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February 2025



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Advertising & Copy Deadline

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

February 5 for the March issue;
March 5 for April.

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

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4174 148th Ave NE, Building I, Suite M
Redmond, WA 98052-5164

businessmanager@nwchess.com

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Judged Best Magazine/Newsletter for 2009 and 2014-2024 by Chess Journalists of America!

Front Cover

Jinmo Nam of Issaquah, the first-place winner in the Karpov (Class C) section of the 2024 Washington Class Championships.
Photo credit: Josh Sinanan.

Back Cover

Christian Jordan of Edgewood won the Fischer (Class D) section of the 2024 Washington Class Championships.
Photo credit: Josh Sinanan.

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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1514 S. Longmont Ave.
Boise, Idaho 83706-3732
or via e-mail to:
jeffreyroland9@gmail.com

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Monroe Rapid Knights Challenge



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST, 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

Registration: Online at
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: 1st – 4th: \$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.

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLASTIC

CHESS TOURNAMENT



President's Day Monday, February 17, 2025
Chinook Middle School
2001 98th 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. 10th, \$60 after. Room for 250 players.

AWARDS

Section Prizes: Amazon e-gift cards awarded in each section:
1st – 5th: \$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/
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

Veterans Day Scholastic

Josh Sinanan

The inaugural Veterans Day Scholastic was held on Veterans Day Monday, November 11, 2024, at Chinook Middle School in Bellevue. The event was held alongside the Washington Challenger's Cup, a two-day event open to kids and adults that was taking place in the adjacent gymnasium.

In contrast to the Challenger's Cup Scholastic held the day before in the same space, the Veterans Day Scholastic was conducted as a traditional five-round, G/25; +5 Swiss in five sections. A total of 151 scholastic chess players in grades K-11 participated from throughout the region, from locales including Redmond, Woodinville, Sammamish, Snoqualmie, Bellevue, Newcastle, Seattle, Kirkland, Mill Creek, Monroe, Clyde Hill, Bothell, Olympia, Everett, Renton, University Place, Gig Harbor, North Bend, Richmond (B.C.), Des Moines, and Milton.

The tournament was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation and directed by the fantastic team of Alex Byelashov, Ani Barua, and Rekha Sagar. A variety of delicious and healthy snacks were provided throughout the day by the Chouchan Airapetian and her family. WCF photographer and videographer, Meiling Cheng, was on-site for several hours snapping many photos in search of those special chess moments.

The five-round rapid Swiss format featuring a time control of game in twenty-five minutes with a five-second increment appealed to both novice players and seasoned chess veterans alike. To ensure good competitive balance for players of all ages and levels, the tournament was parsed into five sections based on grade and rating: K-2 U700, K-2 Open, 3-6 U800, 3-6 Open, and 7-12 Open.

Congratulations to the intrepid chess soldiers who participated, and many thanks to the parents and coaches who came out to support them! For many parents, Veterans Day is still a working day, which requires many to take a day off from work. As chess organizers, we truly appreciate the sacrifices that you all



Chief tournament director Rekha Sagar looks on as two young competitors play out their endgame at the Veterans Day Scholastic. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

make, both on and off the chess board, to make these events successful!

Special recognition is due to our Amazon gift card winners:

Veterans Day Scholastic Prizes					
Section 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-2 U700	Pin-Ruei Su	Atlas Bigelow	Bryan Li	Evan Lin Advaith Sairam David Zhang Louis Liu Jingyi Pan	
K-2 Open	Nickrad Ahsant	Elina Khudiyev/Ryan Lai		Jeremy Ge	Siana Razmov
3-6 U800	Tavishna Nandeesh Martina Szeto		Vihaan Gaddam Satvik Verma Sihass Jayasinghe Neil Phadnis Leo Luo		
3-6 Open	Peng-Ruei Pan	Avyaan Roy Chowdhury Gabriel Pleasants Vedant Singh Jordan Szeto			
7-12 Open	Daniel Polonsky	Jeffrey Chien Alex Xu Vihaan Chaurasia Rishik De			



The stimulating parent waiting area in the commons of Chinook Middle School during the Veterans Day Scholastic.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

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

Place	Team (School)	Team Score (pts)
1st	Samantha Smith ES	16
2nd	Somerset ES	12.5
3rd	Thurgood Marshall ES	11
4th	Discovery ES	10.5
5th	Open Window	9.5

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-2 U700	Kristina Velichko	Rhea Sagar	Jingyi Pan
K-2 Open	Emma Ge	Felicity Mei	Patrick Zhang
3-6 U800	Clara Dragusanu	Martina Szeto	Parth Anant Sundaram
3-6 Open	Alisa Rachiba	Jinhan Zou	Niko Elmieh
7-12 Open	Tapasya Nandeesh	Stephane Dragusanu	Talen Tan



Hygiene first! This young man kept his tissues close by his board during the cold season in the Pacific Northwest.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

Challenger's Cup Scholastic

Josh Sinanan

The 2024 Challenger's Cup Scholastic took place on Sunday, November 10, 2024, at Chinook Middle School in Bellevue. Chinook Middle sits atop Clyde Hill and is easily accessible from the 520 freeway, making it easily accessible for players from both sides of Lake Washington.

A total of 122 scholastic chess players in grades K-11 participated

from throughout the Pacific Northwest, including the cities of Bellevue, Clyde Hill, Snohomish, Bothell, Seattle, Issaquah, Bainbridge Island, Shoreline, Redmond, Sammamish, Monroe, Medina, Mercer Island, Renton, Kirkland, Kenmore, Woodinville, Lake Stevens, and Richmond (B.C.).

The event was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation and co-

directed by WCF Member-at-Large Ani Barua and WCF Co-Vice President Rekha Sagar. WCF Women's and Girl's Chess Director Chouchan Airapetian and her daughter Angela Agaian ran the concessions, which included a delicious order of Sahara Pizza from Mercer Island! Amazing photos were taken throughout the day by chess mom and photographer extraordinaire Meiling Cheng.



*Players and parents line up for pizza during the lunch hour at the Challenger's Cup Scholastic as food handlers make final preparations.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*

The event offered a dual format consisting of two classical and three rapid sections. The rapid sections - Kindergarten, 1-3 U800, and 4-6 U1000, were each run as a six-round, G/25; +5 Swiss. For the older, more experienced players, the two classical sections—K-5 Open and 6-12 Open—featured three rounds of G/50; +10 to provide a steppingstone for ambitious players who are interested in transitioning to playing deeper, longer games. As an extra incentive to participate in the classical sections, the top-finishing player (by tournament performance rating) in each of the K-5 Open and 6-12 Open sections earned free entry into the 2024 Washington Class Championships!

Congratulations to the courageous chess warriors who participated, sixteen for whom it was their first NWSRS-rated chess tournament! Our vibrant scholastic chess community continues to grow and thrive with each tournament, with many juniors seeking early qualification for the Washington State Elementary Chess Championships in April.

Special congratulations to the Amazon gift card prize winners:



Brook Ayalew (L) analyzes his game with special guest, IM Joseph Levine, who lives near Chinook in Clyde Hill.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

Challengers Cup 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
Kindergarten	Deethya R Sankar	Kheiron Chin	Leonardo Song		Samuel Tie Aishini Reddy
1-3 U800	Dhruv Bangard	Kyle Liu	Louis Liu Vikaat Siva		Jaxon Krogstad Ryan Zhang Aarav Parpuri Ved Dixit Aryan Pande Charles Brown
4-6 U1000	Martina Szeto	Jordan Szeto	Emma Li		Kavir Agarwal Ryan Lal Ameya George Jace Liu
K-5 Open	Felix Y Chen*				Jizhou He Shanna Wu Yang Xu Jonathan Lan
6-12 Open	Rian Raja*	Brook Ayalew Thrinay Subramanian			William Chen Nathan Jiang Daniel Meyerzon Abhiram Nerella Vyom Joshi Harry Wu Ron Li Palash Bhasin

*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!

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

Section	Best Female Player	Best Dressed	Biggest Upset Win
Kindergarten	Rhea Sagar	Sreesha Reddy Avuthu	N/A
1-3 U800	Laya Sankar	Jaxon Krogstad	Jingyi Pan
4-6 U1000	Joyce Gui	Martina Szeto	Robert Gridasov
K-5 Open	Natalie Xu	Neil Upasani	Emma Ge
6-12 Open	Aarya Patel	Martin Soukal	Dinesh Poka



Saint Anne Celtic Challenge Fall 2024

Josh Sinanan

The Fall 2024 edition of the Saint Anne Celtic Challenge took place on Sunday, November 24, at Saint Anne School in the Queen Anne suburb of Seattle. A robust showing of 144 scholastic chess players in grades K-10 participated in the event, with a high concentration hailing from the local Seattle neighborhoods and surrounding areas.

The field was split across five sections parsed by grade and rating: K-1 U700, 2-3 U700, K-3 Open, 4-8 U900, and 4-12 Open. The Saint Anne Celtic Challenge remains a popular tournament staple for many on the local chess “circuit” due to its efficient and fast-paced structure. Instead of beginning early in the morning, the Celtic Challenge always starts in the afternoon on Sundays, which makes it

much more attractive for out-of-region players since they have the morning to travel and don’t have to wake up in the wee hours of the morning!

The geographic diversity of the attendees was indeed noticeable, with players from the following cities represented in the five-round Swiss event: Seattle, Bothell, Redmond, Shoreline, Everett, Gig Harbor, Sammamish, Bellevue, Richmond (B.C.), Issaquah, Bonney Lake, Stanwood, Renton, Mill Creek, Lynnwood, Vancouver (B.C.), Snoqualmie, Kirkland, University Place, Lake Forest Park, Lake Stevens, North Bend, Des Moines, Surrey, Milton, and Mercer Island.

Eight players from British Columbia who are members of the Richmond Chess Champions team came down especially

for the tournament. However, the team with the most players attending was easily Aki Kurose Middle School from south Seattle, which brought a whopping 14 players and dominated the 4-8 U900 section.

A relaxed atmosphere and good sportsmanship on the part of the players, which are routinely emphasized and encouraged during Saint Anne tournaments, were both on full display throughout the afternoon! The games played by the youngsters taking part were exciting and full of life, with many contests being decided deep into the endgame. Despite the occasional stalemate, the games were high quality for the most part, even in time pressure.

During the first round of the tournament shortly after the games



St. Anne Chess Coach and WCF President Josh Sinanan scores a game at the St. Anne Celtic Challenge.

Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.



The spacious playing room in Banchemo Hall of St. Anne School in Seattle.

Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

had begun, a player approached the tournament directors and informed us that someone was sitting in his chair. After some detective work, it was discovered that a rogue player (who had not pre-registered) had decided to sit down in an empty chair and started playing a game at the instruction of her father!

Things worked out in the end though, with the girl in question being re-paired against someone else whose opponent hadn't shown up and joining the tournament thereafter!

The event was hosted by Saint Anne School, organized by Saint Anne Chess Club Coordinators Carlee Thorrington & Arlene Kelly, paired by WCF Member-at-Large Ani Barua, and directed by WCF President and Saint Anne Chess Coach Josh Sinanan. Assistant judges Alex Byelashov and Sebastian Clemente stayed the entire afternoon and helped take the scores of the players as they finished their games.

The tournament was held once again in honor of Coach Chris Hurley (1965-2020), who founded the Saint Anne Chess Club and supported the Saint Anne and Seattle Prep chess programs from 2013-2020.

Many thanks to the amazing chess families and volunteers who contributed to this fantastic event!

Congratulations to the trophy winners.



*William Wright (L) vs. David Thomas during their first round game of the St. Anne Celtic Challenge.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*



Saint Anne Celtic Challenge Prizes

Trophies awarded to the top 10 scoring players in each section.

Trophies awarded to the top 5 finishing teams.

Team Score consists of the top 4 scores from same school across all sections.

Medals for first-time tournament players who do not earn a trophy.

Individual Trophies

Place	K-1 U700	2-3 U700	K-3 Open	4-8 U900	4-12 Open
1st	Aryan Pande	Jasper Ning Chien	Kyle Liu	Bryant Bui	Vidur Ganesan
2nd	Suryen Charuvil Vinu	Gordon Dai	Eason Chen	Shivanga Sameneni	Rian Raja
3rd	Conrad Skelton	Zixuan Yang	Ryan Lai	David Hoffman	Ziliang Ma
4th	Kevin Eustis	Peixin Dong	Jiyong Ruan	Cameron Yorks	Oliver Tam
5th	Aiden Venkatesh	Jonathan Yang	Sofia Byelashova	Daniel Dong	Jinhan Zou
6th	George Xu	Liam Zhen	Varun Bolisetty	Aryash Singhal	Ren Wadhvani
7th	Kheiron Chin	David Cijo Thomas	Joyce Gui	Vidur Jariwala	Brendan Keane
8th	Anthony Ferzli	Jingyi Pan	Lemuel Daniel	Jingyuan Pan	Gabriel Veiga
9th	Samuel Tie	Ziheng Yang	Jaxon Krogstad	Nicolas Marriott	Elliot Lin
10th	Samyukta Siddhartha	Joseph Santiago	N/A	Jethro Xia	Blane Hildenbrand

Team Trophies

Place	School	Players	Score
1st	Detective Cookie Chess Club	Ziliang Ma (1303) 4.0, Oliver Tam (1280) 4.0, Ren Wadhvani (4.0), Liam Zhen (660) 3.0	15
2nd	Richmond Chess Champions	Zixuan Yang (unr.) 4.0, Daniel Dong (unr.) 4.0, Ziheng Yang (unr.) 3.0, Jordan Szeto (1215) 3.0, George Xu (unr.) 2.5	14
3rd	Samantha Smith Elementary School	Jinhan Zou (1219) 4.0, Seojoon Oh (943) 3.0, Krish Chenchu Arun (850) 3.0, Jingyi Pan (538) 3.0	13
4th	Somerset Elementary School	Eason Chen (844) 4.0, Ella Lo (871) 3.0, Evan Lin (723) 3.0, Zhibo Zhang (1119) 2.0	12
5th	Evergreen Middle School	Jinyuan Pan (644) 4.0, Shravan Gokul (827) 3.5, Shivam Gupta (835) 3.0	10.5

Washington Spring Fling

RAPID SCHOLASTIC CUP

Saturday, March 1, 2025

Hotel 116 Bellevue

625 116th Ave NE, Bellevue, WA 98004

Format

A 7-round G/25; +5 Swiss scholastic chess tournament in 3 sections:

Murzin Championship

Grischuk U1400

Dubov U800

Entry Fee

\$60 by 2/22, \$70 after.

Rounds

Rd 1.: 10am

Rd 2: 11:15am

Rd 3: 12:30pm

Lunch

Rd 4: 2:00pm

Rd 5: 3:15pm

Rd 6: 4:30pm

Rd 7: 5:45pm

Awards ~ 7pm or asap.

Late start available for games that go long.

Byes

Up to 2 half-point byes available if requested before end of Rd 2.

Eligibility

Open to all chess players in grades K-12 as of the 2024-2025 school year. Out-of-state players welcome! Maximum of 30 players in each section and 75 players total. Please register early!

Prizes

Murzin Championship (Based on 25 paid entries)

1st \$200 + seed into Rising Stars section of 2026 WA State Championship.

2nd-5th: \$185, 170, 150, 110.

Grishuk U1400 (Based on 25 paid entries)

1st \$175 + seed into Prodigies section of 2026 WA State Championship.

2nd-5th: \$160, 145, 125, 85.

Dubov U800 (Based on 25 paid entries)

1st-5th: \$150, 135, 120, 100, 60.

Special Prizes: (per section) Biggest Upset Win: \$10/rd., Best Dressed: \$10, Best Female Player (by TPR): \$25.

Rating/Membership

Dual NWSRS + US Chess rated, with US Chess & WCF membership required in all sections.

Average of the February 28th NWSRS and US Chess regular rating will be used to determine section and pairings.



THE DETAILS

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

Online Registration:

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: Friday, Feb 28th @ 5:00pm.** No registrations accepted or refunds offered after the deadline.

Questions? Josh Sinanan,
WCF President,
206.769.3757,
WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com





Eastside Open



March 1-2, 2025

Hotel 116 Bellevue

625 116th Ave NE

Bellevue, WA 98004

Format: A 5-round Swiss in three sections: **Bellevue Open**, **Kirkland U1700**, and **Redmond U1200**.

Entry fee: \$100 by 2/22, \$120 after. \$50 play-up fee if rated 1500-1699 or 1000-1199 in both NWSRS and USCF and playing up in Bellevue Open or Kirkland U1700, respectively. Free entry for players rated 2100+ USCF. Maximum of 100 players, please register early to reserve your spot!

Schedule: Arrival: 8-8:45am. Rounds: Sat @ 9am, 2pm, 7pm. Sun @ 10am, 3pm.
Closing Ceremony + Blitz Tournament: ~ 7pm or asap.

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

Rating: Dual NWSRS + US Chess Rated. Bellevue Open is also FIDE rated. Higher of current NWSRS or live US Chess rating as of Feb. 27th will be used to determine section, pairings, and prizes.

Memberships: US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships required; must be paid at the time of registration.

Prize Fund: \$5,000 based on 100 paid entries.

Bellevue Open: 1st-4th: \$450-\$350-\$250-\$200, 1st-2nd U2100: \$150-\$125, 1st-2nd U1900: \$150-\$125.

Kirkland U1700: 1st-4th: \$400-\$300-\$200-\$150, 1st-2nd U1500: \$125-\$100, 1st-2nd U1300: \$125-\$100.

Redmond U1200: 1st-4th: \$300-\$225-\$175-\$125, 1st-2nd U1000: \$100-\$75, 1st-2nd U800: \$100-\$75.

Special Prizes (per section):

Biggest Upset Win: \$20/rd., Best Female Player (by TPR): \$50, Best Dressed: \$20/day.

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

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 fee of 4% will be added on, so consider saving by using Zelle or SettleKing instead. **Registration + payment deadline: Fri, Feb. 28 @ 5pm.** Unpaid players will be removed from the roster after the deadline, and players from the Waitlist will be offered a spot.

Eastside Open Blitz Tournament: Sunday 7-9pm (after rd. 5 of main tournament). **Entry Fee:** \$25.

Format: A 7-Round Single Swiss in one section, 2 half-point byes available. US Chess Blitz rated. **TC:** G/4; +3.

On-site registration: 6:00-6:45pm. Rds. Sun @ 7pm, 7:15, 7:30, 7:45, 8, 8:15, 8:30. Closing Ceremony ~ 8:45pm or asap. Current US Chess membership required. Higher of March 2025 US Chess Blitz or Regular rating used to determine pairings and prizes. **Prize Fund: \$500** (based on 40 pd. entries)

1st - 3rd: \$120-80-50, 1st U1900/U1700/U1500/U1300/U1100/Unrated: \$30. Biggest upset win: \$10/rd.

Questions – Josh Sinanan, WCF President, 206-769-3757, washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com

2024 Oregon Junior Closed

Wilson Gibbins



Austin Tang (L) and Zoey Tang share first place in the 2024 Oregon Junior Closed Championship Section. Photo credit: Wilson Gibbins.

The Oregon Junior Closed had a familiar look to it—11 of the 12 players have participated in one or more previous incarnations of this event, with Nahan Efe Monkul the only player to join us for the first time. But looks can be deceiving—there was a huge increase in the strength of the tournament. The average rating in the Championship Section jumped from 1933 in 2023 to 2151 in 2024, over 200 points. The average rating in the Challengers Section also increased nearly 200 points year over year, from 1647 to 1840.

The Championship Section ended in a tie for first between Zoey and Austin Tang. Just like last year, Zoey had the white pieces against her brother Austin in the last round with the championship on the line. But there were two big differences this year:

1. They were tied for first when they played their fifth-round game—in 2023 Zoey held a one-point lead going into the final game.
2. Austin fought his way to a draw to share the championship this year. Both last year and this year's games were hard fought, but last year Zoey got the upper hand at the end. Neither player did their sibling any favors of an easy last round to split the title—they tested each other over 46 moves before shaking hands. Nor did either have an easy path to the championship—see the games below.

Saahil Gupta won clear first in the Challengers Section by grinding out a 45-move win over Kai Lewis in the last game of the tournament to finish. Saahil and Neil Natarajan entered the last round with 3-1 scores, including a first-round draw between the two. Neil drew 2022 Challengers Champion Ademidun Adebolu in the last round to finish second.

Thanks to Zoey Tang for organizing this tournament. Thanks to the Portland Chess Club for providing the wonderful facility for this event. And finally, thanks to the parents who helped make this event possible.

Saahil Gupta (1862) – Kai Lewis (1821) [E68]

Oregon Junior Closed (Challengers)
Portland, OR (R5), December 8, 2024
[Wilson Gibbins]

This game was played in the last round. Saahil and Neil Natarajan are tied for the lead with three points out of four. Both have White in their final game. Kai is a tournament veteran, having played in the last three Oregon Junior Closed tournaments.

1.c4 Nf6 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.Nf3 0-0 5.d4 d6 6.Nc3 Nbd7 7.0-0 e5 8.e4 exd4

Black gives up pawn central control to activate his pieces. It is a risky strategy, but risky strategies are obligatory for King's Indian players.

9.Nxd4 a6



Position after 9...a6

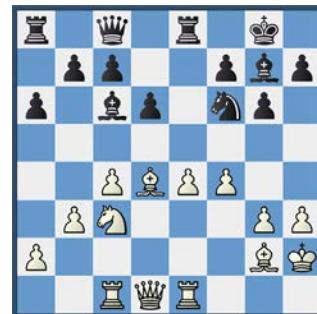
I believe that this qualifies as Gallagher Variation of the Fianchetto King's Indian, popularized by British/Swiss Grandmaster Joe Gallagher starting around 1989. GM Gallegher sometimes started with 9...a6 like Kai, but often inserted 9...Re8 before

playing 10...a6 9...Re8 10.h3 a6 Either way, it is likely to lead to a game where calculation accuracy is at a premium.

10.h3 Ne5

A more popular approach is 10...Rb8 which gets the rook off the h1–a8 diagonal and out of the line of fire of White's bishop on g2. Black is planning to play c7–c5, Nd7–e5, and b7–b5 in some order, giving him a weak backward pawn on d6 and a boatload of tactical shots.

11.b3 Bd7 12.Be3 Nc6 13.Rc1 Qc8 14. Kh2 Re8 15.f4 Nxd4 16.Bxd4 Bc6 17. Re1



Position after 17.Re1

17...b5?!

Risky, but Black shouldn't wait around. He needs to generate play quickly or White's extra space will allow him to continue to improve his position.

18.Nd5!±

White obtains a position with extra space and a backward pawn on c7 to target. If I were Black, I would be hoping that White's bishop on g2 would become a bad bishop, but the game does not provide evidence to support my hope.

18...Bxd5 19.cxd5 Nd7 20.Bxg7 Kxg7 21.Qd4+ f6 22.Re3 Qd8 23.Rec3

Applying pressure to the backward pawn on c7.

23...Rc8 24.h4

2024 Oregon Junior Closed (Championship)

Place	Name	Rating	State	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total
1	Zoey Tang	2356	OR	W6	W3	D5	D4	D2	3.5
2	Austin Tang	2164	OR	D5	W6	W4	D3	D1	3.5
3	Ishaan Kodarapu	2156	OR	D4	L1	W6	D2	W5	3
4	Havish Sripada	2267	OR	D3	D5	L2	D1	W6	2.5
5	Hayul Lim	1898	OR	D2	D4	D1	L6	L3	1.5
6	William Nobles	1875	OR	L1	L2	L3	W5	L4	1

This is a nice idea. After White ties Black down on the queenside, he starts to generate play on the kingside, knowing that his advantage in space will allow him to shift attackers from one side to the other faster than Black can shift defenders.

24...Nc5

Blocks White's rook pressure on the c-pawn and applies pressure to White's e-pawn. But, unfortunately for Black...

25.e5!

White's e-pawn isn't a static weakness—it is mobile.

25...b4

Black can't win a pawn with 25...fxe5 26.fxe5 Rxe5 as 27.Rxc5 wins a knight.

26.Re3

Not 26.Qxb4 distracting White's queen from the e5 square 26...fxe5 27.fxe5 Rxe5

is an improved position for Black, though White is still better.

26...Rb8 27.Bh3 a5 28.Rce1 Rf8 29.R3e2 Qe7 30.Bg4 Rf7 31.e6 Rff8 32.f5 Rbe8 33.Kg2

White's gigantic advantage in space means that he is in no hurry—he can leisurely make tidying moves, as Black has no way of diminishing White's positional advantages.

33...Kh8 34.fxg6 hxg6 35.h5

Black's knight on c5 is well placed to prevent White from making progress on the queenside, but it will be hard pressed to get back to the kingside where the immediate action is occurring.

35...g5 36.Bf5 Kg7 37.h6+! Kh8

37...Kxh6 38.Rh1+ Kg7 39.Rh7+ Kg8 40.Rxe7

38.Bg6

Material is even, but Stockfish has White's advantage as over six pawns.

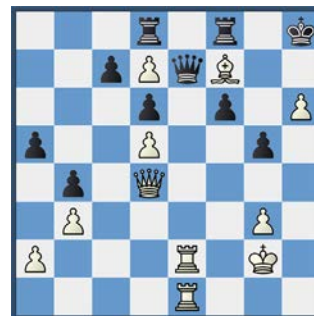
38...Rd8 39.Bf7 Nd7

A good practical try. If White takes the knight, it removes the pawn defense of White's f7 bishop. If White doesn't take the knight, it will hop out to e5, a better square for defending the king than c5 was.

40.exd7!



Saahil Gupta. Photo credit: Wilson Gibbins.



Position after 40.exd7

The weakness of White's scattered

2024 Oregon Junior Closed (Challenger)

Place	Name	Rating	State	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total
1	Saahil Gupta	1862	OR	D2	W4	W3	D6	W5	4
2	Neil Natarajan	1887	OR	D1	W5	W4	D3	D6	3.5
3	Emel Bayrambeyli	1858	OR	D5	W6	L1	D2	W4	3
4	Tunahan Efe Monkul	1838	OR	D6	L1	L2	W5	L3	1.5
5	Kai Sebastian Lewis	1821	OR	D3	L2	W6	L4	L1	1.5
6	Ademidun Adebolu	1778	OR	D4	L3	L5	D1	D2	1.5

isolated pawns is irrelevant, but their nearness to promotion squares combined with his dominant rooks is decisive.

40...Qxf7 41.Re7 Qg6 42.Qe4! Qxe4+ 43.R1xe4 Rg8 44.h7 Rgf8 45.Re8

If 45...Kxh7, then 46.Rxf8 Rxf8 47.Re8 and White's d-pawn will promote.

1-0

Ishaan Kodarapu (2156) – Zoey Tang (2356) [A29]

Oregon Junior Closed (Championship)
Portland, OR (R2), December 7, 2024
[Wilson Gibbins]

1.c4 e5 2.g3 d5!?



Position after 2...d5

Kids, just because Magnus Carlsen plays a move, it doesn't mean you should play that move. If Magnus jumped off the Brooklyn Bridge, would you jump off the Brooklyn Bridge? Seriously, this move has been played by Magnus, Vidit Gujrathi, Jordan Van Foreest, and Wesley So, though mostly at fast time controls. As the Oregon Junior Closed gives players a fair amount of time to prepare, opening surprises are valuable, and early opening surprises are extra valuable as they have a better chance of actually appearing on the board.

3.cxd5 Qxd5

A standard idea in the Hyper-Accelerated Dragon (1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 g6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Qxd4), but is it playable with colors reversed? Stockfish says yes. Black can still return to more conventional lines with 3...Nf6 as White's best responses are 4.Nc3 and 4.Bg2. Moves that try to hold on to White's extra pawn give Black plenty of compensation. 4.e4 (4.Qa4+ c6 5.dxc6 Nxc6 6.Nc3 Bc5 7.Nf3 Qb6 8.e3 0-0∞) 4...c6 5.dxc6? (5.Bg2=) 5...Nxc6 Black's development combined with White's weak d4 square give Black a significant advantage.

4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Nc3 Qd8

This is the most popular move among carbon-based life forms. The silicon-based life forms find other moves to be acceptable, those moves being 5...Qd6; and 5...Qd7.

6.Bg2 Nf6 7.0-0 h6!



Position after 7...h6

The exclamation mark was graciously provided by the Chessbase 17 reference tab. The position is still equal, but Black has a plus score in this position. That said, Ishaan has lots of Sicilian experience as Black, including Dragon experience, so he should be able to find his way in this position. And he does.

8.d3 Bd6 9.a3 a5 10.h3

White can liquidate the center and simplify the position with 10.d4 Nxd4 (as 10...e4? 11.Nd2 Nxd4 12.Qa4+ Nc6 13.Ndxe4 is better for White. Liquidating the center is considered an accomplishment when you are playing the Sicilian as Black, but not so much when you are playing the Sicilian reversed as White. Ishaan's move keeps more tension in the position and more opportunities to play for a win.)

10...0-0 11.Be3 Qe7 12.Rc1 Rd8 13.Nd2 Be6 14.Nde4 Nxe4 15.Nxe4 a4 16.Nc5 Bxc5



Position after 16...Bxc5

17.Rxc5!

17.Bxc5 Qd7 18.Bxc6 bxc6 gives White great pawn structure but might result in

an early draw. 19.g4 (19.h4 is still even, but it takes courage to weaken the white squares in the face of Black's unopposed white-squared bishop.) 19...Bxg4 20.hxg4 Qxg4+ and White can't avoid perpetual check.

17...e4?!

Trading a center pawn for a wing pawn. If Black doesn't have something concrete in mind, this is a positional concession.

18.Bxe4 Bxh3 19.Re1 Nd4 20.Rc4! c5 21.Rxa4

A clear pawn and the two bishops mean that White is close to a winning advantage, but there is lots of chess yet to play. Zoey is a seasoned veteran and doesn't panic easily.

21...Rxa4 22.Qxa4 b5 23.Qd1

It is hard to let your queen abandon your king when you know a Zoey Tang attack is coming, but 23.Qa5 keeps a bigger advantage.

23...Bg4 24.Bxd4 Rxd4 25.Qc1 Bh3 26.Bf3 Be6 27.Qe3 Qd6 28.Rc1 Kh7 29.Be4+

Stockfish suggests the show-off move 29.Bc6 with the idea 29...Qxc6? (29...b4 30.a4) 30.Qxd4

29...f5 30.Bg2 Bd7 31.Qf3 Qe5 32.Qe3 Qd6 33.b3 Kh8 34.f4 Qb6 35.Kh2 h5 36.Qe5 h4 37.gxh4 Qh6 38.Kg3! Qg6+ 39.Kf2 Qh6 40.Kg3 Qg6+ 41.Kf2 Qh6

An implicit draw offer.

42.Bf3

Ishaan correctly declines.

42...Rxf4 43.Rg1

43.Rxc5!+- reduces White's king's defending pieces to the bishop on f3, but the king is surprisingly safe, at least according to Stockfish.

43...Rxf4 44.Qg3=

44.Qxc5± is still better for White, but it takes a lot of courage to let your queen drift away from your king, especially when it has so little pawn cover.

44...Rh2+ 45.Rg2 Rxf2+ 46.Kxf2 f4!= 47.Qh2?!

The game is still drawn, but this is a step in the wrong direction. It is tempting to get queens off the board against Zoey the fearsome attacker, but sometimes one forgets that Zoey is a fearsome endgame player too. 47.Qf2 is still equal.

47...Qxh2+ 48.Kxh2 g5



Position after 48...g5

49.Bd5?

Surprisingly, this is the losing move. It isn't obvious why. White can draw with the plan of (1) trying to exchange the pawn on e2 for the pawn on f4, then (2) applying some bishop pressure to the pawn on b5. If Black doesn't exchange the pawn on f4 for the pawn on e3, then the pawn on e3 blocks Black's king entry through d4. Not obvious at all. 49.Kg2 Kg7 50.Kf2 Kf6 51.e3 Ke5 52.Ke2 g4 53.Bb7 g3 54.exf4+ Kxf4 55.Ba6! I'd have a hard time taking my bishop off the long diagonal where it helps prevent Black's g-pawn from advancing and the Black's king from advancing too, but 55.Ba6 is the only move that draws. That line and that move would be hard to find without an engine, especially when playing on increment.

49...Kg7+

Black is now winning. It will still take a few accurate moves to make the advantage clear.

50.b4

It is too late to try the e2-e3 plan. 50.Kg2 Kf6 51.Kf2 Ke5 52.Bb7 Kd4+

50...cxb4 51.axb4 Kf6 52.d4

Correctly trying to prevent Black's king from getting to the d4 square, but since White doesn't have time to break up Black's pawns with Kf2 and e2-e3, Zoey can safely advance her kingside pawns to stretch the defense.

52...Ke7 53.Kg2 Kd6 54.Bb3 g4! 55.Kf2 Bf5 56.e3

Ishaan plays the correct plan, but it is one move too late.

56...g3+!

The only move to win.

57.Kf3 Be4+!

Ditto.

58.Ke2 g2 59.Kf2 fxe3+ 60.Kg1 e2 61.Kf2 g1Q+ 62.Kxg1 e1Q+

0-1

Will Nobles (1875) – Austin Tang (2164) [B60]

Oregon Junior Closed (Championship) Portland, OR (R2), December 7, 2024 [Wilson Gibbins]

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 d6 3.Nge2

The Chameleon Sicilian, popularized by Andrew Soltis. Maybe White will play a Closed Sicilian with g2-g3 and Bf1-g2. Maybe White will play d2-d4, returning to a mainline Open Sicilian. Black must be on his guard if he is not to get tricked into playing an Open Sicilian line that he does not know.

3...Nc6

If Black was hoping to play the Najdorf variation, this move says goodbye to those hopes. In this case, no worries—Austin has extensive experience in the Classical Sicilian.

4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nf6 6.Bg5

If you are not interested in the opening theory of this position, I recommend skipping all the notes from here to White's move nine.

6...Bd7

The Modern Variation of the Richter-Rauzer Sicilian, the second most popular move for Black. The most popular move is 6...e6 to prevent White from doubling his pawns with 7.Bxf6. But since Black often ends up with doubled f-pawns in these lines anyway, Modern Variation players like Austin just accept that these doubled pawns are their lot in life and move on.

7.f4

This looks like a normal move to 6.Bg5 Najdorf players, but Richter-Rauzer players move 7.Qd2 first and ask questions later. After the main move 7.Qd2 Black often strives to sacrifice an exchange just to reach an unclear ending like this—7...Rc8 8.0-0-0 Nxd4 9.Qxd4 Qa5 10.f4 (White can play 10.Bd2 to avoid split pawns.) 10...Rxc3 11.bxc3 e5 12.Qb4! Qxb4! 13.cxb4 Nxe4 14.Bh4

7...Qb6

The best response. But Black's move was once considered a refutation of 7.f4, now only considered equal.

8.Bxf6

The main line of the "refutation" goes 8.Nb3 Ng4 9.Qe2 (9.Qd2 Qe3+ 10.Qxe3 Nxe3?) 9...Nd4 10.Qd2 (10.Nd5?! Nxe2 11.Nxb6 axb6 and this unbalanced ending favors Black) 10...Nxb3 11.axb3 Qe3+ 12.Qe2= (12.Qxe3 is also equal according to Stockfish, but not according to the old opening manuals, mainly because Leonid Stein won the following game. Back in the day the opening evaluations were often biased towards who won a famous game, instead of our current bias towards whatever Stockfish tells us. 12...Nxe3 13.Kd2 Nxf1+ 14.Rhxf1 e6 15.Ra5 Bc6 16.Re1 d5 17.exd5 Bb4 18.Ra1 Bxd5 19.Re2 f6 20.Bh4 Kf7 21.Kc1 Bc6 22.Ne4 Rhd8 23.Bf2 b6 24.c3 Be7 25.g3 Rd7 26.Kc2 Rad8 27.Bd4 Bb5 28.Rf2 Rc7 29.Rd2 Rd5 30.c4 Rh5 31.Bg1 Bc6 32.Nd6+ Kf8 33.Re1 Bd7 34.Ne4 Bb4 35.Nc3 Kf7 36.Red1 Bc6 37.Rd8 Ra5 38.R8d3 h5 39.Re1 Be8 40.Rde3 Kf8 41.Rxe6 0-1 Polugaevsky,L-Stein,L URS Club Team-ch Riga 1968 (8.1))

8...gxf6

White is still equal, but after Will's next move...

9.Nf3?!

Black is now a little better, though the position is sufficiently murky for all three results.

9...f5?

The circumspect way to play for an edge. 9...Qxb2! 10.Nd5 0-0-0 looks dangerous to both sides, as are most positions resulting from 1.e4 c5.

10.Bc4 fxe4?

10...Bg7 and; 10...Qxb2 are also strong for Black.

11.Nxe4 h6?!?

Perhaps this was played to stop 12.Nfg5 if Black castles long, as the f-pawn seems to be in danger, but Black can neutralize White's apparent threat to the f-pawn with tricks. 11...0-0-0 12.Nfg5?

a) 12.Neg5? Qb4+;

b) 12.Bxf7 Bh6 13.Bb3 (13.g3 d5! 14.Bxd5 Bf5 and White's pinned bishop on d5 is in big trouble) 13...Bxf4 (13...Rhf8);

c) 12.Qe2 (best) 12...Qxb2 13.0-0 Nd4?; 12...d5 13.Bxd5 (13.Qxd5 Qe3+ 14.Be2 Bg4) 13...Bf5 Once again, White's pinned bishop is in big trouble. The Sicilian—easy to play with your chess engine

running, hard to play with your chess clock running.

12.Qe2 0-0-0 13.Bxf7?!

13.0-0-0 is roughly equal.

13...Bg7!

13...Qxb2? 14.0-0 White has a slight edge in this highly unbalanced position.

14.c3 Rhf8 15.Bd5 Rxf4 16.a4?!

It is tempting to start a pawn storm on Black's king, but the queenside is the safest place for White's king, so this move weakens White's pawn cover for his king. 16.0-0-0

16...Bg4?!

Why relinquish the advantage of the two bishops? Black is still much better if he keeps this bishop on the board. 16...Kb8; 16...Rdf8

17.Nf2!

Now Will reels off a series of accurate moves that allow him to snuff out Austin's opportunities.

17...Bxf3 18.Bxf3 Ne5 19.Nd3! Rf5 20.0-0-0

Best and equal, but maybe White now regrets his 16th move.

20...Kb8 21.Qe4 Nxd3+ 22.Rxd3 Re5 23.Qg4 Bf6 24.Rhd1 Rc8 25.Kc2 Rec5 26.Ra1



Position after 26 Ra1

Hmmm, maybe I should retract my judgy comments on White's 16th and 20th moves. Will finds a way to make his 16th move pay off.

26...Rc4 27.Qe6 Qa5 28.Ra3 Qe5 29.Rb3! R4c7 30.Qg4

Will bravely keeps queens on the board, believing in the attacking strength of his active rooks and unopposed light-squared bishop. He will be rewarded for his bravery on the next move. Killjoy Stockfish likes White's slight positional advantage resulting from 30.Qd5 Qxd5



L-R: Havish Sripada, Emel Bayrambeyli, Ademidun Adebolu, William Nobles, Saahil Gupta, Hayul Lim, Ishaan Kodarapu, Kai Lewis, Zoey Tang, Austin Tang, Neil Natarajan (back), Tunahan Efe Monkul (front). Photo credit: Wilson Gibbins.

31.Rxd5 a6 stopping Rd5-b5 32.Rh5

30...Qe1?

30...e6 31.Qb4 d5 equalizes by blocking White's bishop attack on b7

31.Qb4 b6 32.a5 Bg5 33.Rd1±

33.Ra3 also gives Black problems.

33...Qf2+ 34.Kb1

I believe the rest of the game is played in time trouble.

34...Qc5

Not objectively the best move, but perhaps practically best. 34...Rc4 35.Qa3 Qc5 36.axb6 Qxa3 37.bxa7+ Kxa7 38.Rxa3+ is objectively best for Black, but leaves Black in groveling mode.

35.Qa4 Qf5+ 36.Be4 Qd7 37.Qb4?

37.Rb5+; 37.Qd4+- b5 38.Qd5; 37.Qxd7 Rxd7 38.Bf5

37...Be3?

37...Rc4! 38.Qa3 Rxe4 (or 38...Ra4 39.axb6 a5)

38.axb6 Bxb6 39.Bf3?

Back to equal. Now Austin reels off a series of accurate moves to snuff out Will's opportunities. 39.Qa5! Rb7 40.Qa6+-

39...Rc4! 40.Qa5 R8c5! 41.Qa6 Ra4 42.Qd3 Qe6?

Allowing Will to improve his prospects, which he graciously accepts. 42...Re5=

43.Bd5!± Qe5 44.Rb5! Ra5 45.Rxa5 Rxa5 46.Qc4

46.h3±

46...Rc5

46...Qf5+ 47.Be4 Qb5 48.Qf7 Ra1+ 49.Kxa1 Qa4+ 50.Qa2! (50.Kb1 Qxd1+ 51.Ka2 Qa4+ 52.Kb1 Qxe4+) 50...Qxd1+ 51.Bb1=

47.Qb3?

47.Qd3±; 47.Qg4 Rxd5?? (47...Rb5!±) 48.Qg8+

47...Qf5+



Position after 47...Qf5+

48.Qc2?

Both players made choices throughout the game that have resulted in a dramatic back-and-forth struggle where it has been impossible to predict who will come out on top. That back-and-forth struggle has just come to an end—no drama remains. 48.Kc1!=

48...Rxd5 49.Rxd5 Qxd5 50.Qh7 Qg5 51.Qe4 Kc7 52.Qc4+ Kd7 53.Qe4 Qe5 54.Qb7+ Ke6 55.Qc8+ Kf7 56.Qh3 Qf6 57.g4 e5 58.Qg2 e4 59.h4 Qf3 60.Qh2 Ke6 61.g5 e3 62.gxh6 e2

0-1



YOU'RE INVITED

Join us for a special fundraising gala on March 21st, 2025, dedicated to supporting and empowering girls in chess. This elegant evening will include a gourmet dinner, complimentary parking, and the Mercer Island High School orchestra to make the night truly memorable. The auction will feature Metropolitan Market gift cards, Victoria Secret baskets, wine selections, stunning paintings, chess lesson vouchers and more.

This gala is not just an event, but a celebration of the potential and talent of young female chess players. By attending, you'll be contributing to scholarships, training, and resources that help girls thrive in the game, building confidence and skill in a traditionally male-dominated field.



DATE: March 21st, 2025
TIME: 6:30pm to 9:30pm
TICKETS: \$125 (*18+ Only*)
LOCATION: Hilton Bellevue Hotel
300 112th Avenue SE | Bellevue, WA



WA State Barber/Rockefeller

OPEN CHESS TOURNAMENT

Sunday, March 23, 2025

Chinook Middle School

2001 98th Ave NE, Bellevue, WA 98004



CLASSICAL SECTIONS

K-5 Rockefeller Open (Qualifier for Rockefeller Closed Event)

6-8 Barber Open (Qualifier for Barber Closed Event)

A 4-round Swiss. Longer time control for Intermediate to Advanced players. Dual NWSRS and US Chess Rated; US Chess membership required. Time Control: G/60; +10. Late default: 30 minutes. Rounds: 9am, 12pm, 2:45pm, 5:30pm. Awards ~ 8pm or asap.

RAPID SECTIONS

K-1 U700, 2-3 U800, 4-8 U900, K-3 Open, 4-6 Open, 7-12 Open.

A 5-round G/25; +5 Swiss. Shorter time control for players of all levels. Rounds: 9am, 10:30am, 11:45am, Lunch, 1:15pm, 2:30pm. Awards ~ 4pm.

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.

ENTRY FEE

\$50 by March 16th, \$60 after.
Room for 250 players.

AWARDS

Section Prizes: Amazon Gift Cards awarded in each section:

1st – 5th: \$90-80-70-60-50.

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 timers, best female player, and biggest upset win.

FOLLOW-UP INVITATIONAL EVENT

Top 6 finishing WA State residents in the K-5 Rockefeller Open and 6-8 Barber Open section (by MSCO tiebreaks) will qualify for the Rockefeller and Barber Closed Events on March 30 in Seattle. The other 6 spots in each closed event will be determined by rating. The winners of the closed (4-Round Swiss) events will earn a \$750 travel stipend (donated by the WCF) and will be the WA State representatives at the National Rockefeller (K-5) and Barber (6-8) Tournament of Champions, respectively, held concurrently with the US Open in early August.

THE DETAILS

Online Registration:

NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/

Pay by

Credit/Debit/PayPal/Zelle/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 Sat., March 22nd @ 5pm. No registrations accepted or refunds offered after the deadline. Unpaid players will be withdrawn from the tournament.

ELIGIBILITY

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

RATING

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

Questions?

Contact Josh Sinanan, WCF President at 206.769.3757 or WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

2025 Western States Regional Chess Championship for Girls & Women



Sat-Sun, April 12-13, 2025

Sat – Orlov Chess Academy – Seattle
7212 Woodlawn Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98115

Sun – Chinook Middle School
2001 98th Ave NE, Bellevue, WA 98004

Format

A regional tournament open to all female chess players in three sections.

Megan Lee Championship

A 5-round, G/60; +30 Swiss over two days (Sat-Sun). Tri-rated in NWSRS, US Chess, and FIDE. Rds.: Sat. @ OCA Seattle: 9am, 1pm, 5pm. Sun. @ Chinook: 9am, 4:30pm. Awards ~ 7:30pm.

Divya Deshmukh U1300

A 1-day, 5-round, G/40; +5 Swiss. NWSRS & US Chess dual rated. Rds.: Sun. @ Chinook: 9am, 10:45am, 1pm, 4:30pm, 6pm. Awards ~ 7:30pm.

Carissa Yip U700

A 1-day, 5-round, G/25; +5 Swiss. NWSRS & US Chess dual rated. Rds.: Sun. @ Chinook: 9am, 10:30am, 1pm, 4:30pm, 6pm. Awards ~ 7:30pm.

Prize Fund: \$2,500 (Guaranteed, thanks to generous grants and donations from US Chess & My Chess World.)

Championship:

1st - 3rd: \$400, \$260, \$180
1st U1800/U1600/U1400: \$60

U1300:

1st - 3rd: \$180, \$140, \$110
1st U1200/U1000/U800: \$60

U700:

1st - 3rd: \$140, \$110, \$80
1st U600/U400/U200/unrated: \$60

Special Prizes (per section):

Biggest Upset Win: \$10/round
Best Dressed: \$10
Best Etiquette: \$10
Kindness & Spreading Joy: \$10
Best Mother/Daughter Team: \$20

Entry Fee: \$50 if postmarked or online by 4/5, \$60 after. Free entry for WGMs, WIMs, WFM, and US Chess 2000+. Maximum of 30 players in Championship section and 150 players total, please register early.

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

Rating: Highest of April US Chess or current NWSRS rating will be used to determine section, pairings, and prizes. Higher of US Chess or foreign ratings used at TD discretion.

Memberships: US Chess membership required. Membership must be paid at the time of registration.

WA State Elementary Qualifier!

Registration: nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration

Pay by Credit/Debit/PayPal/SettleKing.

Registration and payment deadline: Fri. 4/11 @ 5pm.

For credit, debit, and PayPal payments, a processing fee of 4% will be added on, so please consider saving by using Zelle or SettleKing instead. Payment is also available via Zelle (ID: WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com).

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, Suite M, Redmond, WA 98052.

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

Fun Side Events!

Workshop for Girls and Women: Sun @ 12-1pm.
Includes complementary pizza lunch!

FM Megan Lee Simul: Sun @ 2:15-3:45pm.
EF: \$25. Max 25 players, please register early.

Puzzle Solving Competition: Sun @ 4-4:30pm. EF: \$10.



TOURNAMENTS



Venue

**7212 Woodlawn Avenue NE
Seattle, WA 98115**

Info & events calendar

www.seattlechess.club

Entries & inquiries

SCC Tournament Director

same address as above

– or –

contact@seattlechess.club

February 1

Format: 3-round round-robin. 4-player sections by close rating.
Time Control: Game/90 + 10 sec. increment (*note new shorter TC*). **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, 2pm, 6pm. **Byes:** 0 – must play all 3 rounds! US Chess membership req'd.

February Quads

February 22-23

See below.

Winter Adult Swiss

February 7, 14, 21, 28

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

Cabin Fever

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

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



Winter Adult Swiss February 22 - 23, 2025



A 4-round Swiss with time control of Game 120 mins. with 30-sec. increment.
Open to players born before 2/22/2007.

Prize fund: \$375 guaranteed

First	\$110	Second	\$85	U1800	\$60
U1600	\$ 50	U1400	\$40	U1200/unr	\$30

Entry fees: Free for SCC members, \$20 others.

Registration: 10:15-10:45am. **Rounds:** 11am & 4:30pm both days.

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

26 seats max. Sign up at contact@seattlechess.club. US Chess membership required.

~ generously sponsored by Gerald Larson & Henry Yan ~

12th Annual Reno Larry Evans Memorial Open

Apr 18-20 or Apr 19-20, 2025, 3 Day or 2 Day Schedule

US Chess
150 GPP (Enhanced)

\$27,500!! (b/275)

\$17,000!! (Guaranteed)

F.I.D.E. Rated
OPEN Section

NEW LOCATION: J Resort Casino Hotel, 345 N. Arlington Avenue, Reno, NV 89501

Downtown Reno, formerly Sands Regency Casino Hotel

6 Rd Swiss ♦ 6 Sections ♦ 40/2, Game/1 - d5 ♦ (Open Section) 40/2, Game/55 - d5 ♦ 2 Day (Rds 1-3) G/1 - d5

Open Section (2200 & above) EF: \$194, (2000-2199) \$250, (1999/below) \$300; GMs and IMs free but must enter by 3/21 or pay late fee at door. Guaranteed Prizes; (1-7 in Open Section plus 1/2 of all other prizes).

Open Section \$2,000 - 1,000 - 900 - 800 - 700 - 600 - 500, (2399/below) \$1,000 - \$500, (2299/below) \$1,000 - \$500 (If there is a tie for 1st then a playoff for \$100 out of prize fund plus trophy).

Section Expert (2000-2199) EF: \$194 (2-day EF: \$190) \$2,000-1,000-500-300-200

Section "A" (1800-1999) EF: \$193 (2-day EF: \$190) \$1,800-900-500-300-200

Section "B" (1600-1799) EF: \$192 (2-day EF: \$190) \$1,700-800-400-300-200

Section "C" (1400-1599) EF: \$191 (2-day EF: \$190) \$1,500-700-400-300-200

Section "D/Under" (1399-below) EF: \$180 (2-day EF: \$190) \$1,000-500-300-200, (1199/below) \$400-200-100

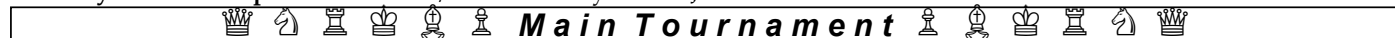
Top Senior (65+) - \$200; Club Championship - \$600 - 300.

Wed. 4/16: 7:00 pm - GM Sergey Kudrin Clock Simul w/ complete analysis of YOUR Game (Only \$30!-bring clock)

Thursday 4/17: 6 - 7:15 pm - Lecture by IM John Donaldson (FREE)

7:30 pm - GM Enrico Sevillano Simul (\$20); Blitz (G/5 d0) Tourney \$25 - 80% of entries = Prize Fund

Saturday 4/19: 3 - 4:30 pm - FREE Game/Position Analysis - IM John Donaldson



Registration: Thursday (4/17) 5 - 8 pm. - Friday (4/18) 9 - 10 am. - Saturday (4/19) 9 - 10 am.

Round Times: (3-day Schedule) Friday - 12 Noon - 7 pm; Saturday - 10 am - 6 pm; Sunday - 9 am - 4 pm (2-day Schedule) Sat.- Rd 1 - 10:30 am, Rd 2 - 12:45 pm, Rd 3 - 3 pm, Rd 4 merge with regular schedule - 6 pm

For more information: Call, Write or E-mail Organizer and Chief TD, N.T.D. Jerome (Jerry) Weikel, (H) 775-747-1405 OR (Cell) 775-354-8728 • 6578 Valley Wood Dr., Reno, NV 89523 • wackykl@aol.com

Room Reservation: Call J Resort Reno, 1-866-386-7829, Group Reservation Code: CHESS 2025

Hotel Rates: Sunday-Thursday \$104.01, Friday-Saturday \$138.06, all taxes and fees included. Reserve by 4/9

For TLA and to confirm receipt of entry see player list at: www.renochess.org

ENTRY FORM - 12th Annual Larry Evans Memorial Open - Reno, Nevada - Apr 18-20 OR Apr 19-20, 2025

Mail to: WEIKEL CHESS LLC, 6578 Valley Wood Drive, Reno NV 89523

PRINT Name _____ Phone# _____ USCF Rating _____

Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

USCF ID# _____ Exp. Date _____ All pre-registered players check in at TD desk on arrival.

ENTRY FEE ENCLOSED: (CIRCLE SECTION AND FEE BELOW) BYE(S) REQUESTED FOR ROUND(S): (circle)

1	2	3	4	5	6
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----- OPEN SECTION ----- EXPERT "A" "B" "C" "D/Under" UNRATED

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

3-Day EF	Free •	\$194 •	\$250 •	\$300	\$194	\$193	\$192	\$191	\$180	USCF Dues
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2-Day EF	\$190	\$190	\$190	\$190	\$190	\$190	USCF Dues
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FEES ALSO ENCLOSED FOR:

- \$30 Wed. Clock Simul GM Kudrin
- \$20 Thu. Simul GM Sevillano
- \$25 Thursday Blitz (G/5 d0)
- \$20 Discount - Sr 65+ Age _____

POSTMARK BY March 21, 2025. Add \$11 after 3/21. Add \$22 on site.

Do not mail after 4/11 or email after 4/15. Make check / m.o. payable to WEIKEL CHESS LLC or provide credit card info and signature. \$7 service charge on credit card entries. Visa Master Card Am.Ex
Name on Credit Card _____
Expiration Date _____ ZIP Code _____
Credit Card# _____ CVV Code _____
Signature _____

- Check Enclosed
- Charge My Card

TOTAL FEES: \$ _____

