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**November 5 for the December issue;
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Front Cover

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

Back Cover

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

Submissions

Submissions of games (PGN format is preferable for games), stories, photos, art, and other **original** chess-related content are encouraged! Multiple submissions are acceptable; please indicate if material is non-exclusive. All submissions are subject to editing or revision. Send via U.S. Mail to:

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Remember to play in the 2024 Oregon Class Championship

November 2-3, Lloyd Center DoubleTree Hotel, 1000 NE Multnomah St., Portland, Oregon

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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.fxg6 hxg6 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."



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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/](https://www.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

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 classy 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.

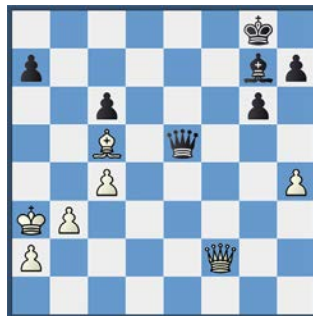
41...exf4 42.gxf4 Qe7 43.Qf2 Bg7+
44.e5 f6!

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.

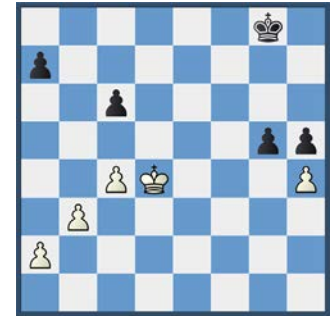
50.Qb4

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

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

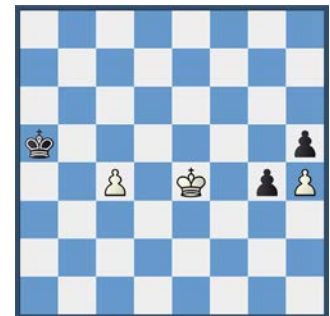
[Diagram top of next column]

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.

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 Khudiyev	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.

