And Girls

Chouchan Airapetian

The Western States Regional Chess Championship for Women and Girls was a very successful event, hosted for the first time in the Pacific Northwest. It had 40 females participating from which 13 were women and 27 were young females.

Originally planned for 2020, the event was pushed out to 2024 in Seattle due to the pandemic. A \$2,500 grant to jumpstart the event was donated by the US Women's Chess Committee. Through feedback gathered from surveys and at the request of several parents who are active in the Washington Chess Federation, this event was organized for April 13-14, which coincided with spring break for many families participating.

One of the primary goals of the tournament was to serve as a stepping-stone for many girls who have played in the Medina Chess Club girls-only Queen's Quest tournament, which promotes chess for many young females on an annual basis and attracts upward of 150 players each year, to a more extensive two-day event with longer time controls. At the Queen's Quest, many interesting, exciting, and novel chess activities take place.

Additionally, the Queen's Quest organizers awarded generous trophies and medals to the top finishers, making it the largest annual all-girls event hosted west of the Mississippi year after year. One major goal WCF had in organizing this event was to incorporate more professional females into the field where they can network with each other, and the more experienced participants could mentor and guide the younger ones.

In addition to the US Women's Chess Committee's donation, Jennifer Shahade offered several autographed copies of her recently published book, *Play Like a Champion*, a bargain prize, much to the delight of the ladies taking part.

The Washington Chess Federation invited Megan Lee, Washington State's highest-ranked active female player and perennial participant in the US Women's Championship, to lead a chess lecture, play a simul, and run a workshop for girls and women on Saturday afternoon. Central to the themes of this tournament was strong female leadership on multiple levels, which Chouchan taking on the Chief Organizer role, Rekha as the Chief TD, and Megan as the official honored guest.

The team did an amazing job and awarded the players with special prizes, including "spreading kindness," "best dressed" per day, and "best upset win" for each round. Valentin Razmov, WCF Tournament Coordinator and Chouchan Airapetian, WCF Director of Women and Girls, compiled the puzzles for the Puzzle Solving Competition.

The main tournament was divided into three sections: Open, Premier U1400 and Rising U800.

The final standings are published on the page opposite.

WCF would like to thank Lakeside School for hosting the event, the US Women's Committee, Jennifer Shahade, WCF President Josh Sinanan, Chief TD Rekha Sagar, photographer extraordinaire Meiling Cheng, WCF Tournament Coordinator Valentin Razmov, and WCF Director of Chess for Women and Girls Chouchan Airapetian for organizing this wonderful event.

We hope to make this event an annual tradition in the years to come as we seek to inspire and empower more girls and women through the game of chess!



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Contact: Sridhar Seshadri, Ph 425-492-4176
Email: SSeshadri@srichessacademy.com

Championship

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total pts	Prizes
1	1	WFM Chouchanik Airapetian	1959	W8	W2	W5	D4	W7	4.5	1st
2	2	Nola Fung	1725	W11	L1	W12	W3	W4	4	2nd
3	3-5	WFM Manunthon Atikankhotchasee	1866	W9	L5	W11	L2	W8	3	Tied 3rd / 1st U1900 / 1st U1700
4		WCM Mary Kuhner	1752	D10	W13	W7	D1	L2	3	
5		Te Wei	1691	W6*	W3	L1	D8	D9	3	
6	6-9	Nurguaana Dorofeeva	1867	L5	D12	W10	L7	W13	2.5	
7		Shuyi Han	1698	D12	W10	L4	W6*	L1	2.5	
8		Saiya Karamali	1692	L1	W9	W13	D5	L3	2.5	
9		Selina Cheng	1594	L3	L8	B---	W12	D5*	2.5	
10	10-12	Deeksha Shankaranand	1570	D4	L7	L6	B---	D11	2	
11		Aarya Patel	1512	L2	B---	L3	D13	D10	2	
12		Kate Wong	1502	D7	D6*	L2	L9	B---	2	
13	13	Aashi Mathur	1325	B---	L4	L8	D11	L6	1.5	1st U1500

Premier U1400

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total pts	Prizes
1	1	Yana Savchenko	unr.	B---	W4*	D3	W2	W3	4.5	1st
2	2-3	Angela Agaian	1220	H---	H---	W4	L1	B---	3	Tied 2nd / 3rd
3		Jeraldin Sundar	1140	D4	B---	D1	W4	L1	3	
4	4	Chloe Miller	880	D3*	L1	L2	L3	H---	1	1st U1300

Rising U800

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total pts	Prizes
1	1	Amanda Panell	691	W23	W3	W6	W10	W4	5	1st
2	2-3	Anjalika Mukherjee	668	L3	W23	W9	W15	W10	4	Tied 2nd / 3rd
3		Lijuan Wang	unr.	W2*	L1	W14	W13	W8	4	
4	4-6	Arwen Zhang	697	W19	W11	D8	W5	L1	3.5	Tied 1st U700
5		Siana Razmov	686	W17	W20	D10	L4	W12	3.5	
6		Aria Ajay	667	W12	W7	L1	D8	W13	3.5	
7	7-9	Kaiyi Han	733	W22	L6	L15	W11	W16	3	
8		Claire Wong	673	W21	W13*	D4	D6	L3	3	
9		Crystal Li	unr.	L11	W19	L2	W18	W15	3	1st Unrated
10	10-12	Amy Zhang	740	W16	W14	D5	L1	L2	2.5	
11		Felicity Mei	630	W9	L4	D12	L7	W17	2.5	
12		Lashawna Covey	unr.	L6	W22	D11	W14	L5	2.5	
13	13-18	Emma Ge	750	W15	L8	W16	L3	L6	2	
14		Ameya George	680	W18	L10	L3	L12	W19	2	
15		Nicole Ni	487	L13	W17	W7*	L2	L9	2	Tied 1st U500 / 1st U300
16		Prakrithi Balasubramanian	487	L10	W18	L13	W19	L7	2	
17		Alicia Stuart	202	L5	L15	X23	W22*	L11	2	
18		Amalia Cauich-Miller	107	L14	L16	B---	L9	W22*	2	
19	19-21	Tejal Guruswamy	369	L4	L9	W22	L16	L14	1	
20		Ava Stojisavljevic	100	B---	L5	U---	U---	U---	1	
21		Amy Stojisavljevic	unr.	L8	B---	U---	U---	U---	1	
22	22-23	Pratvi Mahadikar	477	L7	L12	L19	L17	L18	0	
23		Supriti Prasanna	334	L1	L2	F17	U---	U---	0	



*(L) Chouchanik Airapetian vs Mary Kuhner at the start of their fourth round game.
Photo Credit: Meiling Cheng.*

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Young puzzle solvers Nicole Ni (L) and Claire Wong during the puzzle solving competition. Photo Credit: Meiling Cheng.



Valentin Razmov responds to a question from Aria Ajay during the puzzle solving competition. Photo Credit: Meiling Cheng.



(L) Eric Edmond and Megan Lee begin their simul game. The unrated Edmond triumphed in the end. Photo Credit: Meiling Cheng.

Puzzle Solving Competition

Day/time: Saturday April 13: 4:00-4:45PM

Location: WCC

Leader: WFM Chouchan Airapetian, Rekha Sagar, Valentin Razmov

Solve 20 chess puzzles in 45 minutes. Write solutions on paper. Evaluation based on both accuracy and completeness.

Description: One solution per puzzle only; entire move sequence for both sides required for full credit!

One section. Medals awarded to top-scoring contestants. Ties broken by time used to complete puzzles.

Entry Fee: \$10. No memberships required.

Results:

Place	Last Name	First Name	Rating	Score (out of 20)	Time (mins)	Prize
1	Karamali	Saiya	1692	19.75	36 mins	1st
2	Fung	Nola	1725	19.25	41 mins	2nd
3	Wong	Kate	1502	18.75	45+ min	3rd
4-5	Cheng	Selina	1594	17.25	45+ min	
4-5	Kuhner	Mary	1752	17.25	45+ min	
6	Agaian	Angela	1220	11.75	40 min	
7	Ajay	Aria	667	10.5	45+ min	1st U1000
8	Mohandram	Priya	unr.	10.25	45+ min	1st Unrated
9-10	Covey	Lashawna	unr.	8.75	45+ min	2nd Unrated
9-10	Balasubramanian	Prakrithi	487	8.75	45+ min	2nd U1000
11	Razmov	Siana	686	7.5	45+ min	3rd U1000
12	Ni	Nicole	487	7	45+ min	
13	Wong	Claire	673	6.75	45+ min	
14	Panell	Amanda	691	5	45+ min	

FM Megan Lee Simul

Day/time: Saturday, April 13: 6:00-9:00PM

Location: WCC

Leaders: FM Megan Lee

Special guest FM Megan Lee will play up to 25 opponents simultaneously.

Description: FM Lee plays white on all boards.

Open to players of all ages and genders, rated <2000.

Medal awarded to any player who scores a win or a draw against FM Megan

Prizes: Lee! Games still unfinished at 9pm will be adjudicated.

Entry Fee: \$25

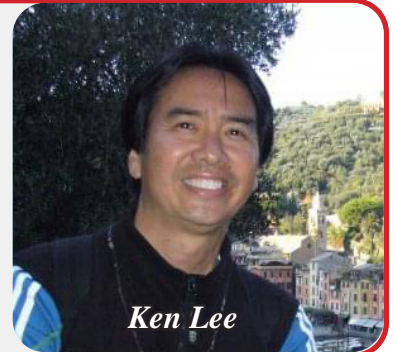
Results: **Final Score: FM Megan Lee 8 - Simul Players 3**

Duration: ~ 2 hrs, 15 min

	Name	Rating	Result
1	Jamie Zhu	1931	0-1
2	Gabriel Razmov	1815	0-1
3	Saiya Karamali	1692	1-0
4	Ralph Anthony	1623	1-0
5	Selina Cheng	1594	1-0
6	Coleman Hoyt	1304	1-0
7	Henry Louie	1300	1-0
8	Amanda Panell	691	1-0
9	Siana Razmov	686	1-0
10	Nicole Ni	487	1-0
11	Eric Edmond	unrated	0-1

Building Community Through Chess

Ken Lee



Ken Lee

Gelareh Golanbar has been part of the chess community since 2019 when her eldest daughter, Adrina (10), first picked up a chess piece at Medina Elementary in kindergarten. Eventually, Gelareh served as a co-chair of the PTA run Medina Chess Club, which is the biggest and one of the most respected elementary school chess clubs in Washington state. Her youngest daughter, Liana (7), also plays competitive chess.

I sat down with Gelareh to chat about being a chess parent and what the game of kings has meant to her and her family.

Ken: Thank you for agreeing to be interviewed by *Northwest Chess*.

Gelareh: Thank you. When I read your article about AG Bob Ferguson, I knew that I would enjoy connecting with *Northwest Chess* magazine. I enjoy the way you present information about chess in such a personal and joyful way.

Reading your articles makes me feel like I'm part of a larger community. One of the reasons I agreed to do this interview is because I hope this article inspires other chess parents to get out of their comfort zone and volunteer.

I think there's a common misconception that you have to be a really

strong chess player in order to help out in the chess community. That's simply not true. Really, the most important thing is enthusiasm.

Ken: How did you first become involved in the chess community?

Gelareh: Around 2019, my daughter's kindergarten teacher at Medina Elementary introduced us to our school chess club. Her first coach was Coach Wendy Ruppel. It was prior to COVID and I really was amazed at how she took to it so quickly.

Soon after, I started volunteering at Medina Elementary, and I was drawn more and more to the chess club. Even though I didn't play much at the time, I really enjoyed watching my daughter play and learn so many life skills at the same time.

Ken: How did your volunteer work develop from there?

Gelareh: At first, I was involved in tournament planning for Medina All City and Queen's Quest—which has a goal of promoting chess to girls.

When Liana got started in chess a few years later, I really became involved as a co-chair of the Medina Elementary Chess Club.

Coming back from COVID was challenging, but

we were one of the first school chess clubs to manage to go back to in person competition.

Ken: What specific benefits are you seeing with your girls as it relates to chess?

Gelareh: I see great gains in self-confidence. I see that they understand the value of planning and hard work. As an extra bonus, we are developing new friends and connections through the chess community.

That's how we met Coach Sloan Setiadikurnia. He is our girls' primary chess coach and mentor.

Ken: What additional benefits do you see for yourself and your family?

Gelareh: As a family, chess provides us with a unique opportunity to blend our interests.

For example, we recently attended our first national tournament in Columbus, Ohio. It was amazing to be part of the Washington team. We, of course, connected with old friends like Siva Sankrithi and Coach Josh Sinanan.

They were so kind and helpful to us at our first national tournament. They helped prepare our girls to play very long tournament games.

Additionally, we made many new friends as well. I just love the chess community and how we support each other. It's like being a part of an extended family.

Ken: What are some new projects you are working on?

"I hope this article inspires other chess parents to get out of their comfort zone and volunteer"



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Contact Lin S. Shih
(206) 954-0963
lin@linshih.com

Coldwell Banker Bain

Gelareh: I've decided to up my game and go beyond being a volunteer. After developing such a great relationship with Coach Sloan over the past year, an opportunity came up to create a new chess center.

In March 2024, we had a soft launch of Grand Knights Chess based in Bellevue. <https://grandknightschess.com/>

I was brainstorming with Coach Sloan about the vision for this new school. We wanted to welcome both beginners and more serious tournament level chess players.

For our tournament level chess players, for example, we have a prerequisite that the students understand that they will be playing longer tournament style games over the course of the week.

We are very excited about Grand Knights Chess and, of course, my girls are involved in the program.

Ken: What's your vision for the future of chess for you?

Gelareh: For my girls, they want to continue to play, study and work hard to get better. They haven't expressed a goal to become Grand Masters. Even if they don't pursue chess in the future, I know that all this work will be helpful for them in the long run. For me, I do feel a lot of passion about creating community in the chess world.

I really love the idea of involving the whole family. I can sense that a lot of parents want to get involved. They just need the right kind of inspiration to make it happen.

Ken: Do you ever dream about having a big GM tournament in Seattle or even establishing a chess center here, like the one in St. Louis?

Gelareh: Well, I'm just getting started. But, why not!? Seattle has an established chess community. With support and vision, we could make it happen!

For those who want to support the chess community in new and meaningful ways, we recommend that you connect with Gelareh at gelarehgolanbar@gmail.com or Ken at kentonleeseattle@gmail.com.



*Gelareh, with Liana and Adrina.
Photo courtesy of Gelareh Golanbar.*

TOURNAMENTS



Venue

7212 Woodlawn Ave NE
Seattle, WA 98115

Info & events calendar
www.seattlechess.club

Addresses for entries
SCC Tournament Director
same address as above

– or –

contact@seattlechess.club

Notice: New entry fees

We're forced to raise our entry fees for the first time in over 7 years, starting in July. The new fees are shown in red in the listings above. Prize funds and prizes will also increase accordingly.

July 6

Format: 3-RR. 4-player sections by close rating. **TC:** Game/100 + 15sec. inc. **New EF:** \$15 (+\$10 day membership for non-SCC). **Prizes:** free entry to next Quads played within 3 months. **Registration:** 9:15-9:45am. **Rounds:** 10am, 2:15 & 6:30pm. **Byes:** 0. US Chess membership req'd.

Saturday Quads

July 13-14

Format: 5-SS at Lakeside Upper School, Seattle, in partnership with WCF. See ad elsewhere in this issue & on our website. Sign up through NW Chess Online Registration System.

Seattle Seafair Open

July 21

Format: 4-SS. **TC:** Game/50 + 10sec. inc. **New EF:** \$25 (+\$10 day membership for non-SCC). **New Prize fund:** sum of \$12/entry. **Prizes:** 1st (35% of prize fund), 2nd (27%), bottom half (by rating) 1st (22%), 2nd (16%). **Registration:** 10:45-11:15am. **Rounds:** 11:30am, 1:50, 4:10, 6:30pm. **Byes:** 1 half-pt., commit at registration. US Chess membership req'd.

Sunday Tornado

July 27

GM Emil Anka (USCF 2497) will offer a 30-minute talk followed by a non-clock simul. 18 opponents max. Event starts at 1:30pm. **Fees:** SCC members \$25, others \$35. This is a fundraiser for SCC!

Simul with GM Emil Anka

July 5, 12, 19, 26

See below.

Hot as Hades



SCC Friday Nights

One US Chess-rated round per night, 4 rounds per month, at 7:30pm (new start time). **New TC:** 40 moves in 90 mins. w/10 sec. inc., followed by sudden death 60 mins. w/10 sec. inc. Free for SCC members, \$5/night others. Drop in for any round!

<i>Hot as Hades</i>	7/5, 12, 19, 26
<i>Dog Days</i>	8/2, 9, 16, 23
<i>Fifth Friday G15 (multiple rounds)</i>	8/30
<i>Pumpkin Spice (close ratings)</i>	9/6, 13, 20, 27

41st Annual Reno Western States Open

An American Classic and Heritage Event

Oct 4-6 or Oct 5-6, 2024, 3 Day or 2 Day Schedule

US Chess
150 GPP (Enhanced)

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

\$17,000!! (Guaranteed)

F.I.D.E. Rated
OPEN Section

NEW LOCATION: CIRCUS CIRCUS RENO, 500 N. Sierra Street, Reno, NV 89503 (Downtown Reno)

6 Rd Swiss ♦ 6 Sections ♦ 40/2, Game/1 - d5 ♦ (Open Section) 40/2, Game/55 - d5 ♦ 2 Day (Rds 1-3) G/1 - d5

Open Section (2200 & above) EF: \$194, (2000-2199) \$250, (1999/below) \$300; GMs and IMs free but must enter by 9/6 or pay late fee at door. Guaranteed Prizes; (1-7 in Open Section plus 1/2 of all other prizes).

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

Section Expert	(2000-2199)	EF: \$194 (2-day EF: \$190)	\$2,000-1,000-500-300-300
Section "A"	(1800-1999)	EF: \$193 (2-day EF: \$190)	\$1,800-900-500-300-300
Section "B"	(1600-1799)	EF: \$192 (2-day EF: \$190)	\$1,700-800-400-300-300
Section "C"	(1400-1599)	EF: \$191 (2-day EF: \$190)	\$1,500-700-400-300-300
Section "D/Under"	(1399-below)	EF: \$180 (2-day EF: \$190)	\$1,000-500-300-200, (1199/below) \$300

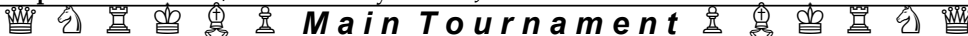
Top Senior (65+) - \$200; Club Championship - \$600 - 300.

Wed. 10/2: 7:00 pm - GM Sergey Kudrin Clock Simul w/ complete analysis of YOUR Game (Only \$30!-bring clock)

Thursday 10/3: 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 10/5: 3 - 4:30 pm - FREE Game/Position Analysis - IM John Donaldson


Main Tournament

Registration: Thursday (10/3) 5 - 8 pm. - Friday (10/4) 9 - 10 am. - Saturday (10/5) 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, (H) 775-747-1405 OR (Cell) 775-354-8728 • 6578 Valley Wood Dr., Reno, NV 89523 • wackykl@aol.com

Room Reservation: Call Circus Circus Reno, 1-800-648-5010, Group Reservation Code: SRRWS24

Hotel Rates: Sunday-Thursday \$81.32, Friday \$139.21, Saturday \$177.80, all taxes and fees included.

Reserve by 9/17 • Best way to reserve is Hotel Link: <https://book.passkey.com/go/SRRWS24>

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

ENTRY FORM - 41st Annual Western States Open - Reno, Nevada - Oct 4-6 OR Oct 5-6, 2024

Mail to: WEIKEL CHESS, LLC, 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.

ENTRY FEE ENCLOSED: (CIRCLE SECTION AND FEE BELOW) BYE(S) REQUESTED FOR ROUND(S): (circle)

1	2	3	4	5	6
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----- OPEN SECTION ----- EXPERT "A" "B" "C" "D/Under" UNRATED

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

3-Day EF	Free •	\$194 •	\$250 •	\$300	\$194	\$193	\$192	\$191	\$180	USCF Dues	
					2-Day EF	\$190	\$190	\$190	\$190	\$190	USCF Dues

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 September 6, 2024. Add \$11 after 9/6. Add \$22 on site.

Do not mail after 9/27 or email after 10/1. Make check / m.o. payable to WEIKEL CHESS, LLC or provide credit card info and signature. \$7 service charge on credit card entries. Visa Master Card Am.Ex
 Name on Credit Card _____
 Expiration Date _____ ZIP Code _____
 Credit Card# _____ CVV Code _____
 Signature _____

- Check Enclosed
- Charge My Card

TOTAL FEES: \$ _____



Selina Cheng
1594 | Seattle

FM Megan Lee Simul
Seattle, WA
April 13, 2024

