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Zoey Tang at the 2024 Oregon Open.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

Back Cover

Jim Tarjan at the 2024 Oregon Open.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

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Oregon Open

Wilson Gibbins

Two hundred and sixteen (216) chess players descended on the Lloyd Center DoubleTree Hotel in Portland Oregon for the 74th Oregon Open in search of competition, camaraderie, and cash. This meant that FIDE Arbiter Norm May and tournament directors Dave Murray and Kent Bedell had a busy Labor Day weekend keeping up with all the tasks and responsibilities of large tournaments.

Zoey Tang won the top section and the \$2,221.67 prize. With all the Oregon tournaments she has won, it was a surprise that this was her first Oregon Open victory. She started with a draw with Rafael Palathingal from Washington in round one to warm up, then reeled off five straight victories to clinch clear first. Vidip Kumar Kona finished second, grabbed the \$1,791.67 second prize, and, in the process, took his rating over 2200. Congratulations to the new National Master. Nick Raptis, Austin Liu, Roger Tabet, and Ishaan Kodarapu tied for third, taking home \$573.33 each. Robert Fisette took the U2150 third-place prize with four points, as the first and second place U2150 prizes were included in the four-way tie for third.

Cody Gorman and William Nobles drew each other in round four and won their other five games to tie for first in the Under 2000 section, winning \$645 each. Emel Bayrambeyli finished third with 4.5 points to claim \$573.33. Neil Natarajan, Tunahan Efe Monkul, and Ademidun Jedidiah Adebolu shared the third place and U1850 prizes.

Laurel Scarborough, Selina Cheng, Aaron Nicoski, and Bhavik Bharath Bharath had a four-way tie for first in the U1700 section with 4.5 points each, netting them \$573.33. Abraham Tebbe and Jiro Plaunty shared the U1550 money.

In the U1400 section, Advait Krishnan won clear first and \$716.67

with 5.5 points, drawing Elijah Barish in the last round after winning his first five games. Elijah tied Kenzo Fonseca for second with five points to win \$501.66 each. Eesha Juneja, Benjamin Wooden Himmelman, Joseph Danilescu, and Steven Hearn won the U1250 prizes with four points.

The U1100 section was the largest with 63 players. Kanishk Premchander won all six games to ensure clear first in the section and \$716.67 first prize. Maxmilian Francis Eline, Kaiden Chamberlain, Jayden Yu, and William Martin each scored five points to tie for second and win \$250.83. Vivaan Kalra, Daniel Dollinger, and Weg Shukla each scored four points to share the U950 prize.

Vidip Kona won the Blitz Championship with 7.5 out of eight points, giving up only one draw to Yu-Chen Liang. Nick Raptis finished second.

Thanks to FIDE Arbiter Norm May and tournament directors Dave Murray and Kent Bedell for directing and managing the tournament. Thanks to Mike Morris for helping with the startup and shutdown of the tournament and directing the Blitz event. Thanks to Lilly Tang helping to keep things running. And thanks to Greg Markowski for managing our Oregon Chess Federation/Northwest Chess membership system to ensure that Oregon chess players had OCF memberships.

If after all that you are still hungry for chess, we encourage you to return to the Lloyd Center DoubleTree for the Oregon Class Championships on November 2-3.

Rafael Palathingal (1947) –

Roger Tabet (2113) [E94]

Oregon Open 2000+

Portland, OR (R3), September 1, 2024

[Roger Tabet]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.c4 Bg7 4.Nc3 0-0
5.e4 d6 6.Be2 Na6 7.0-0 e5 8.dxe5 dxe5
9.Bg5 h6 10.Qxd8 Rxd8 11.Bxf6 Bxf6
12.Nd5 Kg7! 13.Rad1 Be6 14.b3 c6



Position after 14...c6

This was the first hard decision. The natural move ...Nc5 is good, but Black has to know how to deal with b4.

15.Nc3 g5

15...Nc5 16.b4? Nd7 17.a3 a5!; 15...Nb4! a good move too. 16.a3? Nc2 17.a4

16.h4?!

16.Rxd8 Rxd8 17.Rd1 g4 18.Ne1 h5

16...g4

16...gxh4! Taking was better. 17.Na4 Bg4

17.Nh2



Position after 17.Nh2

This is the only move that does not lose a pawn. h4 is hanging but so is g4.

17...h5 18.g3

I played g4 earlier to get to this forced position where the h2 knight is temporarily in jail. But f3 is coming and I only have a few moves to ameliorate my position.

18...Be7!

18...Nb4! Also good 19.f3 gxf3 20.Bxf3 Rh8! 21.Rf2 Be7.

19.f3 gxf3

19...Bc5+! The best move. 20.Kg2 Nb4+ to get to c2 and e3 or d4.

20.Nxf3



Position after 20.Nxf3

A critical position. Maintaining the advantage here is not simple.

20...Bh3?!

20...Nb4! 21.Rxd8 Rxd8 22.Rd1 Bc5+ 23.Kg2 Rxd1 24.Bxd1 f6 25.Ne1 Bd4!+ ♣

21.Rxd8!

21.Rfe1? I thought this first 21...Bb4? 22.Rxd8 Rxd8 23.Rd1 Rf8 (23...Rxd1+? 24.Nxd1 f6=)

21...Rxd8 22.Rd1 Rxd1+ 23.Bxd1?!

23.Nxd1=

23...Nc5?!=

23...Bb4! 24.Nb1 Bc5+ 25.Kh2 Bg4 26.Kg2 f6

24.Ne1? Kg6

Four minutes just on this move. 24...Nxb3!? 25.axb3 Bb4 26.Bxh5 Bxc3 27.Nc2=

25.Kf2 Ne6?=-

Despite the bishop pair, this position is equal. 25...a5!

26.Nd3 f6 27.Ke3 Nd4 28.Ne2= Nxe2 29.Bxe2 b6 30.Bf3 Be6 31.Kd2 a5 32.Kc3 Bd6 33.Be2 f5



Position after 33...f5

I thought breaking with ...f5 would help activate my bishops, but this is still equal.

34.Bf3! c5

34...f4= 35.gxf4 exf4 36.e5 Bc7 37.Bxc6 Kf5=

35.Kd2 fxe4 36.Bxe4+ Kf6 37.Ke3 Bf8 38.Bf3 Bh6+ 39.Ke2 Bf7 40.Nb2

I find this idea strange but actually good. With Nf2 the control of the e4 square was clear and I had no way of progressing. 40.Nf2! =

40...Bg6!= 41.Nd1?!

A bad move. g4 was best. 41.g4! hxg4 42.Bxg4 e4 43.Na4 Ke5 44.h5 Bf7 45.Nxb6?! ♣ Kf4 46.Nd7 Bg7 47.Nxc5 Kxg4 48.Ke3 Kf5 ♣ 49.Nxe4

41...e4!

Now or never. This takes space and allows the black king to enter via e5 and d4.

42.Bg2 Ke5 43.Ne3?!

43.Nc3 Bf5! ♣

43...Kd4 44.Nd5

The endgame starts to be interesting here. I missed the best move ...Bf5.

44...e3

44...Bf5! 45.Nxb6?? Bg4+ 46.Ke1 Kd3! 47.Bf1+ Kc2 48.Be2 Bd2+ 49.Kf1 Bh3+ 50.Kf2 e3+ 51.Kf3 Bg4+

45.Bf3 Bb1!!



Position after 45...Bb1

A very good move made with a few minutes on the clock. The idea was not so much to take the white pawns, but to incite a3 then Bd3+ and b3 is weaker after Kc3 at some point.

45...Bd3+?= 46.Kd1 b5 47.cxb5 Bxb5=

46.Ke1??

A bad move. a3 was more resilient. 46.a3 Bd3+! 47.Ke1 Bc2! 48.Nxb6 Bg7-+ To go to e5 then g3.

46...Bxa2

We started blitzing here.

47.Bd1 b5

47...Bf8! 48.Nxb6 Bd6 49.Nd5 Bxg3+ 50.Ke2 Bxh4-+

48.Ne7 Bf8?

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48...Bxb3!! The best move is to let the h6 bishop hang and give the other bishop as well. The main idea is to clear the path for the a-pawn. 49.Bxb3 a4!! 50.cxb5 (50. Ba2 b4 51.Nf5+ Kc3 52.Nxh6 b3 53.Bb1 a3 54.Nf5 a2) 50...axb3 51.b6 b2 52.b7 b1Q+; 48...bxc4 also wins 49.Nf5+ (49. bxc4 Kc3) 49...Kc3 50.Nxh6 cxb3+

49.Nc6+ Kc3 50.Nxa5 bxc4??

Gives away all the advantage and goes back to equality. 50...b4! 51.Ke2 Bh6 52.Ke1+

51.bxc4?

Another mistake! Taking with the knight was the only move. 51.Nxc4= Bxb3 52.Bxb3 Kxb3 53.Nxe3=



Position after 51.bxc4

51...Bd6?

Another mistake! ...Bb1 was winning again. The game will be even from now on. 51...Bb1 52.Bxh5 Bd3 53.Be2 Be4 54.Bd1 Kb4 55.Nb3 Kxc4+

52.Ke2 Bc7 53.Nb7 Kd4 54.Nxc5!!

A brilliant move and the only idea that saves the game. Well found from my opponent. 54.Kf3!= The only other good move, and for the same reason. 54...Bxc4 55.Nxc5!

54...Bxc4+ 55.Kf3 Bd5+ 56.Ke2 Bxg3

56...Kxc5 57.Kxe3 Bf7 58.g4=

57.Nb3+ Ke4 58.Nc5+ Kd4 59.Nb3+ Ke4 60.Nc5+ Kf4 61.Nd3+ Kg4 62.Kxe3+ Kxh4 63.Bxh5 Kxh5 64.Nf4+ Bxf4+ 65.Kxf4

½-½

Ishaan Kodarapu (2091) – Jim Tarjan (2362) [A26]

Oregon Open 2000+

Portland, OR (R4), September 1, 2024

[Ishaan Kodarapu]

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d6 3.e4 e5!?

Quite an interesting opening; the move order is very weird.

4.h3?!

I'm not sure what I was thinking when I played h3. This move is not useful. Better is 4.g3 Nc6 5.Bg2 and aiming for a English Botvinnik setup.

4...g6 5.d3 Bg7 6.g3



Position after 6.g3

Now we can see h3 was a wasted move but does allow my bishop to go to e3 without being bothered with Ng4.

6...0-0 7.Bg2 Nc6

7...c6!?! is another interesting way to play this position. The end goal is to push ...d5, which he can prepare with Be6 and Nbd7-b6.

8.Nge2 Nd4 9.Nxd4 exd4 10.Ne2 Nd7 11.0-0

11.b4!? Maybe playing this before Black played ...c5 was a try. 11...c5 12.0-0! cxb4 13.Bb2 Qb6 14.a3. Despite being down a pawn, White is preferable.

11...a5

Stopping White's b4.

12.b3

With the idea of Bb2 and forcing ...c5.

12...Re8 13.Bb2 c5 14.a3?



Position after 14.a3

This move is utterly pointless. I had thought in the game I would try to play b4 but that doesn't even do much.

14...Rb8

Preparing ...b5. I am forced to go a4. 14...h6 (Useless move) 15.b4 b4 only weakens my position; Black has the nice 15...b5! ending with a complex position where Black should come out on top.

15.a4

Basically, a3 was a wasted move.

15...Ne5

I had seen this knight maneuver in advance. He obviously wants to go Nc6-b4.

16.Nf4



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Now I maneuver my knight to d5.

16...Nc6 17.Nd5 Be6

He wants to capture on d5 and play ...Nb4. This isn't really stoppable.

18.Bc1?!

18.Ba3 Bxd5 19.cxd5 Nb4 20.Bxb4 axb4 without a wasted Bc1.

18...Bxd5 19.cxd5!?

I had decided to capture this way to keep my chances alive. If the pawn structure was purely symmetrical, Black should never lose. I decided to take this risk, opening up the ...b5 push for Black.

19...Nb4 20.Ba3

Now we can see 18.Bc1 was wasted!

20...b5!



Position after 20...b5

Black finally lashes out on the queenside.

21.axb5 Rxb5 22.Kh2?

Not a necessary move. After checking with the engine, I saw that 22.h4! immediately is fine. I had played this a move later, but Kh2 had pretty much been wasted. The whole idea behind this is to try and soften up Black's kingside. The next moves for White will be h5 and f4-f5, while Black naturally gravitates towards the queenside in hopes of picking up the isolated b3-pawn.

22...Na6 23.h4

I start the kingside "attack" if you can call it that. Only way Black can play for an advantage here is...

23...Nb8?

...Nb8 is totally unnecessary. 23...Qb6! and I had 24.Bc1! Rxb3 25.Rxa5! calculated. 25...Rb8 However, Black is still better here because of the d3-pawn and his activity.

24.f4?

In my mind, I had still considered that Black would go for the b3-pawn with ...Qb6. I thought I was going to simply march my pawns and get significant counterplay. However 24.Bc1! Is a much better move. The idea is simple: defend the a3-pawn. 24...Qb6 25.Ra3 Nd7 Only way Black is winning b3 is by moving his knight out of the way. 26.Bh3 Nf6 27.h5! Rb8 28.h6 Bf8 29.Bd2 White is completely fine here.

24...Nd7 25.Bh3 h5 26.Bc1

I realized that I actually have time to transfer my f1-rook to the defense of the b3-pawn, because Black has his knight to worry about.

26...Nf6 27.Rf2?

27.f5! Qb6 28.Bg5 Black is given no time to mess around on the queenside. Actually, he's starting to have serious problems on the kingside.

27...Qb6 28.Ra3 Rb8 29.Rb2 Kh7 30.Qc2?

[Diagram top of next column]

Black is simply better now. He has pretty much stopped all traces of counterplay ever happening on the kingside. He can easily continue to slowly squeeze his advantage. 30.f5! attacking as soon as possible, while keeping the White queen



Position after 30.Qc2

flexible! Qc2 was very committal, but by keeping the queen on d1, I give myself more chances to transfer it over to the kingside if necessary. It is not clear how Black will continue.

30...Ng4+ 31.Bxg4 hxg4 32.Qe2 c4?

This is not a terrible move; however, he gives me a lot of chances to make something happen on the kingside, because all of his pieces are on the queenside. 32...f5! Very simple move! 33.exf5 gxf5 34.Qe6 Rf8 and White has nothing here.

33.Qxg4 Rxb3 34.Raxb3 cxb3 35.f5



Position after 35.f5

Finally, we see this pawn break. It is Black who has to play precisely in order to keep his advantage. Otherwise, he could allow a perpetual, or even could get into some

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trouble *hint hint*.

35...Qc5?

He goes on the offensive, but this is not the best move. 35...Qc7! The idea is that Black leaves the infiltration of Qc3 on the table, as well as bringing his queen to the kingside if necessary.

36.Bf4

Now according to the engines, the position is equal. However, it is very tricky to play for Black. In the game, I was pretty much going for a draw, but maybe Black could mess up somewhere and give White a win.

36...Qc3 37.Rf2 Qxd3 38.fgx6+

38.Bxd6 first is also fine.

38...fxg6 39.Bxd6

Defending e4.

39...Re8



Position after 39...Re8

40.e5!!

With less than two minutes on the clock, it's not easy to find this move, but it was kind of a gut feeling to play it. I thought that if Black took it, he would lose, but the real idea is just to defend the pawn, as Black was simply threatening ...Qxe4.

40...Rxe5??

Suddenly, White is completely winning!!

40...Qe3! 41.Rf7 b2 42.Rxg7+ Kxg7 43.Qd7+ Kh6 44.Qxe8 Black cannot even promote a queen here, as Qh8 is threatened. Black is actually the one forced to make a perpetual with 44...Qf2+ 45.Kh3 Qf5+ (45...Qf1+ 46.Kh2 Qe2+ 47.Kh3) 46.g4! Not (46.Kh2?? Kh5! And there is no perpetual for White.) 46...Qf3+ 47.Kh2=.

41.Bxe5 Bxe5 42.h5?!

Simpler was the immediate 42.d6 Black cannot take the pawn, but can't really let the pawn run either 42...Bxd6 (42...Qe3 43.Rf7+ Bg7 44.d7+-) 43.Qd7+

42...a4 43.d6 a3 44.d7 Bc7 45.d8Q Bxd8 46.Qd7+ Kh6 47.Qxd8 Qe3 48.Qh8+ Kg5 49.Qf6+

Overall a crazy game, which for the most part was unclear. However, by creating annoying chances on the kingside, I was able to win this game!

1-0

Nick Raptis (2348) – Zoey Tang (2343) [D13]

Oregon Open 2000+

Portland, OR (R5), September 2, 2024 [Zoey Tang]

Going into the penultimate round, Nick was the only player on 4.0/4, while I was one of two players with 3.5/4. Standings-wise, I had to win if I wanted a realistic chance of finishing first.

1.d4 Nf6 2.g3

And there goes all my preparation from the previous night!

2...d5 3.Bg2 Bf5

Because White's setup has been rather slow to control the center, I'm able to develop my pieces to the most natural squares. Qb3, the typical refutation to an early Bf5, isn't even legal here!

4.c4 c6

The opening has now transposed into a reversed London, where "Black" has chosen to fianchetto the kingside bishop.

5.cxd5

I was surprised by this move during the game. Normally, keeping the tension (so as to not allow Black's knight to get to c6 easily) is preferable. 5.Nc3 e6 6.Nf3 Be7 7.Nh4=

5...cxd5 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Nc3 e6



Position after 7...e6

8.Qb3?!

The queen is misplaced here, as it is always in danger of becoming trapped.

8...a6

A typical way to defend the b7-pawn; however, there are better options here. 8...Nb4! The easiest way to seize the advantage. Already, Black is threatening to win on the spot with ...Bc2. 9.Qa4+ Nd7 10.0-0?? Bc2 11.b3 a6!-+ Quiet moves are always the hardest to see! Now ...b5 is unstoppable.

9.0-0

9.Qxb7?? Na5+

9...Be7 10.Bf4

Now White is threatening Qxb7, since the queen can escape to c7 later.

10...Na5 11.Qd1 0-0 12.Ne5 Rc8 13.Rc1 b5 14.Bg5?!

Trading off the bishop for Black's knight isn't the most palatable idea, but it's hard to come up with reasonable moves for White. Humanly speaking, playing 14.e3 and waiting around isn't the most natural idea. 14...Nc4 15.Qe2 h6 16.h4 Bb4. White isn't losing, but this is not the type of position you'd like to play.; 14.e4! When down space, blow everything up! 14...dxe4 15.g4 Bg6 16.Nxg6 hxg6 17.Nxe4

14...h6 15.Bxf6 Bxf6



Position after 15...Bxf6

Even though my advantage is by no means decisive, at this point I was feeling pretty good about my chances. Nick was spending lots of time, which (given that it's not a particularly tactical position) meant that he didn't like his position much.

16.Nf3?

Not really improving. 16.b3 looks weakening, but at least it stops Nc4. 16...Be7 17.Nb1 Qd6

16...Qb6?!

16...Nc4 17.b3 Na3!-+ Crushing. Black is potentially threatening ...Bc2, and White still has zero reasonable moves.



Getting ready to start round five. Nick Raptis (L) plays Zoey Tang.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

17.e3 Rc7 18.Qe2 Rfc8 19.Nd2 Qb8

Threatening b4 to crash through on the only open file. 19...b4?! 20.Na4 I didn't want to allow the excessive trades, though after 20...Qb5 21.Qxb5 axb5 22.Nc5 Be7 Black is still clearly better.

20.Ra1?!



Position after 20.Ra1

20...Nc4?

Making equal trades when you're the one

putting pressure on is usually not a great idea. 20...b4 21.Na4 Qb5 22.Qxb5 axb5 23.Nc5 Nc4!-+ White has an impossible choice: take on c4 and straighten out Black's structure, or lose the b2-pawn and give up the c4-outpost.

21.Nxc4 Rxc4 22.a3 a5 23.Rfd1 b4 24.axb4 axb4 25.Na4



Position after 25.Na4

25...Be7??

Too complacent. There's no need to stop

Nc5, and the dark-squared bishop had an important duty. 25...b3 26.Nc5 White doesn't even have this option because of 26...Bc2 27.Rdc1 R8xc5 28.dxc5 Bxb2-+ 26.e4!

Boom! Suddenly White has broken through the binds in the position.

26...Rc2 27.Qe3 dxe4 28.Bxe4 Bxe4 29.Qxe4 b3 30.Qe3??

The problem with coming back from a losing position is that sometimes, your mentality doesn't adjust quickly enough. White had already managed to fight back to an equal-ish position! 30.Qf3 maintaining defense of the a8-h1 diagonal is critical, since without the fianchettoed light-squared bishop, the king can get airy. Black has no real targets here.

30...Qb7

I'm now threatening ...Ra8 or even ...h5-h4. There's no way to challenge the diagonal.

31.Nc5 R8xc5!

I didn't see the exchange sacrifice at first. However, I wasn't completely satisfied with 31...Bxc5 32.dxc5 R8xc5 33.Rd8+ Kh7 34.Rad1, where even though Black has a clear advantage, I'll have to be careful with my king safety. It is a major piece endgame, after all.

32.dxc5 Bxc5 33.Rd8+ Kh7 34.Qd3+

Even though White has this check, there's still no way to guard the f2-pawn. White's kingside falls apart.

34...f5 35.Rf1 Qb6 36.Kg2 Bxf2 37.Kh3 Bg1

Black still has to exercise a bit of caution. A trap I almost fell into: 37...Be3??, threatening ...Qb7 and ...Qb4, looks very nice, but White has 38.Rxf5! exf5 39.Qxf5+ Qg6 40.Rh8+!= This would

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have been very depressing.

38.g4 Qc7 39.Rd6 Rxh2+ 40.Kg3 Qe7 41.Rxg1 Qh4+ 42.Kf4 Qf2+ 43.Kc5 Qxg1 44.Kxe6 Qxg4 45.Qxb3 Re2+ 46.Kd7 Qe4 47.Kc7 Qc2+

Even though I was playing with Black, I managed to get an advantage straight from the opening. Barring some exceptional players, defense is nobody's forte, but Nick managed to fight all the way back to equal. Besides that small blip, though, we can pretend it was a smooth victory! I'd like to draw your attention to what happened after move 30 :)

0-1

**Ted Wang (2195) –
Ishaan Kodarapu (2091) [A04]**
Oregon Open 2000+
Portland, OR (R6), September 2, 2024
[Ishaan Kodarapu]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d3

Sideline of the French Sicilian, presumably trying to avoid the main lines.

3...Nc6

However, it's very easy for Black to play.

4.g3 g6 5.Bg2 Bg7 6.0-0 Nge7 7.Nbd2 0-0 8.c3 e5

Stopping d4 for the foreseeable future. Black now has a reverse Botvinnik setup.

9.a4 d6 10.Nc4 h6

Preparing ...Be6. I looked at these sorts of lines before the game, and White's idea is to push b4, playing on the queenside. Black shouldn't be too afraid and should push on the kingside.

11.Bd2 Be6 12.b4 f5

White doesn't have anything concrete on the queenside. He can push b5, but he would probably just lose all his attack.

13.exf5

Correct, otherwise I would easily go f4 and the attack would play itself.

13...Bxf5 14.b5?

The one and only mistake. 14.bxc5 was correct, where after I would play 14...d5! 15.Nd6 Bxd3

14...Bxd3!

14...Na5? 15.Nxa5 Qxa5 16.Nh4! Either I give up the bishop pair or lose a pawn. 16...Bc8 17.Be4 It seems OK for Black here, but White is completely better.

15.bxc6 Bxc4 16.cxb7 Rb8

Perhaps he thought the pawn would be strong on b7, but it's actually just dead. From here, conversion was easy.



Position after 16...Rb8

17.Re1 Bd5 18.h4 Qd7 19.c4 Bxb7 20.Nh2 Bxg2 21.Kxg2 Nf5 22.Qg4 Qf7 23.Rf1 h5 24.Qe2 Nd4 25.Qe4 Qb7 26.Qxb7 Rxb7 27.Bg5 Bf6 28.Be3 Rb4 29.Rac1 Rc8 30.Nf3 Nxf3 31.Kxf3 Kf7 32.Ke2 Ke6 33.Rc2 Rxa4 34.Rb1 Rc6 35.Rb8 Rb6 36.Re8+ Kf7 37.Rc8 e4 38.Rc7+ Ke6 39.f3 exf3+ 40.Kxf3 Rb3 41.Ke2 Rb2 42.Rxb2 Bxb2 43.Kd3 Be5 44.Bf4 Bxf4 45.gxf4 Ra1 46.Rg7 Kf6 47.Rd7 Rd1+ 48.Ke3 a5 49.Ra7 Rd4 50.Ra6 Kf5 51.Rxa5 Rxc4 52.Ra6 Re4+

0-1

**Emel Bayrambeyli (1644) –
Randall Smolensky (1800) [C57]**
Oregon Open U2000
Portland, OR (R2), August 31, 2024
[Emel Bayrambeyli]

First of all, I would like to thank the tournament organizers, arbiters, and everyone who contributed to this amazing event. And of course, my heartfelt gratitude to my wonderful chess trainer Stanislav Ilin and my family, who support me in every way. Lastly, a big thank you to Green Chess Team for their support!

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Be4 Nf6 4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 Nd4?!



Position after 5...Nd4

An unexpected move from my opponent, playing unusually. This move surprised me, and I had to spend time analyzing it.

6.c3

I realized the knight on d4 was strong, so I decided to chase it away.

6...b5

My opponent knows the theory very well and continues with an aggressive move.

7.cxd4 bxc4 8.0-0 Qxd5 9.Re1

The open e-file creates a pin that's uncomfortable for Black. The black king is vulnerable and feels pressured.

9...e4 10.Nxe4

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It's the right moment to exploit the pin on the e-file. Black's king is left exposed.

10...Nxe4

10...Be7 11.Nxf6+ gxf6 White would still have a better position because of Black's bad pawn structure.

11.Nc3 Qd7 12.Rxe4+ Be7 13.Qe2

I'm putting pressure on the bishop on e7, preventing Black from castling. I'm focusing on the weakness of the e7-bishop.

13...Bb7 14.Re3

14.d5 is a move that I also considered.

14...Kf8 15.b3



Position after 15.b3

15...cxb3?

Black should have continued development with ...Re8. ...cxb3 ruins Black's defense. They don't have time to finish their development.

16.axb3 a6 17.Rxe7

A critical rook sacrifice, taking advantage of Black's undeveloped position.

17...Qxe7 18.Ba3

1-0

**Jaden Marx (1821) –
Cody Gorman (1875) [E05]**

Oregon Open U2000
Portland, OR (R3), September 1, 2024
[Cody Gorman]

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Nf3 Be7
5.Bg2 0-0 6.0-0 dxc4 7.Qa4**

As someone who plays the Catalan, the move I would play is Ne5 whereas this allows Black to equalize nicely.

7...a6 8.Qxc4 b5 9.Qc2 Bb7 10.Nbd2 Nc6?!

[Diagram top of next column]

Although I had this nice idea that the knight would simply move and attack the



Position after 10...Nc6

queen which would free up the c-pawn, there's no need for this maneuver when simply ...Nbd7 and ...Rc8 puts pressure on the queen. There's no need to chase the queen with ...Nc6 to b4 when White will have to move the queen off the c-file regardless.

11.e3

11.Ne4

11...Nb4 12.Qb1 c5 13.a3 Nbd5 14.dxc5 Bxc5 15.b4?

15.e4

15...Ba7

I saw 15...Bxe3! during the game, but it didn't feel as decisive. If White accepts the sac with 16.fxe3 Nxe3 we end up in a neat position where White's development and piece placement hurt. For instance 17.Re1 Nxe2 18.Kxg2 Rc8 and White's in a tough position. White's bishop is tied to defend the d2-knight and Black has full control of the c- and d-files.

16.Bb2 Nxe3 17.Bxf6?

17.Ng5! keeps White in the game and just creates chaos with multiple hanging pieces. The computer suggests White comes out a little better after 17...Qxd2 18.Bxf6 Nf5 19.Bxb7 Rab8

17...gxf6 18.fxe3 Bxe3+ 19.Kh1 Bxd2 20.Rd1 Bxf3 21.Bxf3 Ra7 22.Ra2 Rd7 23.Qb2 Bg5 24.Rxd7 Qxd7 25.h4 Qd3 26.Kg2 Be3 27.Qxf6 Rc8

[Diagram top of next column]

28.Ra1?

This loses the game by giving Black's rook entrance to the second rank.

28...Rc2+ 29.Kh3 Rf2 30.h5 h6 31.a4 Bg5 32.Rd1 Qxd1 33.Qxg5+ hxg5 34.Bxd1 Rd2 35.Bb3 Rb2 36.Bd1 Rxb4 37.axb5 axb5 38.Bc2 f5

0-1



Position after 27...Rc8

**Neil Natarajan (1739) –
Cody Gorman (1875) [B03]**

Oregon Open U2000
Portland, OR (R5), September 2, 2024
[Cody Gorman]

**1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.exd6 cxd6
5.Nf3 g6 6.Bc4 Nb6 7.Bd3?!**

This equalizes the position and puts the bishop on an ineffective square. Either Bb3 or Be2 is better.

7...Bg7 8.b3 0-0 9.0-0 Nc6 10.Bb2 Nb4?

I thought going for the bishop pair was fine, but there's no need to attack the bishop and force it to retreat. ...Bg4 followed by ...e5 gives Black the edge in the opening.

11.Be2 Bf5



Position after 11...Bf5

12.Na3

White could also just play c3 since if ...Nc2 is played, 13.g4 hurts.

12...Rc8 13.c3 N4d5 14.Qd2 e5 15.c4 Nf4 16.d5?

This relieves any pressure in the center and gives Black a very comfortable position.

16...Nd7 17.g3 Nxe2+ 18.Qxe2 Nc5 19.Qd2 Bd3

I should have just done ...Bh3 and then ...f5. White kingside is under stress.

20.Rfd1 Qd7 21.Ne1

21.b4 Be4 22.Ng5 f6 23.Nxe4 Nxe4

21...Bf5 22.Nac2 h5 23.Ne3 Bh6 24.Qe2 Bh3 25.N3g2 f5 26.f3 Rce8 27.Nd3 Nxd3 28.Qxd3 Qd8 29.Qc3 Qb6+ 30.Kh1?

30.c5 is the only way to keep the position from getting worse, by forcing a trade of queens and playing with a pawn down.

30...Qf2 31.Rg1 Kh7 32.Nh4 Be3 33.Rad1 g5 34.Ng2 Bd4 35.Qc1 Bxb2 36.Qxg5 Qxf3 37.Rd2 Bd4 38.Rgd1 Bxg2+ 39.Rxg2 Qxd1+ 40.Rg1 Qxg1#

0-1

Selina Cheng (1644) –
Ekam Sardar (1292) [C65]

Oregon Open U1700

Portland, OR (R2), September 1, 2024

[Selina Cheng]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5

The Ruy Lopez, or the Spanish

3...Nf6 4.0-0 Bc5

I thought he'd go for main line 4.Nxe4, but apparently not!

5.Nxe5

The idea of 5.d4 after 4... Nxe5

5...Nxe5 6.d4 Bxd4

Black gets the pawn back.

7.Qxd4 Nc6 8.Bxc6 dxc6 9.Qxd8+ Kxd8

10.Nc3 Be6 11.Bg5

With the idea of e5.



Position after 11.Bg5

11...h6 12.Bxf6+ gxf6

Doubling his pawns.

13.f4

I want to go f5, and reduce the squares for his bishop.

13...Ke7 14.f5 Bc4 15.Rfe1 Rad8 16.Rad1 b5?

16...Rd6 17.b3 Ba6 18.Kf2 Rhd8 19.Kf3 b6 20.a4 Bb7 21.a5 c5 22.Rxd6

17.b3 b4 18.Na4 Bb5 19.Nc5 Rxd1?!

19...Rd6

20.Rxd1 Rd8 21.Rxd8

I trade off all the rooks

21...Kxd8 22.Kf2 Ke7 23.g4?!

23.g3 Kd6 24.Nb7+ Ke7 25.h4 Ba6

26.Nc5 Bb5 27.Ke3 Bf1 28.Kd4 Be2

23...Kd6 24.Nd3?

24.Nb7+ Kd7

24...c5 25.Ne1 Ke5 26.Ke3 a5 27.h4 c4

28.Nf3+ Kd6 29.g5 h5??

This gives up a pawn. 29...fxg5 30.hxg5 hxg5 31.Nxg5 f6 32.Nf7+ Ke7 33.Nh6 c5 34.Ng8+ Kf7 35.Nh6+

30.gxf6 a4 31.Ng5 Ke5 32.Nxf7+ Kxf6

33.Ng5 c5?!

33...Ke5 34.Nf3+

34.Kf4 cxb3 35.e5+ Ke7 36.f6+ Ke8



Position after 36...Ke8

37.axb3??

I took with wrong one, cxb3 is better. 37.cxb3 Bd7 38.e6 Bxe6 39.Nxe6 An example of what might happen after 37.cxb3

37...a3 38.e6 a2 39.f7+ Ke7 40.Nh7 a1Q 41.f8Q+ Kxe6 42.Ng5+ Kd5 43.Qf5+ Kc6 44.Qe6+ Kb7 45.Qe7+ Kb6 46.Qd6+ Bc6 47.Qd8+ Kb7 48.Ne6 Qf1+ 49.Kg5



Position after 49.Kg5

49...Qg2+??

This is a huge blunder, as it allows my king to hide on h6. He should've played ...Qg1+, and there would lots of checks.

49...Qg1+

50.Kh6

My king escapes to spot where there are no more checks.

50...Qd5??

50...Qf3 51.Nxc5+ Ka7 52.Qd4 Ka8 53.Ne6 Bb7 54.Qd8+ Ka7 55.Qa5+ Kb8 56.Qe5+

51.Qxd5 Bxd5 52.Nxc5+

I take the pawn with check, and I have ideas of attacking the b4 pawn.

52...Kc6?!

52...Kb6 53.Nd3 Bf3 54.Nxb4 Kb5 55.Nd3 Be2 56.Kg5 Bd1 57.c4+ Kc6 58.b4

53.Nd3 Kb5 54.Kxh5 Be4 55.Kg5 Bh7

He can't take the knight, because I will queen first, as shown below. 55...Bxd3 56.cxd3 Kc5 57.h5 Kd4 58.h6 Kc3 59.h7 Kxb3 60.h8Q

56.h5 Be4 57.h6 Bh7 58.Kf6 Be4 59.Kg7 Bf5?!

59...Kc6 60.Nxb4+ Kd6 61.h7 Ke5 62.h8Q Kf4 63.Qh4+ Kf3 64.Qh5+ Kf2 65.Nd3+

60.h7 Bxh7 61.Kxh7 Ka5 62.Kg6 Kb5 63.Kf5 Ka5 64.Ke5?!

64.Ke6 Ka6 65.Kd6 Kb5 66.Kc7 Ka6 67.Nxb4+ Kb5 68.Nd3 Ka6 69.c4 Ka7

64...Kb5?!

64...Ka6

65.Kd5 Ka5 66.Kc5 Ka6 67.Kxb4 Kb6??

67...Ka7 68.Kb5 Kb7 69.c4 Kc7 70.c5 Kb7 71.c6+ Kc7 72.Kc5 Kb8 73.Kb6

68.c4 Kc6 69.c5

I simply push my pawns.

69...Kb7 70.Kb5 Kc7 71.c6 Kb8 72.Kb6 Kc8 73.c7 Kd7 74.Kb7 Kd6 75.c8Q Kd5 76.Kb6 Kd4 77.Qc4+ Ke3 78.Ne5 Kf2 79.Qd3 Kg2 80.Qf3+ Kg1 81.Qe2 Kh1 82.Ng4

82.b4 Another line leading to mate 82...Kg1 83.Nf3+ Kh1 84.Qh2#

82...Kg1 83.b4 Kh1 84.Qf1#

I got off lucky he didn't play 49...Qg1+, and he instead played Qg2+, and I won.

1-0

Laurel Scarborough (1265) – Aaron Nicoski (1608) [B12]

Oregon Open U1700
Portland, OR (R3), September 1, 2024
[Aaron Nicoski]

My opponent played very well this game and found the one and only move to seal the victory on move 12. The game was basically over from there.

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.dxc5 e6 5.Be3 Nd7 6.Bb5 Qa5+

6...Ne7 is what I should have played 7.Nf3 Nf5 8.Bd4 Qa5+ 9.Nc3 a6 10.Bxd7+ Bxd7

7.Nc3 Ne7 8.a3 Nf5 9.b4 Nxe3 10.fxe3 Qc7 11.Nf3



Position after 11.Nf3

11...b6??

I unknowingly opened the a8–h1 diagonal which led to this defeat. Almost any other move would have kept me in the game. 11...Be7 12.e4 dxe4 13.Nxe4 0-0 14.Qd4 Rd8 15.0-0-0 b6 16.c6 Nb8 17.Nd6

12.Nxd5!! exd5 13.Qxd5 Bb7??!

13...Be7 14.Qxa8 bxc5 15.Rd1 0-0 16.Qc6 Qxc6 17.Bxc6

14.c6 Bxc6 15.Bxc6 0-0-0 16.Rd1



Position after 16.Rd1

16...Be7??

16...Bxb4+! 17.axb4 Nb8 18.Bb7+ Qxb7 19.Qc4+ Qc6 20.Qg4+ Qe6 21.Rxd8+ Rxd8 22.Qxg7

17.Bxd7+

Game Over 1–0 Any way I capture the bishop ends in my demise.

17...Rxd7

17...Qxd7 18.Qa8+ Kc7 19.Qxa7+-

18.Qa8+ Qb8 19.Qxb8+ Kxb8 20.Rxd7+-

1–0

Cedric Davies (1577) – Laurel Scarborough (1265) [B13]

Oregon Open U1700
Portland, OR (R5), September 2, 2024
[Davies, Cedric]

Going into the fifth round, my opponent and I were tied for clear first with a score of 3.5 each. Although he had a low rating, I saw that he had beaten a 1600 and a 1500, so he was not to be underestimated. I was in charge most of the game, but Laurel was tenacious in his fighting spirit to generate counterplay, not afraid to make sacrifices. His resourcefulness at the end of the game to generate counterplay against my king while keeping an eye on my passed pawn was well done. I aided in his quest with a terrible 41. Rh3?? blunder that sealed my fate. If I had won this game, I would have won the tournament. An unfortunate error, but that is life, and it is for interesting chess games that we play.



Wilson Gibbins. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.Bd3 Nf6 5.c3 Nc6 6.Bf4 Qa5?!

Unusual — not sure this does anything, other than a one move threat on d4. Black ends up wasting a move.

7.Nf3 Bg4 8.Nbd2 e6 9.Qb3 Qb6

The prior ...Qa5 move makes this the only sensible way to guard the b-pawn, but the resulting pawn structure is terrible for Black.

10.Qxb6 axb6± 11.Ne5 Nh5 12.Be3 Nf6

He smartly brings his knight back. 12...Nxe5? 13.dxe5 Bc5 I had this exact position in my third-round game, though messed it up by not playing the best line. 14.Bxc5 bxc5 15.h3 Bf5 16.Bb5+ Ke7

17.g4+-

13.h3 Bh5 14.g4 Bg6 15.Nxg6

Idea here is to trade off the bishop for a knight, making my d3-bishop the boss of the light squares. It also gives me the potential for a passed pawn on the h-file. This is a sound judgement. But better was to avoid the trade with Bb5, play h4, forcing h6 in reply, and only then make the trade, leaving Black with a really bad pawn structure. 15.Bb5 Rc8 16.h4 h6 17.Nxg6 fxc6± And Black's pawn structure is terrible.

15...hxg6± 16.Ke2

I wanted to bring my king to g2 by playing Kf1 first but realize that fails to Nxg4. So,

I move the king up, uniting the rooks.

16...Bd6 17.f4 Ke7 18.Kf3 Ra5 19.a3 Nd7



Position after 19...Nd7

Here I thought that Black was planning to play ...f5, so I play the rook to the g-file to prevent it.

20.Rag1 g5!?

A dubious, though daring sacrifice to at least get some freedom for Black's pieces. At first, I thought it was quite good, for if I take later on e5, his pieces come alive. Then I realized I don't need to take on e5, and can just calmly step away from the fork on e4.

21.fxg5 e5 22.Kg2 e4 23.Bc2 Rc8



Position after 23...Rc8

A confusing move at first. I then realized that Black was likely planning a sacrifice on the a3-pawn, but it didn't look sound, so I didn't work to prevent it.

24.Bb3

Putting pressure on d5 and preventing b5. Although I wasn't planning it, c4 is also a strong threat.

24...Nd8 25.Rf1

In retrospect, I don't like this move. I think it would have been better to prepare for Black's sac by shoring up the e3-bishop with Re1. But h5 starting on my outside passed pawn may be better, or even c4. The idea here was to threaten



Steven Breckenridge. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

Rf5, picking up the d5-pawn, but it's maybe a little slow.

25...Bxa3!?

Another daring sacrifice! Black isn't sitting back to let me control the flow of the game. He ends up picking up three pawns, with counterplay. Before the sac, I thought it was unsound because I would win the d5-pawn, not realizing the threats to my e3-bishop.

26.bxa3

Computer recommends to not accept the sacrifice 26.Rb1 Ne6 27.h4+-

26...Rxc3 27.Kf2 Rxa3 28.Re1!?

I choose to allow Black to exchange his rook for two pieces. I figure I don't need to waste time protecting the bishop and then will be free to push my passed h-pawn. Computer seems to agree.

28...Raxb3 29.Nxb3 Rxb3 30.h4



Position after 30.h4

The h-pawn should be the deciding factor in the game... if I had played it right.

30...Ne6 31.Re2?

I'm wasting too much time playing prophylactic moves here. I need to get on with it by pushing h5!

31...Nf4 32.Rd2?

I saw that if I captured the knight, he had a rook check on f3 that looked a little dangerous. I stopped my calculation here, not a good choice. If I had looked deeper, I would have seen that the rook check amounted to nothing. 32.Bxf4 Rf3+ 33.Kg2 Rxf4 34.Rf2! and the black rook is forced to trade itself, making it an easily winnable game for White 34...Rxf2+ (34...Rxc4+?? 35.Kh3 the rook is trapped) 35.Kxf2+-

32...Nf8?

32...f6!= 33.gxf6+ (33.Bxf4 Rf3+ 34.Kg2 Rxf4=) 33...Nxf6 34.Bxf4 Rf3+ 35.Ke1 Rxf4 36.Rg2 Rxc4 37.Rxc4 Nxc4=

33.h5

A good move, but I still had the chance here to take the f4-knight and trade the rook, which was better.

33...N8e6 34.h6 Ng6 35.Ra2?

Getting greedy! Much better to push h7 right away and either force the knight to the corner or pick it up on the next move. I was too ambitious, thinking I could get my other rook around quickly to prevent the knight from stopping the pawn. By sending this rook to the back rank, I end up leaving my king vulnerable. 35.h7 Nh8 36.Rc2 Kd7 37.Ra1 b5 38.Ra8 Nd8 39.Rcc8+-

35...Rc3 36.Ra8 Rc2+ 37.Ke1 gxh6 38.gxh6 Nef4 39.Kd1 Rb2

My original plan here was to continue with Kc1 until I realized Nd3+ protects the rook. I, therefore, switched plans because I thought I could use Bxf4 to draw the knight away from stopping the h-pawn.

40.Bxf4

But much better is 40.Bc1 unfortunately it never crossed my mind during the game 40...Rb1 41.Kc2 Cleanly shuts down the active rook 41...Rxc1+ 42.Kxc1 Nf8 43.Kd2 N4e6 44.h7 (44.Ke3 Ng5) 44...Nxb7 45.Rxb7 Nxd4+-

40...Nxf4



Position after 40...Nxf4

41.Rh3??

And here I made the losing move. A complete blunder and it looks silly, but I actually thought it was brilliant at the time. For one, it defends along the third rank, so if the knight goes to d3, I will snap it off. And I thought Black couldn't take the rook, because it would take the knight away from stopping the passed pawn, along with clogging up the h-file. But I did not think through the possible checks and weakness of my own king as we shall see. I had maybe about eight

minutes on my clock at this time, so I should have calculated this out better. 41.Rh5! also sacrifices the rook, but on a much better square, where I can take back with the g-pawn and really clog up the h-file 41...Nd3 (41...e3 42.Re5+ Kd6 43.Rxe3 Rh2 44.Rd8+ Kc6 (44...Kc7 45.Rf8+-) 45.Rf3 Ng6 46.g5+- White's king is safe, his passed pawn is dangerous and his active rooks easily win the day) 42.h7 e3. This comes with a mate threat, but we can stop it 43.Re8+!? Cute, although Re5+ also works and is simpler (43.Re5+ Nxe5 44.dxe5 Rb1+ 45.Ke2 Rh1 46.h8Q Rxb8 47.Rxb8+-) 43...Kxe8 44.h8Q+ Kd7 45.Rh2+- Nf2+ 46.Ke1 Nd3+ 47.Kf1 e2+ 48.Rxe2 Rb1+ 49.Kg2 Nf4+ 50.Kf3 Nxe2 51.Kxe2+-

41...Nxb3 42.h7?

42.Kc1 Rh2 43.h7 Nf2 44.h8Q Rxb8 45.Rxb8 Nxc4+-

42...Nf2+

Worse is 42...Rh2 43.h8Q Nf2+ 44.Ke2 Rxb8 45.Rxb8 Nxc4 46.Rb8

43.Ke1 Nd3+ 44.Kf1

44.Kd1?? e3 and White can't prevent mate 45.Re8+ Kxe8 46.h8Q+ Kd7 any White move, then Rd2#

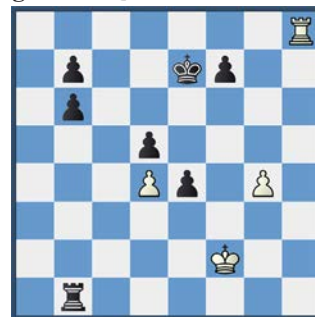
44...Rb1+

44...e3! 45.h8Q e2+ 46.Kg2 e1Q+ 47.Kh3 (47.Kf3 Qf2#) 47...Nf4#

45.Kg2 Nf4+ 46.Kf2?

Although still losing, this is a much better attempt. At the time I had about one minute left on my clock, and I felt intuitively that I needed to stay close to Black's passed e-pawn 46.Kh2 Ng6 47.Rg8 e3 48.Rxc6 e2 49.h8Q Rh1+! 50.Kxh1 e1Q+ 51.Kg2 Qe4+ 52.Kg3 Qxc6+-

46...Ng6 47.h8Q Nxb8 48.Rxb8



Position after 48.Rxb8

The battle of the h-pawn has finally settled, but in Black's flavor. We reach a rook ending with Black up three pawns,

way too much for me to handle. Even with the low time, the rest of the game was easy for Black to win.

48...Rd1 49.Rb8 Rd2+ 50.Ke3 Rd3+ 51.Ke2 Rxd4 52.Rxb7+ Kf6 53.Rxb6+ Kg5 54.Rd6 Kxg4 55.Rf6 Ra4 56.Rxf7 d4 57.Rd7 Ra2+ 58.Ke1 d3 59.Rf7 e3 60.Rg7+ Kf5 61.Rd7 Ra1#

Disappointing, in that I had a winning edge for a large part of the game and then ruined it with one bad move. But Black played well to generate counterplay. I definitely realize now with post-game analysis, that I had a lot of better options for stopping Black's counterplay. For example, the line when he first plays Nf4, to take the knight with my bishop and force a rook trade. Live and learn, this is why we play chess, to have hard fought, interesting games.

0-1

**Caleb Kesey (1547) –
Aaron Nicoski (1608) [D48]**
Oregon Open U1700
Portland, OR (R6), September 2, 2024
[Aaron Nicoski]

Final round of the tournament! My opponent played the opening well but unfortunately spent way too much of his time in doing so. By move 15 or so, he already had less than ten minutes on his clock.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 e6 5.e3 Nbd7 6.Bd3 dxc4 7.Bxc4 b5 8.Bd3 a6 9.e4 c5



Position after 9...c5

10.0-0

10.e5 cxd4 11.Nxb5! axb5 12.exf6 gxf6 is the main line; 10.dxc5? Nxc5; 10.d5?! exd5 11.exd5 Bd6.

[10.d5?! exd5 11.exd5 Bd6 does indeed favor Black. The problem is 10.d5 is one of the two main lines, with Black usually continuing 10...c4, when White

can choose between 11.dxe6 and 11.Bc2. Black's 10...exd5 in Aaron's annotation is likely a mistake, met by 11.e5! Ng4 12.Bg5, advantage to White.—Games Editor.]

10...cxd4 11.Nxd4 Bb7 12.Re1 Bc5

12...Bd6! would have been a better spot for my bishop controlling the e5-square.

13.Nb3 Bb6 14.Be3 0-0 15.e5 Nd5

15...Nxe5?? 16.Bxb6+-

16.Bxb6 N7xb6 17.Ne4 Nf4!? 18.Nbc5 Bd5 19.Re3 Nc4 20.Rg3??

20.Bxc4! must be played so as to not lose the *critical* e5-pawn 20...Bxc4 21.Qg4 Ng6 22.Rd1=

20...Nxe5? 21.Rg5 f5 22.g3 Nh3+ 23.Kf1 Nxc5 24.Nxc5 Qxc5 25.f4 Qg4 26.fxe5 Qh3+ 27.Ke1 Qxh2 28.Rc1 Qxc3+ 29.Kd2 Qf2+ 30.Be2 Qd4+ 31.Nd3 Rac8 32.Rxc8 Rxc8 33.Ke1 Qg1+ 34.Bf1 Bg2 35.Qe2 Qxf1+ 36.Qxf1 Bxf1 37.Kxf1 Rc2 38.a3 g5 39.Ke1 h5 40.Kd1 Rg2 41.Nc5 Rxb2 42.Nxe6 g4 43.Nf4 h4 44.e6 Kf8 45.Ng6+ Ke8 46.Nxh4 g3 47.Kc1 Rh2

0-1

**Kenzo Fonseca (1314) –
Chen Yuon (1226) [C54]**
Oregon Open U1400
Portland, OR (R2), August 31, 2024
[Kenzo Fonseca]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d4

A basic opening line that allows for aggressive play or a simple draw when needed.

5...exd4 6.e5 d5

This is the only good move for Black and is a very thematic move when playing into e4 openings.

7.Bb5

Redirecting the bishop to pin the knight; while I could trade the minor pieces, the position isn't the most comfortable.

7...Ne4 8.cxd4 Bb4+ 9.Bd2

Most people play Nbd2, which while is good, isn't the best. This allows me to force Black to respond and allows me to develop easily.

9...Nxd2 10.Nbxd2 Bg4

Chen plays a line which allows him to simplify the position to make drawing

easier.

11.0-0

I unpinned the knight, hoping Chen doesn't take my d2-knight, to keep the game complicated.

11...Bxd2

To my dismay Chen is playing for a draw and decides to simplify the position.

12.Qxd2 Bxf3 13.gxf3 Qd7

Chen unpins his knight. Here I think about moving the king out of the open file, but instead decide to attack his pawn to force him to make decisions. When you are the stronger player you should make your opponent have to consider more options.

14.Qg5 0-0 15.Kh1

Now I move the king away from the open file to remove any chances of Black taking the queens off the board.

15...h6?!

15...f6 16.Bxc6

16.Qg3 a6 17.Rg1

An intermezzo threatening mate as well as creating a battery I can possibly use later on.

17...g6 18.Bxc6 bxc6 19.Rae1 Qe6 20.f4

Here I opened up the row for my queen to allow me to easily defend my queenside pawns.

20...Rae8?!

20...c5 21.dxc5 Kh7 22.a3 Rab8 23.b4 a5 24.Rb1 axb4 25.axb4 Rb5 26.Qd3

21.Qf3?!

I am sliding my queen to the side to create a battery which I am hoping to use later on to break through Black's pawn structure. 21.Rc1 Kh7

21...Qf5 22.Rg3 Kh7

Chen sees my ideas and brings his king up to defend the g6-pawn as well as remove his king from the semi-open file.

23.Rc1 Re6 24.Qa3?!

24.b3 f6

24...Ra8?!

24...Rb8 25.Rf3

25.Qe3 Rf8 26.f3?!

Preventing possible queen trades. In hindsight, it's not the best since I cut off defense for the f4-pawn. 26.Kg2 f6

26...Rb8 27.b3 Rf8 28.Rcg1?!

28.h4

28...Rb8 29.Rg4 Rf8?!

29...Rb5 30.Rc1 c5 31.Rxc5 Rxc5
32.dxc5 a5 33.Rg1 c6 34.Re1 g5 35.fxg5

30.Qe2?!

Here I am preparing to add the queen to my battery. 30.Rc1

30...Ra8 31.Rh4

I threaten Rg5 tactics as well as a possible sac on h6.

31...Kg7 32.Qg2 Rf8?!

32...c5 33.dxc5 Rb8 34.Qg4 Qxg4
35.Rhxg4 Rb5 36.c6 Kf8 37.Rc1 Rb4
38.Rc5

33.Rg4?!

33.Qh3 Qxh3

33...Rg8 34.Qh3

This allows for potential tactics like Rxg6 as well as adding pressure to the h6-pawn.

34...Qd3?!

34...Kh7 35.Rc1

35.R4g3?!

My idea is to take advantage of the diagonal that can be used to infiltrate Black's side of the board as well as tactics that include Qxe6. I also am threatening f5. 35.Qf1 Qxf1 36.Rxf1 f5 37.Rg2 Rb8 38.Rd2 a5 39.Kg2 Rb4 40.h4 a4

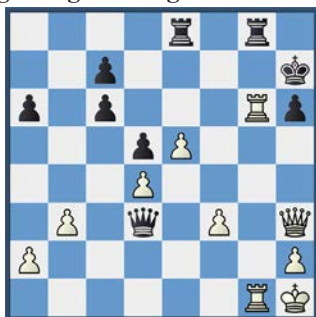
35...Kh7??

Chen is scared by the battery and my f5 ideas, however this just allows f5 to work. 35...Qxd4

36.f5 Ree8

Chen adds a defender to his rook, but it's too late now.

37.fxg6+ fxg6 38.Rxg6!!



Position after 38.Rxg6

This threatens mate as well as winning material. Black's only choice is to take with the queen, or I end up winning both

rooks with tempo.

38...Qxg6 39.Rxg6 Kxg6 40.f4?!

This was unnecessary since g5 is already stopped with Qg5, my plan was to trap the king on their side of the board, however it already is trapped. 40.Qg4+ Kf7 41.Qh5+ Ke7 42.f4 Ref8 43.f5 Kd8 44.f6 Rg5 45.Qf3 Rg6

40...Rg8??

40...Ref8

41.Qd7

Now invade the queenside and gobble up the pawns.

41...Rg8?!

41...c5 42.dxc5 a5 43.Kg2 Rb8 44.Qe6+ Kh7 45.Kf3 a4 46.f5 Rg8 47.Qxd5

42.Qxc6+??

I thought about f5, but I didn't play it since I was scared there might be draw/



Jack Buchanan. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

checkmate ideas, a sad miss. 42.f5+ Kg5 43.f6 Ra8 44.f7 Rgb8 45.Qe7+ Kg4 46.Qe6+ Kf3 47.Qf6+ Ke2

42...Kf5 43.Qxd5 Re6??

43...Kxf4 44.e6

44.Qf3??

I missed Qd7, which pins the e6-rook and allows me to win the rook or rooks. Instead, I defend a pawn that cannot be saved. 44.Qd7 Kxf4 45.Qxe6 Rg5 46.Qf7+ Rf5 47.Qc4 Kg5 48.Qe2 c6 49.h3 Kh4

44...Reg6

A crucial moment where I am considering h3 or Qf7.

45.Qf2

I choose Qf7, which is best since the mate threat is defended and I don't allow Rg3.

45...Rg4 46.h3 Rxf4 47.Qc2+

I force Black to pin his own rook, which allows me to safely push the pawns.

47...Re4 48.e6 Re8?

48...Rg7 49.b4

49.d5 c6?

A final attempt by Chen, which hopes to unpin the rook or win the pawn. Unfortunately for him, the pin stops the plan of ...R4xe6. 49...Rg8 50.e7

50.dxc6 R8xe6 51.c7 Re8 52.c8Q+ Rxc8 53.Qxc8+ Kf4 54.Qxa6 Re1+ 55.Kg2 Rd1?!

55...Re5 56.Qc4+ Kf5 57.h4 Kg6 58.a4 Re7 59.a5 Kg7 60.a6 Kh7 61.Kf3

56.Qf6+ Ke3 57.Qf3+ Kd2 58.Qxd1

Getting rid of Black's last piece that is capable of causing a threat.

58...Kxd1 59.a4 Kc2 60.a5 Kxb3 61.a6 h5?!

61...Kc4 62.Kf3 Kd4 63.a7 Ke5 64.Kg4 Kf6 65.Kh5 Ke5 66.Kxh6 Kd5 67.Kg6

62.a7 h4 63.a8Q Kc4 64.Qe4+ Kc5 65.Qd3 Kc6 66.Qd4 Kc7 67.Qd5 Kb6 68.Qc4 Kb7 69.Qc5 Kb8 70.Qe7 Ka8 71.Kf3 Kb8 72.Ke4 Ka8 73.Kd5 Kb8 74.Kc6 Ka8 75.Qb7#

1-0

**William Ho (1200) –
Advait Krishnan (1377) [C02]**

Oregon Open U1400

Portland, OR (R4), September 1, 2024

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Qb6 5.Nf3 Bd7 6.a3 cxd4 7.cxd4 Ne7 8.b4 Bb5 9.Bd3 Qa6 10.Bxb5+ Qxb5 11.Nc3 Qd7 12.Bb2 Nbc6 13.Rc1 Nc8 14.Na4 Nb6 15.Nxb6 axb6 16.0-0 Be7 17.Qd3 0-0 18.Qb5 Rfc8 19.Qxb6 Bd8 20.Qc5 Na5 21.Qd6 Qxd6 22.exd6 Nc4



Position after 22...Nc4

23.d7 Rc7 24.Ne5 b5 25.Nxc4 dxc4 26.Rfe1 Rxd7 27.Re5 Rd5 28.Rce1 Bf6 29.Rxd5 exd5 30.f3 Rc8 31.Bc3 Kf8 32.Kf2 Ra8 33.Ra1 Ke7 34.Ke3 Kd6 35.Kf4 h6 36.Bb2 Re8 37.Rb1 Re2 38.g4 Rxh2 39.Ba1 Rg2 40.Ke3 Bg5+ 41.f4 Rg3+ 42.Kf2 Bxf4 43.a4 bxa4 44.b5 Rb3 45.Rd1 Rxb5 46.g5 Bxg5 47.Bc3 Rb3 48.Ba5 c3 49.Bxc3 Rxc3 50.Ra1 Rc4 51.Kf3 Rxd4 52.Rb1 Kc6 53.Rb8 a3 54.Rc8+ Kb7 55.Rc2 Rd2 56.Kg4 Rxc2 57.Kf5 a2 58.Ke5 a1Q+ 59.Kd6 Qa6+ 60.Ke5 Qe6+

0-1

**Elijah Barish (1311) –
William Ho (1200) [C59]**

Oregon Open U1400

Portland, OR (R5), September 2, 2024

[Elijah Barish]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 Na5 6.Bb5+ c6 7.dxc6 bxc6 8.Be2 h6 9.Nf3 e4 10.Ne5 Qd4 11.Ng4 Bxg4 12.Bxg4 e3 13.Bf3 exf2+ 14.Kf1 Rc8 15.Qe2+ Be7 16.Qxf2

16.Qa6 0-0 17.Qxa5 Bb4 (17...Rfe8) 18.Qa4 (18.c3 Qd3+ 19.Be2) 18...Rce8

16...Qxf2+ 17.Kxf2 0-0 18.Re1 Bc5+ 19.Kf1 Rfe8 20.Nc3 Rxe1+ 21.Kxe1 Re8+ 22.Kf1 g5 23.d3 Re7 24.Ne4 Nxe4 25.Bxe4 Re6 26.Bd2 Nb7 27.Re1 Rf6+ 28.Ke2 Bd6 29.g3 Nd8 30.Bc3 Re6 31.Kd1 Be7 32.Bf5 Rxe1+ 33.Kxe1 h5 34.Be5 Ne6 35.Be4 c5 36.Kf2 Kf8 37.Ke3 g4 38.Kf2 f6 39.Bb8 Kg7 40.Bxa7 Nd4 41.c3 Nb5 42.Bb8 Nd6 43.a4 Nxe4+

43...Kf8 44.a5 Ke8 45.a6 Kd8 46.a7 Kc8

47.a8Q

44.dxe4 Bd8 45.b4 cxb4 46.cxb4 Bb6+ 47.Kg2

47.Ke2 Bg1

47...Kf7 48.a5 Bd4 49.a6 Ke8 50.a7 Bxa7 51.Bxa7 Kd7 52.Bc5 Kc6 53.Kf2 h4 54.gxh4 Kb5 55.h5 Kc4 56.h6 Kd3 57.h7 Kxe4 58.h8Q g3+ 59.hxg3 Kf5 60.Qh5+ Ke6 61.b5 f5 62.b6 Ke5 63.b7 Ke6 64.b8Q f4 65.Qbe5+ Kd7 66.Qh6 fxg3+ 67.Kf3 g2 68.Qeg7+

1-0

**Kenzo Fonseca (1314) –
Benjamin Himmelman [C54]**

Oregon Open U1400

Portland, OR (R6), September 2, 2024

[Kenzo Fonseca]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d4 exd4 6.e5 Ne4??

Black falls for a common trap which allows me to get a superior position to Black or win material. 6...d5 7.Be2 Ne4 8.cxd4 Bb6 9.Nc3 0-0 10.Be3 Be6 11.0-0

7.Bd5!

A hard to see move that threatens to win the knight.

7...f5

Blacks best defense, however this allows me to prevent Black from castling.

8.cxd4 Bb4+ 9.Bd2 Bxd2+ 10.Nbxd2 Nxd2 11.Qxd2 h6 12.h4?!

Inaccuracy. O-O was best. My idea is to play h5 and then Nh4 followed by Ng6. 12.0-0 Ne7 13.Bb3 a5 14.a4 c6 15.Qd3 b6 16.Rfe1 Ba6 17.Qd1 b5

12...d6

Black attacks my center.

13.0-0-0 Ne7 14.Bb3 d5 15.h5



Position after 15.h5

Allowing the idea of playing Nh4 but my main idea here is to prevent Black from

moving the knight to g6.

15...Be6 16.Qf4?!

My idea is to attack the kingside more in case Black tries to castle, doesn't make sense in hindsight since Black has no plans of castling kingside and can't really do anything there anyway. 16.Ne1 Qd7 17.Nd3 b6 18.Nf4 0-0 19.Kb1 a5 20.a3 Rab8 21.Rh3 Rfc8

16...Qd7 17.Rd3

Bringing my rook up to defend my king as well as start eyeing the c-pawn.

17...0-0-0 18.Rc3 Kb8 19.Ne1!

I saw that c5 would be a very strong outpost for my knight and find the fastest way to reroute the knight.

19...Nc6??

Black stops defending a4 with this move which will be a crucial mistake I take advantage of later. 19...g5 20.hxg6 Nxg6 21.Qd2 f4 22.Nd3 Qg7 23.Kb1 h5 24.a4 f3 25.g3

20.Nd3?!

Proceeding with my plans of playing Nc5. 20.Ba4 Ka8 21.Nd3 Qe8 22.Bxc6 bxc6 23.Nc5 Rb8 24.b3 Qe7 25.Kb2 Rb6

20...Qf7?

Black doesn't like the idea of losing his light-squared-bishop and in turn moves his queen away.

21.Nc5?

I proceed with my plans, I could've sac'd however I thought that Qd2 was too slow. 21.Rxc6 bxc6 22.Qd2 Kc8 23.Nc5 Rde8 24.Qa5 Kd8 25.Ba4 Bc8 26.Bxc6 a6

21...Bc8?!

21...Ne7 22.Ba4 c6 23.b4 Rc8 24.Bd1 g5 25.hxg6 Nxg6 26.Qd2 f4 27.Bh5

22.Ba4

Now I threaten to ruin Blacks pawn shield.

22...g5?!

Black threatens my queen. 22...Na5 23.e6 Qe7 24.Nd7+ Ka8 25.Qxc7 Bxd7 26.Bxd7 Nc4 27.Kb1 Qb4 28.Rxc4

23.hxg6

After debating for a while, I found that if I take the pawn then play Rg3 and then Rh3, I could win a clean pawn and have a easily won endgame due to Blacks bishop being entirely useless.

23...Qxg6 24.Rg3 Qh7?!

24...Qg5 25.Rxg5 hxg5 26.Qxg5 Rxh1+ 27.Kd2 Rhh8 28.Bxc6 bxc6 29.Qf6 Rdg8 30.Kc3

25.Bxc6

I take the knight first to destroy the pawn shield and cement my knight in its outpost making Black'ss bishop useless.

25...bxc6?!

25...b6 26.e6 Rd6 27.Nd7+ Bxd7 28.Bxd7 Rd8 29.Re3 a6 30.e7 R6xd7 31.exd8R+

26.Rgh3 h5 27.Qg5?!

Qd2 again is best, but I'm too focused on my plan that I miss it once again. 27.Qd2 Qh6 28.Rb3+ Ka8 29.f4 Qf8 30.Qa5 Qxc5+ 31.Qxc5 Bb7 32.Ra3 a6

27...Rdg8 28.Rxh5?!

Now I trade off everything and push my pawn. 28.Qd2 Qh6 29.Rb3+ Ka8 30.f4 Be6 31.Ra3 Rxg2 32.Qxg2 Rb8 33.Qd2 Rb5

28...Rxg5 29.Rxh7 Rxh7 30.Rxh7 Rxg2 31.e6?!

31.Rh8 Rxf2 32.e6 Re2 33.Kd1 Re3 34.Kd2 f4 35.Rf8 a6 36.a3 Ka7

31...Rg8

Black sees that ...Rxf2 is dead lost so they bring the rook back to defend.

32.Rf7 Re8 33.Nd7+?!

I block Black's bishop from being able to take my e6-pawn, any move that Black does loses a pawn and then is forced to lose an endgame. 33.e7 f4 34.a4 a5 35.Kd2 Ka7 36.Rf8 Rxe7

37.Rxc8 Rh7 38.Nd3 Kb7

33...Bxd7 34.exd7 Rd8 35.Re7?!

35.b4 c5 36.bxc5 c6 37.Kd2 Kc7 38.Ke3 Rh8 39.d8R+ Kxd8 40.Kf4 a5

35...Kb7 36.Kd2 c5?!

36...a5 37.a3

37.dxc5 Kc6??

37...c6

38.b4

I leave the d7-pawn en prize with the idea that if he takes I can play b5+ and win the rook.

38...Rxd7?!

38...d4 39.Kd3 Kd5 40.a4 f4 41.Re4 a5 42.Rxd4+ Kc6 43.bxa5 Kxc5 44.Ke4

39.b5+

1-0

**Abigail Hall (1058) –
Damien Davies (475) [B22]**

Oregon Open U1100

Portland, OR (R3), September 1, 2024

[Cedric Davies]

Damien, my son, is a boy of 11 years of age, playing in his first adult tournament. We had a lot of fun checking in on each other's games. In this game, Damien goes down by two exchanges, but shows how powerful a pair of bishops can be.

1.e4 c5 2.c3

The Alapin variation. Damien is unfamiliar with this variation and allows White to get a strong center. I keep telling him he needs to study his openings more :)

2...g6

I prefer ...d5 here or on the next move.

3.d4 cxd4 4.cxd4 Bg7±

White has a strong center.

5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Nf3 d6 7.h3 Nf6 8.Bf4 0-0 9.Bc4 Re8?±

With the bishop on c4, plus the possibility of the knight going to g5, moving the rook away from the defense of f7 doesn't seem right. Also there was a much better move in ...Nxe4 Stronger is 9...Nxe4! 10.Nxe4 d5 11.Bd3 dxe4 12.Bxe4 Nxd4±

10.0-0 b6 11.Ng5 e6 12.Nb5

Looks scary, but Black is actually fine here.

- * After-School Chess Clubs
- * Break Camps
- * Summer STEAM Camps
- * Friday Night Games and Pizza
- * Parents Night Out
- * MTG Clubs & More!





Cary "Coach Ray" Easterday
 434 NE Ravenna Boulevard
 Seattle, WA 98115
 (206) 512-9546
 Chessape@outlook.com
 https://OrangutanAcademy.com

12...d5!



Position after 12...d5

12...h6?! 13.Nxf7 Kxf7 14.Nxd6+ Kg8±

13.Nc7?-+

13.exd5 exd5 14.Bb3 Ba6! 15.Ba4=

13...dxc4 14.Nxa8 Bb7?±

14...Qxd4 15.Qa4 (15.Nc7 Rf8 16.Qxd4 Nxd4 17.Be5 Nc6 18.Bc3!) 15...Bd7 16.Nc7 Rc8=; Best is 14...Nh5 White has overextended her position. With this simple knight move, Black could have taken control and been better with two pieces for the rook 15.Be3 (15.Bh2 Qxg5 16.Nc7 Rd8+) 15...Bb7 16.d5 exd5 17.Qxd5 Qe7 18.Nc7 Qxc7 19.Qxc4+ Black is much better.

15.Nc7 Re7 16.e5?

Blocks the bishop's protection of the c7-knight. 16.d5 exd5 17.exd5±

16...Rxc7?

16...Nh5+ Black will now recover a piece with a large advantage.

17.exf6 Bxf6 18.Bxc7 Qxc7 19.Nf3 Qd6 20.Qe2 b5



Position after 20...b5

Protecting c4, though ...Qd5 was better.

21.Rad1 Nxd4 22.Nxd4 Bxd4

The dust has somewhat settled. Although down two exchanges, Black has two pawns for it, giving him solid control over the center, and a very strong and unchallenged bishop pair. Although

White is objectively a little bit better here, Black has solid compensation.

23.Qd2?

A natural move, but does nothing to stop the upcoming threat to g2. 23.Qg4 e5 24.a3=

23...e5

23...Qg3!! A stunning move taking advantage of the f2 pin! Black wins as mate is unstoppable.

24.Rfe1 f6

Takes away the defensive square g5 from the white queen.

25.a3?

Allows Black to start his mating attack. 25.Kh2 was necessary so as to be able to protect g2.

25...Qd5



Position after 25...Qd5

The simple threat against g2 is unstoppable.

26.Kf1 Qxg2+ 27.Ke2 Bf3#

0-1

Isaiah Fattal (1088) –
Kanishk Premchander (1181) [C58]
Oregon Open U1100
Portland, OR (R6), September 2, 2024
[Wilson Gibbins]

A crucial last round game. Kanishk has five points, Isaiah has 4.5, so if Isaiah wins he will have at least a share of first place. A draw is good enough for Kanishk to finish at least tied for first, but a win gives him first alone. You might expect both players to play it safe in such a high-stakes situation. Instead, a back-and-forth tactical brawl breaks out.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 Na5

5...Nxd5?! 6.Nxf7 Kxf7 7.Qf3+ Ke6 8.Nc3 Today, Stockfish tells us that White

is better.

6.Bb5+ c6 7.dxc6 bxc6 8.Qf3

Kanishk — I had studied this line with the continuations 8.Be2 and 8.Bd3, but I completely glossed over 8.Qf3 and didn't know what to do at that moment. I spent around 15 minutes in this position figuring out how to get out of this seemingly gnarly situation.

8...Bd7

It is natural to defend the pawn, but in this sharp opening Black can consider sacrificing more material. 8...Rb8 and White should retreat the bishop is most popular 9.Bd3 with rough equality (9.Bxc6+ Nxc6 10.Qxc6+ Nd7!. and in this open position Black's development is more important than White's material advantage.

It is strange that Black should retreat the knight instead of gain time on the queen with (10...Bd7 but the crude mate threat 11.Qc4 leads to White's advantage.); 8...cxb5!? It normally scores well, but it didn't work out for Fabiano Caruana in a Titled Tuesday game a few years ago 9.Qxa8 Qc7 10.Qf3 Nc6 11.c3 Bg4 12.Qg3 Nd4 13.Na3 Bxa3? (13...Ne2! is unclear but close to equality.) 14.cxd4 Bd6 15.Ne4 1-0 Erigaisi,A (2718)-Caruana,F (2766) chess.com SpeedChess 2022 chess.com INT blitz (1.12)

9.Ba4±

White's extra pawn gives him an edge, but Black's lead in development means that there is a lot of fight left in the game. This wide-open position will reward players for tactical accuracy and a willingness to look beyond the stereotyped moves in the position.

9...Be7 10.c3

Not best. White is behind in development and should work on catching up. 10.0-0±; 10.d3±

10...Qc7 11.b4 Nb7 12.Bb3 0-0

And just like that, Black is a little better.

13.0-0 c5 14.a3 a5

Kanishk — I considered c4 here, but I decided to get at the queenside structure instead since my own pawns were already isolated and easy targets.

15.bxa5 Nxa5

Allows White a tactical trick that gets him close to equality. 15...c4 prevents White's next move Kanishk — I was looking at

14...c4, but I guess I got a bit greedy and went for the pawns on the queenside since the c-pawn is isolated anyway.

16.Bxf7+! Kh8!#

16...Rxf7? 17.Qxa8+ Rf8 and now Stockfish says White's should keep his queen on the edge of the board with 18.Qa6 (18.Qf3 unfortunately leaves White's queen in the lines of fire of Black's pieces)

17.Ne6 Bxe6 18.Bxe6 e4 19.Qg3 Bd6 20.Qh3 c4

Kanishk — Idea behind 20...c4 was obviously to lock down the c3-pawn and prevent White's dark-squared bishop from ever seeing the long diagonal.

21.a4 Qb6

21...Nb3! 22.Ra2 Ra5! is an effective rook lift, getting ready to bring the rook from a8 into a kingside attacking position on h5. Kanishk — I was thinking of 21...Nb3 but for whatever reason I didn't see the Ra5 follow up so I went for f2 for the rest of the game instead.

22.Na3!

And now White stands a little better, with two extra pawns and ambitions to take a third on c4. But White's bishop on c1 and rook on a1 are not contributing to offense or defense, so he will need to be very careful.

22...Bc5 23.Bf5 h6 24.Rb1

A good move, developing a piece, approved by Stockfish. 24.d4 cxd3 25.Bxh6! gxh6 26.Qxh6+ No checkmate yet, but Black's king is undefended and White can take a draw by perpetual if he wants. That said, a draw gives Black at least a tie for first place.

24...Qc6 25.Nc2

25.Rb5! gets one of White's two sleeping pieces into the game.

25...Nb3

Kanishk — Missed 25.Rb5, but thankfully he missed it so I shut that down with 25...Nb3 immediately.

26.Nb4 Bxb4 27.cxb4 Nxc1

Kanishk — This move allows me to be 100% sure I would never have to deal

with any threats on g7. 27...Qxa4#

28.Rfxc1

White is better. All his pieces are finally in the game.

28...Rxa4 29.Be6 Qd6 30.Bxc4 Qxd2 31.b5

Normally passed pawns should be pushed, but White needs to take care of the attack on f2 first. 31.Qe3#



Position after 31.b5

31...Ng4

Kanishk — I spent a good 20 minutes on this move, calculating not only 32.Qxg4, but also 32.Qg3, defending f2. In any case, even if the position was equal, I felt that if anyone had winning chances, it would be me.

32.Bf7

Tricky, but Kanishk sees through it. 32.Qxg4 Qxf2+ 33.Kh1 Rxc4!= 34.Rxc4?? Qf1+!; 32.Qg3 Nxf2=

32...Qxf2+

Black is winning — the e-pawn combined with back rank mates is too much for White to handle. 32...Rxf7 33.Qxg4 Qxf2+ 34.Kh1 is about equal.

33.Kh1 e3

Kanishk — No need to take on f7, the more important thing was to defend the g4 knight and prepare a promotion/mating idea on f1.

34.Be6 e2 35.g3 Ne3

Kanishk — I didn't see any way to push the pawn forward or checkmate on f1, so I played 35...Ne3 to threaten Qg2# and force the white queen to stay passive, but also to add further defense to f1 in case there was a moment to break through.

36.Bc4 Rxc4 37.Re1 Qf3+ 38.Kg1 Rh4!

If 39.Qxh4 Qg2 mate.

0-1



James Nelson. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

Interview with Megan Lee

Ken Lee



Ken Lee

Megan Lee is a familiar name to Northwest Chess Magazine readers. Starting from the age of six, Megan has competed in tournaments throughout the United States. Her current FIDE rating is 2260 and she has achieved the titles of Woman International Master (WIM) and FIDE Master (FM).

I spoke with Megan via WhatsApp to discuss chess, previsualization, and why chess has been such an integral part of her life.

Ken: When did you start playing chess?

Megan: I started playing chess when I was about six. My older brother Michael, who is two and a half years older than me, also plays chess, and has achieved the title of International Master (IM). There was a chess club at Medina Elementary School and my first chess teacher, Woman Grandmaster (WGM) Elena Donaldson, became my coach. In the third grade, I transferred to Stevenson Elementary School and became very involved in their chess club.

Ken: What was your first experience with chess tournaments like?

Megan: The Stevenson Chess Club was so big that it was nice to attend tournaments with all my friends. It was just a fun way to spend a Saturday.

Ken: What kept you motivated to continue to play and study chess during those early years?

Megan: I think I just like really enjoyed solving puzzles. I was having fun and enjoyed hanging out with my friends. I also played piano and swam

competitively as well.

Ken: Did you continue to get coaching from WGM Donaldson throughout your elementary school years?

Megan: When I was around nine, I hit an ELO of around 1400. That's when I started working with IM Coach Georgi Orlov. I continued working with him throughout high school. But I stopped receiving chess coaching as soon as I started to attend university.

Ken: How did chess affect your decisions regarding high school and your university studies?

Megan: In high school, I think the logic of chess helped me excel in certain subjects like math and science that required logic. When it came time for university, chess definitely helped me make decisions based on the information that was presented to me. I remember thinking that I might want to pursue architecture because it was a mixture of math, science and art.

Ken: So, is that what you ultimately decided to pursue?

Megan: My top candidates ended up being Carnegie Mellon, Berkeley, and Rhode Island School of Design (RISD). I applied to maybe 14 schools, but these were the ones I considered most seriously. RISD turned out to be a great fit for me because the classes were small, and they allowed me to explore and try different things.

Ken: I've read that many chess kids tend to develop a number of critical skills including previsualization and the ability to concentrate over long periods of time.

Do you find that your chess skills helped you specifically with your university studies?

Megan: I think chess helps with multi-tasking. Even though multi-tasking sometimes gets a bad rap, it's a very useful skill as a designer. A designer has to think about all the different stages of a product at the same time. For many of my projects, I often utilize computer modeling, but it starts by previsualizing my concepts in my head in three-dimensional form. Chess gives me an edge with that skill because I have had years of practice in previsualizing entire games or sequences of games in my head.

Ken: What are you currently working on?

Megan: I currently run two businesses. I run a brick-and-mortar embroidery shop in Woodinville called Cloth Tattoo (www.clothtattoo.com). This is a B2B model. I also run an online shop called Snippet Studios (www.shopsnippet.com) which provides my own embroidered and design products.

Ken: What other ways has chess helped you in your business life?

Megan: Chess has certainly helped with my memory. I can remember hundreds of people's names, projects and logos. I find I can balance all these projects in my head.

Interestingly enough, chess also helps me manage stress but, in a way, that is counterintuitive. Most people think that I play chess to relax. In truth, playing competitive chess is probably the most stressful thing that I do! That said, importantly, it's my choice to use my time and effort to compete in chess. So, when it comes to work, I have to manage several dozen projects for two different companies. I find that I can manage it quite easily. Chess teaches you to make rational decisions based on the problems that are presented to you. It's good

“I think that chess is beautiful. It has helped me connect with many of the most important people in my life.”

training for school, running a business, and for life.

Ken: Do you have any specific advice for students and coaches?

Megan: I think chess students experience the most growth when they are having fun. I want to remind students and coaches alike, to make sure they keep the game fun. Progress will happen for each student at their own individual pace. I also want to tell students that chess is *not* a reflection of intelligence. I think that chess is beautiful. It has helped me connect with many of the most important people in my life. I can't imagine my life without my friends and the game of chess.

Ken: Now that you don't have a chess coach, how do you continue to practice and grow as a chess player?

Megan: As an adult, it's much easier for me to know what my weaknesses are and what I need to work on. As I mature

as a player, self-reflection becomes a critical part of my development. It's my process of becoming a total player. I think and reflect on my psychological state, my habits, my strengths and my weaknesses. Then I come up with a game plan to work on the things I need to do to be successful.

Ken: What are your personal goals for chess?

Megan: Right now, on the horizon, my goal is to become an International Master. And my immediate short-term goal is to do well in the US Chess championship which is being held in St. Louis, Missouri in October.

[Now completed, Megan took fourth place, scoring 6.5/11—Editor.]

Ken: Is there a recent game that you'd like to share with *Northwest Chess* readers?

Megan: I'm proud of the game I played against GM John Fedorowicz at the Charlotte Norm Super Swiss in Charlotte, NC in July 2023. He played straight into my prep and there was a fun tactic at the end.

**Megan Lee (2337) –
John Fedorowicz (2461) [B52]**
Charlotte Norm Super Swiss
Charlotte, NC (R3), July 10, 2023

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Bd7 4.Bxd7+ Nxd7 5.0-0 Ngf6 6.Qe2 e6 7.d4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 a6 9.c4 Be7 10.b3 0-0 11.Bb2 Re8 12.Nc3 Bf8 13.Rad1 Qc7 14.Rfe1 g6 15.Kh1 Qa5 16.Qd2 Rad8 17.f4 Qh5 18.Nf3 b5 19.cxb5 axb5 20.a3 Qc5 21.Nd4 b4 22.axb4 Qb6 23.b5 e5 24.Nc6 Ra8 25.f5 d5 26.fxc6 hxc6 27.exd5 Bd6 28.Qe2 Kg7 29.Rf1 Rh8 30.Ne4 Nxe4 31.Qxe4 f6 32.h3 Qxb5 33.Qg4 Qb7 34.Qe6 Bc5 35.Nxe5

1-0



Megan Lee. Photo courtesy of Megan Lee.

From The Publisher's Desk

(Endorsement of Bob Ferguson)

Duane Polich

Practically every chess player knows the importance of strategic thinking skills. Among those skills are problem-solving, being creative, adaptability, anticipating, articulating your goals clearly, creating an implementation plan, three-question everything, asking strategic questions, analyze the options and risk objectives and management, simplifying the complicated and understanding the consequences. These skills are useful not only in chess but in your life as well, especially, in a career such as law and perhaps even in politics.

Bob Ferguson (known then as "Bobby") started forming and utilizing these skills as a nine-year-old when he asked for and received a chess set for Christmas. His father then took him to the Boeing Chess Club where he learned the fundamentals of chess from the members. He started to play in tournaments and then when he was between 12 and 13 years of age, he started working with local master John Donaldson, who later went on to become an International Master, a prolific writer of chess books, captain of the US Chess Olympiad Chess Team, and Director of San Francisco's Mechanic's Chess Club.

John helped Bobby hone his critical thinking and laid the foundation for Bob's future success. Another player who influenced Bobby was Seattle's Own Grandmaster Yasser Seirawan. Yasser sharpened Bobby's tactics and gave him new insights into openings, middle games, and endgames. Bobby won the Washington State Chess Championship

title in 1984 and 1987. Bobby had ambitions at one time to become a professional chess player and headed to Europe to improve his game even further. But he then faced reality and decided to put the skills that had served him well in the chess world into the practice of law.

Bobby went to the University of Washington where he was elected the student body president. He went on to get his law degree from the New York University School of Law. Bob began his legal career in Spokane, serving as a law clerk in the US District Court for the Eastern District of Washington. He then returned to Seattle and joined the law firm of Preston, Gates, and Ellis. After four years there, Bob decided to utilize the skills he gained through chess in politics and ran for King County Council. He ran against a 20-year veteran of the council and during his campaign he knocked on 22,000 doors and won the election by a mere 500 votes. This was in 2003. During his time on the Council, Bob served as Chair of the Regional Policy and Law, Justice and Human Services Committees and co-sponsored legislation to place

a ballot before the voters to generate revenue to improve health services for veterans and military personnel, among many other things.

In 2012, Bob was elected as the 18th Washington State Attorney General. Bob increased the size of the office to provide more services to the citizens of Washington State. His office won lawsuits against the likes of Comcast for their pricing schemes, against tuna and chicken food companies for price-fixing,

and other consumer protection matters. Bob sued the Trump administration 97 times, realizing 22 victories and one loss. He formed the Wing Luke Civil Rights Division of the AG's office dedicated to protecting the civil rights of everyone in Washington. Bob filed multiple legal actions against the Presidents of both parties regarding the Hanford Nuclear Reservation and the delay in clean-up and for putting hundreds of workers at Hanford at risk to harmful toxic waste. One of Bob's biggest victories as AG was taking on large drug companies that help fuel the opioid epidemic and won a \$1.2 billion and counting settlement, that will be used to combat the opioid and fentanyl crises in communities all across the state. This was just a few of his achievements as Attorney General.

Now in 2024, Bob plans to take his strategic thinking skills to the highest office in Washington state as Governor. As was mentioned in Ken Lee's interview of Bob in the April, 2024 issue of *Northwest Chess* and reiterated at a recent luncheon in Seattle attended by over 1,000 people. Bob acknowledged the importance of taking calculated risks to win. Bob has said "There's often a moment in the game between players of equal strength, where you're faced with a choice of playing it safe or making a move that's going to change the nature of the game. I've trained myself to ask. "What's it going to take to sharpen my position?"

Bob's chess knowledge has served him well throughout his career in law and politics. Chess players in Washington are in a unique position this November to elect one of their own as Governor. I have known Bob since his early days in chess and that is why I wholeheartedly endorse Bob Ferguson for Governor.

Your vote for him is most definitely a winning move.

"Chess players in Washington are in a unique position this November to elect one of their own as Governor."



NORTHWEST CHESS

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BOBBY FERGUSON

WASHINGTON STATE CHAMPION



Bob Ferguson
2024 Candidate for
Washington State Governor

WASHINGTON CHALLENGER'S CUP



SUN-MON, NOVEMBER 10-11, 2024

CHINOOK MIDDLE SCHOOL

2001 98TH AVE NE, BELLEVUE, WA 98004

Highest finishing Washington residents in the Open and Reserve sections seeded into the 2025 Washington State Championship + Rising Stars sections, respectively.

Format: A 5-round Swiss in two sections:

Gukesh Open - NW, US Chess & FIDE tri-rated.

Praggnanandhaa U1700 - NW & US Chess dual-rated.

In case of a tie for 1st place, a future playoff match will determine the seed for the Championship or Rising Stars section of the 2025 Washington State Championship.

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

Time Control: G/90; +30. Late default: 60 min.

Prize Fund: \$2,300 (based on 60 paid entries)

Gukesh Open: 1st \$400, 2nd \$280, 3rd \$200
1st U2100/U1900: \$120

Praggnanandhaa U1700: 1st \$280, 2nd \$200, 3rd \$120
1st U1500/U1300/U1100: \$100; 1st Unrated: \$100

Special Prizes (per section): Biggest Upset Win: \$40, Best Female Player (by TPR): \$40, Best Dressed: \$10/day.

Entry Fee: \$70 by 11/3, \$80 after. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs & WIMs. \$40 play-up fee if rated 1500-1700 in both NWSRS + USCF and playing in Gukesh Open. Maximum of 150 players – please register early to guarantee your spot.

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

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

Rating: US Chess and NWSRS Rated. Gukesh Open section is also FIDE Rated. Highest of current NWSRS, Nov. US Chess Regular, and Nov. FIDE rating used to determine section, pairings, and prizes. Higher of US Chess or foreign rating used at TD discretion.

Registration: Online at nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration
Registration and payment **deadline: Sat. 11/9 @ 5pm.** Payment via SettleKing, Zelle/PayPal (ID: WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com) or Venmo (ID: @WChess) also available.

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

Mail To: Washington Chess Federation
c/o Orlov Chess Academy, 4174 148th Ave. NE,
Building I, Ste. M, Redmond, WA 98052

Contact: Josh Sinanan, WCF President

Phone: 206-769-3757

Email: WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

CHALLENGERS CUP SCHOLASTIC

CHESS TOURNAMENT

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2024

CHINOOK MIDDLE SCHOOL

2001 98TH AVE NE, BELLEVUE, WA 98004



DUAL FORMAT ***ENTRY FEE***

Rapid Sections

A 6-round, G/25; +5 Swiss in 3 sections:

Kindergarten

1-3 U800

4-6 U1000

Schedule:

Rd. 1 – 9:00am

Rd. 2 – 10:30am

Lunch Time

Rd. 3 – 12:30pm

Rd. 4 – 1:45pm

Rd. 5 – 3:00pm

Rd. 6 – 4:15pm

Awards ~ 5:30pm

Classical Sections

A 3-round, G/50; +10 Swiss in 2 sections:

K-5 Open

6-12 Open

Schedule:

Rd. 1 – 9:00am

Lunch Time

Rd. 2 – 12:30pm

Rd. 3 – 3:00pm

Awards ~ 5:30pm

\$50 by 11/3, \$60 after.

Room for 200 players.

AWARDS

Section Prizes: Amazon Gift Cards awarded in each section: 1st – 5th: \$60–55–50–45–40.

Special Prizes (per section): Medals for first-time players, best female player, best dressed, and biggest upset win. ***Top player (by TPR) in each of the K-5 Open and 6-12 Open sections wins free entry into the 2024 WA Class Championships!***

RATING

Dual NWSRS and US Chess rated, with **US Chess membership required in all sections.** Establish or update your national rating! Higher of current NWSRS or US Chess regular rating will be used to determine section and pairings.

ELIGIBILITY

Open to all students in grades K-12 as of the 2024-25 school year. Out-of-state players welcome!

CLOCKS + NOTATION

Chess clocks will be used from the beginning in all games. Chess notation required in all sections except for Kindergarten and 1-3 U800. All equipment is provided courtesy of WCF.

REGISTRATION

Register online at NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/ Pay by Credit/Debit/PayPal/SettleKing. **100% pre-registered, no on-site entries or payments. Entry + payment deadline Sat November 9 @ 5:00pm.** No registrations accepted or refunds offered after the deadline.

CONCESSIONS

Lunch and refreshments will be available for purchase on-site.

WA State Elementary Qualifier!

Questions?

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

VETERANS DAY SCHOLASTIC

CHESS TOURNAMENT

VETERANS DAY MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2024

CHINOOK MIDDLE SCHOOL

2001 98TH AVE NE, BELLEVUE, WA 98004



FORMAT

A 5-round, G/25; +5
Swiss tournament in five
sections:

K-2 U700

K-2 Open

3-6 U800

3-6 Open

7-12 Open

SCHEDULE

Rd. 1 – 9:00am

Rd. 2 – 10:30am

Lunch Time

Rd. 3 – 12:30pm

Rd. 4 – 1:45pm

Rd. 5 – 3:00pm

Awards ~ 4:30pm

ELIGIBILITY

Open to all students in
grades K-12 as of the
2024-25 school year. Out-
of-state players welcome!

ENTRY FEE

\$50 by 11/4, \$60 after.
Room for 200 players.

AWARDS

Section Prizes: Amazon Gift Cards
awarded in each section:

1st – 5th: \$60–55–50–45–40.

Team Prizes: Amazon Gift Cards
awarded to the top 4 players from the
top 5 finishing teams (top 4 scores
from same school comprise team
score) across all sections:

1st – 5th: \$30–25–20–15–10.

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

RATING

Dual NWSRS and US Chess rated,
with **US Chess membership
required in all sections.** Establish
or update your national rating!
Higher of current NWSRS or US
Chess regular rating will be used to
determine section and pairings.

CLOCKS + NOTATION

Chess clocks set to G/25; +5 will be used
from the beginning in all games. Chess
notation required in all sections except for
K-2 U700 and 3-6 U800. All equipment is
provided courtesy of WCF.

REGISTRATION

Register online at

NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/

Pay by Credit/Debit/PayPal/SettleKing.

**100% pre-registered, no on-site entries or
payments. Entry + payment deadline Sun
November 10 @ 5:00pm.** No registrations
accepted or refunds offered after the
deadline.

PROCEDURE

Pairings will be posted in the hallway near
the parent waiting area.

CONCESSIONS

Lunch and refreshments will be available for
purchase on-site.

WA State Elementary Qualifier!

Questions?

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

Seattle Chess Classic

(Virtuosos Degenbaev and Wilber Shine)

Josh Sinanan

The Eighth Annual Seattle Chess Classic was held August 17-18 during the dog days of summer at Lakeside Upper School in Seattle. This year's iteration was truncated to six rounds over two days to encourage more out-of-region players to participate by saving on travel costs and to accommodate those with busy summer schedules. Despite the intense pace of six rounds of G/70;+30 over two days, sixty-eight chess maestros from throughout the Pacific Northwest came out to play, from locales including Redmond, Sammamish, Woodinville, Bothell, Portland, Seattle, Gig Harbor, Bellevue, Snoqualmie, Lake Stevens, Bremerton, Brier, Everett, Edgewood, Mineral, Kent, Duvall, Issaquah, Wenatchee, Hunts Point, Winthrop, Kirkland, and Shoreline.

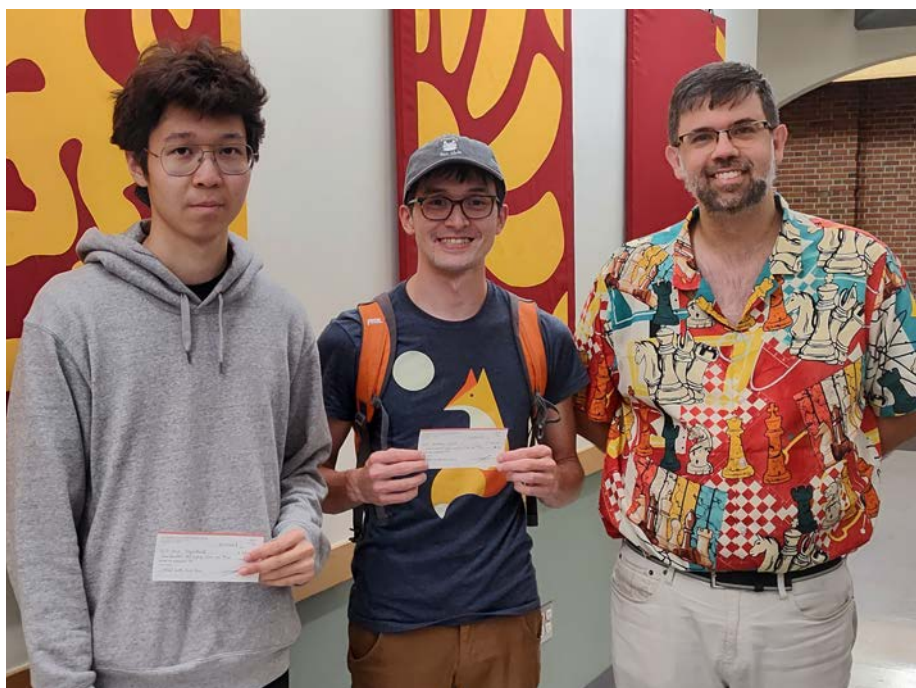
Classical chess and all its beauty were on full display throughout the late summer weekend, with several dazzling attacks, brilliant sacrifices, and crafty defenses featured in every round. The event was hosted by Washington Chess Federation and directed by Chief TD Ani Barua with assistance from WCF Scholastic Director Allen Messenger. The field was divided evenly between two sections — the 37-player Tiglon Open and

the 31-player Seirawan U1600 — named in honor of two Grandmasters who got their start playing chess in Washington State!

Due to the slightly faster time control, the games were dual NWSRS

an impressive five points from six games. For Aziz, this was business as usual, as he added yet another tournament victory to his already impressive list of achievements over the past year. For Matthew, the achievement was more significant, since it was his first major tournament victory since making his return to competitive chess after a seven-year hiatus. Young Vidip Kona (4.5, 2156 → 2179) of Redmond, who recently became Washington State's newest National Master, captured third-place honors a half-point back.

Two chess instrumentalists shared the U2100 prize with four points apiece: CM Alexander Yang (4.0, 2061 → 2056) of Bellevue and Owen Xu (4.0, 1950 → 1966) of Bellevue. Bothell-based chess bassoonist Rafael Palathingal (4.0, 1945 → 1937) and Redmond chess orchestrator Ujwal Garine (4.0, 1814 → 1862) split the U1900 prize with a similar “plus two” score. Chess accordionist Aarav Bharathy Mohan (3.5, 1646 → 1794) of Bothell claimed the U1700 with an impressive 2111 tournament performance rating. In addition to the overall prizes, several “special” prizes were also awarded for the biggest upsets in each round, the best female player, and the best dressed each day.



(L-R) Seattle Chess Classic Co-Champions Aziz Degenbaev and Matthew Wilber, with WCF President Josh Sinanan. Photo Credit: Ani Barua.

and US Chess rated, but not FIDE rated this year. Strangely enough, this may have encouraged a few stronger players to take part without having to worry about risking their FIDE rating when facing the notoriously underrated junior players who frequent these events!

When the music stopped, FM Aziz Degenbaev (5.0, 2367 → 2377) of Seattle and NM Matthew Wilber (5.0, 2152 → 2170) of Bellevue stood together atop the field, each tying for first place with

The following chess artists won the coveted upset prizes: (no one qualified for the upset prize in round one), Aarav B. Mohan (round two, 247 points), Emerson Wong-Godfrey (round three, 162 points), Aarav B. Mohan (round four, 389 points), Bhavik Bharath (round five, 593 points), and Matthew Wilber (round six, 306 points). Newly minted FM Megan Lee of Bellevue won the Best Female Player prize. Kirkland chess melodist Te Wei and Sammamish songsmith Stephen Willy collected the Best Dressed prizes for their stylish ensembles.

Issaquah chess instrumentalist Jinmo Nam (5.5, 1200 → 1378), dominated the Seirawan U1600 section with a fantastic 5.5-point score, allowing only a single draw against second place finisher Rian Raja in the third round. Jinmo recently returned to competitive chess after a five-year break from the game, and he continues to improve quickly as an active high school player. Bothell-based chess recitalist Rian Raja (5.0, 1279 → 1407)

captured second-place honors a half-point back, going undefeated with two drawn against the tournament winner and third-place finisher Shawn Li in the penultimate round.

Bellevue soloist Shawn Li (4.5, 1523 → 1509) earned the third-place prize with an impressive “plus three” score, starting out red-hot with four points from four games before running into Raja and Nam, respectively, in the final two rounds. Two chess violinists, Zoe Xu (4.0, 1340 → 1349) of Bellevue and Vihaan Pai (4.0, 1185 → 1199) of Sammamish shared first U1500 honors with four points apiece. Shoreline chess symphonist Nathan Zhang (4.0, 903 → 1175) performed well above his provisional 903 rating and won the U1300 prize.

Portland chess piper Kavish Dhar (2.5, 850 → 905) took home the U1100 prize for his efforts. High school senior Joseph Danilescu (4.0, unrated → 1357) of Lake Stevens showed why you should

never underestimate unrated players and won the Unrated prize with a phenomenal four points.

The following chess lyrists were awarded the best upset prizes: Nathan Zhang (round one, 287 points), no one qualified for round two, Aarna Dhar (round three, 267 points), Nathan Zhang (round four, 206 points), Jinmo Nam (round five, 164 points), and Shanna Wu (round six, 262 points). Bellevue chess fiddler Zoe Xu won the Best Female prize with a tournament performance rating of 1437. Classy chess clarinetist Aarna Dhar of Portland won the best dressed prize for her on-fleek attire.

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

Aziz Degenbaev (2367) – Megan Lee (2346) [C52]
Seattle Chess Classic (R5), August 18, 2024
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5

The Giuoco Piano, starting point for countless games throughout chess history.

4.b4



Position after 4.b4

The Evans Gambit. White offers a pawn to attack on diagonals leading toward the black king, as well as potentially building a pawn center. Another similar idea is 4.c3 Nf6 Black pressures the e4-pawn. 5.d4 (Old school, going into forcing attacking lines that have been played and analyzed forever. 5.d3 is the current super-popular system, leading to very subtle, quiet maneuvering.) 5...exd4 6.cxd4 Bb4+ with several gambit choices from here.

4...Bxb4 5.c3 Ba5

Most common. 5...Be7 6.d4 Na5; and the solid 5...Bd6 6.d4 Nf6 7.0-0 0-0 are alternative defensive ideas.

2024 Seattle Chess Classic: Tiglon Open												
#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Total pts	Prize	Amount
1	1-2	FM Aziz Degenbaev	2367	W24	W5	W2	D4	W12	D6	5	= 1st/2nd	\$485
2		NM Matthew Wilber	2136	W23	W28	L1	W18	W17	W4	5	= 1st/2nd	\$485
3	1-3	CM Vidip Kona	2156	W29	W9	D6	W11	L4	W12	4.5	3rd	\$320
4	4-9	NM Siddarth Meenakshi Sundaram	2442	W8	D13	W7	D1	W3	L2	4		
5		CM Alexander Yang	2061	W34	L1	D10	W24	D11	W17	4	= 1st U2100	\$100
6		FM Stephen Willy	2320	W18	W17	D3	H---	D10	D1	4		
7		Owen Xu	1932	W25	D12	L4	W30	W19	D8	4	= 1st U2100	\$100
8		Ujwal Garine	1761	L4	D16	W33	W21	W14	D7	4	= 1st U1900	\$100
9		Rafael Palathingal	1887	W31	L3	L23	W25	W16	W10	4	= 1st U1900	\$100
10	10-15	Aarav Bharathy Mohan	1681	D14	W20	D5	W13	D6	L9	3.5	1st U1700	\$200
11		Emerson Wong-Godfrey	1908	W26	D35	W13	L3	D5	D15	3.5		
12		FM Megan Lee	2346	W36	D7	W27	W14	L1	L3	3.5	Best Female Player	\$50
13		Leonid Gavrysh	2070	W16	D4	L11	L10	W24	W26	3.5		
14		Pratik Thorwe	2003	D10	W21	W30	L12	L8	W23	3.5		
15		Akim Pikh	unr.	L28	L23	W31	W36	W29	D11	3.5		
16	16-22	Karthik Bimod	1690	L13	D8	W20	W28	L9	D18	3		
17		Siddharth Bhaskaran	1871	W37	L6	W29	W23	L2	L5	3		
18		Neevan Reddy Saggi	1734	L6	W37	W22	L2	D23	D16	3		
19		Nola Fung	1736	L35	D26	W34	W27	L7	D22	3		
20		Chad Boey	1928	D32	L10	L16	D22	W31	W29	3		
21		Te Wei	1842	W22	L14	H---	L8	D25	W30	3		
22		Bhavik Bharath	1161	L21	B---	L18	D20	W36	D19	3		
23	23-27	Saiya Karamali	1691	L2	W15	W9	L17	D18	L14	2.5		
24		Vijay Nallappa	1760	L1	D34	W26	L5	L13	W33	2.5		
25		Rhadean Rubaiyat	1666	L7	W36	D28	L9	D21	D27	2.5		
26		Haituka Anandkumar	1586	L11	D19	L24	W33	W28	L13	2.5		
27		Jeffrey Wei	1891	D33	W32	L12	L19	D30	D25	2.5		
28	28-32	Yuchen Zhou	1787	W15	L2	D25	L16	L26	D32	2		
29		Max Cao	1722	L3	W31	L17	W32	L15	L20	2		
30		Dann Merriman	1725	H---	W33	L14	L7	D27	L21	2		
31		Rithvik Bharath	1319	L9	L29	L15	B---	L20	W37	2		
32		Nihanth Tatikonda	1642	D20	L27	H---	L29	D37	D28	2		
33	33-35	Kate Wong	1471	D27	L30	L8	L26	B---	L24	1.5		
34		Bohan Zhang	1684	L5	D24	L19	U---	H---	H---	1.5		
35		FM Ryan W Porter	2292	W19	D11	U---	U---	U---	U---	1.5		
36	36-37	Stephen Foster	1754	L12	L25	W37	L15	L22	U---	1		
37		Daniel Yates	1303	L17	L18	L36	H---	D32	L31	1		

6.Qb3

Rare, but quite logical, and analogous with similar positions in the main-line Giuoco, generally after the black bishop has been distracted by taking the rook on a1. It could prove effective here, with the bishop off on a5 where it doesn't defend the kingside dark squares and simultaneously at least delays any threat of...Na5. 6.d4 exd4 7.0-0 is well-represented in historic games.

6...Qe7 7.Ba3

7.d4 has been played here.

7...d6 8.d4 exd4

It feels a bit risky to open the position, but without extensive advance prep, I wouldn't want to attempt 8...Nf6 9.d5 (9.0-0 0-0 10.Re1 Bd7 (10...Nxd4!? 11.cxd4 Bxe1 12.Nxe1 exd4) 11.Nbd2) 9...Nd4! 10.Qa4+ (10.Nxd4 exd4 11.Qa4+ Bd7 12.Qxa5 Qxe4+ 13.Kd1 0-0) 10...Bd7 11.Qxa5 Nc2+ 12.Kd1 Nxa1 13.Nbd2, when Stockfish thinks Black is doing well. As a human, I don't

even want to attempt to evaluate any of the above, as I have no clue what is going on in these lines.

9.0-0 Nh6

Taking advantage of the bishop's absence from the c1-h6 diagonal.



Position after 9...Nh6

10.Re1!?

A simpler way to get a good position is 10.cxd4 0-0 (10...Qxe4 is too greedy, and can be punished in several ways. One possibility: 11.Bd3 Qf4 (11...Nxd4

12.Bxe4 Nxb3 13.axb3) 12.d5 Nd4 13.Nxd4 Qxd4 14.Bb2 Qc5 15.Bxg7+-) 11.Qd3 and I think we just call this "with compensation."

10...0-0 11.e5 Qd8 12.Bc1!?

12.Bd5!?

12...Nxe5 13.Nxe5 dxe5 14.Bxh6 gxh6 15.Rxe5 Bb6 16.Nd2 Qf6

White still has a small lead in mobilization, but Black is two pawns up. The pawns are compromised, true, but there are two of them, now supported by the bishop-pair in a wide-open position.

17.Reel dxc3 18.Ne4 Qg7 19.Rad1 Bf5

19...Bh3 20.Ng3 Bg4 Now it's three pawns, the black rooks are connected, and actual compensation for the material is not obvious.

20.Nxc3 Kh8?!

20...c6

21.Nd5 Rae8?!

21...Bg4



Aziz Degenbaev (L) vs. Megan Lee during their tense fifth-round game. Photo Credit: Ani Barua.

22.Rxe8 Rxe8 23.Nxb6 axb6 24.Bxf7



Position after 24.Bxf7

A few swift exchanges and the material imbalance is one rather insignificant doubled h-pawn. Black's king is the less secure. Equal/unclear?

24...Rf8 25.Bd5 Bg4 26.f3 Bh3 27.Qc2 c6 28.Bb3 Bf5 29.Qf2 b5 30.Kh1 Re8 31.h3 Qf6 32.Qg3 Qg5 33.Qc7 Qg7 34.Qf4 Bg6 35.Qh4 h5 36.Rd8 h6 37.Rxe8+ Bxe8 38.Qf4 Bg6 39.Be6 Kh7 40.Qd6 Bb1

Just plain equal. Neither side has been making any progress, but in good modern style they press on, awaiting opportunity.

41.Kh2 h4 42.Kh1 Bg6 43.Bb3 h5 44.Kh2 Bf5 45.Kh1 Bg6 46.Kg1 Bf5 47.Kh1 Qa1+ 48.Kh2 Qg7 49.Kh1



Position after 49.Kh1

Threefold repetition achieved... but if no one claims...

49...Bg6 50.Kg1 Bf7 51.Bc2+ Kg8 52.Qd8+ Qf8 53.Qg5+ Qg7 54.Qd8+ Qf8 55.Qg5+ Kh8 56.Qf6+ Qg7 57.Qd8+ Bg8 58.Qxh4

Black played on to reach this?

58...Qa1+?! 59.Kh2 Bxa2 60.Qxh5+ Kg7 61.Qg5+ Kf8 62.h4± Qc3 63.Bg6 b4

Black's defense is tenuous now in any case, as White can combine threats to the exposed black king with advancing the pawn mass. 63...Bf7 64.Qf4 (64. Be4±) 64...Qc4 65.Be4 Qc5 66.Bf5 (66.

Kh3 Qg1 is slightly less clear.) 66...Qc4 67.Qg5 Black's task is hard.

64.h5 Qd4 65.h6 Qd6+ 66.f4 Bg8 67.Bf7!

Cute.

67...Kxf7

67...Bxf7 68.h7 Qd4 69.Qh6+ Qg7 70.h8Q+

68.Qg7+ Ke6 69.Qxg8+ Kf5

69...Ke7 70.Qg5+ Kd7 71.h7 Qf8 72.Qh4 Qh8 73.Qg4+ Ke7 74.Qg8

70.Qg5+ Ke4 71.h7

1-0

Vidip Kona (2156) – Emerson Wong-Godfrey (1908) [A14]
Seattle Chess Classic (R4), August 18, 2024
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 d5?!



Position after 2...d5

A highly unusual move order to reach standard positions in a few moves. Unusual for good reason; see the next note.

3.g3

White should exchange the center pawn and bring an insufficiently supported black piece into the center as a target for development and central pawn expansion. After 3.cxd5 Nxd5 4.d4± there's no fear of a reversed Sicilian if Black can't play...e5. This exact position is given in countless old opening books (generally from the move order 1.d4 d5 2.c4 Nf6? 3.cxd5 Nxd5 4.Nf3) claiming clear advantage.

3...e6

Black has options, including 3...c6; or a reverse Benoni with 3...d4.

4.b3 b6 5.Bg2 Bb7 6.0-0 Be7 7.e3 0-0 8.Bb2 c5

Through flexible transposition we sneak back into main-line territory...

9.Qe2 Nc6 10.Rd1



Position after 10.Rd1

10...Qc8

...and soon leave it behind. 10...Qc7 is the most popular move here, and perhaps ironically the most successful for White, though my sample size is not huge. 11.Nc3 Rad8 12.cxd5 Nxd5 13.Nxd5 Rxd5 14.d4±; 10...dxc4 11.bxc4 Qc7 (11...Rc8) 12.Nc3 a6 probably represents a transposition into 10...Qc7 much of the time, evening out the statistics a bit to near equality.; 10...Rc8, and the related 11...Rc8 from the c4 exchange line above, tend to score well for Black, for reasons too subtle for me to discern. Perhaps it's just a tiny bit too early to commit the black queen?

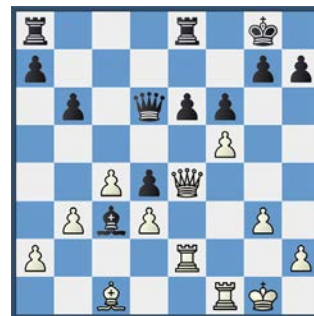
11.Nc3 Rd8 12.d3

12.cxd5 exd5 13.d4 could be an alternate treatment, but Black might toss a proverbial wrench into the works with 12...Ba6!?, justifying his tenth move.

12...d4

A natural gain of space, reaching a different odd reversed Benoni.

13.exd4 Nxd4 14.Nxd4 cxd4 15.Ne4 Nxe4 16.Bxe4 Bxe4 17.Qxe4 Qd7 18. Re1 Bb4 19.Re2 Qd6 20.Rf1 Bc3 21. Bc1 Re8 22.f4 f6 23.f5?



Position after 23.f5

In general material terms, two rooks are

better than queen and pawn. Positional specifics matter, though. Here, the queen on e4 is White's best-placed piece, powerfully centralized. Black's rooks are not particularly active, currently performing largely a defensive role. 23.h4 intending advance to h5, attempts to create further kingside weaknesses.

23...exf5!

More important than evaluating the relative value of White's queen versus Black's rooks, however, is evaluating the pieces that remain on the board.

24.Qxe8+ Rxe8 25.Rxe8+ Kf7 26.Re2 g6 27.Bf4

White's bishop has been improved for sure. One could argue that it is now comparable in value to the black bishop on c3. But in order for two rooks to outweigh a queen, the rooks must coordinate together. Here it's quite difficult to make the rooks work together: on the e-file there's no way to double. That c3-bishop spikes e1, the d-pawn guards e3, the f-pawns control e4 and e5, the black royalty covers the entry ranks. White's chances of forcing a win

from here seem slim.

27...Qa3 28.Bc7

White tries for something involving Bd8/Re7+.

28...Bb4

One idea to make progress with Black might be exchanging on c4, either creating a passed d-pawn or gaining some pressure against d3. 28...b5 29.Bf4 (29.cxb5 Qc5?) 29...bxc4 30.bxc4 Bb4 31.Rd1 g5!? 32.Bc1 Qa5.

29.Bf4 Bc3



Position after 29...Bc3

30.h3?!

Objectively, White should be happy to

accept a repetition. Psychologically, knowing that Black is happy to repeat can put fresh wind in the sails.

30...h5 31.Kh2 Qa6?!

31...a5; 31...Qc5

32.Bd6 Kg7?

32...Qc8 33.Re7+ Kg8

33.Rff2

White now has a path to double rooks on the e-file.

33...b5 34.c5

Safe enough, but not necessary. Faster: 34.Re7+ Kh6 35.Rd7 Qc8 (35...bxc4 allows an end similar to the actual game.) 36.Rf7 g5 37.Rxf6+ Kg7 38.Be5+.

34...b4

34...g5 35.Rxf5 and White's breakthrough is now just a matter of time.

35.Re7+ Kh6 36.Rf7 Qxd3

36...Qc8 37.Bf8+ Qxf8 avoids mate, but that's about all you can say for it.

37.Bf8+ Kg5 38.h4+ Kg4 39.Rf4#

1-0



Seattle Chess Classic
Seirawan U1600 Champion
Jinmo Nam.
Photo Credit: Ani Barua.

2024 Seattle Chess Classic: Seirawan U1600												
#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Total pts	Prize	
1	1-1	Jinmo Nam	1200	W22	X31	D2	W13	W9	W3	5.5	1st	\$360
2	1-2	Rian Raja	1279	W20	W18	D1	W10	D3	W6	5	2nd	\$320
3	1-3	Shawn Li	1523	B---	W8	W4	W9	D2	L1	4.5	3rd	\$260
4	4-8	Zoe Xu	1394	W27	W5	L3	W15	L6	W13	4	= 1st U1500	\$100
5		Nathan Zhang	1118	W19	L4	W14	W18	D7	D8	4	1st U1300	\$200
6		Joseph Danilescu	unr.	L18	W20	W26	W12	W4	L2	4	1st Unrated	\$150
7		Pablo Manzon Jr	1502	W21	D11	L13	W22	D5	W14	4		
8		Vihaan Pai	1356	W30	L3	D16	W21	X25	D5	4	= 1st U1500	\$100
9	9-12	Sid Siddem	1551	W15	W26	W10	L3	L1	D12	3.5		
10		Krishang Gupta	1412	W17	W16	L9	L2	D13	W15	3.5		
11		Arthur Deng	1172	W24	D7	L25	D16	H---	W21	3.5		
12		Ziqian Gao	1388	D29	D25	W30	L6	W18	D9	3.5		
13	13-17	Arihant Chaudhuri	1295	H---	W23	W7	L1	D10	L4	3		
14		Madison Lati Strauss	1330	L16	W27	L5	W24	W19	L7	3		
15		Simon Thornock	1317	L9	W28	W19	L4	W26	L10	3		
16		Henry Louie	1300	W14	L10	D8	D11	D17	H---	3		
17		Shanna Wu	1124	L10	L19	D20	W23	D16	W26	3		
18	18-25	Sambuddha Sekhar Das	1324	W6	L2	W24	L5	L12	D19	2.5		
19		Edgar Li	1405	L5	W17	L15	W28	L14	D18	2.5		
20		Riaan Babbar	1249	L2	L6	D17	W29	L21	W27	2.5		
21		Harry Wu	1207	L7	D22	W29	L8	W20	L11	2.5		
22		Kavish Dhar	947	L1	D21	W23	L7	L24	W30	2.5	1st U1100	200
23		Troy Chabot	1201	D25	L13	L22	L17	W28	W29	2.5		
24		Christian Jordan	1418	L11	W29	L18	L14	W22	H---	2.5		
25		Andrew Goupinets	1487	D23	D12	W11	H---	F8	U---	2.5		
26	26-28	Luke Dale	1386	W28	L9	L6	W30	L15	L17	2		
27		Aditi Sembium	1063	L4	L14	L28	B---	W30	L20	2		
28		Aarna Dhar	796	L26	L15	W27	L19	L23	B---	2		
29	1-29	Darya Byelashova	948	D12	L24	L21	L20	B---	L23	1.5		
30	30-31	Sofia Byelashova	726	L8	B---	L12	L26	L27	L22	1		
31		Krishna Ram	469	B---	F1	U---	U---	U---	U---	1		

Vancouver Open

Josh Sinanan

The 11th Annual Vancouver Open was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation July 20-21, 2024, at the Vancouver Hampton Inn & Suites. This fantastic mid-summer tradition offers players from throughout the Pacific Northwest the opportunity to play in a high-quality tournament hosted at a hotel, many of whom spend a night or two, and enjoy a mini vacation without having to hop in plane!

A robust turnout of 60 players from Washington and Oregon competed in the two-day event, from cities including

Tacoma, Olympia, Bothell, Portland, Beaverton, Bellevue, Sammamish, White Salmon, Washougal, Vancouver (WA), Bremerton, Happy Valley, Battle Ground, Redmond, Camas, Yakima, Duvall, Corvallis, Lakewood, Issaquah, Gresham, Fall City, Medina, Kelso, and Burnaby (BC).

Despite the proximity to the Beaver State, only 12 Oregon players attended the tournament, compared with 46 from Washington. WCF Co-VP Rekha Sagar directed the event with assistance from WCF President Josh Sinanan and WCF

Treasurer Robert Allen. The field was split between two sections, with 34 players in the Lewis Open and 26 in the Clark U1700.

Compared to last year's Open section, in which nearly 60% of the field opted to "play up," only 8 (24%) ambitious players rated below 1700 paid the extra \$35 fee to play up this year. This made for harder-fought games and attracted several strong players, including National Masters Ted Wang, Josh Sinanan, Yu-Cheng Liang, and Experts Rebecca Lampman, Aaryan Deshpande, and Charles Crane.

In Lewis Open, Michael Moore (5.0, 1934 → 2022) from Corvallis emerged victorious with a perfect five points from five games. Michael is a recent graduate of Texas Tech University, where he honed his chess and business skills over the past few years. Michael has been a fast-improving player on the Oregon chess scene for several years, and his win is well-deserved. Moore started off strong with two wins out of the gate before facing Sammamish Expert Aaryan Deshpande.

Moore won quickly after an attack-gone-wrong by Deshpande and carried his momentum into the second day of play with a victory against fellow Oregonian Jack Buchanan. This set up a last-round showdown on board one between the only two players with perfect scores in the tournament, Moore and Steven Witt, who had just converted a tricky bishop vs knight ending against Lampman the round before.

Two Washington chess frontiersmen, NM Josh Sinanan (4.0, 2200 → 2211) from Seattle and Steven Witt (4.0, 1929 → 1988) from Kelso, shared second/third place honors a full point back. Young chess explorer Owen Xu (3.5, 1932 → 1950) from Bellevue captured the first U2000 prize thanks to a clutch final round victory against British Columbia's Andrew Yin.

Vancouver Open: Lewis Open									
#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total
1	1	Michael Moore	1934	W10	W11	W6	W14	W3	5
2	2-3	Josh Sinanan	2200	W34	H---	D4	W23	W8	4
3		Steven Witt	1963	W31	W18	W8	W5	L1	4
4	4-7	Yu-Cheng Liang	2165	H---	W24	D2	D15	W16	3.5
5		Becca Lampman	2132	W32	W30	W7	L3	H---	3.5
6		Aaryan Deshpande	2084	W9	W23	L1	D18	W15	3.5
7		Owen Xu	1925	W17	W21	L5	D9	W18	3.5
8	8-11	Ted Wang	2211	W25	W15	L3	W13	L2	3
9		Darsh Verma	1713	L6	W28	W27	D7	D13	3
10		Dann Merriman	1704	L1	D16	W34	D20	W23	3
11		Max Cao	1675	W12	L1	W22	L16	W26	3
12	12-21	Jerry D Sherrard	1920	L11	D26	D20	W33	H---	2.5
13		Isaac Vega	1909	L18	W31	W26	L8	D9	2.5
14		Jack Buchanan	1902	W19	W20	H---	L1	U---	2.5
15		Garrett Reynolds	1902	W27	L8	W29	D4	L6	2.5
16		Hayul Lim	1816	L20	D10	W25	W11	L4	2.5
17		Neevan Reddy Saddi	1683	L7	D25	D24	D30	W31	2.5
18		Andrew Yin	1675	W13	L3	W30	D6	L7	2.5
19		Francisco J Lopez	1675	L14	W34	H---	L21	W33	2.5
20		Matthew Coopersmith	1567	W16	L14	D12	D10	D22	2.5
21		Rex Fleischer	unr.	B---	L7	H---	W19	U---	2.5
22	22-29	Charles Crane	2025	D26	D33	L11	D31	D20	2
23		Leonardo Wang	1880	W28	L6	W33	L2	L10	2
24		Saahil Gupta	1876	H---	L4	D17	D28	D25	2
25		Ethan Morehouse	1767	L8	D17	L16	W34	D24	2
26		Aiden Yin	1712	D22	D12	L13	W27	L11	2
27		Aarav Bharathy Mohan	1657	L15	B---	L9	L26	W34	2
28		Bohan Zhang	1641	L23	L9	W32	D24	H---	2
29		Karthik Bimod	1622	L30	W32	L15	H---	H---	2
30	30-31	Karl Reutter	1853	W29	L5	L18	D17	U---	1.5
31		Yuchen Zhou	1709	L3	L13	B---	D22	L17	1.5
32	32-33	Sridhar Seshadri	1746	L5	L29	L28	B---	U---	1
33		Robert J Allen	1700	H---	D22	L23	L12	L19	1
34	34	Stephen Foster	1754	L2	L19	L10	L25	L27	0

Three chess trailblazers – Darsh Verma (3.0, 1753 → 1790) from Bothell, Dann Merriman (3.0, 1716 → 1752) from Duvall, and Max Cao (3.0, 1707 → 1785) from Bellevue – shared the first U1800 prize with three points apiece. Cao also won the biggest upset win prize by virtue of winning against a 318-point higher-rated opponent in the third round. Bothell chess wayfarer Becca Lampman (3.5, 2132 → 2127) made her return to classical chess after a nine-year break and won the best female player prize with a TPR (tournament performance rating) of 2080.

Two class chess pioneers – Yu-Cheng Liang (3.5, 2149 → 2150) from Camas and Aaryan Deshpande (3.5, 2084 → 2076) from Sammamish – rounded out the Lew section prize winners by virtue of being declared the Best Dressed players on Saturday and Sunday, respectively.

Two junior chess journeyers topped the Clark U1700 section: Andy Chen (4.5, 1415 → 1501) from Bellevue and Tristan Jolly (4.5, 1231 → 1515) from Sammamish.

The two Co-Champions avoided playing against each other and had quite different paths to finish line; the always upbeat Jolly took a first-round half-point bye before winning his next four consecutive games, while Chen won his first three and final round game, allowing only a single draw with Oregon’s Varun Iyengar in the fourth round. Portland chess voyager Varun Iyengar (4.0, 1625 → 1620) captured third place honors a half-point back.

A pair of chess bushrangers – Daniel Vasey (3.5, 1475 → 1493) from Gresham and Aiden Zhu (3.5, 1326 → 1349) from Camas shared first U1600/U1400 honors, each with a solid “plus two” score. Redmond chess rover Aahan Sriram (2.5, 1040 → 1208) and Portland chess pioneer Ekam Sardar (2.5, 1154 → 1267) split the U1200 prize with an even 2.5-point score.

New chess settlers Jason Davis (1.0, unrated → 645) from the host city Vancouver and Bhuvana Vuta (1.0, unrated → 101) from Bothell earned the unrated prize for their efforts. Vancouver chess roamer Roman Davis (2.0, 720 → 793), the son of Jason, scored the biggest upset win of the entire tournament with a 553-point scalp!

The best female prize was awarded to chess trekker Zoe Xu (3.0, 1393 →

1389) from Bellevue for her impressive 1339 tournament performance rating. Chess mountain men Hao Zou (3.0, 1659 → 1546) from Camas and Aaron Nicoski (3.0, 1637 → 1600) from

Vancouver cleaned up nicely and won the best dressed prizes for Saturday and Sunday, respectively. Congratulations to the winners, and many thanks to all who contributed to this adventuresome event!



Ethan Morehouse (L) vs. Ted Wang during their first-round game.
Photo Credit: Rekha Sagar.

Vancouver Open: Clark U1700									
#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total
1	1-2	Andy Chen	1415	W19	W23	W6	D3	W5	4.5
2		Tristan Jolly	1228	H---	W8	W16	W7	W6	4.5
3	3	Varun Iyengar	1618	W13	W14	D15	D1	W11	4
4	4-5	Daniel Vasey	1475	H---	D16	W22	H---	W14	3.5
5		Aiden Zhu	1319	W20	W25	D7	W15	L1	3.5
6	6-13	Hao Zou	1659	W18	W11	L1	W21	L2	3
7		Aaron Nicoski	1648	W22	W12	D5	L2	D10	3
8		Sankalp Koppala	1517	L14	L2	W19	W23	W15	3
9		William Ho	1420	L15	L13	W24	W25	W20	3
10		Zoe Xu	1383	W24	L15	D13	W17	D7	3
11		Kenzo Fonseca	1309	W21	L6	W23	W18	L3	3
12		Stephen Belgau	1292	W26	L7	D14	D13	W21	3
13		Atharv Rao	1244	L3	W9	D10	D12	W18	3
14	14-15	Aahan Sriram	1065	W8	L3	D12	W16	L4	2.5
15		Ekam Sardar	1048	W9	W10	D3	L5	L8	2.5
16	16-21	Stephen J Buck	1600	H---	D4	L2	L14	W24	2
17		Richard C Johnson	1322	L23	W19	H---	L10	H---	2
18		Arihant Chaudhuri	1290	L6	W20	W25	L11	L13	2
19		Brad Shugart	1017	L1	L17	L8	W26	W25	2
20		Roman Davis	720	L5	L18	B---	W22	L9	2
21		Krishna Ram	356	L11	B---	W26	L6	L12	2
22	22-23	Aditya Karri	1273	L7	W24	L4	L20	D23	1.5
23		Neil Kossuri	832	W17	L1	L11	L8	D22	1.5
24	24-26	Agnivesh Chaudhuri	838	L10	L22	L9	B---	L16	1
25		Jason Davis	unr.	B---	L5	L18	L9	L19	1
26		Bhuvana Vuta	unr.	L12	H---	L21	L19	H---	1

The Death of a Legend: James McCormick (1936-2024)

John Donaldson

James Harley McCormick, an important figure in the history of Washington chess, died on September 14 in Seattle after a long illness according to his longtime friend Chris Kirschner.

Born in Montesano, Washington, on August 10, 1936, to James and Mary McCormick, Jim was a late comer to the game. This was typical of many chess players in the 1950s, and it appears he first started playing while attending Renton High School.

The August 1952 issue of the *Washington Chess Letter* reports Jim scored 1-4 in the Seattle Seafair, which was likely his first event. Not long afterward he played International Master Herman Steiner in a simul at the Seattle Chess Club which had recently relocated from its long-time home at the Assembly Hotel at 823 Madison to the Knickerbocker Hotel two blocks south.

The Seattle Chess Club and the Knickerbocker Hotel were to become Jim's second home as he spent all of his free time there the next few years. By the standards of the day Jim made fast progress for a player living far from New York, the undisputed center of U.S. chess at the time.

The summer of 1953 saw Jim travel to Kansas City for the U.S. Junior where he made an even score against some of the best youngsters in the country. This performance and others that year earned him a rating of 1964 on the Spring 1954 USCF rating list which made him one of the highest rated players in Washington state at the time. U.S.C.F. rated tournaments were few and far between in the 1950s and it would take a sojourn in New York City in the second half of 1956 for Jim to jump firmly into the Expert class.

The December 5, 1956, issue of

Chess Life (then a newspaper) shows Jim on the cover flanked by Senior Master Max Pavey and future US Chess Hall of Famer Kenneth Harkness. He is featured for winning the 1956 Long Island Amateur ahead of a number of well-known figures including Bobby Fischer's first teacher Carmine Negro. This result and a victory over James Sherwin, who would finish third in the U.S. Championship a year later, were the highlights of Jim's attempt to make it as a chess professional at a time when it was impossible to do so. This episode in Jim's life was later remembered by Viktors Pupols:

*On April the first,
All editors thirst
For original tales with a gimmick.
So let's punch, though he's down,
And because he's left town
That perennial punchbag Clean JimMc.
He's moved to New York
And given up eating pork;
He's found out that
All goyim are duffers.
He sleeps under trucks
And sells blood for five bucks-
The artist improves when he suffers.*

Upon his return to Seattle Jim concentrated on his academic studies, receiving a BA in history from Seattle Pacific University and not long after married Ida Vivian Skarson. Their union lasted ten years and produced two children, Renee and Daniel. Early in their marriage Ida and Jim moved to Eugene where he entered a Masters degree program in history at the University of Oregon. While he didn't finish his studies Jim did write an article on the history of Soviet Chess which can be found at <https://nwchess.com/articles/history/>

[SovietChess.pdf](#).

One of Jim's favorite books when he was young was Kotov and Yudovich's *The Soviet School of Chess* (Moscow 1958) which he read several times over to cover and referred to it as his "bible". Chess life in the 1950s was simpler than today but the players were every bit as enthusiastic about the game and Jim and others often drove to Spokane, Missoula or Boise for a weekend tournament. Upon arriving they might find half the field for the event had come from Seattle. Players were hungry to play chess in those days.

Jim made his debut in the Washington State Championship in 1959, finishing second to Elmars Zemgalis. He won the following year, was equal third in 1961, didn't play in 1962 and was second to Gerald Ronning in 1963 and 1964 before winning five years in a row. This streak came to an end in 1970 and a combination of a new generation of strong younger players and Jim's frequent visits to Northern California resulted in him winning only one other state championship (1981). His seven overall titles rank him number two in the history of the event behind only J.L. Sheets who won nine times.

Chess activity in Washington state goes back before 1900 but the modern era starts with J.L. Sheets, second at the minor tournament at Pasadena 1932, winning the state championship the same year against five other players in a round robin, a traditional format that is fast coming up on its one-hundred-year anniversary. McCormick was one of two players living that faced Sheets (Viktors Pupols is the other) and provided a direct connection between the past and present.

While Jim is best remembered in the Northwest for his success in the Washington State Championship, objectively speaking his best results

occurred elsewhere. He was equal fifth in the 1963 US Open in Chicago, drawing with Grandmaster William Lombardy in the last round. Twice a participant in the legendary Lone Pine tournaments, he defeated the tournament winner Grandmaster Larry Evans in the 1971 event.

A strong case can be made that Jim played his best chess during his two long visits to the Bay Area, first in the early 1970s and then two decades later. During the latter he achieved his peak USCF rating post September 1991 of 2329 at the age of 56, but was likely stronger (if not higher rated) when he was younger.

During his first stay in Berkeley Jim might have been his happiest. There were tournaments almost every weekend and his neighbors included future Grandmaster James Tarjan, future International Masters John Grefe and Julio Kaplan and a number of masters including Dennis Fritzingler and Max Burkett, who were both good friends. Jim was able to immerse himself in chess in a way he never had before. It didn't hurt that the cost of living was incredibly cheap. When not playing chess Jim was a welder by trade, a skill he had picked up from his father. A few months work at Todd Shipyards (now Vigor Shipyards) could provide money for a long chess holiday.

Jim's chess prowess was also only part of the reason for his legendary status. Early on he developed a reputation as a prickly character with a generally acerbic and combative social presentation. While some thought the nickname "dirty Jim" came from his habit of coming to play after work without stopping to clean up first — welding not being a clean occupation — there was more to it than that.

There are references to "dirty Jim" dating as far back as 1954. Jim played in the 1954 US Junior Open in Long Beach but disappeared near the end of the event, last seen heading in the direction of Tijuana, possibly whistling the lyrics to the song The House of the Rising Sun.

Northwest Chess being a family publication we will stop there. Those who wish to know more about Jim's dark side (Grandmasters Alex Yermolinsky and Suat Atalik dubbed him Darth for his nicotine influenced voice that bore a passing reference to Darth Vader), will find stories about Jim in *Viktors Pupols*:



Jim McCormick (wearing glasses) playing at Lone Pine 1973. His opponent may be many-time Oregon Champion Clark Harmon, in which case this photo was taken in round five.

Next to McCormick is International Master Larry Remlinger and in the distance Grandmaster Arnold Denker (wearing a baseball hat) and FIDE Master Frank Thornally (long hair and glasses).

Lone Pine 1973 was one of four in the series which were played in the local VFW Hall. By 1975 the tournament had outgrown the space, so sponsor Louis Staham donated \$300,000 to construct a town hall, which allowed the field to continue to expand.

American Master (Thinkers Press 1983) by Larry Parr. Yasser Seirawan's anecdotes about Jim can be found on YouTube (curiously Jim and Yasser never met in a tournament, but they played thousands of blitz games at the Last Exit).

Jim McCormick was one of a kind.

**Larry Melvyn Evans –
James McCormick**
Lone Pine (R1) March 14, 1971
[John Donaldson]

1.b3

Bent Larsen had incredible success with 1.b3 throughout 1972, but this game was played before he started using it regularly.

1...c5 2.Bb2 Nc6 3.Nf3 d5 4.e3 e6 5.Bb5 Nge7

This is a sensible way to handle the position, taking advantage of the fact that the knight is not committed to f6.

6.Ne5 Bd7 7.Nxd7 Qxd7 8.0-0



Position after 8.0-0

8...Nf5

Not bad, but 8...a6 9.Be2 d4, as in Danailov–Eingorn, Alicante 1992, is even simpler.

9.d3

9.Bd3, trying to stop Black from developing his bishop, can be met by 9...d4.

9...Be7 10.e4 Nfd4 11.Bxc6 bxc6 12.c3 Nb5 13.c4 dxc4 14.dxc4 Nd4

[Diagram top of next page]



Position after 14...Nd4

Black's ironclad grip on d4 compensates for the doubled pawns.

15.Nc3 e5 16.Na4 Qc7 17.Qg4 0-0
18.Rad1 Rad8 19.Rd3 Rfe8 20.Rfd1 g6
21.Kf1 Bf8 22.Qg3 Qb8



Position after 22...Qb8

It's difficult for either side to make progress.

23.Qh4 Be7 24.Qh6 Bf8 25.Qc1 Qc8
26.Ba3 Ne6 27.g3 Rxd3 28.Rxd3 Rd8
29.Qd1 Rxd3 30.Qxd3 Qc7 31.Ke1



Position after 31.Ke1

McCormick now does Petrosian (famous for such maneuvers) proud by moving his bishop back and forth between e7 and f8 the next ten moves, challenging Evans to find a way to improve his position.

31...Be7 32.Kd1 Bf8 33.h4 Be7 34.Kc1
Bf8 35.Kb1 Be7 36.Bc1 Bf8 37.Be3 Be7
38.Kc1 Bf8 39.Qd2 Be7 40.Kb2 Bf8
41.f4

[Diagram top of next column]



Position after 41.f4

This is a double-edged attempt by the former U.S. Champion to unbalance the position.

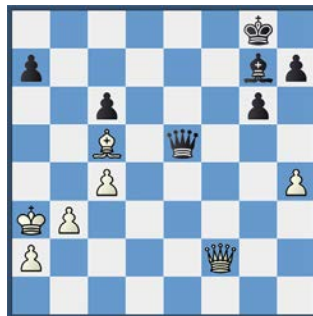
41...exf4 42.gxf4 Qe7 43.Qf2 Bg7+
44.e5 f6!

Logical. Black wants to open the diagonal for his bishop.

45.Nxc5 fxe5 46.fxe5??

Evans over-presses. He had to play 46.Nxe6 Qxe6 47.Ka3 (47.Bxa7 exf4+ 48.Ka3 Qd6+ 49.Bc5 Qxc5+ transposing into a winning pawn ending, a theme that will come up in the actual game as well.) 47...a6 (47...e4 48.Bxa7) 48.fxe5 Qxe5 49.Ka4 (49.Bc5? Qxc5+!) with equal chances.

46...Nxc5 47.Bxc5 Qxe5+ 48.Ka3



Position after 48.Ka3

48.Kc2 fares no better after 48...Qc3+ 49.Kd1 Qa1+.

48...Qxc5+!! 49.Qxc5 Bf8

Black has a winning king-and-pawn ending.

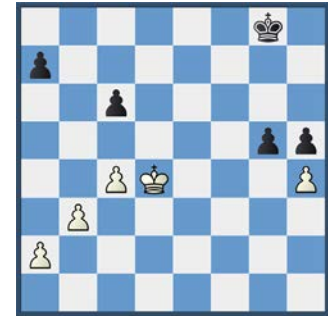
50.Qb4

50.Kb4 is met by 50...a5+.

50...Bxb4+ 51.Kxb4 h5 52.Kc5 g5
53.Kd4

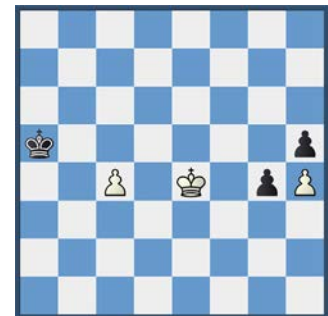
[Diagram top of next column]

53...g4



Position after 53.Kd4

54.Ke4 Kf7 55.b4 Ke6 56.a3 Kd6
57.Kf4 Kc7 58.Ke3 Kb6 59.Kd3 c5
60.Ke4 cxb4 61.axb4 a5 62.bxa5+ Kxa5



Position after 62...Kxa5

63.c5??

63.Kd3 draws despite Black's protected passed pawn as White's king can both support his passed pawn and keep Black's under control: 63...Ka4 64.Ke4 Kb4 65.Kd4 drawing. 63.Ke3 also draws.

63...Ka6 64.Kd4 Kb7 65.Ke4 Kc7
66.Ke3 Kd7

66...Kc6 67.Kd4 Kb5 is faster, but the text does no harm.

67.Kd3 Kc6 68.Kd4 Kb5 69.Kd5 g3
70.c6 Kb6 71.Kd6 g2 72.c7 g1Q 73.c8Q
Qd4+!

Well-played. Black has calculated everything to the end.

74.Ke7

Forced.

74...Qxh4+ 75.Kf8

75.Kf7 Qf4+ 76.Ke8 (otherwise checks on c7 or g4 trade queens.) 76...Qe5+ 77.Kf7 (77.Kf8 Qh8+) 77...Qc7+ wins.

75...Qf4+ 76.Ke8 Qe5+ 0-1

Evans came back from this defeat to win his next six games in a row and take first place. He got his revenge against McCormick in the first round of Lone Pine 1973.

A Miniature from the 2024 Seattle Seafair Open

Chad Boey

**Chad Boey (1922) –
Andrei Gaivoronski (1417) [B21]**
2024 Seattle Seafair Open
Seattle (R3), July 13, 2024
[Chad Boey]

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 dxc3 4.Nxc3 Nc6
5.Nf3 d6 6.Bc4 g6

This is an excessive pawn move which is already giving White too much play.

7.0-0

Slightly better is an immediate 7.Qb3. In all previous games I have played Qb3 in this position which seems to equalize immediately, but that's just the problem. After 7.Qb3 e6 8.Bf4 Nf6 9.Rd1 Black can consider giving back the pawn for king safety and the position can become dry. I still considered 7.Qb3 but decided that I had enough time to castle first and then see how Black will defend if I play with two rooks instead of one.

7...Bg7 8.Qb3

In all previous games in the database here, White has played 8.Qe2, a thematic move but an error. This is not a “system” opening and cannot be played the same way every time. White needs to know when and how to change course.

8...e6

The move that I wanted to provoke. I must attack now.

9.Bf4 Qe7 10.Rfd1 e5 11.Bg5 Bf6 12.
Nd5 Qd8 13.Nxf6+ Nxf6 14.Bxf7+ Ke7
15.Bd5 h6



Position after 15...h6

Now I took my longest think of the game. I could see a few different winning continuations, but I needed to check each one. First, I considered 16.Bxf6+ which looked obvious but the winning continuation afterwards was not so clear to me. It looked like Black could get away eventually after losing a pawn or two. I wasn't interested in playing for 30 or even 20 more moves. Next I considered 16.Bxc6 hxc6 17.Nxe5 but this also requires some extreme precision for several more moves if Black defends

correctly. Many minutes had passed, and I couldn't decide. Then something occurred to me: why am I concerned at all with my bishop on g5? Doesn't Black need to be a lot more concerned about their king? When attacking, isn't the correct way always forward? I should not retreat, nor should I mindlessly exchange pieces to simplify the board for Black where they might enjoy an endgame with a more active king. I finally found my idea and calculated. I think it works.

16.Nh4! hxc6?? 17.Nxc6+ Kd7 18.
Bxc6+ bxc6 19.Qf7+



Position after 19.Qf7+

The idea was never to capture the h8-rook, but to deliver this checkmate.

1-0

Errata

We made an error in the photo credits in the printed version (the physical printed issue) of the October 2024 issue for the photos taken at the Seattle Seafair. They were not taken by Meiling Cheng, but instead by Tanya Atikankhotchasee. This error was caught before the online version was published, so this affects only the printed version.

Here is what should have appeared on the four affected pages:

Page 2:

Back Cover

Riaan Babbar contemplates his next move at the Seattle Seafair Open.
Photo credit: Tanya Atikankhotchasee.

Page 3:

Table Of Contents (last two lines
column two)

**Riaan Babbar
Tanya Atikankhotchasee.....Back
Cover**

Page 23:

*IM Ray Kaufman, originally from
Maryland and now based in Vancouver,
B.C., was one of this year's Seattle Seafair
co-champions.
Photo credit: Tanya Atikankhotchasee.*

Page 24:

*Seattle Seafair co-champion
FM Aziz Degenbaev.
Photo credit: Tanya Atikankhotchasee.*

Washington vs British Columbia Challenge Match

Josh Sinanan, Team Washington Captain

Round	BC	WA
1	9	6
2	9.5	5.5
3	13	2
4	9	6
5	11.5	3.5
Total	52	23

The eighth annual Washington vs British Columbia Challenge Match ended in a pyrrhic 52-23 victory for Team British Columbia! As has been the custom since 2019, the match was once again run as a Team Swiss over two days, with 15 players on each team in this year's edition. The players from both teams played daring and exciting chess throughout the weekend, with Team British Columbia showing their true strength in many close endgames.

The match held June 29/30, now in its eighth straight year since its revival in 2017, continues to grow each year, with a

record 30 players taking part in the 2024 edition! With the match victory, Team British Columbia now leads the series 6-2 and is on a six-year winning streak. Team Washington will have to train hard in the off-season and return stronger next year if we want to have any chance of overcoming Team British Columbia's home-field advantage.

Given the average rating discrepancy between the teams—1927 for Team British Columbia compared with 1733 for Team Washington—the match started roughly as one would predict, with Team British Columbia gaining a modest 9-6 lead after the first round.

Team BC extended their lead in the second round, led by victories from FM John Doknjas, the eldest of the famous Doknjas brothers, and soon-to-be master Leo Qu, whose CFC rating is well above 2200.

The Team Washington players seemed to struggle a bit adapting to the faster G/60; +30 time control, since many were used to G/90; +30, a popular FIDE time control that had been used for the match in recent years. The organizers opted for the slightly faster time control to accommodate the two-day format and allow for three games in a day, instead of the first round on Friday evening, which

2024 British Columbia vs Washington Crosstable									
#	Name	Rating	Team	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total
1	FM John Doknjas	2364	BC	W21	W26	W16	W18	W15	5.0
2	Kate Jiang	2092	BC	W22	D15	W26	W27	W16	4.5
3	Leo Qu	2216	BC	W28	W23	W15	D16	D12	4.0
4	Luke Pulfer	2007	BC	W24	D12	W18	D17	W23	4.0
5	Nicholas, Pei-Chang Wu	1667	BC	L26	W22	W30	W28	W25	4.0
6	Nathan Ping-Ying Wu	2032	BC	L23	W24	W28	W26	D18	3.5
7	Ivan Petrov	1986	BC	W25	L16	W22	D23	W24	3.5
8	Ryan Leong	1869	BC	W30	D27	W23	L15	W26	3.5
9	Charles Wu	1822	BC	D27	W21	W25	L12	W29	3.5
10	Peter Mingrone	1743	BC	L16	W30	W29	D25	W27	3.5
11	Brian Yang	2038	BC	W17	D18	D12	D24	D22	3.0
12	Edward Li	1912	WA	D13	D24	D11	W9	D3	3.0
13	David Armstrong	1705	BC	D12	D28	W27	W21	L17	3.0
14	Minjun Koo	1667	BC	L18	W29	W17	L22	W28	3.0
15	Josh Sinanan	2251	WA	W20	D2	L3	W8	L1	2.5
16	Ryan Min	2150	WA	W10	W7	L1	D3	L2	2.5
17	Michael Lin	1695	WA	L11	W19	L14	D4	W13	2.5
18	Owen Xu	1901	WA	W14	D11	L4	L1	D6	2.0
19	Joyce Zhang	1896	BC	W29	L17	L24	W30	F21	2.0
20	Craig Bacon	1801	BC	L15	L25	D21	D29	W30	2.0
21	Amana Demberel	1798	WA	L1	L9	D20	L13	X19	1.5
22	Darsh Varma	1725	WA	L2	L5	L7	W14	D11	1.5
23	Dann Merriman	1682	WA	W6	L3	L8	D7	L4	1.5
24	Aarav Sai Bharathy Mohan	1663	WA	L4	L6	W19	D11	L7	1.5
25	Selina Cheng	1621	WA	L7	W20	L9	D10	L5	1.5
26	Leonaro Wang	1832	WA	W5	L1	L2	L6	L8	1.0
27	Chen Yuan	1137	WA	D9	D8	L13	L2	L10	1.0
28	Sridhar Seshadri	1737	WA	L3	D13	L6	L5	L14	0.5
29	Samarth Bharadwaj	1579	WA	L19	L14	L10	D20	L9	0.5
30	Terrick Evin	1309	WA	L8	L10	L5	L19	L20	0.0



WCF President Josh Sinanan (L) and BCCF President Paul Leblanc enjoy the sunny BC weather in the hotel courtyard during a break at the WA vs BC Challenge Match. Photo Credit: Victoria Jung-Doknjas.

had been the format in years past when the match was held alongside the Victoria Day Open.

The wheels really came off the bus in the third round, with an incredible 13-2 blowout victory for Team British Columbia, perhaps attributed in part to the fatigue of many Team Washington players, many of whom had traveled up to Richmond earlier that morning. Despite the difficult results, the junior players on Team Washington (which comprised the entire team except for WCF officers Sridhar Seshadri and Josh Sinanan) really rose to the occasion and played their hearts out, with many games going deep into the endgame. When the dust had settled, it was only draw-master Edward Li that managed to score a plus-score for Team Washington, when he was able to convert a pawn-up knight vs bishop ending in the fourth round while drawing the rest of his games.



Ivan Petrov (BC) (L) vs. Ryan Min (WA) begin their second-round game.
Photo Credit: Meiling Cheng.

2024 British Columbia vs Washington Team Roster and Standings					
#	Team	Name	Rating	Points	Score
1	British Columbia		1927.0		52.0
		FM John Doknjas	2364	5.0	
		Kate Jiang	2092	4.5	
		Leo Qu	2216	4.0	
		Luke Pulfer	2007	4.0	
		Nicholas, Pei-Chang Wu	1667	4.0	
		Nathan Ping-Ying Wu	2032	3.5	
		Ivan Petrov	1986	3.5	
		Ryan Leong	1869	3.5	
		Charles Wu	1822	3.5	
		Peter Mingrone	1743	3.5	
		Brian Yang	2038	3.0	
		David Armstrong	1705	3.0	
		Minjun Koo	1667	3.0	
		Joyce Zhang	1896	2.0	
		Craig Bacon	1801	2.0	
2	Washington		1732.8		23.0
		Edward Li	1912	3.0	
		Josh Sinanan	2251	2.5	
		Ryan Min	2150	2.5	
		Michael Lin	1695	2.5	
		Owen Xu	1901	2.0	
		Amana Demberel	1798	1.5	
		Darsh Varma	1725	1.5	
		Dann Merriman	1682	1.5	
		Aarav Sai Bharathy Mohan	1663	1.5	
		Selina Cheng	1621	1.5	
		Leonardo Wang	1832	1.0	
		Cheng Yuan	1137	1.0	
		Sridhar Seshadri	1737	0.5	
		Samarth Bharadwaj	1579	0.5	
		Terrick Evin	1309	0.0	

Players from both teams displayed exemplary kindness and sportsmanship over the course of the weekend. Most of the games were decided by thin margins and ended up much closer than the final score would indicate. Worthy of note was a fifty round “Canadian fire drill,” in which play was interrupted by a blaring fire alarm set off inside the hotel, prompting a quick pausing of the games as players evacuated the premises. Fortunately, it was a gorgeous summer day, and the players and their families enjoyed and a 20-minute window of rest and camaraderie in the hotel parking lot until the fire fighters gave the all-clear. Once it was safe to do so, players re-entered the hotel and nerve-wracking play resumed!

It was a pleasure for BCCF President Paul Leblanc, Sri Chess Academy Founder and WCF Programs

Director Sridhar Seshadri and yours truly to organize this match once again. Congratulations to the BC Team players and organizers on a well played match! Special thanks to Paul Leblanc and the British Columbia Chess Federation for providing top-notch playing conditions and running a smooth match.

We would also like to thank our sponsors Sridhar Seshadri, Washington Chess Federation, and British Columbia Chess Federation for securing the generous \$3,000 CAD prize fund. Thank you also to all the players and parents who braved the trip to Richmond and invested considerable time, dollars, and energy to make this match possible. We look forward to continuing this grand tradition for many years to come!



Team British Columbia's Peter Mingrone.
Photo Credit: Meiling Cheng.

Seattle Summer Sizzler

Josh Sinanan

The Seattle Summer Sizzler, a scholastic chess event now in its second year being run in-person, took place on Saturday, August 17, at Lakeside Upper School in Seattle. An impressive turnout of 90 chess samurais in grades K-11 competed in five sections parsed by grade level and rating: K-1 U600, 2-3 U700, K-3 Open, 4-6 U900, and 4-12 Open.

Instead of the typical five rounds that are the norm for most scholastic tournaments during the regular Washington State Elementary qualifier season from September-April, the event featured an extended six-round Swiss format – three games in the morning and three more in the afternoon! The “extra” round combined with smaller sections of 16-22 in each made interesting pairings in the final rounds, since the leaders had faced off earlier in the tournament! Still, the “bonus” sixth round was appreciated by many diehard chess lovers and fit well with many folks’ laid-back summertime schedules.

The convenient north Seattle location provided players from throughout the region with the opportunity to compete in an all-day chess extravaganza. Between rounds, many parents and kids enjoyed the warm summer weather outside on the lush Lakeside campus and playing field. A few savvy summer planners could be seen lounging in their lawn chairs and stretched out on their picnic blankets, seemingly oblivious to the intense competition that was taking place inside the playing hall just a few feet away.

Chess families from cities throughout the region took part in the day-long event, including Issaquah, Bothell, Bellevue, Redmond, Vancouver (WA), Sammamish, North Bend, Seattle, Richmond (B.C.), Everett, Shoreline, Kirkland, Mercer Island, Lynnwood, University Place, Medina, Lake Forest Park, Marysville, Duvall, and Milton.

The tournament was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation and directed by WCF Scholastic Director Allen Messenger with assistance from

WCF Member-at-Large Ani Barua. WCF Director of Chess for Women and Girls Chouchan Airapetian and her daughter Angela Agaian ran the concessions and served up some delicious Sahara pizza for lunch.

Many thanks to the wonderful volunteers who helped with setup and take down. We hope to continue the Summer Sizzler an annual summer tradition in the years to come! Congratulations to the winners:

Seattle Summer Sizzler Prizes					
Individual Prizes - Amazon Gift cards awarded in each section. 1st - 5th: \$55-\$50-\$45-\$40-\$35.					
Section	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place	4th Place	5th Place
K-1 U600	Advaith Sairam Arnav Premjith Louis Liu			Aryan Pande Kristina Velichko	
2-3 U700	Ethan Li	Easton Ren Atul Srinivasan Evan Lin Maxwell Xiong Alex Chen			
K-3 Open	Jinhan Zou Sky Cui		Gabriel Pleasants	Natalie Xu Luna Lin Eric Tsen	
4-6 U900	Adrina Berjis Adheesh Meenakshi Sundaram		Elliot Lin Pavithran Vinoth Ganapathy	Ethan Lin Aryash Singhal Jethro Xia	
4-12 Open	Lewis Ma Naaditha Nawagamudewage		Aadi Hetamsaria	Imai Maharaja Inura Nawagamudewage	

Special Prizes - Medals for first-timers (awarded at-site), best female player, and biggest upset win.		
Section	Best Female Player	Biggest Upset Win
K-1 U600	Shri Jivika Suresh Balaji Liana Berjis Laya R Sankar	Ruiping Xu
2-3 U700	Joyce Gui	Rishaan Bose
K-3 Open	Emma Li Shri Thashathika Suresh Balaji	Ryan Hu
4-6 U900	Lavina Abhilash	Kaushik Vanavada
4-12 Open	Alison Deng	Naaditha Nawagamudewage

Washington Winter Classic



DECEMBER 21-22, 2024

HOTEL 116 BELLEVUE

625 116TH AVE NE, BELLEVUE, WA 98004

Highest finishing player in the Erigaisi Open and Vidit U1600 sections seeded into the Premier and Rising Stars sections, respectively, of the 2025 WA State Championship.

Format: A five-round Swiss in two sections:

Erigaisi Open & Vidit U1600.

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

Time Control: G/90; +30 sec. increment.

Schedule: Sat @ 9 AM, 2 PM, 7 PM. Sun @ 10 AM, 3 PM. Closing Ceremony: Sun ~ 7 PM or asap.

Games that go long may request a late start for the next round.

Prize Fund: \$2,600 (based on 40 paid entries)

Erigaisi Open: 1st-3rd: \$400, \$300, \$250.

1st U1900/U1700: \$200.

Vidit U1600: 1st-3rd: \$200, \$150, \$125.

1st U1500/U1300: \$100; 1st Unrated: \$100.

Special Prizes (per section): Biggest Upset Win: \$20/rd., Best Female Player (by TPR): \$50, Best Senior Player (50+, by TPR): \$50, Best Dressed: \$20/day.

Entry Fee: \$125 by 12/14, \$150 after. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, and WIMs. Players rated 1400-1599 in *both* USCF & NWSRS may play up into Erigaisi Open section for an additional \$60 fee. Maximum of 60 players – please register early to guarantee your spot.

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

Rating: US Chess and NWSRS Rated. Erigaisi Open section also FIDE Rated. Higher of December US Chess or current NWSRS rating used to determine section, pairings, and prizes. Higher of US Chess or foreign rating used at TD discretion.

Registration: Online at nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration (pay by credit / debit / PayPal / Zelle / SettleKing) or write a check to Washington Chess Federation. For credit, debit, and PayPal payments, a processing fee of 4% will be added on, so consider saving by using Zelle or SettleKing instead. Registration and payment **deadline: Fri. 12/20 @ 5pm**. No registrations accepted or refunds offered after the deadline.

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

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

Mail To: Washington Chess Federation
c/o Orlov Chess Academy, 4174 148th Ave. NE,
Building I, Ste. M, Redmond, WA 98052

Contact: Josh Sinanan, WCF President, 206.769.3757

Email: WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

Seattle Classic Scholastic

Josh Sinanan

As a cool down from the marathon Summer Sizzler the day before, the 2024 Seattle Classic Scholastic took place on Sunday, August 18. The event featured just four rounds, but with a generous G/45;+5 time control designed for deliberate and careful players who like to take their time planning out their strategies several moves ahead.

The tournament took place at Lakeside Upper School in Seattle and had a chessical turnout of 64 players in grades 1-12 competing across four sections separated by grade level and rating: K-3 U800, K-3 Open, 4-8 U1000, and 4-12 Open. The tournament drew players from throughout the Pacific Northwest, including the towns of Snohomish, Lynnwood, Bothell, Sammamish, Bellevue, Redmond, Newcastle, Richmond (B.C), Seattle, Shoreline, Mercer Island, Woodinville, Gig Harbor, Snoqualmie, Monroe, Kenmore, and Kirkland! The style of play was studious and measured, with many games being decided by thin margins deep into the middlegame or endgame.

The event was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation and run by Scholastic Director Allen Messenger with assistance from WCF Member-at-Large Ani Barua, who was directing the co-located Seattle Chess Classic on the other side of the room. WCF plans to grow and expand the Seattle Classic Scholastic in the years to come! Congratulations to the winners:

Seattle Classic Scholastic Prizes

Individual Prizes - Amazon Gift cards awarded in each section.

1st - 4th: \$80-\$70-\$60-\$50.

Section	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place	4th Place
K-3 U800	Ryan Lai	Leonard Bach Hoang Varun Bolisetty Joshua Shagas Vivaan Desai		
K-3 Open	Lewis Ma	Leonid Zandanov Isaac Xie Sky Cui		
4-8 U1000	Illia Kalian	Rahul Sreraman Alexander Rogovoy Anirudh Rengarajan		
4-12 Open	Gavin Shi Snehil Ghosh		Thrinay Subramanian Nathan Jiang Rohit Sreraman	

Special Prizes - Medals for first-timers (awarded at-site), best female player, and biggest upset win.

Section	Best Female Player	Biggest Upset Win
K-3 U800	Joyce Gui	Andy Lu
K-3 Open	Elina Khudyev	Sky Cui
4-8 U1000	Anyi Li	Anirudh Rengarajan
4-12 Open	N/A	Rohit Sreraman



TOURNAMENTS



Venue

7212 Woodlawn Ave NE
Seattle, WA 98115

Info & events calendar

www.seattlechess.club

Addresses for entries

SCC Tournament Director
same address as above

– or –

contact@seattlechess.club

Entry fees

We accept Paypal, cash and check for tournament entry fees. No credit cards, sorry.

Paypal: <https://paypal.me/seattlechess>.

November 16

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

November Quads

November 24

Format: 4-SS. **TC:** Game/50 + 10 sec. inc. **EF:** \$25 (+\$10 day membership for non-SCC). **Prize fund:** sum of \$14/entry. **Prizes:** 1st (35% of prize fund), 2nd (27%), bottom half (by rating) 1st (22%), 2nd (16%). **Registration:** 10:45-11:15am. **Rounds:** 11:30am, 1:50, 4:10, 6:30pm. **Byes:** 1 half-pt., commit at registration. US Chess membership req'd.

November Tornado

Nov. 30/Dec. 1

Format: 4-SS during WA Class Championships in Redmond. **TC:** Game/120 + 30 sec. inc. **EF:** \$50 online by 11/29, \$60 onsite; \$10 discount for SCC members. **Prize fund:** \$1,000 *guaranteed*. **Rounds:** 11am & 4:30pm. **Byes:** 1 half-pt. In memory of Dr. August Piper (1944-2024), long time SCC President. More details at: <https://nwchess.com/calendar/2024%20WA%20Class.pdf>

Piper Memorial Adult Swiss

November 1, 8, 15, 22

See below.

November Rains

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

SCC Friday Nights

One US Chess-rated round per night, 4 rounds per month, at **7:30pm**. **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!

November Rains

Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22

Chess City

Dec. 6, 13, 20, 27

January Thaw

Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24

Fifth Friday G15 (multiple rounds)

Jan. 31



Washington Class Championships

Fri-Sun, Nov 29-Dec 01, 2024

Redmond Marriott: 7401 164th Ave NE, Redmond, WA 98052

\$16,500 Prize Fund

(based on 200 paid entries)

Format: A 6-round Swiss event in 8 class sections. Sections with <12 players may be combined.

Entry Fees (EF) (by Nov 01 / Nov 15 / on-site) & **Prizes** per section:

- **Carlsen (2200+)** EF: \$170 / \$180 / \$190
Prizes: \$800, \$600, \$400; U2300 \$250, \$200
- **Anand (2000-2199)** EF: \$160 / \$170 / \$180
Prizes: \$600, \$400, \$300; U2100 \$200, \$150
- **Kramnik (1800-1999)** EF: \$150 / \$160 / \$170
Prizes: \$500, \$350, \$250; U1900 \$170, \$130
- **Kasparov (1600-1799)** EF: \$150 / \$160 / \$170
Prizes: \$400, \$300, \$200; U1700 \$170, \$130
- **Karpov (1400-1599)** EF: \$150 / \$160 / \$170
Prizes: \$400, \$300, \$200; U1500 \$170, \$130
- **Fischer (1200-1399)** EF: \$150 / \$160 / \$170
Prizes: \$400, \$300, \$200; U1300 \$170, \$130
- **Spassky (1000-1199)** EF: \$150 / \$160 / \$170
Prizes: \$400, \$300, \$200; U1100 \$170, \$130
- **Petrosian (under 1000)** EF: \$150 / \$160 / \$170
Prizes: \$400, \$300, \$200; U800 \$170, \$130; U600 \$100, \$50; Unrated \$100, \$50

Seeds: Highest finishing WA resident in Carlsen, Anand, Kramnik, Kasparov, and Karpov sections seeded in the 2025 WA State Championship: Championship, Premier, Invitational, Challengers, and Rising Stars sections, respectively. Ties for a seed to be resolved by post-event playoff games.

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

Special Prizes (per class section):

- **Best Female Player**/**** (by TPR): \$50.
- **Best Senior (50+) Player**/**** (by TPR): \$50.
- **Highest (USCF) Rating Gain***: 1st \$50, 2nd \$25. Requires established (non-provisional) rating. May not be combined with Biggest Upset Win.
- **Biggest Upset Win (per round)**:** \$25.
- **Fair-Play, Kindness, Spreading Joy:** \$25.
- **Best Dressed (per day)**:** \$25.
- **Best Annotated Game:** 1st \$75, 2nd \$50.

Notes: * = May not combine with higher prizes.

** = Requires a minimum of 3 eligible players.

*** = Player may not win this prize repeatedly.

Hotel Info: Redmond Marriott (address above): \$129/night + tax. Call (800) 228-9290 to request the WA Chess Federation room block, or use the online [reservation](#). Group codes: WCNWCNQ or WCNWCNR. Cut-off date for discounts: Fri, Nov 01, 2024.

Main Event

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

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

Registration & Payment:

Before event: (by Thu, Nov 28 @ 5pm) NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration (pay by credit / debit / PayPal / Zelle / SettleKing) or write a check to Washington Chess Federation. For credit, debit, and PayPal payments, a processing fee of 4% will be added on, so consider saving by using Zelle or SettleKing instead.

On-site: Fri 8:30-9:30am for 3-day schedule, or 4:30-5:15pm if entering with 1 half-point bye. Sat 8-8:30am for 2-day schedule, or 9-9:30am if entering 3-day schedule with 2 half-point byes. *Late registrations receive a half-point bye for round 1.*

Byes: Two half-point byes available; if interested, request before end of round 2. (Play any two of the 3 days and take a day off, if using 2 half-point byes.)

Rating: Dual rated US Chess and NWSRS. Carlsen / Anand / Kramnik / Kasparov sections also FIDE rated (except any G/55 games). Highest of Nov 2024 US Chess, Nov 2024 FIDE, and current NWSRS ratings used to determine class sections, pairings, and prizes. Higher of US Chess and foreign ratings used at TD discretion; foreign ratings used for players with no US Chess rating. Unrated players are eligible only for 1st / 2nd / 3rd prizes in Carlsen section or the Unrated prizes in Petrosian section.

Entry Fee Adjustments: Playing up into a higher section is allowed (for \$85 extra) if the player's USCF rating is within 200 points of that section's lower limit (e.g., min USCF 1600 for the 1800-1999 section). Seniors (age 50+) may subtract \$50. Free entry to GMs, IMs, WGMs, and WIMs. Reentry for 1/2 of original entry fee. Canadians may pay CAD\$ at par.

Rounds: 3-day schedule: Fri @ 10am & 6pm; Sat @ 10am & 6pm; Sun 10am & 4:30pm.

2-day schedule: Sat @ 9am, 11:45am, 2:45pm, then joining 3-day schedule from round 4 at 6pm.

Time Controls: 3-day schedule: 30/90, SD/30; +30. Late default: 60 minutes.

2-day schedule: G/55; +15 (rounds 1-3); rounds 4-6 same as for 3-day schedule.

Miscellaneous: Current US Chess membership and WCF/OCF/ICA membership required. Other states accepted. Memberships may be paid at the time of registration. Wheelchair accessible. Please bring a digital clock, if available.

Procedures: Pairings posted near the playing hall and online approx. 20 mins before each round. If withdrawing or skipping a round, please inform organizers at least 30 mins before the start of the round.

Washington Class Championships, Nov 29-Dec 01 (cont.)

Fun Side Events!

(many run between rounds of the Main Event)

WA Class Gukesh Thanksgiving Scholastic

Fri, 11/29 @ 9 AM – 4 PM (during round 1)

Open to K-12 students. Dual sections: Open and Challengers:

- **Open:** A 4-round G/40;+5 Swiss in two sections: **K-3 Open** and **4-12 Open**. For intermediate to advanced players. Dual NWSRS and USCF rated. US Chess membership req'd. Clocks & notation req'd. Rounds: 9:15am, 10:45, lunch, 12:45, 2:15pm. Awards: 4pm.

- **Challengers:** A 5-round G/30 Swiss in two sections: **K-3 U800** and **4-8 U900**. For novice to low-intermediate players. Dual NWSRS and USCF rated. US Chess membership req'd. No clocks used at the start, but a G/10;+5 clock placed in unfinished games after 35 mins of play. Rounds: 9:15am, 10:30, lunch, 12, 1:15, 2:30pm. Awards: 4pm.

Entry fee: \$50 by Fri, 11/22; \$60 after. Room for up to 132 players.

Awards (per section):

- 1st-5th place: \$65-\$60-\$55-\$50-\$45 (in Amazon e-gift cards).
- Medals for first-timers, best female player, & biggest upset win.
- Top performing player (by TPR) in Open sections earns free entry into the 2-day Washington Class (Main Event); see previous page.

Rating: Higher of Nov 2024 USCF or current NWSRS ratings used for sections & pairings.

Registration: NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/ - pay by credit / debit / PayPal / Zelle / SettleKing); no on-site entries or payments. For credit, debit, and PayPal payments, a processing fee of 4% will be added on. Registration & payment deadline: Wed, 11/27 @ 5pm. Players unpaid by the deadline receive a zero-point bye in round 1.

WA Class Adult Novice Swiss

Fri, 11/29 @ 11 AM – 4 PM (during round 1)

A 4-round Swiss in one section. 1 half-point bye available. For U1100 or unrated adults (18+). EF: \$25. Unrated. No memberships. TC: G/30;+5. Register: 10-10:45am. Rounds: 11am, 12:15, 1:30, 2:45pm. Prizes: \$400/b20. 1st-3rd: \$150-\$100-\$60; 1st U900/U700/Unrated \$30.

WA Class Chess960 Fischer Rapid

Fri, 11/29 @ 2:15 PM – 4:30 PM (between rounds 1 & 2)

A 4-round Swiss in one section, 1 half-point bye available. Unrated. TC: G/10;+3. EF: \$20. No memberships. Register: 1:30-2pm. Rounds: 2:15pm, 2:50, 3:25, 4pm. Higher of Nov 2024 USCF and current NWSRS used for pairings & prizes. A new (randomized) opening position in each round. Players will have 2 mins before clocks start to examine the opening position. Prize fund: \$300/b20. 1st \$80, 2nd \$60, 3rd \$40, 1st U2000 / U1700 / U1400 / Unrated \$30.

WA Class Robson Puzzle Solving

Fri, 11/29 @ 4:45 PM – 5:30 PM (between rounds 1 & 2)

Solving 15 chess puzzles in 45 mins, on paper. Evaluation based on accuracy and completeness. EF: \$15. Register: 3:45-4:30pm. No memberships. Prize fund: \$250/b30. 1st \$60, 2nd \$45, 3rd \$25, 1st U2000 / U1700 / U1400 / U1100 / U800 / Unrated \$20.

WA Class Workshop for Girls & Women

Fri, 11/29 @ 6 PM – 8 PM (during round 2)

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

WA Class Piper Memorial Adult Swiss

Sat-Sun, 11/30-12/01 @ 11 AM and 4:30 PM (during rounds 3-6)

Sponsored by *Seattle Chess Club* in memory of August Piper (1944-

2024; SCC President 2002-2021), with generous support from Henry Yan. A 4-round Swiss in two sections: Botvinnik (Open) and Korchnoi (U1500); may be merged based on entries. 1 half-point bye available. USCF rated only. TC: G/120;+30. EF: \$50 online (by Fri, 11/29 @ 5pm) or \$60 on-site; \$10 discount for SCC members. EF waived for unrated players who purchase memberships. Register: Sat, 11/30 @ 10-10:30am (unless starting with a half-point bye). Current US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships req'd. Nov 2024 USCF ratings used for sections, pairings, & prizes. Guaranteed prize fund: \$1,000. Botvinnik: 1st \$240, 2nd \$150, 3rd \$120, 1st U1650 \$80; Korchnoi: 1st \$120, 2nd \$100, 3rd \$80, 1st U1300 \$60, 1st Unrated \$50.

WA Class Casablanca Rapid

Sat, 11/30 @ 2 PM – 5 PM (between rounds 3 & 4)

A 4-round Swiss in one section. 1 half-point bye available. Unrated. TC: G/15;+5. EF: \$30. No memberships. Register: 1-1:45pm. Rounds: 2pm, 2:45, 3:30, 4:15pm. Higher of Nov 2024 USCF Quick and current NWSRS ratings used for pairings & prizes. Each round starts in a new middlegame position from a historical game. Players will have 2 mins before clocks start to examine initial positions. Prize fund: \$400/b20. 1st \$110, 2nd \$85, 3rd \$60, 1st U2000 \$50, 1st U1700 \$40, 1st U1400 \$30, Biggest Upset Win: \$25.

WA Class Firouzja Bullet

Sat, 11/30 @ 5 PM – 6 PM (between rounds 3 & 4)

A 5-round Swiss in one section. 2 half-point byes available. Unrated. TC: G/2;+1. EF: \$10. No memberships. Register: 4:15-4:50pm. Rounds: 5pm, 5:10, 5:20, 5:30, 5:40pm. Higher of Nov 2024 USCF Blitz and current NWSRS rating used for pairings & prizes. Prize fund: \$200/b20. 1st-3rd: \$50-\$40-\$30; 1st U2000/U1600/U1200/Unrated \$20.

WA Class Carlsen Rapid Championship

Sun, 12/01 @ 2 PM – 4:30 PM (between rounds 5 & 6)

A 4-round Swiss in two sections: Kasparov and Anand (U1600); may be merged based on entries. 1 half-point bye available. USCF Quick rated. TC: G/12;+3. EF: \$35. Players rated 1400+ may play up for a \$10 fee. Current US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships req'd. Register: 1-1:45pm. Rounds: 2pm, 2:35, 3:10, 3:45pm. Higher of Nov 2024 USCF Quick and current NWSRS ratings used for sections, pairings, & prizes. Prize fund: \$600/b30. Kasparov: 1st \$85, 2nd \$70, 3rd \$55, 1st U2000 / U1700 \$40; Anand: 1st \$70, 2nd \$55, 3rd \$40, 1st U1400 / U1100 / Unrated \$35; Biggest Upset Win (in each section): \$20.

WA Class Kiyonaga Memorial Bughouse

Sun, 12/01 @ 3 PM – 4:15 PM (between rounds 5 & 6)

A 7-round Single Swiss in one section. 2 half-point byes available. Max avg team rating: 1800. Unrated. TC: G/3;+0. EF: \$20/player. No memberships. Register: 2:15-2:45pm. Rounds: 3pm, 3:10, 3:20, 3:30, 3:40, 3:50, 4pm. Higher of Nov 2024 USCF Blitz and current NWSRS ratings (if unrated, up to 1300 based on age) used for pairings & prizes. Team prizes: \$400 (based on 20 teams). 1st-3rd: \$100-\$70-\$50; 1st-3rd K-6: \$50-\$40-\$30; Biggest Upset Win: \$30; Sportsmanship: \$30.

WA Class "Knight-Time" Blitz

Sun, 12/01 @ 8:30 PM – 10:45 PM (after round 6)

A 7-round Swiss in two sections: Nakamura and Tal (U1600); may be merged based on entries. 3 half-point byes available. USCF Blitz rated. TC: G/5;+2. EF: \$30. Players rated 1400+ may play up for a \$10 fee. Current US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships req'd. Register: 7:30-8:15pm. Rounds: 8:30pm, 8:50, 9:10, 9:30, 9:50, 10:10, 10:30pm. Higher of Nov 2024 USCF Blitz and current NWSRS ratings used for sections, pairings, & prizes. Prize fund: \$550/b25. Nakamura: 1st \$100, 2nd \$80, 3rd \$50, 1st U2000 / U1700 \$35; Tal: 1st \$70, 2nd \$50, 3rd \$40, 1st U1400 / U1100 / Unrated \$30.

