



# Northwest Chess

December 2024, Volume 78-12 Issue 923

ISSN Publication 0146-6941

USPS publication 422390

Published monthly by the *Northwest Chess* Board.  
To see the games from this issue online click:

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POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to the Office of Record:

*Northwest Chess* c/o Orlov Chess Academy  
4174 148th Ave NE, Building I, Suite M  
Redmond, WA 98052-5164

Periodicals postage paid at Seattle, Washington  
USPS periodicals postage permit number (0422-390)

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**December 5 for the January issue;**  
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Erin Bian, the 2024 Washington State Women's Chess Champion. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

## Back Cover

Rekha Sagar (L) and Mary Hjort in front of a wall of binary digits at the Washington Women's Championship. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

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## Remember to play in the 2024 Washington Class Championships

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# Washington Women's Championship

(Erin Bian Tops)

Josh Sinanan

The 2024 Washington Women's Championship took place September 7-8 at Microsoft Research Building 99 in Redmond. The tournament took place in the playing room known as Turing, which has hosted the Washington State Championship in mid-February over the past few years. Unfortunately, Microsoft has informed us that we will not be allowed to book the space going forward to host chess tournaments anymore since they are more strictly enforcing a pre-existing policy which prohibits reserving the space for outside events. As such, this will likely be the last event that we are able to book at Microsoft for the time being, but we remain hopeful that the space will become available again in the future.

This year's tournament was broken up into three sections by rating level—the Polgar Championship, the Yifan U1300, and the Koneru U700—to offer better competition for players of all levels and harder fought games. The turnout did not disappoint, as 42 female chess warriors from throughout Washington State came out to play. Cities represented

in the Eastside-heavy field included Mercer Island, Snohomish, Redmond, Seattle, Shoreline, Olympia, Richland, Bothell, Bellevue, Sammamish, Renton, Snoqualmie, and Kenmore! The event was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation and organized by President Josh Sinanan. WCF Co-Vice President Rekha Sagar ran the tournament over two days with assistance from Ani Barua and Mary Hjort, who she met while directing the Snohomish County Open in late August.

WCF photographer extraordinaire Meiling Cheng was on site capturing great photos of key moments while her daughter Selina was playing in the tournament. The tournament featured a dual format consisting of a five-round, G/90;+30 Swiss in the Polgar Championship and Yifan U1300 sections, and a five-round G/45;+15 Double Swiss in the Koneru U700 section.

Players in the Koneru section played two games—one as White and one as Black—against each opponent. The games in all three sections featured many close and exciting battles, with many games going the distance and ultimately

being decided deep in the endgame.

In the 16-player Polgar Championship section, top seed and rating favorite WFM Erin Bian (5.0, 2102 → 2114) of Shoreline prevailed with a perfect 5-0 score and was crowned the 2024 Washington State Women's Chess Champion. Erin, a freshman at Lakeside Upper School in Seattle, fended off her nearest rivals Cheng, Airapetian, and Kuhner, in rounds two-four to secure at least a share of first place with a round to spare. A final-round win against fellow Woman FIDE Master Manunthon Atikankhotchasee sealed the deal in dramatic fashion.

For her victory, Bian receives the title of Washington State Women's Champion and is seeded into the Invitational section of the 2025 Washington State Championship, which will take place in Seattle on the second and third weekends of February. Reigning Washington Girls Champion Selina Cheng (4.0, 1652 → 1728) of Seattle earned second place honors a full point back. Selina's big win came in the final round, when she beat none other than her coach and Washington State Women's and Girls' Chess Director Chouchanik Airapetian in the final round.



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Four chess femme fatales shared first U1800 honors a full point back: WCM Mary Kuhner (3.0, 1711 → 1710) of Seattle, Lily Deng (3.0, 1661 → 1650) of Richland, Saiya Karamali (3.0, 1677 → 1653) of Seattle, and Haituka Anandkumar (3.0, 1598 → 1602) of Redmond. Redmond chess aficionados Deeksha Shankaranand (2.5, 1566 → 1559) and Arya Patel (2.5, 1051 → 1215) split the first U1600/U1400 prize each with an even 2.5-point score.

In addition to the overall and class prizes, several special prizes were also up for grabs, including the biggest upset win in each round, best dressed, best etiquette, fair play/kindness/spreading joy, and best mother/daughter team across all sections. The biggest upset-wins were scored by Deeksha Shankaranand (round one, 233 points), Lakshana Anand (round two, 257.5 point draw), Haituka Anandkumar (round three, 93.5 point draw), Veronique Joseph (round four, 138 points), and Selina Cheng (round five, 251 points).

Other special prize winners included Chouchan Airapetian (best dressed, Saturday), Mary Kuhner (best dressed, Sunday), Lakshana Anand (best etiquette), Haituka Anandkumar (fair play/kindness/spreading joy), and Chouchan Airapetian/Angela Agaian (best mother/daughter team, average tournament performance rating (TPR): 1327).

A pair of chess queens—Clora Huang (4.0, 875 → 878) of Bellevue and Anyi Li (4.0, 774 → 825) of Mercer Island reigned supreme in the 12-player Yifan U1300 section, each with an impressive four points from five games. Li recovered well after a first-round loss against dark horse Kaiyi Han, winning her next three games in a row and setting up a final-round showdown with Huang on the top board, which she managed to win after a



*WFM Erin Bian (L) vs WFM Manunthon Atikankhotchasee during the last round of the Washington Women's Championship. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*

back-and-forth struggle.

Kaiyi Han (3.5, 449 → 694) of Bellevue won the first U1200 prize a half-point back. Sammamish chess huntress Elina Khudiyev (3.0, 689 → 687) captured the first U1000 prize with a solid “plus one” score, mounting a strong comeback despite a first-round loss against college freshman Angela Agaian. Snohomish chess siren Aria Ajay (2.5, 419 → 515) enchanted her unsuspecting opponents and took home the first U800 prize for her efforts.

There was no shortage of upsets in the Yifan U1300 section, and those lucky enough to score on included Kaiyi

Han (round one, 245 points), Lijuan Wang (round two, 221 points), Kaiyi Han (round three, 422 points), Aria Ajay (round four, 310 points), and Siana Razmov (round five, 329 points). Other special prizes were awarded to newcomer Ann Jem (best dressed, Saturday), Anyi Li (best dressed, Sunday), Angela Agaian (best etiquette), Chloe Miller (fair play/kindness/spreading joy), and Lijuan Wang/Amy Zhang/Arwen Zhang (best mother/daughter team, avg. TPR: 706).

The new Koneru U700 section was a fantastic addition to this year's event, and a strong showing of 14 women and girls turned out in honor of India's best



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Lakshana Anand kept herself busy by constructing a "Chess Totem Pole" between the games.  
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

Unrated honors a half-point back: Proud Tulsukchuantanat (7.0, unrated → 485) of Bellevue, Lashawna Covey (7.0, 329 → 412) of Olympia, and Bhuvana Vuta (7.0, 304 → 346) of Bothell. Kenmore chess kid Anne Nishino (6.0, unrated → 356) captured first U600 honors with a solid six-points.

Rising Seattle star Amalia Cauich-Miller (4.5, 112 → 127) won the first U400 prize with a nearly-even 4.5-point score. Seattle newcomer Millie Runion (6.0, unrated → 490), a frequent casual player at chess meetups, played in her first chess tournament and won the third Unrated prize for her efforts. The first U200 prize, a new one for WCF, went unclaimed this time, but we hope to award it to a deserving winner in future years.

The Koneru U700 upset winners included Navika Koul (founds one+two, 255 & 388 points, respectively), Aapti Saravanan (round three, 68 point draw), and Alicia Stuart (round four, 106 points). No upsets were scored in the fifth round, since perhaps after eight chess games, the players were feeling the burn.

The following Koneru U700 players earned special prizes: Alicia Stuart (best dressed, Saturday), Anne Nishino (best dressed, Sunday), Tejal Guruswamy (best etiquette), and Preme Tulsukchuantanat (fair play/kindness/spreading joy).

Congratulations to the winners, and many thanks to all the wonderful ladies and girls who contributed to this special event!

female player, Humpy Koneru. Redmond chess temptress Navika Koul (7.5, 183 → 526) emerged victorious with an amazing 7.5 points from ten games in the fun Double Swiss format. Along the way, Koul dropped only two games against Olympia's Lashawna Covey in round two and Seattle's Millie Runion in round four, an impressive run!

Three female chess musketeers shared second/first Unrated/second

**Selina Cheng (1722) – Chouchanik Airapetian (1973) [B07]**  
WA Women's Championship  
Redmond, WA (R5), September 8, 2024  
[Selina Cheng]

I played White this game, and I was extremely nervous playing a stronger player. I also thought I was doomed.

**1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6**

This is the Pirc Defense setup, minus the fianchetto of the bishop.

**3.Bd3 e5 4.c3 Be7**



Position after 4...Be7

Huh. I thought she'd go ...g6 then ...Bg7, fianchettoing the bishop, the typical Pirc.

**5.Nf3 Nbd7 6.0-0 h6 7.h3 0-0 8.Be3 c5**

She attacks the center with an aggressive ...c5!

**9.Re1 a6 10.a4**

I decide to prevent the possible ideas of ...b5 and any further pawn pushing.

**10...b6 11.Nbd2 cxd4 12.cxd4 Bb7 13.Qb3 exd4 14.Bxd4 Rb8 15.Rac1 Nc5**

To take the knight or move the queen to safety? I figured that taking the knight would help Chouchanik.

**16.Qa3**

So, I move the queen to safety on a3.

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16...d5 17.e5 Nfe4 18.Bb1

I get scared about losing the bishop pair, so I bring it back to b1.

18...f6? 19.b4 Nxd2?

19...Ne6

20.Nxd2 Ne4 21.Qb2?! f5 22.f3

I decide to kick the annoying knight out, but the pawn structure on the kingside now looks kind of awkward.

22...Nxd2 23.Qxd2 Rc8 24.Kh1?!

24.Rxc8

24...Qd7?!

24...Rc4

25.Bc2?! Rc4



Position after 25...Rc4

She activates her rook, with the ideas of attacking the b4-pawn, putting pressure on the d4-bishop, and also doubling her rooks on the c-file.

26.Rb1

I protect my pawn on b4.

26...Rfc8?!

She attacks my bishop on c2, however, the f5 pawn will fall.

27.e6 Qd6?!

27...Qe8 28.Bxf5



Selina Cheng (L) vs Chouchanik Airapetian during their fifth-round game. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

28.Bxf5 Rxb4 29.Rxb4 Qxb4 30.Qf2 Qd2 Rc4 31.Bxb6?! Qxa4??

31...Bc6

32.Qg3 Qe8 33.Rd1?? Bh4 34.Qd6?! Rc6

I thought I just got forked... but then I realized that Qb4 existed, saving my bishop.

35.Qb4 Be7 36.Qb3 g6?

36...Qf8 37.g4

37.Bb1??

37.Bd4 gxf5 38.Qxb7 Rxe6 39.Rc1 Kf7 40.Qxd5 Qb5 41.Bc5 Kf6 42.Qd4+ Kf7

37...Rxe6 38.Bd4

I centralize my bishop and reveal a discovered attack on the b7-bishop.

38...Bc6 39.Qd3 Bh4 40.Bc3 Bg3 41.



Position after 41.Qd2

My queen targets the h6 pawn.

41...Kh7??

41...Be5 42.Bxe5 Rxe5 43.Bd3 Bb5 44.f4 Re6 45.Bxb5 Qxb5 46.Qxd5 Qxd5 47.Rxd5

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### Washington Women's Championship: Polgar Championship

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total
1	1	Erin Bian	2166	W7	W2	W3	W4	W8	5
2	2	Selina Cheng	1722	W12	L1	W9	W11	W3	4
3	3-7	Chouchanik Airapetian	1973	W11	W9	L1	W5	L2	3
4		Mary Kuhner	1764	D15	W16	W6	L1	D5	3
5		Lily Deng	1724	D10	W15	W14	L3	D4	3
6		Saiya Karamali	1716	W13	D14	L4	D7	W11	3
7		Haituka Anandkumar	1606	L1	W13	D8	D6	X12	3
8	8-10	Manunthon Atikankhotchasee	1793	L9	W10	D7	W14	L1	2.5
9		Deeksha Shankaranand	1560	W8	L3	L2	D10	W14	2.5
10		Aarya Patel	1386	D5	L8	D12	D9	W16	2.5
11	11-13	Iris Zhang	1599	L3	B---	W16	L2	L6	2
12		Veronique Joseph	1347	L2	H---	D10	W15	F7	2
13		Aashi Mathur	1316	L6	L7	H---	D16	W15	2
14	14	Lakshana Anand	1201	B---	D6	L5	L8	L9	1.5
15	15-16	Andra Marinescu	1485	D4	L5	H---	L12	L13	1
16		Zoe Xu	1419	H---	L4	L11	D13	L10	1

### Washington Women's Championship: Yifan U1300

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total
1	1-2	Anyi Li	1038	L3	W6	W11	W4	W2	4
2		Clora Huang	1027	W11	W10	W8	W3	L1	4
3	3	Kaiyi Han	793	W1	H---	W7	L2	W6	3.5
4	4-5	Elina Khudiyev	873	L7	W12	W5	L1	W8	3
5		Ann Jem	unr.	L10	B---	L4	W9	W12	3
6	6	Aria Ajay	684	W12	L1	H---	W8	L3	2.5
7	7-11	Angela Agaian	1215	W4	L8	L3	W11	L9	2
8		Lijuan Wang	994	W9	W7	L2	L6	L4	2
9		Siana Razmov	886	L8	L11	W12	L5	W7	2
10		Chloe Miller	878	W5	L2	U---	H---	H---	2
11		Amy Zhang	784	L2	W9	L1	L7	B---	2
12	12	Arwen Zhang	709	L6	L4	L9	B---	L5	1

### Washington Women's Championship: Koneru U700

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total
1	1	Navika Koul	227	WW5	WL2	WW7	WL6	WD4	7.5
2	2-4	Lashawna Covey	615	WW14	WL1	WW11	WL4	WL6	7
3		Bhuvana Vuta	unr.	WD12	WW10	DL4	WL5	WW11	7
4		Proud Tulsukhuentanat	unr.	B---	WW7	WD3	WL2	DL1	7
5	5-6	Anne Nishino	482	LL1	WL12	WW13	WL3	WW10	6
6		Millie Runion	unr.	H---	WW13	H---	WL1	WL2	6
7	7	Tejal Guruswamy	466	WW9	LL4	LL1	WL12	WW13	5
8	8-10	Amalia Cauch-Miller	319	WL13	LL11	WD14	WL10	H---	4.5
9		Tapasya Nandeesh	unr.	LL7	WD14	H---	WL11	WL12	4.5
10		Pearl Tulsukhuentanat	unr.	WD11	LL3	WW12	WL8	LL5	4.5
11	11-12	Josephine Armstrong	363	DL10	WW8	LL2	WL9	LL3	3.5
12		Alicia Stuart	360	DL3	WL5	LL10	WL7	WL9	3.5
13	13	Preme Tulsukhuentanat	unr.	WL8	LL6	LL5	X14	LL7	3
14	14	Aapti Saravanan	239	LL2	DL9	DL8	F13	U---	1

42.f4 Ba4??

42...Re3 43.Be5

43.Qd4

I ignore the threat on my rook, but I threaten mate on g7. I also activate my queen. I started getting confident that I could win.

43...Re7 44.Rf1?! Bb5?

44...a5 45.Bxg6+ Kxg6 46.Qd3+ Kf7 47.Qxg3 Qb5 48.Qg7+ Ke8 49.Qg6+ Kd7 50.Qf5+

45.Rc1??

45.Qf6 Kg8 46.Bxg6 Qxg6 47.Qxg6+ Kf8 48.Rc1 d4 49.Bxd4 Bc4 50.Qxg3 Re4

45...Bc4??



Position after 45...Bc4

At this point she is under heavy time pressure, and she starts panicking and making blunders. I don't know why I'm panicking and excited at the same time.

45...Rc7 46.f5

46.Qf6

The queen invades Black's kingside. I also apply pressure to g6, and threatening Bxg6+, Qxg6, then Qh8# mate.

46...d4 47.Bxg6+ Qxg6 48.Qxe7+ Bf7 49.Bxd4 Bxf4 50.Rf1+-

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Here she resigns, as she is under time pressure, and this is a crushing position for me. I was proud of myself for playing well. Here is an example of what might have happened if she didn't resign.  
 50...Qf5 51.Qf8 Kg6 52.Qg7+ Kh5  
 53.g4+ Kh4 54.gxf5 Bd5+ 55.Kg1 Kxh3  
 56.Rxf4 h5 57.Bf2 h4 58.Rxh4#

1-0

**Selina Cheng (1722) –  
 Erin Bian (2166) [C78]**

WA Women's Championship  
 Redmond, WA (R2), September 7, 2024  
*[Ralph Dubisch]*

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6  
 5.0-0 b5 6.Bb3 Bc5 7.Nxe5 Nxe5 8.d4  
 Bxd4 9.Qxd4 d6 10.c3

10.f4!? c5 11.Qc3 Neg4 12.e5

10...Bb7 11.Bg5 c5 12.Qe3 h6 13.Bxf6  
 Qxf6 14.f4 Nd7 15.e5 Qe7 16.Qg3?

16.e6! fxe6 17.Bxe6 Nf8 18.f5∞ changes  
 the dynamic.

16...0-0 17.exd6 Qxd6 18.Rd1 Qc7 19.  
 Nd2 Nf6 20.Nf3 Nh5 21.Qg4



*Position after 21.Qg4*

21...Bxf3

Both of Black's minor pieces outclass their counterparts, so 21...Nxf4, while a bit more complex, keeps kingside pressure along that long diagonal.

22.Qxf3 Nxf4 23.Rf1 Ng6 24.Rad1 Rae8  
 25.Qf5 c4 26.Bc2 Re2 27.Rc1?

27.Rf2 avoids the tactic.

27...Rxf2+! 28.Kxf2 Nh4+ 29.Kg1 Nxf5  
 30.Rxf5 Qb6+ 31.Kh1 Qc6+ 32.Kg1  
 Re8 33.Rf2 Re5 34.h4 Qe6 35.Rd1 g6  
 36.Rd8+ Kg7 37.Rd4 Qh3 38.Rd1 Qxh4  
 39.Rd4 Rg5+

39...Re1+ 40.Kg2 Qh1+ 41.Kg3 Re3+  
 42.Kf4 Qh3 forces mate.

40.Kf1 Qh1+ 41.Ke2 Re5+ 42.Be4  
 Rxe4+ 43.Rxe4 Qxe4+ 44.Kd1 h5



*Two classy chess queens, TD Rekha Sagar (R) and her mother, donned their traditional Indian attire. Photo Credit: Meiling Cheng.*

45.Re2 Qd3+  
 46.Ke1 h4 47.b4  
 h3 48.a4 Qxe2+  
 49.Kxe2 h2 50.axb5  
 axb5 51.Ke3 h1Q  
 52.Kd4 Qc6 53.Ke3  
 Kf6 54.Kd4 Kf5  
 55.Ke3 Qe4+  
 56.Kd2 Kf4 57.Kc1  
 Kf3 58.Kb2 Kf2  
 59.Ka3 Ke2 60.Ka2  
 Qa8+

0-1

- \* 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  
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 Chessape@outlook.com  
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**Iris Zhang (1599) –  
Saiva Karamali (1716) [B72]**  
WA Women's Championship  
Redmond, WA (R5), September 8, 2024  
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6  
5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Be2 g6

6...e5 is the most common move here.

7.f3 Bg7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Qd2 Nxd4

9...d5 is considered to equalize immediately.

10.Bxd4 Be6 11.0-0 Rc8

Black can bring the other rook to the c-file with 11...Qa5 12.Kb1 (or 12.a3 Rfc8) 12...Rfc8, since 13.Nd5 Qxd2 14.Nxf6+

a) 14.Nxe7+?? Kf8;

b) 14.Rxd2? Nxd5 15.Bxg7 (15.exd5 Bh6 16.Rdd1 Bxd5?) 15...Nb4 16.Bc3 Bxa2+ 17.Ka1 a5?

14...Bxf6 15.Rxd2 Bxd4 16.Rxd4 is balanced.

12.Kb1 a6 13.g4 b5 14.g5 Nd7 15.Bxg7 Kxg7 16.Qd4+?!

16.h4± Black's king is in greater peril. White should prefer to keep queens on, so placing it on d4 allows Black tempo gains

by offering a trade.

16...Kg8 17.f4 Qb6 18.Nd5 Bxd5  
19.exd5 Qc5?!

19...Qxd4 20.Rxd4 Nb6

20.Qxc5?!

20.Qe4±

20...Rxc5 21.Rhe1 Nb6 22.Bf3 Re8

This isn't bad, but it feels a little passive. I like to look for active play in rook endings. 22...Rc4!? 23.Rxe7 (23.Be4 f5 24.gxf6 Rxf6?) 23...Rxf4. White's bishop is somewhat restricted by the d-pawn, as well as finding itself a bit of a target. Black's f4-rook is active, and the f8-rook may find something to do on the c-file.

23.h4 Kf8

23...Rc4 24.Re4 (24.Be4 f5 25.gxf6 exf6? Black exchanges on e1 when the bishop retreats, then scoops up a pawn or two.) 24...Rxe4 25.Bxe4 Rc8.

24.h5 Rec8 25.c3

25.Be4±

25...Rc4 26.hxg6 hxg6 27.Bg4?!

27.Be4

27...Re8 28.Rd2?!

White creates an imaginative mating net, but there's a flaw. 28.Rf1± hangs onto material for now.

28...Rxf4 29.Rh2 Kg7 30.Reh1



Position after 30.Reh1

30...Rg8!

The only other defense, 30...e6 31.dxe6 Rxg4 32.Rh7+ Kf8 33.Rxf7+ Kg8 34.Rhh7, leads to a draw after 34...Rg1+ 35.Kc2 Rg2+.

31.Bd1 Rf5 32.Rh7+ Kf8 33.Bg4 Rf4

33...Rxg5 34.Rf1 f5 is fine as well.

34.Bh3 Nxd5 35.Bc8 Nc7 36.Re1 e6 37.Rg1 Ke7 38.Bb7 d5 39.Rh2 Rb8 40.Bc6 Kd6 41.Bxd5 Nxd5 42.Rd2

0-1



A group photo of (nearly) all players at the Washington Women's Championship, and a few of their parents.  
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

# Washington Winter Classic



**DECEMBER 21-22, 2024**

**HOTEL 116 BELLEVUE**

**625 116<sup>TH</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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:** 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>: \$400, \$300, \$250.

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

**Vidit U1600:** 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>: \$200, \$150, \$125.

1<sup>st</sup> U1500/U1300: \$100; 1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://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 148<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE,  
Building I, Ste. M, Redmond, WA 98052

**Contact:** Josh Sinanan, WCF President, 206.769.3757

**Email:** [WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com](mailto:WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com)

# Michael Franett 1941-2004

John Donaldson

December 2, 2024 marks the 20th anniversary of Michael Franett's death. The Seattle native is a major figure in the history of chess in the Northwest. A three-time Washington state champion (1970, 1972 and 1973), Michael is best remembered as the man who kept Yasser Seirawan's magazine *Inside Chess* running smoothly during its run from 1988 to early 2000. He was listed on the first issue as a staff member, and later held the titles of production manager, associate editor, managing editor, and finally, plain old editor.

It is hard to explain just how essential Michael was for *Inside Chess*, a magazine that for most of its existence was a 32-page, twice a month, publication. That works out to around 750 pages a year, and not small pages! Multiply that by 12 years and you have around 9000 pages and Michael worked on every one, doing whatever was needed. He did the page layout, entered copy, and edited. Producing a magazine for a few months can be fun, doing it for years with strict deadlines requires dedication and professionalism that few possess.

Twenty-four years after its last issue appeared much of the contents of *Inside Chess* remains fresh. Yasser's annotations, Dr. Minev's tactics columns, and the endgame clinic by Alexander Baburin can still be read with benefit. This is due in no small part to Michael's editing skills which increased the readability of the contributions while still retaining the voice of the author.

Michael was a mensch. More on him can be found in the January 2005 and March 2021 issues of *Northwest Chess*, available online at [https://www.nwchess.com/nwcmag/back\\_issues.htm](https://www.nwchess.com/nwcmag/back_issues.htm)

The following positional tour de force effort is one of Michael's best along with his wins over National Master Richard Gutman and FIDE Master James Thinnsen. I first analyzed this game for *Northwest Chess* in 2004. Since then, chess engines have gotten considerably stronger at evaluating closed positions. They offer new insights into this impressive dismantling of Peter Biyiasas, who a year later would become Canadian champion and be awarded the International Master title. Biyiasas would later become a Grandmaster and is one of only two players to compete in both the Canadian and US Championships (Duncan Suttles is the other).

**Mike Franett**

**Peter Biyiasas [A42]**

(R1) Portland Northwest Invitational  
March 5, 1971

**1.d4 g6 2.c4 Bg7 3.e4 d6 4.Nc3 Nc6**

The motivation behind this line of the Modern Defense is to follow up with ...e5, induce d5 by White, and then play ...f5 without having to first move the king knight (...Nf6-e8) as is the case in the King's Indian Defense.

**5.Be3**

The traditional main line. 5.d5 Nd4 6.Be3 c5 7.Nge2 Qb6 is now known to



Michael Franett circa early 1980s. Photo courtesy of John Donaldson.

favor White after 8.Na4 Qa5+ 9.Bd2 Qc7 10.Bc3 e5 11.dxe6 Nxe6 12.Bxg7 Nxb7 13.Nac3. Recently Black has experimented in high level rapid games with 5...Ne5 (Mamedyarov) and 5... Nb8 (Dubov).

**5...e5 6.d5 Nce7 7.g4**

7.c5 is also strong. The idea behind the advance is to open the c-file and prepare Bb5+. The aim of the latter is either trading off White's bad bishop for Black's good one, or forcing the second player to lose the castling privilege. Silman-C. Lakdawala, Southern California Championship 1989, is a model game for White in this line.

**7...f5 8.gxf5 gxf5 9.Qh5+ Kf8**

Black can also play 9...Ng6, but after 10.exf5 Qh4, both 11.Qf3 and 11.Qd1 favor White. The early ...f5 advance leaves Black vulnerable to Nf3-g5-e6.

**10.Bh3 Nf6 11.Qf3 f4 12.Bd2**



Position after 12.Bd2

**12...Ng6**

12...h5 13.Bxc8 Qxc8 14.0-0-0 Bh6 15.Qd3 Rg8 16.Nf3 Rg2 17.Qf1 Rg7 18.Kb1 Portisch-Ree, Amsterdam 1967, left White with a sizeable advantage. One of his plans is to open the queenside with c4-c5. While it is true White has castled queenside, his significant space advantage on that wing ensures his king will not become vulnerable.

**13.Bxc8 Rxc8 14.0-0-0 c6?**

This is a serious mistake as it opens lines on the side of the board where White is stronger. Relatively better is 14...Rg8, although after 15.Kb1 Bh6 16.Qh3 (freeing f3 for the knight) 16...Kg7 17.Nf3 Qd7 18.Qf1 Kh8 19.h4. White retains a clear edge due to his advantage in space.

**15.Kb1**

15.dxc6 bxc6 16.Kb1 was an equally effective way of handling the position.

**15...Kf7 16.Qh3**

16.h4! is even stronger, preparing to first drive the knight away and then play Qh3. 16...h5 allows 17.Nh3 heading for g5 and e6.

**16...Re8 17.Nf3 Kg8 18.Rhg1 cxd5 19.cxd5**



Position after 19.cxd5

**19...Rxc3**

Peter, who already was known as a tough defender, tries to muddy the waters by sacrificing the exchange rather than go down without a fight.

19...a6 20.Rg2 (the immediate 20.Ng5! looks crushing) 20...b5 21.Ng5 Nf8 22.Rd1 Re7 is assessed as equal by Bob Zuk in the tournament booklet, but 23.Ne6 leaves White with a huge advantage.

**20.Bxc3 Nxe4 21.Be1 Nc5?**

This soon leads to immediate defeat, but 21...Qc8 22.Qxc8 Rxc8 23.Nd2 Nf6 24.f3 Kf7 25.Bf2 a6 26.Ne4 would have also have won for White in the long run.

**22.Ng5 Nf8 23.Qf5 Re7 24.f3**

This multi-purpose move, the second choice of Stockfish 17, prepares Bf2, reinforces control of e4, and allows the possibility of Rd2-g2, but the immediate 24.Bb4

was even stronger.

**24...Na4 25.Bf2 Nxb2**



Position after 25...Nxb2

**26.Rc1!**

26.Kxb2?? opens the door to all sorts of Black counterplay. For example: 26...e4+ 27.Kb3 e3 28.Be1 Qb6+ 29.Bb4 e2 30.Rc1 Qe3+ 31.Ka4 b5+ 32.Kxb5 Rb7+ 33.Ka4 Rxb4+ 34.Kxb4 Qb6+ 35.Ka4 Qa6+ 36.Kb4 Qb6+ 37.Kc4 Qd4+ drawing.

**26...Rc7**

26...Qe8 27.Rc8 Qg6 28.Rxf8+ Bxf8 29.Ne6 is another nice finish.

**27.Rxc7 Qxc7 28.Qxf8+! 1-0**

# The Inland Classic

**February 22-23, 2025**

**Location:** Lakeland Jr. High School,  
15601 N. Highway 41, Rathdrum, Idaho.

**Format:** Five-round Swiss system; **TC:** G/115;d5

**Registration closes February 20 (10:00 PM):**

**Email or Phone only**

**Entries:** [kmkorsmo@comcast.net](mailto:kmkorsmo@comcast.net) or (509) 270-1772

**EF:** \$30 adults; \$25 under 19; cash or check only

**Prizes:** \$1750 guaranteed.

[Click here \(or scan QR Code to the right\) for details.](#)



**Misc.:** John Donaldson lecture and simul: 6:00 PM February 21 (Spokane)

# New Adventure Scholastic

Josh Sinanan

The 2024 New Adventure Scholastic chess tournament was held on Sunday, September 22, at Chinook Middle School in Bellevue. The tournament was organized by WCF to provide continuity for scholastic chess players interested in getting some practice in September, a month with traditionally sparse tournament offerings since most after-school chess programs have yet to start. Due to Chinook hosting a language school on Saturdays, the roomy Clyde

Hill Middle School is only available on Sundays and holidays this season. The silver lining is that tournaments hosted at Chinook will avoid clashing with many other scholastic tournaments, most of which are hosted on Saturdays.

A total of 126 scholastic chess players in grades K-12 participated in the inaugural New Adventure Scholastic, from throughout the Pacific Northwest, including eight from Somerset Elementary in Bellevue, the reigning Elementary

State Champions! Other schools bringing sizable contingents of players included Bellevue Children's Academy (six), Medina Elementary (six), Open Window School (five), Chestnut Hill Academy (three), Lakeridge Elementary (three), and Louisa Alcott Elementary (three).

There were numerous one- and two-man armies also participating, with many of their teammates opting to jump back into the chess pool later in the season. The event was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation and directed by WCF Co-Vice President Rekha Sagar and WCF Member-at-Large Ani Barua. WCF Women's and Girl's Chess Director Chouchan Airapetian and her family ran the concessions and WCF photographer and chess mom Meiling Cheng took amazing photos and video footage throughout the day.

The five-round Swiss format featuring a time control of game in twenty-five minutes with a five-second increment, and all games began with a chess clock provided courtesy of WCF. All sections were dual NWSRS and US Chess rated to help players establish their "national" ratings and gain US Chess-rated experience in preparation for upcoming State and National competitions. For young players in grades K-3 in the U700 and U800 sections, chess notational was optional, but many decided to attempt it anyway! To ensure competitive balance for players of all ages and levels, the tournament was split into five sections: K-1 U700, 2-3 U900, K-3 Open, 4-8 U900, and 4-12 Open.

Many thanks to the adventurous chess explorers who participated, twelve of whom were unrated and playing in their first ever chess tournament! Our vibrant chess community continues to thrive as we all begin new adventures and kick off a new scholastic chess season. Special congratulations to our Amazon gift card and chess medal winners:



*White is in Stalemate!  
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*

## New Adventure Scholastic Prizes

Individual Prizes - Amazon Gift Card Prizes awarded in each section.

1st – 5th: \$60–55–50–45–40.

Section	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place	4th Place	5th Place
K-1 U700	Edwin Niu	Ryan Zhang	Avyukt Goyal	Nolan Yin Pavel Sterba Siddharth Abimanyu Alden Liu	
2-3 U800	Yuwen Qu	Patrick ZhangLeo Gu		Eason Chen Vivienne Luo Bryan Li William Wright	
K-3 Open	Leonid Zandanov	Anyi Li	Jeremy Ge Eric Yu Richard Rogov Aria Ajay Rebecca Li		
4-8 U900	Elon TsayCyrus Kachachi		Ethan Lin	Shaurya Bhende Jingyuan Pan	
4-12 Open	Imai Maharaja Vishnu Mohan		Robert Michailov Rian Raja Isaac Friedenson Ian Gagnier		
<b>Top player (by TPR) in each of the K-3 Open and 4-12 Open sections wins free entry into the 2024 SPFNO!</b>					

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

Section	Best Female Player	Best Dressed	Biggest Upset Win
K-1 U700	Rhea Sagar	Rhea Sagar	Nolan Yin
2-3 U800	Nazar Iakymenko	Evan Lin	Arjun Savaram
K-3 Open	Kaiyi Han	Atul Srinivasan	Janani Ranjith
4-8 U900	Victoria Wright	Sebastian Phillips-Acheson	Amalia Cauch-Miller
4-12 Open	Veronique Joseph	Yash Syal	Felix Y Chen



*Janani Ranjith.  
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*

# Interview With Susan Polgar

Ken Lee



Ken Lee

**S**usan Polgar is a legend in the chess world. As a top player, coach, author, and creator of SPICE and the Susan Polgar Foundation, her intelligence, enthusiasm and love of the game have inspired millions.

**Ken:** Can you tell me how SPICE (Susan Polgar Institute for Chess Excellence) <https://www.webster.edu/spice/index.php> came to be?

**Susan:** The idea for SPICE was born in 2005 when I visited Lubbock, Texas as part of my national tour after the success at the 2004 Olympiad in Calvia.

I had just won two gold and two silver medals including the team silver with the US team. I was invited to visit Texas Tech University by Dr. Hal Karlsson who was the faculty advisor for the chess club.

Dr Karlsson thought it would be great if we could create a chess program like UT Dallas and UMBC (University of Maryland, Baltimore County).

**Ken:** What was the initial mission for SPICE?

**Susan:** In those days, most young chess players in the United States progressed from elementary, middle and high school with some small form of support from their chess community.

Once they got to university, however, there was no real outlet for students to simultaneously continue their chess and academic education.

My dream for SPICE was to create that outlet and opportunity for top young players, in the US and around the world, to be able to receive top notch education while enhancing their chess skills. I knew it would not be easy, but I believe in the quote from the famous movie Field of Dreams, "If I build it, they will come". And so we did. For the next 14 years at Texas Tech and Webster University, literally every student we had reached

their rating peaks because of SPICE.

But it was not easy. We had to start completely from scratch. We had to buy all new chess boards, sets and books. We started with just about half a dozen or so casual chess players.

**Ken:** What kind of progress did you have in those early years?

**Susan:** In the first year, we had an amateur team with club players. In the second year, we added one International Master. Through a lot of hard work, we finally built a division one team by our third year and made the Final Four for the first time, finishing third.

By year four and five, we became national champions, dethroning the unbeatable UTD and UMBC.

Then, unfortunately support for the program began to wane due to massive changes in the university administration. The university had new President, Provost, and Senior Vice Provost. Everyone who was involved in bringing us to Texas was no longer at their positions. The new brass did not understand the importance of SPICE and did not offer support.

**Ken:** How did you adapt to the change in circumstances?

**Susan:** When we informed the new administration at Texas Tech that if we do not receive proper support, our students could not even finish their degrees. They refused to budge. Then we asked for permission to speak to other universities to relocate SPICE. We were laughed at and told to go ahead, but expect no university to invest in an elite "chess" program. They were wrong. As soon as we started to initiate a nationwide search and looked for new opportunities

for our students, seven other universities immediately showed interests. We did our due diligence by visiting different campuses and met with the heads of these universities.

At the end, we selected Webster University in St. Louis, Missouri because we felt that it was the best fit and our students would have the most support. We moved the SPICE program there in 2012 and we continued where we left off at Texas Tech by dominating College Chess for years to come.

**Ken:** What was the transition like?

**Susan:** It was easier to make a transition than to start from scratch because most of the top players agreed to move to Webster. We were also fortunate because SPICE had already established an excellent reputation. On our A and B team, we had GMs Georg Meier (Germany), Anatoly Bykhovskiy (Israel), Andre Diamant (Brazil), Denes Boros (Hungary), and IM Vitaly Neimer (Israel) coming over from Texas Tech. At Webster University, we also immediately added GMs Ray Robson (USA, Wesley So (Philippines), Manuel Leon Hoyos (Mexico), and Fidel Corrales (Cuba).

Therefore, from day one at Webster, we had the number one ranked team in the nation, and we retained the number one ranking for ten consecutive years (under my leadership and they are still the number one ranked team today).

During my tenure at Webster, our students won more World Championships, National Championships, Olympiad Gold and Major Titles than ALL other chess programs in the US, COMBINED! What I am also very proud of is our students during these 14 years in Texas and St.

*"I like to say the only constant in life is change. Chess trains young people to make good choices in the game of life."*



Louis maintained an average GPA of 3.5 – 3.8/4 every semester while College Chess only requires a 2.0. I did not accept any student who was not committed to academic and chess excellence.

Eventually, I retired and left recommended the Director position and Head Coach to my former student: Vietnamese GM Liem Le. I'm very proud of what he has accomplished, and he's been an exemplary student and leader in the chess community.

**Ken:** What kind of programs does SPICE implement today?

**Susan:** As I mentioned earlier, in addition to being the number one ranked collegiate team in the nation for over 12 straight years and counting, we still have a lot of outreach programs to the community. We hosted many summer camps. Webster University became the first in the US to offer a Minor in Chess program.

[https://news.webster.edu/2022/chess\\_minor.php](https://news.webster.edu/2022/chess_minor.php)

**Ken:** You are one of the top chess coaches in the world. Have you identified attributes of great chess coaches and students?

**Susan:** I think it is crucial that coaches have a passion for the game and have 100% discipline. I also believe that they need to be flexible from student to student because I don't believe in a one-size-fits-all approach.

The best coaches have to be willing, ready and able to modify their approach based on the needs of the students. A great coach has to be passionate and dedicated.

I think the success of SPICE has always been that we treated our students like family. We did a lot of things together like celebrating holidays and birthdays. We went on team building activities like apple picking, escape room events, and hiking, etc.

**Ken:** What attributes do students need to be a great chess player?

**Susan:** First of all, great chess students must have passion and love for the game. But to consistently improve, they have to be coachable.

**Ken:** What do you specifically mean by that?

**Susan:** A coachable student is flexible and not adverse to changing habits. When a coach tells them to make adjustments, they should be open to change.

In addition, a great chess player has to learn to adjust quickly to changes as each game unfolds. That's one of the great life skills that chess really teaches us all.

I like to say the only constant in life is change. Every single move on the chess board can change the dynamic of the game. You need to realize how those changes affect the overall picture on the board and constantly adjust to those changes. Chess trains young people to



*Susan Polgar. Photo credit: Paul Truong.*

make good choices in the game of life.

The better players win—not because what they do is always right, but because they are able to adjust to the unique dynamics of the game, through the opening, middle and end game.

**Ken:** Can you give me a specific example of this?

**Susan:** Let's say you know very little about your opponent and they only start to show their cards in the opening. If you anticipated something else, you are going to be surprised.

In that case, you need to handle your emotions.

It also applies when you have to comfortably move back and forth from an offensive to a defensive position, or vice versa.

A good chess player has to learn to move from being in the driver's seat to, in a flash, being the underdog and defend patiently.

**Ken:** Any other attributes help contribute to being a great chess player?

**Susan:** Yes, I often talk about balance in life and in chess. A great chess player is decisive but in a balanced way.

They don't over think, but they are not impulsive. They don't play too fast or too slow. They are not too confident or afraid. Of course there are many more.

**Ken:** What's the current state of women in the chess community?

**Susan:** I grew up in an era when there were very few women playing chess and I had to overcome a lot of challenges just to play in open tournaments with men. I overcame many obstacles, including sexual harassment and abuse.

In 2002, I was approached by the executive director of the USCF, Frank Niro. He approached me because he noted that less than 1% of the nearly 100,000 members of USCF were female.

Frank was looking for ways to improve those numbers and we brainstormed a number of programs. Eventually, he helped me create the Susan Polgar Foundation. <https://susanpolgarfoundation.org/>

Originally, it was focused on promoting chess to girls, but over the years, it expanded to include boys as well. I am very proud that over the years my Foundation (through partners, donors, and supporters, etc.) has awarded over seven million dollars in scholarship and other prizes to young players.

By 2014, the numbers for female participation in chess have improved considerably.

The USCF now reports that female participation has increased to about 15%.

We still have a long way to go, but I'm very proud of that accomplishment.

**Ken:** How did the Susan Polgar Chess tournament come to Seattle?



*Susan Polgar. Photo credit: Paul Truong.*

**Susan:** About 20 years ago, the Susan Polgar tournament started in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Then it moved around the country over the years and we held the event in various different states.

Then Frank Niro introduced me to the nice folks at the Washington Chess Federation, including Joshua Sinanan. The Northwest had never hosted a National Youth championship prior to this. We felt that this needed to change and we did.

We've been very happy with the partnership.

**Ken:** I understand that you are working on a new book.

**Susan:** I have authored more than a dozen chess books over the years, but this book is completely different than anything I've done before.

This book is my life story and there are virtually no chess games or notations at all in the book.

The target audience for this book is not only young chess players and their parents but people who are interested in

an inspirational story about a young girl who overcame countless challenges in a male dominated field.

So, it's really not about chess. It's meant for the mainstream audience and will be published in 2025.

I'm very proud of this book and some people have encouraged me to eventually turn this into a feature film. But one thing a time.

**Ken:** Any final thoughts you'd like to share?

**Susan:** I have a very holistic approach to chess. I believe that when you're happy you become a better student and competitor. You can thrive in both academics AND in chess at the same time. The choice doesn't have to be binary.

It certainly has been the case with GM Liem Le. He was an outstanding student and he continued to grow as a chess player. He is now ranked 16th in the world while coaching the Webster University Chess Team full time.

It certainly was the case with Wesley So. When he came to Webster, he was ranked 99th in the world. Two and half years later, he was ranked in the top 10

and consistently stayed in the top 10 since.

We managed to open the doors to a lot of young talented chess players who are getting a more rounded lifestyle by living at the university and learning about different things.

This applies to academics but also to social skills as well. Most of our students are living independently away from their parents for the first time. We welcome everyone to check out Webster and see that you can work hard, play hard, and be successful in whatever endeavor you want to pursue.

**Ken:** For those students who are trying to improve their competitive chess game, what specific advice do you have for them on how to train, study, and work to get better between tournaments?

**Susan:** Analyze your games in depth and learn from your mistakes. Solve puzzles according to your level and calculation skill. Being sharp is essential to chess success at all levels. Naturally, opening preparation or endgame training, etc. are also important, especially at the more advanced levels.

# Monroe Winter Rapid Championship



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2024

MONROE COMMUNITY SENIOR CENTER

276 SKY RIVER PKWY, MONROE, WA 98272

CO-HOSTED BY WASHINGTON CHESS FEDERATION AND MONROE CHESS CLUB

**Info/Entries:** Rekha Sagar, WCF VP, 425-496-9160, [Rekha4Chess@gmail.com](mailto:Rekha4Chess@gmail.com)

**Registration:** Online at [nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration](http://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration).

Pay by

Debit/Credit/PayPal/SettleKing.

Registration and payment **deadline**

**Fri. Dec. 6 @ 5pm** or register at-site.

**Eligibility:** Open to all juniors + adults.

**Schedule:** At-site registration:

Sat. 8:00-8:45am. Rds. @ 9am, 10:30am, Lunch, 12:30pm, 1:45pm, 3pm. Awards ~ 4:30pm

**WA State Elementary Qualifier!**

**Format:** A 5-round G/25; +5 Swiss tournament in three sections. Sections with <6 players may be merged.

- **Chouchan Airapetian Championship**
- **Selina Cheng U1300**
- **Lois Ruff U700**

**Prizes:** \$1,500 for 60 paid entries.

**Airapetian:** \$200-150-100-75.

**Cheng:** \$150-100-80-60.

**Ruff:** \$150-100-80-60.

**Special Prizes (per section):**

Biggest Upset Win: \$5/rd., Best

Dressed: \$10, Best Female Player: \$10,

Best Senior Player: \$10,

Kindness/Spreading Joy: \$10.

**Entry Fee:** \$50 by 11/30, \$60 after. Seniors 65+ receive a \$25 discount. Monroe Chess Club Players receive 50% discount. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, WIMs, or US Chess 2000+. Players rated 1200+ & 600+ in both USCF & NWSRS may play up 1 section into the Airapetian & Cheng sections, respectively. Max of 90 players total and 30 players per section, please register early.

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

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

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

# Washington Junior Invitational

## CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

**December 21-22, 2024**

**Hotel 116 Bellevue**

625 116<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Bellevue, WA 98004

### **Tri-Format:**

An invitation-only junior chess tournament in three sections:

**Caruana Closed:** A FIDE-rated, 6-player Round Robin. TC: G/90; +30.

**So Invitational:** A FIDE-rated, 5-round, G/90; +30 Swiss.

**Aronian Rising:** A 5-round, G/45; +15 Double Swiss.

Play 2 games – 1 as White and 1 as Black – against each opponent.

### **Entry Fee:**

\$125 by 12/14, \$150 after.

### **Rounds:**

Rd 1 – Sat. 9am

Rd 2 – Sat. 2pm

Rd 3 – Sat. 7pm

Rd 4 – Sun. 10am

Rd 5 – Sun. 3pm

Awards ~ Sun. 7pm or asap

Late start available for games that go long. If needed to break ties for 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Caruana Closed and So Invitational sections, pairs of G/5; +2 blitz playoff games will be conducted on Sunday immediately after the last round.

### **Eligibility:**

Open to all WA Junior players under age 21 as of December 21, 2024. We will take the top 46 WA juniors based on the higher of December US Chess, FIDE, or current NWSRS rating who register and pay by the **deadline of Wed, December 18th**. Of those 46, the top 5 by rating, plus the previously seeded winner of the 2024 WA Junior Open, will qualify for the Caruana Closed section. The next 20 will qualify for the So Invitational section, and the next 20 will qualify for the Aronian Rising section.

### **Prizes:**

Caruana Closed (Guaranteed by WCF)

1<sup>st</sup> \$350 + seed into Championship section of 2025 WA State Championship. 2<sup>nd</sup> \$320, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$280.

So Invitational (Based on 20 paid entries)

1<sup>st</sup> \$250 + seed into Challengers section of 2025 WA State Championship.

2<sup>nd</sup>–4<sup>th</sup>: \$235, 220, 200.

Aronian Rising (Based on 20 paid entries)

1<sup>st</sup>–4<sup>th</sup>: \$175, 160, 145, 130.

Special Prizes: (per section) Biggest Upset Win: \$15/rd., Best Dressed: \$10/day, Best Female Player (by TPR): \$50.

### **Rating/Membership:**

Dual NWSRS + US Chess rated, Caruana Closed and So Invitational sections also FIDE rated. US Chess & WCF membership required in all sections.

### **Byes:**

No byes allowed in Caruana Closed. Up to 2 half-point byes available in So Invitational and Aronian Rising sections if requested before end of Rd 2.



### **THE DETAILS**

**Procedure:** Pairings and standings posted near the playing area before each round.

#### **Online Registration:**

[nwchess.com/onlineregistration](http://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:**

**Wednesday, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00pm.** No registrations accepted or refunds offered after the deadline.

Questions? Josh Sinanan,

WCF President,

206.769.3757,

[WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com](mailto:WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com)



# Washington Junior Open

## CHESS TOURNAMENT

Martin Luther King Day Monday, Jan. 20, 2025

Interlake High School

16245 NE 24<sup>th</sup> St. Bellevue, WA 98008



### CLASSICAL SECTIONS

#### Open 1500+, Rising U1500

A 4-round G/50; +5 Swiss in two sections. Longer time control for Intermediate to Advanced players. Players rated 1400+ may play up into Open section for an additional \$20. Rounds: 9:15am, 11:15am, Lunch Time, 1:30pm, 3:30pm. Awards ~ 5:45pm. Armageddon playoff if needed to break tie for 1<sup>st</sup> Place in Open section immediately following the last round: G/10 white, G/8 black with draw odds.

### RAPID SECTIONS

#### K-1 U700, 2-3 U800, 4-6 U900, 7-12 U1000, K-3 Open, 4-12 Open

A 5-round G/25; +5 Swiss in six sections. Shorter time control for players of all levels. Rounds: 9:15am, 10:45am, Lunch Time, 12:45pm, 2:15pm, 3:45pm. Awards ~ 5:15pm.

### ALL SECTIONS

Dual NWSRS and US Chess rated, with US Chess membership required. Establish or update your national rating! Chess clocks will be used from the beginning in all games. Chess notation required in all sections except for K-1 U700 and 2-3 U800. All equipment is provided courtesy of WCF.

### ELIGIBILITY

Open to all juniors under age 21 years of age as of the tournament date. Out-of-state players welcome!

**ENTRY FEE** \$50 by Jan. 13<sup>th</sup>, \$60 after. Room for 320 players.

### AWARDS

**Section Prizes:** Amazon Gift Cards awarded in each section:  
1<sup>st</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup>: \$65-\$60-\$55-\$50-\$45-\$40-\$35-\$30-\$25-\$20.

**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:  
1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>: \$30-\$25-\$20-\$15-\$10.

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

### RATING

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

**WA State Elementary Qualifier!**

### THE DETAILS

#### Online Registration:

[NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/](http://NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/)  
Pay by Credit/Debit/PayPal/SettleKing. For credit, debit, and PayPal payments, a processing fee of 4% will be added on, so consider saving by using Zelle or SettleKing instead.

**100% pre-registered, no on-site entries or payments. Entry + payment deadline Sun. Jan 19<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00pm.** No registrations accepted or refunds offered after the deadline. Unpaid players by the deadline will be withdrawn from the tournament.

**Highest finishing WA resident in the Open section seeds into the Closed section of the 2025 WA Junior Invitational.**

This event is a qualifier for the WA State Elementary Championship on April 26, 2025, in Tacoma. Players scoring 2.5+ points in the 4-round sections or 3.0+ points in the 5-round sections will qualify for the Championship sections of State.

Pizza lunch and other concessions will be available for purchase on site.

**Questions?** Contact Josh Sinanan, WCF President, 206.769.3757  
[washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com](mailto:washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com)

# Bobby Ferguson Games

(Being Former Washington State Chess Champion and the Governor-Elect of the State of Washington has generated interest in his old games!)

**Bill Phipps –  
Bobby Ferguson (2215) [B40]**  
Northwest Chess January op  
Seattle, January 1983  
[Ralph Dubisch]

**1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.Nf3 e6 4.Nxd4 Nf6  
5.Nc3 Bb4**

Bob likes trick openings. He was known to play the unsound line 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nd4? with Black in scholastic tournaments, hoping to spring the trap 4.Nxe5?? Qg5!, forking e5 and g2. If you don't know this line, the classic ending goes 5.Nxf7? Qxg2 6.Rf1 Qxe4+ 7.Be2 Nf3#.

The normal 5...d6 is often met with 6.g4. 5...Nc6 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bf4 e5 8.Bg5 a6 9.Na3 b5 is the mainline Sveshnikov.

**6.e5 Ne4**

6...Nd5 is played more often here.

**7.Qg4 Qa5?!**

7...Nxc3 8.Qxg7 Rf8 9.a3! Nb5+ 10.axb4 Nxd4 11.Bg5! (11.Bh6 Qe7 12.Bd3± is also possible.) 11...Qb6 12.Bh6 Qxb4+ 13.c3 Nf5 (13...Qe7 seems to be materially losing: 14.cxd4 Nc6 (14...Qb4+ 15.Ke2 Qxb2+ 16.Ke3 Qb4 17.Bd3 Nc6 18.Ra4! Qe7 19.Rb1 f5 20.exf6 Qxf6 21.Qxf8+ Qxf8 22.Bxf8 Kxf8 23.Bxh7+-) 15.Rd1 and White will eventually take the exchange on f8.) 14.cxb4 N×g7 15.Bxg7 Rg8 16.Bf6 and White has the bishop-pair and a bind, in a decidedly odd position.

**8.Qxg7 Bxc3+ 9.Ke2?**

9.bxc3! Qxc3+ 10.Ke2 Qxd4 11.Qxh8+ Ke7 12.Be3 Qxa1 (12...Qc3 13.Kf3! The king is a fighting piece.) 13.Bh6+-

**9...Bxd4?**

At this point the objective continuation to the game might have been 9...Rf8 10.bxc3 Nxc3+ 11.Kd3 (11.Ke1 Ne4+ 12.Ke2 Nc3+, or something similar, flirts with a threefold repetition.) 11...Nc6 12.Bh6 Nxe5+ 13.Kd2 Ne4+ 14.Ke2 likely leading to a repetition, if nobody can dig out a win from all the mud. (14.

Ke3!? Qc3+ 15.Bd3 Ng4+ 16.Kxe4∞, one line continuing 16...f5+ 17.Nxf5 exf5+ 18.Kf4 Qd2+ 19.Kg3 Qxh6 20.Rae1+ Kd8 21.Qe7+ Kc7 22.Qc5+ Kb8 23.h3 f4+ 24.Kf3, and it still seems unclear to me.)

**10.Qxh8+ Ke7**



Position after 10...Ke7

**11.Qxc8?!**

11.Bh6! Qd8 (11...Bxe5 12.Qf8+ Kf6 13.h4 The black king has serious issues.) 12.Qxh7 Bxe5 13.Qxe4 and Black lacks compensation for exchange and pawn.

**11...Nc6!**

Dr. Minev would be proud. *Take My Rooks!*

**12.Qxa8 Qxe5 13.f4 Qh5+ 14.Kd3 Nf2+  
15.Kc4 Qd5#**

A very flashy miniature!

**0-1**

**Alexey Rudolph –  
Bobby Ferguson [B20]**  
Northwest Chess April op  
Seattle, April, 1979  
[Ralph Dubisch]

**1.g3 Nf6 2.d3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.e4 d6  
5.Ne2 c5 6.0-0 Nc6 7.Nd2 Rb8 8.f4 Ng4  
9.Nf3 h5 10.c3 e6 11.h3 Nh6 12.d4 b6  
13.d5 exd5 14.Qxd5 Bb7 15.Rd1??**

Missing the threat. White must retreat the queen to... well, almost anywhere. 15.Qd1±

**15...Nd4! 16.Qc4 d5! 17.exd5 Bxd5  
18.Qd3 Bxf3 19.cxd4**

19.Bxf3 Nxf3+ 20.Kf2 (20.Qxf3?? Qxd1+-) 20...Qxd3 21.Rxd3 Nh2 22.Kg2 N2g4 23.hxg4 hxg4±; 19.Qe3+ Kf8 20.cxd4 Bxg2 21.Kxg2 Nf5♣

**19...Bxd4+??**

19...Bxg2 20.Kxg2 0-0♣

**20.Be3??**

20.Nxd4 Bxd1 21.Qe3+ Qe7 22.Nc6! Qxe3+ 23.Bxe3± It's easy to go wrong in these complications.

**20...Bxe2 21.Qxe2 0-0 22.Bxd4 cxd4  
23.g4?!**

23.Be4 Re8 24.Qd3 Qd7♣

**23...hxg4 24.hxg4 Re8 25.Qd3**

25.Qf3 Re3 26.Qxe3 dxe3 27.Rxd8+ Rxd8 28.Re1 N×g4 looks winning for Black as well.

**25...N×g4 26.Qxd4**



Position after 26.Qxd4

**26...Qxd4+**

Black missed an opportunity to win instantly here with a classic tactic. 26...Re1+!! 27.Bf1 (27.Rxe1 Qxd4+) 27...Qxd4+ 28.Rxd4 Rxa1+-

**27.Rxd4 Rbd8 28.Rad1 Rxd4 29.Rxd4  
Re1+ 30.Bf1 Ra1 31.Re4 Rxa2 32.Bh3  
Nf6 33.Re2 Nd5 34.Rf2 Ne3 35.b3 Rxf2  
36.Kxf2 Nc2 37.Bf1 Nd4 38.Bc4 Kf8  
39.Ke3 Nf5+ 40.Ke4 Nd6+**

**0-1**

# WASHINGTON PRESIDENT'S CUP



SAT-SUN, JAN 25-26, 2025

BLAKELEY HALL

2550 NE PARK DR., ISSAQUAH, WA 98029

**Highest finishing Washington resident in the Open section seeded into the 2026 Washington State Championship – Invitational section.**

**Format:** A 5-round Swiss in two sections:

**Washington (1600+):** NWSRS, US Chess & FIDE Tri-Rated.

**Jefferson U1600:** NWSRS & US Chess Dual-Rated.

**Schedule:** Saturday 10 AM, 1 PM, 6 PM; Sunday 10 AM, 3:30 PM. Closing Ceremony: Sunday ~ 8pm or asap. Players whose games run long may request a late start for the next round.

**Time Control:** Rd. 1: G/60; +15. Rds. 2-5: 40/100, SD/30, +15. Late default: 60 min.

**Prize Fund:** \$3,500 (based on 100 paid entries)

**Washington:** 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>: \$450-375-300-225-150-125.  
1<sup>st</sup> U2000/U1800: \$100

**Jefferson:** 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>: \$325-250-175-125.  
1<sup>st</sup> U1400/U1200/U1000: \$100; 1<sup>st</sup> Unrated: \$70

**Special Prizes** (per section): **Biggest Upset Win:** \$10/round, **Best Female Player** (by TPR): \$25, **Best Dressed:** \$20/day, **Best Senior Players** (50+ & 65+, by TPR): \$25, **Biggest USCF Rating Gain:** \$25, **Best Annotated game:** \$25. Minimum of 3 qualifying players per section for best female/senior player to be awarded.

**Entry Fee:** \$70 by 1/18, \$80 after. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs & WIMs. Players rated 1400+ (in both NWSRS + USCF) and wishing to play up into the Washington section may register for an extra \$40 play-up fee. 100 players max – please sign up early!

**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. Washington section is also FIDE Rated. Higher of January US Chess Regular or current NWSRS rating used to determine section, pairings, and prizes.

**Registration:** Online at:  
[nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration](http://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. 1/24 @ 5pm.**

*In case of a tie for 1<sup>st</sup> place, a future follow-up playoff match will determine the seed for the Invitational section of the 2026 Washington State Championship.*

**Info/Entries:** Make checks payable to Washington Chess Federation. Mail to: Washington Chess Federation - c/o Orlov Chess Academy, 4174 148<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE, Building I, Ste. M, Redmond, WA 98052

**Contact:** Josh Sinanan, WCF President, 206-769-3757

**Email:** [WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com](mailto:WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com)

# News Flash: Austin Liu becomes National Master!

Josh Sinanan

**C**ongratulations to Austin Liu of Sammamish, Washington, who recently became Washington State's newest National Master!

Austin achieved a US Chess rating of 2202 as a result of scoring 3.5/5 points at the recent Washington Challenger's Cup, held in Bellevue November 10-11, 2024. Along the way, Austin scored clutch wins against Washington's Arav B. Mohan (1690), William Summerfield (1659), and Oregon's Isaac Vega (1811). Congratulations Austin!

See Austin's recent win against IM Vityaly Bachin in Reno that propelled him to a 20-point rating gain and a share of second place in the tournament.

**Austin Liu (2164) –  
IM Vityaly Bachin (2367) [B28]**

2024 Reno Larry Evans Memorial Open  
Reno, NV (R6), May 5, 2024  
*[Austin Liu]*

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 a6**

A slightly offbeat variation, discouraging White from playing an immediate d4 but allowing the Maroczy bind.

**3.c4 Nc6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 e5 6.Nf5 d6  
7.Ne3 Nge7?!**



*Position after 7...Nge7*

A slight inaccuracy—Black faces issues with development after this.

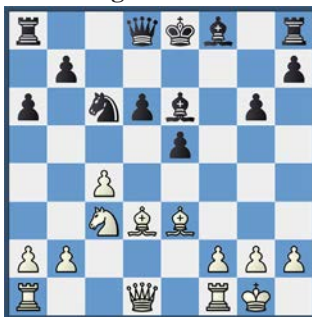
**8.Nc3 f5?**

A serious mistake—Black opens up the center and weakens his light squares while behind in development, a recipe for disaster. Fianchettoing the dark-squared bishop made more sense.

**9.exf5 Nxf5 10.Bd3 Nxe3 11.Bxe3**

White has proceeded logically. Black is lagging in development and already facing threats. 11.Qh5+!? was the main alternative I was considering. 11...g6 12.Bxg6+ hxg6 13.Qxg6+ Kd7 14.Bxe3 and Black defends with 14...Qe8!∞ simply driving away the queen with tempo. I couldn't find anything good—Black's king escapes to b8 and he activates his light-square bishop.

**11...Be6 12.0-0 g6**



*Position after 12...g6*

At this point, it becomes necessary to find a plan. My goal was to prioritize keeping Black's king in the center—and if that wasn't possible, then to force him to accept maximum damage to his position while trying to castle.

**13.Qf3!**

A multi-purpose move—cutting off the Black king from castling, putting

additional pressure on the light squares, and preparing a kingside invasion. Black is under heavy pressure.

**13...Qd7 14.Ne4**

Bringing another piece into the attack.

**14...Bg7 15.Nf6+!**



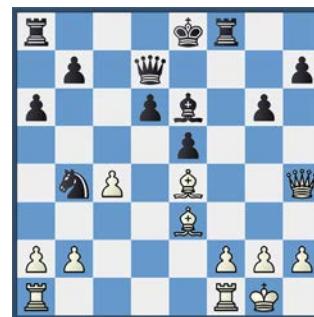
*Position after 15.Nf6+*

Grabbing the bishop pair—in addition, my queen will prevent Black from castling to either side.

**15...Bxf6 16.Qxf6 Rf8 17.Qh4**

Black's king is perpetually stuck in the center, as Qe7 is always met with Bg5. In the meantime, I can prepare c5 or f4, opening up the center against Black's king.

**17...Nb4 18.Be4!**



*Position after 18.Be4*



Not letting Black exchange pieces.

**18...Bf5?!**

Black desperately tries to exchange off pieces, but this allows a small tactic to open up the position. 18...Bxc4?! is even worse: 19.Bxb7! Qxb7 20.Qxc4!± and Black is still in trouble.

**19.c5!**



*Position after 19.c5*

A tactical blow—the knight on b4 will come under attack by my queen in many lines, leaving him with no time to play d5 and close the position. This forces open the position using a pawn lever, a theme that will be seen again this game.

**19...Nc2**

19...d5? allows 20.Bxf5 Qxf5 21.Qxb4+-

**20.Bxc2 Bxc2 21.cxd6 Rf7**



*Position after 21...Rf7*

The dust settles and I'm left with a clear advantage—I'm up a pawn, his king is exposed, and he has no easy way to trade off pieces, leaving me with a long-term attack.

**22.Bc5 Rc8 23.b4 Kf8 24.Qg3**

I attempt to break through by attacking the weakest point in Black's position, the e5-pawn.

**24...Re8 25.f4!**

Taking advantage of a tactical nuance to open up the position for a second time.



**25...Rxf4!**

*Position after 25...Rxf4*

Black finds the best practical try—this is the only move that doesn't immediately lose material or get mated. 25...e4? would be good if it wasn't for 26.Qc3! winning on the spot.

**26.Rxf4+ exf4 27.Qc3 Bf5 28.Qh8+**

The beginning of the final attack.

**28...Kf7 29.Qxh7+ Kf6 30.Qh4+ g5 31.Qh6+ Bg6 32.h4!**

Just as my attack is losing momentum, I open the position with a pawn lever for the third time this game.

**32...Qg4 33.d7!**

# Presidential Blitz Championship



**Sunday, January 26, 2025**

**Blakeley Hall**

**2550 NE Park Dr., Issaquah, WA 98029**

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

**Registration:** Online at  
[nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration](http://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. Online  
registration and payment **deadline @ 5 PM**  
**on Saturday, January 25**, or else register at  
site.

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

**Eligibility:** Open to all junior + adult players.

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

**Schedule:** At-site registration: Sun. 7:15-8:00  
PM. Rounds: 8:15 PM, 8:30, 8:45, 9, 9:15, 9:30,  
9:45. Awards ~ 10 PM.

**Prize Fund:** \$670 (based on 50 paid entries).

1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup>: \$130-\$100-\$70. 1<sup>st</sup> Unrated: \$50.

1<sup>st</sup> U2000/U1800/U1600/U1400/U1200: \$50.

Biggest Upset Win: \$10/round.

**Entry Fee:** \$20 if postmarked or online by  
1/19, \$30 by 1/25, \$40 at-site. Free entry  
for GMs, IMs, WGMs, WIMs.

**Byes:** Three half-point byes available; if  
interested, request before end of round 2.

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

**Rating:** US Chess Blitz Rated. Higher of  
January US Chess or current NWSRS rating  
will be used to determine pairings and  
prizes.

Taking advantage of Black's overloaded queen.

33...Rd8 34.Bd4+ Kf5 35.Qg7!



Position after 35.Qg7

Black's queen and rook are both offside, making the king an easy target. The last few moves of the game were made in time trouble and a scramble to reach move 40 for extra time, but fortunately nothing went wrong.

35...Ke4 36.Qxg6+ Kxd4 37.Qd6+ Kc3 38.Qc7+ Kd3 39.Qd6+ Kc2 40.Qc7+ Kd3 41.Qxd8 f3 42.Qxg5 Qd4+ 43.Kh2

And Black has no way to stop the threat of promotion, so he resigned.

1-0



Austin Liu at the 2023 Washington Class, playing in the Master section.  
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

## Monroe Rapid Knights Challenge



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2025  
MONROE COMMUNITY SENIOR CENTER  
276 SKY RIVER PKWY, MONROE, WA 98272

CO-HOSTED BY WASHINGTON CHESS FEDERATION AND MONROE CHESS CLUB

**Info/Entries:** Rekha Sagar, WCF VP,  
425-496-9160,  
[Rekha4Chess@gmail.com](mailto:Rekha4Chess@gmail.com)

**Registration:** Online at  
[nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration](http://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration).

Pay by  
Debit/Credit/PayPal/SettleKing.  
Registration and payment **deadline**  
**Fri. Jan. 31** @ 5pm or register at-site.

**Eligibility:** Open to all juniors +  
adults.

**Schedule:** At-site registration:  
Sat. 8:00-8:45am. Rds. @ 9am,  
10:30am, Lunch, 12:30pm, 1:45pm,  
3pm. Awards ~ 4:30pm

**WA State Elementary Qualifier!**

**Format:** A 5-round G/25; +5 Swiss  
tournament in three sections. Sections  
with <6 players may be merged.

- **Orlov Championship**
- **Sankrithi U1300**
- **Dorfner U700**

**Prizes:**

**Orlov:** 1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup>: \$200-150-100-75.

**Sankrithi/Dorfner:** Trophies awarded  
to players scoring 3 points or more.

**Special Prizes (per section):**

Biggest Upset Win: \$5/rd., Best  
Dressed: \$10, Best Female Player: \$10,  
Best Senior Player: \$10, Best  
Sportsmanship: \$10,  
Kindness/Spreading Joy: \$10.

**Entry Fee:** \$50 by 1/25, \$60 after. Seniors 65+  
receive a \$25 discount. Monroe Chess Club  
Players receive 50% discount. Free entry for GMs,  
IMs, WGMs, WIMs, or US Chess 2000+. Players  
rated 1200+ & 600+ in both USCF & NWSRS may  
play up 1 section into the Orlov & Sankrithi  
sections, respectively. Max of 90 players total and  
30 players per section, please register early.

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

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

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

# Pioneer Joe's 1K / The Fall Open

## Steven Breckenridge

The Pioneer Joe's 1K event was in Gleneden Beach, Oregon, near Lincoln City. There were 13 players total, combined into one section, from the previously advertised U1200 and Open section with guaranteed prizes of \$1,000 total where they had lost more than half the hopeful attendees to not even break even and ended with at least a \$650 deficit based on the rural location alone, all while advertising extraneously.

Nick Raptis and I took home \$250 each.

**Jack Bogle (700) –  
Steven Breckenridge (2300) [A02]**  
Pioneer Joe's 1K  
Gleneden Beach, OR  
(R1), September 29, 2024  
*[Steven Breckenridge]*

**1.f4 h6!?**

Some strange Bird preparation I've had.

**2.Nf3**

2.e4! e5 Now it's a strange King's Gambit Declined, but it was what I was willing to enter.

**2...g5! 3.fxg5 hxg5 4.Nxg5 e5 5.Nf3??**

5.d4! was necessary 5...Be7 6.h4 f6  
**5...e4 6.Nd4 Bd6 7.e3 Qh4+ 8.g3 Bxg3+  
9.Ke2 Qg4+ 10.Nf3 Qxf3#**

A fun miniature. My dad actually used to call the Bird subbing a "B" for a "T" so I learned never to play it for that reason alone.

**0-1**

**Steven Breckenridge (2300) –  
Sean Tobin (1950) [C57]**  
Pioneer Joe's 1K  
Gleneden Beach, OR  
(R4), September 29, 2024  
*[Steven Breckenridge]*

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 Bc5  
5.Nxf7 Bxf2+ 6.Kf1 Qe7 7.Nxh8 Nd4?**

7...d5 Is the main move 8.exd5 Nd4 9.d6  
**8.Bf7+! Kd8 9.d3 d5 10.Kxf2 Bg4  
11.Qd2 Qc5 12.b4 Qf8 13.c3 Nc6  
14.exd5 Nxd5 15.Qg5+ Nf6 16.b5 Ne7  
17.Rf1 Qxh8 18.Kg1**

Black Resigned

**1-0**

**Nick Raptis (2350) –  
Steven Breckenridge (2300) [E66]**  
Pioneer Joe's 1K  
Gleneden Beach, OR  
(R3), September 29, 2024  
*[Steven Breckenridge]*

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nf3 Bg7 4.g3 0-0  
5.Bg2 d6 6.Nc3 Nc6 7.d5 Na5 8.Nd2 c5**

8...c6! equalized immediately, with the idea of Ng4 and Qb6 if b4.

**9.0-0 e6 10.Qc2 exd5 11.cxd5 Bd7 12.b3  
b5**

Draw agreed here, as he was about to play...



L-R (back): Damian Bradley 2nd/3rd U1200, Sean Tobin 4th, Justin Near (TD), 1st U1200, FM Nick Raptis 1st/2nd, FM Steven Breckenridge 1st/2nd. L-R (front): Dallas Swanson 2nd/3rd U1200, Hung Lee 3rd. Photo courtesy of Justin Near.

### 13.Bb2

And little did we know we were following a game by Leko-Carlsen that also was a draw in 2020 with 13...Rc8 played by Magnus. 14.Nce4 Nb7 15.Nxf6+ Bxf6 16.a4 b4 17.Bxf6 Qxf6 18.Nc4 Qg7 19.a5 a6 20.Nb6 Rc7 21.Nxd7 Rxd7 22.Qc4 Ra8 23.e4 Qd4 24.Qxd4 cxd4 25.Ra4 Rc7 26.Rd1 Rc3 27.Rxd4 Nc5 28.Raxb4 Nxb3 29.Rdc4 Rxc4 30.Rxc4 Nxa5 31.Rc7 Kf8 32.f4 Nb3 33.e5 a5 34.exd6 Rd8 35.Rc6 Nd4 36.Ra6 Nb5 37.Rxa5 Nxd6 38.Ra6 Ke7 39.Ra7+ Rd7 40.Rxd7+ Kxd7 41.Kf2 Nc4 42.Ke2 Kd6 43.Kd3 Kc5 44.Bf3 Leko, Peter - Carlsen, Magnus, 1/2-1/2, Legends of Chess Prelim, 2020.

### 13...Re8 14.Nce4

We had analyzed a little and eventually even made a draw in our longwinded analysis funny enough.

**14...Bf5 15.Bxf6 Bxf6 16.Nxf6+ Qxf6 17.e4 Bd7 18.f4 Qd4+ 19.Kh1 c4 20.Nf3 Qd3±**

1/2-1/2

The Fall Open (on National Chess Day) had 45 participants from the initial 40 projected, to which I believe the prize payout was inaccurate reflective on the five surplus of players and the prize was paid from the original 40 projected.

I had won first winning \$160 (\$40 deducted entry fee) and there were a number of players who withdrew mid-event with one being one of the leaders behind me at 1.5 after day one, NM Jason Cigan. Jason, who wrote that he didn't feel up to playing chess anymore that weekend perhaps because of the form he had during the first two games (drawing his first round 1800 rated opponent).

### Steven Breckenridge (2300) –

#### Steven Witt (1970) [C88]

PCC Fall Open (National Chess Day)

Portland, OR (R2), October 12, 2024

[Steven Breckenridge]

### 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5

A big shock to Steven Witt. Knowing he had prepared something in an Italian for quite some time, I thought I shouldn't go into something deep. I used to play the Ruy Lopez for ten years up to becoming a FM over ten years ago.

### 3...a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 b5 6.Bb3 Be7 7.a4

The system I had much success with aside from the c3, d3 passive Ruy structures I used to play.

### 7...Rb8

7...b4 I highly recommend where after d3 then I go ...a5. The positions are quite balanced.

### 8.axb5 axb5 9.Re1 0-0 10.c3 d5!?

We both had no idea we were following some high level games here. I was under the impression this was just a bad version of a Marshall.

### 11.exd5 Nxd5 12.Nxe5 Nxe5 13.Rxe5 c6 14.d4 Bd6 15.Re1 Qh4 16.g3 Qh3



Position after 16...Qh3

### 17.Bxd5

This could have been dubious as I miscalculated thinking I had Qf3 and Bf4 forgetting the ...Qf5! Resource.

17.Re4 Duda tried this against Carlsen which looked like a great try and they went on to draw 17...g5 18.Qf1 Qxf1+ 19.Kxf1 Bf5 20.Nd2 Bxe4 21.Nxe4 Be7 22.Bxg5 Bxg5 23.Nxg5 Ra8 24.Rd1 Nb6 25.Re1 Nc4 26.Bxc4 bxc4 27.Nf3 Rfb8 28.Ne5 Rxb2 29.Nxc4 Rc2 30.Re3 Ra1+ 31.Kg2 Rac1 32.Re8+ Kg7 33.Ne5 Rxc3 34.Re7 R3c2 35.Rxf7+ Kg8 36.Rc7 h5 37.Nd7 Rd1 38.Nf6+ Kf8 39.Nxh5 Rdd2 40.h4 Rxf2+ 41.Kh3 Rf7 42.Rc8+ Ke7 43.Nf4 Kd6 44.h5 Rd2 45.Kg4 Rg7+ 46.Kf3 Rxd4 47.h6 Rh7 48.Rd8+ Ke5 49.Re8+ Kd6 50.Rd8+ Ke5 51.Re8+ Kd6 52.Re6+ Kd7 53.Rg6 Ke7 54.Rxc6 Rd6 55.Ng6+ Kd7 56.Ne5+ Ke6 57.Rxd6+ Kxd6 58.Kf4 Ke6 59.Ng4 Ra7 60.Kg5 Kf7 61.Ne3 Kg8 62.g4 Kh7 63.Kh5 Ra3 64.Nf5 Ra5 65.Kg5 Duda, J. - Carlsen, M., 1/2-1/2, FIDE World Cup 2021.

### 17...cxd5 18.Qf3 Be6 19.Ra6 Bc7 20.Be3 20.Rc6 Rbc8 21.Rc5 Rfe8 22.Be3

### 20...Rbd8 21.Rc6 Bb8 22.Rb6

22.Rc5 Bg4 23.Qg2 Qh5 24.Nd2 f5 (24...Bh3 25.Qh1 f5)

### 22...Bg4 23.Qg2 Qh5 24.Nd2 Bh3 25.Qh1 f5

25...Bd7 Best.

### 26.f4 g5

26...Qe8 I had thought was ok still.

### 27.Rxb8! Rxb8 28.Qxd5+ Qf7 29.Qxf7+ Kxf7



Position after 29...Kxf7

### 30.Nf3

30.fxg5 was probably the strongest, but I wanted some style here.

### 30...g4 31.Ng5+ Kg6

31...Kg8 was best, but a bit counter intuitive.

### 32.d5 Ra8 33.Bc5 Rfd8

33...Rfe8 34.Rxe8 Rxe8 35.d6 Re1+ 36.Kf2 Rd1 37.Bd4-+

### 34.Re6+ Kg7 35.Re7+ Kg8 36.Bd4 Ra1+ 37.Kf2 Kf8 38.Bc5 Rxd5?!

38...Kg8 39.Bd4 Kf8 40.Bf6 Rd6 41.Ne6+ I had planned.

### 39.Nxh7+

Black Resigned

1-0

Austin Tang (2150) –

Steven Breckenridge (2300) [C78]

PCC Fall Open (National Chess Day)

Portland, OR (R3), October 13, 2024

[Steven Breckenridge]

### 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Bc5

4...Nf6 5.d3 Bc5

### 5.c3 b5 6.Bb3 Bb6 7.0-0 d6 8.a4 Bb7 9.d4 Nf6 10.Re1 Ne7 11.Qd3 0-0 12.Bg5 Ng6 13.Na3 exd4 14.cxd4 Re8 15.Nd2? c5

15...h6 16.e5 hxg5 17.Qxg6 Nd5

### 16.dxc5?

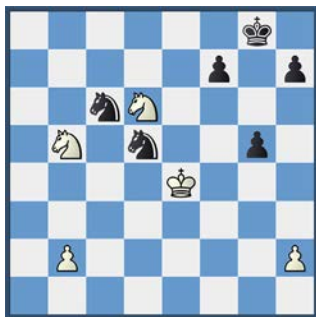
16.axb5 cxd4 17.Nac4 axb5 18.Rxa8 Bxa8 19.Bxf6 gxf6 20.Nxb6 Qxb6

21.Nf3=

16...Bxc5 17.axb5 Bxf2+ 18.Kxf2 Ng4+ 19.Kg1 Qxg5 20.Nf3 Qc5+

20...Qf6 21.bxa6 (21.Qd4?? N6e5 22.Nxe5 dxe5) 21...Bxa6 22.Qc3 N6e5 23.Nxe5 Qf2+ 24.Kh1 Rxe5 25.Qg3

21.Qd4 Qxd4+ 22.Nxd4 Rxe4 23.Rxe4 Bxe4 24.Nc4 axb5 25.Rxa8+ Bxa8 26.Nxd6 N4e5 27.N4xb5 Nf4 28.Kf2 Bxg2 29.Ke3 g5 30.Kd4 Nf3+ 31.Ke3 Ne5 32.Kd4 Nc6+ 33.Ke3 Bd5 34.Bxd5 Nxd5+ 35.Ke4



Position after 35.Ke4

Both under five minutes here with 30 second increment.

35...Nce7 36.Nd4 Nf6+ 37.Kf3 Ned5 38.N4f5

An oversight allowing Nh6.

38...h5 39.Nh6+ Kf8 40.Nhx7 Ke7 41.h3 Ke6 42.Kg3 Nb4 43.b3 Nbd5 44.Kf3 Ke7 45.Kg3 Nb4 46.Nxg5 Kxd6 47.Kh4

A mistake, but I had suspected he would go for this endgame even though it's theoretically lost!

47...Ke5 48.Nh7 Nxh7 49.Kxh5 Kf5 50.Kh4 Nf6 51.Kg3 Kg5 52.Kf3 Kh4 53.Kf4 Nfd5+ 54.Ke4 Kxh3 55.Kf3 Kh4 56.Ke4 Kg4 57.Ke5 Kf3 58.Kf5 Ke3 59.Ke5 Nf4 60.Kf5 Nfd3 61.Ke6 Ke4 62.Kd6 Kf5 63.Kd7 Ke5 64.Ke7 Nc5 65.Kf7 Ne4 66.Ke7 Nd6 67.Kd7 Nf5 68.Kc7 Nd6 69.Kd7 Ne4 70.Ke7 Nf6 71.Kf7 Nfd5 72.Kg6 Kf4 73.Kf7 Kf5 74.Kg7 Nf4 75.Kf8

...Kf6! for mate in 17

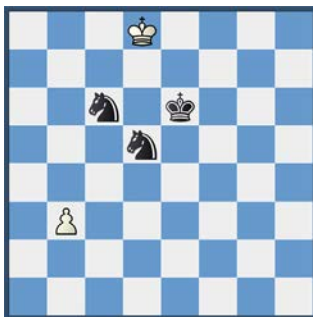
75...Ke6

75...Kf6 76.Ke8 Ke6 77.Kf8 Nh5 78.Ke8 Ng7+ 79.Kd8 Kd6 80.Kc8 Ne6 81.Kb8 Kc5 82.Kb7 Kb5 83.Kb8 Kb6 84.Kc8 Kc6 85.Kb8 Nc5 86.Kc8 Nb7 87.Kb8 Nd6 88.Ka7 Kc7 89.Ka8 Nc6 90.b4 Nc8 91.b5 Nb6#

76.Ke8 Ng6 77.Kd8 Ne5

77...Kd6! 78.Ke8 Ne5 79.Kf8 Ke6 80.Kg7 Ke7 81.Kh6 Kf6 82.Kh5 Kf5 83.Kh4 Nf3+ 84.Kg3 Ng5 85.Kg2 Kf4 86.Kf2 Ne4+ 87.Ke2 Nc3+ 88.Kf2 Nd3+ 89.Kg2 Kg4 90.b4 Nb5 91.Kg1 Kg3 92.Kf1 Kf3 93.Kg1 Nf4 94.Kf1 Ng2 95.Kg1 Ne3 96.Kh2 Kg4 97.Kg1 Kg3 98.Kh1 Nc3 99.b5 Ne2 100.b6 Ng4 101.b7 Nf2#

78.Kc7 Nd7 79.Kd8 Nf6 80.Kc7 Nfd5+ 81.Kd8 Nc6+



Position after 81...Nc6+

With just under a minute and my opponent moving instantly every move, I couldn't figure out progress here and finally tried Nc6 hoping he goes ...Ke8.

82.Kc8 Kd6 83.b4

Now it's a theoretical draw.

83...Na7+ 84.Kd8 Nb5 85.Ke8 Ke6 86.Kf8 Kf6 87.Ke8 Nb6 88.Kd8 Ke6 89.Ke8 Nd7 90.Kd8 Nf6 91.Kc8 Kd6 92.Kd8 Nd7 93.Kc8 Nf6 94.Kb7 Nd5 95.Kc8 Ke7 96.Kb8 Kd8 97.Kb7 Kd7 98.Ka6 Kc6 99.Ka5 Nb6 100.Ka6 Na4 101.Ka5 Nb2 102.Ka6 Na4 103.Ka5 Nb6 104.Ka6 Nd6 105.b5+ Kc7 106.Ka7 Nb7 107.Ka6 Nd7 108.b6+ Kc6 109.Ka7 Ndc5 110.Kb8 Nd6 111.b7 Nd7+ 112.Ka7 Nxb7 113.Ka6 Nb8+ 114.Ka7 Kc7 115.Ka8 Na6 116.Ka7 Nac5 117.Ka8 Nd6 118.Ka7 Nc8+ 119.Ka8 Kb6 120.Kb8 Na7 121.Ka8 Ne6 122.Kb8 Nc6+ 123.Kc8 Nf8

1/2-1/2

Steven Breckenridge (2300) – Hayul Lim (1900) [B22]

PCC Fall Open (National Chess Day) Portland, OR (R4), October 13, 2024

[Steven Breckenridge]

1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3

Usually I played d4 then Nf3, but I heard he had the whole equal line prepped with Qb8–e6–Qc8.

4.d4 cxd4 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.Bc4 Nb6 7.Bb3 d5 8.exd6 Qxd6 9.0-0 Be6 10.Na3 dxc3

11.Qe2 Bxb3 12.Nb5 Qb8 13.axb3 e6 14.g3 Qc8 15.Ng5 Be7 16.Qh5 g6 17.Qh6 Bf8 18.Qh4 Be7 19.Qh6 Bf8= Theoretical draw.

4...Nc6 5.Bc4 Nb6 6.Bb3 d5 7.exd6 Qxd6 8.0-0 Be6 9.a4

Trying to confuse him.

9...a6

9...Bxb3 10.Qxb3 Qd5 11.Qb5 e5=

10.Ng5

10.a5 was better 10...Nd7 (10...Nc4 11.d3 N4xa5 12.Bxe6 Qxe6 13.b4) 11.d4 cxd4 12.cxd4

10...Bd5

I hastily played Ng5 and he correctly played ...Bd5 and now my a5 idea I calculated didn't work with Nc4 and d3 anymore.

11.d3

11.a5 Nc4 12.d3 N4xa5 13.Bxd5 Qxd5 14.b4 cxb4 15.cxb4 h6! (15...Nxb4? 16.Nc3 Qb3 17.Qf3!) 16.Nxf7 Qxf7 17.bxa5

11...e5 12.Nd2

12.a5±

12...Be7 13.Nde4 Qd7 14.Be3 h6 15.Nf3 Bxe4 16.dxe4 Qc7 17.Nd2 0-0 18.Qh5 Na5 19.Bxh6



Position after 19.Bxh6

19...Nxb3?

19...Qc6! A hard move to play in time pressure; 19...gxh6 20.Qg6+ Kh8 21.Qxh6+ Kg8 22.Qg6+ Kh8 23.Qh5+ Kg7 24.Rael Nxb3 25.Re3!

20.Qg4 Bf6 21.Nxb3 Kh7 22.Be3 Nd7 23.Nc1 g6 24.Ne2 Rh8 25.Ng3 Rag8 26.Rad1 Nf8 27.f4 Rg7 28.Rd5 b6 29.a5 Kg8 30.axb6 Qxb6 31.Bxc5 Qb8 32.f5 Rh4 33.Qe2 Bg5 34.Qxa6 Rgh7 35.h3 Kg7 36.fxg6 Nxg6 37.Nf5+ Kg8 38.Bd6 Qd8 39.Rb5

1-0

# TOURNAMENTS



## Venue

**7212 Woodlawn Ave NE**

**Seattle, WA 98115**

Info & events calendar

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

Entries & inquiries

SCC Tournament Director

same address as above

– or –

[contact@seattlechess.club](mailto:contact@seattlechess.club)

## **Entry fees**

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

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

## **December 14**

**Format:** 3-round round-robin. 4-player sections by close rating.  
**Time Control:** Game/100 + 15 sec. increment. **Entry fee:** \$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.

## **December Quads**

## **December 29**

**Format:** 4-round Swiss. **Time Control:** Game/50 + 10 sec. increment. **Entry fee:** \$25 (+\$10 day membership for non-SCC). **Prize fund:** sum of \$14/entry. **Prizes:** 1<sup>st</sup> (35% of prize fund), 2<sup>nd</sup> (27%), bottom half (by rating) 1<sup>st</sup> (22%), 2<sup>nd</sup> (16%). **Registration:** 10:45-11:15am. **Rounds:** 11:30am, 1:50, 4:10, 6:30pm. **Byes:** 1 half-point, commit at registration. US Chess membership req'd.

## **December Tornado**

## **December 6, 13, 20, 27**

See below.

## **Chess City Swiss**

## **January 11-12**

*Save the dates!* A 5-round Swiss with projected prize fund of \$750+. Check our events calendar for details and possible alternate venue (when posted).

## **Seattle City Championship**



## ~ SCC Friday Nights ~

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

*Chess City Swiss*

*Dec. 6, 13, 20, 27*

*January Thaw*

*Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24*

*Fifth Friday G15 (multiple rounds)*

*Jan. 31*

*Cabin Fever*

*Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28*

# **PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLASTIC**

## CHESS TOURNAMENT



President's Day Monday, February 17, 2025  
Chinook Middle School  
2001 98<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Bellevue, WA 98004

### FORMAT

A 5-round G/25; +5 Swiss in 7 sections:

**Kindergarten**  
**1-2 U700**  
**3-4 U800**  
**5-12 U1000**  
**1-3 Open**  
**4-6 Open**  
**7-12 Open**

Dual NWSRS and US Chess rated, with US Chess membership required. Establish or update your national rating! Chess clocks will be used from the beginning in all games. Chess notation required in all sections except for Kindergarten, 1-2 U700 and 3-4 U800. All equipment is provided courtesy of WCF.

### SCHEDULE

Rounds: 9:15am, 10:45am, Lunch Time, 12:30pm, 1:45pm, 3:00pm. Awards presentation ~ 4:30pm or asap.

### ELIGIBILITY

Open to all students in grades K-12. Out-of-state players welcome!

### ENTRY FEE

\$50 by Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>, \$60 after. Room for 250 players.

### AWARDS

**Section Prizes:** Amazon e-gift cards awarded in each section:  
1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>: \$70-65-60-55-50.

**Team Prizes:** Plaques awarded to: The top 5 finishing teams (top 4 scores from same school comprise team score) across all sections. The team that brings the most players across all sections wins an exclusive lesson with NM & WCF President Josh Sinanan.

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

### RATING

Higher of US Chess February regular or current NWSRS rating used to determine section and pairings.

### THE DETAILS

#### Online Registration:

[NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/](http://NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/)  
Pay by  
Credit/Debit/PayPal/SettleKing.

For credit, debit, and PayPal payments, a processing fee of 4% will be added on, so consider saving by using Zelle or SettleKing instead.

**100% pre-registered, no on-site entries or payments. Entry + payment deadline Sun. Feb. 16th @ 5:00pm.** Unpaid players by the deadline will be withdrawn from the tournament.

#### WA State Elementary Qualifier!

This event is a qualifier for the WA State Elementary Championship on April 26, 2025, in Tacoma. Players scoring 3.0+ points will qualify for the Championship sections of State.

Pizza lunch and other concessions will be available for purchase on site.

**Questions?** Rekha Sagar, WCF Vice President: [rekha4chess@gmail.com](mailto:rekha4chess@gmail.com)

