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## NWC Staff

Editor: Jeffrey Roland, [jeffreyroland9@gmail.com](mailto:jeffreyroland9@gmail.com)  
Games Editor: Ralph Dubisch, [chesscoaching@gmail.com](mailto:chesscoaching@gmail.com)  
Publisher: Duane Polich, [publisher@nwchess.com](mailto:publisher@nwchess.com)  
Business Manager: [businessmanager@nwchess.com](mailto:businessmanager@nwchess.com)

## Board Representatives

Aniruddha Barua, Alex Machin, Duane Polich,  
Ralph Dubisch, Jeffrey Roland, Josh Sinanan,  
Wilson Gibbins, Eric Holcomb.

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*Northwest Chess* c/o Orlov Chess Academy  
4174 148th Ave NE, Building I, Suite M  
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[businessmanager@nwchess.com](mailto:businessmanager@nwchess.com)  
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## Front Cover

L-R: Cody Gorman, Josh Price, James Wei, Idaho State Co-  
Champions 2025. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

## Back Cover

ICA President Adam Porth all dressed up for Sunday play  
and the Annual Business Meeting at the 79th Idaho State  
Chess Championship. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

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**Jeffrey Roland, NWC Editor**  
**1514 S. Longmont Ave.**  
**Boise, Idaho 83706-3732**  
or via e-mail to:  
[jeffreyroland9@gmail.com](mailto:jeffreyroland9@gmail.com)

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## Boris Vasilievich Spassky

January 30, 1937 – February 27, 2025

John Donaldson

The death of Boris Spassky on February 27 at the age of 88 was a sad day for chess players around the world. One of the most popular World Champions, Spassky was noted for his gregarious nature which made him a crowd favorite wherever he traveled. This included British Columbia, which he visited twice, and the 2005 Western States Open in Reno. The latter was attended by many players from Washington, Oregon and Idaho, who still have fond memories of Boris Vasilievich twenty years later.

The first time Spassky visited British Columbia, in the fall of 1967, he and Paul Keres gave several simul. Four years

later he tied for first in the 1971 Canadian Open held in Vancouver. These visits are covered extensively in the [June 2020](#) and [September 2021](#) issues of *Northwest Chess*.

The tenth World Champion had another connection with the region—he was a close friend of the late Nathan Divinsky (1925-2012) of Vancouver. The two first met in the 1966 Havana Chess Olympiad where they represented their respective countries. Over the next few decades their paths intersected at many important international competitions, and they regularly exchanged letters. Spassky wrote several times for Divinsky's *Canadian Chess Chat* in the late 1960s.

This was a real coup as the tenth World Champion annotated very few games during his career.

Boris Spassky was a real mensch whose name will be remembered as long as chess is played.



*Click above images to open issues.*



# 79th Idaho State Chess Championship

Jeffrey Roland

Each year, many of Idaho's best chess players *come out of hiding* to rekindle chess friendships, to play tough games with an incredible (30/120 SD/60;d5) time control (this is a traditional and unique time control for the ICA that goes back many years), and to be a part of history-in-the-making to produce a new Idaho State Chess Champion, something that has happened every year in one format or another since 1947—this year being the 79th Annual Idaho State Chess Championship. This year's event was held at The Riverside Hotel (Liberty Room) in Boise, Idaho, February 15-17, 2025.

Fifty players braved tough winter advisory weather conditions—some traveling from northern Idaho, some from eastern and south-central Idaho, and the bulk of this year's field from southwest Idaho—to participate.

The tournament was directed by Adam Porth, overall Chief TD, with

assistance from Deon Goodwin and Jeffrey Roland. Actually, on Saturday, Adam Porth was “chief,” on Sunday, Jeffrey Roland was “chief,” and on Monday, Deon Goodwin was “chief,” to spread the load around more or less equally. But I can tell you that all three of us worked incredibly well together and it just seemed like three TD's in perfect synch and harmony doing what we do, and nobody had to worry about anything.

## Friday Night Blitz

On Friday, February 14, a traditional and friendly, but still official US Chess rated and competitive blitz tournament was held with Game/5;d0 time control. It was an eight-round (one game per round) event that started at 7:00 PM and lasted until around 9:00 PM.

Twenty players participated in this *icebreaker* event, which is traditionally held the night before the Idaho State Chess Championship to give people a chance to

meet, socialize, and become acquainted with one another in anticipation of what should prove to be a marathon event starting the next morning.

First place in the blitz was won by James Wei with a perfect 8.0/8 score and winning \$50 cash. Cody Gorman and Emory A. Christensen each tied for second-third place with scores of 6.0/8 and each received \$35. The rest of us just had a good time, making blunders or producing brilliancies, winning or losing games, and definitely having fun!

## The Main Event

Well, first let me say something about the traveling plaque of Idaho State Champions. A few years ago, Adam Porth had this new plaque made from the official state tree, White Pine, and it shows all the State Champions from 1947 through 2024. Previous plaques we had never could quite hold all the names we needed, and now the plaque contains

## 2025 Idaho State Chess Championship - Friday Night Blitz

#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Rd 8	Total	TB Solkoff	TB Cumul.	TB Op. cumul.	TB Mod. Med	Prize
1	James Wei	2136	W 10	W 8	W 4	W 2	W 3	W 6	W 5	W 7	8	39	36	182	35	\$50
2	Cody Gorman	1917	W 20	W 9	W 3	L 1	L 6	W 4	W 8	W 11	6	37.5	27	171	36	\$35
3	Emory A. Christensen	1729	W 19	W 5	L 2	W 18	L 1	W 7	W 4	W 8	6	36	26	171.5	34	\$35
4	Christian Campos	1871	W 16	W 12	L 1	W 8	W 5	L 2	L 3	W 9	5	40	25	180	37	
5	Ashiq Mohammed Abdul Razak	unr.	W 11	L 3	W 9	W 7	L 4	W 15	L 1	W 10	5	38	23	171.5	35	
6	Griffin Rhys Baldwin	724	W 15	D 7	D 13	W 17	W 2	L 1	L 9	W 16	5	34	24.5	156	31.5	
7	Dmitry Mikulik	1783	D 14	D 6	W 12	L 5	W 11	L 3	W 16	L 1	4	38.5	19.5	167.5	27.5	
8	Zackary Thomas Semancik	1649	W 18	L 1	W 16	L 4	W 10	W 13	L 2	L 3	4	37.5	21	172	27.5	
9	Shane Taylor	1459	W 17	L 2	L 5	L 10	W 19	W 18	W 6	L 4	4	31.5	17	148	23.5	
10	Thomas Morris Hines	1384	L 1	L 18	W 19	W 9	L 8	W 14	W 15	L 5	4	31.5	16	143	21.5	
11	Tilly Backstrom	1417	L 5	W 19	L 18	W 16	L 7	W 12	W 13	L 2	4	29.5	17	134.5	21.5	
12	Levi David Hostetler	1002	W 13	L 4	L 7	W 20	L 15	L 11	W 17	W 19	4	25.5	16	115.5	19	
13	Jeffrey T. Roland	1700	L 12	W 14	D 6	L 15	W 18	L 8	L 11	W 17	3.5	28	15	130	23	
14	Timothy Wanless	1104	D 7	L 13	L 17	L 19	W 20	L 10	W 18	W 15	3.5	22.5	11	102.5	18.5	
15	Deon L. Goodwin	1556	L 6	L 16	W 20	W 13	W 12	L 5	L 10	L 14	3	29.5	15	124	24.5	
16	Adam Porth	1355	L 4	W 15	L 8	L 11	W 17	W 20	L 7	L 6	3	29	14	139	24	
17	Black Anderson Bingham	unr.	L 9	D 20	W 14	L 6	L 16	W 19	L 12	L 13	2.5	26.5	12.5	109	21.5	
18	Marcella Maya Whitecloud	937	L 8	W 10	W 11	L 3	L 13	L 9	L 14	L 20	2	30.5	13	127.5	24.5	
19	Louis Michael Bash	1009	L 3	L 11	L 10	W 14	L 9	L 17	W 20	L 12	2	29.5	7	120	23.5	
20	Ryan Wu	1381	L 2	D 17	L 15	L 12	L 14	L 16	L 19	W 18	1.5	26	4.5	115.5	20	

everything and still has room to grow! Just by eyeballing it, I think we could get at least another 35 years before we go to a second plaque.

Having this plaque on display throughout the event demonstrates a sense of context, legend, and an appreciation of what has come before, what is happening now, and what will be in years to come. It's just one of those fine details that a well-prepared and nicely run tournament would have on display. As a former ICA President myself, I must hand it to Adam Porth for being so well prepared for this event.

The tournament brochures he had made up contained everything anyone would need or want to know about anything having to do with the tournament. And one was at each seat during the first round.

Another fine touch unique to the style of Adam Porth, and we've been doing this for a couple years now, is that the reigning Champion, which for 2024 was James Wei, sits on Board One, no matter how he's doing score-wise in the tournament. This shows honor and respect for the incumbent Champion and probably also sets an expectation to perform up to the task from the Champion's point of view, as well as from anyone else's point of view as well.

After three days and six rounds of play, the results were in and we ended up with a three-way tie for first place, meaning all three players are recognized as Idaho State Chess Champions. They are Josh Price, Cody Gorman, and James Wei with 5.0/6 each.

In addition to the overall prizes, we gave out some other prizes as well. First Expert was Larry Parsons with 4.0/6



The Idaho State Champions plaque!  
Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

Idaho State Chess Champions since 1947			
Year	Champion	Co-Champion	Co-Champion
1947	Charles H. Stewart		
1948	Mel Schubert		
1949	Charles H. Stewart		
1950	LaVerl Kimpton		
1951	Glen Buckendorf	LaVerl Kimpton	
1952	LaVerl Kimpton		
1953	LaVerl Kimpton		
1954	Glen Buckendorf		
1955	Dick Vandenburg		
1956	Glen Buckendorf		
1957	Glen Buckendorf		
1958	Dick Vandenburg		
1959	Glen Buckendorf		
1960	Glen Buckendorf		
1961	George Krauss Jr.		
1962	George Krauss Jr.		
1963	Dick Vandenburg		
1964	Dick Vandenburg		
1965	Dick Vandenburg		
1966	Bert Germalm		
1967	Glen Buckendorf		
1968	Glen Buckendorf		
1969	Wolfgang Freese		
1970	Rex Wilcox		
1971	David Reynolds		
1972	Glen Buckendorf		
1973	Harold Moye		
1974	Kenneth Sanderson		
1975	Gregory T> Perryman		
1976	William Whitacre		
1977	Dick Vandenburg	Larry R. Parsons	
1978	William Whitacre		
1979	Larry R. Parsons		
1980	Richard Burchett		
1981	Yge Visser	Richard Burchett	
1982	Paul Johnson	Larry R. Parsons	
1983	Larry R. Parsons		
1984	Larry R. Parsons		
1985	Paul Johnson		
1986	Lestlie R. Colin		
Note: Between 1952 and 1976 the title was determined by tie-break only. Prior to 1952 and from 1977 onward the ICA recognized tied winners as co-champions.			
Year	Champion	Co-Champion	Co-Champion
1987	Larry R. Parsons		
1988	Stewart Q. Sutton	Steven Allie	
1989	Larry R. Parsons		
1990	Joseph Kennedy		
1991	Joseph Kennedy		
1992	Joseph Kennedy		
1993	Michael A. Henderson		
1994	Larry R. Parsons	Daniel D. Drumm	
1995	John B. Carr	Jim A. McClure	
1996	Larry R. Parsons		
1997	Leroy Hill	Larry R. Parsons	Stewart Q. Sutton
1998	Larry R. Parsons		
1999	Larry R. Parsons		
2000	Larry R. Parsons		
2001	Larry R. Parsons	Stewart Q. Sutton	Glen Buckendorf
2002	Michael D. Gold	Larry R. Parsons	
2003	Michael D. Gold		
2004	Stewart Q. Sutton	Dylan T. Smith	David J. Eacker
2005	Karl T. Disher		
2006	Garrett Rerynolds	Daniel A. Taylor	
2007	Hans M. Morrow		
2008	Doitchin Krastev*		
2009	Garrett Rreynolds		
2010	Doitchin Krastev*		
2011	Caleb P. Abernathy		
2012	Larry R. Parsons	Blake Furlow	
2013	Larry R. Parsons		
2014	Caleb Paul Kircher		
2015	David Lucky		
2016	David Lucky		
2017	David Lucky		
2018	Alex Machin		
2019	Jacob Nathan	Kevin Xu	
2020	Jacob Nathan		
2021	Larry R. Parsons		
2022	Kaustubh Kodihalli		
2023	James Wei	Kaustubh Kodihalli	Josh Price
2024	James Wei		
2025	Josh Price	Cody Gorman	James Wei
* Doitchin Krastev illegally used the name Jason Evers when competing in the 2008 and 2010 Idaho Closed State Championships.			



points. First Class A was Caleb Kircher with 4.5/6 points. First Unrated was Keneth Paul Sengendo with 2.5/6 points. First Class B was Ashiq Mohammed Abdul Razak with 4.0/6 points, second Class B was Jeffrey Roland with 4.0/6 points. First Class C was Tilly Backstrom with 3.5/6 points, second Class C was Tom Booth with 3.0/6 points. First Class D was Thomas Morris Hines with 3.5/6 points, second Class D was Jamie Lang with 3.5/6 points. First Class E & Under was Anthony Nakashima with 3.0/6 points, second Class E & Under was Dane Edward Landry.

Special mention should be made that all of the plaques this year were made by eleventh grader Emma Pelham, Kellogg High School, in her first woodworking project. She had the imaginative idea to replace the "I" in the ICA logo with a symbol of a king. This concept never occurred to us back in 2006 when we designed the ICA Logo (and I thought we thought of everything!) This made this year's plaques even more unique, special, and beautiful! They look like antiques with the personal care and polish given each one.

Some various prizes were raffled off during the course of the tournament, including a very nice chessboard from House of Staunton, which was done just before the final round commenced!



*Emma Pelham, 11th grade student who produced all the plaques in her first woodworking project!  
Photo courtesy of Adam Porth.*



*The TD Staff at lunch before the final round. L-R: Jeffrey Roland, Deon Goodwin, Adam Porth.  
Photo credit: Our waiter at Ling & Louie's Bar and Grill.*

This really is the premier event of the ICA. All tournaments are good, but the State Championship is special in so many ways; it seems to hit the core of what the ICA is all about! We officially changed the name of the event this year from Idaho Closed (which was what it was called from 1958-2024 with only two minor exceptions) because that old title seemed to imply that it was not open to everyone in Idaho, but it has always been open to all Idaho residents. We think this new title will clarify that this tournament is indeed for the Idaho State Chess Championship and open to all Idaho resident chess players!

We had our Annual Business Meeting on Sunday afternoon. Our President, Adam Porth, really dressed the part (see back cover photo!) This meeting was inspirational as well as educational. Adam Porth conducted the meeting and Tilly Backstrom took the minutes. I personally enjoyed the meeting very much! It's always nice to see the parliamentarian Jay Simonson educate us as to parliamentary procedures which made the meeting even more fun. For example, I had no idea that I had to make three separate motions in order to do the same thing I could have said with one sentence that had three parts to it!

The ICA will no longer be required to hold the State Championship over President's weekend. It can be at any time that the Board or the President want to have it. It has been suggested in the past that if the tournament were held at a different time of the year, more people could travel to it and play. So that's what will happen, the next Idaho State Chess Championship will be sometime in 2026, likely in a summer month, and likely will be held in Coeur d'Alene or somewhere up north. The idea is to spread the tournament around a bit, to make it to where more people can play. A "look what's coming to *your* neighborhood this year!" kind of thing.

And finally, ICA elections were held in which Adam Porth was reelected President. Jeffrey Roland was reelected Vice President. Tilly Backstrom was reelected Secretary. Deon Goodwin was elected Treasurer. The Trustee positions were not up for election as this was an odd year, but those positions are held by Kyra Schoenwald (Trustee West), Jay Simonson (Trustee East), Peter Clark (Trustee South-Central), and Adam Porth (Trustee North).

I'm sure I left a lot out. Chess, like life, is meant to be lived and experienced! No two events are exactly the same, in fact, each event is unique and special.

The 2025 or 79th Idaho State Chess Championship is now a part of our shared history. It happened! It's done! I highly recommend Idaho chess players play in this premier event whenever possible!

**James Wei (2136) –  
Alex James Machin (1791) [C78]**  
79th Idaho State Championship  
Boise, ID (R4), February 16, 2025  
*[Ralph Dubisch]*

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6  
5.0-0 b5**

5...Be7 is the main line of theory, with positions studied literally for well over a century in some cases. 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 d6 (7...0-0 8.c3 d5 begins the Marshall Gambit.) 8.c3 0-0 9.h3, and now with White finally ready to push d2–d4, Black can choose between...Re8,...Bb7,...Nb8, and...Na5, at least. Of course White could decide to play more quietly, going for d2–d3 somewhere along the line. Well-trodden paths all.

**6.Bb3 Bb7**

6...Bc5 is an active alternative.

**7.c3**

7.d3 is a bit more common in this line.

**7...Nxe4 8.Re1**

Now 8.d4 is the more standard response to the grabby...Ne4: 8...Na5 (8...exd4 9.Re1 d5 10.Ng5 Qd7 is double-edged. Both f2–f3 and Rxe4+ have been tried here. 11.Rxe4+ (11.f3 h6 12.Nxf7 Qxf7 13.fxe4 0-0-0) 11...dxe4 12.Bxf7+ Ke7 13.Be6 Qd6 14.Qh5 seems to trend in Black's favor.) 9.Bc2 with complications.

**8...Nc5**

8...d5 is also reasonable.

**9.Bd5!? Be7**

9...Nd3 10.Re3 Nf4 11.Bxc6 Bxc6 12.Nxe5 Be7 13.Nxc6 dxc6 14.d4∞

**10.Nxe5 Nxe5 11.Bxb7 Nxb7**

Other moves are possible. For example, 11...Ncd3 12.Bxa8 Qxa8 13.Rxe5 (13.Re3 Qd5 is a nice bind.) 13...Nxe5 14.d4 Ng6 looks pretty balanced.

**12.Rxe5 0-0 13.a4**

13.d4 gets on with normal development.

**13...d6 14.Re1 Qd7 15.d4 d5 16.Bf4 Bd6  
17.Bxd6 Nxd6 18.a5?!**

A tiny release of tension. Better to develop with 18.Nd2.

**18...Rfe8 19.Rxe8+ Rxe8 20.b3?!**

Creating a small weakening while not completing development. After 20.Nd2 Black's position has a bit more visual appeal due to piece harmony, but it's unlikely to mean much.

**20...Qg4**



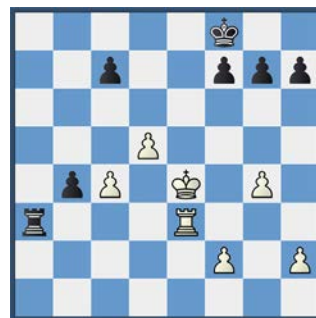
*Position after 20...Qg4*

Flashy, but perhaps misguided if Black is trying for advantage. The black queen is superior to White's, so should not seek exchange. 20...Qf5! to meet 21.Nd2 with 21...Qd3 is turning into something real.; 20...Qc6!? is another idea to annoy White by pressuring c3.

**21.Nd2 Qe2 22.Qxe2 Rxe2 23.Rd1 Ne4  
24.Nxe4 dxe4 25.c4 b4 26.d5 Kf8 27.g4  
Ra2 28.Re1 Rxa5 29.Rxe4 Ra1+ 30.Kg2  
a5 31.Re3 a4 32.bxa4 Rxa4 33.Kf3 Ra3**

Over the last ten moves there may have been more precise move orders, and even ways for Black to be ahead a pawn or so. There was, however, no clear path to actual winning chances for either player. 33...b3 34.Rxb3 Rxc4 now is a clear draw.

**34.Ke4**



*Position after 34.Ke4*

**34...Rxe3+??**

Rook endings are notoriously drawish, while pawn endings can be treacherous. This one is just lost for Black. 34...b3 35.Kd3

**a)** 35.Re1 b2 36.Rb1 Rc3 (36...Rb3 is fine as well.) 37.Rxb2 Rxc4+ 38.Kf3 Ke7;

**b)** 35.Re2 Ra2 36.Re3 Ra3 (36...Rxf2 37.Rxb3 Rxh2? (37...Ke7) 38.Rb7± looks too dangerous.);

35...Ra2 is one safe line. (35...b2+ 36.Kc2 Ra4 37.Rc3 Rb4 38.Kb1); 34...Ke7 is also defensible, even if the b-pawn is lost.

**35.fxe3 g5 36.c5 f5+ 37.gxf5 Ke7**

I'm not sure at what point Black realized that exchanging rooks was a fatal error.



*L-R: James Wei, Alex Machin with Machin about to make his 26th move.  
Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.*





Group Photograph. Photo credit: A staff member at the Riverside Inn.

It's possible at some point in the analysis, perhaps back around move 33 or so, he saw that he could create widely separated passed pawns by advancing the g- and h-pawns and decoying the white king to one side while the pawn(s) on the other wing run home. True, except White has the same trick, only faster.

**38.d6+ cxd6 39.c6 d5+ 40.Kd3 Kd6 41.f6**

**1-0**

**Jeffrey T. Roland (1700) –  
Cody Gorman (1917) [B13]**  
79th Idaho State Championship  
Boise, ID (R6), February 17, 2025  
*[Ralph Dubisch]*

**1.e4 c6 2.c4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Bg5 Ne4 6.Be3 Nc6 7.Nf3 e6 8.c5 Qa5+ 9.Nbd2 b6 10.Be2**

10.a4!? anchors the b5-square for a possible bishop pin. It seems necessary for Black to defend. 10...a6 (10...bxc5 11.Bb5 Bd7 12.dxc5± Black can capture on c5, but there will be tactics along the c-file.) 11.cxb6 Qxb6 (11...Nxd2 12.Bxd2 Qxb6 13.a5!? and if 13...Qxb2 14.Rb1 Qa3 15.Rb6 Nxa5 16.h4!? intending Rh3,

Stockfish gives White full compensation for the pawns.) 12.Nxe4 dxe4 13.Nd2 with the point 13...Nxd4 14.a5! Qxb2 15.Qa4+ Nb5 16.Rb1 Qc3 (16...Qe5 17.Rxb5! axb5 18.Bxb5+ Ke7 19.0-0 with enormous compensation for the exchange: king safety, development, coordination.) 17.Qxe4 Rb8 18.Bxb5+ Rxb5 19.0-0

**10...bxc5 11.dxc5?**

11.0-0 is much stronger, offering decent compensation for the pawn. 11...cxd4 (11...Nxd2 12.Bxd2 Qb6 13.dxc5 Bxc5 (13...Qxb2 14.Qa4 Bd7 15.Bb5 Rc8 16.Rab1 Qf6 17.Bxc6 Bxc6 18.Qa6 Bd7 19.Bg5 Qc3 (19...Qg6 20.c6!+-) 20.Rfc1+-) 14.b4!?∞) 12.Nb3 Qb4 13.Nfxd4∞

**11...Bxc5. 12.Bxc5 Nxc5 13.0-0 Bd7 14.a3 Nb7 15.b4 Qb6 16.Nb3 Ne7 17.Nbd4**

The knight could become a target for an advancing e-pawn. Maybe 17.Qd2, intending a4-a5 expansion.

**17...Ng6**

17...f6 18.a4 e5 19.a5 Qd6 20.Nb5 Bxb5 21.Bxb5+ Kf7±

**18.Qd2**

18.a4!?

**18...Nd6 19.Bd3 0-0 20.Rfe1 Rac8 21.h4 Nc4 22.Qg5**

22.Bxc4 dxc4 23.Rac1 h5 24.Rc3 Rfd8±

**22...f6 23.Qh5 Nce5?**

23...e5±



Position after 23...Nce5

**24.Rxe5?!**

Opportunity knocks! 24.Nxe5! fxe5 25.Bxg6 hxc6 26.Qxe5±

**24...fxe5 25.Ng5**

25.Bxg6 hxc6 26.Qxe5±

**25...Rxf2!! 26.Qxh7+ Kf8 27.Bxg6 Qxd4 28.Qh8+ Ke7 29.Qxg7+ Rf7+**

**0-1**



# 2025 Idaho State Chess Championship

#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Total	TB Solkoff	TB Cumul.	TB Op. cumul.	TB Mod. Med	Prize
1	Josh Price	1962	W 15	W 8	W 41	L 2	W 6	W 7	5	24	18	86.5	20.5	1st Overall
2	Cody Gorman	1917	W 37	W 39	W 5	W 1	L 3	W 8	5	22.5	19	82.5	20.5	1st Overall
3	James Wei	2136	W 44	D 26	W 28	W 9	W 2	D 4	5	20	18	79.5	18	1st Overall
4	Caleb Kircher	1937	B	W 12	D 14	D 6	W 20	D 3	4.5	20	16	74.5	20	1st A
5	Larry Parsons	2000	W 18	W 10	L 2	W 31	D 7	D 11	4	23.5	15.5	85.5	20.5	1st Expert
6	Ashiq Mohammed Abdul Razak	1667	W 22	D 9	W 11	D 4	L 1	W 23	4	23	15	81	20	1st B
7	Christian Campos	1871	W 36	D 31	W 19	W 14	D 5	L 1	4	22.5	16.5	79.5	19.5	
8	Jeffrey T. Roland	1700	W 48	L 1	W 18	W 28	W 12	L 2	4	21	15	77.5	20	2nd B
9	Alex James Machin	1791	W 38	D 6	W 27	L 3	W 26	D 10	4	20	15	73.5	18	
10	Michael D. Vanya	1773	W 23	L 5	D 16	W 44	W 31	D 9	4	19.5	13.5	70.5	17.5	
11	Timothy N. Erion	1784	W 46	D 27	L 6	W 21	W 16	D 5	4	18.5	14	69.5	17	
12	Diego Antonio Cowmey	1602	W 47	L 4	W 37	W 13	L 8	W 24	4	18.5	14	62.5	17	
13	Seth Machakos	1753	L 26	W 38	W 15	L 12	W 22	W 20	4	18	12	62.5	16	
14	Dmitry Mikulik	1783	W 45	W 20	D 4	L 7	H	W 21	4	15.5	14.5	63	15.5	
15	Thomas Morris Hines	1384	L 1	W 47	L 13	W 25	D 19	W 34	3.5	20	10	59	18.5	1st D
16	Tilly Backstrom	1417	W 40	L 19	D 10	W 32	L 11	W 35	3.5	19	12	59	17	1st C
17	Michael Henderson	1800	W 30	L 28	W 22	L 20	D 18	W 33	3.5	17	12	58.5	14.5	
18	Jamie Lang	1387	L 5	W 49	L 8	W 38	D 17	W 26	3.5	16.5	10	61	16	2nd D
19	Candice Liang	1680	H	W 16	L 7	D 27	D 15	W 32	3.5	16	11	57	16	
20	Tom Booth	1500	W 24	L 14	W 48	W 17	L 4	L 13	3	19.5	13	69.5	14.5	2nd C
21	Dustin Lindgren	1463	W 29	L 41	W 24	L 11	W 27	L 14	3	19.5	12	68	13	
22	Shane Taylor	1459	L 6	W 23	L 17	W 29	L 13	W 40	3	19	9	61	13	
23	Anthony Nakashima	1005	L 10	L 22	W 42	W 37	W 39	L 6	3	17.5	9	56.5	11.5	1st E & Under
24	Dane Edward Landry	541	L 20	W 30	L 21	W 46	W 28	L 12	3	16.5	10	61.5	11	2nd E & Under
25	Griffin Rhys Baldwin	724	L 39	D 44	D 43	L 15	W 38	W 37	3	15.5	7.5	45	10	
26	Emory A. Christensen	1729	W 13	D 3	L 31	W 33	L 9	L 18	2.5	22	11.5	76	17	
27	Keneth Paul Sengendo	unr.	W 42	D 11	L 9	D 19	L 21	D 28	2.5	19	10.5	66.5	15	1st Unrated
28	Deon Goodwin	1556	W 50	W 17	L 3	L 8	L 24	D 27	2.5	18.5	11.5	67	13.5	
29	Daniel Homa	439	L 21	W 33	D 34	L 22	L 32	W 46	2.5	15.5	8	50	12.5	
30	Luke Makovsky	1234	L 17	L 24	W 40	D 34	L 33	W 45	2.5	15.5	6.5	49	12	
31	Zackary Thomas Semancik	1649	W 49	D 7	W 26	L 5	L 10	U	2.5	15	12.5	59	11	
32	Dru Wright	1256	L 41	H	W 46	L 16	W 29	L 19	2.5	14.5	8	46.5	11	
33	Ryan Wu	1381	H	L 29	W 35	L 26	W 30	L 17	2.5	14	8.5	45.5	10.5	
34	Luke Wei	1531	H	U	D 29	D 30	W 45	L 15	2.5	10	8	30	6.5	
35	Kyra Schoenwald	776	H	U	L 33	W 50	W 44	L 16	2.5	8.5	7.5	28.5	5	
36	Daniel Fernandez	1289	L 7	W 50	D 39	H	U	H	2.5	7	8	27	3	
37	Adam Porth	1355	L 2	W 40	L 12	L 23	W 48	L 25	2	18	7	59.5	13	
38	Timothy Wanless	1104	L 9	L 13	W 49	L 18	L 25	W 48	2	16	5	51.5	12	
39	Barry Eacker	1600	W 25	L 2	D 36	H	L 23	U	2	14	9	43.5	9	
40	Bradley Keith Deluca	937	L 16	L 37	L 30	W 42	W 49	L 22	2	13.5	5	39.5	10	
41	Niall McKenzie	1844	W 32	W 21	L 1	U	U	U	2	10.5	11	38	5.5	
42	Chris Pentico	1400	L 27	L 48	L 23	L 40	W 47	W 49	2	10.5	3	34	7.5	
43	Daniel Looney	1400	H	U	D 25	W 48	U	U	2	4	7.5	12.5	1	
44	David Allen Zaklan	1390	L 3	D 25	W 45	L 10	L 35	U	1.5	16.5	6.5	52	11.5	
45	Louis Michael Bash	1009	L 14	D 46	L 44	W 47	L 34	L 30	1.5	14.5	5.5	42.5	10.5	
46	Paul Edvalson	1546	L 11	D 45	L 32	L 24	W 50	L 29	1.5	14	4.5	47	10	
47	Eddy Song	645	L 12	L 15	H	L 45	L 42	W 50	1.5	11.5	2.5	34	7.5	
48	Marcella Maya Whitecloud	937	L 8	W 42	L 20	L 43	L 37	L 38	1	16.5	5	50.5	12.5	
49	Nick Landry	837	L 31	L 18	L 38	B	L 40	L 42	1	12.5	2	35.5	9	
50	Jay Simonson	651	L 28	L 36	H	L 35	L 46	L 47	0.5	11.5	1.5	34	8.5	

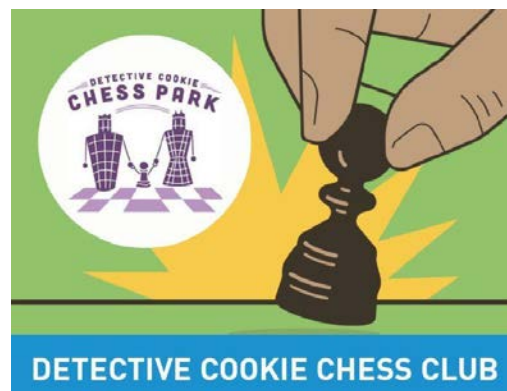
# Detective Cookie

## CH<sup>ESS</sup> CLASSIC

SUNDAY, APRIL 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2025

RAINIER BEACH COMMUNITY CENTER

8825 RAINIER AVE S, SEATTLE, WA 98118



### Format

A 5-Round G/25; +5  
Swiss in five sections:

**K-1 U700**

**2-3 U800**

**K-3 Open**

**4-8 U900**

**4-12 Open**

### Schedule

Arrival: 8-8:45am

Rd. 1 - 9am

Rd. 2 - 10:30am

Rd. 3 - 11:45am

Lunch

Rd. 4 - 1:15pm

Rd. 5 - 2:30pm

Awards ~ 3:45pm

### Eligibility

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

### Entry Fee

\$40. Free for Detective Cookie  
Chess Club students. Scholarships  
available upon request. Max of 150  
players; please register early.

### Awards

Trophies awarded to the top-  
finishing players in each section.  
Team trophies awarded to the top 5  
finishing teams (top 4 scores from  
same school comprise team score)  
across all sections. Medals for first-  
timers, best female player, best  
dressed, and biggest upset win in  
each section.

### Rating

NWSRS rated. Open sections also  
US Chess Rated. Higher of current  
NWSRS or April US Chess rating  
will be used to determine section  
and pairings.

**WA State Elementary  
Qualifier!**

### Registration

Register online at  
[nwchess.com/onlineregistration](http://nwchess.com/onlineregistration)  
Pay by  
Debit/Credit/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% preregistered,  
no on-site entries. **Registration +  
payment deadline April 5<sup>th</sup> @ 5pm.** No  
registrations accepted or refunds offered  
after the deadline.

### Clocks

Chess clocks will be used from the start in  
the Open sections. Clocks not required  
for the U700, U800, and U900 sections,  
until a judge places one into unfinished  
games set for G/10; +5 after 35 minutes  
of play.

### Questions?

**Contact:** Josh Sinanan, WCF President  
206-769-3757,  
[washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com](mailto:washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com)



# 2025 Oregon Girls Championship

(Emel Bayrambeyli wins the open section championship to lock down the nomination for the Haring Tournament of Girls State Champions)

Wilson Gibbins

The Oregon Girls Championship drew 51 players making this the third year in a row with over 50 participants. The door prizes and trip to Dairy Queen give this tournament a more festive atmosphere compared to the grim tournaments that we adults are restricted to. That said, many of the players have been taking advantage of all the chess opportunities provided by Puddletown Chess, Rose City Chess, Roshen's Academy and the Oregon Scholastic Chess Federation to hone their games, so the competition was intense.

Emel Bayrambeyli won the Championship section by winning her first three games and closing out with a draw against second place finisher Neha Narendran. Neha was undefeated with two wins and two draws. Neha drew 2023 co-champion Anisha Sripada in round two. Anisha finished in a three-way tie for third place with Laasya Lanka and Eesha Juneja, the 2024 under 900 champion.

Chloe Zhang won the Under 900 Section with a 4.5/5 score. Riana Paul and Raina Paul tied for second with 4.0/5.

Rajita Shadrak won the Under 600 section with 4.5/5 points. Sreedurga Vipin and Sreedurga Vipin tied for second with four points.

Thanks to Zoey Tang for organizing and directing this tournament. Thanks to Dave Murray and Lilly Tang for assisting her.

Thanks to Puddletown Chess for the door prizes, Rose City Chess for the Blizzards, and Portland Chess Center for providing chess facilities that are located conveniently near a Dairy Queen.

**K Lakshmi Shore (1127) –  
Emel Bayrambeyli (1868) [A50]**  
Oregon Girls Championship  
Portland, OR (R1), February 2, 2025  
[Emel Bayrambeyli]

Thanks to the tournament organizers for this wonderful event and the enjoyable ice cream party! Special thanks to my family for their support and to my coach, Stanislav Iljin, for his dedication and hard work.

And finally, big thanks to my team, Green Chess, for their support.

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Bd2**

My opponent played an unusual move here. After spending some time, I decided to play simple ...d5.

**3...d5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.e3 Bd6 6.Nc3 c6**

Avoiding possible Nb5.

**7.Bd3 0-0 8.Nge2 Re8 9.Qc2 Nbd7 10.0-0 Qe7**

I am trying to have more control on e4 to place a knight there.

**11.Kh1 Ne4**



Position after 11...Ne4

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**ACADEMY**

I finally placed my knight on e4 and White cannot try to remove it by pushing f3.

## 12.Bc1

My opponent plays a really smart move trying to push f3 now.

12.f3? Nxd2 13.Qxd2 Qxe3 I win a pawn.

## 12...Qh4

Threatening mate on h2.

## 13.Nf4 Ndf6 14.g3 Qh6 15.Kg1

15.f3 and chasing the knight away is still not possible due to 15...Nxg3+.

## 15...g5 16.Nfe2 Ng4

Threatening mate on h2 again.

## 17.h4 gxh4 18.Kg2

18.gxh4? Qxh4 after queen takes White can't stop the mate.

## 18...h3+ 19.Kf3

King can't really go anywhere.

19.Kh1 Nxf2+ 20.Kg1 h2+ 21.Kg2 h1Q+ 22.Rxh1 Qxh1#; 19.Kg1 Nxf2 20.Rxf2 h2+ 21.Kh1 Nxf2+ 22.Kg2 h1Q+ 23.Kxf2 Q6h2#

## 19...Nh2#



Position after 19...Nh2#

0-1



David Murray (L) and Emel Bayrambeyli.  
Photo credit: Lilly Tang.

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- 2032 USCF Rating
- UW Grad
- Eagle Scout

**Ryan Ackerman**  
Online Chess Coach

Supporting and promoting chess related activities throughout Washington State since 1946.

**Josh Sinanan**  
President

206-769-3757  
washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com  
wachess.com



# 2025 Western States Regional Chess Championship for Girls & Women



## 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:

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

## U1300:

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

## U700:

1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup>: \$140, \$110, \$80  
1<sup>st</sup> 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

**Sat-Sun, April 12-13, 2025**

**Sat – Orlov Chess Academy – Seattle**

7212 Woodlawn Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98115

**Sun – Chinook Middle School**

2001 98<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Bellevue, WA 98004



**Entry Fee:** \$50 if postmarked or online by 4/5, \$60 after. Free entry for WGMs, WIMs, WFMs, 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](http://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 148<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Building I, Suite M, Redmond, WA 98052.

**Contact:** Josh Sinanan, WCF President, 206-769-3757,  
[washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com](mailto: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.



# WA Spring Mini-Teams

## CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP



Sunday, April 13, 2025

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

**FORMAT:** A 5-round, Team (3-player) Swiss-paired tournament in four sections: **K-3, 4-6, 7-12,** and **Parents/Friends.** K-12 players may play up into higher grade sections and the Parents/Friends section is for post-high school players only. See "Scoring" and "Procedure" below for more information.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Open to all students registered in grades K-12 and their parents/friends. Players are allowed to form their own 3-player teams, or else the TD will compose additional teams from the remaining individuals. Teams will be counted in the group of the oldest (by grade) player.

**SCHEDULE:** Arrival: 8:00- 8:45am. Rounds at 9:00am, 10:30am, 11:45am, lunch, 1:15pm, 2:30pm. Awards ~ 4pm.

**TIME CONTROL:** G/25; +5. Late default: 15 minutes.

**ENTRY FEE:** \$50 (per player) by 4/6, \$60 after. Room for 150 players.

**RATING/MEMBERSHIPS:** Dual NWSRS & US Chess rated; US Chess membership required. Higher of US Chess Regular April supplement, or current NWSRS rating used to determine section and pairings. Unrated players will count as follows for avg team rating: K-3: 175, 4-6: 500, 7-12: 950, Parents/Friends: 1300.

**AWARDS:** Amazon Gift Cards awarded to each player from the top-finishing teams in each section:  
K-3: 1st – 3rd: \$70-60-50. 1<sup>st</sup> U700 avg: \$40.  
4-6: 1st – 3rd: \$70-60-50. 1<sup>st</sup> U800 avg: \$40  
7-12: 1st – 3rd: \$70-60-50. 1<sup>st</sup> U900 avg: \$40.  
Parents/Friends: 1st – 3rd: \$70-60-50. 1<sup>st</sup> U1000 avg: \$40

**Special Prizes** (per section): Medals for first timers, best all-female team, and biggest upset win (by avg team rating). Highest-finishing team with all members from the same school: \$30. Best parent + child team (as scored by total number of points): \$30.

**PROCEDURE:** Pairings will be released prior to the start of each round. Each round, a Team vs Team pairing will be announced, each Team's Board 1, 2, and 3 will play the other respective team's Board 1, 2, 3. Please contact Organizer Siva Sankrithi (sivas108@gmail.com) for any pre-determined teams. Team information will be kept on a spreadsheet [HERE](#).

**THE DETAILS:** Online Registration:

[NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/](http://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. To register your team, please fill out the [Team Registration Form](#). Any **team member requests** must be received by Siva (either via the above form or email) by 5:00pm **Friday Apr. 11**, no exceptions. Players who register in the final 24 hours, along with those who have not registered a team, will be placed on a composed team. **100% pre-registered, no on-site entries or payments. Entry + payment deadline Fri., April 11 @ 5pm.** No registrations accepted or refunds offered after the deadline. Unpaid players will be withdrawn from the tournament.

**SCORING:** Standings based on Team Points. Each team receives 1 Team Point for winning a match (i.e., scoring 2.0 points or more across all three players), while the team losing the match gets 0 Team Points for that round. If a match is drawn (i.e., each team scores 1.5 points), both teams receive 0.5 Team Points. If needed to break ties in the final standings, total Board Points will be used (i.e., the total of the team members' individual scores).

**QUESTIONS?**

Contact Josh Sinanan, WCF President, 206.769.3757,

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

Organizer: Siva Sankrithi, [sivas108@gmail.com](mailto:sivas108@gmail.com)



# Washington Winter Classic

Josh Sinanan

The 2024 Washington Winter Classic was held December 21-22 just before the holidays at Hotel 116, A Coast Hotel, in Bellevue. A total of 67 players split between two sections, the Erigaisi Open and the Vidit U1600, traveled to Bellevue to take part in the five-round Swiss tournament.

The sections were named in honor of Indian chess superstars Arjun Erigaisi and Vidit Gujrathi, both members of the championship gold-medal Indian team at the recent Olympiad in Budapest. Arjun Erigaisi, born in 2003, became Indian's top-rated player in late 2024 and achieved a peak rating 2801, becoming only the second player from India to join the elite 2800 club since Vishy Anand. Vidit Gujrathi, born in 1994, was India's 30th grandmaster and became the third Indian to qualify for the Candidates tournament by winning the FIDE Grand Swiss Tournament in 2023.

The Washington Junior Invitational, a prestigious junior event, was held concurrently at the same venue. The spacious hotel ballroom easily accommodated the 100+ players taking part in both events and included a parent waiting room where players could rest between rounds and analyze their games.

The proximity to Woods Coffee, a popular local coffee shop, right next door was an added plus, with many players and parents opting to hang out there and enjoy the free Wi-Fi!

The fantastic team of FIDE Arbiter Manunthon (Mani) Atikankhotchasee, WCF Member-at-Large Ani Barua, and WCF Scholastic Director Allen Messenger ran the event. We're happy to report that they received a lot of positive feedback about the site and playing conditions. Many thanks to WCF Events Manager Eddie Chang for discovering this hidden gem in Bellevue, in which WCF looks forward to running many more events in the future!

Both sections were run as five-round Swisses over two days with the popular FIDE-approved time control of game in 90 minutes with a 30-second increment, which makes for many exciting three- to four-hour games. The intense first day schedule of three rounds in a single day resulted in many players opting to take a half-point bye, since only the most hardcore chess maniacs opt to play every game. To encourage some stronger players to come out and play, the highest finishing Washington residents in the Erigaisi Open and Vidit U1600 sections were seeded into the Premier and Rising

Stars sections, respectively, of the 2025 Washington State Championship.

In the 27-player Erigaisi Open section, 2023 Washington State Champion and Bellevue High School senior NM Brandon Jiang (2195 → 2204, 4.5) topped the field with an undefeated 4.5 points from five games thanks to a clutch final-round win against Miles "The Bandit" Kuipers, who was leading the tournament with a perfect score. For his efforts, Brandon was seeded into the Premier section of the 2025 Washington State Championship. Miles Kuipers (1901 → 1972, 4.0) of Bellevue finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> place a half-point back after scoring a huge upset win against NM Viktors Pupols (2200) in the penultimate round. A quadruplet of queen sacrificers shared third/U1900 honors with a "plus two" score: NM Viktors Pupols (2200 → 2200, 3.5) of Kingston, Harrison Toppen-Ryan (1899 → 1914, 3.5) of Kirkland, Leonardo Wang (1837 → 1864, 3.5) of Fall City, and Isaac "The Penguin" Vega (1836 → 1862, 3.5) of Beaverton.

Redmond chess queen Haituka Anandkumar (1555 → 1580, 2.5) won the first U1700 prize with an even 2.5-point score, which also qualified her for the Best Female prize. With so many underrated ringers competing there were numerous

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upsets about, with the following players earning the best Upset Win prizes for their efforts: Muthukurisil Arivoli (round one), Haituka Anandkumar (round two), Valentin Razmov (round three), Miles Kuipers (round four), and Isaac Vega (round five). Valentin added to his winning by earning the Best Senior Player prize with a tournament performance rating (TPR) of 1929. Two classy fellows—NM Viktors Pupols of Kingston and Gabriel Razmov of Seattle—were recognized as the best dressed players on Saturday and Sunday, respectively, for their on fleek attire.

In the Vidit U1600 section, Redmond chess princes Pranav Kokati (1240 → 1366, 4.5) and Vihaan Chaurasia (872 → 1187, 4.5) clobbered the royal field, each with an impressive 4.5 points from five games. Chaurasia won his first four games in a row before being held to a draw by Canadian chess king Don Hack in the final round. Kokati recovered well after dropping half-a-point to Lakeside Alum Akshay Bablani in the third round and won his last two games to catch up with Chaurasia. Ladysmith (B.C.) chess aficionado Don Hack (1232 → 1334, 4.0) captured third place a half-point back. A pair of rising chess stars, Sambuddha S. Das (1284 → 1333, 3.5) of Sammamish and Yash Bhaskara (1191 → 1237, 3.5) of Redmond—split the U1500 prize with 3.5 points apiece.

Bellevue chess belle Shanna Wu (1275 → 1354, 3.5) claimed the first U1300 prize thanks to upset victories against Hirshowitz (1560) and Ramachandran (1403) along the way. Gig Harbor's Darya Byelashova earned the Best Female Prize with a TPR of 1205 and Sammamish chess captain Peter Zou (TPR: 920) reeled in the Best Senior Prize. A quintuplet of youngsters added the Biggest Upset win prizes to their piggy banks: Shanna Wu (round one), Vihaan

Chaurasia (round two), Aahan Sriram (round three), Sambuddha S. Das (round four), and Harvey Wang (round five). On the catwalk and winning the Best Dressed prizes were chess fashion icons Ziqian Gao (Saturday) of Sammamish and Jake Bravenboer (Sunday) of Newcastle. Congratulations to the winners and many thanks to all who contributed to this fantastic event!

### Ihsan Mohamed Nedumpurakkal Thahir (1822) –

**Miles Kuipers (1917) [B15]**

Washington Winter Classic  
Bellevue, WA (R1), December 21, 2024  
[Ralph Dubisch]

**1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nf6 5.Nxf6+ exf6 6.c3 Bd6 7.Be3**

White traditionally attempts to pressure the kingside light squares with something like 7.Bd3 0-0 8.Ne2 Re8 9.Qc2 g6 10.h4. Notice the dark-square bishop isn't immediately needed to block the e-file.

**7...0-0**

7...Bf5!?

**8.Bd3 Na6 9.h3**

Why? 9.Qc2 leaves White with at least a tiny edge.

**9...Re8 10.Ne2 f5 11.0-0 Nc7 12.c4 g5?!**

Aggressive, but weakening. 12...Qf6 is solid and equal.

**13.Nc3 g4?!**

Consistent, but it's probably better to secure the kingside structure with 13...h6 and...Qf6.

**14.hxg4??**

Black's aggression is rewarded with this line-opening error. White needed to push

the bishop off of its strong diagonal first: 14.c5! Bf8 15.hxg4±

**14...Qh4 15.g3**

15.Re1 Qh2+ 16.Kf1 f4+

**15...Bxg3 16.Kg2**

16.fxg3 Qxg3+ 17.Kh1 Rxe3+

**16...Qh2+ 17.Kf3 fxg4+**

17...Bxf2! 18.Rxf2 (18.Bxf2 fxg4#) 18...Qh3+ 19.Ke2 Rxe3+ 20.Kd2 Rxd3+- + is the flashier way.

**18.Ke2 Bf4**

18...Rxe3+ 19.Kxe3 Bf4+ 20.Ke2 g3+-

**19.Ne4**



Position after 19.Ne4

**19...Kf8?**

This could have thrown away the win. 19...Bxe3 20.Nf6+ Kf8 21.Nxe8 Ne6 22.Nf6 Bxd4 is still quite good for Black, though admittedly a bit murkier than some of the earlier lines.

**20.Qd2?**

20.Rh1 Qg2 21.Rg1 Qh3 (21...Qf3+ 22.Kd2 Bxe3+ 23.fxe3 Qxd1+ 24.Raxd1 when White is active and well-placed to attack Black's weaknesses.) 22.Rh1

**20...Bxe3 21.Qxe3 Bf5 22.Rh1?**

22.Kd2 Bxe4 23.Bxe4 Rad8



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22...Qg2 23.Qh6+

23.Rhg1 Qxe4 24.Bxe4 Rxe4 25.Qxe4 Bxe4 26.Rxg4 will take some technique for Black to win.

23...Kg8 24.Qg5+ Bg6 25.Rhg1 Rxe4+ 26.Bxe4 Qxe4+ 27.Kf1

27.Qe3 Qc2+ 28.Kf1 Qxc4+-+

27...Qd3+ 28.Kg2

28.Ke1 Re8+

28...Qh3#

0-1

**Rich Lavoie (1880) –  
Brandon Jiang (2217) [C41]**

Washington Winter Classic  
Bellevue, WA (R2), December 21, 2024  
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6  
5.Nc3 g6 6.Bc4 Bg7 7.Bb3 0-0 8.Bg5  
Re8 9.f3?



Position after 9.f3

9...Nxe4 10.Bxd8 Nxc3+ 11.Kf2 Nxd1+  
12.Raxd1 Bxd4+ 13.Rxd4 Rxd8

0-1

**Viktors Pupols (2200) –  
Jeffrey Wei (1893) [D05]**

Washington Winter Classic  
Bellevue, WA (R2), December 21, 2024  
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e3 e6 4.Bd3 b6 5.0-0  
Bb7 6.b3 Bd6 7.Bb2 0-0 8.Ne5 Nbd7  
9.Nd2 a5 10.Qe2 a4 11.Rac1 a3 12.Ba1  
Nb8 13.c4 Na6 14.Rfd1 Nb4 15.Bb1 Ne4  
16.f4 f6 17.Nef3 f5 18.Ne5 Ba6 19.Qe1  
Qe8 20.Ndf3 Qe7 21.Nd3 Nxd3 22.Bxd3  
Bb7 23.Ne5 Bxe5 24.dxe5 Nc5 25.Bf1  
Qf7 26.Bd4 Ne4 27.c5 Rfc8 28.exb6 c5  
29.Bc3 Qe8 30.b4 Qd8?

30...Nxc3 31.Qxc3 c4!∞

31.bxc5 Nxc5 32.Bd4 Na4 33.Qb4 Nb2  
34.Bxb2 axb2 35.Qxb2 Rcb8 36.Rd4



"Best Dressed" Viktors Pupols (L) and Jeffrey Wei. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

Ba6 37.Rb1 Qc8 38.Rb4 Qc5 39.Qd4  
Qxd4 40.exd4 Bxf1 41.Kxf1 Rxa2  
42.Rc1 Rb7 43.Rb5

43.Rc7 Rxc7 (43...Rb8 44.b7) 44.bxc7  
Rc2 45.Rb8+ Kf7 46.c8Q

43...Ra6 44.Rc8+ Kf7 45.Rc7+ Rxc7  
46.bxc7 Rc6



Position after 46...Rc6

47.Rc5

1-0

**Miles Kuipers (1917) –  
Nikhil Ramkumar (1890) [B12]**  
Washington Winter Classic  
Bellevue, WA (R2), December 21, 2024  
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.Nf3 e6 5.Be2  
c5 6.c4 dxc4 7.Bxc4 a6 8.Nc3 Nc6 9.d5  
Nb4?

9...exd5∞

10.Qa4+!



Position after 10.Qa4+

10...b5

10...Qd7 11.Bb5 axb5 12.Qxa8+ Qd8  
13.Qxb7 Nc2+ 14.Ke2 Nxa1 15.Nxb5  
with a winning attack.

11.Nxb5 exd5 12.Nd6+ Ke7 13.Nxf5+  
Ke6 14.g4 dxc4 15.Ng5+ Kd5 16.0-0

1-0

[See Crosstables next page]



Winter Classic: Erigaisi Open (1600+)													
#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total pts	Prize	\$	Prize	\$
1	1	NM Brandon Jiang	2217	H---	W27	W10	W8	W2	4.5	1st	640		
2	2	Miles Kuipers	1917	W16	W14	W10	W3	L1	4	2nd	480	Biggest Upset Win (Rd#4)	32
3	3-6	NM Viktors Pupols	2200	W7	W11	H---	L2	W12	3.5	Shared 3rd + 1st U1900	180	Best Dressed (1st day)	32
4		Harrison Toppen-Ryan	1908	W18	D5	D9	W22	D11	3.5	Shared 3rd + 1st U1900	180		
5		Leonardo Wang	1868	W24	D4	D15	W13	D7	3.5	Shared 3rd + 1st U1900	180		
6		Isaac Vega	1830	L13	W20	D14	W27	W15	3.5	Shared 3rd + 1st U1900	180	Biggest Upset Win (Rd#5)	32
7	7-11	Valentin Razmov	1863	L3	W23	D8	W17	D5	3			Best Senior Player + Biggest Upset (Rd#3: 102/2 pts)	80+32
8		Alberto Rosales Infante	1965	W28	D26	D7	L1	W22	3				
9		Gabriel Razmov	1866	W19	D12	D4	D15	D13	3			Best Dressed (2nd day)	32
10		Abhinav Mishra	1892	W20	W13	L2	L12	W21	3				
11		Jeffrey Wei	1893	W23	L3	H---	W14	D4	3				
12	12-17	Akim Pikh	1901	W21	D9	L1	W10	L3	2.5				
13		Leonid Gavrysh	2039	W6	L10	W18	L5	D9	2.5				
14		Nikhil Ramkumar	1890	W17	L2	D6	L11	W18	2.5				
15		Owen Xu	1929	H---	W25	D5	D9	L6	2.5				
16		Ihsan Mohamed Nedumpurakkal Thahir	1822	L2	L17	W19	D24	W23	2.5				
17		Haituka Anandkumar	1612	L14	W16	D25	L7	W24	2.5	1st U1700	320	Best Female Player + Biggest Upset Win (Rd#2)	80+32
18	18-22	Roger Hanson	1800	L4	W24	L13	W26	L14	2				
19		Devansh Sharma	1532	L9	D21	L16	D23	W26	2				
20		Imai Maharaja	1634	L10	L6	L23	B---	W25	2				
21		H.G. Pitre	1712	L12	D19	H---	W25	L10	2				
22		Ryan Ackerman	1872	D25	H---	W26	L4	L8	2				
23	23-24	James Phan	1672	L11	L7	W20	D19	L16	1.5				
24		Allen Chang	1558	L5	L18	B---	D16	L17	1.5				
25	25-27	Muthukurisil Arivoli	1581	D22	L15	D17	L21	L20	1			Biggest Upset (Rd#1: 291/2 pts)	32
26		Aiden Chan	1600	D27	D8	L22	L18	L19	1				
27		Richard Lavoice	1880	D26	L1	H---	L6	U---	1				
28	28	Siva Sankrithi	1400	L8	U---	U---	U---	U---	0				
Winter Classic: Vidit (U1600)													
#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total pts	Prize	\$	Prize	\$
1	1-2	Pranav Kokati	1427	W31	W21	D4	W10	W5	4.5	Shared 1st/2nd	280		
2		Vihaan Chaurasia	1166	W35	W26	W9	W4	D3	4.5	Shared 1st/2nd	280	Biggest Upset Win (Rd#2)	32
3	3	Don Hack	1454	W27	W24	H---	W6	D2	4	3rd	200		
4	4-8	Akshay Bablani	1545	W11	W36	D1	L2	W20	3.5				
5		Sambuddha Sekhar Das	1340	D12	W38	W20	W7	L1	3.5	Shared 1st U1500	80	Biggest Upset Win (Rd#4)	32
6		Shanna Wu	1287	W16	D18	W12	L3	W22	3.5	1st U1300	160	Biggest Upset Win (Rd#1)	32
7		Vidur Ganesan	1525	W14	W33	D10	L5	W13	3.5				
8		Yash Bhaskara	1389	W34	D9	D13	D11	W18	3.5	Shared 1st U1500	80		
9	9-17	Aditya Brahmachary	1554	W32	D8	L2	W19	D12	3				
10		Sid Siddem	1505	W37	W19	D7	L1	D11	3				
11		Aahan Sriram	1308	L4	W35	W15	D8	D10	3			Biggest Upset Win (Rd#3)	32
12		Satish Kumar Chandra Ramachandran	1403	D5	W28	L6	W21	D9	3				
13		Kyle Boddy	1327	H---	W22	D8	W26	L7	3				
14		Aakash Mishra	1301	L7	W25	W36	D18	D17	3				
15		Rian Raja	1585	L19	W31	L11	W27	W29	3				
16		David Hirschowitz	1560	L6	H---	D28	W30	W26	3				
17		Arush Yadlapati	1428	L24	W30	H---	W33	D14	3				
18	18-25	Weidong Cui	1419	W23	D6	H---	D14	L8	2.5				
19		Arjun Moghe	1326	W15	L10	D21	L9	W34	2.5				
20		Snehl Ghosh	1395	D28	W39	L5	W23	L4	2.5				
21		Vedant Singh	1295	W29	L1	D19	L12	W36	2.5				
22		Ziqian Gao	1420	D38	L13	W37	W32	L6	2.5			Best Dressed (1st day)	32
23		Harvey Wang	1263	L18	W29	H---	L20	W33	2.5			Biggest Upset Win (Rd#5)	32
24		Arthur Deng	1281	W17	L3	D33	H---	H---	2.5				
25		Darya Byelashova	1005	L33	L14	B---	W36	H---	2.5				
26	26-32	Arihant Chaudhuri	1397	W30	L2	W27	L13	L16	2				
27		Harry Wu	1289	L3	W40	L26	L15	W35	2				
28		Chen Yuan	1227	D20	L12	D16	D37	H---	2				
29		Deepak Sri Kartikeya Rao	1455	L21	L23	W39	W35	L15	2				
30		Yang Xu	1258	L26	L17	W40	L16	W39	2				
31		Rishabhdeva Patnaik	1279	L1	L15	L35	W40	W37	2				
32		Olin Martin	1311	L9	W34	H---	L22	H---	2				
33	33-34	Guru Harshith Reddy Avula	1373	W25	L7	D24	L17	L23	1.5				
34		Matthew McKendry	1173	L8	L32	H---	W39	L19	1.5				
35	35-38	Jake Bravenboer	1100	L2	L11	W31	L29	L27	1			Best Dressed (2nd day)	32
36		Sai Navaneeth Satish Kumar	1343	W40	L4	L14	L25	L21	1				
37		Jizhou He	1298	L10	H---	L22	D28	L31	1				
38		Arnav Bablani	1277	D22	L5	H---	U---	U---	1				
39	39-40	Fuxing Zou	1057	H---	L20	L29	L34	L30	0.5				
40		Sofia Byelashova	995	L36	L27	L30	L31	H---	0.5				

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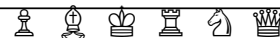
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**Saturday 4/19: 3 - 4:30 pm** - FREE Game/Position Analysis - IM John Donaldson

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2-Day EF	\$190	\$190	\$190	\$190	\$190	USCF Dues
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## FEES ALSO ENCLOSED FOR:

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# Washington High School Team Championship

Randy Kaech

The 59th annual Washington State High School Chess Team Championships were held February 28 - March 1 at Lincoln Hill High School in Stanwood. Forty-eight teams of five competed in six rounds over two days, to determine who would take home the Ollie Cup. Together with the State All-Comers tournament, 301 chessplayers competed, and the record for Most Teams Ever at State, set back in 2002, was tied.

High school chess teams have to qualify to compete at State. Out of the 48 teams, 24 qualified out of the four Washington high school leagues—Metro, Kingco, Wesco and Northwest. The other 24 qualified out of the various Regionals.

Until two years ago the only way to qualify for State was for schools to compete and post a qualifying score in a league. Problem was, there were only four leagues in the state, all located in the big city areas.

Thus, Regionals were authorized as another format to enable schools to qualify for State. One large Regional happened that first year, the Southwest Washington Regional at Centralia College, covering all counties south and west of King County. 288 players registered to compete, of which 277 were unrated. (Not a misprint. 277 unrated students.) From that event, six teams qualified for State.

Last season there were three Regionals, and this season nine Regionals took place all around the state, giving every high school chess team in Washington a chance to qualify for the HS State Team Championship (with the exception of Central region - Ellensburg and north).

High school teams from all around Washington qualified and showed up to compete at State this year, with Cheney HS the furthest east, Blaine HS in the

north at the Canadian border (their school mascot—"The Borderites"), Seton Catholic (Vancouver) the furthest south, and three teams coming from way west—the Orcas Island HS chess team took the longest ferry ride, with Forks HS and Aberdeen HS geographically even further west.

The format is five vs five matches, six rounds, scoring by total game points, time control Game/60. After the fifth round, Lakeside (Seattle) held the lead with 20.5 points, with Interlake (Bellevue) and Skyline (Sammamish) sitting at 19.0, and Newport (Bellevue) a half point back at 18.5. Lakeside had already defeated Interlake (4-1) and drew Skyline (2.5-2.5) and thus were paired with Newport in the sixth and final round, while Interlake faced off against Skyline.

All four teams were in contention for the Ollie Cup—it all boiled down to the final round. Skyline defeated Interlake (4-1), putting them at 23.0. Would it be enough? If Lakeside drew their match with 2.5 points, State rules would mandate a five-board speed chess playoff for the title, at three minutes with two second delay. A sizeable crowd gathered around to watch the final game. Lakeside ended up defeating Newport (3-2), ending with 23.5 points and taking the State Championship by a half point over Skyline.

Not just the Grand Championship was up for grabs—State titles for each school size were also being contested.

Happening simultaneously with the State Team tournament is the State All-Comers Tournament, where players can compete who didn't qualify for State, or high school players with no club or team at their school, or JV players. In the Premier division, Oliver Rines of Kamiak HS (Mukilteo) claimed first with 5.5, Ethan Ao of Newport finished second with 5.0, and Caian Davis of Franklin (Seattle) placed third with 4.5. In the Reserve division, Joaquin Mallari of Seattle Prep won it all with 5.5, and Alexander Her (Timberline, Lacey) and Ender Ramsby (Tesla STEM) tied for 2nd-3rd with 5.0.

The tournament culminates the high school winter chess season and is organized annually by the Washington High School Chess Association. Randy Walther (Sehome HS) acted as chief floor judge and site setup leader, Brett Baugh (Stanwood HS) and Randy Kaech (Ferndale HS) did the pairings, Dave Ellinger (Seattle Prep) and Patrick Van Dyke (Bellevue HS)

provided registration and floor judging assistance.

To see the tournament hall, the players, the team placards, the Tournament Problem (find the one move that isn't checkmate), the skittles area, the TD's room, the Ollie LaFreniere Cup, other

## The State Champions in each size-class.

**4A:** 1st Skyline,  
2nd Newport,  
3rd Lincoln (Seattle)

**3A:** 1st Lakeside,  
2nd Interlake,  
3rd Edmonds-Woodway

**2A:** 1st Tesla STEM (Redmond), 2nd  
Sehome (Bellingham),  
3rd Cleveland (Seattle)

**1A:** 1st Eastside Prep (Kirkland), 2nd  
Meridian (Bellingham),  
3rd Blaine

**2B:** 1st Orcas Island,  
2nd Granger,  
3rd Lake Roosevelt (Coulee Dam)

**1B:** 1st Pope John Paul II (Lacey),  
2nd New Life Christian (Ephrata),  
3rd Naselle



hardware and medals, the final standings and the final results from all the 2025 Leagues and Regionals from around the state, visit the State 2025 Photo Album at [whsca.org](http://whsca.org).

Here's a few games from various Regionals.

**Eshan Reddy, St. George HS (1703) – Ben Patterson, Chewelah HS (1861)**  
E. WA Regionals [A70]  
Cheney, WA (R5), January 25, 2025  
[Randy Kaech]

The final round of the Eastern Washington Regional. Both Eshan and Ben were undefeated—winner takes the cake.

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 c5**

Nice move order selection. Not Bogo but Benoni, avoiding the dangerous (for Black) f4 Benoni lines.

**4.d5 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.Nc3 g6 7.e4 Bg7 8.Bd3 0-0 9.0-0 Na6 10.a3**

Keeping the knight out of b4.

**10...Nc7 11.Bf4 a6 12.a4**

Inhibiting ...b5.

**12...Bg4 13.h3 Bxf3 14.Qxf3 Qd7 15. Rfel b5**



*Position after 15...b5*

The computer really likes 16.e5 here. White finds another, more violent way to open up the position.

**16.Bxd6 Qxd6 17.e5 Qd8 18.exf6 Bxf6 19.axb5 Bxc3**

Relinquishing the dark-square bishop in

order to retain the future b5 pawn.

**20.bxc3 axb5 21.Rxa8 Qxa8 22.d6 Qxf3 23.gxf3 c4**

Again rescuing the pawn on b5.

**24.Be4 Ne6 25.Bc6 Rd8 26.d7**

At Game/25, notation was halted here. Despite having a half pawn disadvantage (says Stockfish), Black went on to win the game and the tournament.

**0–1**

**Jesse Aubry, Capital HS (1499) – Henry Graves, Capital HS (1338)**  
SW WA Regionals [B01]  
Olympia, WA (R5), February 1, 2025  
[Randy Kaech]

It's the final round of the SW WA Regionals. Teammates Jesse and Henry are the two remaining undefeated players. This is it—for all the marbles.

**1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.d4**

Theoretically best.



*Final game of the entire tournament — Round Six, Table One — Lakeside's Albert Eksarevskiy (L) vs Newport's Danny Kang.  
Photo credit: Randy Kaech.*

### 3...Nxd5 4.Nf3 Bf5 5.c4?!

Now 5...Nb4! would have given White some trouble. White would have to play Na3, and the black knight would prove bothersome.

**5...Nf6 6.Nc3 e6 7.Be2 c6 8.Bf4 Nbd7 9.h3 Be7 10.0-0-0 11.Nh4 Bg6 12.Nxg6 hxg6 13.Qd2 Nb6 14.Rad1** [Both sides have played solidly. White has the usual minor space and development advantage that often arises from the Scandinavian.

### 14...Bd6?



Position after 14...Bd6

A crucial tactical error. 14...Bb4 or 14...Re8 would have been fine.

**15.Bxd6 Qxd6 16.c5 Qc7 17.cxb6 Qxb6 18.Na4 Qc7 19.Qe3 Rad8 20.Qe5 Qd7** Black, behind on material, rightfully avoids the trade.

**21.Nc5 Qe7 22.Bc4 b6 23.Nd3 Rfe8 24.Nf4 Qb4 25.Bb3 c5 26.dxc5 bxc5 27.Nd3 Qd4**

The hard-to-find 27...Nd7 would have avoided the loss of a pawn.

### 28.Qxc5 Qxc5 29.Nxc5

Bye-bye queens. Will White's extra bishop and queenside majority be enough?

**29...Nd5 30.Rfe1 Nf6 31.Rxd8 Rxd8 32.Rd1 Rc8**

Allows the shot:

### 33.Nxe6

The knight is poison.

### 33...Re8 34.Ng5

...and Jesse went on to win the game and the tournament.

1-0

**Miles Turneure, Pullman HS –  
Peter Allestad, Cheney HS (1474)  
Eastern WA Regionals [D02]  
Cheney HS (R3), January 25, 2025  
[Randy Kaech]**

Pullman High School won the Eastern Washington Regionals, and their top two performers were unrated players.

### 1.d4 d5 2.Bf4

The London System is popular at all levels. (sigh)

**2...c5 3.e3 Nc6 4.Nf3 Bg4 5.Nbd2 Nf6 6.c3 e6 7.Be2 Bd6 8.Bg3**

Staredown. "Take me." "No, you take me."

### 8...c4 9.b3 b5 10.0-0 Bxg3

"Okay, now that you're castled, I will take you."

**11.fxg3 Qd6 12.Qc2 Bf5 13.Qb2 Ne4 14.Nxe4 Bxe4 15.bxc4 bxc4 16.Ng5 Bg6 17.Rf2**

White had 17.Qb7! attacking the Ra8 and f7. If Black castles, 18.Nxf7! still works.

### 17...0-0 18.Bf3 Bf5

18...Rab8 was calling out.

### 19.e4

Best move, good find.

### 19...dxe4 20.Nxe4 Bxe4 21.Bxe4



Position after 21.Bxe4

### 21...f5

The rook is still saying "Stick me on b8!"

### 22.Bf3 Rae8 23.Qb5

The black rook grumbles "If I'd been on b8, this never would have happened!" Now Black will drop a pawn.

**23...Rc8 24.Qxc4 Kh8 25.Re2 e5 26.Qd5 Qxd5 27.Bxd5 exd4 28.Bxc6 Rxc6 29.cxd4 Rd6 30.Rd1 h6 31.Re7 a5 32.d5 Rfd8 33.Re5 g6 34.Kf2 Kg7 35.Ke3 Kf6 36.Kd4 Rc8 37.Rd2 h5 38.Rb2 Rc1 39.Ree2 a4 40.Rb4 Rd1+ 41.Ke3 R1xd5 42.Rxa4**

and White ended up nursing the extra pawn to victory.

1-0

**Nicholas Truong, Mt Tahoma HS –  
Judah Young, Homeschool [C58]  
Pierce County Regional  
Tacoma (R5), January 18, 2025  
[Randy Kaech]**

It's the final round of the Pierce County Regional. Nicholas has given up one draw, Judah one loss, both are in contention to take the title.

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

"This position is the most popular opening in scholastic chess, though it is also seen in top-level professional competition."—Eric Schiller, *First Chess Openings*.

### 3...Nf6 4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 Na5

No liver or lollipops on the menu today.

### 6.Qe2 Nxc4 7.Qxc4 h6 8.Nf3 Nxd5?

Play 8...e4 first, then Black can keep the e-pawn.

**9.Nxe5 Be6 10.Qb5+ c6 11.Qxb7 Rc8 12.Qxa7 Qf6**

12...Qg5! would have won the knight.

### 13.Nf3 Bg4

13...Nf4 would have presented White with serious problems. 13...Qg6 forking g2 and c2 is also good.

**14.Qd4 Qe6+ 15.Qe5 Qxe5+ 16.Nxe5 Bf5 17.Nd3 Bxd3 18.cxd3 Nb4 19.Kd1 Nxd3**



Position after 19...Nxd3

Good knight! White may be up two pawns, but how in blazes is he going to get his pieces out of the box? It's move 20, and they're still sleeping!

### 20.f3? Nf2+ 21.Ke1 Nxf1

Black now has a commanding material advantage. Thank you horse.

**22.Nc3 Be5 23.d3 Nf2 24.Ke2 Rd8 25.Be3 Bxe3 26.Kxe3 Nxd3 27.b3 0-0 28.Ne4 Rfe8 29.Rd1 Nb4 30.Rc1 f5 31.Rc4 Nd5+ 32.Kf2 fxe4 33.fxe4 Nf6 34.Rxc6 Nxe4+ 35.Kf3 Ra8 36.a4 Nd2+ 37.Kf4 Nxb3 38.Rc3 Nd4 39.Rd3 Rxa4**



40.Kg3 Re6 41.Kf2 Re2+ 42.Kg3 Nf5+  
43.Kf3 Ree4 44.Rd8+ Kh7 45.g3 Re3+  
46.Kg2 Ra2+ 47.Kh3 h5 48.Rd5 g6  
49.Rd7+ Kh6 50.Rh7+

Whoever said 'never look a gift horse in the mouth' wasn't thinking of chess.

50...Kxh7

Suddenly Black realizes to his horror...

1/2-1/2

Team Prizes. Photo credit: Randy Kaech. →



## Washington High School Team Championships

#	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Total
1	Lakeside A (Seattle)	1929	W20 [5.0]	W16 [4.5]	W6 [4.5]	W5 [4.0]	D2 [2.5]	W3 [3.0]	23.5
2	Skyline HS (Sammamish)	1748	W27 [5.0]	W17 [5.0]	W8 [3.5]	W3 [3.0]	D1 [2.5]	W5 [4.0]	23.0
3	Newport HS (Bellevue)	1572	W31 [4.0]	W29 [5.0]	W11 [4.0]	L2 [2.0]	W8 [3.5]	L1 [2.0]	20.5
4	Lakeside B (Seattle)	1519	W41 [5.0]	W10 [4.0]	L7 [1.5]	D6 [2.5]	W11 [3.0]	W16 [4.5]	20.5
5	Interlake HS (Bellevue)	1755	W19 [5.0]	W14 [4.0]	W9 [5.0]	L1 [1.0]	W7 [4.0]	L2 [1.0]	20.0
6	Tesla STEM HS (Redmond)	1537	W46 [5.0]	W28 [4.5]	L1 [0.5]	D4 [2.5]	W21 [4.0]	W9 [3.5]	20.0
7	Lincoln HS (Seattle)	1386	W34 [4.0]	W36 [5.0]	W4 [3.5]	W8 [3.0]	L5 [1.0]	W11 [3.5]	20.0
8	Sehome A (Bellingham)	1560	W45 [5.0]	W12 [5.0]	L2 [1.5]	L7 [2.0]	L3 [1.5]	W15 [4.0]	19.0
9	Kamiak HS (Mukilteo)	1440	W42 [4.0]	W13 [5.0]	L5 [0.0]	W24 [4.0]	W14 [4.0]	L6 [1.5]	18.5
10	Edmonds-Woodway High School	1102	W48 [5.0]	L4 [1.0]	W25 [4.0]	L11 [1.0]	W24 [3.5]	W23 [3.5]	18.0
11	Bellevue High School	1400	W18 [4.0]	W26 [5.0]	L3 [1.0]	W10 [4.0]	L4 [2.0]	L7 [1.5]	17.5
12	Olympia High School	1203	W40 [5.0]	L8 [0.0]	L17 [0.5]	W29 [3.0]	W32 [4.0]	W34 [5.0]	17.5
13	Sehome B (Bellingham)	1252	W33 [4.0]	L9 [0.0]	D26 [2.5]	W34 [3.0]	W36 [4.0]	W25 [4.0]	17.5
14	Ingraham HS (Seattle)	1280	W37 [5.0]	L5 [1.0]	D15 [2.5]	W42 [4.5]	L9 [1.0]	W17 [3.0]	17.0
15	Eastside Prep (Kirkland)	1300	W38 [3.5]	W22 [3.5]	D14 [2.5]	W17 [3.5]	D16 [2.5]	L8 [1.0]	16.5
16	Garfield A (Seattle)	1475	W39 [5.0]	L1 [0.5]	W28 [3.0]	W22 [4.5]	D15 [2.5]	L4 [0.5]	16.0
17	Seattle Prep	1232	W44 [5.0]	L2 [0.0]	W12 [4.5]	L15 [1.5]	W25 [3.0]	L14 [2.0]	16.0
18	Cleveland STEM (Seattle)	1020	L11 [1.0]	W43 [5.0]	L24 [1.5]	W19 [3.0]	W26 [3.0]	D21 [2.5]	16.0
19	Bainbridge High School	1066	L5 [0.0]	W37 [4.0]	W32 [3.0]	L18 [2.0]	W42 [4.5]	D20 [2.5]	16.0
20	Science and Math Inst. (Tacoma)	1093	L1 [0.0]	W39 [4.0]	W36 [4.0]	L21 [1.0]	W33 [4.0]	D19 [2.5]	15.5
21	Meridian HS (Bellingham)	946	L29 [1.0]	W31 [3.0]	W38 [4.0]	W20 [4.0]	L6 [1.0]	D18 [2.5]	15.5
22	Bellingham High School	1186	W32 [3.5]	L15 [1.5]	W30 [4.0]	L16 [0.5]	W28 [3.0]	W26 [3.0]	15.5
23	Orcas Island High School	1284	L36 [1.0]	W34 [3.5]	W41 [3.0]	D28 [2.5]	W30 [4.0]	L10 [1.5]	15.5
24	Blaine High School	1195	W35 [3.0]	W30 [3.0]	W18 [3.5]	L9 [1.0]	L10 [1.5]	W28 [3.0]	15.0
25	Garfield B (Seattle)	902	L30 [2.0]	W35 [4.0]	L10 [1.0]	W41 [5.0]	L17 [2.0]	L13 [1.0]	15.0
26	North Kitsap HS (Poulsbo)	1170	W43 [4.0]	L11 [0.0]	D13 [2.5]	W31 [4.0]	L18 [2.0]	L22 [2.0]	14.5
27	Chiawana HS (Pasco)	1063	L2 [0.0]	L44 [2.0]	W46 [4.0]	D32 [2.5]	W37 [3.0]	W31 [3.0]	14.5
28	Seton Catholic HS (Vancouver)	1134	W47 [5.0]	L6 [0.5]	L16 [2.0]	D23 [2.5]	L22 [2.0]	L24 [2.0]	14.0
29	Mt. Tahoma HS (Tacoma)	1267	W21 [4.0]	L3 [0.0]	L42 [1.0]	L12 [2.0]	W41 [3.5]	W36 [3.5]	14.0
30	International School of Bellevue	1226	W25 [3.0]	L24 [2.0]	L22 [1.0]	W44 [3.5]	L23 [1.0]	W37 [3.5]	14.0
31	Stanwood High School	1059	L3 [1.0]	L21 [2.0]	W35 [3.5]	L26 [1.0]	W44 [4.0]	L27 [2.0]	13.5
32	Naselle-Grays River School	858	L22 [1.5]	D38 [2.5]	L19 [2.0]	D27 [2.5]	L12 [1.0]	W42 [3.5]	13.0
33	Hanford HS (Richland)	782	L13 [1.0]	L42 [1.5]	L45 [2.0]	W47 [5.0]	L20 [1.0]	D35 [2.5]	13.0
34	Eatonville High School	1006	L7 [1.0]	L23 [1.5]	W47 [4.0]	L13 [2.0]	W40 [4.0]	L12 [0.0]	12.5
35	Pope John Paul II HS (Lacey)	896	L24 [2.0]	L25 [1.0]	L31 [1.5]	L40 [1.5]	W43 [4.0]	D33 [2.5]	12.5
36	West Valley HS (Yakima)	976	W23 [4.0]	L7 [0.0]	L20 [1.0]	W45 [4.5]	L13 [1.0]	L29 [1.5]	12.0
37	Hazen HS (Renton)	953	L14 [0.0]	L19 [1.0]	W39 [4.0]	W38 [3.5]	L27 [2.0]	L30 [1.5]	12.0
38	Mariner HS (Everett)	868	L15 [1.5]	D32 [2.5]	L21 [1.0]	L37 [1.5]	L39 [2.0]	W45 [3.5]	12.0
39	Shelton High School	1026	L16 [0.0]	L20 [1.0]	L37 [1.0]	W48 [4.5]	W38 [3.0]	D40 [2.5]	12.0
40	New Life Christian (Ephrata)	886	L12 [0.0]	W45 [3.0]	L44 [2.0]	W35 [3.5]	L34 [1.0]	D39 [2.5]	12.0
41	Thomas Jefferson HS (Auburn)	1029	L4 [0.0]	W48 [5.0]	L23 [2.0]	L25 [0.0]	L29 [1.5]	W44 [3.0]	11.5
42	Granger High School	1023	L9 [1.0]	W33 [3.5]	W29 [4.0]	L14 [0.5]	L19 [0.5]	L32 [1.5]	11.0
43	Aberdeen High School	822	L26 [1.0]	L18 [0.0]	D48 [2.5]	W46 [3.0]	L35 [1.0]	W47 [3.5]	11.0
44	Lake Roosevelt HS (Coulee Dam)	896	L17 [0.0]	W27 [3.0]	W40 [3.0]	L30 [1.5]	L31 [1.0]	L41 [2.0]	10.5
45	Odessa High School	1042	L8 [0.0]	L40 [2.0]	W33 [3.0]	L36 [0.5]	W46 [3.0]	L38 [1.5]	10.0
46	Cheney High School	1035	L6 [0.0]	L47 [2.0]	L27 [1.0]	L43 [2.0]	L45 [2.0]	W48 [3.0]	10.0
47	Forks High School	720	L28 [0.0]	W46 [3.0]	L34 [1.0]	L33 [0.0]	W48 [3.0]	L43 [1.5]	8.5
48	Coupeville High School	531	L10 [0.0]	L41 [0.0]	D43 [2.5]	L39 [0.5]	L47 [2.0]	L46 [2.0]	7.0





# WASHINGTON OPEN

**Sat-Mon, May 24-26, 2025**

Redmond Marriott

7401 164<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Redmond, WA 98052

**\$13,000 Prize Fund**  
**(based on 200 paid entries)**

## Main Event:

**Format:** A 6-round Swiss across 4 sections: Elite (1800+), Premier (U1800), Rising (U1500), and Dynamos (U1200).

### Time Controls:

- 3-day: 30/90, SD/30; +30. Late default: 60 minutes.
- 2-day: G/55; +15 (rds. 1-3), rds. 4-6 same as for 3-day.

### Schedule:

- 3-day option: Sat @ 10 AM, 6 PM; Sun @ 10 AM, 6 PM; Mon @ 10 AM, 4 PM.
- 2-day option: Sun @ 9 AM, 11:45 AM, 2:45 PM, then join 3-day schedule @ 6 PM (from round 4 onward).
- WCF Annual Meeting & Elections: Mon @ 3 PM.

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

**Entry Fee:** \$130 by Sun, 04/27; \$140 by Sun, 05/11; and \$150 after 05/11 or on-site. Less \$50 for Seniors (age 50+). Playing up one section is allowed (for \$80 extra) if the player's USCF rating is within 100 points of the section's lower limit (i.e., min 1700 for Elite, min 1400 for Premier, min 1100 for Rising). Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, WIMs, and USCF 2400+. Re-entry for ½ of original entry fee. Canadians may pay CAD\$ at par.

**Rating:** Dual rated (USCF & NWSRS), plus Elite and Premier sections are FIDE rated (except G/55 games). Higher of May 2025 USCF and current NWSRS ratings used to determine section and prizes. Foreign ratings used for players w/o USCF rating. Elite and Premier sections are paired by USCF rating; Rising and Dynamos sections are paired by NWSRS rating.

### Registration, Information & Payment:

- **Before event:** Online (by Thu, 05/22 @ 5 PM) at [NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/](http://NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/) (pay by credit / debit / PayPal / SettleKing) or make checks payable to Washington Chess Federation. Mail to: Josh Sinanan, 4174 148th Ave NE, Building I, Suite M, Redmond, WA 98052.
- Info: [WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com](mailto:WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com), 206-769-3757
- **On-site:** Sat, 05/24 @ 8-9 AM for 3-day schedule, or 4:30-5 PM if entering with 1 half-point bye. Sun, 05/25 @ 8-8:30 AM for 2-day schedule, or 9-9:30 AM if entering 3-day schedule with 2 half-point byes. Late registrations may receive a half-point bye for round 1. 2 half-point byes available; request before the end of round 2.

### Hotel Info:

Redmond Marriott, \$129-\$139/night + tax. One King / Queen / Double or two Queens, single or double occupancy. Call (425) 498-4000 to request the WA Chess Federation block, or use the [online reservation](#). Group codes: WCFWCFR or WCFWCFQ. Cut-off date for discounts: Fri, Apr 25, 2025.

### Prizes:

- **Elite (1800+):** \$1000, \$800, \$600, \$500, \$400, \$300; U2100: \$225, \$175; U1900: \$225, \$175
- **Premier (U1800):** \$500, \$400, \$350, \$300, \$250; U1600: \$200, \$175
- **Rising (U1500):** \$400, \$350, \$300, \$250, \$200; U1300: \$175, \$150
- **Dynamos (U1200):** \$300, \$250, \$200, \$175, \$150; U1000: \$175, \$150; Unrated: \$175, \$150

**Championship Seeds:** Highest finishing Washington resident in the Elite and Premier section is seeded into the 2026 Washington State Championship, in the Championship and Challengers section, respectively. Ties for a seed will be resolved by post-event playoff games.

**Mixed Doubles Prizes:** Best male-female 2-player team's combined score: 1<sup>st</sup> \$200, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$150, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$100. Average team rating must be under 2000; may play in different sections. Register (no extra fee) before round 3. Players may win a Mixed Doubles prize in addition to other prizes.

### Special Prizes (per section):

- **Best Female Player\*:** \$50. Requires min 3 eligible players.
- **Best Senior Player\* (age 50+):** \$50. Requires min 3 eligible players.
- **Highest (USCF) Rating Gain\*:** 1<sup>st</sup> \$50, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$25. Requires an established (non-provisional) rating. May not be combined with Biggest Upset Win.
- **Biggest Upset Win (per round):** \$25. Max 2 per player.
- **Fair-Play, Kindness, Spreading Joy:** \$25. Please nominate.
- **Best Dressed (per day):** \$25. May not win repeatedly.
- **Best Annotated Game:** 1<sup>st</sup> \$75, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$50, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$25. Submit one annotated game that you consider to be interesting or well-played. A panel of judges will select winners.

**Note:** \* = May not be combined with equal or higher prizes.

### Miscellaneous / Procedures:

Current US Chess and WCF / OCF / ICA memberships required; other states accepted. Memberships may be paid at the time of registration. Wheelchair accessible. Please bring a digital clock, if available. Pairings and standings will be posted before each round in the hallway near the play area.

# WASHINGTON OPEN, May 24-26 (cont.)

## Fun Side Events!

(many run between rounds of the Main Event)

### Washington Open Faustino Oro Scholastic

**Sat, 05/24 @ 9 AM – 4 PM (during round 1)**

Format: Classical and Rapid sections:

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

- Rapid sections: A 5-round G/25; +5 Swiss in two sections: **K-3 U800** and **4-12 U900**. For novice to low intermediate players. Dual NWSRS and USCF rated. US Chess membership req'd. Clocks req'd. Notation req'd in 4-12 U900, but optional in K-3 U800. Rounds: 9:15 AM, 10:30 AM, lunch, 12 PM, 1:15 PM, 2:30 PM. Awards: ~4 PM.

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

Entry fee: \$45 if registered by Sat, 05/17; \$55 after. Room for 132 players.

Awards (per section):

- Overall prizes (in Amazon e-gift cards): 1<sup>st</sup>–5<sup>th</sup>: \$65 / \$60 / \$55 / \$50 / \$45.
- Special prizes: Medals for first-timers and for biggest upset win.

- Top performer (by TPR) in K-3 Open and 4-12 Open wins free entry into the 2-day option of 2025 Washington Open (Main Event) (see prev. page).

Rating: Higher of May 2025 USCF or current NWSRS ratings used for section & pairings.

Registration: 100% pre-registered ([NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/](http://NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/) - pay by credit / debit / PayPal / SettleKing); no on-site entries or payments.

Registration & payment by Wed, 05/21 @ 5 PM. Unpaid players withdrawn.

### Washington Open Gary Dorfner Memorial Adult Novice Swiss

**Sat, 05/24 @ 11 AM – 4 PM (during round 1)**

A 4-Round Swiss in one section, 1 half-point bye available. For U1200 or unrated adults (18+). No memberships req'd. Unrated. TC: G/30; +5. EF: \$25. Registration: 10:30-10:50 AM. Rounds: 11 AM, 12:15, 1:30, and 2:45 PM. Prize fund: \$400/b20. 1<sup>st</sup>–3<sup>rd</sup> \$150 / \$100 / \$60, 1<sup>st</sup> U1000 / U700 / Unr. \$30.

### Washington Open Fischer Chess960 Rapid

**Sat, 05/24 @ 2:15 PM – 4:30 PM (between rounds 1 & 2)**

Format: A 4-Round Swiss in one section, 1 half-point bye available. Unrated. TC: G/10; +3. EF: \$20. Registration: 1:30-2 PM. Rounds: 2:15 PM, 2:50, 3:25, and 4:00 PM. No memberships req'd. Higher of May 2025 USCF and current NWSRS ratings used for pairings & prizes. A new (randomized) opening position in each round. Players have 2 minutes before clocks start to examine the opening position. Prize fund: \$300/b20. 1<sup>st</sup> \$80, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$60, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$40, 1<sup>st</sup> U2000 / U1700 / U1400 / Unrated \$30.

### Washington Open Robson Puzzle Solving

**Sat, 05/24 @ 4:45 PM – 5:30 PM (between rounds 1 & 2)**

Solve 16 chess puzzles in 45 minutes. Write solutions on paper. Evaluation based on accuracy and completeness. EF: \$15. Registration: 4-4:30 PM. No memberships req'd. Prize fund: \$150/b20. 1<sup>st</sup> \$50, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$35, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$20, 1<sup>st</sup> U1700 / U1400 / Unrated \$15.

### Washington Open Wenjun Chess Workshop for Girls & Women

**Sat, 05/24 @ 6 PM – 8 PM (during round 2)**

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

### Washington Open 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Carol Kleist Memorial Adult Swiss

**Sun-Mon, 05/25-26 @ 11 AM and 4:30 PM (during rounds 3-6)**

Sponsored by *Seattle Chess Club (SCC)* with generous support from Henry Yan. Format: A 4-round Swiss in two sections: Botvinnik (1500+) and Korchnoi (U1500); may be merged if small. 1 half-point bye available. USCF

rated only. TC: G/120; +30. EF: \$50 online (by Sat, 05/24 @ 5 PM) or \$60 on-site; less \$10 for SCC members. EF waived for unrated players who purchase memberships. Registration: Sun, 05/25 @ 10-10:30 AM (unless starting with a half-point bye). US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships req'd. May 2025 USCF rating used for section, pairings, & prizes. Gtd. prize fund: \$1,000.

Botvinnik: 1<sup>st</sup> \$240, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$150, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$120, 1<sup>st</sup> U1650 \$80.

Korchnoi: 1<sup>st</sup> \$120, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$100, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$80, 1<sup>st</sup> U1300 \$60, 1<sup>st</sup> Unrated \$50.

### Washington Open Carlsen Rapid

**Sun, 05/25 @ 2 PM – 5 PM (between rounds 3 & 4)**

Format: A 5-Round Swiss in two sections: Kasparov (1600+) and Anand (U1600); may be merged if small. 2 half-point byes available. USCF Quick rated; Kasparov section is FIDE Rapid rated too. TC: G/12; +4. EF: \$35 online (by Sat, 05/24 @ 5 PM) or \$40 on-site. Players rated 1500+ may play up into Kasparov (\$10 fee). Current US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships req'd. Registration: 1-1:45 PM. Rounds: 2 PM, 2:35, 3:10, 3:45, 4:20 PM. Highest of May 2025 USCF Quick, May 2025 FIDE Rapid, and current NWSRS ratings used for section, pairings, & prizes. Prize fund: \$950/b30.

Kasparov: 1<sup>st</sup> \$150, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$110, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$80, 1<sup>st</sup> U2000 / U1800 \$60, Biggest Upset Win: \$25; Best Hairstyle / Best Footwear \$10.

Anand: 1<sup>st</sup> \$100, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$80, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$60, 1<sup>st</sup> U1400 / U1200 / U1000 / Unrated \$40, Biggest Upset Win: \$25; Best Hairstyle / Best Footwear \$10.

### Washington Open Awonder Liang Bughouse

**Sun, 05/25 @ 3 PM – 4:15 PM (between rounds 3 & 4)**

A 7-round Single Swiss in one section. 2 half-point byes available. Max avg team rating: 1800. Unrated. TC: G/3; +0. EF: \$20/player. No memberships. Register: 2:15-2:45 PM. Rounds: 3 PM, 3:10, 3:20, 3:30, 3:40, 3:50, 4 PM. Higher of May 2025 USCF Blitz and current NWSRS ratings (if unrated, up to 1300, based on age) used for pairings & prizes. Team prizes: \$400 (based on 20 teams): 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>: \$100 / \$70 / \$50; 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> K-6: \$50 / \$40 / \$30; Biggest Upset Win: \$30; Best Sportsmanship: \$30.

### Washington Open Firouzja Bullet

**Sun, 05/25 @ 5 PM – 5:50 PM (between rounds 3 & 4)**

Format: A 5-Round Swiss in one section. 2 half-point byes available. Unrated. TC: G/2; +1. EF: \$10. No memberships req'd. Registration: 4:30-4:50 PM. Rounds: 5 PM, 5:10, 5:20, 5:30, 5:40 PM. Higher of May 2025 USCF Blitz and current NWSRS ratings used for pairings & prizes. Prize fund: \$200/b20. 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>: \$50 / \$40 / \$30, 1<sup>st</sup> U2000 / U1600 / U1200 / Unrated \$20.

### Washington Open WaldowChess Rapid

**Mon, 05/26 @ 1:45 PM – 3:50 PM (between rounds 5 & 6)**

*With generous support from Mark Waldow.* Format: A 5-round Swiss in one section. 1 half-point bye available, if requested by end of round 2. Unrated. TC: G/8; +3. EF: Free! No memberships req'd. Registration: online (by Sun, 05/25) or on-site (Mon @ 1-1:30pm). Check-in req'd by 1:30pm, including for online registrants. Rounds: 1:45 PM, 2:10, 2:35, 3, and 3:25 PM. Higher of May 2025 USCF and current NWSRS ratings used for pairings & prizes. Play begins with White to move, having already played e4 & d4. In return, Black receives draw odds and is allowed to swap their king and queen after White's next move. Prize fund: \$2,000.

1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>: \$500 / \$400 / \$300 / \$250 / \$200 / \$150 / \$100 / \$50; Biggest Upset Win \$50.

### Washington Open Ignacio Perez Memorial Blitz

**Mon, 05/26 @ 8 PM – 10:40 PM (after round 6)**

Format: An 11-Round Swiss in two sections: Nakamura (1600+) and Tal (U1600); may be merged if small. 3 half-point byes available. USCF Blitz rated; Nakamura section is FIDE Blitz rated too. TC: G/3; +2. EF: \$30 online (by Sun, 05/25 @ 5 PM) or \$35 on-site. Players rated 1500+ may play up into Nakamura (\$10 fee). Current US Chess membership and WCF/OCF/ICA membership req'd. Registration: 7:30-7:50 PM. Rounds: 8 PM, 8:15, 8:30, 8:45, 9, 9:15, 9:30, 9:45, 10, 10:15, and 10:30 PM. Highest of May 2025 USCF Blitz, May 2025 FIDE Blitz, and current NWSRS ratings used for section, pairings, & prizes. Prize fund: \$800/b30.

Nakamura: 1<sup>st</sup> \$120, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$100, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$80, 1<sup>st</sup> U2000 / U1800 \$60;

Tal: 1<sup>st</sup> \$100, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$80, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$60, 1<sup>st</sup> U1400 / U1200 / U1000 \$40, 1<sup>st</sup> Unr. \$30.

# Inland Classic

Kevin Korsmo

Mouth was served at the second installment of the Inland Classic, the successor to the Dave Collyer Memorial. Linus Wannamaker, a ninth grader from Moscow, Idaho, topped the field with a 4.5/5 score.

The second edition of the Inland Classic was played once again in Rathdrum, Idaho on February 22-23, 2025. Like its predecessor, the Dave Collyer Memorial, the event weekend kicked off in Spokane with a Friday afternoon blitz tournament followed by a John Donaldson lecture and simul. The blitz tourney was dominated by travelers from outside Spokane. Drew Bunch (WSU) won the event, followed by Mark Havrilla in second place. Third place was shared by players from eastern Oregon, Great Falls, and Missoula. The topics of John Donaldson's lecture this year were the recent Olympiad and some newly discovered games by young Bobby Fischer. The IM then took on 15 players in a simul, allowing but three draws on the evening.

Three young Montana players provided the three upsets in the first round. Declan Pham of Missoula pulled off a victory on board one against local expert Cam Leslie, Brandon Arensmeyer (Great Falls) upended expert David Arganian of Seattle on board three, and Chase Rands of Whitefish topped class A player James Stripes on board seven. That was plenty of excitement for the first round!

The second-round pairings were tightly bunched due to an influx of eight players from the scholastic event entering with half point byes. There were a few upsets of the smaller variety, but the top boards held serve. That would change in round three.

The biggest upset of the tournament occurred on board one in the next to last third round game to finish. Wannamaker toppled Donaldson late in the evening after the IM tried to win a drawn queen and pawn endgame. Wannamaker, under a minute left on his clock, successfully fended off an attack and secured the victory with 15 seconds remaining. The last game of the night saw Ben Patterson

top Pat Perry (another WSU player) in a complicated position.

Four players finished the first day's action with perfect scores and, of course, met on the top two boards in the fourth round. Board two saw a rapidly played game between Ken Erickson and Daniel Bowers that drew deep in a game that ended comparatively early in the round. Board one saw Wannamaker in a contest with Michael Cambareri that was a repeat performance—the two had matched up in the first round of the Inland Empire Open in May in a contest that Michael won. Linus turned the tables in this event, pulling out the win late in the round. Billaux and Mark Havrilla also drew in a game that rapidly progressed to an endgame. Donaldson had a lengthy game with Tilly Backstrom, a young woman from Boise in her second year of competitive chess, who came up to help out with the associated youth tournament and stayed to play. Her game looks very solid, and she should have a good future in over the board play.



John Donaldson (L) and Tilly Backstrom. Photo credit: Adam Porth.



Linus Wannamaker.  
Photo credit: James Stripes.



Round five saw Erickson challenge the undefeated Wannamaker. The game also was played at a relatively rapid pace and reached a drawn position before the other contenders resolved their games. Bowers and Bunch fought for quite a while before drawing on board two, while boards three, four, and five ended up being the final games of the tournament. On three, Donaldson and Ben Patterson had a very complicated game that the IM skillfully deciphered. Matt Goodale and Michael Cambareri met yet again in a tight board five encounter that ended just after Donaldson-Patterson with Michael showing nice endgame technique to secure a victory. Eric Billaux then turned back an upset bid from Walter van Heemstede Obelt on board four and the tourney was over.

Wannamaker's 4.5/5 score won first place. Six players tied at 4.0/5 for second and third overall and also dragged in the Expert and A prizes, as well as first in class B: Donaldson, Billaux, Cambareri, Erickson, Bunch, and Bowers. There were numerous other prize winners. Second place in class B with 3.5/5 scores was shared by Eshan Reddy, Jim Skovron, and Vibi Varghese. The two class C prizes were split by eight (!!) players with 2.5/5 scores: Brandon Arensmeyer, Tilly Backstrom, Steve Brendemihl, Khai Le, Ben Legard, Pat Perry, Declan Pham, and Chase Rands. Brandon also scored the second biggest upset prize. Class D/under/unrated was won by Brock Swope (3.0), while second place was shared by newcomer Austin Ashcroft, Andrew Johnsen, and Eric Spletstoser with 2.5 scores.

From an organizer's perspective, this was a very smooth tournament filled with old friends and talented newcomers who look to have bright chess futures (hopefully in the Northwest). The only downside was the demise of our apple cider pot which died in the same location that its twin companion coffee pot had died last year. I think we will try a different electrical outlet next year.

**Linus Wannamaker (1826) –  
John Donaldson (2406) [A36]**  
Inland Chess Classic  
Rathdrum, ID  
(R3), February 22, 2025  
[Linus Wannamaker]

Coming into this game, I was glad to be paired against such a strong player, and I knew that I had nothing to lose.

**1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 Nc6 5.Rb1 d6 6.d3 e5**

Aha! A Botvinnik setup with reversed colors.

**7.a3 a5 8.h4**

If Black doesn't play ...h5, White gets a dangerous attack. This forces ...h5, which deprives Black of play on the kingside.

**8...h5 9.e3**



*Position after 9.e3*

There's much less play after 9.e4. My goal was to give my opponent rope to hang himself with.

**9...Nge7 10.Nge2 0-0 11.b3 Rb8 12.0-0 Be6 13.Nd5 b5 14.Bb2 f5**

Black has a lot of space. White is aiming for a pawn break with d4, while Black's play is on the queenside.

**15.Ba1?! Bf7 16.Nxe7+ Nxe7 17.Qc2 Qd7 18.d4 a4**



*Position after 18...a4*

This was a critical position for me. After 18...exd4 19.exd4 bxc4 20.bxc4 cxd4 21.Bxd4, both sides are fine. After 18...cxd4 19.exd4, White's pawns will be weak.

**19.d5**

This deprives Black's pieces of squares and secures White's pawns.

**19...axb3 20.Rxb3 bxc4 21.Qxc4 Rxb3 22.Qxb3**



*Position after 22.Qxb3*

What just happened? White has a passed a-pawn while Black has a protected passed c-pawn. Black's minor pieces will take some time to get in the game. The d5-pawn can be protected easily enough, and White has some activity. I had around ten minutes remaining while my opponent had an hour. The position is about equal.

**22...Qc7 23.Qc4 Rb8 24.e4**

Securing d5.

**24...Qb7 25.Nc3 Qb3 26.Qa6 Qb6 27.Qd3 Ra8**

Targeting a3.

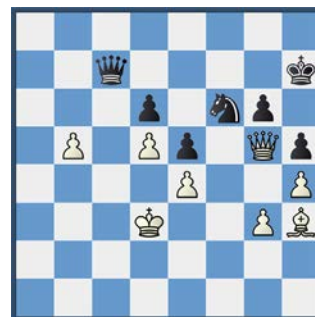
**28.Rb1 Qc7 29.Nb5 Qd8 30.f3 fxe4 31.fxe4 Kh7 32.Bc3 Ng8 33.Bd2 Bh6 34.Bh3 Bxd2 35.Qxd2 Nf6 36.Qc3 Be8**

White's pieces might become a bit loose.

**37.Qc1 Bxb5 38.Rxb5 Rb8 39.a4 Rxb5 40.axb5**

White is forced to solve problems quickly after 40...Nxe4 41.Qb1. It's a big mess, but it should be equal. Navigating this in time trouble would have been hard.

**40...Qb6?! 41.Qg5 Qd8 42.Kf1 c4 43.Ke2 c3 44.Kd3 c2 45.Kxc2 Qc7+ 46.Kd3**



*Position after 46.Kd3*

**46...Nxe4??**

So, this is the big mistake. At 11:00 PM,



John Donaldson (L) and Linus Wannamaker. Photo credit: Adam Porth.

I didn't know or care why my opponent played this move. Perhaps this can be explained by a bit of psychology: when a lower-rated player plays well against a higher-rated player, the higher-rated player is prone to blunder. 46...Qd8 47.b6 Kg7 48.Bf5 Qe8 is fine.

**47.Kxe4**

White is just winning now.

**47...Qc4+ 48.Kf3 Qxd5+ 49.Kf2 Qxb5 50.Qe7+ Kh6 51.Qxd6 Qb2+ 52.Kg1 Qe2 53.Bg2 e4 54.Qf4+ Kg7 55.Qxe4 Qxe4 56.Bxe4 Kh6 57.Kg2 g5 58.hxg5+ Kxg5 59.Kh3 h4**



Position after 59...h4

**60.g4**

Imagine what a tragedy this game would have been if I had taken on h4!

1-0

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**Michael Cambareri (1905) –  
Linus Wannamaker (1826) [A03]**

Inland Chess Classic  
Rathdrum, ID  
(R4), February 23, 2025  
[Linus Wannamaker]

I've lost three times to Michael Cambareri and learned a lot each time.

**1.f4? d5 2.e3 c5 3.d4 Nf6 4.Nf3 Bf5 5. Bd3 g6 6.Bxf5 gxf5**



Position after 6...gxf5

This opening is horrible for White—he must be punished.

**7.Ne5 e6 8.Nd2 Nbd7 9.Ndf3 Rg8 10.Qe2 a6 11.b3 Rc8 12.Nxd7 Nxd7 13.0-0 c4**

White has no play; ...c4 opens the c-file to rain pain on the c2-pawn, and White can't do anything about it. However, I

overestimated my position and fell for the consequences of that delusion.

**14.bxc4 Rxc4 15.Bb2 Qc8 16.Rfc1 Nb6 17.Ne5 Rc7 18.a4?!**

Perhaps 18.c3 was better. Now, a4 is a target.

**18...Nc4 19.Nxc4 Rxc4 20.a5 Bb4 21.c3**



Position after 21.c3

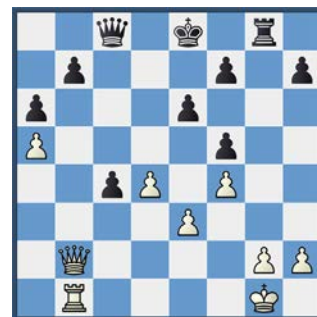
**21...Bxc3?**

Impatient. If 21...Bd6, Black can calmly increase his advantage. The problem is how to infiltrate. After ...Bd6, Black can target a5, c3 and the kingside in turn. The problem is that b7 is weak and the white queen can pester the kingside pawns for all eternity. I wasn't sure about this in the game, but the alternative isn't clear either.

**22.Bxc3 Rxc3 23.Qb2 Rc4 24.Rxc4?**

This gives Black everything he could ever ask for. 24.Rab1 Kd7 25.Qxb7+ Qxb7 26.Rxb7 was winning for White! It shows that there are chances in every position.

**24...dxc4 25.Rb1**



Position after 25.Rb1

**25...Kd7?**

25...Qc6 first kept the advantage. Now, White can play d5, and things are suddenly looking scary for Black.

**26.Qxb7??**

This just loses.

**26...Qxb7 27.Rxb7+ Kc6 28.Rb6+ Kd5 29.Rxa6 Rc8 30.Rb6 c3 31.Rb1 c2**



## 32.Rc1 Ke4 33.Kf2 Kd3 34.Ke1 Rb8

I owe a debt of gratitude to the TDs and my coach, Jim Maki, who taught me most everything I know.

0-1

**Ben Patterson(1848) –  
John Donaldson (2406) [B23]**  
Inland Chess Classic  
Rathdrum, ID  
(R5), February 22, 2025  
[John Donaldson]

The Inland Chess Classic, now in its second year, is proving a worthy successor to the long-running Collyer Memorial. This year's event made it clear that the greater Spokane area has many players who are underrated as they play almost exclusively with each other due to their geographic isolation.

Hopefully circumstances will allow a number of them, including my last round opponent, to venture outside Eastern Washington in the future.

### 1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6

2...g6 3.f4 Bg7 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Bb5 is another way to reach the game position, but offers White the additional possibility of playing 3.d4.

### 3.f4

3.Bb5 is a modern way to handle this position. It keeps open the option to advance the f-pawn, while looking to double Black's pawns with Bxc6.

### 3...g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Bb5

This is one way to play the Grand Prix Attack, 5.Bc4 is the other. The variation gets its name from its successful use on the English chess circuit in the 1970s. Grandmasters Julian Hodgson and Mark Hebden enjoyed great excellent results with it back in the day.

### 5...Nd4 6.0-0

6.Bc4 is another option here. Anish Giri in his book *The Sicilian Dragon* (and Chessable course) points out a trap Black can set for White: 6...e6 7.0-0 d5 8.exd5 Ne7! 9.dxe6? Nxf3+ 10.Qxf3 Qd4+ winning a piece.

### 6...Nxb5

The text enjoys an excellent theoretical reputation but does lead to some simplification. Those who want a more complicated game might prefer 6...a6.



Michael Cambareri (L) and Linus Wannamaker. Photo credit: James Stripes.

### 7.Nxb5 d5



Position after 7...d5

### 8.exd5

This is White's best try. 8.d3 a6 9.Nc3 Bxc3 10.bxc3 dxe4 11.dxe4 Qxd1 is assessed as comfortable for Black according to Giri. The engines rate the position after 12.Rxd1 Nf6 13.Re1 b5 as equal.

8.e5 was once the main line but has dropped out of favor. Black has a clear route to shutting down White's position with 8...d4. After 9.c3 (9.d3 Nh6 10.Bd2 a6 11.Na3 b5 12.Qe1 Nf5 and Black already stands better.) 9...a6 10.Na3 Nh6 11.cxd4 cxd4 12.d3 (12.Qa4+ b5 13.Qxd4 0-0 offers Black excellent compensation for the sacrificed pawn.) 12...0-0 13.Nc2 Nf5 14.g4 Nh6 15.h3 f6! 16.Ncxd4 fxe5 17.Qb3+ Nf7 18.fxe5 Bxe5 19.Ne2 Bg7 20.Ng5 e6 Black was doing fine in Koerber-Hesse, Germany 2018. That said

this might be White's best way to handle the position after 7...d5.

### 8...a6 9.Nc3 Nf6 10.d4 Nxd5



Position after 10...Nxd5

### 11.Nxd5?

11.dxc5, sacrificing pawn structure for activity in a queenless middle game, led to some early successes for White, but today Black has found ways to reach a very decent position after 11...Nxc3 12.Qxd8+ Kxd8 13.bxc3 Bxc3 14.Rb1 Kc7 15.Rb3 Bf6 16.Bd2 a5 (Giri also points out 16...b5!? 17.cxb6+ Kb7 is also fine for Black who has solved the problem of safeguarding his king.) 17.Rfb1 Rd8 18.Rb5 Rd5 19.Bxa5+ Kd7 followed by ...Ke8. Black's bishop pair and superior pawn structure provide ample value for the sacrificed pawn.

The text allows Black an easy life with his two bishops. White will soon wish his f-pawn was back on its original square as





Overview of the playing area during round four. Photo credit: Adam Porth.

it blocks in his bishop, weakens his king and is a potential target in endgames.

**11...Qxd5 12.dxc5**

12.Be3 was relatively better and should be answered with 12...c4 and a clear advantage, but not as great as in the game.

**12...Qxc5+ 13.Kh1 0-0 14.Qe2 Be6**

That Black stands better here is not in doubt but how best to proceed is not clear. Stockfish 17 prefers to trade one advantage for another by relinquishing the bishop pair for control of the d-file:

14...Bg4 15.h3 Bxf3 16.Rxf3 Qf5 17.c3 Rfd8 18.Be3 Rd5 and Black will double (maybe triple) on the d-file. The Oracle (Stockfish) says Black stands clearly better. How should he proceed?

One plan might be to try to trade queens (...Qd3) and to launch a minority attack with ...a5 and ...b5 hoping to eventually give White a weak pawn on the queenside that could be won. This would lead to an ending of four pawns versus three on the

kingside.

Some single piece endgames with this distribution of pawns can be easily drawn (add a pair of bishops for example). The endgame of four versus three pawns with a pair of rooks on the board, is also drawn, if with considerably more difficulty. Things become much harder if an additional piece is added for both sides. In such situations the task of holding becomes much more difficult, if not an impossible task.

One additional factor in Black's favor here is that White's pawn is at f4 which means that a well-timed ...h6 and ...g5 followed by ...gxf4 could result in a passed e-pawn for Black or a permanent weakness for White on f4.

This might all seem a bit far down the road but it's not a bad idea to know what you are ultimately aiming for. All this said Ben has not gone far wrong and Black's advantage is far from decisive. The text is a signal that Black plans to hang on to his powerful pair for the foreseeable future.

**15.Re1**



Position after 15.Re1

**15...Rfd8**

The first choice of the Oracle is 15...Bc4! leaving White with two options:

**a)** 16.Qxe7 can be met by 16...Qxe7 17.Rxe7 Rfe8 18.Rxe8+ (18.Rxb7 Rad8 19.Kg1 Bd5 wins on the spot.) 18...Rxe8 which leaves White struggling to get his pieces out without incurring serious disadvantages. For example: 19.Ne5 (19.Bd2 Re2 20.Re1 Rxe1+ 21.Nxe1 Bxb2 leads to a typical ending where the

two bishops insure Black an enduring advantage.) 19...f6 20.Nd3 Re2 and White is completely tied up.

b) White has better in 16.Qe3 although the position after 16...Qxe3 17.Rxe3 Rfd8 18.Re1 Bd5 19.c3 Bxf3 20.gxf3 Rd3 21.Be3 Rad8 is very pleasant for Black as the pawn on f4 is a real sore spot.

### 16.Be3 Qb5

This is overly technical. 16...Qh5 and 16...Qa5 are more flexible deferring the queen exchange until a better moment.

### 17.c3

17.Qxb5 axb5, winning material for Black, was my idea, but Ben correctly avoids this.

### 17...Qxe2 18.Rxe2 Bd5 19.Nd4

The game continuation looks natural but 19.Rf2 is possibly more accurate.

### 19...b5 20.a3 a5 21.Rd2 b4

Now 21...Bc4 is met by 22.a4.

### 22.axb4 axb4 23.Rxa8 Rxa8 24.cxb4 Ra1+ 25.Bg1 e6



Position after 25...e6

### 26.h3

The desire to remove the pin as soon as possible with Kh2 is understandable, but 26.Nc2 (with Ne3 to follow) was an interesting alternative.

Play might then continue 26...Rb1 27.Ne3 Bb7 28.Rd8+ Bf8 29.Ng4 Kg7 30.h3 h5 31.Ne5 Bd5 32.Kh2 Rxb2 33.Nf3 Rxb4 34.Rxf8 Bxf3 35.Bc5 Rc4 36.Rc8 Bd5 37.Bf8+ Kf6 38.Rxc4 bailing out to a draw.

While this line is certainly not forced it suggests that with accurate defense White should be hold this position. The accelerated minority attack with ...a5, ...b5 and ...b4 looked inviting during the game, but maybe I should have been more patient and postponed ...b4 until it could be played without having to sacrifice a pawn.

### 26...Bf8

This looks natural, Black wants to capture on b4 and/or redeploy the bishop to d6 where it both attacks the f-pawn and guards the crucial b8 square, but possibly better here was 26...Rf1. This move leaves White with a couple of choices:

a) 27.Ne2 allows Black to realize his plan: 27...Bf8 28.b5 Bc5 29.Kh2 Bxg1+ 30.Nxg1 Rxf4 31.Kg3 (31.Ne2 Rf2) 31...Rb4 32.Ne2 Rxb5 33.Nc3 Rb3 and Black is winning as White's b-pawn is not a threat, the bishop is the better minor piece and the e and f4 pawns will soon be rolling.

b) 27.Nc2 (this seems the most important line) 27...Rxf4 28.b5 Bh6 (28...Ra4 29.b6 Bxb2 30.b7 Bxb7 31.Rd8+ Kg7 32.Rb8 Bxg2+ 33.Kxg2 Bf6 and with three pawns for the knight Black has serious practical chances to win) 29.Ne3 Ra4 30.b6 Bxe3 31.Bxe3 Rb4 32.Rc2 Kg7 33.Bc5 Rb3 34.Bd4+ Kh6 35.Kh2 Kg5 36.Rc7 f6 37.Rxh7 e5 and White still has problems to solve.

### 27.b5

Alternatives leave White with problems to solve:

27.Nc2 Rb1 28.Ne3 Bxb4 29.Rd1 Rxd1 30.Nxd1 f6 and White should be able to draw but not without a long and careful defense.

27.Ne2 Bxb4 28.Nc3 Bc6 White should be hang on, but again Black's bishop pair and more active rook offer practical chances.

### 27...Rf1 28.Rf2

28.Rc2 Bd6 29.Ne2 Kf8 30.b6 Ke7 31.Kh2 Kd7 32.Be3 g5 33.Ng3 (33.Kg3 f5) 33...Bxf4 34.Bxf4 Rxf4 35.Nh5 Rf1 36.Ng3 seems to just hold for White.

### 28...Rd1 29.Rc2 Bd6



Position after 29...Bd6

### 30.b6?

Ben, who was short of time, understandably wants to utilize his one asset, but the timing is not right and the game continuation should lose straightaway. Necessary was 30.Ne2 when 30...Bb7 31.Kh2 Rd5 32.b6 g5 33.Be3 gxf4 34.Bxf4 Bxf4+ 35.Nxf4 Rb5 36.g4 Rxb6 37.Kg3 Kf8 still offers chances in a game played between carbon based life forms.

### 30...Bxf4 31.Nc6 Be4?

31...Be3! 32.b7 Rxb1+ 33.Kh2 Rxb2+! (I overlooked this move.) 34.Rxb2 Bf4+ 35.Kg1 Bxc6 wins. The game continuation may also get the job done, but not as easily.

### 32.Rc4 Be3



Position after 32...Be3

32...f5 33.b7 Rd2 34.Rxe4 fxe4 35.g3 Bxg3 36.b4 Rd7 37.b8Q+ Bxb8 38.Nxb8 Rd3 39.Kg2 Rb3 40.Nc6 should end in a draw.

### 33.Rxe4?!

33.b7 Rxb1+ 34.Kh2 Rxb2+ 35.Kh1 Rxb2+ 36.Rxe4 Rxb7 37.Rxe3 was a better try. Here the Oracle assesses this position as equal but in a game between humans all the chances lie with Black with three pawns for the knight.

### 33...Bxb6 34.g3

34.Nd4 f5 is Black's point. The rest is straightforward.

### 34...Rxb1+ 35.Kh2 Rc1 36.Nb4 Bc5 37.h4?

This drops a piece but White cannot hang on to his b-pawn. For example if 37.Nd3, then 37...Rc2+ 38.Kh1 Bb6 39.g4 Rd2 does the job.

37...f5 38.Rxe6 Bxb4 39.Rb6 Rc2+ 40.Kh3 Rxb2 41.Rb7 Ba3 42.Rd7 Rb3 43.Kg2 Re3 44.Kf2 Re7 45.Rd5 Kf7 46.Kf3 Ke6 47.Ra5 Bd6 48.Rb5 Ra7 49.Kg2 Ra2+ 50.Kh1 Bxg3



Co-hosted by Western WA University & WA Chess Federation



# Bellingham Open

## Sunday, April 20, 2025



Western WA University – Viking Union Building: Multipurpose Room  
516 High Street, Bellingham, WA 98225

***Highest finishing WA resident in the Whatcom Open seeded into the 2026 WA State Championship – Challengers section.***

**Format:** A 5-round Swiss tournament in two sections: Whatcom Open and Fairhaven U1700.

**Entry fee:** \$35 by 4/13, \$40 after. Free entry for WWU students. Need-based scholarships are available upon request. Maximum of 150 players, please register early to reserve your spot!

**Schedule:** At-site registration & check-in: 9:15-10:15am. Rounds (5): 10:30am, 12pm, 2pm, 3:30pm, 5pm. Closing Ceremony ~ 6:30pm or asap. Players whose games run long may request a late start for the next round.

**Time Control:** G/30; +10 sec. increment per move starting from move 1.

**Rating:** Dual US Chess and NWSRS Rated. Higher of current NWSRS or April 2025 US Chess Regular Rating will be used to determine section, pairings, and prizes.

**Memberships:** US Chess membership required.

**Prize Fund:** \$1,400 (based on 80 paid entries)

Whatcom Open: 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>: \$240-\$180-\$120. 1<sup>st</sup> U1900/U1800/U1700: \$50

Fairhaven U1700: 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>: \$140-\$100-\$80, 1<sup>st</sup> U1500/U1300/U1100/U900: \$50, 1<sup>st</sup> Unrated: \$50

Special Prizes (per section): Best Upset Win: \$25, Best Female Player (by TPR): \$25, Best Dressed: \$20.

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

**Registration:** Online at [nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration](http://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration). **Online registration + payment deadline: Saturday, April 19 @ 5pm.** Unpaid players will be removed from the roster after the deadline, and players from the waitlist will be offered a spot. At-site registration: 9:15-10:15am. On-site payment available by cash, check made out to "WCF", SettleKing, Zelle (ID: WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com) or Venmo (@WChess).

**Questions** – Josh Sinanan, WCF President, 206-769-3757, [washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com](mailto:washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com)



# Washington President's Cup

Josh Sinanan

The 2025 Washington President's Cup was held at Blakely Hall in Issaquah on January 25-26. The event was moved to January instead of the typical February window to avoid conflicting with the Washington State Championship, which takes place during the second and third weekends in February and concludes on President's Day Monday.

The spacious venue, Blakely Hall located in the heart of the Issaquah Highlands, attracted a record 102 participants from cities through the Pacific Northwest, including Mukilteo, Seattle, Bellevue, Redmond, Sammamish, Thorp, Bothell, Gig Harbor, Tacoma, Mountlake Terrace, Mill Creek, Renton, Kirkland, Everett, Ladysmith (BC), Edgewood, Boise, Portland, Mineral, Issaquah, Snoqualmie, Kingston, Blaine, Port Townsend, Bellingham, Wenatchee, Beaverton, Fall City, Vancouver (BC), Hunts Point, and Burnaby.

The field was evenly split between the 43-player Washington 1600+ section and the 59-player Jefferson U1600 section. The five-round Swiss tournament over two days was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation and directed by the WCF Dream Team of Mani Atikankhotchasee, WCF Member-at-Large Ani Barua, and WCF Scholastic Director Allen Messenger.

The star-studded Washington 1600+ section attracted two FIDE masters, two national masters, and three experts who used the opportunity to warm up for the upcoming Washington State Championship: FM Aziz Degenbaev (2380) and FM Ryan Porter (2231), NM Advait Vijayakumar (2220) and NM Viktors Pupols (2200), and Ananth Gottumukkala (2176), David Arganian (2000) and Vihaan Jammalamadaka (2000). They, along with numerous other well-qualified candidates, headlined the

ballot in contention for a seat in the 'Oval Chess Office.'

After a topsy-turvy election cycle, it was NM Advait Vijayakumar, an 18-year-old high school senior based in Bothell, who emerged victorious, scoring an undefeated 4.5 points from five games. Vijayakumar started strong with four straight wins as he debated chess theory with his fellow competitors, including a big win against the dangerous Ananth Gottumukkala in the fourth round. Heading into the final round, a solid draw with top seed Aziz Degenbaev was sufficient to clinch victory, since Aziz had been nicked for a draw against young upstart Rafael Palathingal earlier in the tournament.

A trio of presidential chess candidates shared second-fourth place honors a half-point back: Aziz Degenbaev of Seattle, Ryan Porter of Bellevue, and young Andrew Yin from Burnaby (BC). The fifth/sixth/U2000 prize was divided evenly seven ways between the following chess congressmen: Rafael Palathingal of Bothell, Miles Kuipers of Bellevue, Vihaan Jammalamadaka of Redmond, Aliaksei Bondar of Redmond, Isaac Vega of Beaverton, Jeffrey Wei of Hunts Point, and Neevan Reddy Saddi of Issaquah.

Two 'speakers of the chess house,' Veronique Joseph of Seattle and Yuchen Zhou of Bellevue shared the U1800 prize with an impressive "plus one" score. Several special prizes were also up for grabs during the presidential proceedings.

The biggest upset wins were awarded to Deeksha Shankaranand (round one: 482 points), Dr. Tejas Mulye (round two: 170 points), Shawn Li (round three: 127 points), Andy Chen (round four: 153 points), and Allen Chang (round five: 133 points). Selina Cheng of Seattle earned the best female player prize while Viktors Pupols of Kingston and David

Arganian of Seattle were named the Best Senior Players for age 65+ and age 50+, respectively.

The classiest dressers to grace the 'chess capitol' with their fashion sense were Isaac Vega (Saturday) and Ralph Anthony (Sunday). Young Jimmy Yang of Kirkland claimed the biggest USCF rating gain prize with a sharp 120-pt. ascent!

The massive 59-player Jefferson U1600 section also saw fierce competition amongst the up-and-coming candidates seeking higher office! When all 'chess ballots' were in, two champions of the people were crowned co-Champions, each with 4.5 points from five games: Harry Wu of Bellevue and Andra Marinescu of Renton. Harry got off to a fast start, winning his first four games in a row before being held to a draw by Rian Raja in the final round.

Andra recovered well from a second-round draw against poker pro Coleman Hoyt and went on the three-game winning streak to catch Wu. Five future presidential hopefuls landed in a tie for third/fourth/U1400 with four points apiece: Rian Raja of Bothell, Chen Yuan of Bellevue, Sachin Miskelly of Seattle, Oliver He of Sammamish, and Kshitij Narkhede of Sammamish. Two chess bureaucrats, Isaac Wang of Bellevue and Matthew McKendry of Tacoma, split the first U1200 prize for their pen-pushing efforts with an even 2.5 points.

A trio of chess civil servants scored two points apiece and earned a share of the first U1000 prize: Tavishna Nandeesh of Snoqualmie, Felicity Mei of Sammamish, and Rishuraj Kumar of Mill Creek. Rookie chess officer Tha Nedumpurakkal Mohamed Moosa of Redmond threw his hat into the ring and won the Unrated prize with an impressive three points.

The biggest upset wins were awarded



Ananth Gottumukkala checks out the opening moves on the top boards during the first round.  
Board one: Selina Cheng (R) vs Aziz Degenbaev, board two: Ryan Porter (R) vs Aarav B. Mohan. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

to Kaiyi Han (round one: 317 points), Nandeesh Yellappa (round two: 442 points), Proud Tulsukchuantanat (round three: 447 points), Ryan Lai (round four: 225 points), and Daniel Yun (round five: 39 points).

Bellevue chess lobbyist Shanna Wu won the best female player prize for her efforts while elder chess statesmen Mark Smith of Port Townsend and Henry Louie of Mineral collected their social chess security checks by winning the Senior 50+ and 65+ prizes, respectively. Sammamish chess fashionistas Emma Ge (Saturday) and Sambuddha Sekhar Das (Sunday) earned the best dressed prizes for their classy attire. First-grader whiz kid Avyukt Goyal of Bellevue enjoyed the highest USCF rating gain with a splendid 88-point jump.

Congratulations to the winners on their successful chess campaigns!

**Selina Cheng (1764) –  
Aziz Degenbaev (2380) [B56]**

WA President's Cup  
Issaquah, WA (R1), January 25, 2025  
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6

### 5.Nc3 d6 6.Be3

Somewhat unusual. The three main moves here are 6.Bg5 e6 7.Qd2; 6.Bc4 e6 7.Be3; and 6.Be2 e5 7.Nf3, leading to different, well-known, theoretical play.

### 6...Ng4

Or 6...e5.

### 7.Qd2

7.Bb5 Nxe3 8.fxe3 (8.Nxc6 Nxd1 9.Nxd8+ Kxd8 10.Rxd1 leaves Black with the bishop-pair, a solid position, and few weaknesses.) 8...Bd7 9.0-0 e6 10.Bxc6 bxc6 11.e5±; 7.Bg5!? h6 (7...Qb6 8.Bb5 Bd7 9.0-0 Qxd4 (9...Nxf2 10.Rxf2 Qxd4 11.Qh5 g6 12.Qf3 With Rd1 coming, White has compensation for the pawn.; 9...Nxd4 10.Bxd7+ Kxd7 11.Qxg4+ e6 12.Be3±) 10.Bxc6 Qxd1 11.Bxd7+ Kxd7 12.Raxd1 looks a tiny bit better for White.) 8.Bh4 g5 9.Bg3 Bg7 10.Nb3±

### 7...Nxe3 8.fxe3?

Too subtle for my taste. Why not the natural recapture 8.Qxe3, and after 8...Bd7 (8...Qb6 9.0-0-0) 9.0-0-0 g6 10.Kb1 Bg7 11.Nb3, it's a game.

8...g6 9.Bc4 Ne5 10.Bb3 Bg7 11.0-0 0-0 12.Nd5 e6 13.Nf4 a6 14.Rad1 Qc7 15.Qe2 Bd7 16.c3 b5 17.Nf3 Nxf3+ 18.Rxf3

18.gxf3!?

18...Bc6± 19.Bc2 Rad8 20.Rff1 Qb7 21.Qd3 b4 22.Rb1 Rfe8

22...bxc3 23.bxc3 Qa7±

23.Rf2 d5 24.exd5 exd5 25.Bb3 Bb5 26.Qd2 Bc4 27.Ne2

27.Rd1 Bxb3 28.axb3 bxc3 29.bxc3 Qxb3 30.Nxd5 Bxc3 31.Qd3 a5 32.e4 Qa4±

### 27...Bh6 28.Rf3?

28.Nf4 bxc3 29.bxc3 a5 30.Qd1 Qc7 31.Bxc4 dxc4±



Position after 28.Rf3

### 28...Qe7

Black misses a hidden tactical opportunity. 28...Bxb3 29.axb3 d4! 30.Nxd4 Qxf3!! 31.gxf3 Bxe3+ and wins.

### 29.Nf4 Bxb3 30.axb3 Qe4

30...Qb7

### 31.Rbf1

31.Rd1±

### 31...a5 32.h3 f5 33.Kh2

33.Ra1 Bxf4 34.Rxf4 Qxe3+ 35.Qxe3 Rxe3 36.Rxa5±

### 33...Bf8 34.Kh1 Bc5 35.Re1?

35.Qe2 Bxe3±

### 35...bxc3?!

There's no reason to straighten out the black pawns first. Better to work the pinned e-pawn directly with 35...d4! 36.cxd4 Bxd4±

### 36.bxc3 d4?!

36...Bb6

37.Qa2! Bf8 38.cxd4 Bb4 39.Re2 Rc8 40.Qa4 Red8 41.Kh2

41.Rf1

### 41...Rc1 42.d5?

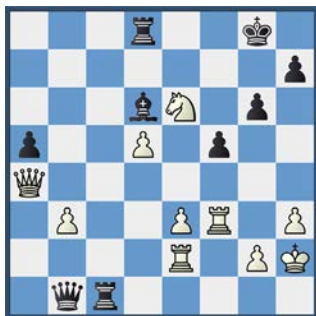
42.Qb5 Bd6±

42...Qb1?



42...g5

43.Ne6 Bd6+



Position after 43...Bd6+

44.Nf4?

Losing. Instead, White has the surprising exchange sacrifice 44.Rf4! Rh1+ (44...Bxf4+ 45.exf4 (Also 45.Qxf4!?, according to Stockfish.) 45...Rh1+ 46.Kg3 Qd3+ 47.Kf2 Qd1! 48.Nxd8 (48.Qc4 Rb8! 49.b4! (49.Qc7?? Qg1+ 50.Kg3 Rxh3+! 51.Kxh3 Qh1+ 52.Kg3 Rxb3+ 53.Kf2 Qh4+--+) 49...Qc1! (49...axb4 50.Qc7+--+) 50.Qxc1 Rxc1 51.bxa5) 48...Rf1+ 49.Ke3 Qc1+ 50.Rd2 Qe1+ 51.Kd3 Qb1+ 52.Rc2 Qd1+ 53.Kc3 Qe1+ 54.Kb2 Qb1+ 55.Kc3 Qe1+) 45.Kg3 Qd3 46.Nxd8 Qxe2 47.Qe8+ Kg7 48.Qd7+ Kh6 49.Qxd6 (49.Nf7+ Kh5 50.Qxd6) 49...Qxe3+ (49...Qe1+ 50.Rf2 Qxe3+ 51.Rf3 Qg5+) 50.Rf3 (50.Kh4?? Qe1+ 51.g3 Rxh3+ 52.Kxh3 Qh1#) 50...Qg5+ 51.Kf2 Qd2+ with a draw by repetition.

44...g5 45.Qxa5 Re8 46.Qb5 Rh1+ 47.Kg3 Qe4 48.Kf2 gxf4 49.exf4 Bc5+ 50.Kg3 Qxe2 51.Qxc5 Qe1+ 52.Qf2 Qxf2+ 53.Kxf2 Rd1

0-1

**Aziz Degenbaev (2380) –  
Advaith Vijayakumar (2220) [A28]**  
WA President's Cup  
Issaquah, WA (R5), January 26, 2025  
[Advaith Vijayakumar]

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.e4

Aziz opts for a Botvinnik-style setup, which I had no experience in.

4...Bc5

4...g6 I considered a fianchetto-system, but the resulting middlegame seems pleasant for White. 5.d4 exd4 6.Nxd4 Bg7 7.Be3±; 4...Bb4 also seems to be a common move. 5.d3 d6

5.Nxe5

Forced, otherwise, Black will play...d6

and get a stranglehold on the dark squares.

5...Nxe5 6.d4 Bb4 7.dxe5 Nxe4 8.Qd4

8.Qg4 Nxc3 The tactics do work out in Black's favor. 9.Bd2 (9.Qxg7 Na4+ 10.Kd1 Rf8) 9...0-0 10.bxc3 Qe7! 11.Qe4 (11.cxb4 Qxe5+) 11...Bd6 12.f4 Bc5± and Black is doing great.; 8.Qf3 was the choice of Niemann vs Mamedyarov in the 2022 Sinquefeld Cup. This was the game he played (and won) right before his infamous encounter with Carlsen the next day...

8...Nxc3 9.bxc3 Be7

I was not in book here, but I vaguely recalled having seen this position before.

10.Qg4

10.e6 is not a good transformation for White. 10...dxe6 11.Qxg7 Bf6 12.Qg3 Qd6.; 10.Bd3 is another option. 10...0-0 11.Bf4 d6 12.0-0 dxe5 13.Bxe5 Qxd4 14.cxd4 c6 Black should be fine in this endgame.

10...Kf8

10...g6 is an equally good way of dealing with the threat. 11.Bh6 Bf8 12.Bxf8 (12.Bg5 is a viable GM draw for those who are interested... 12...Be7 (12...h5 Though Black can still prolong the game if interested in a win. 13.Qg3 Be7)) 12...Rxf8!?! A counter-intuitive way to recapture the bishop. (12...Kxf8 13.Qd4 Qe7 14.0-0-0± This is playable for Black also, but castling by hand is not so easy.) 13.Qd4 d6 14.0-0-0 (14.Be2 dxe5 15.Qxe5+ Qg7 16.Qd4 Bf5 17.0-0 Qd6 And Black's king should escape to safety. 18.Qe3+ Qe7 A funny Berlin-draw-esque repetition is best here: 19.Qd4 Qd6 20.Qe3+ Qe7 21.Qd4 (21.Qd2 Bd7 22.Qd4 c5 All bases covered.; 21.Qf3 White is actually even losing if he plays on this way. 21...0-0-0-+ The crippled queenside pawns are now an eyesore.)) 14...Qg5+ 15.f4 dxe5 It looks like Black is running on thin ice here, but White alas has nothing better than 16.fxg5 exd4 17.cxd4 Bf5

11.Qf3 d6 12.exd6 Qxd6 13.Bf4?! Qf6 14.Be2? Bd6?

I blitzed out this move instantly, completely missing

that I had a chance to potentially win the game on the spot. 14...Bg4! Exploiting the queen's defense of the c-pawn. 15.Qg3 Bxe2 16.Kxe2 Qe6+ 17.Kf1 Qxc4+ 18.Kg1 Rd8 19.h4 Rd3± Ok, it's not dead lost for White yet, but obviously this is preferable to defending for the rest of the game!

15.Bxd6+

Aziz noted, in our post-mortem, his sigh of relief when he saw 14...Bd6 on the board. A frightening five seconds that must have been!

15...Qxd6

The idea of ...Bd6 was that I can now fianchetto my king (castle by hand) without a dark-squared bishop lurking.

16.0-0

16.Rd1 Qf6 I can even things out by ruining my structure as long as my king can be in peace. 17.Qxf6 (17.Qg3 Keeping queens is not too problematic. 17...g6 18.0-0 Bf5 The most accurate way of dealing with the threat on c7. 19.Qxc7 Re8 With an important tempo. 20.Bd3 Re7 I give away a pawn, but White cannot make much use of it with his double-isolated c-pawns. 21.Qf4 Kg7 22.Bxf5 Qxf5 23.Qxf5 gxf5 I can easily pile on the c-file to pick up those pawns, and this rook endgame should not be a difficult draw.) 17...gxf6

16...g6 17.Rad1 Qe7

17...Qe5 Apparently, this cold-blooded alternative is possible. Completely unnecessary though. 18.Rd8+ Kg7 19.Rxh8 Kxh8 20.Qxf7 Be6 21.Qf3 Rd8

18.Rfe1

White has no useful way to exploit his huge lead in development.

18...Kg7 19.Bf1 Qf6 20.Qg3



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Trying to hold onto the c-pawn is a bit risky, but fortunately I can live without it.



Position after 20.Qg3

## 20...Be6

20...c6 21.Rd6 Be6 22.Rxe6!? Seeing this, I wasn't so tempted to keep the c-pawn, but concretely, I should be fine. 22...fxe6 23.Rd7+ Kg8 There are a lot of ways White can continue, but the following lines should give the gist of how I should respond. 24.Rxb7

a) 24.h4 h5 is also good here 25.Rd3 The simplest route here is just to "tuck in." (25. Rxb7 Rh7 Now White cannot even pick up the a7-pawn. 26.Rb8+ Rxb8 27.Qxb8+ Qf8) 25...Kh7 26.Rf3 (26.Rd7+ A draw by repetition is also possible. 26...Kg8 27.Rd3) 26...Qg7 White lacks enough pieces for a venomous attack. 27.Bd3 Rhf8 28.Re3 But Black's weaknesses (the g6-pawn in particular) and White's bind give enough compensation for equality.;

b) 24.Bd3?! Rf8 25.Rxb7 a5 Black will play 26...Qf4 next and press in the endgame. For example: (25...Rf7?! 26.Rxa7 Rxa7 27.Qb8+ Kf7 28.Qxa7+) 26.Be4 Qf4 27.Qxf4 Rxf4 28.Bxc6 Rxc4 29.Bd7 Kf8. And White is fighting for a draw. That said, after all these complications, what I did in the game is perfectly fine.;

24...h5 This is my best response to a lot of alternatives as well. The idea is to go...Rh7 next and consolidate. 25.Rxa7 Rxa7 26.Qb8+ Kf7 27.Qxa7+ Qe7. The best White gets is two pawns for the exchange and, in fact, I can press here.

## 21.Rd4

Instead of grabbing the c-pawn, White sets the threat of Rf4. 21.Qxc7 Rac8 I had a difficult time assessing my drawing chances at the end of this line, but my instinct was correct. (21...b6 is another way to go about, similar to some previous lines, but I wasn't sure about 22.Rd4 Still, 22...Rhc8 23.Qb7 h5 And I am perfectly fine here.) 22.Qxb7 Bxc4 23.Bxc4 Rxc4

24.Qxa7 Rxc3 25.a4 Rc2 I have too much piece activity for his extra passed-pawn to be a major concern. And in a rook endgame: 26.Qd4 Qxd4 27.Rxd4 Ra2 28.h3 Ra8 29.Ree4 Good luck ever pushing that a-pawn!

## 21...Rhe8?!

I again miss a chance to take the edge. 21...c5! Rf4 turns out to be a ghost threat! 22.Rf4 Bf5 There is no good follow-up. 23.Qf3 (23.Bd3 Qxc3-+) 23...h5 and there is no way to exploit the pin along the f-file.

## 22.Qxc7

White decides to take the pawn now, but I can easily consolidate.

## 22...Re7 23.Qg3

23.Qd6 Rc8

## 23...Bf5 24.Rxe7

24.Red1 avoiding the trade of rooks is not effective. 24...Rae8 25.Rd6 Qe5 If anyone is pressing here, it is Black.

24...Qxe7 25.Qf3 Rc8 26.h3 b6 27.Qd1 Qe5

Washington Presidents Cup: Washington 1600+										
#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total	
1	1	Advaith Vijayakumar	2222	W44	W39	W15	W12	D2	4.5	
2	2-4	Aziz Degenbaev	2380	W19	W15	D5	W7	D1	4	
3		Ryan W Porter	2270	W28	W9	H---	W6	D8	4	
4		Andrew Yin	1833	H---	X43	W25	D5	W12	4	
5	5-11	Rafael Palathingal	1966	W36	W21	D2	D4	D9	3.5	
6		Miles Kuipers	1917	W40	W35	W8	L3	D11	3.5	
7		Vihaan Jammalamadaka	2014	W16	D25	W27	L2	W13	3.5	
8		Aliaksei Bondar	2150	W42	W34	L6	W14	D3	3.5	
9		Isaac Vega	1895	W38	L3	W35	W19	D5	3.5	
10		Jeffrey Wei	1930	W26	W13	L12	D22	W21	3.5	
11		Neevan Reddy Saddi	1909	L20	W36	W34	W17	D6	3.5	
12	12-18	Ananth Gottumukkala	2178	X46	W17	W10	L1	L4	3	
13		Veronique Joseph	1643	W23	L10	W39	W15	L7	3	
14		Yuchen Zhou	1674	L7	D24	D23	W33	W29	3	
15		Leonardo Wang	1879	W32	L2	W20	L8	W26	3	
16		Carson Roesch	1905	B---	W20	L1	L13	W28	3	
17		Odbayar Yondon	1862	W29	L12	W26	L11	W27	3	
18		Viktors Pupols	2200	L34	D37	W32	D27	W22	3	
19	19-24	Selina Cheng	1764	L2	W30	W37	L9	D20	2.5	
20		Evan Cen	1622	W11	L15	L14	W35	D19	2.5	
21		Jimmy Yang	1480	W22	L5	H---	W25	L10	2.5	
22		Ihsan Moha Nedumpurakkal Thahir	1824	L21	W38	W33	D10	L18	2.5	
23		Akim Pikh	1910	L13	D40	D16	D29	W37	2.5	
24		David G Argianian	2000	L25	D16	W31	H---	H---	2.5	
25	25-33	Jinmo Nam	1673	W24	D7	L4	L21	D32	2	
26		Andy Chen	1565	L10	W28	L17	W34	L15	2	
27		Tejas Mulye	1534	H---	W31	L7	D18	L17	2	
28		Aarav Bharathy Mohan	1732	L3	L26	W40	W30	L15	2	
29		Vidur Ganesan	1526	L17	W42	H---	D23	L16	2	
30		Shawn Li	1564	L39	L19	W42	L28	W40	2	
31		Davey V Jones	1704	H---	L27	L24	D37	W41	2	
32		Devansh Sharma	1532	L14	X44	L18	H---	D25	2	
33		Allen Chang	1558	H---	H---	L22	L16	W42	2	
34	34-39	Deeksha Shankaranand	1718	W18	L8	L11	L26	D36	1.5	
35		Arnav Gadde	1698	W45	L6	L9	L20	D38	1.5	
36		Imai Maharaja	1612	L5	L11	D38	D40	D34	1.5	
37		Joanne Wangluo	1462	H---	D18	L19	D31	L23	1.5	
38		Muthukurisil Arivoli	1560	L9	L22	D36	D42	D35	1.5	
39		Nikhil Ramkumar	1894	W30	L1	L13	H---	U---	1.5	
40	40-41	Ralph Anthony	1633	L6	D23	L28	D36	L30	1	
41		Aiden Chan	1600	U---	U---	U---	B---	L31	1	
42	42-43	Andrei Gaivoronski	1691	L8	L29	L30	D38	L33	0.5	
43		Bhavik Bharath	1563	H---	F4	U---	U---	U---	0.5	
44	44-46	Sam Lee	1728	L1	F32	U---	U---	U---	0	
45		Tha Nedumpurakkal Mohamed Moosa	unr.	L35	U---	U---	U---	U---	0	
46		Brook Ayalew	1697	F12	U---	U---	U---	U---	0	

With this centralization, I cannot be worse.

### 28.Qa4 Rc7 29.Rd8 Qe7

After the game, Aziz told me that he thought he blundered 29...Bxh3?? here. Another miss on my part. This time, however, I was lucky to have this blind-spot. 30.Rd5+- The white rook is saved, and given the tempo on the queen, I cannot say the same for my bishop.

### 30.Qd1

30.Re8 Qd7 Whenever the queens come off, my defensive task is essentially over.

### 30...Rd7 31.Rxd7 Bxd7!

31...Qxd7 Offering the trade of queens seems more natural, but there's a problem. 32.Qd4+! With a trade of queens, White undoubles his pawns and enjoys a genuine extra pawn. While 32...f6 is met with 33.c5 White eliminates his doubled pawns.

I should still be able to draw with a series of only-moves. 33...Qxd4 (33...bxc5 34.Qxc5+- The queen endgame is losing however.) 34.cxd4 bxc5 35.dxc5 Kf7 36.f4 Be4 (36...Ke6 Not yet. 37.Bc4+ I need to be able to meet this with...Bd5. 37...Kd7 38.Bg8 h5 39.Bd5+-) 37.Kf2 Ke6 Only move. 38.Ke3 Kd5 Only move. 39.c6 Bf5 Only move. 40.Bb5 Kd6 The c-pawn is kept in check. Again, this is completely unnecessary.

### 32.Be2

32.Qd4+ f6

### 32...Bc6 33.Qd4+ f6

Now, the c5-square is firmly under control, and there is no worry about a c5 push.

### 34.Bf1 Bb7

Just shuffling with my bishop until White presents a plan. 34...Be8 This may have been even safer to avoid an a4-push.

### 35.a4

White seizes the moment to try and change the structure.

### 35...Bc6 36.a5

A critical moment a few moves before time control. How to deal with the tension?

### 36...bxa5!

It's time to change the structure. Indeed, my now-passed a-pawn should counteract the passed c-pawn. 36...Qc7 Continuing

to play against the c-pawns is no longer advisable. 37.axb6 Qxb6 (The desirable 37...axb6 fails to 38.c5 bxc5 39.Qxc5 Qb7± and a difficult defensive task lies ahead.) 38.c5 Qb7 39.f3 a5± This is similar to how the game played out, but why have one passed a-pawn when you can have two?

### 37.c5 a4 38.Qb4 Qb7 39.Qa5

39.Qxb7+?? White cannot trade queens. 39...Bxb7 40.Bc4 a3 41.f3 (41.Kf1 Ba6+

42.Bxa6 a2) 41...Kf8 42.Kf2 Ke7 43.Ke3 Bc8 with...Be6 to follow. The a-pawn is too far advanced and too far away for the white king. 44.Kd2 Be6 45.Bxe6 Kxe6 46.Kc2 Kd5 47.Kb3 Kxc5 48.Kxa3 Kc4+ The outside a-pawn proves the better passer.

### 39...Qd7

More shuffling.

### 40.Be2 Qe7 41.Bf1



*Young competitors analyze their games in the makeshift skittles area of Blakely Hall. Front: Yuchen Zhou (L) and Chen Yuan while chess Dad Ankush Goyal follows the analysis between Imai Maharaja (L) and Neevan R. Saddi. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*



White has no good way to remove the blockading c6–bishop. 41.Bf3?? Qe1+ 42.Kh2 Bxf3 43.Qxa7+ Kg8 44.Qb8+ Kf7 45.Qa7+ Ke6 46.Qb6+ (46.Qa6+ Ke7 47.Qa7+ Kf8 48.Qb8+ Qe8 49.Qd6+ Qe7 50.Qb8+ Qe8 51.Qd6+ Kf7 White cannot recoup the bishop without suffering a trade of queens, in which case the a-pawn will decide. 52.gxf3 Qe5+ 53.f4 Qxd6 54.cxd6 a3-+) 46...Kf5 White runs out of checks.; 41.Bb5 Qe1+ 42.Kh2 Qe5+ 43.g3 Bxb5 44.Qxb5 Qxc3 45.Qd7+ Kh6 46.c6 a3 47.c7 a2 48.c8Q Qxc8 49.Qxc8 a1Q 50.Qf8+ Kg5 51.Qc5+

#### 41...Qb7

White was unable to find a way to make progress.

#### 42.Ba6 Qb1+ 43.Kh2 Qb8+



Position after 43...Qb8+

#### 44.Kg1

44.g3 Aziz briefly considered playing on, but this is too risky. 44...Kh6 According to the engine, this ridiculous move is actually winning on the spot. But it makes sense, the idea is to set up...Qb1 and...Qh1 mating ideas, which were not possible on the previous move due to Qc7+. (44...Qe5 was my plan, which is good enough for a draw. 45.Bb5 Bxb5 46.Qxb5 Qxc3 Transposes to a previous line.) 45.Bd3 Qb2 If b1 is covered, I hit f2 instead. 46.Kg1 Qc1+ 47.Bf1 Qd1 And now the queen comes in through f3. 48.Qc7 Qf3 49.Qf4+ White stops the mate, but doesn't stop the a-pawn. Yes, that still exists! 49...Qxf4 50.gxf4 Bd5 This time, there's not even Bc4! 51.c6 Bxc6 52.Bc4 a3-+ The previous version of this line was already losing, and this is worse in many different ways.

#### 44...Qb1+ 45.Bf1 Qb7 46.Ba6

And here, as neither of us could make any progress, a draw by repetition was made. With board two ending in a draw, this draw was enough to secure the tournament.

1/2–1/2

## Washington Presidents Cup: Jefferson U1600

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total
1	1-2	Harry Wu	1332	W36	W18	W16	W4	D3	4.5
2		Andra Marinescu	1451	W54	D25	W47	W23	W8	4.5
3	3-7	Rian Raja	1540	W17	D35	W5	W10	D1	4
4		Chen Yuan	1259	W34	W15	W9	L1	W17	4
5		Sachin Miskelly	1331	W42	W6	L3	X34	W18	4
6		Oliver He	1447	W29	L5	W37	W35	W15	4
7		Kshittij Narkhede	1360	W37	W48	D23	W36	D9	4
8	8-14	Jeb Stroud	1492	W49	D13	W32	W12	L2	3.5
9		Edgar Li	1435	W40	W19	L4	W38	D7	3.5
10		Krishang Gupta	1449	D47	W33	W25	L3	W26	3.5
11		Guru Harshith Reddy Avula	1368	W39	L16	D24	W29	W28	3.5
12		Shen Gong	1381	D52	W44	W28	L8	W24	3.5
13		Daniel D Yun	1346	W45	D8	H---	H---	W27	3.5
14		Viraj Dhawan	1485	H---	H---	W19	D27	W25	3.5
15	15-22	Shanna Wu	1387	W24	L4	W39	W20	L6	3
16		Vihaan Pai	1450	W58	W11	L1	L17	W37	3
17		Skandha Raj	1410	L3	W43	W48	W16	L4	3
18		Atharv Rao	1432	W41	L1	W51	W30	L5	3
19		Dustin Lindgren	1318	W53	L9	L14	W51	W36	3
20		Ziliang Ma	1450	W55	L23	W49	L15	W41	3
21		Tha Nedumpurakkal Mohamed Moosa	unr.	U---	W41	L46	W40	W35	3
22		Emily Huang	1431	L48	L37	W43	W42	W38	3
23	23-34	Mark William Smith	1573	W31	W20	D7	L2	U---	2.5
24		Isaac Wang	1105	L15	W56	D11	W32	L12	2.5
25		Coleman Hoyt	1322	W51	D2	L10	W50	L14	2.5
26		Varshith Reddy Avula	1333	D46	L47	W44	W33	L10	2.5
27		Riaan Babbar	1385	W57	D28	D38	D14	L13	2.5
28		Kurt Peters	unr.	B---	D27	L12	W47	L11	2.5
29		Richard Rogov	1220	L6	W42	H---	L11	W50	2.5
30		Sambuddha Sekhar Das	1485	W59	D38	D35	L18	D31	2.5
31		Simon Thornock	1321	L23	W55	L36	W48	D30	2.5
32		Arthur Deng	1329	W50	H---	L8	L24	W39	2.5
33		Matthew McKendry	1147	H---	L10	W52	L26	W47	2.5
34		Christian Jordan	1450	L4	W57	W40	F5	H---	2.5
35	35-46	Aahan Sriram	1322	W43	D3	D30	L6	L21	2
36		Don Hack	1505	L1	W52	W31	L7	L19	2
37		Darya Byelashova	1136	L7	W22	L6	W53	L16	2
38		Henry Louie	1304	W56	D30	D27	L9	L22	2
39		Tavishna Nandeesh	764	L11	W58	L15	W49	L32	2
40		Frazer Case	1205	L9	W53	L34	L21	W55	2
41		Ryan Lai	1090	L18	L21	W56	W54	L20	2
42		Felicity Mei	793	L5	L29	W59	L22	W54	2
43		William Case	1050	L35	L17	L22	W59	W53	2
44		Elina Khudiyev	1105	H---	L12	L26	H---	W51	2
45		Rishuraj Kumar	969	L13	L49	H---	D52	W56	2
46		Aiden Chan	1600	D26	H---	W21	U---	U---	2
47	47-50	Yang Xu	1268	D10	W26	L2	L28	L33	1.5
48		Kaiyi Han	1114	W22	L7	L17	L31	H---	1.5
49		Rishabhdeva Patnaik	1241	L8	W45	L20	L39	H---	1.5
50		Avyukt Goyal	591	L32	W59	H---	L25	L29	1.5
51	51-58	Nandeesh Yellappa	873	L25	W54	L18	L19	L44	1
52		Caleb Beck	973	D12	L36	L33	D45	U---	1
53		Proud Tulsukhuentanat	660	L19	L40	W57	L37	L43	1
54		Anyi Li	1315	L2	L51	W55	L41	L42	1
55		Sofia Byelashova	943	L20	L31	L54	W57	L40	1
56		Tapasya Nandeesh	289	L38	L24	L41	B---	L45	1
57		Emma Ge	1107	L27	L34	L53	L55	B---	1
58		Ferris Samara	1192	L16	L39	H---	H---	U---	1
59	59	Seojoon Oh	1244	L30	L50	L42	L43	H---	0.5



## Presidential Blitz Championship

The Presidential Blitz Championship took place in the evening on Sunday, January 26 on the heels of the Washington President's Cup at the same venue. Twenty-four players hailing from several congressional districts throughout Washington State were represented in the one-section, seven-round Single Swiss blitz event, from municipalities including Redmond, Bellevue, Seattle, Sammamish, Wenatchee, Renton, Issaquah, Bothell, Mercer Island, and Bellingham.

The event was directed by WCF Scholastic Director Allen Messenger with assistance from WCF Member-at-Large Ani Barua and Mani Atikankhotchasee. A diverse melting pot of players of all ages and ratings ranging from unrated to Master were represented in the tournament, which ran just over two hours and took place near the gas-powered fireplace in Blakeley Hall. Naturally this made for several fiery encounters as the boards were set ablaze with many wild and unclear attacks. The tournament was US Chess blitz rated, with an expeditious time control of G/3+3, which especially appealed to time pressure addicts and chronic chess procrastinators.

National Master Nikash Vemparala of Redmond topped the polls with an impressive six points from seven games, dropping only a single point to fellow Redmond speed chess specialist and body builder Christos Boulis in the second round. Nikash finished strong with five straight wins, rattling off victories over Albert Eksarevskiy (1556), Harishkumar Karthikeyan (1762), Vihaan Jammalamadaka (1934), and Cyrus Desmarais (unrated) along the way.

For Desmarais of Wenatchee, it was his first event in 14 years and an impressive return to tournament chess! Redmond chess campaigner Vihaan Jammalamadaka captured second place honors a half-point back with 5.5 points. A trio of chess officers shared third/U2000/U1800 with five points apiece: Vidip Kona of Duvall, Cyrus Desmarais of Wenatchee, and Albert Eksarevskiy of Bellevue.

A pair of chess congressmen shared the first U1600/first U1400 prize with four points apiece: Neevan Reddy Saddi of Issaquah and Salyh Saryyev of Redmond. Bothell chess filibuster negotiator Vishal Suram won the first U1200 prize with an even 3.5-point score.

Congratulations to the speedy victors!



(L-R) Tournament Director Allen Messenger, Presidential Blitz Champion Nikash Vemparala, and WCF President Josh Sinanan. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

Washington Presidents Cup: Blitz											
#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Total
1	1	Nikash Vemparala	1960	W20	L15	W16	W5	W8	W2	W4	6
2	2	Vihaan Jammalamadaka	1934	W11	W16	W9	W6	D4	L1	W7	5.5
3	3-5	Vidip Kumar Kona	2149	L16	W11	W20	L4	W12	W9	W6	5
4		Cyrus Desmarais	1915	W17	W10	W15	W3	D2	D6	L1	5
5		Albert Eksarevskiy	1556	X13	L6	W21	L1	W20	W8	W12	5
6	6	Advait Vijayakumar	2199	W12	W5	W8	L2	W9	D4	L3	4.5
7	7-11	Rafael Palathingal	1871	L21	W17	W22	L9	W19	W11	L2	4
8		Harishkumar Karthikeyan	1762	W19	W21	L6	W15	L1	L5	W13	4
9		Ujwal Garine	1613	W18	W22	L2	W7	L6	L3	W17	4
10		Neevan Reddy Saddi	1519	W24	L4	L18	L12	W21	W19	W16	4
11		Salyh Saryyev	1328	L2	L3	W23	W22	W15	L7	W18	4
12	12-13	Selina Cheng	1408	L6	D19	W24	W10	L3	W18	L5	3.5
13		Vishal Suram	1083	F5	H---	L19	W24	W14	W15	L8	3.5
14	14-18	Isaac Vega	1836	L22	L18	L17	W23	L13	W24	W19	3
15		Christos Boulis	1523	W23	W1	L4	L8	L11	L13	W20	3
16		Emerson Wong-Godfrey	1377	W3	L2	L1	W21	L18	W20	L10	3
17		Brendan Keane	1289	L4	L7	W14	L20	W24	W22	L9	3
18		Andy Chen	1106	L9	W14	W10	L19	W16	L12	L11	3
19	19	Jeb Thacher Stroud	1216	L8	D12	W13	W18	L7	L10	L14	2.5
20	20-23	Max Schmidt-Warnecke	1330	L1	W23	L3	W17	L5	L16	L15	2
21		Sambuddha Sekhar Das	1231	W7	L8	L5	L16	L10	W23	L22	2
22		Ziliang Ma	1218	W14	L9	L7	L11	L23	L17	W21	2
23		Atharv Mangla	1043	L15	L20	L11	L14	W22	L21	W24	2
24	24	Aarav Bhandari	972	L10	B---	L12	L13	L17	L14	L23	1

# A Chess Treat!

This photo comes to us courtesy of Ani Barua. Ani says, “It is a miniature gingerbread chess set on a table with chairs created by local chess fan Sydney Busskohl. She is also a chess coach, as far as I know, for beginner level with the Seattle Chess School which is owned by her husband Steve Ryan.”

It’s a little out of season now (I had this photo in time for the February issue, but couldn’t fit it in), but still a nice picture. Ani told me it is completely edible!

— Jeffrey Roland, Editor



## SEATTLE UNIVERSITY CHESS CLUB **CHESS CLASSIC**

**SAT-SUN, MAY 3-4, 2025**

**SEATTLE UNIVERSITY- 901 12<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE, SEATTLE, WA 98122**

**Format:** An Open Swiss chess tournament in five sections:

- **Championship:** A 4-round, G/90; +30 dual USCF + FIDE rated Swiss open to players rated 2000+ USCF. Rounds: Saturday @ 10am, 5pm. Sunday @ 9am, 4pm. Entry Fee: \$80. \$70 play-up fee if rated 1800-1999 USCF. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, and WIMs.
- **Premier U2000:** A 5-round, G/60; d10 USCF rated Swiss open to players rated 1300-1999 USCF. Rounds: Saturday @ 9am, 12pm, 6pm. Sunday @ 9am, 12pm. Entry Fee: \$70. \$35 play-up fee if rated 1300-1499 USCF.
- **Rising U1500:** A 5-round, G/60; d10 USCF rated Swiss open to players rated below 1500 USCF. Rounds: Saturday @ 9am, 12pm, 6pm. Sunday @ 9am, 12pm. Entry Fee: \$60.
- **Casual (18+):** A 5-round, G/30; d10 unrated Swiss open to players from unrated to 1000 USCF. Rounds: Saturday @ 9am, 10:45am, 12:30pm, 2pm, 6pm. Entry Fee: \$30.
- **Scholastic (K-12):** A 5-round, G25; d5 NWSRS rated Swiss in four sections: K-3 U700, K-3 Open, 4-12 U900, 4-12 Open. Rounds: Saturday @ 9am, 10:15am, 11:30am, 1pm, 2:15pm. Entry Fee: \$30.

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

Special Guest – **GM Kayden Troff!**

# Washington Junior Open

Josh Sinanan

The 2025 Washington Junior Open chess tournament took place on MLK Monday, January 20, at Interlake High School in Bellevue. A near-capacity turnout of 328 scholastic chess gladiators in grades K-11 participated in the one-day chess extravaganza from cities throughout the Pacific Northwest, including Redmond, Bothell, Bellevue, Woodinville, Snohomish, Mill Creek, Sammamish, Seattle, Monroe, Sultan, Shoreline, Gig Harbor, Kirkland, Mercer Island, Everett, Black Diamond, Olympia, Oak Harbor, Issaquah, Kenmore, Medina, North Bend, Lynnwood, Covington, Clyde Hill, Newcastle, Snoqualmie, Woodinville, University Place, Lake Stevens, Edmonds, and Milton!

The event was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation, paired by Senior TD Jacob Mayer and WCF Co-Vice President Rekha Sagar, and directed by Ani Barua, Allen Messenger, David Hirschowitz, Matt Wilber, Tim Campbell, Peter Zou, Kevin Hirschowitz, Max Schmidt-Warnecke, Alex Byelashov, and Olena Byelashova. As usual, amazing photographs were taken throughout the day by chess mom and photographer extraordinaire Meiling Cheng.

The dual-format Swiss tournament was split into eight sections parsed by grade level and rating: K-1 U700, 2-3 U800, 4-6 U900, 7-12 U1000, K-3 Open, 4-12 Open, Rising U1500, and Open 1500+. The Open 1500+ and Rising U1500 sections featured a longer time control of G/50; +5 for intermediate to advanced players, while the other sections were conducted at the typical rapid time control of G/25; +5.

One big change from previous years was that all sections were dual NWSRS and US Chess rated, with chess clocks used from the beginning in all games. Chess notation was required in all sections except for the K-1 U700 and 2-3 U800 sections, which aligns

with similar rules governing US Chess National events. The shift towards USCF rating all sections is designed to help more local players establish a “national”

rating in preparation for upcoming State and National competitions, including the 2025 Washington State Elementary Chess Championships (April 26 in

Team Prizes - Amazon gift cards awarded to the top four 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	School	Players	Score
1st	Samantha Smith Elementary	Clara Dragusanu ( 656) 4.5, Peng-Yu Pan (1006) 4.0, Krish Chenchu Arun ( 839) 4.0, Arjun Kini ( 643) 4.0	16.5
2nd	Redmond Middle School	Apollo Yen ( 864) 4.0, Aarya Patel (1422) 3.75, Arjun Moghe (1343) 3.75, Tattva Chevuri (1336) 3.13, Vedant Singh (1322) 3.13	14.63
3rd	Clara Barton Elementary	Snehl Ghosh (1374) 4.4, Anay Dharamshi (1227) 4.0, Aarav Bhandari ( 851) 3.0, Shrihan Bayya ( 712) 3.0	14.4
4th	Somerset Elementary	Andy Chen (1588) 4.38, Shawn Li (1536) 3.13, Lewis Ma (1453) 3.13, Adith Vijay (1240) 3.0, Eason Chen ( 966) 3.0, Egan Ip ( 569) 3.0	13.64
5th	Christa McCauliffe Elementary	Advit Goel ( 911) 4.0, Kruti Thanikonda (1337) 3.13, Muchen Zhou ( 767) 3.0, Ananya Sreshta Devavarapu ( 542) 3.0	13.13
Special Prizes - Medals (awarded at-site) for first-timers, best female player, and biggest upset win.			
Section	Best Female Player(by TPR)	Biggest Upset Win	
K-1 U700	Hannah Lin (382)	Mithran Rajeswaran (282 pts.)	
2-3 U800	Josephine Armstrong (433)	Ishana Datta (338 pts.)	
4-6 U900	Weiai Fang (774)	Nicole Ni (311 pts.)	
7-12 U1000	Tapasya Nandeesh (417)	Emery Spearman (254 pts.)	
K-3 Open	Rebecca Li (985)	Ryan Zhang (429 pts.)	
4-12 Open	Wenyou Wang (1041)	Stephane Dragusanu (317 pts.)	
Rising U1500	Kruti Thanikonda (1315)	Suryen Charuvil Vinu (345 pts.)	
Open 1500+	Selina Cheng (1441)	Vidur Ganesan (250 pts.)	



Tacoma), SuperNationals VIII (May 9-11 in Orlando, FL), and the 2025 National K-12 Grades Championship (December 12-14 in Spokane).

Congratulations to all the fantastic chess players and their families who came out to participate in and support this event! Chess has a special way of transcending boundaries like gender, race,

culture, socioeconomic status, etc. and bringing people together. It’s always a joy to watch kids relating and interacting with one another through a common passion like chess.

For many attendees, it was a wonderful way to celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and stay united through our vibrant chess community

during these uncertain times. As WCF President Josh Sinanan mentioned to the players, “Chess is not just a game of the mind, it’s also a game of the heart!”

Congratulations to all who contributed to this amazing event, and special congratulations to the prize winners.

Washington Junior Open Prizes										
Individual Prizes - Amazon E-Gift cards (1st-10th) awarded in each section.										
1st - 10th: \$65-\$60-\$55-\$50-\$45-\$40-\$35-\$30-\$25-\$20										
Section	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
K-1 U700	Vihaan Nair	Krishna Anand Siddharth Abimanyu Bobby Chai Liam Zeng				Vikaat Siva Ryan Huang		Avyukt Goyal Deethya R Sankar Dangdang Liang Leonardo Song Nolan Yin Max Wang Leonardo Anthony-Mazzola		
2-3 U800	Ved Dixit	Atlas Bigelow Pin-Ruei Su Vihaan Sabharwal Swayam Senapati Neev Bansal					Jaxson Ta Louis Liu Laya Sankar		Yi Jin Liam Zhen Thanish Bhavanam Vivek Aryan Gaddam Charles Hurd Egan Ip Vidyuth Lalithmani Ananya Sreshta Devavarapu Kristina Velichko Viraj Gaddam	
4-6 U900	Ishayu Sinha Gabriel Wong		Clara Dragusanu	Mithran Anbuselvam Krish Chenchu Arun Haroon Qureshi Kevin Chen Robert Gridasov Arjun Kini Nicole Ni						
7-12 U1000	Apollo Yen Amogh Durbhakula Hanish Tallapaneni			Raghav Rajeswaran Chethan Jayakrishnan		Yuvan Oruganti Anay Khandelwal Owen Kennedy Dinesh Poka			Anjalika Mukherjee Vidya Nellore	
K-3 Open	Anyi Li	Anay Dharamshi Nickrad Ahsant Peng-Yu Pan Advit Goel				Elina Khudyev Matvei Ivanov Siana Razmov Jiyong Ruan Ryan Zhang				
4-12 Open	Karsh Havalдар	Isaac Friedenson Jeffrey Chien Stephane Dragusanu Ethan Lin Pranavarjun Thungathurthi					Kevin Zhang Justin Lee Seojoon Oh		Alex Ye Adith Vijay Alex Xu Arhant Nagarkar Neil Upasani Alexander Rogovoy Yi-En Pi Hu Stas Black William Walther	
Rising U1500	Deepak Sri Kartikeya Rao Ziliang Ma		Aakash Mishra Snehil Ghosh		Atharv Rao Guru Harshith Reddy Avula Arjun Moghe Ayyaan Roy Chowdhury Varshith Reddy Avula Aarya Patel Harvey Wang Jinhan Zou Harry Wu					
Open 1500+	Andy Chen Thrinay Subramanian		Gavin Shi Yash Syal		Shawn Li Dheeran Koripella Sambuddha Sekhar Das Yuchen Zhou Rian Raja Lewis Ma Brook Ayalew Imai Maharaja Ziqian Gao					

# Errata

In the printed (physical) version of the March 2025 issue, the photo credit was incorrectly shown as Ani Barua. It should have been Meiling Cheng.

This was not an error in the online version, only in the printed version.

We show the picture again, and show what should have been the caption on page 26 of the March 2025 issue.

—Jeffrey Roland, Editor



*Caruana Closed winner Austin Liu (L) and WCF President Josh Sinanan.  
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*

## Washington Senior Championship



**MAY 16-18, 2025**

**ORLOV CHESS ACADEMY - REDMOND**

**4174 148TH AVE NE, BLDG. I, SUITE M, REDMOND, WA 98052**

**Info/Entries:** Josh Sinanan, WCF President, 206-769-3757, [WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com](mailto:WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com)

**Registration:** Online at [nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration](http://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration). 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 **deadline Thu. 5/15 @ 5pm.**

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

**Format:** A 5-Round, G/90; +30 Swiss in two sections: Championship & Premier U1700. Sections with < 6 players may be combined.

**Eligibility:** Open to Seniors age 50+ (or reaching age 50 by August 1, 2025).

**Rating:** US Chess Rated. May 2025 US Chess Regular supplement will be used to determine pairings and prizes.

**Entry Fee:** \$50 by 5/9, \$60 after. Players rated >1500 may play-up if desired. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, or 2400+ USCF.

**Rounds:** Fri: 6:30pm. Sat/Sun: 10am, 3pm.

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

**Prize Fund:** \$750 (based on 20 pd. entries)  
Championship: 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>: \$150-\$100.

1<sup>st</sup> U2000/U1800: \$80

Premier U1700: 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>: \$100-\$70.

1<sup>st</sup> U1600/1400/U1200: \$60

*Highest finishing Washington resident in Championship receives the title of Washington State Senior Champion, a seed into the Invitational Section of the 2026 Washington State Championship, and a \$750 travel stipend from the WCF to attend the 2025 Irwin National Tournament of Senior State Champions, held concurrently with the U.S. Open in early August. If needed to break a tie for 1st place, two G/90 playoff games will be played later in the year.*

# Decatur Gator Fest

Josh Sinanan

The Third Annual Decatur Gator Fest chess tournament took place on Saturday, January 25 at Decatur Elementary School in Seattle. A strong showing of 126 scholastic chess players participated in the tournament, which was once again run as a five-round Northwest Rated Swiss in six grade-level sections ranging from kindergarten to fifth grade. The field drew primarily from the Seattle area but also included a handful of Eastside players who braved the journey across Lake Washington. With an efficient and fast-paced schedule of one round every hour, players got to jump right back into the action and didn't have to wait an unbearably long time for the next round to start.

Chess Dad Siva Sankrithi and his two sons Sarang and Vivaan ran the kindergarten and first grade sections, which were held in a separate room and ran on an accelerated schedule, with the next round starting immediately after the last game finished. This made for a shorter and much more manageable day of chess for the younger players taking part in the competition, with the K-1 awards ceremony finishing just before 1:00 PM.

The Decatur Elementary Chess Club, led by chess dads Ravi Kakkad and Libin Xu, is one of Seattle's fastest growing clubs, with many new students enrolled in the school's highly capable program taking up the game each season. For many highly intelligent and highly

performing kids like those who attend Decatur, chess offers a creative outlet for them to express themselves, a chance to compete intellectually with other high caliber students, and most importantly an opportunity to form long-lasting friendships with their teammates and rivals alike.

The event was hosted by the Decatur Elementary Chess Club, organized by Ravi Kakkad and Libin Xu, paired by Chess Mates Foundation President Ben Radin, and directed by the Sankrithi Family and WCF President Josh Sinanan. Many thanks to the amazing chess families and volunteers who contributed to this fantastic event! Congratulations to the following trophy winners:

## Decatur Gator Fest Prizes

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

Trophies awarded to the top 5 finishing teams (top 5 scores from same school comprise team score) across all sections.

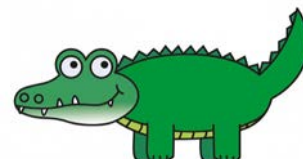
Medals for first-timers who do not earn a trophy.

### Individual Trophies

Place	Kindergarten	1st Grade	2nd Grade	3rd Grade	4th Grade	5th Grade
1st	Callie Jiang	Carter Gray	Joyce Gui	Krishang Nagdeep-Benita	Gabriel Pleasants	Alec Edmond
2nd	Aiden Venkatesh	Ari Hasson	Rafael Frenk	Vihaan Sabharwal	Evan Wang	Annan Lin
3rd	Mark Chernenko	Vivaan Desai	Dhruv Bangard	Varun Bolisetty	Joshua Shagas	Quinton Lu
4th	Aslan Karaca	Vihaan Nair	Patrick Zhang	Michael Westerfield	Amy Zhang	Arnav Appineni
5th	Isaac Stultz	Julian Sheehy	Nickrad Ahsant	Liam Zhen	Jonathan Wu	Ved Dhameeja
6th	Nikhil Anutham	Dylan Glaser	Varush Chennadi	Alvin Meymandi-Li	Vayu Kakkad	Vihaan Sreeram
7th	Tom Zylbersztajn	Bruno Swigon	Lachlan Stark	Sohum Kekre	Kunal Jayadevan	Jigu Choi
8th	Daniel Pao	Thomas Vanderhoeven	Sanyukt Singhal	William Allyn	Owen Leneway	Idhant Tayal
9th	Alan Shih	Dangdang Liang	Roger Yao	Nathan Johnson	Bryce Maibaum	Alexander Pressley
10th	Rishab Madhu	Emerson Waters	Caroline Ma	Alston Margetan	Sophia Ting	Elliott Hu

### Team Trophies

Place	School	Players	Score
1st	Cascadia Elementary	Alec Edmond (5.0), Rafael Frenk (4.0), Amy Zhang (4.0), Owen Leneway (3.0), Bryce Maibaum (3.0)	19
2nd	Decatur Elementary	Joshua Shagas (4.0), Vihaan Sabharwal (4.0), Vayu Kakkad (3.0), Jigu Choi (3.0), Daniel Huynh (3.0)	17
3rd	Wedgwood Elementary	Aiden Venkatesh (4.0), Quinton Lu (3.5), Isaac Stultz (3.0), Bruno Swigon (3.0), Nathan Johnson (3.0)	16.5
4th	Evergreen School	Michael Westerfield (4.0), Sohum Kekre (3.5), Tom Zylbersztajn (3.0), Naava Baer (3.0), Sidarth Sharma (3.0)	16.5
5th	Thornton Creek Elementary	Annan Lin (3.5), William Allyn (3.0), Roger Yao (3.0), Luigi Pellicciotti (2.5), Vidur Jariwala (2.5)	14.5





# 2025 East Idaho Regional Scholastic Chess Qualifier

Jay Simonson



On February 1, 2025, the 2025 East Idaho Regional Scholastic Chess Qualifier was held at Idaho State University, Pond Student Union Building, Pocatello, Idaho. The event was scheduled for the Salmon River Suites on the third floor, but because the elevator was out of service, it was moved to the Wood River Room on the second floor.

When Tournament Director Jay Simonson and John Eisenmenger arrived and climbed the stairs to the third floor, they found the doors to the floor locked. Assistant Tournament Director Tilly Backstrom had already been there and left a tub full of clocks by the door. We were soon re-directed to the second floor Wood River room. The room was very warm, but by opening the outside door slightly, we were able to have the tournament in this unexpected new venue.

This was a five round, Swiss System event in three sections, K-5, 6-8, and 9-12. Time control was game in 30 with no delay. The tie breaks were: Solkoff, Cumulative, Cumulative of Opposition, and Modified Median. Trophies were awarded to the top three in each section and to the first-place winner in each grade. Second and third place winners in each grade received a medal.

The Top School trophy was awarded to Madison High School. Pocatello High School was only one half-point behind, and Ucon Schools (Elementary and Middle) were one half-point behind Pocatello High.

## 9-12 Section

Overall: First: Ethan Swift; Second: Hayden Egbert; Third: Ethan Samuelson. (all tied for first place with 4.0/5 points)

Ninth: First: Isaac Burke; Second: Joseph Foster; Third (tie): Georgie Anderson, Christian Swift. Georgie received the bronze medal & Christian received "qualified for State."

Tenth: First: Adrian Mendez; Second: Adam Lindenmood; Third: Joseph Ricks.

Eleventh: First: Cristiano Manes; Second: Andrew Newberry.

Twelfth: First: Coleman Codd; Second: Jerek Flora; Third: Gael Torres.

## 6-8 Section

Overall: First: Caleb Wray; Second: Sophie Ma; Third: Cael Coleman.

## Results

Sixth: First: Colton Wortley; Second: Alex Perman; Third: Rowan Tracy (Alex & Rowan tied with 2.0/5 points)

Seventh: First: Elliot Swift; Second: Robert Cameli.

Eighth: Caleb Wray, overall first place, was the only eighth-grade player.

## K-5 Section

Overall: First: Lucas Zeng Bao; Second: Arthur Xian; Third: Cary Xian. (Lucas and Arthur tied with 4.0/5 points.)

K: No kindergarten players.

First: No first-grade players.

Second: First: Asher Swift. (Other two second grade players, winner and second place overall.)

Third: No third-grade players.

Fourth: First: James Greenburg; Second: Chase Tracy; Third: Hunter Tolman.

Fifth: First: Ahava LaCourse. No other fifth grade players.



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# TOURNAMENTS



## Venue

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

info & events calendar

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

tournament signups & inquiries

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

– or –

SCC Tournament Director  
same address as above

## Entry fees

**We now accept Venmo as well as Paypal, cash and check for tournament entry fees. No credit cards.**

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

**Venmo:** <https://www.venmo.com/u/SeattleChessClub>

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

## April 5

**Format:** 3-round round-robin. 4-player sections by close rating.  
**Time Control:** Game/85 + 10 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 & 6pm. **Byes:** 0 – must play all 3 rounds! US Chess membership req'd.

## April Quads

## April 27

**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:** 9:45-10:15am. **Rounds:** 10:30am, 12:50, 3:10, 5:30pm. **Byes:** 1 half-pt., commit at registration. US Chess membership req'd.

## April Tornado

## April 4, 11, 18, 25

See below.

## April Showers

## Coming up in May and June:

- May Quads - Saturday in early May. 3-round round-robin.
- Spring Adult Swiss – weekend in mid-May. 2-day, 4-round Swiss for ages 18+.
- Emerald City Open – weekend in early/mid June. 2-day, 5-round Swiss, large venue (50-80 player capacity).

*Check our events calendar periodically for confirmed dates.*

## ~ SCC Friday Nights ~

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

*April Showers*

*April 4, 11, 18, 25*

*May Flowers*

*May 2, 9, 16, 30\**

*It's Summertime*

*June 6, 13, 20, 27*

*Hot as Hades*

*July 4 (tent.), 11, 18, 25*

\* No game on May 23 due to WA Open

# Washington Girls Championship



MAY 17-18, 2025

ORLOV CHESS ACADEMY - GREENLAKE  
7212 WOODLAWN AVE NE, SEATTLE, WA 98115

*Highest finishing Washington resident in the Championship section receives the title of Washington State Girls Champion and a \$750 travel stipend from the WCF to attend the 2025 Haring National Girls Tournament of Champions, held concurrently with the US Open in early August.*

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

- Elena Donaldson Championship: A 2-day (Saturday-Sunday), 5-round G/90; +10 Swiss tournament. Open to all girls desiring to play for the title of WA State Girls Champion. Dual US Chess and NWSRS rated; US Chess membership required. Rounds: Sat. 9am, 1:30pm, 6pm. Sun. 10am, 2:30pm. Awards ~ 6:30pm. A tie for first place in the Championship section will be resolved later in the year by two G/90 playoff games.
- Katerina Rohonyan U1400: A 1-day (Saturday only), 4-round, G/40; +10 Swiss tournament. Dual US Chess and NWSRS rated; US Chess membership required. Rounds: Sat. 9am, 11am, Lunch, 1:30pm, 3:30pm. Awards ~ 5:30pm.
- Naomi Bashkansky U800: A 1-day (Sunday only), 5-round, G/25; +5 Swiss tournament. NWSRS rated; US Chess unrated, no US Chess membership required. Rounds: Sun. 9am, 10:15am, 11:30am, Lunch, 1:30pm, 2:45pm. Awards ~ 4pm.

**Eligibility:** Open to all girls in grades K-12 as of the 2024-25 school year. Out-of-state players welcome! Players must be under the age of 19 as of Sept 1, 2025.

**Rating:** Higher of current NWSRS or US Chess May supplement rating will be used to determine section, pairings, and prizes.

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

**Entry Fees:** Donaldson Championship: \$50 by May 10, \$60 after. Rohonyan U1400/Bashkansky U800: \$25 by May 10, \$30 after. Free entry for WGMs, WIMs, WFM, or US Chess 2000+. Maximum of 32 players total & maximum of 20 players in a section - please register early to secure your spot.

**Registration:** Online registration available at [nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration](https://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. **Registration + payment deadline is Friday, May 16 by 5pm.** No registrations or payments will be accepted after the deadline. Unpaid players will be removed from the roster, and spots will be offered to players on the waitlist.

**Prizes:** Amazon Gift Cards prizes awarded in each section (based on 30 paid entries).

Elena Donaldson Championship: 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup>: \$120, \$90, \$60, 4<sup>th</sup> - Chess book.

Katerina Rohonyan U1400: 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup>: \$60, \$45, \$30, 4<sup>th</sup> - Chess book.

Naomi Bashkansky U800: 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup>: \$60, \$45, \$30, 4<sup>th</sup> - Chess book.

Special Prizes (per section): Best Upset - Medal, Best Dressed - \$10, Kindness + Spreading Joy - \$10.

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



