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## Front Cover

Samuel He (L) and Daniel He during their tandem simul at Blakely Hall in Issaquah. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

## Back Cover

(L-R) Samuel He, Daniel He, and WCF President Josh Sinanan distribute the name cards before the start of the simul. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

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## Remember to play in the 74th Oregon Open!

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# He Twins Tandem Simul



Issaquah, WA

May 22, 2024



The Issaquah Highlands Chess Club and Washington Chess Federation once again teamed up to host a simul chess exhibition. However, this was no ordinary simul, but a Tandem Simul featuring identical twin National Masters Daniel He and Samuel He.

The Twin Tandem Simul Exhibition, hosted at the beautiful Blakely Hall in the heart of the Issaquah Highlands, was the first event of its kind. Tandem simul are like regular simuls, except two chess masters are making the moves, alternating moves on every board! No verbal communication was allowed between them to discuss moves and plans, so attempts at twin telepathy was their only way to communicate.

They encouraged stronger players to participate as well to make the simul even more difficult. The evening opened with a brief introduction by Daniel and Samuel about their chess background while the players and spectators enjoyed some delicious Flying Pie Pizza and soft drinks, courtesy of WCF. The 45-board simul kicked off promptly at 6:15 PM, with a few last-minute stragglers sneaking in to fill any empty boards that remained.

Players of all ages and ratings (unrated to 1923) participated in the tandem simul exhibition, which lasted a total of three hours and 15 minutes! When the dust had settled, the He brothers had won 38, drew three, and lost only four games, a remarkable result! Unfortunately, a few kids were caught analyzing their games that were in progress or making multiple moves in a row in the same game, which resulted in immediate forfeit. Per standard simul etiquette, such shenanigans are strictly prohibited and may result in the offenders becoming ineligible to play in future simuls! Several games still in

progress at the cutoff time of 9:30 PM were adjudicated by WCF President Josh Sinanan.

Congratulations to the following players who scored a win or a draw against Nationals Masters Daniel He and Samuel He! Draws were achieved by: Rafael Palathingal (1767, Bothell), Valentin Razmov (1893, Seattle), and Simon Zeltser (1800, Issaquah). Four intrepid chess warriors managed to pull out a win against the NMs: Jamie Zhu (1923, Sammamish), Gabriel Razmov (1815, Seattle), Shuyi Han (1689, Bellevue), and Odbayar Yondon (1825, Redmond), who has won or drawn his game in every simul hosted at IHCC so far!

Samuel He and Daniel He, always true gentlemen and amazing chess ambassadors, graciously signed autographs and posed for photographs with the participants at the end of the simul. Stay tuned for more simuls like this one hosted by IHCC + WCF in the future!

## About Samuel He and Daniel He

NM Daniel He — 2024 Washington State Chess Champion, US Chess National Master since 2013 (USCF rating 2326, blitz 2357)

NM Samuel He — Two-time Washington Open co-champion, US Chess National Master since 2014 (USCF rating 2274, blitz 2266)

Daniel and Samuel were born and raised in the greater Seattle area, and they climbed the ranks to National Master primarily from playing local tournaments. They were heavily involved in the Redmond High School chess scene by forming a chess club from scratch and

coaching a team to become the 2017 State Team champions and a top five team at 2017 Super Nationals.

Daniel and Samuel are appreciative of the Washington State chess community, and they attribute a lot of their success to the availability of tournaments, coaches, and peers. This simul was a way for them to give back to the community and share their love for the game.

**Samuel He and Daniel He (2170) – Rafael Palathingal (1751) [A11]**  
He Twins Tandem Simul  
Issaquah, WA, May 22, 2024  
*[Rafael Palathingal]*

### 1.Nf3 Nf6

I am hoping here that White plays d4, and I can transpose into the Semi-Slav or London System.

### 2.c4 c6

I'm still hoping to transpose into a Semi-Slav structure here.

### 3.g3

They tell me with this move that we will not transpose into a Semi-Slav structure, so I will have to copy whatever they do till the sixth move, because after the sixth move, I should make some plans for this structure and how I can try to play against it.

### 3...g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.0-0 0-0 6.b3 d5

Now I'm starting to follow the Semi-Slav plan, but because there is a bishop on b2 I can't go ...b6 and ...Bb7 after ...Nbd7 which will force me to go ...Bf5 and ...Nbd7 without the ...e6 move.

### 7.Bb2 Qb6

I'm trying to attack the c4-pawn, thinking that Qc2 was forced and then my ...Qb6

move is justified because White had to go Qc2 and give the move back to me without doing anything useful, but they could go d3 and then win a tempo because ...Qb6 isn't that useful.

### 8.d3!

The computer says that I have ...dxc4 and ...Rd8, but I wouldn't do that because it gets rid of my pawn on d5 which could eventually make the bishop on g2 bad.

### 8...Rd8

I will continue to threaten White's c4-pawn until it is properly defended with moves like Qc2 or Nbd2, and after any of those moves are played, I will go ...Bf5 and start to complete my development.

### 9.Qc2 Bf5 10.Nbd2 Nbd7

Now the opening stage of the game is finished because we have developed all our pieces.

### 11.e4?

This bad move blunders a pawn, because after 11...dxe4 12.dxe4 Nxe4, the knight can't be taken because ...Bxe4 is there, and I will win my knight back, and if

13.Bxg7, I have 13...Nxd2 and then ...Kxg7 after Qxd2.

### 11...dxe4 12.dxe4 Nxe4 13.Bxg7 Nxd2 14.Qxd2 Kxg7

Now the computer says -0.95, but I feel that this position is hard to win in a real game against 2168 and 2170 players.

### 15.Qc3+ Nf6

Opening the d-file for my rooks.

### 16.Rfe1 Rd7

Defending my e7-pawn.

### 17.Ne5

Now they are attacking my rook on d7, so I decided to try to counter-attack their queen on c3 and also threaten a queen exchange which would assist me in trying to win this game.

### 17...Qd4 18.Qb4

Declining my queen trade offer.

### 18...Ng4?!

This is an dubious move because it was only -0.79 before this move, but now it is a draw because they have a resource after

Nxd7 and ...Nxf2 which I didn't see.

### 19.Nxd7 Nxf2



Position after 19...Nxf2

### 20.Qc5!

This is the resource that holds the game to a draw after 20...Nh3+ 21.Kh1 Nf2+, and it will be a draw by repetition.

### 20...Nh3+ 21.Kh1

21.Kf1 is bad because it blunders mate in two after 21...Bd3+ 22.Re2 Qxa1#.


### 21...Nf2+ 22.Kg1 Nh3+ 23.Kh1 Nf2+ 24.Kg1

1/2-1/2



Simul players eagerly await their turn as Daniel He transitions to the next board. Meanwhile Samuel He (rear) ponders his next move on one of the outer boards. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.



A soccer player in a green and blue uniform is running on a field. The uniform has "Providence" written on the front. The player is wearing black gloves and yellow and black cleats. A soccer ball is in the foreground. The background is a blurred stadium.

*“I think the way  
you play chess  
is a little bit  
reflective of how  
you approach  
strategy and  
all things  
competitive.”*

*Danny Musovski. Photo courtesy of Seattle Sounders.*

# Interview with Danny Musovski

(Forward for the Seattle Sounders)

Ken Lee



Ken Lee

**D**anny Musovski joined the Seattle Sounders in February 2024 as a forward. He immediately made an impact on the team with his enthusiasm and team play.

Not long after he joined, a viral video called [The Moose's Gambit](#) was posted showcasing Danny's love of another sport: chess.

I recently met with Danny to discuss The Beautiful Game and The Game of Kings.

*Ken: On behalf of Northwest Chess and the legions of football fans from all over the Pacific Northwest welcome!*

Danny: Thank you. It's a pleasure being here.

*Ken: When did you start playing soccer and chess?*

Danny: I got into soccer when I was about four years old and just kept playing until now. I started playing chess in elementary school in the first grade. I was in the chess club with my older brother.

Then I had a very long break. I never really played tournament chess as a kid. With the COVID pandemic and the release of *The Queen's Gambit*, I started playing again.

It reignited my passion for chess. Now I play online nearly every day, and I really enjoy it. I almost forgot how much I loved chess.

*Ken: Is your style of play in soccer influenced by your love of chess?*

Danny: I think the way you play chess is a little bit reflective of how you approach strategy and all things competitive.

So, for me, as a soccer player, I feel like I'm an aggressive player who likes to take risks. In chess, I'm the same way where I like to open up if my opponent is out of position.

For example, if my opponent castles, I just start pushing my pawns on their vulnerable side and start putting on some pressure. I'm definitely not a chess master, but I enjoy the little tactical lessons here and there.

*Ken: Have you tried to encourage some of your teammates or friends to play chess as well?*

Danny: Yes, we have a couple of guys on the team that also play chess. There are some guys who are pretty good.

I'm like 1200 ELO on five-minute and ten-minute games, but we have Jackson Reagan who's about 1400. We're not super good but I think we're decent players. We play all of our games online on our phones.

*Ken: Danny, do you find that playing a game at lunch or after a workout does something for your mental state as you wind down or gear up for a game?*

Danny: Yes. Chess stimulates my mind in a very specific way. It gets my brain working and thinking. For one or two hours, I'm 100% fully engaged—just thinking and strategizing. Chess feels like a good workout. That's why I like it so much.

*Ken: Soccer is called "The Beautiful Game" and chess is called "The Game of Kings." Do you have any other thoughts about how these two games inform one another?*

Danny: In a lot of ways, soccer is like chess in that you have to always have to plan ahead. You have to react to what's in front of you.

*Ken: What are your aspirations for the future of soccer in Seattle for yourself?*

Danny: The Sounders team and fans have welcomed me. It's been great. I think I've already made some contributions to the team. I'm doing what I can to stay healthy, and I have no doubt I'll have a positive impact here with my team.

*Ken: Do you ever think of your soccer matches like the beginning, middle and end game phases in chess?*

Danny: Definitely. When you are in a soccer match you play differently depending on where you are in the match. You're not going to play the same way at the end of the game that you would at the beginning.

*Ken: As a forward in soccer, have you ever thought of yourself metaphorically as a certain kind of piece on the board?*

Danny: Oh, I'd say I'm like a Rook! I'm a very direct player and I like to make runs from behind. I try to make fast runs up and down the pitch.

*Ken: Do you have any favorite openings that you like to play in chess?*

Danny: My favorite opening is the Italian. It's what I'm most familiar with.

*Ken: There's a lot of literature about how soccer players from different countries are reflective of their culture. That means French, German and Italian players all play different styles of football.*

*What's your style of football?*

Danny: Well, my parents are from Macedonia so I feel that reflects on my particular soccer style. The eastern European style is very direct and, well, I guess I would call it, Balkan. I would describe it as a very tough and physical style. You just go through tackles, and you keep going through every challenge. That's definitely part of the soccer culture from that region, so definitely it's a part of me.

*Ken: What do you think about the future of chess for you?*

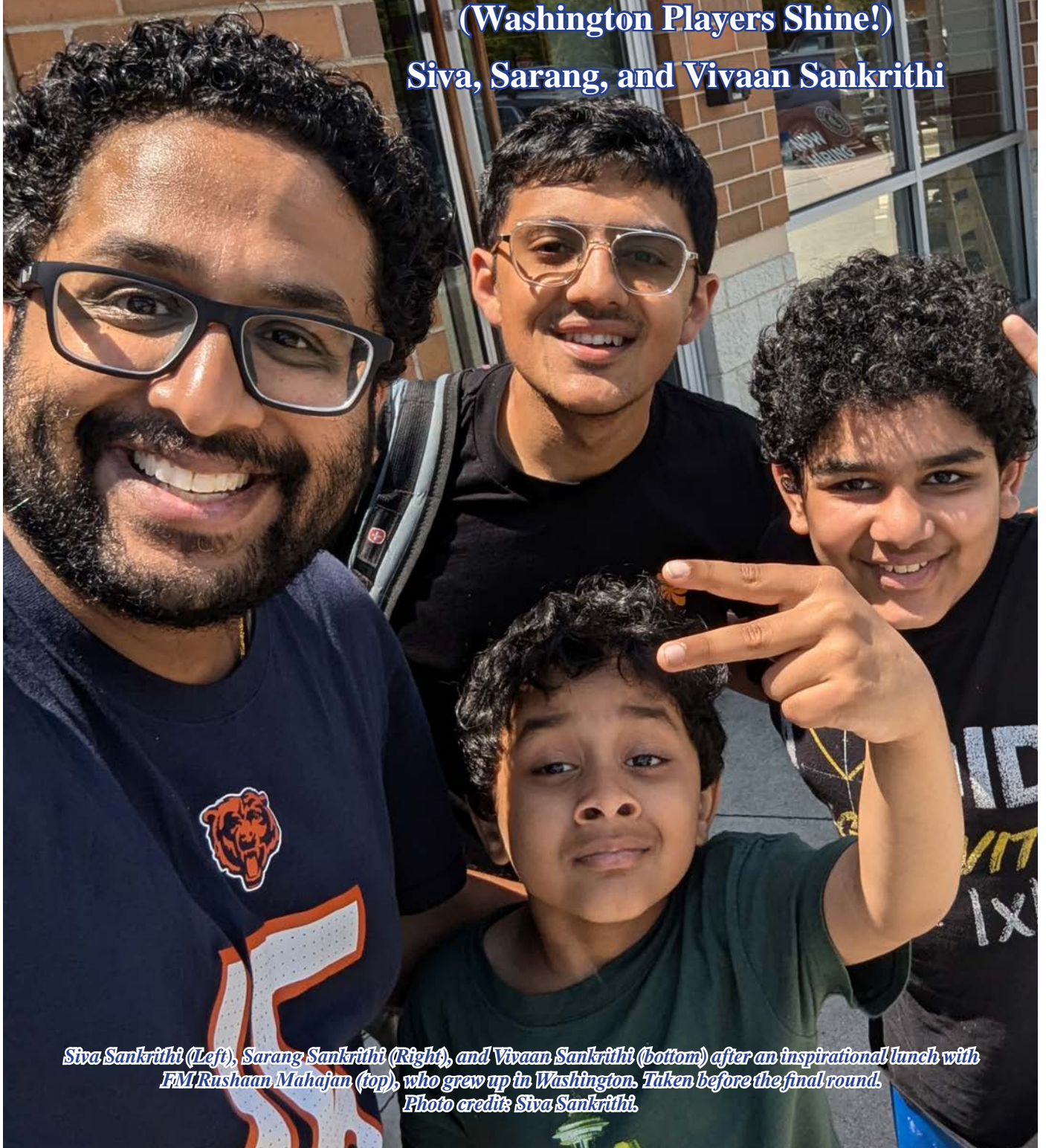
Danny: I'm definitely interested in the community. I'm not trying to become a chess master, but I could definitely use a couple hundred points on my ELO to get a little bit better. I definitely want to keep getting better to challenge my teammates.



# 2024 US Junior Open

(Washington Players Shine!)

Siva, Sarang, and Vivaan Sankrithi



*Siva Sankrithi (Left), Sarang Sankrithi (Right), and Vivaan Sankrithi (bottom) after an inspirational lunch with FM Rushaan Mahajan (top), who grew up in Washington. Taken before the final round.  
Photo credit: Siva Sankrithi.*





On July 12-14, 2024, in blistering summer heat mixed with torrential rain, thunder, and lightning, five intrepid Washington chess players played the US Junior Open at the Hilton Chicago Northbrook hosted by Caveman Chess. The tournament was six rounds of G90+30 chess, split into four sections based on age as of January 1, 2024, namely under 21, under 15, under 11, and under 8. Jeffrey Tiglon competed in U21, along with current California resident (but forever Washington kid) FM Rushaan Mahajan. Selina Cheng competed in U15, Sarang Sankrithi competed in U11, and Vivaan Sankrithi competed in U8.

Jeffrey and Rushaan finished with 3.0/6 and 4.0/6 respectively in the tough U21 field, led by recent World Open Champion GM Awonder Liang. A highlight for Jeffrey was a nice draw with decent winning chances against Expert Andrey Dmitriev. A highlight for Rushaan was a marathon match against GM Awonder in round three. Rushaan held an advantage for nearly all the game, with a material edge for a slightly worse king position. As the game progressed, it was the talk of the halls and skittles room, and ultimately Awonder used his positional advantage to push through after several hours of close play.

In the U15, Selina, fresh off a strong performance at the World Open and before repping Washington at the Haring and US Open, played good chess and was an amazing friend and role model for her younger teammates. She lost to a couple of players who ended up tying for fourth in the section but finished with 3.5/6 to earn the top twelve-year-old prize in her section! As the de-facto chess elder for Team Washington at the event, along with Selina's mom and photographer extraordinaire May Cheng, it was amazing to see all of team Washington come together, have a blast, share advice, stories, laughter, conversation, and more, and welcome friends from around the country and world into our circle and show what Washington chess is all about!

The rest of this article will be about my sons, Sarang and Vivaan, competing in the U11 and U8, respectively. Both are "regulars" on the Illinois chess scene, visiting their grandparents, and playing chess there at least twice a year. Both have been studying chess very hard the last six months and entered the tournament believing they could do well against

any opponent, regardless of rating, and contend for the titles, despite not being among the very top seeds.

Day one went well, each winning both games and making new friends in the process. Vivaan, six, challenged himself to share the game fully by memory with his second-round opponents mom, who was trying to recreate it from incomplete notation, and he did so perfectly, without using his notation, offering kind advice each time he felt there was an inaccuracy. When probed by Rushaan later as to how he was able to do that, he said I just closed my eyes and watched a replay of the game in my brain. Sarang had a nearly four-hour marathon against a highly underrated young man named Angad Saran. Sarang and Angad became fast friends throughout the tournament. As for the game, the boys were playing in increment with Sarang having the time edge. Though it was a "drawn" bishops of opposite color endgame with a rook and an advanced pawn apiece, Sarang prevailed under time pressure. More on Angad soon.

Both Sarang and Vivaan were on board one in round three after the top seeds conceded some points. Sarang drew a relatively equal game and Vivaan used a fantastic piece sac and rooks on the seventh to upset a player over 450 rating points higher, a young man from Mongolia named Bishrelt Munkhsuld who would head to the Pan Am Youth event after this one. Interestingly, the beauty of our wonderfully tight chess world was on full display as Bishrelt knew Odbayar Yondon, local legend and Sarang's good friend and training partner here in Washington! When we asked how they knew each other, Bishrelt's Dad replied, "We're Mongolian! We all know each other!" 2.5/3 for S. 3/3 for V.

Round four saw Sarang paired against the #2 seed in his section, Ryan Fei, and Vivaan paired against the #1 seed in his section, Emily Tang, who he'd lost to when he took second at the Illinois K-1 Championship a few months ago. Vivaan played brilliantly and earned a full piece advantage for nearly all the game. He got into an endgame a piece up, but around the two-hour mark, his longest game to date, he blundered and lost. As for Sarang, he played another endgame very well to hold. With both at 3.0/4, Sarang entered the final day in a four-way tie for first and Vivaan entered in a four-way tie for second, with Emily in first at 3.5/4.

Vivaan was paired against his skittles room buddy and #3 seed Jeremiah Tang. In the middlegame, Vivaan set up a very nice attack throwing caution to the wind on his own king safety after falling to some clever early tactics from Jeremiah. In a crazy double-edged position, both kids were pushing hard. Vivaan ultimately emerged victorious with a beautiful mate. Vivaan was now 4.0/5. On board one, in the battle of top seeds, Emily bested Bishrelt to put herself to 4.5/5 in firm control of the tournament. Vivaan and Jeremiah's game is shown below.

**Jeremiah Tang (951) –  
Vivaan Sankrithi (820) [C11]**  
2024 US Junior Open, U8  
Northbrook, IL (R5), July 14, 2024  
*[Vivaan Sankrithi]*



*US Junior Open Runner Up Vivaan Sankrithi (age six) with his new plaque.  
Photo by Meiling Cheng.*

**1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.Nf3 c5 6.dxc5 Bxc5 7.Bd3 Qc7 8.Bf4 Nc6 9.Nb5 Qb6 10.0-0 a6 11.Nd6+ Bxd6 12.exd6 Qxb2 13.Qe2 0-0 14.Rfe1 f6 15.Qxe6+ Kh8 16.Qf5 g6 17.Qh3 Nc5 18.d7**

When we went over the game with Jeremiah in the skittles room, he said he missed the backwards knight move to take on d7. Backwards moves are often

missed, particularly by younger players, even if they're very strong.

**18...Bxd7 19.Qg3 Nxd3 20.cxd3 g5  
21.Bd6 Rg8 22.Reb1 Qc3 23.Rxb7**

Whoops! Totally missed ...Qxa1 leading to mate here.

**23...Rae8 24.Rab1 g4 25.Rxd7 gxf3  
26.Rxh7+ Kxh7 27.Qh4+ Kg7 28.Rf1  
Re1 29.Qg4+ Kf7 30.Qd7+ Ne7 31.Bxe7  
Rxc2+ 32.Kh1 Rxf1#**

I wanted to do a cute mate here after a tough game against my buddy. I should've won sooner but I'll see it next time.

**0-1**

Sarang's fifth round game against top seeded Aarav Kavari was inspired. He played his Alapin Sicilian spectacularly and Aarav defended beautifully. Sarang won an exchange in the late middle game and then got into a R+B+4P vs R+B+1P endgame, and though the bishops were of opposite color, he had studied such positions extensively and knew he could confidently convert, which he did! Sarang was now 4.0/5 and tied for first with Ryun Fei, who he drew in round four. Angad, who Sarang beat in round two, was close behind at 3.5 and then there was a five-way tie behind Angad at 3.0/5. Sarang and Aarav's game is shown below.

**Sarang Sankrithi (1475) –  
Aarav Kavari (1664) [B22]**  
2024 US Junior Open, U11  
Northbrook, IL (R5), July 14, 2024  
[Sarang Sankrithi]

**1.e4 c5 2.c3**

This is the 2.c3 Sicilian or Alapin Sicilian, where you quickly develop your pieces to start attacking early on in the game.

**2...Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 e6 5.d4 cxd4  
6.cxd4 Nc6 7.a3 d6 8.Bd3 dxe5 9.dxe5  
Be7 10.Nc3 Nxc3 11.bxc3 0-0 12.h4?  
Kh8? 13.Qe2 f6 14.exf6 Bxf6 15.Qe4 g6  
16.h5 Qd5 17.Bd2 Qxe4+ 18.Bxe4 gxh5  
19.Rxh5 Rf7 20.Ng5 Bxg5 21.Bxg5 Bd7  
22.Bg6!**

A nice tactical find to win an exchange. If 22...Rg7 23.Bf6! pinning the rook. The best move is 23...Kg8, then 24.Bxg7 Rxc7 25.Rxh7+ Kxg6 26.Rxd7 is winning. If 23...Rag8, thinking you are guarding the rook, then 24. Rxh7#

**22...Be8 23.Bxf7 Bxf7 24.Bf6+ Kg8  
25.Rg5+ Bg6 26.Rd1 Rb8 27.Rd7 Kf8**



*US Junior Open Champion Sarang Sankrithi (age ten) with his new plaque. Photo by Meiling Cheng.*

**28.Rb5 b6 29.f3 Ra8 30.Rd6 Be8 31.Rg5  
Kf7 32.Be5 h6 33.Rg7+ Kf8 34.Bf6  
Nd8 35.Rh7 Nf7 36.Rxe6 Rc8 37.Re4  
Bd7 38.Re7 Be8 39.Rxa7 Rc6 40.Bd4  
Rg6 41.g4 Re6+ 42.Kf2 Rg6 43.Rb7 b5  
44.Rhxf7+! Bxf7**

I struggled a little bit converting the last 20 moves or so, but basically I picked off most of his pawns, and then sacrificed the rook back for a winning endgame.

**45.Bc5+ Kg7 46.Bd4+ Kf8 47.Rxb5 Ra6  
48.Rb8+ Ke7 49.Rb7+ Kf8 50.Rb8+  
Ke7 51.Bc5+ Ke6 52.Rb6+ Rxb6  
53.Bxb6 h5 54.Bc5 hxg4 55.fxg4**

Now, you might think this is a draw because of opposite-colored bishops, and all my pawns have the wrong color promotion square, but this is winning. I have a simple plan, which is to bring my king to the b-file, put the g-pawn on g5, have the bishop protect it, win his bishop for my c- or a-pawn, and use the principle of two weaknesses to win the game.

**55...Ke5 56.g5 Kf5 57.Be7 Bc4 58.Ke3  
Ba6 59.Kd4 Bb5 60.Kc5 Bd7 61.Kb4  
Bc6 62.a4 Ba8 63.a5 Bb7 64.Kb5 Ba8  
65.a6 Bd5 66.a7 Ba8 67.Kb6 Bd5  
68.Kc7 Ba8 69.Kb8 Bc6 70.a8Q Bxa8  
71.Kxa8 Kg6 72.c4 Kf7 73.Bf6 Kg6  
74.c5 Kf7 75.c6 Kg6 76.c7**

My plan was executed perfectly, and he resigned here.

**1-0**

After a wonderful, inspirational lunch with big bro Rushaan, the Sankrithi boys were ready for the final "money round" as some call it. Vivaan outplayed his opponent quickly winning a queen via a clever tactic early to guarantee himself second with 5.0/6! Unsurprisingly, Emily won her game as well for the title. Reflecting on the tourney, Vivaan was happy to play good chess and make lots of new friends. Though he justifiably felt he should've gone 6.0/6, he's very excited to keep working hard and grow and improve moving forward and is happy to be a national runner up!

Sarang was Black against Colin Fee, a wildly underrated young man who gained nearly 300 points in his last event. The game converged quite quickly into an approximately equal endgame that was positionally worse for S, so when Colin offered a draw, Sarang accepted. 4.5/6. Now we wait. Top seed Aarav wins his game to move to 4.0/6 and ensure at least fourth place. Colin is fifth. It all comes down to Ryun sitting at 4.0/5 playing Angad sitting at 3.5/5. An hour passes. The game remains equal with Angad having a slight positional advantage perhaps. A Ryun win with White would give him sole first. A draw would give him a tie with Sarang though Sarang would have better tiebreaks. A win for Angad would give him a share of first with Sarang but there too, Sarang would have better tiebreaks.

U8 had their award ceremony and V received his beautiful second place plaque! U15 had their award ceremony. Ryun and Angad remained in the playing hall engaged in battle though Angad's position appeared to be improving and opportunities for a breakthrough began to emerge. A half hour passed and Angad broke through! Sarang and Angad embraced outside the playing hall knowing both would forever hold the distinction of being US Junior Open Champions! Yes, Sarang had the better tiebreaks, and yes Sarang received the top plaque, but more importantly, both were thrilled for their new buddy, proud of themselves, and excited for continuing their friendship through chess moving forward.

Shoutout to all the amazing players, parents, coaches, supporters, organizers, tournament staff, and more for making this fabulous event a reality year after year. Hopefully many of you readers can make the trip in the future. Cheers!



# M' Lady's Hand

By Glen O'Harra



Glen O'Harra. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

*Shadows danced upon the field, an eerie checkered board!  
Staring stark, eyes peeled, our weapons, shield, and sword!*

*My steel glistened in the dawn, amidst a thunderous roar!  
We listened, e're the fray was done, viewed the corpse strewn floor!*

*Their cavalry pranced and reared, we tried hard to keep track!  
What came next, we most feared, our men stabbed in the back!*

*At twilight and end of day, pored over battle plan!  
There was no knight, I would not slay, for m' lady's hand!*

*Hooded archers from afar, took their deadly aim!  
Like some shooting star, their arrows aflame!*

*Queens stormed from their towers; rage vainly displayed!  
As they showed their powers, the price, for war, they paid!*

*Against their sturdy fort, our forces soon laid siege!  
We crossed their dirty moat, then we torched their bridge!*

*We heard a whine and a shout, their king from castle fled!  
For him time had now run out, when I lopped off his head!*

## 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.

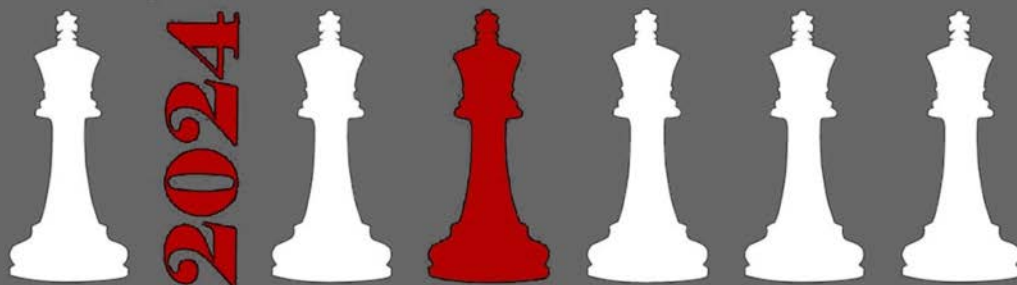
**Yifan U1300:** 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>: \$130-\$100.  
1<sup>st</sup> U1200/U1000/U800: \$80.

**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.*

Washington State



## Elementary Chess Championship

Tri-Cities, Washington

By Josh Sinanan

The 2024 Washington State Elementary Chess Championships (WSECC) were held at the Three Rivers Convention Center, in Kennewick, Washington, on Saturday, May 4. This year's event attracted 1050 players, down slightly from last year's 1200+ players, but still a solid turnout considering that the event was hosted in the Tri-Cities region.

Due to size constraints of the venue, the event was split between three locations, with the Elementary Championships (Grades 1-5) taking place at the Convention Center, the Kindergarten section taking place next door at the Springhill Suites hotel, and the Middle School Championship and I Love Chess Too sections taking place two miles away at Kamiakin High School. An amazing team of volunteers led by chief organizer and WSECC President Danielle Craigen set up the venues on Friday evening before the crowd of several thousand players, parents, and spectators arrived on Saturday morning.

The Middle School Championship, typically a two-day event, was run as a five-round Swiss in one section over the course of one day in the gymnasium of Kamiakin High School. Also taking place at Kamiakin were three "I Love Chess Too" sections, which accommodated players in grades K-12 who had not qualified for State, but still wanted to play in Kennewick. Attendance in the Washington State Elementary Chess Championships remains robust due to a thriving scholastic chess season that saw more Northwest rated qualifying events

than ever before. Thanks to the excellent planning and coordination on behalf of the organizers to secure additional space across the three venues, most of the last-minute stragglers from the waitlist were able to be accommodated.

The five-round, G/30 NWSRS rated Swiss tournament was split across 11 sections parsed by grade level and rating: Kindergarten, First Grade, Second Grade, Third Grade, Fourth Grade, Fifth Grade, Sixth Grade, Middle School Championship, I Love Chess Too K-Second Grades, I Love Chess Too Third-Fifth Grades, I Love Chess Too High School.

Hosting an event of this magnitude spread across three locations presented several logistical challenges and required careful coordination and teamwork by a group of experienced chess organizers and volunteers. The event ran smoothly with no major hiccups in large part due to the efforts of the host organization, the Washington Elementary Chess Champions (WECC), the Three Rivers Convention Center Staff, and numerous supporters and volunteers!

Especially worthy of mention are the efforts of the lead organizer and WECC President Danielle Craigen, Chief TD Loren Schmidt, the pairings team of Norm May, Todd May, and Gregg Dillingham, Middle School and I Love Chess Too tournament directors Randy Kaech and Robert Giffords, Kindergarten Section Chief Siva Sankrithi, help desk supervisor Donna May, and the hand pairings team of Brad Stensland, Lane Van Weerdhuizen, and Tim Campbell.

Washington Elementary Chess Champions (WECC) board members

Doug Herigstad and Alex Corsten were on-site throughout the day and helped to coordinate the festivities. Chess Enrichment Association (CEA) board members Josh Sinanan, James Stripes, and Edith Lau provided additional support along with numerous parent volunteers, scorekeepers, and floor judges.

Several strict Three Rivers Convention Center staff members, likely with military backgrounds, oversaw securing the entrances to the playing hall, which only players and designated personnel were permitted to enter after the start of each round. The foyer area near the entrances to the playing hall in the convention center was often crowded, due to the event's only vendor, Northwest Designs Ink, setting up camp there. The Toyota Arena, which housed several of the team tables, was located a quick two-minute walk from the convention center just across the parking lot.

Despite the additional spacious parent waiting area available in the Toyota Arena, most parents opted to hang out in the foyer near the playing hall, perhaps due to the chill of the ice rink located underneath the mat placed on top of it. Meiling Cheng, chess mom and photographer extraordinaire, once again took many phenomenal photos over the course of the day. However, to maintain the privacy and safety of the players, the organizers have chosen not to make the photos from State public for the time being. Northwest Designs Ink, the event's sole vendor due to space constraints, offered customized apparel and was onsite throughout the day selling t-shirts and other customized chess-themed accoutrements!



Several coaches from throughout the state were on-hand analyzing games, setting up puzzles, and taking on all challengers in speed chess.

The energy in the playing hall was palpable as Chief TD, Loren Schmidt, pumped up the players at the start of each round with his signature countdown. The pace of play was expeditious amongst the younger and less experienced players, but steady and deliberate amongst the older veterans. The kindergarten section, which took place across the breezeway in the adjacent Springhill Suites hotel, ran on a separate schedule from the other sections and wrapped up just after 2:00 PM, much to the delight of the 61 players and their parents.

There were many displays of good sportsmanship throughout the day, with only the occasional dispute or disagreement, which were swiftly handled by the judges and TD staff. Upon the conclusion of the last game and eight+ hours of play, an awards ceremony led by Danielle Craigen, Loren Schmidt, and Josh Sinanan was held around 5:30 PM to honor the top-scoring players and teams.

Those with a plus score of 3.0, 3.5, or 4.0 points were awarded their point-award trophies immediately following the final round at the scoring tables. Special congratulations to the Champions and section winners!

Congratulations to the amazing chess warriors who competed in Kennwick and many thanks to all who contributed to this fantastic event!



## Individual Scores

### Kindergarten Co-Champions:

Skyler Qin  
(5.0, 862→932)

Vivaan Sankrithi  
(5.0, 848→931)

### First Grade Co-Champions:

Skandha Raj  
(5.0, 1136→1177)

Hengsheen Wang  
(5.0, 1107→1177)

### Second Grade Co-Champions:

Terrick Evin  
(4.5, 1518→1517)

Lewis Ma  
(4.5, 1314→1337)

Daniel Yun  
(4.5, 1218→1227)

Matvei Ivanov  
(4.5, 941→1049)

### Third Grade Co-Champions:

Samarth Bharadwaj  
(5.0, 1406→1445)

Aiden Zhu  
(5.0, 1400→1434)

### Fourth Grade Co-Champions:

Rafael Palathingal  
(5.0, 1748→1767)

Neevan R. Saddi  
(5.0, 1720→1738)

Dann Merriman  
(5.0, 1634→1656)

### Fifth Grade Champion:

Odbayar Yondon  
(5.0, 1805→1825)

### Sixth Grade Champion:

Selina Cheng  
(5.0, 1591→1621)

### Middle School Co-Champions:

Harishkumar Karthikeyan  
(4.5, 1974→1969)

William Summerfield  
(4.5, 1804→1807)

Evan Cen  
(4.5, 1630→1657)

Karsh Havaladar  
(4.5, 1512→1583)

### I Love Chess Too

#### K-Second Winner:

Ethan An Tong Chang  
(5.0, 666→724)

### I Love Chess Too

#### Third-Fifth Winners:

Aditya Sreeram  
(4.0, 715→764)

Telmuun Bilguun  
(4.0, 662→732)

Davis Pole  
(4.0, 597→737)

Allen Yang  
(4.0, 225→490)

### I Love Chess Too

#### High School Winner:

Ben Patterson  
(5.0, 1725→1764)

## Team Scores

### First:

Somerset Elementary School  
(21.5, Bellevue)

### Second:

Open Window School  
(21.0, Bellevue)

### Third:

Endeavor Elementary School  
(20.5, Issaquah)

### Fourth:

Samantha Smith Elementary School  
(20.0, Sammamish)

### Fifth:

Bellevue Children's Academy  
(20.0, Bellevue)

### Sixth:

Medina Elementary School  
(20.0, Bellevue)

### Seventh:

Evergreen School  
(19.5, Shoreline)

### Eighth:

Discovery Elementary School  
(19.0, Sammamish)

### Ninth:

Einstein Elementary School  
(18.5, Redmond)

### Tenth:

Rosa Parks Elementary School  
(18.0, Redmond)



# My Nationals

Ted Wang

I recently won a 7.0/7 nationals. I'll tell you how I did it. I came to the Nationals ready to try to take that medal. I had won two previous ones, and I was not about to give up my streak just yet. I really did not have much trouble with the earlier rounds. But, as round four approached, things became intense.

The top two 2200's were out, so I was the top player. I had a strong attack, but then I came to a crossroads. I had three options: Go for a very hard attack but lose material, draw or give him +3.5 advantage to proceed with my attack. (+3.5 is about a rook for a pawn). I ruled out a draw instantly. I knew that if I went for the hard attack, most likely my attack would not succeed. So, I gave him the +3.5 advantage. I ended up winning.

In game five, I played a player about 100 points below my rating. I realized it was no longer about an easy win but about a grinding win. I outplayed him, though, and then I was 5.0/5. I woke up the next morning to find my next opponent. I played a 1978. But, he had beaten one of the 2200's the night before.

I came to the game prepared and managed to squeeze out a win after he made a big blunder. After I was done, I was following the game of Sharath Radhakrishnan and Sivavishnu Srinivasian. Sharath was a 2200 while Sivavishnu was a 2050. When Sharath was winning, I began to think of a strategy.

After a while, I realized that if a player really wants to win (he was 5.5/6, I was 6.0/6 and there were no other 5.5's, so if he wins then he takes the title) he will overextend and give you chances. So, I played solidly and managed to equalize the opening with Black.

He overextended, just like predicted. The -1.5 advantage he gave me was enough. I managed to take him out. I pulled off a 7.0/7.

There are a few takeaways from this:

*Players can overextend if they want to win too much;*

*If a player really wants to win, let them overextend and then beat them;*

*You need to be able to take big risks even in very important games;*

*Try to stay on your home court (this means try to play the openings you have the most experience with).*

My last game is annotated here.

**Sharath Radhakrishnan (1963) – Ted Wang (2027) [B31]**  
U.S. National Elementary School Championship (K5 Section)  
Columbus, OH (R7), April 28, 2024  
[Ted Wang]

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 g6 4.0-0 Bg7 5.Re1 Nf6 6.c3 0-0 7.d4 d5 8.e5 Ne4 9.Nbd2 cxd4 10.cxd4 Qb6 11.Bxc6 Qxc6**

I already managed to equalize here. It was a pretty pleasant position.

**12.Nb3**

12.Nxe4 dxe4 13.d5 Qc4 14.Ng5 Bxe5 15.Rxe4 Qc7 16.Nf3 Bf6 Something like this would lead to a very double edged game.

**12...Be6?**

12...b6 13.Be3 Ba6 14.Ng5 Nxg5 15.Bxg5 f6 16.Bd2 Rac8 would be probably better than the game because he has no extremely strong c5 knight.

**13.Bd2 Qb6 14.Rc1 Rac8 15.Qe2 Nxd2**

15...Bd7 16.Ba5 Qb5 17.Qxb5 Bxb5 18.Bb4 could have been another idea for Black.

**16.Qxd2 Bg4 17.Nc5 Bxf3 18.gxf3 Rfd8 19.e6 f5 20.b4?**

He *needs* to play h4 here because of the weak g6-pawn I have established.

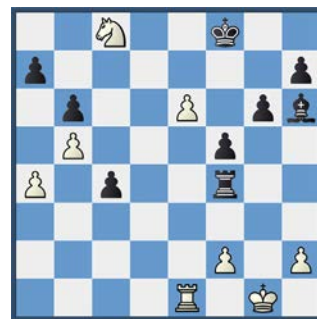
**20...Qc6!**

Now the knight gets kicked.

**21.a4 b6 22.b5 Qc7 23.Nd7 Qd6 24.Rc3 Rc4 25.Rxc4 dxc4 26.f4?? Bh6**

26...Rc8 27.Ne5 c3 28.Qd3 Bxe5 29.fxe5 Qd5 would have been the best continuation.

**27.Ne5 Qxd4 28.Qxd4 Rxd4 29.Nc6 Rxf4 30.Nxe7+ Kf8 31.Nc8**



Position after 31.Nc8

**31...Rd4!!**

Here I need to cut the d6-square as for the d6 check would let him queen.

**32.Nxa7 c3 33.Nc6 Rc4 34.e7+ Ke8 35.Rd1 Re4**

35...Bd2 36.Kg2 c2 37.Rxd2 Rxc6 38.bxc6 c1Q was the easiest win.

**36.f4 c2**

36...Bxf4 37.Rd8+ Kf7 38.Rf8+ Kg7 39.e8Q c2 If you guess the right evaluation, you are a genius.

Here Black is -1.7 even though he is down a queen. Just look. It is stunning, but White has to give his queen to stop promotion.

This is just a fun line.

**37.Rc1 Rc4 38.Ne5 Bxf4 39.Nxc4 Bxc1 0-1**



# 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

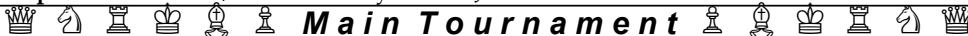
**Top Senior (65+) - \$200; Club Championship - \$600 - 300.**

**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
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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

<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

**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:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# Washington Open (Part Two)

Josh Sinanan



*Balbir Singh ponders his next move.  
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*

*Part One was published in the  
August 2024 issue (pages 4-15).*

*Part Two continues now on page 16  
of this issue with the Washington Open  
side events.*



## Washington Open Mixed Doubles Teams

The Washington Open once again featured a popular mixed doubles competition, in which the top three two-player male-female teams combined among all three sections qualified for a prize. A total of seventeen mixed double teams threw their hats into the ring, which included a sibling's team and several good friends joining forces to jump into the mix! In the end, the "Wild Cheetahs" team consisting of Selina Cheng of Seattle and Stephen Willy of Sammamish scored a combined eight points to bring home First Place.

Two teams shared =Second/Third Place honors a half-point back: the "BC Pandas" team of Joanne Wangluo of Vancouver, B.C. and her coach IM Bindi Cheng of Coquitlam, and the "UW Huskies" team of Nola Fung of Bellevue and Anand Gupta of Sammamish.

Congratulations to the winners!

Washington Open Mixed Doubles Teams						
Name	Partner	Event	Section	Team Name	Team Score	Place (and Prize)
Selina Cheng	Stephen Willy	3-day	Premier	Wild Cheetahs	3.5 + 4.5 = 8	1st: \$300
Stephen Willy	Selina Cheng	3-day	Open			
Joanne Wangluo	Bindi Cheng	2-day	Premier	BC Pandas	3 + 4.5 = 7.5	=2nd/3rd: \$188
Bindi Cheng	Joanne Wangluo	3-day	Open			
Nola Fung	Anand Gupta	3-day	Premier	UW Huskies	3 + 4.5 = 7.5	=2nd/3rd: \$188
Anand Gupta	Nola Fung	3-day	Premier			
Lakshana Anand	Vidip Kona	3-day	Premier	Cool Cougars	3.5 + 3 = 6.5	
Vidip Kona	Lakshana Anand	3-day	Open			
Kate Wong	Dann Merriman	3-day	Premier	Donkey Kong	2.5 + 4 = 6.5	
Dann Merriman	Kate Wong	3-day	Premier			
Andra Marinescu	Gregory Lee	3-day	Premier	Sleepy Lions	2 + 4.5 = 6.5	
Gregory Lee	Andra Marinescu	2-day	Rising			
Mary Kuhner	Valentin Razmov	3-day	Premier	Racoons	4 + 2.5 = 6.5	
Valentin Razmov	Mary Kuhner	3-day	Open			
Deeksha Shankaranand	Balbir Singh	3-day	Premier	Bengal Tigers	3.5 + 3 = 6.5	
Balbir Singh	Deeksha Shankaranand	2-day	Premier			
Sofia Byelashova	Alex Byelashov	3-day	Rising	Team Byelashov	2 + 3.5 = 5.5	
Alex Byelashov	Sofia Byelashova	3-day	Rising			
Te Wei	Vikram Srivastava	3-day	Open	Chai Tea	2 + 3.5 = 5.5	
Vikram Srivastava	Te Wei	3-day	Open			
Zoe Xu	Owen Xu	3-day	Premier	Xu Double	2 + 2.5 = 4.5	
Owen Xu	Zoe Xu	3-day	Open			
Eesha Juneja	Ekam Sardar	2-day	Rising	June Sardines	2.5 + 2 = 4.5	
Ekam Sardar	Eesha Juneja	2-day	Rising			
Veronique Joseph	Sarang Sankrithi	3-day	Premier	Unique Skunks	1.5 + 2.5 = 4	
Sarang Sankrithi	Veronique Joseph	3-day	Premier			
Shuyi Han	Neevan Reddy Saddi	3-day	Open	New Shoes	2 + 1.5 = 3.5	
Neevan Reddy Saddi	Shuyi Han	3-day	Open			
Naye M Straginski	Vivaan Sankrithi	3-day	Open	Magic Dragons	1.5 + 2 = 3.5	
Vivaan Sankrithi	Nayelle M Straginski	3-day	Rising			
Darya Byelashova	Siva Sankrithi	3-day	Rising	Never Say Bye	1 + 2 = 3	
Siva Sankrithi	Darya Byelashova	3-day	Premier			
Aarna Dhar	Kavish Dhar	2-day	Rising	Double Dhar	1.5 + 1 = 2.5	
Kavish Dhar	Aarna Dhar	2-day	Rising			

## Washington Open Adult Novice Swiss: Open U1200

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Total	Prize
1	1	Jacob Rosenblum	unr.	W7	W5	W2	W3	4	\$83
2	2-4	Zara Zong	unr.	W11	W6	L1	W8	3	\$35
3		Christopher Mayer	1192	B---	W8	W9	L1	3	\$35
4		Girisudha Sundararajan	unr.	L6	B---	W7	W5	3	\$35
5	5-6	Fuxing Zou	unr.	W10	L1	W6	L4	2	\$10
6		Aaron Chin	unr.	W4	L2	L5	W9	2	\$10
7	7-10	Sumarani Sukumara-Panicker	unr.	L1	W11	L4	D10	1.5	\$5
8		Zhifu Pei	unr.	D9	L3	W11	L2	1.5	\$5
9		Nadiya Velichko	unr.	D8	W10	L3	L6	1.5	\$5
10		Lashawna Covey	unr.	L5	L9	B---	D7	1.5	\$5
11	11	Yen-Nong Su	unr.	L2	L7	L8	H---	0.5	

## Washington Open Adult Novice Swiss

The Washington Open Adult Novice Swiss, a new tournament designed for adult (18+) players from unrated to 1200, was held on Saturday from 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Several parents who kids were playing in the Abdusattorov Scholastic decided to play at the last-minute and

signed up on-site to keep themselves busy while their kids were engaged in the scholastic event. The 11-player adult-only (18+) four-round Swiss featured a fun G/30;+5 time control and was unrated. It required no memberships and was perfect for new adults just getting into the game!

The event was run under the supervision of WCF Member-at-Large Ani Barua and took place in the back corner of the main event playing hall in Salons one+two. Ferndale chess man Jacob Rosenblum topped the field with a perfect four points from four games to earn the First-Place prize. Lakeside senior and incoming Stanford student Zara Zong of Medina shared second place honors with Seattleite Christopher Mayer and Redmond's Girisudha Sundararajan a full-point back.

Chess dads Fuxing Zou of Sammamish and Aaron Chin of Seattle split the U700 prize with an even two points apiece. Four chess huntresses split the Unrated prize a half-point back: Sumarani Sukumara-Panicker of Redmond, Zhifu Pei of Bellevue, Nadiya Velichko of Milton, Lashawna Covey of Lacey.

## Washington Open Carol Kleist Memorial Adult Swiss

The Second Annual Washington Open Carol Kleist Memorial Adult Swiss took place May 26-27 alongside the main tournament in honor of the late Carol Kleist. The 14-player adult-only (18+) four-round Swiss featured a time control of G/120; +30 to provide an alternative event for those adults seeking to spend less time at the board compared with the main event and wishing to avoid playing those pesky underrated kids!

Washington Open 2nd Annual Carol Kleist Memorial Adult Swiss: Botvinnik Open									
#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Total	Prize
1	1-4	FM Paul R Bartron	2025	W7	D6	H---	W5	3	=1st/3rd
2		NM David Rupel	1974	W9	W4	L5	W7	3	=1st/3rd
3		Michael J Hosford	1952	W13	D5	W11	H---	3	=1st/3rd
4		Paul Harwood	1873	W14	L2	W6	W10	3	=1st/3rd
5	5-6	FM Peter Yu	2100	W8	D3	W2	L1	2.5	
6		Erkan Chabuk	1901	W10	D1	L4	W14	2.5	
7	7	Henry Yan	1611	L1	B---	W12	L2	2	1st U1650
8	8-11	Ralph Anthony	1690	L5	D13	H---	H---	1.5	
9		John Patrick Christy	1504	L2	L12	D14	W11	1.5	
10		Coleman Hoyt	1315	L6	D14	W13	L4	1.5	1st U1500
11		David Mynar	unr.	W12	H---	L3	L9	1.5	1st Unrated
12	12-14	Mark Smith	1667	L11	W9	L7	U---	1	
13		Michael Rodney	1330	L3	D8	L10	H---	1	=2nd/3rd U1500
14		Henry Louie	1300	L4	D10	D9	L6	1	=2nd/3rd U1500

This year's edition was shorted to just four rounds over two days, down from six rounds over three days in last year's event, to offer a more relaxed and flexible schedule. Originally planned as a two-section tournament consisting of the Botvinnik Open and Korchnoi U1500, the sections were merged into a single Botvinnik Open due to only four registered players in the Korchnoi section.

The event was run under the supervision of WCF Co-Vice President Rekha Sagar and was sponsored by the Seattle Chess Club with a generous prize fund of \$1000 guaranteed by SCC board member and chess benefactor Henry Yan. Four chess knights of the round table – FM Paul Bartron (2015 → 2026, 3.0) of Tacoma, NM David Rupel (1987 → 1991, 3.0) of Olympia, Michael Hosford (1800 → 1818, 3.0) of Olympia, and Paul Harwood (1860 → 1866, 3.0) of Bellevue – emerged victorious, each with three points from four games!

Rupel got off to a fast start with wins against Jack Christy (1512) and Paul Harwood (1860) in the first two rounds before running into top seed FM Peter Yu in the third round. Yu looked to have good chances of winning the tournament heading into the final round but lost to

fellow FIDE Master Bartron in their clutch final-round encounter. Seattle Chess Club board member and tournament sponsor Henry Yan (1609 → 1622, 2.0) of Bellevue won the First U1650 prize with an even two-point score.

Former poker pro and chess simul dream team member Coleman Hoyt (1326 → 1338, 1.5) of Seattle captured the U1500 prize a half-point back. Seattle-based newcomer David Mynar (unrated → 1517, 1.5) won the first unrated prize with an impressive 1.5 points. A pair of chess wisemen – Michael Rodney (1266 → 1265, 1.0) of Redmond and Henry Louie (1300 → 1310, 1.0) of Mineral – shared second/third U1500 honors to round out the prize winners.

The prizes listed in the crosstable above are presented in pink in honor of Carol's favorite color.

## Washington Open Abdusattorov Scholastic

The 2024 Washington Open Abdusattorov Scholastic took place on Saturday, May 25 in Salon three of the Grand Ballroom at the Redmond Marriott. Scholastic chess players in grades K-12 participated from throughout the Pacific

Northwest, including the cities of Clyde Hill, Woodinville, Lynnwood, Portland, Redmond, Bellevue, Sammamish, North Bend, Newcastle, Seattle, Kirkland, Surrey (B.C.), Bothell, Issaquah, Mill Creek, Olympia, Port Hadlock, Renton, Lake Oswego, Snohomish, Everett, University Place, Ferndale, Camas, Mercer Island, and Kalispell (Montana)! The event was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation and directed by WCF Co-Vice President Director Rekha Sagar with assistance from former State Champion FM Slava Mikhailuk and popular chess coach Tim Campell.

Amazing photographs were taken throughout the day by chess mom extraordinaire Meiling Cheng.

A packed house of 149 players (a Washington Open Scholastic record!) competed across three sections parsed by grade level and rating: K-3 U800, 4-8 U900, K-3 Open, and 4-12 Open.

### K-3 U800:

=First–Third: David Zhang, Parth Juneja and Fedora Gong, 4.5 points each — Co-Champions!

Second: Wenyong Wang, 4.5 points

=Fourth/Fifth: Suryen Charuvil Vinu, Dharsaan Ponnuhilan and Rihaan Rahul, four points each

Best Female Players: Claire Wong and Marina Zhang, three points each

Biggest Upset Win: Aarush Kaimalangara Sujesh (452 points)

### 4-8 U900:

First: Zion Pantea, 5.0 — Champion!

=Second-Fifth: Suhaas Meka, Nieka My, Adrina Berjis and Kavish Dhar, four points each

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Best Female Player: Siana Razmov, three points

Biggest Upset Win: Belet My (632 points)

### K-3 Open:

=First/Second: Lewis Ma and Shawn Li, four points each — Co-Champions!

Third: Jizhou He, 3.5 points

=Fourth/Fifth: Kruti Thanikonda, Jake Bravenboer, and Skyer Qin, three points each

Best Female Player: Alice Li, 2.5 points

Biggest Upset Win: Vincent Gu (257 points)

### 4-12 Open:

=First/Second: Hsiang-Ju Tang and Sriram Badri, four points each — Co-Champions!

=Third-Fifth: Aadi Hetamsaria, Aarya Patel, Jonathan Zuo, Guru Harshith Reddy Avula, Imai Maharaja, Jimmy Yang and Aayan Hetamsaria, three points each

Best Female Player: Eesha Juneja, 2.5 points

Biggest Upset Win: David Manchester Wilson (423 points)

## Washington Open Fischer Chess960 Rapid

The Washington Open Fischer Chess960 Rapid, a four-round Swiss in one section, took place on Saturday May 25 at 2:15 PM under the direction of WCF President Josh Sinanan. Twenty-one Chess960 players honored the great American world champion as they

Fischer Chess960 Rapid								
#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Total pts	Prize
1	NM Aziz Degenbaev	2301	W17	W4	W3	W6	4	1st
2	NM Vinesh Ravuri	2320	W11	D7	W9	W8	3.5	2nd
3	Valentin Razmov	1893	W19	W14	L1	W7	3	=3rd/1st U2000
4	Gabriel Razmov	1815	X22	L1	W12	W10	3	=3rd/1st U2000
5	Rishi Ramaswamy	1794	W13	L8	W20	W14	3	=3rd/1st U2000
6	Neevan R. Saddi	1738	W21	W15	W8	L1	3	=3rd/1st U2000
7	Odbayar Yondon	1825	W20	D2	W15	L3	2.5	
8	NM Daniel Shubin	2274	W12	W5	L6	L2	2	
9	NM Stephen Willy	2219	H---	W16	L2	D15	2	
10	Jackson Subcleff	1754	L14	W18	W21	L4	2	
11	Dann Merriman	1656	L2	L20	W16	W19	2	=1st U1700/U1400
12	Patrick Perry	1399	L8	W13	L4	W21	2	=1st U1700/U1400
13	Frazer Case	unr.	L5	L12	B---	W17	2	=1st Unrated
14	Adam Stallard	unr.	W10	L3	W17	L5	2	=1st Unrated
15	Harishkumar Karthikeyan	1969	W18	L6	L7	D9	1.5	
16	Ekam Sardar	1101	H---	L9	L11	W20	1.5	
17	Satish Kumar Ramachandran	1417	L1	W19	L14	L13	1	
18	Slava Shinkarev	1391	L15	L10	L19	B---	1	
19	Jeb Stroud	1338	L3	L17	W18	L11	1	
20	Michael Rodney	1330	L7	W11	L5	L16	1	
21	William Case	unr.	L6	B---	L10	L12	1	
22	Pavithran Vinoth Ganapathy	656	F4	---	---	---	0	

scrambled up the back-rank pieces and played from randomly generated starting positions each round!

Pieces were drawn at random from a bag between rounds by the players themselves, and then they were given two minutes to analyze the starting position before clocks were started.

The positions drawn were as follows: round one – position 456: RBNNBKQR, round two – position 155: NRNQBKRB, round three – position 74: NNRKBBQR, round four – position 156: NBRNQKBR. After four fun action-packed rounds of G/10; +3 rapid Chess960 games, Kyrgyzstan chess whiz NM Aziz Degenbaev (2301, 4.0) was crowned the Washington Open Fischer Chess960 Rapid Champion with a perfect four points from four games.

Along the way, Aziz mowed down his rivals in classic Fischer style, scoring victories against Gabriel Razmov (1815),

Valentin Razmov (1893), and Neevan Reddy Saddi (1738) along the way. Speed chess expert NM Vinesh Ravuri (2320, 3.5) from Bellevue finished in second place a half-point back. Four chess fishermen shared the Third/First U2000 prize with three points apiece: Valentin Razmov (1893, 3.0) of Seattle, Gabriel Razmov (1815, 3.5) of Seattle, Rishi Ramaswamy (1794, 3.0) of Bellevue, and Neevan Reddy Saddi (1738, 3.0) of Issaquah. Two daring tacticians – Dann Merriman (1656, 2.0) of Duvall and Patrick Perry (1399, 2.0) of Kailua, Hawaii – were awarded the First U1700/First U1400 prize for their performances.

A duo of intrepid Fischer fans – Frazer Case (unrated, 2.0) of Tacoma and Adam Stallard (unrated, 2.0) of Redmond – split the Unrated prize with two points apiece.

Congratulations to the winners!

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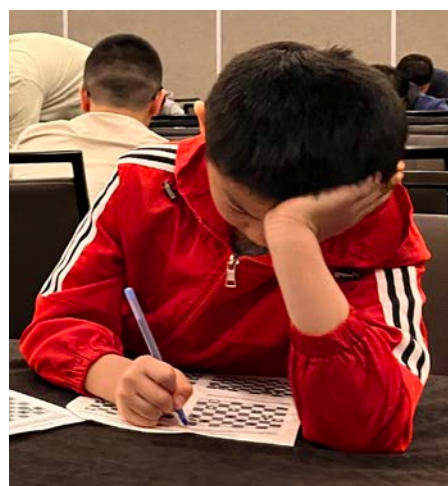
# Washington Open Puzzle Solving Competition

On Saturday afternoon at 4:30pm, 50 courageous puzzle warriors were given a maximum of 45 minutes to solve 16 chess puzzles. The puzzles, which were designed by WCF Tournament Coordinator Valentin Razmov, contained a challenging mix of tactical and strategic themes. Solutions were written on paper, and contestants were evaluated based on accuracy, completeness, and speed.

We have included the puzzles on the opposite page for the *Northwest Chess* readers to enjoy. How many can you solve? Solutions will be revealed in a future issue of *Northwest Chess*!



(L-R) Harishkumar Karthikeyan, Stephen Willy, Emerson Wong-Godfrey, and Nikash Vemparala in full concentration mode during the puzzle-solving competition.  
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.



Andy Chen at the puzzle-solving competition.  
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.



Charan Bikkula (Front), Te Wei, and Saiya work through the challenging set of puzzles.  
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

Washington Open Puzzle Solving Competition							
Last Name	First Name	Highest Rating	Start Time	End Time	Minutes used	Score (out of 16)	Prize
Vemparala	Nikash	2208	4:56 PM	5:22 PM	26	15.75	1st: \$100
Willy	Stephen	2219	4:56 PM	5:35 PM	39	14.5	2nd/3rd: \$60
He	Daniel	2361	4:57 PM	5:39 PM	42	14.5	2nd/3rd: \$60
Yondon	Odbayar	1825	4:54 PM	5:39 PM	45	14	1st U2000: \$30
Wong-Godfrey	Emerson	1951	4:56 PM	5:38 PM	42	13.5	
Ravuri	Vinesh	2320	4:57 PM	5:34 PM	37	13.25	
Razmov	Gabriel	1815	4:57 PM	5:38 PM	41	12	
Karthikeyan	Harishkumar	1969	4:56 PM	5:38 PM	42	12	
Merriman	Dann	1656	4:56 PM	5:38 PM	42	11.5	1st U1700: \$30
Yin	Aiden	1627	4:57 PM	5:38 PM	41	11	
McCallum	Elliot	1855	4:56 PM	5:39 PM	43	11	
Wei	Te	1712	4:56 PM	5:40 PM	44	10.75	
Moghe	Arjun	1305	4:56 PM	5:39 PM	43	10.5	1st U1400: \$30
Karamali	Saiya	1691	4:54 PM	5:39 PM	45	10.25	
Ma	Ziliang	1457	4:57 PM	5:37 PM	40	10	
Cluff	Stella	1508	4:54 PM	5:38 PM	44	10	
Hosford	Michael J	1952	4:55 PM	5:40 PM	45	10	
Bimod	Karthik	1659	4:56 PM	5:38 PM	42	9.75	
Shah	Aarit	1414	4:56 PM	5:39 PM	43	9.5	
Fung	Nola	1778	4:54 PM	5:38 PM	44	9.5	
Stroud	Jeb	1338	4:57 PM	5:38 PM	41	9.25	
Cheng	Selina	1621	4:56 PM	5:38 PM	42	9.25	
Stroud	James	0	4:56 PM	5:38 PM	42	9	1st Unrated: \$30
Joseph	Veronique	1392	4:54 PM	5:38 PM	44	9	
Chaudhuri	Arihant	1245	4:56 PM	5:38 PM	42	8.75	
He	Oliver	1483	4:54 PM	5:40 PM	46	8.75	
Maharaja	Imai	1323	4:56 PM	5:38 PM	42	8.5	
Chen	Andy	1570	4:54 PM	5:39 PM	45	8.5	
Sreraman	Rohit	1092	4:55 PM	5:40 PM	45	8.5	1st U1100: \$30
Yao	Lucas	1554	4:57 PM	5:38 PM	41	8	
Sharma	Devansh	1542	4:56 PM	5:38 PM	42	8	
Yuan	Chen	1241	4:56 PM	5:39 PM	43	7	
Yang	Jimmy	1288	4:56 PM	5:39 PM	43	6.75	
Wang	Harvey	1127	4:57 PM	5:38 PM	41	6.5	
Fang	Weiai	900	4:56 PM	5:40 PM	44	6	
Sardar	Ekam	911	4:56 PM	5:40 PM	44	5.5	
Tsen	Eric	873	4:56 PM	5:38 PM	42	5.25	
Bikkula	Charan	1145	4:57 PM	5:17 PM	20	4.5	
Yin	Andrew	1665	4:57 PM	5:39 PM	42	4.5	
Sreraman	Rahul	936	4:56 PM	5:40 PM	44	4.5	
Case	William	0	4:56 PM	5:37 PM	41	4	
Chaudhuri	Agnivesh	1062	4:56 PM	5:38 PM	42	4	
Covey	Lashawna	615	4:55 PM	5:38 PM	43	4	1st U800: \$30
McCallum	Siobhan	717	4:56 PM	5:39 PM	43	3.5	
Kannapiran	Arnav	832	4:57 PM	5:40 PM	43	3.5	
Rabindranath	Guhan	649	4:56 PM	5:38 PM	42	2.5	
Narasimhan	Sreraman	0	4:55 PM	5:40 PM	45	1	



## Washington Open - Puzzle Solving Competition

May 25, 2024  
(Time allowed: 45 mins)

(Designed and compiled by Valentin Razmov: [https://www.chess.com/member/coach\\_valentin](https://www.chess.com/member/coach_valentin))

**Puzzle #1:** White to move and mate in 1.  
Solution: 1. \_\_\_\_\_



**Puzzle #2:** White to move and mate in 2.  
Solution: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_



**Puzzle #3:** Black to move and mate in 3.  
Solution: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_



**Puzzle #4:** Black to move and win.  
Solution: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_



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## Washington Open - Puzzle Solving Competition

**Puzzle #5:** White to move and win material.  
Solution: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_



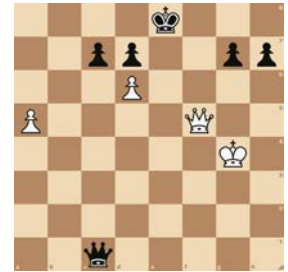
**Puzzle #6:** Black is under attack. How to defend?  
Solution: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_



**Puzzle #7:** White to move and win material.  
Solution: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
(or 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_)



**Puzzle #8:** White to move and win. Explain.  
Solution: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
(or 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_)



Idea: \_\_\_\_\_

2 of 4

## Washington Open - Puzzle Solving Competition

**Puzzle #9:** The white king faces mating threats. What is White's best chance to survive? Explain.  
Solution: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_  
Idea: \_\_\_\_\_



**Puzzle #10:** White has weaknesses on the king-side. Black to move. How to use the opportunity?  
Solution: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_  
3... \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_



**Puzzle #11:** Black to move. What idea gives Black best chances to draw? Explain briefly.  
Solution: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_  
Idea: \_\_\_\_\_



**Puzzle #12:** White has sacrificed material for an attack on Black's king. How to continue as Black?  
Solution: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_  
Idea: \_\_\_\_\_



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## Washington Open - Puzzle Solving Competition

**Puzzle #13:** Both kings look exposed. White to move. Should White attack or defend?  
Solution: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_  
3... \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_  
Explanation: \_\_\_\_\_



**Puzzle #14:** All of White's pieces are active and aimed at Black's king. White to move and win.  
Solution: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_  
3... \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_



**Puzzle #15:** White's pieces surround Black's king from all sides. Show the winning idea. Explain.  
Solution: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_  
3... \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_  
Idea: \_\_\_\_\_



**Puzzle #16:** White's f-pawn is almost promoting. Which two moves give Black best chances? Which option is the best of all? Explain briefly.  
Option A: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ and Option B: 1. \_\_\_\_\_  
Best idea: \_\_\_\_\_



4 of 4

## Washington Open Kosteniuk Chess Workshop for Girls and Women

The Fifth Annual Washington Open Kosteniuk Chess Workshop for Girls and Women, led by WCF Director for Women's and Girls' Chess, Chouchan Airapetian, took place on Saturday evening from 6:00-8:00 PM in the stylish and modern studio space of the Redmond Marriott. A solid turnout of about a dozen female chess players attended the workshop and enjoyed some complimentary Pagliacci pizza and beverages courtesy of WCF while discussing the topic of: "How to develop and cultivate women's and girls' chess." Some friendly blitz and bughouse games rounded out the enchanting evening.

## Washington Open Carlsen Rapid

The Washington Open Carlsen Rapid, a four-round Swiss in two sections – Kasparov Open and Anand U1600 – took place on Sunday afternoon from 2:00-5:00 PM under the direction of five-time WCF Co-Vice President Rekha Sagar. Twenty-seven players ranging from unrated to International Master competed in the popular side event, which featured a time control of G/15;+5 and was US Chess Quick Rated! Instead of the single section format used previously, this year's event was split into two sections to make for more competitive and enjoyable games that Magnus would approve of. Despite coming in with a half-point-bye due to his third-round game going the distance, IM Bindi Cheng (2311 → 2312, 3.5) – a strong International Master based in Coquitlam, British Columbia – topped the 16-player Kasparov Open with an undefeated three-and-a-half points from

### Washington Open Carlsen Rapid: Kasparov Open

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Total	Prize
1	1	IM Bindi Cheng	2499	H---	W16	W12	W7	3.5	1st
2	2-5	NM Stephen Willy	2219	W14	W---	D3	D5	3	=2nd/3rd/U2000
3		Harishkumar Karthikeyan	1974	W11	W9	D2	D8	3	=2nd/3rd/U2000
4		Miles Kuipers	1853	L6	W---	W13	W11	3	=2nd/3rd/U2000
5		Kai Pisan	1770	D12	B---	W6	D2	3	=2nd/3rd/U2000
6	6-8	NM Derek Zhang	2291	W4	D7	L5	W12	2.5	
7		Vidip Kona	2075	W15	D6	W9*	L1	2.5	Biggest Upset Win*
8		Hayul Lim	1875	L9	W8	W10	D3	2.5	
9	9-11	NM Vinesh Ravuri	2320	L9	W13	L7	W13	2	
10		Valentin Razmov	1893	H---	H---	L8	W15	2	
11		Devansh Sharma	1542	L3	W14	X16	L4	2	1st U1700
12	12	NM Nikash Vemparala	2208	D5	W13	L1	L6	1.5	
13	13-15	Ryan Leong	1880	W---	L12	L4	L9	1	
14		Gabriel Razmov	1815	L2	L11	L15	B---	1	
15		Robin Tu	1753	L7	L8	W14	L10	1	
16	16	Selina Cheng	1621	H---	L1	F11	U---	0.5	

### Washington Open Carlsen Rapid: Anand U1600

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Total	Prize
1	1	Rian Raja	1508	W7	W10	W2	W5	4	1st
2	2	Stephen Belgau	1585	W6	W8	L1	W7	3	2nd
3	3-4	Yuchang Yang	1496	D4	L5	W10	W8	2.5	=3rd/1st U1400
4		Hsiang-Ju Tang	1253	D3	W6	L5	W10	2.5	=3rd/1st U1400
5	5-9	Stella Cluff	1508	L8	W3	W4	L1	2	
6		Ziliang Ma	1457	L2	L4	B---	W11	2	
7		Christian Jordan	1418	L1	B---	W11	L2	2	
8		Jeb Stroud	1338	W5	L2	W9	L3	2	Biggest Upset Win
9		Ethan Shraer	unr.	H---	H---	L8	B---	2	1st Unrated
10	10-11	Sairaghav Deepak	708	B---	L1	L3	L4	1	1st U1100
11		Michael Shraer	unr.	H---	H---	L7	L6	1	

four games, winning all three of his games against Selina Cheng (1255), NM Nikash Vemparala (1581), and Vidip Kona (1607) along the way in true Carlsen style. A quadruplet of players shared =second/third/U2000 honors a half-point back: NM Stephen Willy (1820 → 1802, 3.0) of Sammamish, Harishkumar Karthikeyan (1524 → 1602, 3.0) of Redmond, Miles Kuipers (1494 → 1538, 3.0) of Bellevue, and Kai Pisan (1363 → 1491, 3.0) of Woodinville. Young Devansh Sharma

(1039 → 1102, 2.0) of Redmond used some Kasparov-style tactics to claim the U1700 prize with an impressive two points. Tremendously talented chess prodigy Vidip Kona (1607 → 1711, 2.5) of Redmond vanquished NM Vinesh Ravuri (1928) in round three to earn the Biggest Upset prize.

In the 11-player Anand U1600 section, rising Bothell chess star Rian Raja (1015 → 1215, 4.0) followed in



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Vishy's footsteps and won all four of his games, a grand masterly performance! Olympia chess titan Stephen Belgau (1214 → 1220, 3.0) earned second place a full point back, dropping only a single game to king Raja in the third round. Two chess dragons – Yuchang Yang (1251 → 1236, 2.5) of Vancouver, Washington and Hsiang-Ju Tang (1209 → 1201, 2.5) of Camas – shared third/first U1400 honors with a “plus one” score.

Newcomer Ethan Shraer (unrated → 440, 2.0) of Kirkland won the Unrated prize with two points generated solely from byes. Sammamish chess prince Sairaghav Deepak (unrated → 710, 1.0) was awarded the First U1100 prize for his determination and grit in finishing the tournament despite losing his last three games. Bellingham's Jeb Stroud (906 → 955, 2.0) clinched the Biggest Upset Win prize in the Anand U1600 section by virtue of his first-round 170-point upset win. Congratulations to the winners!

## Washington Open Firouzja Bullet

The inaugural Washington Open Firouzja Bullet tournament took place on Sunday evening from 5:00-6:00 PM immediately following the Carlsen Rapid and was held as a six-round single Swiss in one section with a time control of game in two minutes with a one-second increment.

The hypersonic pace of play appealed to hardcore online bullet players and in-person speed chess tricksters alike, as they attempted to channel bullet phenom and future World Championship contender Alireza Firouzja, originally from Iran but now playing for France.

The formula one event took place under the direction of Washington Open side event manager Rekha Sagar and was unrated with no memberships required! Forty-one chess daredevils ranging in Elo from unrated to 2499 competed in the hour-long side event, which featured one round every ten minutes and had no shortage of wild time scrambles! After the smoke cleared from the fast and furious pace of play, two speed chess magicians – IM Bindi Cheng (2499, 5.5) of Coquitlam, British Columbia, and NM Nikash Vemparala (2208, 5.5) of Redmond – emerged victorious, each with an undefeated 5.5 points from six games.

## Washington Open Firouzja Bullet

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Total	Prize
1	1-2	IM Bindi Cheng	2499	H---	W22	W27	W4	W7	W5	5.5	=1st/2nd
2		NM Nikash Vemparala	2208	W32	W31	W15	W7	D5	W8	5.5	=1st/2nd
3	3	Gavin Shi	1587	W30	L9	W36	W18	W10	W12	5	3rd
4	4-6	NM Aziz Degenbaev	2220	W23	W11	D14	L1	W27	W15	4.5	
5		NM Stephen Willy	2219	W24	W19	W9	W6	D2	L1	4.5	
6		Vidip Kona	2075	W33	W21	W13	L5	D15	W14	4.5	
7	7-13	NM Vinesh Ravuri	2320	W37	W18	W8	L2	L1	W21	4	
8		Joseph Frantz	2034	W28	W12	L7	W14	W11	L2	4	
9		Scott Christensen	1957	W16	W3	L5	W20	L12	W23	4	=1st U2000
10		Emerson Wong-Godfrey	1951	W25	L13	W23	W19	L3	W22	4	=1st U2000
11		Albert Eksarevskiy	1811	W34	L4	W24	W13	L8	W25	4	=1st U2000
12		Te Wei	1712	W41	L8	W25	W33	W9	L3	4	=1st U2000
13		Ryan Leong	1434	X45	W10	L6	L11	W19	W20	4	1st U1600
14	14-17	Harishkumar Karthikeyan	1974	X43	W20	D4	L8	W17	L6	3.5	
15		Edward Cheng	1947	W39	W40	L2	W21	D6	L4	3.5	
16		Jeb Stroud	1338	L9	L30	D22	W34	W28	W27	3.5	
17		Navele Manfioletti Straginski	1861	D22	D27	D37	W31	L14	W30	3.5	
18	18-26	Neevan Reddy Saddi	1738	X44	L7	W32	L3	L23	W33	3	
19		Tanush Bhatia	1711	W26	L5	W28	L10	L13	W32	3	
20		Saiya Karamali	1691	W29	L14	W30	L9	W24	L13	3	
21		Selina Cheng	1621	W38	L6	W40	L15	W32	L7	3	
22		Rian Raja	1508	D17	L1	D16	W39	W33	L10	3	
23		Christian Jordan	1418	L4	W34	L10	W40	W18	L9	3	
24		Slava Shinkarev	1391	L5	W35	L11	W38	L20	W36	3	
25		Imai Maharaja	1323	L10	W38	L12	W36	W37	L11	3	
26		Zion Pantea	818	L19	L33	L34	B---	W35	W37	3	1st U1200
27	27-30	David Hirschowitz	1424	W36	D17	L1	W37	L4	L16	2.5	
28		Leonid Zandarov	1345	L8	W29	L19	D30	L16	W38	2.5	
29		Arlen Calley	1586	L20	L28	W35	L32	X40	H---	2.5	
30		Patrick Perry	1399	L3	W16	L20	D28	W31	L17	2.5	
31	31-36	Rishi Ramaswamy	1740	W35	L2	L33	L17	L30	W41	2	
32		Joshua Pantea	1378	L2	W41	L18	W29	L21	L19	2	
33		Jinmo Nam	1348	L6	W26	W31	L12	L22	L18	2	
34		Oliver Wakeman	1272	L11	L23	W26	L16	D38	H---	2	
35		Charan Bikkula	1145	L31	L24	L29	W41	L26	W39	2	
36		William Case	unr.	L27	B---	L3	L25	W39	L24	2	1st Unrated
37	37-38	Daniel Polonsky	1421	L7	W39	D17	L27	L25	L26	1.5	
38		James Stroud	unr.	L21	L25	B---	L24	D34	L28	1.5	
39	39-41	Aditya Patnaik	1291	L15	L37	W41	L22	L36	L35	1	
40		Eric Spletstoser	1251	X42	L15	L21	L23	F29	U---	1	
41		Ekam Sardar	911	L12	L32	L39	L35	B---	L31	1	
42	42-45	Rafael Palathingal	1767	F40	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0	
43		Austin Deng	1342	F14	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0	
44		Seshasayee Shreeraam	1008	F18	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0	
45		Hari Badri	unr.	F13	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0	

Due to the large size of the field, the two speed chess giants somehow avoided playing against each other and ran over the field like two full grown men running over a herd of sheep. Perhaps we have a Carlsen-Nakamura-like rivalry in the making! Lincoln High School chess speedster Gavin Shi (1587, 5.0), claimed the Third-Place prize a half-point back, finishing ahead of several masters! Four chess tricksters shared First U2000 honors with four points apiece: Scott Christensen (1957, 4.0) of Lacey, Emerson Wong-

Godfrey (1951, 4.0) of Seattle, Albert Eksarevskiy (1811, 4.0) of Redmond, and Te Wei (1712, 4.0) of Kirkland. Canadian chess dark horse Ryan Leong (1434, 4.0) of Richmond won the U1600 prize thanks to his swift hand speed. Renton chess prince Zion Pantea (818, 3.0) earned the First U1200 prize with a very respectable even score. William Case (unrated, 2.0) of Tacoma took home the Unrated prize with a solid two-point score.

Congratulations to the winners!

# Washington Open Ignacio Perez Memorial Blitz

In honor of the late great Pacific Northwest chess legend FM Ignacio Perez, the Second Annual Ignacio Perez Memorial Blitz Tournament was held on Monday evening at 8:00 PM. The popular blitz side event wrapped up the weekend's busy slate of chess festivities and offered fun and friendly blitz action with only a few games in the main tournament remaining on the other side of the airwall.

Ignacio had a special affinity for speed chess, often playing marathon blitz sessions that lasted into the wee hours of the morning with the strongest players he could find. Back in the late 2000's when GM Nakamura was passing through town on his way to Vancouver, British Columbia, he visited Crossroads Mall in Bellevue and played a mini-time odds blitz match with Ignacio, widely regarded as the stronger speed chess player in Washington State at that time. Nakamura offered Ignacio 30 seconds to 5 minutes time-odds, which made for many close and entertaining games, most of which went Nakamura's way.

The fantastic 50-player turnout in this year's tournament is a testament to Ignacio's legacy, as he has touched the lives of many throughout his chess career and was a loved and cherished figure in the local chess community. WCF Co-Vice President and WA Open side event manager Rekha Sagar directed the nine-round single Swiss tournament, which featured a time control of game in three minutes with a three-second increment. Ignacio's presence and spirit were strongly felt throughout the evening, as he no doubt was kibitzing the games with Tal as the two of them looked on.

## Washington Open Ignacio Perez Memorial Blitz: Nakamura Open

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Rd 8	Rd 9	Total	Prize
1	1-2	IM Bindi Cheng	2499	W25	D12	W4	W10	W2	W5	L3	D7	W8	7	=1st/2nd: \$180
2		NM Aziz Degenbaev	2301	W34	W32	W20	W9	L1	D3	D5	W6	W7	7	=1st/2nd: \$180
3	3-4	NM Samuel He	2305	W26	L10	W13	W24	W9	D2	W1	L5	W11	6.5	=3rd: \$60
4		CM Austin Liu	2164	D15	W30	L1	W32	W12	D8	D9	W13	W5	6.5	=3rd: \$60
5	5-6	NM Stephen Willy	2219	W14	W24	D10	W12	W7	L1	D2	W3	L4	6	
6		CM Vignesh Anand	2095	W23	L8	W26	L7	W19	W22	W16	L2	W12	6	
7	7-10	NM Daniel He	2361	L32	W14	W19	W6	L5	W18	W10	D1	L2	5.5	
8		NM Vinesh Ravuri	2320	W18	W6	L9	W20	D16	D4	D12	W10	L1	5.5	
9		NM Nikash Vemparala	2208	W21	W22	W8	L2	L3	W13	D4	L11	W16	5.5	
10		Vidip Kona	2075	W28	W3	D5	L1	W11	W16	L7	L8	W18	5.5	
11	11-15	FM Tian Sang	2324	W13	W20	W25	L16	L10	W15	W17	L3	5		
12		NM Vahe Muselmyan	2207	W27	D1	W17	L5	L4	W14	D8	W23	L6	5	
13		Ryan Leong	1880	L11	W28	L3	W27	W20	L9	W22	L4	W23	5	=1st U2000: \$27
14		Rafael Palathingal	1767	L5	L7	W29	W30	D17	L12	D20	W22	5		=1st U2000: \$27
15		Ujwal Garine	1734	D4	L17	D30	D25	W34	L11	W32	D26	W20	5	=1st U2000: \$27
16	16-19	Yevgeniy Rozenfeld	2100	L22	W21	W18	W11	D8	L10	L6	W19	L9	4.5	
17		Harishkumar Karthikeyan	1974	D33	W15	L12	D19	D14	W28	L11	L18	W26	4.5	
18		Gabriel Razmov	1815	L8	W29	L16	W23	W24	L7	D20	W17	L10	4.5	
19		Albert Eksarevskiy	1811	H---	W33	L7	D17	L6	D24	W21	L16	W28	4.5	
20	20-23	Ted Wang	2160	W29	W11	L2	L8	L13	W26	D18	D14	L15	4	
21		Yuchen Zhou	1765	L9	L16	L28	W33	W30	D32	L19	D24	W29	4	
22		Saiya Karamali	1691	W16	L9	L24	W26	W32	L6	L13	W25	L14	4	=1st U1700: \$40
23		Kenneth Yuodelis	1630	L6	W34	L32	L18	W27	W33	W25	L12	L13	4	=1st U1700: \$40
24	24-28	Edward Cheng	1947	W31	L5	W22	L3	L18	D19	L14	D21	D27	3.5	
25		Valentin Razmov	1893	L1	W27	L11	D15	L28	W34	L23	D22	X32	3.5	
26		Kai Pisan	1770	L3	W31	L6	L22	W29	L20	W28	L15	W17	3.5	
27		Robin Tu	1753	L12	L25	W31	L13	L23	W29	L30	W32	D24	3.5	
28		Selina Cheng	1621	L10	L13	W21	D34	W25	L17	L26	W31	L19	3.5	
29	29-31	Te Wei	1712	L20	L18	L14	W31	L26	L27	W33	W30	L21	3	
30		Arjun Yadav	1576	H---	L4	D15	L14	L21	L31	W27	L29	W33	3	
31		Austin Deng	1342	L24	L26	L27	L29	L33	W30	W34	L28	B---	3	
32	32-33	Siddharth Bhaskaran	1889	W7	L2	W23	L4	L22	D21	L15	L27	F25	2.5	
33		Benjamin Frederick	1492	D17	L19	L34	L21	W31	L23	L29	B---	L30	2.5	
34	34	Darsh Verma	1768	L2	L23	W33	D28	L15	L25	L31	U---	U---	1.5	

## Washington Open Ignacio Perez Memorial Blitz: Tal U1600

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Rd 8	Rd 9	Total	Prize
1	1	Patrick Perry	1399	W13	W14	W7	W3	L9	W8	W2	W6	D4	7.5	1st: \$160
2	2	Jeb Stroud	1338	L14	W6	W17	W8	W10	W7	L1	D3	W9	6.5	2nd: \$120
3	3	Bhavik Bharath	unr.	W4	W8	D10	L1	W5	W9	W7	D2	L6	6	3rd: \$80
4	4-6	Snehl Ghosh	1300	L3	L5	W6	W13	L8	W12	W14	W9	D1	5.5	=1st U1400: \$35
5		William Guthrie	1186	D6	W4	L8	W11	L3	W14	L9	W17	W7	5.5	=1st U1400: \$35
6		James Stroud	unr.	D5	L2	L4	W15	W11	W10	W8	L1	W3	5.5	1st Unrated: \$60
7	7-9	Ziliang Ma	1457	W12	W9	L1	W10	W14	L2	L3	W13	L5	5	
8		Eliot Amalo	1379	W15	L3	W5	L2	W4	L1	L6	W10	W11	5	
9		Kylie Tokeshi	1358	X19	L7	W11	W12	W1	L3	W5	L4	L2	5	
10	10	Siva Sankrithi	1413	W11	W17	D3	L7	L2	L6	W13	L8	W14	4.5	
11	11	Darya Byelashova	977	L10	W13	L9	L5	L6	W15	W17	W14	L8	4	1st U1100: \$70
12	12	Charan Bikkula	1145	L7	W15	L14	L9	D13	L4	U---	B---	W17	3.5	
13	13-14	Abhishekh Gopal	960	L1	L11	D15	L4	D12	W17	L10	L7	B---	3	
14		Alex Byelashov	unr.	W2	L1	W12	W17	L7	L5	L4	L11	L10	3	
15	15	Sairaghav Deepak	708	L8	L12	D13	L6	W17	L11	B---	U---	U---	2.5	
16	16-17	Gavin Shi	1587	H---	H---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	1	
17		Sofia Byelashova	708	X18	L10	L2	L14	L15	L13	L11	L5	L12	1	Youngest Player: \$30
18	18-19	Kyle Boddy	1361	F17	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0	
19		Pavithran Vinoth Ganapathy	656	F9	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0	

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Two speed chess wizards, IM Bindi Cheng (2394 → 2390, 7.0) of Coquitlam and NM Aziz Degenbaev (2327 → 2329, 7.0) of Seattle were crowned Co-Champions, each scoring seven points from nine games in the star-studded 34-player Nakamura Open section, which included a whopping 11 titled players! Cheng recovered well from an early draw against Everett speed chess aficionado NM Vahe Muselimyan and managed to score the full point against Aziz's Dutch Defense in their fifth-round encounter. Only NM Samuel He could stop Cheng's rampage in the seventh round, with Samuel handing Bindi his only loss of the tournament. This opened the door for Aziz to catch Cheng, which he managed to do with clutch back-to-back victories against Vignesh Anand (1875) and current WA State Champion Daniel He (2357) in the final two rounds.

A pair of chess kings tied for Third Place half a point back: NM Samuel He (2266 → 2266, 6.5) of Redmond and CM Austin Liu (1910 → 1969, 6.5) of Sammamish. A trio of chess speedsters shared First U2000 honors with five points apiece: Ryan Leong (1892 → 1886, 5.0) of Richmond, Rafael Palathingal (1280 → 1514, 5.0) of Bothell, and Ujwal Garine (1544 → 1584, 5.0) of Redmond. Two intrepid chess warriors – Saiya Karamali (1422 → 1513, 4.0) of Seattle and Kenneth Yuodelis (unrated → 1415, 4.0) of Bellevue – split the U1700 prize, each with a solid four-point score.

In the 16-player Tal U1600 section, Hawaii's Patrick Perry (1200 → 1220, 7.5) surfed the chess wave to an impressive 7.5-point score from nine games. Perry's only wipeout came at the hands of Kylie Tokeshi (1215) from Arizona in the fifth round! Bellingham blitz star Jeb Stroud (970 → 1097, 6.5) finished in second place a full point back.



*Benjamin Frederick (L) vs Harishkumar Karthikeyan during their tense first-round game at the Ignacio Perez Memorial Blitz. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*

Woodinville chess wonder Bhavik Bharath (unrated → 1099, 6.0) claimed the Third-Place prize with six points. A duo of Redmond chess princes – Snehil Ghosh (677 → 897, 5.5) and William Guthrie (unrated → 999, 5.5) shared the First U1400 prize a half-point back. Bellingham's James Stroud (unrated → 1009, 5.5), Jeb's father, won the First Unrated prize thanks to his four-game winning streak in the middle of the tournament. The First U1100 prize was awarded to Darya Byelashova (unrated → 688, 4.0) of Gig Harbor thanks to her clutch victory against her dad, Alex Byelashov (unrated), in the penultimate

round. Sofia Byelashova (unrated → 368, 1.0), Darya's sister, won the Youngest Player prize for her perseverance and determination to complete the tournament despite being much younger than her fellow competitors.

Congratulations to the winners!

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***End of Part Two. This concludes our initial coverage of this year's Washington Open!***

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# Mid-Year Scholastic Cup

Josh Sinanan

The third annual Mid-Year Scholastic Cup was held on Father's Day weekend June 15-16 at Lakeside Upper School in Seattle. The purpose of these events, as conceptualized by Mid-Year Scholastic Cup founder and WCF Tournament Coordinator Valentin Razmov, is to provide Northwest junior players with opportunities to face strong competition and develop their chess skills, especially as they transition to longer time controls.

Chess players from throughout the Pacific Northwest were represented in the 35-player field from towns including Redmond, Sammamish, Portland, Gig Harbor, Seattle, Bothell, Issaquah, Bellevue, Lake Forest Park, Kirkland, and Camas! The event was hosted by Washington Chess Federation, directed by WCF officers Allen Messenger and Ani Barua, and organized by WCF Tournament Coordinator Valentin Razmov.

The five-round Swiss over two days was split between four sections parsed by rating: Section 1 (1600+), Section 2 (1290-1500), Section 3 (1160-1260), and Section 4 (750-1110). Many thanks to our wonderful photographer Ani for taking pictures throughout the weekend. As usual in these prestigious junior events, the stakes were quite high.

The highest finishing Washington player in each section earned a seed or free entry into the following tournaments, respectively: Section 1 → 2025 Washington Championship, Section 2 → 2024 Washington Class Championships, Section 3 → 2024 SPFNO, and Section 4 → 2024 tournament of choice.

In Section 1, Seattle chess prince Gabriel Razmov from was crowned the champion with 3.5 points from five games, recovering well after a first-round loss against Redmond's Odbayar Yondon. Redmond chess stud Abhinav Mishra

captured second place honors a half-point back. Chess warriors Christos Boulis of Redmond and Karthik Bimod of Portland shared third place with an even 2.5 points apiece. In Section 2, Lake Forest Park chess legend Sarang Sankrithi swept the field with a perfect 5-0 score and won first place by a two-point margin! Rising Redmond chess star Imai Maharaja captured second place honors with three points despite being the lowest rated player in the field.

Three chess samurais — Aiden Zhu of Camas, Samarth Bharadwaj of Sammamish, and Oliver He of Sammamish — shared the third place prize a half-point back, each with 2.5 points. Sammamish chess guru Sambuddha Sekhar Das topped the ten-player Section 3 with a solid four points, winning his first two and last two games of the tournament. Fellow Sammamish chess whippersnapper Riaan Babbar earned second place with 3.5 points, losing only a single game to Sambuddha in the final round.

Three chess musketeers finished on a "plus one" score of three points from five games and shared third place amongst themselves: Kshitij Narkhede of Sammamish, Skandha Raj of Bellevue, and Justin Lee of Seattle. In Section 4, Harvey Wang of Bellevue reigned supreme in the nine-player field with an amazing five points from five games, finishing two full points ahead of his nearest rivals. Three fast-improving chess prodigies split second and third place honors with three points each: Agnivesh Chaudhuri of Sammamish, Siana Razmov of Seattle, and Nikhil Yalamanchili of Redmond. While it may not be possible to play the sharpest moves, several players chose to dress sharply in the hopes of taking home a Best Dressed Prize.

The classiest players who won such prizes included Gabriel Razmov (Section

1), Jinmo Nam and Imai Maharaja (Section 2), Riaan Babbar and William Zhao (Section 3), and Siana Razmov (Section 4). Other special prizes included the Highest US Chess Rating Gain in each section, as well as the Best Female Player (by tournament performance rating). The "fantastic four" players with the highest US Chess rating gain were Abhinav Mishra (30 points), Imai Maharaja (101 points), Riaan Babbar (119 points), and Siana Razmov (138 points) in Sections 1-4, respectively. The lone Best Female Prize was awarded to Gig Harbor's Darya Byelashova. We certainly hope to see more female players competing in the other sections in future iterations.

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

**Gabriel Razmov (1829) –  
Abhinav Mishra (1731) [D52]**  
Mid-Year Scholastic Cup (Section 1)  
Lakeside School, Seattle, WA  
(R3), June 15, 2024  
[Gabriel Razmov]

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 e6 5.e3 Nbd7 6.Nf3 Qa5 7.Bxf6**

A sideline where White sacrifices a pawn for dark-square control. 7.Nd2 is the traditional way to play the Cambridge Springs system. 7...Bb4 8.Qc2 0-0 9.Be2 c5 10.0-0 cxd4 11.Nb3

**7...Nxf6 8.a3 Ne4 9.Qc2**

9.Rc1 would opt out of the pawn sacrifice, leaving the position approximately equal. 9...Nxc3 10.Qd2! (10.Rxc3?? is bad due to 10...Bxa3! and White would be already lost.)

**9...Bb4 10.Rc1 Bxc3+ 11.bxc3 Qxa3**

Black accepts the challenge. Now is White turn to prove compensation for the sacrificed pawn. It may come in



the form of faster or more harmonious development, better dark-square control, and control of the semi-open files on the queenside.

### 12.Bd3 Nf6?!

A normal-looking retreat, but it wasn't necessary for Black to spend a valuable tempo on it at this point. 12...b6<sup>∞</sup> In light of White's continuation in the game, this move would have served Black far better, allowing for a more natural piece development and coordination.

### 13.c5!

A strong move that highlights potential problems in Black's structure: the queen's somewhat disconnected position, the dark-square control, and the difficulties with developing the queen-side. Further, White's control of e5 and d6 is strengthened.

### 13...Qa5 14.h3 Qc7 15.Ra1!

Another timely move by White that accomplishes several things: it claims the half-open a-file, pressures the potentially weak a7-pawn, and slows down or prevents Black's desired ...b6 followed by ...axb6.

### 15...h6 16.g4?!

White decides to take action on the kingside, anticipating that Black might castle there. However, this wasn't the best plan. 16.0-0 was a safer plan. For example, after 16...0-0 17.c4 Nd7 18.cxd5 cxd5 (18...exd5) 19.Qb3 White still has better placed minor pieces and some pressure on the queenside.

### 16...Bd7?

A bad move that only underscores that this bishop is locked in by its own pawn chain (an effect of White's 13.c5! 16...Nd7 would be better, planning the standard ...e6-e5 pawn break to counter White's pressure. 17.c4 0-0 18.cxd5 cxd5 19.Bb5 Nf6. and although Black's position is stable, White still has some advantages of their own—temporarily holding the e5-square for his knight, and continuing to put pressure on the queen-side.

### 17.Ne5!

Now, Black cannot play ...Nd7 to challenge White for the e5-square, resulting in a visible advantage for White.

### 17...b6?!

A further inaccuracy in an attempt to open the center, but untimely. This allows White to effectively decoy Black's queen

away from the defense of the kingside. Although 17...0-0 looks scary for Black, even after 18.g5 hxg5 19.h4!? g4 20.h5± White retains a dynamic edge, but with good play Black should be able to defend: 20...Be8!

### 18.cxb6 Qxb6



Position after 18...Qxb6

### 19.Bg6?

A flashy but incorrect move that temporarily loses the advantage. The bishop cannot be taken, since the White queen will infiltrate onto g7 for a decisive fork. However, White overlooked one obvious defense.

19.f4 would have been in line with White's king-side expansion plans, and now Black's extra a-pawn is only "a traitor", closing the a-file for Black. 19...Bc8 20.g5±

### 19...0-0!

The aforementioned obvious defense that White neglected. Fortunately for White, an attack can still be created that Black will have to accurately defend against.

### 20.Bh7+

Taking advantage of the undefended d7-bishop to force the king onto the h-file.

### 20...Kh8 21.h4

21.f4 was another potential continuation of White's attack. 21...Qc7 22.Bd3 c5<sup>∞</sup> and the position is very complicated, with all three results possible.

### 21...Qc7

### 21...Be8

### 22.Bd3 c5

A nice central break for Black which poses questions as to how White plans to continue. 22...Be8 battering down the hatches would effectively leave White with little. 23.g5 Ng8<sup>∞</sup> and Black is safe.

### 23.g5 Ne4??

An error that is hard to explain. Black must have been spooked by the possibility of g5-g6. 23...Ng8!<sup>∞</sup> would be recommended, after which 24.g6 Be8 25.gxf7 Bxf7 (26.Ra6!?) 26.Bg6



analysis diagram after 26.Bg6

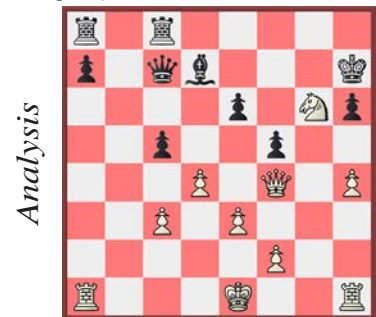
threatens to win an exchange. However, 26...cxd4 and White has two options: 27.cxd4 (27.exd4?! Nf6! (27...Be8?? 28.Bxe8+-) 28.Bxf7 Rxf7<sup>∞</sup> where Black gives up an exchange but White's king is rather insecure in the center of the board.) 27...Qxc2 28.Bxc2 a5 29.0-0 where White is likely to hold the endgame to a draw.

### 24.Bxe4 dxe4 25.gxh6!

A strong intermediate move that weakens the h6-pawn and opens the g-file.

### 25...gxh6 26.Qxe4 cxd4?

Essentially a resignation... Best would have been 26...f5 when the positions becomes very sharp: 27.Qf4 Kh7 28.Ng6! leaves Black with two bad options: 28...Qb7 (28...Rfc8?)



analysis diagram after 28...Rfc8

On the surface, Black looks safe here, but suddenly White continues their attack with a king hunt. 29.Nf8+!! Kg7 30.Rg1+ Kxf8 (30...Kf7 31.Qxh6 Rxf8 32.Rg7+ Ke8 33.Qg5 Rf7 34.Rg8+ Rf8 35.Qg6+ Ke7 36.Qg7+ Rf7 37.Qg5+-) 31.Qxh6+ Ke7 Now, there are two winning lines. One is simpler and forcing, the other one much deeper and beautiful. 32.Rg7+ is a forcing winning line, but rather long and

could present challenges with accurately calculating it over-the-board. (32.Ra6!! is an elegant quiet move, closing the king's escape route. None of Black's pieces are helping to actively defend. 32...Rf8 33.Rg7+ Kd8 34.Rxd7+ Kxd7 35.Qxe6+ Kd8 36.Qd5+ Qd7 37.Qxa8+ Ke7 38.Qxa7 and White should win the ensuing rook endgame up three pawns.) 32...Kd6 33.Qf4+ Kd5 34.Qf3+ Kc4 35.Qe2+ Kd5 36.c4+ Kc6 37.d5+ exd5 38.cxd5+ Kd6 39.Ra6++-) 29.Nxf8+± where White is up material and still attacking.

27.Qxd4!

Setting up a simple fork that wins material. Black resigned here. This game was interesting in the way White went into a sideline where a pawn was sacrificed. Thus, White had to prove compensation and continually put pressure on Black's position. Eventually, Black committed errors that allowed White to reach a winning position. This game was important for the tournament standings too, as it placed me in tied first place with 2.0/3 after the first day, setting me up to win the tournament with a good performance on the second day!

1-0

**Skandha Raj (1174) –  
Riaan Babbar (1223) [B22]**  
Mid-Year Scholastic Cup (Section 3)  
Seattle (R2), June 15, 2024  
[Riaan Babbar]

In the 2024 Mid-Year Scholastic Tournament, I was playing in Section 3. My most interesting game was against Skandha Raj when I played a brilliant exchange sacrifice in the Sicilian on move 14.

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.cxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Nf3 Nbd7 7.Bc4 b5 8.Bd3 Bb7 9.a3 e6 10.Be3 Rc8 11.0-0 Be7 12.h3 0-0 13.Nh2 Qa5

Here, my opponent played f4, and I responded with the brilliant move ...Rxc3!! The idea is that if 15.bxc3 then I play 15...Bxe4. If White plays 16.Bxe4 then we take with the knight and the c3-pawn will fall. In the end, a knight and two pawns are usually better than a rook.

14.f4



Position after 14.f4

14...Rxc3 15.bxc3 Bxe4 16.Bxe4 Nxe4 17.Qd3 d5 18.Ng4 Qxc3 19.Qxc3 Nxc3 20.Rfe1 Nf6 21.Nxf6+ Bxf6 22.Rac1 Ne4 23.Rc6 Ra8 24.Rec1 g6 25.Rc8+ Rxc8 26.Rxc8+ Kg7 27.Ra8 Nd6 28.Rxa6 Nc4 29.Bf2 Be7 30.a4 bxa4 31.Rxa4 Kf8 32.Be1 Bf6 33.Bf2 Nb2 34.Ra3 Nd1 35.Rd3 Nb2 36.Rd2 Nc4 37.Re2 Kg7 38.g4 h6 39.h4 g5 40.fgx5 hxg5 41.h5 Kh6 42.Ra2 Nd6 43.Kf1 Ne4 44.Be3 Ng3+ 45.Kg2 Nxh5 46.gxh5 Kxh5 47.Ra7 Kg6 48.Kg3 Bg7 49.Kg4 f5+ 50.Kh3 Bf6 51.Ra6 f4 52.Bf2 Kf5 53.Ra8 g4+ 54.Kg2 g3 55.Bg1 e5 56.dxe5 Bxe5 57.Kf3 g2 58.Kxg2 Ke4 59.Ra4+ d4 60.Kf2 Kd3 61.Kf3 Kc3 62.Ra3+ Kc2 63.Bh2 d3 64.Bxf4 Bxf4 65.Kxf4 d2 66.Ra2+ Kd3 67.Ra1 Ke2 68.Ra2 Kd3 69.Ra1 Ke2 70.Ra2 Kd3

1/2-1/2

**2024 Mid-Year Scholastic Cup: SECTION 1**

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total pts
1	1	Gabriel Razmov	1829	L5	W6	W2	W4	D3	3.5
2	2	Abhinav Mishra	1731	L3	W4	L1	W5	W6	3
3	3-4	Christos Boulis	1869	W2	D5	L4	D6	D1	2.5
4		Karthik Bimod	1667	D6	L2	W3	L1	W5	2.5
5	5	Odbayar Yondon	1819	W1	D3	D6	L2	L4	2
6	6	Bichen Liu	1620	D4	L1	D5	D3	L2	1.5

**2024 Mid-Year Scholastic Cup: SECTION 2**

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total pts
1	1	Sarang Athreya Sankrithi	1446	W8	W5	W4	W6	W7	5
2	2	Imai Subramonia Maharaja	1296	L4	D3	W8	D7	W6	3
3	3-5	Aiden Zhu	1460	L6	D2	W7	W4	L8	2.5
4		Samarth Ram Bharadwaj	1445	W2	W6	L1	L3	D5	2.5
5		Oliver Lang He	1430	W7	L1	L6	W8	D4	2.5
6	6	Jinmo Nam	1390	W3	L4	W5	L1	L2	2
7	7	Mike Tie	1497	L5	W8	L3	D2	L1	1.5
8	8	Jimmy Yang	1319	L1	L7	L2	L5	W3	1

**2024 Mid-Year Scholastic Cup: SECTION 3**

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total pts
1	1	Sambuddha Sekhar Das	1257	W8	W6	L4	W9	W2	4
2	2	Riaan Babbar	1223	W9	D4	W3	W7	L1	3.5
3	3-5	Kshitij Narkhede	1250	L6	W5	L2	W8	W4	3
4		Skandha Raj	1174	W10	D2	W1	D6	L3	3
5		Justin Lee	1163	L7	L3	B---	W10	W9	3
6	6	Harry Wu	1197	W3	L1	W8	D4	L10	2.5
7	7-9	William Zhao	1234	W5	H---	H---	L2	L8	2
8		Ishan R Nair	1210	L1	W10	L6	L3	W7	2
9		Hengsheen Wang	1161	L2	B---	W10	L1	L5	2
10	10	Aakash Mishra	1245	L4	L8	L9	L5	W6	1

**2024 Mid-Year Scholastic Cup: SECTION 4**

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total pts
1	1	Harvey Wang	1070	W9	W6	W7	W5	W2	5
2	2-4	Agnivesh Chaudhuri	1080	H---	H---	W3	W7	L1	3
3		Siana Razmov	786	L6	W8	L2	W4	W7	3
4		Nikhil Yalamanchili	758	L7	B---	W8	L3	W5	3
5	5-7	Alex Sibbo Ye	1101	W8	L7	W6	L1	L4	2
6		Darya Byelashova	967	W3	L1	L5	H---	H---	2
7		Vivaan Krishna Sankrithi	954	W4	W5	L1	L2	L3	2
8	8	Sofia Byelashova	829	L5	L3	L4	H---	H---	1
9	9	Denis Mazalov	786	L1	U---	U---	U---	U---	0



# Seattle Summer Kickoff

Josh Sinanan

The 2024 edition of the Seattle Summer Kickoff chess tournament took place on Saturday, June 15, at Lakeside Upper School in Seattle. A magnificent turnout of 110 scholastic chess players in grades K-12 competed across four sections parsed by grade level and rating: K-3 U800, K-3 Open, 4-12 U1000, and 4-12 Open.

The convenient north Seattle location made the tournament readily accessible for players via the I-5 Interstate, from cities including Woodinville, Lynnwood, Seattle, Mill Creek, Redmond, Bellevue, Sammamish, Shoreline, Bothell, Kirkland, Everett, Issaquah, Clyde Hill, Mercer Island, Auburn, Edmonds, Newcastle, University Place, Marysville, Renton, and Milton!

The pace of play was brisk between the younger competitors, but a bit more measured and deliberate amongst the older ones. As observed by tournament directors Ani Barua and Allen Messenger, all the players put forth their best effort

and demonstrated an astute level of play well beyond their years. Each round featured risky attacks, unclear sacrifices, and sneaky defenses contrived by the many tricky characters taking part in the proceedings! For the most part, players were respectful and demonstrated genuine sportsmanship and integrity throughout the day.

The event was co-hosted by Chess Mates Foundation and Washington Chess Federation, organized by WCF President Josh Sinanan, and directed by WCF officers Allen Messenger and Ani Barua. Wonderful photos and video footage were taken throughout the day by photographer extraordinaire Meiling Cheng and videographer Ani Barua!

WCF Director of Women's and Girls Chess Chouchan Airapetian and her daughter Angela ran the concessions, which was

located just next to the spacious parent waiting area adjacent to the commons in the Wright Community Center.

Many thanks to the team of amazing volunteers that made this fantastic event possible. We hope to continue the Seattle Summer Kickoff as an annual start-of-summer tradition and will seek to make it even bigger and better in the years to come!



Richard Rogov (L) vs Suryen Vinu alongside other Seattle Summer Kickoff players in a packed playing hall. Photo credit: Josh Sinanan.

## Seattle Summer Kickoff Prizes

Individual Prizes - Amazon Gift Card Prizes awarded in each section. 1st – 5th: \$70-65-60-55-50.

Section	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place	4th Place	5th Place
K-3 U800	Nickrad Ahsant	Grace Liang	Ryan Lai, Atlas Bigelow & Atul Srinivasan: \$55 each		
K-3 Open	Shawn Li	Leonid Zandanov	Arthur Deng	Daniel D Yun, Rafael Frenk & Abigail Lew: \$35 each	
4-12 U1000	Inura & Naaditha Nawagamudewage: \$68 each		Killian Bates	Shaurya Bhende, Illia Kalian, Harold Paley, Pavithran Vinoth Ganapathy & Ishi Chaurasia: \$21 each	
4-12 Open	Isaac Friedenson, Abhay Lizon & Kanav Shah: \$65 each			Ziqian Gao & Ziliang Ma: \$53 each	

Medals for first-timers, biggest upset win, and best female player (by tournament performance rating).

Section	Best Female Player	Biggest Upset Win
K-3 U800	Marina Zhang & Sage Guity	Anderson Taylor
K-3 Open	Alice Li	Suryen Charuvil Vinu
4-12 U1000	Tejal Guruswamy	Victor Alvarez Minguez
4-12 Open	Clora Huang	Alisa Rachiba



# 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)

**Entry fees**  
 We accept Paypal, cash and check for tournament entry fees. No credit cards, sorry.  
 Paypal: <https://paypal.me/seattlechess>.

*Wednesdays are for casual play. It's free! Come anytime 7-11pm.*

## September 7

**Format:** 3-RR. 4-player sections by close rating. **TC:** Game/100 + 15 sec. inc. **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

## September 21-22

See below.

## Seattle Fall Open

## September 29

**Format:** 4-SS. **TC:** Game/50 + 10 sec. inc. **EF:** \$25 (+\$10 day membership for non-SCC). **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

## September 6, 13, 20, 27

4-round, US Chess-rated tnmt., 1 round each Friday. 7:30pm start time. **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! Pumpkin Spice is a close-ratings month.

## Pumpkin Spice

# SEATTLE FALL OPEN

## SEPTEMBER 21- 22, 2024

A 4-round Swiss with time control of 40/90 with 30-sec. increment, then sudden death 30 mins.  
**Prize fund:** \$700 based on 26 paid entries, 3 per prize group.

<b>FIRST</b>	<b>\$200</b>	<b>SECOND</b>	<b>\$150</b>	<b>U1800</b>	<b>\$ 95</b>
<b>U1600</b>	<b>\$ 85</b>	<b>U1400</b>	<b>\$ 75</b>	<b>U1200/UNR</b>	<b>\$65</b>
<b>BIGGEST UPSET WIN, RDS 1-3 \$10</b>					

**Entry fees** by 9/16: SCC members \$42, others \$52. After 9/16: \$52 and \$62. Unrated – free with purchase of 1-yr US Chess & 1-yr WCF memberships.

**Registration:** 9:45-10:15am. **Rounds:** Saturday 10:30am & 4:30pm; Sunday 10am & 4pm.

**Byes:** 1 half-point bye available. Commit at registration for Sunday rounds.

Sign up by emailing [contact@seattlechess.club](mailto:contact@seattlechess.club). US Chess memberships required.



Co-hosted by Washington Chess Federation & Susan Polgar Foundation



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



Saturday-Sunday, October 26-27, 2024

Hilton Bellevue: 300 112<sup>th</sup> Ave SE, Bellevue, WA 98004

Prizes include over **\$100,000** in  
**Scholarships to Webster University!**

Info: [spfno.com](http://spfno.com) Register: [chessreg.com](http://chessreg.com)  
Email: [WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com](mailto:WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com)  
Phone: 206.769.3757

## 2-day Championship Sections

**K-5 Open**                      **K-5 Girls**

**K-8 Open**                      **K-8 Girls**

**K-12 Open**                    **K-12 Girls**

Format: A 5-Round, G/60; +30 Swiss.  
Dual NWSRS + US Chess rated. K-12  
sections also FIDE rated.

Rounds: Sat: 10am, 1:30pm. Sun: 10am,  
1:30pm, 5pm. Awards ~ Sun 8:30pm.

## 1-day Scholastic Sections (Sat-only)

**K-1 U700**                      **K-3 Open**

**2-3 U700**                      **4-6 Open**

**4-6 U700**                      **7-12 Open**

Format: A 5-Round, G/25; +5 Swiss.  
NWSRS rated. Open sections also US  
Chess rated.

Rounds: Sat: 9am, 10:45am, 12:15pm,  
1:30pm, 2:45pm. Awards ~ 4:30pm.

**All Sections:** Trophies awarded to top-  
scoring individuals and teams. Medals for  
first-time players who do not earn a  
trophy. Higher of October US Chess or  
current NWSRS rating will be used to  
determine section and pairings.

**Hotel Information:** Hilton Bellevue for \$179/\$199 (1 King/2  
Queen) per night, address above. Phone: 425.455.1300, request  
WA Chess Federation room block. Group Code: 905.

[Booking link](#) for online hotel reservations. Cut-off date for  
discounted hotel reservations is October 4, 2024.

## **WA State Elementary Qualifier!**

**Entry Fees:** (by Oct. 3 | Oct. 4 - 18 | Oct. 19 or after)

- 2-Day Championship Sections EF: \$85 | \$100 | \$120
- 1-Day Scholastic Sections (Sat-only) EF: \$50 | \$65 | \$85

**Registration & Payment:** **Registration and payment deadline**  
**Fri 10/25 @ 5pm at [chessreg.com](http://chessreg.com)** (pay by credit/debit/PayPal).

## Fun Side Events!

**SPFNO Puzzle Solving Competition:** Sat @ 5:30-6pm.  
EF: \$25 by 10/18, \$40 after.

**SPFNO Blitz Championship:** Sat @ 6:30-9pm.  
EF: \$25 by 10/18, \$40 after.

**Special Discount:** Bundle Puzzle and Blitz side events to  
receive a \$10 discount.

**Grandmaster Simul:** Sun @ 1-4pm.  
EF: \$60 by 10/18, \$80 after. Max 20 players.

**Parents and Coaches Seminar:** Sat @ 9:30-10:30am.

**SPFNO Girls Workshop:** Sat @ 11:30-12:30pm.

**GM Susan Polgar Book Sale:** Sat @ 1:30-2:30pm.

**FM Megan Lee Game Analysis:** Sat @ 2:30-3:30pm.

**All-Comers Blitz with FM Megan Lee:** Sat @ 3:30-4:30pm.

**Scholarships:** Scholarships available for the main  
competition and side events. Contact WCF for info.  
Seminar, Workshop, and All-Comers Blitz are free.

