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## Advertising & Copy Deadline

Ads and submissions must be received by the fifth of the month for the items to appear in the next issue:

**August 5 for the September issue;**  
**September 5 for October.**

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

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## Front Cover

Aziz Degenbaev, winner of the 2024 Washington Open.  
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

## Back Cover

Seattle-based expert Oscar Sprumont  
plans his next move at the 2024 Washington Open.  
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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## Letter to the Editor



Hi Jeffrey,

I have attached a photo from the [World Open 2024](#), which took place in Philadelphia from 7/3 to 7/7, for your consideration for publication in *Northwest Chess* magazine.

The photo features Te Wei (left) and Rafael Palathingal (right), both Washington chess players. Rafael is my son, and I have Te's permission to send the picture. I have also included Te in this email. Te and Rafael won a prize as [mixed doubles partners](#).

Te competed in the U1800 section and scored 7.0/9, while Rafael participated in the U2000 section and scored 5.0/9.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Xavier

Te Wei (L) and Rafael Palathingal. Photo credit: Xavier Palathingal.

# 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:  
1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>: \$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/](https://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](mailto:WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com),  
206-769-3757

# SEATTLE CHESS CLASSIC



SAT-SUN, AUGUST 17-18, 2024

LAKESIDE UPPER SCHOOL

14050 1<sup>ST</sup> 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:**

1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup>: \$530 - \$440 - \$320

1<sup>st</sup> U2100/U1900/U1700: \$200

**Seirawan U1600:**

1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup>: \$360 - \$320 - \$260

1<sup>st</sup> U1500/U1300/U1100: \$200

1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://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](mailto:washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com)

# A Conversation with Viktors Pupols

Ani Barua



*Yasser Seirawan (seated) and Viktors Pupols  
at the 2012 U.S. Open, in a photo reenactment of  
the memorable January 1975 cover of Northwest Chess.  
Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.*

AB: *Do you mind going over the history of how you started playing chess and how it all happened?*

VP: I was seven years old, and I was rummaging through cabinets in the house. I came across this set and asked my father what it was. He told me it was a chess set, showed me how the pieces moved, and left it at that. So, after that, it was simply just a solitary pursuit.

AB: *Can you explain what it was like growing up in Latvia during the Soviet Union era?*

VP: Well, when I was in first grade, it was the Soviet Union that had occupied the country, and on the first of May, we were all given little flags to wave and go out there. If you lost the flag, being a first grader, the teachers would supply you with another flag. But on June 14, 1941, the city of Riga, which is about the size of Seattle, saw about 30,000 people deported because both Communist Russia and Nazi Germany had their lists of people they considered undesirables. With the Nazis, it was easier to tell who was on the list; with the Communists, it could be anybody, even denunciations by your neighbors. Although they had agreed to split Europe, about a year later, Hitler decided he hadn't had enough, so he invaded the country, and for the next three or four years, it was under German occupation.

AB: *How did you end up in the U.S.? What was the journey like, if you don't mind sharing?*

VP: By the end of the war, troop ships were coming in with soldiers and ammunition, and they were going back empty. So, everybody who did not want to experience Communist Russia again went west. On the last day of the war, I was actually at a point between the armies. I wasn't certain whether I would reach the Allied armies before the Russians; it was about a half-hour difference, and we were on foot. It was May 8.

I was ten years old, wearing a winter coat and carrying everything I could because that's what you had to do—carry whatever you had with you. Over the next five years, people like myself were in a refugee camp in Germany, in Allied zones. They were not called refugees because where would you be refugees

from? Our allies, the Soviet Union? So, they were called displaced persons.

AB: *And when you came to the U.S. as a refugee, how did you survive?*

VP: See, when you come from a background like that, you don't have any relatives, friends, or network to rely on. So, you start gradually working your way up, you know, like two or three jobs. In your free time, you can still play chess if you have a mind to. And, of course, in those days, any chess activity would be on the east coast in New York or possibly in Los Angeles, and there was no air traffic. So, if you wanted to go to a place like that, it would take like two days by train or bus. Obviously, you didn't have the same kind of advantages that people have now. It used to be that you could have just coaches and training in golf or tennis; now it's possible in chess also. So, when Bobby Fischer played in the 1955 U.S. Junior Championship in Lincoln, Nebraska, he would have got there by train or bus over two days.

AB: *I want to go back to talking about Bobby Fischer; but I'd like to follow a chronological order. So, how did you end up choosing Seattle?*

VP: Well, after Nebraska, we found that the winters were okay, but the summers were humid and hot. So, we exchanged letters with other people, and they said the climate out on the west coast is much more agreeable. So, we got the car and went to Washington state. Been in Washington State since 1953.

AB: *And at that time what was the chess scene like in Washington state in 1953?*

VP: There were some tournaments; there was even the state championship also because I first played in the state championship in 1953. They were in the basement of a hotel downtown on Seventh and Madison. The freeway goes through there now, so there's nothing there. It was, let's say, a third-rate or fourth-rate hotel.

AB: *Did the Washington Chess Federation existed in 1953?*

VP: Yes, it did. But like I said, tournaments were more local because New York or Los Angeles were unreachable, even if you had the time and inclination. .

AB: *Tell me some stories of the 1955 U.S. Junior championship tournament?*

VP: Bobby was 12 at the time. By the time he was 15, he was not only the US champion but also competing for World Championships and so on. However, in that particular tournament, he drew most of his games. He was by himself and stayed with the tournament organizer's family. His mother told him on the telephone to keep going to San Diego to another tournament, but he was reluctant; he really didn't want to. That's another two or three days on the bus.

AB: *Did you had any interaction with Bobby Fischer beside the game?*

VP: Only in the sense that, you know, after hours we would be at the tournament organizer's home, and well, there wouldn't be any video games in those days. We probably played poker or something like that, and Bobby was sitting on the floor analyzing on his little chess set because he was younger than the rest of the people. Matter of fact, you know, there are stories like when he was between 12 and 15 and going to these tournaments, he didn't fit in well with people that were a few years older, so, you know, there were fights and crying.

AB: *What was Fischer's reaction after he lost the game? Did he cry? Did you analyze the game with him?*

VP: No, he didn't cry, but he looked like he might be close to that. He was down. And of course, I get the opportunity to rub it in, you know, and said, 'Your pawn, the black pawn, was on h3, and when you captured it, I could put my queen on the h-file, exchange queens, and win material. But if you had played king g1, drawn the pawn to h2, and then went to h1, that would not have happened.' Well, this is not a good analysis. It's an attempt to rub it in again! He did sign his score sheet. So yes, he's not illiterate, but it was in block letters!

AB: *When did you first go to The Last Exit on Brooklyn?*

VP: It would probably be around 1965 or 1970; that's roughly when the University District had... when the university didn't own all the property around there. So, you could have small businesses and small landholdings, and private houses, and so

on. By that time, I already had a job in Kitsap County, which is where I live now. So, you know, I would drive in and out just to go to The Last Exit to play chess. It was not a chess club, but it was kind of a hangout where all kinds of people went. You know, some that were activists, some that were stoners, and some that were professors.

AB: *I know Yasser Seirawan used to play a lot in The Last Exit, can you share some stories about him at the Exit?*

VP: Well, mainly we had an in-crowd; we knew each other, you know. Then all of a sudden, Yasser shows up, and he rides a bicycle in from Garfield High School, and he wants to play. Again, just like when there's an age difference, you kind of tease the person: 'Did you hear something? Was it under a table?' You know, 'Is there somebody under a table making comments about the game?' (laughs). But he was not offended. He was a nice kid, and so he simply, you know, learned what he could on the spot.

AB: *So you were kind of like his coach, in a sense, right?*

VP: We played probably more games than he has played with anybody else, and I probably have more wins against Yasser than anybody else has against him. But this was simply when he was moving up.

AB: *So, were these like blitz games?*

VP: Well, yes, there were clock games going on. There were some tournament games. As a matter of fact, there was one tournament in a state championship where everybody was like, 'Ah... Yasser, young prodigy!' you know, and paying a lot of attention to him. So, when it was my turn to play Yasser, I pretended to be half asleep and decrepit and kind of out of it, just to give him a contrast.

AB: *I heard a story where you hid the State Championship trophy after some disagreement. Do you mind sharing that story?*

VP: Well, they (WCF) had an activity requirement, and you had to play three tournaments in Washington state. I had played two tournaments and played to represent the state of Washington up in BC, a state versus province match, and they didn't count that. They said that I

was disqualified because I had not met the activity requirement. I said, 'Okay, well, this probably would be '89,' which is, I think, the last time I won the state championship. So I said, 'If that's the case, you're not going to get your trophy back.' Eventually, cooler heads intervened about a year later or thereabouts, and so on. But in the meantime, yes, I had put the trophy in a plastic bag, and it was on an island in the Anacortes city forest lands in a lake.

AB: *I heard some interesting stories of you and Jim McCormick from back in the days. Do you mind sharing some stories about your relationship with him?*

VP: Well, he had a way of commenting on games because he would play the Sicilian Defense, and I would play long endgames, you know. So, he'd come back or come around from time to time and make a comment like, "So this is what he has come to after 40 moves of playing," and things like that, you know. So, I complained to the tournament director. No action was taken because I felt there was prejudice. On a couple of occasions, I would simply wait when there was no action by the tournament director. The next time this happened on Sunday at that round, I would hit him! But I would hit him at a particular moment when Bob Lundin, who is about as big as you or bigger, was close by and could separate us immediately so he couldn't hit back. There were several occasions like that because, after all, I feel that if you've exhausted the legal defenses, what else is left?

AB: *So this physical altercation happened during ongoing games?*

VP: Yes, during a tournament and while games were going on. There was one time the tournament was at the YMCA and was on the sixth floor, so between moves, I went down in an elevator and got a cup of coffee. Then I found out the elevator was not working, so I had to walk up six flights to get to the tournament room. Then I found out McCormick was holding the elevator door open. Well, there were incidents like that, you know. In the interest of fair play, what I like to do is exhaust the legal defenses, you know, and complain about it and see if there's any action. Just like, you know, if something happened to you, you'd probably call the police. If the police don't act, you call the mayor. If the mayor doesn't act, you go to

the hospital, and you have to wait for nine hours or something like that. Well, in that case, it's basically up to you.

AB: *Did you play any famous players over the years you can share?*

VP: Over the years, I have played in 24 states and in four foreign countries. So, I've been to a lot of places to play chess. Matter of fact, the most interesting one might be... usually, I would leave work on Friday early afternoon and get back Monday early afternoon, and in the meantime, I could be anywhere. One time, I looked at the tournament calendar and had a choice of Berkeley or Muskogee, Oklahoma. Well, Berkeley is full of all kinds of zombies walking the streets and talking to themselves, but Muskogee, Oklahoma, well, that sounds good because there was a hit song at that time: "I'm proud to be an Okie from Muskogee, a place where even squares can have a ball, they still drink white lightning by the courthouse," and so on, you know. So, it was kind of like a counterculture against hippies. So yeah, Muskogee, yes, and yes, I went there, played in the tournament, and got back on Monday to go to work.

AB: *But did you play anyone famous like Mikhail Tal?*

VP: No, but I did play Viktor Korchnoi and, well, all the US Masters. There were three "B's" — Arthur Bisguier, Pal Benko, and Robert Byrne. I've beaten two of them, but not Robert Byrne. There were other grandmasters that I have played over the years, like Walter Browne. I didn't win all my games, but I have a win and several draws against Browne. I played Korchnoi just a few years ago in Las Vegas. I had gone canyoneering, hiking in the Grand Canyon, and took a first-round bye. I expected to be around board 40, but to my surprise, when I dragged myself in, I was on board one against Korchnoi. He had drawn in round one, and his contract said that no matter how he was doing, he was playing on board one. So, that's when I had to play Korchnoi. I didn't last very long.

AB: *You once mentioned your wife met Garry Kasparov. Do you mind sharing that story?*

VP: Well, she manages to make friends with everybody and talks to everybody, you know, and I guess that draws them



out because Kasparov does not have a good reputation in conversation. Yet, you know, while I was playing chess, she had engaged him in a conversation because she asked him if his application for Latvian citizenship had come through. He had left Russia and was looking to acquire a residence permit someplace else, in some other country. He said no, they had been dragging their feet, so he got Croatian residency and maybe citizenship. They went on from that, they had a long talk.

AB: *Many people ask, "How do you keep going? How is that possible? Is it some kind of genetic thing? What do you say to that? Your chess games are always long, lasting five or six hours. How do you manage it?"*

VP: Well, basically, we are in this world for the long run. I prefer one job, one marriage partner, and so on, living in the same place. That's about the way I play chess. Now, I'm a little more scatterbrained than that, but generally speaking, yes, I would play very solid and lengthy games.

AB: *Speaking of your marriage partner, do you mind sharing how you met your wife?*

VP: Well, she worked at The Last Exit, and from time to time, when I was there, I knew her enough to say hello. Then one day in Kitsap County, she walked into my business looking for a job. She wasn't living with much money, and I took one look at her and said, "Oh! I know who you are, you're hired!" You could do that back then. This was in 1974. Shortly thereafter, I found out that if I was getting any kind of feedback from the boss or some kind of undermining, she was protecting me.

As I said, she's a religious person and has her own way of doing things. Particularly, there was one time when I was in the store with a security guy to put in cameras, and she showed up for work early and found the door locked. She knew I was in there, and the security guy said, "Go get rid of her, tell her to come back later." So I did that, and within the next five minutes, the telephone rang, and she said, "I know you're in the store and not by yourself. There's somebody else in the store with you. Tell me what's going on, or I'm going to call the police." The security guy said to let her in because she was doing the right

thing. There were other incidents similar to that.

So basically, over time, although we were married to other people at the time, I knew who I could count on and rely on. When you're 18 or so, you don't have a record of what people are like, but later on in life, you do, and you know who you can count on. So eventually, I would have walked on hot coals for her.

AB: *Coming back to chess, a lot of young people nowadays depend on computer analysis. You're from a different generation when there was no Stockfish, no Komodo, or anything like that. What do you have to say to the younger generation that always depends on chess engines?*

VP: It's fine. You know that way they can get stronger faster, and they can probably pick up in six weeks what might have taken me six years to do, because I'm entirely self-taught.

AB: *So, you support that way of learning?*

VP: Just the way it is. Doesn't matter, that is the way it is. And so, you have to deal with things the way they are. Yes, the net result is that you can see that people don't leave pieces hanging, and they have some positional understanding. They are stronger than the average field would have been years ago. This is good because when I was in school, a teacher said that if you can get knights, bishops, and rooks to act in harmony, it is a transferable skill. It's like apples and oranges; if you can do that, you can use similar skills or a similar way of thinking in other fields of life.

AB: *Growing up did you have any favorite chess book that inspired you?*

VP: Not really. Basically, I'm self-taught, and I like to experiment, like I wonder where this goes. Say you're driving on a forest service road, and there's a fork in the road; you wonder where it goes. Sometimes, to your detriment, sometimes things don't work out that well, but you're satisfying your curiosity. That's what it's all about—curiosity. Computers and artificial intelligence can tell you what's already there, but they don't give you room for creativity.

AB: *Do you have any message for the younger generation who want to improve their chess or have a long chess career like you?*

VP: If you enjoy doing it, go ahead and do it. If you switch to something else later in life, enjoy doing that and do whatever is possible for you. Because, like I said, when I came to this country, there was no networking, there was no air traffic—I mean, it's a different world. You make do with what you've got the best you can.

AB: *How would you want your legacy to be remembered?*

VP: No reason to do that. The good that people do is often interred with their bones; the evil lives on after them. (laughs)

AB: *Before I end the interview, I wanted to ask you: What do you think of the current World Championship? Do you follow top-level chess?*

VP: I do, but there's too much of it because I always find the same names. There's a group of about ten or 20 people at the top, and they keep playing each other all the time. Well, you know, just think if it was like that in football—the 49ers and Chiefs played each other every weekend. After a while, it gets kind of... you can't follow it all because there's too much to follow. That's another problem with the computers and everything like that—there is too much information.

AB: *Uncle Vik, thank you for the interview. It's been really great. Before we end, do you have anything else to say, like any message or anything?*

VP: Well, keep your chin up, stay out of trouble, and be polite.



Viktors Pupols. Photo credit: Ani Barua.

# 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:

1<sup>st</sup> \$80

2<sup>nd</sup> \$70

3<sup>rd</sup> \$60

4<sup>th</sup> \$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/](http://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](mailto:WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com)

# Another Game from Reykjavik

## Sridhar Seshadri

Sridhar Seshadri (1458) –  
Benjamin Signoli (1883) [D05]  
Reykjavik Open  
Reykjavik (R1), March 15, 2024  
*[Ralph Dubisch]*

1.d4 d5 2.e3 Nf6 3.Bd3 c5 4.c3 Nc6  
5.Nd2?! e6?!

White's rather passive treatment of the opening, mostly deferring the development Nf3 or choosing a system with f4 here on move five, allows Black to take the central initiative with 5...e5!

6.Ngf3 Bd6 7.h3 Qc7 8.0-0 0-0 9.e4 cxd4  
10.cxd4 dxe4 11.Nxe4 Be7 12.Bg5 Nxe4  
13.Bxe4 Bxg5 14.Nxg5 g6 15.Bxc6 Qxc6  
16.Qb3 b6 17.Rac1 Qd6 18.Rfd1 Bb7  
19.Qe3 Qd5 20.f3 Qxa2 21.Rc7 Bd5?!

Black must challenge the knight with 21...h6, when something like 22.Rxb7 hxc5 23.d5!/? (23.Qxg5 is also possible.) 23...exd5 24.Qxg5 Qxb2 25.Rxd5 gives White activity for the pawn.

22.Qf4 Qa4??

Black had to accept inferiority here after 22...e5 23.Qh4! h5 24.dxe5

23.Rdc1??

We'll explain the punctuation on these two moves at the end of the game.

23...e5 24.Qxe5 Qb3 25.R1c3 Qd1+  
26.Kh2 Rad8 27.Qf6 h6??

27...Rde8±

28.Nxf7!! Bxf7 29.Rxf7 Rxf7 30.Qxd8+  
Kg7 31.Rc8 g5 32.Qh8+ Kg6 33.Rc6+  
Kf5 34.Qe5#

A nice tactic to complete the 400–point upset victory. Looking back at move 23, White missed a similar tactical stunner with 23.Nxf7!! Qxd1+ (23...Qe8 24.Nh6+ Kh8 25.Qe5+) 24.Kh2, and Black cannot avoid mate.

1–0



Photo courtesy of Sridhar Seshadri.

## Washington Women's Championship



SAT-SUN, SEPTEMBER 7 - 8, 2024

MICROSOFT BUILDING 99 – ROOM 1919

14820 NE 36TH ST., REDMOND, WA 98052

**Info/Entries:** Josh Sinanan, WCF  
President, 206.769.3757,  
WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

**Registration:** Online at  
[nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration](http://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration).  
Registration and payment **deadline Fri.**  
**9/6 @ 5pm.**

**Eligibility:** Open to all female chess  
players.

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

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

**WA State Elementary Qualifier!**

**Dual Format:** A Swiss-style tournament in three  
sections. Sections with <6 players may be merged.

**Polgar Championship/ Yifan U1300:**  
A 5-Round G/90; +30 Swiss.

**Koneru U700:** A 5-Round G/45; +15 Double Swiss –  
Play 10 games – 1 as W and 1 as B – vs each opponent.

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

**Entry Fee:** \$50 by 8/31, \$60 after. Free entry for  
WGMs, WIMs, WFM, or US Chess 2000+. Players  
rated 1200+ and 600+ in both USCF and NWSRS  
may play up 1 section into the Polgar and Yifan  
sections, respectively. Maximum of 60 players total  
and 30 players per section, please register early.

**Rounds:** Sat: 9am, 1:30pm, 6pm. Sun: 10am, 3pm.

**Prize Fund:** \$2,000 (based on 60 pd. entries)

**Polgar Championship:** 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>: \$200-\$150.  
1<sup>st</sup> U1800/U1600/U1400: \$100.

**Yifan U1300:** 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>: \$130-\$100.  
1<sup>st</sup> U1200/U1000/U800: \$80.

**Koneru U700:** 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>: \$130-\$100.  
1<sup>st</sup> U600/U400/U200/Unrated: \$80.

**Special Prizes (per section):** Biggest Upset  
Win: \$10/rd., Best Dressed: \$10/day, Best  
Etiquette: \$10, Fair Play/Kindness/Spreading  
Joy: \$10/day, Best Mother/Daughter Team (by  
avg TPR, across sections): \$30.

*Highest Finishing WA Resident in the Polgar  
section becomes WA State Women's Champion  
and is seeded into 2025 WA State  
Championship, Invitational section. If there's a  
tie for 1st place, G/90 playoff games will be  
played later in the year.*



# 76th Idaho Open

*(Niall wins again)*

**Jay Simonson**



*Niall McKenzie and Jay Simonson.  
Photo credit: Tilly Backstrom.*



*Back row standing, L-R: Raul Villacorta, Jacob Dickson, David Wilson (standing in front of Jacob) Josh Wilson, Seth Machakos, Niall McKenzie, Josh Price, Zach Fritchen, Cody Gorman, Alexandra Henninger, Paul Debbas, Gary Owen, Robert Otterstein, Manes Cristiano, Frank Albert, Finn Belew, Ryan Reboiro, Tanner Hunter (in front of Ryan); Front Row: sitting: Hans Morrow, Raj Ramirez, Nobel Ang; standing: Tyler Maldonado, Sophie Ma; sitting: Dewayne Derryberry, Jay Simonson.  
Photo credit: Tilly Backstrom.*

**N**iall McKenzie won from among twenty-four players who came to the Idaho State University, Student Union, Salmon River Suites, in Pocatello, Idaho on June 22, 2024, playing for a chance to win the title of Champion in the 2024 Idaho Open Chess Championship. This was a five-round, Swiss System tournament, directed by veteran tournament director Jay Simonson, from Idaho Falls, Idaho. Tilly Backstrom, who now resides in Boise, Idaho, excellently served as assistant TD. Players came from Idaho, Montana, Utah, and one player came from far away Tennessee.

The challenge began even before the first round, as the parking lot was all torn up and not available, so players had to find parking across the street and wherever there was space. The elevator was also out of service. Despite the parking and elevator challenges, some mix-ups in the registrations, two players with expired or no US Chess memberships, and some last-minute entries, the tournament started on time.

In the last round, Niall McKenzie, 2023 Idaho Open Champion, of Pocatello Idaho, who had 3.5/5 points, played Zachary Fritchen, from Idaho Falls, Idaho, who had 4.0/4 points. Niall was able to pull off the win after 59 moves. This gave Niall 4.5/5 points and the title of 2024 Idaho Open Chess Champion. He received a plaque and \$100.

Zach, Finn Belew, and Cody Gorman all tied for second through fourth place, with four points each. Finn is from Boise, and Cody is from Nampa, Idaho. They each shared part of the combined second and third place combined prize and each received \$33.33. Three players also tied for the Top Under 1400 prize: Tanner Hunter and Ryan Reboiro, from Rexburg, Idaho, and young David Wilson, from Kalispell, Montana. They each received \$13.33.

**Tanner Hunter (1304) – Niall McKenzie (1832) [E11]**

76th Idaho Open  
Pocatello, ID (R2), June 22, 2024  
[Ralph Dubisch]

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 Bb4+ 4.Bd2 Bxd2+**  
4...Be7; and 4...Qe7 are more popular choices.

**5.Qxd2 0-0**

| 76th Idaho Open |                     |       |        |      |      |      |      |      |       |               |
|-----------------|---------------------|-------|--------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|---------------|
| #               | Name                | State | Rating | Rd 1 | Rd 2 | Rd 3 | Rd 4 | Rd 5 | Total | Prizes        |
| 1               | Niall McKenzie      | ID    | 1832   | W12  | D11  | W9   | W6   | W2   | 4.5   | 1st Overall   |
| 2               | Zach Fritchen       | ID    | 1751   | W19  | W14  | W6   | W3   | L1   | 4     | 2nd-4th (Tie) |
| 3               | Finn Belew          | ID    | 1833   | W24  | W10  | W8   | L2   | W7   | 4     | 2nd-4th (Tie) |
| 4               | Cody Gorman         | ID    | 1870   | L14  | W19  | W13  | W11  | W8   | 4     | 2nd-4th (Tie) |
| 5               | Raul Villacorta     | ID    | 1632   | W17  | L6   | W15  | D9   | W11  | 3.5   |               |
| 6               | Josh Price          | ID    | 1926   | W13  | W5   | L2   | L1   | W14  | 3     |               |
| 7               | Seth Machakos       | ID    | 1845   | W15  | L9   | W14  | W10  | L3   | 3     |               |
| 8               | Ching-E Nobel Ang   | ID    | 1567   | W21  | W22  | L3   | W12  | L4   | 3     |               |
| 9               | DeWayne Derryberry  | ID    | 1531   | W18  | W7   | L1   | D5   | -H-  | 3     |               |
| 10              | Paul Debbas         | TN    | 1435   | W23  | L3   | W20  | L7   | W15  | 3     |               |
| 11              | Tanner Hunter       | ID    | 1355   | W20  | D11  | W22  | L4   | L5   | 2.5   | Top U1400     |
| 12              | David Wilson        | MT    | 771    | L14  | W21  | W16  | L8   | D13  | 2.5   | Top U1400     |
| 13              | Ryan Reboiro        | ID    | 1257   | L6   | W23  | L4   | W20  | D12  | 2.5   | Top U1400     |
| 14              | Josh Wilson         | MT    | 1149   | W4   | L2   | L7   | W19  | L6   | 2     |               |
| 15              | Jacob Dickson       | UT    | 995    | L7   | W18  | L5   | W16  | L10  | 2     |               |
| 16              | Gary Owen           | ID    | 1467   | L22  | W17  | L12  | L15  | W19  | 2     |               |
| 17              | Tyler Maldonado     | ID    | 365    | L5   | L16  | W21  | L18  | W24  | 2     |               |
| 18              | Robert Otterstein   | ID    | Unr.   | L19  | L15  | L19  | W17  | W20  | 2     |               |
| 19              | Raj Ramirez         | ID    | 512    | L22  | L4   | W18  | L14  | L16  | 1     |               |
| 20              | Alexandra Henninger | ID    | 785    | L11  | W24  | L10  | L13  | L18  | 1     |               |
| 21              | Frank Albert        | ID    | Unr.   | L8   | L12  | L17  | D24  | -H-  | 1     |               |
| 22              | Hans Morrow         | UT    | 1900   | W16  | L8   | L11  | ---  | ---  | 1     |               |
| 23              | Cristiano Manes     | ID    | Unr.   | L10  | L13  | W24  | ---  | ---  | 1     |               |
| 24              | Sophie Ma           | ID    | 782    | L3   | L20  | L23  | D21  | L17  | 0.5   |               |

5...d5

**6.Bg2 d5 7.Nf3 b6**

7...Nbd7 8.0-0 b6 (8...c6 heads in a different direction.) 9.cxd5 exd5 10.Nc3 could transpose.

**8.cxd5 exd5 9.0-0 Nbd7 10.Nc3 Bb7 11.Rac1 Ne4 12.Nxe4**

12.Qf4!??

**12...dxe4 13.Ng5**

Ne1–c2–e3 was an interesting alternative.

**13...Nf6 14.e3**

14.Qf4!?

**14...Rc8**

14...c5!?

**15.Bh3?**

15.Nh3∞

**15...Rb8?!**

A missed opportunity based on the lack of retreat squares for the knight on g5: 15...h6! 16.Bxc8 Qxc8, and Black wins material.

**16.Bg2 h6 17.Nh3 Qd6 18.Nf4 Rbd8 19.Qc2 Rd7 20.a3 Re8 21.Bh3 Rde7 22.Bg2 Nd5 23.Nxd5 Bxd5 24.Qe2 c6 25.Rc3 b5 26.Rfc1 Qf6 27.Qc2 a6 28.a4 Qd6 29.axb5 axb5 30.Ra3 Rb7 31.Rca1 Rbb8 32.Ra7 Qf8 33.Bh3 Red8?!**

33...Re7

**34.Bd7**

34.Bf5± could reach the game position with an extra move for White: 34...Re8 (34...Qe8 35.Qc5±) 35.Bd7 Red8, and it's now White's move, with the option to try 36.Rc1 or 36.Qc5.

**34...Qd6 35.Bf5 Re8 36.Rd7 Qf6 37.Bh3 Ra8 38.Raa7 Rxa7 39.Rxa7 Re7 40.Qc5 Rxa7 41.Qxa7 Qf3 42.Qa8+ Kh7 43.Bd7??**

White makes a potentially fatal last-second blunder. 43.Qa1 is entirely safe.



Position after 43.Bd7

Apparently Black was satisfied with the draw here. Better, of course, would have been 43...Qd1+ 44.Kg2 Bc4 which shortly forces mate: 45.Bf5+ g6 46.Bxg6+ Kg7–+

1/2–1/2

Niall McKenzie (1832) –  
Zach Fritch (1762) [B51]

76th Idaho Open  
Pocatello, ID (R5), June 22, 2024  
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Nd7 4.0-0 a6  
5.Bxd7+

5.Bd3 seems more thematic, keeping the bishop, repositioning it to the b1–a7 diagonal, and claiming that knight on d7 is misplaced. 5...Ngf6 6.c3 b5 7.Bc2 Bb7 8.Re1 and Black might continue with 8...e5 (or 8...c4. The position often becomes more Ruy Lopez/Spanish Game than Sicilian Defense—which is rather the point of 3.Bb5, whether in a Rossolimo against 2.Nc6 or in a Moscow line as seen here.)

5...Bxd7 6.d4 Bg4

The question I usually ask myself when considering these pins is, does Black really want to trade the bishop for the knight? 6...cxd4 7.Qxd4 is theory here. White has a little more central space and a tiny temporary lead in development. Black should be pretty happy with the opening, though, having the bishop-pair and more center pawns. (White's "normal" Sicilian recapture, 7.Nxd4, slightly favors Black. White has spent time exchanging the useful light-square bishop for a knight and has committed his king to a short castle, so there's less chance of a kingside pawn-storm attack. Black is ready to develop the rook to c8, the knight to f6, and choose either a Dragon or...e6 small-center structure, according to taste. 7...Nf6 8.Nc3 e6, for example, and Black really has no worries.)

7.c3 g6

I'm not convinced that the fianchetto development is ideal here. First, it takes away g6 as a possible retreat for the bishop (...Bg4–h5–g6 in response to h3, for example). Second, the bishop on g7 would have a limited role facing white pawns on b2 and c3, if White chooses to capture on c5 or advance to d5. Also, there's not much immediate pressure on the white center, allowing White some flexibility in arranging his pieces.

8.h3 Bxf3 9.Qxf3 Bg7 10.Qd3?!

White starts here with a minimal development edge. 10.dxc5 dxc5±; or 10.Rd1 seem more natural than moving the queen again to defend the d-pawn.

10...Nf6 11.Be3 0-0 12.dxc5 dxc5  
13.Qxd8 Rfxd8 14.Bxc5

14.Nd2 is still fine for White, if not exactly an exciting advantage, as that c5–pawn needs looking after.

14...Nxe4 15.Bxe7 Rd7 16.Bh4

We start to see the problem with the pawn grab. The bishop has no happy retreat, and those queenside pieces are feeling a bit left out.

16...b5

16...g5 17.f3 (17.Bg3 Nxg3 18.fxg3 Re8 becomes very hard to defend against Black's active rooks.) 17...gxh4 18.fxe4 Re8 and Black is doing nicely.

17.Re1?!

17.f3 Nc5 18.Na3 b4!? 19.cxb4 Bxb2 20.bxc5 Bxa3 21.Bf2 Rc7

17...f5

17...Nc5 aims the knight at a4 and d3.

18.f3

18.a4 distracts a bit from the strong knight on e4, and could end up with a level position along the lines of 18...b4 19.cxb4 Rb8 20.f3 Bxb2 21.Ra2 Bd4+ 22.Kf1 g5 23.fxe4 gxh4 24.e5 Rxb4, and for all the chaos, not much has really happened.

18...Nd2?

18...Nc5±

19.Nxd2 Rxd2 20.Rab1

Suddenly, White has an extra pawn and no clogged queenside pieces.

20...b4 21.cxb4

21.Bg5 Rc2 22.Rec1 Rxc1+ 23.Rxc1

21...Bxb2 22.Bf2

22.Red1 Rc2 23.a4±

22...Rc8

22...Rb8 23.Bc5 Ba3

23.Be3 Bd4

23...Rdc2±

24.Bxd4 Rxd4 25.Rb2 Rb8

25...Kf7 White rooks occupying the seventh rank is a bigger worry right now than that extra pawn.

26.Re6

26.a3 Rd3 27.Re7 Rxa3 28.Rc2±

26...a5?

26...Rxb4 27.Rxb4 Rxb4 28.Rxa6 Kg7 Positions with the white rook in front of the passed a-pawn are typically theoretical draws.

27.b5 Kf7 28.Rc6 Ke7 29.b6 Rd6?  
30.Rc7+

30.Re2+ Kd7 31.Rc7+ Kd8 32.Ree7

30...Rd7 31.Rc6

31.Ra7

31...Rd6 32.Re2+ Kd7 33.Rc7+ Kd8  
34.Rxh7 Rxb6 35.Ree7 Ra6 36.Reg7  
Re6 37.Rd7+ Kc8 38.Rc7+ Kd8 39.Rcg7  
a4 40.Rh6 a3 41.Rg8+

Clearly White hasn't figured out how to make progress, but giving up control of the seventh rank doesn't seem the most promising start. Maybe fix the g-pawn with 41.h4 first. You can always throw checks around on the ranks and files later.

41...Ke7 42.Rg7+ Kf8 43.Rb7



Position after 43.Rb7

43...Reb6??

43...Re7! 44.Rh8+ Kg7 45.Rxe7+ Kxh8 and of course White still has the advantage, but at some point he'll need to find a winning plan.

44.Rxb6??

White apparently overlooked his primary threat. 44.Rh8# shortens the game considerably. Fortunately, the rook behind the black a-pawn thing also seems to work.

44...Rxb6 45.Rh8+ Kf7 46.Ra8 Rb1+  
47.Kh2 f4

If there is a defensive structure with a chance to hold, it would require no further kingside weaknesses, keeping the white rook tied down in front of the a-pawn, and hiding the black king on h6. 47...Rb2 48.Rxa3 Kg7 could extend the torture for quite a while. Likely White wins eventually in any case.

48.Rxa3 Ke6 49.Ra6+ Kf5 50.a4 Ra1  
51.a5 Kg5 52.Ra8 Kh6 53.a6 Kg7 54.h4  
Ra2 55.Ra7+ Kf6 56.Kh3 g5 57.h5 Ra1  
58.Kh2 g4 59.fxg4 Kg5

1–0

# 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](http://onlineregistration.cc) (no mailed or on-site registrations are allowed). **The deadline to register is Friday, August 30 at noon.** Email [support@oregonchessfed.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://oregonchessfed.org) or [pdxchess.org](http://pdxchess.org).

**QUESTIONS:** Send an email to [support@oregonchessfed.org](mailto:support@oregonchessfed.org) if you have any questions.

# 2024 Washington Senior Championship

**Josh Sinanan**



*2024 Washington State Senior Champion Leonid Gavrysh.  
Photo credit: Ani Barua.*



The 2024 Washington Senior Championship took place at the Orlov Chess Academy in Redmond from Friday, May 17 to Sunday, May 19. This year's event was split into two sections by rating: Championship and Premier U1600, which made for more competitive and harder-fought games throughout the weekend.

Veteran chess warriors from throughout the Pacific Northwest were represented in the respectable 23-player field, from cities including Newcastle, Mukilteo, Brier, Renton, Tenino, Bellevue, Fall City, Olympia, Auburn, Elgin, Seattle, Kirkland, Portland, Mineral, Edmonds, Gig Harbor, Federal Way, and Bothell.

The event was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation and directed by WCF Member-at-Large Ani Barua. Barua, not quite yet a senior himself, enjoys directing this tournament and will always fondly remember the 2023 edition, which marked his first tournament acting as the chief TD!

Leonid Gavrysh, the Ukrainian chess wizard and 2023 Senior Champion,

successfully defended his title with an undefeated 4.5 points from five games, allowing only a single draw against FM Bill Schill (2273) in the fourth round. Leonid is no stranger to the chess spotlight, achieving a peak FIDE rating of 2237 back in 2014 while still living in Ukraine.

Along with Viktor Pupols, Leonid is one of Washington's most active senior players and frequents the Seattle Chess Club. For his victory, Leonid receives the title of 2024 Washington State Senior Champion and a \$750 travel stipend from the WCF to attend the 2024 Irwin National Tournament of Senior State Champions, which will be held concurrently with the US Open in early August in Norfolk, Virginia. Congratulations Leonid!

National Master Juan Leon Jimenez, who divides his time between the Pacific Northwest and Costa Rica, captured second place honors a half-point back. Jimenez recovered well after his first-round loss to dark horse Rich Lavoice and managed to squeeze out a win in a level endgame against Schill in the final round.

Two chess knights, Seattle Chess

Club board member Rich Lavoice from Kirkland and Drunken Knights Chess Club Founder Dave Juchau from Seattle, shared First U2000/U1800 honors with three points apiece.

In the cottage-sized seven-player Premier U1600 section, Derek Adair from Newcastle emerged victorious with an impressive 3.5 points from four games. Due to the small size of the field and several early withdrawals, the Premier section was held with just four rounds instead of five. Michael Morrison from Seattle finished in Second Place a half-point back, taking a first-round half-point bye and drawing his game with Adair in the third round.

Two chess kings, Benji Johnson from Elgin (OR) and Allen Messenger from Gig Harbor, split the First U1400/U1200 prize with an even two-point score. Olympia chess aficionado Colin O'Sullivan captured the First U1000 prize with one point to round out the prize winners.

Congratulations to the winners, and many thanks to all who contributed to this fantastic event!

### 2024 Washington Senior Championship: Championship

| #  | Place | Name                   | Rating | Rd 1 | Rd 2 | Rd 3 | Rd 4 | Rd 5 | Total pts | Prize                        |
|----|-------|------------------------|--------|------|------|------|------|------|-----------|------------------------------|
| 1  | 1     | Leonid Gavrysh         | 2035   | W13  | W8   | W5   | D3   | W4   | 4.5       | 1st                          |
| 2  | 2     | NM Juan Leon Jimenez   | 2241   | L4   | W13  | W9   | W5   | W3   | 4         | 2nd                          |
| 3  | 3     | FM William Schill II   | 2273   | W15  | W6   | W4   | D1   | L2   | 3.5       |                              |
| 4  | 4-5   | Richard Lavoice        | 1751   | W2   | W14  | L3   | X12  | L1   | 3         | Shared 1st U2000 / 1st U1800 |
| 5  |       | Dave Juchau            | 1607   | B--- | W12  | L1   | L2   | W11  | 3         | Shared 1st U2000 / 1st U1800 |
| 6  | 6-8   | Paul Harwood           | 1873   | W7   | L3   | D8   | D11  | D10  | 2.5       |                              |
| 7  |       | Phil Long              | 1650   | L6   | W10  | L12  | D9   | W13  | 2.5       |                              |
| 8  |       | Ralph Anthony          | 1623   | W16  | L1   | D6   | L10  | B--- | 2.5       |                              |
| 9  | 9-11  | Roger Oscar Hanson     | 1800   | H--- | W11  | L2   | D7   | U--- | 2         |                              |
| 10 |       | Sridhar Seshadri       | 1737   | L14  | L7   | D13  | W8   | D6   | 2         |                              |
| 11 |       | Bruce W Gregg          | 1700   | H--- | L9   | W15  | D6   | L5   | 2         |                              |
| 12 | 12-13 | Charles Augustus Smith | 1830   | H--- | L5   | W7   | F4   | U--- | 1.5       |                              |
| 13 |       | H G Pitre              | 1703   | L1   | L2   | D10  | B--- | L7   | 1.5       |                              |
| 14 | 14    | NM Gerald A Larson     | 2080   | W10  | L4   | U--- | U--- | U--- | 1         |                              |
| 15 | 15    | Michael James Hosford  | 1808   | L3   | H--- | L11  | U--- | U--- | 0.5       |                              |
| 16 | 16    | Kent McNall            | 1867   | L8   | U--- | U--- | U--- | U--- | 0         |                              |

### 2024 Washington Senior Championship: Premier U1600

| # | Place | Name                 | Rating | Rd 1 | Rd 2 | Rd 3 | Rd 4 | Total pts | Prize                        |
|---|-------|----------------------|--------|------|------|------|------|-----------|------------------------------|
| 1 | 1     | Derek Adair          | 1569   | W3   | W4   | D2   | W6   | 3.5       | 1st                          |
| 2 | 2     | Michael Morrison     | 1200   | H--- | W7   | D1   | W4   | 3         | 2nd                          |
| 3 | 3-4   | M Allen Messenger    | 1226   | L1   | W6   | L4   | W7   | 2         | Shared 1st U1400 / 1st U1200 |
| 4 |       | Benji Johnson        | 1157   | B--- | L1   | W3   | L2   | 2         | Shared 1st U1400 / 1st U1200 |
| 5 | 5-7   | Michael Francis Shaw | 1579   | W6   | U--- | U--- | U--- | 1         |                              |
| 6 |       | Henry Louie          | 1300   | L5   | L3   | W7   | L1   | 1         |                              |
| 7 |       | Colin O'Sullivan     | 810    | X--- | L2   | L6   | L3   | 1         | 1st U1000                    |

# 2024 Washington Girls Championship

Josh Sinanan



*Kruti Thanikonda at the Washington Girls Championship.  
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*

The 2024 Washington Girls Championship took place at the Orlov Chess Academy in Greenlake on May 18-19. Female chess warriors from throughout Western Washington were represented in the modest 12-player field, including the towns of Shoreline, Seattle, Bellevue, Sammamish, and Redmond. The event was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation directed by WCF Co-Vice President Rekha Sagar.

The tournament featured eight players in the five-round Swiss Championship section and just four in the Challengers U1400 section, which was converted into a double Round Robin.

Selina Cheng, a sixth grader attending Tillicum Middle School in Bellevue, was crowned the 2024 Washington State Girls Champion with an impressive 4.5 points from five games, allowing only a single draw against Zoe Xu in the third round. Top seed and rating favorite Erin Bian (2166) withdrew from the tournament due to illness, which opened the door for Cheng and Iris Zhang, the other 1600 in the field. Selina has had an impressive run recently, raising her Northwest rating from the mid-1500s to 1700+ in the past few months and becoming the Washington State Sixth Grade Champion along the way. No doubt Selina has a very bright future on and off the board, especially under the guidance of her coaches, including Detective Denise "Cookie" Bouldin and WFM Chouchanik Aիրpetian.

For her victory, Selina receives the title of 2024 Washington State Girls Champion and a \$750 travel stipend from the WCF to attend the 2024 Haring National Girls Tournament of Champions, taking place concurrently



2024 Washington State Girls Champion Selina Cheng.  
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

with the US Open in late July in Norfolk, Virginia. Congratulations Selina! Iris Zhang, a freshman at Redmond High School, earned second place honors with four points, losing only to Cheng in the second round.

Somerset Elementary School fourth grader Zoe Xu finished in third place with a solid "plus one" score of three points from five games and claimed the Biggest Upset prize by virtue of her third-round draw with Cheng.

Sammamish Chess Queen Aashi Mathur earned the fourth-place chess book prize with two points. Bellevue Children's Academy third grader Aditi

Sembium arrived dressed to the nines and was awarded the Best Dressed prize for her stylish fashion sense. Kruti Thanikonda, a third grader from Christa McAuliffe Elementary in Sammamish, always wore a smile on her face and won the Kindness and Spreading Joy prize for her unconditional kindness and amazing attitude.

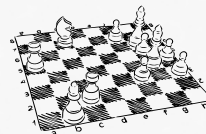
In the four-player Challengers U1400 section, two rising chess stars tied for first place with 3.5 points each: Somerset Elementary School fourth grader Clora Huang from Bellevue and Bellevue Children's Academy first grader Felicity Mei. Clora and Felicity tied their first round mini-match 1-1 before scoring 2.5 points from their remaining four games. Felicity also earned the Biggest Upset prize for her first-round win against Clora.

Hazelwolf K-8 first grader Siana Razmov claimed third place honors a half-point back with three points and took home the Best Dressed prize for her scrupulous attire. Kaiyi Han, a first grader from Somerset Elementary in Bellevue, earned the fourth-place prize with two points in addition to the Kindness and Spreading Joy prize, for which she was a unanimous winner. Congratulations to all of the amazing chess ladies who contributed to this fun event.

| Washington Girls Championship: Championship |       |                  |        |      |      |      |      |      |           |                          |
|---------------------------------------------|-------|------------------|--------|------|------|------|------|------|-----------|--------------------------|
| #                                           | Place | Name             | Rating | Rd 1 | Rd 2 | Rd 3 | Rd 4 | Rd 5 | Total pts | Prize                    |
| 1                                           | 1     | Selina Cheng     | 1621   | W6   | W2   | D3   | W7   | W5   | 4.5       | 1st                      |
| 2                                           | 2     | Iris Zhang       | 1601   | W7   | L1   | W6   | W3   | W8   | 4         | 2nd                      |
| 3                                           | 3     | Zoe Xu           | 1362   | W8   | D5   | D1*  | L2   | W7   | 3         | 3rd + Biggest Upset Win* |
| 4                                           | 4-5   | WFM Erin Bian    | 2166   | W5   | H--- | H--- | U--- | U--- | 2         |                          |
| 5                                           |       | Aashi Mathur     | 1309   | L4   | D3   | H--- | W8   | L1   | 2         | Chess Book               |
| 6                                           | 6-8   | Shanna Wu        | 1183   | L1   | L7   | L2   | B--- | H--- | 1.5       |                          |
| 7                                           |       | Aditi Sembium    | 1134   | L2   | W6   | D8   | L1   | L3   | 1.5       | Best Dressed             |
| 8                                           |       | Kruti Thanikonda | 1108   | L3   | B--- | D7   | L5   | L2   | 1.5       | Kindness + Spreading Joy |

| Washington Girls Championship: Challengers U1400 |       |              |        |      |      |      |           |                                     |  |  |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------|--------------|--------|------|------|------|-----------|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| #                                                | Place | Name         | Rating | Rd 1 | Rd 2 | Rd 3 | Total pts | Prize                               |  |  |
| 1                                                | 1-2   | Clora Huang  | 1041   | WL2  | WL4  | WD3  | 3.5       | Shared 1st-2nd                      |  |  |
| 2                                                |       | Felicity Mei | 744    | W*L1 | DL3  | WW4  | 3.5       | Shared 1st-2nd + Biggest Upset Win* |  |  |
| 3                                                | 3     | Siana Razmov | 797    | WL4  | WD2  | DL1  | 3         | 3rd                                 |  |  |
| 4                                                | 4     | Kaiyi Han    | 830    | WL3  | WL1  | LL2  | 2         | 4th                                 |  |  |

# INAUGURAL SNOHOMISH COUNTY OPEN



**Saturday**  
**August 24th, 2024**



**Co-hosted by Everett and Lake Stevens Chess Club.**

**Place:** Mukilteo Presbyterian Church, 4514 84th St SW, Mukilteo, WA 98275

**Format:** A 5-round Swiss tournament in three sections: Open, U1500, and Unrated.

**Entry fee:** Open to all ages & no play up fees. Open: \$50 U1500: \$40 Unrated: \$30.

**Early Bird Entry (received by Monday July 29th):** Subtract \$10. On Site entry: Add \$10.

**Lake Stevens/Everett/Boeing Chess Club members:** Subtract \$10. Early Bird and Club discounts cannot be combined. Free entry for IM/WIM/WGM/GM. Maximum of 100 players, please register early to reserve your spot!

**Schedule:** Registration & Check-in 9-9:30am. Rounds (5): 9:45am, 11:15am, Lunch Break, 1:45pm, 3:15pm, 4:45pm. Closing Ceremony ~ 6:15 pm or asap.

**Time Control:** G/25 + 5 sec. increment per move starting from move 1.

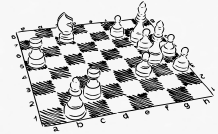
**Rating:** Open and U1500 sections US chess (USCF) rated (Regular + Quick rated).

August 2024 US Chess Regular Rating will be used to determine pairing and prizes.

Foreign ratings used for players with no US Chess rating. Higher of US Chess or foreign ratings used at TD discretion.

**Membership:** US Chess (USCF) membership required for Open and U1500 section; no membership required for Unrated section. Memberships must be paid at time of registration.

# INAUGURAL SNOHOMISH COUNTY OPEN



**Saturday**  
**August 24th, 2024**



**Prizes (based on 50 paid entries):** Open: 1st \$300 2nd \$180 3rd \$125; U1500: 1st \$180 2nd \$110 3rd \$70; Unrated: 1st \$120 2nd \$75 3rd \$50

**Registration:**



<https://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration/member.php?mode=search&tournamentid=885>

**Online registration + payment deadline: Fri Aug 23rd @ 5pm.** Unpaid players will be removed from the roster after deadline, and players from waitlist will be offered a spot. At-site registration: 9:00-9:30am. On-site payment available by cash, check made out to “Lake Stevens Chess Club”, or Venmo. On-site credit card payments accepted (3% fee).

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

**Misc:** Please bring a tournament chess set and clock if you have one!

**Parking:** Free parking available behind church (100+ spaces). To get to location w/o a car from Seattle take bus #512 from Northgate to Lynnwood Transit Center and from there take Bus #113 to Mukilteo (HWY 525 & 84th St SW). Walk east (up the hill) about 0.3 miles to the venue. Please make arrangements and check bus schedule ahead of time.

**Food:** Restaurants within walking distance include Taco Bell, Sabor A Mexico, Z’s Burgers, Brooklyn Bros. Pizzeria, and Mukilteo Thai (all about 0.3 mi).

**Health/Safety Protocols:** Face masks optional for players and spectators. If interested please bring your own masks.

# TOURNAMENTS



## Venue

7212 Woodlawn Ave NE  
Seattle, WA 98115

Info & events calendar

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

Addresses for entries

SCC Tournament Director  
same address as above

– or –

[contact@seattlechess.club](mailto: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 are increased accordingly.

## August 10

**Format:** 3-RR. 4-player sections by close rating.  
**TC:** Game/100 + 15sec. inc. **New EF:** \$15 (+\$10 day membership for non-SCC). **Prizes:** winner of each 4-player quad wins 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

## August 25

**Format:** 4-SS. **TC:** Game/50 + 10sec. inc. **New EF:** \$25 (+\$10 day membership for non-SCC). **New Prize fund:** sum of \$14/entry. **Prizes:** 1<sup>st</sup> (35% of prize fund), 2<sup>nd</sup> (27%), bottom half (by rating) 1<sup>st</sup> (22%), 2<sup>nd</sup> (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

## August 2, 9, 16, 23

See below.

## Dog Days

## August 30

Fifth Friday of the month special! **Format:** 4 or 5 rounds (depending on turnout), Swiss paired. **TC:** Game/15, no inc. **Starts** at 7:30pm. Scoresheets not req'd. US Chess Quick rated.

## Fifth Friday G/15



## 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>Pumpkin Spice (close ratings)</i> | 9/6, 13, 20, 27  |
| <i>Autumn Leaves</i>                 | 10/4, 11, 18, 25 |

# 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).

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

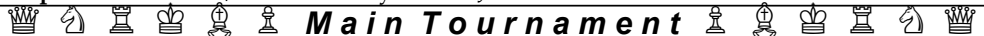
**Top Senior (65+) - \$200; Club Championship - \$600 - 300.**

**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](http://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 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

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

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

|                 |        |         |         |       |                 |       |       |       |       |           |           |
|-----------------|--------|---------|---------|-------|-----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|-----------|
| <b>3-Day EF</b> | Free • | \$194 • | \$250 • | \$300 | \$194           | \$193 | \$192 | \$191 | \$180 | USCF Dues |           |
|                 |        |         |         |       | <b>2-Day EF</b> | \$190 | \$190 | \$190 | \$190 | \$190     | USCF Dues |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>FEES ALSO ENCLOSED FOR:</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$30 Wed. Clock Simul GM Kudrin</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Thu. Simul GM Khachiyani</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Thursday Blitz (G/5 d0)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Discount - Sr 65+ Age _____</p> | <p><b>POSTMARK BY September 6, 2024.</b> Add \$11 after 9/6. Add \$22 on site.</p> <p>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. <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Master Card <input type="checkbox"/> Am.Ex</p> <p>Name on Credit Card _____</p> <p>Expiration Date _____ ZIP Code _____</p> <p>Credit Card# _____ CVV Code _____</p> <p>Signature _____</p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Check Enclosed</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Charge My Card</p> <p><b>TOTAL FEES:</b> \$ _____</p> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

